

East Campus Walking Tour

Look around East Campus and you will find all sorts of hidden treasures. From the Maxwell Arboretum to Jeanne Vierk Yeutter Memorial Garden, each has scholarly and historical significance. Elizabeth Killinger understood that and created a walking tour of East Campus called the "Own Time, Any Time Tour." The tour allows people to enjoy the gardens and the history of the campus at their own pace.

Killinger, who received her horticulture bachelor's degree, is now working on her master's degree in horticulture at UNL.

She completed the walking tour as part of her graduate project.

The walking tour consists of nine stops. The number to call is 472-5555. Once on the voicemail system, participants dial a series of seven-digit stop numbers. The stop numbers are visible on signs posted at the various locations.

The first five stops include the Dairy Store, Maxwell Arboretum, Jeanne Vierk Yeutter Memorial Garden, Fleming Slope and the Flack Lilac collection. The last four stops offer information about what is new or different on campus,

information about The Big Red Green Team, ReTree Nebraska and a project description of the tour with a place to leave feedback.

In addition to history and design information about the stops, several offer information about UNL scholars and other important people, including Charles E. Bessey, John E. Weaver, George W. Beadle and Earl G. Maxwell. To take the tour, stop at the East Campus Visitor's Center located inside the Dairy Store and pick up a brochure.

Source: UNL IANR News Service, Scarlet



University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Elizabeth Killinger, who is working on her master's degree in horticulture at UNL, created a walking tour of East Campus called the "Own Time, Any Time Tour" as part of her graduate project. The tour allows people to enjoy what the gardens have to offer as well as the history of the campus.

All-America Selections for 2008

Osteospermum 'Asti White'



Pure white daisy flowers with blue centers are the main attraction for 'Asti White.' The large blooms, 2 inches across are borne on stems that gracefully wave in the wind. The thick fleshy leaves indicate its drought tolerance, which makes this a preferred annual in any area subject to dry conditions. 'Asti White' is the first white Osteospermum, or Cape Daisy, propagated from seed.

There are several advantages. The flowers will remain open under cloudy conditions, unlike other daisy flowers originating from South Africa, which close. 'Asti White' plants will flower uniformly about 17 weeks from seed. Gardeners have the choice of growing from seed or purchasing plants depending upon their resources. 'Asti White' plants will bloom and recover from a slight frost. These plants can be placed in the spring or fall garden, weeks earlier than other tender annuals. The uniform plants thrive in a sunny garden, reaching about 17 to 20 inches tall and wide. 'Asti White' plants adapt perfectly to growing in containers, preferably 6-inch pots or larger.

Viola 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold'

Sunny gold faces charm people gazing at 'Skippy XL



Plum-Gold.' The flowers are uniquely designed with plum shades surrounding the golden centers, which contain radiating black lines affectionately called whiskers. The blooms are small, about 1.5 inches, but are not to be underrated. The number of blooms produced more than makes up for the size. 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' won the AAS Award for its ability to grow a lavish number of blooms. In the North, plants can be expected to bloom beginning with spring to the heat of summer. The petite plants growing 6 to 8

inches tall and wide are highly recommended for combination planters. Gardeners can rely on 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' to provide abundant blooms whether growing in containers, window boxes or annual flower gardens.

Eggplant 'Hansel'



Best described as a miniature eggplant, 'Hansel' is a smaller-sized plant with finger-sized clusters of fruit. Just because of its smaller size, do not make the mistake of thinking it produces less fruit.

The strong plant, reaching less than three feet, produces clusters of three to six fruit. They mature early, about 55 days from transplanting into warm soil. This is about 10 days earlier than the comparison eggplant. If the 3-inch fruit clusters are left on the plant, they grow in size, but remain tender and non-bitter, unlike other eggplant. This trait offers gardeners flexibility in harvest such as when taking a much-needed vacation. The fruit will be waiting for you as long as it is not a three-week cruise. If you prefer to garden in containers, 'Hansel' is highly recommended for your shopping list. 'Hansel' adapts perfectly to container growing conditions. The diminutive plant fits on smaller patios or decks but provides high yields of shiny purple eggplants ready to marinate and grill.

Source: All-America Selections

Easter Lily Care

Mary Jane Frogge
UNL Extension Associate

When buying a lily, look for a plant with flowers in various stages of bloom from buds to open or partially opened flowers. Foliage should be dense, rich green in color, and extend all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication of a healthy root system. Look for a well-proportioned plant, one that is about two times as high as the pot. You also should check the flowers, foliage and buds for signs of insects and disease.

At home, keep your lily away from drafts and drying heat sources such as appliances or heating ducts. Bright, indirect light is best with daytime temperatures of 65 to 75



University of California Ornamental Horticulture Research and Information Center

degrees F. Water the plant only when the soil feels dry to the touch, but do not over water. To prolong the life of the blossoms, remove the yellow anthers

(pollen-bearing pods) found in the center of each flower.

Do not throw away your Easter lily after it is done blooming. You can save the bulb and plant it outdoors. Easter lilies can be replanted outside after the blooms are gone. Plant the Easter lily outdoors as soon as the ground can be worked. Select a sunny site with well drained soil. Set the top of the bulb six inches below the soil surface. Cut off the old flowers, but leave the stem and leaves. Do not cut back the stem until it dies down in the fall, then cut it off at the soil surface. After the soil surface freezes in late fall, mulch the soil and do not remove the mulch until new growth begins in the spring.

Garden Guide THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Start transplants indoors of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Pick a permanent spot for herbs in the garden.

Complete the pruning of shrubs, ornamental trees before growth starts, except for spring flowering shrubs. Prune those which bloom in spring as soon as they finish flowering.

If you have not done it already, check stored tools and outdoor furniture for signs of rust. Remove any surface rust with steel wool and paint with rust preventing paint.

Turn the compost pile.

Place birdhouses built this winter outdoors this month. Birds will begin looking for nesting sites soon.

Do not plow your garden when the soil is wet. It will form clods which are difficult to break up and interfere with cultivation during the summer.

Plan your vegetable garden on a sheet of paper to utilize the space most efficiently. Remember to rotate the vegetables in the garden to reduce insect and disease problems.

Buy a notebook and use it to keep all your gardening information. List what you plant in the garden. Include the name of seed companies, plant name, variety, planting date and harvest date. During the growing season, keep notes on how well the plant does. If the variety is susceptible to disease, record what was used to treat any problems. All this information will be helpful in planning future gardens.

Rake the lawn to remove leaves and twigs.

Some annuals, such as verbenas, snapdragons and petunias, take 70 to 90 days to bloom. They should be started indoors in early spring.

Buy some new perennials for your flower border. Spring is a good time to renew and add variety to your landscape.

How are your houseplants doing? Check all five growing factors if your house plants are not growing well. Light, temperature, nutrients, moisture and humidity must be favorable to provide good growth.

Finish repairing and painting of window boxes, lawn furniture, tools and other items in preparation for outdoor gardening and recreational use.

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