

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NNLA WELCOMES FOUR NEW NEBRASKA CERTIFIED NURSERYMEN

The Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association's newest Nebraska Certified Nurseryman are Rebekah McGill, Jason Orth, Sheila Schrader, and Eldora Weller. They took the NCN Certification test in February and passed all three components. The NCN program was established to promote the professionalism of individuals within the industry. A rigorous three-part test, which covers plan identification, landscape, and the NCN manual, must be successfully completed. To learn more about becoming a Nebraska Certified Nurseryman, visit nnla.org/certification.



Rebekah McGill, Siffring Landscape and Garden Center

What factors motivated you to become certified?

I attended my first NNLA conference during my first year of Horticulture school, I decided then and there that someday, I would be a Nebraska Certified Nurseryman. I'm not sure why I decided that, but it became a dream. Being a young member of the horticulture world can sometimes pose a challenge, one I've never been afraid to overcome. For me completing my certification gave me another way for the customer to "trust" me and the advice I give!

Educational and Work Background

I studied Horticulture Science and Golf Course Management at Northeast Community College, graduating in 2018. There I was able to apply what I was learning in various labs - in the greenhouse, at the golf course and around the world! Studying the plants of Costa Rica was certainly a highlight of my college career! Upon graduation. I'm in my third season of work at Stiffring Landscape and Garden Center and could not ask for better people to work with and to look up to for advice and knowledge. I primarily work in sales, and help many customers with DIY landscape plans, troubleshooting, and garden planning!

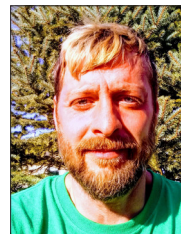
Jason Orth, Campbells Nursery, 56th Street Store

What factors motivated you to become certified?

My main motivation to become certified is it is important for someone without a formal horticultural education to show the public and peers I can be trusted to give competent advice.

Educational and Work Background

My educational background is mostly self-taught. I have been a gardener for seventeen years and have worked as a landscaper for the last five years.



Sheila Schrader, Lincoln Landscaping

What factors motivated you to become certified?

I wanted to improve my credibility with my clients and to continue to build my professional resume. I had also recently joined the NNLA Board of Directors and I thought it would be good to have a good understanding of what the test covered and how it was being presented. After being in this career for 11 years, I thought it would be a good test of my overall skills in my chosen field.

Educational/Work Background

I graduated from UNL with a degree in horticulture with an emphasis in landscape design and then have been professionally designing primarily for residential clients in the Lincoln area for the past 11 years.



Eudora Weller, Tilley Sprinklers & Landscaping

What factors motivated you to become certified?

Make myself more credible, increase knowledge, be a leader in the industry

Educational/Work Background

Bachelor of Science, University of Nebraska-Kearney; Associates Degree in Horticulture, Central Community College; Nursery Management, Landscape Design, Integrated Pest Management Certificates, Central Community College, Landscape Designer, Tilley Sprinklers & Landscaping – 6 years



Save the Date!

NNLA Summer Eastern Field Day
Currently not scheduled – monitoring Coronavirus guidance.

NNLA Winter Conference
Thursday, December 3, 2020
DC Centre
11830 Stonegate Drive
Omaha, NE

More information at:
Members.nnla.org/nnla-events



THE NNLA MISSION: TO ADVANCE THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND CERTIFICATION TO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVELY GROWING THEIR BUSINESSES.



NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY BRIAN MUNK



Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you, your family and any employees you may have, all safe and well. While COVID 19 has thrown us all a curve ball, I am confident that our industry is more than capable of adapting and making changes as needed. In time, we will all develop and settle into a 'new normal' that works best for each of us.

While the timeline through this summer and fall remains a little uncertain, your NNLA Board is monitoring the situation and working with state officials to determine a safe course of action regarding the hosting of our Summer Field Day. We are awaiting further guidance before confirming a date and making contingency plans in the event we are not allowed to host our Summer Field

Day as we normally have in the past.

On a brighter side, as I've visited local nurseries this spring, it seems that there are a lot of people getting out and doing a lot of gardening and landscaping this spring. I certainly hope that everyone is having as great a start to the season that is possible. Please note that if you are having difficulty finding sources to help in working with COVID 19, the NNLA website has up to date information for you use.

NNLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal forms will be sent June 1st via email for the 2020-2021 membership year. Watch your inbox for details. Membership dues remain the same as last year.

The NNLA membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. Be sure to renew your membership to continue to receive the quarterly newsletters, email updates, discounted educational rates for workshops, and Field Days, marketing & outreach and much more...

NNLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

RALSTONIA WILT IN GERANIUMS

In April, *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 was detected on 'Pink Flare' geraniums (*Pelargonium*) in a greenhouse in Michigan. These plants had originally come from Guatemala. USDA APHIS PPQ is working with state departments of agriculture on a multi-state trace-forward effort, attempting to track all annual geraniums of this variety that had originated from the Guatemala facility. At this time, nearly 400 facilities in at least 39 states received suspect nursery stock. Stop sale notices have been issued at all facilities and any suspect plants are in the process of being destroyed and the facilities disinfected. Fortunately, very few plants were shipped into Nebraska, but all nurseries are encouraged to monitor annual geraniums for symptoms of wilt.

Ralstonia solanacearum is a lethal bacterial disease, with a broad host range. The strain found in these geraniums can cause wilt in important crops including tomato, pepper and potato. The disease is also a concern for trade partners, and, should it become established in the United States, could negatively impact trade. Symptoms include wilting, yellowing, discoloration of the lower stem and root browning. Report any suspected infection of *Ralstonia* to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402- 471-2351 or agr.plant@nebraska.gov, or by contacting your NDA inspector.

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: GARDENING IN THE TIME OF COVID



You know that feeling. That glorious feeling of running your hands through the dirt. Feeling the earth connect with your body. Nature and you. Happiness and peace of mind overtake you as you shake off the cares and strife.

It's not just connecting with nature gardening gives you. It is the feeling of pure creation. Planting a living entity, aiding its birth, caring for it as it grows to maturity, watching it grow into a thing of beauty. Creating a life force. Let's not forget the sweat equity. Gardening is a way to get your exercise the fun way. Your garden workout aids in creating endorphins, our "feel-good" chemicals that assist in stress relief.

One aspect of taking care of yourself during the Covid crisis that is often ignored by the media is your own emotional health. When fighting an enormous physical enemy like this deadly virus, too often tending to your state of mind gets pushed aside. It is vitally important that you take positive steps to keep your mind as healthy as your body.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest you "take breaks" and "make time to unwind." The World Health Organization goes further in their advice on coping with Covid stress: "Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak."

Gardeners know there's no better way to rejuvenate their mind and spirit than engaging in their favorite pastime. The next best thing to the act of planting is planning and selecting the plants you want. The Arboretum's Spring Affair plant sale, this year an online sale rather than an event, will give you that opportunity. Give yourself permission to escape for a few hours and start planning a landscape that will get you outdoors and invigorated all year long. Visit <https://arboretumplants.org/> to start dreaming and planning.

Relieving stress by connecting with nature, creating a beautiful landscape and exercising are some of the wonderful ways gardening helps you confront the unsettledness of the Covid crisis we're going through now. Take advantage of your love of gardening to help you through the months ahead. It's a wonderful ally in restoring hope and joy.

Monica Nelson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

PLANT NATIVE: AMERICAN CURRANT

American Currant, *Ribes americanum*
 Height: 3-4' Spread: 3-4'
 Sun: Full sun to Part shade Water: Medium

This thornless currant grows naturally in low-lying moist woodlands. Its spring blossoms are yellow-green and showy with a bell-like shape. The small flowers are clustered together like dangling 1-3" long earrings, and are of special value to native bees. The attractive maple-like leaves are food for caterpillars of the Green Comma Butterfly. The fall color is a lovely red, which usually begins with coloring of the veins and the leaf margin. The fruit that forms is a small dark purple berry about a third of an inch in diameter. Black currants are very nutritious, high in Vitamins A and C, and in potassium, phosphorus, and calcium. In the landscape this easy-to-grow shrub does best in full sun and moist soil. Shrubs may show signs of stress in dry, hot sites and become spindly in too much shade. The selection 'Riverview' is a great choice, originally collected from naturally occurring plants growing along the Big Sioux River in South Dakota.



Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum,

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY PLANTS

Most gardeners are aware that soil preparation is important in a new landscape with poor or compacted soil, but when spring fever hits it's easy to start planting as soon as the weather warms up. Putting in the time to ready your soil makes a big impact, though, and will make a difference in the long-term.

Many soils in built areas (around homes, businesses and roads) are compacted "dead" zones that can make it tough for new plants to establish roots. Making the effort to build and heal your soil now, before you plant, can prevent major plant loss later on.

Rainy or damp weather can make early spring soil preparation difficult but late May and early June are still good times to plant. In very disturbed or compacted soils, you may even want to wait a year and put in a cover crop now to build up your soil through summer, or even through fall and winter. Seed mixes that include legumes and tuberous plants like radishes and turnips are good options to loosen the soil.

Here are some tips for getting a new garden bed ready to plant:

- Fix low spots before you break ground. It's much easier to identify bumpy areas before disturbing the ground. To level things out, use top soil instead of compost since compost is made up of organic matter that decomposes and can sink over time. Top soil will provide a more permanent fix to the grade.
- Spread organic matter. Compost is simply decayed organic material that is used as a plant fertilizer. Topdressing with aged compost kickstarts the process of rebuilding soil structure, which is vital to plants and especially new trees. Compost, biochar, wood waste, kitchen waste, leaf mulch and grass clippings all work well.
- Flip your soil gently with a shovel if it's compacted. Mechanical tillers and wheeled equipment may actually increase compaction below the surface. They're great at breaking up the surface of the soil but can create a hard layer underneath where the blades scrape the layers they don't reach.
- Activate the soil. Healthy soil includes living organisms like insects, worms, fungi and microbes that tend to be lacking in disturbed areas. Using local materials like leaves or grass clippings for mulch will help bring living fungi and microbes back into the garden.

Sarah Buckley, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



ADVERTISE IN THE NNLA NEWSLETTER

Would you like to see your company featured in an ad in the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association's quarterly newsletter, Nebraska Nursery News?

You will have the opportunity to present your company logo, products/services and company identity to members from across the state. Check out the new lower advertising rates on the last page of the newsletter. This is a great, affordable opportunity to reach members and anyone who views the newsletter on the website. Please contact the NNLA office at jennifer@youraam.com or (402) 381-7154 for further details.

GREATPLANTS 2023 PLANTS OF THE YEAR CHOSEN

The GreatPlants winners have been chosen! Thank you for voting to help select the 2023 GreatPlants of the Year!

The 2023 Plants of the Year are voted on three years in advance so the winners can be grown or ordered in due time. If you are looking for some tough plants to include in your landscapes, then do consider all the recommendations provided on the GreatPlants cumulative list. View a complete listing of all the past GreatPlants of the Year winners since 1998 at <https://plantnebraska.org/plants/greatplants.html>.

The 2023 plant recommendations are for anyone new to gardening, experienced gardeners or landscape professionals in Nebraska or the Great Plains. The major goal of the GreatPlants program is to increase the diversity of ornamental plants available for landscape use in the Great Plains through the Plant of the Year promotion program!

2023 GREATPLANTS OF THE YEAR

Tree of the Year - SHINGLE OAK, *Quercus imbricaria*
 Conifer of the Year - 'VANDERWOLF' LIMBER PINE, *Pinus flexilis*
 Shrub of the Year - BIRCHLEAF SPIREA, *Spirea betulifolia*
 Perennial of the Year - NARROWLEAF IRONWEED, *Vernonia lettermanii*

**For more information contact, Bob Henrickson, Horticulture Program Coordinator at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum - Phone: 402-472-7855
 Email: rhenrickson2@unl.edu Website: arboretum.unl.edu**

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: NEBRASKA'S UNIQUE NATIVE TREES

Nebraska, like the rest of the Great Plains, is not well-known for its trees. After the retreat of the last Ice Age glaciers about 10,000 years ago, grasslands came to dominate the center of the continent leaving Nebraska only 3% forested at the time of settlement. Someone flying high above Nebraska now could be forgiven for looking down at the vast quilt-like pattern of farm fields and prairie and think that the state is devoid of important trees. They would be wrong.

Nebraska is at the geographic center of the country and is quite literally where east meets west. Here is where the eastern deciduous forest meets its western limits, where western pine forests meet their eastern limits, and where northern boreal species left over from the last Ice Age meet their southern limits. The evidence is clear that over the eons, species pulsed in and out of the state depending on climatic conditions. Although Nebraska is no longer covered by vast-stretches of woodland, we can still be proud of the trees we have. In fact, where else in the country can you hop in the car and after just a few hours of driving venture through majestic oak-hickory forests and boreal groves before arriving in western pinelands?



Southeast Nebraska is where the bulk of tree diversity is found in the state, with over 30 native species occurring there. Places like Steamboat Trace Trail and Indian Cave State Park are great places to experience the richness of hardwood species including several types of oak, two species of hickory, buckeye, ironwood, linden, redbud, and pawpaw among others. Believe it or not, a new native species was recently documented when several butternut (a relative of walnut) were found growing along the Steamboat Trace south of Nebraska City in 2018. How did this species escape botanical notice for so long?

In our state, oak-dominated forests typically follow river corridors where moisture is more abundant. These fingers of woodlands stretch north and west, following the major river systems such as the Missouri, Elkhorn, Platte, Loup and Niobrara. As the forests move north and west, the number of species gradually drops off so that by the time we reach the Valentine area, just a few species like bur oak, linden and ironwood remain. Scattered across central Nebraska are a few pockets of bur oak-dominated hardwood that exist as remnant islands of trees, hinting at a past that was once more favorable to hardwood forests in this part of the world.

In the more arid western Nebraska, evergreen-dominated forests are prominent in the Pine Ridge area of the northern Panhandle as well as in the Wildcat Hills south of Gering. These forests are home to tree species more common in the western U.S., including Ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain juniper and water birch, along with shrubs such as mountain mahogany and grape holly.

Linking east to west (or vice versa) across northern Nebraska is the Niobrara River corridor, one of the nation's great scenic and botanical treasures. The Niobrara valley serves as a conduit of eastern hardwood species moving west and it's also a corridor for Ponderosa pine to reach as far east as Rock County. But what really makes the Niobrara valley so special are the remnant boreal species still holding on including quaking aspen and paper birch. In the Valentine area, such as at Smith Falls State Park or at the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, one can find eastern, western and boreal forest species all coming together in close proximity to each other.

One of the many important values of Nebraska's trees lies in their adaptability. The tough Great Plains climate weeded out lesser species long ago. And

those that did survive have evolved a genetic capacity to tolerate extreme weather conditions including brutal heat, bitter cold and extreme drought. No wonder trees are farther apart here. But they are here and their genetic "toughness" makes many of these species adaptable to a changing climate.

Yes, Nebraska is mostly farm and prairie country, which is beautiful all in itself. But we do have some incredible trees and anyone seeking an unusual tree adventure would do well to check out these rare tree locations:

- Burr Oak Canyon south of Culbertson (near the Kansas state line) consists of about a half mile ravine of bur oaks that are dozens of miles from any other native bur oaks. They're left over from a more tree-friendly climate thousands of years ago.

Beneficial Landscapes: Nebraska's Unique and Native Trees continued on next page...

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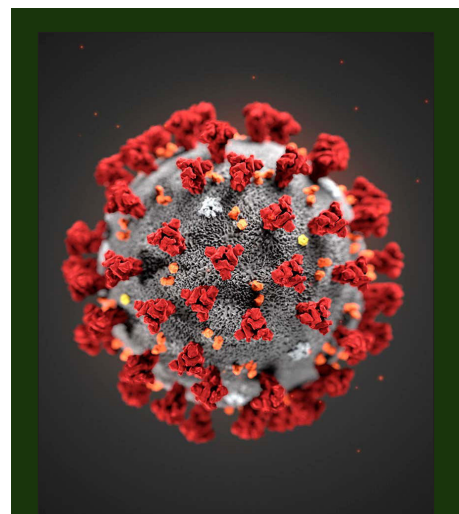
NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

Beneficial Landscapes: Nebraska's Unique and Native Trees continued...

- Lehman Springs/Hackberry Hollow near Sidney. Out on the shortgrass prairie northeast of Sidney, where trees generally do not occur, is a spring-fed draw that has sustained hackberry trees for thousands of years. The locals refer to the ravine as Hackberry Hollow.
- The Pine Bluffs of western Kimball County. Nestled along I-80 at the Wyoming state line is the only stand of native limber pine in Nebraska. At least one tree has been core-dated to be over 600 years old.
- Wildcat Hills Nature Center south of Gering on Highway 71 are dominated by Ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain junipers, some of which have been dated to over 800 years old. An unusual shrub species to see here is mountain mahogany.
- Anything in the Pine Ridge of northwest Nebraska including Chadron State Park, Fort Robinson State Park, Gilbert-Baker Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and Sowbelly Canyon.
- The Cowboy Trail just southeast of Valentine along Highway 20 is a trailhead with a short link to an old railroad trestle bridge spanning the Niobrara River. Here one can see incredible views of the Niobrara River valley, including rich native prairie mingling with bur oak and ponderosa pine.
- In the Niobrara River Valley east of Valentine oaks, pines, aspen and birch all grow within a stone's throw of each other.
- Happy Jack Peak along the Highway 11 corridor near North Loup is one of Nebraska's more scenic drives. It's a great place to see native bur oaks and explore mixed-grass prairie while climbing the peak. While there, visit the adjacent chalk mine.
- Basswood Ridge WMA southwest of South Sioux City is dominated by bur oak and linden (basswood) and is also one of the northernmost reaches of bitternut hickory and red oak.
- Table Rock WMA near Table Rock is one of just a few locations in the state to see blackjack oak.
- The Standing Bear Trail corridor between Beatrice and Barneston is a good place to see several hardwood species that meet their western limits, including Ohio buckeye, shagbark hickory and chinkapin oak.
- The Steamboat Trace Trail Corridor from just south of Nebraska City to south of Brownville allows close viewing of native oaks and hickories as well as pawpaw and the newly discovered Butternut.
- The area south of Salem in Richardson County is a great place to find the shrubby and rare dwarf chinkapin oak growing on rocky knobs and along road cuts.

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been growing and distributing progeny of many of these trees for several years. Look for them at Arboretum plant sales throughout the year at plantnebraska.org.

Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



COVID-19 RESOURCES

To help you find resources related to COVID-19, NNLA has added a specific page to the NNLA website - <http://nnla.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources/>. You can also find this page via the tab bar on the home page for easy access. Check back regularly to look for updates.

PLANT NATIVE: BUR OAK



Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
Height: 65-70' Spread: 50-60' Sun: Full Sun Water: Medium to dry

Bur oak is our most common native oak. It's big and majestic, tough and reliable. This rugged oak is well suited for the challenges of weather on the Plains with its thick layer of ridged, corky bark and stout, ice-storm resistant twigs. The rugged, wide spreading branches stand out in winter, accented by frost or snow, and offer welcome shade on hot summer days. The leathery, fan-shaped leaves help make this picturesque shade tree a great choice for the landscape. Bur oak is tolerant of a wide range of soils, moisture conditions and the rigors of urban life. Oaks provide valuable nut forage for a variety of wildlife and no other plant genus supports more species of butterflies and moths than the oak.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

JAPANESE BEETLE UPDATE & SHIPPING NURSERY STOCK OUT-OF-STATE

Nebraska has numerous counties infested with Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*). As this pest becomes more common across the state, the prevalence of Japanese beetle has implications for nurseries that ship out of state.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) monitors for Japanese beetle across Nebraska. Based on trapping results, the following counties are considered infested as of 2020: Adams, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Furnas, Gage, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Scotts Bluff, Thayer, Thomas, Thurston, Washington, Wayne and York.

Many states require nursery stock shipped interstate to meet the certification requirements found in the U.S. National Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan. Most states west of Nebraska have Japanese beetle quarantines in place that either prohibit nursery stock movement from infested areas or place limits on the movement of nursery stock. Nebraska nursery stock may need special certification, in addition to a regular nursery inspection and license, to meet other state's entry requirements. This certification may require soil sampling, trapping surveys, inspections and/or chemical treatments.

Be Advised – NDA anticipates Nebraska will shift from a Category 2 (partially-infested) to a Category 3 (generally-infested) state effective Jan. 1, 2021. Certification may be required for any nursery shipping nursery stock to other states, not just those in counties identified as infested.

All Nebraska nurseries involved in interstate shipment of nursery stock should contact NDA now to determine what certification measures will be needed. Be proactive in contacting NDA; do not wait until you are ready to ship. You can contact Jessica Schueth, Export Certification Coordinator, at 402-471-5902 or by email at agr.phyto@nebraska.gov, for more information or to discuss certification requirements.

NEBRASKA FOREST HEALTH REPORT

The March 2020 Nebraska Forest

Health Report is available online at

<https://mailchi.mp/unl.edu/nebraska-forest-health-report-october-2169330>

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NDA ENTOMOLOGY STAFF UPDATES

NDA is excited to have two new Entomology Inspectors join the staff recently.

Daniel Kinley is a Nebraska native and recent UNL graduate, majoring in Ag Business and Agronomy. Dan brings experience working in lawn care/landscape maintenance, and a strong background in traditional agriculture. He joined our team in January and covers the panhandle and southwest Nebraska.

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Erin Biggs came to Nebraska from Michigan, and has degrees in Biology/Natural Resource Management and Entomology. Her work experience includes pest control and invasive species survey and control. Erin began her work with NDA in early May and will work in the central part of the state.

Amber Weyers, who previously covered the central territory, has shifted east, taking over the southeast Nebraska territory. This territory was previously held by Libby Smith, who accepted a Program Specialist position with the NDA Pesticide Program. While we were sorry to see Libby leave the Entomology team, we are glad to keep her at NDA.

Territories have also shifted to better balance out workloads and improve service to all ag industries. So if you see new faces during your inspections, please take a couple of minutes to get to know your new inspectors.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

TODD FALLER AWARDED OUTSTANDING STATE LEADER AWARD AT 2020 WESTERN

The Western Outstanding State Association Leader Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a dedication to the work and mission of the green industry through exceptional efforts on behalf of state associations.

Congratulations to Todd Faller of Faller Landscape and Prairie Gold Nursery. Todd was presented the award on behalf of his work with the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association (NNLA).



SPECIALTY CROP GROWERS, PESTICIDE APPLICATORS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT SENSITIVE CROPS

Specialty crops, like fruits, vegetables, hops and honey, add value and diversity to Nebraska agriculture, the state's number one industry. That's why the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) encourages growers and outdoor pesticide applicators to work together to protect sensitive commercial specialty crops and pollinators from pesticides. Pesticides include all categories of pest control products such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

"Specialty crops are one way for Nebraska farm and ranch families to diversify and grow their agriculture businesses," said NDA Director Steve Wellman. "In order to protect and support specialty crop producers and agriculture in Nebraska, growers and pesticide applicators need to communicate with one another throughout the planting and growing season to raise awareness of specialty crops and beehives in the area."

DriftWatch™ and BeeCheck™ are online mapping services from FieldWatch that allow those with commercial specialty crops, organic crops and beehives to report their field locations. Farmers and other pesticide applicators can review the map to see where specialty crops are located. Included in the registry are commercial apiary sites, vineyards, orchards, fruit and vegetable grow sites, nursery and Christmas tree production sites and certified organic and transitional organic crops.

These online mapping services help satisfy requirements concerning restricted use pesticide (RUP) dicamba products. Pesticide applicators planning to use RUP dicamba products are required to complete online training and locate specialty crops in the area before using RUP dicamba products. Online pesticide applicator training is available through Nebraska Extension.

In Nebraska, 927 growers have registered a total of 2,007 specialty crop and apiary sites on FieldWatch™. Those sites are currently found in 80 of Nebraska's 93 counties and contain over 105,000 acres of specialty crops.

Registration is voluntary, free, easy to use and secure. Pesticide applicators can view the map, sign up for free email alerts and get the free FieldCheck™ app, or receive direct data feeds or downloads. NDA monitors the FieldWatch™ registries for the state. Information about FieldCheck™, DriftWatch™ and BeeCheck™ can be found at bit.ly/NDafwinfo, or by calling Craig Romary, NDA Program Specialist, at 402-471-2351.

FieldWatch
Communication. Cooperation. Collaboration.

fieldcheck driftwatch beechek

FOR APPLICATORS

Avoid Inadvertent Drift: View Specialty Crop and Beehive Site Locations
Utilize **DriftWatch™** and **BeeCheck™** to communicate more effectively with specialty crop growers to help prevent and manage drift effects. Easily locate registered sites before you spray.

Three Ways to Utilize DriftWatch/BeeCheck

Option 1: Frequently Visit the Public Map (Free)

- View all crop sites.
- View most beehives (beekeepers have the option to display hives only to registered applicators).

Option 2: Register with FieldWatch as an Applicator (Free)

- View all crop sites and beehives.
- Receive email alerts when new sites are added to your area.
- Eligible to download the FieldCheck app (available free for either Android or iOS) to see all sites in DriftWatch.
- Add out of scope non-specialty crop and sensitive sites to a private 'annotation layer,' visible only by you and those you share it with.

Option 3: Member Data Subscription (Voluntary Membership)

- View all sites, including beehives.
- Periodically download sites to your mapping software or receive livestream through your software provider.
- Applicators from government entities (states, cities, counties, university extension, etc.) may download or stream the data for free.
- Contact FieldWatch for more information.

Two-Way Communication
Use **DriftWatch™** and **BeeCheck™** to communicate plans with growers and work out a mutual understanding.

Communication + Cooperation + Collaboration

Please consult FieldWatch to access specialty crop and beehive information to complement your ongoing stewardship activities.

SPECIALTY CROP
Look and Be Aware
You may see these and similar signs near approved specialty crop, organic crop and beehive sites as you are driving or working in the area. Be aware of these and take precautions before you spray.

A One-Stop Shop
Farmers and other applicators can see specialty crops and beehives in neighboring states. Aerial applicators working in these states (21 total) can benefit from this one-stop shop.

Applicators can also receive mapped sites directly from select software providers or through a FieldWatch™ subscription.

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DriftWatch™ and BeeCheck™ can be found online at fieldwatch.com. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) monitors the DriftWatch™ website for Nebraska. For questions, contact NDA at 402-471-2351.

PLANT NATIVE: BLACK WALNUT



BLACK WALNUT, *Juglans nigra*
Height: 50-75' Spread: 50-60'
Sun: Full Sun Water: medium to dry

American black walnut is one of the most valuable natural forest trees in the U.S. Its fernlike foliage provides light, airy shade so it's a great shade trees for larger properties in areas where the juglone produced by the tree won't stunt the growth of plants beneath it. The flavorful nuts contain more protein than any other tree nut; its valuable wood makes beautiful furniture; husks are used to make natural dyes; and the hard shells are used in a wide range of industrial applications.

NOTE: Native woodland plants that evolved within the range of walnuts are unfazed by juglone.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES: SPRING BLOOMS!

"Each spring a gardening instinct, sure as the sap rising in the trees, stirs within us. We look about and decide to tame another little bit of ground." - Lewis Gantt

No flower is quite so welcome as the first one to open in spring. And fortunately for gardeners in the midwest, some of them are tough enough to bloom even through a snow drift. Spring bulbs like snowdrops, squill and crocus are some of the earliest flowers to open, with daffodils, hyacinths and tulips soon to follow.

There are some wonderful perennials for blossom and color early in the spring also. Though it will vary according to microclimate, the perennials below begin to bloom in March or April and are listed generally in order of "appearance."

Lenten rose, Hellebore. Large, cup-shaped, rose-like flowers open in March and bloom for 8-10 weeks. Colors range from pale green to white, pink and purple. Prefers rich, organic, well-drained soils in part to full shade and protection from cold winter winds. Clumps establish fairly quickly. Foliage is wide, glossy and semi-evergreen.

Pasque flower, Pulsatilla. Beautiful bell-shaped flowers—in shades of blue, violet, yellow and white—open in March or April and develop plume-like seedheads. Foliage is silvery and covered with hair. Native to prairies, it requires good drainage.

Brunnera, Brunnera. This beautiful perennial is grown mainly for its attractive heart-shaped foliage, but it also has highly attractive forget-me-not like blue flowers in March or April. The cultivar 'Jack Frost' has beautiful silver leaves with green veins.

Lungwort, Pulmonaria. Though lungwort is more known for its silvery, white-mottled foliage, the attractive spring flowers tend to be a mix of pale pink and blue at the same time. It prefers rich, cool, moist sites and afternoon shade. Grows 8" tall and 12" wide.

Candytuft, Iberis sempervirens. In April, masses of white flowers attract butterflies. Growing to just 10" tall, it's a great addition to a rock garden or border edging. The bright green foliage is semi-evergreen.

Bleeding Heart, Dicentra. Flower displays begin in April and last up to six weeks or more. Flowers are usually pink, red or white and attract hummingbirds. Fine cut foliage accents the dangling heart-shaped flowers carried on long arching stems. Grows 10-30" in full or part shade.

Columbine, Aquilegia. A great spring-blooming perennial for full sun to part shade that will naturalize in optimum conditions. Foliage is delicate and April/May flowers have distinctive spurs.

Bluebells, Mertensia. Pink flower buds open to clusters of pendulous blue flowers. Foliage dies back by mid-summer so they are best massed and left undisturbed in shady woodland areas, possibly interplanted with ferns or hostas to cover fading foliage.

Blue star, Amsonia. Powdery blue flowers open in April-May on feathery green foliage that will turn golden yellow in fall. Cutting back the foliage after flowering will result in a tighter foliage mound. Prefers part shade.

Shrubs and trees also offer an amazing variety of spring bloom, starting with witchhazel in February and continuing on: flowering dogwood, forsythia, cherry, plum, magnolia, chokeberry, serviceberry, viburnum, redbud, buckeye, weigela and sweet shrub.

Bob Henrickson and Karma Larsen, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PLANT NATIVE: BLACK CHERRY



BLACK CHERRY, *Prunus serotina*

Height: 50-60 feet Spread: 35-45 feet
sun to part shade Water: medium

Sun: full

Black cherry, with its spreading limbs and arching branches, is the largest and most important native cherry for wildlife. It blooms in spring, loaded with small, fragrant white flowers, each clustered together to form a narrow pendulous raceme. The abundant flowers are very attractive to small native bees and other pollinating insects. The shiny, dark green leaves turn lively shades of yellow, orange, and red in the fall. The tree produces copious amounts of small black fruits in the summer, highly prized by many songbirds, and it's a larval host to a good number of butterflies and moths. It has a reputation as weedy and aggressive in forest restoration, where new seedlings can overtake open ground. In the home landscape this tree has not been a problem, however it might seed around here and there. It is seldom planted in home landscapes, but for gardeners wanting wildlife habitat, it's worth planting.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

SURVEILLANCE CONTINUES FOR WALNUT TWIG BEETLES IN NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) will begin another year of surveillance work for the walnut twig beetle (WTB). The beetle, combined with the fungus it carries, causes thousand cankers disease (TCD) in walnut trees and was discovered in Scotts Bluff County during last year's surveillance work.

The WTB is native to North America and is the only insect presently known to transmit the fungus that causes TCD. The disease disrupts the flow of water and nutrients, ultimately causing the infected walnut tree to die. Early symptoms are yellowing of leaves and foliage thinning of the upper crown of the tree. Trees usually die within three years after initial symptoms are observed.

"The Nebraska Department of Agriculture will continue to survey the state, watch for signs of this invasive pest and do what we can to help slow its spread into un-infested areas," said NDA Director Steve Wellman.

NDA entomology staff will begin yearly survey work for WTB in May. While the survey work will occur statewide, an emphasis will be made to closely monitor Scotts Bluff and surrounding counties. Information gathered from this year's survey will be used to help determine if changes are necessary to Nebraska's quarantine orders in the future. Since WTB and TCD can be easily transported in wood, people can personally help prevent the spread of invasive pests by using locally-sourced firewood and burning it in the same county where you purchase it. Also, consider removing trees that are experiencing declining health and dispose of them properly.

If you suspect you have seen a WTB infestation in Nebraska, please contact State Entomologist Julie Van Meter, at 402-471-2351 or the Nebraska Forest Service at 402-472-2944.

If you ship walnut nursery stock, scion wood, lumber or other walnut wood products (excluding walnut nuts), you are encouraged to contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351 to determine if there are any restrictions or certification requirements for those products.

Additional information on WTB and thousand cankers disease, can be found on NDA's website at: <http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/>.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS



Thanks to funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is in its third year of the Trees for Nebraska Towns (TNT) program. This program provides matching funds and technical assistance to public tree planting projects in Nebraska communities. The focus is on large-maturing trees and species diversity. Funds are available for fall 2020/spring 2021 projects and communities are invited to apply. The maximum request per project is \$20,000.

TNT works to enhance community forests while addressing various environmental challenges. The goals of this program include reversing the decline of community forests and increasing a wide range of economic, environmental, aesthetic and social benefits provided by well-designed landscapes. TNT also strives to increase the appreciation and awareness of community forest benefits and challenges. This program advances the Environmental Trust's priorities of improving the state's habitat and air, soil and water quality.

To be eligible, projects must provide clear public benefit and be located within or near the incorporated limits of a Nebraska community. Typical planting sites include but are not limited to street trees, parks, schools, college campuses, libraries, courthouses, fairgrounds and cemeteries. Funds are not available for homeowners, however individuals interested in coordinating a neighborhood-wide project can apply for funding through a neighborhood association or other organization.

TNT Coordinator Kendall Weyers said there's never been a better year to plant trees, "In this time even more than others, we recognize the shelter, beauty and restoration our landscapes can offer."

To encourage more planting, Weyers also recommends applying for "Free Trees for Fall Planting," which offers up to 10 trees per project and was designed for projects that don't quite fit the TNT program. For this grant, recipients need to conduct public outreach efforts, and Weyers especially encourages this program for higher-need neighborhoods. The trees offered by this program are small enough to be manageable by volunteers,

but big enough to have neighborhood impact.

Applications for both grant programs are due July 31. Applications for TNT are at <https://plantnebraska.org/TNT> and "Free Trees" is at <https://plantnebraska.org/freetrees>.

For more information on TNT contact Kendall Weyers at 402-472-6693 or kweyers2@unl.edu.

Do you ship nursery stock out-of-state?

More than just your NE nursery license may be required.
Don't risk shipping without proper certification!

For info about requirements, contact the
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Export Certification Coordinator at:
402-471-5902 or agr.phyto@nebraska.gov

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

WILDFLOWER WEEK 2020 IN PRAISE OF WILD PLACES

Celebrate Nebraska Wildflower Week

the first week in June



Read about them
See them | Grow them

Wildflower Places & Resources

plantnebraska.org/wildflower-week

“It is through close and intimate contact with a particular patch of ground that we learn to respond to the earth, to see that it really matters. We need to recognize the humble places where this alchemy occurs, and treat them as well as we treat our parks and preserves—or better, with less interference. Everybody has a ditch, or ought to. For only the ditches—and the fields, the woods, the ravines—can teach us to care enough for all the land.”

- Robert Michael Pyle

This is a year unlike any other, a spring unlike any other, and it will be a Wildflower Week unlike any other. Normally we gather the first week of June for hikes, talks and other events that celebrate Nebraska’s beautiful wildflowers. This year social distancing won’t allow such numbers. And so Wildflower Week 2020 will rely on your own experience, your own memories of wildflowers and your own way of enjoying them in the present.

If we take the time to trace back our own experience, we might find that is precisely the way we came to our first love of nature, of being outdoors, of wildness. Whether it was a shelterbelt, a ditch, a high tree we could climb, a nearby abandoned lot or a hiding place under some lilac shrubs, most likely our first experience of wildness was something we came to entirely on our own.

It may have been in a managed, manicured garden but more likely it happened in a place that allowed freedom, imagination and manipulation.

And so we invite you to visit those places and memories again, and to provide opportunities—for children, grandchildren, friends and family—to make their own connections.

There are plenty of resources for wildflower appreciation. You can find wildflower identification guides, a crossword puzzle, bookmarks, places to visit (please limit group size and spacing), recommended wildflowers for home gardens and much more at <https://plantnebraska.org/wildflower-week>.

And so, we invite you to a make-your-own Wildflower Week celebration this year. We hope you will find good ways to remember and share your first experiences in nature and enjoy them again.



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