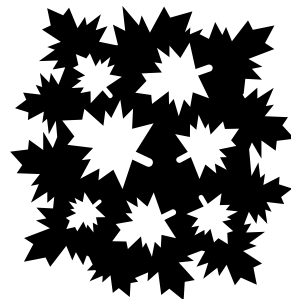


Mahaska County
Iowa State University Extension
212 North I Street
Oskaloosa IA 52577
Phone: 641-673-5841 Fax: 641-673-0559
www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8am –1 pm, 1:30 –4:30 pm



At the Garden Gate

October 2011



Mahaska County Extension Horticulture Newsletter

Tree Planting Speaker

Matt Brewer, DNR coordinator for Plant Some Shade will speak at the Mahaska County Extension office on **Tuesday September 27 at 7 pm.** He will be speaking on tree planting and care as well as the Plant Some Shade program. All who are interested learning about tree planting and care are encouraged to attend. There is no fee to attend.

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Volunteers needed

The Fifth Annual KIDTOBERFEST event will be held on **Saturday, October 8 from 10 am-3 pm** at Penn Central Mall in Oskaloosa. It is a **free** event that is organized by Mahaska County 4-H and Iowa State University Extension of Mahaska County.

This event is for any youth ages 0-12 and their parents/guardians. This event was created to connect youth and families to the various area organizations and activities available to them.

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Garden Art Idea Exchange

The next Gardener's Idea Exchange at the Mahaska County Extension Office will be **Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7 pm.** The event is hosted by the Mahaska County Master Gardeners.

It is free and open to the public. All interested gardeners are

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

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

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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 MidAmerican Energy. The trees are not guaranteed or covered by warranty.

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 for Plant Some Shade on Saturday, October 15, 9 to 11 am. 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.** Order forms are available at the Mahaska County Extension Office; 212 North I Street, Oskaloosa or www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska.

Upcoming Events

September 27 *Matt Brewer, DNR coordinator Plant Some Shade Tree Planting Speaker 7 pm*

October 4 *Master Gardener Business Meeting 6 pm
Garden Art Idea Exchange 7 pm*

October 8 *Kidtoberfest 10am—3 pm
Penn Central Mall*

October 24 *Lil Gardeners Clover Kids 5:30 –6:30 pm
Junior Gardeners 7 pm*

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.



Garden To Do List

- Dig dahlias and cannas after a killing frost
- Visit an arboretum or state park to view trees colorful tree foliage
- Rake and compost fallen leaves
- Go to ISU Extension for information on composting
- Remove pumps from water features to prevent freezing
- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Remind yourself that leaf raking is great exercise
- Leave asparagus growth standing over winter
- Plant garlic cloves in a sunning, well drained site
- Pot up a few spring flowering bulbs to force indoors
- Pot amaryllis bulbs for forcing
- Continue to mow the lawn until the grass stops growing.
- Save pumpkin seeds and roast them for a crunchy, healthy snack



These items are from the 2011 ISU Extension Garden Calendar.



2012 Garden Calendar soon available soon!

Enjoy public gardens of Iowa all year long with this beautiful calendar that shows off many of the state's natural treasures.



The Public Gardens of Iowa information is complete with locations, websites, and hours of operation, you can plan excursions

to these sources of civic pride and gardening know-how.

In addition to stunning and inspirational photographs, every page provides tips on what you should be doing in your garden during the month. Gardening resources, such as web sites and publications, are also listed. Cost will be \$6.

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Free entertainment will be provided all day, including Iowa State University's mascot, Cy; Dizzy the Clown; inflatable games; carnival games; ISU's Insect Zoo, Live Animals from the Blank Park Zoo, Science Experiments by the Science Center of Iowa and much, much more!

Some of the participating agencies include 4-H, Day Care Centers, SIEDA, Mahaska Health Partnership, YMCA, Mahaska Safe Kids, MCRF, and other kids organizations.

Volunteers are still needed for this event; shifts are 8-Noon, Noon-4 or all day please contact Amy Ver Meer-Brainard at 673-5841 or email vermeera@iastate.edu by Friday, September 30 if you would like to volunteer. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Volunteers will receive a free KIDTOBERFEST t-shirt and refreshments!

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encouraged to attend. All types of garden art are welcome.

The Idea Exchange is similar to a roundtable, where participants are encouraged to bring their garden art or pictures and information to share with the group.

Master Gardener Meeting

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners will meet on **Tuesday, October 4 at 6 pm**. Garden Art Idea Exchange will follow the business meeting at 7 pm.



*What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.*

Lil' Gardeners Clover Kids and Junior Gardeners 4-H Clubs

will meet **Monday, October 24**. The theme is Pumpkins and scarecrows



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 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.

Training to be held for New 4-H Judge's

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach will be holding training for adults interested in becoming a conference judge for youth with 4-H exhibits at county fair. This training will cover positive youth development, how to evaluate, educate and encourage during conference judging and 4-H exhibit expectations and guidelines. This training will be delivered by Iowa State University Extension Youth Program Specialists, current 4-H Judges and youth.

Conference judging is done during county fairs for non-livestock 4-H exhibits. Project areas include: Creative Art (Music, Photography & Visual Art), Agriculture & Natural Resources (Crop Production, Environment & Sustainability, Horticulture,

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ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications Of Interest

PM 666	Weed Management in the Home Garden
PM 683	Composting Yard Waste
PM 713	Indoor Plants
PM 731	Harvesting and Storing Vegetables
PM 820	Garden Soil Management
PM 1213	Mowing your lawn
PM 1894	Garlic
RG 205	Store Pesticide Wisely
RG 206	Questions about Composting
RG 305	Growing Chrysanthemums in the Garden
RG 311	Growing and Overwintering Tender Perennials
RG 319	When to Divide Perennials
RG 320	Growing and Overwintering Geraniums
RG 405	Turfgrass Calendar: Cool-season Lawns
SUL 3	Diagnosing Tree Problems
SUL 12	Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes

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

Plants to Attract Hummingbirds to Iowa gardens

Annuals

Four-O-Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*)
 Fuchsia (*Fuchsia x hybrida*)
 Impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana*)
 Morning Glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*)
 Nicotiana (*Nicotiana glauca*)
 Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida*)
 Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*)
 Red Salvia (*Salvia splendens*)
 Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)
 Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)

Shrubs

Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)
 Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
 Lilac (*Syringa* species)
 Weigela (*Weigela florida*)

Trees

Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
 Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Perennials

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
 Canna (*Canna x generalis*)
 Tube and vining Clematis (*Clematis* sp.)
 Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
 Coral Bells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
 Delphinium (*Delphinium x elatum*)
 Daylily (*Hemerocallis* species)
 Gladiolus (*Gladiolus x hortulanus*)
 Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* species)
 Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)
 Hosta (*Hosta* species)
 Liatris (*Liatris spicata*)
 Lily (*Lilium* species)
 Lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
 Penstemon (*Penstemon barbatus*)
 Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
 Lupine (*Lupinus* hybrids)
 Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*)
 Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)

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male species has a green head and back and its tail feathers are rufous, tipped with white.

In watching these hummingbirds zip around I have realized several things. First – they are fast! Sometimes too fast for me to tell which species of hummingbird is visiting. The second thing I noticed is the variety of flowers that they visit. Since I am a gardener, I want to know which flowers they find most attractive. Since I can't ask them (or at least I don't expect a response), I am stuck with watching them instead.

Many garden books suggest planting red or orange, tubular flowers in a sunny site to attract hummingbirds to the garden. Yet, I see them visiting pink, white, and lavender flowers too! I have even seen hummingbirds visit zinnias or coreopsis which have a daisy-like flower instead of a tubular flower. And are sunny sites a requirement? I don't think so, especially when I see them visiting hosta flowers in my garden this summer.

Maybe hummingbirds aren't as discerning as we initially thought. Maybe they are like us and like a diverse palette of plants. Or maybe they try these different plants simply because they are available. Regardless of their preferences, I like having them visit my garden and/or landscape.

While it may be a bit late to put out a hummingbird feed this year, generally late summer and early fall is a great time to install a hummingbird feeder – especially if you don't have a variety of flowers for them to visit. Hummingbirds are migratory birds that travel great distances from early spring to late fall. They are often in Iowa in April and May as they head north for the year and back again in August and September as they migrate south for the winter.

On the next page is a list of plants often referenced as attracting hummingbirds to your garden. But don't worry if many of these are not planted in your garden, because I can attest that they will visit other flowers too.

This article was prepared by Cindy Haynes, Iowa State University Department of Horticulture. It originally appeared in HHPN September 29, 2010.

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Outdoor Adventures, Safety & Education in Shooting Sports), Family & Consumer Science (Child Development, Clothing, Consumer Management, Food & Nutrition, Health, Home Improvement, Sewing & Needle Art), Personal Development (Citizenship, Communication, Leadership, & Self-determined), and Science & Engineering (Mechanics, Woodworking, & other Science, Engineering & Technology).

As a judge you are able to select your area(s) of expertise and how far you are willing to travel. Through conference judging you are able to hear directly from the 4-H'er how they completed their goal, lessons learned, future plans, as well as offer positive constructive feedback. Exhibits judged at the county fair are selected to represent the county at the Iowa State Fair.

Training for New Judge's will be held Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds-Activity Building, 2606 E. Burlington Ave., Fairfield, IA. Register by November 4th by contacting the Jefferson County Extension Office at 641-472-4166. Cost for the training is \$20, payable at the door. This cost will cover judge's handbook and name entered in the statewide 4-H Judge's Database.

For more information on judge's training contact Youth Program Specialist Kati Peiffer by phone 641/233-7238 or email KPeiffer@iastate.edu. For information on the 4-H Program in Mahaska county please contact Amy Vermeer-Brainard.

It looks like Bur Oak Blight (BOB) really isn't that new

It's beginning to look like bur oak blight, or BOB for short, is a long-time resident of Iowa, and he's here to stay. Bur oak blight has been recognized in Iowa for only the last 6 or 7 years, but the fungus that causes it has probably been here much longer. A shift in



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climate to more frequent rain events appears to be increasing the severity of BOB throughout much of the western two-thirds of the state. The same phenomenon that contributes to Iowa's now all-too-common floods may be helping BOB kill our state tree.

A common leafspot fungus, *Tubakia dryina*, was initially thought to be the cause of the blight on bur oak, but closer examination showed that the cause was a new species of *Tubakia*. With funding provided by the US Forest Service, we were able to show that there are five species of *Tubakia* that can infect bur oak, but only one species can cause dramatic leaf symptoms and tree mortality.

The disease tends to intensify year-to-year in individual trees, and if only a portion of the crown is affected, it usually starts in the lower branches and then later progresses up the tree. The fungus overwinters on the petioles of dead leaves that remain attached to branches. Spores are produced in May from black pustules on the petioles of these old leaves, and the spores infect the newly emerging shoots and leaves during rainy weather. Dramatic leaf symptoms do not become evident until July, however, and the severity of symptoms increases in August and September if weather conditions are right. Leaf symptoms include necrosis (death) of the tissue along the veins and wedge-shaped areas of browning at the tips or sides of the leaves. Severely affected trees may die after several years of severe defoliation.

Not all stands of bur oak are seriously affected by the disease, and not all trees are equally susceptible in even the most severely affected stands. Thus far, we have seen severe BOB on only naturally-established bur oak, especially on mature trees on upland sites that appear to be remnants of savannah forests. Bur oak in dense forests and in bottomland sites are less seriously affected. We have confirmed the pathogen in 55 of Iowa's 99 counties, but most of the severely affected stands have been in the western half of the state. We've also confirmed BOB in eastern Nebraska and southern Minnesota.

We are experimenting with fungicide injections for control of BOB

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in high-value trees. Injections of propiconazole (Alamo) into bur oak in late May or early June, before symptoms appear, have been effective. However, propiconazole at the rate recommended for oak wilt can be phytotoxic to bur oak, and the treatment is costly.

As long as the rains keep coming, BOB will probably continue to intensify on upland sites across much of Iowa, and we could lose a number of stately bur oak. Hopefully our next generation of bur oak should be better adapted to a wetter climate and have the resistance necessary to withstand our long time resident, BOB.

An 18-minute video on the symptoms and other characteristics of BOB is available on the ISU Extension website. <http://fms.extension.iastate.edu/vod/video/2010BobPresentCIC.html>.

Picture of BOB are in the original article at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2011/2-9/buroakblight.html>
This article was prepared by Tom Harrington, Department of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University. It originally appeared in Horticulture and Pest News (HHPN) February 9, 2011. More HHPN article can be found at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>

This Garden Is for the Birds.

I have noticed late this summer that several hummingbirds are visiting some of the flowers in my garden. I am surprised – partly because it is late in the season and also because I do not have any hummingbird feeders set up in my landscape.

Two species of hummingbirds visit Iowa gardens – the ruby-throated hummingbird and the Rufous hummingbird. The male Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the most colorful since it has a bright red splotch at its throat. Both the male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds have an emerald colored back, but the female lacks the red spot on its throat. The Rufous hummingbird is larger and rufous colored (or rusty red-brown). This male is predominately rufous colored on the throat, tail, head, back, and each side with a white breast. The female Rufous hummingbird also has a white breast like the male, but unlike the male the fe-

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