



Sandhills
Horticultural Gardens

The Bloomin' News

Sandhills Community College

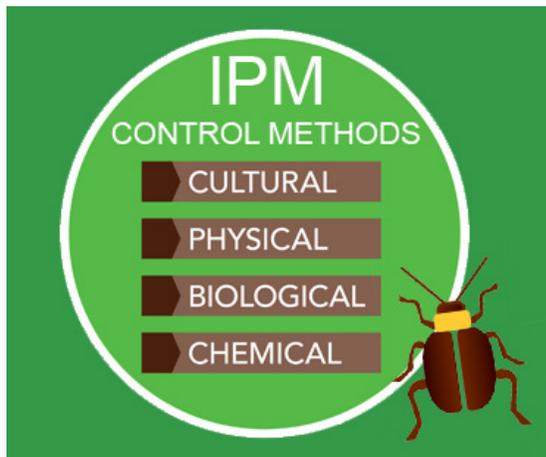
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*The Sandhills Horticultural Society - dedicated to the support of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens since 1987.
Please help the Gardens grow by becoming a Society member.*

Integrated Pest Management

Dee Johnson



The first thing to know is what is Integrated Pest Management, better known as IPM. We all think it sounds great, but how do we implement IPM in our own landscape? I like to think of IPM as a lot of common sense along with some scientific information that will help eliminate or knock back the pest problem to acceptable levels. Notice I said acceptable levels. With IPM you sometimes must be willing to tolerate a certain amount of damage. What that level is depends on the individual and the plant you are dealing with.

Integrated Pest Management is a program that should be based on prevention, monitoring, and control. IPM utilizes a variety of methods and techniques, including cultural, biological and structural strategies to control a multitude of pest problems.

The first step in any IPM program is prevention. Having good healthy plants that are disease resistant is going to help you maintain a pest free environment. I always equivocate this statement to when a doctor says eat right, sleep well and take your vitamins. You know as a human if you are doing all these things correctly the chances of you catching a cold or other minor ailment is lower. The same is true of plants. There are also many plant cultivars that are bred to be less susceptible to certain pests. Look for those cultivars when you purchase your plants.

Once a pest is visible the next step in a good IPM program is monitoring. This should include regular site inspections and trapping to determine the types and infestation levels of pests on each plant. By doing these things you are better able to determine the least toxic way to handle your pest problem. Remember there are "good bugs" out there that can help you eliminate the ones that are damaging your crops. There are companies that sell these predatory insects. For example, lady bugs are one of the best controls for aphids and other soft bodied insects. Ants will attack scale on your plants.

The next step is control/action. What are you going to do if anything for the pest problem you have? Chemicals should be used as a last resort and the least toxic chemical for the job should be used. Applications of chemicals should be minimized to limit exposure to humans and all non-target organisms. Using dish washing liquid and water is one of the most effective ways of controlling many pests. You must realize that this will take more effort on your part. It is not just a "once and done" kind of control like more toxic chemicals. This kind of low impact action will prevent the beneficial insects that you desire in your garden from being eliminated.

IPM is based on taking preventive measures, monitoring the crop, assessing the pest damage, and choosing appropriate actions. IPM practices means that you use multiple tactics to prevent pest buildups, monitor pest populations, assess the damage, and make informed management decisions, keeping in mind that pesticides should be used as a last resort.

We all want a clean environment and we all must do our part to make that happen. IPM is just one of the many things you can do on your part to help the environment.



Preparing Your Garden for Winter

Jim Westmen



This is a regular question asked by many gardeners just about this time of year. There are many things you can do to improve the wellbeing of your plants and landscape and here are just a few.

The mulch layer in your beds should be checked to see if you have about three inches of cover. This will insure good weed suppression, hold in moisture, add a little organic matter and keep a more constant soil temperature during the winter months. Plants, especially conifers, can be damaged by winter burn which is caused by desiccation in the winter during dry periods with windy conditions. Please do not over mulch beds too deep or make mulch volcanoes around tree trunks. This can reduce oxygen and gas exchange to soil and roots and this excess mulch up against tree trunks at the root flare can cause rot and decay.

Moderate pruning can be done to shrubs and small trees to even up form and remove dead or diseased wood. Heavy pruning should be avoided so as not to stimulate new growth prior to the cold winter and thus having tender shoots killed.

Many perennials that go dormant and turn brown on top can be pruned

down and cleaned up for the winter to have a neat and tidy look. Remember to mulch them as well when finished, this helps with winter insulation.

Fertilizing can also be done for the winter and help your plants perform even better in the spring. The type of fertilizer you choose is important and should be very low in nitrogen as they will not need this for vegetative growth this time of year. The phosphorus and potassium should be higher in percentages as this will be beneficial for root growth, stored carbohydrates and help improve winter hardiness. Something like a 1-2-2 ratio would be a good choice or you may find a packaged fertilizer designed just for this.

Tree wrap can be used on newly planted thin bark trees to help prevent trunk tissue damage, sun scald, from the strong winter sun. This can also help reduce rapid fluctuations in temperature keeping a more moderate temperature on the trunk which can help reduce the chance of frost cracks.

This would also be the time to tag plants for transplanting when they become dormant. Relocating a plant or dividing bulbs and perennials are best done while the plants are dormant, so if you tag them now you can proceed when you're ready and when the time is best.

Have fun and at the same time you can add a little exercise while preparing your garden for the winter season.

Fall Color

Johanna Westmen

Most people, when they think color in their garden, think of spring color. This is due to the fact that we are coming out of winter where the presence of color isn't always there. The thought of beautiful hues of green, pink, blues and yellows get us excited as we enter a new season. Spring is such an unbelievable busy time for me, at work and in my own garden, I tend to prefer the warmer hues of reds, yellows and oranges that fall color can bring to my garden. It's also my favorite time of the year. Summer is finally winding down and the days have cooler temperatures and fewer mosquitoes!

When most people think of fall color they are probably envisioning the beautiful fall leaves of the maples trees. Red Maples, Sugar Maples and of course Japanese Maples can provide some of the most breathtaking fall color. I am not fortunate to have red maples or sugar maples in my garden but we do have more than our fair share of Japanese maples. Since it is one of my husbands favorite trees, I am lucky to have at least thirty trees, and yes, they each have their own variation of color in the fall. The fall color can range from a deep burgundy red to an orange-red with all the shades in between. Nothing catches your eye faster than a Japanese maple in full glorious fall color. We are lucky to have a native tree which also displays phenomenal fall color - the Sassafras. When we were clearing trees in our back lot, all we had to do was see the fall color provided by these trees to determine that they would stay as part of the garden. They are indeed worth saving.

Shrubs can also provide excellent color in your garden. Some of my favorite include Border Forsythia, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Witchhazel, Burning Bush Euonymus and Itea 'Henry's Garnet'. These can provide the same rich hues of reds, oranges and yellows that trees provide. Try to pair them next to evergreens, so that the contrast between the green and red becomes evident.

Even though herbaceous, some perennials can provide fall color from the foliage as well as having the added bonus of flowers. Perennials that bloom in the fall include asters, swamp sunflowers (Helianthus), Joe Pye Weed, Black-eyed Susans, Sedums and Salvias. Two of my favorite are Mexican Bush Sage and Chrysanthemum Sheffield. The latter was given to me by a wonderful

friend and fellow SHS member. The beautiful shell pink flowers of this particular mum is definitely worthy of any garden. Perennials with fall foliage include some of my favorite, like Bluestar (Amsonia) and many of the hostas we grow. Other plants such as Peonies and ferns can provide leaves of yellow and orange as well.



The next time you are in your garden this fall, take a moment to look around and notice the abundance of fall color you may have already. Take time to enjoy the cooler temperatures, the dwindling mosquito population and appreciate the color you see.

Fall Gardening Tips

1. Sow a cover crop such as clover, winter rye or buckwheat in your garden to improve your soil if you are not growing vegetables throughout the winter.
2. Fall is an excellent time to plant new shrubs, perennials or trees. Don't forget to continue to water after planting.
3. Bring in your houseplants before temperatures drop to 50's at night. Make sure you check for pests before bringing them indoors.
4. Remove all old leaves and spent blooms from your garden beds that might harbor diseases or pests. You want to start with a clean garden in the spring.
5. Plant your spring blooming bulbs in November. If the weather is staying too warm, refrigerating them for a couple of weeks will improve your blooms in the spring.
6. Plant cool season crops such as snapdragons, ornamental cabbage and kale, and pansies for cool season color in your garden.

Horticulture Society Events & Workshops

Linda Hamwi

Sure has been a hot, humid summer! Luckily, our first workshop in June was inside the Ball Visitors Center in a nice air conditioned room. Norma Burns taught us how to plant, grow, harvest and cook with garlic. Everyone left with some of Norma's homegrown veggies, great recipes using garlic and definite garlic breath.

The next workshop we weren't as lucky - it was outside Steed Hall - but fortunately, the temperatures that day were only in the 80's with a nice breeze. Pat Banville was kind enough to teach two workshops that day and we learned how to make a birdbath out of cement in the shape of a large leaf. Both workshops were full with waiting lists, so Pat has kindly agreed to come back next summer.

June's Lunch & Learn brought us Tim Emmert from Sandhills Farm to Table and everyone learned about the challenges of running a multi farm operation.

Local artist Magda Sonderfan taught participants how to paint pretty blue hydrangeas using only their fingers in our July workshop. Everyone left feeling like Monet with a beautiful 11" x 14" painting.

Also in July, Jon Davis from Wild Birds Unlimited gave a great presentation

for our Lunch & Learn. It was packed with information and tips on how to attract more birds to your back yards.

Our Children's Treasure Trail Adventure was back in August! Kids of all ages came out for a morning of fun & games, crafts and even a bit of education. Cookies and lemonade were served while the kids followed their treasure maps to each station.



Finger painting fun!

Bill Barber, camellia expert, was our Lunch & Learn speaker in August. He gave us wonderful tips on growing and propagating camellias.

Hopefully, September will bring cooler weather, especially for our Lunch & Learn with Dolores Muller, who'll be giving a walking tour through our beautiful gardens. Our workshop with Bonsai specialist Harold Johnson still has some spots left in the afternoon session. Be sure and sign up soon to assure your place!

Upcoming Events...

register by emailing landscapegardening@sandhills.edu or call Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882

Bonsai Workshop

September 16 (Saturday) 10AM to Noon and 1PM to 3PM

Ball Visitors Center

Learn how to create, style and care for these living landscapes with Bonsai specialist Harold Johnson. Cost includes container, planting media and plant - plus individual instruction on creating your own bonsai planter. Cutting tools will be provided. Horticultural Society members \$50, non-members \$60.

Lunch & Learn

September 25 (Monday) Noon to 1PM - Ball Visitors Center

SHS President, Dolores Muller will lead a walking tour of the Gardens. Learn the history of the Gardens, identify and discuss plants in the collection. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring your lunch, the Gardens will provide drinks. **FREE**

Fall Flower Arranging

October 12 (Thursday) 10AM to Noon - Ball Visitors Center

Vicki Garner, master designer with Jack Hadden Floral Design will demonstrate how to make a fall centerpiece for your table. Vicki will use seasonal flowers and greenery in a ceramic pumpkin to create a unique presentation. All material will be provided. Horticultural Society members \$50, non members \$60. Space is limited.

Create a Pollinator Paradise

October 20 (Friday) 1PM to 2:30PM - Ball Visitors Center

North Carolina Extension Agent Debbie Roos will give an overview of regional pollinators with an emphasis on bees. Learn the principals of designing and planting a pollinator garden - and how to select trees, shrubs, perennials, herbs and vines that will attract a diversity of pollinators. Debbie is responsible for a demonstration garden in Pittsboro with over 200 unique species. This program is jointly sponsored by the Council of Garden Clubs and the Sandhills Horticultural Society. The program is Free - space is limited.

Landscape Gardening Program 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dolores Muller

2018 promises to be an exciting year in the gardens. It marks the 50th anniversary of the Landscape Gardening program. In 1968 Fred Garrett was hired to develop a Landscape Gardening program at Sandhills Community College. He researched other Horticultural programs in England and Canada and developed a European-style curriculum in which students would have classroom work and hands-on experience. Also unique to this program is a residency requirement. Students graduate with a 2 year degree in Applied Science and because of the hands on experience and quality of the instruction they are highly sought after in the work place.

The program was cutting edge in 1968 when it began and still is today.

Former students have gone on to be the head Gardener at the White House, director of the Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, owners of nurseries both local and nation wide and many other positions in the green industry.

There have been only two coordinators of the Landscape Gardening program since its inception; Fred Garrett and currently Dee Johnson. In June of next year we will celebrate the 50 years of success, bringing together Horticultural Society members, staff, friends of the gardens and all the alumni for a celebration in the gardens on June 9th. Save the date and watch your mail early next year for an invitation. I hope you will join us at this very special occasion.



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Membership — Sandhills Horticultural Society

If you are currently a member of the Sandhills Horticultural Society – many thanks for your support. If not a member, please consider joining. Society dues and sponsored programs provide the funds required for development and maintenance of the Gardens. We do not receive money from either the State or the College.

Your membership comes with many benefits. Such as . . .

- Free Garden Seminars
- Admission to 200+ gardens throughout North America
- A discount on spring and fall plant sales
- Use the Ball Visitors Center for garden related events
- Continuing educational opportunities
- A discount on Society workshops and programs

Plus a FREE subscription to Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

It's not too early to renew your membership for 2016-2017. Or, consider giving a membership as a Christmas or birthday gift to your garden loving relatives and friends.

Annual dues are reasonable: Individual___ \$25, Family___ \$45, Individual Life___ \$350.

Membership: ___ New ___ Renewal

Gift Membership

Name _____

Name of recipient _____

Address _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

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Make checks payable to: SCC – Sandhills Horticultural Society
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