

**Horticulture Help Hits the Road Again!  
“Seasoned” and New PHAs Needed**

The Quad Counties Horticulture Diagnostic Outreach began this month at **Boerner Botanical Gardens**. The Counties will rotate diagnostic service from 3-6 pm Thursdays in the Education and Visitor Center. Come and check us out — or sign up to help. If your job does not allow you to come at 3 pm, come later to join other PHAs.

**The schedule for Milwaukee County is  
June 8 & 29, July 13,  
August 10 & 31, September 14**

**Waukesha County will be there May 25, June 22, August 24 and September 28.** Call Waukesha UWEX, 262-548-7770, to volunteer.

We are returning to the Fox Point Farmers Market, Havenwoods and the Milwaukee Public Market. Those schedules are:

**Fox Point Farmers Market** (last Saturday of the month)

**June 24, July 29 and August 26**

8 am—noon, Stormonth School parking lot, 7301 N Lombardy Road

**Havenwoods** (2nd Saturday of the month)

**June 10, July 8, August 12 and September 9.**

9 am —noon, Environmental Center, 6141 N Hopkins, Milwaukee

**Milwaukee Public Market ( 3rd Saturday)**

8 am—noon, Water St. & St. Paul .

**June 17, July 15 and August 19.**

Call Peg Fleury at 414-290-2414 if you want to volunteer or “shadow” at any of these sites.

**Horticulture Helpline Needs YOUR Help**

**We really need help in our UWEX office!** The Helpline is open daily from 9 am-noon and the phones are BUSY. **Call Suzy Orth at 414-490-2410 or Arlene Kaufman at 414-290-2427 to help answer telephone questions or to “shadow.”**

**Responding to Horticulture  
Inquiries**

**Monday, June 5, 2006**

**9:30 am—4:00 pm**

**Dane County Extension Office**

Take advantage of this informative day with members of the UW-Extension Horticulture Team. Become acquainted — or re-acquainted — with UWEX horticulture diagnostic services, resources for research based information and members of the Horticulture Support Team. The program includes

- ***Yard and Garden Weed Identification and Management***  
Jed Colquhoun, UWEX Weed Specialist
- ***Abiotic Stresses of Woody Ornamentals***  
Laura Jull, UWEX Ornamental Specialist
- ***UW Diagnostic Services***  
Brian Hudelson, UWEX Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic
- ***Responding to Horticulture Inquiries***  
Bob Tomesh, UWEX Horticulture Specialist
- ***Plant Insects in Review from 2005***  
Phil Pellitteri, UWEX Insect Diagnostic Lab
- ***Plant Diseases in Review from 2005***  
Brian Hudelson
- ***Pesticides Available to Homeowners in 2006,*** panel discussion.

**If you plan to attend, call Peg Fleury at 414-290-2414.**

**Wisconsin Horticulture Updates and  
Brown Bag Programs**

The Horticultural Update Teleconferences are held every Friday from 9:30-10:20 am and the Brown Bag Programs monthly at noon at the UWEX office, 932 South 60th . If you would like to participate in either, call 290-2400 the day before.

**Brown Bag Schedule**

May 19 Hedge Plantings  
June 23 Gardening in the Tundra:  
Extending the Growing Season in Wisconsin

## Notes from the Field

**Bob Tomesh, UWEX Horticulture Specialist**, reports the state is about 7 to 10 days ahead of average for plant development.

He says **this is the time to fertilize perennial beds**, starting out with two to three pounds per 100 square feet during bed initiation and for annual maintenance.

After the bloom period of established perennials, use some side dressing of fertilizers 3-6 inches out from the crown. **This is especially important for bulbs** that are replenishing for next year's bloom.

In case of extensive **rodent damage to shrubs** such as euonymus, where most of the bark tissue has been removed, he suggests pruning the shrub back to the soil line. You can then encourage new suckering roots to reestablish that shrub. If you don't do this, the shrub will green up and look nice until about June 1, when it collapses!

In response to a question about **rodent injury to the trunks of young trees**, he suggests putting pruning spray on the girdled part of the tree to prevent it from drying out. Sometimes there's enough cambial cell tissue left that the tree will regenerate underneath the spray protectant to replenish the cambial growth zone.

**Dandelions** are in full bloom. Mow regularly to reduce the chance of seeds moving around and then encourage fall broadleaf weed management program rather than doing it now.

**Brian Hudelson, UWEX Plant Diagnostic Clinic**, reports **white blister rust** is now quite active on pine so watch for whitish blisters that burst open and have creamy yellow spore masses inside.

For more information check out <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/wpbrLC.pdf>.

He also says he has been hearing reports of

**cedar apple rust on junipers**. Check out <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/CARustALC.pdf>.

**Patty McManus, UWEX Fruit Pathology Specialist**, predicts that recent rains will cause **rusts** to be a problem for the next few weeks. She also expects to see more **apple scab** because of several factors. Trees are very susceptible now with young new tissue, there was a large release of spores during our relatively dry April and we have had recent long, slow rains. She suggests getting more information from

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/SCABAPPLALC.pdf>.

**Teryl Roper, UWEX Fruit Specialist**, is getting calls relating to trees that flower, set fruit and then drop all the fruit. Some fruit drop is to be expected but if all the fruit drops, cut the fruitlings open and count the number of seeds. There should be at least three to four seeds. If not, the fruit is not viable and will drop.

In addition to a lack of a viable pollen source or good pollination weather (cloudy or windy weather discourages honey bees to be foraging) herbicides could be the culprit. In suburban or urban settings, people may use herbicides for dandelions that contain 2,4-D. "The granular weed-and-feed kind of products I think are highly suspect because they'll release slowly over time." She says 2,4-D is a synthetic auxin that will cause fruit to drop, particularly on a hot day.

If a tree has been in the ground for several years but has not flowered or set fruit, this is the time to work on the 2007 crop. In the next two or three weeks, get a sharp utility knife and make a single cut/girdle through the bark all around the trunk about 1/8th to 3/16th wide. Once you get some significant resistant in the depth of the cut, that's deep enough. It will grow over relatively quickly and will induce flower bud formation for next year.