



Dig In!

Canyon County Extension Horticulture News for Master Gardener & Friends

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Fall into Gardening

Plan now for attention-getting color

BY ARIEL AGENBROAD



While some gardeners are more than happy to hang up their hoses come November, there are those among you (I know who you are!) who find it hard to stop and come inside just because the weather has changed.

These are the folks who have gardens that look glorious well into the late autumn; still vibrant and bursting with color when their neighbors' yards have returned to various shades of brown.

Most of the time this doesn't happen by accident. So if you are one of the unfortunate neighbors whose garden is grey, now is the perfect time to make notes and plan ahead for some welcome additions.

It's easy to think of large deciduous trees as the kings and queens of autumn color. In reality, leaves change color very quickly and often end up blown to the ground just when they were looking good! Fantastic fall color is best achieved with a mix of trees, shrubs, evergreens, grasses and hardy perennials.

Maples, catalpas, honeylocust and ornamental pear trees hold fall color well and come in a variety of shades. Ninebark and burning bush exhibit bright autumn foliage that lasts for weeks, and photinia, barberry and evergreen honeysuckle hold on to their leaves for a lush backdrop. Vines like Virginia



Fall color signals the end of the gardening season and a time to reflect. Here, a purple ninebark shrub, Grosso lavender, switchgrass, coneflower seed heads and culinary sage mingle dramatically in this Nampa garden.

Creepers, while sometimes invasive, drape everything they touch in rich red and purple.

Ornamental grasses come into their own in fall. Every garden should have at least a few.

Also consider grey foliated perennials paired with classic fall blooming asters and chrysanthemums.

Take a walk in your neighborhood and identify a few new fall beauties to tuck into your landscape in the coming spring. You'll be glad you did this time next year!

Extension Educator Ariel Agenbroad provides horticulture and small farms education and outreach for Canyon County and the surrounding region. Email her at ariel@uidaho.edu

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What *is* that bug?

A prolific new invader caused quite a commotion this summer.

Idaho, meet the Elm Seed Bug.

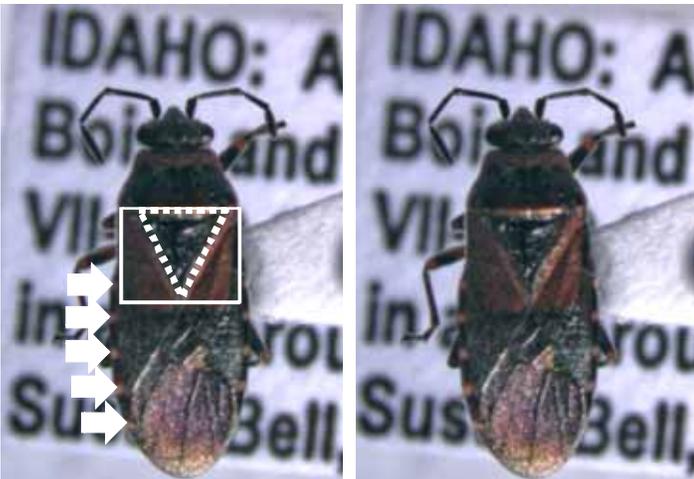
INFORMATION FROM DR. EDWARD JOHN BECHINSKI,
PROFESSOR OF ENTOMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

NATIVE GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:

Southern Europe from 40 to 50 north latitude.

PRESENCE IN IDAHO:

This bug has been known to be in Idaho since July 2009 when Sue Bell (University of Idaho, Ada County Extension Educator) submitted specimens collected inside a Boise home to Frank Merickel (Manager, University of Idaho Barr Entomological Museum) for identification. Specimens first were definitively identified as *Arocatus melanocephalus* (Family: Lygaeidae) during 2012 by Thomas Henry (Research Entomologist, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian



Arocatus melanocephalus adults are approximately 1/3-inch long and overall are the color of dark chocolate. Under magnification you will see that the edge of the body slightly extends beyond the wings and this extended margin is marked in a series of five or so narrow white bands on a dark colored background.

Institution, Washington DC).

Specimens repeatedly have been collected every year since 2009 in Idaho from Ada and Canyon counties.

HOST-PLANT RANGE:

Nymphs and adults feed on the seeds of elm trees, but bugs also can be collected from oak and linden trees. These are true bugs (same taxonomic order as boxelder bugs, Lygus plant bugs and true stink bugs) and feed with piercing-sucking mouthparts.

PEST STATUS IN IDAHO:

Arocatus likely is inconsequential as a plant-feeding pest.

It is a nuisance pest during July/August when adult bugs congregate on homes and buildings (esp. structures adjacent to elm trees) and subsequently, but accidentally, crawl into homes. They do not bite, nor sting, nor feed on stored foods, nor damage structures.

LIFE CYCLE:

Arocatus likely develops through a single generation yearly. It overwinters as adults in protected places and becomes active when temperatures warm in early spring, laying eggs on elm trees and developing through five nymphal stages and thence to adults by mid-summer.

DEALING WITH BUGS INSIDE HOMES:

Remove bugs by vacuuming as needed.

Apply residual insecticides OUTSIDE HOMES as a barrier along the foundation and around patios, as well as doors and windows where bugs gain entry. Any of the many over-the-counter homeowner insecticides registered as outdoor barrier treatments for crawling insect control should be effective.

When using any pesticide, read the label carefully and follow directions exactly as they are stated on the label.

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Ariel Agenbroad, Horticulture Extension Educator ariel@uidaho.edu 208-459-6003

www.uidaho.edu/extension/canyon



Most Unwanted

Noxious weeds to know and loathe

STORY BY CATHY FORD, U-IDAHO MASTER GARDENER

Idaho has 64 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by state law. Here is one of the few to know and control:

Giant Hogweed: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

- Introduced from Eurasia into ornamental gardens on the east coast.
- One giant hogweed plant can produce 20,000 seeds, allowing it to spread quickly when not managed.
- It can grow up to 15 feet tall.
- Leaves are large, compound, deeply incised, lobed, and 3–5 ft wide.
- Short hairs on the underside are stiff and dense.



- Petioles have short, coarse white hairs at the base.
- Causes phyto-photodermatitis which causes swelling and blistering of the skin.
- Seeds are used as a spice.
- Perennial plant, flowering in second or third year and dies after flowering.

- Stems are coarse, ridged and mostly green in color with purple blotches that contrast easily with the protruding white hairs noticeable at the nodes.
- Stems can grow to a height of 10 to 15 feet and measure between 2 to 4 inches in diameter.
- Seeds are viable for over 10 years.
- Vegetative reproduction is by buds on crown.

Physical (non-chemical) Control of Hogweed

- Control of giant hogweed usually includes such practices as digging, mowing, cutting, removal of umbels, grazing and herbicide application. The control strategy, or strategies, selected will be dependent on the area covered by the population, accessibility and plant density. Because giant hogweed is a moderate seed producer, continuous management to prevent seed production is extremely beneficial.
- The goal of mechanical or cultural control is to deplete the energy reserves of the plant's root system and eliminate seed production.

Chemical control of Hogweed

- Chemical control is generally recommended for home control. Triclopyr (Garlon 4, Crossbow, Weed B Gon Max, etc.) and glyphosate (Roundup Pro and other products) have shown to be effective due to their systemic activity. Other products such as 2,4-D, TBA, MCPA, and dicamba (Banvel or Clarity) may control the above ground portion of the plant but are relatively ineffective at killing the root stock.
- Applications of triclopyr and glyphosate in the fall (after the first frost) to plants established the previous season usually provide the most effective control in a single application. However, multiple applications per year for consecutive years may be necessary to completely control a giant hogweed population.
- Regardless of the method selected, protective clothing and eyewear should be worn when working around this plant, especially when cutting, as the risk of splashing the toxic sap onto the skin will be the greatest.

When using any pesticide, read the label carefully and follow directions exactly as they are stated on the label.

CALENDAR

November

3 Rethinking Idaho Landscapes: Fall symposium hosted by the Idaho Botanical Garden and U-Idaho Extension. Boise Center on the Grove, 9 am-4 pm. Cost: \$40. Register at: www.idahobotanicalgarden.org

17 Free Junior Master Gardener Activity for kids: Nature Masks at the Caldwell Library, 1 pm-2 pm

19-20 Annual Fruit Growers Convention of the Idaho State Horticultural Society. Nampa Civic Center, 8 am-5 pm both days. Contact us for more info.

December

21 Deadline to register for the Master Gardener course in Canyon County.

January

9 Canyon County Master Gardener course begins in Caldwell!

23-25 Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association Hort Expo. For professionals, students and amateurs! Boise Center on the Grove. More at www.inlagrow.org

February

1 Farmer to Farmer Networking/ Food Safety Training for Farmers' Market Vendors. Contact Jen Miller: jmiller@pesticide.org.

19 Backyard Berries class with Ariel Agenbroad at the Idaho Botanical Garden. Register at: www.idahobotanicalgarden.org

21 Idaho Victory Garden class begins in Nampa!

Our 2013 Gardening Classes

Get more info, register, or request applications by calling the office at 208-459-6003 or by sending an email to canyon@uidaho.edu

Canyon County Master Gardener volunteer development program will begin accepting applications in November for our 2013 class.

Future Master Gardener volunteers must be available for 50+ hours of training and 30+ hours of hands on service.

Master Gardeners staff information booths at local events, conduct Plant Health Care Clinics at the Extension Office, and contribute to the community in countless ways while increasing their own horticultural knowledge.

Preference will be given to residents of Canyon and Owyhee counties.

- Wednesday mornings, 9 am-12 pm, January 9—May 1
(+ field trips to be scheduled) at the Canyon County Extension Office, 501 Main St., Caldwell, ID
- Class Materials, Lab & Tour Fees: \$115 per individual
(U-Idaho Academic credit or CEUs available for additional fees)
- Work in the Green Industry and want to sharpen your skills?
Contact us about our Professional Audit Master Gardener category

The Idaho Victory Garden Series was developed in 2008 to address the “growing” need for practical community education in home food production and preservation. This popular course has now had over 195 graduates! Perfect for the new gardener or urban homesteader, this course takes you from seed to table to pantry in six weeks. We provide expert education, hands on activities and demonstrations, and lots of resource materials for you to take home.

- Thursday evenings, 7 pm-9 pm, Feb. 21-March 28 at the Trinity Lutheran Church & Community Garden, 8 S. Midland, Nampa
- Course Materials Fee: \$45 per first family member + \$5 for each additional family member

Nampa and Caldwell Community Education

We have teamed up with the Nampa and Caldwell Recreation Departments to offer a new selection of affordable, convenient gardening classes on popular topics like vegetable gardening, cooking with herbs, landscaping and perennial plant gardening. Watch your mailbox for dates, times and locations, or call us to find out what's scheduled for 2013!



Canyon County MASTER GARDENERS

The Idaho Master Gardener Program gives gardeners an opportunity not only to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills, but also serve their communities. We certified 24 new volunteers this year.

Project Highlights

PLANT CLINICS

Master Gardener Volunteers Plant Health Clinics are closed for the season. But what a season it has been! Our hardworking volunteers answered close to 500 home garden and landscape questions this year. What were the top issues for 2012?

1. Trees in dieback and decline
2. Insect pests like the new Elm Seed Bug
3. Fruit tree and berry problems
4. Vegetable crop problems

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Master Gardener Volunteers are active in promoting, creating, and supporting several community gardens in the area. Want to get involved? Call us to find out how.

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS AND CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

In Nampa, we continued to redesign our demonstration garden at West Park with the help of our talented summer intern from the University of Idaho, Melissa Finley. We look forward to creating separate garden boxes for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and native plants, plus boxes that look best in spring, summer, fall and winter. Our Caldwell Water Wise garden, created by volunteers behind our office, is filled with beautiful blooming xeric plants that only get watered four to five times during the summer. Amazing, but true!



JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER

We're reaching hundreds of kids and introducing them to bugs, botany, healthy eating and more. This year volunteers helped with two afterschool programs in Caldwell and Farmway Village, taught gardening through free Summer Reading programs, offered a two day gardening 4-H Day Camp in Nampa, presented a Scavenger Hunt at the Canyon County Fair and brought fun and free activities to the Lakeside Lavender Festival!



Fertilizing Trees and Shrubs

Why, how and when

TIPS WRITTEN BY EXTENSION HORTICULTURE FACULTY,
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

Why Fertilize Landscape Trees?

Under natural forest conditions, the annual decomposition of leaves, needles and twigs provide a fresh resource of minerals for tree and shrub use. Landscape trees grown in lawns and driveways usually do not have this nutrient source and are in need of additional minerals since landscape debris is routinely hauled away.

Soil Types

The type of soil that a tree or shrub grows in can affect its nutrient needs. Soil texture and soil structure influence the amount of water, air, and nutrients held in the soil for plant use. Clay soils can be nutrient rich, but have a large amount of fine particles that tend to compact and restrict water and air movement. Sandy soils drain well, but contain many coarse particles that have little capacity for storing water, air and nutrients.

Diagnosing Nutrient Problems

No single symptom tells you that trees or shrubs need additional fertilization. Some nutrient deficiency symptoms can be similar to symptoms of cultural problems or diseases. Slow growth rate, small leaves, fewer flowers, smaller fruit, and pale green or yellow (chlorotic) foliage with mottling between the leaf veins may all be signs of nutrient deficiency. While visual clues can tell you it's time to fertilize, for precise application consider soil testing or foliar tissue analysis.

When To Fertilize

Trees should be fertilized in early spring or mid-fall as long as the soil temperature is above 40° F two inches below the soil surface. Soil should also be moist. Avoid fertilizing in late summer and early fall as a nutrient application at this time could cause unwanted succulent growth that may fail to harden off before fall frosts hit.

Fertilizer Application Methods

Broadcast or topdress - fertilizer is added directly to the soil surface. This method is good for N, which moves readily through the soil, but poor for P and K that move slowly through the soil. Fertilizer should be applied to the drip line and at several foot intervals out from the drip line for mature trees.

Soil incorporated - dry or liquid fertilizer is added to holes in the soil beneath the canopy and extended beyond the drip line to provide a long lasting effect. Holes should be up to 12 inches deep and 1 to 2 inches in diameter and made in concentric circles 2 feet apart around the tree trunk with the first circle no closer than 3 feet from the trunk.

Foliar sprays - best for supply of nutrients for plant use in only trace amounts, such as Zn, Mn and Fe.

Tree spikes are a dry soil injection method, with a hardened column or cylinder of fertilizer hammered into the soil.

Controlled release pellets are typically broadcast on the soil surface, but they can also be placed in holes augured into the soil.

Tree spikes and slow release pellets may delay the development of winter hardiness so it is best to use them in late fall or early spring.



Beetle Mania

New invasive insect detected in Ada and Kootenai Counties

STORY BY MIKE COOPER, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Boise, ID - A new invasive insect, the **Japanese beetle** (*Popillia japonica*), recently was detected in Idaho in both Ada and Kootenai counties. The Japanese beetle was first introduced to the United States in 1916 in plants imported from Japan.

The insect is approximately ½-inch long, a shiny metallic green with copper-brown wing covers.

Adult Japanese beetles feed on trees, rose bushes, stone fruits (peaches, nectarines, cherries) and many garden and field crops: leaving holes and skeletonized leaves. The larvae, or grubs, live under the soil surface and destroy patches of turf by feeding on roots of grass.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is identifying suspect areas with intensive trapping. The public may notice an increased number of green and yellow traps placed in Boise around the Boise State University and Warm Springs area, along State Street near Pierce Park and at various public parks.



Japanese Beetle Trap. Photo courtesy of Purdue University.



Adult Japanese Beetle. Photo courtesy of Purdue University.

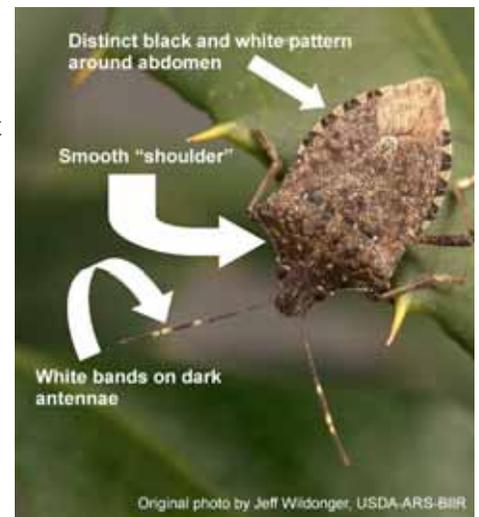
Increased trapping will also be implemented in other parts of the state. The traps are non-toxic.

If you live in Idaho and suspect you have found a Japanese beetle seal a dead specimen or two in a sandwich bag and mail in a regular envelope to: Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division, P.O. Box 790, Boise, ID 83701 and please include your name, address and phone number. You may call (208) 332-8620 to report the possible find.

Another “bad bug” on it’s way

The **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** is making its way to Idaho and the Northwest from the eastern states. It has already been Identified in Utah. The insect has a wide range of hosts and could become a terrible pest for landscape and crops alike.

Be on the lookout for this new pest, but remember, we have several other common stinkbugs in Idaho that look very similar, so inspect closely before you panic and bring it in!





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Enjoy our popular blog: <http://growvandals.wordpress.com>

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www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/

Get answers to your gardening questions at our statewide Extension Idaho Landscapes and Gardens web site.

You'll find abundant information and resources designed specifically for Idaho gardeners. Our tips will help you create a healthy, attractive garden or landscape and keep it looking good throughout the season or year.

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