Video of the Week:  Protecting Roses for Winter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kansas Orchid Society, Fall Show & Sale

The Kansas Orchid Society will present their “Fall Show & Sale” at Botanica at the Wichita Gardens on November 4 & 5. For details, see: http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/upcoming-events/2017_KOS_Poster.pdf

Kansas Turfgrass Conference in conjunction with KNLA
December 5, 6 & 7, 2017
Kansas Expocentre, Topeka

Mark the date to attend the Kansas Turfgrass Conference in conjunction with KNLA on December 5, 6 & 7 in Topeka.

The conference is an excellent way to learn about turf, nursery and landscape management, visit with old friends, network with new ones, and see all the latest equipment and supplies from local and national vendors.

The conference has been approved for Commercial pesticide recertification hours:
1 Core hour       3A - 8.5 hrs       3B - 10 hrs

International Society of Arboriculture CEUs and GCSAA education points will also be available by attending the conference.

Download a copy of the program, get exhibitor information, or register online http://www.kansasturfgrassfoundation.com/annual-ktf-conference.html

TURFGRASS

Apply Late-Season Nitrogen Application in November

November is the time to give Kentucky bluegrass and tall
fescue lawns the last nitrogen application of the season. Why November? Because while top growth slows in response to cool temperatures, grass plants are still making food (carbohydrates) by photosynthesis. A November nitrogen application helps boost the photosynthesis rate. Carbohydrates that are not used in growth are stored in the crown and other storage tissues in the plant. These carbohydrate reserves help the turfgrass green up earlier in the spring and sustain growth into May without the need for early-spring (March or April) nitrogen. Those early-spring nitrogen applications are less desirable because they can lead to excessive shoot growth and reduced root growth. Other benefits of November-applied nitrogen for cool-season grasses include improved winter hardiness, root growth and shoot density.

How much should you apply? One to 1 to 1 ½ pounds actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. of lawn area is sufficient. In order for this application to be effective, the nitrogen must be readily available to the plant, because the growing season is nearly over. Therefore, for a November application, use a soluble (quickly-available) nitrogen carrier such as urea or ammonium sulfate. Many turfgrass fertilizers sold in garden centers and other retail outlets also contain soluble nitrogen. Avoid products that contain water-insoluble nitrogen (slow-release) for this application. As always, sweep up any fertilizer that gets on driveways, sidewalks, or streets and reapply it to the lawn. (Ward Upham)

FLOWERS

Garden Mums

As soon as garden chrysanthemums are done flowering, you may cut the plants back to 2 to 3 inches high. Some gardeners prefer to leave the top growth so that it provides some protection from fluctuating soil temperatures. If you choose to cut the tops off, apply a layer of mulch over the top of your mums after the ground has frozen or if the forecast calls for a sharp drop in temperature. Mums should not completely dry out during the winter. It may be necessary to water occasionally if sufficient rain or snow has not fallen. (Ward Upham)

ORNAMENTALS

Spring-flowering Plants Blooming in the Fall

Whenever we have a summer that puts a lot of stress on plants, bloom may appear on ornamentals that normally flower in the spring. This stress is usually caused by hot, dry periods but may be caused by other factors that stress the plant. We have noticed lilac and ornamental pears blooming this fall. Iris that are blooming now are probably reblooming varieties that normally bloom twice a year.
Fall flowering of plants is normally sparse and does not appreciably affect the amount of bloom the following spring. However, this may not be true this year as some reports of ornamental pears have them bloom as they do in spring. We will have to wait and see if this affects bloom next spring. (Ward Upham)

**VEGETABLES**

**Sweet Potato Growth Cracks**

Gardeners harvesting sweet potatoes may notice come that have cracks. These are known as growth cracks are usually caused by rains or heavy irrigation after a period of dry weather. The sweet potatoes can develop hard skin during dry weather which then cracks when there is a rapid uptake of water. However, high levels of nitrogen fertilization can also result in the tubers cracking as it can also lead to rapid growth.

Cracked tubers can still be used. Just pare out any damaged areas before cooking. (Ward Upham)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Draining Hoses and Irrigation Lines**

Hoses and shallow irrigation lines may be damaged over the winter if water is not drained. If there is a main shut-off valve for the system, close it and then run through the zones to make sure any pressure has a chance to bleed off. Lawn irrigation systems usually have shallow lines. Though some lines may be self-draining, check to be sure there are no manual drains. If manual drains are present, they should be opened. Be sure to map them so they can be closed next spring before the system is pressurized. If there are no manual drains the system should be blown out with an air compressor. Lawn irrigation companies often offer this service.

Drain hoses by stretching them out and coiling them for storage. Water will drain as you pull the hose toward you for coiling. Store in a protected place. UV light can make hoses brittle over time. (Ward Upham)

**Roasting Pumpkin Seeds**

Now that Halloween is past, you may be wondering what to do with the pumpkins that were used to decorate for the holiday. Consider roasting the seeds before freezing temperatures
destroys the pumpkin fruit. Cut open the pumpkin and remove the seeds and stringy material. Seeds should be washed and dried and the “strings” discarded. Toss the seeds with a little oil before roasting.

Flavor can be enhanced by adding a sprinkling of salt to the oiled seeds. Seeds can then be spread on a cookie sheet and roasted for about 25 minutes at 325 degrees F. Times may vary depending on the size and moisture content of the seed. Seeds are done when they turn a golden brown. If seeds are not eaten immediately, store in a zip closure bag in the refrigerator. (Ward Upham)

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To view Upcoming Events: [http://hnr.k-state.edu/events/index.html](http://hnr.k-state.edu/events/index.html)
The web version includes color images that illustrate subjects discussed. To subscribe to this newsletter electronically, send an e-mail message to cdipman@ksu.edu or wupham@ksu.edu listing your e-mail address in the message.

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