

The Garden Spade

November 2021

“Reliable, Responsive and Relevant Information for the Missouri Gardener”



Taking Care of Storm Damaged Trees

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In light of the recent storms in Missouri, there are a lot of damaged trees around the state. Our first impulse is to get right out there and get the trees cleaned up. However, in your haste, you may remove trees that could have been saved. Here are some guidelines from the MU Extension publication “First Aid for Storm-Damaged Trees” that will help you decide what to do for damaged trees. <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6867>

1. Be patient. The first trees that are usually dealt with by city officials, utility workers and tree care firms are the ones that are hazards such as those on powerlines, houses, or other buildings. After all hazards have been removed the attention will then be on debris, damaged branches and sometimes whole trees. Homeowners should know that a tree between the street and sidewalk typically belong to the city and are the city’s responsibility. If a tree is on your property and does not pose a risk and you are unsure about its condition, leaving it for now is best.
2. Be safe. Most removal of trees and tree debris involves a chainsaw. Storm damaged trees are not the same as undamaged, standing trees we would cut for firewood. Often branches are twisted and bent and sometimes on top of other branches or trees. This can lead to hazards with bent trees or branches releasing quickly and causing harm to the chainsaw operator or others in the area. It is important to assess all the limbs and trees in the area before cutting and if limbs or trees are larger than 6 inches, it is best to leave those for someone with more experience.



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 **Extension**
University of Missouri

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/ACCESS/
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DISABLED AND VETERAN EMPLOYER

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Taking Care of Storm Damaged Trees

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3. Don't be a victim of a scam. After an event that damages a lot of trees, there are likely to be people going door to door to take advantage of the situation. Before hiring someone, make sure to check their qualifications, make sure they are insured, and ideally, they have someone that is a certified arborist.

Assessing Your Trees and Making a Decision

- Is the tree healthy? If the tree is generally healthy, they have the ability to recover from some damage.
- Are major limbs broken? If larger limbs break, it is harder for the tree to recover. If most of the major limbs are broken, the tree will likely not survive the damage.
- Has the main upward reaching branch on the tree been broken? This is known as the leader and if damaged it may have an undesirable appearance if it survives.
- Are 50% or more of the branches undamaged? If 50% or more are damaged, the tree may not survive.
- How large are the wounds to the tree? Larger wounds take longer to heal and this leaves the tree open to disease and insects.
- Is the tree a desirable species in a desirable location? This can be opportunity to remove a tree that may have not been desirable due to things like messy fruits or branches.

What do you do now?

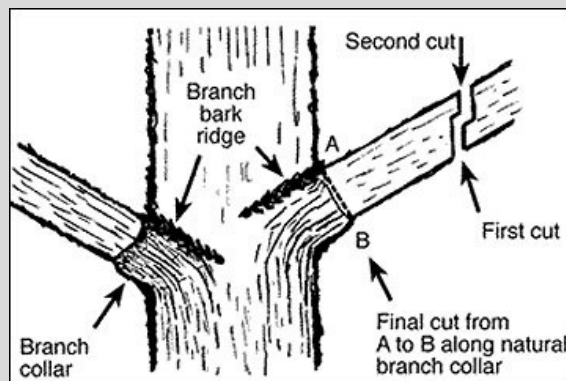
1. Keep it. If damage is light, prune broken branches and leave the tree.
2. Wait and see. If you are unsure in your assessment and not sure, leave the tree and see what happens if it is not a hazard.
3. Remove it. If the tree appears to be too damaged to recover based on your assessment, then you should remove the tree.

If you are keeping the tree, make sure to prune broken branches, repair damaged bark and do not overprune! For proper pruning techniques check out MDC's guide to pruning. <https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/basicPruning.pdf>

Removing Larger Branches

When removing larger branches, it is important to avoid stripping bark below the point of branch attachment with the trunk. This can be achieved by using the three-cut removal method.

1. The first cut is made a few inches away from the trunk, partially through the branch, from the underside.
2. The second cut is made through the branch, a few inches farther away from the trunk, starting from the upper side. This removes the weight of the branch, allowing the third cut to remove the stub with no danger of bark stripping.
3. Cut at an angle to preserve the "branch collar" as shown in Figure 2.





November Gardening Calendar

Donna Aufdenberg, MU Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture in the Southeast Region
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Outdoor Flowering Plants and Ornamentals

- Prevent frost cracking or sunscald on trunks by wrapping trunks with tree wrap. Thin barked trees such as maples and many fruit trees are especially susceptible.
- Take a walk through your garden during the fall season. Take time to reflect on the successes and failures of your garden this year. Make notes in your gardening notebook for new things to try and problems to solve next spring.
- Check guide wires around newly planted trees to be sure a protectant such as rubber or cloth still covers the supporting wires or ropes so they will not damage the trunks in windy weather. Twelve months after planting, wires can be removed in most cases.
- Inspect trees and shrubs for bagworm cocoons and the silvery egg masses of tent caterpillars. Remove and destroy them to reduce next year's pest population.
- Continue to tidy up perennial plants. Remove any diseased foliage around plants that may provide disease inoculum for next year.
- After several killing frosts have occurred this fall, cut back dormant perennials to about three inches above ground. Consider leaving some seed heads for wildlife and attractive stems for winter interest. .
- Compost fallen leaves; they are an inexpensive source of organic matter. Alternatively, leaves can be used as mulch for perennial beds. If they are left on the lawn, they will need to be shredded using a mower.
- This is an ideal time to plant trees and shrubs if they are available and as long as the ground is not frozen.
- Early November is a good time to plant spring flowering bulbs. Do not mulch the bulbs until the ground is frozen.
- Break crust on the surface of any mulch you have around fruits, shrubs, and perennials to improve the absorption of water from fall rains.

Vegetable Gardening

- Fall is a great time for soil testing. Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.
- Fall tilling can be done except in erosion-prone areas or where winter cover crops have been planted. This is a great time to add organic matter such as compost and help improve soil structure.
- Rhubarb plants that are four years old can be divided and transplanted. A site prepared by deep digging and incorporating compost will pay off with a good yield in upcoming years.
- To help prevent insects or diseases from over-wintering in the vegetable garden, remove and compost all plant debris. Remove anything insects might hide under.
- Remove all cages and wires from the garden. Spray with 10% bleach to sanitize especially if disease was an issue in the garden this year.

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Perennial Vines to Consider for Large Trellis and Arbors

Clematis (choose vigorous growing varieties)

Trumpet Vine*

Cross Vine

Dutchman's Pipe

Coral Honeysuckle

American Bittersweet

Virginia Creeper*

Hardy Kiwi

English Ivy*

Sweet Peas

Wisteria*

Climbing Hydrangea Vine

Hops

Silver Lace Vine*

Passionflower *

Wintercreeper*

**These vines can be invasive but can be used for large arbors for quick coverage.*



November Gardening Calendar

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Fruits and Nuts

- Dispose of fallen, spoiled or mummified fruit from under trees.
- Mulch strawberries for winter with a layer of straw. This should be done after several nights near 20 degrees. Straw should be sifted loosely over the plants, just enough to cover them from view. After a few weeks of settling, add additional straw where necessary. Diseased or problematic limbs on fruit trees may be marked with spray paint now for identification during pruning later in the dormant season.
- Place tree guards on trunks of trees to prevent rodent damage during the winter months.
- Harvest pecans, hickory and black walnuts.

Indoor Plants

- Houseplants that are dropping leaves may need more light. Move plants closer to windows or to sunnier exposures, such as west and south facing windows.
- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. until color starts to show. As fall progresses, houseplants will not require as much water as they did in the summer months.
- Keep an eye on houseplants for pests such as spider mites aphids, mealy bugs and scale.

Turfgrass

- Keep leaves from packing down and smothering grass.
- Recondition lawn mower. Store mower with clean oil and empty fuel tank.
- Use soluble fertilizer or calcium chloride instead of salt for melting winter ice.



What is it?

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What is it?

Can you figure out what this mystery picture is from?

Turn to page 10 to find out if you are correct!





Kids Ask Dr. Bug

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Why do insects have different kinds of legs on the same insect?

There are many kinds of insect legs – long thin legs made for walking and running, paddle-shaped legs for swimming, long muscular legs for jumping, short shovel-like legs for digging, raptorial legs with spines made for capturing prey, and specialized legs made for walking on water. Depending on the insect, where it lives, and what it does, legs help the insect do what it needs to do most efficiently. Insects have six legs and sometimes all six legs are similar and sometimes they are different. A preying mantis needs to be able to walk AND capture its prey so it has two kinds of legs - walking and raptorial. Grasshoppers also walk most of the time, but sometimes need to escape quickly and so they have walking legs and hopping legs. A mole cricket tunnels underground and so it has shovel-like forelegs and the other two pairs of legs help push it through. Do you ever wish you had an extra hand? If you could have one, and it could have a special ability, what would it be?



A preying mantis has walking and raptorial legs.
(Source: bugguide.net, Tony DiTerlizzi)

Do lanternflies actually glow?

Despite their name allusion, lanternflies do not create light. Lanternflies are a type of planthopper that feed on plants. Most of the 500+ species of lanternflies are found in the tropics, and some have an unusual feature – an enlargement of the head looking like a big, long nose. Some scientists hypothesized that the enlarged nose might house bioluminescent bacteria that would make them glow. However, while there are insects that can create light, such as lightning bugs, lanternflies are unable to do so. A specific lanternfly has been in the news a lot lately. The spotted lanternfly is a beautiful, yet invasive insect that feeds on more than 70 species of plants. We haven't found it in Missouri yet, but one insect was found in a kid's 4-H insect collection at the state fair in Kansas this summer. This was very surprising and triggered an investigation to determine where the insect came from and if this pest was found elsewhere in the state. Thankfully, no other specimens have been found and this lone spotted lanternfly may have come in on a camper. However, this highlights how invasive species can spread and how everyone can help, even kids! If you think you found a spotted lanternfly, please take a picture of it, capture it if you can, and email the picture and the location to your state's Department of Agriculture and/or local Extension office. See this website for more information: <https://agriculture.mo.gov/plants/pests/spotted-lanternfly.php>



Spotted lanternfly. (Source: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture)

How do honey bees build hexagonal comb?

Comb is the wax storage unit for honey bees – they store honey and pollen in it, as well as use the comb as a bassinet for baby bees until they emerge as adults. The cells that make up the comb get

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Kids Ask Dr. Bug

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Continued from page 5 a lot of use and must be strong, as well as space efficient. Instead of circular, square, or triangular cells stacked on top of each other, a hexagon is the strongest and most efficient 2D shape. This shape uses the least amount of material to hold the most weight. If you look closely at the honeycomb, you will see that the cells are indeed hexagons. How do bees know how to build this six-sided wonder? As the bees create comb, the shapes start out as circles. As bees build individual cells, other bees are building surrounding cells. The pressure from all the bees moving in and out, as well as the heat created, in combination with gravity, causes the wax to slightly melt and change into an impressive hexagonal shape. Scientists and mathematicians have studied this shape, too. Materials made with hexagons are useful for humans because they can strengthen things such as bridges, cars, and airplanes. It is also a pretty shape, and when I see many hexagons together, it reminds me of the bees and how beneficial they are – from food to technology. We can be very grateful.



Honey Bees on a honey comb
(Florida Division of Plant Industry, Bugwood.org)



Taste of the Season: Pumpkin Seed Snack Mix

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Pumpkin Seed Snack Mix*

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 cups pumpkin seeds
- 2 cups sunflower seeds
- 1 cup dried cranberries (optional)

Preparation

1. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet until hot; add cumin, red pepper and chili powder. Cook over medium-high heat 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Add sugar and honey, and stir until sugar dissolves.
2. Stir in pumpkin and sunflower seeds; cook, stirring constantly, 8 minutes or until seeds are toasted and mixture smells good.
3. Carefully spoon mixture onto lightly greased aluminum foil. Cool completely. Add cranberries, if using. Store seeds in an airtight container up to 2 weeks. Makes 32, 2-tablespoon size, servings.



*Recipe by Jami Nolen, Nutrition Program Associate, taken from <http://missourifamilies.org/nutrition/recipes/PumpkinSeedMix.htm>



Weed Identification App

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Did you know University of Missouri Extension has a free app for iPhones, iPads and Android devices to help people easily identify weeds in the field, lawn or garden.

The app, called **ID Weeds**, has information on more than 400 plant species that could be encountered as weeds in crop fields, pastures, lawns, gardens or aquatic areas in Missouri and surrounding states.

The ID Weeds app lets users narrow the list of possible weeds with a series of drop-down boxes for various plant characteristics. Do not worry if you are not familiar with technical terms such as "ligules" or "spatulate." For most characteristics, users can click on "what's this?" to see an illustration.

Clicking on "Identify" will produce a list of weeds that match the characteristics you have chosen. The more characteristics you specify, the shorter the list will be. Selecting a weed on the list brings up detailed information and one or more photographs.

You can also look up a weed by searching for its common or scientific name, or select from an alphabetical list, from "Alligatorweed" to "Yucca."

"Proper identification of weeds is important so that you choose an appropriate and cost-effective method of control," says Kevin Bradley, who is also an associate professor of plant sciences in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

ID Weeds is compatible with iPhone iOS 10.0 or later, iPod Touch iOS 10.0 or later and iPad running iOS 10.0 or later, and devices running Android 4.4 or later.

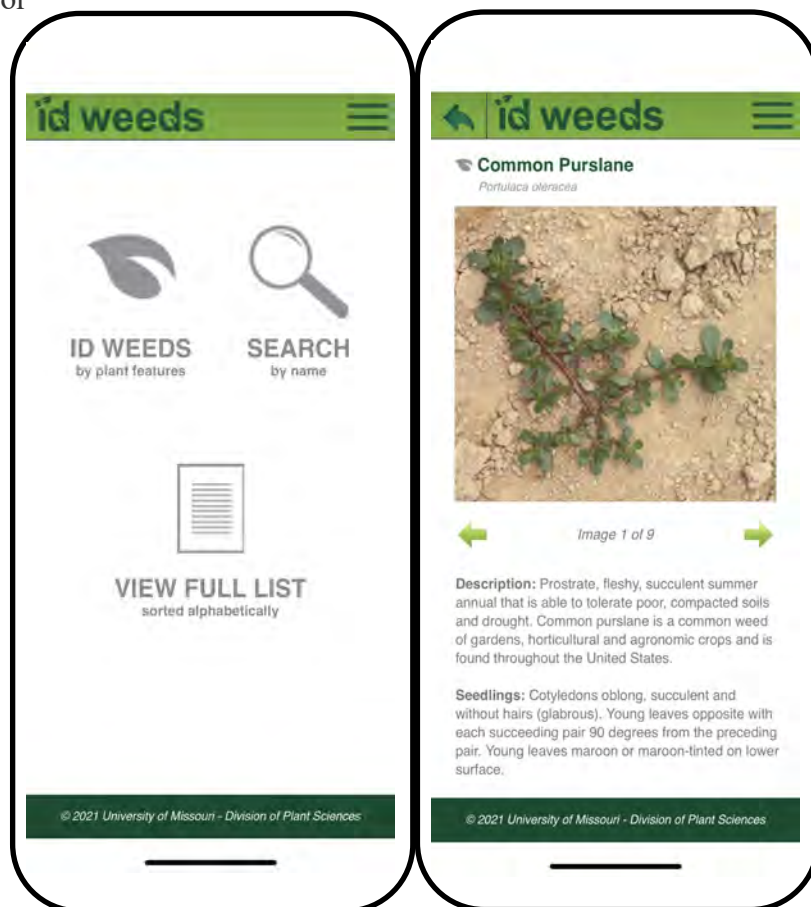
To download:

iPhone and other iOS devices: itunes.apple.com/app/id-weeds/id559906313(opens in new window).

Android: Search for "ID Weeds" at play.google.com/store(opens in new window).

A web version is available at weedID.missouri.edu(opens in new window).

Article originally ran March 22, 2013; written by Curt Wohleber and published on the University of Missouri Extension website.





Weed of the Month: Mouseear Chickweed

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Mouseear chickweed (*Cerastium vulgatum*) is a low growing perennial weed of turf, gardens, and crops. It is found throughout most of north America and becomes very evident in late spring when its densely pubescent leaves and sprawling growth habit make it stand out in the home garden. Mouseear chickweed emerges primarily in late summer, with some emergence possible in the spring. After emergence the plants will go into winter dormancy until spring.

Seedlings have round to ovate cotyledons that may be sparsely hairy. Older leaves are oval and arranged opposite each other. Each leaf ranges in size from one half to over one inch long and is covered in short dense hairs. Leaves are attached directly to the stem without a petiole. Stems are slender, upright or run prostrate along the ground and over other foliage. Rooting is possible when nodes touch the ground.

Small flowers occur in clusters of three at the end of stems. The flowers consist of five deeply lobed white petals. Deeply lobed petals may give the appearance of 10 petals. After flowering the plants develop multiple seed capsules containing up to 40 small reddish-brown seeds each. Seeds dispersed in late spring often germinate the following fall or spring, but may remain viable for six to nine years in the soil.

Mouseear chickweed control is often necessary. It can form large dense mats of foliage that may outcompete desirable turf species. In the home garden, hand weeding is an option to remove mouseear chickweed. It has a shallow root system, so hand removal and hoeing are effective. Tillage can provide control if deep cultivation is used to bury the plants and seeds. Cultivation of large plants should be avoided due to the risk of spread of the weed from stem cuttings and rooted nodes. Many herbicides provide adequate control when used according to the label and in labeled crops.

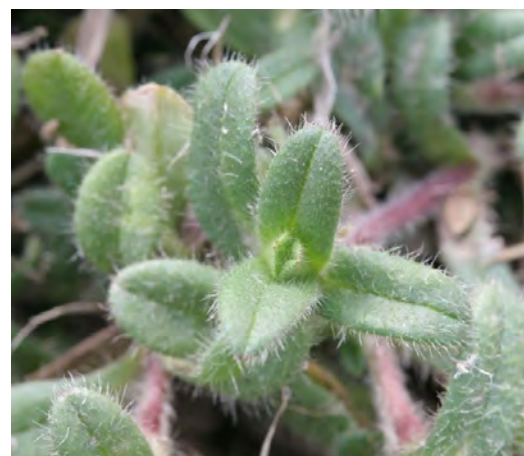
For more information on Mouseear chickweed, see https://weedid.missouri.edu/weedinfo.cfm?weed_id=57



Mouseear chickweed in turf



Opposite leaf arrangement and clustered flowers



Dense hairs on leaves.



Specialty Vegetables: Kohlrabi

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Kohlrabi is not an unusual vegetable to me because my grandpa always grew it, so I am surprised when people are unfamiliar with it. Kohlrabi is a part of the cabbage family. It is a cool season vegetable, planted either in the early spring or in mid-summer for fall harvest. Early Europeans grew kohlrabi starting around 1500 CE and it came to America 300 years later. It has the appearance of a turnip but, the leaves sprout out of the edible portion. This portion is actually an enlarged stem section that grows just above the soil line. Kohlrabi is sometimes misclassified as a root vegetable.

Sow the seeds in rows and cover with $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of soil. Thin the seedlings to two to five inches apart. The thinned-out plants can be used to fill in blank spots in the row or can be cooked as tender, stir-fry greens. Weed control is essential and they can have problems with cabbage worms and common cabbage diseases. Kohlrabi has the best flavor when it is small. They taste like mild, white turnips. If the stem gets too big, it gets tough and woody and may have an off flavor. Harvest can begin when stems are one inch in diameter and continue until they are two to three inches. If they get bigger than that, the bottom portions tend to be woody but the top portion will still have tender portions, when the new leaves are emerging. The young leaves are also edible and can be cooked like other greens.



Winter Watering

Kathi Mecham, MU Extension Field Specialist in Horticulture in the Northwest Region
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Plants still use water in the winter but not as much as in other seasons. It is important to keep watering trees, shrubs and even lawns during winter droughts. Newly planted species and evergreens are especially susceptible to winter damage if not watered thoroughly.

Besides drought, thawing and freezing cycles remove moisture from the soil as do drying winds. Keeping plants watered will help them survive winter conditions and be stronger plants in the spring and summer. Water anytime the temperature is above freezing and the ground is not frozen. It is okay if the ground freezes after watering. It will not hurt the plant.

Water when the soil is dry. Dig six to eight inches under the trees' drip line. If the soil is dry, it is time to water. You can also use a screwdriver or a metal rod. If they go into the soil easily it is not time to water. If it is difficult to push the rod into the soil, it is dry and time to get the hose out.

Shrubs, flowers and lawns require enough water to sufficiently soak the crown and feeder roots about 6-8 inches deep. Most trees will need a deeper watering. Plants vary in water requirements and the requirements vary depending on soil and location. Care should also be taken not to over-water.

Apply water slowly with a soaker hose, drip line or slow-release watering bag. This allows the soil to soak up the moisture more efficiently. Consider mulching flower beds, shrubs and trees to help conserve moisture.

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How Flowers Got Their Names

Kitty Hall, Master Gardener in Butler County, Southeast Region
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Asters

BOTANICAL: *Aster*, *Callistephus* (Chinese aster)

COMMON NAME: Aster, Michaelmas daisy, Chinese aster

FAMILY: Compositae

The English called European asters both “asters” and “starworts.” *Aster*, which is Latin for star, referred to the flower’s star-like shape. “*Wort*” originally meant “root” and then was applied to plants that had healing properties. They were not noticed much until they were hybridized with European starworts. They were later renamed “*Michaelmas daisies*” in Britain as their blooming coincided with the feast of Saint Michael. The annual Chinese aster, *Callistephus chinensis*, or “beautiful Chinese crown” from the Greek *kallistos* (most beautiful) and *stephanus* (a crown), is only called an aster because of its star-like crown. Both Michaelmas daisies and Chinese asters bloom in autumn, magnificent current calls of summer.



Picture source: Missouri Botanical Garden

This is not the same as a fall aster, aromatic aster or New England aster.

Information obtained from the book by Diana Wells, “100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names.”



What is it?

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It is a Chinese Chestnuts!

American chestnut trees were wiped out in US by the chestnut blight, a fungal disease, in the first half of the 1900’s. The image of chestnuts roasting on an open fire was thought to have been in the past. However, today Chinese chestnuts are being grown across many areas of the US. The Agroforestry Center at the University of Missouri is one of the leading research institutions for the Chinese chestnuts. The shell has a spiny outer shell with 3 nuts each. When ready for harvest the shells turn brown and burst open allowing the nuts to fall to the ground making it easy to gather them. Once roasted, the nuts have a meaty consistency and are quite tasty.

Pictures: Unripened Chinese Chestnuts (far right) and spiny shell opens to expose three nuts ready to roast and eat (closest right).



Upcoming Events

You may visit your local MU Extension County Facebook page to find out what is occurring locally in regards to posts, web trainings, workshops and Extension newsletters.

November 2021

Home Horticulture Town Hall Meetings – Growing of plants and planning for next year’s gardens and landscape does not stop when the weather turns cold and neither will the Home Horticulture Town Hall Meetings. There is still plenty to do in the cold months. The Town Hall will meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month from Noon to 1:00 pm (Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16). Email reminders will come out the day before the Town Hall. It is a great opportunity to ask gardening questions and learn from others. To register, go to <https://ipm.missouri.edu/townHalls/>. The Town Halls are now live streaming on YouTube. To join us live, go to <https://www.youtube.com/c/MUIPM>. Missed a past Town Hall? No problem. Town Halls are now being recorded and can be found on the same YouTube channel as the live stream link as are the “snippets” from each Town Hall.

Newsletters available through MU Extension

What’s New in MU Extension Natural Resources?

Subscribe to a bi-monthly newsletter full of information about upcoming natural resource events, information about natural resource topics and links to citizen science opportunities. Click [Here](#) to subscribe.

What’s New in Commercial Horticulture? Click [Here](#) to Subscribe to the “Missouri Commercial Horticulture Video Newsletter”



The Garden Spade

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Winter Watering

by Kathi Mecham

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If dry conditions go into November, water deeply before freezing weather to have a reserve going into winter and to help protect plants from winter damage. Continue checking for dry conditions monthly to give plants the best chance for survival.

For more information on irrigating trees and other plants see MU Extension publication <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g6879>

Each month there is a title picture on the front cover of the newsletter. This month: pumpkins and gourds

More Upcoming Events

Women Owning Woodland—Virtual Lady Landowner Lunch, November 2021. Grab your lunch and join us at the computer for conversation to help you have healthier forests and wildlife on your property! Tuesdays from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. This is a free event!

- November 2nd— Overwintering Pollinators-Introduction to practices that provide good habitat for pollinators that overwinter in Missouri.
- November 9th – Preparing for winter birds. Information on preparing for birds that overwinter in Missouri
- November 16th – Winter Wildlife ID- Learn about wildlife that stay active during Missouri winter.
- November 23rd – Tree Pruning- learn the basics of tree pruning.
- November 30th – Missouri Christmas Trees-Learn about the Christmas tree industry in MO.

To register, see <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/women-owning-woodland-virtual-lady-landowner-lunch-november-2021>

Workshop on Soil Management and Winterizing the Garden, virtual program on November 3, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register, see <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/workshop-on-soil-management-and-winterizing-garden>

Missouri Woodland Steward—Walk in the Woods on November 6, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. at the Wurdack Research Farm in Cook Station, Missouri. This program will help land owners identify woodland habitats, and introduce them to basic forest and wildlife management concepts and practices. For more information, contact Sarah Havens at 573-458-6260. To register, see <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/missouri-woodland-steward-walk-in-the-woods-1633375922>

Lavender Growers Workshop, virtual program on November 17, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event is free! This workshop will provide an overview of lavender production in Missouri including, soil and site preparation, cultivar selection, irrigation, pest control, and flower harvest information. Information is applicable to both commercial producers and homeowners. To register, see <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/lavender-growers-workshop>