

## **Yard and Garden –01-29-2011 – Ted Griess/ Extension Horticulture Assistant**

At this time of the year, I usually devote a column to promote the Nebraska Master Gardener Program. Traditionally those who desire to become Master Gardeners attend classes at Central Community College in Grand Island during the first two weeks of March. In a few more weeks, I will address that topic, but for now, if you have a passion for gardening and you simply want to learn more, please read on.

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln will be offering several lawn and garden programs at no charge to the public. Rather than driving to Lincoln to attend these classes, you are cordially invited to join us here at the Buffalo County Extension Building, Room B, 1400 East 34<sup>th</sup> Street, beginning February 15, 2011. UNL horticulture specialists via satellite will present classes each Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., beginning on February 15, 2011, and ending on March 22, 2011. Information regarding each class is as follows.

### **February 15- Understanding the Basics: Plant Growth & Physiology**

Understanding the basics of how plants grow and their physiology provides insight on proper plant management techniques, including pruning, watering and fertilizing. Learn how to keep your plants healthy and vigorous. (Sarah Browning, UNL Extension)

### **February 22- Tree & Shrub Selection**

Trees and shrubs provide the backbone to any garden or landscape endeavor. Care should be given to their selection and placement. Learn about some of the best species to utilize in Nebraska, what to look for when purchasing them and considerations for their placement in the landscape. (Justin Evertson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum)

### **March 1- Managing Wildlife: Creating Habitat and Preventing Damage**

Wildlife can be a mixed blessing; many gardeners enjoy watching birds but don't enjoy damage from deer and rabbits, snakes that appear unexpectedly, or local cats using their flowerbeds as a litter box. So what can you do? Learn how you can create inviting habitat for those animals you enjoy, discourage other animals, and prevent damage in your landscape. (Dennis Ferraro, UNL Extension)

### **March 8- Native and Almost Native Plants for Nebraska “Green” Spaces**

Using native and well-adapted plants in landscapes and other "green" spaces provides many benefits. These plants fit a given environment, and as a result, require less water, fertilizer, and coddling. We will take a close look at many great perennial plants that are native or almost native to the Nebraska region. Particular emphasis will be on those plants that are well suited for rain and bioretention gardens, providing not only beauty, health and vigor, but functioning as a tool to help protect our local environments. (Andy Szatko, UNL Extension)

### **March 15- Fruit Tree Selection & Pruning**

Growing a home orchard is an activity enjoyed by many gardeners, but knowing which cultivars

grow well in Nebraska and how to prune each type of tree correctly can be a daunting challenge. Join us to learn about fruit tree cultivars recommended for Nebraska's growing environments and good pruning techniques. (Vaughn Hammond, UNL Extension)

### **March 22- Hobby Greenhouses for Year Round Gardening**

Explore the attributes of quality and fully functional greenhouses for the homeowner. Topics covered include structural design characteristics; covering materials; heating, ventilation, cooling and control components; and equipment used in greenhouse plant production. In the second part of our session, we will discuss plant culture; such as common pests, diseases, and environmental problems; as well as how to encourage plant growth or maintain health. (Stacy Adams, UNL Extension)

Pre-registration is requested, but participants are also welcome to register at the door. Please call, email or stop by the office to pre-register. (Note the contact information listed below.) Keep in mind, the class is limited to thirty-five enrollees.

Oh, and by the way, did I mention that these classes apply toward Nebraska Master Gardener certification?