

INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY
By Bill Arndorfer
Butler-Grundy County Extension Educator
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Where Can I Find Answers?

There is rain falling as I write this column. Despite the delays due to rain, we will get the field crops and yard and gardens planted. Getting crops and plants off to a good start is critical to top yields and optimum plant growth. Not knowing exactly what challenges the growing season may bring, I thought it might be helpful to highlight resources that you can access from Iowa State University Extension to help answer questions throughout this growing season. You can start your search for answers by visiting the local Grundy County extension office or by checking out the following resources.

The Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Newsletter is an online newsletter that provides timely research based information to farmers, agribusiness professionals, educators and others based on needs and current conditions. The subscribers to this informative newsletter can choose to be notified about new articles either daily or weekly. To subscribe go to: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/cropnews/>.

Some of the headlines you will find include: *Corn Hybrids Adjust to Late Planting Dates*- an article about how hybrids adapt to later planting dates, *First Step to Achieving Uniform Plants* – an article about the importance of correct seeding depth to encourage the best root formation and uniform emergence and *Expiration of Biotech Crop Patents – Issues for Growers* – an article that discusses the impact that patent expiration could have for farmers. The ICM homepage also includes the Corn and Soybean Initiative CropWatch Blog, soil temperatures, Farm Energy Series and other resources to help with crop production.

In addition to the ICM newsletter, Brian Lang, ISU Field Agronomist in northeast Iowa, writes his own weekly newsletter, Crop Notes, to provide timely tips. Brian and Terry Basol, recently hired ISU Extension Field Agronomist located at the Borlaug Center near Nashua, are available for consultation as well.

For lawn and garden questions, call the Hortline at 515-294-3108 Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If those times don't work for you, go online to read the latest articles in the *Horticulture and Home Pest News* at: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>. Here you will find articles about current horticulture issues, plant care, pest management and common household pests written by Iowa State University Extension specialists in the Departments of Entomology, Horticulture and Plant Pathology.

The current issue includes a *Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Update* by Laura Jesse, from the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic. She describes recent submissions to the clinic such as the larder beetle, Spruce with Rhizosphaera needle cast, Scots and Austrian pines with Diplodia tip blight and conifers showing environmental stress. Jennifer Bousselet's article: *Uncommon Produce for the Garden* introduces gardeners to kale, parsnips, amaranth, rutabaga and garlic scapes. *Have you seen this stink bug?* is an article about the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) and a request for a digital image submission if you see an insect resembling the BMSB.

For answers to your farm or garden questions, check out the resources highlighted in this column or contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979.