

The Green Patch

October 1, 2013
Volume 5, Issue 4

Growing Angel's Trumpet

By Sharon Hinrichsen , Antelope County Master Gardener

Brugmansia

Perhaps one of my favorite flowers is the Angel's Trumpet Purple Ballerina. The flowers are attractive, and very fragrant. Some people think of the angel's trumpet as a tree but it is actually a shrub. Growing the Angel's Trumpet in Nebraska only allows for growing as an annual flower and we don't see the 20' tree they can grow in its native South America.

Angel's Trumpet is a highly attractive and popular flowering plant. It has trumpet shaped blooms in a variety of colors including white, peach, yellow , orange and of course, my favorite, purple. Hummingbirds are attracted to the bright blooms.

Angel's Trumpet is a member of the Nightshade family. Tomatoes, potatoes, and petunias are also members of this family. All parts of the plant are toxic so it is recommended that gardeners use gloves when working with this plant.

Historically, it has been used as a hallucinogenic drug. It can cause death if used improperly.

If you have children or pets, it is recommended that you seriously consider the risk before you grow this plant.

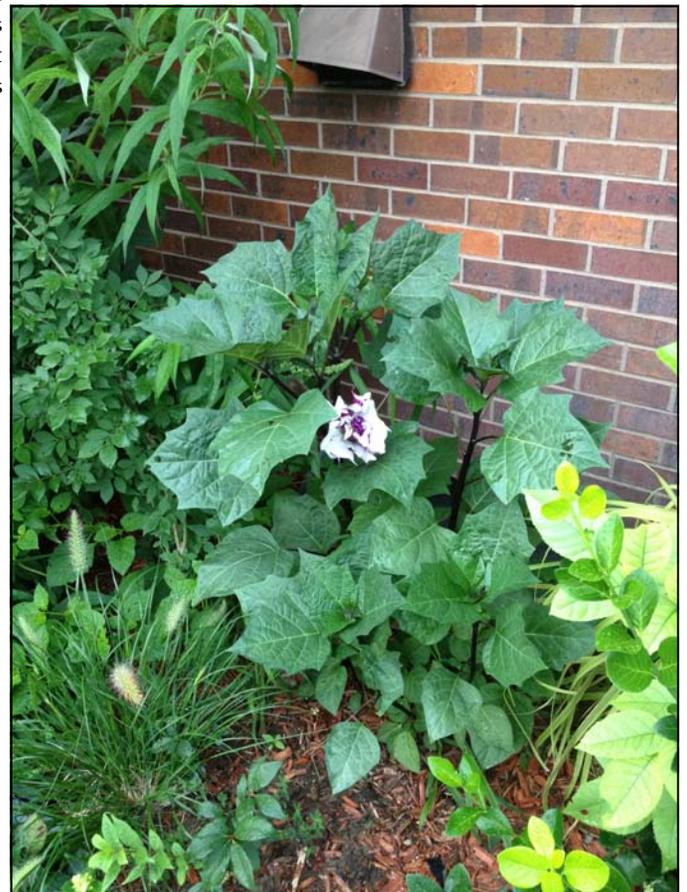
Angel's Trumpet is grown from seed. Sow the seeds directly in the ground when all signs of frost have passed. I purchased an Angel's Trumpet at the plant fair a year ago and had wonderful luck with the plant. In the fall, I removed seed pods and laid them on the ground beside the plant. What a pleasant surprise when I discovered several little plants this spring. I was able to share with friends and still have a nice sized planting.

The Angel's trumpet prefer full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. I have my plants on the east side of my house and they get morning sun and shade in the afternoon.

Plants like a lot of water and nutrients. Keep your soil moist and keep the weeds down. A little mulch will feed them and also provide some nutrients. It is good to fertilize every 2 or 3 weeks in the summer.

It is possible to move the plants inside for the winter months by putting them in a pot. They will, however, drop their leaves and then in spring shoot out new growth.

It is also important to keep the plant pruned for more flowers.



Photos of Sharon's garden

Inside this issue:

Recycle Tree Leaves for Healthy Lawns, Gardens and Water	2
Garden Awards at Fair	2
Gardens to Visit In Fall or Winter	3
Recipes	3
The Goober	4
Perfect Combinations	4
Saving Summer Blooming Bulbs for Spring Planting	5
Featured NebGuide	5
The Acreage—Managing a Large Landscape	6
2013 American Garden Award Winners	7
What is It?	8

Recycle Tree Leaves for Healthy Lawns, Gardens, and Water

By Kelly Feehan , Extension Educator

When freezing temperatures end the growing season, it's time to do yard and garden cleanup to reduce overwintering diseases and insects and to reduce the amount of plant debris washed into rivers, lakes, and ponds where they contribute to water pollution.

Fallen tree leaves, and grass clippings, are an important source of organic matter. As this yard waste decomposes, phosphorous and nitrogen is released. This is beneficial if decomposition is taking place in a garden bed or compost pile. If decomposition is taking place in water, an overload will contribute to impaired water, such as excess algal growth.

To reduce the pollutant load on surface water, reduce the amount of tree leaves and other plant debris left in the path of storm-water (rainfall and snow melt) runoff. Compost leaves and grass clippings, use them as mulch, till them into garden soil, or take them to a yard waste recycling location.

Do not sweep or blow tree leaves or grass clippings into the street where rainfall and snow melt will carry them to storm drains and then directly to receiving waters (lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams). Do not dump yard waste on stream banks or anywhere they can be washed into surface water.

For healthy lawns and water, remove tree leaves from lawns and street curbs on a regular basis. Leaves can be raked, mowed, or sucked up with a leaf blower/vacuum. They can be saved in plastic bags if a source of carbon, brown plant material, will be needed for compost piles during next years growing season.

Tree leaves can be mowed and left on the lawn if a sharp mower blade that finely chops the leaves is used. The rule of thumb is if the un-mowed leaf layer is one inch or less thick, it's okay to mow and not bag leaves. After mowing, the mowed leaf layer should not be thick enough to mat and suffocate grass.



There are no types of tree leaves that should not be used for mulching, composting or tilled into gardens. According to research, leaves from different tree species decompose at different rates but the end product, compost, is the same.

Leathery leaves such as oak leaves contain more lignin and therefore take longer to decompose. Leathery leaves are the best types to use as winter mulch over tender plants. If leathery leaves are to be tilled into soil or added to compost piles, their decomposition can be sped up by shredding or mowing the leaves first.

When tree leaves begin to pile up outdoors, help protect the health of lawns by removing heavy leaf layers. Protect tender plants over winter by using tree leaves as mulch. Improve garden soils and compost by incorporating leaves into them. And help protect our water resources by recycling this beneficial organic matter.

Garden Awards at Pierce County Fair

By Kathy Hayes Duval , Pierce County Master Gardener



Pierce County Master Gardener, Jim Laycock, received an Outstanding Ribbon at the Pierce County Fair for his display of tomatoes. They were excellent tomatoes, without any imperfections and looked good enough to eat.



Rosie Frey and Kathy Duval, also Pierce County Master Gardeners, won the Overall Vegetable trophy at the Pierce County Fair. They had 13 blue ribbons and 9 red ribbons. Among their entries were 3 different kinds of potatoes, 3 different kinds of onions, a plate of blueberries, and a plate of mulberries. They also had a variety of herbs. Rosie also won 2 red ribbons on her flowers.

Gardens to Visit in Fall or Winter

By Deb Daehnke , Wayne County Master Gardener

Fall or winter usually isn't the time we start thinking about visiting gardens. In fact, it's usually just the opposite. But some gardens have their own special ambience in the fall and even in the winter. Although many gardens in the Midwest will close when the temps drop or the snow starts swirling, others showcase special features or programs that are unique to a fall/winter garden.

Here are a few you might think of visiting when traveling or at least put them on your visit list for next spring or summer. Just call ahead or check their website for fall/winter hours or special events.

Start with Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha. I have been here several times and never been disappointed. Holiday poinsettias, an orchid show, brunches or lectures, dinners or plant sales are just a few of the things you can see or do. They have a wide array of activities throughout the year.

Although a little farther down the road, Powell Gardens in Kansas City could be a day trip or a fun weekend jaunt. I have not visited these gardens but have heard wonderful

things about them. You can go on a

Jack-o-Lantern walk, have breakfast with Santa or pancakes with the Easter Bunny.

If you are traveling to the Chicago area, you don't want to miss the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Open every day of the year, you can see a mushroom show and sale, fall bulb festival, Hanukkah Concert, story times, or learn how cacao beans are used to make hot chocolate. We visited these gardens this summer and they are quite spectacular. We didn't have enough time to visit but the Morton Arboretum is also in the area and open every day of the year.

Des Moines is also another manageable day trip to visit the Des Moines Botanical Center. Enjoy toddler time, a Mother's Day brunch, holiday plant sale or listen to live blues music in the conservatory in January and February.

And if you are up for another road trip, the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa, would be a destination to consider. Although I've been there in the summer several times, all the conifer colors with a little snow sprinkled on them would be spectacular in the winter. And with free admission, quite a bargain. Clinton is located on the Mississippi River and a drive along the river through some of the older river towns is very pretty.

Many of these gardens have conservatories so you can actually enjoy some warm temps even if there is snow on the ground. Hope you will be able to find a time to enjoy these special treasures.



Here are a couple recipes that might be timely for the fall produce of squash, onions and our prolific zucchini!!!

Jane Jensen, Pierce County Master Gardener

Potato Medley

Peel a potato for each serving and dice into one inch pieces. Dice an onion the same way, your preference as to yellow or white. Peel and dice a zucchini also, moderate in size. Fry these three veggies in vegetable oil until tender, adding seasonings to your liking.

Since zucchini has little flavor of its own it takes on the flavor of the onion and potato.

This is yummy with a green garden salad and grilled meat.

Onion Patties

3/4 cup flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 Tb. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tb. corn meal
1/2 cup powdered milk
cold water
2 1/2 cups chopped onions
vegetable oil for frying

Combine first 6 ingredients. Stir in just enough cold water to make a thick batter. Mix in the onions. Drop into hot oil in a skillet or fry pan. Flatten patties slightly as you turn them. Fry to a golden brown. Drain on paper towel and season to your liking.

Note: I also shred yellow summer squash into my last batch. Makes an easy and yummy addition to any meal.

A goober is another name for a peanut, along with groundnut, and earthnut. The average person eats approximately 6 pounds per year. Peanuts are not a true nut, they are a legume or pod, of the *Arachis hypogaea* (family Fabaceae), which grow and ripen underground. There's also a peanutworm that lives on the bottom of all oceans.

It is a concentrated food, pound for pound, peanuts have more protein, minerals, and vitamins than beef liver, more fat than heavy cream, the good fats are resveratrol, and have more food energy (calories) than sugar.

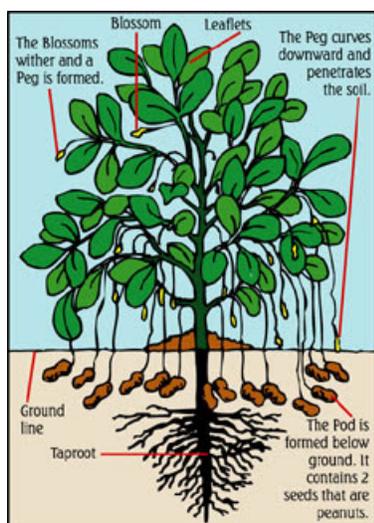
The plant can grow erect 18-24 inches high with short branches or in bunch form from 12-18 inches high, with branches up to 24 inches long that lie close to the soil. The stems and branches are sturdy and hairy; leaves are pinnately compound with two pairs of leaves. Flowers are borne in the axils of the leaves. After pollination and withering of the flower, an unusual stalk like structure called a peg is thrust from the base of the flower toward the soil. The pointed tip of the peg carries the fertilized ovules 4 inches or more into the soil where they develop the fruit or pods. Pods may not develop if there is not enough calcium in the soil. Pods are 1-2 inches long, two or three seeded, oblong, roughly cylindrical with rounded ends, contracted between the seeds, with a thin netted, spongy shell. Seed coat colors range from whitish to dark purple, but mahogany red, rose, and salmon predominate.

Peanuts are native to tropical South America. Presently India, China, West Africa and the U.S. are the largest commercial producers of peanuts. At first, the U.S. cultivated peanuts to enrich the soil for cotton growth. Peanuts require at least five months of warm weather with a growing season and rainfall or irrigation of 24 inches or more. The best soils are well-drained sandy loam underlain by deep, friable loam. At harvest, the entire plant is removed from the soil. Peanuts are best cured by allowing harvested plants to wilt for a day, then in stacks for four to six weeks with the pods placed toward the inside of each stack to protect them from the weather.

The peanut is mainly grown for its edible oil, except in the U.S. where it is ground into peanut butter (half of the harvest crop). My husband eats super chunk peanut butter every day. Peanuts can be boiled and eaten from the bag or as roasted, salted nuts, used in candy and bakery products, oil, etc. in the southern U.S., the tops of the plants or the entire plant are feed for livestock. Alan Shepherd, the astronaut, took peanuts along on his space trip.

Botanist and inventor, George Washington Carver, found 325 uses for peanuts, including cooking oil, printers ink, shampoo, fake oysters, fruit drink mix, nitroglycerine, and insecticide, to name a few.

We enjoy shelling and eating peanuts while relaxing with friends around the campfire, then seeing if we can throw the shells in the fire pit. Just remember, 1% of kids are allergic to peanuts. So if you're not allergic to peanuts, enjoy a few of these goobers every day.



Perfect Combinations

By Marjorie Jansen, Madison County Master Gardener

Ever notice how sometimes the perfect plant combination occurs without any planning on your part? That's what happened with this combination. The bright colors of the calibrachoa and celosia found at different nurseries caught my eye. When planting containers, they seemed like they were made for each other and were planted together in the same pot. The surprise came when the daylily bloomed nearby and it's color perfectly matched the orange shades of the calibrachoa.



Saving Summer Blooming Bulbs for Spring Planting

By Robin Jones, Madison County Master Gardener

Page 5

Dahlias, freesia, elephant ears, gladiolas. As different as they all are, these colorful and unique summer bloomers have something in common. They won't survive a Nebraska winter underground. You can save money by saving these bulbs come autumn.

There are two kinds of flowering bulbs: Hardy and Tender. Hardy bulbs bloom in spring and they can survive the winter. Those would be flowers like daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, and crocus. Tender bulbs bloom in summer and can be preserved with a little bit of effort.

Knowing when to dig them up is easy enough. Generally, it will be time after the first frost. However, if you want to be absolutely sure your bulbs are ready to be stored, simply look at your plant's foliage. When it starts to turn yellow, their season is past.

Gently loosen the soil around the base of the plant until you reach the bulb. This is not the time for vigorous digging which could damage the bulb. Then carefully lift them out of the ground and separate each one. You will need to brush off any excess soil so you can examine each bulb for signs of damage or rot. Discard all but the largest, healthiest bulbs.

Next, your bulbs need to "cure" for about a week in a warm dry spot. Remove any dry, dead flowers and foliage, but leave the live foliage attached. Keep them out of direct sunlight either hanging in a mesh bag or lying on a mesh screen so they can completely dry out. After a week, trim the foliage down to about 1/2 -inch. Now you're ready to store them away for the winter.

Your bulbs must remain cool and dry until spring. I suggest storing them in a wood or cardboard box surrounded by peat moss or sawdust. Make sure to spread them out so none of them are touching. Don't stack them in layers. Also, don't forget to label the boxes so you know which flowers you're planting next spring.

By storing your bulbs each year, not only can you save a lot of money, but you can be sure that you have handpicked the most beautiful and healthy flowers for your summer garden.



NebGuide

Guide to Growing Houseplants G2205

Proper care can extend the lives of houseplants. This NebGuide offers hints on caring for houseplants, including conditioning, light, and fertilizing.

Caring for houseplants offers opportunities for people who like to work with living things and watch them develop. Today, houseplants are an integral part of indoor décor throughout the year.

An artificial indoor environment often hinders plant development. High temperatures, low humidity, lack of sunlight, poor soil conditions, and improper watering often contribute to most houseplant problems. Occasionally, insects or plant diseases damage houseplants.

Many houseplants may eventually become unattractive or too large for the home. Before discarding these plants, use them for cuttings or divisions for new plants. However, proper care can extend their lives.

Read the entire publication at: <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/g2205.pdf>



The Acreage—Managing a Large Landscape

Managing an urban landscape can be enough of a challenge for many homeowners. When the landscape is several times larger, even the smallest decisions have broader consequences. Will plantings be visually "lost" in such a large space? Is there time to maintain it?

Planning and planting trees is often one of the first considerations since other plantings will be affected by them. Windbreaks or shelterbelts are usually planted early on... both to define the landscape and to shelter buildings and gardens from wind, heat and cold. Extensive caging and fencing may be necessary to protect trees (particularly young trees) from deer, rabbits and other wildlife.

Since turf is one of the most time-consuming aspects of most landscapes, many acreage owners keep mowed areas to a minimum, avoid high-maintenance bluegrass turf and plant fescue, buffalograss, prairie grasses or groundcovers.

One way many acreage owners scale back is by limiting managed areas to smaller spaces directly around buildings or to areas highly visible from the buildings or pathways. For plantings to have any impact, a dozen or more of any particular plant may need to be planted rather than just a few. Plants that are hardy and drought-tolerant are crucial in places where watering can range from difficult to impossible.

Here are some ideas for keeping your landscape manageable:

- * Think about views and function, and concentrate efforts where they can make the most difference. Since entrance areas are not always obvious in a country setting, you may want to highlight building entries and important paths.
- * Use windbreaks for shelter from wind, cold, heat, unwanted views and as wildlife habitat. Keep southwest exposure open to provide cooling summer breezes and plant deciduous trees to the south for summer shade and winter sunlight. Layer the landscape for interest,

wind movement and diversity.

- * Understand drainage patterns BEFORE you begin and, if they're problematic, change grade as needed.
- * Protect young trees from wildlife damage with cages or fencing.
- * Group plants according to maintenance needs – moisture, sunlight, wind and the need for mowing or other large equipment.
- * Limit turf to high traffic areas.
- * Ornamental and prairie grasses are low-maintenance and provide year-round interest but they can be a fire hazard if planted too close to buildings.
- * To attract wildlife, plant thickets of wild plum, chokecherry, elderberry, etc.

Recommended Reading:

Landscape guides on management, sustainability, water use, groundcovers, shade trees: pinterest.com/nearboretum/landscape-guides/

Landscape Sustainability: www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/g1405.pdf

Perennials in Water-Wise Landscapes: www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/g1214.pdf

UNL Extension Acreage Insights: acreage.unl.edu

Or subscribe to Acreage Insights "Life Outside the City Limits" monthly e-news with articles on water and septic systems, landscapes, windbreaks, fruit and vegetable gardens, wildlife, livestock. Go to <http://acreage.unl.edu> and click on "Subscribe to Acreage eNews."



Source: Karma Larsen, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, 402-472-7923, klarsen1@unl.edu

Editor: Dan Moser, IANR News Service, 402-472-3030, dmoser3@unl.edu

2013 American Garden Award Winners

<http://www.americangardenaward.org/>

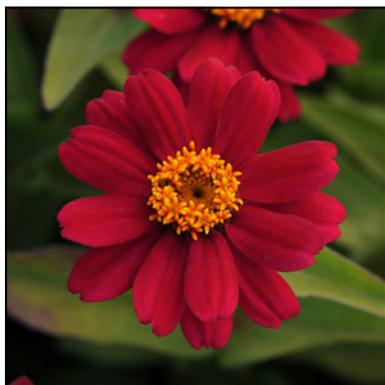


After a summer of active voting, it's time to announce the 2013 American Garden Award Winners! The 2013 American Garden Award, now in its fifth year, featured four new flower varieties chosen by their breeders for their excellent garden performance. Once these new varieties were planted and put on display at the thirty-one participating gardens across the U.S. (and in Quebec), the public was invited to vote for their favorite using one of several voting methods. The votes have been tallied and the three winners are:



Most Popular! Grand Prize Winner Verbena 'Lanai[®] Candy Cane'

Lanai[®] Candy Cane' offers a truly unique flower pattern which commands curbside attention! This striking red-and-white striped beauty offers continuous summer blooms stacked atop a well-balanced plant habit. Candy Cane was selected from a strong and proven family of verbena varieties with superior weather tolerance.



Second Place Winner Zinnia 'Zahara[™] Cherry'

Grow beautiful Zinnia 'Zahara[™] Cherry' in both containers and landscape beds, or just about any other sunny location where you want loads of bold color. These fast-growing zinnias bloom continuously all season long and are both disease and drought tolerant.



Third Place Winner Impatiens 'SunPatiens[®] Compact Electric Orange'

With vibrant, deep orange blooms, Electric Orange is a new color in the SunPatiens[®] line. SunPatiens fill in quickly providing three seasons of color in the garden and in containers. They can be planted in sun or shade and grow readily rain or shine. SunPatiens are trouble free and need no care beyond regular watering.

The Green Patch Contributors

<u>Publisher</u>	Pam Greunke		
<u>Editor</u>	Deb Daehnke		
<u>Contributors</u>	Deb Daehnke	Kelly Feehan	Kathy Hayes Duval
	Sharon Hinrichsen	Marjorie Jansen	Jane Jensen
	Robin Jones	Wayne Ohnesorg	Vicki Rundell
	American Garden Award	Nebraska Statewide Arboretum	



Articles and information for the January issue of *The Green Patch*

are due to Pam Greunke (pam.greunke@unl.edu) by December 2, 2013.

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners

Meetings held at:
UNL Extension - Madison County
601 E Benjamin Ave, Suite 105
Norfolk NE 68701



Phone:
402-370-4040 Madison 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/mastergardenerhome>

What is It?? By Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator

Jim Laycock correctly identified last edition's *What is it?* as a dogbane beetle (*Chrysochus auratus*). All feeding stages of this beetle feed on plants in the dogbane family (Apocynaceae). Larvae feed on the roots and adults feed on the foliage.



This insect's picture was sent to me back in 2009. It was found boring in the stem of a lilac in Madison County.

What kind of insect is it?

Be as specific as you can. If you think you know, you can give me a call at (402) 370-4044 or shoot me an email (wohnesorg2@unl.edu). The first person to contact me with the correct answer will be awarded one (1) training hour. **Everyone** that submits an answer will be entered into an end of the year drawing for a free Extension Circular such as the *Landscape Diagnostic Guide for Problems Affecting Woody Ornamentals and Herbaceous Perennials*. For every *What is it?* column you provide an answer for you will receive one entry. This offer is available for both the Platte County and Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener groups.

