Seeds For Thought…  A Message from the Agent

Time to Think About Pruning

Mid to late February is the ideal time to prune roses, crepe myrtles, as well as, fruiting trees and vines such as peaches, apples, plums, grapes, and berries. Fruit crops and roses need to be pruned every year. When pruning any plant, the dead or injured wood should always be removed first. After that, any branch that crosses over another branch should be removed. Areas where branches touch should be avoided, as this is a place for disease to attack plants. In fruit trees, any limb growing at a bad angle should be removed. For example, limbs growing straight up or sideways should be cut. A limb growing at a 45 degree angle from the trunk is ideal. You can be more aggressive pruning peach trees compared to apple trees, but in any tree you should never remove more than a third of the wood in a season. When trying to correct an overgrown tree, it should be done over the course of two to three years instead of all at once. Wood growing toward the center of the trees should also be removed.

When pruning roses, make cuts on a strong branch ¼ inch above an outward facing bud. This will encourage outward growth. Next, remove all weak branches that are smaller in diameter than a pencil. Any canes growing toward the inside of the bush should also be pruned. If you have any questions about pruning this season, contact the Extension office.

Mark your Calendar!

Logan County Master Gardeners and Extension Homemakers are sponsoring an event on March 25 from 1:00 pm to 3 pm at the Jeral Hampton Meeting place in Booneville. Janet Carson will be the guest speaker and will be available to answer all your questions. This is a free event and is open to the public.
Dirt Under My Nails…
Lori Spencer, President

Sick of winter already? I am. Hate to admit it, but I’ve already had it. We lost power, we lost trees, we lost some of our garden, lost some of our garden art, and though the sun is shining as I write this, I’ve lost my sunny disposition. Many of you can say the same thing. The only thing I can really say now is that spring is coming soon……it really is. It’s difficult to think ahead to the garden chores awaiting us in anticipation of the growing season. And what a growing season it could be! I like to think “this will be my best container garden yet!” Maybe it could be.

I admit I never paid much attention to Pantone’s color of the year before now. Maybe that’s just because the color never excited me, but the color for this year does. Radiant Orchid is this year’s color, and it just happens to be a great color for all my beloved butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. See this excerpt from the press release: “While the 2013 color of the year, PANTONE 17-5641 Emerald, served as a symbol of growth, renewal and prosperity, Radiant Orchid reaches across the color wheel to intrigue the eye and spark the imagination,” said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute®. “An invitation to innovation, Radiant Orchid encourages expanded creativity and originality, which is increasingly valued in today’s society. An enchanting harmony of fuchsia, purple and pink undertones, Radiant Orchid inspires confidence and emanates great joy, love and health. It is a captivating purple, one that draws you in with its beguiling charm.”

What images does this invoke for you? What creativity does it inspire? What annuals and perennials? I like to play with color, texture, and height in my gardens. So, I will be exploring the nurseries for annuals in violet tones in supertunias, lantanas, zinnias, impatiens, coleus, and Angelonias. As for perennials, I might mix it up even more; I do plan to plant more blazing star, which is just that color, and will search for specific violet shading along the veins in Japanese painted fern for my shade beds. Looking around the park, I might offer some color-specific tours and hikes just to look for “Radiant Orchid” that already exists in nature.

As this year begins, more and more flower shows, conferences, workshops, and training will become available for MG’s. I am working on speakers for monthly meetings. The Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival is June 20-21—really not that far off!

So when the winter doldrums and cabin fever begin to kick in, remember that Radiant Orchid can help boost your mood! LS

Upcoming Master Gardener Events

FEBRUARY
14—Valentine’s Day
20—Pruning Demonstration Workshop, UA Fruit Research Station, Clarksville.
21-23—Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Little Rock
MARCH
9—Daylight Savings Time
21-23—River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Fort Smith Convention Center
25—Janet Carson will speak at Extension Homemakers/Master Gardener Event, Jeral Hampton Meeting Place
APRIL
16—Fire Ant Demonstration with Kelly Loftin, UA Entomologist, in Paris

●●●●● Mailing List Update ●●●●●

It’s time for us to update our Extension subject-matter mailing lists. If you would like to receive subject-matter mailings from our office, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Extension office. You may also email your choices to loganp@uaex.edu or call either office at 675-2787 or 963-2360.
Reporting Master Gardener Hours Online Tips

Keeping track of your Master Gardener volunteer hours is your responsibility! Remember - to recertify as an active Master Gardener, you must work at least 20 hours per year; and no more than 10 of those hours can be on a non-sanctioned project. You also have to get 20 learning hours. It takes just a few minutes to enter time after each work or education session. To see what qualifies, refer to your volunteer manual. Type http://members.arkmg.org into the menu bar at the top of your screen and hit enter. You cannot type it into a search engine, it will not appear. You can also go to the UACES website and click the link there. Your username is your last name and the first two letters of your first name. There are no hyphens for hyphenated names. For example, my username is spencerlo.

You also have to enter a password. I have assigned a temporary password for every Logan County Master Gardener, and you have to enter it (it is Coneflower), and you will be prompted to enter a NEW password. You need to write down or remember NEW password. After you enter your NEW password, you need to log back into the system and use the NEW password. Then you can enter your hours.

To enter your hours, click on “Enter Hours.” Under “Date” click on the picture of the calendar. You can use the arrow to the left of the month to go back to the month you wish to start recording in. Click on the day on the calendar. Under “Project,” scroll down to find the project or education you wish to record. Under “Hours” type in the number of hours you worked. Click on the arrow to the right to add 15, 30, or 45 minutes. Mileage is optional for those who need it for tax purposes (we aren’t a separate non-profit, so ignore this).

Television, magazine articles, and radio shows still count toward education hours. Many members get their education hours by attending the monthly meetings. You should not record more than one hour of television, radio, or magazines per day, though. Remember that you have to have 20 learning hours in addition to 20 working hours to be recertified. Non-sanctioned projects, like watering flowers at your church, can only account for half of your time. So, for example, you can only count 10 hours of watering at your church, even if you did this most of the year, because you still need to work 10 or more hours at a sanctioned project like Marcelle Phillips Park or the Booneville Courthouse.

► Make sure you click UPDATE to record your hours!
► You can view your timesheet by clicking on “Timesheet.”
► Be sure to LOG OUT when you are finished.
► Make sure you log all your hours for 2014.

Lori Spencer is the time manager for Logan County, and she is recording the hours at each meeting for everyone, so you don’t have to enter that yourself. She is also continuing to record hours for those without computers. You can also call or email her your hours for both sanctioned and non-sanctioned projects or education hours, but please be specific about the activity. However, if you have the internet, please enter your own hours. LS

Pruning Workshop

A pruning demonstration workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the U of A Fruit Research Station in Clarksville. In this workshop, you will learn about the principles of pruning and will view a hands-on demonstration of pruning apples, blueberries, brambles, grapes, muscadines and peaches. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. The workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Please call (479) 754-2406 to register in advance of the event or to get further information. When you call, please state whether you are a commercial producer or a homeowner. A $5 charge will be collected on the day of the event.

Fire Ant Demonstration

Kelly Loftin, U of A Entomology Specialist, will be in Paris the afternoon of April 16. He will be doing hands-on work with a mound including digging up the mound and identifying separate chambers, finding and identifying the queen, as well as sharing ideas on control of fire ants. The time and site are not yet determined. Plan to attend this valuable demonstration on Fire Ant Control.
The 2014 Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference will be May 29-31. The conference site is the Texarkana Convention Center, 4610 Cowhorn Creek, Texarkana, Texas.

**EARLY REGISTRATION**
- Feb. 1 – March 14: Early Registration $98; Postmarked by March 14

**REGULAR REGISTRATION**
- Mar. 15 – Apr. 25. Regular Registration $118; Postmarked by April 25

**Notes:**
Each MG may bring ONE guest. It is not open to the general public. **The registration deadline for all participants is April 25.**


The 2014 Conference is sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and the Miller County (Red Dirt) Master Gardeners.

## Garden Planting Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horseradish, Carrots</td>
<td>Asparagus, Pak Choi</td>
<td>Asparagus, Cucumbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broccoli, Cabbage</td>
<td>Lettuce, Carrots, Kohlrabi, Radish</td>
<td>Sweet Potatoes, Squash Melons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brussels Sprouts</td>
<td>Cauliflower, Cabbage Broccoli,</td>
<td>Okra, Peppers Eggplant, Sweet Corn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Chard, Beets</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>Dill, Tomatoes, Beans (Snap and Pole)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radish, Lettuce, Kale, Mustard</td>
<td>Turnips, Swiss Chard</td>
<td>Kohlrabi, Broccoli, Cabbage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnips, Irish Potatoes, Onions</td>
<td>Beets, Irish Potatoes</td>
<td>Collards, Swiss Chard,</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Peas, Spinach</td>
<td>Onions, Spinach, English Peas</td>
<td>Lettuce, Radish, Beets, Basil</td>
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All activities mentioned in this newsletter are open to everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.