



Wyoming State Master Gardener Conference 2008, Cody, Wyoming

What a fantastic time! From my arrival on Friday until I left on Sunday every minute was filled with great information, networking, and just plain fun. Except for the snow we ran into on the drive to Cody the weather was perfect. Speakers were well informed and very willing to share their information and expertise with gardeners from all around the state. There were sessions on roses, herbs, grapes, wind power, energizing ourselves, xeriscape gardening and more. While I learned a lot from all of these I was especially interested in the straw bale house that we toured as part of the program. Our conference hosts treated us to wonderful meals, lots of

door prizes, table favors, and a silent auction. They deserve our thanks and a round of applause to an almost flawless weekend. K h " { q w " j c x g p ø attended a Master Gardener Conference, please consider it the next time

c t q w p f 0 " K " d g v " { q disappointed. *Carla Hardy*



International Master Gardener Conference



Las Vegas Nevada, March 22-26, 2009

Issues to be addressed at p g z v " { g c t ø u " e be water conservation, soil enrichment and pest control. There will also be

presentations on new concepts in environmental u v g y c t f u j k r " c p f " technologies. For more information regarding c n n " speakers, issues and scheduled events go to <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc/>

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Publications

- < `Winter Watering, B-1186
- < `Gardening: Extending the Vegetable Growing Season. B-1148
- < `Yard & Garden Guide for Sweetwater County
- < `Care of Flowering Potted Plants B-1146

Birch Products

Paper birch will forever be remembered as the tree of choice for early canoes. However, its bark also covered the roofs of native dwellings and its smooth wood was carved into eating utensils. Later, its hard, strong and close-grained wood was used for spools, bobbins, and toothpicks. Today, paper birch is a desirable raw material for high-quality lumber and veneer, pulp, oriented strand board and other fiberboard products. As a non-commodity tree, paper birch is q p g " q h " p c v w t g ø u " o q lending beauty to settings ranging from rustic campgrounds to glitzy, suburban office complexes.

Protecting Paper Birch

Paper birch leads a short but relatively problem-free life. Among its more common problems that can be prevented are:

FIRE! The thin bark of paper birch affords the tree little protection against even a lightly-burning leaf or grass fire.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLARS. Recurring attacks from these leaf eaters can reduce annual growth by as much as 86 percent of normal during the third year of deforestation.

BRONZE BIRCH BORER. Stressed trees are a primary target of these pests.

Stress can be prevented by watering during dry periods of the year and by preventing soil compaction.

Sprouts and seedlings in the forest often fall victim to **deer browsing, gnawing by mice, and peeling by red squirrels.** On older trees, human pests sometimes do likewise.

BEAVERS! Where birches occur in urban or park settings near waterways with active beaver colonies, a shield of wire fencing around the base of trunks is about all that will discourage u p c v w t g ø u " g p i k p g g t u 0 "

Blue Spruce or Englemann Spruce?

Colorado blue spruce is easily confused with the Englemann spruce, especially where they grow as neighbors on the same sites in the high Rocky Mountains, or when the blue color is absent from a specimen growing in a lawn or park. Here are some ways to separate the two.

Colorado Blue Spruce

- < ` Cones are generally larger, from 2-1/2 to 4-1/2 inches long
- < ` Cone scales tend toward being diamond shaped
- < ` Needle tips are very sharp and protrude from branch at nearly 90 degrees
- < ` Twigs are stout and smooth.
- < ` Bark is scale-like, later becoming ridged

Englemann Spruce

- < ` Cones are smaller, from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 inches long.
- < ` Cone scales appear more oval or rounded.
- < ` Needle tips are somewhat blunt and tend to point toward tip of branch.
- < ` Twigs are lightly hairy (pubescent).
- < ` Bark remains in large scales, seldom becoming ridged furrowed.

Arbor Day, May 3, 2008

For Green River, the 2008 Arbor Day celebration had special meaning. It was v j g " 4 7 v j " C p p k x g t u Tree City USA designation. Clarissa Kelley and I wear two hats-one as Master Gardeners and the other as City of Green River Tree Board members. This year we were able to use our recently acquired knowledge along with handouts provided by Cora Botello and the University of Wyoming, Cooperative Extension

Services during the celebration. As we handed out bare root stock of golden current, choke cherry, green ash, etc. we were able to answer questions about planting and care of these and other plants. While we were busy answering questions, a new tree was being planted on Expedition Island in honor of the twenty-five years. The celebration was a j w i g " u w e e g u u 0 " Y g ø

another twenty-five years of tree stewardship in Green River.

Carla Hardy

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Your Cooperative Extension Office is Here to Help You!

Once your friends and family members start to ask questions about lawn and garden care, your county extension office is here to help you. We download and print color copies of a variety of publications from the University of Wyoming and other state extension offices as well.

Currently printed and ready to hand out are publications on which flowers and vegetables grow well in Sweetwater County. Give a new neighbor, a friend or family member a copy of any publication please call the extension office and we would be more than happy to download and print a

color publication for you. The UW Consumer Catalog for 2008 can be found at <http://ces.uwyo.edu/pubs.asp>, click the publications button.

Cora also has a library full of reference material for you to check out. We also have a small library for the public. If you have a great reference book you would like to recommend that we add to the library please do.

The Master Gardeners also have access to the CES microscope for assistance in identifying insects and a computer that may be used for research.

If you need to verify information or have questions in general the following specialist are happy to help.

Raina Spence Diagnostician/Assistant Research Scientist 307-766-2076 or e-mail rspence@uwyo.edu

Alex Latchininsky Extension Entomologist 307-766-2298

Scott Schill Assistant Extension Entomologist 307-766-2508

Packets of information can also be put together for you. Let us know which forms and publications you want and how many of each and they will be mailed to you.

Contact Leslie Doak at 352-6775 or e-mail lidoak@wwcc.wy.edu with requests, concerns or questions.

Cooperative Extension Service

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Bloom Master Training, Vernal Utah, May 17, 2008

The Sweetwater County Master Gardeners spent a day of fun and learning at Bloom Master Plant Corporation in Vernal, Utah as part of the training for both veterans and new master gardeners. We got to get our hands dirty and to handle a lot of lovely plants while learning how to build a Bloom Master basket. The process is a matter of layering potting mix, soil moist, and

plants in just the right way in a basket especially designed for maximum efficiency. Everyone had the opportunity to help build these baskets. Mr. Searle, inventor and owner of Bloom Master told us that our baskets would be used to build back later in the summer and see the results. Stacey Wuyts did just that. As you can see we must have done a pretty

fair job. Hanging baskets and trees like these can be found all over the country. I had a great time in Vernal-especially buying the plants that would eventually end up in my own basket.

Carla Hardy



Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agriculture

Sweetwater County
Master Gardeners

Over the Garden Fence is a publication of the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service of Sweetwater county in cooperation with the Sweetwater County Master Gardeners

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Scheduled Events

Master Gardener Meeting September 24, 2008 C Street Library at 6:30

Tree Walk September 27, 2008 Starting at the old Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. and ending at Bunning park.

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October 17, 2008 at 6:00p.m.

Master Gardener Meeting October 29, 2008 Green River Library at 6:30
last meeting of the year office elections

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