



Arkansas Re-leaf newsletter

Jim Robbins
Extension Specialist -
Ornamental
Horticulture

Jim's Corner



Make this issue a New Year's resolution!

Removing Stakes From Trees

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I am really getting sick to my stomach over all the young trees we are killing because we forget to remove the stake and tie material installed at planting. With the ease of clipart, most landscape plans now indicate a requirement for young trees to be staked at planting. Landscape maintenance companies that ultimately take over the contract forget that in most cases these stakes and ties should be **removed after one growing season.** You can make a difference. Next time you visit your commercial sites, take a closer look at the trees and remove unnecessary stakes and ties. Even if every company just did this on a few jobs, we would make a dent in this problem. I should also remind professionals that we **NEVER** leave black (or dark green) trunk wrap on after installation. Those materials

were supplied with the tree during the shipping process. IF trunk wrap is required, you must use white or light-colored materials. I observed a large number of shade trees killed at a commercial site due to the black trunk wrap being left on.

Fresh Hardwood Mulch

I have been at this horticulture stuff for 30 years, and I am still learning. In October I visited a residential landscape with damage on a wide range of landscape plants. Most plants showed damage to the foliage closest to the ground. I was told the job had been re-mulched with hardwood mulch on Saturday, and the following day the damage was visible. What could it be?

Since a broad range of plants were involved, it had to be something universal like the fertilizer, herbicide or mulch used. Bingo, it was the fresh hardwood mulch. I searched the internet and found that very rarely fresh hardwood bark turns sour if a **large** pile is not turned or aerated. Gases which are harmful to plants build up and ultimately burn the foliage. Once the gas is dissipated, the problem is over. Point: If you are using fresh hardwood bark, you might want to turn your pile or be attentive to a sour smell that might include ammonia or hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg smell). While this problem may only crop up once in your professional career, when it does happen it can be a costly mistake.

Green Industry Spring Tune-up

In its seventh year, this popular workshop offered by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture is designed as a low-cost way to quickly review the most common insect, disease and weed issues that your employees will face in 2005. This year the format will use a live presentation in Little Rock (February 21)

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Plant Profile

Viburnum setigerum Hance – Tea Viburnum

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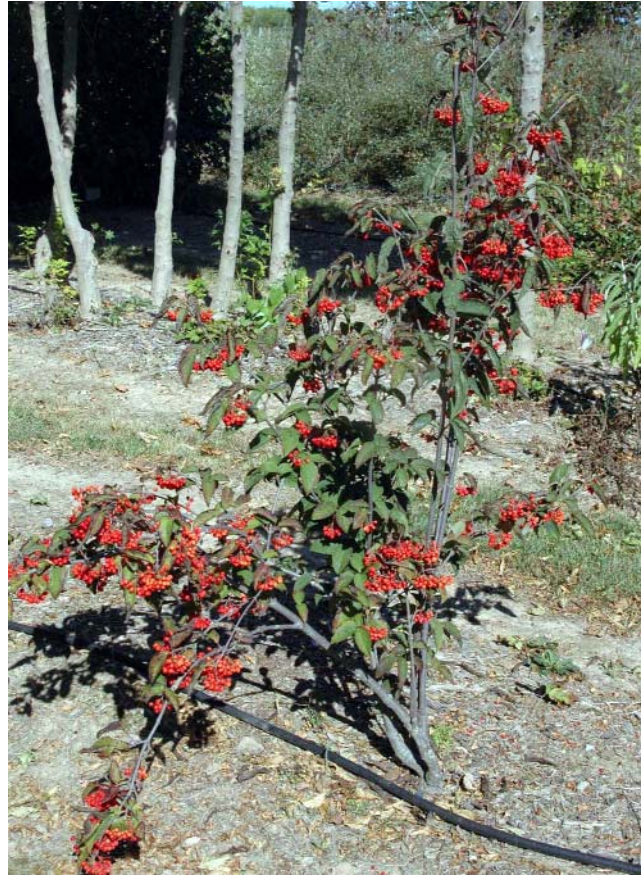


One can never place too many viburnums in the garden, but the sad fact in Arkansas is not viburnum excess, but viburnum lack. The Korean Spice and Burkwood are often seen, as are the native species, especially the blackhaw and southern blackhaw. Missing are the viburnums grown for fall fruiting display. Of these, the tea viburnum, *Viburnum setigerum*, is one of the best. The plant in Fayetteville reaches its peak fruiting display in October; bright reddish orange orbs glisten during mid-fall mornings. Apparently even the birds enjoy the display, rather than eat the fruit, as the fruit persists and remains attractive for at least a full month.

Because the fruit is so attractive, I can overlook the growth habit that is somewhat leggy and splaying. This is a shrub that needs companions – more than one of itself in the landscape along with smaller shrubs beneath to mass and hide the leggy stems. Three to five plants grouped together with yellowroot or even creeping junipers below would set the landscape afire in fall (and cause me to overlook the junipers). The tea viburnum flowers in mid to late April. The flowers are white, but not particularly overwhelming in their display. The dark green summer foliage adds medium texture to the landscape but normally does not develop notable fall color. Here at the University

of Arkansas, the shrub, in full sun, is five feet tall on its way to eight or so feet. Growth has been slower than other *Viburnum* species in the collection.

Viburnum setigerum is easy to propagate from cuttings rooted under mist during the summer. Fruiting, container grown plants would be an excellent addition to other plants offered for sale in the fall at the garden center. This shrub also offers the opportunity to increase sales by suggesting appropriate companion plants.



Jim's Corner (cont. from page 1)

and Fayetteville (February 28) using the top experts in each area. A CD will be available that you can use to train other employees during the year or for reference with customers.

Impressed

In October I attended the annual meeting of the Southern region of the International Plant Propagators

Society (IPPS). I thought I would be the only Arkansas representative. I was wrong. Attending every session and tour were Barbara, Dennis and Jonathan Burnett of Burnett's Nursery and Garden Center in North Little Rock. If you are a nursery grower or propagator, you should seriously consider joining IPPS (<http://www.ipps.org/SouthernNA/>). They have the best nursery tours I have ever seen, and I am sure the Burnetts would agree.

What's Up?

With the onset of SOD and its impact on availability of camellias during 2004, I have been keeping my ears to the ground looking for alternative sources for the industry. At the recent Plant Propagators meeting, I spent time with Ray Watson, owner of Cam Too Camellia Nursery in Greensboro, North Carolina (800-758-8121; www.camtoocamellia.com). According to the packet they mailed me, they sell over 350 different cultivars of camellia wholesale and even have a separate catalog of zone 6 selections. A few years back, several of us visited Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (919-968-0504; <http://www.camforest.com>).



Occasionally I get requests to help you locate plants. On-line services I have used are www.growit.com and <http://www.plantsearchonline.com>.



Don't forget the EPA-mandated December 31, 2004, stop-sale date for outdoor diazinon home, lawn and garden products. It will be unlawful to sell diazinon outdoor non-ag products in the U.S. after the end of this year, part of an agreement between EPA and diazinon registrants to phase out and eliminate residential uses of the insecticide. Retailers and formulators have until March 31, 2005, to sell unopened, unused outdoor diazinon residential products back to manufacturers. Consumers may continue to use diazinon residential

products they have in their possession (<http://www.epa.gov>).

Source: Greenbeam 11/10/04; <http://www.greenbeam.com>



While on the IPPS tour, a nursery in Louisiana mentioned a nursery supplier that they used for containers and other nursery supplies. It was a new firm for me. The rep for Arkansas is based out of Indiana. His name is Michael Dean (765-964-5900). Check out <http://www.nyp-corp.com/>.



Valent Corp. received U.S. EPA approval for its broad-spectrum Safari insecticide (active ingredient is dinotefuran). It can be used to control whitefly, aphids, scale, fungus gnat and mealy bug. This 20% soluble granular formulation can be applied as a drench, sprinch or foliar spray. Safari, which can be tank mixed, is best applied before buildup of high pest populations. A second application can be made 14-21 days after the initial treatment (valentinfo@valent.com; <http://www.valent.com/Product.asp?industry=1&segment=GR&key=99997&src=pro>).

Source: Greenbeam 11/10/04; <http://www.greenbeam.com>



Beware of reused plug trays. According to an article in the October 2004 issue of GM Pro, small amounts of organic matter on reused plug trays that contained plants infected with black root rot

(*Thielaviopsis basicola*) can re-infect plants in future crops. The spores were eliminated from infected trays using a 2.5 oz rate of Zerotel (<http://www.biosafe-systems.com/hort-zerotol.html>) applied as a drench or by a 10-minute dip in 10% bleach.



I debated on whether to include this issue in the current newsletter or wait until the final regulations are passed, but I decided to at least make you aware of an issue that will impact many horticulture businesses in Northwest Arkansas.

While the proposed Nutrient Management Plan **HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED/FINALIZED**, my guess is that it will be approved as proposed in mid-December by the legislature. Check out <http://www.aswcc.arkansas.gov/>. At the bottom of the page you will find Proposed Rules Governing Nutrient Management in Arkansas. Titles 20, 21 and 22 seem to apply to turf.

As I understand it, starting January 1, **2006**, if you apply fertilizer to turf over 2.5 acres, and this would include commercial landscape maintenance firms, you will be required to pay for and attend a 3-hour extension workshop, and then pay and take a 1-hour exam, to become a certified nutrient applicator.

At this point, it only impacts those businesses (e.g., sod farms, golf courses, landscape maintenance companies) in 14 Northwest Arkansas counties (Conservation District). We will communicate details as this issue develops.



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Upcoming Events

January, 4-5, 2005 – Arkansas Turfgrass Association (ATA) Annual Trade Show and Conference, Hot Springs Convention Center. Contact ATA at 501-224-4840 or <http://www.arkansasturf.org>.

January 9-11 – Western 2005: The Big Show, Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO. Contact Western Nursery & Landscape Association; 816-233-1481 or <http://www.wnla.org/insidethewestern.htm>.

January 11-12 – Arkansas/Oklahoma Turfgrass Management Short Course, Cooperative Extension Service Headquarters, Little Rock. Contact Dr. John Boyd, 501-671-2224.

January 14-15 – Arkansas/Oklahoma Horticulture Industry Show (HIS), Fort Smith, Holiday Inn Civic Center. Contact Ray Campbell at raycam@dasnr.okstate.edu.

January 15-17 – The Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association Trade Show and Conference, Hamilton County Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN. Contact TNLA, 931-473-3951 or <http://www.tnla.com>.


January 27 – 24th Annual Landscape Maintenance Seminar, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Contact Dustin Blakey at 479-484-7737 or d Blakey@uaex.edu.

February 3-4 – Arkansas Green Industry Association (AGIA) Trade Show and Conference, Hot Springs Convention Center. Contact AGIA at 501-225-0029 or www.argia.org.

February 21, 6-9 pm – Green Industry Spring Tune-up, Cooperative Extension Service headquarters, Little Rock. Contact Jim Robbins at 501-671-2307.

February 24-26 – Little Rock Flower & Garden Show. Little Rock Convention Center.

February 28, 6-9 pm – Green Industry Spring Tune-up, Pauline Whitaker Equestrian Center on University of Arkansas campus, Fayetteville. Contact Jim Robbins at 501-671-2307.


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