

Tips to Make Your Yard and Community a Safer, Healthier Place

Meet Your Yard — Learn about the soils, plants, climate and wildlife around your home.

Be Plant Perfect — Avoid invasive plants and those not adapted to local conditions. Perfect plants are suited to their location requiring less water, fertilizer, pruning and pesticides.

Be Water Wise — Water lawns only when needed, but to the depth of the root zone. Consider replacing irrigated turf with drought tolerant ground covers.

Be a Pest Pro — Identify pests correctly. This allows for the most appropriate control method.

Police Pollution — Prevent fertilizer, pesticides and animal waste from entering water sources or wastewater systems.

Be Well Read — Read the label, its the law. Keep children and pets away from pesticides. Store and dispose of pesticides according to label instructions.

Go Native — Create wildlife habitat at home using native plant species. Remove invasive plants that may threaten or destroy native habitat.


Make a Pile — A compost pile recycles grass clippings, leaves and other organic material. It is a great natural fertilizer too.

Recycle Your Lawn — Leave the grass long when mowing and leave the clippings in place. This saves water and fertilizer. Never mow more than one third of the height of the grass.



Share the Joy — Whether you have a flawless lawn or a native landscape, keep your yard safe and well maintained to add beauty and value to your neighborhood.

This information was adapted from the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping as developed by the members of the Lawns and Environment Initiative (L&E). To learn more about the development of the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping and the L&E Initiative go to www.lawnsandenvironment.org



Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

Many plants are easily propagated by layering. Verbenas, euonymus, English ivy and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.

Cutting flowers is best done with sharp shears or a knife which will help avoid injury to the growing plant. A slanting cut will expose a larger absorbing surface to water and will prevent the base of the stem from resting on the bottom of the vase. It is best to carry a bucket of water to the garden for collecting flowers, rather than a cutting basket.

Cut back and fertilize delphinium and phlox to encourage a second flowering.

A brown or grayish cast over a lawn can be caused by a dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it.

Store pesticides in a safe place in their original containers, away from children and pets. Use pesticides carefully in your garden. Read the labels and follow the directions. The warnings and precautions are for your protection.

Certain pesticides have a waiting period of several days between the time of the last spray and harvest. Read and follow directions on all labels before applying to your vegetable crops. Wash all produce thoroughly before use.

Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water.

Divide and transplant bearded iris using the vigorous ends of the rhizomes. Discard the old center portion. Cut the leaves back to about six inches.

Tall flowers should be staked to prevent damage by wind. Use stakes which are large enough to support the plant but are not too conspicuous. Use soft twine or twist ties to secure.

Snapdragons should be pinched back after blooming to promote a second flush of growth.

A garden needs one inch of rain or water each week. Early morning is the best time to water. Evening watering is less desirable because plant leaves that remain wet through the night are more susceptible to fungus diseases. Mulch plants to reduce water losses and improve yields.

For fall harvest of lettuce, radish, carrots, beets, turnips, kale and spinach, sow seeds in late July to early August.

Continue to make successive plantings of crops like beans and sweet corn to provide a continuous harvest until fall. A small garden will produce a large quantity of vegetables if replanting is done throughout the summer.

Check the soil moisture of container-grown vegetables and flowers daily. As the temperature rises, some plants may need water twice a day.

Continue attracting insect-eating birds to the garden area by providing them with a fresh water source.

There is Still Time to Control Bagworms in Early July

Bagworm larvae hatched in early June and have been feeding on plant material for nearly a month. They are about half of their mature size and may be hard to see in leafy plant material. Take a walk through your landscape and check all your landscape plants, especially spruce and junipers.

If you find an outbreak of bagworms, chemical control may be needed. *Bacillus thuringiensis* is available at nurseries and garden centers as Dipel or Thuricide. Other insecticides currently

labeled for bagworm control include acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, malathion and permethrin. Affected plants must be thoroughly covered with the insecticide so the insects ingest it as they are feeding. Be sure to read and follow all label directions.

If you have a large infestation in your evergreen trees or shrubs, do not delay in controlling the bagworms. Feeding by mature caterpillars slows in August before pupation into adults, so chemical control in late



Young larva



Mature larva

summer and fall is not effective. By that time, your valuable landscape plants are already severely damaged by the maturing bagworms.

— Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional photos and video are online at <http://lanaster.unl.edu/hort> and color brochures are available at the extension office.

Use Local Firewood to Prevent Spreading Invasive Insects

Forestry experts are urging campers to purchase locally harvested firewood at their destination to prevent spreading invasive insects. Highly destructive, exotic insects such as emerald ash borer are frequently spread through the transport of infested firewood. Once introduced to new areas, these pests quickly become established and threaten local tree resources. By purchasing locally-harvested firewood and burning all wood on site, campers can help minimize this risk.

Emerald ash borer was recently found near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, just 300 miles from Nebraska. Foresters want to keep emerald ash borer out of Nebraska as long as possible. By encouraging people to purchase locally-harvested firewood at their destination is one of the best defenses against this pest being brought to Nebraska.

In states where emerald ash borer has been detected, the movement of firewood is regulated by state departments of agriculture and federal agencies. Currently, firewood quarantines exist in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and New York. In Canada, quarantines are in effect in Ontario and Quebec. While there are currently no mandates in Nebraska, people are being asked not to transport firewood.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer is a non-native, invasive insect that attacks and kills all North American ash species, including green ash, which is native to Nebraska, white, black and autumn purple ashes, all of which are popular landscape



Emerald ash borer is a bright, metallic green insect with a flat back. Adults are about a half inch long.

trees. The beetle disrupts the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. In Nebraska, there are an estimated 37 million ash trees growing in towns and cities, as well as forests and conservation plantings.

Symptoms of emerald ash borer include winding tunnels just under the bark, 1/8-inch, D-shaped exit holes on the trunk, as well as canopy loss, usually from the top down. Ash trees infested with emerald ash borer also may have sprouts growing from the roots or trunk of the tree. Other symptoms include vertical splitting in the bark on the trunk and increased woodpecker activity. The insect itself is bright, metallic green with a flat back. Adults are typically 1/2-inch long.

Since October 2007, state forestry agencies in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota have been working together to prepare for the arrival of invasive species, such as emerald ash borer, in

the Great Plains by assessing the region's tree resources, determining and addressing the potential impacts of invasives to those resources, creating public awareness of invasives and promoting species diversity. The project, the Great Plains Tree and Forests Invasives Initiative, is funded by a U.S. Forest Service grant and matching state funds.

For more information about identifying ash trees and emerald ash borer, visit <http://www.nfs.unl.edu> or <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>. For more information about the national effort to prevent the spread of invasive species through firewood movement, visit <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org>.

Those who suspect emerald ash borer in their trees, should contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at (402) 471-2394 or the National Emerald Ash Borer Hotline at (866) 322-4512.

Source: Nebraska Forest Service