

Trees Face Unique Challenges



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Cavities and Hollows

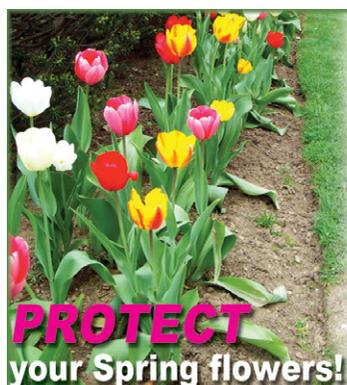
Cavities and hollows in trunks are typically the result of decay that followed injury. The most common are improper pruning, mechanical injury and storm damage. If the cavity is located at the bottom of the trunk, the tree may be at risk of falling over. If it is a large cavity on the trunk, the tree could break in the wind.

By Tom Castronovo
Executive Editor/Publisher
Gardener News

The most important thing you can do to protect the trees on your property is to hire a Licensed Tree Expert or Licensed Tree Care Operator depending on the services they offer for hire, as required by the New Jersey Tree Experts and Tree Care Operators Licensing Act C.45:15C-11.

Over the last several months I have begun noticing several abnormal and quite peculiar tree problems in the landscape, so I decided to meet up with Bert Kuhn, a good and long-time family friend. Kuhn is president-elect of the New Jersey Arborists Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and co-owner of New Jersey-based Action Tree Service. I showed him the pictures in this story, which I have taken of strange, alien-looking trees.

I asked him to describe the problems and to prescribe a solution to not only help me understand the strange anomalies, but to also help you understand them as well. Please see the captions under each photo with his comments. (Cont. on Page 24)



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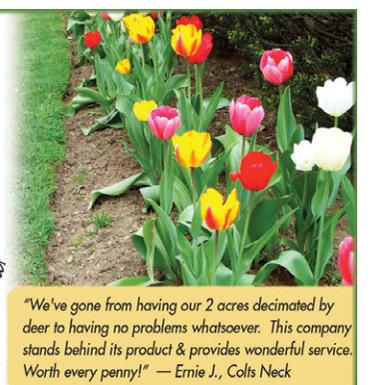
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Around The Garden

By Tom Castronovo
Gardener News

Gardener News Columnists are the Greatest!

This month I'm giving a big shout out to the *Gardener News* columnists. These agricultural, culinary, gardening, landscaping and nursery industry professionals are some of the best, brilliant specialists I know.

In alphabetical order they are:

Andrew Bunting - Vice President of Public Gardens and Landscapes for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Yours Truly - First and foremost, I love the outdoors. I am the executive editor and publisher of the *Gardener News*.

Bruce Crawford - Horticultural Manager for the Morris County Park Commission.

Diana Dove - Co-Youth Chair and on the Board of the Garden Club of New Jersey.

Douglas H. Fisher - New Jersey's seventh Secretary of Agriculture. Secretary Fisher is the department's executive officer, secretary to the State Board of Agriculture and a member of the Governor's cabinet. Secretary Fisher fulfills executive, management and administrative duties prescribed by law, executive order or gubernatorial direction.

Roy Freiman - Chair of the Agriculture and Food Security Committee in the New Jersey State Assembly.

Pete Melick - Co-owner of Melick's Town Farm in Oldwick, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Pete continues the family tradition as a tenth generation farmer who's committed to agriculture. He is also a past president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture.

Bob LaHoff - Bob is co-owner of Hall's Garden Center in Union County, and a member of the Union County Board of Agriculture.

Hubert Ling - Horticultural Co-Chair for the Native Plant Society of New Jersey.

Lesley Parness - Former Superintendent of Horticultural Education at the Morris County Park Commission. Lesley has four decades of teaching environmental science and garden education. Her focus now is garden history.

Todd Pretz - Vice President of Jonathan Green, a leading supplier of lawn and garden products in the northeast.

Brian Schilling - Leads all Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs. Rutgers Cooperative Extension helps New Jersey's diverse population adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve lives and communities through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge.

Aishling Stevens - Executive Chef at Crystal Springs Resort in Sussex County, New Jersey.

Gail Woolcott - Executive Director of the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association

If you are in the market to eat *Jersey Fresh*, use and plant *Jersey Grown*, learn from the best, take a few courses, or would like to hire a speaker for one of your events, please feel free to reach out to these fine folks. Their contact information is located at the end of their column.

Thank you!
P.S. Happy Mother's Day, Mom

Editor's Note: Tom Castronovo is executive editor and publisher of Gardener News. Tom's lifelong interest in gardening and passion for agriculture, environmental stewardship, gardening and landscaping, led to the founding of the Gardener News, which germinated in April 2003 and continues to bloom today. He is also dedicated to providing inspiration, and education to the agricultural, gardening, landscaping and nursery communities through this newspaper and GardenerNews.com.



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May 2022 Columnists

Tom Castronovo	Peter Melick	Roy Freiman
Todd Pretz	Diana Dove	Aishling Stevens
Gail Woolcott	Bob LaHoff	Lesley Parness
Andrew Bunting	Douglas H. Fisher	
Brian Schilling	Bruce Crawford	

**May 2022
Contributing Writer
Hubert Ling**

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Germinated in 2003

Around 350 million years ago, before dinosaurs roamed the Earth, a prehistoric creature plied the coastal waters of New Jersey. And, miraculously, still to this day, horseshoe crabs do.

Taking ten years to mature and mate, female horseshoe crabs come ashore each spring to deposit eggs. The horseshoe crabs amazingly appear and act just as they did eons ago.

It is awesome that these invertebrates (they're "arthropods," like spiders and scorpions) have survived uninterrupted in their cycle of life. At one time in our human existence, it seemed there was an endless supply of this biomass, and our extensive taking of them was but a mere blip to the numbers at hand.

And take them we did, wildly, even into the 21st century. Horseshoe crabs are harmless, defenseless animals that can be easily scooped up with wild abandon, to be harvested for conch bait or ground into fertilizer. At one point in recent memory, they were transacted at just one dollar per crab, testament to their vast numbers.

Going back six decades, I can remember, in parts of New Jersey's shore towns, someone stepping onto the beach would be more likely looking for



NJ Dept. of Agriculture

By Douglas H. Fisher
Secretary of Agriculture

An Ancient Migration Unbroken

space to land one's feet to find a path to the water without stepping on the hard shell of these creatures.

Not today, however. The inexact census varies by which state and when the estimating is being done. Personally, from my experiences at the epicenter of the stopover by the red knot migration each May in the Delaware Bay, the crabs' numbers have become exponentially lower.

You might ask what the connection is between the horseshoe crab and the red knot. This rare, endangered bird migrates each year from Tierra Del Fuego, Argentina, to the North Pole, where they mate and later return home. The red knot is known for its midway New Jersey stop to feast on horseshoe crab eggs. This helps the bird gain enough weight to finish its trip to the North Pole

to complete its mating process before returning to Argentina.

This brings me to where I tell you that I and Assemblyman John McKeon sponsored, in 2003, a legislative ban on the harvest of horseshoe crabs in New Jersey. I originally sponsored it because I believed the crab was going toward extinction, much like the buffalo that was hunted indiscriminately in the American West in the 1800s, or the carrier pigeon (sometimes known as the "passenger pigeon") which in fact was harvested into oblivion.

Only later did I come to realize stopping or at least managing the taking of the horseshoe was also crucially important in saving at least three rare birds from extinction. They are the ruddy turnstone, red knot, and the semipalmated sandpiper.

Here, too, is where I want to mention compromise and perspective in making policy. We should balance the interest of that which came before us with the future of what's ahead of us.

For example, it would be much easier to eliminate horseshoe crabs for the raising and harvesting of aquaculture products like oysters in our waterways, as the crab's seasonal cycles put it at times in the same area where aquaculture operators are tending oysters. But it's much better if we balance the two activities than to choose between them.

It should be that way with all public policy. Examples are all around and I think we must intelligently look at all aspects of issues. Like solar projects on prime soils on our farms, the commercial non-farm events

on preserved farms, or the protection of soil for future generations.

Oh, by the way, if we did not have horseshoe crabs in our midst, we might not have had a COVID vaccine. The crab's blue-tinted, copper-based blood (compared to our iron-based blood) was used in developing and testing the vaccine. (And the crabs were returned to the water after blood was drawn.)

This case of crab-as-cautionary-tale, with its epicenter in New Jersey, demonstrates the connection of different creatures within nature, and how overlooking the loss of one can impact many others.

Editor's Note: Douglas H. Fisher is New Jersey's Secretary of Agriculture. He is the department's executive officer, secretary to the State Board of Agriculture and a member of the Governor's cabinet. Secretary Fisher fulfills executive, management and administrative duties prescribed by law, executive order or gubernatorial direction. He can be reached at 609.292.3976. For more info, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture>

U.S., Mexican Agriculture Secretaries Meet to Address Shared Priorities

United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Mexico Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development Victor Villalobos met on April 5, 2022 to continue cooperation on shared priorities including open trade, science-based policy making, and sustainable and climate-smart agricultural production.

Following their meetings, Vilsack and Villalobos announced that the United States and Mexico have concluded all necessary plant health protocols and agreed to a final visit by Mexican officials in April that finalizes expanded access to the entire Mexican market no later than May 15 for all U.S. table stock and chipping potatoes according to the agreed workplan.

During their engagement, the Secretaries reaffirmed their shared commitment to:

- promoting food security by facilitating trade and inclusive rural development and enabling sustainable productivity growth;

- continuing to support rural development by expanding market opportunities for agricultural producers and their products;
- helping small producers and new farmers, particularly with respect to developing local and regional markets;
- tackling climate change by giving farmers access to tools and technologies that enable them to increase production while minimizing their environmental impacts; and
- enhancing plant and animal health cooperation to meet emerging threats and to promote food security.

Two-way trade in food and agricultural products between the United States and Mexico reached a record \$63 billion in 2021 and the strong relationship between the North American neighbors has been further enhanced by the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Make Sure Your Farm or Ranch Counts

June 30, 2022 is the last day to sign up for the 2022 Ag Census. If you have never received a census and are new to NASS surveys, sign up to be counted today. You do not need to sign up if you already receive NASS surveys.

Key Dates:

- June 30, 2022 – sign up ends
- November 2022 – ag census mails out and data collection begins
- February 6, 2023 – response deadline
- 2024 (TBD) – data release

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity.

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From the Director's Desk
Rutgers Outreach
Provided by Brian Schilling
Director

Preparing for a Successful Season – Tips to Avoid Early Season Plant Diseases

When it comes to preparing your garden for a successful season, one dogma should constantly be kept in mind—the Disease Triangle, or the three factors for disease to develop: 1) a susceptible host, 2) the pathogen, and 3) an environment favorable for the pathogen. Here are ways you can best prepare your garden for a productive season, while minding environmental, host plant, and plant pathogen factors at the on-set and throughout the season.

Removing the **pathogen**, i.e., sanitation, is your secret weapon. Key areas of the garden and your methods should be the focus of reducing early season plant disease. The tools, propagation equipment, re-used containers, etc. used throughout the season should be scrubbed with soap and water ('cleaned') and then chemically 'sanitized.'

Sanitation principles also apply to the garden itself, where leaf litter, diseased or dead plants and annuals, or dying branches of perennials should be removed. Physically removing potential plant pathogen inoculum from the garden adds an additional level of security to pathogen avoidance approaches. That said, many gardeners add some type of mulch or leaf litter to the garden to suppress weed growth, insulate against temperature extremes, and add nutrients or beauty to the landscape. How we handle this falls into one of two categories: 1) is the leaf litter from the garden itself or 2) is the leaf litter or mulch from another source? If the leaf litter present is from the garden plants and the garden is prone to foliar diseases, it should be removed, as this is the exact location many foliage-attacking pathogens overwinter. If the materials are from another location, they may not contain pathogens capable of attacking your garden plants. However, in either case if this material is to be removed, it **MUST** be done so during dry conditions. For example, if a leaf blower is used and the litter and plants are wet, plant pathogens can be blown throughout the garden while having enough moisture (within the water droplets) to successfully infect new plants.

Speaking of moisture (**environmental factors**), how you water has a significant impact on the likelihood of various types of plant pathogens. Typically, anything you can do to keep foliage dry will greatly decrease the likelihood of foliar diseases, as many foliar pathogens require water to infect. Irrigation techniques such as drip or soaker hoses not only keep foliage dry, they also reduce overall watering needs and limit weed pressure. Conversely, overirrigation by any means often results in root-rot issues that

ironically express as drought-stricken plants. If you know irrigation has been adequate but the plants seem to be continually wilted, a root pathogen is likely present, and these plants should be removed or treated.

Over-crowding (**host factors**) can also have massive impacts on disease severity. Individual diseases typically only attack a small group of host plants (excluding pathogens like *Botrytis cinerea*, a.k.a. grey mold), however the environmental factors that lead to plant disease are often very similar. If one plant is good, then three must be better, right? Not necessarily. In a crowded garden, reduced air flow promotes higher humidity and more favorable disease conditions. New plants should be placed at the correct spacing distances (ideally where mature plants will not touch) or pruned to promote less dense perennial canopies. In addition to increased airflow, these canopies also allow for better delivery of fertilizers or other materials.

Crowded plants competing for resources are less vigorous, thus more susceptible to disease, and you are less likely to notice until it is too late! Resist the temptation to over plant and you will thank yourself later. All this said, with less dense canopies more sunlight will reach the soil until canopy closure, therefore weeds can be problematic early in the season. We all know weeds are a common problem in the garden, however, did you know that they can act as pathogen overwintering locations or harbor diseases that can attack similar plants in your garden? Their removal also aids in promoting airflow and removes their competition for resources, thus promoting more vigorous plants.

When preparing for a successful season, starting and staying clean (tools, propagation areas, and leaf litter), promoting increased airflow, reducing overhead irrigation, and maintaining healthy plants in various ways, all play into utilizing the Disease Triangle to avoid plant disease at the beginning and throughout the season.

If you have issues with disease, contact the Rutgers Plant Diagnostic Laboratory to have them evaluated at njaes.rutgers.edu/plant-diagnostic-lab (fee based). Additional resources can be obtained through the Rutgers Master Gardeners website (njaes.rutgers.edu/master-gardeners) including 'Call a Rutgers Master Gardener,' 'Lawn & Garden Frequently Asked Questions,' or becoming a Rutgers Master Gardener. Rutgers factsheets on lawn and garden and other topics can be found at njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs.

Editor's note: This month's contribution was written by Timothy J. Waller, Ph.D., Agricultural Agent for Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County.

LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY NEWS

Rutgers Gardens Celebrates Fifth Anniversary Since Landmark Horticultural Site Designation

Five years ago, Rutgers Gardens received the prestigious designation as a Horticultural Landmark by the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS), raising its profile as a leading public garden in New Jersey and the region.

With the presentation of the coveted brass commemorative plaque on April 4, 2017, Rutgers Gardens joined an elite group of horticultural sites like the New York Botanical Garden, the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., and Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia, which received the ASHS' first Horticultural Landmark designation. Initiated in 1996, the ASHS Horticultural Landmark program was established to

commemorate sites of horticultural accomplishments, selected for historical, scientific, environmental and aesthetic value.

Rutgers Gardens has grown from its humble origins when 35.7 acres of land—known as Wolpert Farm—was purchased on May 17, 1916, from Jacob and Celia Lipman. It was intended as a functional education space for local farmers to learn about ornamental horticulture, a new industry trend at the turn of the century. Today, Rutgers Gardens has grown to include more than 180 acres of both maintained and natural areas, evolving over time from research farm to public garden that today embraces biodiversity via its gardens and plant collections.

Rutgers Equine Science Center's 2022 Horse Management Seminar Recordings Go Live

Rutgers University's Equine Science Center is happy to announce the recordings of the 2022 Horse Management Seminar are now live!

The series, which was held on February 8th, 15th, and 22nd was a large success due in part to it being held virtually for the second year in a row. "Being able to invite guests to present virtually from around the United States has allowed our audience to hear from experts that would usually be restricted by travel expenses and other commitments," said Carey Williams, associate director of outreach at the Equine Science Center. "These experts have been able to join us from their offices in places like Florida or Kentucky, bringing with them an expertise in topics such as equine rehabilitation, genomics, and rotational grazing."

The themes for each of the nights included "Recent Advances in Veterinary Medicine," "What's New in Equine Genetics and Health," and "Recent Advances in Equine Nutrition." All recordings are now available on the Equine Science Center's website on the homepage; as well archived in the "Library" section of the website listed under "Multimedia", the location for all previously recorded webinars: esc.rutgers.edu/resources/library/multimedia.

The Equine Science Center is a unit of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Its mission is "Better Horse Care through Research and Education" in order to advance the well-being and performance of horses and the equine industry. Its vision is to be recognized throughout New Jersey as well as nationally and internationally for its achievements in identifying issues in the horse industry, finding solutions through science-based inquiry, providing answers to the horse industry and to horse owners, and influencing public policy to ensure the viability of the horse industry.

For more information about the Equine Science Center, call 848-932-9419 or visit esc.rutgers.edu.

Hutcheson Memorial Forest Volunteers Plant Native Trees in Forest Canopy Restoration Effort

Volunteer Days during the month of April at Hutcheson Memorial Forest Center (HMFC), located off Amwell Road in Somerset County, had a successful start with 20 volunteers from Rutgers, nearby community colleges and local residents. Volunteers planted more than 130 native trees in nine canopy gaps located throughout the enclosed old-growth forest known as Mettler's Woods. Planting will continue in April, with two more volunteer days being held on April 9 and 16.

Volunteers are a key part of the strategies being employed to aid in the restoration of forest canopy gaps in this historic forest, which is listed on the National Park Registry of Natural Landmarks. Protected and administered by Rutgers, HMFC consists of the 26 ha Mettler's Woods, the primeval, mixed oak forest that is one of the last uncut stands of this sort of forest in the U.S.

Because of overabundant deer population and the dominance of invasive plant species, the next generation

of trees is at risk, explained Myla Aronson, assistant professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, and director of HMFC.

"The goals of this project are to develop restoration strategies that facilitate tree growth in forest gaps while also reducing invasive plant species," said Aronson.

Samantha Gigliotti, doctoral student in the Ecology and Evolution graduate program at Rutgers, is a key part of the research team involved in the restoration efforts.

"The lack of tree seedlings and saplings in Northeastern urban and suburban forests are a major concern for forestry professionals, managers, landowners and the community at large, and threaten the future of our forests," said Gigliotti.

The research related to the restoration efforts at HMFC is supported by the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program and the Aronson Lab for Urban Ecological Studies.

NJAES and SEBS Share in USDA-NIFA Funding for Human Chronic Disease Prevention

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced an investment of more than \$5 million to support projects that impact diet, nutrition and chronic disease prevention. The Rutgers project, "People, Plants, and The Planet: A Multi-Method Study to Develop, Implement & Evaluate a Food & Climate Change Intervention to Empower Adolescents to Make Healthy & Sustainable Plant-Based Food Choices," was awarded \$298,290.

Rutgers principal investigator (PI) Sara Elnakib, Department of Family and Community Health Sciences educator and department head, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County; and

co-PIs Ethan Schoolman, assistant professor in the Department of Human Ecology; and Shauna Downs, assistant professor in Rutgers School of Public Health, Department of Health Systems and Policy, and Investigator Peggy Policastro, director-NJHKE Culinary Literacy and Nutrition and Rutgers Dining, Nutrition Services will develop and pilot test a food, human health and climate health intervention to reduce the prevalence of obesity and associated chronic diseases among adolescents.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites chronic disease as the leading cause of death in the United States and a leading driver in annual health care costs.



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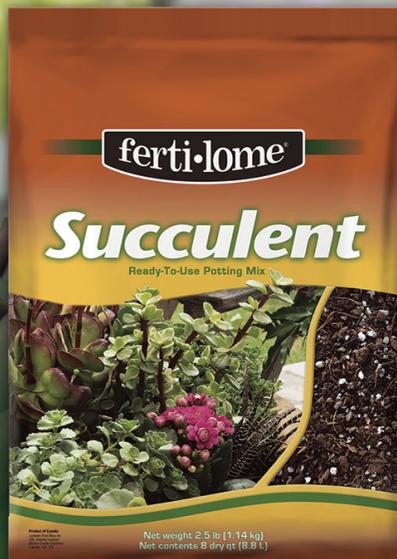
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The Garden State hasn't always made it easy for our farms to prosper. As the Chairman of the New Jersey Assembly's Agriculture and Food Security Committee, it's my job to create a positive climate for farming, while also making sure healthy, local produce is available to all New Jerseyans.

One way we are seeking to support farming and the larger New Jersey economy is by allowing special events on preserved farms.

There are many reasons we preserve farms, including the opportunity for New Jerseyans and visitors to enjoy their beauty. On-farm weddings, birthday parties, corporate team-builders, and festivals of all kinds provide the public with access to preserved farms while generating much needed revenues to farmers—and to the broader economy. Overnight stays in hotels, restaurant meals, tickets to cultural events, and retail traffic are all enhanced when visitors are attracted to events on Garden State farms.

I see enormous opportunities to grow New Jersey's economy by supporting agriculture, as some of our neighbors have done.



Agriculture and Food Security

By Roy Freiman
New Jersey Assemblyman

Preserved Farms and Agritourism

Over the last decade, Upstate New York's tourism economy has grown 20% faster than New Jersey's, in large part because of New York's commitment to reducing regulations on farmers and craft beverage makers, and smart investments in agritourism marketing. That's why the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Senate, and Assembly are working together on a special event permitting bill A2772/S757 that will finally enable more than 2700 preserved farms to host special events, as other farms do.

Everyone involved in this effort recognizes a balance must be struck between supporting our farms economically while staying true to the spirit of farmland preserved with public funds. Special events must not

overburden communities with traffic, noise, and construction that undermines local quality of life. Permanent event halls should not be allowed on farms.

At the same time, we should make sure that our preserved farms are not overburdened with new rules and red tape that undermine the very purpose of special event legislation.

My committee's bill proposes that preserved farms should be able to have gatherings for fewer than 75 people, without being counted as a "special occasion event". This additional support will make it possible for farms to host local birthday parties, small-scale fundraisers, and youth events, without diminishing their chance to hold larger special events.

The Assembly bill seeks

to avoid needless make-work rules such as a requirement that temporary tents be taken down nightly. Additionally, the bill also protects public health by allowing running water for sanitation at special events.

Easements that prevent development on preserved farms are negotiated and held by dozens of state, county, and municipal governments and accredited nonprofits, all of whom do great work on behalf of New Jersey agriculture. But this patchwork of easement holders—also known as grantees—is subject to changes in leadership and not well suited to overseeing special event permits. That's why the Assembly bill looks to simplify the process.

Because there are differences between the Assembly's

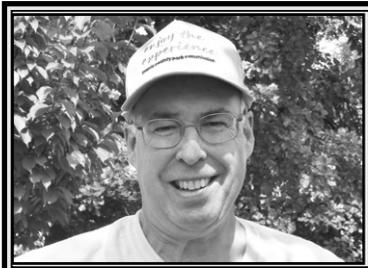
approach and that favored by the Department of Agriculture, more time is needed before we can get a special events bill enacted into law. Yet I believe the give-and-take of the legislative process will produce legislation that better serves the long-term interests of farming in New Jersey.

New Jersey has work to do if we're going to catch up with the success of agritourism in New York and other nearby states, but I'm excited by the opportunity and look forward to collaborating with New Jersey farmers to achieve ambitious goals. It is not enough to aim for the survival of agriculture in New Jersey—we ought to aim for prosperity and a true revival of New Jersey agriculture.

Editor's Note: Assemblyman Roy Freiman represents the 16th Legislative District, which encompasses Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, and Middlesex. He is Chair of the Agriculture and Food Security Committee in the New Jersey State Assembly. He can be reached at asmfreiman@njleg.org or by calling 908-829-4191

Plant blindness is a term J. H. Wandersee and E. E. Schussler coined in 1999, defining how people do not recognize the importance of plants. I suspect this issue would be even more problematic if the plant did not offer colorful flowers to beckon one's attention. I feel this maybe an underlying problem with the appreciation of ferns. Gardeners recognize their wonderful textures but often not their durability. By durability, I refer to their lifespan on earth as it is measured not in years, but millions of years! Interestingly, one of the oldest fern families contains a NJ native many people have yet to 'recognize' – the Cinnamon Fern, botanically named *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*.

Osmundastrum cinnamomeum happens to be monotypic, whereby it is the only species found within its genus. It is a member of the Royal Fern Family or Osmundaceae, which is one of the oldest still existent families, dating back 320 million years. Its age allowed it to spread over large areas while land masses merged to form Pangea. Today native populations are found in Eastern North America, Eastern Mexico, northern South America



Morris County Park Commission

By Bruce Crawford
Horticultural Manager

Antiquity in our Midst

along with Siberia and parts of Eastern Asia! Up until recently Cinnamon Fern was included in the genus *Osmunda*, which was first coined in 1753 by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). The root of the genus name remains a mystery although the species, which was also described by Linnaeus, is a tribute to the cinnamon color of the dense fibers that cover the mounded root masses.

More recently, it was determined that Cinnamon Fern is uniquely different with its ancestry thought to date back to the origins of the Osmundaceae family, from which the other species and genera diverged some 120 million years later. In recognition of its lineage, Charles N. Miller of the University of Montana suggested adopting the name

Osmundastrum for this species in 1967. Oddly, this name is not new as it was crafted in 1847 by the Czechoslovakian botanist Karel Bořivoj Presl (1794-1852)! The addition of 'astrum' indicates it bears a resemblance to *Osmunda*. Clearly, his appreciation for the uniqueness of this genus was well ahead of his time!

Cinnamon Fern is a rather large fern, typically growing to 3-5' tall. The rhizomes expand at a glacial rate of several millimeters a year with the root mass slowly mounding up to 6" in height. The leaves are properly called fronds and consist of a central stem or rachis along which the pinnae or leaves are oppositely arranged. Below the lowest set of pinnae, the rachis becomes woody and is called a stipe. The basal portion of the stipe persists for

many years and serves to add volume to the mounded base of the plant. The fronds appear as two distinct forms: the spore-bearing fronds called Sporophylls and the photosynthetic fronds called Trophophylls. Each 3-5' tall Trophophyll has 12-25 pairs of pinnae along the rachis that range from 4-6" long. Each pinna is further divided into 20+ lobes or pinnules, providing a very lacy appearance to the plant. The Sporophylls reach a more restrained height of 2-3', and they too sport 12-25 pairs of pinnae arranged oppositely along the rachis. Initially green, the sporophylls develop cinnamon-brown hairs and spore releasing sporangia that provides their distinguishing cinnamon coloration. Come autumn, the Trophophylls turn an attractive

bronze to yellow, before collapsing during winter.

My experience with Cinnamon Fern actually dates back to my youth. Looking to enhance a boggy area in my parent's yard, I moved several of the curiously mounded root masses. When I sold the house 50 years later, those ferns were still thriving. Little did I know an individual plant can live for up to 500 years! Their only request is for a moist location in full sun to partial shade.

Without doubt, ferns will remain 'blind' to most non-gardeners. For gardeners, it is a group that deserves recognition and Cinnamon Fern is a tremendous garden asset for texture and height in the moist garden. They have certainly proven the test of time and unbeknownst to many, they truly are an antiquity in our midst!

Editor's Note: Bruce Crawford is a lover of plants since birth, is the Manager of Horticulture for the Morris County Parks Commission, and a Past President of the Garden State Gardens Consortium. He can be reached at BCrawford@morrisparks.net

For decades one of the most popular of all the ground covering plants was the English ivy, *Hedera helix*. It was used because it covered the ground quickly, was relatively inexpensive, had minimal pest or disease issues, and was evergreen during the winter. Some people also used it to cover the facades of buildings. The Ivy League schools, however, are named for their ivy clad buildings that are covered with the Boston ivy, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, which has leaves that turn coppery in the fall, but are deciduous.

Both species have become pernicious, invasive, exotic vines and groundcovers over the years due in large part to their ability to set copious amounts of fruits that produce many viable seeds that are fed on by birds and spread throughout gardens and native areas throughout most of the East Coast.

Growing on the ground, it chokes out most everything in its path including native perennials and shrubs, and in the garden it will do the same. There are two growth forms of *Hedera helix*. In its juvenile form it is ground covering where it can grow many feet in a growing season. English ivy also grows vertically and can attach to stone or



Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

By Andrew Bunting

Vice President of Public Gardens and Landscapes

In a League of its Own, Controlling English Ivy

brick facades of buildings or wooden fences, and can grow on most trees especially those with a scaly or furrowed bark. Once the ivy starts to grow skywards, it takes on its adult form. Small branches start forming and it almost becomes shrub-like in some respects as it clambers up the tree and most importantly it starts to produce small black fruits. Trying to combat the ivy that carpets our gardens and woodlands is difficult enough, but then when it starts producing fruit that problem is exacerbated due to seedlings of the ivy being spread as well.

A silver lining, I suppose, is that there are multiple approaches to mitigating and controlling the impact of ivy in the garden. The best approach for removing ivy from trees is to prune away a

section of the ivy stem which can be done with pruners, loppers or a small hand saw. When this is done, over the next couple months the leaves will wilt and then they eventually will turn brown and start to fall off. Over time the network of stems and branches will start to decay and eventually will slough off from the trunk of the tree, reclaiming the natural form it once had. Cutting ivy off trees will protect the tree long term, but it also immediately “knocks out” a large fruiting, and hence seed, source.

Ivy seedlings that come up in the garden can be pulled out with relative ease. Removing the carpet of ivy from the garden and natural areas can be done relatively easily, especially if you have a large crew of people.

Working with a sharp spade or the wide end of a mattock, you can cut and start to dig under the front edge. Ivy is relatively shallow rooted so the plants will come up easily. Once you get some momentum then the ivy literally rolls up like carpet.

Another issue to be mindful of is when there is a bed of ivy and it is growing around shrubs and especially trees in the winter, animals such as mice, vole, moles and shrews will live in the ivy and often come up looking for a food source and eat the bark on even large trees. I have seen very large trees with all the bark eaten at the base where ivy is growing. This impact is called girdling. Complete girdling at the base of a shrub or tree can result in the death of even a tree hundreds of years old.

As an alternative to English ivy, there are many evergreen perennials to choose from such as hellebores, evergreen ferns such as Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides* or autumn fern, *Dryopteris erythrosora* and many evergreen to quasi-evergreen sedges.

Editor's Note: Andrew Bunting is Vice President of Public Gardens and Landscapes for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He is one of the most recognized horticulturists in the Philadelphia, Pa., region and a highly regarded colleague in the world of professional horticulture. Bunting has amassed a plethora of awards, including the American Public Gardens Association Professional Citation, Chanticleer Scholarship in Professional Development, Delaware Center for Horticulture's Marion Marsh Award, and the Certificate of Merit from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. In addition, Bunting has lectured extensively throughout North America and Europe, and participated in plant expeditions throughout Asia and Africa. Learn more at <https://phsonline.org/team/andrew-bunting>

Beloved Philadelphia Flower Show Returns to Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park from June 11 - 19

For the second time in its almost 200-year history, the Philadelphia Flower Show will be held outdoors, giving visitors the opportunity to experience the beautiful vistas and rolling landscape of FDR Park, a registered historical district. Designed by the Olmsted Brothers – sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City's famed Central Park – the park was the host location for the 1926 Sesquicentennial Expo of the United States. FDR Park is an inspiring venue that contributes to the splendor that the Show is known for, while also being easily accessible by public transportation and car.

The Show will again span 15 acres of the Park's footprint with breathtaking exhibits, family-friendly activities, and gorgeous greenspace.

Re-imagined this year, Show offers guests a welcoming, vibrant, blooming path where visitors will experience spectacular floral and garden displays filled with bold color and dramatic beauty. Additionally, this year's Show will offer several new experiences tailored to families, food lovers, plant enthusiasts, and those that want to experience late spring's beauty in an outdoor setting. This event will give every Show visitor the opportunity for a unique and unforgettable experience.

The Show's theme “In Full Bloom” connotes good health, positive well-being, and a passion for life that culminates in a gorgeous and colorful spectacle.

The decision to produce the Show outdoors

was made to accommodate the continuing uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Park's spacious 15-acre footprint allows for social distancing and the associated health benefits of being outside. Public safety is a critical component for the upcoming Show, and adherence to recommendations from City/State health officials is paramount to Show planning. PHS will continue to work closely with health officials leading up to the Show with updated guidance available online.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is located in Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park at 1500 Pattison Avenue & South Broad Street.

Tickets are available for sale at [PHSonline.org/the-flower-show](https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show)

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Unique Plants

By Bob LaHoff
Nursery Specialist

An Education in the Tropics

During our coldest winter months in New Jersey, my wife feels it necessary to escape the doldrums of winter and feel the warmth of the sun on her face. Colder weather, shorter days and barren landscapes have her dialing our friend and travel agent Danny to escape to a warmer climate. Always a brief getaway, this year's destination was Naples, Florida.

Sunny blue skies, warm weather, coastal views, and shopping are the prerequisites for my wife and daughter. For me, my escape revolves around some of that, but also includes the plant kingdom. Fascinated with all types of plants, traveling to a warmer climate opens a whole new world of plant material. Naples, Florida has a plant hardiness zone of 10a, vastly different from zone 6 in New Jersey. Simply put, houseplants that we keep in New Jersey are foundation plantings in Florida. Ficus trees that you may see in a corner office are towering evergreens in the tropics.

The Naples Botanical Garden™ was, in part, my nourishment during our brief holiday. Their mission is "to develop and conserve collections and habitats of the flora and cultures between the 26 latitudes." This botanical garden sits on 170 acres and is a world-class garden paradise featuring plants from around the world. Founded in 1993, today the garden welcomes over 200,000 visitors a year "to experience themed-gardens that represent the culture and flora of the tropics."

One of the first remarkable features I witnessed was not a tropical plant, rather a sculpture. *STICKWORK* is the signature sculpture of environmental artist, Patrick Dougherty, a sculptor and artist

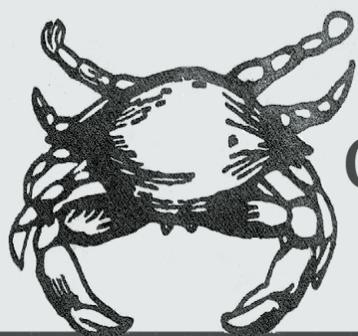
I first became aware of, and enamored with, almost a decade ago. The Morris Arboretum University of Pennsylvania showcased his work in 2015. Dougherty's creations are site-specific, interactive community sculptures that are instantly recognizable. Organic, twisted forms of sticks create whimsical silhouettes that are as playful as they are elegant. Pussy willow, *Salix discolor*, from Québec, Canada and Coastal plain willow, *Salix caroliniana*, harvested at Naples Botanical Garden™, create four individual, but interconnected circles. Dougherty, his son, and local volunteers "transformed 30,000 pounds of willow saplings into an immersive structure on the Kapnick Caribbean Garden lawn" in just 17 days. Google image Patrick Dougherty and you will be amazed by his organic creations and how they "reverberate with the space around it" as he states.

The amount of unique plant material in this tropical paradise is staggering. Traversing the property, there is the Lea Asian Garden, Kapnick Brazilian Garden, Water Garden, an idea garden, and my favorite, the succulent garden, to name a few. Colorful, textured plant material, meticulously situated from around the world, left my mouth agape. The varieties of palm trees alone were amazing. Royal palm trees towering above the *STICKWORK* sculpture was impressive and captured what most envision when they think tropical. However, for me, the Palmyra palm, *Borassus flabellifer*, from Asia was the best. A grey, almost black trunk, this robust palm has fan-shaped leaves almost ten feet long. Cross hatch, dark fibrous bark captured my attention standing inside a bed of pothos groundcover.

Another standout was the skeletal structure of *Plumeria 'Naples Sixteen'* in its deciduous state. A genus of flowering plants native to Mexico, Central America, Brazil, and Florida, *Plumeria* flowers are probably best known for their use in a lei. Known for its wide selection of *Plumeria*, this botanical garden was propagating several types, in large tubs, planted within a stone dust medium. Interestingly, the limbs of larger *Plumeria* have an almost rubber, pliable consistency. The award for the most unique plant type was the *Alluaudia* collection. Flowering plants with spines arranged around its leaves as a defense against herbivores, this tree immediately reminded me of the hardier Monkey Puzzle, *Araucaria araucana*. Native to Madagascar, lemurs rely on the *Alluaudia* plant for food. And while there were several types, *Alluaudia procera* was my favorite. An unusual upright succulent with paired rounded leaves and grey spines that sprout up along the length of its branches...quite lethal! Commonly called Madagascar Ocotillo, this is a plant I will never forget.

There were so many fascinating plants at Naples Botanical Garden™, most of which were identified. However, one plant, escaping description, I took a picture of and brought to a local garden center. *Clerodendrum quadriloculare 'Starburst or Shooting Star'*, a member of the mint family, had the most remarkable flowers I have seen in quite some time. Delicate white stars shooting forth with lovely pink trails, not to mention green leaves with purple undersides. Native to New Guinea and the Philippines, I may need this one for a container by our pool this summer.

Editor's Note: Bob LaHoff is co-owner of Hall's Garden Center and Florist in Union County, a member of the Union County Board of Agriculture, the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association, past member of Reeves-Reed Arboretum Buildings and Grounds Committee, a lifetime member of the Conifer Society and past member of the retail council for Monrovia Growers. He can be reached at (908) 665-0331.



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If history repeats itself, your lawn should be looking pretty good at this time of year except for those pesky weeds! Let's look at what we can do to control these weeds.

I assume by now you have fed your lawn once and started your mowing regimen? If this is so, your lawn is looking quite lush and green, and it is starting to thicken up. The spring rains have brought "brown" dormant grass back to life. If you are saying "no" to this statement, why have you not given your lawn any food? It needs to be fed during the growing season of early spring to late fall. Feeding your lawn twice before July 1st is probably the best thing you can do for a healthy lawn to survive the summer months. A healthy growing lawn will choke out a lot of weed growth.

May is usually when broadleaf weeds start to appear. Broadleaf weeds usually have a flower associated with the weed base. Grassy weeds look more like a grass plant, like crabgrass. Spring rains and warmer weather promotes rapid weed growth. The most common one is dandelion. This yellow flowering plant is considered



Turf 's Up

By Todd Pretz
Professional Turf Consultant

Green grass and weeds...

a weed by most folks if it is in their lawn. Some folks like dandelions to make dandelion wine, that leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. Dandelions are best controlled when they are actively growing and there is plenty of leaf tissue exposed. There are many alternatives to control dandelions in both a liquid and granular form. Spot spraying with a product labelled for dandelions is frequently a 3-way mix of herbicides for overall best control on a host of broadleaf weeds.

The most popular grassy weed in lawns is crabgrass. At this time of year, crabgrass has not really started to rear its ugly head. Don't be fooled, it still is most likely growing in the lower turf canopy if the

lawn area is sunny, and you have had a history of crabgrass problems over the years. The best way to control crabgrass is to apply a pre-emergent in spring. Dimension (dithiopyr) can control crabgrass plants up to the 3-leaf stage. Late spring is usually when crabgrass is in the 3-leaf stage so you may still be able to get some level of control if you apply a pre-emergent in May. There are many fertilizer combination products with either lawn fertilizer and either crabgrass control or broadleaf weed control (Weed & Feed). Be sure to read the label and follow directions for best control. Pre-emergent controls like to be watered in to set in the soil level to establish the barrier to prevent crabgrass germination.

Broadleaf weed controls do not like to be watered in. Broadleaf weed controls need to stick to damp actively growing weeds so the control can be absorbed by the weed, not washed off. Water the area you are treating before applying broadleaf weed controls. No watering or rain for 48 hours after is best. Some broadleaf weeds make take up to a month to fully die so be patient.

Guess what is the next best way to control broadleaf weeds in your lawn organically? Your lawn mower! Yes, proper, frequent mowing is a great tool to use to control weeds. Your lawn likes to be cut with a sharp blade often. Like a haircut or a forest fire, mowing the lawn helps it to grow thicker and

stronger and to fill in bare spots. Weeds, on the other hand, do not like to be mowed and disturbed. Mowing takes strength and some growth capabilities away from weeds. Many broadleaf weeds will suffer from frequent mowing and eventually die. The healthy growth due to mowing also helps shade the soil and deter weed seeds from properly establishing.

Another tip about broadleaf or grassy weeds, if you want to control them, do it when they are young and more susceptible to controls. Get that dandelion before it multiplies with its puff balls all over your property. The key is to disrupt the life cycle of the weed, reducing the population so over time they will be less prevalent. Don't forget, the bugs are coming next month!

Editor's Note: Todd Pretz is Vice President of Jonathan Green, a leading supplier of lawn and garden products in the northeast. For more information, please visit: www.jonathangreen.com

As we get into the month of May, it is time to start thinking about planting tomato plants. It is during this month when temperatures start to warm up enough so that tomato plants can be safely planted outside. It is important to keep an eye on the weather, however, as a killing frost is possible up through the end of the month. If you are only planting a few plants, make sure that you plant into a warming trend in the weather pattern. And if it looks like there is a potential for a frost, just be prepared to cover the plants with a pot or a bucket overnight.

Tomatoes do best in well drained fertile soil that has full exposure to the sun all day long. Tomato plants should be planted 18-24 inches apart in the row, with 5-6 feet between the rows. One common mistake home-gardeners make is that they often plant tomatoes too close together. This will cause them to compete with each other for available sunlight, which in turn will make them leggy and more prone to fungal diseases.

Black plastic mulch is a great option for tomato growers



The Town Farmer

By Peter Melick
Agricultural Producer

Time to Plant Tomatoes

as it offers quite a few benefits. First of all, the black color will absorb sunlight which will warm the soil. It will also act as a weed barrier and keep weeds from competing with the tomatoes. The plastic also works to keep moisture in the soil from evaporating as well keeping the tomatoes clean from rain-splashed dirt which in turn, helps prevent the spread of disease. Be mindful not to water your plants too much in the first four to six weeks after planting. They really will not need much water until small fruit start to set.

It is also important to support your plants in some way. This support will keep the tomatoes off the ground and open up the entire plant for maximum

sunlight interception. Many people use stakes to hold the tomatoes up, but tomato cages can be used as well. Just be sure to adjust the plants periodically so that they continue to grow in a productive and uniform manner.

Canopy management is crucial to growing high quality tomatoes. If plants grow too vigorously, there will not be many fruit. If the plants do not produce enough foliage, the tomatoes that are produced will tend to be small and subject to sunburn and rain cracking. While the plants do best when they are in full sun, the tomatoes themselves grow the best when they are shielded from the sun by the foliage of the plant. So, when you are tying the plant up

during the growing season, be mindful of doing any damage to the structure of the plant.

When it comes to fertilization, make sure the ground is at optimal levels before the plants are planted. After the plants set their first fruit and they are still smaller than a golf ball, it is probably a good idea to give them a little shot of nitrogen to ensure optimal vegetative growth later in the season. Periodic treatment with a labeled fungicide is also a good idea. If the growing season turns wet, or if the tomatoes are over-watered, the plants can quickly be overtaken by fungal diseases which will cause the plants to defoliate and cause the tomatoes to break down as well. As far as insects

go, most backyard growers can live with a little damage, but be on the lookout for anything that looks like it is getting out of hand. Of course, it goes without saying that the plants should be well-protected from deer, groundhogs, and the like.

And if you want to have tomatoes through the entire growing season, it is best to stagger your plantings. Successive plantings, spaced three weeks apart through the end of June, will usually provide a decent availability of tomatoes right up until frost. Now, just pick some nice tasting varieties and get to work!

Editor's Note: Peter Melick is co-owner of Melick's Town Farm in Oldwick and a 10th-generation New Jersey farmer. Peter is Mayor of Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, NJ. He also served as a director for the New Jersey Farm Bureau and is a past president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. Peter has also been featured on NJN, News 12 New Jersey and on the Fox Business Network.

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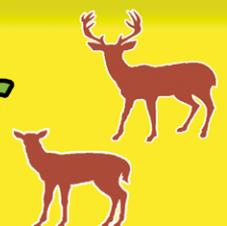
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Bobcat Honors Dealerships for Achievement

Bobcat Company recently announced its 2022 Dealer Leadership Group. The announcement took place at the Bobcat 2022 North American Dealer Meeting. The 19 Bobcat dealerships honored this year are the highest-performing dealers according to the Dealer Performance Review. The review is a standardized process that recognizes outstanding top performers across Bobcat's North American dealer network, which is comprised of 700-plus dealer locations in the United States and Canada.

"We are pleased to honor these dealerships for their excellent performance and commitment to exceeding customer expectations," said Jeremy Holck, vice president of sales for Doosan Bobcat North America. "Our dealers continue to raise the bar for success and lead best practices in our industry, so this year we are honoring more dealers than ever in the Bobcat Dealer Leadership Group."

Included in the 2022 Bobcat Dealer Leadership Group is Bobcat of North Jersey, located in Totawa, Passaic County.

Representatives from these dealerships will meet with Bobcat senior leadership throughout the year to provide insights and feedback as the voice of the dealer network. To recognize and celebrate the achievements of the Dealer Leadership Group, Bobcat will also honor members at a dealer incentive trip to Hawaii

later this year.

Bobcat Company continues to expand its network of more than 700 dealers in North America. As part of the Bobcat dealer partner program, dealerships are provided with development opportunities, ongoing training and educational and marketing resources to help position their customers, employees and businesses for long-term success.

To see the complete list and to learn more about the Bobcat Company dealer network, please visit www.bobcat.com.

ABOUT BOBCAT COMPANY

Since 1958, Bobcat Company has been empowering people to accomplish more. As a leading global manufacturer of compact equipment, Bobcat has a proud legacy of innovation and a reputation based on delivering smart solutions to customers' toughest challenges. Backed by the support of a worldwide network of independent dealers and distributors, Bobcat offers an extensive line of compact equipment, including loaders, excavators, compact tractors, utility products, telehandlers, mowers, attachments, implements, parts, and services. Headquartered in West Fargo, North Dakota, Bobcat continues to lead the industry, all while helping people succeed and build stronger communities and a better tomorrow. For more information, visit www.Bobcat.com

Schedule Announced For Darwin Perennials Day, June 22

Darwin Perennials®, North America's premier breeder of vegetative perennials, will once again welcome industry guests in-person for its annual Darwin Perennials Day event, Wednesday, June 22, 2022. The full schedule has been released and registration is now open – sign up and plan your visit to West Chicago, Illinois. The event promises a complete perennial experience with Zone 5 overwintered trial garden comparisons, a new variety courtyard, interaction with more than 25 top suppliers from the perennial industry, and on-site experts for continued education.

Darwin Perennials Day is a one-day event open Wednesday, June 22, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Your visit will include:

- A grab 'n go breakfast as well as mid-day lunch
- Talking with +25 perennial suppliers in our tented showcase
- Seeing exciting plants in the New Variety Courtyard
- Browsing extensive perennial garden beds from leading perennial breeders
- Visiting education stations: "When to grow seed or vegetative Echinacea"; "How callused cuttings are changing propagation"; and "Tips and tricks from experienced perennial growers".
- Taking guided tours of The Gardens and the Ball Helix Central Research & Development center
- Listening to keynote presentation "Implementing Bio-Control Agents" with speaker Suzanne Wainwright-Evans of Buglady Consulting

"Nothing beats a chance to see plants live and in-person, and this year's Darwin Perennials Day won't disappoint," says Seth Reed, Sales and Marketing Manager for Darwin Perennials. "You'll have full access to perennial experts and education, all while strolling through hundreds of perennial varieties from the best breeders in the world."

You can find more details and register your visit to this much-anticipated perennial event online now at www.darwinperennialsday.com.

Way Down Yonder in the?

By Hubert Ling
Contributing Writer

You may know the answer is "pawpaw patch". What you may not know is: What is a pawpaw? The name pawpaw was derived from the Spanish papaya which of course refers to the large, popular, yellow, tropical fruit commonly available in many supermarkets. When the English settlers found a somewhat similar but smaller fruit in temperate regions of eastern North America, they named this yellow fruit pawpaw after its tropical equivalent. The pawpaw fruit has a texture similar to an avocado or papaya but the taste is like a mixture of pineapple, apricot, mango, and banana (leaning heavily towards the mango and banana). Pawpaw fruits are 2-6 inches long and 1-3 inches wide and weigh up to about one pound. They are commonly called the American custard apple or

hipster banana.

Native pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) are rare in NY and endangered in NJ. However, they are common in the wild in much of the Southeastern US except for Florida. Pawpaws are hardy throughout NJ. They are small trees generally growing to a maximum of 35 feet with a trunk diameter of 8-12 inches; the wood is soft and has no commercial value. Pawpaw leaves measure about 8-12 inches long and 4-5 inches wide.

Pawpaws grow best in damp, rich, slightly acid soil in light shade. They often appear in thickets which have been produced from suckers of one plant. Pawpaws grow reasonably well from seeds, which should not be allowed to dry out or they go dormant. A cold stratification treatment of 90-120 days is suggested and some authors also suggest filing through the tough seed coat although the latter treatment is not absolutely necessary.

Pawpaw leaves appear reluctantly in early May; the leaves turn a bright golden color in fall and also appear reluctant to drop off the tree. Unusual 1.5 inch, brown-purple flowers also appear in early May; these flowers smell like rotting meat and not surprisingly are pollinated by blowflies and carrion beetles. Mature trees rarely set fruit unless they are cross pollinated by another tree.

If you have never eaten a pawpaw, it is best to start with a small piece since some people are very sensitive to potent compounds in pawpaw named acetogenins. These powerful natural insecticides are present in all parts of the plant and some spills over into the fruit as well. Most people can ingest several pawpaws with no side effects but sensitive people have experienced skin irritation from handling the fruit and some people experience severe stomach and intestinal pain.

However, Native Americans have used pawpaws for

centuries; in 1541 the Spanish deSoto expedition first reported Eastern North American tribes utilizing this fruit. Lewis and Clark ate pawpaws during their explorations; pawpaws are called umbi by the Choctaw and riwahárikstikuc by the Pawnee. Legend has it that chilled pawpaws were one of George Washington's favorite desserts and Thomas Jefferson planted them at Monticello.

So why aren't pawpaws available in the supermarket? Well occasionally a few local markets carry them, but widespread distribution is not feasible since the fresh fruit only keeps for two days and then they rapidly turn brown and start to liquefy. However, the frozen fruit handles and ships well but the fruity flavor of pawpaws degrades upon cooking. Thus pawpaws are generally served fresh and chilled and have been used to flavor ice cream, but they have also occasionally been used to replace bananas in baked goods.

Pawpaws are resistant to deer, goats, rabbits, and most insects except the zebra swallowtail. Small amounts of pawpaw acetogenins protect the larvae and adult swallowtail from predation. However, the fruits are well utilized by bear, fox, opossum, raccoons, and squirrels. Native Americans used the tough inner bark of pawpaw for fishing nets, mats, and cordage.

Pawpaw is the state native fruit of Ohio and the state fruit tree of Missouri. Delaware has had an annual pawpaw folk festival since 2012. Most major mail order nurseries carry pawpaw. If you are not sensitive to pawpaw and have enough room for two or three small trees, consider this unusual fruit tree.

Editor's Note: Hubert Ling is Horticultural Co-Chair of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. He can be reached at milhubling@verizon.net.

Most homeowners, including myself sometimes, don't understand how a landscaper, plumber, electrician, etc. decides to charge for their services. After seeing how fuel increases have affected our members, I thought about what actually goes into the price that a business charges. Therefore, I'd like to review what's included in the bid you receive for a landscape project or maintenance contract.

First, can we all agree that landscaping/hardscaping are truly hard work, and those service providers really earn their fees? Great! That's where the profit comes in, but it's the last part of the equation. Let's also agree that quality work should not be, and is not, cheap, and cheap work is definitely not quality. Excellent! So, what goes into the price for your beautiful, new landscape or to keep your property pristine?

We all hear the word "overhead" when talking about running a business. This is the main ingredient in figuring out the price. Like most businesses, a contractor's overhead includes rent or mortgage for their office or yard. It includes utilities for those locations, along with maintenance, office supplies, administrative employees, uniforms, cell phones, and company vehicles used to



The NJLCA Today

By Gail Woolcott
Executive Director

Why "The Price is Right"

visit sites and meet customers. It also includes financial software, design software or materials for hand drawn designs, tools for maintaining equipment, etc. Finally, there are taxes, insurance, benefits, accountants, lawyers... the list goes on. Therefore, each job must cover a portion of these expenses.

Next is location. Are you nearby other customers? Are you far from the contractor's headquarters? Is there easy access to the yard? Can equipment fit through your gate? Projects entered in NJLCA's Achievement Awards ask about challenges faced. One contractor had to have employees bring pavers by wheelbarrow via elevator, through the house to the deck. Another had to crane in excavation equipment to get in the backyard.

This leads to time. The time required on a job depends on all

the above, but also how extensive your project is. Will it take a few days, a week, six months? Further, how much "windshield time" will employees need? During that time, although not producing, employees are still being paid.

Which leads to the labor rate. As I have stated before, landscape labor is not cheap labor. Most employees start several dollars above the minimum wage. Employees make, depending on skill, ability to use equipment and drive, and a host of other things, between \$18-\$35/hour. When you have 3-4 employees working on site for an 8- to 10-hour day, it can add up.

Next is cost of materials. Material prices have risen considerably due to manufacturing costs, material shortages and trucking costs. Further, because of droughts, among other issues, seed,

fertilizer and soil amendments are doubling in price and may continue to become harder to obtain. Moreover, equipment and trucks all need fuel, which as we are all aware has increased dramatically. Landscape contractors can't just absorb these costs and must pass a portion onto their clients.

Add in costs associated with purchasing and maintaining equipment. From excavators to weed eaters, mowers to plate compactors, it's important to keep equipment in good shape and/or purchase new equipment when repairs aren't feasible. Because equipment is used daily, all day, a weed eater that a homeowner might use for 10 years, lasts a pro only 2-3 years.

Finally, the profit margin. Your contractor is the one making all this magic happen. They surely deserve something for the blood, sweat and

tears they put into running a safe, professional business.

Therefore, when you receive a few bids and there is a large discrepancy in the amounts, don't just go with the cheapest. The lower one is likely not running their business in a professional manner and/or are not considering the costs that go into running their business. If that's the case, that company will be out of business very soon. Please understand that quality and professional work deserve a reasonable fee and you will be happy for many years when you choose value over price.

Editor's Note: Gail Woolcott is the Executive Director for the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association. She was presented with a community service award from the Borough of Fairview for her assistance in leading the 9-11 Memorial Park project and the Legislative Champion of the Year award from the Federation of Employers and Workers of America. She is currently the State Licensee Chair on the National Association of Landscape Professionals International Certification Council.

N.J. Outdoor Industry Association Partners with I Want To Mow Your Lawn Inc.

The New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association (NJLCA) is proud to announce that they have partnered with I Want to Mow Your Lawn, Inc. (IWTMYL).

Headquartered in Wayne, New Jersey, IWTMYL is a national non-profit platform providing essential lawn services for the elderly, military veterans, and others in need through its network of helpers. Its grassroots movement consists of college students, "empty nesters", working professionals, people in between jobs, recent retirees, landscaping contractors and socially responsible companies — serving on both the landscaping frontlines and/or back-office.

"The NJLCA and our Board were so impressed with what the IWTMYL organization does, and the fact that it was born in the great State of New Jersey, we knew we had to work with Brian to help increase the reach of this endeavor," said Richard Goldstein, President of the NJLCA. He continues, "NJLCA feels it is important to partner with IWTMYL because Brian and his organization are a true picture of the people that make up our industry, who give back and care for the communities they work for and in."

Volunteers have the option of offering services at no cost for the first time, and discount future visits, or on an ongoing basis for veterans, senior citizens and those in need. As part of the partnership, members of the NJLCA will receive a badge on their listing which denotes they are a member of the organization.

Brian Schultz, founder of I Want to Mow Your

Lawn, Inc. states, "If you have an extra 30 minutes on any given route with your landscaping equipment, it makes a world of a difference for someone that usually can't afford to have regular lawn maintenance done or can't do it themselves physically. They might have served in the military and made sacrifices to protect our freedoms and it's just a small way to say thanks for their service. Although there's not a profit to be made on those particular visits, you feel good and make an instant difference helping someone and being a hero in your neighborhood. And it comes back in other ways!"

In addition, the Pay It Forward Marketplace gives options for people who don't have the ability to help physically but want to give back and contribute in other ways. It's like a Facebook Marketplace but linking up equipment owners with IWTMYL's network of volunteers. If one has any type of landscaping equipment, they can opt to either loan or donate operational equipment for volunteers in the network.

The NJLCA is a community of outdoor industry professionals who are dedicated to advancing the integrity, proficiency and continued growth of the landscape industry, landscape architects, sod growers, nurseries, growers, garden centers, horticulturists, floriculture and the industries that supply them. They do this through education, training and legislative advocacy.

Learn more at iwanttomowyourlawn.org or at NJLCA.org



The Northeast Green Industry Showcase is the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association's outdoor show, in its second year, providing owners, supervisory and decision makers with the ability to not only see, but test drive new equipment, set eyes on the newest developments in materials, and try out the latest technology for the outdoor living industry. This trade show supports the Association's Educational Fund, which provides scholarships to students of higher education in the outdoor living industry.

The Landscape New Jersey Trade Show and Conference is celebrating over 45 years of providing the industry with a one-day indoor show, combining the best in education, with the newest and most innovative equipment, materials and outdoor living industry products and services. Proceeds of the show help to expand the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association's outreach, educational programs, legislative voice, and membership services throughout the year.

Last January, I organized my gardening books. Now that May is here, I'm glad I did. My more than 400 books in a wide range of subjects date back 60+ years and trace my development as a gardener. They were scattered in different rooms and in no particular order, so finding what I was looking for was difficult. Now that my gardening books are categorized, it's easy to find not only the information I need, but also to assess what subjects I am deficient in. How about you? Can you find the gardening information you need easily? If not, here's how I did it.

First, I gathered all my books in one place. Would I alphabetize either by title or author? No - alphabetic arrangements will not help to find information. Would I use the Dewey decimal system? No - too formal and unintuitive. I organized my gardening library by kinds of botanic literature. These included Herbals; Flora; Florilegia; Sylva; Gardening Manuals; Economic Botanies; and books on Landscape Architecture; Garden Design; Garden History; Natural History; and Plant Exploration.

Herbals are one of the oldest kinds of botanic literature. They are books about herbs or plants describing their properties, especially their medicinal values. But herbals can also note culinary, industrial,



The Garden Historian

By Lesley Parness
Garden Educator

Organizing Your Gardening Library

toxic, aromatic, or magical values. I have reprints of herbals from the 1500s and the recently published "Adaptogens: Herbs for Strength, Stamina and Stress Relief," by New Jersey herbalist and ethnobotanist, David Winston.

Flora are books about one family of flowering plant. From this category I extract "The Dandelion Celebration," by Peter Gail and lay it aside in anticipation of a bumper crop of this plant soon. Other flora, on tulips, sunflowers, and roses, will be re-visited this summer.

Florilegia are books about plants of a given region or locale. Books on the plants of China, the Cloisters, Jamaica, Monticello, and every other place I ever visited and never failed to purchase book about its plants, live here. If you buy books about plants in the places you visit, you have a potential "florilegia" collection.

Sylva deal with forest trees of a

particular area. Under this heading sits the far reaching "American Canopy," by Eric Rutgow, and the meditative "The Trees in My Forest," by Bernd Heinrich.

Gardening Manuals is a big catch-all category. In 1985, way before permaculture was cool, I added "The Natural Way of Farming," by Masanobu Fukuoka to my shelves. Because the act of gardening is really about growing better people, right?

Economic Botanies deal with the interaction between people and plants from a variety of angles, including archeology, sociology, ecology, and economics. In 1968 I purchased "Dictionary of Economic Plants," by Verlag Cramer at the Homestead, Florida Fruit & Spice Park and never looked back. The subject heading sounds academic, but it's practical and fascinating.

Landscape Architecture has

books from around the world, including the marvelous coffee table book "Gardens from the Air," by Franco Ligliorini. I can look at these drone-enabled images for hours!

Garden Design is one of my most used sections. A recent acquisition is "The Scentual Garden," by Ken Druse. A delight to read, this book is packed with a lifetime's worth of gardening experience and advice.

Garden History. This is where I live and breathe. A quick, charming, and thorough read is "A Glossary of Garden History," by Michael Symes. For me, garden history is world history.

Natural History tempts me with the yet unread "The Nature of Oaks," by Douglas Tallamy.

Plant Exploration inspires travel and adventure with a recent birthday gift, "The Fruit Hunters," by Adam Leith Gollner, which veers between tales of the silk road and 21st century

germplasm repositories.

Within each of these sections, I alphabetized the books by title and made sure the approximate year of acquisition was marked at the bottom of each title page. Reviewing it all, I see a lifetime of book collecting and gardening! When a rainy day presents itself, I may add sections for Biography and Garden Crafts. My system is a bit quirky, but it works for me, and I hope it may do the same for you, helping you to find needed information and tracing your own growth as a gardener.

Editor's Note: Lesley Parness offers a variety of presentations and workshops for garden clubs, plant societies, and horticultural gatherings. Recently retired from her position as Superintendent of Horticultural Education at the Morris County Park Commission, and with four decades of teaching environmental science and garden education, her focus now is garden history. A complete listing of her talks can be seen at lesleyparness.com and she can be reached at parness@verizon.net. This column will appear in the paper every other month.

Organic Recycling Center Wins Toro Urban Park Innovation Award 2022

Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center in Philadelphia is the winner of the Toro Urban Park Innovation Award 2022.

Sponsored by The Toro Company in partnership with City Parks Alliance, the Toro Urban Park Innovation Award recognizes innovation in park management and practices, and comes with a \$50,000 grant.

The award will be presented at Greater & Greener 2022, City Parks Alliance's biennial international parks conference June 18 - 21, in Philadelphia.

For more than 40 years, Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center, operated by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), has functioned as Philadelphia's one stop shop for processing the City's leaves and wood waste into useable materials. In recent years, the Center turned an increasing volume of collectibles into opportunities for local youth to gain woodworking skills and jobs while also supplying the park system with new furnishings.

"The Toro Company is proud to recognize the Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center project as the winner of the Toro Urban Park Innovation Award," said Judson McNeil, President, The Toro

Company Foundation. "The project will undoubtedly make a positive impact on many young lives in Philadelphia, and potentially across the country, as its successes in Philadelphia can be modeled and replicated in other cities. The Greater & Greener gathering of park leaders provides the ideal venue for sharing innovative solutions for challenges facing parks in 2022."

Catherine Nagel, Executive Director of City Parks Alliance, added, "The Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center exemplifies urban park innovation by leveraging resources to produce multiple benefits simultaneously, from environmental resiliency to workforce development, and shows how urban parks can help cities address their most pressing issues through creative, community-driven approaches."

Turf Equipment and Supply Company, Inc., Toro's local representative in the Philadelphia market, played a key role in choosing the organic recycling center as the winner. "The innovative project provides many benefits, including changing production from commodities like wood chips and mulch, into high value merchantable lumber that can be used in park projects or turned into

revenue to fund natural lands restoration," said Lance Ernst, Vice President, Turf Equipment and Supply Company.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation has seen the intake volume of wood waste increase tenfold due to climate change storm impacts, aging trees, and invasive species, creating a major management challenge for the City.

In response PPR began periodically milling portions of the accumulating wood by contracting a sawyer and portable mill for several days a year, with the resulting lumber deployed to park improvement projects such as new bookshelves, cubbies, garden beds, benches, footbridges, kiln dried firewood and more.

Many of these projects have been accomplished through collaboration with youth driven organizations such as PowerCorpsPHL and Tiny WPA. PPR began branding these finished products around the new tagline of "Neighborhood Wood."

Despite early successes, PPR faced challenges with their Neighborhood Wood initiative, including improper storage of finished materials, and insufficient capacity to manage a robust program of salvage, evaluation, and

production at the highest value.

The \$50,000 grant will allow PPR to create a long-term organization and storage system to protect milled lumber and critical equipment from the elements, and to sustain and grow the program through successful community partnerships.

The Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center (ORC) recycles an average of 6,000 tons of organic waste into usable products each year. These products, including wood chips, mulch, compost, and firewood, are used by contractors, park friends groups, municipal operating departments, community organizations and residents of the city in all manner and scope of projects.

"The Toro prize is helping Parks & Rec realize a long term vision to produce lumber from the beautiful trees that fall in Philadelphia's urban forest each year. We are so excited to use this prize to transform how we re-use park wood into cost saving and revenue generating solutions that encourage entrepreneurship and an appreciation for our natural lands," said Kathryn Ott Lovell, Commissioner, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation."

USDA Announces Intent to Reestablish Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee Charter, Seeks Nominees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it intends to renew the charter of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (FVIAC). It is also seeking nominations from specialty crop stakeholders to serve on the FVIAC. The deadline for nominations is May 31, 2022.

USDA is set to reestablish the committee's charter for two years as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The current charter expires on March 16, 2022. USDA invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice at [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments are due no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on April 14, 2022, via <http://www.regulations.gov>: Document # AMS-SC-22-0021

USDA is also seeking nominations from specialty crop stakeholders. From the nominees, the Secretary of Agriculture will appoint up to 25 individuals to succeed members whose terms expire on July 9, 2022. Appointed representatives would serve a two-year term. View detailed information about the advisory committee's background, candidate qualifications, requirements and forms.

USDA also will hold a series of Zoom virtual calls in the month of April to share information about the FVIAC's nomination process. Participants must register in advance. Nomination packages can be submitted electronically by email to SCPFVIAC@usda.gov.

Packages can also be mailed to: Darrell Hughes, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., South Building-Room 1575-STOP 0235, Washington, DC 20250-0235, Attn: Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee. Electronic submittals are preferred.

Established in 2001, the FVIAC is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Committee members represent the entire spectrum of the fruit and vegetable industry including shippers, wholesalers, brokers, retailers, processors, fresh cut processors, foodservice suppliers, state agencies, state departments of agriculture and trade associations. The FVIAC meets in person at least twice a year to develop recommendations on issues affecting the U.S. produce industry.

Information about the committee is available on the AMS Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee webpage.

AMS policy is that diversity of the board should reflect the diversity of its industries in terms of the experience of members, methods of production and distribution, marketing strategies, and other distinguishing factors, including but not limited to individuals from historically underserved communities, that will bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Throughout the full nomination process, the industry must conduct extensive outreach, paying particular attention to reaching underserved communities, and consider the diversity of the population served and the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the members to serve a diverse population.



In the Chef's Corner

By Aishling Stevens
Executive Chef

Efficient Use of Ingredients

Hello *Gardener News* readers, and happy spring. In this month's column, I will be discussing the various ways we maximize efficient utilization of ingredients throughout our culinary operations. As a Chef, it is very important for me to appreciate the ingredients I work with and the best way is to attempt to use the entire product to its full potential. I am very fortunate to have so many different dining outlets in which cross-utilization practices can be executed. This not only is a great challenge for a Chef, but also contributes to reducing waste, teaches young cooks good habits, streamlines the inventory process and leads to not only better food yields, but also a complete life-cycle story about the product.

In the realm of vegetables and fruits, our culinary team has incorporated using all plant parts in various ways. We use vegetable peels and trims for stock, and also to make consommé rafts. Citrus peel skins are used for citrus cured salmon after obtaining juice for bar beverages and dressings. In using grapes, the fruit is peeled and the skins are dehydrated into a powdered tannin extract. Then, they are utilized to make vinegars or used for seasoning. Currently, we are looking to source more grape skin waste (pomace) from local wineries so we can incorporate it into our bread and butter program for our premier dining venue. We also make vinegars from other various peels, as well as from the pits of cherries and plums.

With regard to proteins, it becomes even more

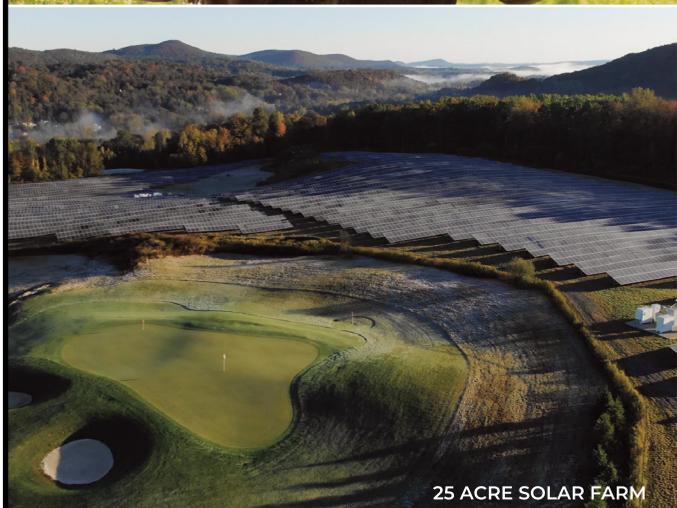
important to be thoughtful and practical especially with the current increase in pricing and environmental shortages. Often times, only major primal cuts are utilized - leaving a major shortage for the less known cuts and parts of the animal. I tend to approach the animal as primal hunters did and try to utilize as much as possible. Bone trimmings are often used for stock fortification as well as roasting for sauces. Bone marrow is roasted for the meat and the fat trimmings are made into a bone marrow vinaigrette or butter. Whole chickens are fabricated generally for the meat; however, any excess chicken fat is cooked, dehydrated and fried into delicious crispy chicken chicharrone. Meat offal (such as livers, kidney) is celebrated! In this country, there appears to be quite a stigma regarding offal, but if treated right, it is often the tastiest part.

Salmon, a high volume menu item, has many uses throughout our kitchens. After getting the perfect six-ounce portion, the remaining salmon trim is ground and made into popular salmon burgers. Shellfish (shrimp, lobster or crab) carcasses or shells are crushed, roasted and made into a shellfish oil or butter. Finally, let us not forget one of the most perfect ingredients - the egg. If the whole egg is not used, yolks are often included in dressings and whites are used for omelets or pastry. We even incorporate the shells into our consommé rafts, which contribute strength and structure to the rafts, helping to remove stock impurities.

I feel very fortunate in that our culinary operation is privileged to use some of the very best ingredients from throughout the world. Fresh Italian truffles, Scottish langoustines shipped to use within hours of being out of the water, and freshly picked morel mushrooms from our backyard are some of my personal favorites. Our mission is to not only celebrate these items, but also incorporate the underutilized ones into our menus. Through product gratitude and technique, often discarded or overlooked ingredients can become the hero. Not only does this drive sales and strengthen our reputation for quality food products and culinary technique, but it also is a great training tool for my young cooks who now can prepare and utilize all ingredient components accordingly. Core ingredient consolidation allows me to create a path of consistency and efficiency in all of our restaurants kitchens.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our restaurants responded by scaling back on menu offerings. This smaller menu was often times an excellent example of cross-utilization. To avoid product spoilage and waste, we brought our menu down to the basics. In doing so, we cross-utilized products that appeared in multiple variations. By applying this thoughtful and cost-effective approach to our restaurant menus during peak periods as well as challenging times, we are able to operate more efficiently and avoid food waste.

Editor's Note: Aishling Stevens is the Executive Chef at Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg, Sussex County, N.J. For more information on its culinary program, visit www.CSResort.com.



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NORTHEAST DEPARTMENT

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Secretary Calls for Innovative Research to Grow Pennsylvania Agriculture and Tackle Complex Challenges

Secretary Russell Redding calls for research proposals on issues critical to sustaining and growing Pennsylvania's \$132.5 billion agriculture industry.

"Agriculture bears the brunt of the impact of complex challenges with no simple solutions," said Redding. "Research is the first critical step toward managing the costly and complex challenges of today and developing innovative solutions to tomorrow's challenges."

In October 2021, Governor Wolf announced the most recent round of more than \$2 million in agriculture research funding. These grants are helping increase our understanding and control animal and plant diseases and pests; increase farm productivity along with regenerative and organic methods that enrich and sustain our soil and water resources; advance human and animal medicine; apply emerging technology in food safety; and protect pollinators crucial to our food supply.

Proposals are invited for research topics including animal health and welfare and its interactions with human and environmental health; study of the impacts of mental health challenges on farm success, the availability of on-farm housing for farm workers, and strategies for recruiting and retaining an agriculture workforce; and consumer research on the appeal of biodegradable packaging and new uses for milk proteins and milk-based products.

Additional research topics invited include studies of the economic impacts of pest infestations; water and soil management practices on farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that have not received state or federal funding; and programs and initiatives in the PA Pollinator Protection Plan Opens In A New Window and the PA Farm Bill. Full proposal guidelines can be found in the PA Bulletin. Opens In A New Window

In his 2022-'23 budget, Governor Wolf proposed \$2.187 million to fund agricultural research under this program. The amount available to fund grant proposals is dependent on the amount funded in the final budget. The grants do not require matching funds.

Proposals must be submitted online using the Department of Community and Economic Development's Electronic Single Application.

Proposals must be submitted by 4:00 PM on Friday, May 13, 2022. Applicants who have questions may contact Morgan Sheffield at msheffield@pa.gov or 717.787.3568.

Learn more about initiatives and investments to grow, protect and sustain Pennsylvania's agriculture industry at agriculture.pa.gov.

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New York State Proactively Bans all Fowl Shows and Exhibitions to Safeguard Against Avian Flu

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets announced that it has issued an order to ban all live fowl shows and exhibitions in New York State to help prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the state's poultry population. Commissioner Richard A. Ball issued the order as a result of the continuing spread of strains of HPAI in the United States, including detections in New York State. The current outbreak has impacted 17 states so far and is rapidly expanding nationwide.

Commissioner Ball said, "Avian influenza is a very serious threat to all poultry and breeds of fowl, and is continuing to spread in the United States. By banning fowl shows and exhibitions in New York until further notice, we are taking a commonsense step to limit the co-mingling of birds to slow the spread of this disease in New York State and help keep our birds safe. Our poultry industry is a significant part of New York's agricultural industry and steps like these are our best line of defense against the disease."

The ban will remain in effect until further notice. The Department is continuing close monitoring of HPAI in New York State and plans to reassess the Notice of Order in late May to determine whether it should remain in place through the summer fair season.

As with the previous ban, this ban

will remain in effect until further notice. The Department is continuing close monitoring of HPAI in New York State and plans to reassess this Notice of Order in late May to determine whether it should remain in place through the summer.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

The detections of HPAI in New York prompt reminders for commercial and hobby poultry farmers to increase their biosecurity measures to help prevent the spread of the disease. Poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited at this time.

Additionally, the Department encourages all poultry producers, from small backyard to large commercial operations, to review their biosecurity plans and take precautions to protect their birds.

To report sick birds, unexplained high number of deaths, or sudden drop in egg production, please contact the Department's Division of Animal Industry at (518) 457-3502 or the USDA at (866) 536-7593.

RECYCLE THE

Gardener News!

SHOW IT TO A FRIEND



OF AGRICULTURE NEWS

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MDAR Commissioner Appointed to USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Federal Advisory Committee

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner John Lebeaux has been appointed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack as one of 12 new members to serve on the newly established Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Federal Advisory Committee (UAIP-FAC). The UAIP-FAC was established following the passage of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) to advise the Secretary and Director of the Office

of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production practices, among other duties.

During their nation-wide search, the USDA and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production peer reviewed more than 300 nominees, and Secretary Vilsack made the final selections. Selections ensured geographic, racial, and gender diversity and a broad range of agricultural

experience. The 12 UAIP-FAC members represent a variety of agricultural sectors across 11 states and the District of Columbia, allowing for a broad and diverse representation of perspectives. Significantly, the committee is made up of agricultural producers and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains, and financing. The UAIP-FAC members will also serve terms between one to three years.

"I am truly honored to have been chosen to serve on this new committee that will provide leading-edge guidance on an exciting and emerging sector of agriculture in the United States for urban farmers across the country," said MDAR Commissioner John Lebeaux. "I look forward to learning from my colleagues, and sharing with them the many lessons and best practices that we've learned here in Massachusetts and how they might be able to be successfully applied to other regions in the nation."

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hunterdon County's Ewing Named 2022 NJ Agricultural Fair Ambassador

Rachel Ewing, of Flemington in Hunterdon County, has been chosen as the 2022 New Jersey Agricultural Fair Ambassador. The 20-year-old North Hunterdon High School graduate and SUNY-Cobleskill College of Agriculture and Technology student was selected by the Agricultural Fair Association of New Jersey.

As ambassador, Ewing is charged with visiting the state's agricultural fairs in 2022, promoting agriculture to the public, and bringing people together to support the state's farmers.

"Rachel has extensive experience in agriculture, and she will be an outstanding spokesperson at our state's agricultural fairs this summer," New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas H. Fisher said. "She is an important ambassador for ag education in the Garden State."

Ewing has been a member of the Hunterdon County 4-H Club since 2011 and was the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair and Agricultural Fair Ambassador in 2021. She has also

been a member of the Hunterdon Deadeyes 4-H Shooting Sports Club, the 4-H Team New Jersey Shooting Sports, Kick Butt Kids 4-H Goat Club, 4-H Student Adventures in Veterinary Experiences, and was the Hunterdon County Dairy Princess in 2019, and remains a member of the American Dairy Goat Association. Ewing has also worked as a veterinary assistant or technician at four different locations in New Jersey and Texas, where she had an internship, and has had various roles working on three different farms in New Jersey and New York.

Ewing is glad that 4-H fairs will be returning to a normal schedule after being interrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic the last two years.

"It means so much that the ag fairs are back and now, and it will be really valuable seeing families and children interacting," Ewing said. "The fairs are really important to help people understand agriculture. A lot of people don't see cows, or goats, or whatever it may be, and it's

great to see their faces light up when they do."

Ewing is an animal science major with a pre-veterinary track with an emphasis on livestock and large animals. She plans to apply to veterinary school once her undergraduate work is complete.

"Being in 4-H had a huge impact on me since I grew up raising goats, and it's more like the veterinary field chose me," she said. "I have gravitated to being on farms and found meeting and talking to people were what I enjoyed about farm animals and medicine."

Ewing also pointed out that she was excited about Rowan University in Gloucester County starting its veterinary school, though it won't be accepting students until she is already in veterinary school.

"A lot of people don't really know that there are about 230 medical schools in the country, but there are only 32 vet schools across 50 states," she said. "It makes it more difficult to get into vet school and I am really looking forward to Rowan opening

its school."

Ewing believes people are looking forward to county ag fairs again this summer.

"People want to come out now since they have been cooped up for so long," she said. "We have to show them what New Jersey agriculture has to offer."

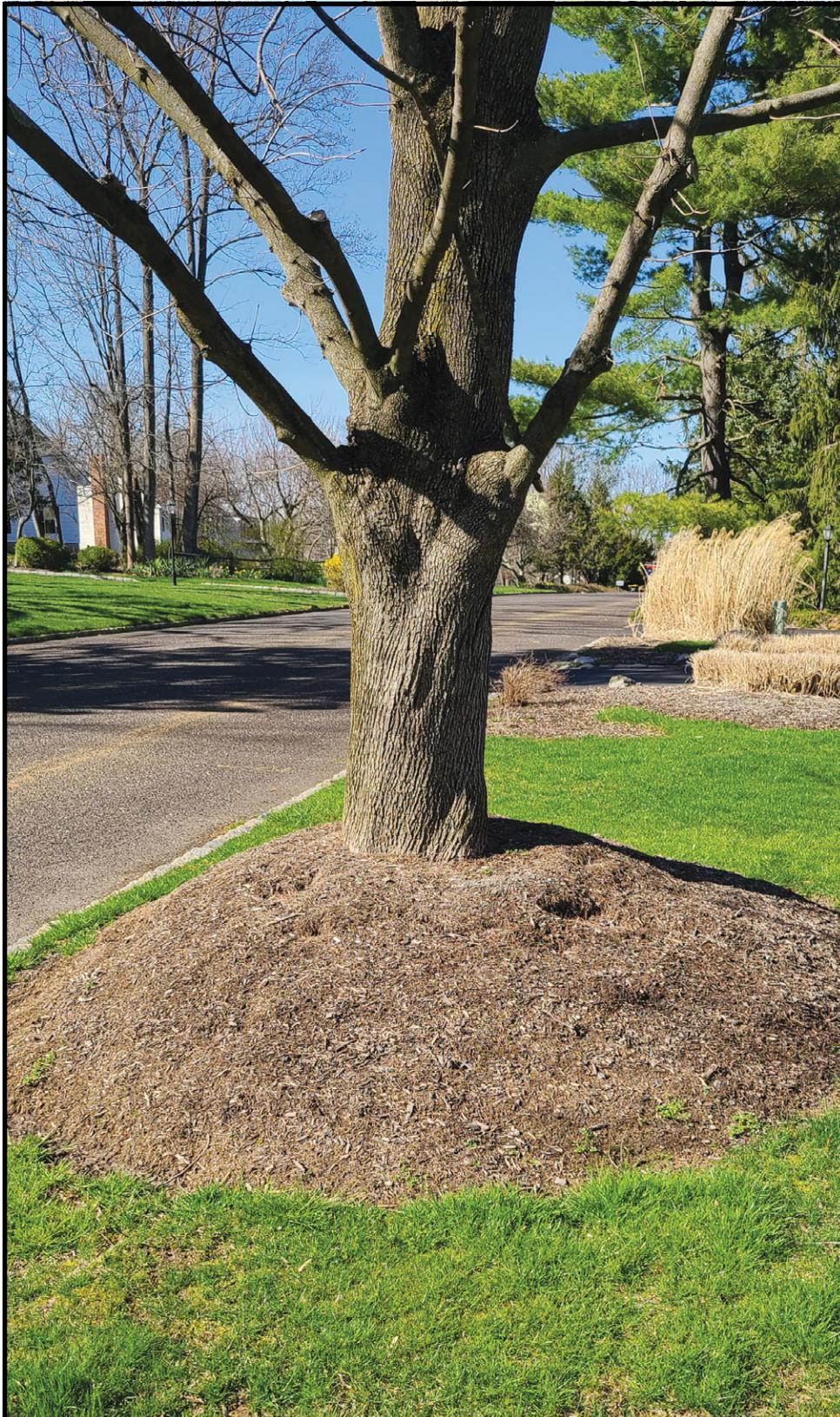
This is the 18th year the Agricultural Fair Association of New Jersey has named an ambassador. In choosing an ambassador, the Association seeks a good representation of young people active in agriculture in the Garden State and their county fair.

There are 18 agricultural fairs currently scheduled throughout the state for this summer, including the New Jersey State Fair at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. The earliest fair is held in late June, with the final fair of the season in mid-September.

For the full schedule of New Jersey's agricultural fairs go to <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/pdf/County%20Fair%20List%202022.pdf>

Trees Face Unique Challenges

(Continued from page 1)



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Mulch Volcano

Volcano mulching is an improper tree care technique where, year after year, mulch is piled against the trunk of a tree.

Mulch piled against a tree's trunk also encourages disease and decay because the bark is almost always wet. Volcano mulch also interferes with good root development. As the volcano mulch starts to compost, it heats up, which can further damage the bark and the underlying vascular tissues, compromising the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients through the xylem and phloem.

Properly applied organic mulches are very beneficial for trees. Preferably two-to-three inches deep, not physically touching the trunk, and extending out to the drip line. The tree's root flare should always be exposed, and the installation of mulch should look like a coffee cup saucer.



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Girdling Roots

Girdling roots are lateral roots that emerge at or slightly below the soil surface and cut into at least one side of the main trunk. These roots restrict the movement of water and nutrients through the xylem and phloem as they put pressure on the tree's trunk.

Another major cause of girdling roots is planting in very compacted soil, where the new roots have difficulty growing out of the planting hole and into the surrounding hard soil.

A girdling root must be removed in a manner that will minimize injury to the trunk cambium located beneath the root.

Root pruning involves analyzing the roots and removal of roots which have a high potential to encircle the trunk and become a girdling root.

Root pruning trees and shrubs is a process intended to replace the lengthy roots with roots closer to the trunk that can be included in the root ball.



Growing Gardeners

By Diana Dove
Environmental Educator

Looking at a Garden Through a Child's Lens

Put a camera in the hands of *Growing Gardeners* and set them loose in a garden to unearth a new way to see! A camera is a learning tool for children and teens that helps them to look at their environment in surprising detail. Their new-found observations motivate them to research the subjects they photograph as they explore a garden that becomes an exciting place for outdoor-based learning while practicing photography skills.

Young children may start photography when they are able to handle a camera responsibly without dropping it. Toy cameras provide practice for toddlers. Parents must decide when it's safe for their child to have a neck strap on a camera. Lens caps should be used to protect lenses, and equipment should be stored in a waterproof camera bag, always keeping the camera dry. Waterproof cameras are a fun option.

Children and teens *develop photography skills* by taking lessons, reading, and increasing experiences using a camera. Youth photographers sharpen their observation skills in the garden, recognizing lines, designs, textures, patterns and colors. Kid's photo workshops may be offered at arboretums, nature centers, by a Garden Club, scouts or at a summer camp. Search for You-Tube segments that teach photography to youth. Understanding *composition, learning to focus to obtain sharp images*, and leveling the camera to straighten the horizon are good tips. Check the *foreground and background* to see if it enhances or distracts from the picture. Instead of centering the subject, use the *rule of thirds* by placing the main subject in one third of the picture, vertically and horizontally. Try different angles for the best perspective called

point of view and to capture the best *natural light* or wait for that *golden light just before sunset. Avoid empty space* yet keep the image *balanced*. Use *diagonal lines* to lead your eye into the photograph. Start with an automatic mode setting initially, and later advance to manual settings after learning about *f-stops* and *shutter speed*. Read the camera manual.

Have your camera accessible. Sometimes you're lucky to be in *the right place at the right time* to capture something unexpected. During one gardening session, a rainstorm approached. It poured then quickly stopped. Sunlight broke through the clouds revealing a brilliant double rainbow that embraced our school garden. What a spectacular photo opportunity. Young photographers must become weather wise and pay attention to weather updates while outdoors. It's important to have access to weather apps. Always practice "safety first!"

Explore and photograph! With supervision, allow youth free time to photograph their choice garden subjects or landscapes. Define boundaries and set a time limit. Next, gather the participants to describe what they photographed and why. Look up info about *Night and Moonlit Photography*. Walk the grounds in the daylight to plot a path, avoiding tripping hazards and ground hog holes. Check open hours of public gardens. Bring along a tripod, a flashlight and with adult supervision try some night photography.

Kids learn through games. Have a scavenger hunt, with a camera that I call, "*Simon says photograph this... in the garden,*" or "*I spy with my little eye.*" After describing something in the garden, youngsters must find and photograph the

subject. Take a close-up of a butterfly or a sweet-smelling flower. Ideas are endless using colors, garden features, photo techniques and the senses. Another game asks children to reach into a bag with color strips. They must take a garden photo that includes the color selected.

Youth engaged in garden photography become independent learners as they read, listen, plan, observe, experiment, and ask questions. Some schools provide photography courses, camera clubs and offer yearbook photography opportunities. Where are Youth Photo Exhibits in your area? New Jersey's Annual Teen Arts Festival features youth photography entries in county competitions across the state. This year's state festival is June 1 - 2, 2022 at the Middlesex County College (2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08818.) Info: www.njteenarts.com

Photographs reveal a garden's story. Young photographers become interested, engaged, and involved, learning patience and new ways to look at the world around them. *National Garden Week is June 5th to 11th, 2022*. Why not plan a youth garden photography activity? *Growing Gardeners* may gain a better understanding of their environment with a camera in hand, as they take time to stop, look, and capture beauty in the garden. There's so much to see when a child looks through a lens!

Diana began photography at age eight. At ten, she was using a Yashica twin-lens reflex camera and developing black-and-white prints. She has won photography awards including Kodak's Award of Excellence. She teaches photography to children. Diana and Mike Dove's nature photography is featured in a traveling nature exhibition.

Editor's Note: Diana is an Environmental Educator who can be reached at dianadove13@gmail.com She co-teaches "Wildlife & Litter" programs with her husband Mike. They offer this and Wildlife Education booths, free, with kids' crafts, fully funded by County & Local NJ Clean Communities for Pre-K through all grade levels and adults. Please "Like" the FB page of the Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden she founded in Washington Borough, Warren County. Diana is Co-Youth Chair on the Board of the Garden Club of NJ and is the 2021 National Garden Club Youth Leader Award Recipient. She has a BS in Forestry & Wildlife Mgt, with a concentration in Biology, plus a BA in Communications from Va Tech. She is a former Sr. Naturalist for Somerset Co. Parks and has been teaching since 1975.

Terry Horan named President and CEO of STIHL Inc.

Terrence "Terry" Horan has been named President and CEO of STIHL Incorporated. Horan will be responsible for the management of the STIHL Group's largest market and subsidiary. Based in Virginia Beach, Va., STIHL Inc. supplies the majority of STIHL products for the U.S. market. As an integral part of STIHL Group's manufacturing and sales network, STIHL Inc. also supplies components and products for more than 100 markets worldwide. The company employs more than 3,000 people in the United States.

"We are pleased to welcome Mr. Horan, an internationally successful leader with 35 years of experience in the power tools, DIY, and consumer goods industry to the STIHL family," said Dr. Nikolas Stihl, chairman of the advisory board and supervisory board at STIHL Group. Michael Traub, the chairman of the executive board, added, "Terry Horan has demonstrated proven leadership of major companies and global brands, creating winning cultures focused on innovation and leveraging a deep understanding of the end-customer. This makes him the right choice to lead the company and its employees."

Horan joins STIHL Inc. after a successful career as RPM Consumer Group president at RPM International Inc. Horan has also held various senior leadership roles including president and CEO of DAP Products Inc., president of The Master Lock Company, president and CEO of the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation North America, and president of Dremel Power Tools.

"I am excited both personally and professionally to join the team at STIHL Inc." said Horan. "I look forward to meeting and working with the men and women here in Virginia Beach, our branch and distributor teams, and our vast network of more than 10,000 local STIHL Dealers across the country. Together we will build on STIHL Inc.'s long-standing legacy of success, accelerate our growth and continue our industry leadership position as the number one selling brand of handheld outdoor power equipment in America."*

Horan, a native of the Chicago area, received a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame, and a bachelor's degree in marketing at Northern Illinois University. He also volunteers as a Start-Up Advisor at the IDEA Center at the University of Notre Dame. He and his wife Jill have three children.

About the STIHL Group

The STIHL Group develops, manufactures and distributes power tools for professional forestry and agriculture as well as for garden and landscape maintenance, the construction sector and private garden owners. The product range is complemented by digital solutions and services. Products are distributed through authorized dealers and STIHL's own online-shops, which will be expanded internationally over the next few years – including 41 sales and marketing subsidiaries, about 120 importers and more than 54,000 servicing dealers in over 160 countries. STIHL produces in own plants in seven countries: Germany, USA, Brazil, Switzerland, Austria, China and in the Philippines. Since 1971 STIHL has been the world's top-selling chain saw brand. The company was founded in 1926 and is based in Waiblingen near Stuttgart. In 2020, STIHL achieved a worldwide sales volume of 4.58 billion euros with a workforce of 18,200.

Full Moon



May 16, 2022



Eastern Daylight

Trees Face Unique Challenges

(Continued from page 24)



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Lateral Roots

Most urban trees have lateral or surface root systems. Environmental factors play an important role in the growth of these roots. They are common when a tree is grown in hard, compacted clay soil, or in areas where the soil is frequently saturated with water.

Roots tend to grow where they find the most favorable conditions: adequate water, air and nutrients. In poor growing conditions, the most favorable place is often close to the soil surface. Erosion can expose a tree's roots.

Hiring an arborist is a decision that should not be taken lightly.

Kuhn also explained to me that it's important to make sure that the person is qualified to do tree work and fully insured in case an accident happens. Incorrect tree work can predispose your trees to many other future problems, including tree failure.

In addition, Kuhn added that well-cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability.

I learned that beautiful, healthy trees are an investment with lots of ecological benefits.

In closing, I also learned that my friend, Bert Kuhn, is a specialist in the art and science of caring for trees in the landscape and in nature.

Before I left the job site where my friend was working, he said, "Hey Tom, questionable trees, especially those with visual defects, should be inspected by licensed tree experts to access their potential risks for failure."



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Arborist

Bert Kuhn, president-elect of the New Jersey Arborists Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and co-owner of New Jersey based Action Tree Service

Guide Wire Damage

Trees establish themselves quite well in normal situations. Support systems such as staking and guying are, in most cases, unnecessary and can even be detrimental.

Guying is temporary and typically used on larger trees that are transplanted balled-and-burlapped.

When staking and guying is deemed essential, install all supports properly to prevent damage to the tree and remove them as soon as possible—usually after one growing season.



Tom Castronovo/Photo

Editor's Note: Tom Castronovo is executive editor and publisher of Gardener News. Tom's lifelong interest in gardening and passion for agriculture, environmental stewardship, gardening and landscaping, led to the founding of the Gardener News, which germinated in April 2003 and continues to bloom today. He is also dedicated to providing inspiration, and education to the agricultural, gardening, landscaping and nursery communities through this newspaper and GardenerNews.com.



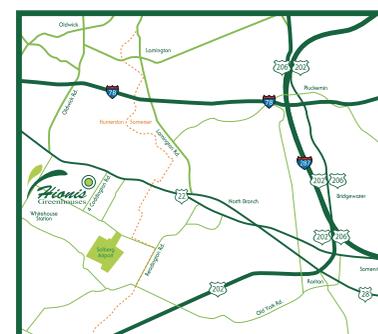
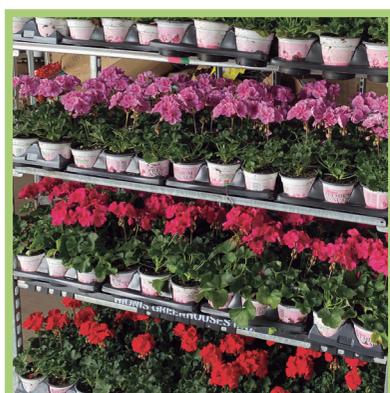
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