

Bagworms, Look for Them Now!



In June, bagworm larvae are susceptible to insecticides.



Bagworm bags at completion of larval development (pictured) are difficult to control.

Bagworm eggs hatch in early June and young worms will begin to feed on junipers, cedars and arborvitae in eastern Nebraska. Bagworms also occur on various deciduous trees such as flowering crabs, plums, linden and cotoneaster. The bags attached to the trees now are those left over from last year and are empty, except for the remaining egg masses that will finish hatching. The worms are very tiny, probably 3/8 inch in length or less, and each contained inside a small protective sack or bag which they construct of silk and plant material. At this stage, the larvae are susceptible to insecticides but after six weeks they will be difficult to control. Suggested materials are Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) (Dipel), Acephate (Orthene), Carbaryl (Sevin), Permethrin (Eight) and Malathion. Follow label directions and be sure to spray trees and shrubs thoroughly to penetrate foliage. Good coverage is essential if control is to be effective.

— Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

All American Roses for 2006

There are four All American Rose Selection Winners for 2006. As usual, one or more of the diverse offerings is sure to suit almost any landscape and gardener. This year's winners will convince you to plant more roses.



Julia Child

The first offering is Julia Child. The famous chef picked this one herself and we all know what great taste she had. This floribunda rose has a rounded growth habit and is topped with buttery-gold flow-

ers. The flowers have a spicy scent, reminiscent of sweetened licorice. Plants are also highly prized for their excellent disease resistance.

Rainbow Sorbet is another floribunda rose. Plants produce masses of flowers in shades of yellow, orange and red. Eventually the flowers mature to light yellow and pink. This one lights up the landscape with its continuous display of blooms. Plants have an upright growth habit and grow nearly 5 feet tall. Rainbow Sorbet also possesses excellent resistance to black spot.

Another award winner is Tahitian Sunset. This hybrid tea type rose shines in the garden with its warm, sunny flowers that are orange-yellow in bud and open to a peachy-apricot-pink. The large, 5 inch diameter flowers are packed with petals, about 30, and have a delightful strong anise fragrance.

Last, but certainly not least, is Wild Blue Yonder, a



Tahitian Sunset

grandiflora rose that is a sight to behold! This is the first lavender blend rose to win a coveted AARS award since 1984. This large bush rose is covered with velvety wine-purple, flowers in the summer. Another nice feature is the distinctive fragrance. The scent is a mixture of sweet citrus and rose.

Source: All American Rose Selections at <http://www.rose.org>.

Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming.

Disbud chrysanthemum flowers to secure large, beautiful blooms on straight, strong stems. To disbud, remove the small side buds along the stems which form in the angles of the leaves. This will allow all of the food reserves to be used for one large flower rather than many smaller ones.

Plant annual flowers in tubs or large containers for the porch or terrace. Make sure there are holes in the container's bottom to provide good drainage.

Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage the bulbs.

Watch for and control blackspot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage.

Spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, lilac and forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming.

Mid to late June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum.

When you buy nursery stock that is container grown, check the root ball and make sure it is not bound too tightly. A mass of circling roots will stay that way even after it is planted in the ground.

If you do not have much room to landscape, consider using some of the many dwarf varieties available. These are plants that have slow growth and stay small, so there is little pruning maintenance. There are numerous dwarf evergreens, flowering trees and shrubs from which to choose.

Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.

In most cases, blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Also avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilizers.

Continue planting warm season vegetable crops such as beans, squash and cucumbers.

The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.

Before pouring gasoline into the fuel tank of your lawn mower, garden tiller or other garden equipment, be sure to turn off the engine and allow it to cool for at least five minutes.

Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. If you decide to use chemical control, read the label carefully.

Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool dry location to be saved for planting next year.

During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. For vegetable gardens, shredded leaves or grass clippings are good mulch material. For ornamentals, pine needles or wood bark do the best job.

Weed removal is important for a number of reasons. It conserves moisture, conserves nutrients in the soil and helps prevent the spread of disease and insects.



Rainbow Sorbet



Wild Blue Yonder

Care of Coleus

Mary Jane Frogge
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Coleus are prized for their colorful foliage which may combine shades of green, yellow, pink, red and maroon. New introductions of this popular annual have been selected for increased sun and heat tolerance. Coleus vary from smaller types that will reach only 1 foot tall to tall bushy types of 3 feet. Sprawling types suitable for hanging baskets and window planters may spread up to 3 feet or more. Most coleus grow fairly rapidly to their full summer size. They are all tender annuals in Nebraska and will be killed by the first frost.

The brilliant and widely varied colors of coleus foliage make it a natural for use as a bedding plant and as a color accent. Coleus also grows beautifully in containers, which can be used to highlight patios, porches and garden terraces.

Coleus are highly resistant to serious disease or insect



Coleus are good for use in containers or as a bedding plant.

problems when grown outdoors in properly prepared beds or containers. Some pests to watch for include mealy bug, aphids and whiteflies. Some disease problems to watch for include stem rot and root rot.

Most coleus grow best in part shade. However, several new cultivars are available that will thrive in full, hot sun. Co-

leus must have good soil drainage. Poorly drained soils and excessive watering will damage coleus. Overwatered plants will be stunted and root rot could occur. Plants should not be allowed to dry out. Coleus grown in containers are more susceptible to drought and should be planted in a very well-drained soil mix that is watered more frequently.

Pinch growing shoots of young plants frequently to encourage and maintain dense foliage. For a mid-summer growth boost, fertilize in June, July and August with a liquid fertilizer at half the usual dilution. Flower spikes will appear in late summer. Many people dislike their appearance, and if allowed to go to seed the plant will decline. Shear back flowers to extend performance. Since coleus are annuals and will be killed by the first fall frost, you may want to take cuttings of especially prized cultivars. They root easily from stem cuttings that are placed in containers with moist potting soil.