

Green Pages

A newsletter for people interested in horticulture and
natural resources in Western Wisconsin

June
2014

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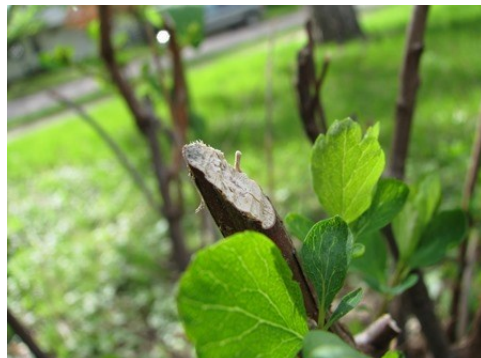
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FROM THE DESK OF THE HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR

Does this look like something you have in your yard? The rabbits were hungry this winter and nibbled on many shrubs including mine. This picture is of my bridal wreath (*Spirea*) bush in my front yard. I swear to you I didn't see a bunny all winter but, I admit, I didn't spend time near it or spend time watching the front yard either. Not much I can do now but this winter I may consider encircling the bush with fencing to keep the critters out.



Rabbit damage on bridal wreath shrub (*Spirea*) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Picture taken by Erin LaFaive.

Many evergreen trees and shrubs were impacted by the harsh winter and are either showing brown needles or dying completely. This isn't particular to the Eau Claire area but all over Wisconsin and in surrounding states. Many University of Wisconsin Specialists, Agents, and Educators noted this is the worst winter burn they've seen on evergreens in their entire career. On page two you'll find a list of suggestions for dealing with winter injury of specific evergreens these recommendations come from Laura Jull, UW-Extension Woody Ornamentals Specialist.

If you're planning to do so, now is the time to plant those vegetable gardens. Some great gardening resources are available. Please let me know if I can help point you in the right direction for vegetable garden pests and other horticulture related situations. You can catch me in the office during my designated Plant Clinic hours.

Mondays 10:00am-4:00pm, Fridays 10:30am-4:00pm, and by appointment. To view a schedule of days the Plant Clinic will be closed or hours will vary please [CLICK HERE!](#)



Blooming bridal wreath shrub (*Spirea*) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Picture taken by Erin LaFaive.

Help for Winter Injury on Evergreens

Suggestions for dealing with winterkill in specific evergreens these recommendations come from Laura Jull, UW-Extension Woody Ornamentals Specialist.

Evergreens with no latent (dormant) buds on stem – Evergreens that have no new growth buds along the stems will not produce any new green growth on other than at the branch tips (if they are alive). Burnt needles will not recover and only growing tips may put out green growth. This includes junipers, spruce, pine, fir, and Douglas-fir.

Junipers – Prune out entire dead branches.

Spruce – On spruce all the brown needles will fall off, with new growth only occurring from the branch tips.

Pine, Fir, Douglas fir – Pines affected by winter burn this year seem to have been damaged on only one side of the tree. The brown needles will fall off. New needles will flush out only from the candles at the tips of the branches, if the tips are alive. Pines will hold needles for a few years, depending on the species. White Pines hold needles for several years and some pine species may retain needles for up to fifteen years. Fir and Douglas fir will green up only from branch tips.

Evergreens with latent buds on stems – Although winter burned leaves will fall off, evergreens with healthy existing latent buds, the growing points along the stems, will be able to grow new leaves. This includes arborvitae (white cedar), yew, hemlock, and boxwood.

Arborvitae, Yew, Hemlock, Boxwood – The brown needles will not recover and turn green but healthy, latent buds will flush new growth in spring. Wait for the new growth to see how far back along the stem it occurs. Prune out the dead material above the new growth. A scratch test of the stem may indicate if the stem is alive.

To prevent winter burn in the future:

- Keep evergreens properly watered throughout the entire growing season until the ground freezes.
- Maintain a 3-4 inch layer of organic mulch around evergreens to help retain soil moisture throughout the growing season. As this mulch breaks down, it will also improve your soil's moisture holding capacity.
- Protect plants in highly exposed sites during winter with burlap, lathing, snow fencing, or other materials to prevent too much exposure to sun or wind.
- During future planting, properly place evergreens in the landscape by planting them on the eastern or northeast sides of a building. Avoid planting evergreens on the south or southwest sides of buildings or in any site with high exposure to winter sun and wind.



Winter kill on white cedar shrubs in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Picture taken by Erin LaFaive.

Tree Disease: Cedar Apple Rust

Do you have a juniper tree with this jelly-like structure? This is cedar apple rust.

What is cedar-apple rust?

Cedar-apple rust is the name of a group of closely related diseases caused by fungi that infect both junipers and woody rosaceous plants such as apple, crabapple, hawthorn and quince.



Cedar apple rust on a juniper tree in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Picture taken by Erin LaFaive.

What does cedar-apple rust look like?

On junipers, the cedar-apple rust fungus causes formation of irregularly-shaped brown galls (roughly 1/2 to two inches in diameter). During moist periods in spring, these galls produce a distinctive orange, gelatinous slime. Symptoms on rosaceous hosts appear in late May as circular, yellow-orange areas on leaves. The undersurfaces of these diseased areas often have a fringed appearance.

Where does cedar-apple rust come from?

Several fungi in the genus *Gymnosporangium* cause cedar-apple rust. These fungi overwinter as galls on junipers.

How do I save a tree or shrub with cedar-apple rust?

Junipers can easily be treated for cedar-apple rust by pruning branches about four to six inches below the galls. Clean pruning shears between cuts by dipping them for at least 30 seconds in a 10% bleach solution or alcohol (spray disinfectants that contain at least 70% alcohol can also be used). This will prevent movement of the fungus from branch to branch, or from plant to plant during pruning. To prevent future infections, you can apply fungicides containing triadimefon or ferbam every seven to 21 days from early July through August. You can control cedar-apple rust on rosaceous hosts using fungicides containing chlorothalonil, ferbam, dithiocarbamates, mancozeb, metiram, sulfur, thiram, triadimefon, triforine, or zineb. Apply treatments when flower buds first show color, when half of the flowers are open, at petal-fall, seven to 10 days after petal fall and again 10 to 14 days later. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions of the fungicide that you select to insure that you use the fungicide in the safest and most effective manner possible.



Circular, yellow-orange diseased areas typical of cedar-apple rust on apple. Picture from factsheet [XHT1009a](#)

How do I avoid problems with cedar-apple rust in the future?



The best way to avoid cedar-apple rust is to plant trees and shrubs that are resistant to the disease. Check at your local nursery for resistant varieties of juniper, apple, crabapple, hawthorn, and quince that are available in your area and that will satisfy your landscaping needs.

Information from factsheet [XHT1009a](#)



Gardening Tips

Sharon Morrissey, Consumer Horticulture Agent, University of Wisconsin-Extension in Milwaukee Co.

- ★ June 1st is considered to be safe to transplant tomatoes to the garden. Plants with spindly stems can be buried in a trench up to their first set of true leaves. 
- ★ Don't fertilize tomatoes until the first fruit has set. Too much nitrogen will cause leafy growth at the expense of flowers and fruit. Most other plants benefit from a starter fertilizer when transplanted.
- ★ June 1st is also when your first lawn fertilizer application should be made. If you fertilized earlier this spring, wait until Labor Day or Halloween to do it again. However, if you routinely water your lawn all summer long, another light application may be needed in July.
- ★ It is too late for broadleaf weed control products or combination weed 'n feeds. Summer's heat will cause the weed killer to vaporize and drift, damaging other flowers & vegetables. Total vegetation killers such as glyphosate can be used all season but will kill everything so don't use them in your lawn or allow overspray onto desirable plants. 
- ★ Fertilize bulbs and most perennial flowers now. Bulbs are forming next year's flowers inside and perennials are actively growing and producing flowers.
- ★ Prune, transplant and up-pot houseplants since they will be growing most vigorously now due to the longer days, higher light, and warmer temperatures. Move up to a pot only one or two inches larger at a time. Fertilize monthly.
- ★ Prune out and destroy webs of Eastern tent caterpillar found wrapped around branches of fruit trees including crabapples. The biological control sold as Dipel, Bactur, or Thuricide is only effective while the caterpillars are still small. Soon they will move



- ★ off the trees to pupate. Destroy these pale yellow, loosely constructed cocoons. In August look for shiny brown egg masses on tree branches. Prune them out or scrape them off. 
- ★ Examine honey locust and ash foliage for plant bugs. Control with insecticidal soap sprays as needed.
- ★ Preventative insect control for fruit bearing trees should have been started at petal fall. Continue every 10-14 days until autumn leaf drop.
- ★ Preventative treatment for apple scab and rust diseases should have been started before bloom started. For crabapples, collecting and destroying fallen leaves all season combined with proper watering and a fall fertilizer application may be all that is really necessary since these diseases are not life threatening. 
- ★ The flea beetle chews many small holes in the leaves of a wide range of vegetable crops especially young transplants of the cole crops (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts). Cover with floating row cover to exclude these tiny, hopping bugs before they begin feeding. This covering can be left in place day and night since it is permeable to light and moisture. It also "breathes" so that heat does not build-up underneath. Be sure to seal the lower edges with soil or stones. Allow ample room underneath for plant growth. 
- ★ Covering cole crop plants with floating row cover will also exclude egg laying by the cabbage moths.
- ★ Potato leafhoppers are wedge-shaped, bright green insects that cause "hopper burn" on plant leaves beginning in early June. Spray once with carbaryl or




(Continued on page 5)



Gardening Tips

Sharon Morrissey, Consumer Horticulture Agent, University of Wisconsin-Extension in Milwaukee Co.


malathion and cover the entire crop with row cover to prevent invasion.

- ★ Colorado potato beetle adults and larvae can be hand picked to remove or sprayed with M-Trak, a biological control product. Adults are yellow and black striped beetles and the larvae are humpbacked and red. Look for them on the stem tips. They are present almost all season. 
- ★ Striped and spotted cucumber beetles transmit a bacterial wilt to cucumbers, squashes, and melons. Adults and eggs can be hand picked throughout the season or begin preventative sprays or dusts with rotenone or carbaryl as soon as seedlings emerge. Leaves of infected plants wilt only during the day but the leaf stems remain erect. Eventually, the entire plant wilts and dies. 
- ★ Watch for Mexican bean beetle which descended on vegetable gardens a couple of years ago but have since subsided. To be on the safe side you can cover the entire crop with floating row cover as soon as seedlings emerge. Spray with carbaryl or rotenone at the first sign of beetles or their distinctive feeding damage. 
- ★ Oak, elm, and maples with one of the wilt diseases will begin to show typical wilting symptoms as the summer heats up. Watch particularly the upper crown for branches with wilted leaves.
- ★ Continue mowing around ripening foliage of spring flowering bulb plants growing in the lawn. For best flower bud development and vigorous growth next year, allow leaves to yellow completely before removing.
- ★ Aphids of all types show up on a range of host plants as soon as the warm weather arrives. Look for them in newly unfurling foliage,

which may be curled downward around aphid colonies. Sticky leaves are


also a sign of their presence since they secrete

"honeydew". Black sooty mold may also grow in this sticky substance but it does

little damage since it does not penetrate the leaves. 

Aphids, however, do damage the plant. Spray leaves with a strong jet of water to dislodge some of them.


Insecticidal soap is a low-toxicity product that provides pretty good control as long as the insects are wetted thoroughly. A second and third treatment to kill newly hatched eggs may be needed in 5 - 7 days.

- ★ Red sphere traps coated with Tangle foot can be hung in apple trees now to control apple maggots. Use 1 trap per 100 apples expected. 

- ★ Renovate June-bearing strawberry plantings immediately after harvest. Control any weeds that have invaded and then mow over the top with the mower set high enough not to damage the crowns. Eliminate new plants between the rows by cultivating. Then side dress with a 10-10-10 fertilizer. Lightly work it into the soil and water in.

- ★ Newly established plantings of raspberries can be fertilized now with 2 -3 pounds of ammonium nitrate.

- ★ Fertilize roses after the first flush of blooms. Use one tablespoon of a complete, low nitrogen fertilizer per plant.

- ★ Pinch back garden chrysanthemums one last time. Flower buds will form on new growth and be ready for fall display. 

Upcoming Events - Cont.



NEW! Learning about Dragonflies from Experts
June 12 | 9 am until 5 pm |
Citizen Science Center
Free for Friends, \$3 for Nonmembers

The Wisconsin Dragonfly Society (WDS) is hosting the international Dragonfly Society of the Americas annual meeting this year. This is an eight-day event with a two day pre-meeting to be held in conjunction with the Citizen Science Center at Beaver Creek Reserve.

Here is your opportunity to learn about dragonflies from dragonfly experts from the USA and Canada. Hands-on educational opportunities will be provided including spending most of the day in the field in search of flying adults as well as wading in the rivers, streams and ponds in search of the aquatic nymphs.

Participants need to bring a bag lunch and water. If you have them, bring a camera, an aerial net, and waders. A few nets and waders will be available at CSC. **Registration and full payment required by June 6. Beaver Creek Reserve S1 County Road K | Fall Creek, WI 54742**

Breakfast in the Valley

The 18th Annual Breakfast in the Valley is June 13, 2014. Breakfast is served until 10:00 a.m.

Cost is still \$6 for adults and \$2 for children 3-12 and 2 & under are free. Tickets are available at the door.

Directions: From the intersection of I-94 and Hwy 93, go south to Lorch Avenue. Go west (right) onto Lorch and proceed to Expo Center on left.



715.877.2212

Technology on the Farm – Youth Presentation

Mark Hagedorn,
Agriculture Agent
Altoona Public Library
Tuesday, July 15 – 5:00 to 7:00pm



Trends and Tendencies in Agriculture – Adult Presentation

Mark Hagedorn, Agriculture Agent
Altoona Public Library
Tuesday, September 23 – 5:30 to 8:00pm
Please sign up at the library circulation desk, or call the library at 715.839.5029.

Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society Plant Sale

Sunday, June 8, Starting at
Noon at Phoenix Park,
Eau Claire, Wisconsin



Featured hostas this year are: H. Abiqua Drinking Gourd, H. Night Before Christmas, H. Big Daddy H. Pandora's Box (mini), H. Blue Angel, H. Pizzazz H. Blue Mouse Ears (mini), H. Praying Hands, H. Captain Kirk, H. Queen of the Seas, H. Church Mouse (mini), H. Regal Splendor, H. First Frost, H. Sagae H. Geisha, H. Satisfaction, H. Glory, H. Sum and Substance, H. June, H. Warwick Curtsey, H. Katsuragawa Beni, H. Lakeside Roy El, H. Love Pat., and many more!

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GREEN PAGES

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FREE online at: eauclaire.uwex.edu/horticulture-2

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Eau Claire County

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