



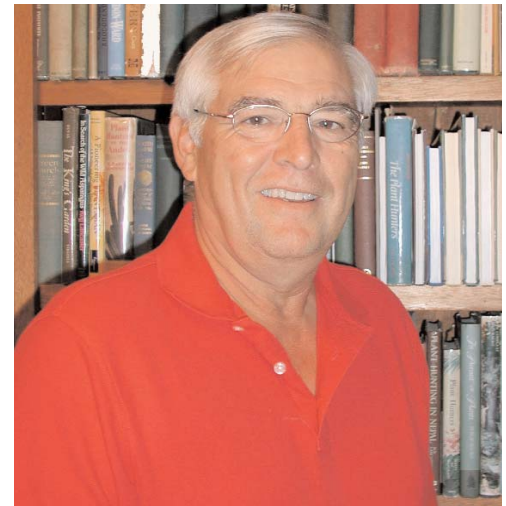
Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

Jim Robbins
Extension Specialist -
Ornamental
Horticulture

Jim's Corner

Dr. Klingaman Is Retiring After 31 Years!

I am very sad to be writing this column. After 31 years of incredible service to the field of horticulture in Arkansas, Gerald Klingaman is retiring from the Horticulture Department at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Gerald has been a great colleague and an even better friend. His contributions to the ornamentals programs in this state will sincerely be missed. It is hard to imagine how many lives Gerald has touched when you think about all the students he has taught, industry visits he has made, talks he has given and articles he has written. Every Sunday I love to read Gerald's plant column in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. While most of us focus on the identification or cultural aspects of plants, Gerald always takes us on a journey into the history or development of a specific plant. I hope Gerald plans to write a book that will compile his wonderful vignettes. Janet Carson is also chiding Gerald for not making a bigger noise or splash. For Gerald, it is simply enough to do a great job quietly, which he has done consistently over a very long career.



I was thrilled that the Arkansas Green Industry Association (AGIA) chose to award Gerald with their highest honor, the Sturdy Oak Award, at its annual meeting in February. Since Gerald and his lovely wife Jolene will be staying in Fayetteville, we can all hope to keep Gerald active in Arkansas horticulture for many more years.

THANK YOU Gerald for your exceptional contribution to horticulture in Arkansas.

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In the last issue, I briefly mentioned the potential adoption of the Nutrient Management Rules. The Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission (<http://www.aswcc.arkansas.gov/>) enacted emergency rules in January 2005. These rules impose mandatory

regulations on anyone applying nutrients (e.g., fertilizer, compost, sludge, poultry litter) to acreage over 2.5 acres in the Nutrient Management Surplus Area (<http://www.aswcc.arkansas.gov/NPS%20map.pdf>). This area impacts 14 counties in the northwest corner of

Plant Profile

Chirita Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don × 'Bamboo Boat'

Jon T. Lindstrom

Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville, AR 72701, tranell@uark.edu

African violets (*Saintpaulia*) along with the florist's gloxinia (*Sinningia*) and *Streptocarpus* are the commonly encountered members of the Gesneriaceae family. Recently, other members of this family have gained popularity with hobbyists. One such genus is *Chirita*. Primarily found in southeast Asia, the 150 or so plants in this genus can be annuals, rosette-forming perennials or shrubs. The rosette-forming species vaguely resemble African violets in shape but are usually larger in size. Perhaps my favorite in this group is *C.* 'Bamboo Boat.' A hybrid between *C. fimbrisepala* and the blue form of *C. eburnea*, the cross was originally made by Toshijiro Okuto in Japan. My plant came from Kartuz Greenhouse in California.

'Bamboo Boat' features light lavender-blue flowers held proudly above compact rosettes of light green foliage. The plants begin to flower in February and continue through April. Due to the genetic background of the hybrid, it appreciates cool winters (50°F nights in our greenhouse). During the winter, the soil should dry to the touch between waterings. As winter wanes, the inflorescences, which formed during the previous fall, begin to elongate and the flowers soon open. The concentrated flush of bloom is remarkably attractive and makes this plant a worthwhile addition to a sunroom, windowsill or greenhouse.



Through the rest of the year, 'Bamboo Boat' appreciates light shade and soil that remains slightly moist to the touch. Like African violets, *Chirita* hybrids propagate easily by leaf cuttings taken immediately after flowering. The plants that develop should flower a little the following spring and increase in beauty with each passing year.

Jim's Corner (cont.)

Arkansas. Affected individuals will need to pass an exam given by ASWCC before January 1, 2006. In general terms, the program is similar to what you already do for a Pesticide Applicator License from the Arkansas State Plant Board. At this time, all I know is that someone (not me) in Extension will be hosting training sessions later this year.

I would like to thank the Arkansas Green Industry Association (AGIA) for awarding me with a 2004 Service and Achievement Award. Recognition like this

from AGIA is greatly appreciated! My success is really a team effort. If it were not for the help of other Extension specialists including Dr. Steve Vann (plant pathologist), Dr. John Boyd (weed specialist), Dr. Ron Rainey (agricultural economist) and Dr. John Hopkins (entomologist), I would not be nearly as successful. I would also like to thank the nurseries that make it possible for me to conduct useful research in the state. These include Bemis Tree Farm (Donna and Tracey Bemis, Little Rock), Lawrence Reddmann Farms (Larry Reddmann, Harrisburg) and Cricket Hill Farm (Joel Stout, Conway).

What's Up

EPA Grants Reduced REI for TriStar

TriStar 70 WSP insecticide received a reduced restricted-entry interval of 12 hours from U.S. EPA. The broad-spectrum, systemic neonicotinoid class product controls a wide variety of ornamental insects including aphids, whiteflies, thrips, mealybugs and leaf-hoppers. The REI had been 24 hours. http://www.clearychemical.com/view_product.php?id=7010&cat=34

ANLA and SAF have released a set of container-labeling compliance guidelines. Created by a joint task force, the guidelines present recommendations for green industry-specific solutions to meet compliance requirements. The task force was formed earlier this year to address the implications of a weights and measures complaint filed in Pennsylvania about accurate container sizes. The task force met with regulatory advisers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to understand the ramifications of increased scrutiny by other weights and measures jurisdictions across the country. <http://www.anla.org/applications/Documents/Docs/Container.pdf> (Source: *Greenbeam* 1/3/05)

NIST Issues New Labeling Law Interpretations

National Institute of Standards and Technology has issued a new interpretation on container labeling laws, said Jonathan Bardzik, ANLA director of membership and industry marketing. The revised understanding is that these labeling laws, on the book for years but never enforced, apply to all levels of the supply chain. As of this summer, previous understandings were that they applied just to products for sale to consumers at retail facilities. So now products from growers to landscapers and from propagators to growers must contain a declaration of identity (what is the product), declaration of net

contents (how much product is there), and declaration of responsibility (who grew it). However, for intraindustry sales, these do not have to be placed on the container, just stated on an invoice, Bardzik said.

(Source: *Greenbeam* 1/12/05)

The following article is from a great colleague of mine at the University of Tennessee. In addition, an excellent resource on algae control is a North Carolina website: <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/chptr8/823.pdf>

Controlling Algae in Nursery Irrigation Ponds

By Mark Halcomb, University of Tennessee Area Nursery Specialist

Some types of algae can be killed in small ponds with a handful of copper sulfate in an old sock. It is a simple procedure, but there are several comments and precautions concerning this practical approach.

This easy solution is more effective on planktonic algae that may appear as green pea soup. It will control some types of filamentous algae, but copper sulfate will not control aquatic weeds, either submersed or floating. Actually, planktonic algae can stifle the more serious weeds by preventing their germination and growth by reducing light penetration. Commercial dyes are used to provide the same effect.

When copper sulfate crystals are spread over the water surface, many settle to the bottom before they dissolve without killing the algae. The chemical becomes tied up with the sediment quickly and is rendered harmless. Dissolving the copper sulfate and spraying it onto the water surface is effective. But the sock method eliminates both the need for a sprayer and the time required for spraying. Placing the copper sulfate in a cloth bag or sock prevents it from falling to the bottom and becoming unavailable to kill algae. Tie the sock to a floating device and secure the float away from the pond edges. Use one sock for each

half acre in a pond. The algae will be killed in a matter of hours. The water will clear. If nothing happens, refill the sock in a few days.

The water may turn brown or even grayish during the decay process if a lot of algae dies at one time. As mentioned earlier, clear water is not necessarily desirable. When the green algae growth returns, fill the sock. You will learn how to gauge the amount and frequency with experience. As long as there is a problem with algae, copper sulfate can be applied on an as needed basis and as often as needed.

Aquatic herbicide rates are frequently expressed as amount per acre-foot of water. One acre-foot of water is one surface acre of water, one foot deep. For example, a 3-acre pond averaging 5 feet deep would contain 15 acre-feet of water. Another term to express treatment rates is parts per million (ppm). One ppm is 2.7 pounds of chemical (copper sulfate for example) per acre-foot. A half pound of copper sulfate per acre-foot would provide 0.2 ppm. Low rates of copper sulfate are safe for irrigation water, fish survival, fish consumption, livestock drinking and swimming. One ppm can kill fish in low alkalinity water. But remember, it binds with algae and sediment quickly and does not stay around in the water very long. One pound per surface acre may kill enough algae and should not kill fish.

Concentrations greater than 0.2 ppm could be phytotoxic to ornamental plants. It would be best to apply the copper sulfate after the daily irrigation to allow time for the chemical to work on the algae. The concentration is reduced rapidly as it binds with the algae and sediment. The concentration would likely be safe the next day in time for the next irrigation.

Copper sulfate is considered safe for water used for irrigation, fishing, watering livestock and swimming. There are no restrictions placed on its use.



Arkansas Re-leaf

Cooperative Extension Service
University of Arkansas
P.O. Box 391
Little Rock, AR 72203

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Upcoming Events

April 16 – UofA Hort. Club Plant Sale (7 a.m.-1 p.m.), Horticulture Research Farm. Annuals, perennials, woody plants and tropicals.

May 28-30 – Fundamentals of Japanese Garden Design and Maintenance Workshop, Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. Contact: 501-262-9300

June 22-25 – Southeast Greenhouse Conference, Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville, South Carolina.
Contact: <http://www.sgcts.org/>

July 6-8 – The Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association Trade Show and Conference, Knoxville Convention Center, Knoxville, Tennessee. Contact: TNLA, 931-473-3951, <http://www.tnla.com>


July 9-12 – OFA Short Course, Columbus, Ohio.
Contact: <http://www.ofa.org/>

July 20-23 – Cullowhee Conference: Native Plants in the Landscape, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. Contact: <http://nativeplants.wcu.edu/>

August 11-13 – SNA 2005 – Southern Nursery Association Researcher's Conference and Trade Show, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia.
Contact: SNA, 770-953-3311, <http://www.sna.org>

August 25-27 – The Farwest Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon.
Contact: Aimee Schendel, Oregon Association of Nurserymen, <http://www.farwestshow.com>

September 8-10 – The Ninth Biennial Southern Plant Conference, Louisville, Kentucky.
Contact: <http://www.sna.org/conferences/spc.shtml>


Dr. James A. Robbins
Extension Specialist - Ornamental
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