Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Hudson Valley Horticulture

Cornell University Cooperative Extension of the Hudson Valley

~~~Commercial Horticulture Electronic Newsletter~~~

Volume 16, Issue 4
April 2016

Participating Counties: Orange * Dutchess * Putnam * Rockland * Ulster * Westchester

***April-August** Programs in our region:*

April-August Programs

Webinar: Planning Ahead for Urban Landscape Pests of 2016
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When: Thursday, April 7, 12-1 pm EDT
Where: Webinar
Program: Commercial arborists, urban foresters and interested volunteers can join Rutgers University Diagnostic Lab Director Richard Buckley as he outlines what insects and diseases were "hot" and what were "not" in 2015, in an effort to predict what we might expect to encounter in the upcoming growing season. This broadcast is free and will offer the opportunity for arborists to earn 1.0 ISA CEU and 0.5 MCA credit.
Register: Free.
To attend, visit www.joinwebinar.com and enter the ID code **130-441-275.**

Are Your Contracts in Order? NYS DEC Representatives Give You the Scoop on Contracts

When: April 12th, 2016 7:00pm
Where: Stew Leonard's, 1 Stew Leonard's Place, Yonkers, NY
Program: At this NYSTLA dinner meeting, Cathy Ahlers, NYS DEC Region 3, will be making sure you know what you need to know about preparing the right contracts. Get an edge on your competitor. Kick off Spring with the right tools. Do you have a specific question? Submit your questions via email, fax or phone by April 6th and we will prepare a questionnaire for Cathy to address at the meeting OR bring with you a copy of the contract in questions and Cathy offered to take it back to her office for review.

Enjoy a delicious dinner generously provided by Stew Leonard's

1 NYS DEC Credit applied for

Registration: http://www.nystla.com/meetings-and-events/are-your-contracts-in-order-april-12-2016/

Annual ReLeaf Conference

When: July 14-16
Where: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY
Program: Details coming soon: Save the Date
Register: Watch the NYS DEC Urban Forestry Website: http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4957.html

UConn Turfgrass Field Day

When: Tuesday, July 19th, 2016
Where: Plant Science Research and Education Facility, Storrs CT
Program: The UConn Turfgrass Science Program invites you to attend the Fifth Biennial Turfgrass Field Day. The focus of the event will be guided tours of current research studies in the areas of turfgrass management, pathology, entomology, and more. Enjoy a delicious lunch and reconnect with old friends during the event. Our afternoon program will include three breakout sessions highlighting handdling and field application of beneficial nematodes, sustainable and pesticide-free turf management and a turfgrass disease walking tour focused on identification and cultural and chemical control options. Exhibitors from throughout the region will also be present with product and service information for the turfgrass industry.
Registration: General and exhibitors registration:
https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1800966

Save the Date! 2016 IPM In-depth Hands-on Greenhouse Workshop

When: July 28th, 2016
Where: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Program: Save the Date, More Details to come
Registration: Watch this site: http://www.greenhouse.cornell.edu/calendar/ipm_workshop.htm

Save the Date! 2016 Cornell Floriculture Field Day

When: August 9th, 2016
Where: Cornell University and Bluegrass Lane, Ithaca NY
Program: Save the Date: More Details to Come
Registration: Keep an eye on this site:
http://www.greenhouse.cornell.edu/calendar/floriculture_field_day.htm

Articles

Branching Out: First Issue Available *Now!*

Branching Out, an IPM Newsletter for Trees and Shrubs may be just the ticket if your woody ornamentals pest management program could benefit from timely, reliable field reports and up-to date management recommendations.

What is Branching Out? Faculty and staff in Cornell's Department of Plant Pathology, in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension educators throughout the state, gather information for *Branching Out* via on-site scouting at selected locations from Long Island to Rochester, and they use that information together with tips from professional and trade literature to prepare articles of interest to you. Paid subscribers can also access the newsletter on-line.

Don't know if you want to subscribe?
Take a look at the Index of articles in the 2015 volume of the *Branching Out* Newsletter to get an idea of the topics covered.

How to subscribe for the 2016 Season?
Click here for a printable version of the subscription form . If you have any question please contact: Dawn Daley-Obrien at ddo1@cornell.edu

Submitted by Jen Stengle, Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County

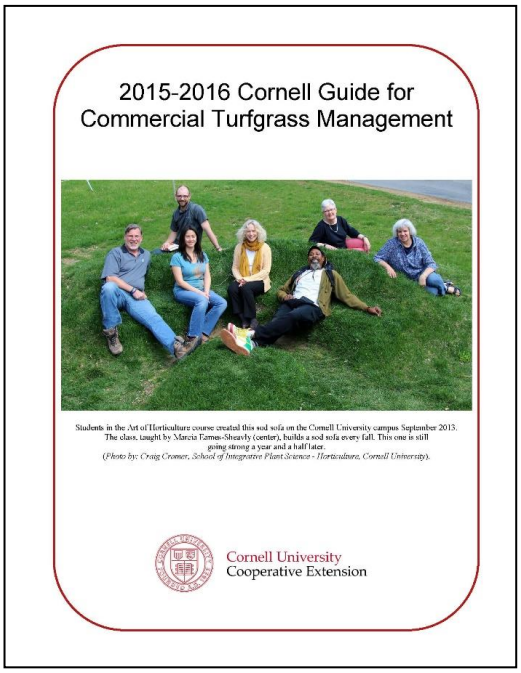
ShortCUTT Newsletter: Weekly Updates for the Turf Professional

Subscribe to ShortCUTT– a weekly (during the 35-week growing season) newsletter from Cornell Turfgrass Program sent via email. Features pest alerts, expert updates, observations around the state, Frank Rossi's 'Gazing in the Grass' column, and more. Also available as an audio podcast.

Submitted by Gerald G. Giordano, Senior Horticulture Consultant/Extension Community Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County

2015-2016 Cornell Guide for Commercial Turfgrass Management Now Available

The 2015-2016 edition of the *Cornell Guide for Commercial Turfgrass Management* is now available. This publication provides up-to-date pest and horticultural information for those producing sod or maintaining turfgrass in New York State. It has been designed as a practical guide for sod producers, landscapers, turfgrass managers, pesticide dealers, and others who advise those producing sod or maintaining turfgrass.



In addition to updated pesticide and pest management information, highlighted changes in the 2015-2016 *Turfgrass Guidelines* include:

- A new section on pigmented fungicides.
- New information on growing-degree days and growth regulator use.
- Updated materials on recycling agricultural plastics.

New this year are three different product options for the Cornell Guidelines. Users can obtain a print copy, online-only access, or a package that combines a print copy and online access. The print edition of the 2015-2016 Turfgrass Guidelines costs $28 plus shipping. Online-only access is $28. A combination of a print copy and online access costs $39.00 plus shipping costs for the printed book.

The 2015-2016 *Cornell Guide for Commercial Turfgrass Management* can be obtained through your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or from the Cornell Store at Cornell University. To order from the Cornell Store, call (800) 624-4080 or order online at http://store.cornell.edu/c-875-pmep-guidelines.aspx

Submitted by Jen Stengle, Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County

[Top of Page]

Bees Abuzz Over Rapini

(Eds. Note: Rapini is in the same family as familiar landscape plants like Sweet Alyssum and Basket-of-gold. Plants in the crucifer family are a favorite if pollinators. So plant more Broccoli Raab!)

Popular in Italy but also grown in the United States, rapini, or broccoli raab, is a turnip-like vegetable featured in the recipes of cable television's top celebrity chefs. Foodies are not the only fans of rapini. Honeybees love it too, for its bright yellow, pollen-packed flowers. Studies by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists show that managed honeybee colonies that foraged pollen from plots of fall-seeded rapini fared better than protein-supplemented colonies.

ARS scientists in Tucson, Arizona, began their studies in 2012 at the request of California's almond industry. Almond growers rely on managed bee colonies to pollinate the state's 800,000-acre nut crop, which starts flowering in February. Researchers investigated rapini because of its

cold-hardiness, attractiveness to bees and ability to flower six weeks after planting; characteristics that could benefit overwintering bees.

During the fall, beekeepers transport more than a million bee colonies to California from throughout the United States. In the absence of natural food sources, the journey to spend the winter there can take a heavy toll on the bees, especially nurse bees and brood (young). The flow of nutrients through nurse bees affects colony size, which, in turn affects almond yields, explains Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, an entomologist who leads ARS' Carl Hayden Bee Research Center in Tucson.

One way to tide the colonies over until bloom time in February is to feed them specially formulated protein supplements. However, in the study, the supplements didn't meet all of the bees' nutritional needs. The protein in the supplements also wasn't well digested; about 65 percent was excreted as waste. With rapini pollen, only about 30 percent of the protein was lost, according to DeGrandi-Hoffman, whose team reported these and other.

Source: Jan Suszkwi USDA Agricultural Research Service *News Release*, 2/17/16.
Article at: http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2016/160217.htm

Submitted by Gerald G. Giordano, Senior Horticulture Consultant/Extension Community Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County

Urban Forestry Roundtable Repository

A repository of 26 roundtables from CITY TREES magazine 2005-2015 is freely available on the home page of the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) website, www.urban-forestry.com.

The roundtable format was a suggestion from Dr. Nina Bassuk that City Trees took and ran with. Each roundtable contains advice and anecdotes on a theme from 8 to 10 professionals. The information will be of interest to anyone involved in the urban and community forestry (UCF) world!

The topics are: Bees, Bioswales, Building Bridges Between LAs and MAs, Building Bridges with City Depts, Part I and II, Cemeteries, Climate Change, Consulting, Contract Growing Partnerships, Drought, EAB, Fall Planting, Gas Lines and Trees, Historic Trees, Invasives, Large Tree Relocation, Medians, Memorial Trees, Pruning Cycles, Sewer Lines, Social Networking, Teaching, Tree Boards, Tree Lights, Urban Forestry's Location in City Departments, Urban Fruit Trees, Urban Wood, Zoos. A roundtable about Tree Damage after Flooding will come out this spring.

Sample entries from roundtables follow. Please go to www.urban-forestry.com to take advantage of this resource and learn more about the SMA, which welcomes members from all spheres of the UCF world (paid or volunteer).
Source: Michelle Sutton, New York State Urban Forestry Council Blog, 2/4/16 Original Article at:
http://nysufc.org/urban-forestry-roundtable-repository/2016/02/04/#more-1760

Submitted by Gerald G. Giordano, Senior Horticulture Consultant/Extension Community Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County

Regional Updates:

Report from Westchester: Native *Cornus florida* Comfortably on the Site Plans Again?

Is it now less risky to plant *Cornus florida*, our native flowering dogwood? A landscaper contacting the CCE Westchester diagnostic lab this past week asked that question and while it's the first time we received the question this spring, it won't be the last. This is because our native flowering dogwood seems to be one of the most iconic trees that we like to have present for its seasonal spring flowers. It's also a tree that your customers often request. Blooming anywhere from mid-April into May, its horizontal branching, colorful fall fruit and foliage and alligator-like bark have made it an aristocrat among ornamental trees. Here in the Northeast, it's one of those plants of which people never seem to tire. One horticultural source lists over 80 cultivars.

However, in the late 1970s, our regional native dogwoods entered a severe decline that lasted decades, with scores of trees killed due to a new fungal pathogen eventually named *Discula destructiva*, causing the disease dogwood anthracnose. A Cornell University fact sheet on the disease may be found at this link:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/2169/Anthracnose-of-Flowering-Dogwood.pdf?1408632519

The fact sheet describes every phase of the disease from the earliest purple-rimmed spots and larger tan blotches on leaves, to dead twigs, the appearance of watersprouts and the movement of the fungus from a watersprout into the bark, where cankers formed in bark tissue may coalesce and kill main branches.

Plant pathologists, like Cornell's Margery Daughtrey who worked with the late Brooklyn Botanic Garden plant pathologist Dr. Craig Hibben to unravel the mysteries of *Discula destructiva,* were for many years somewhat cautious about suggesting new plantings of our native flowering dogwood. Cooperative Extension educators all over the Northeast were also quick to suggest substitutes like Chinese dogwood, *Cornus kousa*. Blooming later, with noble attributes of its own, many would agree that Chinese dogwood is a great addition to any landscape but that its form and flowering habit are probably not a substitute for our native flowering dogwood.

With the above in mind, has anything changed? The answer is probably a cautious "yes" according to Margery Daughtrey. "The disease doesn't seem to have the same 'teeth' in it any more," said Daughtrey. "Drought-compromised trees in understories died in the first wave, and now I think the pathogens of the pathogen may have caught up to the fungus to make it less virulent. No scientific data, just observational. The pathogen is still here and I guess if we had massive drought followed by massive amounts of rain the following spring, we might get right back into massive amounts of dogwood death. But, I don't want to be that much of a pessimist."

It should be underscored that monocultures of the same species are still a bad idea. It's that kind of over-use that has caused problems in our landscapes concerning many tree species, from American elm to Norway maple to callery pear. However, what the probable change observed in dogwood anthracnose means is that you can again feel more comfortable about including our native flowering dogwood in your palate of installations as long as you are careful to make it one component of a landscape with a rich and varied array of tree species. This way, when diseases (or insects) strike, your whole palette is not in endangered.

Daughtrey was quick to advise, "The tree needs a zone around it to keep the lawnmowers away from it, a little mulch to help retain moisture and someone assigned to keep it watered appropriately, especially in years 1, 2 and 3. Landscape contractors should just keep in mind that

there is still a disease named 'dogwood anthracnose' that dogwoods succumbed to during the mid-1980s. This disease was quite ferocious at the time but we don't think it is necessarily a deal-breaker any more. The safest course is to plant flowering dogwood sparingly, in open or lightly shaded areas and protect the trees from drought."

Special Note: We wish to thank Margery Daughtrey for her additions to the above article and for sharing her professional expertise with the Hudson Valley Horticulture audience.

Written by Gerald G. Giordano, Senior Horticulture Consultant/Extension Community Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County

Observations from the Putnam Lab: 1) A lot can go wrong with Pachysandra and Boxwood, and 2) Rust mites on evergreens
The lab is always busy in spring. This year is no exception. We've already had a dozen samples and phone calls.

1) A hemlock sample, previously treated for Woolly Adelgid and Elongate/Fiorina scale showed signs of mite damage. On closer inspection—using a binocular microscope--eggs were found along the needles. Young eyes using a hand-lens may also be able to spot these orange, shiny eggs. What prompted us to look for signs of mites? The symptoms popped out at us first. The damage caused by the mites looks like a haze of tiny white dots, called stippling, that changes the color on the upper surface of the needle. It is a subtle change, but the damage may them proceed to premature yellowing and needle drop. That gets your attention! Chemical controls for the scale and adelgid often lead to an increase in mite problems, as natural enemies of the mites are killed-off. These types of mites may also affect other needled evergreen species. NYS IPM Christmas tree specialist, Dr Elizabeth Lamb, pointed Christmas tree growers to a great fact sheet that highlights the pests lifecycle and damage: http://extension.psu.edu/pests/ipm/agriculture/christmas-tree/pest-fact-sheets/needle-discoloration-and-injury/eriophyid-rust-sheath-mites Rust mites prefer cool dry conditions. They give way to spider mites as summer heats up. Without natural enemies, mite populations can increase quickly, and before you realize what's happening you have yet another problem to deal with. Keep an eye to the weather and consider control options carefully!

2) Pachysandra can look terrible at this time of the year. Wind exposure, dry autumn weather, and sun can take its toll on this broad-leafed evergreen. This damage is especially bad in plants further stressed by full-sun locations. Pachysandra is happiest in part shade and shade settings. Stress makes plants more susceptible to disease. Volutella blight and a mosaic virus are just a few pathogens in the pachysandra rogues gallery. Pachysandra can also host the boxwood blight pathogen, *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum.* In fact, this plant can host all three pathogens mentioned above at the same time. So it's a great idea to get sample tested before you guess its one thing. Most Cornell Cooperative Extension offices have a staffed lab and hotline (Check your local office for hours and sample protocols) You may also send a sample to the Plant Diagnostic Clinic at Cornell: http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/

Written By, Jen Stengle, Resource Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Putnam County

Other Professional Horticulture Programs of Interest:

[Top of Page]

Certified Landscape Technician Training Contact: NYSTLA at 914-993-9455 or visit www.nystla.com An optional national testing program to recognize proficiency of qualified landscape professionals.

Certified Nursery Professional Training Contact: In Dutchess, Putnam & Westchester: Scott Olivieri 914-682-4224; In Orange, Rockland & Ulster: Contact: Mark Masseo 845-658-9148 By passing this exam you can earn the title Certified Nursery Professional (CNP). Contact your New York State Nursery and Landscape Association, listed above, for more details.

[Top of Page]

About Pesticide Certification

If you apply pesticides, including weed-killers, weed and feed products, insecticides, fungicides, or tick control products to customer's properties for hire, you or someone in your company must be a New York State Certified Pesticide Applicator through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and have their business registered.

There are three levels of commercial certification: applicator, technician, and apprentice:

For Commercial Applicators

To be eligible to take the exams to become certified, you must meet one of the following requirements:
3 out of the past 5 years of verifiable experience as an apprentice working in the category applicant is seeking certification in; or 3 out of the past 5 years as a certified private applicator in a corresponding private category; or Certification in another State with which New York has reciprocity; or if seeking certification in the Sales Category - At least 3 years experience in the sale of pesticides, or can demonstrate, through applicable training certifications or education degrees, that one possesses appropriate technical background.

Certified Pesticide Technician: be at least 17 years of age. 2 years of verifiable experience as an apprentice; or Completion of a 30-hr. training course, approved by the NYS DEC or a baccalaureate or associate degree from an accredited college or university in the area seeking certification. These are offered at the following: **30 Hour Courses**: Pest Management Training Center (B. H. Stangel, Inc.): (845) 357-7734, barrypmtc@optonline.net, or visit www.pestmanagementtraining.com/s/. Advanced Technical Consultants (ATC): Kevin Hurley, 845-687-6483, or visit www.pested.com (on line courses). For a more detailed list of current 30 hour certification courses, search the Bureau of Pest Management - Information Portal at http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad.
Technicians, once certified, desiring full applicator status the following documentation is required: a letter indicating 2 yrs. of experience or 1 yr. of experience plus 12 recertification credits. Experience and recertification credits must be category or sub-category specific.

Pesticide Apprentice: Must be at least 16 years of age; Must receive 40 hours of pesticide use experience under supervision of a certified applicator and a minimum of 8 hours of instruction on topics outlined in Section 325.18 of Part 325 Rules & Regulations relating to the application of pesticides, before being able to apply general use pesticides under the off-site direct supervision of a certified applicator. Documentation of the above must be maintained by the certified applicator, and include: name & address of apprentice; date(s) of instruction or observation; content of training and certification category; instructor's name and certification identification number; and an evaluation of the competency of the apprentice.

[Top of Page]

For Private Applicators

Must be at least 17 years old. Have at least one year of full-time experience within the last three years in the use of pesticides in the category in which certification is requested --OR Has completed a 30-hr. training course, or has received an associate's or higher level college degree in the area of which certification is requested.

For further information on eligibility rules and regulations, and fees, contact the NYS DEC Region 3 Pesticide Staff at (845) 256-3097. Eligible candidates for certification must and pass two examinations, administered by the NYSDEC. Once you determine you are eligible for certification, contact -your county's NYS DEC office for information on registering for the exams.
NYS DEC Region 3 can be reached by calling (845) 256-3097.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension County Commercial Horticulture Educators

Dutchess: Stephanie Radin, sradin@cornell.edu, 845-677-8223 x 104
Orange: Rosemarie Baglia, rsb22@cornell.edu, 845-344-1234
Putnam: Jennifer Stengle, jjs95@cornell.edu, 845-278-6738
Rockland: Anne Christian, alc44@cornell.edu, 845-429-7085
Ulster: Teresa Rusinek, tr28@cornell.edu, 845-340-3990
Westchester: Gerald Giordano, ggg3@cornell.edu, 914-946-3005

News and Educational Resources:

Free Newsletters
Greenhouse IPM update: Elizabeth M. Lamb eml38@cornell.edu
Christmas Tree IPM update: Elizabeth M. Lamb eml38@cornell.edu
Taking Root Blog/Newsletter https://nysufctakingroot.wordpress.com/

Subscription Newsletters:
Cornell Turf Program: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/turf/
Subscribe to Turf Short Cutt, RSS Feed, Blog: http://www.hort.cornell.edu/turf/pdfs/shortcuttorder.pdf

Branching Out: http://branchingout.cornell.edu/
Newsletter Subscription: http://branchingout.cornell.edu/Subscriptions.html

Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program (Fruits, vegetables, greenhouse):
http://enych.cce.cornell.edu/
Enrolled Newsletter Subscription: email mmp74@cornell.edu

Free Weekly Updates:

- USDA Crop/Weather/Livestock updates: chose your crop, Ag industry or just the weather and email updates will be sent weekly: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_York/Subscribe_to_NY_Reports/
- Forecast: weekly updates for Turf Industry http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/grass/

[Top of Page]

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Cornell University Cooperative Extension and Cornell University assume no responsibility for the use of any pesticide or chemicals. Some of the links provided are not maintained by Cornell University Cooperative

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If you wish to be removed from future mailings, please contact the office in your county.

If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would be interested in receiving a copy each month, contact your local Cornell University Cooperative Extension Educator and ask to be put on the list.