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Subject:

HORT ALERT: 01-04-2018

Happy New Year!!

Southern Indiana is experiencing some very cold weather of late. I've already been asked if this will have any effect on landscape and garden plants. Of course, it is way too early to tell for sure, and we have a whole lot of winter still ahead of us.

However, this cold spell followed a long, gradual cool-down this fall. While we did have a few days of shirt-sleeve weather in December, for the most part, temperatures gradually cooled. This encouraged perennials, including trees and shrubs, to go into dormancy normally. Had we gone from a two-week spell of 60 degree temperatures to the current single-digits overnight, then I would expect severe damage. That didn't happen, fortunately!

However, we're not off the hook...not by a long shot. We typically get brief warm-ups in January and February, followed by a return of wintery weather. These fluctuations can possibly cause damage, especially if the warm-ups are prolonged. Of more concern is the prolonged warmups of March, which bring landscape plants out of dormancy, and cause gardeners to be tricked into planting their gardens. When we get a freeze event in early April (which is exactly when we SHOULD have our last freeze, so I refuse to call it a "late frost"), we get widespread damage. Way too early to worry about that now, though.

For some information on cold weather safety, please check out these links:

- Winter Weather (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/index.html>
- Frozen Pipes (Red Cross): <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes>
- Winter Storms, A Preparedness Guide (NOAA, FEMA): http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/resources/Winter_Storms2008.pdf
- 3 Winter Precautions to Keep You and Your Trees Safe: <http://arbordayblog.org/treecare/3-winter-precautions-to-keep-you-and-youre-trees-safe/>

Speaking of Winter Weather: Please check out this great article on Winter Scouting for Pests and Diseases from the Indiana Gardening Magazine website: http://statebystategardening.com/state.php/IN/enews_stories/go_out_look_winter_scouting_for_pests_and_diseases/. Lots of good information and photos on things to look for now, while the leaves are down.

And speaking of Indiana Gardening Magazine: Some of you may know that I write a couple of articles for each issue of Indiana Gardening Magazine. I enjoy reading my copy (after my secretaries get done passing it around), because I learn new things from the other authors as well.

If you would like to see some sample articles, and maybe consider subscribing, please check out their website: <http://statebystategardening.com/in> .

Holiday Recycling Day

When: Saturday, January 6, 8 am to noon

Where: Old Westside Walmart parking lot – north of Lloyd Expressway, west of Rosenberger Avenue.

What: Drop off recycling for standard items: aluminum cans, cardboard, junk mail, catalogs/magazines, metal food cans, newspaper, #1-#7 plastic containers. We will accept greeting cards, gift wrap/boxes, telephone books, and bagged shredded paper. We are also accepting “real” Christmas trees, which will be chipped into mulch and given away for free.

Sorry: ****NO glass, styrofoam or plastic bags**** will be accepted. I shouldn't HAVE to say it, but no, we are NOT accepting artificial trees...

Tri-State Creation Care Conference

When: Saturday, January 20, 9 am to noon CST

Where: Aldergate Methodist Church, 5130 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, IN

Who: Everyone is invited.

From an earth care perspective, we live in a crucial time. The times beg us to change our ways and heal our planet, yet, the enormity of the task and the forces pushing us away from solutions can leave us with feelings of futility. This year's Creation Care Conference will focus on our spiritual task to remain steadfast in a hope that empowers and transforms.

Featuring Presenters:

Dr. Ben Brabson

Dr. Ben Brabson is a Professor Emeritus of Physics at Indiana University. Dr. Brabson's research into earth temperature rise has made him into one of the leading authorities on the effects of a warming planet on water availability, agriculture and ecosystems. A frequent speaker on this topic combined with a lifetime of teaching has given him the ability to turn a difficult topic into an inspiring message. Dr. Brabson has published more than 100 articles on high energy physics and climate change and has held several research positions around the world.

Hope from Our Faith Traditions

A panel of faith leaders will each offer us a brief spiritual reflection on the power of hope from their respective faith tradition.

Breakout Sessions:

Solar Energy for Home and Church

Homeowners and representatives from faith communities who have installed solar systems will share their experiences and knowledge.

Creation Care Activism: the Wildflower Way

How do we engage our communities in environmental concerns? In this workshop, we will share the Tristate CC approach.

Make Your Backyard Earth Friendly

Andrew Smith, Warrick County Urban Conservationist, will present on 7 conservation practices that will help make our home grounds more environmentally friendly.

"Bee Aware": Protecting Bees and Other Pollinators from Pesticide Poisoning

Larry Caplan, Purdue Extension Educator, will teach on how we can lessen the harm we are inflicting on our pollinators.

Tri-State Creation Care is a coalition of faith congregations dedicated to encouraging the care of our earth and its resources.

Facebook: [tristateinterfaithcreationcare](https://www.facebook.com/tristateinterfaithcreationcare)

Email: tristate.creation.care@gmail.com

Vegetable Gardening Series

Purdue Extension will take growers through "Home Vegetable Gardens: For the Pleasure of Growing Your Own Produce" in a series that offers opportunities to learn about vegetable production practices.

The series will take place from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm CST on February 19 & 26 and March 5, 12, and 19. The program will be held at 16 sites around the state using Webinar broadcasts, including the Vanderburgh County office. Participants also have the option to access the sessions from home via a high-speed internet connection.

Each day will feature a two-hour session that covers a topic important to vegetable growers. The agenda includes:

- * February 19 - Session 1: Getting Started in Vegetable Gardening.
- * February 26 - Session 2: Starting Early and Fresh Produce Safety.
- * March 5 - Session 3: Vegetable Varieties: Cool and Warm Season.
- * March 12 - Session 4: Disease Management: Diagnosing Tips and Prevention Tips.
- * March 19 - Session 5: Pest Management: Pest Identification and some Organic Controls.

Purdue presenters include Jeff Burbrink, Dr. Dan Egel, Dr. Rick Foster, Rosie Lerner, and Nikky Witkowski.

The series will speak to those that are looking at getting started in growing. It will also offer a wealth of information for those that have been growing for many years as varieties of vegetables will be discussed and current insect and disease issues brought up. This will be a great reminder of best practices in growing as well as a great way to get information on new tips and tricks for gardening.

Registration is \$35 per person for all sessions or \$10 per person for an individual session. The fee includes all handouts and resource materials.

For more information regarding program content, available viewing sites or how to register, contact your county Purdue Extension office or Nikky Witkowski at 219-755-3240, nikky@purdue.edu. A full brochure is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2017VegetableGardening>.

[Note to Master Gardeners: this series counts for Continuing Education hours.]

Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners Spring Tonic

Who: All gardeners!

When: Saturday, March 3, 2018; 8 am to 3 pm EST

Where: Orange County Community Center, 1075 Sandy Hook Rd., Paoli, IN 47454

Cost: \$35 per person; Fee includes 5 educational sessions, continental breakfast, and lunch.

Registrations received after 2/16 go up to \$40.

Schedule of Programs (all times Eastern Standard):

8:00-9:00 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Visit Vendors

9:00-9:10 Welcome

9:10-10:05 **Megan Cain**, Madison WI, Owner of “The Creative Vegetable Gardener”: **“10 Mistakes I Made in My Garden So You Don’t Have To”**

10:05-10:20 Break—Visit Vendors

10:20-11:15 **Will Drews**, Vincennes, IN, Natural Resource Specialist for Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District: **“The Plight of Pollinators & What You Can Do to Help”**

11:15-11:30 Break—Visit Vendors

11:30-12:25 **Larry Caplan**, Evansville, IN, Extension Horticulture Educator, Vanderburgh Co.: **“Chiggers and Midge and Ticks... Oh My!”**

12:25-1:25 Lunch, Visit Vendors

1:25-2:20 **Megan Cain**, Madison, WI: **“Beyond the Herb Rack: Using Herbs Creatively In the Vegetable Garden”**

2:20-2:30 Break—Visit Vendors

2:30-3:25 **John Scott Foster**, Carmel, IN, Executive Director, Friends of Hamilton County Parks: **“Making Your Garden Attractive for You and Wildlife”**

Master Gardeners in attendance will receive a 5 educational hour’s certificate.

Local craftsmen-artisans will be setup to sell their wares.

Four door prizes will be given in the form of gift certificates.

For more information email us at hhmg13@gmail.com or call Sharron at (812) 278-6794.

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