

Hort Hints

Cleveland County Horticulture Newsletter

Cleveland County Extension Service, P. O. Box 386, Rison, AR 71665

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Why am I getting this?

You are receiving this Newsletter because you live, work, own property, or have other vested interest in what is happening in Cleveland County. If this news brief has come to you by mistake or you no longer wish to receive it, please contact my office and let us know.

Feel free to contact Les Walz at lwalz@uaex.edu or 870-325-6321.

Event News:

- South Arkansas Homesteading Conference April 13th.

All meetings and activities in this newsletter are offered to all interested persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

Looking for “Spring”

I don't know about you but I'm about done with this cold weather. It's the first week of March and the temperatures are back in the 20's for lows. Show me some sunshine and warmer temps please!!!



PRUNING

Some of you may have noticed several of our “spring time” bloomers jumping the gun a little; such as Forsythia, Quince, spring blooming Spirea, and a peach here and there. Hopefully these cold temperatures won't hurt them too bad. But the blooms and temperatures have reminded me to touch on the topic of pruning: First off, if you haven't started or finished pruning don't be alarmed, you still have time. Second, you still need to decide if you actually need to prune. Third, if you do need to prune, now is the appropriate time for summer blooming trees and shrubs but wait to prune Spring bloomers until they are done blooming. Also, any winter/freeze damage may be addressed now. As always, if you have questions about pruning, please don't hesitate to contact your local County Extension agent.

Pruning Knockout® Roses

Knockout® roses are popular and we often get questions about how to properly prune this variety.

The following is directly from www.knockoutroses.com which advises: To maintain a size of 3-4' w x 3-4 h, Knockout® Roses should be cut back once a year to 12" high in early spring (after the last hard frost of the year). In general, if you cut your Knock Out® Rose back in early spring, it will triple in size by the end of the season (cutting back to 12" high should yield a plant that is about 3' tall by the end of the season).

It is the recommendation of UAEX to: prune Knockouts® every year in late February. Take them back by 1/3 to 1/2 making selective cuts in the bush. Knockout® roses bloom on the new growth, so you want to encourage a full plant, with plenty of growth, so you get more blooms.



Knock Out® Roses

County Gardening Groups Unite

I am happy to announce; Cleveland County Master Gardeners and County Cultivators have united to combine their wisdom and love for gardening to serve Cleveland County. These groups are banding together to complete beautification projects and share wisdom with each other about those things in the garden that interest them. Topics and projects abound and can cover ornamentals, vegetables, fruit trees, lawns, and any other garden topic of interest. These groups are meeting together every first Monday of the month at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds meeting room at 6:00 p.m. They enjoy food, fun, and fellowship and are interested in expanding their ranks. If you have an interest in learning more about gardening or sharing your love of gardening, or know someone that does, please share this information with them and let's make a difference together. Anyone interested can contact the Cleveland County Extension office for more information.

Calendar

The following are management considerations March and April:

- March: prune fruit trees and shrubs.
- Plant cool season vegetables and Irish potatoes.
- March is a good time to apply lime and crabgrass pre-emerge for lawns.
- April is a good time to plant sweet corn and some warm season vegetables.
- April begins the planting of some warm season flowering annuals.

Check us out on  at
UAEX Cleveland County



Tidbits

Hummingbirds begin migrating to and through Arkansas usually in late March and early April. A few birds will show up early before the largest part of the migration hits during the last couple of weeks in April and into May. These little buggers expend a lot of energy during their migration flights and will be looking to replenish themselves. You may want to help them along by providing food sources in your landscapes. Hummingbirds enjoy nectar producing flowers but also consume a large portion of insects as part of their diets. If you have questions about which plants to add to attract hummingbirds, contact your local county Extension office.