

**Yard and Garden - 01-21-2012 - Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant**

I hope I never stop learning. Henry Ford once said, “Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.” As we learn, we continue to grow, thus keeping us young.

Whether you are twenty or eighty, or somewhere in between, here is your chance to stay young. Furthermore, if you enjoy gardening, this learning experience will not only expand your knowledge, but it just might improve your growing skills in the garden.

The University of Nebraska -Lincoln Extension will be offering several lawn and garden programs via internet streaming. These programs are open to the public free of charge. They will be presented at the Buffalo County Extension Building, 1400 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, Nebraska. Programs will start at 6:30 p.m. and dismiss at 9:00 p.m.

The first of a series of six classes begins on February 14, 2012. The title is ***Vegetables: Growing and Pest Control***. Sarah Browning, Extension Educator from Lancaster County, will present. If you are familiar with Nebraska Educational TV’s *Backyard Farmer Program*, you will recognize Sarah. Sarah is frequently the horticulture expert on the BYF panel. Those in attendance will learn about the growth and production of various crops in the garden, while comparing various pest control measures for effective control. This class will discuss how plant selection, growing, environment, production levels, and pest control are interdependent throughout the growing season.

On February 21, 2012, Extension Educators Kelly Feehan and Natalia Bjorklund will present ***Plant Identification and Plant Diagnosis***. Questions such as what is that mysterious looking plant or what is wrong with this plant will be answered. Participants will learn basic skills of properly identifying plant materials and plant problems. Resources will be shared to help participants build plant identification and diagnostic skills.

***Tree Problems: Environment and Pests*** will be offered on February 28, 2012. The presenter will be Community Forest Specialist of the Nebraska Forest Service, Graham Herbst. Graham will help participants learn how various tree problems, including disease and insects, can influence the health and quality of trees in the

landscape. Examples of various problems and how to manage them will be shared and discussed.

On March 6, 2012, Landscape Design Professor and UNL Specialist, Kim Todd will present ***Herbaceous Perennial Management***. Attending Kim's class will expand your plant pallet in correctly choosing, utilizing and growing herbaceous perennials in the landscape. Topics such as plant selection, site selection, soil preparation and pest management skills will be discussed to broaden your knowledge in utilizing these wonderful plants in a variety of landscape conditions.

Brad Jakubowski, adjunct professor of Environmental and Earth Sciences at Doan College, will present on March 13, 2012, ***Soils and Soil Management***. Soil properties and their characteristics greatly influence the success of plant growth and vigor in the landscape. Participants will learn about the characteristics of soil properties, textures, water retention, and nutrient binding and how to prepare and amend soil for optimum plant growth.

Concluding on March 20, 2012, Extension Educator Lowell Sandell of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture at UNL will present ***Weed Management Basics***. Weed management and control are constant chores in the landscape. Learn about various types of weeds in the landscape, their growing habits, and how to integrate cultural, mechanical and chemical control measures.

Seating space is limited to fifty. If interested in attending one or all classes, please pre-register by contacting our office at 308-236-1235 or sending me an email. Provided that seating remains available, participants are also welcome to register at the door.

Continue learning and stay young! Come grow with us.