



HORT SHORTS

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CHECK OUT THESE FEATURES:

Hort Shorts Plant of the
Month
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Amy Stone, Extension Agent
Urban & Consumer
Horticulture



GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

The end of July and beginning of August was a busy time scouting for gypsy moth egg masses in Lucas County. Although six areas have been submitted to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) for consideration in the 2001 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program, many residents in affected areas noticed late instar caterpillars dying. Our spring and summer rains were just what *Entomophaga maimaiga* ("the gypsy moth fungus") needed. We also noted that some caterpillars were killed by NPV, a virus that attacks the caterpillar stage of the gypsy moth.

ODA will do an official egg mass survey and determine if the areas we have submitted meet their requirements to qualify for aerial spraying later this fall. Residents in those areas have received written notification, along with OSU Extension FactSheets and an opt out form.

As the results of ODA's survey are complete, residents will be notified through this newsletter and local media sources.

PLANT OF THE MONTH:

The Paperbark Maple is truly a plant for all seasons! This oval to upright tree was highlighted by the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association's Plant Selection Committee in 2000. Its most sought after quality has to be the bark. The bark begins to exfoliate at a young age, so to be enjoyed for many years in the landscape. An added fall feature is shades of orange and red foliage that can vary from specimen to specimen.



Acer griseum is a very adaptable tree where site conditions may be a concern. The slow growing tree will tolerate a wide range of pH levels, but does demand good drainage. It can also tolerate some shade, although fall coloration may suffer a bit.

It will take many years for this specimen to attain mature growth. Three trees were planted in Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum (Cincinnati, Ohio) in 1967, and are currently 12 to 15 feet tall, and 6 to 8 feet wide. Obviously a great choice for a smaller area that may pose a challenge for other trees that may quickly outgrow the site.

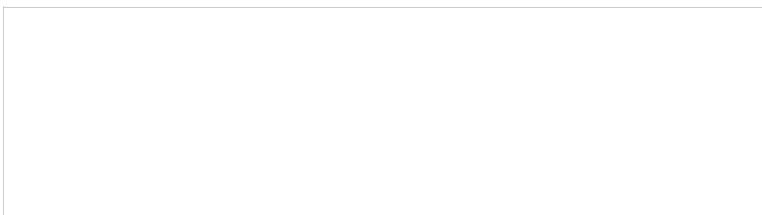
The most conspicuous drawback to this plant is likely its availability in the trade. Some challenges exist related to propagation, both by seed and soft wood cuttings for the nurseries growing these plants.

Although the search for this plant may be a challenge, it is well worth it. A plant with four seasons of interest, is worth much consideration!

This publication is provided to assist you in receiving the horticultural information necessary to enhance the quality of life for you and your family. If you have any additions or deletions to our mailing list – please call Amy Stone or Barbara Northrup at 243-MOTH (6684). Visit our website at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~luca>

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Ag. Admin. and Director, OSU Extension. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868



HORT SHORTS PESKY PEST...**Oak Wilt**

Oak wilt is a disease of oaks in several states including Ohio. The disease is caused by a fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, that invades the vascular system of the tree. The fungus causes the leaves on the tree to wilt, hence the name oak wilt. Wilting is followed by rapid death of trees in the red oak family. In the white oak family, death is usually limited to one or more branches over an extended period of time.

Oak trees may become infected by the fungus when an insect carries the fungus to a recent wound. Alternatively and more frequently, the fungus can infect a healthy tree through the roots. If the roots of the healthy plant are grafted to roots of a nearby infected oak of the same species, the disease will likely spread.

It is important to realize that not every oak tree that is dead or dying has oak wilt. Confirmation of the disease can only be done at a scientific laboratory, like the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic (PPDC) on the campus of Ohio State University.

The prevention of the disease when possible is key. Pruning and construction, removal and handling of infested wood, and the prevention of root graft transmission all play a key role in the management strategies against this pest.

The Urban Forest Educational Committee is in the process of developing a plan of action as it relates to oak wilt and the protection of our urban forest. As printed instructional information, informative programs, and other education opportunities become available, residents of Lucas County will be informed by local media resources and this newsletter.

**DAY TRIPPIN'**

Miami Township is home of the Cox Arboretum, a jewel of the Five Rivers Metroparks system serving the greater Dayton area. Cox Arboretum is a living museum displaying labeled collections of woody plant materials in a landscape setting. Celebrating over thirty years of growth, the Arboretum is dedicated to excellence in the art and science of horticulture. Stroll the 160 acres of natural wooded areas and specialty gardens, where you will see a variety of plants suitable for Ohio. The arboretum features numerous educational programs, nature trails, a large water garden, unique birds and wild flowers, as well as an occasional deer sighting. Cox is one of Ohio's finest free attractions.

The arboretum is located off 75 in Dayton at 6733 Springboro Pike. For directions or additional information you can contact the arboretum at 937-434-9005.

HORT SHORTS FOR SEEDLINGS...**Landscaping to Attract Birds**

taken from an article written by Becky McCann, OSU Extension - The ABE Center

Birds not only enhance our surroundings with their beautiful songs, colored plumage, and lively antics, but they also consume large quantities of insect pests, especially grubs and caterpillars.

If birds could describe their vision of a perfect garden, it would include big trees; berry-laden shrubs, fruit trees, many kinds of flowers, clovers, and grasses; weeds allowed to go to seed; a running brook or pond; and feeders well stocked for much of the year. Such a habitat appeals to many other creatures as well, so you would attract bees, butterflies, and moths as well as other insects, squirrels, and chipmunks.

To attract different species, you need diversity in varieties, sizes, and densities of trees and shrubs on your property. A common misconception is that a few shade trees on the property is all that is needed to attract birds. To be most effective in attracting birds, the home landscape must relate closely to the edge of the woods in concept. Such a setting provides a wide variety of trees and shrubs for birds during various times of the year and hopefully, for all seasons.

To receive a copy of the entire article, including plant recommendations, contact the Lucas County Extension office. The article is also posted on the OSU Extension - Lucas County web page at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~luca/hort/birds.htm>

Ohio Street Tree Evaluations**HORT SHORTS WEBSITE OF THE MONTH**

Using data from a 1971 research study, the 1997 Street Tree Evaluation Project (STEP) examined how selected urban plantings performed over several decades. The purpose of the study is not only to aid in selecting the most useful trees under varying conditions, but also to show how trees, over time, affect street character. One of the cities included in both studies was our very own Toledo.

To find out more about this study, a report with computer added photographs, can be accessed through the Ohio Division of Forestry's web site at www.hcs.ohio_state.edu/ODNR/Urban/Urbanfor.htm.

YOUR INPUT IS APPRECIATED

Please feel free to call us if you have any particular areas of interest you would like to see covered in our upcoming issues. In our November/December issue we will be discussing how to prepare a New Landscape Bed .