

Horticulture Tips

February 2003

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

2003 Pecan Graftwood Source List

Dean McCraw

The updated pecan graftwood source list for 2003 has been attached to the Horticulture Tips email. Please print out a copy for your records.

Safe and Effective Insect Control

David Hillock

Many insects can overwinter on trees and shrubs by hiding in the cracks and crevices of bark. Most insecticides are formulated to control insects when they are in an active stage. However, dormant oils are used during the dormant period of deciduous plants, winter and early spring, when most insects are also in a dormant stage.

Dormant oils control many insects including mites, galls, scale, overwintering aphids, etc., as well as the eggs of many species. Insects are killed by suffocation, a mechanical form of control.

Applications should be made when temperatures are above 40 degrees F. Care should be given not to spray the oils on evergreen plants or on deciduous plants that have new foliage as injury may occur. Dormant oils are phytotoxic to all green plant parts. Summer oils are more diluted and refined and can be used during the growing season to control insects. Be sure to always read and follow label directions.

Control Peach and Nectarine Leaf Curl Now!

David Hillock

It is common to get calls in early summer by homeowners wanting to know what is wrong with their peach or nectarine tree. Infected leaves pucker, become deformed, and turn yellow or reddish-brown. Unfortunately, by that time, when symptoms are most evident, it is too late to spray anything. Leaf Curl is the culprit and is one of the most commonly encountered diseases in unsprayed orchards and home yards during cold, wet springs. Diseased leaves eventually wither and fall from the trees. Although new leaves emerge from dormant buds, their growth requirements reduce yield and may weaken the trees.

To prevent leaf curl disease, spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide before bud swell (F-7319). Apply when the trees are dormant and temperatures are above 40 degrees F. Bordeaux mixtures, copper flowable fungicides, Kocide, and lime-sulfur sprays are commonly used for control of leaf curl.

Bring Spring Indoors

David Hillock

Get a jump on spring and enjoy the bright colors of spring blooming trees and shrubs indoors. Many spring flowering shrubs and trees can be forced to bloom indoors. Just cut some branches from plants like forsythia, quince, peach, apple, and weigela and place them in your favorite vase or other container with water and watch them blossom before your eyes.

Fresh Spring Vegetables

David Hillock

The days for fresh vegetables to be picked right from the garden are soon coming. The cold winter temperatures will soon be leaving allowing us to return to the garden and begin growing our favorite vegetables again. By February 15 many cool season vegetables like cabbage, carrots, lettuce, peas and potatoes can be planted (see chart below). The exact time to plant will vary slightly depending on the winter and where you live in the state. The south/southwest region could be as much as two weeks ahead of the northwest and panhandle areas of the state. The thing to remember though is that soil temperatures at planting depth should be at least 40 degrees F.

The ease with which one is able to grow plants is greatly influenced by characteristics of the soil. Modifying or improving the soil prior to and during the gardening season is important.

Various fertilizer elements are necessary for plant growth and many can be easily applied. However, other aspects of soil improvement may not be as easily and readily accomplished. In a very sandy soil, the incorporation of organic matter would reduce rapid drying of the soil and improve nutrient availability. In a very heavy clay soil, organic matter would improve soil aeration, water absorption, and drainage.

Soil should absorb water readily, not form a crust upon drying, and drain sufficiently so that it does not become waterlogged. A porous soil contains more air, which is necessary for vigorous root growth. As organic matter decomposes, soil texture improves and nutrient availability should increase. More information on garden soil improvement is given in fact sheet F-6007, Improving Garden Soil Fertility.

The soil must contain a supply of water and available fertilizer nutrients. Soils that produced a vegetable crop the previous year will be more easily managed than those with established grasses and weeds.

Additional fertilizers may be beneficial to stimulate growth and production. These might be incorporated in the soil prior to planting or applied on the soil surface later.

Garden Planting Guide for Cool Season Vegetables

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>Time to Plant*</u>	<u>Days to Harvest</u>	<u>Method of Planting</u>
Asparagus	Fall or Spring	-	Crowns
Beet	March	50-70	Seed
Broccoli	March	80-90	Plants
Cabbage	Feb. 15 to March 10	60-90	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	Fall or Spring	-	Crowns
Spinach	Feb. 15 to March 10	50-70	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 degrees F.

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Specialty Cut Flowers

February 27, 2003

Holiday Inn, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Agricultural producers looking to diversify their operations should consider attending the upcoming cut flowers workshop in Stillwater. Also, others with as little as two acres of land could launch into this exciting horticultural endeavor. Specialty cuts is the field and greenhouse production of novelty cut flowers, greens, stems, fruits and other plant materials for the floriculture industry. A brochure with program information and preregistration form has been attached the Horticulture Tips email.

Commercial Landscape IPM

May 14, 2003

Mark your calendars now for a daylong outdoor IPM workshop geared for the commercial landscaper. The event will take place at Will Rogers Park in Oklahoma City. Details and registration information will be provided in March.

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or steph@okstate.edu.