

# Horticulture Tips

## November 2011

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

### **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.
- 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.

## **Winter Color**

*David Hillock*

The fall and winter months can be a little drabby. However, they don't have to be. Planting pansies along with your spring flowering bulbs will not only add to the spring display, but can provide a little needed color during those cool, sometimes dreary fall and winter months. Pansies are extremely cold hardy and will tolerate snow and ice.

Success is dependent however, on bed preparation and location. A sunny to partly shady location with excellent drainage is ideal and will encourage the most blooming. A heavily shaded spot may never dry out, which could cause root rots to take their toll. On the other hand, do not let the plants become too dry. Cold, dry winter winds with little moisture in the form of rain or snow will result in winter scorch. Be sure to water enough to wet the soil to a depth of about 6 to 8 inches. Other cool-season plants that tolerate a great deal of cold include ornamental kale and cabbage and snapdragons.

Color can be found in many other landscape plants too. Some woody shrubs have colorful stems. The Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) has red stems and the yellow twig version of this species (*C. s.* 'Flaviramea') of course has yellow stems as the name implies. Japanese Kerria (*Kerria japonica*) has bright green stems. Each of these species really stands out with a blanket of snow gently lying at their feet. Several trees offer great bark color and texture too – London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*), Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), and Heritage River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage').

Don't forget those trees and shrubs that have colorful berries that appear late fall and early winter. The deciduous hollies are very spectacular, usually covered in bright red berries, though orange and yellow fruiting varieties are available too, usually persisting well into the winter months. Other woody plants with colorful berries include the Chokeberries (both red and black fruits, *Aronia arbutifolia* and *A. melanocarpa* respectively); Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) with violet to metallic-purple fruit; Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) with red fruit; and Hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.) with red fruits.

## **Oklahoma State Pecan Show 2011**

*Becky Carroll*

It's that time of year again! Remember to save back a couple of pounds of your best pecans to enter in the state show this year. 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. 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 Oklahoma State University, Department of Horticulture, Attn: Becky Carroll, 358 Ag Hall, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078. Samples should arrive by January 20, 2012.

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. Peruche	26. Other Cultivars
5. Choctaw	16. SanSaba Improved	27. Large-Native
6. Comanche	17. Schley (eastern)	(seedling) 60 nuts/lb or larger
7. Graking	18. Shawnee	28. Small-Native
8. Gratex	19. Shoshoni	(seedling) more than 60 nuts/lb
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.
- Samples 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 – Plaques will be awarded for the largest pecan entry, the entry having the highest kernel percentage, the champion native 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 20, 2012 at the following address:

Oklahoma State University  
Department of Horticulture & LA  
Attn: Becky Carroll  
358 Ag Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027

## **66<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference, Stillwater, OK**

*Justin Quetone Moss*

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference will be held at the Oklahoma State University Wes Watkins Center on Tuesday, November 15 and Wednesday, November 16, 2011. This annual event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF). The November 15 meetings will include sessions covering management of golf courses, athletic fields, parks and recreation, and commercial lawns and landscapes. The November 16 meetings will cover pesticide education training for Oklahoma licensed pesticide applicators. Continuing education credits (CEUs) have been awarded in Oklahoma pesticide applicator categories 3A (Turf and Ornamental) and 10 (Demonstration and Research) and attendees will be awarded up to 3 CEUs on November 15 and 4 CEUs on November 16. Speakers and topics include:

### Golf Course Session

- Robert Randquist, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)
- Bud White, United States Golf Association (USGA) Agronomist
- Dr. Lee Miller and Dr. Xi Xiong, Assistant Professors, University of Missouri
- Oklahoma State University Turfgrass Science Faculty

### Professional Lawncare and Landscape Session

- Steve Owens, Bustani Plant Farm, Stillwater, OK
- Steve Dobbs, Grounds and Landscape Manager, Oklahoma State University
- Dr. Rubin Pillay, Professor, Oklahoma State University School of Entrepreneurship
- Matt Giese, Syngenta

### Sports/Athletic Field Session

- Jeff Salmond, Director of Athletic Field Management, University of Oklahoma
- Todd Tribble, Athletic Field Manager, Oklahoma State University
- John Easton, Easton Sod
- Jeff Gazaway, Ewing Turf
- Creation of Oklahoma Chapter of Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)

Online registration is available at <https://www.acteva.com/go/otrffconf>

You may contact Sabrina Buxton, OTRF Secretary, at: [otrffsecretary@suddenlink.net](mailto:otrffsecretary@suddenlink.net) or 405.818.9720 for more information or for information concerning mail-in registration.

### **Master Gardener Corner**

*David Hillock*

**Horticulture Industries Show (HIS) - January 6-7, 2012.** The HIS program is nearly complete and preregistration forms will be mailed late November – early December. This year HIS will be held at the Tulsa Community College, Northeast Campus, 3727 E. Apache, Tulsa, OK; all Master Gardeners are invited to attend. If you are a returning MG, you can receive Continuing Education hours that will count towards the minimum 20 hours you need to keep active member 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 offer a MG/Public Garden session, you may also choose from any other session offered during the conference. There are 5 commodity groups represented during HIS, all conducting seminars, workshops, and business meetings. You may choose from any of the following groups – Vegetables/ Farmers Market, Fruit, Sustainable Ag, Master Gardener/Public Garden, and Christmas Tree.

The conference theme is "Propagating Success: Pursuing Excellence in Horticulture" with Keynote Speakers: Diane Ott Whealy, co-founder of [Seed Savers Exchange](#) of Decorah, IA; and Mark Andrews, Greenleaf Nursery.

Topics for the MG/Public Garden session include: *LET IT ALL HANG OUT! –Transcending Traditional Boundaries in a Community Garden*, Fred Morris, Washington County MG; *Up With Trees - Planting, Preserving and Promoting Tulsa's Urban Forest*, Anna America, Executive Director; *Simple Irrigation Audit for Home Lawns in Oklahoma*, John Haase, Extension Educator, Horticulture/4-H Youth Development, Rogers County; *Surf with TURF: Exploring the Career Possibilities in Horticulture with Oklahoma High Schoolers*, Shelley Mitchell, Extension Assoc., 4-H Youth/Horticulture, OSU Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture; *Create, Landscape, Educate – A New Grounds Approach at Oklahoma State University*, Steve Dobbs, Grounds and Landscape Manager, OSU; *Art in the Garden*, Kim Toscano, Asst. Extension Specialist, Host, *Oklahoma Gardening*, OSU Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture; *IPM in the Home Garden: Sensible Tools You Can Get Right Off the Shelf!*, Tom Royer, Prof. & IPM Coordinator, OSU, Dept. of Entomology & Plant Pathology; *The Nursery Industry: Recent Past, Present and Future*, Joe Schulte, Owner, Southwood Landscape & Nursery, Tulsa; *New Garden, New Plants at Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden*, Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director, Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden; *Oklahoma Proven Plants – 2012*, David Hillock, Asst. Extension Specialist, Consumer Horticulture, OSU Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture.

For more program information and registration go to <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/his/>.

**2012 State Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference – June 14-15, 2012** – Next year the Payne County Master Gardeners are teaming up with The Botanic Garden at OSU Ambassadors to host the State Master Gardener Conference in Stillwater. The conference will be held June 15, 2012 at the Wes Watkins Center on the OSU campus. An evening social is scheduled for Thursday, June 14 at The Botanic Garden at OSU. Regular conference activities will begin on Friday, June 15. We hope that you will mark your calendars and plan to attend. Planning and organization of the conference is still underway; we will keep you posted.

## **Upcoming Horticulture Events**

### **Tree Care Conference**

November 16, 2011

The Botanic Garden Educational Center, Stillwater, OK

This conference is geared toward arborists, nursery professionals, urban foresters, landscape managers, landscape architects, Master Gardeners, related professionals and advanced hobbyists. Lectures will be taught by OSU faculty as well as industry professionals. Jen Olson, Assistant Extension Specialist at OSU, will share her expertise about landscape plant health and preventative disease management. Other presentations will include Brian Eshleman, Certified Arborist, providing information on climbing gear and techniques; Mike Wellner, District Manager of Edko, LLC, providing information on tree growth regulators; David Starks of Starks Tree Care in Enid, talking to the group about job site safety; and Maureen Turner, chief horticulturist and operations manager for the City of Tulsa, presenting a talk on "Is it Dead Yet?" Dr. Mike Schnelle also will speak to the group about selecting trees for Oklahoma.

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