

YARD & GARDEN REPORT

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Discover diervilla

There is a new plant appearing in North Dakota landscapes and it is grabbing a lot of attention. It's diervilla (*Diervilla sessilifolia*). I've never heard of it before—have you?

Originally considered nothing more than a tough shrub for riverbanks and roadsides, new selections of diervilla are generating excitement across the nation.

Michael Dirr, one of the most respected woody ornamentals experts in the USA, originally dismissed diervilla but now admits he was wrong. Start with First Editions® Cool Splash® (Figs. 1, 2). Dirr states Cool Splash® definitely has the “wow factor!” The creamy white and green variegated leaves are bright, clean and do not burn. Cool Splash® is hardy to Zone 3.

Proven Winners Kodiak™ Orange diervilla is just as special but in a much different way. Its orange-red hues glow in fall (Fig. 3) and rival the beauty of burning bush. It is hardy to Zone 4.

Diervilla has light yellow flowers that attract bees and butterflies in summer. It is a thick, suckering shrub that grows 3–4 feet high and spreads 4–5 feet wide. Diervilla seems well-suited to grow in masses in low-maintenance, naturalized settings. It is resistant to deer.

Dirr reports diervilla is a “tremendously tough” plant that is tolerant to winds and drought. This sounds great for us in North Dakota!

Cool Splash® can be planted in



Figs. 1–3. The variegated leaves of Cool Splash® diervilla stand out in natural settings. The fall color of Kodiak™ Orange is brilliant.

sun but is often used as an understory plant in partial shade, where its white leaf tones are bright and dramatic. It makes sense to plant Kodiak™ Orange in full sun where it develops its optimal fall color.

Diervilla is a tough shrub with striking beauty. Look for these and other hardy selections in the future.

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Photos courtesy of Bailey Nurseries, Inc. (top) and Proven Winners (bottom).

When to harvest?

It's harvest time! It can be tough to decide when to harvest some veggies and fruits. Here are a few tips:



F4. WINTER SQUASH

Harvest when skin is hard and cannot be punctured with a fingernail. The skin loses glossiness and turns dull. In most cases, harvest is delayed until frost is expected. For all but acorns, cure in a warm (80°F) spot for 10 days.



F5. ONION

Harvest when tops have fallen over and shriveled. Keep in garden for a couple days to dry. Shake off loose dirt and cure bulbs in a warm (80°F), airy spot until necks are withered (2–4 weeks). Store in a cool, dry place.



F6. POTATO

Potatoes may be harvested any time after blossoming. Mature potatoes are harvested when leaves dry and die. Use a spading fork to dig tubers. Shake off loose dirt and avoid bruising. Store in a cool, moist, dark location.



F7. WATERMELON

Watermelons are ripe when the tendril next to the fruit dries (shown). The rind of a ripe melon is faded, not glossy. Mature melons feel heavy. The spot on the underside of fruit will be white or yellow and not greenish.



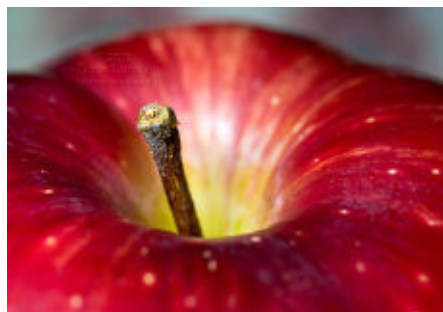
F8. CANTALOUPE

A fully ripe fruit slips off the vine with a gentle tug. The entire stem comes out (*full-slip*, shown). Rind is yellowish. Growers may harvest at *half-slip*; fruits come off with more pressure and half of the stem remains on the melon.



F9. SUNFLOWER

Harvest when the back of a head is banana yellow to brown. Petals are dried and seeds are plump. Cut entire head and hang in a mesh bag. Dry for a few weeks in a warm, dry place. Seeds come out easily when rubbed.



F10. APPLE

The background color (seen at the top of fruit) begins to turn from green to yellow. Fruit comes off easily when harvested. Use an upward, twisting motion when harvesting. Early varieties are ripe now. 'Honeycrisp' and other midseason varieties ripen in late Sept.



F11. PEAR

Harvest before fully mature. Pick when skin changes from dark green to yellowish-green; skin texture begins to feel waxy and smooth; and spots on the skin change from white to brown. 'Ure' and 'Golden Spice' ripen now; most others ripen in mid-late Sept.



F12. PLUM

Harvest before fruits start to drop. Plums turn bright green to light green to mature (red, purple or yellow) color. Sample for taste—mature fruits are sweet. Most plums mature in mid to late August; European blue plums mature in early September.



PRUNING RASPBERRIES

Prune red raspberry canes to maximize yields and minimize pest problems. Prune all canes that bore fruit this summer. These two-year-old, reddish-brown *floricanes* are dying.



Thin the remaining canes. These are green, one-year-old *primocanes*. If growing in a hedge, thin canes to stand 3–4 inches apart. If growing in hills, thin to 6–8 canes per hill. Do this now or in April. In April, canes can be trimmed back to 5 feet.



For fall-bearing cultivars, yields in fall are maximized if the primocanes are cut down to the ground every year (shown). Do this in April. You will sacrifice the summer crop.



GROWING GARLIC

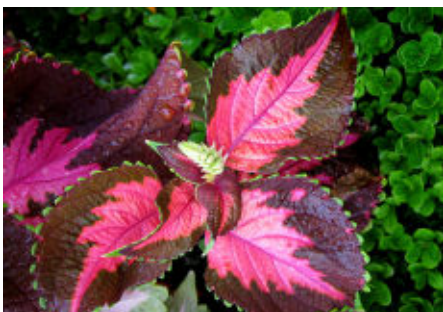
Garlic is cherished around the world. Order cloves now for planting in late September. Explore hardneck varieties from Germany, Russia, Spain, Bulgaria, China and more!



Plant in a rich, well-drained soil. Add 1 inch of compost or peat moss and 2.5 lbs of 10–10–10 per 100 ft². Set cloves 2–3 inches deep; space 4–6 inches apart in rows 12–24 inches apart. Irrigate. Roots emerge this fall. Mulch in November.



Harvest and enjoy scapes (shown) when they curl in June. Bulbs are harvested in late July or August when lower foliage turns brown. Use spading fork and undercut bulbs. Dry in warm, dry place for 3–4 weeks. Remove tops for storage.

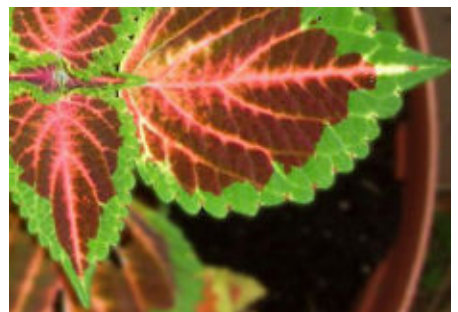


PROPAGATING COLEUS

Use a clean, sharp knife to collect 5-inch cuttings from healthy shoot tips. Remove leaves from the bottom half of each cutting. Make a final cut just below a leaf node.



Set in lukewarm water in bright, indirect light. Change water if it gets cloudy. Roots will emerge within 1–2 weeks. Grow roots to 2 inches or longer.



Insert cuttings into pots filled with moistened potting soil. Keep soil moist but not wet. New growth should appear in a few weeks. Grow near a sunny window.

This strategy works well with impatiens, too.

Problems found in North Dakota yards and gardens:

VEGETABLES



F22. Forked, twisted carrots

Usually found in rocky or compacted ground (shown), or when fresh manure is used. A loose, fertile seed bed is critical. Thin seedlings to avoid overcrowding.



F23. Potato scab

Peel off scabs. In future, keep soil evenly moist while tubers grow (4–6 weeks after flowers appear). Use resistant cultivars and certified disease-free seed. Avoid using fresh manure.



F24. Poor pollination

Dry weather or silk-destroying insects can reduce pollination and fertilization of kernels. Plant corn in groups of short rows instead of long individual rows to concentrate pollen within plot.



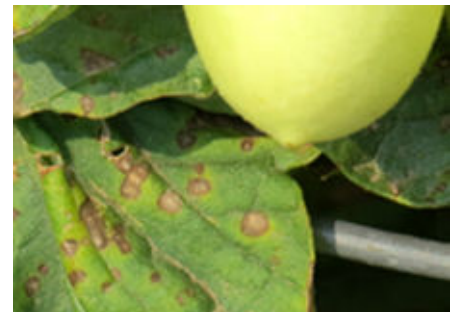
F25. Flea beetle

Tiny (1/8-inch) pests create shotholes in radish and leafy greens. Young seedlings are very sensitive. Consider spraying carbaryl, neem or pyrethrin if 10–30% defoliation.



F26. Hornworm

Giant (3-4 inches long), green caterpillars devour vines of tomato, nicotiana, potato and pepper. Only one or few larvae are found per plant. Crush larvae or toss into soapy water.



F27. Septoria leaf spot

Small round lesions with light centers. Avoid getting foliage wet, especially at night. Remove badly infected leaves. Stake and mulch vines. Prevent spread with chlorothalonil, mancozeb or fixed copper.

FRUITS



F28. Apple maggot

Fruits develop dimples where flies laid eggs. Maggots hatch and create trails into fruits. Pick up fallen fruit. Hang traps in July to monitor for flies. Insecticides can protect fruit in future.



F29. Codling moth

Frass on fruit. Slice the fruit to reveal tunnel and worm. Remove fallen fruits. Use traps in spring for monitoring. Spray insecticide after petal fall and 7–10 days later. Spray again if needed.

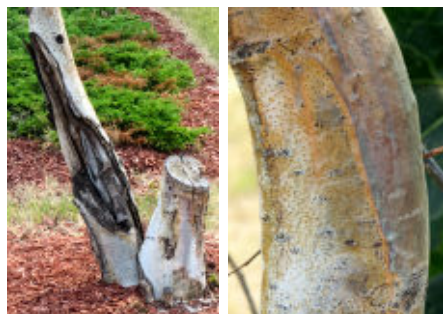


F30. 'Honeycrisp' leaf yellowing

Starches fail to move out of leaves. Affects 'Honeycrisp' trees with light fruit loads. Does not affect long-term productivity. Thin crops if needed in late spring for consistent yields year to year.

More problems found in North Dakota yards and gardens:

TREES AND SHRUBS



F31. Cankers on poplar

Fungal pockets invade trunk/branches and plug the flow of water and nutrients. Plants die back. Cut out the cankers going at least 6 inches into healthy wood. Tree is often removed.



F32. Honeysuckle aphid

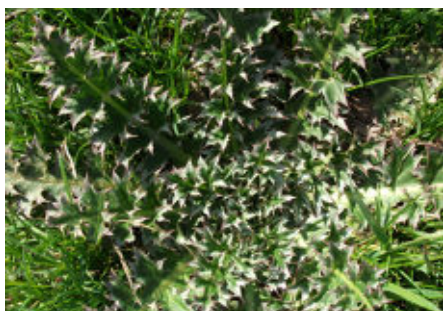
Leaves curl and become stunted, causing *witches' brooms* on branch tips. Trim out brooms. Drench soil with imidacloprid in spring if aphids are found. Replace with resistant cultivars.



F33. Powdery mildew

Gray blotches appear on leaves. Lilac, rose, honeysuckle are often affected, especially in shady spots. Rake fallen leaves. Prune branches next spring to increase sunlight and air movement.

LAWNS



F34. Thistle, perennial weeds

Spray in mid to late September when weeds move nutrients (and herbicide) down to their roots to prepare for winter. Products with dicamba recommended.



F35. Rust

Orange powder on blades. Fertilize and irrigate (irrigate mornings only). Collect clippings. Fungicides rarely needed. Goes away in 2–3 weeks.



F36. Thin lawns

Now through mid Sept is the best time to overseed. Rake or aerate soil and scatter seed. Rake to cover seed. The ground is warm and seed germinates quickly. Keep moist for 3 weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS PESTS



F37. Garden spiders

Spiders eat pests and are beneficial in gardens. Leave them alone. Many spiders cannot bite humans and the poisonous black widow (red hourglass on body) is rare in ND. Keep spiders out of homes. Caulk around doors/windows.



F38. Springtails

Tiny black, harmless insects migrate into homes now. They are most often found in humid areas such as bathrooms and basements. Springtails do not bite and they die quickly indoors. No insecticides are needed.



F39. Slugs

Apply iron phosphate baits. Sprinkle diatomaceous earth around perimeter of garden. Trap using pie tins filled with beer or collect from underneath boards set out as traps.

Weather Almanac for August 22–31, 2015

Site	TEMPERATURE				RAINFALL				GROWING DEGREE DAYS ^{1,2}			
	August 22–31				Aug. 22–31		2015		Aug. 22–31		2015	
	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	64	65	97	35	1.12	0.59	8.84	13.73	146	133	1706	1775
Bowman	66	66	97	36	0.03	0.29	12.02	11.89	157	146	1724	1831
Carrington	65	66	91	40	1.20	0.75	13.18	15.19	143	141	1792	1915
Crosby	65	63	89	38	1.02	0.48	8.40	11.78	155	126	1752	1641
Dickinson	68	65	99	37	0.45	0.47	9.63	12.97	171	141	1853	1807
Fargo	66	67	86	40	0.43	0.95	15.93	16.03	153	153	2037	2058
Grafton	66	65	86	44	7.14	1.05	23.52	15.39	144	132	1840	1782
Grand Forks	66	65	89	42	2.41	0.93	12.27	15.23	151	135	1905	1834
Hazen	67	67	97	40	0.96	0.51	9.87	13.06	154	153	1797	1989
Hillsboro	64	66	85	38	0.63	0.82	12.60	15.72	141	144	1873	1945
Jamestown	66	66	90	42	0.72	0.78	15.99	14.50	149	139	1936	1907
Langdon	65	63	94	39	1.18	0.79	11.60	14.88	144	114	1658	1527
Mandan	67	66	97	41	0.88	0.58	13.16	13.94	162	145	1919	1909
Minot	66	65	92	40	0.98	0.63	12.61	14.01	156	134	1833	1748
Mott	67	66	97	34	0.32	0.47	12.38	12.86	162	146	1805	1886
Rugby	66	64	99	40	0.73	0.62	9.62	15.12	150	129	1778	1768
Wahpeton	66	68	87	40	0.21	0.91	12.80	15.83	155	162	1953	2143
Watford City	68	65	97	38	0.93	0.41	8.93	11.59	167	136	1923	1827
Williston	68	68	93	40	0.90	0.50	8.16	11.21	173	162	1971	2061
Wishek	66	65	92	42	0.41	0.67	13.04	15.98	150	134	1823	1734

DAYLENGTH (Sept. 1, McClusky, center of ND)³

Sunrise: 7:00AM | Daylength: 13h 25m
 Sunset: 8:24PM | Change since Aug. 23: -29m

LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS⁴

Sept. 6–10: Temp: Below Normal; Precip.: Above Normal
 Sept. 8–14: Temp: Below Normal; Precip.: Above Normal

¹ GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F., respectively.

^{2,3,4} Sources: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, and National Weather Service, respectively.

Credits

Dirr, M.A. 2009. Manual of woody landscape plants. 6th ed. Stipes Publishing: Champaign, IL.

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