

Inside this issue:

Plants to Sell & Use

A Dogwood Resistant to Anthracnose
PSU Landisville Trials
AARS—Regions Choice
Selecting Groundcovers
Summer-long Hydrangea

About Basics—Soils,

Fertilizers, Water
Compost Tea Use
National Watershed
Management Tool Online
Rock Snot in Local

Pesticide Applicator I Information

Glyphosate & Woodies

IPM—Integrated Pest Management

FREE Online Employee
Pesticide Training
Anti-Gypsy Moth Fungus
Chili Thrip Scouting
Gardening with Good Bugs
Invasive Plant Brochures

Better Culture, Better Plants

Healthier Woodlands
Turfgrass Math Assistance
Podcasts of Interest

Marketing & Business

Five Marketing Basics
Riding out the Downturn

Community

Wildlife Management
Trees for Troops
A Sense of Wonder

Linda S. Wiles, Penn State Coop. Extension

PLANTS TO SELL & USE

A Dogwood Resistant to Anthracnose

'Appalachian Spring' is resistant to dogwood anthracnose and has white bracts with prolific blooming and an upright growth habit. The bracts do not overlap as in 'Cloud 9'. Foliage of 'Appalachian Spring' is dark green, turning to red in fall. Abundant bright red berries are produced. This cultivar dem-

onstrated superior resistance to dogwood anthracnose when included in a large screening of dogwood trees by USDA forest service. Only 'Appalachian Spring' survived, although its foliage had numerous lesions symptomatic of dogwood anthracnose.

PSU Landisville 2008 Trials

The summer of 2008 was a range from the early severe heat wave to more moderate summer temperatures later in August and September. Under these conditions, *Bacopa*, *Osteospermum*, New Guinea impatiens, Geraniums and *Torenia* recovered and flowered well in late summer.

One of the choice plants in the field plantings is *Salvia* 'Cathedral Blue Sky' from Bodger Botanicals. Others that performed well include: *Petunia* 'Sweet Pleasure Violet Vein' from GGG International, *Osteospermum* 'Impression

Grande Pink Blush' from GGG International, and *Coleus* 'Stained Glassworks Daffy' from Paul Ecke Ranch.

Thrips were a notable problem on *Calibrachoa*, with all being susceptible, but 'Colorburst Trailing Canary' was the least affected.

Adapted from source and for more information <http://capitalhort.cas.psu.edu/ResearchThings/VarietyFlowerTrials/WeeklyUpdates.htm>

AARS – Regions Choice

New for 2009 is the selection of the very best roses for the Northeast US with 8 roses being designated:

Memorial Day™ - lavender pink hybrid tea – 5' x 4' - strong damask fragrance

Lady Elsie May™ - coral pink shrub rose – upright & spreading - slight fragrance

'Julia Child' - butter yellow floribunda – medium-low & bushy – licorice fragrance

Carefree Delight™ – pink landscape shrub rose – spreading habit – no fragrance

Crimson Bouquet™ – rich red grandiflora – 4-5 feet tall bushy – mild fragrance

'Living Easy' – apricot orange floribunda – sprawling – moderate fruity fragrance

Rainbow Sorbet™ – yellow-to-red multicolor floribunda – upright 5' – no fragrance

Knock Out® – cherry red landscape shrub rose – bushy – sweet tea rose fragrance

Adapted from source and for more information - <http://www.rose.org/>

Selecting Groundcovers

There are many plants that can tolerate at least a little foot-traffic and make a nice complement to both turf and flower beds. The commercial website <http://www.stepables.com/> has a searchable selection guide that can suggest some appropriate plants for any given site.

As would be expected, various types of thyme and sedum are recommended for dry areas with a deer problem. They also provide photos, cultural notes and design and marketing ideas.

About Basics—Soils, Fertilizers, Water

Compost Tea Use

Penn State research on compost tea for reduction of apple diseases has demonstrated its effectiveness in reducing ascospore release during the winter when sprayed on fallen leaves in the orchard. Similar benefits may be found for other plants as well.

Basically compost tea consists of microbes that were effective in degrading the compost it is derived from. The source of the compost and the materials that made it up are important. Compost tea made from composting woody ornamentals would be more effective for them than compost derived from garden trimmings.

There are various methods of brewing compost tea, and evaluations of the most effective method are needed.

There is substantial information available online concerning compost tea and how it varies from compost leachate and other products at <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/compost-tea-notes.html> While online, or via a scientific literature search, look into the works of Dr. Harry Hoitink for the research behind the value of compost tea.

Rock Snot in Local Streams

As its nickname, rock snot, would indicate, Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is not a pretty organism. It has recently evolved into a more invasive organism that creates “blooms” of great populations forming thick (about 7-8”) mats of white to brown or gray cotton-like masses at the bottom of rivers and streams. It is often mistaken for raw sewage.

These mats smother other aquatic life and reduce fish habitat and food. The texture of the mats is similar to wet wool and it is neither slimy nor green, as is algae. Didymo attaches to both stones and plants.

A diatom native to cool water areas in the US and other areas around the world Didymo is now found in a much wider area, including along the east and west part of the Delaware River along the PA-NY border.

It does not pose a health risk to humans or drinking water, nor does it have an odor.

Source and for further information: <http://seagrant.psu.edu/publications/fs/didymo.pdf>

Summer–long Hydrangea

The Endless Summer® hydrangea, otherwise known as *Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Bailmer’, is a new mophead type that blooms consistently on new and old wood. The plant grows to 3-5 feet tall and wide and has pink or blue flowers depending on whether the soil is alkaline or acidic. It is an easy to grow plant suitable for partial shade areas. The original plant was discovered by Dr. Michael Dirr at the Bailey Nursery trial blocks.

Adapted from source and for more information: <http://endlesssummerblooms.com>

National Watershed Management Tool Online

The Mahantango Creek Watershed, just north of Harrisburg, PA was selected as one of 14 key watersheds nationally for the new USDA assessment project STEWARDS. STEWARDS, Sustaining the Earth’s Watersheds, Agricultural Research Data System, provides access to soil, water, climate, land-management and socio-economic data for each of the watersheds.

Components of the system are:

1. a centralized site with Web/SQL/ArcGIS servers and application software, including a database management system (DBMS) and a geospatial data access portal
2. data: including measurement data, imagery/GIS, and metadata
3. users
4. research watershed sites that are data sources.

You can access this information at <http://arsagsoftware.ars.usda.gov/stewards/>

Pesticide Applicator Information

Glyphosate & Woodies

Some Glyphosate products, such as Roundup, may be causing damage to woody landscape and nursery plants while they are killing weeds. According to Hannah Mathers, Ohio State University nursery and landscape specialist, “glyphosate applied improperly or in too high of a dosage is causing a phenomenon known as split bark, where, through the tree’s uptake, the chemical is deteriorating the bark structure and destroying the winter hardiness of the plant.” Mathers is working with Monsanto to develop a safer product for use around woody plants.

Originally, split bark was believed to be due to cold weather; however it was also appearing in the south and California. According to Mathers, “Winter temperatures are part of the problem, but only because glyphosate weakens the bark structure enough to cause the trunks to split under stress. There’s a large body of national research that supports those findings.”

The preference for application is to use glyphosate to kill weed seedlings, not wait till it requires large amounts of chemical to kill mature weeds. As a bonus, this type of IPM program can reduce herbicide and weed application labor costs by 50%.

The surfactant found in some glyphosate products has been demonstrated to be responsible for the split bark problem, not the glyphosate itself. Individual products have different surfactants, so the product selected can make the difference in protecting woody plants. Products that are considered safer

because of no adjuvant load include: Backdraft, Campaign, Expert, Extreme, Fallowmaster, Fallow Star, FieldMaster, Glypro, Landmaster BW, Land Star, ReadyMaster ATZ, Rodeo, Roundup Custom and RU SoluGran.

A 30 foot buffer between weeds to be controlled and woody ornamental plants is recommended. A single application of glyphosate can stay in a woody plant for several years. It can take 2 years post-application to see symptoms of glyphosate damage on woody plants. Additional symptoms include witches broom, stunting, loss of apical dominance, individual dead limbs, chlorosis and death.

Some choice woody plants particularly susceptible to damage from glyphosate include: “*Pyrus* species, especially Callery pears; *Prunus* species, especially Yoshino cherry and Kwanzan cherry; Crab apples; Sycamore; Serviceberry; Hawthorn; Mountain Ash; Black Gum; Paper bark maple; Japanese maples, especially variety *dissectum*; Norway maple, especially ‘Emerald Queen’; Red maples; Dogwood, especially Kousa dogwood; Magnolias, especially *Magnolia* ‘Elizabeth’; and the yellow magnolias such as *Magnolia* ‘Butterflies’, ‘Sawada’s Cream’, *Magnolia* ‘Yellow Bird’ and *Magnolia* ‘Yellow Lantern’.”

Adapted from source: “Splitbark and glyphosate is there a relationship?”, Candace Pollock, Landscape Alert Newsletter, Michigan State University, Vol. 23, Vol. 15, August 8, 2008, <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/cat08land/108-08-08.htm#1>

IPM – Integrated Pest Management

FREE Online Employee Pesticide Training

The University of California Statewide IPM Program has released a free online pesticide training course for retail and garden center employees, Master Gardeners, or others who advise residents about pesticides.

In just 40 minutes, participants can learn how to direct residents to least-toxic products and teach homeowners how to review pesticide labels, safely use and store pesticides, or clean up any spills. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/IPMPROJECT/retailtraining.html>

Source: *Pa IPM News, Summer 2008, Vol. 11, No. 3*

Chili Thrip Scouting

Chili thrips have not yet been reported in PA, but could become a problem here. Scout carefully for them if you are receiving plants from Texas or other southern states. They are widespread in Texas after hurricane Ike and could also have spread further north. See Dr. Scott Ludwig’s (Texas A&M) website at <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=756> for more information

Anti-Gypsy Moth Fungus to the Rescue

If we have a wet spring and early summer, there could be good news for our local oaks, birches and poplars and bad news for gypsy moth. This is courtesy of the fungus *Entomophaga* which naturally infects the caterpillars and leaves them a shriveled version of their original selves.

When we have dry springs or summers the fungus cannot sporulate and infect the caterpillars.

Adapted from source: “Friendly fungus expected to slow down gypsy moth”, Dave Smitley, in Crop Advisory Team Alert, Michigan State University

Gardening with Good Bugs

When you encourage your homeowner clients to use fewer pesticides, [Gardening with Good Bugs](#), by Allison Mia Stracher, may provide them with the information to move in this direction. It explains the basics of IPM for the homeowner and why they should incorporate biological control in gardens.

The majority of the 128-page book covers common groups of beneficial insects, including beetles, lacewings, and wasps. Each section gives a brief review of the life cycle, size, color description, and host range for common species. It also has many full-color photographs that supplement the text.

Adapted from source: PA IPM News, Fall 2008, Vol. 11,

Better Culture, Better Plants

Healthier Woodlands

"The health of your woods is determined by several factors," explains Tree Farmer Craig Olver. Trees are really good about expanding their crowns to fill available space. Barring major human or ecological impact, most forested sites are chockfull of trees and plants filling up growing space and taking advantage of available sunlight and nutrients. But there are a few factors to look for in your forestland when considering its health and vitality."

Removing some trees and allowing the space for others that can better utilize the space is important. Crowns with 5-8 feet of space for branch expansion have room to grow their best; ones with less room grow slower. Species with strong branches will break twigs and branches of neighboring weaker-branched trees and access that space. Crowded or small-crowned trees tend to be the first to succumb to stress such as drought. The most useful cultural method is often selective removal of trees.

Derived from source: "Are My Woods Healthy?" Craig Olver, co-owner of the Tall Timber Tree Farm, in Forest Stewardship News, November 17, 2008

Podcasts of Interest (for Greenhouse Growers and Others)

There is a special collaboration between Greenhouse Grower and four major research universities – University of California, North Carolina State, Kansas State and the University of New Hampshire – to provide solid information via podcasts online. While targeted to greenhouse growers, some of these also have broader applications to others in the greenhouse industry.

The podcasts currently available include:

[Boron Deficiency in Pansy Plugs](#) – by Brian Krug, University of New Hampshire

[Pour Thru Monitoring](#) (measuring pH and EC status) – by Brian Whipker, North Carolina State

[Whiteflies](#) – by Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State

[Downy Mildew](#) – by Colleen Warfield, University of California

[Alkalinity in Irrigation Water](#) – by Kimberly Williams, Kansas State

[Proper Greenhouse Sanitation](#) - by Raymond Cloyd, Kansas State

To access the podcasts link to <http://www.greenhousegrower.com/specialreports/podcasts/>

Invasive Plant Brochures

Terrestrial Invasive Plants of the Potomac River Watershed is a brochure with color sketches, life history and identifying characteristics, and removal tips for many common invasive plants of the northeastern U.S. It can be down-loaded from <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/mdinvasivebrochure.pdf>

Alternatives to Invasive Landscape Plants from University of New Hampshire, focuses on good alternatives to three widely planted invasive plants - *Euonymus alatus* (Burning bush), *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry), and *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple). It is available at http://extension.unh.edu/resources/representation/Resource000560_Rep582.pdf

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network's Green Industry Committee has a more comprehensive brochure, "Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest," available online at <http://mipn.org/MIPN%20redraft2.pdf> It provides several alternatives to key plants on the invasive species list and others that pose a threat of becoming invasive, including the three listed in New Hampshire's list above.

Turfgrass Math Assistance

A new extension publication, **Practical Math for the Turfgrass Professional (CDHORT200)**, covers many math problems turfgrass managers use daily. This CD allows for electronic reading and the option to print chapters. It covers calculations on area, volume, irrigation, seed, fertilizer, pesticide, and calibration calculations.

Information on ordering this CD is available at <http://turf.uark.edu/publications/factsheets/pro.html> . The cost is \$10.00. If you have questions regarding the content of this CD, feel free to contact Dr. Aaron Patton by email at ajpatton@uark.edu or by phone at (479) 575-2612.

More information available at <http://turf.uark.edu/publications/factsheets/pro.html> or www.uaex.edu

Derived from source: "New Publications - Practical Math for the Turfgrass Professional (CDHORT200)," Arkansas Turf Tips, 12-1-2008

Marketing and Business

Five Marketing Basics

Marketing your goods and services is always key to profit, but it is especially critical when times are tough. You will need to answer five questions to develop your marketing plan:

1. What is your market?

Profile your main customer base – age, location, income, jobs, and interests.

2. What kinds of media do your main customers use?

Select media with the same target audience as your main customer base. Media includes internet, radio, TV, newspaper, magazine, even free pens with your business name and logo.

3. What media can you afford to use repeatedly?

People need to see your message seven times to consider a purchase.

4. What is the main benefit from your product or service?

What benefits can you provide – saving time, making them healthier, saving them money, etc.

5. What FREE publicity can you get?

Print and broadcast media regularly look for good stories. Any noteworthy or interesting aspect or story in connection with your business can provide valuable publicity.

Adapted from source: “Five Essential Steps for Marketing Your Business”, John Berry. Penn State Coop. Extension - Lehigh County, Vegetable & Small Fruit Gazette, January 2009, Volume 13, No. 1

Community

Wildlife Management

Penn State has a new publication, **Farmlands and Wildlife of Pennsylvania and the Northeast: Developing a Wildlife Management Plan for Your Property**, that is available to view online <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/agrs104.pdf> or for purchase for \$9.00 <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/PubTitle.asp?varTitle=Farmlands+and+Wildlife&Submit=Go>.

“This 72-page, full-color publication emphasizes the importance of agriculture in maintaining habitat for farmland and grassland wildlife. It is also meant as a guide for landowners to farmland wildlife, habitat management methods and their benefits, methods of wildlife damage control, sources of financial assistance for habitat projects, and additional educational resources.”

Courtesy of Margaret Brittingham, Wildlife Resources, Penn State

Riding out the Downturn—Trends for 2009

There is a very interesting website, <http://www.trendwatching.com/briefing/>, that covers current trends and offers some suggestions on how to work these into making you more successful.

Six key current trends they have nicknamed are:

Nichetributes – tailor your product to a specific audience

Luxyoury – define what is scarce – time, skills, relationships – not just goods

Feedback 3.0 – engage your clientele in conversations and use the information to improve your business

Econcierge – help your clients save money by taking care of the environment

Mapmania – target the local/regional market and let them know your location; many younger clients want to know where products come from and how they are made

Happy Ending – downtimes are good for reflection, clients are redefining what makes them happy – be part of it

Adapted from source: <http://www.trendwatching.com/briefing/>

“Trees for Troops” Thank you to Participants

To all who participated in providing Christmas trees for families of our troops, thank you! This is a very positive program for all Americans and reflects well on the green industry.

This is a special program by the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association, and if you would like to participate next year, contact Anthony Viscariello, PCTGA Communications Manager, at (717)-238-9765 or communications@christmastrees.org.

You can also click the "Trees for Troops" logo link at the bottom of the www.christmastrees.org website for more information.

A Sense of Wonder

Most people associate Rachel Carson with her premiere book, **Silent Spring**, but she is also recognized by new generations for her last book, **The Sense of Wonder**. In **The Sense of Wonder** she encourages parents to take their children for woodland walks. It is a vital book that speaks to the connection of man to nature and to each other.

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PENN STATE Making Life Better®

EDUCATIONAL & PESTICIDE CREDITS

To locate recertification meetings/find out about your current status see <http://www.paplants.state.pa.us/>
Penn State has developed an online guide for PDA's new web site at <http://www.pested.psu.edu/applicators/arci.shtml>
Many of the programs below may not be listed at this time, but will be as credits are assigned. You can call toll-free 1-800-736-6476.

CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE – PDA Region 3

If you are interested in becoming a certified pesticide applicator, you can take your test at any of the following locations, dates:

PDA Region 3 Office in Tunkhannock – 1/26, 2/23, 3/23, 4/27

Monroe County Extension Office in Stroudsburg – 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7

Luzerne County Extension Office in West Pittston – 2/11, 3/11, 4/8

Wayne County Extension Office in Honesdale—1/22, 2/19

Bradford County Extension Office in Towanda – 3/26

PDA Region 3 (call 570-836-2181) covers: Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming Co.

Tioga Co. is in PDA Region 2, call 570-433-2640 for information in Region 2.

Source and reference: <https://www.paplants.state.pa.us/Index.aspx>

This publication is available in alternative media on request

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Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the extension office at (570) 421-6430 in advance of your participation or visit.

We're on the web

<http://monroe.extension.psu.edu>

NE PA REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Northeast Vegetable Growers' Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2009,
Newton/Ransom Fire Hall,
Clarks Summit Contact:
John Esslinger, 570-963-6842

2008 NE PA Turf Conference & Trade Show

Thursday, January 29, 2009,
8:30 am – 4:15 pm
Woodlands Resort,
Wilkes-Barre, Contact:
Andy McNitt, 814-863-1368

Northeast Fruit Growers' Meeting

Wednesday, February 25,
2009, Iron Skillet Restaurant,
Petro Shopping Plaza, Avoca
Contact: John Esslinger, 570-963-6842

Northeast Berry Growers' Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2009,
Location TBA, Contact:
John Esslinger, 570-963-6842

Professional Pruning Workshop & Seminar

Wednesday, March 4, 2009,
8:00 am to 3:00 pm, East
Stroudsburg Univ., Contact:
Linda S. Wiles, 570-421-6430

2009 Core & Category Pesticide Update I: Turfgrass

Thursday, March 12, 2009,
1:45 – 4:00 pm, Monroe Co.
Extension, Stroudsburg
Contact: Linda S. Wiles,
570-421-6430

2009 NE Reg. Landscape & Turf Seminar: Key Updates

Wednesday, March 18, 2009,
8:20 am – 3:30 pm,
Howard Johnson's Ballroom,
Bartonsville, Contact:
Linda S. Wiles, 570-421-6430,

2009 Core & Category Pesticide Update II: Ornamentals

Wednesday, March 25, 2009,
1:45 – 4:00 pm, Monroe Co.
Extension Office, Stroudsburg
Contact: Linda S. Wiles, 570-421-6430,

Northern Tier No-Till Conference

Tuesday, February 10, 2009,
9:30 am—3:00 pm,
Troy Fire Hall, Troy
Contact: Mark Madden, 570-265-2896

GAPS Training (Farm Food Safety VTC)

March 2009 - date, time,
multiple locations pending

NE Regional Christmas Tree Meeting

Saturday, March 7, 2009,
8:00 am—4:00 pm,
Genetti's, Hazelton
Contact: Paul Shealer, 570-325-2788

NE Region Woodland Owners Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2009,
Penn College of Technology,
Williamsport
Contact: Bob Hansen, 570-265-2896