

"Lett-uce" Inform You



September 2009

Come Learn with Us in 2009

Tuesday, September 8, 7 to 9 pm at the Elizabeth Middle School and Saturday, September 19, 10 am to 12pm at the Simla Municipal Building in Simla

The Elbert County Master Gardeners will be giving a fall seminar to close out the 2009 growing season. Some of the topics to be covered are weed identification, as well as end of season topics for your garden.

- Do you want to prolong your vegetable production?
- How do you compost garden waste at the end of the season?
- Does a cold frame use for early and late season crops interest you?
- Should you cut back your perennial flower beds in the fall or spring?
- Is now the time to plant perennial flowers, trees and shrubs?

There will be a fee of \$5 charged for this seminar. Pre-registration is required to meet the minimum attendance of 15 people. Please RSVP by calling either the Kiowa or Simla office.

The following classes are being presented by the Elbert County Master Food Safety and Preservation presenter. There will be a \$10 per class registration fee that includes activities, samples and research-based handouts.

Saturday, September 19, 10 am to 12pm at the Carlson Building in Elizabeth

Freezing, Vacuum Sealing and Pantry Storage: Learn to properly freeze various fruits, vegetables, and meats. Receive information on the recommended shelf life of various pantry staples. Learn how to use your vacuum sealer to keep your preserved food safe and nutritious. Receive information and recipes.

Saturday, October 24, 10 am to 12 pm at the Exhibit Building, Fairgrounds, Kiowa

Soups, Stews, and Chili: Learn to make and safely preserve meat and vegetable-based soups, stews and chili. Receive reference information, recipes and samples. Kitchen-based class.

Saturday, November 7, 10 am to 12 pm at the Lincoln County Extension Office, Hugo

Canning Meat and Fish: Learn to safely can meat and fish for future meals. Sample some prepared dishes and receive reference information and recipes. A special DVD from Alaska Extension will be shown. Kitchen-based class.

Saturday, December 5, 10 am to 12 pm at the Exhibit Building, Fairgrounds, Kiowa

Holiday Cooking and Gift Jars and Bags: Learn safe handling of food in meal preparation and learn how to make inexpensive unique holiday gifts-layered in jars and gift bags. Receive recipes and reference information and samples.

Please RSVP for all food classes and Master Gardener seminars by calling the Elbert County Extension Office in Kiowa (303-621-3162) or Simla (719-541-2361).



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Plants for your Garden: The Colorado 2009 Plant Select® Program

by Dianne White,
Colorado Master Gardener

Korean Feather Reed Grass *Calamagrostis brachytricha*

A stately ornamental that blooms well in sun or light shade, this elegant grass can serve as the main feature in a fall garden long after most other plants have died back. The beautiful, feathery summer flowers begin with a pinkish tint that fades to cream as they age. The blooms



can exceed 10" in length and appear from August to October. Korean Feather grass is more upright in full sun, a bit more relaxed when grown in partial shade.

This is a slow spreading, clump forming, warm season grass that grows 24-40" tall

and 12-15" wide. It has narrow, stiff bright green leaves. *Calamagrostis* is easy to grow and works well as a specimen, in mass plantings or in containers. Partner it with Rudbeckia, Sedum or Heliopsis for a great grouping. It will adapt to any soil types, but prefers a slightly moist loamy soil. Sunny locations will require a bit more water than sites with afternoon shade. Hardy in USDA Zones 4-8 (to 8000')

Calamagrostis can be cut back in the fall, but as it looks good during winter many prefer to leave it standing until early spring. Cut back to about 6" from the ground before new growth begins to emerge. The cultivated types are mostly sterile so do not seed aggressively. Your plant will need to be divided every 3 to 5 years to keep it from dying out in the center.

Korean Feather Reed Grass is a graceful addition (and a nice change from Karl Forester) to your garden and one can be used for great cut and/or dried flowers also.

For additional information or to find retailers that carry the Plant Select® plants visit their website at PLANTSELECT.ORG.

How to Collect Seeds

by Aija Tobiss
Colorado Master Gardener

As a gardener and Master Gardener with the Colorado State University Extension (CSU) office in Elbert County I love to grow my own vegetables. I also enjoy collecting seeds and saving them for the following year.

Before there ever were seed companies, gardeners saved seeds from the best plants and planted them the following year. In this manner the best plants were preserved.

In recent years preserving seeds has been assumed by the very many seed companies. But it is still possible for the home gardener to collect and preserve seeds from their own best plants.

According to J.E. Ellis, CSU vegetable crop specialist, "hybrids result from a deliberate cross between two inbred lines. They are becoming increasingly popular among vegetables because they usually are more vigorous and uniform than open-pollinated varieties. Seeds saved from hybrids produces many different plant types". When buying seeds check the package for these markings F1 is a hybrid. F2 are not hybrids and seeds can be collected from these plants.

To collect the seeds from fruits or vegetables, be sure that the fruit or vegetable is ripe, but not rotten. Separate the seeds from the pulp by rinsing in water and then dry at room temperature. Leave summer squash, cucumbers, pumpkins and winter squash on the vine until after frost, then separate from pulp and dry at room temperature. For beans and peas, leave the pods on the vine until the pods are dry, but before they open and disperse the seeds. The same applies to seed heads.

After the seeds have dried, hand rub to clean any chaff off and store in a moisture proof container. In Colorado vegetable and flower seeds will store well at room temperature, for at least one year without significant loss of germination. The drier the seeds are the longer they will store. However, too dry a seed may become a hard seed where the moisture content is very low. Hard seeds will not germinate as fast, as they do not absorb enough water. Beans and peas should not be over dried. If they have been over dried they will germinate better if exposed to humid atmosphere for about two weeks before planting.

For additional information on collecting seeds you can contact the Elbert County Master Gardeners and request the following CSU Fact Sheets: [7.602 Saving Seeds](#), [7.221 Storing Vegetable and Flower Seeds](#), [Plant Talk 2020 Seed Storage](#) or you can access them through the CSU website at www.ext.colostate.edu.

Wildfires

By Andrejs Tobiss
Colorado Master Gardener



This has been a great year for trees, bushes, grasses, flowers and most things in your garden. Precipitation has been somewhat above normal and sun for most part has not been the severe burner of everything green. Understandably we have had fewer wildfires. But this favorable situation brings us to a fall with a lot more dry grasses and other combustible materials, a source for potential wildfires.

This may be a good time to review your defenses against potential wildfires. The first and most important thing is to determine that the fire department can find your home and easily get to it. Is there a well posted house number and is the driveway wide enough to access your home? Next, there should be a plan to create a defensible space around your property. The defensible space can be divided in three management zones.

Zone 1 is the 15 foot area next to your home and should contain the least amount of flammable materials. There should be a minimum of plants and bushes. They should be frequently trimmed and dry material removed. Overhanging tree branches also should be removed. It may seem convenient but this area is not for firewood or other combustible material storage.

Zone 2 typically should extend 75 to 125 feet from your home. Consideration should be given to the up and down slopes near your home. Fire will race up a slope. Most of us who have old trees near the home inherited them. It is desirable that the distance between tree crowns be at least 10 feet. Trees should be pruned to a height of at least 10 feet. However this may be a problem for young trees as to keep a tree healthy no more than a third of lower branches should be removed. Here consideration should be given not to create a ladder

situation of dry grasses or tree slash or other combustible material leading to a bush then to lower branches of a young tree and finally to an old tree and then the house. Firewood and other combustible materials should be stored at least 30 feet from your home. Propane tank storage should be at least 30 feet from the home and if possible, at the same level.

Zone 3 extends to the rest of your property and does not have any specific requirements. It still is a good practice to minimize the storage of flammable materials, to maintain a healthy forest environment by reasonable tree spacing and cutting the dry grasses at the end of growing season.

For additional information on protecting your property from wildfires you can contact the Elbert County Master Gardeners and request the following CSU Fact Sheets: [6.302 Creating Wildfire-Defensible Zones](#), [6.305 Firewise Plant Materials](#), [6.303 Fire-Resistant Landscaping](#) or you can access them through the CSU website at www.ext.colostate.edu.

A Day in the Life of This Elbert County Apprentice Master Gardener

By Debi Bredeson
Apprentice Colorado Master Gardener

BOY! I saw that article in the "Lettuce Inform you" newsletter, and my heart skipped a beat! Master Gardener volunteers will be accepted...need to apply by November...interviews to follow...classes beginning in January, 2009. I've ALWAYS wanted to do this! It was just the beginning of what has become an exciting new hobby for me with great classes, wonderful instructors, new friends, and best of all - information that I had always yearned for.

At our first Master Gardener meeting, we five new Apprentice Master Gardeners were introduced to each other and the fifteen other full-fledged Master Gardeners here in Elbert County. We "newbies" decided to carpool to our every Tuesday training classes and quickly became friends with a common goal. The classes were highly informative - definitely back to a college level which I, for one, had not been involved with in *many* years. Our instructors covered a great variety of subjects - plant pathology, weed identification and management, planting trees, vegetables, plant health care, soils, fertilizers, insects, lawn care, native plants....the list went on and on. (Continued on page 7.)

Winterizing Your Landscape and Gardens

By Steve Delgadillo
Colorado Master Gardener

Here are a few suggested items for your fall garden winterizing. When spring arrives, you'll be glad you took some of these easy steps to help your yard and garden come through winter in good condition, ready to flourish.

Evaluate and Plan for Next Spring

While preparing for winter, consider areas of your landscape to enhance or renovate next spring. During the winter, consult CSU Extension and other sources for plant varieties that can improve your landscape while conserving water.

Clean Existing Beds

Remove spent annuals while clearing weeds to reduce habitat for overwintering pests. For more information about these pests go to the CSU extension site listed at the bottom of this article and search out "**WHERE DO THEY GO FOR WINTER?**" A summary of how some common arthropods survive Colorado winters. "Perennials that have winter interest or provide food for birds should remain uncut. If in doubt about what to cut back, just leave them until spring or until they begin to detract from your garden's appearance." By Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University

Plant and Transplant

Consider where you'd like to have spring flowering bulbs and plant them in October. Divide and transplant perennials to enhance the health of your existing plants and provide more coverage with some of your favorites. Fall is a great time to plant and transplant since most plant energy goes into root development. With proper planting and care, plants that have developed healthy roots during the fall and winter are better prepared for spring growth and summer stress.

The flower bud and the food necessary to produce the flower are present inside a bulb when it is planted. Fertilizer is applied to make larger bulbs the following year. September and October are the best months for planting because bulbs can become well rooted before the ground freezes. After October there may not be time to root adequately. Select your garden site to show the flowers to their best advantage. This is usually in a place with good sunlight to regenerate strong bulbs. A southern exposure, especially when close to a foundation may result in early emergence with freezing injury.

All bulbs like well-drained, porous soil. Adding compost when preparing the bed is a good idea in Colorado as our soil tends to be claylike and inadequate in organic materials. Aeration is the most important part of soil preparation. For fertilizer to be effective, it must be placed in the vicinity of the roots. One way to do this is to excavate the bed for the bulb's correct planting depth. Apply phosphorus fertilizer, 0-46-0 (super phosphate) at a rate of ½ pound per 100 feet, and soil amendments at this level. Spade or rototill this to a depth of 3 or 4 inches. Space the bulbs as desired, refill the bed and water to settle the soil around the bulbs. The soil that is placed over the bulbs should also be mixed with peat moss or well rotted compost up to a third of the volume of the soil removed. Soils with high clay content should be heavily amended. As a general rule, plant the bulb four times the height of the bulb between the soil surface and the tip of the bulb with the growing tip up. Bulbs should also be planted 1 to 2 inches higher in heavy soils.

After the ground freezes, cover the bed with a 3-inch mulch layer to prevent alternate freezing and thawing that will break the new roots and damage bulbs. This mulch does not need to be removed if the shoots can easily penetrate it.

It is recommended to remove flowers as soon as they wither to prevent the flower from going to seed. This diverts food from the bulb, weakening it. Apply nitrogen at the rate of ¼ pound per 100 sq. ft. before the foliage withers. After the foliage has withered completely, the bulb is dormant. Bulbs do not need to be dug up after the first year but after the second year, developing bulbs begin to crowd and lose much of their original vigor. When this happens, dig the bulbs in late August and allow them to dry for a few days in a shady, cool spot. Divide and replant only the best ones, preferably in a new location. If none of the bulbs are as large as the original ones, purchase new ones for better results. Especially for hyacinths, which are seldom worth transplanting.

Do not remove bulb tops until they are dead. Annuals can be planted around the withering bulb tops to fill in the bed.

Trees and Shrubs

Shorter days and falling temperatures are prompting deciduous trees and shrubs to drop leaves and prepare for winter dormancy. (Continued on Page 5.)

Winterizing Your Landscape and Gardens

(Continued from Page 4.)

Limit fertilization in fall, as nitrogen stimulates useless late-season growth and delays dormancy. Do not continue to water trees and shrubs through fall, sending them into winter with ample moisture. It also will be necessary to apply water every three to four weeks throughout the winter. Dry soil kills roots and puts stress on trees and shrubs. Water when temperatures are above freezing and when the soil is not frozen. Apply water early in the day so plants will have time to absorb moisture before soil might freeze at night.

By the first of November, wrap trunks of your deciduous trees with crepe-paper tree wrap. Begin at the base of the tree and wrap upward, overlapping about a third of the paper with each turn. Stop when you reach the first set of branches. Secure the top turn of the wrap with a piece of stretch tape. Wrapping trees and shrubs prevents sunscald injury, a condition that develops when the warm winter sun is absorbed by the plant's bark. Remove wrap next April.

Perennials

After temperatures hit freezing and the plants die back, cut the stems on most perennials to within an inch or two of the ground. Dispose of the cuttings; they can harbor diseases that could survive the winter and return to the plants in the spring. Some plants, such as Oriental poppies and iris, produce a cluster of green leaves in the fall. Leave these intact. Remove only the older, brown stems that remain from the spent flowers.

As the season progresses and the weather becomes colder, mulch the soil around the plants. This is generally done in mid-to-late November. Mulch keeps roots cold. It doesn't protect them from the cold. A plant can be hardy in more northerly latitudes where winter temperatures are severe but can be injured here, where winter temperatures fluctuate considerably. The alternate freezing and thawing of exposed soil can damage roots and even heave them out of the ground.

Recommended mulching materials for perennials include hay or straw, evergreen boughs, pine needles, peat moss and cornstalks. These mulches are light and won't pack or suffocate roots. Apply to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. A few plants, however, such as peonies and bearded iris, don't require winter mulching and, in fact, do better without it. Mulching can cause their thick, fleshy roots to rot. As with other perennials, though, they require watering during dry winter conditions.

Vegetable Gardens

Weeding and removing dead plant material will reduce the amount of habitat for overwintering insects and fungal spores. Make plans to rotate spring crops to avoid soil-borne diseases and maintain good soil vigor. Consider planting a "green manure" crop like annual rye or clover, which can be turned under in the spring to add nitrogen and organic material to your garden.

Turfgrass

CSU turfgrass experts recommend "winterizing" your lawn by early November, applying at least one pound of nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet. For maximum effectiveness, turf must be green and soil must be moist when the fertilizer is applied. October is also a great time to aerate, especially when you're over-seeding to fill in bare spots in your lawn.

There are also what would be considered warm season grasses which should avoid late summer and fall fertilization. Early spring fertilization also encourages weeds and doesn't promote early green up. These grasses would be Buffalograss, blue gamma, bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and saltgrass. These grasses should be fertilized in June and July.

Then we have cool season grasses. They should be fertilized in fall, late spring, and a little in summer. These grasses are Bluegrass, fescues, ryegrass, and bentgrass.

Weeds

It doesn't matter where the weeds are--the vegetable garden, flower beds or the lawn--this is a good time to get rid of them. Consider this: Weeds that are spread by seed produce thousands of seeds. Lambsquarter can bear up to 72,500 seeds per plant; curly dock can bear up to 30,000, purslane 52,000, and redroot pigweed 117,000. If even 50% of the pigweed seedlings germinated next spring, you'd have 58,000 pigweed plants to pull or otherwise get rid of.

Better to pull them this fall or, if weeds are in the lawn, to spot-spray a selective herbicide on the still-green perennial weeds. Perennial weeds, such as dandelion, thistle and bindweed, are more easily killed by fall sprays than by summer applications.

Winter Watering

This is one of the most important, yet least employed tactics for sustaining plant vigor. Even experienced Front Range gardeners often fail to water adequately through the winter, only to find their trees, shrubs, perennials and lawns in crisis as summer arrives. (Continued on page 7.)

Keeping Raccoons Away

by Laurie Wasmund
Colorado Master Gardener



Rac

coons are found throughout the United States, with the exception of high elevations in mountainous regions and the arid southwest. Although they are more common in hardwood forests, they also live around farmsteads and livestock watering areas, and in suburban and urban settings. They build dens in hollow trees, brush piles, barns, haystacks and rock crevices.

Raccoons eat both plants and animals. Plant foods include fruit, berries, acorns, corn and grain. Animal foods include fish, frogs, insects, turtles and turtle eggs, mice, rabbits, and bird eggs.

Most raccoon litters are born in April or May, but can occur as late as June, July or August. Only one litter of 3 to 5 young is raised each year. Raccoon populations are made up of young animals, with one-half to three-fourths of animals less than 1 year of age. Family groups usually remain together for the first year, and the young den with their mothers through the first winter. The family usually separates in spring.

Raccoons are nocturnal. An adult male's territory may range from 3 to 20 miles, while an adult female ranges about 1 to 6 miles. In winter, raccoons do not actually hibernate, but they do "hole up" and become inactive during severe weather.

Raccoons may become nuisances for property owners in a variety of ways, and often leave behind distinct tracks at the site. When they kill poultry, the heads of the adult birds are bitten off and left at some distance from the body. The breast may be chewed, the entrails eaten, and pieces of flesh left near water.

Poultry in raised wire-mesh pens can be damaged by raccoons attempting to pull their feet through the bottoms. Legs or feet may be missing. Raccoons may also steal eggs, or eat them immediately, with only the

shell remaining. Cracks in the eggs usually run along the long axis, and the nest may be heavily disturbed.

To prevent this, place tightly covered doors and windows on poultry enclosures. Since raccoons are excellent climbers, a wire-mesh fence may not be enough. Use an electric wire or completely enclose the pen to discourage raccoons.

In the garden, raccoon damage can be particularly heavy on sweet corn and watermelons. Raccoons may pull back the husks and eat the ears of corn, or dig holes in watermelon and scoop out the insides. Some suggestions for keeping raccoons out of the garden include physically scaring them off by shouting and swinging a broom, an electric fence around the perimeter, or a scarecrow.

Raccoons in buildings or houses can create quite a nuisance. Often they seek entrance to attics, chimneys or garages in search of winter dens, nesting areas, or food. If a raccoon invades the attic, it is most likely a nesting mother and should be left alone until she moves the young at 8 to 10 weeks of age. If you cannot wait for this, go into the attic and shine a flashlight and talk loudly. Never corner a raccoon or force it to defend itself. You can also try leaving a radio set to a talk radio station or a permanent floodlight in the nesting area.

To discourage raccoons from entering chimneys, use a secure chimney cap. If a raccoon does enter the chimney, never light a fire to try to smoke it out. The animal will only be burned or killed. Instead, place a bowl of ammonia in the fireplace and leave the flue open one-eighth of an inch. You can also place a radio set to talk radio in the fireplace or purchase an ultra-sonic device.

In the garage, keep trash contained in a receptacle with a secure lid. Block pet doors in the evenings. Do not leave pet food in the garage or around the outside of the house.

**Come visit the Master
Gardeners' booth at the
Elizabeth Trick or Treat Event
on Main Street October 31, 1-3!!**



Winterizing Your Landscape and Gardens

(Continued from Page 5.)

Insufficiently watered plants often suffer root damage during winter, and emerge looking healthy, but succumb to disease or insects. Plants and turf in south- or west-facing locations, especially near heat-reflecting structures, are particularly vulnerable to damage.

Garden Tools

Take time to clean, sharpen and oil your garden tools. You will not only extend their useful life, but also enjoy finding your tools ready for action in the spring. Drain and store water hoses but keep one handy for winter watering. Have your sprinkler systems blown out to prevent freezing and cracking pipes during those freezing months of winter.

The Colorado State University, Colorado Master Gardener Program volunteer network strives to enhance Coloradans' quality of life by: Extending knowledge-based education throughout Colorado communities to foster successful gardeners. For more information call the CSU Extension, Elbert County Master Gardener office at (303) 621-3162. Ask for fact sheets [7.211, "Fall and Winter Watering"](#) or visit the web site at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu>, click on Yard & Garden, then Fact Sheets & Publications.

A Day in the Life of this Elbert County Apprentice Master Gardener

(Continued from Page 3.)

On our carpool rides to and fro, we all laughed and wondered how in the **world** things had ever grown before we had taken these classes! Guess it shows just how resilient and forgiving plants are!

Well, in late March we finished up our basic training - but then the voluntary update training classes became available. Classes like "Designing a Garden around Continuous Blooming" and "Right Perennial - Right Place". After many wonderful classes like these, I came home and took a good look at my garden ...hmmm...going to need to make some changes!

From April until October, the Master Gardener group mans the Extension Offices at the Elbert County Fairgrounds on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We Apprentices are guided by a returning Master Gardener each afternoon fielding questions about a variety of topics such as weeds, lawn care, insects, and trees. During the year, the Group also hosts seminars given to the public on a variety of topics like vegetable gardening

and getting rid of those pesky critters eating your flowers. We hosted a booth at our Elbert County Fair answering questions and handing out information. We also had a booth at the Kiowa Street Fair in August. Our hope is to try and offer suggestions and guidance to anyone needing help with their plants.

After putting in our volunteer hours and completing our training classes, we new volunteers will get to drop our "newbie" titles and join our fellow Master Gardeners to welcome next year's "crop" of Apprentices. It's a great group and we'd love to have you join us!

Your 2009 Apprentices are: Debi Bredeson, Marilyn Carroll, Kay Kuhl, Linda Little, and Julie Schondel.

Are you interested in becoming a Colorado Master Gardener? Anyone who has an interest in gardening and helping others can apply for the Master Gardener Program. No particular gardening skill level is required. Applications may be obtained from the Elbert County Extension Office. Upon returning your application, you will be contacted to set up a time for an interview. If accepted into the program, Master Gardener Apprentices are required to attend college-level classes covering topics such as plant growth and development, soils, plant nutrition, insects, diseases and diagnosis, floriculture, vegetables, turf management, xeriscaping, houseplants and wildlife. The classes begin in January and run through the end of March. They are held once a week from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Douglas and Arapahoe County Extension Offices.

Upon completing the classes, Master Gardener Apprentices are required to spend fifty hours working for the Elbert County Extension office between mid-March and October. Thirty-six of those hours are spent working in the Master Gardener office, answering questions and assisting customers with samples of plants for diagnosis. The remaining fourteen hours are to be spent on outside projects.

There is no fee to submit an application. However, once accepted into the program, participants are charged a fee to cover the cost of resources provided during training. Financial assistance is available, if needed.

This is a great way to increase your gardening skills, meet some wonderful people and be of service to the community all at the same time.

If you are interested in becoming an Elbert County Master Gardener, please call (303) 621-3162 or (719) 541-2361 to obtain further information and an application.



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September 2009

Master Gardener Office Hours are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, April through September from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Stop by the Extension Office at the Fairgrounds in Kiowa or give us a call at 303-621-3162 Kiowa or 719-541-2361 Simla. You may also email questions to elbertmg@ext.colostate.edu.

Do you have a friend or neighbor who might wish to receive this newsletter? Please call or email the Extension Office with their name and address. Also let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter electronically. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kipp A. Nye
Elbert County Extension Director
Colorado State University

Thank You Elbert County!!!

The Master Gardeners would like to thank everyone who bid on our Silent Auction items at the county fair this year. We would also like to say a big “**Thanks**” to the merchants and individuals who so generously donated items to support the silent auction. These merchants are: Outback Liquor, Elizabeth Hair Salon, Barr Bear Country Cuts, Holly Acres Greenhouse, Spring Valley Golf Course and the Masters Gardeners for all their donations as well.

We would also like to thank JC’s Greenhouse for the donation of the bedding plants that the Master Gardeners planted in the barrels to be placed around the fairgrounds and extension office. They are bright and very beautiful.

The Master Gardeners appreciate all the support the county has given us this past year at our various seminars, at the fair booth and from all the calls that we have gotten at the extension office.

The Master Gardeners will be at the extension office to answer your questions on Tuesday and Thursday 1 – 4:30pm until September 30th. After September 30th call or bring your sample to the extension office and the Master Gardeners will handle these items on an “on call” basis.