

Yard and Garden – 02-28-09 – Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant



I have a surprise for you! Rearrange your schedule. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. On March 27 and 28, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension in Buffalo County and the Kearney area Master Gardeners will be hosting a series of free gardening seminars.

In less than a month, spring will have officially arrived and most gardeners will be eager to get started. Why not begin the new gardening season armed with fresh ideas and great gardening knowledge?

For the past seven years, UNL Extension in Buffalo County has hosted free gardening seminars in conjunction with the Kearney Lawn and Garden Show sponsored by NRG radio. The Lawn and Garden show is held in the Buffalo County Exhibit Building on the Buffalo County Fairgrounds, and immediately next door in the Buffalo County Extension Building the seminars are presented. This year, as in seasons past, we have arranged for a number of great programs, all designed to inform and enlighten.

Next week I plan to share with you the itinerary for all the seminars, but for today, I wish to highlight one particular program. This will be one that you won't want to miss. *Backyard Farmer* is coming to town! I repeat *Backyard Farmer* is coming to town!

On Thursday, March 27, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m., Nebraska Educational Television's famous *Backyard Farmer* panel of gardening experts will be coming to Kearney. They have agreed to present a two-hour program entitled, "An Evening with NETV's Backyard Farmer Panelists." They will be here in person to answer your gardening questions. Our panel includes Kim Todd, Roch Gaussoin, Amy Ziems and Jim Kalisch.

Kim Todd, an associate professor at UNL, specializes in agronomy and horticulture. TV fans know her as the host of BYF. Although Kim does a great job hosting the show, she is also an expert in the field of horticulture. Her areas of expertise include landscape design and management for sustainable landscapes. Kim specializes in landscape plants including identification, design use, cultural requirements and management of perennials and ornamentals.

Roch Gaussoin is a UNL professor specializing in Turfgrass and Weed Science. Roch is definitely the person to ask for all your lawn care questions. His knowledge and great sense of humor on the BYF program have made him well recognized. Roch holds a Ph. D in Turfgrass Science from Michigan State University. His interests and know-how focus on providing current cultural recommendations and product evaluations of integrated turf management. He is also the state coordinator for Nebraska's Master Gardener Program.

Amy Ziems, one of the newer members of the BYF panel, is an Assistant Extension Educator with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Amy's area of proficiency is in plant pathology. If one is baffled with a sick plant, Amy is the specialist to ask. She serves as a diagnostician with the University of Nebraska's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory. Amy has helped me innumerable times identifying what pathogen is wreaking havoc on a client's special plant. Not only is she skilled in identifying the problem, she is also qualified to recommend the proper treatment.

Jim Kalisch is a UNL Extension Associate whose area of expertise is in the field of entomology. Literally, you can ask Jim about whatever is bugging you. Whenever I send an insect problem or concern to the UNL diagnostic lab, Jim is usually the diagnostician who helps me. He, too, is widely recognized across the state. Jim has been a panel member on BYF since 1985. Jim's knowledge of the insect world and how it relates to integrated pest management is invaluable to the homeowner.

As I began, rearrange your schedule. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. March 27, 2009, is a special day. NETV's Back Yard Farmer panel of experts is coming to Kearney!



(front row) [Stephen Wegulo](#), Extension Plant Pathologist; [Roch Gaussoin](#), Extension Turfgrass Specialist; [Kim Todd](#), Landscape Horticulture Specialist & program host; [Fred Baxendale](#), Extension Entomologist; [Lowell Sandell](#), Extension Weed Scientist.

(back row) [Sarah Browning](#), Extension Assistant Educator, Dodge County; [Jim Kalisch](#), Extension Entomologist; [Loren Giesler](#), Extension Plant Pathologist.

Not Pictured: [Anne Streich](#), Extension Horticulture Educator; [Jeff Culbertson](#), Manager East Campus Landscape Services; [Kelly Feehan](#), Extension Educator Platte County; [Amy Ziems](#), Extension Plant Diagnostician; [Dennis Ferraro](#), Extension Educator.

