

MASTER GARDENER UPDATE. . . Friday, January 16, 2009
Announcements and news for ISU Extension Master Gardeners, staff, and faculty

IN THIS ISSUE

NEW IOWA MASTER GARDENER E-NEWSLETTER
2009 IOWA FRUIT & VEGETABLES GROWERS & MARKETERS CONFERENCES
& TRADE SHOW
3rd ANNUAL HENRY COUNTY SPRING SYMPOSIUM
ORNAMENTAL GRASSES FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE
SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

NEW IOWA MASTER GARDENER E-NEWSLETTER

To help showcase the positive impacts Iowa Master Gardeners have made across the state a new electronic newsletter will be published on a frequent basis. We need your help!!! Please e-mail James Romer with a project your group has put together to better your community. The email should include a couple paragraphs with information on how the project started and/or the steps it took to complete along with pictures. The plan is to feature one Master Gardener group per newsletter.

The first e-newsletter is scheduled for publication soon on the Iowa Master Gardener web page.

2009 IOWA FRUIT & VEGETABLES GROWERS & MARKETERS CONFERENCES & TRADE SHOW

This conference will offer opportunities for fruit and vegetable growers and marketers to enhance their knowledge and skills in fruit and vegetable production, food safety and customer service and marketing. National, regional and local speakers will share their expertise as a part of this three day conference.

Details are as follows:

Who: Anyone with an interest in quality management of fresh fruits and vegetables as it pertains to production, post-harvest handling and marketing should attend.

Where: Sheraton West Des Moines Hotel 1800 50th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50266

When: Thursday, January 29th Saturday, January 31st, 2009

What: A highlight of this conference will be keynote presentations by nationally recognized speaker Dr. Trevor Suslow, U.C. Davis California as he presents new information and strategies to combine technologies for ensuring produce quality and safety from the farm to consumers. Other highlights include:

Steve Upton from Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK will present on high tunnel production and Ralph Couey, Chippewa Falls, WI, will address marketing.

Attendees will learn what can and cannot be sold at markets; the ins and outs of scales and packaging; customer service to enhance sales and a special market promotion cooking demonstration.

Hear also from local growers as they share their experiences and expertise on various aspects of safe food handling practices as it pertains to their own businesses.

Vendors will also be present to share the latest technologies available to fruit and vegetable growers and marketers.

Experts from Iowa State University will cover the latest information in apple, berries, squash, tomatoes, sweet corn and more.

How: The registration deadline has been extended. Cost is \$55 Thursday, \$55 Friday, \$40 Saturday if postmarked by 1/20. After that date it is an additional \$20/day. Register at www.iowaagriculture.gov.

For more information about the event please visit www.iowaagriculture.gov or contact Barbara Lovitt with the Iowa Department of Agriculture at 515-281-8232 or Barbara.Lovitt@iowaagriculture.gov.

3rd ANNUAL HENRY COUNTY SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Cindy Haynes, Associate Professor of Horticulture and Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Iowa State University, talking on "Perennials with Punch". In addition there

will be 4 breakout sessions with topics on Heritage Plants, Raised Beds, Home Canning, Landscaping, Day Lilies, Gardening with Conifers, Organic Gardening, New Annuals, Prairie Development, Growing Strawberries and Blueberries, and Food Preservation Naturally.

Saturday March 7, 2009

First United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant

Registration fee is \$20.00. This includes morning refreshments and a delicious lunch. Late registration is \$25 after March 1.

For more information call 319-385-8126.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

WHEN: March 28, 2009
SPEAKER: Richard Jauron, ISU Horticulturist
WHERE: Winterset Public Library
(123 N. 2nd Street, Winterset)
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
COST: FREE to the Public
PRE-REGISTER: Required. Please call the Madison County Extension at 515-462-1001 to pre-register.
Richard Jauron will be speaking on the various ways and benefits of using Ornamental Grasses in the Home Landscape.

SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

Master Gardener Update is published Friday by the Iowa Master Gardener Coordinator. Please send your news via email to James Romer (jromer@iastate.edu). Press releases received by Wednesday will be included in the next Update. When submitting information for the MG Update, be sure to include who, what, when, where, why, cost (if applicable), a brief paragraph discussing the event and a contact for more information. Please review all information before submitting. For questions, call (515) 294-2336.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of

discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W,
Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC
20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.