



FARM AND HOME NEWS



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Contact Answer Line for Right Now Answers

When consumers want answers to home and family questions right now, they can contact Iowa State University Extensions Answer Line by phone at (800) 262-3804 or online at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/answerline/>. Professional consumer and family scientists answer questions in the areas of child development, cleaning, consumer management, food preparation, food preservation, food safety, home environment, household equipment, nutrition, and clothing and laundry. Answer Line has been answering consumer's home and family questions for 30 years, through the toll-free phone service. The Web sites frequently asked questions allow Iowans to access information on the Web 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Consumers can search by keyword, browse the keyword index or select a topic area to find answers to their questions. The toll-free number, (800) 262-3804 (in Iowa) or (800) 854-1678 (in Minnesota), is answered Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A Relay Iowa line (phone linkage for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals) is available at (800) 735-2942. Questions also can be sent by e-mail to answer@iastate.edu.

ISU Extension Available 24/7 via New Internet Websites

Need information fast? Iowa State University Extensions new county web pages are now available online, 24/7. Despite the fact that ISU Extension houses local office staff in every county in Iowa, the new web sites are an accommodation to the growing number of customers who now rely on Internet access. Customers will find that much of the information that has been available to them in person at our county office can now also be found online at the time and location of their choosing. They can go to ISU Extensions home page, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/>, click on <County and Area Offices> and the county of their choice to access the home page of any Extension office in Iowa. From there they will find links to local Extension news, publications, events and services. Similar information is available for statewide Extension programs.

Perennial Workshop

Participants will learn the most effective way to propagate plants from seed, division, cuttings and grafting. Be sure to attend if you want more bang for your landscaping buck. Taking cuttings or "slips" from coleus, geranium and African violets is common, but woody plants can be started this way as well. Grapevines are easy to start if you use "hardwood" cuttings. To introduce you to the basics of plant propagation, the Iowa State University Extension Consumer Horticulture Program will have a Plant Propagation Workshop on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM at the Howard County Extension office, 132 1st Ave. West, Cresco. The cost for this program is \$3. To register call ISU Extension Howard County at (563) 547-3001

When can I cut back my asparagus foliage?

The asparagus foliage can be cut back to the ground after it has been destroyed by freezing temperatures in the fall. However, it is generally recommended that the dead foliage be allowed to stand over winter. The dead debris will catch and hold snow. Snow cover helps protect the asparagus crowns from freeze damage. Asparagus foliage allowed to remain in the garden over winter should be removed in late March or early April before the spears begin to emerge.

Howard County Experimental Farm Day

The annual Howard County Experimental Farm field day will be held on Wednesday September 28th from 10:30 AM-Noon at the experimental farm on Hwy 9. The program will feature the projects being conducted at the farm by the Riceville FFA. Mr. Green and his students will describe the 2005 field trials. Representatives of Iowa State University Extension will address questions on soybean aphid, soybean diseases, the nitrogen fertilizer trial, and corn rootworm concerns. Brian Lang ISU Field Specialist will be available to answer questions.

