



IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Iowa Certified Nursery Professional Exam to be held Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Contact the Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association office to register.

The Iowa Certified Nursery Professional (ICNP) exam will be held on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames on Tuesday August 11th. The identification exam will be from 9:30-11:30, followed by the Landscape and Garden Center written exams from 12:00-2:00.

Online training modules are available to INLA members who wish to prepare for the certification exams. These modules replace the printed training manuals which were used in the past.

Eight of the modules cover plant identification including the categories of: annuals, conifers, deciduous trees, groundcovers, herbaceous perennials, perennial grasses, shrubs and vines. The remaining twelve modules cover the general topics addressed in the certification exam such as: Plant Identification and Characteristics; How Plants Work: Growth and Development; Rooting Environment and Fertilization; Selection, Installation and Establishment of Landscape Plants; Turfgrass Establishment and Management; Management of Turfgrass Diseases and Insect; Introduction to Plant Diseases and Insects; Diagnosing Plant Problems; Managing Plant Diseases and Insects;

Garden Center Management; Landscape Design; and New Employee Training and Professionalism.

The 12 general topic modules each contain a list of objectives, an image rich PowerPoint presentation with accompanying audio which is searchable by topic and has printable notes, self-test exercises, and online quizzes with immediate feedback to help learners test their understanding of the content.

To access the modules go to the new Green Industry Resource site at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/nurseryandlandscape>. From there click on the Online Training Modules on the left side menu and follow the directions. The current login for INLA members is: w.INLA2008 and the password is: INLA2008.

To register for the exam contact the INLA at 515.262.8323 or email Joan O'Brien at joano@agribiz.org.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback about the modules, please contact Ann Marie VanDerZanden at vanderza@iastate.edu or 515.294.5075.

Inside this issue

"Green Infrastructure" and Immigration Reform to be Highlighted at Upcoming ANLA Legislative Conference.....2

Climate Change Bill Contains Promising Provisions.....2

Leading Senator Intends to Scrap E-Verify Employment Verification System.2

Secretary Vilsack Agrees to Lift Restrictions on REAP.....3

Chieftain Apple Trees Available as Special Orders.....3

It's Time to Renew your INLA Membership.....3

2009 First Annual All-Horticulture Field Day on August 6 at the ISU Horticulture Research Station.....4

Expert Advises Against Treating Ash Trees for Emerald Ash Borer

By: O.Kay Henderson, Friday, June 12, 2009, Radio Iowa

Iowa State University Extension officials are advising Iowans to avoid treating their ash trees for emerald ash borer until the destructive bugs are found nearby. Last week, larvae of the Asian beetle were found in a tree in far eastern Iowa's Clayton County, but no other infestations have been uncovered in Iowa.

Mark Shour, an I.S.U. Extension program specialist, says it's premature for most Iowans to apply the insecticide used to kill emerald ash borers. "Based upon research that's (been) done at Michigan and Ohio and Indiana, they found that it's really not in the best interest of people to do preventative treatment unless the confirmed infestation for emerald ash borer is 15 to 20 miles away," he says.

According to Shour, the only place in Iowa where the insecticide may be beneficial is in Allamakee County which is right across the Mississippi River from Victory, Wisconsin where an emerald ash borer infestation was found in April.

"Even when it is found in the state -- let's say it's found

in northeast Iowa first, then southeastern Iowa and the rest of the state -- central and western Iowa -- really shouldn't be worried about doing any treatments until that insect is closer to home, so to speak," Shour says.

But Shour says even in Allamakee County, residents must weigh the cost of repeat applications before hiring a certified arborist to start treating an ash tree. "All treatments are not guaranteed. They're not going to be possibly...100 percent effective. The second thing is it can be expensive because it's done every year, for the life of the tree," Shour says.

"And thirdly, when they consider the person that they're working with, they need to make sure the person is accredited with the Iowa Arborist Association and possibly even the International Society of Arboriculture for treatment of that tree malady."

This article can be found at: <http://www.radioiowa.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=D4B73D9C-5056-B82A-37A86BA6F945E5D0>.

"Green Infrastructure" and Immigration Reform to be Highlighted at Upcoming ANLA Legislative Conference

Not yet registered for the ANLA Legislative Conference, scheduled for July 20 – 22 in Washington, DC? Need two good reasons to register now? Two of our top issues to take to Capitol Hill – "green infrastructure" business-building opportunities for the nursery and landscape industry, and immigration reform – are feature stories below. To learn more about the 2009 ANLA Legislative Conference July 20-22 go to the ANLA website at: www.anla.org. Source: ANLA.

ANLA President, Linda Grieve will soon be heading to Washington DC to discuss

with ANLA executives concerns and issues being faced by Iowa's nursery and landscape industry. In order to effectively represent the whole of Iowa's nursery and landscape industry she would like to hear comments and feedback from you. What are your concerns about the industry? What issues would you like ANLA executives to stress to legislators? What is your position on current legislation that will have an impact on your business? Please call or email Linda with any comments you have and with feedback you would like her to bring to D.C. She can be reached at 515.964.7702 Ext 101 or lindagrieve@perennialgardens.biz.

Climate Change Bill Contains Promising Provisions

Though the fate of the recently passed H.R. 2454 "American Clean Energy and Security Act," in the House of Representatives shortly before the July 4th recess is uncertain in the Senate, contained in the bill were two pieces that represent a win for the nursery & landscape industry. First, the final version of H.R. 2454 included Rep. Doris Matsui's (D, CA) "Energy Conservation Through Trees Act." This bill would provide funding to enable retail power providers to plant trees at residences and small office buildings for the purposes of energy efficiency. ANLA successfully secured provisions that broadened the palette of

trees that could be purchased through the program, and expanded partnership eligibility to include landscape service companies where a non-profit tree planting organization does not currently exist. Also included in H.R. 2454 were provisions that recognize urban tree planting and maintenance activities as eligible activities for carbon offset credits. Both of these provisions recognize the importance of not only trees, but our industry's role, in combating global climate change through the use of trees and landscape plants. Source: ANLA.

Leading Senator Intends to Scrap E-Verify Employment Verification System

Written by: Mark Schoeff Jr., Workforce Management

A senator poised to lead the immigration reform debate on Capitol Hill wants to scrap a government-run electronic employment verification system and replace it with one that incorporates biometric identification.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-New York and chairman of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, faulted the government system, known as E-Verify, for not being able to detect identity fraud.

"E-Verify is both unfair and ineffective," Schumer told reporters on Capitol Hill on Thursday, June 25, prior to participating in a White House meeting on immigration with President Barack Obama.

Schumer said that E-Verify, which compares information from I-9 forms against Social Security and Department of Homeland Security databases, is unfair because it singles out people with Hispanic surnames. It is ineffective because illegal workers can slip through the system by stealing Social Security numbers and making fake IDs.

"You need a biometric," Schumer said. "You need a picture. You need it to be unforgeable."

He first indicated his intentions on employment verification in a speech Wednesday, June 24, in Washington in which he laid out seven principles for immigration reform.

"Only by creating a biometric-based federal employment verification system will both employers and employees have the peace of mind that all employment relationships are both lawful and proper," Schumer said in prepared remarks at a Georgetown University conference sponsored by the Migration Policy Institute. "This system will be our most important asset in dramatically reducing the number of illegal aliens that are able to live and work in the United States."

Schumer will be the point person in the Senate on immigration. He took over the subcommittee chairmanship this year from Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, who has stayed mostly at home as he battles brain cancer.

Advocates called Thursday's White House meeting the kickoff of comprehensive immigration reform. A previous effort died in a Senate filibuster in the spring of 2007, demonstrating the political volatility of the issue.

Schumer's opposition to E-Verify was welcomed by the Society for Human Resource Management and other HR organizations that are pushing the New Employee Verification Act, which would establish an electronic verification system with a biometric option.

"We think it boosts legislative alternatives such as NEVA for an effective employment verification system," said Mike Aitken, SHRM director of government affairs. "You've got to do something about the shortcomings of E-Verify in terms of identity."

SHRM and many other employer groups say that E-Verify is hobbled by a 4 percent error rate in the Social Security database. Extending it to all employers could result in hundreds of thousands of erroneous nonconfirmations.

But E-Verify also has ardent supporters on Capitol Hill.

The House approved a homeland security appropriations bill on Wednesday that includes a two-year reauthorization of E-Verify. The system, currently constituted as a voluntary program used by about 128,000 employers, is due to expire on September 30.

The House also approved redirecting \$50 million in the DHS budget from another department to the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services for E-Verify enhancements.

That move was championed by Rep. Ken Calvert, R-California and author of the original E-Verify bill. Calvert and many GOP colleagues as well as moderate House Democrats want to strengthen and expand E-Verify, which they see as a linchpin in halting illegal immigration through work-site enforcement.

The two-year extension would be a significant step forward, said Rebecca Rudman, Calvert's spokeswoman. "It increases the chances that we'll get reauthorization through Congress," she said.

Rudman said that E-Verify instantly confirms 96.1 percent of queries and has an error rate of less than 1 percent.

It's difficult to project the fate of comprehensive immigration reform. The political divisions within and between parties and interest groups in 2007 still exist. In addition, health care and energy reform are likely to consume the summer and a chunk of the fall legislative calendar.

But Schumer said that this time around immigration advocates realize that Americans must first be convinced that illegal immigration must be stopped before broader reforms can be enacted. Secondly, Republicans need to mend fences with Hispanic voters.

"I'm going to try my best to do [comprehensive reform] this year," Schumer said. "The fundamental building blocks are in place."

This article can be found at: <http://www.workforce.com/section/00/article/26/50/94.php>.

Secretary Vilsack Agrees to Lift Restrictions on REAP

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack has agreed to issue a regulatory change, through Rural Development at USDA, to eliminate the rural restriction placed on the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). ANLA spearheaded an effort through its Lighthouse Partnership and the Nursery & Landscape Association Executives of North America to submit a letter to the

Secretary back in April. The REAP provides grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to help purchase renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements. The response from Secretary Vilsack stated that USDA Rural Development would be issuing a regulation to lift the restriction in time for the FY2010 program year.

Chieftain Apple Trees Available as Special Orders

Chieftain apple was developed by Iowa State University horticulture professor Spencer Beach. In 1917, he crossed Jonathan and Delicious varieties and came up with what some consider the best of both. It combines the shelf life and color appeal of the Red Delicious and the taste and baking qualities of Jonathan. It has a deep bright red skin, improved flavor, crisp texture, and stores well. It is good for both baking and eating fresh out-of-hand. It is moderately resistant to scab and fire blight diseases.

Chieftain was released for public consumption in the early 1960s and soon became a favorite of both growers and consumers. It never received national acclaim and wholesale propagation of the trees stopped a few years ago. Because of its popularity in Iowa,

Chieftain trees are now available once again through limited production, special orders.

Chieftain will be budded on EMLA 7 rootstock. This is a semi-dwarf rootstock which will produce a tree 12-15 feet tall at maturity. This rootstock has exceptional winter hardiness and good anchorage, but may require staking while young if in an open, windy area. It does well in most soils, especially deep, fertile soil versus light sandy or heavy clay.

Orders for Chieftain apple trees must be in minimums of 25 to qualify for the commercial price. If people want less than that they can split an order. For more information or to place an order, contact Duane Mann, 712-647-2520, duane_mann@hotmail.com.

It's Time to Renew your INLA Membership

Thanks for all of your Support!

Another year has gone by and INLA has gone through many changes in the last year. The Association truly appreciates all the support members have provided over the year.

INLA mailed renewal forms last month for the 2009-2010 year. We hope you choose to renew your membership with the Association. There are many exciting activities planned for the upcoming year and we would not want you to miss out on any of them.

Mark your calendars for February 24-26, 2010. The INLA is again partnering with Iowa State University's Shade Tree Short Course for this year's Conference and Tradeshow. This three day event has many educational as well as informational opportunities for all industries. As a member of the INLA you will not only get into the tradeshow, but you will also have the opportunity to attend the speakers and

workshops the Shade Tree Short Course has to offer. Do not miss out on this excellent opportunity.

Please take a moment and renew your membership, and mark your calendars for the 2010 ISU Shade Tree Short Course and Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association Tradeshow!

If you have any questions, please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323 or email Joan O'Brien at joano@agribiz.org.

Please Note: INLA also sent out dues statements to Iowa Certified Nursery Professionals. If you have employees who are ICNPs, but they may not have received a certification maintenance statement please contact the INLA office at 515.262.8323 or email Joan O'Brien at joano@agribiz.org and we will add them to our database.

Upcoming Events

What: Perennial Plant Symposium & Trade Show

Date: July 19-24, 2009

Location: Marriott at Union Station, St. Louis, Missouri

Features: The weeklong educational program includes lectures, workshops, tours and a trade show. The symposium is dedicated to education and networking for the perennial industry.

Email:
ppa@perennialplant.org

Website
www.perennialplant.org



What: Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Field Day

Date: August 5, 2009

Location: Mariani Nurseries, Garden Prairie, IL

Contact: Scott Grams - 630.472.2851 or sgrams@ilca.net

Website:
www.ilca.net/fieldday.aspx

2009 First Annual All-Horticulture Field Day on August 6 at the ISU Horticulture Research Station

Written by: Tom Hughes

INLA is thankful for the great support that we receive from the ISU Horticulture Department and is excited about a NEW networking and learning opportunity with the department at the Horticulture Research Station this summer. The INLA Board has been encouraged to develop and promote more educational opportunities for our membership. Missing work for one Thursday in August to improve the professionalism of our companies and industry is well worth it.

In order to encourage INLA participation in this initial "All-Horticulture Field Day" we have not scheduled a Roadshow for this summer. The INLA Board is making plans for a Summer Roadshow next year, but we hope that this newly formed ISU All-Horticulture Field Day will be an annual event for INLA members to gather and learn together. Please review the summary information and RSVP to the ISU Horticulture Department with how many individuals will be attending.

The first annual All-Horticulture field day will be held at the Horticulture Research Station on August 6, 2009. This opportunity will

showcase research projects being conducted at the station in all areas of horticulture. Concurrent sessions will allow you to learn more about specific areas of horticulture and to network with others in the "growing" horticulture industry.

Special areas of interest will highlight vegetable production, apple, grape, and small fruit production and wine tasting, lawn and turf management, urban tree development, landscape design and installation, organic horticulture, and farm pond and surface water management.

Registration is \$20.00 for full day attendance and lunch provided by the Iowa Pork Producers. On-site registration begins at 8:00 am on August 6, 2009. Concurrent sessions begin at 9:00 am. Please RSVP if you will be attending by calling 515.294.3718 or emailing iles@iastate.edu. An informational flyer can be found at: www.hort.iastate.edu/news/all-iowa-field-day-brochure.pdf.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL SEE:

Ornamental Trees

Evaluating landscape plants for use in Iowa and the Midwest is an important component of the research effort at the ISU Horticulture Research Station. Shade trees, including new disease resistant elms, flowering (ornamental) trees, and woody shrubs are evaluated for winter and summer hardiness, disease resistance, and aesthetic utility. Visitors to the Station learn from these plant trials year round starting with the flowering crabapples in May and ending with the colorful foliage of shade trees in the fall. This session is appropriate for home gardeners, nursery and landscape professionals, and golf course managers. All will come away with a better understanding of landscape plant cultivars and how to care for them.

Landscape

As you enter the Horticulture Research Station, you will encounter the newly installed sustainable landscape near the front gate and in front of the main building. These sustainable landscapes planned and established by students at ISU, will be discussed including proper methods of planting and installation. There will be students on site from the landscape design and installation courses at Iowa State to answer questions. Participants also will have the opportunity to experience some of the latest software programs available for use in landscape design through computer workstations in the main building conference room. They will see examples of current student work using software and hand drawing techniques.

Turfgrass and Turfgrass Breeding

Turfgrass is important in all horticulture industries from the alleys of fruit crops, the open spaces of gardens, to the divots on the fairway. Specific areas will include Kentucky bluegrass varieties, perennial ryegrass varieties, shade trials, low maintenance turf, and fescue varieties. The audience will receive information on creeping bentgrass varieties, fungicides, herbicides, and sports turf research.

Herbaceous Perennials and Annuals

The Home Demonstration Garden will feature a storage/preservation garden, white pumpkins, and unusual annual flowers. A handout with a plant list (including sources) will be given to visitors. The presentations will include how to grow, maintain, and harvest the various vegetables and flowers in different parts of Iowa.

Tree Fruit, Small Fruit, and Vineyard

Research highlights production practices and cultivar evaluations for commercial growers and home gardeners. Specific areas of research include apple rootstock evaluation, sustainable apple production using disease-resistant varieties, an evaluation of a weather-based warning system for management of sooty blotch and flyspeck in apple production, wine and table grape cultivar evaluation, vineyard floor management, and alternative bramble production techniques.

Several graduate students will discuss their research projects on grape production at the station. In addition, the Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute will have Iowa wine tasting and expertise to comment on wine quality.

Vegetable Crops and High Tunnel Production

Interest in local foods has sparked interest in diversity of available vegetables in the market. Field evaluations of fresh market tomato varieties will focus on fruit quality—consistent uniform size, color disorders and other subjects of interest to both commercial growers and the community. Powdery mildew disease control on pumpkins and squash through breeding development will also be demonstrated. Other topics of interest will include high-tunnel vegetable production for green beans and colored peppers and methods of producing a continuous supply through the season. In addition, a special study demonstrating the use of row covers to stop cucumber beetles and bacterial wilt on muskmelon will be available for public viewing.

Organic Fruit and Vegetable Production

Organic markets have increased in Iowa. Many farm crops are converting to organic or low input management systems. Experts will be on hand to give an overview of organic food production in Iowa. They will be joined by Student Organic Farm members, who will provide an overview of the group's activities.

Water and Wetland Management

The diversity of research at the Horticulture Research Station continues to expand including Natural Resource Ecology and Management. One of Iowa's greatest natural resources is water. You will learn about general pond management including aquatic vegetation management, water quality, and some general fisheries information.