



# Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

For the Commercial Green Industry

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Ornamental  
Horticulture

## Jim's Corner



*Dr. Garry McDonald, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce **Dr. Garry McDonald** to the Arkansas Green Industry. Garry filled the research/teaching position in the areas of landscape construction and maintenance in the Horticulture Department at Fayetteville. We are thrilled to have Garry on board as he brings a wealth of experience to this position. His general areas of interest include incorporating the latest research in urban horticulture and sustainable systems into practical landscape

design and management. Other areas of interest are provenance selection of native landscape material and non-native plants adapted for low-input landscapes.

Congratulations to the Kirksey family (Brian, Nan, Kathryn and John), owners of **Spring Creek Nursery**, for being selected as the 2007 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. Folks, this is the top award in our state, so this is a true honor for the Kirksey family. You can read more at <http://siftingsherald.com/articles/2007/12/10/news/news1.txt>. The Donald Pittman family won Farm Family of the Southwest District in 2005, and the Lawrence Reddman Farms won the statewide award in 2004. It is encouraging to see that non-traditional agricultural operations are receiving this statewide recognition.

Congratulations to Dick Clinton, owner of **Green Tree Nursery** in Little Rock, on receiving the Sturdy Oak Award from the Arkansas Green Industry Association at their annual meeting in Hot Springs in January. Dick's parents were honored with this same award in 1990.

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### in this issue

Jim's Corner	1
What's Up?	1
New Publications	3
Upcoming Events	4

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## What's Up

### General

#### Begin Using New I-9 Form Now

A revised **Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9** is now available (details at [http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/Press\\_release\\_and\\_Q\\_and\\_A\\_on\\_new\\_Form\\_I-9.pdf](http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/Press_release_and_Q_and_A_on_new_Form_I-9.pdf)), U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services announced. The Form I-9 must be completed by all

employers for each employee hired in the U.S. The form will become mandatory for all employers to complete within the first three days of hire once the official notice is published in the Federal Register. However, the USCIS is encouraging employers to begin using the form ([http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/New\\_Form\\_I-9.pdf](http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/New_Form_I-9.pdf)) immediately.

**Source:** *Greenbeam* 12/04/07

## What's Up (continued)

If you are looking for a one-stop shop for information on proposed **National Standards for Sustainable Agriculture**, check out [http://209.235.208.145/cgi-bin/WebSuite/tcsAssnWebSuite.pl?AssnID=FLORA2&DBCCode=772211&Action=DisplayTemplate&Page=AWS\\_FLORA\\_edu\\_standards.html](http://209.235.208.145/cgi-bin/WebSuite/tcsAssnWebSuite.pl?AssnID=FLORA2&DBCCode=772211&Action=DisplayTemplate&Page=AWS_FLORA_edu_standards.html).



### Tennessee Nursery Installs Green Roof at Clinton Library

**GroWild Nursery** (<http://www.growildnursery.com/>) in Fairview, Tenn., was selected to install a green roof at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark. "We got the job because we had done green roofs before, and the green-roof technology is so new that once you've done one, you're considered a veteran," nursery co-owner Mike Berkley said. The green roof is actually a part of a private penthouse residence on top of the library and was recently featured on C-Span. While the project required GroWild to finish last November, many of the plants are dormant through winter, and the new green roof should be growing this spring.

**Source:** *Greenbeam* 2/4/08



For those who have lots of free time on their hands and are interested in lots of geeky data/information on the **April 2007 freeze**, check out a fabulous web site that NOAA has developed: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oal/climate/research/2007/april/apr-cold-event.php>.



Many of you may have considered or undertaken **purchasing an existing business**. Were you aware that the Arkansas Small Business Development Center (ASBDC) offers a class in

buying a small business? Check out <http://www.asbdc.ualr.edu/buying/action-steps.asp>.



An esteemed colleague at Texas A&M has just started a blog: "Making Cents of Green Industry Economics." Check it out at <http://ellisonchair.blogspot.com/>.



Most of us have been using the 1990 version (first issued in 1960) of the USDA Cold Hardiness Zone map. In 2003 the USDA briefly floated an updated version. A task force is still addressing concerns expressed about that updated version. The USDA does offer an on-line edition of the 1990 map at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>. The USDA has contracted with Oregon State University PRISM Group (<http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>) to produce a new hardiness zone map. In 2006 the Arbor Day Foundation released their own Cold Hardiness Zone map to add to the confusion (<http://www.arborday.org/media/zones.cfm>). For those who are old enough to remember it, I learned plant material hardiness using the Arnold Arboretum Hardiness Zone Map that appeared in Donald Wyman's books.



I hate to endorse anything, but if you are looking for one good garden insect book at an incredible price, check out Whitney Cranshaw's *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs* (ISBN: 0691095612). Incredible: 672 pages with more than 1,400 photographs. Check your local bookstore, or I found it on-line for \$20. On another note, you may want to add to your library the *Natural Enemies Handbook: The Illustrated Guide to Biological Pest Control* (ISBN-13: 978-1-879906-37-2) published by the University of California, considered one of the

most comprehensive guides to biological control agents. You must realize this book was published in 1998, and a lot of materials have been added to the market since that date.



Whether you grow nursery stock, sell nursery stock, or install nursery stock, you need to be aware of the American Nursery and Landscape Association's (ANLA) *American Standard for Nursery Stock*. This is an exceptional tool for everyone in the industry to communicate grades and standards in a uniform way. For example, a landscape plan may indicate "all plant material shall meet the ANSI Z.60.1 standards." You can view or download this valuable publication for free at <http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/ANLStandard2004.pdf>.

## Retail

PDSI has released a press release about cold hardiness of **Encore azaleas**: <http://www.encoreazalea.com/encore/nav.cfm?cat=23&subcat=111&subsub=0&id=35>.



## Consumer Pesticide Demand to Reach \$1.7 Billion

U.S. demand for **home and garden pesticides** (<http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.do?id=809988>) is projected to increase 4.8 percent per year to \$1.7 billion in 2011, according to market research company Freedomia Group. Insecticides are the largest category of pesticides on the market, accounting for almost 60 percent of overall demand in 2006. Herbicides are expected to register somewhat slower growth due to continued reliance on established products. Fungicides and other products account for a relatively small share of overall demand, but are expected to post

faster-than-average gains due to proliferation of specialized repellents and more sophisticated products addressing lawn diseases.

**Source:** *Greenbeam* 01/28/08



My colleagues at the University of Tennessee have developed a color tri-fold brochure summarizing observations from their “**No-spray Rose**” (*Cercospora* and black spot) evaluation program. Check out <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/personnel/WindhamM/2007%20Rose%20Handout.pdf>.



The garden media group has released its list of garden trends for the upcoming year: <http://www.gardenmediagroup.com/pressroom/trends08.pdf>.

## Landscape

The **Sustainable Sites Initiative** (SSI) (<http://www.sustainable-sites.org/report.html>), an effort to create voluntary guidelines and a rating system for sustainable landscape design, released a set of proposed standards earlier this month. SSI is a partnership among American Society of Landscape Architects, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and U.S. Botanic Garden. American Nursery and Landscape Association is involved in developing plant guidelines.



## First Food-Grade Organic Herbicide Hits the Market

Pharm Solutions has received U.S. EPA registration for **Weed Pharm**, an organic weed and grass killer made from food-grade vinegar. Pharm Solutions is adding the product to its line of USDA-certified organic pesticides. The product is available in 1-liter and 1-gallon sizes as well as 55-gallon drums and truckload quantities. More details at

<http://www.csrwire.com/News/10225.html>.

**Source:** *Greenbeam* 12/6/07

[While giving a talk in the PacNW in January, I learned about another company, EcoSMART (<http://www.ecosmart.com/>), that is marketing a line of botanical pesticides for commercial and consumer uses based on various natural oils. **NOTE:** I am not sure if any of their products are currently **registered** for use in Arkansas.]



Results from a survey conducted by a group of horticulturists and agricultural economists (USDA Regional Project S-1021) concluded that “a good **landscape added 5 to 12 percent** to the perceived value of a home.”

## Greenhouse/Nursery Growers

The Alzheimer Laboratory in Fayetteville, which is responsible for analyzing artificial (non-soil) **growing media** and your tissue samples, has agreed to add new categories for growers. You can now analyze your growing media for pH only for \$3 and pH and soluble salts (EC) for \$5. Please use this form (<http://intranet.uaex.edu/policy/Templates/PDF/AGRI/AGRI-430.pdf>) and still submit through your local county extension office. They require at least one cup of media for either test.



If you liked Diamond Frost™ Euphorbia, you might want to keep your eyes open for Silver Shadow and Silver Fog from DummenUSA. Silver Fog is much more compact and has smaller leaves when compared to Diamond Frost. Silver Shadow has larger leaves and bracts and is slightly more vigorous than Diamond Frost.



If you are stuck for ideas for **combination containers**, check out the Combination Calculator at Pleasant View Gardens web site: <http://www.pwpg.com/combinations/>



Want a great marketing idea for 2008 Christmas season? Check out the picture on page 34 of the January 2008 issue of *Growertalks*. Knollwood Garden Center made a snowman out of three tiers of Diamond Frost Euphorbia, some simple ribbon, facial features and a hat!



*Frost the Diamond Snowman* (picture from January 2008 *GrowerTalks*)



I realize we are past the holiday season, but my colleagues at Mississippi State have put up an excellent photographic database of **Poinsettia cultivars**: <http://msucare.com/crops/comhort/green/2007poinsettia.html>.



**NEW!**

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

**FSA6136** – Arkansas Sod Source  
Directory



Arkansas Re-leaf

Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Arkansas  
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Our own **Dr. Mike Evans** has an outstanding article in the January 2008 issue of *Growertalks* on “**Rice Hulls 101.**”



As a refresher course in producing **quality nursery stock**, you may want to check out this California publication with nice photographs: *Guideline Specifications for Nursery Tree Quality* (<http://www.ufe.org/files/pubs/specs10-13.pdf>).

## Upcoming Events

**March 14-15** – Arkansas River Valley Flower and Garden Show, Ft. Smith Convention Center.  
Contact: 479-484-7737

**March 15-18** – Southern Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Knoxville, TN.  
Contact: <http://www.isasouthern.org/>

**April 12** – Saline County Flower and Garden Show, Benton County Fairgrounds. Contact: 501-303-5672

**April 29** – “Building With Trees” seminar presented by the Arbor Day Foundation, Memphis, TN.  
Contact: [arborday.org/bwt](http://arborday.org/bwt)

**June 2-4** – MidSouth Greenhouse Conference, Raymond, MS.  
Contact: [http://www.msnla.org/2008\\_GHGC\\_App.pdf](http://www.msnla.org/2008_GHGC_App.pdf)

**June 19-21** – Southeast Greenhouse Growers Conference, Greenville, SC.  
Contact: <http://www.sgcts.org/>

**July 12-15** – OFA Short Course and Trade Show, Columbus, OH.  
Contact: <http://www.ofa.org/shortcourseinfo.aspx>

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No endorsement is implied or discrimination intended for firms or references included or excluded from this newsletter.

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