



# Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

For the Commercial Green Industry

**Jim Robbins**  
Extension Specialist -  
Ornamental  
Horticulture

## Jim's Corner

As many of you know, Dr. Steve Vann, Extension plant pathologist, moved from the Diagnostic Laboratory at Lonoke to the state office in Little Rock earlier this year. Sherrie Smith has filled the position at the laboratory. Sherrie is off to a great start. She and Dr. Rick Cartwright are regularly writing a newsletter, <[http://www.aragriculture.org/News/plant\\_clinic/default.htm](http://www.aragriculture.org/News/plant_clinic/default.htm)>, that highlights common problems being submitted to the statewide laboratory. You may find this newsletter useful for timely pest information, or you may want to adapt some of the information for your own company educational efforts. In that vein, many of you may have noticed significant decline in Leyland cypress (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*) during late August. The harsh summer accelerated decline on Leyland cypress from a common fungal canker. Dr. Vann has an excellent fact sheet on that topic that you can print out, <[http://www.uaex.edu/Other\\_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-7536.pdf](http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-7536.pdf)>. If you need alternatives to Leyland cypress and redbtip photinia for hedge purposes, you can consult a different Extension fact sheet: <[http://www.uaex.edu/Other\\_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-6125.pdf](http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-6125.pdf)>. Other fact sheets that Dr. Vann has written recently include Leaf Spot of Photinia, Daylily Rust, Fireblight of Ornamental Pears, Cedar-apple Rust and Fairy Ring of Turfgrass.

Talking of trees, Dr. Ed Gilman at the University of Florida, through a grant from the USDA, just finished a Tree Selector website: <<http://orb.at.ufl.edu/>



**Great idea: Pat White at White Wagon Farm, North Little Rock, added a separate building to support classes in gardening, painting and cooking.**

TREES/index.html>. If you want something a bit more homegrown, the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service just completed a fact sheet listing tree options for different situations: <[http://www.uaex.edu/Other\\_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-6126.pdf](http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-6126.pdf)>. The Extension Service also recently completed a visual key to identifying many common landscape trees in the state: <<http://www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/trees/default.htm>>. (See photos on page 2.)

I guess I feel like a proud parent. In May I finished up my first Ph.D. student, Dr. Mengmeng Gu, with the cooperative help of Dr. Curt Rom at Fayetteville. Then in August, Dr. Gu interviewed for the equivalent to my position with Mississippi State University and was subsequently offered the great job. Dr. Gu is filling the position that used to be occupied by Dr. David Tatum. Best of luck, Dr. Gu.

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## Jim's Corner (cont.)



Left to right: *Quercus x Crimson Spire*<sup>™</sup>, *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata', *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Fastigiatum', *Zelkova serrata* 'Musashino'

## What's Up?

### General

The Arkansas State Plant Board added two plants to the **Noxious Weed List** (<[http://www.aspb.arkansas.gov/plant\\_pdfs/plantdiseasereg.pdf](http://www.aspb.arkansas.gov/plant_pdfs/plantdiseasereg.pdf)>) earlier this year. The new additions that will impact landscapers, retailers and producers are **water hyacinth** (*Eichornia crassipes*; *E. azurea*) and **Japanese blood grass** (*Imperata cylindrica*). Effective June 2006, "no plant, seed or reproductive structure may be sold or utilized in plantings in Arkansas."

*NM Pro* magazine had an excellent article in the March 2006 issue (pages 66-70) about labor compliance issues titled "Know Your **Labor Compliance Issues**." The article deals with I-9 employment eligibility verification, Social Security mismatch handling and the H-2A program.

There was an excellent article in the May 2006 issue of *NM Pro* (pages 50-54) that discussed **fungicides** in simple terms. The article focused on labels and **mode of action** (MOA). Remember that rotating MOAs is critical with

fungicides, especially those with curative activity. An excellent website that can help you is the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC, <<http://www.frac.info/frac/index.htm>>). They have a detailed list of fungicides sorted by modes of action. From the home page (<<http://www.frac.info/frac/index.htm>>), click on "publications," scroll down to the "Fungicide Lists" and click on "Frac Code List 2."



### Small Businesses and Equal Employment

Jennifer Bonds, State Training Coordinator

All small businesses must comply with employment regulations. It is the responsibility of the small business owner to have a full understanding of employment regulations that affect his or her business. Small businesses have a great resource on the web at <[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)>. This is the website of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which regulates equal employment laws. All small businesses should be familiar with the following federal laws prohibiting job discrimination:

- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) prohibits race, color, religion, sex and national origin discrimination. Title VII applies to employers with fifteen (15) or more employees.
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) prohibits age discrimination against individuals who are forty (40) years of age or older. The ADEA applies to employers with twenty (20) or more employees.
- Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits employment discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. The ADA applies to employers with fifteen (15) or more employees.
- Equal Pay Act of 1963 (EPA) prohibits wage discrimination between men and women in substantially equal jobs within the same establishment. The EPA applies to most employers with one or more employees.

These laws prohibit employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability and prohibit retaliation for

opposing job discrimination, filing a charge or participating in proceedings under these laws. Please log onto <[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)> for more information.

Source: *Arkansas SBDC E-News Biz-bites*, 6/7/2006



### SBA Office of Advocacy 2006 Frequently Asked Questions

Douglas Mathew, Graduate Assistant, UALR SBDC

The SBA Office of Advocacy recently updated its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section focusing on the 2005 facts and figures in the small business economy.

The highlights of this FAQ include:

- In 2005, approximately 25.8 million businesses existed in the United States.
- In 2005, there were 671,800 new firms and 544,800 closures (Both about 10 percent of the total). It is estimated that in 2005 around 39,201 employer firms declared bankruptcy.
- Around 50 percent of employment in United States is in the small business sector.
- It is estimated that firms with less than 20 employees spend 45 percent more per employee than larger firms.
- Commercial banks provide more than 80 percent of the financing for small firms.
- According to the Office of Advocacy, two-thirds of the new business establishments survive at least two years, and 44 percent survive at least four years.

The full version of SBA Office of Advocacy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is available at <[www.sba.gov/advo/stats/sbfaq.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/advo/stats/sbfaq.pdf)>.

Source: *Arkansas SBDC E-News Biz-bites*, 7/6/06



## Retail

Keep in mind the great seminars offered by the Arkansas Small Business Development Center (ASBDC): <<http://www.asbdc.ualr.edu/training/state.asp>>. Example: **“Competitive Retailing in a ‘Big Box’ Market,”** Tuesday, October 17.

There was an interesting graph in the March 1, 2006 issue of *American Nurseryman* that summarized the **sales of Christmas trees** from 1990 to 2002. The percentage of households with “no tree” has increased during that period from 23 percent to 31 percent, the percentage of households with “real trees” has decreased from 38 percent to 21 percent and the percentage of households with artificial trees as increased from 39 percent to 48 percent during that same period.

There was a great article in the September 2006 issue of *GMPPro* about increasing sales by offering **FALL and WINTER mixed containers** in addition to the typical summer color containers. Think how many customers use color containers on patios and decks and in entryways. Suggestions include using contorted (e.g., willow) or colorful branches (e.g., redtwig dogwood), fruits (e.g., Nandina, sumac) and evergreen foliage (e.g., southern magnolia, mahonia, eucalyptus). Sounds like an opportunity missed.



## Landscape

The UofA Turf Team published an excellent report on “Choosing Appropriate Herbicides for **Establishing Bermudagrass from Seed**” in the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research On-line: <<http://usgatero.msu.edu/v05/n03.pdf#search=%22establishing%20bermudagrass%20seed%20richardson%22>>.



## Greenhouse/Nursery Growers

Dan Gilrein’s article in *GMPPro* (September 2006) reported that “Dow AgroSciences will no longer manufacture **Kelthane** (active ingredient dicofol) after June 2006”; however, “there will be material to last through the year and registrations maintained for a period of time to allow product to clear trade and use channels.”

I had to laugh. Can someone explain why the Ball Horticultural Co. “Circle of Life” compostable pots made from rice hulls are not available in Arkansas? Do Wisconsin and Idaho grow more rice hulls than Arkansas?

Source: *GMPPro*, September 2006, page 36

### Poinsettia Software Helps

**Production:** Do you grow poinsettias? If so, check out the **UNH FloraTrack for Poinsettias website** (<<http://www.plantdocs.biz/floratrack/>>) for technical information on graphical tracking and poinsettia production. Graphical tracking is a crop management tool that enables growers to compare actual and target plant heights to make production decisions. (Growers can also download the tracking software.) Free registration allows access to poinsettia links and an e-book. Info will continually be added to the website throughout the year.

Source: *Greenbeam*, 8/25/06

**NEW!**

**New Publications**  
(read/download at  
[www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu)):

**FSA6127, Weed Control in  
Field Nurseries**

**FSA6128, Planting a Tree  
or Shrub**

**FSA6126, Landscape Trees for  
Specific Uses**



Arkansas Re-leaf

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## Upcoming Events

**October 6-7:** Middle Tennessee Nursery Association (MTNA) Horticultural Trade Show, McMinnville Civic Center, McMinnville, Tennessee. Contact Ann Halcomb, 931.668.7322, e-mail <[mtna@blomand.net](mailto:mtna@blomand.net)>; url <<http://www.mtna.com>>

**October 7-10:** ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO! Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact American Society of Landscape Architects, 202.898.2444, <<http://www.asla.org/nonmembers/meetings.html>>

**October 7-11:** Southern Region International Plant Propagators' Society (SR-IPPS), Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact <<http://www.ipps.org/SouthernNA/programs.html>>

**October 10-13:** The 5th Eastern Native Grass Symposium, Harrisburg Holiday Inn, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Contact Barry Isaacs, 717.237.2219, <<http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/engs.html>>

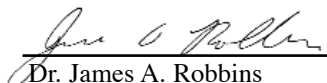
**October 11:** Herbaceous Plant Materials Conference, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Contact Mike Schnelle at Oklahoma State, <[mike.schnelle@okstate.edu](mailto:mike.schnelle@okstate.edu)>

**October 26-29:** The Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers National Conference and Trade Show, San Jose, California. Contact ASCFG, 440.774.2887

**November 14:** Tree Care Workshop, OSU Botanical Gardens, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Contact Mike Schnelle at Oklahoma State, <[mike.schnelle@okstate.edu](mailto:mike.schnelle@okstate.edu)>

**January 7-9:** 2007 WESTERN, Overland Park, Kansas. Contact <<http://www.wnla.org/>>

**January 17-18:** PLANTS 2007, joint AGIA and ATA - seminars and trade show. Hot Springs Convention Center. Contact AGIA at <<http://argia.org/argia2/home2.shtml>> or ATA at <<http://www.arkansasturf.org/>>

  
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