

November 2009—Oklahoma Gardening Shows

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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!

Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3621)

OETA air date: November 21 and 22, 2009

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

Poinsettia Research – In this segment we visit with Bruce Dunn, Assistant Professor of Floriculture at Oklahoma State University. Professor Dunn conducts trials with poinsettias, America's number 1 selling container plant. This season, he has experimented with growing poinsettias at cooler temperatures. While this is not a new concept, it is not widely practiced. Growing plants at lower temperatures provides growers the benefit of lower heating costs through reduced energy consumption. We look at the various results of growing poinsettias at cooler temperatures on five different cultivars: 'Advent Red', 'Cinnamon Star', 'Silver Star Marble', 'Polar Bear' and 'Mars Marble'.

Mulching Strawberries – Strawberry plants benefit from a winter covering of straw or similar mulch. Winter mulch reduces freeze and thaw cycles that can damage the plant crowns. Freezing and thawing of the soil also causes soil heaving, which can push plants out of the ground. This is especially a problem with shallow-rooted plants like strawberries. We also see heaving commonly in our ornamental beds among plants like heuchera. Another benefit of winter mulch is to reduce the drying effects of the wind.

The best time to mulch strawberries is in early to mid-December, after several hard frosts. By this time the plants have developed cold hardiness. If you cover plants too early they may not become hardy enough to sustain winter temperatures.

Cover plants loosely to a depth of 3-4 inches across the entire row. A bale of straw should cover about 100 square feet. The straw needs to be removed as soon as plant growth begins in the spring, usually around mid-March. Winter mulch has the additional potential benefit of delaying plant development and flowering in the spring, which can help in avoiding spring frost injury.

Holiday Gifts – In this segment we look at great gift ideas for gardeners. Birds are as much a part of the landscape as plants and there are many gifts for the birder on your list. In addition to bird feeders and houses, try something different with the Birdsong Identiflyer kit (www.identiflyer.com).

Books and magazine subscriptions are wonderful resources for gardeners. Other ideas include gift certificates to local nurseries and gift memberships to botanical gardens and garden or plant clubs, like the Oklahoma Horticultural Society.

We also feature a rain barrel for those concerned about water conservation. A great diversity of rain barrels is available commercially. We feature Fiskars® Tuscan rain barrel (www.rain-barrel.com).

Finally, we look at collapsible vases, which are inexpensive, store compactly and are a great way to give holiday bouquets.

New and Upcoming Poinsettia Cultivars – In this segment we look at several poinsettia cultivars both under development and those available this season. Bruce Dunn shares several cultivars he is trialing from two producers, Syngenta and Eckes. Featured cultivars include: ‘Orion Early Red’, ‘Cortez Burgundy’, ‘Mira White’, ‘Topaz’, Unnamed pink cultivar, ‘Orange Spice’, ‘Winter Rose Early Red’ and ‘Winter Rose White’.

Cooking with Barbara Brown – Barbara Brown, Extension Food Specialist

Dark Chocolate Dipped Dried Fruit

- 2 cups dark chocolate, chopped
 - 1 pound medium to large pieces of dried fruit
1. Spread waxed paper on a cookie sheet and set aside.
 2. To melt candy, put chocolate in a microwaveable bowl. Microwave on HIGH 45 seconds. Remove bowl, stir chocolate, return bowl to microwave and cook on HIGH 30 more seconds. Stir. If not melted continue cooking for 30 second intervals, stirring between each, until chocolate is melted and smooth.
 3. Dip dried fruit about halfway into the melted chocolate. Place on waxed paper to set.



Makes about 3 dozen pieces.

Nutrition Facts (for dipped dried apricots)		
Servings per recipe: 36		
Calories 75	Calories from fat 27	
	% Daily Value	
Total Fat 3g		5%
Saturated Fat	trace	0%
Cholesterol 0mg		0%
Sodium 2mg		0%
Carbohydrate 14g		5%
Dietary Fiber	2g	7%
Protein 1g		2%
Vitamin A: 18%	Vitamin C: 1%	Folacin: 0%
Calcium: 1%	Iron: 4%	Potassium: 6%

Announcements –

Oklahoma State University's 19th Annual Poinsettia Sale

Thursday and Friday, December 3 & 4 from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

OSU Teaching Greenhouse on Farm Road (south of Colvin Center, east of tennis courts)

New Ambassador Class

Do you want to join the *Oklahoma Gardening* team? We are accepting applications for our Garden Ambassador program. The Ambassadors are trained volunteers that help maintain the studio gardens, conduct educational programs, and assist with the production of *Oklahoma Gardening*. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2009. Classes start January 15, 2010 and run for seven weeks on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the OSU Botanical Garden Educational Building in Stillwater. For more information or an application, contact Stephanie Larimer 405-744-5404.

Global Horticulture Conference

The OSU Department of Horticulture will host a Global Horticulture Conference on Wednesday, December 2 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the Stillwater campus in the Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center. Come learn about horticulture happenings the world over. For information contact Stephanie Larimer at 405-744-5404 or visit the Department's webpage at www.hortla.okstate.edu.

Sincerely,

Kim Rebek, *Oklahoma Gardening* Host

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Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3620)

OETA air date: November 14 and 15, 2009

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

OBSA Affiliate Garden: Will Rogers Horticultural Gardens and Arboretum – In this segment we visit with Allan Storjohann and Louis Scott at Will Rogers Park in Oklahoma City. These historic gardens comprise the northern side of Will Rogers Park, one of Oklahoma City's oldest park properties, and are operated and maintained by the Botanical Gardens Division of the Parks & Recreation Department. Inside the garden walls, visitors are surrounded by thousands of roses, irises, azaleas, daylilies and peonies among other colorful flowers and plants.

The historic Ed Lyman Conservatory houses the largest cacti and succulent collection in Oklahoma. The conservatory is a historic Lloyd & Burnham greenhouse. It was originally erected in Douglass Park in 1924 and relocated to its current location in the Will Rogers Gardens in 1936. The conservatory will undergo a renovation in 2010.

The Charles E. Sparks Rose Garden is a formal rose garden with more than 85 different varieties of roses in bloom from April through October. Horticulture staff at the Will Rogers Gardens work with gardeners and horticulturalists from around the country to test new rose hybrids for their viability in Oklahoma climates. The rose garden is surrounded by two lakes

and is adjacent to the Margaret Annis Boys Arboretum. The arboretum sits on 10 acres of pristine park land and features hundreds of varieties of trees, including Oklahoma native species as well as specimens rarely found in the state. The oldest trees in the arboretum were planted by famed horticulturalist Henry Walter in the 1930s. The arboretum was renamed the Margaret Annis Boys Arboretum during a dedication ceremony on September 24, 2009. Thanks to a generous gift from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, the arboretum will undergo extensive renovation work in 2010.

The Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center hosts multiple garden-related events and club meetings throughout the year. It also hosts its own series of FREE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS for both the casual backyard landscaper to the expert greenthumb.

Grape Trellises with Eric Stafne – In this segment Horticulture Extension Specialist Eric Stafne joins us to look at a variety of trellis systems that can be utilized for growing grapes. We look at three systems used for different types of grapes. The first is a multi-wire system used to support grapes that have an upright growth habit. In this system, the trunk branches out around waist height and the resulting vines are woven through the upper wires of the trellis for support. This helps to maximize sun exposure on the leaves.

Other grape cultivars have more of a draping growth habit and require a different system. The Geneva double-curtain is used for very vigorous varieties that produce lengthy vines. In this system, the trunk is grown about 4 feet at which point two permanent cordons branch off. Each cordon is trained out to run along a supporting wire, approximately 3 feet apart. Along the cordon are the spurs that produce the fruiting canes, which hang down towards the ground like a curtain. Hence the canopy has been divided into two 'curtains'. The system aims to improve grape quality by reducing shade within a dense canopy and improving exposure to light.

The final system we look at is the most common trellis used for backyard grape production. It is a two wire system in which the trunk is grown to about 5 feet, then branched into 2 cordons, one growing in each direction along the top wire. The lower wire is mainly for support of the trunk as it grows upward. The foliage drapes down, as in the double curtain. This single curtain system is used for less vigorous grape varieties.

Winter Plant Protection – David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist, shares information about winter plant protection.

Cooking with Barbara Brown – Barbara Brown, Extension Food Specialist, makes a broccoli and pecan casserole.

Broccoli and Pecan Casserole

- 4 cups broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup pecan halves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, divided



- 1/4 cup reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
- 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, grated

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 2-quart casserole dish with nonstick vegetable spray.
2. Put steamer insert in medium saucepan; add 2 cups water to pan. Steam broccoli florets and chopped red pepper together 5 minutes. Drain well. Transfer to prepared casserole dish and add pecans. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Remove steamer insert from saucepan, drain and dry pan. Use hot pan to melt 1 tablespoon butter. Whisk in reduced-calorie mayonnaise and horseradish until smooth. Pour over vegetables in casserole dish and mix gently but well.
4. Sprinkle casserole with bread crumbs and cheese. Dot with remaining butter.
5. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, until golden brown

Serves 8.

Nutrition Facts		
Servings per recipe: 8		
Calories 124	Calories from fat 90	
	% Daily Value	
Total Fat 10g		10%
Saturated Fat 3g		13%
Cholesterol 11mg		4%
Sodium 205mg		9%
Carbohydrate 7g		2%
Dietary Fiber 2g		8%
Protein 3g		5%
Vitamin A: 35%	Vitamin C: 88%	Folacin: 9%
Calcium: 5%	Iron: 4%	Potassium: 5%

Modified from original source: Georgia Pecan Commission, www.georgiapeccans.org
 Barbara Brown, Food Specialist
 Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

10/09

Sincerely,
 Kim Rebek, *Oklahoma Gardening* Host

Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3619)

OETA air date: November 7 and 8, 2009

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

Tree Protection with Bill Long – In this segment Bill Long, certified arborist and President of the Oklahoma Arborist Association, visits the studio to discuss winter preparation tips for trees. Winterizing trees is a year-long process and the most important tip is to make sure the tree is healthy as it enters the winter season. Of course, there are a few extra steps we can take to prepare trees for the harsh weather.

Newly planted trees may require stabilization. The base of the tree should remain steady within the ground when the trunk is shaken from side to side. If you can see the rootball move, stake the tree for winter. When it comes to staking, less is more. We only want our stake to last through the winter and no longer. Too often, people stake trees and then forget about them. Strings and ties left around the trunk as the tree develops can eventually become tight and girdle the tree, killing it. Always remove stakes in the spring. The same is true of trunk wraps. Some trees are prone to winter damage from alternating freezing and thawing, particularly on the southern-exposed portion of the trunk. Wrapping the trunk can help prevent this problem, but again, wraps must be removed in spring.

Both newly planted and established trees need to be watered regularly throughout the winter if there has not been sufficient rain or snowfall. It is also a good idea to mulch trees both to help preserve soil moisture and to provide a little extra insulation to the rootball. Lay mulch three inches thick and pull it back an inch or so from the trunk.

Established trees should be pruned as needed to remove dead or diseased wood from the canopy. Winter is also a good time for structural pruning of most trees. Check the base of the tree for a visible root flare. The root flare is the area where the trunk meets the roots and is visible by a widening of the trunk. The surrounding soil should be at the level of the root flare. If the flare is not visible, pull back the soil and mulch from the base of the tree until the flare is exposed. Likewise, if the soil is too shallow and roots are visible, backfill with soil until the ground is level with the trunk flare.

Winter Garden Tips – David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist, gives us gardening tips for the winter months.

November Garden Tips

Lawn & Turf

- Continue mowing cool-season lawns on a regular basis. ([HLA-6420](#))
- Continue to control broadleaf weeds in well established warm- or cool-season lawns with a post-emergent broadleaf weed killer. ([HLA-6421](#))
- Keep falling leaves off turf areas to avoid damage to the foliage.

Tree & Shrub

- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes. Spring flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned after flowering in the spring.

- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.

Flowers

- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.

Fruits & Nuts

- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break.

December and January Garden Tips

Tree & Shrubs

- Continue controlling over wintering insects on deciduous trees or shrubs with dormant oil sprays applied when the temperature is above 40 degrees in late fall and winter. Do not use dormant oils on evergreens.

General

- Keep all plants watered during dry conditions even though some may be dormant. Especially broadleaf and narrowleaf evergreens and plants under eaves or in raised beds and planters.
- Irrigate all plantings at least 24 hours before hard-freezing weather if soil is dry. ([HLA-6404](#))
- Now is a great time to design and make structural improvements in your garden and landscape.
- Send for mail-order catalogs if you are not already on their mailing lists.
- Till garden plots without a cover crop to further expose garden pests to harsh winter conditions.

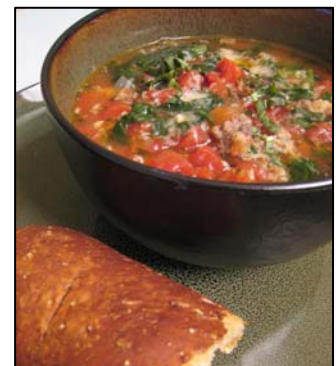
OBGA Affiliate Garden: Jo Allyn Lowe Park and Arboretum – In this segment we visit another OBGA affiliate garden, Jo Allyn Lowe Park and Arboretum in Bartlesville. Chuck Parkin joins us to tell about the creation and development of the park. Jo Allyn Lowe Park was created in 1980 from land donated by Harold and Carolyn Price in 1971 and Joe and Etsuko Price in 1979. It covers 32 acres of water and rolling land. Harold Price and Phillips Petroleum Company provided most of the funds for the Park's development and when it was completed it was dedicated to Joe Allyn Lowe, the beloved founder of the Bartlesville Boys Club. One of the main features of the Park is the arboretum. Funded mostly by donations, there are hundreds of species of trees present, many planted in memory of loved ones or organizations. A more recent addition includes a grove of 'Historical Trees', trees grown from seeds or cuttings taken from trees of historical importance. Among these are cuttings of Johnny Appleseed's Apple Tree (*Malus* species) and a River Farm Chaste Tree (*Vitex* species).

Walkers and joggers enjoy the many paths that surround the lake and wind through the adjacent prairie where abundant wild flowers change with the seasons. Spotted around the circumference of the prairie are flower gardens created and maintained by several of Bartlesville's Garden Clubs including the green Country Garden Club.

Cooking with Barbara Brown – Barbara Brown, Extension Food Specialist

Tomato and Sausage Soup

- 8 ounces sweet or spicy Italian turkey sausage links



- 1/2 cup diced yellow onion
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - 2 cups fat-free reduced sodium chicken broth
 - 2 cups canned diced tomatoes, undrained
 - 1 cup canned white beans, rinsed and drained
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil or 1-1/2 teaspoons dried basil
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano or 1-1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
 - 10 ounces frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
 - 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
 - 2 tablespoons chopped basil, optional
4. Remove casings from sausage. Add sausage to large saucepan and heat over medium heat. Stir sausage until browned, breaking up with a spoon as it cooks. Drain fat.
 5. Add onion and garlic to pan with sausage. Cook and stir until onion becomes translucent and just begins to brown.
 6. Add broth, undrained tomatoes, white beans, 2 tablespoons basil (or 1 tablespoon dried basil) and oregano. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to a simmer and continue cooking 10 minutes. Add spinach, heat through and remove from heat.
 7. Ladle into 4 bowls. Divide Parmesan and fresh basil (if using) over bowls.

Serves 4.

Nutrition Facts		
Servings per recipe: 4		
Calories 235	Calories from fat 63	
	% Daily Value	
Total Fat 7g	10%	
Saturated Fat 2g	11%	
Cholesterol 50mg	17%	
Sodium 917mg	38%	
Carbohydrate 26g	9%	
Dietary Fiber 8g	32%	
Protein 20g	41%	
Vitamin A: 123%	Vitamin C: 43%	Folacin: 33%
Calcium: 17%	Iron: 53%	Potassium: 21%

Modified from original source: <http://find.myrecipes.com/recipes>

Barbara Brown, Food Specialist

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

10/09

Sincerely,
 Kim Rebek
Oklahoma Gardening Host

Oklahoma Gardening Information Sheet (#3618)

OETA air date: October 31 and November 1, 2009

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

OBGA Affiliate Garden: Morrison Arboretum and Botanical Garden - In this segment Kim continues to feature the OBGA Affiliate Gardens with a visit to the Morrison Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Jan McSwain joins us to share the development of this garden. The success of Morrison demonstrates just how much a community can accomplish with a little teamwork. Built on ambition and funded through grants, the community pulled together to transform desolate wasteland into a beautiful arboretum and park. Each year, the community comes out to celebrate their success on Arbor Day, when they plant a new tree, such as the Weeping Mulberry (*Morus alba* 'Chaparral').

Under-utilized Conifers - In this segment Ornamental Horticulture Extension Specialist Dr. Mike Schnelle joins us to highlight a few under-utilized conifers for Oklahoma. We begin with a beautiful tree once thought to be extinct, the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). The tree had been known only from fossil records until 1944, when living specimens were located in China. It has since become a popular landscape tree for its tall and fast growth, delicate foliage and colorful bark. The foliage is a bright green and turns red-brown in the fall.

Another deciduous beauty is the Pond Cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*). Related to the Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Pond Cypress has a narrower growth habit seldom exceeding 15 feet in diameter. Pond Cypress also tends to have fewer knees and less buttressing than Bald Cypress. Yet it can still reach great heights of up to 80 feet. The tight form allows many homeowners to use Pond Cypress where Bald Cypress would be too wide. The foliage is very soft and turns a coppery-orange color in fall. In a large landscape, Pond Cypress looks beautiful planted in mass, but the tall, tight form also makes an excellent single specimen tree.

Finally we look at an evergreen conifer, the China Fir (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*). The spiky needle-like leaves are arranged in a very interesting spiral around the stems with an upward arch. On young trees, the brown bark exfoliates in strips, revealing a reddish-orange inner bark, which is quite attractive. The tree itself has the typical, pyramidal shape of many evergreens, but the branches of older trees droop somewhat. The trees tend to be multi-stemmed and sucker up from around the base. You can remove the suckers periodically to maintain a cleaner look. The unique appearance of this tree draws a great deal of attention in the landscape.

North Carolina Botanical Garden – In this segment we visit the North Carolina Botanical Gardens at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The North Carolina Botanical Garden has been a leader in native plant conservation and education in the southeastern United States for more than 30 years. They pride themselves as being a conservation garden encompassing eight program areas:

- Conservation through Propagation of native plants ensures that wild populations are not damaged by direct use and collecting from natural populations

- Seed Banking and Reintroduction, an ex-situ conservation program that protects germplasm reserves as a last resort against extinction in the wild and for use in reintroduction of wild populations
- The Protection and Restoration of natural areas, which recognizes the importance of habitat conservation to the survival of biological diversity and which establishes the importance of nature's own gardens, as well as human gardens
- The elimination of Invasive Species and replacement with non-invasive alternatives
- Gardening in Nature's Context, which seeks to promote plants that support native biodiversity, including pollinators and seed dispersers
- Sustainable Gardening, which seeks to promote environmentally friendly gardening practices and which involves such practices as *sustainable water use*, *protected stream quality*, *xeriscaping* (using drought-tolerant plants), *ecoscaping* (planting plants in the right places according to their ecological requirements), *zeroscaping* (working with the established plants in a landscaping plan), *integrated pest management*, *renewable energy sources*, *non-toxic and sustainably produced materials*, *recycling and reuse*
- Supplying critical information on conservation of the flora of the southeastern United States and on the Garden's conservation programs
- People-Nature Relations, which describes how important plant diversity and natural areas are to the physical and psychological health of all of us

The gardens include a wide variety of plant collections that aid in educating visitors about native plants and natural areas. These include:

Native Plant Border: The native plant border is a collection of native perennials, shrubs and small trees. It was designed to be visually interesting throughout the growing season and supplies nectar for pollinators from spring to fall. Featured throughout this collection are a number of rare plants.

Native Water Gardens: All of the aquatic plants in the water gardens are native to the southeastern United States. This collection includes elegant American White Water Lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*) and American Lotus Lilies (*Nelumbo lutea*) as well as emergent plants like Heartleaf Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) and many others.

Carnivorous Plant Collection: The carnivorous plant collection is known as one of the best in the Southeast. Numerous species of pitcher plants, sundews, and butterworts are found in the southeastern United States as are Venus' Flytraps. These are cultivated in five raised beds. In addition to the carnivorous plants, these beds include some of the showier plants commonly found in pitcher plant bogs such as orchids, meadow beauties and the pine lily.

Garden of Flowering Plant Families: The Garden of Flowering Plant Families is a place where visitors find a visual representation of the evolutionary relationships between plant groups. Collections such as this were historically more prominent in botanical gardens. Here, familiar and exotic representatives of various plant families grow side by side.

Plants featured in these gardens include:

- Venus Fly Trap, *Dionaea muscipula*
- Pitcher Plant, *Sarracenia* species
- Hybrid Pitcher Plant, *Sarracenia* x 'Dixie Lace'

- White-top Pitcher Plant *Sarracenia leucophylla* ‘Tarnok’
- Longleaf Pine, *Pinus palustris*

Coastal Plain and Sandhills Habitat Gardens – The Coastal Plain and Sandhills Habitats represent the wide range of ecosystems present in the eastern part of the state, beginning with the rolling sandhills where you see the state tree of North Carolina, the Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*). Soon the terrain becomes flatter, simulating the pocosin and wetland habitats common on the outer coastal plain. In this area they grow Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and carnivorous plants, such as the Venus' Flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) and Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia* species). This natural habitat garden is burned yearly to simulate processes that are part of the endangered Longleaf Pine ecosystem. Fire plays an important role in promoting the growth of a high diversity of plants here and in the real pine savannas of the state.

Japanese Bloodgrass – In this segment we look at a beautiful, but controversial grass. Japanese Blood Grass (*Imperata cylindrical*) is a showy grass that will grow in sun or shade, and is a hardy perennial. Japanese Blood Grass can be very aggressive and the species or wild type is listed by the U.S. Government as a noxious weed, meaning it cannot be sold on the market. However, there are a number of cultivars that are available commercially, such as ‘Red Baron’ or ‘Rubra’. These are considered less aggressive. Sometimes, these red-colored cultivars revert back to the wild species, which has all green foliage. These all-green plants produce seed and are incredibly invasive, they should be destroyed. While blood grass offers very unique coloration, it may be best to look for colorful foliage in another plant species.

Ginger Lily – In this segment we take a look at a plant that the *Oklahoma Gardening* staff find very special. White Butterfly Ginger Lily or simply Ginger Lily (*Hedychium coronarium*) is a tropical perennial and a cousin of culinary ginger. While it is considered tropical, it is cold hardy to zone 7b. In fact, in our Stillwater studio garden (officially now classified as zone 7, but historically in zone 6b), we have successfully overwintered this plant for a number of years. Ginger Lily plants tolerate an occasional light freeze and frost, but a hard frost kills the plant back to the ground. The plant will overwinter and re-grow from rhizomes in the spring. Ginger Lily produces large, lance-shaped leaves up to 2 feet in length and reaches a height of 3 to 7 feet. The real treat of Ginger Lily is the flowers, which have a most delightful scent. The white butterfly-shaped flowers appear very late in the season for us in Oklahoma, but are certainly worth the wait.

Ginger Lily looks great planted in mass. It does require plenty of water, so place it in a low, wet location or use as a bog plant. While Ginger Lily can tolerate full sun in many locations, in Oklahoma it will require shade from the intense afternoon sun. We have found Ginger Lily to tolerate full shade in our studio gardens.

Announcement – Do you want to join the *Oklahoma Gardening* team? We are accepting application for our Garden Ambassador program. The Ambassadors are trained volunteers that help maintain the studio gardens, conduct educational programs, and assist with the production of *Oklahoma Gardening*. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2009. Classes start January 15, 2010 and run for seven weeks on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the OSU Botanical Garden Educational Building in Stillwater. For more information or an application, contact Stephanie Larimer 405-744-5404.

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