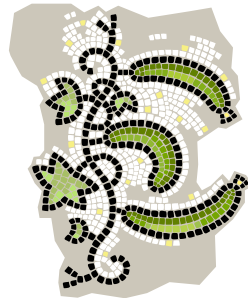


**Mahaska County
Iowa State University Extension**

212 North I Street
Oskaloosa IA 52577
Phone: 641-673-5841 Fax: 641-673-0559
www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8am –1 pm, 1:30 –4:30 pm



At the Garden Gate

September 2011



Mahaska County Extension Horticulture Newsletter

You may still enroll in Master Gardener Training

Mahaska County will be offering Master Gardeners training Tuesday and selected Thursday evenings 6:30-9:30 pm; September 6th through November 3rd, 2011.

Trainees attend classes taught by Iowa State University Extension professionals in topics ranging from lawn care, flower and vegetable gardening, ornamental trees and shrubs, fruit crops and houseplants to insect, disease and weed control, soil and plant nutrition and pesticide safety. There will be approximately 40 hours of instruction. The classes will be held at the Mahaska Extension Office. Participants also attend one day of classes on Iowa State University campus either Saturday, October 15 or 29, 2011. This training has a \$150 fee. A \$25 late fee applies for those enrolling after August 31, 2011.

Additionally, in exchange for training, participants are asked to volunteer 40 hours of service to their local extension program within the next year. Master Gardeners can answer requests for gardening information, staff plant clinics or displays, speak to local groups, teach youth, provide horticulture therapy activities for the elderly, and supervise or judge county fair Horticulture activities as judges or project coordinators.

For more information or to receive an enrollment packet—please contact Suzette Striegel at the Mahaska County Extension Office. **You may enroll up until the orientation, Tuesday, September 6, 2011. Six enrollees are needed for Mahaska County to hold training. If less than six enroll, the training will be cancelled.**



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability.

Master Gardener Meeting

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners will meet on **Tuesday, September 6 at 6 pm**. It will be followed by the Fall Flower Garden Tasks program .

Fall Flower Garden Tasks Program

Come learn more about fall garden tasks for the flower garden with Master Gardener on **Tuesday, September 6 at 7 pm**. Topics to be covered include: Spring planted bulb storage, Seed harvesting, Fall planted Bulb planting, and cuttings and over-wintering annuals. There is no fee to attend this event, and it is open to the public.

Junior Gardeners 4-H club will make paper flowers with residents at **Northern Mahaska Nursing Home on Saturday, Sept 24th at 10 am** and have kids activities at **Kidtoberfest on Saturday, October 8th 10 am –3 pm** .

If you are a current 4-Her who is interested in joining us this upcoming year—please join us! Contact Suzette at MCEO about helping at either or both events.



Lil' Gardeners Clover Kids and

Junior Gardeners 4-H Clubs will begin meeting for the year in October. They will normally meet on the fourth Monday of the month.

Lil' Gardeners Clover Kids (for grades K-3) meets 5:30-6:30 pm and Junior Gardeners 4-H (for grades 4-12) meets at 7 pm.

To insure enough supplies, and learn of additional items to bring to the meetings—***if you plan to attend, please contact the office prior to each meeting.***

Lil' Gardeners and Junior Gardeners are special interest 4-H clubs. If you are already a member of one 4-H club in Mahaska county, you do not pay an additional enrollment fee to join. If

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Upcoming Events

August 31 *Master Gardener Training enrollment deadline*
\$25 late fee applies after this date

September 6 *Master Gardener Business Meeting 6 pm*

September 6 *Fall Flower Gardening Tasks 7 pm*

September 6—November 3 *Master Gardener Training*
Tuesday & selected Thursday evenings 6:30—9:30 pm

September 10 *Master Gardener booth at the Farmer's Market*
8-11 am

September 13 *Master Gardener booth at the Farmer's Market*
4-6 pm

September 24 *Junior Gardeners; 10 pm*
Paper Flowers with residents of
Northern Mahaska Nursing and Rehab Center

September *Plant Some Shade program with*
Matt Brewer, Iowa DNR coordinator

If you want more information about any of the Mahaska County Extension horticulture events or have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist by calling 641-673-5841 or emailing striegel@iastate.edu.

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to try landscaping and “things just got out of control from there”. The resulting garden is spectacular and has been featured in the “Iowa Gardening” magazine, and the RFD TV Magazine”.

Bring your lawn-chairs and enjoy this free, open to the public class. Refreshments will be served by Master Gardeners. The rose class will be cancelled if it is raining.

Garden To Do List

- Remove dead debris from ponds and water features
- Plant balled and burlap deciduous trees
- Push mowing burns almost 400 calories an hour
- Send in a soil sample of your vegetable garden
- Continue to water recently planted trees, shrubs and perennials
- Aerate or dethatch the lawn if necessary
- Check houseplants for insects before bringing inside
- Harvest flowers for pressing before first frost
- Take cutting of geranium and root indoors
- Harvest all full-sized tomatoes and peppers before the first frost
- Store left over garden seed in an airtight jar in the refrigerator
- Stop fertilizing houseplants

These items are from the 2011 ISU Extension Garden Calendar.



Rose Class in Albia

On **September 8th at 6:30 pm** the Monroe County Master Gardeners will hold “Rose Basics” an educational class at the gardens of **Tom and Camilla Williamson; 308 South D Street, Albia Iowa**. The presentation by Tom Williamson will feature discussion of rose problems and solutions, rose groupings, and will offer hands on tips and techniques.

A Master Gardener since January 2009, Tom has 25 years experience growing roses, In fact his sentimental favorite, a hybrid tea rose from Jackson & Perkins “called “Snowfire”, has been growing in the same place for the last 25 years.

Williamson's love of gardening didn't begin in his youth, when he considered himself 'forced labor' and vowed not to garden when he was independent. That resolution was kept until the age of 30, when he and wife Camilla purchased their current home with two lots. Tom found himself unable to resist experimenting with gardening, especially after receiving a few seed catalogs. When the kids were too old to play in the back lot, Williamson decided

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only joining this 4-H group, you will need to pay the enrollment fee (\$15 for Lil' Gardeners and \$30 for Junior Gardeners). For more information, please contact Suzette Striegel at the Mahaska County Extension Office.

Master Gardeners Booth at the Farmers Market

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have an informational booth at the Ruritan's Farmers Market in Oskaloosa the second Tuesday and Saturday of September. **This will be the Master Gardeners' last booth for the season.**



Stop by Saturday, September 10th or Tuesday, September 13th and ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions!

Plant Some Shade

MidAmerican Energy partners with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the Plant Some Shade residential tree-planting program, which is designed to work with local county conservation boards, resource conservation and development councils, and/or county extension offices (local project coordinators) to provide affordable and desirable landscape trees (6-8') for residents to purchase and plant on their property for long-term community reforestation.

Trees are ordered in bulk numbers from local nurseries to keep costs low and then distributed at a centralized location to minimize transportation costs. Tree recipients are given instructions on how to plant and care for their trees and also receive safety information regarding the danger of planting trees near power lines. A \$30 per tree investment is required by tree recipients. The remaining cost of the trees is covered by a grant from Mid American Energy. The trees are not guaranteed or covered by warranty.

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*(Continued from page 3)***Before You Plant**

Plan before you plant. Know how tall the tree you plant will be when it reaches maturity and plan appropriately. Planted too close to power lines, branches from tall trees can cause outages and pose serious electric hazards.

Get the scoop before you dig. For no-cost assistance with locating underground utilities, call Iowa One Call, Iowa's utility notification service, at 800-292-8989, or call 811. It's the law!

Oskaloosa will be a distribution site this fall. This opportunity is for MidAmerican Energy customers, but is not limited to Oskaloosa city limits. **There is a maximum of two trees per customer; preordering and prepayment are required.**

Matt Brewer, DNR coordinator for Plant Some Shade will speak at the Mahaska County Extension office at a date and time to be determined.

Planting the Fall Vegetable Garden

The weather is starting to be cooler, and gardeners can take advantage of this. Seeds planted now will germinate quickly as the soil is warm. To ensure success with your fall vegetable garden keep these tips in mind...

Plan to Plant (AKA Have needed seeds on hand and have garden space available). Many varieties are sold out by late spring, purchase needed seed early. Also remove spring planted crops as they mature and prepare soil throughout the season so fall vegetable plantings can be planted easier.

Plant right, as in crops and varieties. Carrots, beets, Swiss chard, Kohlrabi, peas, kale turnips, and almost all salad greens can be planted in late August early September.

You can also plant transplants of broccoli, Brussels sprouts,

*(Continued on page 5)***ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications Of Interest**

PM 666	Weed Management in the Home Garden
PM 683	Composting Yard Waste
PM 731	Harvesting and Storing Vegetables
PM 820	Garden Soil Management
PM 1239	Growing and Drying Herbs
PM 1398	Growing and Drying Everlasting Flowers
RG 205	Store Pesticide Wisely
RG 311	Growing and Overwintering Tender Perennials
RG 312	Suggested Daffodil Cultivars for Iowa
RG 319	When to Divide Perennials
RG 320	Growing and Overwintering Geraniums
SUL 3	Diagnosing Tree Problems
SUL 12	Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes
SUL 14	Hosta Diseases and Pests

These publications (as well as many others) are available to purchase or download at any county Extension office or at the ISUE online store. The online store has changed their website. The address is now <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>

*(Continued from page 8)***When should I cut back the peony foliage?**

Peony foliage should not be cut back until it is destroyed by a hard freeze in fall. The foliage manufactures food for the plant. Some of the food is stored in the plant's root system. The more food the peony plant can store in its roots, the better the flower display next spring. Cut off the peony stems at ground level in late October or November. Remove the peony foliage from the garden and destroy it. The removal and destruction of the peony debris helps to control leaf blotch and other fungal diseases.

This article prepared by Richard Jauron, Iowa State University Department of Horticulture. It originally appeared as a Yard and Garden column August 18, 2011

Peonies

The garden peony is a popular, long-lived perennial that provides abundant flowers in spring and attractive foliage throughout the growing season. If given a good site and proper care, an established peony will flower for many years. To have additional questions answered, contact the horticulturists at hortline@iastate.edu or call 515-294-3108.

When is the best time to transplant peonies?

September is the best time to transplant peonies. Begin by cutting the peony stems near ground level. Then carefully dig around and under each plant. Try to retain as much of the root system as possible. Promptly replant the peony in a sunny, well-drained site.

What would be a good planting site for peonies?

Peonies perform best in full sun and well-drained soils. When selecting a planting site, choose a location that receives at least six to eight hours of sunlight each day. Avoid shady areas near large trees and shrubs. Poorly drained soils can often be improved by working in large amounts of compost, peat moss or leaf mold.

What is the proper way to divide peonies?

September is the best time to divide peonies. The first step is to cut off the peony stems near ground level. Then carefully dig up the plant. Gently shake the clump to remove loose soil from the root system. Using a sharp knife, divide the clump into sections. Each division should have at least three to five buds (eyes) and a good root system. Smaller divisions will require several years to develop into attractive plants.

When planting a peony, dig a hole large enough to comfortably accommodate its entire root system. Position the peony plant in the hole so the buds are 1 to 2 inches below the soil surface (peonies often fail to bloom satisfactorily if the buds are more than 2 inches deep). Fill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant as you backfill. Then water thoroughly. Space peonies 3 to 4 feet apart.

Is it necessary to periodically divide peonies?

Peonies do not need to be divided on a regular basis. Peonies can be left undisturbed in the garden for 50 or more years. However, large, vigorous peonies can be divided if you want additional plants.

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cauliflower, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, and onion. *As they are often not available, you may need to start your own.*

Other tips include:

Choose varieties that have disease resistance.

Plant the bush forms of beans and peas rather than climbers.

Choose faster maturing varieties, as the cooler temperatures and shorter days may slow down crop maturity.

Screen the sun. Many plants we plant now for fall harvest do not like soil temperatures above 80 degrees F or to have their soil dried out while germinating. Garden structures or tall plants can provide the needed shade or you can utilize shade cloths.

Be prepared to water. Fall precipitation is often not as predictable as spring precipitation. Remember to keep track of rainfall and supplement as needed.

Plan for early frosts. Have materials available to protect your growing crops if an early frost is forecast. Many of the vegetables listed above are tolerant to light frosts but utilizing season extending techniques can ensure a crop. This can include covering individual or groups of plants temporarily with fabric or planting in cold-frame or hotbed.



**“Gardening is about enjoying the smell of
things growing in the soil,
getting dirty without feeling guilty,
and generally taking the time
to soak up a little peace and serenity.”**

-Lindley Karstens

Get Ready for Garlic planting

If you enjoy using garlic in your cooking, you need to consider planting your own garlic. Garlic is a unique plant in which for best results we plant in the fall for summer harvest. It is also easy to grow once the site preparation is complete. It is often hard to find local sources for planting, so often mail order companies are utilized. For more information on planting garlic, please consult ISU Extension publication PM 1894.

New Turfgrass Herbicide Recalled; Avoid Composting Clippings

Imprelis herbicide (active ingredient aminocyclopyrachlor) is being recalled by the E.I. duPont de Nemours and Company because of damage and death to nontarget trees. Homeowners, and landscape and pest control professionals are also being warned not to compost grass clippings from Imprelis-treated lawns.

Imprelis herbicide received conditional registration from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in October 2010 as safe for use in residential, industrial, and institutional lawns and on golf courses to control broadleaf weeds. But applications adjacent to white pine, Norway spruce, and other evergreen trees have caused twisting and curling of new growth, which progressed to the browning and death of affected trees. See photos in original HHPN article <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2011/8-24/imprelis.html>.

The U.S. EPA issued a 'stop sale' order for Imprelis (EPA Registration Number 352-793) effective August 11, 2011. This involves cease sale, use, and removal of the product. DuPont is planning a product return and refund program.

Damage to trees has been reported throughout the Midwest, in East Coast states, and along the Gulf Coast. New information provided

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to EPA by DuPont (July 2011) included thousands of reports of adverse incidents involving damage or death to trees associated with Imprelis applications. Test data from DuPont (also provided July 2011) showed phytotoxicity to Norway Spruce and Balsam fir, confirming damage reports.

Grass clippings from treated turfgrass should not be composted or used as mulch. From an EPA Pesticide Program Update (August 16, 2011): "As a part of EPA's efforts to minimize injury to trees following use of the herbicide Imprelis, EPA is reminding people that grass clippings that have been treated with Imprelis should not be used for composting or mulching, and trees that may have been injured from Imprelis should also not be used for compost or mulch. This is because clippings from grass treated with Imprelis or mulch from trees injured by Imprelis could continue to cause non-target plant damage."

"Specifically, the Imprelis label has the following restrictions on mulch and compost: Do not use grass clippings from treated areas for mulch or compost, or allow for collection to composting facilities. Grass clippings must either be left on the treated area, or, if allowed by local yard waste regulations, disposed of in the trash. Applicators must give verbal or written notice to property owner/ property manager/ residents to not use grass clippings from treated turf for mulch or compost."

The EPA provides more information on Imprelis on their website <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/imprelis.html>. DuPont has set up a hotline number [866-796-4783] and website for Imprelis <http://www.imprelis-facts.com/>

This article was prepared by Mark Shour, ISU Pest Management & Environment Program. It originally appeared in Horticulture and Home Pest News (HHPN) on 8/24/2011