

Horticulture 2008 Newsletter No. 49 December 10, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kansas Natural Resources Conference “Renewable Energy - Renewable Resources” - January 29-30, 2009, Airport Hilton, Wichita, KS. For more information, go to:

<http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=2229>

FRUIT

Christmas Gift Ideas for Fruit Growers



Pruning equipment can make good gifts for fruit gardeners. There is a variety of items that are not only useful but are necessary to take proper care of fruit canes, vines and trees. A high quality pair of hand shears should be used through much of the growing season in training trees and vines and eliminating undesirable branches and heading back or pruning out canes or other wood. A good pruning saw that folds for easy handling and safety also is handy. The higher number of points per inch makes a fine cut on small wood. A pole

pruner to reach high branches can be a useful tool. Other items that may be appreciated include grafting and budding knives, rain gauges, magnifiers, sprinkling equipment, labeling equipment, and even a good pocket knife. These items generally last the fruit gardener for several years (or even a lifetime) and will be appreciated each time the items are used. (WU)

VEGETABLES

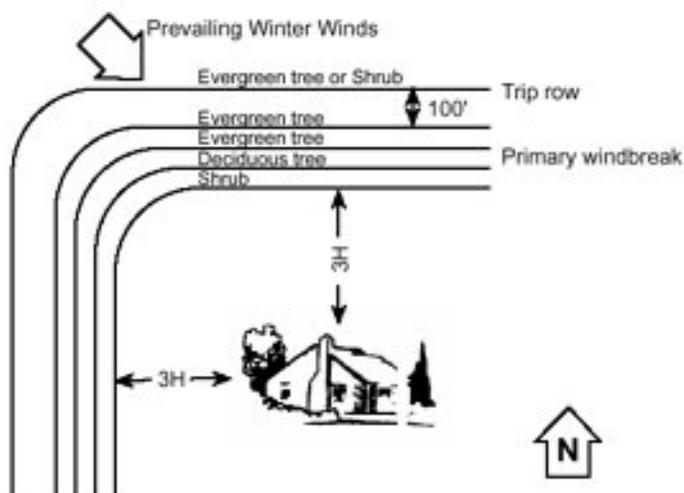
Storing Potatoes in Cold Temperatures

Potatoes stored below 40 degrees F will not sprout and will remain firm for long periods. However, such storage will often lead to starches being converted to sugars, which will give tubers an undesirable sweet taste. Placing potatoes at room temperature for 2 to 3 days will allow sugars to be converted back to starches and remove the objectionable taste. (WU)



ORNAMENTALS

Conservation Trees from the Kansas Forest Service



The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old, and sizes vary from 5 to 18 inches, depending on species. Orders are accepted from now through the first Monday in May each year, but order early to ensure getting the items you want. Orders are shipped from the second week of March through the first week of May.

Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, riparian plantings, wildlife habitat and Christmas trees. They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale. Though a single species can be purchased, four special bundles are also available including a Songbird Bundle, Wildlife Mast Bundle, Quail and Pheasant Bundle. All items are sold in units. Each unit consists of a number of plants, usually 25 or 50. For example, a unit of Northern Red Oak has 50 trees per unit.

For details and a link to an order form, go to: <http://www.kansasforests.org/conservation/> It is now possible to order four different ways; directly online and pay by credit card, order by phone, order in person at the Kansas Forest Service state office or download the order form and send in via regular mail. (WU)

Contributors:

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To view Upcoming Events: <http://tinyurl.com/fswqe>

[Horticulture 2008 E-mail Subscription](#)

For questions or further information contact: [Hort WebMeister](#).

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

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