

Harvest Music Festival

Fundraiser for NE 4-H Foundation

Saturday, Nov. 17

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. • Band starts at 8:30 p.m.

Lancaster Event Center
84th & Havelock, Lincoln

Blackberry & The Winter
Brass Kickin' Classic Rock

Tickets
\$13 advance
\$15 at door

Tickets available at:
UNL Extension in Lancaster County office, 444 Cherrycreek Rd, Suite A
and
1st National Bank—Lincoln locations
or by calling 4-H Foundation at 472-9019 (credit cards accepted)

Sponsored by
Agribusiness & Food Associates
Nebraska Rural Radio Association
1st National Bank—Lincoln



4-H “Trash to Treasure” Kits for After-School Programs Teach Recycling

To help Lincoln youth learn about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — UNL Extension in Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln Recycling office recently developed “Trash to Treasure” 4-H curriculum and kits for Lincoln after-school programs. The kits include all supplies needed for hands-on educational activities. To date, 15 after-school programs have utilized the kits.



Youth at the Belmont Recreation Center Summer Day Camp collected cans as part of 4-H “Trash to Treasure.”

This summer, Belmont Recreation Center Summer Day Camp attendees spent several weeks on “Trash to Treasure.” Their culminating activity was an aluminum can collection. Youth made signs out of old cardboard and old pool cues. Then they marched to a recycling center chanting

slogans and waving at passing cars. The treasure for these youth was the money earned from the cans, which paid for a pizza party. Belmont Recreation Center is part of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department.

Funding for “Trash to Treasure” was provided by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and City of Lincoln Recycling office. After-school programs interested in using the kits may contact Teri Hlava at 441-7180.

Correctly Choose and Use Deicers to Keep Them From Harming Plants

Jay Fitzgerald
UNL Floriculture Specialist

When winter snow and ice become compacted and slick, many people use deicers to loosen the buildup and ease removal. However, the corrosive salt in many deicers can harm or “burn” plants. Understanding the different types of deicers and knowing how to minimize salt damage to plants helps keep yards healthy when spring comes without sacrificing winter safety.

Deicers should not be used to completely melt snow or ice, but to make it easier to clear them away. They work by melting down through ice or snow to the hard surface, where they spread out underneath. For quickest and most effective ice penetration, purchase deicers in uniformly shaped spherical pellets of about 1/16 to 3/16-inch. Irregularly shaped particles tend to melt randomly in all directions and flakes melt as much horizontally as they do vertically.

Before using a deicer, be aware of the way it affects plants, animals, concrete and other surfaces. Excess salts and fertilization from deicers prevent plants from getting nutrients and from absorbing sufficient water. Symptoms of salt injury are desiccation, stunting and dieback. Leaf tips and margins appear burned and roots may be injured. The most common injury to concrete is scaling, in which small flakes of mortar and concrete come loose from the surface.

Accumulation of salt in the soil over several years may cause progressive decline and eventual



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death of plants, so flush the soil with large amounts of water after the last freeze in areas where deicers were used. This is the best way to remove salt from the soil.

Protect plants from injury by direct exposure to salt spray by covering them with burlap or saran cloth to decrease the amount of exposure to slush during snow removal. Always read and follow label directions when using deicers or other products.

Common Deicers

Commonly used deicers include:

- **Sodium chloride**, also known as rock salt and table salt, which has been used as a deicer for many years and commonly is used on roads. It is relatively inexpensive, but can burn plants and corrode metal and concrete.
- **Calcium chloride**, which gives off heat in an exothermic reaction, often causing it to perform better than many other deicing salts especially

at lower temperatures. It is less damaging to plants than sodium chloride.

- **Potassium chloride**, which is a naturally occurring material used as a fertilizer and food salt substitute as well as a deicer. Its high salt index can burn foliage and inhibit rooting.
- **Urea**, a synthesis of ammonia and carbon dioxide, which mainly is used as a fertilizer. It has a lower burn potential than potassium chloride and is a source of nitrogen fertilizer. Adjacent turf may green and grow excessively in spring. If urea stays on top of the soil, it quickly breaks down to ammonia and escapes into the air.
- **Calcium magnesium acetate** is a salt-free melting agent that is used as an alternative to salts in environmentally sensitive areas. It has little impact on plants, animals, metal and concrete. When absorbed into the soil, it is beneficial to soil structure.

Can You Guess It?



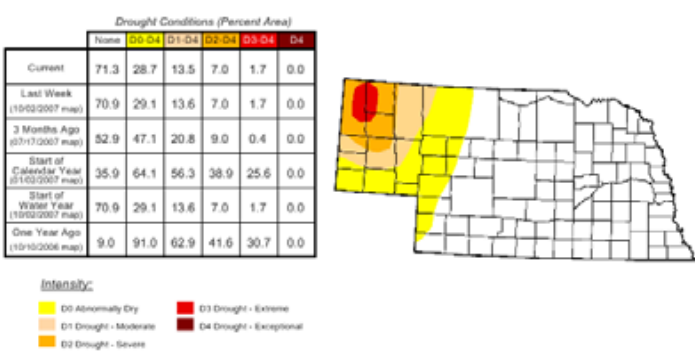
Photo by Vicki Jedicicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Did you guess it? Find out at
<http://lanaster.unl.edu>

Did you guess it from the October NEBLINE?
The answer was a “black squirrel.”

U.S. Drought Monitor Map

As of Oct. 9, Lancaster County was not in drought conditions.



For the most recent map, visit <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm>

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska—Lincoln