

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 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 07, 2017, starting at 6:30 p.m.

By attending these classes, one is 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. If one wishes to become a first-time Nebraska Master Gardener, there is a fee; otherwise, there is no fee for these classes. 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. More about this great program next week, but for now the 2017 *Breeze* schedule is listed below.

February 7 – Plant Diagnostics - Presented by Kelly Feehan, Platte County Extension Educator — “What is wrong with this plant?” Diagnosing plant problems can be difficult. There can be many different causes for a symptom. Learn what questions to ask to narrow down possible causes and about diagnostics tools to use.

February 14 – Turf Fertilization and Irrigation- Presented by Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor & Extension Turfgrass Specialist — Correct fertilizer and irrigation application techniques are a crucial part of correct turfgrass management in home lawns and public spaces. Learn how to correctly calculate fertilizer and irrigation amounts through calibrating fertilizer spreader and irrigation systems for the area of turfgrass that will be treated.

February 21 – Small Fruit Production-Presented by Connie Fisk, Regional Food Systems Extension Educator — Here is a great opportunity to learn how to successfully grow small fruit crops including strawberries, grapes, and brambles in Nebraska! Learn about the various aspects of growing these crops from planting, training, and pruning, to efficient water and nutrient application, to integrated pest management that all impact the success of these crops.

February 28 – Soil Texture and Sample Testing -Presented by Brian Krienke, Extension Educator, Department of Agronomy and Horticulture — What are the components that come together to create soil? Learn about the various aspects of soil particle structures and textures, and how they impact the property of different classes of soil. Participants will also learn how to collect soil tests and interpret test results.

March 7 – Landscape Design - Presented by Elizabeth Killinger, Hall County Extension Educator —What are the secrets of quality landscape design for home and public landscapes across Nebraska? Elizabeth Killinger will share the crucial elements of landscape design that maximize the resources available for those flourishing landscapes wherever you live in Nebraska.

March 14- Basic Botany & the Growing Environment- Elizabeth Killinger, Hall County Extension Educator — Compound leaf, perennial, suffrutescent... what do all of these words mean? Find out about botany and how the growing environment can affect plants.

March 21 – Insect Physiology, Pesticides and Pollinators -Presented by Jonathan Larson, Douglas-Sarpy Extension Educator and Natalia Bjorklund, Dodge County Extension Educator — Insects feature body parts that have been adapted to the growing and reproductive needs of their respective species and insect orders. Learn about these variations, and how they impact the growth and function of insects in the landscape. Learn more about the science behind pesticides, and how they can impact insect health in landscapes and the environment. Participants will also learn how to provide a variety of plant material to support pollinator and beneficial insects in the landscape.

Because seating is limited, I encourage pre-registration by contacting me directly through my email address at tgriess2@unl.edu or calling me at 308-236-1235 at the Buffalo County Extension office on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.