

Yard and Garden – 03-07-09 – Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant

Last week I announced that NETV's *Back Yard Farmer* panel of gardening experts will be coming to town on March 27, 2009; however, I have one correction. This week I received notice that Dr. Fred Baxendale will be coming to Kearney instead of Jim Kalisch. BYF fans should widely recognize Fred. He has been a regular member of the panel since 1985. He received his Ph. D in Entomology from Texas A&M.

Dr. Baxendale is a Research and Extension Entomologist for UNL with emphasis on integrated pest management approaches for arthropods affecting turf grasses, native grasses, and horticultural plantings in Nebraska. He is currently working on the identification of the insects and mites associated with buffalograss and switch grass (for bio-fuel production), investigating their biology, ecology, distribution, and injury potential, and developing management alternatives for potential pests. Now you'll be able to ask Fred what's bugging you.



As the late Paul Harvey always said, “And now the rest of the story.” On March 27 and 28, 2009, UNL Extension in Buffalo County has arranged for a number of gardening seminars to be presented to the public in conjunction with the Kearney Lawn and Garden Show. This two-day event is sponsored by NRG media and KGFW and is made available to the public at no charge.

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. As in years past, attendees to the Garden Show will be able to view an outstanding array of exhibits displaying new gardening products and services. While attending the show, drop by for the following seminars.

Beginning on Friday at 1:30 p.m. in Room B of the Extension Building, representatives from Builders Warehouse will present a program entitled ***Scott's 4 Step System***.

In Room B at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, one can attend a seminar titled ***Turf Management*** presented by John Juneman. John, from Oberlin, Kansas, is the formulator of the Ultimate Lawn Fertilizer Company. His talk will concentrate on the basic function of each element in a fertilizer bag and how each affects the growth and vigor of turfgrass.

Later that evening, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Room A, enjoy ***An Evening with the Backyard Farmer T.V. Panelists***. Come armed with your gardening questions and bring your camera if you want photos of the celebrities.

On Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. in Room A of the Extension Building, Rocky Steinbrink and Mary Jo Glandt from Steinbrink Nursery and Greenhouses will present a symposium titled ***Container Gardening – Containers that WOW***. Later that day, at 2:00 p.m. in Room A, Rocky and Mary Jo will repeat their program.

Also on Saturday, Sarah Browning, UNL Associate Extension Educator from the Southeast Research and Extension Center of Fremont, will deliver two programs. At 1:00 p.m. in Room B, she will present *Great Plants for 2009 – New and Forgotten*, and later in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m., also in Room B, she will repeat her seminar. If you have ever watched NETV's *Backyard Farmer*, you should also recognize Sarah. She is frequently one of the four panel experts. On that show, Sarah answers horticulture questions.

At 1:00 p.m. on Saturday in Room A, Stephen Vantassel, UNL Program Coordinator for the School of Natural Resources, will present *Voles versus Moles – Preventing their Holes*. Stephen recently received the 2008 Wildlife Damage Management Educator of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA). Recipients are chosen for their outstanding efforts in wildlife damage education that further industry interests, such as improved control methods, standards, policies, practices, or techniques. Stephen is the man to see for all your critter problems. Stephen will repeat his program at 3:00 p.m. in Room A.

Feel free to stop by the office and pick up a copy of the schedule for gardening seminars. With all these great opportunities available to jumpstart your spring gardening plans, I encourage you to attend the 2009 Kearney Lawn and Garden Show.