

The Green Patch

January 1, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

Woody Florals

By Sharon Bohmont, Platte County Master Gardener

Have you oohed and aahed at the beautiful dried plant material that is used in floral arrangements and interior decorating during the fall and winter months? I am sure most of us have. These plants that are just as beautiful dried as fresh are called woody florals because of their extensive use in floriculture. Woody florals have a dual purpose for the gardener as they lend beauty to the stark winter landscape besides being a source of dried material to use in wreaths, arrangements, swags, etc. The most common of these plants are the curly willow, pussy willow, red dogwood and winterberry shrubs and the bittersweet vine.

The most popular is the bittersweet vine (*Celastrus scandens*) with its large clusters of glowing orange berries. The deciduous perennial vine can be quite rampant and invasive if the Chinese variety (which is not recommended) is planted. Left unattended in the wild, they can choke a tree to death by girdling. The American variety which is native to the United States is easy to grow in most soils, likes a sunny location, is resistant to most diseases and needs a fairly large area to ramble.

The one unique feature of this vine is that it needs both male and female plants to produce berries as the female is the only one producing berries. It is rather hard to sex the young plants so the only way to insure a berry crop is to grow several plants (recommend 6 or more) to insure you have at least one of each. Since they get rather large this has limited them to acreage gardeners.

Now for several years since I have lived on an acreage, I have had the bittersweet on my list of to-die-for plants. Once my husband saw that the berries are not safe for human or livestock consumption and that it is rampant in growth, he nixed my idea of planting several along the fence line. However, a new variety, First Editions Autumn Revolution, has been introduced by Bailey Nurseries that has mostly perfect flowers with both male and female parts. This allows us to plant only one plant and be fairly sure of a berry crop. It still needs a fence or trellis for support, but can be managed in the smaller yard with annual pruning.

The vine produces small white flowers in June and seed husks in early autumn that break open to reveal bright orange berries. Harvest the vines when you first see the husks opening up. Cut into desired lengths and hang to dry in a warm, dark room. As the fruit matures, more capsules will pop open to reveal berries. The vines are quite sturdy when dried and can be enjoyed for fall decorating for several years to come.

References—UNL Extension Horticulture-Articles, Publications, and Other Resources



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Mystery Plant

By Marge Holland, Cuming County Master Gardener

Several springs ago I discovered a small plant growing in our backyard that looked exactly like the Wandering Jew that was a house plant at my grandmother's home. The plant had oval, dark-green leaves with pointed tips that were shiny and smooth, and it spread along the ground with soft, hairless stems and leaves. In the summer it bloomed with tiny flowers in small white clusters. At first I was delighted that a new plant, apparently a perennial, had come up in my garden, and it flourished in the rather shaded area beneath the lilac bushes.

But as the season continued, I began to realize this was more than just an ordinary plant, this was an invasive pest. Because the area was rather damp and cool, the plant grew profusely. It spread so rapidly that it began to smother other plants in the area. If I attempted to pull it out the succulent stems broke off easily and established themselves wherever a node landed on moist soil. Moreover, roots seemed to remain underneath the surface and put out new plants at every opportunity.

Then I read an internet article showing a photo of *Tradescantia fluminensis* and discovered that it is considered a noxious weed, the black sheep of the spiderwort family.

I have learned that while *T. fluminensis* does respond to herbicides and other applied weed controls, each plant segment has the ability to regenerate. Thus it is able to make a rapid comeback, especially in soft soils where stems may remain underneath the surface.

Watch for it next spring and begin to control it before it takes over your garden.



Great Moment

I turned a page, and suddenly
 Winter fell away from me;
 My eyes grew wonder-filled to find
 The dark walls 'round me all entwined
 With morning glories' glowing red;
 Pink hollyhocks leaned overhead.
 I breathed the spice of marigold,
 Watched soft petunia buds unfold,
 I touched the silk of four o'clock,
 Smiled into the winking eyes of phlox.
 Lost is the winter's venomous tongue,
 The world and I again are young,
 Forgotten snow and sleet and hail.
 Seed catalogs are in the mail!

Barbara Overton Christie

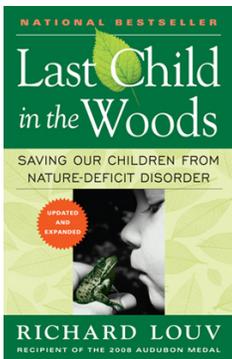
Green Gardener

The neighbors say my thumb is green,
 And I would furthermore disclose
 That I've the greenest knees in town,
 And also lovely grass-stained hose.

Lenore Eversole Fisher



Book & Magazine Reviews



Last Child in the Woods
 Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Written by Richard Louv
 Review by Deb Daehnke,
 Wayne County Master Gardener

Richard Louv is a child advocacy expert whose research has led him to term a phrase called Nature-Deficit Disorder. He is quick to note it is not a medical condition but a description of an ominous trend in society today and the consequences of children being completely out of tune with nature. He links children's lack of nature in their lives to some of our most disturbing childhood trends such as rises in obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder, and depression.

He relates information from his research to demonstrate the problems lack of nature are causing. But he believes there is hope because he also indicates programs that are working and what we can do.

Our children now have less space to play, housing covenants that don't allow them to play in certain areas, forests and wetlands that are being destroyed, fear of insect-borne diseases, traffic, strangers, computers, TV, video games, etc. that take them out of nature. Louv notes that more children can identify a cartoon character than a beetle, a maple leaf, or most other entities in nature.

Such quotes as "I like to play indoors better 'cause that's where all the electrical outlets are" from a 4th grader is disconcerting. I also read a quote from another source where a young child asked an adult if he knew how to roll down a hill.

Many schools are establishing environment-based programs. In one Texas elementary school, passing rates went up for the 4th grade class 13%. In one school year, teachers had made 560 disciplinary referrals to the principal's office. Two years later, as the environment-based program kicked into gear, the number dropped to 50.

Some nature programs initiated by Master Gardeners, arboretums and schools are helping to reverse this trend. I would recommend this book. The author presents some very interesting information. As Louv states, do you want your child to be "The Last Child in the Woods"?



The Illustrated Guide to Home Gardening and Design®

Review by Marge Holland,
 Cuming County Master Gardener

I would recommend subscribing to Garden Gate magazine. It is colorful, readable with many diagrams and illustrations. And the articles are applicable to our area.

<http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/>

Free preview issue and free book offer at above website.



Review by Karen Zierke,
 Pierce County Master Gardener

Remember how as us older 'kids' used to root a sweet potato? In the November 2010 issue of Cappers, there are a couple good articles about sweet potatoes. Those interested may go <http://cappers.grit.com/> for more info.

They recently changed their format to be of interest to a small hobby farmer. There are some good common recipes, articles about raising chickens etc, and some good garden articles.

Clivia

By Karen Zierke, Pierce County Master Gardener

Clivia pronounced (kli`-vi-a) from South Africa. Distant cousin to the Amaryllis and sometimes referred to as a Kaffir-lily or Bush-lily

I 'plant' sat a clivia last winter and during one of our 'snowed in again' stints, I noticed some fiery orange blossoms forming in the base of the 20 plus large strapping leaves. What a bright spot in our world of white blowing snow. Now if we lived in the deep south, the clivia would be considered a perennial – growing and blooming in the shade. But here in Nebraska, it is considered an unusual house plant. At first glance, you think it's an amaryllis with lots of large green strapping leaves – they are cousins as both have formed a bulb from which the leaves emerge.

To start a new plant, my Garden Gate magazine tells me to allow the seed pod to form after the bloom has finished and allow it to mature on the plant for a year. At that time remove and open the dried seed pod and proceed to immediately plant the seeds. And then wait, as it will take at least 5 years before the plant is mature enough to bloom. That may require more patience than I'm willing to give it! But when I've found them in the Park's seed catalog, I found out that each seed is \$10. The Garden Gate editor tells how he purchased a young start and for five years he would set it outside in the shade each summer and back in the house for the winter. One winter, he'd forgotten about it – shoved it into the basement without water for a month- until he was surprised to notice it had a flower bud.

If you have been a fortunate recipient of this plant (like the real owner of mine) we are told to give it plenty of curtain filtered light, average room temperature with a cool down over night. It is suggested to transplant only every 3-4 years as it prefers its roots to be somewhat pot bound. Make certain that you water and fertilize it frequently during its growing season but then minimize the watering and fertilizing during its rest period which will be when you bring it into the house for the cold season. This will help to stimulate the blooming process. It is suggested that you plant it in a heavy clay pot, as it can become top heavy with the large leathery dark green leaves. Most clivia blossoms are trumpet shaped orange with a yellow throat. Recently hybridizers have created new hybrids like 'Flame' that has darker orange flowers and 'Aurea' with yellow blooms. As you may have figured out, they are quite pricey. Since writing this, the real owner of the plant has announced the clivia has produced a family of new babies so I get to adopt one. Hopefully I will have the patience to wait for blooms.



Planning Next Year's Garden

By Sharon Hinrichsen, Holt County Master Gardener

This is the time of year most gardeners really hate. Did I do everything I should have to make my garden the best it could have been? Well, after spending 3 months on crutches, I certainly have my share of regrets.

So, winter is our best time to plan ahead to next year and decide what we are going to do differently.

As we all know, gardeners don't stop just because the weather keeps us from digging in the dirt. So we plan, and plan, and plan (maybe dream a little too).

The traditional method of vegetable gardening has been long, orderly rows. Many gardeners prefer planting in beds rather than rows. You have rows to walk around the beds and only need to fertilize the beds and not waste fertilizer on paths.

The beds need to be small enough to be able to reach all of your plants while walking in the paths. Raising the beds above 8 – 10 inches will also improve drainage and the soil will stay warmer in early spring.

Another style of gardening is potager, which mixes flowers in with herbs and vegetables to form an ornamental style of garden that is both functional and ascetically pleasing. I always plant a package of zinnia seed in my vegetable garden!

Watering is also important if you plant in raised beds. A soaker hose is a wonderful option that will ensure that your plants get an even watering without getting leaves wet.

Companion planting is another factor to consider when planning next year's garden.

There are some plants that will benefit each other when planted together. These are a few that you should avoid:

- ◇ Potatoes- inhibit growth of tomatoes and squash
- ◇ Beans – inhibit growth of onions
- ◇ Broccoli – inhibit growth of tomatoes
- ◇ Carrots – inhibit growth of dill

I am not saying you can't plant these vegetables in the same garden, you just want to avoid planting them next to each other.

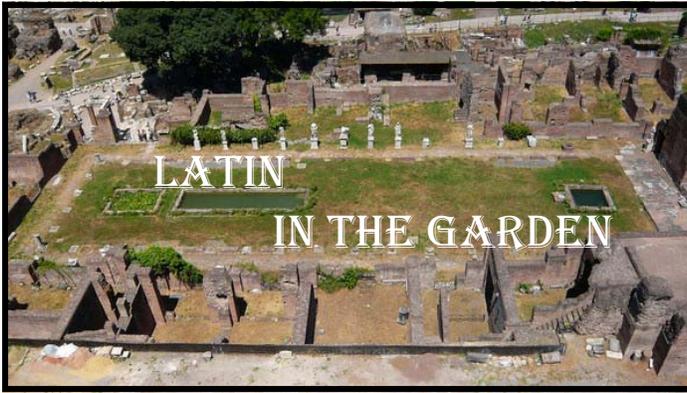
Rotating crops is also very important in vegetable gardening. Crop rotation prevents building diseases up in the soil and preserves micro-nutrients. Vegetables are broken down in basic family groups. These groups should be rotated together as they use soil in similar ways and share similar pests.

- ◇ Alliums—Include Onions, Garlic, Scallions, Shallots, and Leeks.
- ◇ Brassicas—Include Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Brussels Sprouts, and Kale.
- ◇ Crucifers—Include Cucumbers, Squashes (zucchini to pumpkin), and melons.
- ◇ Legumes—Include Peas and Beans.
- ◇ Mescluns—Include Arugula, Swiss Chard, Chicory, Endive, Escarole, and Radicchio.
- ◇ Solanaceae—Include Tomatoes, Peppers, and Eggplant.

This isn't that difficult to plan, especially if you plant in beds. Just rotate these crops from one bed to another on a four year plan so that a certain family of vegetables is not planted in the same location within four years.

With a little thought and planning this winter, you can have a beautiful vegetable garden next year. I know I plan to garden to my heart's content after having to watch my vegetable garden go by the way this last summer.

**So we plan, and plan,
and plan (maybe dream
a little too)**



This is a new feature in *The Green Patch* that will focus on the Latin terms and pronunciations we use for common trees/shrubs, grasses, flowers, and herbs. The phonetic pronunciation of the Latin names will be included as well as a short description of the plant.

There can be many different common names of plants. When we need specific information, we may need the Latin name to help us find the plant we are really looking for. If you think Latin is intimidating, don't worry. Many others feel the same way. However, as you become more accustomed to using Latin words, they really do become much easier. Just pronounce it with confidence and it will sound just fine.

Grass *Stipa brachytricha*
STY pah or STEE pah brake e TRY kuh

Common name is Korean Feather Reed Grass. This is a stately, ornamental, cool season, clump forming grass with purplish flowers. The green foliage is 32-48" tall and the flowers can reach 40-60" tall. Will bloom in the shade but mine is in the sun. The purplish flowers look delicate but this is very hardy in our garden. It has stayed nice and compact and should work in most gardens. Zone 4.

Tree *Pinus luecodermis*
Py nus lew ko DER mis

Bosnian Pine. Slow growing pine that can reach 40-70' tall. Width 15-20'. Long dark green needles. Some sources indicate Zone 5 or higher but we've had one growing for four years (about 6' tall now). Ours received a little winter burn several years ago but otherwise doing fine, even after last winter's extremes. Beautiful green needles. Nice shape. It is supposed to be deer resistant. The long dark green needles attracted us to this tree.

Annual *Zinnia elegans*
ZIN ya ELL eh ganz

Zinnia. An annual of the genus *Zinnia* that needs full sun and grows 12-18" tall. There are many new varieties which are more disease and mildew resistant with stronger stems. A native of the tropics, it is a perennial in warmer climates. Available in many warm colors especially reds, yellows, oranges, and whites.

Herb *Melissa officinalis*
mel ISS a oh fiss ih NAH liss

Lemon Balm is a citrusy perennial herb in the mint family having both culinary and medicinal uses. Zone 4-9. As a member of the mint family, it can spread rapidly. Keep it contained. It's nice to walk through the garden and touch this plant. The lemony smell is nice on your hands.

Perennial *Centaurea macrocephala*
sen TAR ee uh mak roh SEF uh luh

Ornamental Globe Thistle is one common name. Bright, yellow thistle-looking flowers enclosed in light brown bracts. Strong stems. Good cut flower. Blooms June-July. Zone 3-8. It reaches 3-4' tall. The attractive yellow flowers are not really a thistle and they just beg to be touched when you walk by them.

Allow Houseplants to Rest Easy This Winter with Proper Care

By John Fech, Extension Educator

Many houseplants don't thrive during the winter, but homeowners still try to force their plants to grow. Houseplants need a break sometimes, too.

Tropical plants, trees and shrubs, go through a dormant period, an important time for the plant to build up food reserves and compensate for unfavorable environmental conditions. During this time, growth slows down and new leaves and shoots aren't produced. Don't use fertilizers between October and April. Doing so forces the plants to grow.

During the winter, indoor conditions usually provide eight hours of sunlight with temperatures between 55 and 75 degrees and humidity of 15 to 20 percent. Most plants grow in places getting a minimum of 14 hours of sunlight in temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees with humidity reaching 100 percent. Plants enter their dormant state when they are in less than ideal conditions. They don't stop growing when they are dormant. Roots still absorb water and nutrients and twigs and buds expand. During the winter, light intensity is cut nearly 50 percent and a typical double pane window can reduce light by 80 percent. Place plants in locations that will get south and west exposures, which provide the most light. Plants that thrive in the spring and summer in a north or east window should be moved to a brighter window.

Add supplemental light by placing plants under a lamp. Top leaves should be 10 to 24 inches under a fluorescent light and 15 to 30 inches under a regular incandescent bulb. Make sure the leaves aren't too close to the bulbs or they may burn. If the leaves are too far away, though, less light will reach them and the plant will experience weak growth.

Plants slow down the amount of water roots absorb and limit new growth in order to adapt to cooler temperatures. Blowing hot air on a plant from a heat register, though, may encourage weak or spindly growth. Avoid putting plants in a location directly in hot air and avoid drafts. Keep plants at least 6 inches from a window and away from doors frequently opened that lead outdoors.

Only water plants when they truly need it because watering too much will kill most plants. Allow plants, except for those most sensitive, to wilt slightly before watering. Check plants often for watering needs. Another helpful way to keep houseplants healthy during the winter is increasing the humidity level. Misting does increase humidity for about 45 seconds, but it doesn't do very much for the plant. Group plants or buy a cold water humidifier or vaporizer. Or set plants on trays filled with pebbles and water. Pebbles prevent plants from sitting directly in the water and as the water evaporates, it makes a mini greenhouse around the plants.



Dried Flowers Ideal for Winter Crafts

Everlastings are plants that retain their shape and color long after they have been picked and dried. Some gardeners plant herbs, grasses and flowers specifically for the wreaths, dried bouquets and other craft projects they plan to create from them. Everlastings include plants in a wide variety of shapes and colors, from the deep yellow of yarrow to the vibrant deep purple and burgundy of statice and gomphrena.

To dry flowers, grasses or other plants for later use, collect them on a cool morning after dew has dried or in the early evening. Many plants will wilt if they are collected on hot days, and the flower shape and/or color will be ruined. Stripping leaves from the stem will help reduce drying time.

To make handling easier, arrange the stems, cut them somewhat longer than desired length and bind them with a rubber band while you are gathering them. Binding them with a rubber band will tighten around shrinking stems as they begin to dry. It's best to keep the bundles relatively small so air can move between the stems. Then hang them upside down, to keep the stems and heads straight, from a string or twist-tie on a nail.

The best color results from drying them quickly at 105-110 F. They will dry best in a warm, well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight, possibly a garage or shed. Keeping doors or windows open will provide better air movement during the drying process; running a fan is another way to increase air flow and reduce the drying time. The plants are dry when stems snap easily. This can take up to three weeks. Once plants are completely dry, they can be stored in a large box or remain hanging somewhere out of the way. Everlastings should not need to be sprayed with a fixative if they are picked at the right time.

Sturdy or abundant plants like grasses, branches, seedheads and seedpods are wonderful for drying. They're also tough enough and visually strong enough to be used in outdoor containers on decks, patios or porches. They can be displayed with pumpkins, potted mums or ornamental cabbage in fall and later with evergreens through the entire winter.

Rules for Harvesting

Some plants dry easily, while others will fade or shatter if picked too late. The best rule of thumb is to experiment on a number of different flowers and blooming stages each year to find out the best time to pick. Below are some general rules for harvesting plants to best retain their shape and color.

-- Some flowers open after picking, so it's best to pick them in bud form just as the first set of petals is beginning to open (strawflower, globe thistle, beebalm, chives, rose).

-- Some contract after picking and are best harvested as the center buds open and the sides are just beginning to open (tansy, ageratum, feverfew, calendula).

-- Flowers that remain the same after picking can be picked fully open before color begins to fade (yarrow, gomphrena, statice, cockscomb).

-- Hydrangea blossoms are best cut after they have dried on the branches in fall. Simply cut the blossoms, remove foliage and hang them upside down.

-- Spiky flowers are best picked when only half of the length of the spike is in flower and has not yet begun to fade (salvia, goldenrod, larkspur, gayfeather).

-- Seedpods should be collected soon after they mature so they don't shatter while drying or in an arrangement.

-- Grasses can be harvested when the seedheads are ripe and stems are still green.

Annuals: calendula, cockscomb, dusty miller, globe amaranth, larkspur, statice, strawflower, sweet Annie.

Perennials: artemisia 'Silver King', beebalm, black-eyed susan, cattails (collect them when they first turn brown), feverfew, gayfeather, globe thistle, goldenrod, pearly everlasting, sea holly, sea lavender, sunflowers, tansy, yarrow.

Seed pods: love-in-a-mist, Baptisia, poppy, prairie coneflowers, St. John's wort, sumac.

Ornamental grasses: Indiangrass, switchgrass, sand lovegrass, ravena grass, big bluestem, maiden grass.



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Bert Pitt and Spartacus dark red Dahlias from the garden of Vlasta Zrust, Colfax County Master Gardener!



These two photos were taken by Sharon Hinrichsen, Holt County Master Gardener, last summer beside her house. She has a huge butterfly bush that almost reaches the eaves of her house. The bush is typically covered with butterflies. She had to laugh when one person asked her if the butterfly bush really attracted butterflies.



2011 Spring Training Dates:

6:30-9:00pm Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

- February 15**—Growing Environment & Plant Morphology, Sarah Browning
- February 22**—Tree & Shrub Selection, Justin Evertson
- March 1**—Wildlife Management & Habitat Development, Dennis Ferraro
- March 8**—Native & Almost Native Plants for Nebraska "Green" Spaces, Andy Szatko
- March 15**—Fruit Tree Selection & Pruning, Vaughn Hammond
- March 22**—Hobby Greenhouses for Year Round Gardening, Stacy Adams

New Master Gardener Interns can begin (or continue) their education certification while current Master Gardeners can recertify. For non-Master Gardeners, there will be a charge of \$5 per person for each training session attended. All six training sessions can be attended for \$25. All members of the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners do not have to pay.

Any questions, contact Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator at 402-329-4821.

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Plant Fair

Mark your calendars!

Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 2011

Vendors are invited to rent a space to sell their products. 500+ visitors attend this annual event.

Guest speakers present on various horticulture related topics.

The Master Gardeners volunteer their time to make this Plant Fair a success. Proceeds help fund a scholarship to Northeast Community College students in Horticulture.

Free Admission, Great Plants, Vendors, Speakers, Door Prizes, Lunch Stand and a Children's Activity Corner all make this Plant Fair a special must attend event!



2011 All-America Selections

<http://www.all-americaelections.org>



Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' AAS Flower Award Winner offers a new and unique apricot color for this class. Blooms have yellow edges that deepen to a rich apricot in the center. Judges noted the award-winning distinctive flower color of the 3 to 3.5 inch daisy-like flowers, described as exceptionally lovely and lighter in color than traditional gaillardia. Just 105 days after sowing seed, this *Gaillardia x grandiflora* will bloom from early summer into autumn. The compact 12-inch tall plants offer bright green foliage and a tidy uniform habit best viewed when planted to the front of the flower bed. 'Arizona Apricot' is free-flowering, blooming heavily without vernalization, covering the plant with bright blooms that look great in mass. This long-flowering perennial is hardy in USDA Zones 2-10, is relatively maintenance free, and drought-tolerant once established. Gardeners will want to remove old flowers to encourage additional blooming. Bred by Ernst Benary of America Inc.

Salvia 'Summer Jewel Red' AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner was consistently rated "superior" or "above average" by the AAS judges because of its early and generous flower blossoms, continuing from spring to autumn. Additionally, each dwarf and densely branching plant remains a tidy 20 inches tall, even at full maturity. The bright red flower spikes are covered with half inch blooms making it perfect for the bird lover's garden where the bright red color acts as a magnet for hummingbirds. As an added bonus, goldfinches swarm the plant for seeds. Even the leaves add beauty with their finer-textured, dark-green color. 'Summer Jewel Red', just 50 days from sowing to first flower, is approximately two weeks earlier than comparisons. Expect long season performance and superior holding ability in both wind and rain. This annual is ideal for full sun containers, mixed beds and borders where uniformity is desired. Bred by Takii & Co, Ltd.



Ornamental Kale 'Glamour Red' F1 AAS Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner This is All-America Selections' first winning kale (edible or ornamental) in seventy-eight years of trialing! 'Glamour Red' is an excellent achievement in breeding for its unique shiny leaves. The waxless quality of the leaves makes them shiny with a more intense, vivid color as compared to existing ornamental brassicas. Judges noted that the shiny foliage is striking in the landscape and it out-performed comparisons with outstanding success. It is a fringed leaf type *Brassica oleracea* with flower head size of 10 to 12 inches. This full sun annual will bloom 90 days from sowing seed to first color. Leaf coloring begins when night temperatures fall below 55°F for approximately two weeks. Expect good disease tolerance in all regions and frost tolerant blooms from November to March in warmer climates. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

Viola 'Shangri-La Marina' F1 AAS Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner is an early-flowering, mounding viola in a vibrant new color for this type. In trials, the 6-inch tall plants kept a low-growing mounding habit. Colorful and prolific 1¼ inch blooms have light blue petals with a velvety dark blue face that is surrounded by a narrow white border. Judges noted earlier (70 days from sowing to first flower) and showier blooms with noticeable drive-by flower power. Flower color was a consistent deep Marina blue throughout the season. This vigorous frost-tolerant biennial provides a solid mat of fall color until covered with snow followed by a great recovery in spring. Grow in full sun as a low edging in the garden or in hanging baskets and pots. Bred by Tokita Seed Co., Ltd.



Pumpkin 'Hijinks' F1 AAS Vegetable Award Winner
Tomato 'Lizzano' F1 and Tomato 'Terenzo' F1 AAS Vegetable Award Winners

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Do you have a favorite tool, plant to trade, "Go Green" idea, "What Works for Me" tidbit or a question for other Master Gardeners?

The Green Patch needs your articles.

Please get to Pam Greunke (pgreunke2@unl.edu) by February 28 to be included in April's *The Green Patch* publication.

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners

Meetings held at:
UNL Extension - Madison County
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Norfolk NE 68701



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402-370-4040 Madison County
402-329-4821 Pierce County
402-563-4901 Platte County
402-375-3310 Wayne County

Master Gardeners are people who love plants,
gardening, landscaping, and teaching others.



UNL EXTENSION—WAYNE COUNTY
510 N PEARL ST, STE C
WAYNE NE 68787

We're on the web at

<http://madison.unl.edu/home-lawn>

What is It?? By Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator

Your challenge is to correctly identify the insect and/or plant. The first person to contact me with the correct answer will be the winner. And what do you win? The winner will receive the bragging rights for that quarter and have their name posted in the next installment of the column as the winner along with the correct answer.

Pam Greunke was the only one to give an answer. She got it right! (Just so you know, I don't provide her with the answers for the column.) The insect in question was a poplar flatheaded borer adult. It bores into dying or stressed trees as a larva. Trees infested by this insect are poplars and cottonwoods.



This quarter's insect was photographed outside of Lincoln and is common across the state. This insect's food source is conifer seeds. This insect has an uncanny habit of finding its way into buildings.

What is this insect???

If you think you know, you can give me a call at (402) 329-4821 or shoot me an email wohnesorg2@unl.edu.

