

UNL Water Web Site

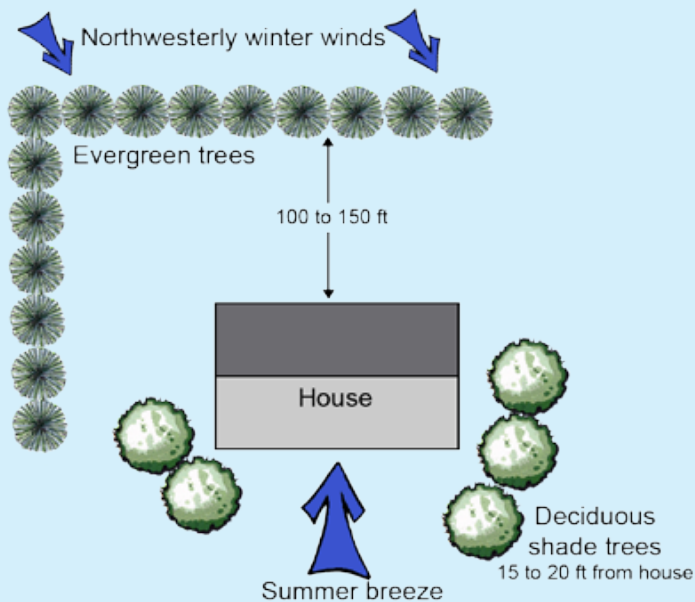


The University of Nebraska—Lincoln long has been known for its expertise on all things related to water. Now, we're gathering much of that knowledge at one, easy-to-remember Web site—<http://water.unl.edu>

UNL research and extension experts from many water-related disciplines are working together to develop the Web site. You'll find all kinds of information you can use in your daily life, whether you're an ag producer, homeowner, or in some profession that requires the latest water-related expertise; whether you live in the city, in a small town or in the country.

UNL experts created and provided content for the site in such areas as soil science, horticulture, landscaping, lake and pond management, irrigation, drinking water, wastewater treatment, crop production, watershed protection, storm water runoff, well management, and livestock manure management. Additional areas are being developed, including climatology, fish and wildlife, remote sensing and GIS, toxicology, economics and water law and policy.

Landscaping for Energy



When landscaping for energy efficiency, choose evergreens for the north and northwest sides of the house where they will block winter winds without limiting winter sun. Block early morning and late afternoon summer sun by planting deciduous trees to the east and west of the house, including the southeast and southwest corners. Don't plant shade trees to the direct south of the house; the summer sun is so high in the sky it will shine onto the house overall but the tallest trees would block cooling, southernly breezes.

Planting B&B Plants

Many balled and burlapped (B&B) trees and shrubs are now sold wrapped in synthetic burlap that will not rot in the ground, resulting in a rootbound plant that doesn't grow well if the burlap is left in place. Some of this material strongly resembles cotton burlap; if in doubt about the burlap's makeup, cut it away from the root ball once the plant is in place.



Balled and burlapped tree

Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Planting Peonies

Plant roots of both garden and tree peonies in September or early October so they will have time to become established in the soil before winter. Dig a hole 18 inches across and 18 inches deep for each tuber. Space the holes so the plants will be at least 3 feet apart. Make sure the roots are buried only 1 to 2 inches below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming.

Fending Off Asian Lady Beetles

Susan Mahr
 University of
 Wisconsin—Madison

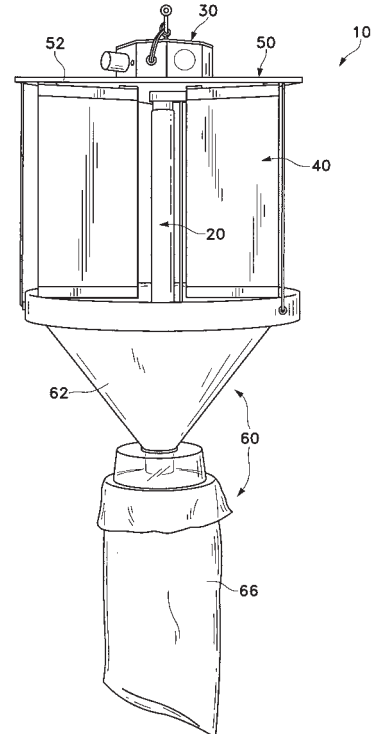
The multicolored Asian lady beetle is a nuisance (or worse) when they move into people's homes or businesses in the fall and winter. The beetles often congregate on the sunnier or warmer sides of buildings in the afternoon or prominent, exposed, light-colored buildings, looking for suitable overwintering sites (in the walls or interior of the building itself). While they use visual cues to find a place initially, once at the chosen site, they then resort to chemical cues to locate the exact crevice they want to inhabit within the structure. The source of these chemical cues may be beetle feces from the previous winter, the odor of beetles that died at the site, or an attractant pheromone.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists have found both camphor and menthol are irritants to the beetle's chemosensory organs. These organs—like little taste buds—are so sensitive the vapors from the two compounds are enough to repel the lady beetles. Multicolored Asian lady beetles could potentially be controlled using a "push-pull" strategy. They could be "pushed" from their overwintering sites by the camphor repellent and "pulled" into traps—using chemicals that mimic the natural cues they use to identify sites—without harming them.



Multicolored Asian lady beetles

Until a good "push-pull" strategy is developed, overwhelmed homeowners could try an indoor blacklight trap to capture flying beetles entering their home. The trap was invented by an ARS scientist in Georgia as a way to help collect this beneficial insect without harming the beetles. In previous ARS tests, the trap captured nearly 100% of the beetles. You can download instructions and a schematic for building a trap—in pdf format—from the USDA-ARS Web site. The Web address is www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2000/001030_trap.pdf. ARS is making the instructions on building the trap accessible on the Web with hope companies will build this much-needed trap. No patents, licenses or other restrictions apply to using this technology. Companies making the trap are asked, however, to contact ARS to be added to a "trap builders list" that will be available as a resource for the general public.



Indoor blacklight trap invented by the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Instructions for building the trap is on the USDA-ARS Web site.

Well Abandonments

At one time, the term "abandoned wells" was used to refer to wells not being used and in a state of disrepair. Today these wells are called "illegal wells." Illegal wells represent one of the greatest threats to groundwater and are a serious liability.

Groundwater normally is provided with some protection by a natural filter of soil, sand and gravel. Illegal wells are holes in the filter can allow contaminants to flow directly into our groundwater supply. After contaminants enter the groundwater supply they can move with the natural ground-

water flow and may show up in public or private wells used to provide drinking water.

In addition, illegal wells are a safety hazard to humans and animals. A child can easily fall into a large diameter illegal well. To reduce or eliminate these risks, Nebraska regulations require all illegal wells be decommissioned. All illegal water wells must be decommissioned following requirements of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System and must be carried out or supervised by an individual with a valid Nebraska Water Well Standards and Contractors'

license.

The decommissioning process will include removal of well equipment, disinfection, filling and sealing, capping and reporting. The price for decommissioning a well will depend on several factors including accessibility, construction technique and materials, depth and condition. Financial resources to help defray the cost of well decommissioning may be available from the Natural Resources District (NRD) serving your area.

Scrap Tire Collection Sept. 27 & 28 9 a.m.—9 p.m.

South parking lot, Shoemakers Truckstop
 NW 48 & West O Streets, Lincoln, NE

Will accept tires of all shapes and sizes
 with no limit, free of charge!

We cannot accept tires from dealers, outside the state or with rims.
 For more information, call 476-3590

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