

Horticulture Tips

March 2005

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

New! *Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs, and Vines in Oklahoma* CD

David Hillock

We would like to announce the release of a new CD from Oklahoma State University, E-972 *Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs, and Vines in Oklahoma*. This comprehensive publication covers benefits, design concepts, recommended methods for planting, care and maintenance, and pest control. There are also lists of suggested plant species for each region of Oklahoma as well as lists of plant material for specific purposes like dry locations, shade, plants with showy flowers, fruits, fall color, and native plant species. Each chapter is filled with colorful pictures and detailed diagrams and there are additional features of helpful internet links and several video clips from Oklahoma Gardening to watch on your computer.

E-972 *Landscaping with Trees, Shrubs, and Vines in Oklahoma* is a helpful tool for all gardeners and makes a wonderful gift. For only ten dollars each, you can order one for every gardener you know.

To place your order send \$10 per CD with a request and make check payable to:

The Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Dept.
Attn: Stephanie Larimer
360 AG Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027
phone: 405-744-5404

Pecan Graftwood Sources and Nursery Listing for Recommended Pecan Varieties for 2005

Becky Carroll

The updated version of the Pecan Graftwood Sources and the Nursery Listing for Recommended Pecan Varieties is attached to the March Horticulture Tips email. Please save or print out both resources for your files.

GARDEN TIPS FOR MARCH!

David Hillock

Lawn and Turf

- Remove excessive thatch from warm-season lawns. Dethatching, if necessary, should precede crabgrass control treatment. (F-6604)
- Broadleaf weeds can easily be controlled in cool-season lawns at this time with postemergent broadleaf herbicides. (F-6421)
- Preemergent crabgrass control chemicals can still be applied to cool- and warm-season turfgrasses (F-6421). Heed label cautions when using any weed killers near or in the root zone of desirable plantings.
- March is the second best time of the year to seed cool-season turfgrass; however, fall is the best time to plant. (F-6419)
- Cool-season lawns such as bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass may be fertilized now with the first application of the season. Usually, four applications of fertilizer are required per year in March, May, October and November. (F-6420)
- Begin mowing cool-season grasses at 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches high. (F-6420)

Flowers & Vegetables

- Cultivate annual flower and vegetable planting beds to destroy winter weeds.
- Apply mulch to control weeds in beds. Landscape fabric barrier can reduce the amount of mulch but can dry out and prevent water penetration. Thus, organic litter makes the best mulch.
- Prune roses just before growth starts and begin a regular disease spray program as the foliage appears. (F-6403 & F-7607)
- Avoid excessive walking and working in the garden when foliage and soils are wet.
- Start warm-season vegetable transplants indoors.
- Divide and replant overcrowded, summer and fall blooming perennials. Mow or cut back old liriop and other ornamental grasses before new growth begins.
- Your cool-season vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, carrot, lettuce, onion, peas, spinach, turnips, etc. should be planted by the middle of March (see table in February Hort Tips).
- Watch for cutworms that girdle newly planted vegetables during the first few weeks of establishment. Cabbage looper and cabbageworm insects should be monitored and controlled in the garden (F-7313).

Trees & Shrubs

- Prune spring flowering plants, if needed, immediately following their bloom period.
- Plant evergreen shrubs, balled and burlapped, and bare root trees and shrubs.
- Anthracnose control on sycamore, maple and oak should begin at bud swell. (F-7634)
- Diplodia Pine Tip blight control on pines begins at bud swell. (F-7618)
- Chemical and physical control of galls (swellings) on stems of trees should begin now. (F-7168 & F-7306)
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. (F-7306)
- The first generation of Nantucket Pine Tip Moth appears at this time. Begin pesticide applications in late March. (F-7306)
- Control Eastern tent caterpillars as soon as the critters appear.

Fruits

- Continue to plant strawberries, asparagus and other small fruit crops this month.
- Start your routine fruit tree spray schedule prior to bud break. (F-7319).
- Remove winter mulch from strawberries in early March (F-6214).

Perennial Plant of the Year

David Hillock

The Perennial Plant Association named *Helleborus x hybridus*, Lenten Rose, the 2005 Perennial Plant of the Year. It is an evergreen plant producing colorful flowers in late winter to early spring. Mature plants will form clumps 18 to 24 inches tall and 24 to 30 inches wide. Long lasting blooms come in many colors and are single to double and some with picotee edges. Flowers come in a rainbow of colors ranging from pure white to a plum color bordering on black. Others are red, pink, yellow and several with small to large spots on the inside of the flowers. Mature plants often have 50 or more flowers per plant. Flowers are about two to three inches in diameter and the only fault they have is they are not fragrant and have a nodding habit.

Landscape Uses

Lenten rose provides color and texture during late winter and early spring with its evergreen foliage and early flower production. Lenten rose can be used as specimen plants, massed to compliment and even outwit other spring beauties, and may even be used as an elegant ground cover. Lenten rose is ideal for naturalizing in woodland areas and is excellent when positioned on a hillside or path where the flowers can be viewed from below. These plants are long-lived, long-flowering, pest-free, cold- and heat-tolerant and seem to prefer regions with hot summers. Most gardeners in Oklahoma will be very pleased to know that this plant is also unpalatable to moles, gophers, rabbits and deer. In fact, all parts of the plant are poisonous if consumed.

Cultivation

Lenten Rose needs a well-drained, humus-rich, fertile soil that is neutral to slightly alkaline. Average watering is needed though they tolerate dry conditions, needing only occasional watering after they become established. Good drainage is required for optimum growth, thus it benefits from being planted on natural or created slopes. Lenten rose will grow poorly in our heavy clay soils. It grows best in partial to full shade. Positioning plants under deciduous trees is ideal; and when well established will tolerate dry summers under trees that are difficult to grow under. In Oklahoma the foliage remains evergreen and leaves can become a bit tattered during the winter months. Tattered leaves can simply be cut off as new leaves begin to emerge in the spring. Fertilize when new leaves emerge in spring. Plants do not like to be disturbed and seldom need dividing.

Hardiness

Grows in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9

You can read more about the Perennial Plant of the Year by going to the following web site:

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

Pecan Grower's Assessment Fails

Becky Carroll

The Oklahoma Pecan Check-off program which would have assessed a one-half cent per pound of pecans sold will not become a reality this next season. The purpose of the Oklahoma Pecan Commodity Board was to support and promote a healthy pecan industry through supplemental funding for extension and research activities that support pecan production and marketing.

The vote failed this month when mailed ballots were counted and less than 1% of eligible voters participated. The vote was 156 (59%) for the proposal and 107 (41%) against the proposal. The program needed a 67% victory to pass. Forty-two ballots were disqualified for not including legal land description and driving directions which were necessary for proof of eligibility.

Earth-Kind Gardening Fact Sheets

David Hillock

Several years ago a series of fact sheets that highlighted the program, Earth-Kind Gardening, which addresses environmental garden and lawn issues were developed. This program promotes an environmentally sound stance on pesticide and fertilizer use, water quality, resource conservation and solid waste management. Earth-Kind Gardening encourages non-chemical practices such as cultural, mechanical, and biological controls for garden pests.

This program complements Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices—a combination of pest management techniques to reduce the need for pesticides. IPM programs rely on monitoring pests and pest damage. IPM techniques include maintaining healthy plants that resist insects and diseases better; encouraging natural predators of pests to stay in your yard; using non-chemical means to remove insects when possible, such as handpicking caterpillars on cabbage; and when using pesticides, choosing the one that is least toxic, most effective, and most pest-specific, and that has the least potential impact on the environment.

These fact sheets can be found at the OSU Extension publications web site www.osuextra.com.

[F-6431 Earth-Kind Gardening Series: Cultural Control Practices](#)

This fact sheet discusses ways of modifying the garden environment to hamper pests' breeding, feeding and shelter habits, while maintaining a healthy garden.

[F-6432 Earth-Kind Gardening Series: Mechanical Pest Controls](#)

This fact sheet discusses the different mechanical pest control practices.

[F-6433 Earth-Kind Gardening Series: Botanical Pest Controls](#)

This fact sheet describes the use of a botanical insect control to help gardeners understand their alternatives when an insecticide is needed.

[F-6434 Earth-Kind Gardening Series: Biological Pest Controls](#)

This fact sheet discusses biological pest controls as alternatives to insecticides.

[F-6436 Healthy Garden Soils](#)

This fact sheet describes how gardeners can create healthy garden soils in their own gardens.

OSU Publications Web Site Revised

David Hillock

The OSU Extension Publication web site has recently been revised making it easier to find, view and print copies of extension publications.

The site is divided into two portions – OSU Extra, where viewing and printing of fact sheets can occur and the Print on Demand System, where employees of DASNR can order publications.

OSU Extra - OSU Extension Fact Sheets provide research-based information on a wide variety of subjects in regard to agriculture (including horticulture), economic development, family and consumer sciences and youth development.

If you know the number, title, author, or subject matter of the fact sheet, current report, or other publication, you may search for it at any time by entering the information in the search box. Otherwise, you may look for publications by departmental listing or by topic. Descriptions of each publication are shown directly below each title.

Once you find the publication, click on the title to open the pdf. You may print it on your home printer or download it for future use. To access OSU Extra go to:

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-12>

Print on Demand System - The [Print on Demand System](#) is a publications ordering system for Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources employees only. To use the print on demand system, a user ID and password are required. These have been assigned to each department, county and other designated offices. To obtain this ID and password, please contact your Department Head or CED.

If you have questions about the use or content of the web site, please contact Gayle Hiner at hiner@okstate.edu. For technical problems, contact Dwayne Hunter at tdh@okstate.edu.

Master Gardener Corner

David Hillock

Oklahoma Master Gardener Continued Training Summer Conference! June 10, 2005.

"*Taking Gardening Into the Future*" is this year's State Master Gardener Conference theme, which by the way is shaping up to be an awesome event. The conference will be held at the Frisco Conference Center in Clinton. Having the conference in western Oklahoma will allow us to experience some of the western garden flavor in the state. Speakers for the conference include keynote speaker David Salman, of High Country Gardens in New Mexico – "New and Underused Flowering Plants for Oklahoma Landscapes"; John Fluitt, a landscape designer in central Oklahoma – "Sustainable Landscape Design in Oklahoma"; Dustin Snow, of Horn Canna Farm – "Growing Cannas in Oklahoma"; Mike Morgan, meteorologist for KFOR Channel 4 – "Trends in Weather"; and Pat Bolin and Sharon von Broembsen, from the Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology – "Potential Exotic Pests and their Control". In addition to these

fabulous speakers, we will have tours and mini workshops at Sunshine Nursery with Steve Bieberich and his staff.

A preconference ice cream social is scheduled for Thursday evening in Weatherford at the Blair Cabin from 6 to 8 p.m. The Blair Cabin is a historical cabin located in downtown Weatherford. The Custer County Master Gardeners took on the task of researching, planning and installing a heritage garden at the cabin site. Come see their handiwork and enjoy an evening of ice cream and great Western Oklahoma hospitality. Special door prizes from Satterlee, Wild Birds Unlimited, TLC, Atwoods and more will be given away to conference participants. **Hope to see you all there!**

Program and registration information will be sent out in May. For more information 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.

International Master Gardener Conference. July 24-27, 2005.

In the summer of 1995, the Saskatchewan Master Gardener program and the University of Saskatchewan had the honor of hosting the 5th International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) in Saskatoon. Over 600 Master Gardeners from all parts of North America congregated in this Canadian Prairie city for an informative and fun-filled experience.

They are delighted to have been given the opportunity to do it all over again. Saskatoon will be hosting the 2005 International Master Gardener Conference, July 24-27, 2005. The 10th IMGC coincides with the Province of Saskatchewan's centennial celebration. Hence the theme of the conference: "*100 Years of Gardening on the Canadian Prairies*".

The Master Gardeners of Saskatchewan cordially invite you to be their very special guests at the 2005 IMGC to help them celebrate these two important milestones. They are working very hard to make this conference even better than it was in 1995. Whether you will be returning for the second time or arriving for the first, they can assure you that you will have an exciting and worthwhile experience.

To view the schedule and register today, visit www.mastergardener2005.usask.ca. Early bird registration is by April 30.

Wine Grape Educational Opportunity

Becky Carroll

A Wine Grape Pest Control Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, March 26 at the Oklahoma Fruit Research Station. The research station is 1/2 mile north of the Sonic Drive In at the intersection of Highway 33 and 177, north of Perkins.

The morning session begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. Several OSU specialists will be presenting topics covering disease, insect, and weed management; herbicide drift issues; spray

additives; foliar feeding; and a pesticide applicator certification discussion. An optional afternoon session covering pruning and sprayer calibration will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 3 p.m. Lunch is on your own.

The seminar is sponsored by the Oklahoma Grape Growers and Wine Makers' Association (OGGWMA), the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the OSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

Pre-registration is required by March 19, 2005. Space is limited. There is a \$5 registration fee to cover morning refreshments. To register for the class or for more information, email your registration to jameskaggs@prodigy.net. If you would like a pesticide applicator packet, please include that information when you register. There is an additional fee of approximately \$15 if seeking a pesticide applicator certificate.

Other educational opportunities sponsored by the OGGWMA can be found on their web site at <http://www.oklahomawines.org/EduClasses.htm>.

Pecan Growers' Will Meet In Stillwater

Becky Carroll

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Pecan Growers' Association will be held in Stillwater, June 19-21, 2005. Make plans now to attend this educational and informative meeting. On Sunday evening the group will tour the research plots and enjoy a dinner at the Oklahoma Pecan and Fruit Research Station at Perkins. Educational meetings on Monday will be held at the Holiday Inn with an awards banquet that evening. The group will tour Dick Hoffman's pecan operation, just east of Stillwater on Tuesday. Equipment demonstrations, commercial booths and the State Pecan and Food Shows will be held during the course of the three day event. More registration information will be available soon.

60th Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show Set for November 16-18, 2005 in Stillwater

Dennis Martin

"Stillwater, Where Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference began." The 60th Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show will return to its origins in Stillwater, Oklahoma this fall. The conference is set for November 16-18, 2005 at the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development. The Center is located on the corner of Washington and Hall of Fame Avenue. The conference and show will provide a broad array of educational presentations. Education is being planned for the sports turf, landscape, lawncare, sod production and golf course management industries. Pesticide Applicator CEUs will also be available. Unlike previous years, participants will choose from one of several designated hotels. Early booking of rooms will be required of attendees since the various sporting events in Stillwater results in competition for lodging. More information on the conference will be available shortly.

Spring Dead Spot of Bermudagrass Workshop Set for April 27 in Stillwater

Dennis Martin

After taking a year off, the spring dead spot workshop resumes again in 2005. This year the event is scheduled for 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 at the OSU Botanical Garden, 1 mile west of Stillwater. Lunch will be provided with registration. The workshop will be submitted for possible Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and will have both indoor and outdoor presentations. A tour showing cultivar trials and variety response to the disease is planned. Spring dead spot is one of the most serious diseases of turf bermudagrass in the region. More information on the conference will be available shortly.

Date Set for 6th Annual Oklahoma/Arkansas Turf Short Course

Dennis Martin

The 5th Annual Arkansas/ Oklahoma Turf Short Course was held on January 11 & 12 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Sixty-nine attendees, a record number, participated in the event which drew 8 Oklahomans (Cowboys and Sooners) deep into the heart of Razorback country. The program was hosted by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, with support from U of AR turf faculty from the Fayetteville campus as well as Oklahoma State University faculty from the Stillwater and Oklahoma City campuses. The program had been approved for 5 CEUs in category 3a – Outdoor Ornamentals & Turf and category 10 – Demonstration & Research.

The event is an introductory short course that targets those practitioners in the landscape and lawncare industries who have not had the opportunity to take an introductory turf course. However some attendees are those who are new to the AR/OK region or those simply wanting to brush up on regional turf recommendations. The course covers turf identification, selection, establishment and the maintenance practices common to the region. The focus of the short course is on the "why" behind the "how" turf is managed in the region. The 6th Annual Oklahoma/Arkansas Turf Short Course is set for January 11 & 12, 2006 (Wed/Thur) at the OSU Botanical Garden, 1 mile west of Stillwater. More information on the conference will be available in October.

Turf Short Course Offered as In-Service for OSU Cooperative Extension Service Educators

Dennis Martin

The 2005 Turf Short Course In-service for Extension Educators has been set for 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on May 11 at the OSU Botanical Garden Education Center, 1 mile west of Stillwater. The training is offered to Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Educators. The event covers, in a 1 day compressed format, the fundamentals of turfgrass selection, establishment, pest management and general maintenance pertinent to Oklahoma. Lunch and break refreshments will be provided. Instructors will be Nathan Walker (Turf IPM Scientist), Tom Royer (Extension Entomologist), Holly Compton (Turf Extension Assist) and Dennis Martin (Turfgrass

Specialist). Attendees will gain insights and skills in assisting not only their consumer clientele but also information vital to working with professional lawn care applicators, sports field managers and golf course superintendents. Interested OCES extension educators can sign up for the in-service at the staff development site at <http://intranet.okstate.edu/OCES/index.htm>.

In the Greenhouse

Mike Schnelle

New Poinsettia Gallery

Growers and retailers now can access the recently released OSU Poinsettia Gallery. With over 100 cultivars to view, industry professionals can obtain a quick glimpse of commercially available cultivars they may want to add to their inventory for the next holiday season.

http://quicksilver.okstate.edu/web/Poinsettia_web/index.htm

Oklahoma Greenhouse Growers' Association Greenhouse Short Course

June 28-30, OSU-Oklahoma City

A greenhouse short course will be conducted with speakers addressing needs of both seasoned as well as new growers. For information contact Wendy Gerdes at 405-942-5276 or OklahomaONLAOGGA@aol.com

Greenhouse Growers' Fall Update

October 26, Holiday Inn, Stillwater

Contact Mike Schnelle at mike.schnelle@okstate.edu or 405-744-7361

In the Nursery and Garden Center

Mike Schnelle

Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Trade Show and Convention

September 30-October 1, Tulsa Convention Center

Contact Wendy Gerdes – [Oklahoma ONLAOGGA@aol.com](mailto:OklahomaONLAOGGA@aol.com)

In the Landscape

Mike Schnelle

Integrated Pest Management for Landscape Professionals

May 25, OSU, Stillwater

A one-day landscape IPM workshop will be offered with the focus on outdoor stops covering typical scenarios that a landscaper would encounter at his/her workplace. This event will be team taught by horticulturists, plant pathologists and entomologists.

Contact Mike Schnelle at mike.schnelle@okstate.edu or 405-744-7361

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Oklahoma Gardening Summer Gardenfest

June 11, 2005, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

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