

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NEBRASKA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NNLA PRESENTS AWARDS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Jason Kuehl received the Nebraska Certified Nurseryman Distinguished Professional Award.

His nomination included the following –

Jason Kuehl plays a vital role in the horticulture industry, not only in the Omaha Metro area, but across the Midwest states. Jason began his passion for the industry at a young age but made it official upon completion of his degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in Crop Production at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 1992. One of his first jobs outside of college included serving as an Agriculture Inspection Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Jason then moved on to become a successful Field and Operations Manager at Mulhall's Nursery. With over seventeen years in operations management and administration, Jason has a proven track record of leading successful teams in nursery production. According to Dan Mulhall, since joining the Mulhall's team in 1996, Jason had been pivotal to the success of the tree operation. "His work as our tree grower and buyer guided us through demanding times." Ann Wickenhauser, current landscape designer with Mulhall's and colleague of Jason's for several years said, "I have always call Jason 'The Tree God'. His (tree) knowledge is second to none. He has grown, bought, and sold trees and has experience that few will ever possess. His true gifts, however, are his people skills – he makes you feel like family the instant you meet him. He answers even the most mundane questions with sincerity. You will never find a kinder, truer friend – I'm so glad to consider him one of mine!"

After his seventeen-year run with Mulhall's, Jason took a position in October of 2013 with Schwope Bros. Tree Farm and PlantRight, LLC in Horticulture Sales and Consulting where he now sells trees across Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota territories.

Among countless scholarships and written accolades, Jason is a Nebraska Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional and has served on the Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association Board of Directors since 2017, currently serving as President.

Jason and his wife, Lisa, have three beautiful children: Bryson, Joel and Johnna.

Sean Mulhall received the Nebraska Certified Nurseryman Hall of Fame Award.

His nomination included the following –

Sean Mulhall has been an industry icon for years, working under his father and founder of Mulhall's, John Mulhall, and brother, Dan, to build one of the largest well-recognized and widely respected nurseries in the Midwest.

Continued on page 3...



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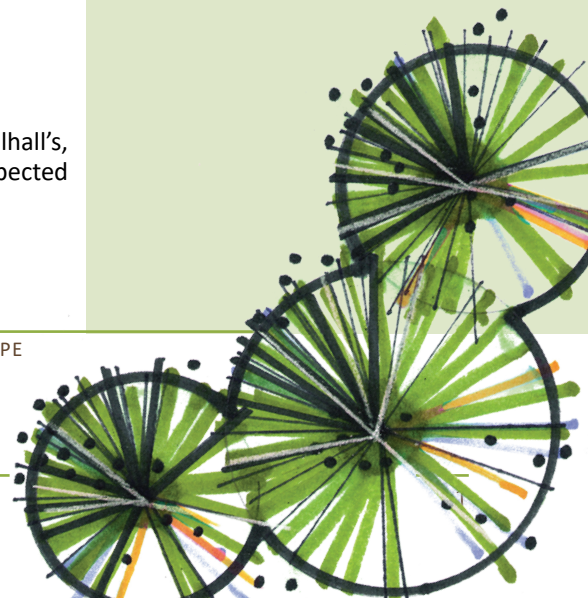
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THE NNLA MISSION: TO ADVANCE THE NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING, EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND CERTIFICATION TO INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVELY GROWING THEIR BUSINESSES.



NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY JASON KUEHL, NCNLP



Sitting in the office has definitely been a warmer option than being outside lately. With near record cold and a decent spell of it, we look forward to getting back to spring soon. Time to think about plants, greenhouses, gardening and taking care of customers. It won't come soon enough.

Hopefully everyone had a very good season in 2020. We had our doubts in March as we came to grips with the pandemic and what it could do to our businesses. Cancel or push back deliveries? Will we even have customers? Coming up with new and creative strategies to market and deliver our products to our customers. New challenges brought new changes and the world will never be the same. Many people and companies coped with working from home and for some of us teaching from home. This brought unexpected opportunities however, as people spent more time and money improving their outdoor living space and spent time with their family in their own backyard. It turned into a prosperous year even with all the challenges.

One of the challenges for this year is the continuing search for plants and trees. With many suppliers digging into spring 2021 crops during 2020 many of the higher demand items are in very short supply. For trees that take longer to get back to size that could take several years, specifically evergreens and slower growing trees. Being creative with your use of trees and plants may be the norm for a little while moving forward. Get the imagination and creative juices flowing! Year 2020 gave us a number of great reasons to live in Nebraska. How do we social distance in Nebraska? We live here! Moving forward NNLA is working hard to improve on what we do and get more membership and member involvement. Navigating a world where trade shows are now virtual and some are even extinct gives us a rallying cry to move our organization forward. We value your support and participation. Bring your ideas and help us navigate the future. Here's to seeing you all in person where we can again shake hands and visit in person. Thanks for all you do and look forward to a great 2021.

Warmest regards,
Jason Kuehl, NCNLP, NNLA President

NNLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

Continued from page 1...

Returning to the family business in the spring of 1983 with a degree in math from the University of Notre Dame and four years' experience at General Electric in Cincinnati, Sean knew the path forward for his parent's business couldn't be the same as that they had arrived on. The business was built of passion but needed organization. And Sean quickly committed himself to looking to others in the industry for guidance and inspiration.

Among his first contact were the Campbell brothers in Lincoln. It was Dick Campbell (President of NNLA in 1979 and President of ANLA in 1991) who introduced Sean to the value and opportunities provided by industry associations. And once introduced, Sean took to it quickly.

Sean often says, "I have had very few new ideas, but I've been pretty good at implementing ideas others have shared with me."

A regular participant in both local and national conferences and tours in the 80's and early 90's, Sean appreciated the positive influence of talking and sharing with fellow retailers, growers, and landscapers. He recognized not only the value it would have for him, but for his team. Under Sean's leadership, Mulhall's invested tens of thousands of dollars in supporting the programming of both local and national industry associations, believing that growing the conversation stands to benefit all involved.

A Nebraska Certified Nurseryman himself for decades, Sean has encouraged so many of the current and former team members of Mulhall's to do the work and take the time to become certified, recognizing the value that this level of commitment demonstrated.

And once Sean felt Mulhall's customer experience, operations, and even a few ideas that other in our industry could benefit from, he opened our store and landscape facility to local, statewide, and national tours.

Grounded in his deep appreciation of and respect for the men and women that actually make landscaping happen, Sean taught himself and continue to study Spanish -finding fulfillment, not only in the work itself, but getting to know the people performing it.

While Sean's knowledge of plant material has all been learning on the job, his passion for plants and what they do for our environment is just in his nature. His ability to envision what a thoughtfully designed landscape can do to transform a site has no boundaries – as sometimes is the case when his landscapes push onto adjoining properties...

With the above comments, leadership, and support of the landscape industry, Sean exemplifies the characteristics of a Nebraska Certified Nurseryman.

PLANT NATIVE: CORALBERRY



Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*

Height: 2-4'

Spread: 3-6'

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to Dry

Coralberry is a dense, multi-stemmed shrub that can be planted as a groundcover, border shrub or under-story plant. Although it performs well in full sun, it is important to place this plant in a location where it won't bake during the summer. It does best in part shade or shade. This sprawling shrub is useful for erosion control and will attract valuable wildlife to the garden, especially pollinating insects. In the summer tiny white flowers with pink accents bloom in clusters over a long period on the outer tips of the plant. Though they're small, they attract a myriad of bees, flies and especially the common thread-waisted wasps, like the black and yellow mud dauber. Caterpillars of the clearwing moths feed on its foliage and the dense growth habit provides great winter cover for birds and other small animals.

In the fall, bright purple-pink berries cluster among the leaves on the tips of the branches. The fruit clusters weigh the stem tips down, creating a beautiful arching affect. After a hard freeze, the leaves will fall and leave the berries to stand alone as a colorful focal point. To really appreciate the coralberry, you need to see it in the winter landscape.

Prune coralberries back in late winter if you want to keep them as a low and bushy ground cover. If they get too leggy, they can be cut back to the ground. Coralberry can cover a large area easily by forming low stems that grow along the ground and re-root where a node of a branch touches the ground, which can be quite a spread.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

2020 NNLA BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS



Brett Schroer
General Manager at Urban Roots Nursery was elected Vice President.

Brett studied Horticulture/Landscape Design at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and has worked in the nursery industry for over 25 years. Throughout his career he has worked in different regions of the United States and in many areas of horticulture including retail, production, design, and installation. Brett is very passionate about our local industry and the challenges we face as we move into the future.

He believes the NNLA is entering a period of evolution as we embrace the challenges and opportunities of an ecommerce/post COVID world. Brett would like to offer his help in stewarding the association through these challenging times so that it remains relevant for the future.



Dawne Dawes
General Manager at Mulhall’s Nursery was elected to serve as an At-Large Director.

With over two decades of experience in the landscape industry, Dawne is committed to building a more beautiful, healthy, and sustainable community. Dawne’s ability to keep a “beginner’s mind”, coupled with her spirit of determination and continuous improvement, has made her an influential force in growing Mulhall’s Landscape’s impact here in Omaha. As General Manager, Dawne understands the many facets of the industry and believes the best is yet to come. And she’s passionate about supporting those who want to stake their career on it.



Sheila Schrader
Owner and Landscape Designer at Schrader Landscape Design was elected to serve as an At-Large Director

Sheila came to Lincoln to study horticulture with an emphasis in landscape design at UNL and decided to stay in the Lincoln area. With her ten years of experience as a designer, Sheila has been able to help many people turn the vision they have for their yards into a reality. Sheila has a passion for educating her clients on how to best care for their landscapes with the least impact on our environment. She loves the opportunity to design rain gardens, bioswales, native landscapes, and pollinator habitats. Since becoming a parent, Sheila has found that she especially loves working with schools and daycare centers to create outdoor spaces for children to learn about and explore nature. She believes that we need to get our children outside making memories that will ensure they become the environmental stewards of the next generation.

She is certified through the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute for paver installation and through the National Concrete Masonry Association for segmental retaining wall installation. She is a certified arborist through the City of Lincoln and a certified member of the Nebraska Arborist Association. Sheila is a member of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. She volunteers in the Village of Malcolm taking care of their parks as a founding member of the Malcolm Garden Club now in its seventh year. Sheila has worked with several state grant programs to plant trees in the Malcolm parks and at Platte River State Park and has helped with the installation of a few NSA Bloom Boxes. She facilitated a pollinator and sensory garden planting at her son’s daycare with matching funds through a City of Lincoln grant program.

Sheila stated she is interested in serving on the NNLA Board of Directors because she sees it as a great opportunity to give back to an organization that has been very instrumental in her growth as a designer and a professional.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NNLA ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Nebraska Nursery and Landscape Association held their annual membership meeting on December 17, 2020 via Zoom. Fifty members participated.

Brian Munk, President, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and introduced the 2020 Board of Directors. He also recognized and thanked the past presidents for their service.

President Munk provided a year in review for the association including activities, sponsorships, advertising, Field Day, and workshops.

Collin Eaton, the 2020 scholarship awardee provided an update on how he used the scholarship monies and his career goals. Collin plans to graduate in December of 2021.

President Munk then presented awards to Jason Kuehl for the Distinguished NCN Professional award and Sean Mulhall for the NCN Hall of Fame award.

Julie Van Meter provided an update from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Lee Olson provided an updated from the Nebraska Certified Nurseryman (NCN) committee. Lee congratulated Rebekah McGill, Jason Orth, Sheila Schrader, and Eudora Weller as they passed the exam in February 2020. Plaques were presented prior to the meeting.

Lee shared the NNLA Board has renamed the Nebraska Certified Nurseryman program to the Certified Nurse and Landscape Professional program effective January 1, 2021. The Board felt this is more inclusive and more descriptive of the program. Lee states the online store would be available again early next year and the apparel will feature the new logo.

Board of Director elections were held electronically prior to the annual meeting. Two director terms have expired, and the Vice President position is open. Sheila Schrader and Dawn Dawes were nominated for the Director positions and Brett Schroer for the Vice President position. A ballot was emailed to all Active and Associate members five times during the election period of December 1 through December 15 asking them to submit their vote. Twenty-five ballots were received back. Twenty-four votes were cast in favor of Sheila Schrader and Dawne Dawes for the NNLA Board of Directors and one person abstained from voting. Twenty-four votes were cast in favor of Brett Schroer for Vice President with one write-in candidate submitted. Munk welcomed the new Board members and thanked Kendra Bretschneider for serving on the Board.

With the completion of the election, President Munk passed the gavel to 2021-2022 Board President, Jason Kuehl to preside. President Kuehl thanked Brian for his service as Board President.

President Kuehl adjourn the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

PLANT TALKS

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's First Thursday Plant Talks are Facebook Live events. Watch on the NSA Facebook page – [facebook.com/NeArb](https://www.facebook.com/NeArb). A different topic will be discussed each month on the first Thursday.

April 1
"My Favorite Herbs,"
Bob Henrickson

REMEMBERING ERIC BERG *By Justin Evertson*



It's with a heavy heart that I share the sad news here that Eric Berg passed away on February 24, 2021 in Lincoln. Eric had been declining in health in recent months, but it was still a shock to everyone that was close to him. We are comforted to know that his daughters Lily and Emily were holding his hands as he took his last breath.



For those that don't know, Eric was community forestry program leader with the Nebraska Forest Service until 2020 after taking over for Dave Mooter in 2006. Eric had held the same position in Kansas for several years before coming to Nebraska. Eric was a tireless promoter of trees and in connecting people to trees. He was an educator with a friendly and humble demeanor that garnered many friends in the tree and community forestry world across the country. He will be sorely missed by everyone that got to know him. I personally learned a lot from him (not just about trees) and I will miss him tremendously. Rest in peace Eric.

A Celebration of Eric's life will be Saturday, March 20 at 2 PM at Butherus Maser & Love Funeral Home in Lincoln. The service will also be live streamed via the Butherus-Maser-Love Facebook account.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NNLA ANNOUNCES NEW NAME FOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

At the 2020 NNLA Annual Meeting it was announced the Nebraska Certified Nurseryman (NCN) program would have an updated name and logo starting January 1, 2021. In an effort to better reflect the work and expertise of individuals, the certification program will be updated to the Nebraska Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (NCNLP).

As of January 1, current NCNLPs should update the usage of your title to reflect this change. Remember to update anywhere you have your title listed – email signatures, business cards, websites, social media, etc. If you are currently using or would like to use the NCNLP logo, contact the NNLA office for the new graphic.

As of January 1, current NCNLPs should update the usage of your title to reflect this change. Remember to update anywhere you have your title listed – email signatures, business cards, websites, social media, etc. If you are currently using or would like to use the NCNLP logo, contact the NNLA office for the new graphic.

A certificate, with the new logo and name, was mailed to all current NCNLP with their 2021 certification renewal confirmation.

NEBRASKA CERTIFIED
NURSERY & LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL



JOB OPENINGS

As a member benefit, NNLA will post job openings to our website for no cost. To view current posting, go to nnla.org/resources/job-openings-2/. If you have a current posting, notify NNLA if you want it removed or updated. To list an opening, email jennifer@youraam.com with the information to be posted.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

GREEN IDEAS FOR A LONG WINTER

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES column from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Nature restores. Taking a walk outdoors after too much time on our many screens—phones, computers, televisions—can go a long ways toward clearing our minds and changing our moods. Last spring when we first experienced the isolation and other constraints of covid, we were heading into spring and were able to get out more. We had things to do in our yards and could be outdoors safely and comfortably alone or distanced with friends.

This fall and winter may require a little more creativity and flexibility to get our “nature fix.” Here’s a few suggestions to be a little greener indoors and get us more connected to nature outdoors.

Indoors:

- Some of the best houseplants are philodendron, hoyo, jade, asparagus fern, airplane or spider plant, aloe, rubber plant. There’s even air plants that don’t require soil.
- Other plants that can do well inside are things you may have already brought inside—succulents, geraniums, begonias or herbs like rosemary and parsley. They may not make it through the winter but they’re wonderful greenery, and in some cases taste-boosters.
- Mirrors can be placed to increase the light that indoor plants receive by placing them where sunlight lands and placing plants where that light is reflected, usually 45 degree angles from sun to mirror to plants.
- Some plants are easy to propagate indoors—airplane or spider plant, African violets, succulents, etc. It takes patience but watching and helping something grow is always a good thing. Check online guides for specifics.
- Use good lightweight potting soil and pots with drainage.
- Overwatering is one of the easiest ways to kill potted plants so check soil several inches deep before watering.
- Windows are important when we’re stuck inside. As much as possible, try to improve the view and the interest by putting birdfeeders and interesting plants or structures where they are visible from indoors (to feed birds but not squirrels, use safflower seed).
- Keep it guilt-free. If you kill some plants, no problem... that’s what compost piles are for.

Outdoors in yards or on small patios or decks:

- Bring in the birds with birdfeeders and birdbaths. Having plants or structures at varying heights offers birds a wide range of options for shelter and roosting and, for us, great opportunities for watching them. Evergreens or prickly plants keep them even more protected from predators.
- It doesn’t have to be Christmas to add evergreens to our yards; clip off some junipers that need pruning, put them in a container or tree stand where they’re most visible. The more levels in your yard, the more there is for you to look at and the more birds and other wildlife they will draw.
- Twinkle lights aren’t just for Christmas, and well-placed solar lights make it more inviting to get outdoors or bring the outdoors in.
- Add structures for more visual elements in the yard. Even a half-buried old barrel hoop looks great covered with snow. Keep structures natural with twigs, stones or other elements that fit into the natural environment.

- When there’s snow or wet soil, pay attention to tracks to see what’s been visiting your yard; most likely you’re feeding a lot more critters than you realize. If we can’t have friends at our table, we can at least spread the table for outdoor visitors.

Karma Larsen, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



To purify air indoors, the very common airplane or spider plant “removed more than 95 percent of toxic agents from the air,” according to a Clean Air Study done by NASA. It’s also generous in propagating itself, with abundant shoots that can be cut and placed in water indefinitely or potted once roots have formed.

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Would you like to see your company featured in an ad in the Nebraska Nursery & Landscape Association’s quarterly newsletter, Nebraska Nursery News?

You will have the opportunity to present your company logo, products/services and company identity to members from across the state. Check out the new lower advertising rates on the last page of the newsletter. This is a great, affordable opportunity to reach members and anyone who views the newsletter on the website. Please contact the NNLA office at jennifer@youraam.com or (402) 381-7154 for further details.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

MAKING THE MOST OF THE WORST

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES column from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

“Good work finds the way between pride and despair.” Wendell Berry

It’s been a tough year; and for some much worse than others. Many of us looked to our landscapes for calm, focus, beauty, a place to work off nervous energy and a sense of normalcy.

Like our landscapes, we strived toward resiliency. In trying to make the most of the worst, here’s a little list of what we’ll call “landscape lemons and silver linings.”

- The care of the arboretum in Stella is handled by volunteers ranging in age from 60-85, but “with the garden open 24/7, people could come and go as they wished without fear of violating social distancing guidelines,” said Stella Garden Club secretary Vicki Beilke. And with more people than ever choosing to plant home gardens this year, and more people having time to pot up sale plants, both their plant sale offerings and their income from sales were higher than normal. In short, Beilke said, “we didn’t miss a lick.”
- Birds. We didn’t have to social distance from them so we watched them, identified them, fed them, kept their bird baths full, photographed them. Many of us are also planning to attract even more by adding native and multi-season plants that offer better habitat.
- Beautiful furniture, flooring and shelters have been made from the ash trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer over the last few years. And many of the private and public landscapes containing a preponderance of ash trees have been planted much more diversely thanks to this dire warning of what happens when a dominant species is endangered.
- When a flood left most of the Gilman Park Arboretum in Pierce underwater for six days in 2010, curator Gary Zimmer said, “Fortunately I had learned from other natural events to simply leave it alone for awhile. The worst thing to do is to give up or start ripping things out. Almost immediately I saw that this could be a great learning experience; that I could document what happened to help myself—and others—in future planning and planting.” And so he did, letting quaking aspen seedlings take over a perennial bed that had turned into a weed patch, “It was a poor site for a perennial garden anyway and the aspen colony is an arboretum favorite for many people now.” Many of us have made similar changes in the face of loss.
- Several years ago, with eastern redcedar taking over the Cedar Point Biological Station, UNL staff and students built a cabin from the reclaimed wood. “We wanted to find a way to use this tree that many people find to be a nuisance,” said Griffiths. They even managed to win a 2019 Architectural Education Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

While covid made us keep our distance this last year, the fires and flooding of previous years worked to bring together communities, and neighbors, that had previously had little reason to care for each other. With such severe weather extremes and other challenges, Nebraskans have gotten pretty good at making lemonade. We look forward to making more of it – together – in the years to come.

Karma Larsen, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



Volunteers at the Stella Arboretum pot up plants for sales to help pay expenses like water pumps for ponds, heating the greenhouse and other needs. The garden was originally planted in 2000 by and for the school; when the school was closed for consolidation in 2009, the community came together to keep the garden going.

NEBRASKA FOREST HEALTH REPORT

2020 The Year in Review Nebraska’s Forest Health Report is available online at <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=2d77d60349743bfe907ca7f0f&id=f9fa864da4>

Read articles about:

- Emerald Ash Borer
- New Invaders on the Horizon
- Walnut Twig Beetle
- Drought
- Dicamba use on Dicamba-Resistant Crops

HELP WANTED: JOIN AN NNLA COMMITTEE

The NNLA Board of Directors is looking for interested members to join one of the three standing committees to help direct the work of the Association. Contact the NNLA office at jennifer@youraam.org if you are interested in helping with committee work.

MARKETING COMMITTEE – assist with the website and social media oversight, newsletter articles, outreach to consumers, industry partners, etc.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Identify and recruit potential members, encourage membership renewals, and recommend additional member benefit/services to the Board of Directors

PROGRAM COMMITTEE – assist with the development of topics, speakers, and venues of NNLA events, such as, webinars, Field Day, Winter Conference, and workshops.

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY: UPDATE ON U.S. DISTRIBUTION

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an exotic, invasive insect that was discovered in the United States in 2014. Its native range includes China and India, and it likely was introduced to the US via trade. Spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Pennsylvania, and infestations have since been found in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia, and most recently in Ohio. It has not been found in Nebraska.

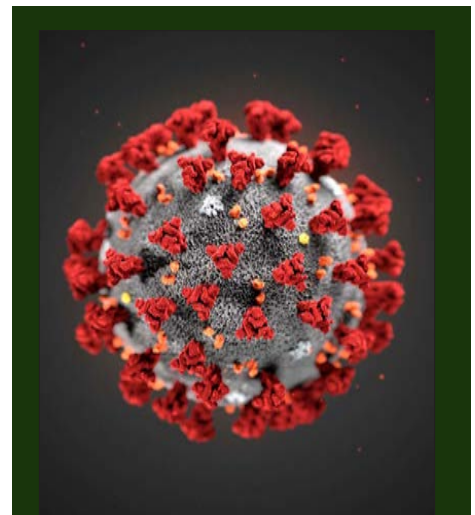
Adult spotted lanternflies (SLF) are about 1" in length, with gray forewings. These wings have black spots at the upper half and narrow black rectangles on the lower half. The underwings are red with black wingtips. Early instar nymphs are black with white spots, but later instars are red with black patches and white spots.

SLF females lay egg masses on trunks of trees, or any smooth surface, in the fall. Egg masses initially look gray and mud-like, but as they age, turn brown and individual eggs laid in rows within the mass become visible. Eggs hatch in the spring, with nymphs seeking out new hosts on which to feed.

The SLF's preferred host is the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and if it only fed on this weedy, invasive tree, would not be a significant problem in Nebraska. However, SLF will feed on more than 65 different plants, including grapes, fruit trees, oaks, walnut trees and even pines, making it a pest of concern to Nebraska.

Both SLF nymphs and adults feed on plant sap, and like other leafhoppers, have piercing-sucking mouthparts. The SLF does not feed on foliage or flowers, but on the woody parts of plants--the trunk and/or branches. Their feeding may cause weeping wounds on trunks, and the insects secrete honeydew which can accumulate on and around the host plants. Infested plants experience reduced vigor, and fruit trees and grapes fed on by the SLF will often produce lower yields. The insects may also vector other diseases as they feed.

There is concern that this pest is spreading in the northeast, and it has been documented moving on nursery stock. As with any exotic, invasive pest, early detection is key to effective control. Be vigilant in keeping an eye open for invaders like SLF. Check all nursery stock as it arrives at your nursery for insect and disease signs and symptoms. If you think you've seen an SLF insect or egg mass, or any other invasive pest, take pictures or collect a specimen, and safeguard the plant material to prevent the pest from spreading. Immediately report your suspicions to your NDA Entomology Inspector, or contact Julie Van Meter, Entomology Program Manager/State Entomologist, at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-6847 or Julie.vanmeter@nebraska.gov.



COVID-19 RESOURCES

To help you find resources related to COVID-19, NNLA has added a specific page to the NNLA website - <http://nnla.org/covid-19-coronavirus-resources/>. You can also find this page via the tab bar on the home page for easy access. Check back regularly to look for updates.

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

RECEIVING & SHIPPING PLANTS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

It is the time of year when nurseries are putting together plant orders for the coming spring season or receiving orders to ship plants. If your business either ships plants to other states or countries or receives plants from businesses outside Nebraska, you should be aware of requirements for shipping interstate.


Nursery stock shipped from one state to another requires a nursery license indicating the plants were inspected and found free of injurious plant pests. This license is basically attesting to the general good health of the nursery stock. However, additional certification is increasingly being required to ensure that insects and diseases of specific concern are not being spread on plants. This additional certification can be met by adding additional pest declarations to a license or attaching separate documents, either of which will attest to freedom from specific regulated or quarantined pests.

There are numerous state and federal quarantines that apply to the movement of nursery stock. For example, plants from areas infested with Gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, pine shoot beetle, and/or sudden oak death require additional certification to indicate they meet the state or federal quarantine requirements necessary to leave the quarantine area. Paperwork must accompany each shipment indicating the requirements have been met. Inspectors with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) review this paperwork as part of the normal inspection process to confirm compliance with state and federal laws.

When you order plants from another state, ask questions about whether any state or federal quarantines may apply. When a shipment is received, review the paperwork to ensure it includes the nursery license and all required certification documents. Information on individual state requirements can be found online at <http://nationalplantboard.org/laws-and-regulations/>.

For example, since Nebraska is considered infested with Japanese beetle, Nebraska-grown nursery stock often needs additional certification paperwork to accompany each shipment leaving the state. This certification can be met through several means, including negative trapping data for the production site, application of chemical treatments and production outside the adult flight period. NDA staff will work with individual businesses to determine the best certification method for their situation.


If you are considering shipping plants to other states, contact Jessica Schueth, Export Certification Coordinator for NDA, at 402-471-5902 or agr.phyto@nebraska.gov to determine any potential requirements and to discuss your options.




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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

NURSERY DEALER INSPECTIONS

Spring is almost here, the snow will eventually melt, and greenhouses all over the state will soon be filled with nursery stock, ready for customers. That means that another sign of spring is just around the corner. Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) entomology inspectors will begin the rounds of spring nursery dealer inspections.

NDA inspectors visit licensed nursery stock distribution locations and inspect nursery stock to ensure that only sound, healthy stock is being distributed. The inspectors will verify that the location is correctly licensed. They look for evidence of insect or disease problems, or structural or mechanical damage to the plant material. Inspectors also look for weed problems in containers and root balls, check that plants are labeled correctly, and verify compliance with state and federal quarantines.

During these inspections, inspectors document their findings on a Nursery Dealer Inspection Report form. Minor problems, such as trace aphid or moderate leaf rust, are noted at the top of the report in the comments/requirements section. Issues that need correction will also be documented in this section, including issues like needing to mulch-in root balls or posting the business's nursery license. More serious problems may require the inspector to restrict a plant and issue a Withdrawal-from-Distribution Order. The inspector will document this on the lower portion of the inspection form. Problems that may require restriction include foliar nematodes, viruses, cankers and borers. When a plant is restricted, it must be removed from the distribution area. Generally, the licensee has the option to correct the problem (when possible), return the plant material to the supplier or destroy the plant material. When the problem is corrected, the inspector will return, re-inspect the business, and remove the restriction on distribution.

Here are some hints to make the dealer inspection process as simple and painless as possible.

- Post your Nursery Stock Distributor license in a public location. This is required by law and is one of the first things inspectors check.
- Have all your plant material labeled correctly. Nebraska law requires that all plant material over one gallon in size be labeled with source/place of origin information. If using a coding system, have a copy of the supplier codes available for the inspector. Any time plant material is restricted, the inspector must determine the supplier of that plant.
- Keep all paperwork for the plant shipments you have received. Often this paperwork contains stamps or certificates indicating compliance with state and federal quarantines. An inspector may ask for this paperwork to confirm the plant material is compliant. If a nursery cannot provide the certification paperwork, the inspector may have to restrict the plants until the paperwork can be found.
- Remember, plant material cannot be set directly on surfaces such as asphalt or concrete. They must be protected with a layer of mulch, or set on pallets or benches, and B&B root balls must be covered with mulch. This is to protect the roots from heat and desiccation.
- Finally, use reputable suppliers and purchase quality stock from licensed suppliers. This will help limit problems found by inspectors.

Here's hoping for a perfect spring, with no late freezes. If you have any questions about Nursery Certification, please contact Julie Van Meter, Entomology Program Manager/State Entomologist, at 402-471-6847 or agr.plant@nebraska.gov.

Do you ship nursery stock out-of-state?

More than just your NE nursery license may be required.
Don't risk shipping without proper certification!

For info about requirements, contact the
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Export Certification Coordinator at:
402-471-5902 or agr.phyto@nebraska.gov

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NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

IMPROVING SOIL, EVEN IN THE DEAD OF WINTER

BENEFICIAL LANDSCAPES column from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

For gardeners who think about spring planting all year long, there are a few chores that can be done in any season. You may never have done (and may not want to undertake) a soil test, and you may see it as beyond your scope—especially if you’ve looked at laboratory soil test results, which tend to be quite complex. But if areas of your landscape are continually struggling, it might be worth a rudimentary check.

We get lots of questions about soil testing and our recommendation is to keep it simple. Professional soil tests are great for maximizing crop yields but aren’t usually necessary in home landscapes. In most gardens, the main concerns are organic matter, salt and acidity. Even mid-winter, you can do a simple soil test and you can add things to your soil even now that will improve it for spring planting.

To check for acidity, you can do a home soil test using litmus paper strips from the fish tank supply areas of pet stores. To test it, make a slurry of soil from areas where plants seem to be struggling and follow the directions that come with the litmus paper. If it reveals problems, you can use soil amendments from a garden center to reduce acidity or plan to select plants that can handle higher levels of acidity, like viburnums, iris and dogwood.

Whether you’re struggling with compaction or with “dead” soils, organic matter is the best solution for any garden. Adding a good quality compost or plant waste from your yard re-energizes the microorganisms in your soil which will help even out any issues and build soil structure. Simply leaving plant material standing in your perennial gardens allows it to decompose over the winter and protect butterflies or other creatures that may be overwintering in it.

In vegetable beds, or any new beds you want to plant this spring, chop up the old plants and mix in some fall leaves to cover the ground over the winter. In spring you can rough up the surface with a spade to lightly mix everything in. Most research discourages tilling, which can actually increase soil compaction rather than reduce it. In places with especially poor soil structure, amend with compost whenever you can. Compost can be spread over the ground in late winter or early spring and allowed to rest while you wait for the ground to thaw and dry enough to work with. Wait until the ground has thawed to turn in compost with a spade and remember to avoid working saturated soil since working with wet soil can damage soil structure and make compaction much worse.

You likely know if you have salt issues; plants along the road or sidewalks will grow slowly and may look dried out and burnt. Salts can be washed from the soil by purposefully overwatering but, unless you can find a way to limit the salt being put down around you (de-icers, etc.), the problem will return. The best solution is to use plants that are salt-tolerant: blanketflower; blazing star; bluestem; boltonia; coneflower; coralbells; daylily; evening primrose; feather reedgrass ; globe thistle; grama; hardy hibiscus; Indiangrass; iris; onion; penstemon; purple poppymallow; switchgrass; yarrow; yucca and others.

With a little bit of pre-planning, putting the right plant in the right place can make a big difference in the long run.

Sarah Buckley, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org



Litmus paper strips from a fish or pet store will give a basic idea of your soil's pH content.



PLANT NATIVE: CHINKAPIN OAK

Chinkapin oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*

Height: 50-60' Spread: 40-50'

Sun: Full Sun

Water: Moist to Dry, well-drained soils; Very drought tolerant

Chinkapin oak grows naturally throughout much of the eastern and midwestern United States, ending in the southeastern corner of Nebraska. Along the Missouri bluffs it grows on dry wooded hillsides, low slopes and even limestone outcroppings. As a shade tree it is a sturdy, well-formed oak and a reliable grower, even in the poorest of sites. The handsome leathery leaves offer a unique texture to any landscape; they're shiny on top with “saw-toothed” serrated edges. In autumn, the leaves turn yellow before falling, revealing its picturesque branching structure and ashy-gray bark. The small, chestnut brown acorns are relished by a variety of birds and mammals. This native oak is the larval host for a variety of native butterflies and moths, whose caterpillars become an important supply of protein for nesting birds to feed their young.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

NEBRASKA NURSERY NEWS

GREATPLANTS 2024

You voted and now we can announce the winners for the 2024 GreatPlants of the Year! The 2024 Plants of the Year are voted on 3 years in advance so the winners can be grown or ordered in due time.

Once again you have helped in choosing a great group of plants to promote planting more often in landscapes. As more people think about the benefits of native plants for living landscapes and locations to purchase those plants, it is good that almost all the GreatPlants winners are native or near native selections. The only reason a conifer was not native is because we don't have any more native species to spotlight on the GreatPlants cumulative list. Oh well, the Japanese white pine is a worthy tree for those looking for a specimen conifer in a smaller space.

Thank you for your interest in GreatPlants and for voting! Happy planting!

AMELANCHIER CANADENSIS, SHADBLOW SERVICEBERRY

This is a relatively slow growing small tree, typically growing 15-20' tall. In early spring it features showy, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters which appear before the leaves emerge. In late spring the flowers give way to clusters of blueberry-size fruit, which turns red and finally mature to a dark purplish-black. This tree provides nectar for bees emerging early in spring and song birds that relish the fruit (so do people!). The attractive, oval leaves are finely toothed and change to a fiery orange-red in autumn. As a multi-stemmed tree it provides great habitat for nesting birds and shelter in winter. It's also easy to grow in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

PINUS PARVIFLORA, JAPANESE WHITE PINE

This is a dense, slow-growing evergreen with a smaller stature which makes it an excellent specimen for small landscapes or space restrictions. It develops into a 25 to 45-foot-tall, graceful, irregularly-shaped tree, with an equal or greater spread, and a broad, flattened canopy. The fine textured, bluish-green needles, come in bundles of 5, stiff and twisted as brush-like tufts on strong horizontal branches. It performs best in full sun and is relatively tolerant of most soils as long as they are well-drained.

SYMPHORICARPOS ALBUS, SNOWBERRY

This native deciduous shrub will sucker and spread somewhat to eventually form a dense thicket. Although not loud and showy, it creates a cohesive bridge between ornamental interest and wildlife value in the landscape. It has attractive, blueish-green foliage and dainty light pink clustered flowers in spring. The flowers might be tiny and not considered "significant," but they attract a myriad of pollinating insects to sip their nectar. As the leaves finally drop in late fall to reveal the bare wiry stems, clusters of snowy white berries appear, drooping on the tips of branches. The showy fruit clusters often last from late fall into early winter. This shrub's habit provides food for some animals and a home underneath for others.

AGASTACHE 'BLUE FORTUNE' HYSSOP

'Blue Fortune' is a European hybrid hyssop known for its vigor, cold hardiness, and adaptability to grow across the Great Plains. 'Blue Fortune' is a sterile hybrid, resulted from a cross between *A. rugosa* and our native *A. foeniculum*, bred and selected in Rotterdam, Netherlands. The powder blue flower spikes are highly attractive to bees and butterflies. The cultivar 'Blue Fortune' has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. This 3-4' high perennial has it all—easy to grow, attracts many bees and butterflies, an extended bloom time of more than 4 weeks, it's deer and rabbit resistant, the fragrant foliage can be made into a tea, it's good for containers and combines well with most any perennial and for mass plantings

ANDROPOGON GERARDII 'RED OCTOBER', BIG BLUESTEM

This cultivar was discovered as a seedling of *Andropogon gerardii* 'Indian Warrior' and introduced by Intrensic Perennial Gardens, Inc. of Hebron, Illinois. 'Red October' is primarily distinguished from the species by its slightly shorter height, deeper green summer foliage and brilliant scarlet red fall color. An excellent garden performer with a clumping form and upright habit. Leaves emerge deep green with red highlights in spring, remain green through much of the summer, change to purplish-red to purple by late summer and finally turn a vivid scarlet red after first fall frost. Burgundy red flowers bloom in August. Plants typically grow to 6' tall.

Bob Henrickson, Horticulture Program Coordinator - Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

UNL Keim 102, P.O. Box 830964, Lincoln, NE 68583-0964

Phone: 402/472-7855, Fax 472-2964, Email: rhenrickson2@unl.edu



PLANT NATIVE: SILKY DOGWOOD

Silky Dogwood, *Cornus amomum*

Height: 10-12'

Spread: 8-10'

Sun: Full sun to Part Shade

Water: Medium/dry soils in part shade to wet soils in full sun

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) is named for the silky gray hairs that cover the undersides of leaves and twigs. It has flat-topped creamy white flowers in spring that attract pollinators. The dark green foliage turns a beautiful reddish-purple to burgundy in fall. Older stems are gray-brown with reddish-brown tips, a highlight in the winter landscape. In late summer it produces clusters of pale blue berries that are high in food value for song birds. Silky dogwood shrubs work well in moist, naturalized areas and will stabilize the soil in erosion-prone sites.

Native plant recommendations from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, plantnebraska.org

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2021 NNLA Webinar Series

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

As we launch into spring, join us from wherever the job takes you on Tuesday, March 23. The NNLA Board is excited to provide a growing-focused and design-focused webinar – participate in one or both.

BACK TO BASICS II 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Steve Jones - The Tessman Company and Midwest Greenhouse Solutions, LLC

Growing is an art and a science. The recipe for a successful bedding plant crop does not need to be complicated. Understanding and implementing basic production and cultural practices will help assure your crop finishes on time and looks great. Steve's background is in spring bedding production. He has a passion for and enjoys talking about the science behind producing high quality bedding plants.

(1.0 hour of NCNLP continuing education earned)

Delivering On Design Documentation:

“Draw What You Mean, Mean What You Draw” 2:00-3:15 p.m. (CDT)

Danilo Maffei, FAPLD, PCH, Principal, maffei landscape design, LLC

If the devil is in the details, then this talk will be an exorcism! Clear, effective and efficient communication is key to success throughout all design and construction phases, regardless of how early or late in the process. The savvy landscape designer has a concise understanding of what type of documentation is required, at what level of detail and at what time. Danilo Maffei will share the benefits of twenty-five years of design/build and design consultant experience using manual and digital techniques in the creation of design documents for residential landscapes. With a background in public horticulture, landscape contracting, education and civic leadership, Danilo Maffei, FAPLD, PCH, brings to each project a positive and practical perspective on the way gardens enrich our experience and engagement with people and places.

(1.25 hour of NCNLP continuing education earned)

CONTACT US

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LOCATION

Log on from the comfort of your office, home or truck to participate in the webinars. Email instructions on how to access webinars will be emailed on Monday, March 22nd.

AGENDA

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Back to Basics II with Steve Jones of The Tesman Company and Midwest Greenhouse Solutions, LLC

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Delivering On Design Documentation: "Draw What You Mean, Mean What You Draw" with Danilo Maffei of maffei landscape design, LLC

2021 NNLA WEBINAR REGISTRATION FORM

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One Webinar	\$30	\$60
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