

DIAGNOSIS

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kitchen pantry, the homeowner solved the mystery. His wife enjoyed arts and crafts, including doll-making. One of her projects included making beanbag-type dolls using sunflower seeds to stuff the bodies of the dolls. The dolls were stored in the bedroom in a cardboard box. This was the source for the moth infestation. The homeowner was able to solve the moth problem by removing the infestation source.

We have also identified animal droppings:

- In the summer, a homeowner noticed that animal droppings were appearing each morning in the same location of her covered patio. She was puzzled because she had never seen any animal, but the small, fibrous, slightly shiny droppings continued to show up. When she brought the droppings to the extension office, we told her to stop looking on the ground for the culprit, but to examine the ceiling for a roosting site. These were bat droppings.

- A pest control professional who serviced a supermarket was stumped by the appearance of large animal droppings in the store. After bringing these

droppings (in a plastic bag) to the Extension office for identification, the technician learned they were opossum droppings. This knowledge made it easier to lure the animal into a live trap and remove from the store. (BPO)



WAR

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most Muslim people are peaceful and friendly.

Reassure children without ignoring the horrors of war. Talk about what you and others will do to keep the child safe. Talk about how far away the military actions probably will be. But do not ignore the terrible things that will happen in the war. Studies show children care about people in other countries in addition to those in their own country. Support their caring attitudes.

Teach children about what can be done instead of war. Talk about alternatives. Explain what governments and people can do to make war less likely.

For more information, visit lancaster.unl.edu.

Adapted from When War Is in the News, Purdue Extension, February 2003. (LB)

PLANTING A TREE

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Do not place mulch directly against the stem of the plant.

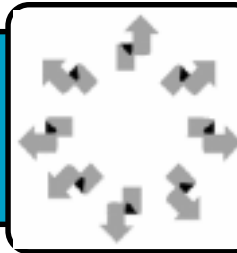
Proper mulching provides a well-groomed appearance and designates an area where grass or weeds are eliminated, which results in lower damage rates from mowers and weed trimmers. Mechanical damage is one of the leading causes of injury and death of landscape plants.

Desirable mulching materials include wood chips, wood shavings, bark, or equivalent materials. Organic mulch is preferred because it helps aerate the soil and replenish soil nutrients as it decomposes.

Fertilizer

Most soils contain sufficient levels of available nutrients to supply the requirements of newly planted landscape plants except where construction has either altered the soil or changed its composition. Fertilizer should not be applied during the first several growing seasons while the new roots are establishing themselves. After this period, determination of additional nutrient needs should be based upon the condition and vitality of the plants and analysis of soil samples. (MJF)

Miscellaneous



**GET A★
"NU" LIFE**

Youth won't want to miss Nebraska 4-H's Get a "NU" Life career exploration camps to be held this summer at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln! Participants will have opportunities to get to know faculty and youth from throughout the state, explore the UNL campus, check out a particular career field, have fun and much more!

CAMP	DATES	AGE
Biotechnology	June 4-6	10-12
Culinology™	June 16-20	9-12
Golf Course Management	June 16-20	9-12
Foreign Languages	June 18-20	7-10
Movie-Making	July 13-19	10-12
Music	June 15-21	9-12
Paper-Making	June 16-20	9-12
Textile Design	June 18-20	9-12
Theatre	July 13-19	9-12
Unicameral Youth	June 22-25	8-11

Final registration deadline is May 1. For more detailed camp descriptions, registration form or more information, visit online at <http://4h.unl.edu> or pick up a brochure at the extension office.

Grantsmanship Training Scheduled May 5-9

The Grantsmanship Training Program will again be offered to the Lincoln community May 5-9. The intensive, "hands-on" workshop covers all aspects of researching grants, writing proposals and negotiating with funding sources.

Designed for both novice and advanced grant seekers, the program participants are given follow-up services, including expert grant proposal reviews for a full year following training. To maximize personal attention, the group size for the workshop is limited.

Since 1997, UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County has hosted the Grantsmanship Training Program.



Approximately 100 individuals representing various Lincoln and area agencies have participated to date.

For more information and to

register, as early as possible, contact The Grantsmanship Center directly at (800) 421-9512 or visit online at www.tgci.com. (GB)

Backyard Farmer — 50 Years and Still Growing Strong on Nebraska ETV

"Backyard Farmer," the nation's longest-running locally produced series, celebrates its 50-year anniversary this year. The popular Nebraska-based yard and garden advice series airs live on Nebraska ETV Thursdays at 7 p.m. The program is rebroadcast on NETV2 Fridays at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m..

A new addition to the series, "Backyard Farmer Extra," will debut this year on Saturdays at 8 a.m. on Nebraska ETV, repeating Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on NETV2. "Backyard Farmer Extra" will focus specifically on viewers' e-mailed questions.

"Backyard Farmer's" yard and garden experts answer questions about everything from trees to tomatoes and bugs to blossoms, guiding both rural and urban gardeners from seedtime



to harvest and winterizing.

A panel of Nebraska-based lawn and garden experts, led by "Backyard Farmer" host John Fech, University of Nebraska (NU) Extension educator for horticulture in Douglas/Sarpy County, also focuses on a new theme each month. April will feature seed and bulb selection; early season garden preparation and landscape design; researching active ingredients in pesticides; identifying and controlling "Pine Wilt," a relatively new disease of pines; looking at mechanical spreaders; and

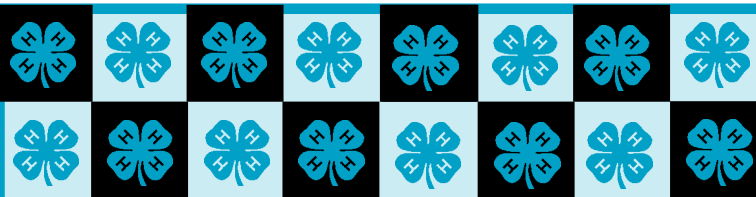
planting annuals in containers.

The program is video streamed on the "Backyard Farmer" Web site at byf.unl.edu — the same site viewers should visit to e-mail their lawn and garden questions.

The Web site also features gardening tips and a searchable video database where viewers can search for topics discussed on archived "Backyard Farmer" programs.

This year, the "Backyard Farmer" season will be extended through the end of September, rather than ending in August.

"Backyard Farmer" and "Backyard Farmer Extra" are productions of University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska ETV Network. The series is underwritten, in part, by Earl May Nursery and Garden Centers.



4-H Chess Tournament

Saturday, May 3

**Lancaster Extension Education Center
444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln**

8:30-9:30 a.m.	On-site registration*
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Check in
9:45 a.m.	Opening announcements
10:00 a.m.	1st round
11:30 a.m.	2nd round
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	3rd round
3:00 p.m.	4th round
4:15 p.m.	Awards

**A \$1 late registration fee will be added on May 3*

The Lancaster County Checkmates 4-H chess club invites all Nebraska 4-H'ers to a chess tournament! The Checkmates Tournament is also open to 4-H friends age 18 and under. It is nonrated, so no United States Chess Federation membership is required. This is a four-round, Swiss system chess tournament. Players who notate their games will be eligible for special drawings.

Note: Supervision of youth will not be provided.

Registration Information

Due to limited space, preregistration is encouraged. Preregistration deadline is April 25. Entry fees: 4-H members: \$2/Non-4-H members: \$3. Payment should be made at time of check in. On-site registration will depend upon availability of space. On-site entry fees for those not preregistered: 4-H members: \$3/Non-4-H members: \$4.

For more information, contact James Walla, Checkmates leader, at 476-2094 or e-mail jgwohohemian@yahoo.com.

Registration form and rules are available at the extension office or online lancaster.unl.edu/4-H.

