

Horticulture Tips

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University

GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER!

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Lawn & Turf

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions ([HLA-6601](#)).
- Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.

Tree & Shrub

- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Follow label directions.
- Continue to plant balled and burlapped and containerized trees.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.

Flowers

- Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November.
- Leave foliage on asparagus, mums, and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions.
- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.

Miscellaneous

- Leftover garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old.
- Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots.
- Clean and store garden and landscape tools. Coat with a light application of oil to prevent rusting. Drain fuel tanks, irrigation lines, and hoses. Bring hoses indoors.

Fruits & Nuts

- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break.
- Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

Controlling Broadleaf Winter Weeds in Home Lawns

David Hillock

Winter weeds such as dandelions and clover in bermudagrass, Kentucky bluegrass, centipedegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and zoysiagrass can be controlled in November with products containing 2,4-D, dicamba, and MCPP combinations. Air temperatures should be above 50°F for best control. Examples of commonly found winter annual broadleaf weeds include chickweed, dwarf fleabane, and henbit.

Postemergence herbicides are applied following weed emergence when they are young and actively growing. Most are foliar absorbed, so they must remain on weed foliage for 24 to 48 hours following application. Postemergence broadleaf herbicides kill target weeds without injuring turfgrasses when applied at recommended rates. Examples include, 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP and various other herbicides. Normally, 2 to 3 spray applications, spaced 10 to 14 days apart, are required for effective weed control.

Protecting Young Trees

David Hillock

Trunks of some newly planted trees, especially those with green trunks or smooth, thin bark, require protection from direct sunlight during all seasons. They are especially susceptible to sunscald (blistering and cracking of the bark) during winter months when leaves are absent. Protect the trunk with a commercial tree wrap such as a polyurethane spiral wrap or paper (kraft) wrap. The wrap should be applied in the fall but should be removed prior to trunk expansion each spring.

The most commonly reported damage from trunk protective wraps is trunk girdling or constriction because the wrap was too tight or left on too long. Generally, a tree will only need to be wrapped the first season or two after planting.

Tie the wrap firmly, but not tightly. Polyurethane wraps expand without binding the trunk. Start at the ground and wrap up to the first branch slightly overlapping as you go. Do not attach wraps with wire, nylon rope, plastic ties or electrical tape.

Plants prone to winter desiccation, such as broadleaf evergreens, when planted in open windy areas may require additional protection. Temporary protective barriers such as sheets of burlap, lathe fencing, bales of hay, etc. can be constructed to provide protection from the drying winds. Unfortunately, antidesiccants generally do not relieve plant stress in Oklahoma during the winter or summer.

Protect young trees and shrubs from animal damage. Polyurethane wrap, wire mesh collars or rodent repellent paint can be used. Holly, honeylocust, elm, and fruit trees are particularly susceptible. Remember snow will change the height of the bite.

For more information on protecting landscape plants during the winter see OSU Extension Fact Sheet [HLA-6404](#) “Winter Protection of Landscape Plants.”

Houseplant Care

David Hillock

With cooler temperatures of fall and winter fast approaching our gardening interest often turns from plants outside to plants indoors. Success with houseplants is governed by one’s careful management of light, temperature, water, nutrients, and humidity, along with using the proper potting medium.

Light – Very few plants tolerate dark corners. Most houseplants require the light that would be found within four to eight feet of a bright south window. Some will tolerate a spot very near the window, while others will prefer less light some distance away. Too little light can result in tall, lanky, small-leaved plants. Too much light can cause leafburn on sensitive species like African violet. If the room is not naturally lit, artificial lights should be used.

Temperature – Most houseplants prosper in a temperature of 65°F to 75°F, but the humidity of the average home is too low to suit them. A plant prospers in relative humidity of about 50 to 60 percent, which is more than most people like. This can be helped by using a humidifier or by setting the pot on a tray of moist gravel or pebbles. Do not allow the water to touch the bottom of the pot, as the water would then be wicked into the potting medium and keep the plant too wet.

Watering – More houseplants succumb from improper watering than from any other single cause. In general, most houseplants need to be thoroughly watered and then allowed to nearly dry before the next irrigation. Use tepid water when watering houseplants. Enough water needs to be poured over the potting medium to allow water to drain freely through the drain hole at every watering. If water does not drain out the bottom, rewater until it drains freely. Never leave a houseplant standing in water, as this will cause the roots to rot.

Drainage – Drainage is an integral part of watering a plant. Do not include aggregates in the bottom, since the aggregate actually slows water’s movement through a pot. If a decorative, drainless pot is desired, it would be better to use a “pot within a pot” technique: pot the plant in a container with drain holes and then set that into the larger, decorative pot. Never allow excess water to collect in the outer pot.

Potting Medium – Consult your local garden center, greenhouse or florist for help selecting an appropriate potting medium. It is important that the potting medium has good water holding capacity yet is loose enough to promote good drainage and aeration.

Fertilizers – The easiest way to fertilize your houseplants is while watering. Select a houseplant fertilizer and dilute according to label directions. Houseplants can be fertilized at every watering with a very dilute rate or fertilized at a slightly higher rate once every third or fourth watering. Do

not fertilize as often or as much in the winter, in dimly lit rooms or in potting mixes that contain soil.

For more information about growing and maintaining houseplants see OSU Extension Fact Sheet [HLA-6411](#) Houseplant Care.

Fall Cleanup

David Hillock

As plants in the landscape go dormant or are killed off by colder temperatures, it is a good time to do some fall cleaning in the landscape.

Leaves falling from trees are a good source of mulch and compost. In wooded areas where there is little understory growth it is best to leave the leaves to decay naturally. If there are groundcovers or turfgrasses growing in the area then it is best to remove the leaves and compost them or use them as mulch.

Most landscape debris can be chipped or ground up to be used in compost piles or as mulch. However, if plants have been plagued with diseases and insects it may be best to remove them completely from the garden by burning them (if allowed in your community) or sending them off to collection facilities. Debris infected with diseases or insects remaining in the landscape will only become a source for infection next year.

Sanitation is an important step in reducing outbreaks of pest problems. A good example is the twigs that frequently fall from trees like pecan. It is very possible they are infected with the larvae of a twig girdler. Larvae overwinter in the dead twigs, eventually pupating in the twig and emerging as an adult next summer. Another good example is the numerous foliar diseases that also overwinter on dead leaves and debris only to spread to new growth the following spring. Removing these organisms from your garden will reduce the chances of them recurring the following year.

Another practice during the fall and winter months that helps keep pests at bay is occasionally tilling fallow ground. Flower or vegetable beds that remain empty during the winter months can be tilled just before freezing temperatures. Hibernating insects are brought to the surface where they will be exposed to and killed by the cold temperatures.

Bulbs for Spring Color

Casey Hentges, Oklahoma Gardening Host

Have you ever left money in a winter coat or in a purse that you haven't used in a while and to find it months later? Isn't it a pleasant surprise that you left yourself? This is what spring bulbs are like. We plant them now, knowing that in a few months we will have moved on, gotten distracted with life, forgotten what we have planted where and then after a dull, colorless, winter

we see it. That first pop of color only to continue to be pleasantly surprised by more and more as they continue to come up.

It is hard to think about snow on the ground and how dull and colorless the scenery is going to be in a few short months, but we know it will happen and when it does we will once again be anxiously waiting that first pop of spring color.

Spring bulbs bring vibrancy back into the garden, but in order to have that surprise we need to plant these bulbs now.

While tulips are the number one bulb everyone thinks about providing us with such a range in color, there are so many different types of bulbs that you can plant in the fall. Most are probably familiar with daffodils, but even they come in more than just your single yellow flower.

Planting Depth – A general rule of thumb, for planting all bulbs is plant them at a depth of 2-3 times the diameter of the bulb. If you have a 2” bulb you will generally want to plant it about 5” deep. Crocus have a much smaller bulb therefore will be planted shallower. There are a few exceptions include stem-rooting lilies, which need to be planted a little deeper, and the Madonna lily, which is planted just below the soil surface. Soil type also affects planting depths. Bulbs should be planted deeper in sandy soils than in clay soils.

Bulb Size – There is a direct correlation between the size of the bulb and the size of the bloom you will get; this is why some bulbs are sold by the size and larger bulbs tend to be more expensive.

Spring bulbs are planted in the fall to give them time to develop their roots in the ground. Because of this most spring bulbs benefit from a phosphorus fertilizer application. Keep in mind that phosphorus does not move much in the soil; therefore, you want to make sure that it is incorporated into the soil so it is in the root zone.

Orientation – When planting you may have heard the joke about making sure you plant it green side up, well with bulbs you want to make sure you plant it pointed side up. This is the vegetative side even though it isn’t green due to being underground it doesn’t receive sunlight to photosynthesis and make chlorophyll the compound that makes a plant green.

This flat part is the basal plate, this is where the roots develop on the bulb. Therefore, you want to make sure the flat side is down in the hole.

Hybrid Tulip Bloom Time – Hybrid tulips are divided into bloom time categories. Midseason, Darwin, and single late tulips are typically well suited for Oklahoma springs. Some of the early blooming tulips can bloom too soon, leaving you with little time to enjoy them, depending on how long winter decided to hold on.

Finally, one more thing you want to consider is planting bulbs en masse. Instead of buying 10 or 20 bulbs and planting them throughout your garden, plant them according to the recommended

spacing. Bulbs look much better and create a better impact when they are closer together rather than scattered about a large area.

Chilling – Many of our spring bulbs need be planted in winter not only to establish their roots but because they need to exposure to cooler temperatures. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, Dutch iris and scilla all need to go through 8-12 weeks of 35-50 degree weather prior to blooming. It is this chilling stage that creates a biochemical response in the bulb that starts the flower development. After this time period when temperatures begin to warm up, the bulb knows it is safe to emerge.

Some suppliers sell pre-chilled bulbs because some southern locations don't get cold enough for a long enough period or perhaps a buyer is wanting to use them for a display at a different time of the year, such as Christmas.

Exception to chilling requirements are the more tender bulbs such as amaryllis and the tropical narcissus varieties such as paperwhites. Because paperwhites and amaryllis don't need to be chilled, we often see them sold as a Christmas bulb for consumers.

With these exceptions most spring bulbs should be planted October through November in order to give them plenty of time to go through this chilling process.

Oklahoma Gardening Video - <https://youtu.be/EjxIVUB81u8>

75th OK Turfgrass Conference Set for November 17, 2020 Via Zoom Platform

Dennis Martin, Extension Turfgrass Specialist

The conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) in cooperation with Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. The conference will be held via Zoom as an on-line conference. It has been approved for Oklahoma pesticide applicator CEUs. The one-day (8:00 am – 3:15 pm) conference has been approved for up to five CEUs each in categories 3a (Ornamentals & Turf) and category 10 (Demonstration & Research). Additionally, the programming has been approved for up to three CEUs in category 5 (Aquatic weed control) and up to four CEUs for category 6 (right-of-way) as well as professional development initiative points for GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendents.

Registration for the turf conference is a multi-part process. First, register with the OTRF at the www.otrf.net website. Click the “Events” link in the menu at the top of the OTRF home page. The registration fee for the 1-day conference is \$75.00 with sponsorship options for exhibitors also available that day. Contact Sabrina Buxton at otrfsecretary@gmail.com if you need help registering at the OTRF website. After registering and paying the OTRF conference registration fee, the OTRF Secretary will send the registrant an email containing the Zoom link for personal conference registration. Please note a personal zoom account is required in order to complete the second part of registration so if you do not have a Zoom account one can obtain a Zoom account

free at www.zoom.us. During the day of the turf conference, attendees should log in by 7:45 am at the individual Zoom link provided to each individual registrant. It is important to not share your individual zoom link/security information. Always use your appropriate first and last name on record with the OK Dept of Ag, Food & Forestry (ODAFF) if you intend to get pesticide applicator CEUs. Use of multiple versions of a name or nick names rather than formal name on record with ODAFF can cause problems in the attendance documentation process if an attendee wishes to earn Oklahoma Pesticide Applicator CEUs. If you have questions about the registration process, please contact Sabrina Buxton, OTRF Secretary at otrsecretary@gmail.com.

November Pecan Topics on Zoom

Becky Carroll, Associate Extension Specialist

The final Pecan Topics zoom for 2020 will be offered on November 6 at 1 pm. The meeting will cover timely topics for pecan growers and homeowners. Subjects on the agenda include commercial and homeowner harvest equipment; proper pecan storage conditions; thinning overcrowded pecan trees; collecting and storing graftwood; how to enter winning pecan show entries; and pecan storage pests.

Advance registration is required and available at this link - <https://dasnr.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvceyuqT8qGNOIVMLthc5rp6yI2TTSuVcm>. The program is offered to anyone and at no charge. Extension educators who participate will receive in-service credit. Please feel free to promote to your pecan audience.

Information and recordings of previous sessions are available on the Oklahoma Pecan Management webpage- <http://okpecans.okstate.edu> or the Oklahoma Pecan Management Facebook page - @okpecans.

Questions can be emailed to becky.carroll@okstate.edu.

Pecan Show Requesting Entries

Becky Carroll

It's that time of year again! Remember to save back a couple of pounds of your best pecans to enter in the 2020 state pecan show this year. Oklahoma's crop may be limited in some areas due to early freeze events, but with smaller crop loads, quality may be even better! Collect some of your best pecans to send in to represent your farm in the 2020 State Pecan Show.

If no county/area show is available, growers may enter pecans directly by sending samples to:

Cimarron Valley Research Station

Attn: Becky Carroll

10820 South Jardot

Perkins, OK 74059

Samples should arrive by January 22, 2021.

Samples should be entered in a sealed plastic or paper bag. Label the bag on the outside and place a label inside the bag. Information should include exhibitor's name and address, county, and type of pecan entered. Be sure to follow the guidelines that are listed below before sending entries.

A few helpful hints: Take the time to select pecans that are all the same cultivar, or same size and shape natives – *don't send mixed pecans*. Select uniform, clean, uncracked pecans. Presentation can make the difference between two very similar samples. Make sure to send two pounds of pecans in a labeled and sealed bag.

General Rules and Guidelines

- All entries must be grown in Oklahoma during the current season.
- Each entry shall consist of two pounds of nuts.
- Entries deemed unworthy by the judges will not compete for awards.
- Label each entry as to exhibitor's name, address and cultivar of nuts. If more than one native (seedling) pecan exhibit is made, identify the nuts from separate trees by numbers. Only one exhibit of each cultivar or native tree may be entered by one individual.
- Each entry will compete in one of the following 26 classes:
 1. Barton
 2. Burkett
 3. Cheyenne
 4. Choctaw
 5. Comanche
 6. Gratex
 7. Kanza
 8. Kiowa
 9. Lakota
 10. Maramec
 11. Mohawk
 12. Nacono
 13. Oconee
 14. Pawnee
 15. Peruque
 16. Podsednik
 17. Schley (eastern)

18. Shoshoni
19. Squirrels Delight
20. Stuart
21. Waco
22. Western
23. Wichita
24. Other Cultivars
25. Large-Native (seedling) 60 nuts/lb or larger
26. Small-Native (seedling) more than 60 nuts/lb

- Each grower is allowed to participate at one county show of his or her choice.
- Each grower is allowed to enter one entry in each show class with the exception of Class 24 (Other Cultivars), Class 25 (Large-seedling) and Class 26 (Small- seedling)
- Each grower may enter one entry from each native (seedling) tree.
- Entries should be shipped or mailed to arrive at the show at least one day prior to the deadline.
- County pecan shows will not be affected by these rules and procedures.
- Samples will be placed in cold storage and judged prior to the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Annual Meeting. At that time, the winning entries will be displayed with awards and recognitions. All entries will become the property of the OPGA.
- First, second, and third place winners in each class at the State Pecan Show will receive ribbons.
- State Pecan Show Special Awards – Plaques will be awarded for the largest pecan entry, the entry having the highest kernel percentage, the champion native and the best entry of the show. The plaques are presented at the Awards Banquet during the annual meeting.
- If a qualifying show is not available, growers may submit entries in accordance with these guidelines directly to the State Show. Entries in the state show must be received by January 22, 2021.