

Horticulture Tips

November 2005

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

25th Annual Arkansas/Oklahoma Horticulture Industries Show (HIS)

Sue Gray

"Improve Your Growing Climate at H.I.S." is the theme for the Silver Anniversary of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Horticulture Industries Show. This two-day grower meeting and trade show is sponsored by the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa Community College, the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. It has consistently provided growers the latest information on vegetables, fruit, herbs, Christmas trees, farmers market crops and public gardening issues. Growers from Oklahoma, Arkansas and surrounding states are welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, January 6 and 7, 2006 at Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus, 3727 East Apache St., Tulsa, OK.

On Friday, the six different grower organizations of H.I.S. will host concurrent educational programming on the following topic areas: Christmas Trees, Vegetables, Fruit, Herbs, Farmers Market Growing/Sustainable Agriculture & Public Gardens/Master Gardeners.

To celebrate our anniversary, HIS has planned a special one day hoop house workshop on Saturday, January 7 in lieu of individual grower group programming. Hoop houses, high tunnels or walk-in growing frames, are becoming a vital part of horticultural enterprises. The season can be extended and climate controlled in spring and fall as tender crops are protected from frost, hail and high winds.

Specialists from Kansas State University and the Noble Foundation of Ardmore will present practical ideas for getting into hoop house production. Commercial growers will speak about the crops they raise: vegetables, cut flowers and small fruit crops.

Attendees to the two-day event will receive a CD-Rom containing all programs presented during the event.

For further details log onto the following website:

<http://home.okstate.edu/Okstate/dasnr/hort/hortlahome.nsf/toc/HIS>

Contact Person: Donna Dollins, HIS Secretary/Treasurer, Oklahoma State University, Department of Horticulture, Stillwater, OK, 405-744-6460, donna.dollins@okstate.edu.

GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER!

David Hillock

Lawn & Turf

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions. (F-6601)
- Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.

Tree & Shrub

- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Follow label directions.
- Continue to plant balled and burlapped trees.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.

Flowers

- Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November.
- Leave foliage on asparagus, mums and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions.
- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.

Miscellaneous

- Leftover garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old.
- Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots.
- Clean and store garden and landscape tools. Coat with a light application of oil to prevent rusting. Drain fuel tanks, irrigation lines and hoses. Bring hoses indoors.

Fruits & Nuts

- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break.
- Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

2005 State Pecan Show Entries

Becky Carroll

It is that time of year when the harvesters are busy picking up this year's pecan crop. Be sure to select your best pecans to be exhibited at the state pecan show this year. The more exhibits entered, the better the state show. After judging, this year's pecan show will be displayed at the OPGA annual meeting in June held at Shawnee.

There will not be any qualifying regional or district pecan shows this year. However, some county/area shows will be held at the discretion of the County Extension Educator. Growers are encouraged to participate in county shows if available. Winning entries from county shows will be sent to the state show. If no county/area show is available, growers may enter pecans directly by sending samples to Becky Carroll, 360 Ag Hall, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078. Samples should arrive by January 13, 2006.

Samples should be entered in a sealed plastic or paper bag. Label the bag on the outside and place a label inside the bag. Information should include exhibitors name and address, county, and type of pecan entered. Be sure to follow the guidelines that are listed below before sending entries.

A few helpful hints: Take the time to select pecans that are all the same cultivar, or same size and shape natives – don't send mixed pecans. Select uniform, clean, uncracked pecans. Presentation can make the difference between two very similar samples. Make sure to send 2 pounds of pecans in a labeled and sealed bag.

General Rules and Guidelines

- All entries must be grown in Oklahoma during the current season.
- Each entry shall consist of two pounds of nuts.
- Entries deemed unworthy by the judges will not compete for awards.
- Label each entry as to exhibitor's name, address and cultivar of nuts. If more than one native (seedling) pecan exhibit is made, identify the nuts from separate trees by numbers. Only one exhibit of each cultivar or native tree may be entered by one individual.
- Each entry will compete in one of the following 28 classes:

1. Apache	12. Maramec	23. Success
2. Barton	13. Mohawk	24. Western
3. Burkett	14. Pawnee	25. Wichita
4. Cheyenne	15. Perique	26. Other Cultivars
5. Choctaw	16. SanSaba Improved	27. Large-Native (seedling)
6. Comanche	17. Schley (eastern)	28. Small-Native (seedling)
7. Graking	18. Shawnee	
8. Gratex	19. Shoshoni	
9. Kanza	20. Sioux	
10. Kiowa	21. Squirrels Delight	
11. Mahan	22. Stuart	
- Each grower is allowed to participate at one county show of his or her choice.
- Each grower is allowed to enter one entry in each show class with the exception of Class 26 (Other Cultivars), Class 27 (Large-seedling) and Class 28 (Small- seedling)
- Each grower may enter one entry from each native (seedling) tree.
- Entries should be shipped or mailed to arrive at the show at least one day prior to the deadline.
- County pecan shows will not be affected by these rules and procedures.

- Only first and second place winners in each class of each county/area show will be eligible to compete in the State Pecan Show. Following each county show, eligible entries will be placed in cold storage, and judged before the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual Meeting. At that time, the winning entries will be displayed with awards and recognitions. All entries will become the property of the OPGA.
- First, second and third place winners in each class at the State Pecan Show will receive ribbons.
- State Pecan Show Special Awards – Trophies will be awarded for the largest pecan entry, the entry having the highest kernel percentage, the champion seedling and the best entry of the show.
- If a qualifying show is not available, growers may submit entries in accordance with these guidelines directly to the State Show. Entries in the state show must be received by January 13, 2006 at the following address:

Oklahoma State University
 Department of Horticulture & LA
 Attn: Becky Carroll
 360 Ag Hall
 Stillwater, OK 74078

Controlling Broadleaf Winter Weeds in Home Lawns

David Hillock

Winter weeds such as dandelions and clover in bermudagrass, Kentucky bluegrass, centipede grass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue and zoysiagrass can be controlled in November with 2,4-D, Banvel and MCPP combinations. Air temperatures should be above 50° F for best control.

Postemergence herbicides are applied following weed emergence when they are young and actively growing. Most are foliar absorbed, so they must remain on weed foliage for 24 to 48 hours following application. Postemergence broadleaf herbicides kill target weeds without injuring turfgrasses when applied at recommended rates. Examples include 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP and various herbicide and fertilizer combinations. Normally, two to three spray applications, spaced 10 to 14 days apart, are required for effective weed control.

Protecting Young Trees

Trunks of some newly planted trees, especially those with green trunks or thin-bark, require protection from direct sunlight during all seasons. They are especially susceptible to sunscald (blistering and cracking of the bark) during winter months when leaves are absent. Protect the trunk with a commercial tree wrap such as a polyurethane spiral wrap or paper (kraft) wrap. The wrap should be applied in the fall, but should be removed prior to trunk expansion each spring. The most commonly reported damage from trunk protective wraps is trunk girdling or constriction because the wrap was too tight or left on too long. Generally, a tree will only need to be wrapped the first season or two after planting. Tie the wrap firmly, but not tightly.

Polyurethane wraps expand without binding the trunk. Start at the ground and wrap up to the first branch slightly overlapping as you go. Do not attach wraps with wire, nylon rope, plastic ties or electrical tape.

Plants prone to winter desiccation, such as broadleaf evergreens, when planted in open windy areas may require additional protection. Temporary protective barriers such as sheets of burlap, lathe fencing, bales of hay etc. can be constructed to provide protection from the drying winds. Unfortunately, antidesiccants generally do not relieve plant stress in Oklahoma in winter or summer.

Protect young trees and shrubs from animal damage. Polyurethane wrap, wire mesh collars or rodent repellent paint can be used. Holly, honeylocust, elm and fruit trees are particularly susceptible. Remember snow will change the height of the bite.

For more information on protecting landscape plants during the winter see OSU fact sheet F-6404 "Winter Protection of Landscape Plants."

I Didn't Know Ornamental Sweet Potatoes Developed Sweet Potatoes; Are They Edible?

David Hillock

Many gardeners are surprised to see fairly large tubers appearing on their ornamental sweet potatoes late in the season. In fact, if left in the small pots that they were purchased in, the tubers may burst the sides of the pots wide open by the end of the growing season. They are not noticeable early in the year, I believe, because most plants sold in garden centers are started from rooted cuttings. The tubers don't develop until they have been growing in our nice warm summer soils.

Of course the next question then is, "Are they edible?" Of course they are, they are a true sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), selected for their ornamental value obviously, but edible tubers are produced. I have not actually tasted one myself, but have heard reports from other gardeners that they can be quite tasty. Just remember though, as with any potato, don't eat green potato tubers raw. When tubers are exposed to light they turn green and become inedible.

Ornamental sweet potatoes are grown for their decorative foliage and vigorous growing habit. They work well as groundcover in the landscape or as a container grown plant. Grown along a retaining wall, raised bed or in a container, they spill nicely over the edge creating a soft flowing look. Several cultivars are available including 'Blackie' with dark purple almost black leaves, 'Margarita' with chartreuse or lemon lime colored leaves (also an Oklahoma Proven Plant) and 'Tricolor' or 'Pink Frost' with variegations of pink, white and green.

More on the December 15, 2005 Oklahoma Cucurbit Educational Meeting

Jim Shrefler, Lane Agricultural Center

This is another reminder to mark your calendar for the 2005 Oklahoma Cucurbit Production and Marketing Educational Meeting which will be held at the Grady County Fairgrounds in Chickasha on Thursday, December 15, 2005. This year's guest Speaker will be Dr. Frank Dainello of the Horticulture Department at Texas A&M University. Dr. Dainello has many years of experience with the production of cucurbits and other vegetables in Texas and always has some great stories to tell! His presentation is sure to set the stage for an educational and enjoyable day! Other program topics to be covered include pickling aspects of cucurbits, disease management, weed control for conventional and organic cucurbit production, human nutrition aspects of cucurbit crops, and more. For OSU Extension employees, this program is approved for in-service training credit. For more details or to be added to the mailing list to receive a program brochure, call Jim Shrefler at 580-889-7343 or by email at jshrefler-okstate@lane-ag.org.

Master Gardener Corner

David Hillock

Horticulture Industries Show (HIS) - January 6-7, 2006. Planning for HIS is underway and program and preregistration forms will be mailed late November – early December. This year HIS will be held in Tulsa at the Tulsa Community College; all Master Gardeners are invited to attend. If you are a returning Master Gardener you can receive Continued Training Education hours by attending this conference that will count towards the minimum of 20 hours you need to keep active status. Remember, however, that only the time actually spent in class counts as training received. Travel and in-between times do not count.

Though we do offer a Master Gardener/Public Garden session, you may also choose from any other session offered during the conference. There are 8 commodity groups represented during HIS all conducting seminars, workshops, and business meetings. You may choose from any of the following groups - Vegetables, Fruit, Herb, Sustainable Ag, Farmers Market, Master Gardener/Public Garden, General, and Christmas Trees.

The theme for this year's program is "**Improve Your Growing Climate with HIS**". This conference will be unique from past conferences because Friday will be dedicated to the commodity groups and their educational sessions, while all presentations on Saturday will be general sessions for all attendees and will be devoted to "Season Extension and Crop Protection Technology." More specifically it will address high tunnel (hoop house) and plasticulture production. Experts from around the country as well as right here in Oklahoma will be sharing their great knowledge and experience in the world of season extension. While these presentations will be focusing on the commercial producer, the information can be very beneficial for the everyday gardener. I would encourage all Master Gardeners to attend these sessions.

Speakers and topics for the Master Gardener/Public Garden session on Friday includes: The Gardens at Philbrook: The Challenges and Issues of Restoring a Historical Garden and Landmark - Joe Howell, Landscape Architect, President, Howell & Vancuren, Inc.; Twiggeries – Garden Features & Utilities Made from Pruning Throwaways - J. P. Malocsay, Horticulturist; The Linnaeus Garden – A Unique Demonstration/Teaching Garden in Woodward Park - Barry Fugatt, Director Tulsa Garden Center; Traditional Native American Gardens on the Great Plains - Fred Schneider, Cleveland County Master Gardener; The Master Gardener Demonstration/Teaching Gardens at Cleveland County - Samantha Wagner, Extension Horticulturist, Cleveland County; Vines & Groundcovers - Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas, Cooperative Extension Service.

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference

November 16-18, 2005, West Watkins Center, Stillwater

The 60th Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show is set for November 16- 18, 2005 in Stillwater Oklahoma. The event will be held at the Watkins Center on the corner of Washington and Hall of Fame. Special conference lodging room rates are available at the Fairfield Inn (\$65/night) and the Best Western (\$69/night). Lodging room reservations can be made by calling the Fairfield Inn at 405.372.6300 or the Best Western at 405.377-7010. Conference pre-registration flyers will be sent out in October to those people on the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) Mailing list or by email on the Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes email list serve. To be placed on the OTRF mailing list contact Tonya Murray at 918.437.0835. To be placed on the Oklahoma Turfgrass Notes email newsletter list contact Dennis Martin at Dennis.L.Martin@okstate.edu.

Poinsettia Open House

December 2, 2005, TLC Florist and Greenhouses (Memorial Road Location), Oklahoma City
For more information, contact 405-761-0630

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6th Annual Oklahoma/Arkansas Turf Short Course

January 11-12, 2006, OSU Botanical Garden, Stillwater

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.

State Master Gardener Continued Training Conference

May 19, 2006, McAlester, Oklahoma

Plans are underway for next year's State Master Gardener Conference to be held in McAlester at the Southeast Expo Center on May 19, 2006 with a preconference Evening Social on May 18. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The Pittsburg County Master Gardeners are hosting the conference and are working hard to make this conference another fantastic one!

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