

May 2009—*Oklahoma Gardening Shows*

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May 23 & 24

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3548)

OETA air date: May 30 and 31, 2009

OETA airtime: Saturday 11:00 a.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.

(Rerun of Show #3516, originally aired on October 18 and 19, 2008)

Oklahoma's Growing Wine Industry – In this segment Dr. Eric Stafne, Assistant Professor and Fruit Crop Extension Specialist, joins us to discuss the developing grape and wine industries in Oklahoma. Dr. Stafne shares with us a brief history of Oklahoma grape production and tips on getting started with grape production. His suggestion, educate yourself. Many opportunities are available to the interested student, including his annual Grape Production Course which familiarizes present and potential Oklahoma grape growers with grape management requirements throughout the growing season. More information on this and other educational opportunities is available on-line at <http://www.grapes.okstate.edu/>.

We also discuss grape production in the home garden. For wine production, as few as 5-10 vines can produce a suitable quantity of grapes to produce a 5 gallon carboy of wine. In general, hybrid grapes will be easier to manage in Oklahoma than the European (*Vitus vinifera*) varieties. Dr. Stafne also recommends table grapes for the home. These tend to have fewer disease problems and are easier to manage than most wine grapes. He suggests cultivars from the Arkansas breeding program, such as the cultivars Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune.

Oklahoma's wineries also offer the opportunity for tourism. A map of vineyards in the state can be found at the Oklahoma Tourism website

(<http://agritourism.travelok.com/adventure.aspx?Level=AdventureType&ID=15>)

or you can find information on the Oklahoma Grape Growers' and Wine Makers' Association webpage (<http://oklahomawines.org/OklahomaWines.htm>).

To support the growing wine industry, a new educational opportunity will be offered April 3 and 4, 2009. The OSU School of Hotel and Restaurant Administration will present the first annual Oklahoma Wine Forum, with backing and support from OSU Alumni Carl and Marilyn Thoma, owners of Van Duzer Winery in Oregon. The forum will offer unique educational opportunities with an array of venues ranging from tasting panels with vintners, to an assortment of lectures by noted wine educators, vintners, scholars and scientists. The forum will also showcase the benefits of sustainability in the context of grape production and wine making.

Echinacea Varieties with Plant Breeder Arie Blom – In this segment we interview plant breeder Arie Blom of AB-Cultivars. Mr. Blom started crossing various ornamental plants in his backyard in 2002. He has since released five Echinacea cultivars. Each new introduction represents years of breeding. Only plants that demonstrate a clear improvement to the existing trade assortment or unique character are placed into production. The following are Echinacea presented in this segment:

Echinacea purpurea 'Pink Double Delight' - This cultivar is very floriferous with pink, fully double pom-pom-like flowers. The cone of the flowers completely consists of ray flowers, which are however shorter

than the lowest ray flowers, normally present with *Echinacea purpurea*. The plant develops many and very well branching flower stems, giving rise to a very floriferous plant habit. The stems are short, reaching a maximum height of about 26". Flowering starts mid-June and continues until September.

Echinacea purpurea 'Coconut Lime' - This cultivar is very floriferous with pon-pon-like flowers. The color of the cone is pale lime, pairing nicely with the white basal ray flowers. The ray flowers of the cone are tubular in shape and shorter than the basal ray flowers. This plant stands out because of its high number of flowering stems. It reaches a height of approximately 30". Flowering continues until September. Deadheading is recommended as it may extend the flowering period a little and provides a more tidy appearance.

Echinacea purpurea 'Meringue' - 'Meringue' is a sweet little *Echinacea* cultivar bearing beautiful white double flowers with a yellowish center. The disk flowers of this cultivar grow out into very long, tubular flowers, making a yellowish pompon, which is held up by a ring of pure white ray flowers. The short flower stems create a strong plant with an upright habit, and a maximum height of 18". Flowering starts in July and continues until in September.

Echinacea hybrid 'Hot Papaya' - This exciting new introduction is the first *Echinacea* hybrid with orange, fully double flowers. An interspecific cross (a cross between two species) has produced this fantastic hybrid. The astonishing flowers have a deep orange color and do not fade as they age. The cone completely consists of petals, in the same color as the lower ray flowers. Flowering of 'Hot Papaya' starts early, beginning in June, and continues until August. The very strong stems will reach about 32" and branch very well.

International Rose Test Garden – Portland is known as the city of roses, and we simply could not leave the city without sharing the magnificent International Rose Test Gardens. Founded in 1917, Portland's are the oldest official, continuously operated public rose test garden in the United States. The garden houses nearly 8,000 roses, representing well over 500 cultivars. The primary purpose of the garden is to serve as a testing ground for new rose varieties and to show the public what is commercially available. The garden is one of 24 official testing sites for the internationally respected All-American Rose Selection (AARS) and is one of six testing sites for the American Rose Society miniature rose test program.

In this segment, we present the 2009 AARS winning selections:

Pink Promise – This graceful hybrid tea rose has delicate pink blooms on long stems for cutting. Selected by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, *Pink Promise* represents a continual blooming promise of compassion and awareness. For every *Pink Promise* plant purchased, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation to help extend women's lives through education and early detection. In addition to large pink blooms, the plant supports dark green foliage. *Pink Promise* has good disease resistance, flourishing in many climates. The blooms are also highly fragrant, carrying a delightful, fruity aroma. *Pink Promise* was hybridized by Jim Coiner and introduced by Coiner Nursery of LaVerne, California.

Carefree Spirit™ - Today's gardeners are looking for a rose that is easy to maintain. As a result, AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub rose candidates in its 24 test gardens nationwide beginning in 2004.

Carefree Spirit is the first and so far only landscape shrub to endure this real-world testing and be selected as a winner. This highly disease resistant selection has a compact, mounding habit and deep red blossoms speckled with white, turning to pink and white as they mature. *Carefree Spirit* was bred from parent rose, *Carefree Delight*™, which was an AARS Winner in 1996. However *Carefree Spirit* has even better disease

resistance and blooming power than its parent rose, promising to perform well in any area of the country. *Carefree Spirit* was hybridized by Jacques Mouchotte, director of research at Meilland International and introduced by Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, Pennsylvania.

Cinco de Mayo™ - A charming rose, with an unusual bloom color, *Cinco de Mayo* is a seedling of the much loved *Julia Child*. This floribunda rose never stops blooming, with clusters of smoky, rusty red-orange blossoms. Its compact habit makes *Cinco de Mayo* ideal for use as a hedge or in a border. *Cinco de Mayo* has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. *Cinco de Mayo* was hybridized by Tom Carruth and is introduced by Weeks Roses of Wasco, California.

Flower Carpet® Roses from Monrovia Nursery – While visiting with Nicholas Staddon, Director of New Plant Introductions for Monrovia Nursery, Nicholas shares with several new Carpet Rose varieties that are hitting the market. Carpet Roses are ideal for their ease of care.

Flower Carpet® Pink Supreme Ground Cover Rose - Lovely pink blooms tinged with white are displayed over an extra long flowering period. No fancy pruning, these low-growing, densely branched shrubs are highly resistant to black spot and mildew and tolerant of high heat environments. Plant Culture: deciduous, full sun, moderate grower to 24 to 36 inches tall and 36 to 40 inches wide.

Flower Carpet® Scarlet Ground Cover Rose - Easy care ground cover shrub that produces masses of brilliant, scarlet-red flowers from spring through fall. Flowers up to 10 months in warmer climates. Glossy, dark green foliage is resistant to mildew and black spot. Ideal in borders, pots, and hanging baskets. Plant Culture: fast growing, spreading shrub 2 to 3 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide, full sun, deciduous.

Flower Carpet® Amber Ground Cover Rose - From soft red buds, an abundance of semi-double peachy-amber flowers, fading to seashell pink, envelope the plant and are fragrant - a first for the series. Features higher disease resistance than others in the series. Beautiful in containers or en masse. A vigorous but compact shrub 24 to 30 in. tall and wide. Full sun.

Bridge Garden – We have a dedicated group of volunteers, our Garden Ambassadors. This year we have two gardens that were designed in part by our volunteers. Earlier this season we looked at our Patriotic Garden, in this segment we visit the Bridge Garden. Garden Ambassador Billie Richardson was part of the team that helped design the bridge garden and she joins Kim to describe the process. The theme of the garden is “Morning, Noon, and Evening, Too”. The garden is designed to shine at all times of the day, with morning bloomers on the east end of the garden, and evening bloomers on the west. Many plant materials were chosen based on the time of day they bloom (e.g. morning glories and four o’clock’s). Other plants were included because the name contains a reference to the time of day, such as ‘Morning Light’ *Miscanthus* and ‘Sunrise’ *Echinacea*. On the west end, plants with silver foliage were also included, as these shine brightly in the moon light. Billie describes the many challenges in designing a garden on paper, and shares with us some tips from her first experience with design.

Some of the plants included with this theme are:

- Morning Glory, *Ipomea purpurea* ‘Sunrise Blend’
- Chinese Silver Grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, ‘Morning Light’
- Coneflower, *Echinacea* hybrid ‘Sunrise’
- Coleus, *Solenostemon* sp. ‘Alabama Sunset’
- Moonflower, *Ipomea x alba calonyction*

- Russian Sage, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Vegetable Garden Chores – This week in the vegetable garden we can start planting southern peas. We can also plant our sweet potato slips. Be careful not to add too much nitrogen-rich fertilizer to sweet potatoes in your garden. Soil high in nitrogen will make the potato bushes grow well above ground but few or no sweet potatoes will grow underground because the plant will put all of its energy into the leaves and stems.

Announcements

The Muskogee Garden Club will feature its Muskogee Garden Tour, Saturday, June 13, 2009 with gardens from the Country Club featured between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5. In addition, a non-profit vendor area and club plant sale will be held as a fundraiser. Contact oyana@att.net or 918-683-5380 for more information.

Also, the Tulsa Area Daylily Society will have an AHS Daylily Show and Sale Saturday, June 13 at the Tulsa Garden Center which you won't want to miss.

Next Week on Oklahoma Gardening – Next week we will be visiting with Shawna Lee Coronado, our featured speaker for Summer Garden Fest, which is coming up on Saturday, June 13. Shawna is making a difference in her community by building a healthier lifestyle, greener environment, and stronger community through gardening. She is sure to inspire all of you with her energy and passion.

Please contact your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Office for more educational information on garden-related topics. If you need further information about this week's show, call (405) 744-5404 or visit our website <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu>. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3547)

OETA air date: May 23 and 24, 2009

OETA airtime: Saturday 11:00 a.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.

Canning with Barbara Brown – Barbara Brown, Extension Food Specialist, gives us information on home canning.

Vegetable Garden Chores – This week in the vegetable garden we can continue to plant out our winter squash and peanuts. As the planting schedule has slowed down a bit, now is a good time to collect all the items you'll need to start canning.

Announcements

The Tulsa Audubon will be hosting its 16th Annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and May 31 from noon until 5 p.m. You can begin the tour at any featured garden. Visit their website at www.tulsaaudubon.org for tour information and a map of featured gardens or call 918-521-8894 for more information.

We will be holding our annual Summer Garden Fest here at the studio on Saturday, June 13. This year we invite you to “Get Your **GREEN** On” – grow a healthier world and stronger community through gardening. Learn simple ways to **GREEN** your landscape, visit our new Organic Vegetable Garden, and stop to smell the native flowers. Make sure to bring the children and grandchildren along to take part in activities at the Children’s Gardening Booth. And be sure to visit the 4-H Centennial Garden – designed and installed by 4-H students who will be on hand to share their garden with you!

Next Week on Oklahoma Gardening – Next week we bring you another “Best of *Oklahoma Gardening*” episode as we travel home from Japan. Be sure to watch for the amazing plants and gardens we visited along the way over the next month.

Please contact your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Office for more educational information on garden-related topics. If you need further information about this week's show, call (405) 744-5404 or visit our website <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu>. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3546)

OETA air date: May 16 and 17, 2009

OETA airtime: Saturday 11:00 a.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.

(Rerun of Show #3518, aired on 11/1-2/08 and Show #3519, aired on 11/8-9/08)

Design Series: Plant Function – In this segment Kim discusses the various roles plants play in the landscape. Selecting plants for the garden can be a daunting task. The best way to approach this design challenge is to think in terms of plant form and function, rather than plant names. Plants can play very specific roles in a garden, based largely on their form and size. We look at a few of these functions, starting with accent plants.

An accent is the focal point or center of attention in a garden. It is not necessarily large or tall, but is of special interest throughout the seasons through form, color or texture. The Japanese Maple in this shady bed is a wonderful accent. It is interesting both for the fine texture of the leaves and also the red coloration of the foliage. When the leaves fall, the intricate branching pattern continues to provide interest in the winter months. And new foliage on Japanese Maples tend to be very colorful, making the trees stand out even among a batch of bulbs.

The accent is surrounded by supporting plants, mainly herbaceous perennials. Together, they tie our accent into its surroundings. One way to consider using support plants is to flank the accent by placing plants to the left and/or right of the accent. Supporting plants are typically created through mass planting. If we used just one of several species, the garden would become too complicated and confused. At different times of the year, one mass may be more prominent than another due to a brilliant floral display or unusual foliage color. But together, their role is secondary to the main accent.

It is not necessary to have only one accent in a garden, however, the number of accents should be proportional to the size of the garden. An accent must have sufficient space surrounding it to set it apart

as an accent. When we have too many accents placed in close proximity, they lose their individual importance. Often, where two accents are used together, one is more dominant than the other. An example may be a medium-sized, rounded tree planted with a smaller, vase-shaped shrub.

Another role plants play in the landscape is that of a backdrop. The backdrop creates the stage on which our accents perform. A backdrop may also serve a dual purpose by acting as a screen. Often, the backdrop is a tall hedge, but may also be a structure such as a wall or trellis, or even a mass of flowers. Again, size is not the determining factor, but rather how the backdrop complements the accent.

Some plants are used as a transition from one element to another. We use transitions to soften abrupt changes, such as the change in canopy from trees to groundcovers, or the change in scale from a tight, enclosed space to a wide open area. A transition can also be used on a smaller scale to move between sharply contrasting colors or textures. You might have an intermediate green between yellow and dark green foliated plants.

Masses plantings can be used to create separation between two very distinct areas. Typically we think of low growing, spreading plants as groundcover, but small annuals and perennials, when planted in mass can have the same effect. Groundcovers can be very effective at highlighting or underlining an accent. They also help unite a garden and can reduce maintenance of weeds.

The various plant types work together to support the accent. This can be accomplished in several ways, by creating a backdrop, flanking the accent or underlining it through use of a groundcover. Of course, many of these roles can also be filled by hardscape elements in addition to plants. For example, a fountain or sculpture makes a very strong focal point.

Design Series: Designing a Planting Bed – In this segment Kim demonstrates how to draw planting plans on paper. During the early stages of the design process, we are not interested in what specific plant materials will be utilized; rather, we are placing individual plants and groups of plants according to their function. Plant names will come later.

Start by drawing the outline of our garden. The shape of the bed will be determined by its surroundings, as well as the overall style of the landscape. Don't forget to add any permanent fixtures or structures into the bed.

Once we have established the bed outline we begin by adding our accents. A large bed may have more than one focal point. Then, the accent needs a backdrop. The backdrop will vary depending on the type of planting bed you have. If there was a fence or a wall behind the planting, a row of three low- to medium-sized evergreen shrubs would make a good backdrop behind the accent. In an island bed the backdrop might cut through the center of the bed and act as a backdrop for two different accents viewed from different angles. When drawing your plans, you want to plan for the mature size of the planting.

Next, add the supporting material around our accents. Remember, support material works best in groups or masses, depending on the size of the bed; this may be a group of 5, 7, 9 or more plants. One way you can get a general idea of how large your masses need to be for a given area is to lay out empty plant containers, juice jugs or any material you have on hand to help visualize the role of the support material in our bed.

Now we add transitional material to tie the pieces of the garden together. This is an opportunity to add diversity in plant material. But we do not want to distract from our accent. We want to bridge gaps in height, mass or texture to help the eye move more smoothly across the garden. The transitional material

should be proportionate to the space being filled.

Finally, we have areas where groundcovers, annuals or other low-growing plants can be used effectively to underline or highlight our accent. This material can be changed with the seasons. For example, you might plant a mass of daffodils for spring color, and over-plant these with pansies to give us a little color throughout the colder months. When the bulbs die out next season, you can come in with some fresh summer annuals.

Kim demonstrates how to create plan and elevation drawings of the planting bed. Plan drawings provide a birds-eye view of the garden. This type of drawing is useful for organizing the garden space. It provides us the relative sizes of plants and plant groupings in terms of how much ground space they occupy. It does not give any indication of plant height. For this, we need to create a separate drawing called an elevation drawing. An elevation view is oriented from the viewer's perspective, looking at the garden as we more typically do, from the ground. This type of drawing allows us to see the relative heights of the various components of the garden.

As you work through this process remember, the basic structure or bones of the garden is created using plant form and function. Colors, textures and blossoms are secondary; they work to support or emphasize that structure. This is why, during the early stages of design, it is so important to think in terms of plant form, size and function, and leave plant names out until later.

Plants presented in the design bed:

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum' – Purple Fountain Grass

Nandina domestica 'Fire Power' - Dwarf Nandina

Prunus cerasifera – 'Krauter Vesuvius' Cherry Plum

Alternanthera dentata - Purple Alternanthera

Acer ginnala – Amur Maple

Design Series: Plant Selection – The next step in creating our planting design is to add texture and color. We have already created a planting plan and established the structure of the garden, including the bed line, plant functional groups and general plant forms, now we can start to fill in the details by adding texture and color. A chart is a great way to keep all this information organized. Starting from the general and moving toward the specific, we can record the various traits desired for each of our different functional groups. Work from function to form then add texture and color. Remember that most flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials are only in bloom for a relatively short period of time each year. This is why it is more important to select plants based on form and texture, leaving color to the end as a supporting element.

With regards to flower color, you also want to consider bloom time – plan to have groups of plants blooming at different times throughout the season.

Once we have an idea of the texture, color and bloom period, we start to identify possible plants that can be used to fit the various roles. There are many great resources to aid you in your search for plants to meet your needs.

You can find a wide selecting of books on plant types and planting design at the library or bookstore. These are all organized in very different ways. This perennial book is organized by plant size and bloom period, making it easy to find a plant that fits your different needs. I like to look for books that have tables, because all the information is laid out very orderly and I can cross reference one plant to another. This is a good example, where the table shows foliage color for various trees during each

season of the year. It even uses colors to help visualize the appearance over the year.

OSU Extension has a pair of fact sheets that can help you identify perennials and annuals well suited for a variety of uses. These include: [HLA-6410 Perennial Flowers for Specific Uses in Oklahoma](#) and [HLA-6425 Annual Flowers for Specific Uses in Oklahoma](#).

There are also a variety of websites with searchable databases that allow you to search by color, bloom time, size and other characteristics.

Fall Color

Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) has brilliant orange, red or yellow leaves that grace the tree in autumn. The canopy has a beautiful rounded form, reaching a height of 30' to 45' with only a slightly smaller spread. The size makes it very useful as a street tree. The plant tolerates a wide range of conditions including dry and alkaline soils. Chinese Pistache is a tough tree tolerant of drought, heat and heavy soils. In addition to beautiful fall foliage, the fruits are also attractive – drupes produced in clusters, matures to a robin's egg blue or red in the fall; blue drupes are fertile.

Firthorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*) is a large, upright, rounded shrub reaching a diameter of about 18 feet. The plant performs best in full sun and well drained soils, and is fairly drought tolerant. Firethorn is evergreen, but is most valued for its magnificent fall and winter fruit display. The beautiful orange fruit hang on the shrub all winter long, depending on how hungry the birds get in the lean months. The berries are a favorite of cedar wax wings. Cut fruiting branches make a great addition to a cut arrangement, or can be used in holiday wreaths. The shrub itself is rather unruly, and requires either a lot of space or vigilant pruning. Space is the better option, because hidden among the foliage are numerous sharp thorns.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a small tree reaching a maximum height of about 30 feet. It is native to eastern United States where it grows as an understory tree. As such, flowering dogwood performs best in shaded conditions. In fact, it may commonly scorch if it receives too much sun. The fall foliage is a magnificent burgundy red, and also visible are bright shiny red fruits. In the spring, the tree produces a profusion of white blossoms.

Vegetable Garden Chores – This week we can start planting our winter squash as well as peanuts. And if you sprouted sweet potatoes they should be ready to separate into individual slips. To do this, you take each sprout and carefully twist it off of the sweet potato, lay it in a shallow bowl with the bottom half of the stem submerged in water and the leaves hanging out over the rim of the bowl. Within a few days roots will emerge from the bottom of each new plant. When the roots are about an inch long the new slips are ready to plant, starting about the first of June.

Announcements

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will host its 32nd Annual Wildflower Workshop in Boise City on June 5 and 6. The workshop is themed “Dinosaurs to Dustbowl” and will feature presentations on native ferns and fruits from western Oklahoma and will include field trips to Autograph Rock, Black Mesa and other sites. For more information call 580-423-7237

The Tulsa Audubon will be hosting its 16th Annual Wildlife Habitat Garden Tour and Plant Sale on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and May 31 from noon until 5 p.m. You can begin the tour at any featured garden. Visit their website at www.tulsaaudubon.org for tour information and a map of featured gardens or call 918-521-8894 for more information.

Summer Garden Fest is just a few weeks away, this year it will be Saturday, June 13, right here in the

studio gardens. Be sure to watch for more information on the event in the coming weeks.

Next Week on Oklahoma Gardening – We have had a great deal of interest this season about canning fruits and vegetables from your home garden. Our very own food specialist Barbara Brown has shared several aspects of canning with us over the past few weeks. Next week, we will pull these all together for an in-depth lesson in canning. Be sure to tune in to *Oklahoma Gardening*.

Please contact your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Office for more educational information on garden-related topics. If you need further information call (405) 744-5404 or visit our website <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu>. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3545)
OETA air date: May 9 and 10, 2009
OETA airtime: Saturday 11:00 a.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.

This week on *Oklahoma Gardening* we visit TLC Florist and Greenhouses in Oklahoma City to take a peek at new plants for the 2009 season.

Annuals and Herbs – April Enos joins us to present new annuals for the garden.

Sun Coleus, *Coleus* hybrids

Lemon Twist

Kingswood Carnival

Black Knight

Red Trailing

Tapestry

Diablo del Sol

Splash

Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia aristata*, ‘Gallo Orange Tipped Yellow’

Ageratum, *Ageratum houstonianum* ‘Patina Delft’

Lobelia, *Lobelia erinus* ‘Techno Heat Dark Blue’

Lobelia, *Lobelia erinus* ‘Techno Heat Upright Dark Blue’

Salvia, *Salvia farinacea*, ‘Deep Blue’ and ‘White’

Lantana, *Lantana carolina*, ‘Candy Apple’

Angelonia, *Angelonia carita*, ‘Raspberry’

Million Bells, *Calibrachoa* MiniFamous™ ‘Double Blue’

Million Bells, *Calibrachoa* MiniFamous™ ‘Double Yellow’

Tickseed, *Coreopsis* hybrid ‘Limerock Passion’

Tickseed, *Coreopsis* hybrid ‘Limerock Dream’

Variegated Potato Vine, *Solanum jasminoides*

Perennials – Cindy Townsend brings us the best in new perennials for 2009.

Hummingbird Mint, *Agastache* hybrid ‘Raspberry Summer’

Hummingbird Mint, *Agastache* hybrid ‘Summer Sky’

Hummingbird Mint, *Agastache* hybrid 'Summer Glow Yellow'
Hyssop, *Agastache* hybrid 'Coronado Red'
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Early Bird Gold'
Meadow Sage, *Salvia pratensis* 'Eveline'
Pincushion Flower, *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue'
Pincushion Flower, *Scabiosa atropurpurea* 'Beaujolais Bonnets'
Tickseed, *Coreopsis* hybrid 'Red Shift'
Tickseed, *Coreopsis* hybrid 'Sienna Sunset'
Sea Holly, *Eryngium planum* 'Jade Frost'
Stonecrop, *Sedum spurium*, 'Tricolor'
Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia davidii* Lo & Behold™ 'Blue Chip'
Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia Commotion*™ 'Frenzy'
Coneflower, *Echinacea* hybrid 'Tomato Soup'
Coneflower, *Echinacea* hybrid 'Mac 'n Cheese'
Stonecrop, *Sedum telephium* ssp. *ruprechtii* 'Hab Gray'
Stonecrop, *Sedum telephium* 'Sunset Cloud'
Dianthus (Pinks), *Dianthus* cultivars
 'Fire Star'
 'Starlette'
 'Pomegranate Kiss'
 'Coconut Punch'
Foamy Bells, X *Heucherella* 'Sweet Tea'
Foamflower, *Tiarella* hybrid 'Mystic Mist'
Coral Bells, *Heuchera* hybrid 'Plum Royale'
Violet, *Viola* hybrid 'Columbine'
Bugleweed, *Ajugareptens* 'Sparkler'
False Red Yucca, *Beschorneria* hybrid 'Ding Dong'

Vegetable Garden Chores – This week in the vegetable garden we can finish planting out our okra, summer squash and cucumbers. Make sure to loosely cover your squash plants with row covers to keep vine borers from laying eggs in the stems of the plants. The row covers will also protect the plants from squash bugs. If you started your own winter squash seedlings you will want to start hardening them off for transplanting into the garden next week.

Announcements

Oklahoma State University Landscape IPM Conference scheduled for Thursday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the OSU Botanical Garden in Stillwater. Lecture topics include biological control in lawn maintenance, landscape irrigation and field identification of landscape pests. Registration is \$65 and includes lunch. For more information contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404.

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society will host its 32nd Annual Wildflower Workshop in Boise City on June 5 and 6. The workshop is themed "Dinosaurs to Dustbowl" and will feature presentations on native ferns and fruits from western Oklahoma and will include field trips to Autograph Rock, Black Mesa and other sites. For more information call 580-423-7237.

And don't forget to stop by the Symphony Show House to see some fine landscaping and support a good cause as well. Information can be found on-line at www.symphonyshowhouse.com or call 405-848-6787.

Please contact your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Office for more educational

information on garden-related topics. If you need further information call (405) 744-5404 or visit our website <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu>. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3544)

OETA air date: May 2 and 3, 2009

OETA airtime: Saturday 11:00 a.m., Sunday 3:30 p.m.

Integrated Pest Management with Tom Royer – In this segment, Entomology Professor and IPM Coordinator Tom Royer joins us to discuss Integrated Pest Management in the home landscape. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices including cultural and physical techniques, biological control and chemical pesticides. IPM focuses on preventing pest problems before they occur. When pest problems do arise, management options focus on those with the least possible impact on the health of humans and the environment. IPM is an information intense approach that requires observation of plants and pests in the landscape. We will visit with Tom periodically throughout the season to learn about the numerous tools in the IPM toolbox. In this segment, we begin with biological control.

Biological control uses natural enemies of pests to suppress or prevent a pest outbreak. Like all animals, insects have predators that feed upon them, and diseases that make them ill or kill them. These are the natural enemies that we take advantage of with biological control. In a biological control program, our natural enemies include the three P's: Predators, Parasitoids and Pathogens. Predators are familiar to most gardeners, but parasitoids are a bit lesser known. A parasitoid is an insect that attacks and kills a host by developing on or in the prey, consuming them slowly, rather than eating the prey all at once like a predator. Most parasitoids are very a small, non-stinging wasps or flies. Their small size makes them nearly invisible in the garden. Finally, just like humans, insects and weeds can catch diseases and become sick or die. We can manipulate disease organisms and put them to work for us in managing pests in the landscape.

There are a number of ways to use biological control in the garden. We can purchase and release natural enemies as a way to prevent the buildup of pest populations. We can also manipulate the environment to attract natural enemies. Like all animals, natural enemies require food, water and shelter. In addition to feeding on prey, many predators and parasitoids feed on pollen. We can attract these natural enemies by providing appropriate nectar sources. Following is an extensive list of plants that can be used to attract natural enemies to the landscape as well other suggestions for encouraging natural enemies.

Good Plants for Attracting Natural Enemies to the Garden

- Aster Family (Compositae)
 - Blanket Flower – *Gaillardia* spp.
 - Coneflower – *Echinacea* spp.
 - Coreopsis – *Coreopsis* spp.
 - Shasta Daisy – *Chrysanthemum maximum*

- Calendula – *Calendula* spp.
- Asters – *Aster* spp.
- Zinnia – *Zinnia* spp.
- Dahlia – *Dahlia* spp.
- Cosmos – *Cosmos* spp.
- Sunflower – *Helianthus* spp.
- Yarrow – *Achillea* spp.
- Goldenrod – *Solidago* spp.
- Tansy – *Tanacetum vulgare*
- Carrot Family (Umbelliferae)
 - Caraway – *Carum carvi*
 - Coriander – *Coriandrum sativum*
 - Dill – *Anethum graveolens*
 - Fennel – *Foeniculum vulgare*
 - Queen Anne’s Lace (wild carrot) – *Daucus carota*
 - Wild Parsnip – *Pastinaca sativa*
 - Flowering Ammi/Bishop’s Flower – *ammi majus*
 - Toothpick Ammi – *Ammi visnaga*
- Pea Family (Leguminaceae)
 - Alfalfa – *Medicago sativa*
 - Clover – *Melilotus* spp.
 - Fava Bean – *Vicia fava*
- Mustard Family (Brassicaceae)
 - Basket-of-gold Alyssum – *Aurinium saxatilis*
 - Sweet Alyssum – *Lobularia maritime*
 - Hoary Alyssum – *Berteroa incana*
 - Mustards – *Brassica* spp.
 - Yellow Rocket – *Barbarea vulgaris*
- Other Plant Families
 - Beebalm – *Monarda* spp.
 - Speedwell – *Veronica* spp.
 - Cinquefoil – *Potentilla* spp.
 - Milkweed – *Asclepias* spp.
 - Buckwheat – *Fagopyrum sagittatum*
 - Phacelia – *Phacelia* spp.

Ways to Attract and Protect Natural Enemies

1. Reduce Pesticide Use

- Reduce rate and/or frequency of applications
- Use selective pesticides
- Use microbial insecticides
- Spot-treat or simply remove or prune out infested plants or stems
- Stop treating minor pests

2. Provide Food and Shelter

- Plant lots of flowering plants to attract natural enemies
- Plan for a full season of blooms
- Provide water in a shallow dish
- Use cover crops
- Grow some grass – home to many predaceous beetles

- Practice strip cropping practices
 - Apply sugar water to attract natural enemies
 - Diversity, diversity, diversity!
3. Protect natural enemy habitat
- Keep the dust down near trees and shrubs
 - Practice conservation tillage
 - Establish natural enemy refuge
 - Go wild – grow some native vegetation in an unkempt corner of the yard
 - Increase soil organic matter
 - Garden organically
4. Experiment
- Experiment with biological control like you do with plant varieties
 - Try biocontrol-friendly resistant plant varieties
 - Collect pests to rear and redistribute natural enemies
 - Make insect pathogen “tea”
 - Utilize cultural controls like row covers
5. Improve Your Powers of Observation
- Learn to identify “key” and “minor” pests
 - Learn to identify major groups of natural enemies
 - Learn to identify signs and symptoms of diseased and parasitized insects
 - Keep a garden diary or log to record what you do, what you see, and how well it worked.

Visit the following websites for more information on Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

<http://www.ento.okstate.edu/ipm/>

<http://attra.ncat.org/>

Ornamental Grasses – Grasses grace a landscape with movement and texture. And with the wide variety of forms and sizes available, there is a grass for all occasions. This year we planted an entire garden with grasses and grass-like plants which we call Blades and Plumes that brings a diversity of grasses and grass-like plants together in one striking display. We will highlight plants from this garden throughout the season.

Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*) – This mounding perennial grass is compact and very wispy. It grows in a small mound 1 to 2 feet, and produces dense, thin blades that are constantly in motion with the slightest breeze. The graceful, arching blades can spread up to three feet in diameter. For such a delicate looking plant, Mexican Feather Grass is also quite tough – it is very drought tolerant and makes an excellent addition to a xeriscape garden. It is an Oklahoma Proven plant – native to prairies in Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. The grass is perennial and often reseeds in the garden. Unlike other perennial grasses, Mexican Feather Grass does not benefit from being cut back to the ground in the spring. In fact, the spring is when this plant really shines with its fine silvery plumes. Instead of cutting back the plants, we used a wide toothed comb to comb out any dead foliage and freshen the plants up a bit. You can also cut them back just 1/3 their length to rejuvenate. Mexican Feather Grass looks great when planted in mass.

The next plant we have in our grass garden is not actually a grass, but is often grouped with grasses in the garden center. This is a Corkscrew Rush (*Juncus effuses*) called ‘Wild Rumpus’. We also have a variegated cultivar growing in our patio called ‘Frenzy’. Rushes belong to the plant family Junaceae and are mostly herbaceous perennials, though some rushes are annuals. The leaves tend to be evergreen and erect, and those in the genus *Juncus*, like ‘Wild Rumpus’, are commonly rounded or cylindrical.

'Wild Rumpus' is such a delightful addition to the garden. Everyone who sees it stops to ask about the plant because it is so unusual with coiling leaves. Corkscrew Rush is very heat tolerant and does well in full sun, though it will also tolerate light shade. It does like to receive a fair amount of water, and can tolerate wet conditions. The plant reaches a height of 18 to 24 inches, and spreads about 18 inches. 'Wild Rumpus' is hardy to zone 7, so you can try to overwinter it in many parts of the state. You will want to cut back the dead foliage in early spring. Corkscrew Rush makes an excellent addition to container plantings, or give it a premier spot in the garden.

Another non-grass plant that we added to our Blades and Plumes Garden for its striking upright foliage is the Red Cordyline (*Cordyline australis*), a palm-like, sub-tropical or tender perennial plant from New Zealand. The long, blade-like leaves add great color and texture to any garden. It can grow to tree size in warm climates, but does not tolerate cold winters. Generally, we need to bring the plant indoors in winter, where it makes a wonderful house plant. You could try to overwinter it in the southern parts of the state that fall within the hardiness zone 8. In our climate, plants typically will reach about three feet in height. Cordyline tolerates sun or shade and also makes a wonderful container plant, allowing it to easily be moved indoors.

Horticulture Tips for May – David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist, gives us tips for May.

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune and feed azaleas immediately after blooming.
- Insect Alert: ([EPP-7306](#))
 - * Bagworms on juniper and arborvitae. (Late May)
 - * Elm leaf beetles and larvae on elms. (Late May)
 - * Lace bugs on sycamore, pyracantha and azalea.
- Soak new transplants unless rainfall is abundant.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed in mid-May. ([EPP-7618](#))

Turfgrass

- Cool-season lawns can be fertilized again. If you did not fertilize cool-season grasses in March and April, do so now. This should be the last application until fall.
- Warm-season lawns may be fertilized again in May. ([HLA-6420](#))
- Seeding of warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and centipedegrass is best performed in mid-May through the end of June. The soil temperatures are warm enough for germination and adequate growing season is present to promote winter hardiness.
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses can continue. ([HLA-6419](#))
- Nutsedge plants become visible during this month. Post-emergent treatments are best applied for the first time this month ([HLA-6421](#)). Make certain warm-season grasses have completed green-up.
- The second application of pre-emergent annual grass herbicides can be applied in late-May or early June, depending upon timing of first application ([HLA-6421](#)). Check label for details.

Flowers

- Annual bedding plants can be set out for summer color.
- Plant summer bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, elephant ear, caladiums and gladiolus.
- Shake a leaf over white paper to look for spider mites. If the tiny specks begin to crawl, mites are present.

Water Gardens

- Clean out water garden and prepare for season. Divide and repot water garden plants.
- Begin feeding fish when water temperatures are over 50°F.

Fruits and Vegetables

- Plant watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, okra, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Fruit spray programs should be faithfully continued during the next several weeks. ([EPP-7319](#)).
- Late May is the best time to control borers in the orchard. Check for label recommendations and controls.

Cooking with Barbara Brown – Barbara cooks wilted spinach with mushrooms and garlic.

Vegetable Garden Chores – This week in the vegetable garden we can continue to plant our solanaceous plants: peppers, eggplants, tomatoes and tomatillos. We can also plant okra and continue seeding summer squash, cucumbers and beans. This week we can also start to set out our melon transplants.

If you planted blueberries this season or last year, you want to remove the flowers to prevent the plants from setting fruit. This will allow the plants to dedicate more energy to establishing a strong root system.

Announcements

Oklahoma State University Landscape IPM Conference scheduled for Thursday, May 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the OSU Botanical Garden in Stillwater. Lecture topics include biological control in lawn maintenance, landscape irrigation and field identification of landscape pests. Registration is \$65 and includes lunch. For more information contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404.

The Symphony Show House continues to feature one of a kind interior and landscape design, this year in a historic Italian style villa. Proceeds from the showcase support music education in Oklahoma City. Information on tickets and special events can be found on-line at www.symphonyshowhouse.com or call 405-848-6787.

Please contact your local Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Office for more educational information on garden-related topics. If you need further information, call (405) 744-5404 or visit our website <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu>. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

Wilted Spinach with Mushrooms and

Garlic

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 pound fresh spinach, washed and stemmed
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper



hot.

1. Heat large skillet over medium heat, add oil and heat until
2. Add mushrooms to skillet, sauté while stirring until juices are released. Continue cooking and stirring until the liquid is gone. Add garlic and stir 30 seconds.
3. Add spinach in batches. Toss to coat with oil and to allow spinach to wilt, 2 to 4 minutes. Season with pepper, toss again.

Serves 4.

Nutrition Facts		
Servings per recipe: 4		
Calories 65	Calories from fat 36	
	% Daily Value	
Total Fat 4g	6%	
Saturated Fat 1g	9%	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%	
Sodium 91mg	4%	
Carbohydrate 6g	2%	
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%	
Protein 4g	8%	
Vitamin A: 152%	Vitamin C: 56%	Folacin: 57%
Calcium: 12%	Iron: 20%	Potassium: 22%

Modified from original recipe EatingWell Wilted Spinach with Garlic at <http://eatingwell.com/recipes>
 Barbara Brown, Food Specialist
 Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service