

Yard and Garden 08-13-2011 Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant

Hear ye; hear ye. I have some exciting news. Although September is nearly two weeks away, I want to share this information with you well enough in advance to give you time to plan accordingly. As all gardeners know, fall is an opportune time to complete a number of gardening tasks before the cold winter temperatures arrive. Beginning September 7, 2011, UNL Extension horticulture experts will be offering a webinar series called *Autumn Leaves- Lunch and Learn*.

Each Wednesday throughout the month of September, from 12:05 p.m. to 12:55 p.m., right from your computer at work or home, you will be able to learn firsthand about such gardening tasks as fall planting, overwintering summer bulbs, fall bulb planting and preparing your garden for winter. All you will need to participate is a computer with internet access and sound. During each program, not only will you be able to view and listen, you will be able to interact with the speakers.

On September 7, Sarah Browning, Extension Educator from Lancaster County, will present a program titled *Fall Planting and Overseeding*. Join Sarah to learn more about the benefits of fall planting. Fall is a great time for planting trees, shrubs, perennials and turfgrass. Autumn planting in many respects is better than spring planting. Fewer weed problems occur in a fall-seeded lawn, and autumn planted trees and shrubs have more time for root development before having to endure another hot summer.

On September 14, Extension Educator Natalia Bjorklund from Dodge County will present *Overwintering Summer Blooming Bulbs*. Have you always wanted to grow beautiful summer flowering bulbs such as dahlias or gladiolus or ornamental foliage bulbs such as caladiums or elephant ears, but you did not want the expense of repurchasing new bulbs each year? Here is your opportunity to learn how to overwinter them. This session will successfully teach you how to keep such exotic summer bulbs through the winter, so they can be planted and enjoyed repeatedly, season after season, with only a one-time purchase.

Extension Educator Sarah Browning will present again on September 21 another luncheon seminar called *Fall Bulb Planting*. In this session Sarah will address a number of fall-planted bulbs that have been under-utilized, yet are reliable bloomers for Nebraska landscapes. She will feature planting instructions and aftercare for a wide variety of common bulbs as well as for those not so common, many which add additional color and interest to your landscape.

The final Lunch and Learn webinar will be presented on Wednesday, September 28. Extension Educator Nicole Haxton from Gage County will share with you a program titled *Putting the Garden to Bed*. Properly preparing gardens for Nebraska's extreme winter conditions can improve their survival and ensure beautiful, healthy plants the following spring.

Garden cleanup, pruning, mulching and watering are each important gardening practices. In Nicole's program, you will learn which shrubs and perennials to cut back before winter and

which ones to leave until early spring. In addition to proper pruning techniques and mulching, good garden sanitation will also be addressed.

Everyone is welcome to participate in these live online webinars, but preregistration is required. There is a small fee of \$10 per program or \$30 for the entire series. To register, go to <http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension>. Once you have registered, you will receive the program handout and login information via email.

This September why not join them for lunch? Hear ye; hear ye. Come one; come all. Come short; come tall. Come fat; come thin. We can all fit in for *Autumn Leaves – Lunch and Learn*.