



Lawn and Garden Leaflet

Edward L. Brown—CEA Staff Chair

January 2008

Calling All Master Gardeners — Ed Brown



The Perry County Master Gardeners would like to invite all certified Master Gardeners to participate in the Perry County program. Even if you were certified in another county and have since moved here, we would love to have you. The Master Gardeners are

currently responsible for the plantings at the Perry County Courthouse and the Perryville City Park. There has also been a request for another project at the Historical Museum. All of this means that there is plenty of work for everyone to do. The Master

Gardeners hold their next meeting on February 4 at the Extension office. It will start at 5:30 p.m. Please come, if you would like to join this exciting group and help in the planning for the coming year.

Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop

The workshop will be held at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain. The cost of this event is \$100 and includes meals. There are other options available. Please contact the Extension office if you have any questions. Registration deadline is January 28.

Friday, February 1, 2008 1:00 – 4:30 Optional Bird Outing

Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge

5:00 – 6:00 Registration 6:00 – 8:00 Dinner Program

*Don McKenzie, Coordinator,
Northern Bobwhite
Conservation Initiative*

Saturday, February 2, 2008

8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

**9:00 – 9:30 Biology and
Habitat Requirements
for Quail**

Steve Fowler

**9:30 – 10:00 Biology
and Habitat
Requirements for
Other Bird Species**

Dan Scheiman

10:00 – 10:15 Break

**10:15 – 10:45 Habitat
Management Practices**

Rex Rober,

**10:45 – 11:30 Incentive
Programs**

David Lon,

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

**12:30 – 1:00 Managing
Pastures & Hay Lands
for Livestock & Wildlife**
Chuck West

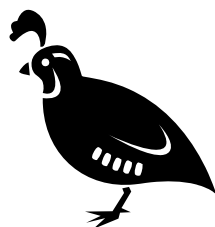
**1:00 – 1:30 Restoring
Woodland Habitats: The
Basics of Why, Where &
How**

Martin Blaney

1:30 – 1:45 Break

**1:45 – 2:15 Prescribed
Burning Practices**
Jason Milks

**2:15 – 3:00 Forest
Stewardship Planning
for Wildlife Restoration**
Mike Cagle



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Master Gardeners

There will be a Master Gardener training in Pope County starting February 15. The class will be all day on the dates of Feb. 15, Feb. 16, Feb. 22, Feb. 23, and Mar. 1. The fee is \$60 and is due by Feb. 1. If you have thought about becoming a Master Gardener but have missed

previous trainings or didn't think that you had the time, this would be a great opportunity. The classes run on two Fridays and three Saturdays. This means a minimum of missed work. We will also try to arrange for carpooling, if you so desire. The training is 40 hours and requires you to

commit to 40 hours of service during the year. You would also be required to continue your learning and service each year in order to maintain your Master Gardener status. If you have any further questions or would like an application, please contact the Extension office.

Fire Ant Two Step



“By using the two-step process, you should have a much better experience in controlling the fire ants.”

On a weekly basis, I get phone calls about controlling the red imported fire ant. I am going to outline a plan that may be helpful to you.

First of all, this fight has been going on in the United States for almost 80 years. Perry County is just one of the next steps on their relentless march across our state. Many methods have been tried to stop them, and many more are under development.

The two-step program is our current recommendation for controlling the ants. The first thing to note is that fire ants are not active during the winter. You may hit a mound and get

them stirred up, but they will not take the baits unless they are actively foraging during the warm months. In the spring, you may test for activity by placing some bits of food around a mound and then come back the next day to see if the food is gone. Once they are active, it is time to act. The first step is to put out bait. Previously, the only good bait was Amdro. This takes a long time to kill the mounds but is still a good product. The newest product is Spectracide® Fire Ant Once and Done!TM This is faster acting. You can broadcast spread over the entire lawn or do individual mound treatments. There is a significant time and money difference between the two methods. In either

case make sure that the ground is somewhat dry and that there is not a chance of rain for a day or two. This is a bait, and the ants need to carry it back to the mound. This will kill the mound but will not stop new mounds from forming.

The second step in the process is to broadcast a product containing “fipronil” approximately 10–14 days after the bait treatment. One of these products is Over ‘n OutTM. There are several others. This step requires it to be watered into the lawn. If you don't have a sprinkler, then try to coordinate the application with a rain. The products containing fipronil create a barrier that ants don't like to cross.

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Fire Ant Two Step - Continued



You should see a noticeable difference in the number of mounds during the summer months. There will be a slow decline in the effectiveness of this treatment towards the fall. If you see individual mounds come up, get out the bait and treat the mound.

By using the two-step process, you should have a much better experience in controlling the fire ants.

The Extension office will be conducting a demonstration in Perryville this year utilizing this two-step method. I will be posting our results throughout the

summer and fall to let you know how effective it was. If you would like to report your own results, we may include those in our overall appraisal of the treatment.

If you have any further questions about fire ants, please contact the Extension office.

Soil Test Day!

A Soil Test Day will be held for Perry County residents on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at the Perry County Extension Office, 107 N. Plum, Perryville, AR. Those wishing to participate in this event should bring one pint of soil for each sample to be tested to the Extension office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on

the test day. This is a free service that is being provided by the Perry County Extension Service and the Perry County Master Gardeners. By testing your soil, you will receive planting recommendations from the university. Let this be your most successful garden season yet. For questions

about collection of samples, please call the Extension office at (501) 889-2661.



Plant of the Month - Pecan



Pecans (*Carya illinoensis*) are large trees capable of reaching 100 feet or more in height with a rounded crown when they reach maturity.

Their native range is entirely in the Mississippi River drainage from southern Illinois to Mississippi and Louisiana.

Pecans are bottomland trees and are found only in areas where topsoil has accumulated to significant depth. Unlike most other hickories, they never made a home in the Ozarks or Ouachita Mountains.

Trees begin producing nuts around their 10th to 12th year, but it may take up to 20 years before

yields become significant. On average, each tree will produce 150 pounds of nuts, but mature trees have been known to produce 500 pounds or more. Pecans are notorious alternate-bearers with full crops produced only every other year.

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Pecan - Continued

Hernando DeSoto and his gang of gold seekers were the first Europeans to encounter the pecan. They found it growing in present-day Arkansas in 1541 after days spent slogging through the swamps that used to occupy much of the eastern part of the state. In his journals, it was called a

walnut, but the description identifies it as pecan.

Pecans aren't especially good yard trees because they are really big, they're afflicted by all manner of insect and disease problems and they're always dropping something you have to pick up. But, if you have room

and a good deep soil, they're worth a try. Consider them only if you have at least a couple feet of good topsoil. Pecans are notoriously difficult to transplant, so choose only small trees from the nursery.



2008 Horticulture Highlights CD

The 2008 Horticulture Highlights CD is now available.

The 2008 CD is updated with new information:

- An electronic version of the new book "Arkansas Common Landscape Problems"
- New fact sheets on lawn care
- A photo-illustrated plan database of more than 100 Arkansas shrub varieties
- Plant disease videos
- New fruit fact sheets

The CD also includes those favorite features that have made the CD essential to hundreds of Arkansas gardeners. There are:

- Hundreds of Janet Carson Q and A's
- More than 400 "Plant of the Week" articles and photos
- More than 150 publications, including publications on insect control, plant diseases and weeds
- Tomato and vegetable

information including control of disease and insects

- A plant disease image library containing over 160 images
- A tree identification key and database

The CD is \$11 and may be purchased in the Communications Department in the LRSO or online at www.uaex.edu. For more information, contact Martha Brothers at 501-671-2127, or mbrothers@uaex.edu

All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran's status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.