



THE GARDEN VIEW

Utah State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Mother Nature's giant celebration

(Vol. 1 No. 5) - November/December 2008

I love fall; it is Mother Nature's giant celebration at the conclusion of the growing season. The mountains surrounding us turn brilliant reds, oranges and yellows, and our landscapes join in the spectacle with their own wonderful colors, sounds and smells. Even the weather cooperates providing cool nights and warm days, adding to the delightful party atmosphere. It is a great time to be outdoors enjoying nature and, of course, the Utah Botanical Center and the Ogden Botanical Gardens.

Thank you for visiting the gardens, attending classes, walking through the Farmers Market or just dropping by to talk. It has been a great growing season, and everyone who came to enjoy the gardens and other events we offered made all our time and work well worth the effort. You have proved the old adage, "gardeners are the best people in the world."

We hope you feel welcomed in the gardens. More exciting events and classes are on the calendar for next year. One excit-

ing change is publishing *The Garden View* monthly. Hopefully this will help you stay better informed on what to look for and do in your own landscape and garden, while keeping you abreast of developments in the gardens.

Please continue visiting and walking through our gardens throughout the fall and winter. Remember, there is always something happening in a garden.

Jerry L. Goodspeed
Ogden Botanical Gardens

Fall Tree Planting

By JayDee Gunnell



There are two reasons that fall is the best time to plant trees.

The first contributing factor (as is everything else in life) is financially driven. This time of year, nurseries are motivated to get rid of their stock so they don't have to store it over the winter. Because of this, they usually have some great fall sales. The second factor making fall an optimal time to plant has more to do with the physiology of the trees themselves.

Within trees there is a constant balancing act of

energy production that is influenced by the changing seasons. In the spring as the trees buds start to swell, stored energy moves upward and outward from the root system to supply the newly emerging leaves.

In late spring and summer, peak growth occurs because leaves are constantly producing energy by means of photosynthesis while the roots actively supply water to the whole growth equation.

During the fall months, energy produced by the leaves begins to be sequestered downward to the root system where it is stored for next season's growth. This causes the energy balance within the tree to shift from overall growth to storage.

Cooler fall temperatures reduce the trees' demand for water. This, along with reduced growth rate, creates ideal conditions for planting new trees. The trees have an easier time transitioning from the container to the landscape and experience less "transplant shock" that often occurs in the heat of summer during peak growth when water is in high demand.

So get out to a local nursery this fall and plant some trees—if not for your pocket book, do it for the trees.



Wetland Discovery Point at the Utah Botanical Center is nearly complete. We will highlight at the project in our next issue!

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email Davis County: jayne.mulford@usu.edu or Weber County: kathy.bardwell@usu.edu

Featured Tree

By JayDee Gunnell

'BAKERI' SPRUCE

Type: Medium-size, evergreen

Zone: 3 (-30 to -40F)

Size: 30-35 feet tall
15-20 feet wide

Description:

Colorado Spruce (*Picea pungens*) make good wind breaks and provide over-wintering sites for birds. Spruce are native to Utah and grow well in many soils along the Wasatch Front providing there is adequate drainage. 'Bakeri' is a cultivar with more consistent silvery-blue hues than the species. Its shape is more open and irregular and is a better selection for home landscapes as it is about one-third to half the size of the species.



Featured Pest

By Jerry L. Goodspeed



One of the most common pests we run into in late fall and early winter are spiders. Many of these otherwise helpful arachnids decide they want a nice warm place to spend the winter. Many people find this invasion offensive.

Almost all native spiders in Utah are beneficial and welcome guests if they stay outside. But, most of us do not want them in our homes, so here are a couple of methods to keep them outdoors. First, make certain your house is sealed up tight. Caulk all

cracks and small openings around the base of the house where they might enter. This is especially true for the seals and screens around doors and windows.

Second, keep shrubs and other plant materials that spiders like away from the house. For example, thick plants like junipers, yews, arborvitae and others should not be planted right next to the foundation. Space them far enough away from the home to allow a good one to two feet of clearance between the house and the plants once they mature. This helps keep spiders in the plants and not wandering around the walls of your home looking for a place to enter.

Once spiders are in the home and you are anxious to get rid of them, here are a few options. Place spider sticky traps along baseboards and under furniture where you suspect they are hiding. These traps are designed to capture spiders and other small creeping critters as they crawl across. Such traps are safe and family-friendly. Another option is to use the simple quick-step-and-smash method. Then, if these methods prove ineffective, hire an exterminator. Keep in mind, however, that most spiders are beneficial and are merely looking for other small critters and insects to eat.

Featured Perennial

By Richard M. Anderson

Whirling Butterflies

(*Gaura lindheimeri*)

Type: Herbaceous, upright perennial.

Zone: 4 (-20F)

Size: 2 ½ to 3 feet tall and 2 ½ to 3 feet wide

Description:

Gaura lindheimeri is one of those special plants that bloom from spring until frost. White or pink flowers top a compact base of lance-shaped leaves on tall wiry stems that move with every breeze. *Gaura lindheimeri* grows best in full sun and is adaptable to many soil types. It requires no laborious deadheading, but a simple mid-summer shearing of the flower stalks can revitalize and extend the growing season. As with many herbaceous perennials, cutting the plant down to the crown in late winter prepares it for the new spring growth. *Gaura lindheimeri* can be used in the classic perennial border or massed to produce airy, dramatic mounds of wonderful color. Combine with other perennials and grasses to create limitless possibilities of garden design along the Wasatch Front. This is an easy perennial for the novice and will reward the most experienced gardener.



Pasture and Utility Turf Display By Shawn Olsen

Are you planning to plant a small livestock pasture or utility turf area?

If so, check out the small acreage demonstration site at the south end of the Legacy Center parking lot at the Davis County Fairgrounds, 1100 W. State St. in Farmington.

A total of 19 different species and mixtures of grasses are displayed. Each plot is labeled and the fairgrounds are open year round. For irrigated pastures, a mixture of smooth brome and orchard grass has done very well. For sites with little or no irrigation, the cabin mixture with sheep fescue and crested wheatgrass has done well. This mixture was originally developed for use around cabins at Bear Lake and makes a good utility turf that will grow with little or no irrigation. For soils with a high salt content, some grasses with good salinity tolerance include NewHy hybrid wheatgrass, tall fescue and tall wheatgrass.



The GARDEN CALENDAR



► Visit the Utah Botanical Center, and Ogden Botanical Gardens to enjoy fall and winter.

► Apply 1/2 pound nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of turfgrass in early November.

► Mow the lawn between 1 1/2 to 2 inches high to prevent winter damage.

► Prepare evergreens for winter by trickling water from a hose about 2-4 feet away from the trunk, for 1 to 2 hours.

► Cut roses back to about 4 feet tall to prevent heavy snow load damage.

► Protect roses by mulching the base 4 to 6 inches above the graft union.

► Clean up perennials for winter by removing dead plant material and cutting them back to 2-4 inches high.

► Work organic matter into the garden to decompose throughout the winter. Apply nitrogen fertilizer to help break it down before tilling.

► Clean all tools and make sure they are dry before storing for winter. Sharpen and grease pruners and loppers.

► Seal and caulk openings around basements, windows and doorways to prevent spider invasions.

► Walk through crisp fall leaves and enjoy their crunch and aroma.

Utah Botanical Center Upcoming Events

COME VISIT THE UTAH HOUSE

920 South 50 West, Kaysville (801-544-3089)
Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm

► Volunteer "Thank You" Luncheon—Thursday, Nov. 6, 12 p.m.



Photo by Anne Spranger ©2007

Ogden Botanical Gardens Upcoming Events

COME VISIT THE OGDEN BOTANICAL GARDENS

1750 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden (801-399-8201)
The Education Building is closed for the season.
Re-opens in April 2009

2009 MASTER GARDENER COURSE

► Registration forms mailed—December 2008. If you are interested in registration information call 801-399-8201 or email kathy.bardwell@usu.edu to have your name added to the mailing list. For more information: <http://extension.usu.edu/weber>.

► Master Gardener Course Orientation—Indicated on registration form. Plan to attend this informative meeting for answers prior to registration.

► Master Gardener Course Registration—Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, 8 a.m. at Weber County USU Extension Office, 1181 N. Fairgrounds Dr., Ogden. Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to registration to get in line and take a number. Enrollment in Weber County is limited to 30 students.

► Master Gardener Course—Wednesdays, Feb. 4 thru Apr. 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m.



COMING EVENTS/CLASSES FOR 2009

Here is just a sampling of the many events/classes that are planned:

► Pruning Classes—Mar. 28, 9-12 a.m. (Roses, fruit trees, ornamentals, etc.)

► Landscape Design Course—March 12, 19, 26, April 2 at 1-3:30 p.m.

Classes: (Class fee requires pre-registration)

March—Making Wreaths and Decorating Around Them

April—Making Troughs

May—Making Hanging Baskets

July—Soap-making

August—Growing and Using Herbs

September—Drying Flowers and Making Cards with Botanicals

October—Fall Flower Arranging

Annual Ogden Botanical Gardens Plant Sale—May 14-15

"Art in the Gardens Gala"—15th Anniversary of the Ogden Botanical Gardens—June 26 Watch for more information about this very special celebration.

"Dessert First"—Held monthly, come enjoy a treat while learning from a different expert on a variety of topics. (Formerly called "Lunch in the Gardens with an Expert.")

Have Yourself A Green Holiday

By Jayne Mulford

With a little effort we can reduce our environmental impact during the holiday season. Here are a few suggestions to help celebrate the season and think green:

► Make homemade cards from old calendars or old cards. Cut pieces of photos out and glue them to card stock. Children's art work is also a great resource for your family card.

► Buy smart. Look for locally made gifts or those made from recycled sources. Give children "battery-free" gifts. Give homemade jams, jellies and other goodies in re-useable containers.

► Reuse and recycle gift wrap. Look for paper's recycle content and use tape sparingly, which makes it easier for the recipient to reuse or recycle wrapping.

► Low impact lighting. Reduce energy use by limiting outdoor lighting and use low watt mini lights. LED holiday lights are now available and use 95% less energy.

► Give the gift of your time. Give a "gift certificate" for preparing a special dinner for a friend or loved one, or an IOU to help with a project. This can be a great way to reduce spending.

► If possible, choose locally produced food for special meals. This cuts down on "food miles" or the amount of fuel needed to transport food, and helps support your local economy.



CONTACT INFORMATION

UTAH BOTANICAL CENTER—801-593-8969

<http://utahbotanicalcenter.org>

GARDENING HELP LINE

Phone: 801-451-3204 (M,W,F) 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

OGDEN BOTANICAL GARDENS—801-399-8080

<http://extension.usu.edu/weber>

GARDENING HELP LINE

Phone: 801-399-8080 (Mon-Fri) 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.