

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

BUTTERFLY BISTRO EXPANDS ITS MENU

A GREENER TOWNS LANDSCAPE PROJECT GROWS A HEALTHIER PARK.

Last May, the Skylark/Cryer Neighborhood Association broke ground on a new pollinator garden at the entrance of their neighborhood pool in Omaha. With plants from Moore’s Nursery, a plan from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and funding from a Mayor’s Neighborhood Grant, volunteers planted over one thousand trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and other perennials to benefit wild bees and butterflies. And that was only Phase I.



This spring, the Cryer Park Butterfly Bistro welcomed 30 more plant varieties—another thousand plants—for Phase II. According to the Butterfly Bistro Green Team, the goal of the project is to “actively demonstrate how everyone can create habitats, large or small, that conserve and benefit the environment and beautify our natural surroundings.” The pollinator-friendly landscape utilizes a diverse mix of native and waterwise plants that conserve resources, crowd out weeds and minimize chemical use while providing nutritious blooms from spring to fall and safe places for insects to overwinter.

Along with undertaking the ongoing care of the gardens, the Green Team coordinates a calendar of fundraising and outreach on their behalf. This has meant going door to door for donations and leveraging them for funding assistance from Greener Towns, a landscaping program coordinated by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and sponsored by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

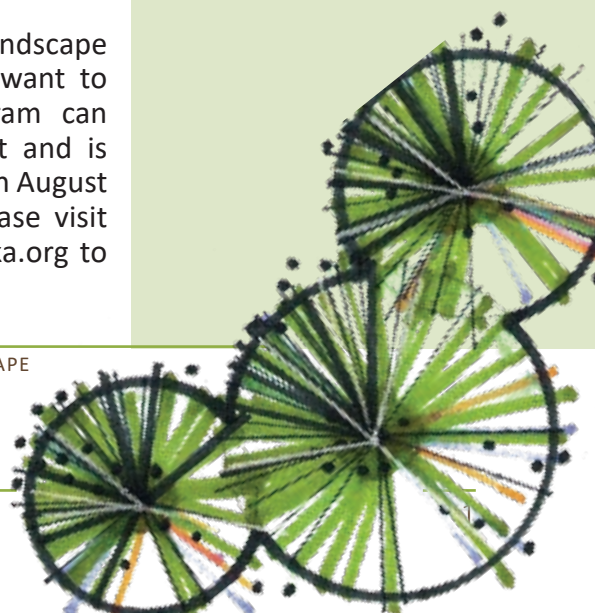


Do you know of a community landscape project in need of funding? We want to help. The Greener Towns program can award up to \$20,000 per project and is now accepting applications through August 31 for spring 2020 plantings. Please visit “Project Funding” at plantnebraska.org to learn more.

2019 NNLA Eastern Summer Field Day

August 2, 2019

View the attached flyer at the end of the newsletter or view online at members.nnla.org/nnla-events



THE NNLA MISSION: TO ADVANCE THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND CERTIFICATION TO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVELY GROWING THEIR BUSINESSES.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY BRIAN MUNK



Springtime in Nebraska never seems to be a dull moment and this year has defiantly lived up to that standard! I can remember many springs growing up on the cattle ranch in the Sandhill's when a late winter blizzard would hit during calving season. We would spend all day and most of the night bringing newborns inside the calving shed, out of the storm. Mornings were spent getting hay out to those mammas with babies by their side, making sure they young ones had a dry place to lay down and that nothing was drifting in the storm. We did what had to be done!

This work ethic is part of what defines us as Nebraskans, and it is this kind of work ethic that describes all of us in the NNLA. We do what needs to be done to carry on the great tradition of our organization. The knowledge and diversity of our membership is the foundation of what the NNLA is built upon. With our membership in mind, I'd like to offer a quick reminder, it is time for membership renewals. Membership runs from July 1 through June 30.

As many of us are in full swing in this springs' schedules, I want to take a quick moment to have you mark you calendars for this year's summer field day. Kasper Tree Farms will be hosting the 2019 NNLA Summer Field Day this year on Friday, August 2, 2019. This will be a great opportunity to learn what it takes to operate a successful tree farm.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support of the NNLA. Please feel free to share any special event or news that is happening with your business with our staff. We are always looking for items to put in the newsletter and on the website. I wish everyone a safe and prosperous spring.

Best regard,
Brian Munk, NCN, NCA
NNLA President

2019 NNLA EASTERN SUMMER FIELD DAY



Come Explore and Kick the Dirt at the NNLA 2019 Eastern Summer Field Day!

Kasper Tree Farms will be the host site for the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape (NNLA) Summer Field Day on Friday, August 2. The event includes a guided walking tour of a working tree farm, self-guided tours of a trial garden and pond/water feature. It also includes presentations and/or demonstrations related

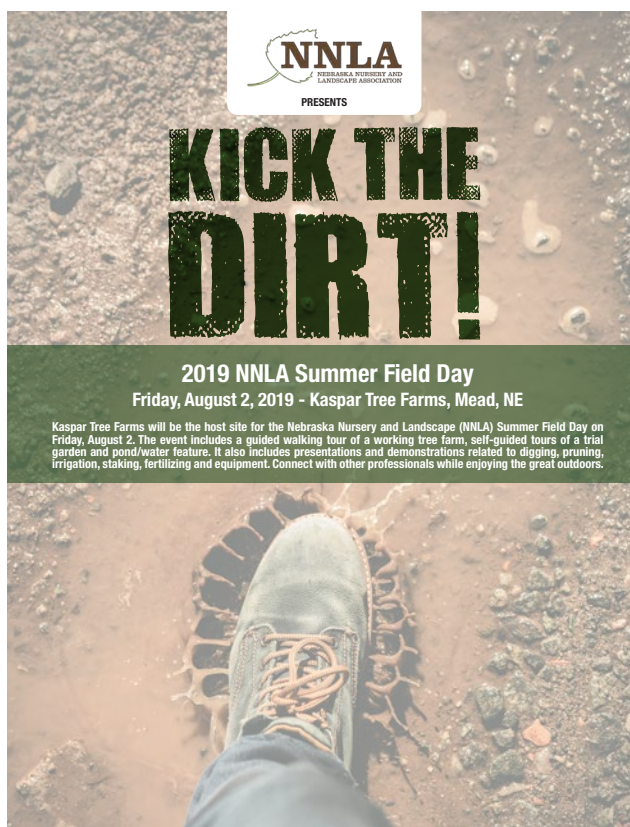
to digging, pruning, irrigation, staking, fertilizing and equipment. Connect with other professionals while enjoying the great outdoors.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Registration

9:00 a.m. – Noon - Guided Walking Tour of a Working Tree Farm. Hear presentations and view demonstrations related to: Digging, Pruning, Irrigation, Staking, Fertilizing, Equipment

Noon – 1:00 p.m. - Lunch (provided) and Networking

1:00 p.m. - Two sessions offered concurrently and repeated: Self-Tour of Trial Garden and Water Feature/Pond & Guided Tour of Outlying Areas of Tree Farm



View the attached flyer at the end of the newsletter or view online at members.nnla.org/nnla-events.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PLANT NATIVE: WILD GERANIUM

Wild geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

Height: 18-24"

Spread: 18"

Sun: Part Sun to Full Shade

Water: Medium

Wild geranium is one of the best native woodland wildflowers for beauty in the garden. It emerges in spring with an attractive dense mound of dissected, textured leaves. In mid-spring sturdy stems rise just above the foliage, each topped with bright pink, saucer-shaped flowers. The delicate pink flowers are a favorite of pollinating insects, especially bees. It grows easily in average, well-drained soil in shady locations, but also does well in full sun. It prefers moist, organic soils, and will happily seed around to form colorful patches. It combines well with other spring-blooming perennials such as celandine poppy, woodland phlox and bleeding heart or planted as a groundcover.



Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

PLANT NATIVE: LANCELEAF COREOPSIS

Lanceleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Height: 2'

Spread: 18-24"

Sun: Sun

Water: Medium to Dry

Lance-leaf Coreopsis is a clump-forming perennial with narrow, lance-shaped leaves emerging early in spring. In late spring slender stems rise above the rosette of leaves, each topped with golden yellow, daisy-like flowers waving brightly in the sun. It's often considered a short-lived perennial, but will self-seed to continue. Deadheading stems back to the basal rosette will lead to new growth and extend the bloom period, while preventing unwanted seedlings in the garden. It thrives in sun, drought and heat from good garden soil to dry, infertile soils. It attracts a number of pollinators, including butterflies, skippers, moths, bees, wasps and beetles. Plants host several types of moth caterpillars and finches and other songbirds feed on the ripe seed. It's commonly referred to as tickseed because the seeds resemble ticks.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org







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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

JAPANESE BEETLE BIOCONTROL



Tiphia larva attached to a white grub, Michael Reding, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

JULIE VAN METER, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) is partnering with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Japanese beetle (JB) researchers on a biocontrol project to release two parasitoid insects in the state that could help reduce JB populations.

Biocontrol uses natural enemies to suppress the populations of a target pest. NDA is identifying suitable locations for release of Spring tiphia (*Tiphia vernalis*) and the winsome fly (*Istocheta aldrichi*) in eastern Nebraska.

These biocontrol agents have a long and well documented history of use in the United States. The first releases occurred in the 1920s, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Since that time, they have become established in several other states. Importantly, these organisms have not been found parasitizing any other insects – they only go after the Japanese beetle.

Spring tiphia are small wasps, around ½" in length. Adults emerge in the spring, and after mating, the female locates a JB grub in the soil, and burrows down to it, stinging the grub and causing temporary paralysis. She then attaches an egg to the grub. After the egg hatches, the larva slowly consumes the grub alive. After the grub dies, the larva spins a cocoon and overwinters in the soil, to emerge the next spring.

Winsome fly is a small fly, and adult emergence occurs mid-spring through mid-summer. Female flies attach a single egg to an adult JB's pronotum. The egg hatches and the larva burrows into the beetle, consuming it from the inside, leaving only the exoskeleton. The feeding irritates the beetle, which responds by burrowing into the soil, to die within a few days. The larva overwinters underground inside the beetle's exoskeleton, and will pupate and emerge as an adult the next year.

The tiphia parasitism rate can be 60-100% in areas where they become well established. Winsome fly parasitism rates are lower, but in combination with tiphia may still be effective.

NDA will conduct surveys for appropriate release sites in spring and summer 2019. A good site will have high JB numbers, minimal to no pesticide use, and suitable plants for parasitoid feeding and resting. Spring tiphia were released at one site in Lancaster County in May, and NDA staff is scouting for additional sites in eastern Nebraska.



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15259 Cooper St., Omaha, NE 68138
402-819-4913
brett@urbanrootslandscape.com

Marti Neely, NCN

PAST PRESIDENT 2019-20
Marti Neely Design & Associates
9811 Sprague St., Omaha, NE 68134
Cell: 630-0050
martineelyapl@gmail.com

Lee Olson, NCN

2017-19
Landscapes Ink.
392 Leighton Ave, Union, NE 68455
402-881-0713
landscapesink@gmail.com

Rod Ruzanic

2017-19
Wolf Landscape Design, LLC
PO Box 336, Ogallala, NE 69153
308-284-4848
ruzanic2@hotmail.com

Kendra Bretschneider, NCN

2018-20
Great Plains Nursery
3074 County Road I, Weston, NE 68070
402-540-4801
kendra@greatplainsnursery.com

Jeremy Vlcek

2018-20
Vlcek Gardens
213 9th St., Chapman, NE 68827
308-986-2559
vlcekgardens@live.com

Ashly Neneman

2019-21
Sun Valley Landscaping
5601 Harrison St., Omaha, NE 68157
402-932-5704
ashly@sunvalleyomaha.com

Terri James

UNL Department of Agronomy and Horticulture Lincoln, NE
402-472-8973 - Tjames2@unl.edu

Julie Van Meter

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Lincoln, NE - 402-471-6847
julie.vanmeter@nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PLANT NATIVE: CULVER'S ROOT

Culver's Root, *Veronicastrum virginicum*
Height: 4-5'
Spread: 18"
Sun: Full sun to Part Shade
Water: Medium to Wet

This elegant native wildflower is appreciated for its strong upright growth habit and stately spires of white flower spikes in summer. Its tight, vertical habit makes it best used in the back of a perennial border or as a specimen. The stems are packed with dark green leaves, neatly arranged in whorls all along the stems. The white flower spikes contrast nicely with the handsome, deep green foliage. Each flower spike has a plethora of small white flowers that bloom over a long period of time. It is recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees and is a great nectar source for a variety of pollinating insects. It is very easy to grow in a variety of soils, but performs best in moist to wet, rich, well-drained soil. This adaptable plant can be grown as successfully in full sun as in partial shade.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



PLANT NATIVE: LONGBEAK SEDGE

Longbeak sedge, *Carex sprengei*
Height: 15-18"
Spread: 12-18"
Sun: Part Shade to Full Shade; Full Sun
Water: Moist, Medium, Dry

An attractive fountain-like mound of bright green foliage with loose, pendant lower spikes in early spring. Grows best in part to full shade and tolerates very dry shade. Plants establish quickly, often reaching maturity by the second growing season. Plants break dormancy in March and quickly grow into a mound of foliage, often blooming by mid-May. The long leaves have a relaxed habit in fall, remaining green well to winter. When massed as a ground cover in shady areas, it creates a sedge meadow that functions as a turfgrass lawn alternative. It also works well in containers, in rain gardens or planted like a dry streambed under the shade of tall trees.



Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

NNLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms have been sent for the 2019-2020 membership year. The NNLA membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. Be sure to renew your membership to continue to receive the quarterly newsletters, email updates, discounted educational rates for workshops, and Field Days, marketing & outreach and much more...



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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: FUN FACTS ABOUT TREES

JUSTIN EVERTSON, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM, PLANTNEBRASKA.ORG

Trees are almost universally appreciated by people across the globe. Although we don't always treat them well, there just seems to be something about them that we find interesting and comforting. That's at least partly because of the incredible range of shapes, forms and colors they come in and also because of the many benefits they provide.

A very smart person once said that a deeper understanding about trees is a deeper understanding about the universe. Okay, that was me, but I stand by it. Anyhow, here are just a few fun and fascinating facts about trees you can use to impress your friends and family members.

1. About 1,000 distinct species of trees are native to North America with about 50 species being native to Nebraska. It is estimated that another 40,000 to 50,000 species are native to tropical forests around the world.
 2. Nebraska was only 3 percent forested at the time of settlement by European immigrants in the 1800s. However, the state is at a unique crossroads being at the western limit of the eastern hardwood forest and the eastern extent of the Rocky Mountain pinelands. Nebraska is also home to relic boreal species such as birch and aspen brought here with the last ice age over 10,000 years ago.
 3. More than 250 distinct species and hybrids of trees can now be found growing somewhere in Nebraska, including at arboretums. About 50 species are evergreens, another 35 are oaks, 25 are maples, 15 are elms and 12 are nut trees.
 4. The tallest tree in the world is a 379' coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in California known as "Hyperion." It is nearly as tall as the Nebraska State Capitol which is 396' to the top of the tower.
 5. The tallest trees in Nebraska can reach to about 110' tall including sycamores, cottonwoods and silver poplars. The national champion eastern cottonwood grows near Beatrice Nebraska and is 88' tall, has a 108' crown spread and a trunk circumference of 37'.
 6. "General Sherman," a giant sequoia growing in California, is 275' tall with a trunk circumference of nearly 100'. It is the largest tree by volume in the world and is estimated to be 2,500 years old.
- Continued on next page...*



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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

Continued from previous page...

7. The world's oldest tree with a single trunk is a 5,070 year old bristlecone pine growing in California. The oldest trees in Nebraska are Rocky Mountain junipers growing in the Wildcat Hills near Scottsbluff and estimated to be over 800 years old. Some oaks in Nebraska have been dated to be over 400 years old.

8. "Pando," a clonal colony of quaking aspen in Utah, is estimated to be over 80,000 years old, weighs over 6,600 tons, has over 40,000 trunks and covers more than 106 acres, making it the heaviest living organism in the world.

9. Nebraska has seven native oak species: bur, red, black, chinkapin, blackjack, white and dwarf chinkapin oak. At least 30 other oak species can be grown in the state.



Limber Pine

10. Native Nebraska trees tapped by American Indians for syrup included boxelder maple, silver maple and black walnut.

11. Limber pine, native to near the Wyoming state line in western Kimball County, is named for its extremely "limber" branches that resist heavy snow loads and that can be tied into knots.

12. Coffeetree is named for its hard seeds that were roasted and brewed into a coffee-like drink by early settlers. Its compound leaf is the longest leaf of any native tree, often reaching over 30" long. The tree's scientific name is "Gymnocladus" which means "naked branch"

owing to the naked look of the tree when its large compound leaves are shed in the fall.

13. Coffeetree is considered an evolutionary anachronism since North American elephants and other mega-fauna that evolved to eat its fruit went extinct long ago, leaving the tree without good seed dispersers for the last 20,000 years.

14. Before being wiped out by a blight disease in the early 1900s, the American chestnut may have accounted

for up to 25 percent of all eastern U.S. hardwood trees. The tree was so common that it was said a squirrel could climb up a chestnut tree in Maine and travel along interconnected branches all the way to Georgia without ever touching the ground. Scientists are working hard to develop disease-resistant varieties that can be reintroduced into the wild.

15. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) was recently reclassified from the elm family to the cannabis family. Fossilized seeds indicate that a grove of hackberry in Hackberry Hollow in Cheyenne County is tens of thousands of years old.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: PLANTS TO GROW CONFIDENCE

SARAH BUCKLEY, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM

If you want to learn how to garden, plants are the best teachers and the best way to start is to just go ahead and plant. Choose your space carefully, you will want to plant it where you will visit often and where you will enjoy working. Observation throughout the year is a good way to really understand plants and what they need.

Start small and buy enough plants to get the ground covered so weeds don't overwhelm you. Space your plants so that when they are mature they will be touching, or even overlapping a little, and covering the ground. In the meantime, use mulch to slow down weeds and keep the soil from drying out too quickly.



Golden alexander is a rarely used native with deep green foliage and bright yellow flowers May into June. It adapts to a wide range of soil types, sunshine and moisture and will slowly spread.

Your first garden doesn't need to be perfect, it needs to bloom, bring you joy and grow your confidence as a gardener. Don't worry about planting a picture-perfect native garden, a brilliantly designed landscape or a knockout display of the newest and coolest plants on the market. Those can come later. Your first garden or two will be experiments while you learn how to select and care for different types of plants.

Here are some plants that we at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum think are a good place to start. We chose these plants because we're confident that they'll make you confident. They'll be easy-to-establish, handle a little bit of neglect and generally be dependable through Nebraska's unpredictable winters and summers. They'll also create a great base for you to build on and add to as you become more experienced and ready to experiment further.

CONFIDENCE BOOSTING PLANTS FOR NEW GARDENERS:

PERENNIALS

- Aster or Symphyotrichum (sun)
- Beebalm, Monarda (sun)
- Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia (sun)
- Coneflower, Echinacea (sun)
- Coreopsis (sun)
- Daylily, Hemerocallis (part shade)
- Golden Alexander, Zizia (part shade)
- Hosta (shade)
- Salvia (sun)
- Sedum (sun)
- Yarrow, Achillea (sun)

GRASSES

- Blue grama, Bouteloua gracilis
- Feather Reed Grass, Calamagrostis
- Sedge or Carex, especially fox, Pennsylvania and palm
- Switchgrass, Panicum

FFA CONVENTION

The NNLA continues to reach out to the next generation and encourage them to consider a career in the diverse horticulture field. The association once again hosted a booth during the Career Fair on April 3 at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln during the Annual FFA Convention. Brian Munk and Jennifer Eurek were on hand to visit with the students.



The Association also sponsored the Nursery Operations Proficiency Award and the Landscape Management Proficiency Award during the convention. NNLA President, Brian Munk, was on hand to present the awards.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT - ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT WINNERS: Kasey Brabex, a member of the Schuyler FFA Chapter, received first place and Nicholas Birdsley, a member of the Omaha Bryan FFA Chapter received second.

NURSERY OPERATIONS - ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT WINNERS: Shelbi Pieper, a member of the York FFA Chapter, received first place and Chandra Spangler, a member of the O'Neill FFA Chapter received second.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

TWO SPRING REGULATORY INCIDENTS

JULIE VAN METER, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nursery Stock Infected with Sudden Oak Death

Recently, a small amount of container grown rhododendron nursery stock potentially infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*, also known as Sudden Oak Death or SOD, was shipped to Walmarts and a Builders Warehouse in Nebraska. Inspectors with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) along with staff from USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine, continue to follow up with these locations to minimize the threat of infected nursery stock being distributed in the state.

The nursery stock originated in Washington and Canada, and was supplied by Park Hill Plants in Oklahoma. It was shipped to numerous states in the plains, mid-west and eastern United States. USDA has identified five varieties of rhododendrons from the grower that have tested positive for SOD at this time, including Firestorm, Cat Cunningham Blush, Holden, Nova Zembla and Roseum elegans.

Nebraska is at low risk for establishment of SOD, because our climate is considered unsuitable for the pest, and the state has relatively few hosts in its natural environment. However, managed landscapes may provide a suitable microclimate where an infestation could establish.

SOD is a fungus-like disease first discovered in northwest California in the 1990s. Its current distribution within the environment is limited to coastal northwest California and southern Oregon. Several nurseries in Washington have also been found infected. SOD is not established in Nebraska.

Symptoms of SOD infection vary depending on the host. Currently more than 100 plants are known hosts of SOD. Some, such as tanoaks and oaks, exhibit bleeding cankers on the tree trunk, and usually die from the infection. Other plants, including viburnums and rhododendrons, experience twig and shoot die-back, and lesions on the leaves. They rarely die, but act as a source for spores to infect other plants.

USDA regulates the movement of regulated articles, including nursery stock, firewood and Christmas trees, through a federal quarantine. NDA inspectors look for SOD when doing nursery inspections, and may ask for paperwork to confirm compliance with the quarantine when inspecting any regulated article. Five genera of nursery stock most commonly found infected with SOD, and thus considered high risk for spreading the disease, are Camellia, Kalmia, Pieris, Rhododendron (including azaleas), and Viburnum.

Nurseries in quarantined counties in California and Oregon, and regulated nurseries in Washington, must be certified by either their state departments of agriculture or USDA in order to be eligible to ship regulated materials to other states. Paperwork indicating this compliance must accompany each shipment of nursery stock. Nebraska nurseries need to maintain this paperwork and show it to inspectors when requested.

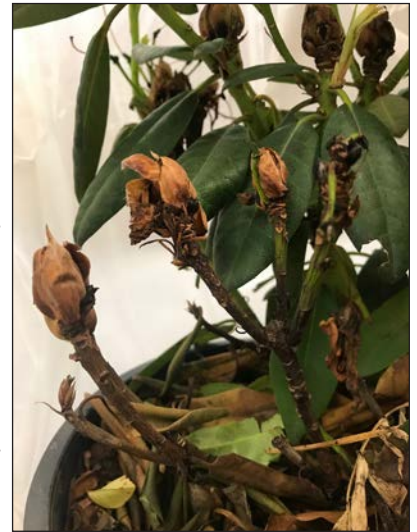


Boxwood Blight, Yonghao Li, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Bugwood.org

BOXWOOD BLIGHT TRACE FORWARD INCIDENT

Boxwood plants from Ohio, potentially infected with boxwood blight, were shipped to a handful of nursery stock distributors in Nebraska this spring. At this time, no infected boxwood have been confirmed through follow-up inspections. Boxwood blight is a fungal disease that was first detected in the United States in 2011, in North Carolina and Connecticut. Since that time, it has been confirmed in a number of other states. Boxwood blight's primary means of long distance travel is by infected nursery stock.

Continued on next page...



Sudden Oak Death – Infected nursery stock, Julie VanMeter, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

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Continued from previous page...

Symptoms of an infection include dark spots and brown blotches on leaves, and white sporulation on the under sides of leaves. Green twigs will show black cankers, and the plant will usually defoliate rapidly.

The fungus will overwinter on infected plants and infected leaf litter. Sanitation is the best way to manage this disease. Infected plants, including leaf litter, should be double bagged and disposed of in the trash or buried. Burning is also effective. The fungus can remain in the soil for at least five years, so planting new boxwoods into previously infected beds is not recommended. Applying fungicides prior to infection may offer some protection, but will not cure a plant already infected with boxwood blight.



Boxwood Blight, Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

To prevent bringing a plant pest like Sudden Oak Death or boxwood blight into your nursery, talk with your suppliers.

Be familiar with the known distribution of pests, and consider that information when you order material. Confirm that they are growing the nursery stock, and not brokering it from another nursery. Ask the nursery how they manage for particular plant pests.

If you suspect you've received nursery stock infected with SOD or boxwood blight, or any other pest, contact Julie Van Meter with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Entomology Program at 402-471-2351.

The UNL Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic is also available to help diagnose plant pest problems, including SOD and boxwood blight. Contact Kyle Broderick at (402) 472-2559 or kbroderick2@unl.edu for information on how to submit samples.



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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS

JUSTIN EVERTSON, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM, PLANTNEBRASKA.ORG

National Wildflower Week is celebrated the first full week of May, which makes sense for Texas where the event was first promoted by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. However, in Nebraska May is often laced with cold and snow and few wildflowers are yet blooming, thus wildflower week is not celebrated here until the first full week in June. This year we're wondering if June might even be a bit early, as the state has remained unusually cool. But with a warming trend even our western prairies seem to be finally awakening from a long winter slumber. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The earth laughs in flowers" and Nebraska's prairies are starting to chuckle. It's been a moist spring across much of the state, and we're hoping this chuckle will grow into a delightful belly laugh in the coming weeks.



Hoary vervain may be ignored by cattle, but it's important to fritillaries and swallowtails.

When we think of wildflowers, we generally gravitate toward well-behaved native plants with showy blooms. It's easy to think their flowers are blooming just for us and many poets have expressed that notion in beautiful prose. However, the wildflowers don't care what we humans think of them. Instead, they're trying to catch the attention of insects—especially pollinating insects that have co-evolved with them. Bees, flies, beetles, wasps, moths, butterflies and even ants are co-opted to help these plants spread their genes. The insect-flower association is incredibly fascinating for those who explore it.

As the old saying goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that certainly holds true for wildflowers. Some species like penstemons, gayfeathers and asters are easy to love while others take a little bit of work. Hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*) is a good example of a tough native wildflower that gets very little respect. It's not eaten by livestock and thus is often abundant on overgrazed pastures. Its commonness and association with poor land management means we don't give it much thought. And yet its lavender and blue flower spikes mid-to-late summer are some of the most important flowers for summer butterflies like fritillaries and swallowtails.

Cancer-root (*Orobanche fasciculata*) doesn't sound like a flower worth knowing and it's easy to miss on the shortgrass prairies of the high plains. But when you learn that it lacks chlorophyll, grows only as a parasite on the roots of sagebrush, and that the entire plant was used by Native Americans to treat cancer and other issues, it's a lot more interesting. Another fun fact: botanists still aren't sure how it completes its life cycle.

Compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) looks like just another mid-summer sunflower from a distance, but up close its large basal leaves are held in a flat plain, often in a north-south direction—and thus its common name. With a very deep taproot, it's one of the longest-lived plants in the tallgrass prairie. Fun fact: its resinous sap was used as a chewing gum by Native Americans. What's not to love about a plant like that?

Other forlorn native wildflowers that deserve more respect include the tall thistle (*Cirsium altissimum*) that is a magnet for bees and butterflies; nodding beggar-ticks with dainty yellow blooms in late summer but cursed for its barbed seeds that stick to clothing; curly-cup gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*) with yellow aster-like blooms emerging from sticky buds; showy milkweed, coarse and weedy in texture but with incredibly fragrant blooms June to July, and an important plant for migrating monarchs; stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), one of the few natives that can compete with smooth brome in roadside ditches; and false boneset (*Brickellia eupatoroides*) which shines with delight when its bright fuzzy seedheads emerge in the fall. And the list goes on and on.

Enjoying wildflowers is a great way to enjoy the natural beauty of Nebraska from spring through fall and even into winter. Take some time this year to appreciate native plants beyond the attractiveness of their blooms. And for June Wildflower Week events, see <https://plantnebraska.org/connect/events/wildflowers.html>.

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Lewis Greenscape

Greenhouses for sale.

The ground the business sits on was sold last fall. The greenhouses are for sale, to be dismantled and moved by the buyer. Location of the greenhouses is on the south edge of Grand Island, 3225 W Wildwood DR

Contact: Joe Sommerfeld at
308-380-5235 or
joe@lewisgreenscape.com

#1/2 are IBG houses (no longer made). Put up in 1972. Polycarbonate covered. 8 foot sidewalls. Each house is 42'X142' and they are gutter connected. A Micro Gro control unit controls the heating and venting. Cooling pad on one side and 6 exhaust fans on the opposite side. 3 heaters are also included. To take off the existing top a "rolling scaffold" goes with the purchase of this greenhouse. (The same scaffold is then used to put a new top back on).
Asking price is \$39,000 (or best offer) for these 2 houses.

#3/4 are Nexus houses put up in 1993. Poly covered. 10 foot sidewalls, gutter connected and 156' long. #3 is 36' wide and #4 is 30' wide. Wadsworth control unit. 4 exhaust fans and 3 heaters. 1680 feet of hanging basket rod with drip system overhead. 4 replacement rolls (2 for each house) of poly are included.
Asking price is \$32,500 (or best offer) for these 2 houses.

#5/6/7 are Stuppy houses from the 1970's. 8 foot sidewalls and gutter connected. Each house is 18' wide and 148' long. Thermostat controlled. 3 exhaust fans and 3 heaters. 3 replacement rolls of double (tube) poly are included. For businesses interested smaller houses it's possible that these houses could be split up and sold separately. . Asking price for these 3 houses is \$8,000 (or best offer)

The picture was taken on April 2018.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: “DIFFICULT” PLANTS

KARMA LARSEN, NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM, PLANTNEBRASKA.ORG

“If every plant and flower were found in all places, the charm of locality would not exist. Everything varies, and that gives the interest.” Richard Jefferies

There’s no doubt about it, there are some difficult ornamental plants out there. Usually we’re referring to plants that are hard to get established, too tall, short-lived or difficult to control. Sometimes the difficulty is the site itself, which may have poor soil or other problems. Thankfully, some of the most difficult plants have characteristics that make them perfect in just the right—or most difficult—spot.



Some species of blazing star or Liatris can grow very tall and hang over sidewalks or other hardscaping, but they also create dramatic focal points and attract a wealth of pollinators.

DIFFICULT TO GET ESTABLISHED—ULTIMATELY LONG-LIVED

Surprisingly or not, some of the longest-lived garden plants are actually the slowest to get established. Plants with deep roots, like prairie plants, may not look like much in garden centers early in spring, and may not look great the first year or two they’re in the ground, but in many cases they’re delaying top growth in favor of developing root systems that will serve them well in the long run.

By definition, a perennial is a plant that lives for more than two or three years. Some of the slower-developing perennials, however, can survive a decade or more. Woodier prairie natives like leadplant, Baptisia and New Jersey tea may remain hidden for years and ultimately outlive everything around them. Other long-lived plants that are somewhat slow to develop include balloon flower, bee balm, culver’s root, queen of the meadow, skullcap, Campanula, evening primrose, hardy geranium, toad lily and Lenten rose.

Too tall—dramatic focal point

Plants can vary greatly in height due to site, soil, exposure and other factors, but the plants listed below are likely to grow higher than 3 feet. The best thing you can do for them is to place them in community with plants that can help hold them up and hide their “bare legs.” Grasses, in particular, tend to have sturdy basal foliage that works well at the base of tall perennials. “Too tall” perennials include: milkweed, coneflower, red hot poker, blazing star, prairie coneflower, meadow rue and wild senna. And, though we might prefer them to remain shorter, their height is no accident—they’re simply reaching for sunlight and attracting pollinators.



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HARD TO CONTROL—MAY WORK WELL IN TOUGH SPOTS LIKE RAIN GARDENS OR CURBSIDES

For many homeowners, curbside strips of soil surrounded by hardscape or buildings are the toughest spots to work with. They’re difficult to mow, difficult to water without runoff, sometimes they’re shaded part of the day and exposed to harsh sunlight later on. Often they have to withstand foot traffic, pet refuse and salt from snow removal.

A few groundcovers worth trying are wild strawberry; prairie smoke; ajuga; snow-in-summer; plumbago; lamb’s ears; bloody cranesbill; and Corydalis. Specifically for salt-tolerance, consider candytuft, sedum, coral bells, hosta and artemisia.



PRESENTS

KICK THE DIRT!

2019 NNLA Summer Field Day

Friday, August 2, 2019 - Kaspar Tree Farms, Mead, NE

Kaspar Tree Farms will be the host site for the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape (NNLA) Summer Field Day on Friday, August 2. The event includes a guided walking tour of a working tree farm, self-guided tours of a trial garden and pond/water feature. It also includes presentations and demonstrations related to digging, pruning, irrigation, staking, fertilizing and equipment. Connect with other professionals while enjoying the great outdoors.



Attendees Can Earn Up to 5.0 ISA and NCN CE Credits!

TO REGISTER:

ONLINE: Go online at www.nnla.org/nnla-events

MAIL: Complete the registration form & mail to
Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association
PO Box 10, Milford, NE 68405

EMAIL: Email completed form to
Jennifer@youraam.com

FAX: Fax completed form to 402-761-2224

Questions? Call 402-761-2216 or email Jennifer@youraam.com

NNLA is not liable for any injury or damage resulting from willful acts of attendees. Attendees assume all risk and danger relating to the Field Day event, whether occurring prior to, during or after the event.

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Guided Walking Tour of a Working Tree Farm

Hear presentations and view demonstrations related to: Digging, Pruning, Irrigation, Staking, Fertilizing, Equipment

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (provided) and Networking

1:00 p.m. Two sessions offered concurrently and repeated:

Session #1: Self-Tour of Trial Garden and Water Feature/Pond

Session #2: Guided Tour of Outlying Areas of Tree Farm

LOCATION

Kaspar Tree Farms

2151 Country Road 11, Mead, Nebraska

2019 NNLA FIELD DAY REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

COMPANY

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE

EMAIL

PHONE

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FEE Before July 26 After July 26
 \$35.00 \$50.00

Donation to NNLA Scholarship Fund \$_____

SPONSORSHIPS

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Water Sponsor - \$250 (limited to 3)
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Lunch Sponsor - \$500 (limited to 3)
Includes: Logo on all event materials and specific signage at lunch, Two event registrations, If requested, up to three minutes to speak at lunch to group

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Includes: Logo on all event materials and specific signage at event, Five event registrations, If requested, up to three minutes to speak at lunch to the group

Cancellation Policy: A refund, less a \$10 administrative fee, will be given for all written requests postmarked by July 26, 2019. Requests received after that date will be reviewed by the NNLA Board of Directors. In the unlikely event the Summer Field Day is cancelled due to uncontrollable circumstances, your payment will be considered a donation to NNLA.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Send check, payable to NNLA, to
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Or please bill my credit card for the total of \$_____.

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