

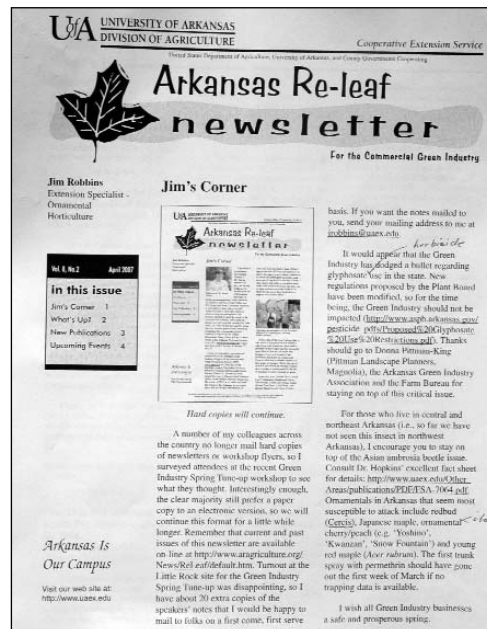


# Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

For the Commercial Green Industry

**Jim Robbins**  
Extension Specialist -  
Ornamental  
Horticulture

## Jim's Corner



Vol. 8, No.2	April 2007
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basis. If you want the notes mailed to you, send your mailing address to me at [jrobbins@uaex.edu](mailto:jrobbins@uaex.edu).

It would appear that the Green Industry has dodged a bullet regarding glyphosate herbicide use in the state. New regulations proposed by the Plant Board have been modified, so for the time being, the Green Industry should not be impacted ([http://www.aspb.arkansas.gov/pesticide\\_pdfs/Proposed%20Glyphosate%20Use%20Restrictions.pdf](http://www.aspb.arkansas.gov/pesticide_pdfs/Proposed%20Glyphosate%20Use%20Restrictions.pdf)). Thanks should go to Donna Pittman-King (Pittman Landscape Planners, Magnolia), the Arkansas Green Industry Association and the Farm Bureau for staying on top of this critical issue.

### Hard copies will continue.

A number of my colleagues across the country no longer mail hard copies of newsletters or workshop flyers, so I surveyed attendees at the recent Green Industry Spring Tune-up workshop to see what they thought. Interestingly enough, the clear majority still prefer a paper copy to an electronic version, so we will continue this format for a little while longer. Remember that current and past issues of this newsletter are available on-line at <http://www.aragriculture.org/News/ReLeaf/default.htm>. Turnout at the Little Rock site for the Green Industry Spring Tune-up was disappointing, so I have about 20 extra copies of the speakers' notes that I would be happy to mail to folks on a first come, first serve

For those who live in central and northeast Arkansas (i.e., so far we have not seen this insect in northwest Arkansas), I encourage you to stay on top of the Asian ambrosia beetle issue. Consult Dr. Hopkins' excellent fact sheet for details: <http://www.uaex.edu/OtherAreas/publications/PDF/FSA-7064.pdf>. Ornamentals in Arkansas that seem most susceptible to attack include redbud (*Cercis*), Japanese maple, ornamental cherry/peach (e.g., 'Yoshino', 'Kwanzan', 'Snow Fountain') and young red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The first trunk spray with permethrin should have gone out the first week of March if no trapping data is available.

I wish all Green Industry businesses a safe and prosperous spring.

*Arkansas Is  
Our Campus*

Visit our web site at:  
<http://www.uaex.edu>

## What's Up

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### General

Do we have a new plant cold hardiness zone map? Maybe. The National Arbor Day Foundation has released one (<http://www.arborday.org/media/zones.cfm>). I assume the USDA is still working on its revision.



### 2007 Tax Calendar for Small Businesses and Self-Employed

by Laura Fine, Assistant State Director, UALR Lead Center

The Tax Calendar for Small Businesses and Self-Employed (Pub. 1518, Catalog Number 12350Z) is now available. This 12-month wall calendar is filled with useful information on general business taxes, IRS and SSA customer assistance, electronic filing and paying options, retirement plans, business publications and forms, and common tax filing dates. Each page highlights different tax issues and tips that may be relevant to small business owners with room on each month to add notes, state tax dates or business appointments.

Copies can be ordered from the IRS by calling (800) 829-3676 or visit the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/page/0,,id=82780,00.html>.

Source: Arkansas SBDC E-News 1/22/2007



### One-Time IRS Telephone Excise Tax Refund Available for 2006

by Charles Hunter, Business Consultant, UALR Lead Center

Small business owners should not forget to claim their one-time Telephone Excise Tax Refund payment on their 2006 federal income tax return. On May 25, 2006, the Internal Revenue Service announced that it will

stop collecting the federal excise tax on long-distance telephone service. The decision was made after five federal appeals courts decided that the tax does not apply to long distance as it is billed in today's environment.

The IRS states that taxpayers will be eligible to file for refunds of all excise tax paid on long-distance service billed to them after February 28, 2003, and before August 1, 2006. Interest will be paid on these refunds.

Businesses must fill out Form 8913 and base their refund requests on the actual amount of tax paid. Businesses should attach this form to the income tax returns they normally file – Form 1120, 1120S, 1065 or 1041. Alternatively, businesses and tax-exempts can review their bills for two months (April and September 2006 bills) and use a special formula to figure the refund.

For more information, visit the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=161506,00.html>

Source: Arkansas SBDC E-News 2/19/2007



### ARHealthNet: New Health Care Benefits for Small Businesses

by Laura Fine, Assistant State Director, UALR Lead Center

ARHealthNet is a new insurance program designed to help qualified small businesses, with low-income workers, provide an affordable package of health care benefits to their employees. ARHealthNet is available to businesses with 2 to 500 employees who have not offered a group health plan in the past 12 months or longer. The plan is only available to working Arkansans through qualified employers and is not available as an individual plan.

ARHealthNet is a limited benefit health plan, and qualified businesses choosing to participate must have all eligible employees participate unless they provide evidence of other group health insurance coverage. Spouses of participating employees may also be eligible. Premiums for low-income workers with annual earnings at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level will be subsidized using tobacco settlement funds and existing Medicaid dollars.

NovaSys Health is administering the program for the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. Businesses seeking more information should visit the NovaSys Health web site at <http://www.novasyshealth.com/> or call 1-800-294-3557.

Source: Arkansas SBDC E-News – Biz Bytes 1/8/07



### Guidance on Business Property Depreciation

by Mildred Holley, Technology Programs Manager

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued a fact sheet to provide business owners an overview of business-related depreciation expenses and the resources on its web site that explain how to depreciate property. The fact sheet is available at [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164589,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164589,00.html).

When business owners acquire real assets that are expected to last more than one year, the total cost of those assets usually cannot be deducted in the year of the purchase. Instead, the business calculates depreciation expense to recognize the decrease in the asset's value due to its use in the business operation. IRS regulations define how depreciation is calculated. The annual depreciation cost is then an allowable deduction to reduce the company's taxable earnings.

Business owners may use the IRS publications to gain an understanding of the depreciation rules. Owners may find it beneficial to consult a tax professional for guidance. The company's accountant can help ensure that IRS rules are followed and that the company takes advantage of all allowable deductions.

Source: Arkansas SBDC E-News – Biz Bytes 1/8/07



*It is hard to believe someone would actually pay to have this done!*

## Retail

Ever find yourself in need of some quick facts to make a plant tag/sign with? Check out <http://www.virtualplanttags.com/>. It contains generic information that you may need to prepare tags/signage.

## Landscape

### Landscape Architects Identify 2007 Trends

Homeowners will be adding firepits and fireplaces for outdoor entertaining in 2007, according to a survey of American Society of Landscape Architects members. People will also be paying a lot more attention to environmentally friendly landscape options, such as adding native plants and managing stormwater more effectively. Homeowners are requesting that landscape architects design outdoor rooms complete with kitchens and bars for entertaining. Water features such as koi ponds, pools and fountains also continue to be popular.

Source: Greenbeam 1/10/07

## Housing Slump Could Affect Landscaping, Ornamental Sales

The Irrigation Association reports that the turf and landscape side of the irrigation industry could be slowed by a weakening housing market, which could result in reduced ornamental plant sales. The association cited U.S. Commerce Department figures showing home construction had dropped to its lowest level in almost eight years. Jeff Carowitz of Strategic Force marketing said landscaping is one of the last things finished on a new home. "There is a lag time before a slowdown in housing begins to show in the results of irrigation manufacturers, distributors and contractors," he said. The association said high energy costs, increased use of ethanol, a strong agricultural economy, a new farm bill, food safety and labor issues would be significant factors for agriculture and agricultural irrigation in 2007. Congress is expected to pass a new farm bill with an emphasis on conservation and energy that could have a major impact on agriculture.

Source: Greenbeam 1/10/07

## Greenhouse/Nursery Growers

This self-cleaning filter (Tekleen ABW2-B) for irrigation caught my eye in a recent issue of GM Pro: <http://www.tekleen.com/irrigation.php>. I saw a neat, simple sand filter at Lewis Evergreen Nursery (Piggot) last year: <http://www.odis.co.il/index.html>.



## Organics: Where to Get Current Info

USDA developed a set of standards that food and plants labeled "organic" must meet. Leanne Pundt, extension educator at University of Connecticut, said growers wanting to become organically certified must have their operations inspected by a

government-approved certifier. USDA National Organic Program web site (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm>) provides a listing of certifying agencies. Organic Materials Review Institute (<http://www.omri.org/>) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in the review of pesticides and fertilizers for organic production. OMRI has a list of approved insecticides and fungicides. The University of Connecticut IPM web site lists selected insecticides and fungicides for use on herbs.

Source: Greenbeam 1/22/07



I realize it is a bit late for the '06 holiday season, but greenhouse growers might want to look at the Mississippi State University web site that has high-quality photographs of 142 poinsettia varieties (14 Dummer; 74 Fischer; 54 Ecke): <http://msucare.com/crops/comhort/green/greenhouse.html>.



## U.S. EPA to Phase Out Organophosphate

Use of insecticide azinphos-methyl (AZM) on nursery crops will be phased out by September 2007. U.S. EPA took this action because of "worker and ecological risks." AZM is an organophosphate insecticide for broad-spectrum control of insects and mites.

Source: Greenbeam 1/10/07

**NEW!**

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

**Hosta Virus X, FSA7548,  
Smith et al.**



Arkansas Re-leaf

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## Upcoming Events

**June 4-6** – Mid-South Greenhouse Conference,  
Raymond, MS. Contact: <http://www.msnla.org/>

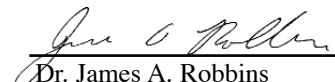
**June 14** – University of Arkansas Hope  
Research/Extension Center Field Day

**June 18** – Plant Propagation Workshop presented by  
University of Arkansas, Conway, AR. For details call  
Jim Robbins (501-671-2307).

**August 1** – University of Arkansas Department of  
Horticulture Turf Field Day, Fayetteville

**August 9-11** – Southern Nursery Association (SNA)  
Trade Show, Atlanta, GA. Contact:  
<http://www.sna.org/tradeshows/index.shtml>

**September 6-8** – SNA Southern Plant Conference,  
Mobile, AL. Contact: [http://www.sna.org/  
conferences/SPC2007/spc.shtml](http://www.sna.org/conferences/SPC2007/spc.shtml)

  
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