



IOWA NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

NEWS

INLA Committee Meeting - June 18, 2014

All members are welcome to join us our committee meeting, on June 18. Location TBD.

INLA will meet to discuss matters pertaining to the convention, membership and certification committees, at 10 A.M. with lunch being provided after the meeting adjourns.

If you have further questions about the meeting and its contents please contact Joan O'Brien by emailing joano@agribiz.org or by calling the office at 515-262-8323.



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3rd Annual INLA Service Day!



The third Annual INLA Service Day will be September 11, 2014. The project will take place on the ISU Campus in Ames, IA and will be a fun filled event with lunch provided.

We had a great group of volunteers in Des Moines last year and we would love to see even more participate this year.

More details will be shared throughout the Summer. Please feel free to call Joan O'Brien with any questions. She can be reached by email at joano@agribiz.org or by calling 515-262-8323.

Hope to see you all there!

Pruning Practices Clinic - Friday, May 9

On Friday, May 9 the Iowa Arborists Association is presenting an Advanced Pruning Practices Clinic with Dr. Ed Gilman at the Iowa Arboretum.

The clinic will be held from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. With four A.M. sessions, lunch and 3 P.M. sessions.

For details on session topics and timing please **see the attached agenda.**



USDA/RMA Nursery Crop Insurance - May 1 Sales Closing Deadline

Custom Ag Solutions (CAS) works with the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) to deliver risk management and crop insurance information to U.S. agriculture producers. For 2013-2014, CAS is again working with USDA/RMA on a partnership to inform and educate producers in Iowa.

As an aside, CAS neither sells nor services crop insurance policies. Their objective, as established by the USDA, is only to inform and educate.

CAS worked with RMA's St. Paul Regional Office to prepare the following (**below**) news release that will be of interest to many of you as INLA members.

Attached is a USDA/RMA Nursery Crop Insurance Program Fact Sheet that explains more about the Nursery Program's operation, benefits, and limitations.

News Release:

Nursery Crop Insurance Sales Closing Date Quickly Approaching

For the 2013 crop year, crop insurance programs administered by the USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) covered over \$15.5 billion in crop liability for Iowa growers. The state had over 130,000 policies in force for 2013, and these policies covered over 22 million Iowa crop acres. Well over half of Iowa's insured producers suffered a loss and received an indemnity in 2013; in fact, the average indemnity per indemnified policy for 2013 was over \$28,300.

Many Iowa nursery growers do not realize that RMA offers a crop insurance program for wholesale nursery operations. During 2013, some Iowa nursery operations were covered by the program; combined, the liability coverage for these nursery operations totaled over \$7 million.

So, how will you manage risk in 2014? Iowa nursery producers are reminded that May 1 is the sales closing date for participation in RMA's Nursery Crop Insurance Program for 2014.

Producers planning to start (or modify) coverage should contact a crop insurance agent immediately to meet the May 1 sales closing deadline and learn of other key program dates and reporting requirements.

A crop insurance agent directory is available on the RMA website at www.RMA.USDA.gov. The RMA website also offers many other useful tools, including a premium calculator, extensive program descriptions, and a variety of educational materials. A nursery program fact sheet is available at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/nursery.pdf>.

Rainscaping Pays



There are 45 cities and 3 Regent Universities across Iowa that are required, by law, to improve and protect water quality under the EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES)

The NPDES program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. All are required to meet six minimum control measures, including how stormwater runoff is managed after new construction is complete. Some require the "first flush" or the stormwater generated from a 1 ¼ inch be captured and managed on-site, rather than sending it to a detention basin to be released downstream.

Many are turning to infiltration based landscapes that are engineered for water quality management, or Rainscapes. There are many differences between conventional landscapes and Rainscapes, which are landscapes for clean water: locating, sizing, vegetation, ponding depth, outlet and emergency overflow to name a few. Another difference is the amount of funding being committed to

Rainscapes by these communities and state agencies to better manage stormwater runoff by retrofitting already developed areas.

For example, the City of Coralville reimburses property owners up to 75% of the cost of to design and install Rainscaping practices. Another example is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, State Revolving Fund Sponsored Projects Program. In 2013 this program funded \$14 million in projects that depend heavily on infiltrating landscapes, or Rainscapes, throughout Iowa. In 2014 the Sponsored Projects Program anticipates awarding another \$10 million to projects with Rainscaping components.

The State, along with Iowa communities and other partners are driving Rainscaping and the need for trained and qualified landscape professionals to design, install and, most importantly maintain these practices. The Rainscaping Iowa program is looking forward to working with the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association in growing industry professionals.



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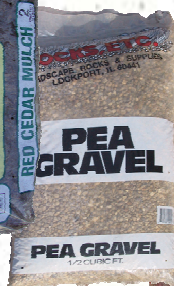


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Christmas Trees Ready for Planting

By: Staff Writer - Agribusiness Report

For most crops, spring planting is close, but the ground is still too damp and cool. But for one farmer, planting is already underway.

Gary Harman plants and sells Christmas trees at Walnut Ridge Farm in Indianola, and there's a lot of trees to plant. He says, "The soil is damp, it's not super super soggy so we can work with it, get a good get a good seal, get them into the soil, and nice and tight. There's adequate moisture to keep them going."

The trees Harman is planting now will be ready for harvest in about ten years. But not all his new crop can make it, two years ago the drought hit the Christmas trees hard, "We lost about 90 percent of what we planted."

Harman has about 40,000 trees over 40 acres, he plans on planting around 7,000 trees this year.

To view the news story go here: whotv.com/2014/04/11/agribusiness-christmas-trees-ready-for-planting/

INLA Job Board

The INLA has a job board feature on the website.

This feature will be a great tool if you are in the market for a new job or if you are a company looking for talent! Both resumes and job postings are welcome.

Our hope is to create a more efficient way for our industry to interact, when it comes to employment and sustaining our level of professionals.

To access the job board on the website please go to:
<http://iowanla.org/job-postings/>

Order Your Catalog Today!

The Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association strives to provide our members the tools and knowledge needed to run a successful business. One of the tools INLA provides are Garden Catalogs that you can provide to your customers.

INLA offers the following catalogs, planners, and care guides: trees and shrubs, perennials, ideas, yard and garden, and planting and care guide.

Attached is the order form for INLA catalogs. Please fill out the form and return it to the INLA office. If you have any questions, please call the INLA office at 515.262.8323.

State Funding Sought to Respond to Emerald Ash Borer in Iowa

By: James Q. Lynch - Cedar Rapids Gazette

Marion-based Trees Forever is recommending a \$1.9 million appropriation.

It will take time, planning and community involvement to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer threat, forestry experts say.

It also will take funding, Shannon Ramsey, executive director of Trees Forever, told lawmakers Wednesday. "Investing now in good management and assistance could pay off in the future," said Ramsey, who along with volunteers from the Coalition for Iowa's Woodlands & Trees lobbied lawmakers on the danger posed by Emerald Ash Borer, which has been detected in Eastern Iowa counties.

The small metallic green insect, native to Asia, could cost Iowa communities more than \$2 billion, Ramsey warned. Marion-based Trees Forever is recommending a \$1.9 million appropriation to fight the borer and for overall forestry health. Last year legislators appropriated \$200,000 and the year before included \$100,000. The proposed budget now had \$500,000.

Sen. Dennis Black, D-Grinnell, himself a forester, is seeking \$1 million.

"That may seem obscene to some, but Wisconsin put \$3 million in its budget," he said.

"I understand what an insect like this can do," Black said. "So we need people to spread the word to cities and individuals on how to detect Emerald Ash Borer and to help them take action."

Lawmakers, too, need to be educated, Ramsey said. "We have to explain the magnitude of the threat and the cost to communities," she said. In Cedar Rapids, for example, it's estimated shade trees provide \$1.5 million in energy savings.

"We have a tendency to take trees for granted," Ramsey said. "We need active planting and care programs to have a healthy canopy."

State funding, she said, could help provide seed grants for removal of ash trees and replanting, and technical assistance because few Iowa cities have foresters.

Trees Forever, which is observing its 25th year, has been helping communities plan for and respond to Emerald Ash Borer by encouraging individuals and communities to plant a diverse mix of trees. Greater tree diversity decreases the risk that future tree pests and diseases can devastate ash trees like Dutch elm disease did a generation ago.

For homeowner tips and more information, visit: www.treesforever.org.

Experts to Answer Questions About Emerald Ash Borer

By: Written by Ally Crutcher, Multimedia Journalist - KWWL

Two meetings will be held Tuesday at the Cedar Valley SportsPlex in downtown Waterloo to give more information about the emerald ash borer.

The small, green beetle kills all species of ash trees, including green, white, black and blue. Even though the insect is federally-regulated, it's been found in nine Iowa counties. The meetings will help inform attendees about the concern of the borer, and possible solutions to its growing presence in eastern Iowa.

The first meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the SportsPlex, directed toward professionals in the tree

service and landscaping business. The public information meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., for homeowners and other concerned citizens.



Attendees will learn how to identify an emerald ash borer, signs of infestation and if a tree is a candidate for treatment, among other skills.

The meetings will be presented by a panel of experts: Mark Shour Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Entomologist; Todd Derifield, Waterloo City Forester; and Mike Kintner EAB Outreach and Regulatory Coordinator with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild Iowa Deer Confirmed

By: Donnelle Eller - D.M. Register

The first case of chronic wasting disease in a wild Iowa deer has been confirmed.

The deer was harvested near Harpers Ferry in Allamakee County during the first shotgun season in early December, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said Wednesday. The agency is currently working to obtain as much information as possible about the infected deer to implement its response plan.

DNR Director Chuck Gipp said the state has been testing for chronic wasting disease in Iowa's deer herd for more than a decade, and the agency is "optimistic, given the extensive data we have collected, that we have caught this early," he said.

Prior to this case, chronic wasting disease had been detected in every state bordering Iowa, but not here. The neurological disease, which can decimate herds, affects primarily deer and elk. It is caused by an abnormal protein, called a prion, that attacks the brains of infected animals, causing them to lose weight, display abnormal behavior and lose bodily functions. The only reliable

examination requires the testing of lymph nodes or brain material of dead animals.

There is currently no evidence that humans can contract chronic wasting disease by eating venison. However, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that hunters do not eat the brain, eyeballs or spinal cord of deer, and that hunters wear protective gloves while field dressing game and boning out meat for consumption.

"With CWD in all the states around us, we have understood the possibility of a positive detection in the wild deer herd for some time," Gipp said.

Since 2002, the DNR has collected more than 650 samples of deer from within a five-mile radius of where the deer is believed to have been harvested.

"The next step will be to focus our monitoring efforts in the area where the animal was harvested and work closely with local landowners and hunters to gather more information," Gipp said.

Iowa Bug Experts Keeping an Eye Out for Walnut Twig Beetle

By: Matt Kelly - Radiolowa

While Iowans are seeing the first ash trees cut down to slow the spread of the emerald ash borer, yet another invading insect is causing a stir as it could threaten our walnut trees.

Robin Praisner, an entomologist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture, says the pest called the walnut twig beetle is being found in nearby states, but it hasn't been found in Iowa — yet. "Research is ongoing on how to protect walnut trees," Praisner says. "We just don't have a lot of answers. This is even newer than the emerald ash borer at this point in time."

The walnut twig beetle carries what's known as "thousand canker disease," which is deadly to black walnut trees. There's been no way found to reverse the disease or to kill the beetle without also killing the trees. "The *geosmithia* pathogen is actually very common in our environment and this is just kind of a new cousin of that," Praisner says. "The walnut twig beetle is native to the southwest United States and down into Mexico."

For many years, the beetle was only found in states like Arizona, California and New Mexico. Now, the rice grain-sized pest is being found well beyond the southwest, in states as far away as Virginia and Pennsylvania — and closer to home in Ohio, Colorado and Tennessee.



Praisner suspects the insects are moving such great distances because people are enabling them to hitch long rides. "Aunt Sally out in Colorado has a walnut tree that dies in her backyard but Cousin Ed here in Iowa would like to make a coffee table out of it," Praisner says. "This is the kind of thing that people throw in the back of their truck and they drive

to Iowa and they could be inadvertently bringing along with it thousand canker of walnut."

One way to stop the spread is to only use local firewood in campfires. Iowa ranks sixth in the nation for the production of black walnut, prized for its grain and color and it's exported all over the world.