

“Extra, extra, read all about it,” shouts the newsboy standing on the local street corner holding up the daily newspaper. A passerby hands the kid five cents in exchange for a copy. Eagerly the buyer scans the headlines and reads the columns searching for the latest breaking news. This person, like millions of others, soon becomes informed about what’s happening locally, nationally and internationally.

That’s the way it was for years and years. Then, along came radio, movies, television and the computer — introducing the internet with its search engines, blogs, You Tube, My Space, Twitter and who knows what’s next.

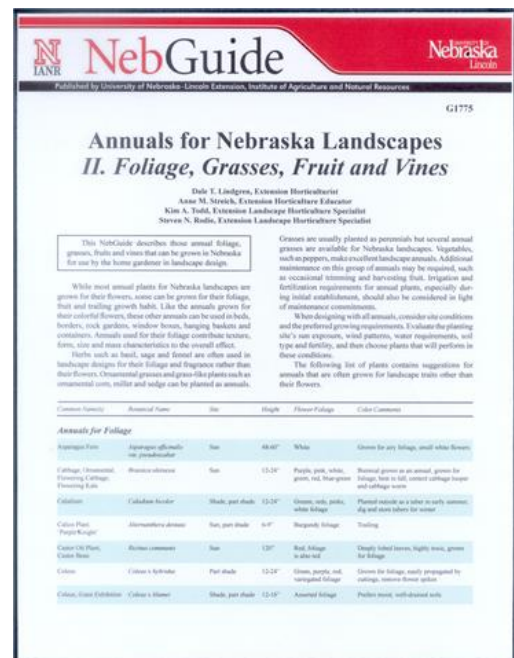
It’s a fact that today multitudes of media sources exist that weren’t available fifty years ago. With so many from which to choose, one might ask, “Which is the best?” Although I may be slightly partial, I’m convinced newspapers remain one of the best. Newspapers continue to provide timely and accurate information. Hopefully, you feel the same. After all, you are holding today’s issue of the Kearney Hub in your hands.

Prior to my joining the staff at Buffalo County Extension, an agreement was made between the Hub and Extension. Each week my predecessors would submit an article to the Hub for publication. Its purpose was to provide readers with timely horticultural information. Then, as today, that purpose remains the same.

When I was hired in 2002, I was given only one requirement when writing this column. I could be as personal as I wished, but all horticultural information presented must be accurate and research-based.

No doubt one can find a plethora of quality gardening information when checking other media sources. The internet is one of those sources. I myself enjoy surfing the web; however, when doing so, I offer a word of caution. Carefully examine the source and accuracy of the information before accepting it as gospel. Often many sources are based on hearsay and half truths. Very reliable internet sources are the University of Nebraska’s website and websites from other Land Grant colleges. UNL’s web site is <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/>

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension produces outstanding educational publications called *Neb-Guides*. These publications offer research-based, peer-reviewed, objective information on a wide range of topics. They are written by specialists and educators in UNL’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. All *Neb-Guides* are available free of charge. Individuals may print copies of these



publications for personal use; however, they are copyrighted and are not to be used commercially without prior written permission. Furthermore, when at this website, one can request to be notified when new and revised *Neb-Guides* are released.

Publication topics range from crop production to flower gardening and from managing wildlife to managing your finances. Topics are conveniently sorted into thirty-eight categories to make it easy to find information quickly. Four of the thirty-eight categories relate to horticulture. Those four are *Lawn and Garden*, *Insects and Pests*, *Plant Diseases*, and *Weeds*. Over two-hundred *Neb-Guides* are available in these four categories alone.

In the meantime, let's do a reality check. In this day and age, it is most unlikely one would find a newsboy standing on the street corner hawking the local newspaper while shouting, "Extra, extra, read all about it." Furthermore, even if one did exist, buying a copy for a mere nickel would definitely be a bargain.

However, today, as in the past, millions of people continue to rely on newspapers to inform, to enlighten and to entertain. The fact you are holding one in your hands at this very moment tells me you are one of those millions who enjoy reading the newspaper. To that I say *thank you* and *thank you* for reading my column.