



# Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

**Jim Robbins**  
Extension Specialist -  
Ornamental  
Horticulture

## Jim's Corner

### Image

It was a typical August for me attending both the Southern Nursery Association research conference and trade show in Atlanta and then at the end of the month touring nurseries in Portland, Oregon, in preparation for next year's tour that I will host. I always find these trips to be tremendously motivational since I hear lots of new ideas or see lots of plants to bring back to Arkansas. From what I could gather, Arkansas had a pretty good spring relative to many other parts of the country. I also sensed a "softening" in the market, especially on certain species and smaller-sized material.

Getting away also allows a person uninterrupted time to reflect and think about aspects of their job or home. Sometimes we get so close to our work that we miss the obvious things. How many of you have ever asked a new employee what their first impression of your business was? Have you ever stopped to see your business through the eyes of your customers? What does the signage and front of your business tell your customers? Do the people that answer your telephones, or your recorded telephone message, sound professional? What caught my eye in Portland and Atlanta was how many restaurants were enticing customers through the "curbside" appeal of their landscaping.

### Horticulture Survey

I am excited to inform you that our new Extension economist, Ron Rainey, and I are planning to conduct a thorough survey of



**Garvan Woodland Gardens opened to the public in September. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Tuesday.**  
<http://www.garvangardens.org/>

the horticulture businesses in Arkansas in spring 2002. Why do we feel a survey is necessary? Most of you already know that the USDA routinely surveys the production side of horticulture. This would include acres of peaches, acres of nursery stock and square feet of greenhouse crops.

Horticulture, especially ornamental horticulture, is much more than that. Ron and I are certain, based on studies conducted in other states, that we are undervaluing horticulture by hundreds of millions of dollars. Areas such as garden center sales, landscape installation and maintenance, mowing and chemical use on roadways, florist shops, tree maintenance

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# Overseeding Turfgrass Preparations

Extension Horticulturist Tom Koske, Louisiana State University

Before long, superintendents will be overseeding their bermudagrass. We overseed at the end of September or early October in far north Louisiana and about November 1 in New Orleans. It is said that overseeding first starts with growing a healthy Bermuda turf. That takes all summer long. If we core aerate prior to overseeding, it is done at least 30 days before overseeding and could go longer than that.

Overseeding may consist of various cool season grass mixtures or blends, but I won't go into all that. Most will choose a perennial ryegrass or a rough bluegrass – *Poa trivialis*. The trick in overseeding is to protect the overseed

from annual bluegrass invasion before the overseed has gotten thick enough to take care of itself.

One excellent control has been to use the fungicide Rubigan AS as specified in its supplemental label. You will also get good disease control as a lagniappe. In order to have good results (90 percent control) with this pricey product, you must do it properly, and that takes time, skill and knowledge. The label specifies two or three split applications at 14 days apart. The last application is made 2 weeks before seeding the rye or 4 weeks before seeding a *Poa trivialis* or bentgrass. With these restrictions,

you will start the first application either 4, 6 or 8 weeks prior to actual overseeding. When using a *Poa* or bent, choose the three applications per 8-week program.

Some also like to slow the Bermuda more than normal cooling temperatures would do naturally. The use of liquid Primo plant growth regulator as a foliar spray can be used to do this. It can be used at a lot less than the label's rate for "overseeding bermuda" (23 ounces per acre). You should apply about 3 to 8 ounces per acre 3 to 5 days prior to opening up the sward before planting. Rate depends on the bermudagrass cultivar.

## Research Reports

### Daylily Rust

Dr. Steve Vann, Extension Plant Pathologist

During August of this year, Arkansas was added to the growing number of states where daylily rust (*Puccinia hemerocallidis*) has been reported. The rust fungus, which is native to Asia, was first identified in Georgia in August 2000. So far, symptoms of daylily rust have been observed on leaves and the flower scape. The same fungus will also infect members of the genus *Patrinia*, which is also an ornamental. This plant may be important in the completion of the fungal life cycle. Although *Hosta* spp. were reported in the literature as a host for the rust, no *Hosta* plant has been infected by the rust by inoculation studies conducted in Georgia, and at this point *Hosta* is not considered a host for the rust fungus.

#### Symptoms

The rust spores are bright orange-yellow and are produced on both upper and lower leaf surfaces in raised pustules. Pustules have also been observed on the scape. Initial symptoms include water-soaked spots

that are circular to elongated. The spores are spread by wind and splashing water. Initial symptoms may appear 3 to 5 days after infection (very fast!). Pustules can be viewed in the field with a simple 10X hand lens. Suspected pustules can be wiped with an ordinary white facial tissue. An orange-yellow stain on the tissue will result if the rust pustules are present. Daylily rust may be confused with other leaf problems such as insect damage (e.g., mites, aphids) and leaf streak which is caused by another unrelated fungus. Leaf spots associated with leaf streak disease will not yield the yellow stain on a white cloth.

At this time the State Plant Board considers this a quality pest. Should daylily rust be found at a nursery or dealer, affected plants may be placed under a "stop sale" order. Properly treated plants may be released for sale when "clean." A USDA task force is presently reviewing regulatory options for this new disease, so changes may be

forthcoming. The persistence of this pest in the industry will be in direct relationship to each grower's efforts to treat infected plants and to sell only "clean" material.

The Cooperative Extension Service will release a fact sheet (FSA-7525) on this problem in late September and copies can be obtained from your local office or off the internet at [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu). Other internet sites include:

<http://doacs.state.fl.us/~pi/enpp/pathology/daylily-rust.html>

<http://www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/dlr/index.html>

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html>

<http://www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust.html>

<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/horticulture/nf450.htm>

If you suspect daylily rust, contact your local Extension office or call the Disease Clinic at Lonoke at (501) 676-3124 and ask for Dr. Vann.

## Product Profile

1. During a visit to Asheville, North Carolina, this summer I saw my first landscape beds mulched with colored rubber mulch! Finally, at SNA in August I found a supplier for this new mulch material. International Mulch Company, based out of St. Louis, is interested in telling you more about colored “Rubberific Mulch.” The company can be contacted at 1-866-WE-MULCH (936-8524) or at their website at [www.rubberificmulch.com](http://www.rubberificmulch.com).

An Arkansas company is also manufacturing and distributing colored rubber mulch products. If interested, contact Clint Black of the Rubber Tree Co. in Clarksville at 501-754-1138.

2. For those that love American Composting’s (Little Rock, Arkansas) products in bulk, you can now get their compost (1 ft<sup>2</sup>) and Supersoil (40 lb, 1 ft<sup>2</sup>) products in a bagged form. Contact them at 501-945-8888.

## What’s Up?

### Interesting websites!

The Ramsey Nursery (Harrison, Arkansas) website, [www.growbaby.com](http://www.growbaby.com), has been updated recently. Their site offers a virtual tour of some of their landscape jobs. Nice marketing idea!

Involved with Sports Turf maintenance or construction? Check out the University of Missouri site at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/stat/>.

Again, I cannot say enough quality things about the programs offered through the various Small Business Development Centers affiliated with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Check out their training sessions, some of which are offered on-line, at <http://asbdc.ualr.edu/training/>.

### Valuable Book

*Diseases of Woody Ornamentals and Trees in Nurseries, 2001*, edited by Ronald K. Jones and D. Michael

## Plant Profile

### *Rhus chinensis* Mill. – Chinese Sumac

Dr. Jon Lindstrom, Horticulture Department, University of Arkansas



Many summer and fall-flowering shrubs get shorted in the garden. Gardeners are willing to spend large sums of money on crape myrtle yet these same people seem unaware of the just as desirable *Heptacodium miconioides* (seven-son flower) or *Rhus chinensis* (chinese sumac). In flower now (early September), and in flower with an exclamation point, is *Rhus chinensis* “September Beauty.” The cultivar September Beauty was selected by Dr. Elwin Orton at Rutgers University and is noted for its large, drooping panicles of creamy greenish-white flowers. The species is native to China but does very well in the heat of northwest Arkansas. The large leaves are pinnately compound like our native sumacs but are perhaps twice the size. Grown as a large shrub or small tree, the Chinese sumac will reach 15 to 20 feet high and wide with time. Plants perform best when grown in full sun and planted in well-drained soils; excessively wet sites will not be tolerated well by this plant. Few diseases or pests bother the plant in Fayetteville, but it did suffer some injury in the 2000-2001 winter, primarily because the plants had not hardened off before December’s record cold.

In spring, I propagate “September Beauty” by digging up the root suckers that are abundantly produced by this plant. This preponderance to sucker is the biggest problem with the plant. As a specimen in a lawn, the lawnmower will take care of the suckers, but in a bed or border, hand pulling will be necessary. Suckers dug for propagation will normally flower the next year, although some of the larger suckers will flower the same year. Although I have not tried it, I suspect that root cuttings taken in fall or winter would work well with this species.

The season for chrysanthemums is here and customer traffic is picking up in the garden center. Along with the mums, remember to highlight shrubs that flower in late summer and fall. The Chinese sumac, seven-son flower and blue mist shrub (*Caryopteris*) are all plants deserving greater use in the late summer and early fall garden.

Benson, APS Press, The American Phytopathological Society, St. Paul, MN 55121-2097, is an excellent resource for those in nursery production enterprises.

In addition to discussion of diseases specific to plant genus there is a section, disease management, which includes horticulture practices

to reduce disease development, tissue culture and disease management for nurseries using recycling irrigation systems, to mention a few of the 16 chapters in this section.

The book can be ordered online at <http://www.shopapspress.org/disofwoodora.html> or by calling APS Press at 1-800-328-7560.



Arkansas Re-leaf

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University of Arkansas  
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and more are not being tracked. Key administrative and legislative individuals need to know the full impact of horticulture in Arkansas.

With this in mind, we want to encourage ALL of you to participate in the survey when it is administered in spring 2002. This is your chance to let your voice be heard. Ron and I have worked very hard to ensure the confidentiality of your data so it will not be accessed by anyone. Only summarized data will be available in reports and presentations.

## Upcoming Events

October 16-17 – Oklahoma State Univ. Ornamentals Plant Material Conference, Stillwater, OK. Contact Tammy Hollan at 405-744-5405 or [tammyrh@okstate.edu](mailto:tammyrh@okstate.edu). Registration is \$70, deadline is 10/10.

October 11-13 – Southern Plant Conference, Athens, GA. Contact Southern Nursery Association (SNA) at <http://www.sna.org>.

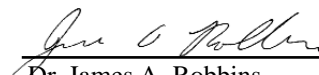
October 12-13 – Middle Tennessee Nursery Association Horticultural Trade Show, McMinnville, TN. Contact Ann Halcomb, 931-668-7322, <http://www.mtna.com> or <http://www.tnnursery.com/mtna>.

October 18-21 – Southern Region International Plant Propagators' Society, Houston, TX. Contact David Morgan, 817-577-9272, e-mail at [dleemorgan@msn.com](mailto:dleemorgan@msn.com) or [www.ipps.org](http://www.ipps.org).

October 20 – Ozark Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Garvan Woodland Gardens. Contact Len Miller at [drlom@greencist.net](mailto:drlom@greencist.net).

January 7-8, 2002 – Arkansas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference, Hot Springs, AR. Contact ATA at 501-224-4840.

February 1-2 – Arkansas Green Industry Association Trade Show and Conference, Hot Springs, AR. Contact AGIA at 501-225-0029 or [www.argia.com](http://www.argia.com).

  
Dr. James A. Robbins  
Extension Specialist - Ornamental Horticulture

## **NEW!** Extension Publication

FSA 6099  
Ornamental Horticulture Business:  
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