

Horticulture Tips

September 2003

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

GARDEN TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER!

David Hillock

Landscape

- Watch for fall specials at garden centers and nurseries since fall is a great time for planting many ornamentals.
- Choose spring flowering bulbs as soon as available.
- Plant cool season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or kale, snapdragons and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool.
- You have all of September to plant cool season vegetables like spinach, leaf lettuce, mustard and radishes, and until the middle of September to plant rutabagas, Swiss chard, garlic and turnips.
- Watch for and control any late infestations of tree webworms.
- Twig girdler insects should be controlled if large numbers of small branches of elms, pecans, or persimmons are uniformly girdled from the tree and fall to the ground.
- Begin to reduce the amount of light on outside tropical houseplants by placing them under shade trees before bringing them indoors for the winter.

Lawn

- Last nitrogen fertilizer application of the year on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15. (F-6420)
- Winter broadleaf weeds like dandelion will begin to emerge in late September, which is also the best time to control them with a 2,4-D type herbicide.
- If pre-emergent control of winter-annual weeds (henbit, chickweed, annual bluegrass, etc.) is desired in lawns, the application should be completed by the 2nd week of September. (F-6421) *Note: Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall.*
- Continue bermudagrass spray program with glyphosate products for areas being converted over to tall fescue this fall. (F-6421)
- Plan to seed bluegrass, fescue or ryegrass as needed in shady areas in mid- to late-September. Fall is the best time to establish cool-season lawns. (F-6419)
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. (F-7306) Water product into soil.

Moving Plants Indoors for Winter

David Hillock

Because of our warm humid weather during the summer, many indoor, tropical plants are often grown outdoors. They love the hot, humid conditions of our summers and will often grow leaps and bounds. However, cooler weather will soon be arriving and these tropical plants will need to be moved indoors.

Light levels inside the home are much lower compared to the bright sunlight outside. To help your plants adjust to the lower light levels before moving them inside, gradually reduce the light levels to which they are exposed by placing them in shaded areas for a few weeks. By doing this the plants will be happier and will lose fewer if any leaves once indoors.

Controlling Winter Annual Weeds

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If winter annual weeds, such as henbit and annual bluegrass, have been a problem in your landscape in the past then you will for sure want to apply a preemergence herbicide as soon as possible. There are several products available in the garden centers that will effectively control germination of most winter annual weeds. Some are labeled just for turf areas and some are labeled for both turf and ornamental areas. Two products, Amaze® and Betasan® by Green Light®, are labeled for use in lawn and ornamental areas. Another product available called Preen® by Greenview can be used in ornamental and vegetable beds. Be sure to **read and follow the label directions** for best results and to avoid damaging any desirable plants.

Master Gardener Corner

David Hillock

2004 State Master Gardener Continued Training Conference

Plans are already in full swing for the 2004 State Master Gardener Continued Training Conference to be held in Ponca City on **Friday, June 4, 2004**. The **Kay County Master Gardeners** will host the conference and are already enthusiastically making plans. A preconference tour of the Cann Memorial gardens is scheduled for Friday morning prior to the beginning of the conference. On the following day, for those who wish to stick around, is the Ponca City Herb Festival. Be sure to mark your calendars now and we hope to see you all in June 2004!

Custer County Master Gardeners Hold Scarecrow Festival

On **October 4, 2003** the **Custer County Master Gardeners** will hold a Scarecrow Festival. Scarecrows made by the Master Gardeners will be sold at a silent auction. The event will be held at the Heirloom Garden located at the corner of Custer and Franklin in Weatherford. In addition to the scarecrow auction, there will be refreshments, cabin tours, hay and pumpkins (for sale), composting information, fall garden tips, and heirloom garden information. So if you get a

chance, come by and join the Custer County Master Gardeners at this educational and fun-filled community event Saturday, October 4.

Delaware County Master Gardeners Design/Build a Memory Garden

The director of Grove Nursing Center asked the **Delaware County Master Gardeners** to help design a "Memory" Garden. "We got lots of information off the web and then with the help of Wal-Mart's donation, we designed the garden," said **Carol Savage**, Delaware County Master Gardener Association Secretary.

This summer the Delaware County Master Gardeners completed planting and mulching the "Memory Garden" for the Alzheimer's patients at Grove Nursing Center. The Master Gardeners planted a trellis with a large Joseph's Coat Climbing Rose and two white Clematis, one spring blooming and one summer to fall blooming from Stonebridge Nursery in Claremore. Wal-Mart donated some of their end-of-season plants, which included several hanging baskets, quite a few flats of bedding plants, and single perennials in pots. Lendonwood Gardens also donated a couple of daylily plants, which can be divided next year.

Carol reported, "...all the mulch is in and the garden looks lovely. Yesterday, as we were finishing planting the plants, one of the patients came out to sit on the bench under the arbor. She told us over and over that it was just wonderful and how lovely it looked, and that it reminded her of her mother's garden. Today, we had another elderly patient tell us it was 'just beautiful.' That has made our whole project worthwhile! On to the next project!"

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Tree Symposium

This Year's Theme: You're Gettin' Shade all Over my Grass: Insights into the Integrated Management of Woody Ornamentals Where Turf is of Predominant Importance

September 12, 2003

Oklahoma City

Contact Carroll Emberton for more information at ohic@ionet.net

Multi-State Ornamental Plant Materials Conference

September 24-25, 2003

Holiday Inn, Stillwater

Contact Mike Schnelle at mas@okstate.edu

Tree Care Conference

October 14, 2003

Oklahoma Botanical Garden and Arboretum, Stillwater

Contact Mike Schnelle at mas@okstate.edu

Greenhouse Growers' Fall Seminar

October 21, 2003

Holiday Inn, Stillwater

Contact Carroll Emberton at ohic@ionet.net
<http://www.ogga.org/education.htm>

Hazard Trees and Trees People and the Law

November 5-6, 2003

Reed Conference Center, Midwest City

Contact Mark Bays for more information at 405-521-3864 or mark@oda.state.ok.us

Horticulture Therapy Conference

November 12, 2003

Holiday Inn, Stillwater

Contact Mike Schnelle at mas@okstate.edu

Oklahoma Nursery and Greenhouse Trade Show and Convention

January 15-17, 2004

Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City

Contact Carroll Emberton at 405-942-5276 or ohic@ionet.net

<http://www.oknurserymen.org/>

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