Horticulture Tips February 2002

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Oklahoma State University

Garden Tips for February

David Hillock

- Base any plant fertilization on a soil test. For directions, contact your county Extension agent.
- Fertilize trees, including fruit and nut trees and shrubs, annually. (F-6412)
- Finish pruning shade trees, summer flowering shrubs and hedges. Spring blooming shrubs such as forsythia may be pruned immediately after flowering. **Do not** top trees or prune just for the sake of pruning. (F-6409)
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or March. (F-6414)
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (F-7306)
- Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell. (F-6235)
- A product containing glyphosate plus a broadleaf herbicide can be used on dormant bermuda in January or February when temperatures are above 50° F for winter weed control. (F-6421)
- Cool season vegetable transplants can still be started for late spring garden planting.
- By February 15 many cool season vegetables like cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peas and potatoes can be planted. (See chart below).
- Mid-February is a good time to begin pruning and fertilizing trees and small fruits.
- Collect and store graft wood for grafting pecans later this spring.
- Begin planting blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, asparagus and other perennial garden crops later this month.
- Choose fruit varieties that have a proven track record for Oklahoma's conditions. Fact Sheet 6222 has a recommended list.
- Provide feed and unfrozen water for your feathered friends.
- Force spring flowering branches like forsythia, quince, peach, apple, and weigela for early bloom indoors.
- Avoid salting sidewalks for damage can occur to plant material. Use alternative commercial products, sand or kitty litter for traction.
- Gall-producing insects on oaks, pecans, hackberries, etc. need to be sprayed prior to bud break of foliage.
- Forced spring bulbs should begin to bloom indoors. Many need 10-12 weeks of cold, dark conditions prior to blooming.
- Feed tulips in early February.
- Wait to prune roses in March.
- Look for arborvitae aphids on many evergreen shrubs during the warmer days of early spring.
- Clean up birdhouses before spring tenants arrive during the middle of this month.

• Join *Oklahoma Gardening* on your OETA station beginning in March. Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Garden Planting Guide for Cool Season Vegetables *David Hillock*

<u>Vegetable</u>	Time to Plant*	Days to Harvest	Method of Planting
Asparagus Beet Broccoli Cabbage	Fall or Spring March March Feb. 15 to March 10	50-70 80-90 60-90	Crowns Seed Plants Plants
Carrot	Feb. 15 to March 10	70-90	Seed
Cauliflower	Feb. 15 to March 10	70-90	Plants
Chard, Swiss	Feb. 15 to March 10	40-60	Seed
Kohlrabi	Feb. 15 to March 10	50-70	Seed
Lettuce, Head	Feb. 15 to March 10	60-90	Seed or Plant
Lettuce, Leaf	Feb. 15 to March 10	40-70	Seed or Plant
Onion	Feb. 15 to March 10	60-120	Sets
Onion	Feb. 15 to March 10	60-120	Plants
Peas, green	Feb. 15 to March 10	60-90	Seed
Potato, Irish	Feb. 15 to March 10	90-120	Tuber pieces 2-3 oz.
Radish	March 1 to April 15	25-40	Seed
Rhubarb Spinach	Fall or Spring Feb. 15 to March 10	50-70	Crowns Seed
Turnip	Feb. 15 to March 10	50-60	Seed

^{*}These dates indicate planting times from southeast to northwest Oklahoma. Specific climate and weather may influence planting dates. For Cool Season Vegetables, the soil temperature at the depth where the seeds are planted should be at least 40° F.

Skinny Peach Trees: Good for Commercial Growers and Home Gardeners

David Hillock

ARS News Service Agricultural Research Service, USDA Judy McBride, (301) 504-1628, jmcbride@ars.usda.gov December 3, 2001

Skinny peach trees under evaluation in experimental orchards across the United States and in three foreign countries could give homeowners two for the price of one: an attractive, space-saving tree plus sweet and juicy, full-size peaches.

Commercial peach growers would reap even more benefit from the new tree forms--a "columnar" and an "upright"--developed by Agricultural Research Service scientists. Both come from conventional breeding at ARS' Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, W.Va.

The columnar, or "pillar," form maintains a diameter of about 5 feet, fully grown, and would fit neatly into a tiny town-house yard, according to ARS horticulturist Ralph Scorza. In commercial orchards, these compact trees can be planted much closer together than conventional trees that branch out to 16 feet across.

That translates into many more peaches per acre, while land and production costs remain about the same. One estimate shows grower profits could increase by 20 to 50 percent, according to Scorza. Another advantage of high-density planting: Growers may get a profitable crop the second year after planting, when the pickings would be too slim in a conventional orchard to make harvesting worthwhile.

For growers who may not be ready for such a radical change, Scorza selected the upright tree that reaches eight to 10 feet across. Left unpruned, both tree forms reach a height of 12 to 15 feet after several years.

The columnar form has two copies of the gene that sends the branches skyward, while the upright has only one copy. But both selections produce yellow-fleshed, dessert-type peaches with smooth, melting flesh that is sweet and aromatic. They are firm fleshed, store well, and soften when completely ripe.

Because their forms are so different from conventional trees, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has filed a patent application on both. ARS is the USDA's chief scientific research agency.

Read more about the trees in the December issue of Agricultural Research magazine, online at: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/dec01/peach1201.htm

Variety Release

David Hillock

New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station wishes to announce the release of two onion varieties.

The First is the "NuMex Solano" an open-pollinated, single-centered, bolting-resistant, pink-root-resistant, late maturing, intermediate-day, white onion cultivar for fall seeding in southern New Mexico.

The second is the "NuMex Crimson", an open-pollinated, single-centered, bolting-resistant, short-day, red onion cultivar for fall seeding in southern New Mexico.

For more information on either of these varieties, contact Dr. Chris Cramer at:

New Mexico State University Agronomy & Horticulture PO BOX 30003, MSC 3Q Las Cruces, NM 88003 505) 646-2657

Fruit Control

David Hillock

Some ornamental trees and shrubs produce undesirable fruit, which to some is a real nuisance. The only product that I am aware of that is registered to control fruit production and is packaged for the homeowner is Florel[®]. A foliar spray of Florel will reduce or eliminate fruit on apple, crabapple, cottonwood, elm, flowering pear, maple, oak, pine, sweetgum, and sycamore.

Florel is a contact growth regulator based on the chemical ethephon. It is widely used in agriculture as a ripening agent. Florel breaks down into ethylene, a naturally occurring compound in the plant. When a plant is under stress it produces ethylene. If the plant is in bloom at the time of excess ethylene production, the first symptom is blossom abortion. This is how Florel works; it causes the plant to abort its blossom.

The best time for application on any flowering plant is the mid to full bloom stage. The ideal time for spraying sweet gum is right after the tiny balls form below the catkin. After application, these tiny balls simply dry up and fall off. If you apply after fruit set, Florel is ineffective.

Some garden centers and nurseries are carrying Florel. However, not all are, so they may have to special order some for you. Florel is available to the homeowner in pint and quart containers.

Master Gardener Corner

David Hillock

Upcoming Meetings:

Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference. May 20 - 22, 2002. Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference will be held at the Jane S. McKimmon Center, NC State University campus in Raleigh, NC on May 20-22, 2002

Suggested hotels are Ramada Inn on Blue Ridge Road and Days Inn in Cary. Both offer a discount rate for meetings at McKimmon and offer pick up from the airport and shuttle service to McKimmon.

The conference will start around mid morning on the 20th. Most of Monday will be a general session, followed by a pig picking and tour of the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Tuesday will feature a choice of concurrent sessions and half-day tours. The evening will most likely be a box meal and tour of Duke Gardens in Durham.

Wednesday will be concurrent sessions program will end at lunch or early pm.

Note: there are no night banquets planned.

Speakers include Bob Lyons - Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum, Dick Bir - Extension specialist (conducts research on disease resistance based on cultivar selection), Tony Avert - Plant Delights Nursery and Todd Lassange - Assoc. Director of the JC Ralston Arboretum.

There will be an exhibit area, book sales and signing.

A web site for the conference went up in November 2001. Direct mailings will not go out until February.

Erv_Evans@ncsu.edu 919-515-5378

State Master Gardener Conference. May 30 - June 1, 2002. Wichita Falls, TX. Contact David Hillock, Master Gardener Coordinator, Oklahoma State University, Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, 360 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078. E-mail: hillock@okstate.edu; phone: 405-744-5158.

Oklahoma Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Speaker Series Event present the renowned author and gardening photographer, Pamela Harper. She will be speaking in Oklahoma February 22 - 24. Dr. Welch's lectures are sponsored by the. Dr. Welch will speak in Tulsa on the 22, in Stillwater at OSU on the 23, and in Oklahoma City on the 24. For more information contact

Sale of Dursban to Homeowners is Illegal

David Hillock

The legal sale of Dursban to homeowners ended December 31, 2001. Homeowners can still **use** Dursban/chlorpyrifos products according to label directions.

If retail facilities have homeowner Dursban products, they should contact their distributor(s) for product return.

If you have questions regarding this, please contact the Pesticide Applicator Education office (405-744-5531) or the Oklahoma Dept. of Ag. (405-521-3864) for clarification.

Diazinon Cancellation Order

David Hillock

EPA has published the voluntary cancellation notice for a number of diazinon products.

Retail sales of all indoor uses, except mushroom houses, will not be lawful after December 31, 2001.

Retail sales of existing stocks labeled for canceled agricultural uses or outdoor non-agricultural uses will cease December 31, 2002. For now, retail sale of these products is legal.

Persons in possession of canceled products can continue to use them according to label directions. (EPA Pesticide Program Update November 26, 2001)

Grape Nurseries

Dean McCraw, Extension Horticulturist, Becky Carroll, Extension Assistant

French Hybrid & American Grapes:

Herman Amberg

Ute Amberg 2399 Wheat Road Clifton Springs, NY 14432 315-462-3183

Fax: 315-462-5234

Arkansas Plant & Berry Farm

10340 Turner Bend Dr Mulberry, AR 72947 501-997-1480

www.alcosoft.com/arkansas

Double A Vineyards

Dennis Rek 10275 Christy Road Fredonia, NY 14063 716-672-8493 Fax: 716-679-3442

www.DoubleAvineyard.com

Fosters Grapevines

10175 Mile Block Rd. North Collins, NY 14111 (800) 223-2111 Fax: (800) 448-1267

www.Fostersgrapevines.com

Post Familie Vineyards

1700 St Marys Mtn Rd

Altus, AR 72821 501-468-2741

Fax: 501-468-2740

www.postfamilie.com/nursery.html

Lon Rombough

P.O. Box 365 Aurora, Oregon 97002-0365 503 678-1410 www.bunchgrapes.com

Saint Francois Vineyards/Nursery

Ed Daugherty 1669 Pine Ridge Trail Park Hills, MO 63601-8226 ph/fax (573) 431-4294 www.stfrancoisvineyard.com

Timmons Farms & Nursery

PO Box 480 Tontitown, AR 72770 501-361-2293

Womack's Nursery

Larry Womack Route 1 Box 80 DeLeon, Texas 76444-9631 254-893-6497

Fax: 254-893-3400

www.womacknursery.com

Vinifera Grape:

Caldwell Nursery

2180 Jefferson Street Napa, CA 94559 707-255-1294

Duarte Nursery

1555 Baldwin Road Hughson, CA 95326 800-472-3833 209-531-0351 www.duartenursery.com

Ponderosa Nurseries

464 South Mooney Blvd Tulare, CA 93274 888-810-4250 Fax: 559-688-3542

www.ponderosanursery.com

Sonoma Grapevines, Inc

1919 Dennis Lane Santa Rosa, CA 95403 707-542-5510 Fax: 707-542-4801

www.sonomagrapevines.com

Sunridge Nursery

Glen Stoller 7530 S Highland Ave Fowler, CA 93625 559-834-9892

 $\underline{www.sunridgenurseries.com}$

Vinifera, Inc

Dave Nelson 4288 Bodega Avenue Petaluma, CA 94952 800-648-1681 707-773-4557 Fax: 707-773-0665 www.viniferainc.com

Vintage Nurseries

P.O. Box 279, 27920 McCombs Avenue, Wasco, California 93280 800-499-9019 Fax (661) 758-4999 www.vintagenurseries.com This list is a guide for persons interested in obtaining grape vines. It is not intended to endorse or discriminate against any nursery and it does not insure reliability.

2002 Studio Theme Gardens

Steve Owens

Pepper Garden – Peppers are really a hot item, whether they're used in garden recipes or as ornamentals in flower beds. This garden features quite a collection of these tasty and festive plants. A plethora of fruit colors and foliage colors make up this brilliant and somewhat fiery display.

Vegetables of the Americas – With its long-time use in Italian dishes, you might think the tomato was native to Italy. Likewise, the potato's association with Ireland and Soviet countries could lead you to believe one of these areas is its native home. These well-traveled vegetables are actually new world species from South America. In this garden you'll find tomato and potato plants along with many others that hail from the Western hemisphere.

Weeping Garden – The exciting, pendulous plants in this garden will not leave you teary-eyed, unless of course you have a close encounter with the onions. Most of these plants are grown for their graceful, weeping or cascading habit.

Prehistoric Garden – Step back in time to an age when large creatures roamed the earth. This garden will offer a glimpse of plant life types present in prehistoric times. Many of which, have changed little in millions of years. Try not to get trampled by the gigantic brontosaurus feeding in this garden!

Bamboo Garden – Some species of bamboo can grow to be over 100" tall, while others only reach a height of 12". Bamboos are used: as a food source, as construction material, to make useful and decorative objects, and as landscape plants. This garden features several of these evergreen members of the grass family.

Petunia Garden – A garden featuring this long-time favorite bedding and container plant in its interesting array of forms and colors. From grandifloras to the petunia-like Calibrachoa, from doubles to singles, and from upright to spreading, many types, colors, and different series are represented.

Japanese Garden – In its second year, this garden demonstrates the basic elements of the Japanese style of design. Intended to offer peace and quiet contemplation to its visitors, it exhibits an environment of tranquility and calm. Bamboo fencing, bridges of both stone and wood, and white gravel to imply water, are a sample of the garden's features.

Patio Garden – Also back for a second year, this garden is a favorite of many visitors. Gardeners with small backyards or side yards get plenty of ideas from its colorful planting areas separated by pathways of paving stone that flow into small sitting areas. In this garden, the hardscape materials contrast beautifully with the various foliage and flowering plants.

Terra-Cotta Artwork – Figures and features of terra-cotta art and ingenuity will be on display this season throughout the Oklahoma Gardening studio garden.

Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity for Producers Announced

Jim Shrefler, Area Horticulture Specialist

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced the availability of funds, through competitive grants, for growers interested in the addition or expansion of specialty crops to their farm operation. The goal of the program is to "encourage and advance the availability of specialty crops in the State of Oklahoma". Specialty crops are defined by the ODA as any crop other than wheat, feed grains, oil seeds cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco. Proposal deadline is March 25, 2002. For more information or to request an application, contact Jason Harvey, at ODA at (405) 522-5563

This appears like it would be a great opportunity for producers interested in trying something new to get some assistance to do so. Applicants will be required to provide a letter of support from an Agricultural specialist such as Extension Educators, Farmer's Market Manager, or specialty crop professional.

Most Common and Most Troublesome Weeds

Jim Shrefler, Area Horticulture Specialist

When considering the production of any given crop, the availability of suitable weed control technology for that crop is always a concern. This may change from time to time. Sometimes a new weed is introduced into an area and, if not easily controlled, may become a major concern of producers. Likewise, as chemical weed control products come and go due to label changes and new product introductions, the relative importance of specific weeds in a crop may change. When considering the production of a crop new in a farming operation it is wise to be concerned about weed control. The Southern Weed Science Society publishes weed lists that may be useful in this situation. Lists are updated periodically and may be found in the Proceedings of the SWSS. In these lists, weeds found in crops throughout the southeastern US are categorized as being common and or troublesome for crops listed. Of particular importance is the troublesome list, which can serve as an aid for determining which weeds to be concerned about in a given crop. These lists were recently prepared for several of Oklahoma's horticultural crops.

Most Troublesome Weeds in Some Oklahoma Horticultural Crops, 2002 Jim Shrefler, Area Horticulture Specialist

Cucurbits	Pecans	Peaches
Palmer amaranth	Bermudagrass	Bermudagrass
Eclipta	Nutsedge	Johnsongrass
Yellow nutsedge	Poison ivy	Nightshade
Horsenettle	Nightshade	Honeyvine milkweed
Tropic croton	Dock	Sandbur
Woolly croton	Smartweed	Cutleaf evening primrose
Morningglories	Morningglories	Morningglories
Crownbeard	Trumpetvine	Goosegrass
Buffalobur	Nettles	Nutsedge
Copperleaf	Giant ragweed	Marestail

Lists compiled by:

Cucurbits: Dr. Jim Shrefler and Oklahoma Vegetable Association members.

Peaches and Pecans: Dr. Dean McCraw, Dr. Mike Smith and Mr. Ken Karner.

Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes Needs Your Email Address

Dennis Martin

Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes is an E-news release system developed by the OSU-Stillwater turfgrass program in 2000. The system is a cost effective, rapid means of notifying people of upcoming educational events pertaining to professional/commercial turf managers in Oklahoma. There is no charge for being placed on the email list. Your email address is not given out to others, nor does it appear on headers on the news releases. About 700 people currently subscribe to this system. About 10% of our email addresses are now obsolete, so if you have not received any news releases in the last 4 months, it's likely that we do not have your new address. If you wish to subscribe to Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes, send your request to Dennis Martin at hortdm1@okstate.edu. Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes is sent only by email and is not available by US Mail. -Dennis Martin

Upcoming Turf Events

Dennis Martin

2002 OK Turf Conf. Set For Nov 13-15, 2002

Dr. Greg Bell, Education Director for the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation and the OTRF Board of Directors are working to put together another great Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show for this fall. Don't pass up the opportunity to provide input on speakers and sessions at the Nov. 13-15, 2002 event. This year's conference will again be held at Shangri La Research near Grove, OK. Contact Greg with your input at 405.744.6424 or by email:bgregor@okstate.edu.

2nd Annual OK/AR Turfgrass Short Course Hosts 59

The 2nd Annual OK/AR Turfgrass Short Course was held at the Tulsa Sheraton on Jan 14-15th, 2002. Fifty-nine people attended the event, which was team taught by five Univ. of Arkansas and two Oklahoma State University turfgrass faculty. The course consisted of interactive lectures covering the "why" behind the "how" turfgrass is managed in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Next year's short course will be held in Arkansas.

OSU Turfgrass/Nursery Field Day

The 2002 OSU Turfgrass/Nursery Field Day will be held at the OBGA, Stillwater, OK on May 23rd, 2002. Registration information is forthcoming.

2002 Spring Dead Spot Management Workshop Announced

The 3rd annual Spring Dead Spot Management Workshop will be held on April 25, 2002 at the OSU Turfgrass Research Center 1 mile west of Stillwater. Speakers at the event will be Dr. Nathan Walker, Turf IPM Scientist from OSU; Dr. Henry Wetzle, BASF; and Dr. Dennis Martin, OSU Turf Extension Specialist. Topics include: Biology and control of spring dead spot, viewing samples under the microscope, as well as a field tour of cultivar disease resistance trials and a fungicide trial for disease control. The workshop has been submitted for Pesticide Applicator CEUs. Two Certified Crop Advisor CEUs have been approved in Pest Management. The pre-registration flyer is down loadable. Go to the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture home page at: http://www.hortla.okstate.edu. After the page updates, click on the events hotlink and then the calendar pull-down menu to view the educational events and flyer links available.

Sports Turf Management Seminars Just Around the Corner

Interested in sports turf management information? Seminars covering construction, establishment and maintenance of sports fields will be held at the Tulsa Community College, NE Campus on Tues, Feb. 19th, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:10 p.m. and on Wed. Feb. 20, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:10 p.m. at OSU in Oklahoma City. David Gerken, Assist. Professor of Turf Management at OSU at Oklahoma City is coordinating the seminars.

The pre-registration flyer for the seminars can be downloaded in in pdf format (accessible with Adobe Acrobat software) from web address: http://www.osuokc.edu/agriculture/sportsturf/

The seminars will be beneficial to those involved in the decision-making process and in maintenance of public and private sports fields. Speakers at the seminars include: David Gerken, OSU at Oklahoma City Turf Program; Monte McCoy, Head Groundskeeper at the Bricktown Ballpark; Craig Potts, Athletic Field Manager at Texas A&M; Jim Borneman, Education Director for Ewing irrigation Products; Dave Minner, Iowa State Turf Program, as well as Greg Bell and Dennis Martin of the OSU at Stillwater Turf Program. Call (405) 945-3358 for more information.

Ornamental and Turf Applicators Applying Fertilizers For Hire Must Be Licensed

Dennis Martin

Applicators applying fertilizer commercially for hire on lawns or ornamentals in Oklahoma are required by law to be licensed as an Oklahoma Fertilizer Dealers (OFD). This regulation was covered briefly in a summer 2001 letter to OK Certified Ornamental & Turf Applicators from Chad Goss, Acting Fertilizer Program Administrator in the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture (ODOA) and by Kenny Naylor, ODOA, at the 2001 OK Turf Conference. The requirement is covered in Section 35:30-29-51 of the Oklahoma Fertilizer Act/Rules. Goss and Naylor explained that applying or distributing of any fertilizer as a part of a commercial maintenance contract is covered by the regulations. The fee for an Oklahoma Fertilizer Dealer License is \$50.00 annually. For further information or an application for an OFD License, contact the OK Dept. of AG, Plant and Consumer Services Division at: (405) 522-5974.

Preemergent Crabgrass Control TidBit (excerpted from the 2001 Crabgrass Control Trial Tour Booklet - August 1, 2001 - OSU Stillwater, OK). *Dennis Martin*

Product	Product Rate Per Acre	% of Area Covered in Crabgrass at 120 DAT
1. Dimension 1EC	1.0 qts.	3.3c
2. Dimension 1EC	1.5 qts	8.3c
3. Dimension 40WP	.625 lbs	31.0b
4. Dimension 40WP	0.95 lbs	20.6bc
5. Surflan 4AS	1.5 qts + 1.5 qts.	1.0c
6. Pendulum 3.3EC	3.6 qts + 1.8 qts.	0.0c
7. Barricade 65WG	1.35 lbs	0.0c
8. Princep 90WG +	2.22 lbs +	20.0bc
Surflan 4AS	1.5 qts	
9. Surflan 4AS + Dimension	1.5qts. +	1.3c
40WP	0.625 lbs.	
10. Untreated Control		96.6a
LSD at 95% certainty level		26.0

Research conducted on Midlawn bermudagrass at Stillwater, OK. DAT=days after treatment. Mowing height=1.5 inch, 3.16 lbs N/1,000 sq. ft. in 2001. Rate separated by "+" indicates split application program. Results may vary each yr. Read & follow all label directions.