

Yard and Garden – 01-23-2016 - Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant

If it's free it's for me. I have a tendency to subscribe to that saying especially if what is being offered free is of direct value to me. If you are an enthusiastic gardener and would like to attend horticulture classes to broaden your knowledge, all at no cost to you, then perhaps what I have to share might be of interest.

Once again, the UNL Horticulture Department and Buffalo County Extension are offering horticulture classes via satellite through *Breeze Training*. Although offered specifically for those interested in the Nebraska Master Gardener program, the public is also invited. The 2.5 hour long programs will take place at the Buffalo County Extension Building, Room B, 1400 East 34th Street, Kearney, Nebraska, beginning February 02, 2016, starting at 6:30 p.m.

By attending these classes, you are not required to enroll in the Nebraska Master Gardener program. However, the classes presented do fulfill a portion of the education requirements for Nebraska Master Gardeners. The choice is yours. Becoming a new certified Nebraska Master Gardener can only be achieved by completing a UNL approved horticulture curriculum and then individuals must volunteer, sharing their horticultural knowledge and skill with others.

This year's *Breeze Training* includes:

February 2 – Selection and Care of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs – Evergreens are an important feature of Nebraska landscapes. Learn how to correctly select, plant, and care for evergreens to help them thrive in the landscape.

- Presented by Todd Faller, Faller Nursery and Landscaping

February 9 – Putting Perennials to Work – Help maximize your landscape by choosing the right plant for the right location. Learn which underutilized perennials help increase plant diversity for positive impacts.

- Presented by Scott Evans, Douglas-Sarpy Extension Horticulture Assistant

February 16 – Basic Botany/Plant Identification - It is time to go back to basics. Learn key concepts to plant growth and development; and strategies to identify different types of plant material.

-Presented by Stacy Adams – Professor of Practice, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

February 23 – Weed Identification and Control – Is that a weed? How do we know? Once weeds are correctly identified, learn how to select and use best control methods for various weed species.

-Presented by Natalia Bjorklund, Dodge County Extension Educator

March 1 – Polarizing Yard and Garden Issues – Polarizing issues related to growing plant material, controlling pests, and our environment face the general public. Learn about issues (GMO's, invasive species, pest resistance, climate change, and biodiversity) and tips for tactfully

communicating about these issues.

- Presented by Kelly Feehan, Platte County Extension Educator, Tamra Jackson-Ziems, Extension Plant Pathology Specialist, and Nicole Stoner, Gage County Extension Educator

March 8 – Efficient Landscape Irrigation – Irrigation is a key factor to the success of Nebraska landscapes. Learn how much water plants need and about plant management and irrigation strategies to help conserve water in the landscape but still have a flourishing landscape.

Presented by John Fech, Douglas-Sarpy Extension Educator

Because seating is limited, I encourage pre-registration by contacting the Extension office at 308-236-1235.

Somewhere I read that consumer research indicates most people find greater intrinsic value for products and or services for which they pay. However, by attending these ascribed Breeze classes at no cost to you, I am confident you, too, will endorse the saying, “If it’s free, it’s for me.”