



HORT SHORTS



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CHECK OUT THESE FEATURES:

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The United States
Department of Agriculture,
and
Lucas County
Commissioners Cooperating

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Urban & Consumer Program
Funded by:
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Amy Stone, Extension Agent
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Horticulture



HORT SHORTS PLANT OF THE MONTH: *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima'



The red chokeberry provides interest during just about every season. It is at its best in the fall when its leaves turn a brilliant scarlet and in the winter when its branches are covered with glossy red fruit. In the spring, it has delicate white to pinkish flowers and in the summer dark glossy green foliage. Aronia is an upright multi-stemmed shrub growing 5 to 10 feet tall with a 3 to 5 foot spread. It can tolerate both wet and dry soils, and is adapted to many soil types, even poor soil.

Although the best fruit production occurs in full sun, it will grow in half shade. The bright red fruits (pomes) cover the plant from September through November and well into January. The common name of the plant is chokeberry because of the astringent taste, even the birds don't like it. Red chokeberry is especially effective when planted in masses or groups. It can make a nice border and can resemble a sea of red in the fall and winter.

In 2000, *Aronia arbutifolia* 'Brilliantissima' was given the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Gold Metal Plant Award, which is awarded to superb, and often underused woody plants.

GYPSY MOTH UPDATE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has completed the gypsy moth survey in Lucas County, and throughout all of Ohio. If you live in an area infested with gypsy moths, you can remove and dispose of egg masses without impacting the survey results.

Four of the six areas in Lucas County submitted for consideration to the ODA's Gypsy Moth Suppression Program have met all of the requirements of the program and will be part of the 2001 Suppression Program. Those areas include:

- ◆ an area in and around Ottawa Park.
- ◆ Crossgates Park, a portion of Heatherdowns Country Club, and an adjoining residential area,
- ◆ an area of Delaware Creek and adjoining residential area.
- ◆ and the area of Blossom Road and Percentum Road, Granite Circle near the University Parks Trail and Woodspring

ODA officials will be in Lucas County on **Monday, March 12** at the Sanger Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library on Central Avenue. The open house is scheduled from **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** in a meeting room in the library. There is no formal presentation schedule, but rather an informal opportunity to look at the maps and ask questions that you might have. If you have any questions about the open house, please contact Amy Stone or Barb Northrup at

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/>

Ornamental Research Circular Available

Can you recall what the wildlife problems were in 2000? What about the common insects and diseases of the year gone by? Would you like to know more about the history of yews in the United States, see the latest crabapple evaluations, or find out about new weapons in ornamental disease control? These topics, and many more, are included in the 2000 Ornamental Plants, Annual Reports and Research Reviews.

The circular is your opportunity to see some of the great things happening at Ohio State University. Copies of the publication are free, and are available at the Extension Office in Lucas County. Supplies are limited, and are available on first come first serve basis.

At a recent program that I attended, I heard about a

HORT SHORTS WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



national campaign called "Plant for the Cure." This program creates a unique opportunity to communicate how much the green industry cares about its customers, and the fight against breast cancer. Kurt Fromherz, marketing director said, "Selling plants to celebrate life - it seems only natural, especially for an industry that witnesses the beauty and the miracle of life with each new season."

The "Plant for the Cure" website highlights plants chosen for the campaign, and a listing of local retailers involved in the program. Check out the website at <http://www.plantforthecure.com>



PEST OF THE MONTH

We have covered this in past issues, but we have focused on the damage causing stage – the caterpillar. The egg masses of the gypsy moth have been in place since last August, and will be there for just a couple more months. If you live in an area infested with gypsy moth, now is the time to take a walk around your property and look for egg masses. Egg masses within reach can be scraped, placed in soapy water and then disposed of. Egg masses can also be buried in the soil.

Egg masses can be found on many different surfaces, including: eaves and overhangs, recreational vehicles and trailers, firewood, outdoor furniture, and trees. Egg masses scraped off surfaces onto the ground and not properly disposed of, could still hatch this spring.

Scraping egg masses will not rid your landscape of the pest, because many egg masses are laid high in trees and on other surfaces within reach. If you have any questions about the identification of egg masses, please call 243-MOTH (6684).

Hort Shorts for Seedlings

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a non-profit organization supporting tree care research around the world and is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. The ISA has developed and published many informational brochures and bulletins as part of its Consumer Information Program and in support of its mission. To learn more about the Consumer Information Program, check out their website at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/consumer/consumer.html>

Highlights for this issue are Four Factors in Professional Evaluation of Tree and Other Plants. Those factors include:

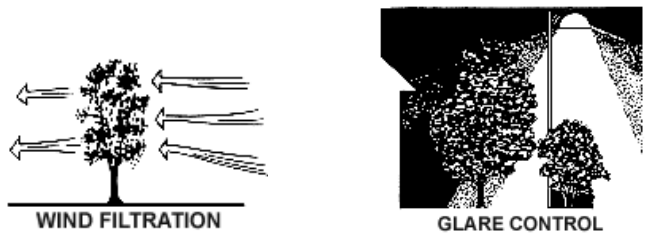
Tree size. Sometimes the size and age of a tree are such that it cannot be replaced. Trees that are too large to be replaced should be evaluated by professionals who use a specialized appraisal formula.

The kind of tree (or its classification). Choose the species for its utility and its adaptability. Tree values vary according to your region, the "hardiness" zone, and even state or local conditions. If you are not familiar with these variables, be sure your advice comes from a competent source. Trees which are hardy, durable, highly adaptable, and free from objectionable characteristics are worth the most. They require less maintenance, have sturdy, well-shaped branches, and pleasing foliage.

Condition of the tree, shrub, or plant. The professional also will consider the condition of the plant. Obviously, a healthy, well-maintained plant will have a higher value. Roots, trunk, branches, and buds need to be inspected before determining tree condition.

Location of the plant. There are functional considerations as well as aesthetic. This is where location enters into the evaluation. A tree in your yard may be worth more than one growing in the woods. One standing alone will often value higher than those standing in a group. A tree near your house or one which is a focal point in your landscape tends to have more value. The site, placement, and contribution of a tree help determine to overall value of the plant attributable to location.

The value of trees for their aesthetic functions is



obvious. There are many other less obvious functions contributing to the value of trees. Some of the functions are illustrated below.