

**Yard and Garden – 04-13-2013 - Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant**

It's often said that certain things get better with age. We typically think wine, cheese, and people best fit that statement. The fact is only some wines, only some cheeses, and only some people get better with age.

There is one thing I do know that continues to get better with age, and this year it started its 61<sup>st</sup> season. I've been an active proponent of this institution for nearly 50 years. Perhaps you, too, have been a follower for many years; and if not, it's about time you begin. I'm referring to none other than Nebraska's homegrown, educational television program called *Backyard Farmer*.

*Backyard Farmer (BYF)* is a co-production of UNL Extension and NET Television. Although the faces have changed over the years, this renowned lawn and garden program features experts from the University of Nebraska who still offer the same, trusted gardening advice they have since the show premiered in 1953. *BYF* is underwritten in part by Earl May Nursery and Garden Centers and Finke Gardens.

The show's lively format with viewer call-ins inspires the gardener in all of us. Host for the *Backyard Farmer* series is Kim Todd, UNL Extension landscape horticultural specialist. The panelists specialize in such areas as horticulture, plant pathology, turf grass management, landscape design and entomology.



As of April 4, 2013, *BYF* is back on the air. It airs at 7 p.m. Thursdays on NET1/HD. It will repeat Saturdays at 3 p.m. on NET1/HD and Sundays at noon on NET3.

Each show is available on iTunes as a video podcast after the Thursday evening broadcast and is streamed live at [byf.unl.edu](http://byf.unl.edu). The show also appears as a podcast on the University of Nebraska iTunes U channel. And, a mobile phone app is available in the iTunes Store.

Although *Backyard Farmer* is deeply rooted in tradition, the series takes advantage of technology with segments on YouTube ([youtube.com/user/bucslim](http://youtube.com/user/bucslim)) and on the *Backyard Farmer* website [www.byf.unl.edu](http://www.byf.unl.edu). The website features gardening tips and a database of viewer questions and panelist answers.

This season offers updated graphics and new segments focusing on more pictures - both user-submitted pictures and pictures submitted by the faculty panelists.

“We want the show to be more visually appealing,” said producer Brad Mills. “The show also features more human interest segments, including a focus on unique gardens and landscapes -- and the gardeners who grow them. The experts will also be taking questions via e-mail and from social media sites for the series, including Facebook and Twitter. But we will still be taking viewer phone calls like we have always done on the show.”

Fans of the show can help *BYF* win a Telly People's Choice Award. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/tellyawards>, click on 'TV Programs and Segments,' watch 'Turf 101 (film spoof), and give it a thumbs up. The video with the most thumbs up wins the award.

On Thursday evenings, I encourage you to grab a glass of your favorite wine and a chunk of your favorite cheese, and enjoy watching *Backyard Farmer* —all of which have gotten better with age.

