

# Horticulture Tips

## September 2011

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.
- 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.

#### Vegetables

- 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.

#### Lawn

- Last nitrogen fertilizer application of the year on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15. ([HLA-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 second week of September. ([HLA-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. ([HLA-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. ([HLA-6419](#))
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem. Water product into soil. ([EPP-7306](#))

### **Fall is for Planting Trees and Shrubs**

*David Hillock*

Fall is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs. In fact, research suggests that early fall planting is best for container-grown and B&B shade and ornamental trees and pines, but spring is best for planting bare-root plants and broadleaf evergreens, such as holly and Southern magnolia. Plants planted in the fall have more time for the root system to become established before the onset of summer heat. Plants installed during the growing season are susceptible to high transpiration rates leading to drying of plant tissues.

There is a perfect example of this out at the *Oklahoma Gardening*© Studio Gardens in the Edible Landscape bed. Last fall we planted a blueberry shrub and then planted several more this spring. There is a noticeable difference between the one planted last fall and those planted this year; in spite of the heat the fall planted shrub looks awesome and was barely phased by the extreme temperatures this summer. The others have struggled, have crispy leaves, dropped many leaves, and are barely hanging on in spite of the intense watering we have provided to keep them alive.

So, if you need to replace a tree or shrub or want to add more to the landscape, now is the time to be looking for that perfect plant. The weather should be changing for the better as we move through the month of September, bringing cooler temperatures and additional rainfall, something we all will eagerly welcome and our plants will greatly appreciate.

## **New Fact Sheet – How to do a Simple Irrigation Audit on Your Home Lawn!**

*David Hillock*

A new OSU extension fact sheet describing how to do a simple irrigation audit on your home lawn has been released - [HLA-6610 Simple Irrigation Audit for Home Lawns in Oklahoma](#). This fact sheet is based upon research and workshops completed by John Haase, OSU Extension Horticulturalist in Rogers County as part of his Master's program in Environmental Science at OSU under the direction of Dr. Justin Moss.

It is important to know the general output and uniformity of your lawn irrigation system for proper lawn watering. Homeowners often wonder how long they should irrigate their lawns, but the volume of applied irrigation water cannot be directly measured in units of time. Conducting a simple irrigation audit will give you a good estimate of how much water is applied to your lawn over time in terms of inches per hour. This simple procedure may save you money and can help to conserve Oklahoma water resources.

A short video clip from the *Oklahoma Gardening* television program demonstrating this process can be found by visiting <http://turf.okstate.edu> and clicking on the "Homeowners" link. In addition to the simple irrigation audit, tips adapted from the Irrigation Association ([www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org)) are provided to help you in your efforts to conserve water when watering your lawn.

## **New 4-H Horticulture and Landscape Projects for Oklahoma Fairs**

*Shelley Mitchell*

In an effort to introduce more youth to the areas of horticulture and landscape design, additional classes have been added to the Oklahoma fair books. The first exhibits in these new categories should soon arrive at the state fairs later this month. Last years' newest class, dish gardens, had a strong showing, and we are hoping for the same this year. The two new classes include a "Horticulture in Our Lives" poster, and a landscape drawing exercise. The poster project allows youth to choose a crop (fruit, vegetable, nut, spice or beverage) and create a poster depicting the crop's history (domestication, global spread, etc.), production, or use in different cultures or in processed foods. The residential landscape design drawing project provides youth with a landscape base map and a scale, as well as examples of symbols used to represent various plantings. Details about both projects can be found on the departmental website at <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/youth/index.htm>.

## **Need Easy-to-Read Manuals to Get a School Garden Going?**

*Shelley Mitchell*

"Got Dirt?" at [www.gotdirtwisconsin.org](http://www.gotdirtwisconsin.org) has manuals available for free download, including:

- Garden Toolkit (manual) for implementing youth gardens
- Cold Frame Manual
- Container Gardening Manual
- Microfarm Manual
- Simple Raised Bed Instructions

## **Fall 2011 Oklahoma Market Gardening School**

*Lynn Brandenberger*

In an effort to provide new and current fresh market producers with information on management, production and marketing techniques, a team of specialists are working to present the Fall 2011 Oklahoma Market Gardening School. The school is a team effort with Oklahoma State University, The Noble Foundation, and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The eight-week course begins Thursday, September 22 and will meet weekly on Thursday evenings through November 10 at the Muskogee County Extension Office, located at the county fairgrounds at 1440 South Cherokee, Muskogee. Classes will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Registration is \$70 per individual or \$85 per couple. Couples will receive one set of handouts.

The school is geared toward those who are established in the business as well as those who are interested in exploring fresh produce farming. Each week's session will focus on a different area related to fruit and vegetable production, such as getting organized, soils and fertilizer management, crop establishment and irrigation, guidelines for producing fruit and vegetable crops, season extension, pest management, food safety and marketing. The capstone to the course will be a Saturday field trip to a fresh produce farm in eastern Oklahoma where students will see the practical application of many of the topics that will be taught in the course. Whether

you're already established in your business or just starting out, we'll be offering something for everyone.

The class is limited to 50 participants and preregistration is required. Online registration is available at <http://orangehub.okstate.edu/ustores/web/index.jsp>. Click on Horticulture/Landscape once you are at the Web site. To register by mail, send the registration form from the OSU's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Web site at <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/>, along with the payment to Oklahoma Market Gardening Course, Attn: Stephanie Larimer, 358 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-6027 or call her at 405-744-5404.

## **Upcoming Horticulture Events**

### **Tree Care Conference**

November 16, 2011

The Botanic Garden Educational Center, Stillwater, OK

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or [stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu](mailto:stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu).