Video of the Week: *Flower Bed Design*

**ORNAMENTALS**

Winter Watering of Landscape Plants

Some areas of Kansas have had an extended dry period and spells of warm weather. Landscape plants in these areas may need additional water to survive the winter unscathed. Newly planted trees and evergreens should be first on your list. Be sure to water all of the area from the trunk to the edge of the outermost branches (called the drip line) and not just near the trunk. Water to depth of 8 to 12 inches. This can be checked with a metal rod, dowel or screwdriver with a long tang. This tool is also helpful in insuring the soil isn’t frozen below the surface. Frozen soil will not allow water to soak in. Plants with a limited root system such as those near sidewalks will need to be watered more frequently than those in green areas. (WU)

Plants that Add Interest to the Winter Landscape

Landscapes tend to be dark and gray this time of year, but careful planning can result in subsequent winter gardens being more colorful and interesting. The key is selection of plant material and use of good design. Choose the vantage point from which the garden will be most commonly enjoyed. Select planting sites that are easily seen from this area. Green is the easiest color to add to a winter landscape with the use of broad-leaved evergreens, cedars, spruces and pines. Pines, and especially spruces, are not well adapted to Kansas conditions and need to be well cared for. Be careful if you decide to use blue spruce. The blue color will
draw the eye and can detract from the rest of the landscape. Normally, a single specimen plant works best. Of course, parts of the plants other than foliage can be colorful or interesting. Trees with horizontal branching patterns are interesting if there is snow-adding white to the bark color.

Some plants that should be considered for winter landscapes include:

**Redosier Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*). The young stems of this plant are bright red during the winter months and become more intensely colored toward spring. Older stems are often pruned out during the spring to encourage more of the young, more brightly colored twigs. Redosier Dogwood is shade tolerant.

**Yellow Twig Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera 'Flaviramea'*). This shrub is much like Redosier Dogwood except twigs are bright yellow rather than red.

**Winged Euonymus or Burning Bush** (*Euonymus alatus*). This is the shrub that attracts so much attention in the fall because of the flaming red color of the fall foliage. However, stems are also ornamental in the winter because of their winged characteristics, which tend to catch and hold snow.

**Lacebark Elm** (*Ulmus parvifolia*). This is the true Chinese elm. A tough durable tree, the lacebark elm adapts well to poor soils and extremes in pH. The bark is what really sets this tree apart during the winter due to its mottled combinations of gray, green, orange and brown. (WU)

**Plants Deer Don't Like**

With rising deer populations, damage to landscapes has increased because of browsing. But deer have preferences and will avoid some plant species if more desirable food is available. Following is a short list of plants deer normally do not bother. Even so, remember that feeding habits can shift because of changes in food supply. Also, some deer may have different preferences than most of the group.

**Rarely Damaged:**

Trees: Blue Spruce and Russian Olive

Shrubs: Barberry, Boxwood, Redosier Dogwood, Yew, Russian Olive, Rose of Sharon, European Privet

Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs: Yarrow, Ageratum, Columbine, Snapdragon, Lily of the Valley, Purple Cornflower, Lavender, Sweet Alyssum, Daffodil, Russian Sage, Marigold, Lamb's Ears, Thyme, and Yucca.
For more information on deer control, go to: http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/wldlf2/c728.pdf

For more information on plants deer don't like, go to:
http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/hortcult/treeshru/resistan.htm
(WU)

MISCELLANEOUS

All-America Selection Winners for 2011

All-America Selections tests and introduces new flowers and vegetables each year that have done well in trials across North America. This year there was one flower winner and three vegetable winners.

Descriptions and images below are taken directly from All-America Selection materials. For more detailed information including how to grow, see http://www.all-americaselections.org/Winners.asp

Gaillardia ‘Arizona Apricot’, AAS Flower Award Winner

Gaillardia ‘Arizona Apricot’ offers a new and unique apricot color for this class. Blooms have yellow edges that deepen to a rich apricot in the center. Judges noted the award-winning distinctive flower color of the 3 to 3.5 inch daisy-like flowers, described as exceptionally lovely and lighter in color than traditional gaillardia. Just 105 days after sowing seed, this Gaillardia x grandiflora will bloom from early summer into autumn. The compact 12-inch tall plants offer bright green foliage and a tidy uniform habit best viewed when planted to the front of the flower bed. ‘Arizona Apricot’ is free-flowering, blooming heavily without vernalization, covering the plant with bright blooms that look great in mass. This long-flowering perennial is hardy in USDA Zones 2-10, is relatively maintenance free, and drought-tolerant once established. Gardeners will want to remove old flowers to encourage additional blooming. Bred by Ernst Benary of America Inc.

Ornamental Kale ‘Glamour Red’ F1, AAS Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner

This is All-America Selections’ first winning kale (edible or ornamental) in 78 years of trialing! ‘Glamour Red’ is an excellent achievement in breeding for its unique shiny leaves. The waxless quality of the leaves makes them shiny with a more intense, vivid color as compared to existing ornamental brassicas. Judges noted that
the shiny foliage is striking in the landscape and it out-performed comparisons with outstanding success. It is a fringed leaf type Brassica oleracea with flower head size of 10 to 12 inches. This full sun annual will bloom 90 days from sowing seed to first color. Leaf coloring begins when night temperatures fall below 55°F for approximately two weeks. Expect good disease tolerance in all regions and frost tolerant blooms from November to March in warmer climates. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

**Salvia ‘Summer Jewel Red’, AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner**

This salvia coccinea was consistently rated “superior” or “above average” by the AAS judges because of its early and generous flower blossoms, continuing from spring to autumn. Additionally, each dwarf and densely branching plant remains a tidy 20 inches tall, even at full maturity. The bright red flower spikes are covered with half-inch blooms making it perfect for the bird lover’s garden where the bright red color acts as a magnet for hummingbirds. As an added bonus, goldfinches swarm the plant for seeds. Even the leaves add beauty with their finer-textured, dark-green color. ‘Summer Jewel Red’, just 50 days from sowing to first flower, is approximately two weeks earlier than comparisons. Expect long season performance and superior holding ability in both wind and rain. This annual is ideal for full sun containers, mixed beds and borders where uniformity is desired. Bred by Takii & Co., Ltd.

**Viola ‘Shangri-La Marina’ F1, AAS Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner**

This winning Viola cornuta is an early-flowering, mounding viola in a vibrant new color for this type. In trials, the 6-inch tall plants kept a low-growing mounding habit. Colorful and prolific 1¼-inch blooms have light blue petals with a velvety dark-blue face that is surrounded by a narrow white border. Judges noted earlier (70 days from sowing to first flower) and showier blooms with noticeable drive-by flower power. Flower color was a consistent deep Marina blue throughout the season. This vigorous frost-tolerant biennial provides a solid mat of fall color until covered with snow followed by a great recovery in spring. Grow in full sun as a low edging in the garden or in hanging baskets and pots. Bred by Tokita Seed Co., Ltd.
Pumpkin ‘Hijinks’ F1, AAS Vegetable Award Winner

‘Hijinks,’ defined as lively enjoyment and unrestrained fun is an apt name for this pumpkin winner that offers loads of seasonal fun for kids. This winning pumpkin variety produces small-sized, 6 to 7 pound fruits, of a very uniform size and shape. Smooth deep orange skin with distinctive grooves gives a classy appearance to fall decorations and is ideal for painting or carving. The strong durable stem makes a great handle. Gardeners can expect high yields, notable resistance to powdery mildew, easy fruit removal from plants and excellent stem attachment. Allow plenty of space in the garden for long vines that spread up to 15 feet. Early to mature, this Cucurbita pepo is ready for harvest in about 100 days from sowing or 85 days from transplant. Bred by Sakata Seed America, Inc.

Tomato ‘Lizzano’ F1, AAS Vegetable Award Winner

‘Lizzano’ is a vigorous semi-determinate tomato variety with a low-growing, trailing habit excellent for growing in patio containers or hanging baskets. In the garden, some staking will benefit this plant despite a nice compact and uniform growth habit. The durable, appealing plants grow 16 to 20 inches tall with a compact spread of only 20 inches. Expect abundant yields of high-quality, bright red, baby cherry sized fruits. The small 1-inch fruits weigh about 0.4 ounces. The plentiful fruit set allows for continual harvest beneficial for the home gardener. Judges noted better eating quality, yield and plant habit than comparisons. ‘Lizzano’ is the first late blight-tolerant cherry fruited semi-determinate variety on the market. Disease-resistant plants will last later into the growing season. Harvest begins 105 days from sowing seed or 63 days from transplant. Bred by Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd.

Tomato ‘Terenzo’ F1, AAS Vegetable Award Winner

‘Terenzo’ is a high-yielding red cherry fruited ‘Tumbler’ type of tomato that is a prolific producer on a tidy low-growing, trailing plant. The round fruit is a standard size cherry having an approximate size of 1¼ inches and an average weight of 0.7 ounces. A brix sugar content of 6 percent ensures this is sweet-tasting tomato. With a plant height of only 16 to 20 inches,
this compact variety is suitable for growing in hanging baskets or containers as a patio type tomato. This very easy-to-grow determinate bush variety requires little maintenance and produces fruits that are more resistant to cracking. ‘Terenzo’ is loaded with a bountiful harvest of flavorful, easy-to-pick fruits throughout the summer heat. Bred by Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd. (WU)

**Contributors:**
Ward Upham, Extension Associate

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