

Horticulture Tips

February 2009

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

GARDEN TIPS FOR FEBRUARY!

David Hillock

General

- Base any plant fertilization on a soil test. For directions, contact your county Extension Educator.
- Provide feed and unfrozen water for your feathered friends.
- Clean up birdhouses before spring tenants arrive during the middle of this month.
- Avoid salting sidewalks for damage can occur to plant material. Use alternative commercial products, sand or kitty litter for traction.
- Join *Oklahoma Gardening* on your OETA station for our new season beginning on February 28. *Oklahoma Gardening* is aired on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Trees & Shrubs

- Fertilize trees, including fruit and nut trees and shrubs, annually. ([HLA-6412](#))
- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs should be planted in February or March. ([HLA-6414](#))
- 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. ([HLA-6409](#))
- Look for arborvitae aphids on many evergreen shrubs during the warmer days of early spring.
- Gall-producing insects on oaks, pecans, hackberries, etc. need to be sprayed prior to bud break of foliage.
- Dormant oil can still be applied to control mites, galls, overwintering aphids, etc. ([EPP-7306](#))

Fruit & Nuts

- Spray peaches and nectarines with a fungicide for prevention of peach leaf curl before bud swell. ([EPP-7319](#))
- Mid-February is a good time to begin pruning and fertilizing trees and small fruits.
- Collect and store graftwood 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 [HLA-6222](#) has a recommended list.

Turf

- 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. ([HLA-6421](#))

Vegetables

- 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. ([HLA-6004](#))

Flowers

- Force spring flowering branches like forsythia, quince, peach, apple and weigela for early bloom indoors.
- 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.

Pruning Blackberries for Optimum Fruiting Potential

Eric T. Stafne

Blackberries are a relatively easy plant to grow. Since they are native to Oklahoma, they are well adapted to our wild weather. But, they need some maintenance and care to be able to produce up to their maximum potential. New cultivars of blackberries can produce prodigious amounts of fruit – perhaps between 10,000 and 20,000 pounds per acre. To achieve this type of result, proper pruning is very important. The timing of pruning is relatively unimportant when it comes to blackberries. The plants tend to flower late enough that they are not consistently destroyed by late frosts. Once a blackberry fruits, the cane will senesce and die back to the ground. This type of cane is called a florican. After harvest, and gradually throughout the summer, the cane will die from the tip back. I have heard people say different things about when to remove the canes. You can take the cane out immediately after harvest, you can remove the cane once it had died back to the ground, or you can wait until winter. I prefer the latter two methods. There are some built up nutrient reserves within the dying cane that will be shifted to the root system during the process of senescence; therefore, I believe it best to leave the canes until they are completely dead. Often it is easier to tell the difference between dead canes and living canes in the fall instead of the winter. All dead canes should be removed and even some of the living canes if they are very thick. The whole idea is to allow for sunlight penetration, air flow, and ease of harvesting. Lateral branches may also need to be pruned back. If the plants are designed to create a hedge, then prune back laterals to about 15 inches long. Also, thin out canes until there are about 3 to 5 living canes per linear foot of row. Once all dead and unwanted canes are removed from the planting area, eliminate them. Burning the canes will destroy any overwintering diseases and insects. Blackberries must be pruned yearly to ensure maximum fruiting potential and optimum plant health.

Pruning Equipment

Kim Rebek

Late winter is an ideal time to prune many trees and shrubs. As you take on this task, it is important to select the right tool for the job. When it comes to pruning we have three basic tools: hand pruners, loppers and saws. Hand pruners are designed to cut smaller stems, typically up to around $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. Loppers are used to cut stems up to two inches in diameter. For stems larger than two inches, a hand saw is needed.

Both loppers and hand pruners are designed with two different types of blades, an anvil type blade and a bypass blade. The blades of an anvil-style pruner come together as they cut and are best for pruning dry, dead wood. The blades of anvil pruners do not cut cleanly through living tissue and can cause peeling or tearing if used to cut living stems. For pruning live material you want to use the bypass style pruner. The two blades of a bypass pruner move past one another as they cut, much like a scissors, leaving a clean cut.

Just as it is important to select the right tool for the job at hand, it is also important to keep your tools sharpened. Winter is an ideal time to prepare tools for the coming season. Hand tools can easily be sharpened using a file, a high speed rotary tool or grinder. Power tools such as grinders can eat away quickly at the blades so be careful. Always wear protective equipment such as eye protection and gloves.

Blueberries

Kim Rebek

Blueberries need to be pruned once they have been established for about five years. When pruning, we want to remove the oldest canes, which produce less fruit. Remove canes from the center of the plant to create a more open interior, which will allow sunlight to penetrate. Strive for an even ratio of young, middle-aged and old canes. When pruning, cut canes to just above ground level.

Lack of pruning can lead to declined fruit production. Other ways to boost fruit production include applying a nitrogen fertilizer, maintaining proper soil pH of 4.8 to 5.2 and watering regularly. Plants can use up to 6 to 10 gallons of water per day in hot, dry weather. Supplement rainfall to provide 2 to 3 inches of water per week. Mulch plants with pine needles or pine bark to conserve moisture.

Nitrogen fertilizers should be in the ammonium form rather than the nitrate form. Urea also makes an excellent fertilizer for blueberries, when pH is correct (between 4.8 and 5.2) and if the pH is too low (below 4.8). When pH is too high, apply ammonium sulfate at the labeled rates. Other nutrients are only needed if soil test indicates deficiency.

There are three types of blueberry that can be grown in Oklahoma. Highbush blueberries can be grown in the northern part of the state. Good varieties for Oklahoma include Duke, Collins,

Bluecrop, Blueray, Elliot and Toro. The Southern Highbush blueberry is well suited to the central part of the state. Recommended varieties are Legacy, O'Neal, Summit and Ozarkblue. In the south and especially, southeast corner of the state, Rabbiteye blueberries perform well. Try Climax, Premier, Brightwell or Tifblue varieties.

For more information on growing blueberries see OSU Fact Sheet [HLA-6248 Blueberry Production for the Home Garden](#).

Planting Seed Potatoes

Kim Rebek

Mid to late February is a good time to plant many of our cool-season vegetables including carrots, cabbage, peas and potatoes. It is also the time to plant raspberries, strawberries and other perennial fruits.

Potato plants are started from seed potatoes. These are not seeds in the common sense of the word, but rather small sections of the potato tuber. The tuber is the portion of the potato plant that we eat. Potato plants form tubers to store large amounts of carbohydrates over the winter. In the spring, new shoots develop from wintered tubers. The new shoots develop from the eyes of the potato.

You can purchase seed potatoes from your local garden center, where many different cultivars are available. To prepare the seed pieces, cut the tuber into quarters, making sure each section has at least two good eyes. It is important to plant good sized pieces to ensure a large yield. If tubers are small, you may only cut them into two pieces or leave them whole. After cutting the tubers, leave the seeds in a well ventilated location to cure for at least three days. This will allow the surface to heal and harden, reducing the chance of rotting.

While the seeds cure you can prepare the planting bed. Potatoes need loose, rich soil. To loosen soil, turn it and incorporate large amounts of organic matter. Once the soil is turned, dig trenches 4 to 5 inches deep the length of the bed. Rows should be spaced 2 to 3 feet apart.

Set the cured potato seeds into the trenches with the cut side facing down and with the eyes directed upward. Space seeds one foot apart. Cover the seeds pieces with enough soil to bury them 5 to 6 inches deep. Sprouts will emerge in two weeks, depending on the soil temperature. If the danger of frost has not yet past when shoots emerge, pull the soil up around the stems for protection or cover the stems with plastic milk jugs or juice bottles with the tops cut off.

As the plants grow, they will need to be hilled. Hilling is simply pulling the soil up around the potato plants. Hilling is critical to producing numerous large potatoes; it creates a space for the tubers to develop. The loose soil in a hill is ideal for tuber development. The hills also keep the tubers out of sunlight, which can cause tubers to turn green and produce harmful glycoalkaloids. Glycoalkaloids can be toxic, especially if eaten in large amounts, and some people are allergic to

these compounds. It is best to keep your tubers out of sunlight, both during growth and after harvest.

Plants will need to be hilled when they reach about 8 inches high. Use a hoe to pull the soil up from both sides of the row and cover half of the exposed stem. Repeat this process again after 2 to 3 weeks, adding another 3 to 4 inches of soil. Hill again 2 weeks later, adding only 1 to 2 inches of soil to the hill. Be sure there is enough soil on the hills to completely cover the developing tubers. Check periodically and add more soil if you find tubers poking through the surface.

For additional information see OSU Factsheet [HLA-6028 Potato Production](#).

All About the Potato Beetle (From IPMnet News, #168, Jan/Feb 2009)

Jim Shrefler

An applied entomologist has created an informative website exclusively focused on the pest insect *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle). At <http://potatobeetle.org>, A. Alyokhin offers a resource including a searchable bibliography, plus sections concerning cultural, physical, biological, and chemical control as well as a discussion of the beetle's evolving resistance to insecticides and a short summarization of IPM and *L. decemlineata*. In the latter, Dr. Alyokhin observes that "the secret of the Colorado potato beetle's success as a pest is its diverse and flexible life history coupled with a remarkable adaptability," while noting that integration of multiple control techniques is "the only sustainable way to manage this insect." Aside from the hard information presented, the site offers a lighter side in a "Memorabilia" section reflecting postage stamps, post cards, and an impressive array of colorful posters all tied (some loosely) to the potato beetle.

A. Alyokhin, School of Biol. And Ecol., 315 Deering Hall, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME 04469, USA. Alyokhin@potatobeetle.org. Fax: 1-207-581-2537, Voice: 1-207-581-2977.

Lawn and Landscape Automatic Irrigation Tips for 2009

Justin Moss

Winter is still here, but it is never too early to start thinking about ways to save time and money in the yard. When spring arrives, many homeowners are too busy and forget to check on the irrigation system to ensure everything is working properly and that irrigation water is being utilized efficiently. The National Irrigation Association (www.irrigation.org) offers these water-saving tips to maintain and update automatic irrigation systems.

1) Adapt your watering schedule to the weather and the season. Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller. Adjust the watering schedule regularly to conform with current weather conditions.

- 2) **Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system.** "Scheduling" accounts for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule should almost never apply to all zones in the system.
- 3) **Inspect your system monthly.** Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage an irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro-irrigation filters as needed.
- 4) **Adjust sprinkler heads.** Correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Keep water off pavement and structures.
- 5) **Get a professional system audit.** Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to make sure areas are being watered evenly. This can be especially helpful if you have areas being under-watered or brown spots. The Irrigation Association maintains an online list of Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditors.
- 6) **Consider "smart" technology.** Climate- or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then calculate and automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.
- 7) **Install a rain shutoff-switch - inexpensive and effective.** Required by law in many states, these money-saving sensors turn off your system in rainy weather and help to compensate for natural rainfall. The device can be retrofitted to almost any system.
- 8) **Consider low volume drip irrigation for plant beds.** Install micro-irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs. Micro-irrigation includes drip (also known as trickle), micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers, or bubbler irrigation to irrigate slowly and minimize evaporation, runoff and overspray.
- 9) **Water at the optimum time.** Water when the sun is low or down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool, between the evening and early morning, to reduce evaporation. You can lose as much as 50% of water to evaporation by watering mid-day.
- 10) **Water only when needed.** Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.

So You Have to Do a Science Fair Project. . . .

Shelley Mitchell

“Science fair” – possibly the two scariest words between kindergarten and twelfth grade, for both students and parents! Science fair projects are opportunities to see the value of science and math in the ‘real world’, to learn the importance of controls and variables, and to practice verbal and written communication skills. They lead to a better understanding of scientific processes,

give students a chance to incorporate personal interests into schoolwork, and sometimes lead to scholarships.

The key to a successful science fair project is to start early. There are ‘one hour’ and ‘emergency’ science fair projects for the procrastinators, but those should be avoided if at all possible. Excellent projects don’t have to take much time, but they should be planned thoroughly, with quantifiable data recorded as often as possible. (Judges love charts and graphs, and they help communicate results effectively). Plants make great science fair projects because there are many possible projects, and necessary materials are frequently found in the home (pots, soil, seeds) or for low cost at a grocery or hardware store. Their care doesn’t require large amounts of time, but you have to start early if your project involves measuring growth. The first place to start on a science fair project, just as with the scientific method, is with a question. You will enjoy the project a lot more if you choose a topic that interests you. Start with a broad category (e.g. plants) and brainstorm possible projects (the effects of different colors of light on plant growth, e.g.). Good starting places for picking a project are on the internet and in books. The website www.sciencebuddies.org is for K-12 students, teachers, and parents. There are backgrounds, bibliographies, materials lists, and procedures (with variations) for many project ideas. There is also a science fair project guide to take you from getting started to communicating results. Other good sites are www.juliantrubin.com/fairprojects.html, with topics, ideas, resources and sample projects for primary through high school; www.ars.usda.gov/IS/KIDS/FAIR/ideas.htm for agricultural ideas for science fair projects; and www.all-science-fair-projects.com/category50.html for botany ideas. Good places for supplies that aren’t readily available locally are Science Kit and Boreal Laboratories (sciencekit.com), Carolina Biological Supply (www.carolina.com), and eNASCO Science (www.enasco.com/science).

Suggested books for science fair projects involving plants:

Elementary School Level

VanCleave, Janice. (1996). Janice VanCleave’s Plants: Mind-Boggling Experiments You Can Turn Into Science Fair Projects

Middle School Level

Calhoun, Yael. (2005). Plant and Animal Science Fair Projects Using Beetles, Weeds, Seeds and More

Gardner, Robert. (1999). Science Projects About Plants

Shevick, Edward. (2000). Science Action Labs – Plant Science: Learning About Plant Life

High School Level

Hershey, David R. (1995). Plant Biology Science Projects

Perry, Phyllis J. (1999). Science Fair Success with Plants

Remember, no matter the outcome of the experiment, it is not a ‘failure’. The data may not support the hypothesis, but the results are still useful. We still learned something. The results may point us toward another hypothesis. This is how progress is made in science. Scientists build on the work of others! Good luck with your project, and don’t forget the free help available through your local extension office!

2009 OKLAHOMA PROVEN SELECTIONS

Collector's Choice – Persian Parrotia (*Parrotia persica*)

New to the program in 2009 we added a Collector's Choice category. Collector's Choice is a recommendation made with adventuresome gardeners in mind. It is a plant that will do well in Oklahoma, may need special placement or a little extra care, but will be rewarding and impressive in the garden.

Persian Parrotia is a small tree reaching only 20 to 30' tall and can spread almost as wide. Interesting deep-maroon flowers appear in late winter. Leaves have a reddish color when appearing in spring, change to a lustrous green in summer, and can be a brilliant yellow or orange in fall. As the tree ages the bark exfoliates into patches of green, cream, and gray adding to the year-round interest of this tree. It is very heat and drought tolerant once established but appreciates some protection from the afternoon sun.

- Exposure: Light shade
- Soil: Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness: USDA Hardiness Zone 5



Photos by Lou Anella

Tree – Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*)

Arizona cypress is a drought tolerant, evergreen tree native to the southwestern United States. In the landscape it usually reaches a height of only 20' to 25' and 15' wide. The foliage can be a gray-green but usually blue-foliage and recently yellow-foliage forms are available in the trade. 'Blue Ice' and 'Carolina Sapphire' are common cultivars and 'Cooke's Peak' is a selection from Cooke's Peak, New Mexico with silvery-blue foliage and pyramidal form (see photograph). Arizona cypress require well-drained soil and thrive in hot, dry environments. As the tree ages, the bark exfoliates beautifully becoming mottled with patches of burnt orange and green.

- Exposure: Full sun
- Soil: Well-drained
- Hardiness: USDA Zone 7



Photos by Lou Anella

Shrub – Chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.)

There are two species in the genus *Aronia*, Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) and Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), both excellent landscape plants. As their common names suggest, fruit color is the major difference between the two. They both produce clusters of white flowers in spring, have excellent red fall foliage, grow to about 10' high, and thrive in almost any soil type.

'Brilliantissima' is a popular cultivar of Red Chokeberry, chosen for its more compact size and abundance of red fruit. Both species are excellent wildlife plants but Black Chokeberry is getting a lot of attention as a "super fruit" for its high levels of antioxidants and can be used to make juice, jelly, or wine. *Aronia* work well massed in a naturalized setting or at the back of a border since the stems are usually bare near the base leaving room for garden perennials.

- Exposure: Sun to part shade
- Soil: Tolerant of most soils
- Hardiness: USDA Zone 4



Photos by Lou Anella

Perennial – Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)

Mexican feather grass is a fine-textured clumping perennial that waves its silvery flowers in the slightest breeze. It is drought tolerant and tough despite its refined appearance and forms a clump almost two feet tall and three feet wide as the leaves arch to the sides. It tolerates a wide variety of conditions but prefers well-drained soils and it does not like to be cut to the ground in spring like other grasses. Remove only the top third of the plant to rejuvenate. It is native to prairies in Texas, New Mexico, and south to central Mexico and may reseed in the garden.

- Exposure: Full sun to part shade
- Soil: Well-drained
- Hardiness: USDA Zone 7



Photo by Lou Anella

Annual – Diamond Frost® Euphorbia (*Euphorbia* ‘Inneuphdia’)

Diamond Frost® Euphorbia is a fine-textured mounding plant used as an annual in Oklahoma. The simple white flowers bloom from spring until first frost and the plant forms a 2’ to 3’ sphere. Diamond Frost® can be used as a mass planting, alone in a container, or mixed with almost any other plant. Its fine sprays of foliage and flowers will weave through other plants making it a perfect complement for almost anything from poinsettias to petunias. It is an excellent background plant, filler, or specimen, proving to be an extremely beautiful and versatile new introduction.

- Exposure: Full sun to part shade
- Soil: Moist, well-drained
- Hardiness: Use as an annual



Photo by Lou Anella

For more information about Oklahoma Proven go to <http://oklahomaproven.okstate.edu/> or contact David Hillock, 405-744-5158, david.hillock@okstate.edu.

2009 ALL AMERICA SELECTIONS WINNERS

This year’s winners in the All America Selections program include an annual and three vegetables.

Viola F1 ‘Rain Blue and Purple’
AAS® Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner

‘Rain Blue and Purple’ spreads 10 to 14 inches to create a nice spreading pool of cool blue colors. The plants are cold and heat tolerant making it more versatile and a good performer even in the south. It blooms in the south during fall and winter and in the north in the spring and summer. A unique trait that not many other plants have is the one and a half inch blooms that change color from purple and white to purple and blue as they mature. The trailing habit is perfect for hanging baskets or patio urns too. ‘Rain Blue and Purple’ was bred by Tokita Seed Co. Ltd., Saitama, Japan.



Eggplant F1 ‘Gretel’
AAS® Vegetable Award Winner

‘Gretel’ is an early maturing eggplant. The glossy white mini-fruit develops in clusters and can be harvested in 55 days depending upon growing conditions. Like all eggplants, ‘Gretel’ requires warm temperatures, over 55 degrees day and night temperatures, to grow properly. The pure white fruits are sweet with a tender skin and are best harvested at the ideal fruit size of 3 to 4 inches, but are still tasty even if they are allowed to mature beyond that. ‘Gretel’ plants only grow to about 3 feet wide and tall making it an excellent choice for small spaces. It is even perfect for container gardening. This AAS® Winner was bred by Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Oxnard, CA.



Melon F1 ‘Lambkin’
AAS® Vegetable Award Winner

The most important trait of this melon is the flavor of the sweet, aromatic, white, juicy flesh. ‘Lambkin’ is an oval shaped melon which weighs between 2 and 4 pounds with a thin rind. Another advantage is the earliness, maturing at 65 to 75 days, much earlier than similar melons. It is classified as a Piel de Sapo melon a.k.a. Christmas type because of the yellow skin with green mottling. Christmas melons can be stored longer than other melons and should be stored in a cool place such as a refrigerator. ‘Lambkin’ was bred by Known-You Seed Co. Ltd., Kaohsiung, Taiwan.



Squash F1 ‘Honey Bear’
AAS® Vegetable Award Winner

‘Honey Bear’ acorn squash was developed to be baked and served in the half shell and has a sweet squash flavor when cooked. Three other outstanding qualities, besides flavor, make this a must for any garden; compact plant, high yield, and tolerance to powdery mildew. The bushy, compact plant will reach 2 to 3 feet tall and spread 4 to 5 feet without vines. Three to five fruit are produced per bush and weigh about a pound. Yield is high due to the powdery mildew tolerance so ‘Honey Bear’ continues to bear fruit throughout the growing season. From sowing seed to harvest of the first squash it will be about 100 days. ‘Honey Bear’ was bred at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.



To learn more about these and other AAS winners go to <http://www.all-americanselections.org/>.

2009 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR™

Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola' was awarded the title of Perennial Plant of the Year® by the Perennial Plant Association for 2009. This ornamental grass has the appearance of a miniature bamboo but is a well behaved grass with gracefully arching stems and leaves that move gently in breezes. The species is native to Honshu Island, Japan. The genus is derived from *Hakon*, a region in Japan, and *chloa*, the Greek word for grass. Leaf blades are 1/2" wide and a bright yellow color with very thin green stripes. In the cooler days of autumn the golden foliage becomes tinged with shades of pink and red. *Hakonechloa* is used mainly for its golden foliage, although it does produce tiny, inconspicuous flower spikes from late summer through mid autumn.



- Hardiness – USDA Zones 5-8
- Size – 12-18 inches tall, 18-24 inches wide
- Light – Partial shade is optimum in hot climates, more sun is suitable in cooler areas
- Soil – Prefers moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil
- Uses - This long-season ornamental grass may be used as a ground cover, a border-front specimen, a mass planting, or in a patio container.
- Unique Qualities – The plant offers vivid highlights in shaded areas or in evening gardens. This grass is also noted for its movement in breezes, offering a cascading or an undulating behavior.

Photo by David Hillock

For more information about the Perennial Plant Association go to:

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

All-America Rose Selections 2009 Winning Roses

Pink Promise – This graceful hybrid tea rose has delicate pink blooms on long stems for cutting. Selected by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Pink Promise represents a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For every Pink Promise plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. In addition to large pink blooms, the plant supports dark green foliage. Pink Promise has good disease resistance, flourishing in many climates. The blooms are also highly fragrant, carrying a delightful, fruity aroma. Pink Promise was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of LaVerne, California.

Carefree Spirit™ - Today's gardeners are looking for a rose that is easy to maintain. As a result, AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub rose candidates in its 24 test gardens

nationwide beginning in 2004. Carefree Spirit is the first and so far only landscape shrub to endure this real-world testing and be selected as a winner. This highly disease resistant selection has a compact, mounding habit and deep red blossoms speckled with white, turning to pink and white as they mature. Carefree Spirit was bred from parent rose, Carefree Delight™, which was an AARS Winner in 1996. However Carefree Spirit has even better disease resistance and blooming power than its parent rose, promising to perform well in any area of the country. Carefree Spirit was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, Pennsylvania.

Cinco de Mayo™ - A charming rose, with an unusual bloom color, Cinco de Mayo is a seedling of the much loved Julia Child. This floribunda rose never stops blooming, with clusters of smoky, rusty red-orange blossoms. Its compact habit makes Cinco de Mayo ideal for use as a hedge or in a border. Cinco de Mayo has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. Cinco de Mayo was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Wasco, California.

For more information go to <http://www.rose.org/>.

Flower Carpet® Roses

Flower Carpet® Pink Supreme Ground Cover Rose - Lovely pink blooms tinged with white are displayed over an extra long flowering period. No fancy pruning, these low-growing, densely branched shrubs are highly resistant to black spot and mildew and tolerant of high heat environments. Plant Culture: deciduous, full sun, moderate grower to 24 to 36 inches tall and 36 to 40 inches wide.

Flower Carpet® Scarlet Ground Cover Rose - Easy care ground cover shrub that produces masses of brilliant, scarlet-red flowers from spring through fall. Flowers up to 10 months in warmer climates. Glossy, dark green foliage is resistant to mildew and black spot. Ideal in borders, pots, and hanging baskets. Plant Culture: fast growing, spreading shrub 2 to 3 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide, full sun, deciduous.

Flower Carpet® Amber Ground Cover Rose - From soft red buds, an abundance of semi-double peachy-amber flowers, fading to seashell pink, envelope the plant and are fragrant - a first for the series. Features higher disease resistance than others in the series. Beautiful in containers or en masse. A vigorous but compact shrub 24 to 30 in. tall and wide. Full sun.

Pecan Graftwood Sources for 2009

Becky Carroll

Listed on the next page are the pecan graftwood sources for 2009.

PECAN GRAFTWOOD SOURCES - 2009
Eric Stafne, Fruit and Pecan Extension Specialist
Becky Carroli, Senior Agriculturist
Oklahoma State University

Hort 5

Name and Address	Pecan Varieties																Walnut														
	Caddo	Cheyenne	Choctaw	Creek	Dooley	Giles	Graking	Greenriver	Houma	Kanza	Kiowa	Lakota	Major	Maramec	Mohawk	Mount	Nacono	Navaho		Oconee	Osage	Pawnee	Perque	Posey	Shoshoni	Sioux	Stuart	Waco	Wichita	Black	Carpathian
Dick Hoffman 7104 E. 32nd Ave Stillwater, OK 74074 Phone: 405-372-3583	X	X	X	X		X				X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			All varieties \$1.50 per 12" stick (2 grafts/stick). Minimum order 5 sticks per variety. Add \$6.00 for priority mail shipping. Call or write about varieties not listed.
PecanQuest - Rice 333 Braden School Rd. Ponca City, OK 74604 Phone: 580-765-7049 wrice@poncacity.net	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		Price: \$1.50 per 12" stick (2 grafts/stick). Minimum of 3 sticks per variety. Add \$6.00 for postage & handling. 10 black walnut & other pecan varieties available if ordered by March 15.
Wolf Creek Pecan Ranch Bill or Vicki Dodd 12011 South 2nd Street Jenks, OK 74037 Phone (home) 918-299-7947 or (office) 918-488-7600 Email: bdodd@stmaryland.com				X						X					X						X										Price: \$1.50 per 12" stick (2 grafts/stick). Minimum of 5 sticks per variety. Add \$6.00 for postage & handling.

This list does not imply endorsement of listed suppliers by CES or discrimination against unlisted suppliers.
This list is for educational purposes only.

Turf and Landscape Maintenance Program in Ada

Jim Shrefler

An introductory level turf and landscape maintenance program will be held Friday, February 13 at the Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada. The program is designed to assist park managers, athletic turf managers, golf course workers and commercial landscape operators to improve their management knowledge and skills. The program will address turf topics such as overall aspects athletic turf management, irrigation, disease identification and management and turf weed control. Also to be discussed will be issues of general landscape interest such as assessing tree problems, proper pesticide use and application practices and application equipment calibration. Finally, the latest on the control of fire ants and moles and gophers will be presented. There is a \$40 registration fee that will include lunch, educational literature and eligibility for door prizes. For more information call the Pontotoc County Extension Office at 580-332-2153.

Upcoming Horticulture Events

Oklahoma Market Gardening School

January 29 – March 19, 2009

Tulsa County Extension Office

<http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdf/09omgschool.pdf>

2009 Grape Management Course

<http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdf/09grapemgmt.pdf>

2009 Pecan Management Course

<http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdf/09pecanmgmt.pdf>

Sustainable Blackberry Production Workshop

April 8, 2009, Cimarron Valley Research Station, Perkins

<http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/pdf/09blackberry.pdf>

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