North Dakota State University

YARD & GARDEN REPORT

September 7, 2017 Vol. 5, No. 7

Lost & Found: Heirloom Apples

Crisp, juicy apples have been enjoyed by families in America and Europe for centuries. *Thousands* of varieties have been grown over this time but only a *few* are sold at grocery stores today. Modern varieties are attractive, ship well and have a mild flavor that pleases the masses. That's great, but we are missing the bold flavors of yesterday.

To illustrate the point, come with me on a trip to the past and see what appeals most to you:

Imagine going back to our Dakota homestead days and enjoying a slice of fluffy apple cake made from the 'Duchess of Oldenburg' tree we brought from Russia. Delicious!

Or, pull up a chair in an old village pub in New England and let's enjoy a pint of 'Smokehouse' cider. Cheers!

Looking for something more chic? Then imagine sitting at a street café in Stockholm enjoying a tangy tart made from prized 'Akero' Swedish apples. It smells like raspberries!

Allow me to offer you a sweet apple scone made with 'Kerry Pippin' apples from an Irish bakery.

Before coming home, let's grab some apple butter made by the local monks using 'Lamb Abbey Pearmain' apples. Smell the pineapple essence!

I could go on, but you get the idea. There is a world of amazing taste experiences waiting for you with heirloom apples.

Gardeners are rediscovering the rich flavors of heirloom apples. Shown is 'Duchess of Oldenburg', a hardy Russian apple known for its superb cooking qualities.

Go online and search for "heirloom" or "heritage" apples. Several nurseries offer these trees today and a few will offer more than 100 varieties. Spend a moment and revel at the flavors and legends surrounding these varieties. Choose varieties that are hardy and ripen by early October.

The most popular heirloom apples are available in *limited supplies* and can be ordered this fall for delivery next spring. You will buy these as bareroot trees, which are easy to plant and save you money. In many cases you can get these on semi-dwarf rootstocks (hardy to Zone 4), which are easier to manage than standard types.

I enjoy a 'Honeycrisp' as much as anyone, but the rich flavors of heirloom apples can delight both our stomachs and our souls as we share the same delights of our ancestors.

Inside This Issue

Hardy, Drought-Tolerant Perennials

Are you looking for a tough perennial that looks beautiful? These species are hardy to Zone 3 (–35°F) and tolerate dry soil. Can you match the flowers with their names? Answers are on page 5.

_____	Achillea, *Moonshine*	_____	Paeonia, *Coral Sunset*
_____	Asclepias, *Hello Yellow*	_____	Penstemon, *Midnight Masquerade*
_____	Echinacea, *PRAIRIE SPLENDOR™*	_____	Salvia, *May Night*
_____	Gaillardia, *Arizona Sun*	_____	Sedum, *Neon*
_____	Hemerocallis, *Ruby Spider*	_____	Tanacetum, *Robinson's Red*

Best Time to Fertilize the Lawn

Should I fertilize my lawn now?

Now is the best time of the year to fertilize your lawn. The key to a healthy turf is a deep, thick root system. Lawns focus on *root growth* in fall. If you fertilize only once a year, it should be in early September.

What fertilizer is best?

Lawn fertilizers have three numbers listed on the bag: the percentages of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. A suitable winterizer fertilizer will be approximately 25-0-10, but don't get too worried about exact numbers.

Nitrogen promotes growth and green color. The finest fertilizers will contain *slow-release* nitrogen, often listed as methylene urea or water insoluble nitrogen on the bag. Slow-release nitrogen provides consistent growth through fall and early spring.

Many lawn fertilizers contain little or no phosphate. That's okay; most soils in ND are rich in phosphate.

Potash improves winter hardiness and the lawn's tolerance to stress.

What about weed-and-feed fertilizers?

Weed-and-feed fertilizers are convenient but fail to control many weeds.

Broadleaf herbicides applied in fall need to be absorbed through the leaves of weeds. Herbicide *granules* often drop off the weeds before they are absorbed. Herbicide *sprays* are more likely to be absorbed.

Weed-and-feed products offer *fewer herbicides* (usually only 2,4-D and perhaps MCPP) compared to many spray products.

What is a better way to control weeds?

A Trimec formulation (2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba) is effective. New products have added quinclorac for extra killing power. Such products include *Weed B Gon Plus Crabgrass Control* and *Roundup for Lawns*.

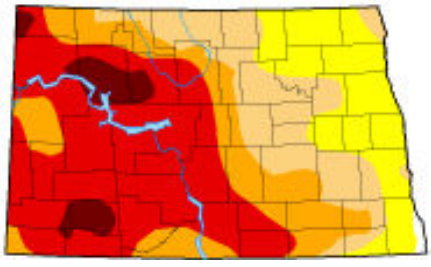
It's best to wait until mid to late September and use a spray product.

Spot spraying weeds rather than spraying the whole yard can save money and reduce your exposure to these toxic chemicals.

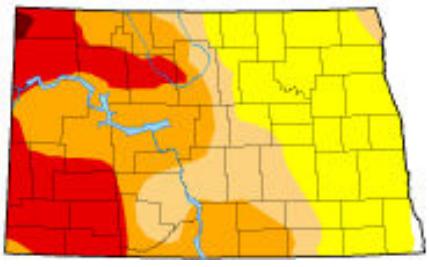
Drought Watch

Rainfall amounts over the past three weeks were below normal across the state. The western half of the state continues to suffer under a *severe or worse* drought status while the eastern half remains dry. Drought-stricken trees are showing scorched leaves and premature fall colors.

Temperatures have been normal for this time of year and are cooling off. Most lawns have broken out of their summer dormancies. Details of our recent weather and the growing season are presented on page 6.



August 15, 2017



September 5, 2017

- Moderately dry *(crop growth slowed); >99% of state.*
- Moderate drought *(crop damage, voluntary water use restrictions); 66% of state.*
- Severe drought *(crop losses likely, water use restrictions); 49% of state.*
- Extreme drought *(major crop losses, widespread water use restrictions); 21% of state.*
- Exceptional drought *(widespread crop losses, water emergencies); <1% of state.*

Chores & Challenges

Nuisance Insects

Yellowjackets, Including Hornets

Populations are soaring now—a single nest may consist of thousands of yellowjackets. These pests can sting several times and some species will sting even when unprovoked.

Yellowjacket nests in an out-of the way area are usually best left alone. The pests will die after a hard frost.

If a nest is in a *hazardous location* and *exposed*, spray the hole of the nest with a wasp-killing *aerosol spray*.

If the nest is in a *hazardous location* and *concealed* (for example, under siding or in a wall void), shoot insecticide *dust* (carbaryl or permethrin) inside the hole using a turkey baster. Do not seal the entrance; otherwise they will create a new hole which may be more hazardous.

If the nest is in the *ground*, sprinkle insecticide *dust* into the hole.

Yellowjackets will all be in the nest at night. Kill the nest at night; a cool night in the 50s is best. Wear protective clothing (long-sleeved shirts, hat, and socks covering pant cuffs). If activity continues the next day, attack again.

Yellowjacket traps help but capture only a small percentage of the pests.

Mosquitoes

Avoid going outdoors from dusk to dawn. Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks. Use repellents (DEET is most effective) on exposed skin and clothing.

Nuisance Flies

Cluster, face and picture-wing flies enter homes in fall as they look for a warm spot to hibernate. These flies will not harm you or your property. They will not reproduce indoors. Seal entrances around siding, windows and vents.

Boxelder Bugs

Bugs are swarming and will gather on sunny walls to stay warm. Seal crevices along doors and windows. Spray bugs with detergent (3–5 tbsp) per gallon of water. Continue spraying as bugs appear.

Grasshoppers

These pests are attracted to gardens in search of water and food. Protect veggies with carbaryl (Sevin). Spray the perimeter of the garden with carbaryl or a pyrethroid (Tempo).

Crickets

Seal windows, doors and foundation. Reduce outdoor lighting. Remove debris near foundation. Insecticides may be sprayed near entries. Crickets die from frost. They will starve indoors.

Chores & Challenges

Trees and Shrubs

Scorched Leaves

Newly planted trees are especially sensitive. Irrigate when needed. Rock mulches generate heat and should be avoided; shredded bark mulch is better.

Spider Mites

Leaves/needles show yellow dots where the tiny mites pierced for sap. Foliage becomes bronze; webbing may be found. Knock off mites using a jet spray of water, or spray with summer oils.

Fall Needle Drop

Old needles (located near the trunk) are supposed to turn brown and drop. As long as young needles (located near the tips of branches) are healthy, the tree is full of life.

Vegetables

When is Watermelon Ripe?

Watermelons are ripe when the tendril next to the fruit dries. The rind will be faded, not glossy. Mature melons feel heavy. The spot on the underside of fruit will be white/yellow, not greenish.

Plant Garlic

Plant in fall for larger cloves next year. Hardneck varieties are most hardy. Add 1 inch of compost or peat moss and 2.5 lbs of 10–10–10 per 100 ft^2. Set cloves 2–3" deep; space 4–6" in rows 12–24" apart. Mulch with straw in November.

Bacterial Spot on Tomato

Corky spots (diameter of pencil eraser) appear on fruits. Occurs under warm temps (mid 70s to 80s). Spots develop on vines. Stay out of garden when vines are wet to prevent spreading bacteria. Copper sprays will prevent spread.

Fruits

Prune Summer Raspberry

Remove canes that bore fruit this summer; prune at ground level. If grown in a hedge, thin remaining canes to 3–4" apart. If hills, thin to 6–8 canes per hill. Thinning can wait until March.

Fall Webworms

Caterpillars eat leaves but cause minimal damage to tree. Control is rarely needed on mature trees. Nests in young trees may be gathered using a forked stick or killed with carbaryl spray.

Hardy, Drought-Tolerant Perennials

1. Echinacea, *PRAIRIE SPLENDOR*™
2. Gaillardia, *Arizona Sun*
3. Asclepias, *Hello Yellow*
4. Tanacetum, *Robinson's Red*
5. Penstemon, *Midnight Masquerade*
6. Paeonia, *Coral Sunset*
7. Hemerocallis, *Ruby Spider*
8. Salvia, *May Night*
9. Achillea, *Moonshine*
10. Sedum, *Neon*

Weather Almanac for August 16–September 5, 2017

	TEMPERATURE				RAINFALL[1]				GROWING DEGREE DAYS[2,3]			
	Aug 16–Sep 5				Aug 16–Sep 5		2017		Aug 16–Sep 5		2017	
Site	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	64	65	91	36	0.02	1.22	7.42	12.08	308	299	1742	1839
Bowman	67	66	94	36	0.06	0.65	4.09	10.20	342	328	1994	1901
Carrington	65	66	91	39	0.43	1.56	10.59	13.76	310	314	1891	1982
Crosby	67	63	91	40	0.31	0.98	3.88	10.54	344	285	1938	1704
Dickinson	68	65	90	41	0.59	0.99	5.51	11.64	353	318	2078	1878
Fargo	66	67	89	44	0.38	1.96	7.61	13.91	334	340	2093	2131
Grafton	64	65	89	40	0.59	2.12	7.99	13.71	287	296	1822	1847
Grand Forks	65	65	89	43	0.43	1.90	10.30	13.59	309	302	2003	1899
Hazen	64	67	89	38	0.16	1.07	8.62	11.84	309	345	1988	2064
Hillsboro	64	66	91	39	0.24	1.70	6.88	13.89	292	322	1911	2013
Jamestown	65	66	92	45	0.14	1.63	9.69	13.13	303	311	1853	1973
Langdon	63	62	88	45	0.36	1.59	7.88	13.69	278	257	1571	1583
Mandan	66	66	91	42	0.19	1.25	9.59	12.81	328	324	2049	1977
Minot	67	65	93	43	0.41	1.28	5.97	12.13	341	298	1942	1810
Mott	67	66	91	37	0.06	0.97	5.86	11.00	340	331	2006	1960
Rugby	65	64	90	39	0.24	1.33	8.52	13.45	313	292	1867	1832
Wahpeton	64	68	86	42	0.91	1.97	14.88	14.39	297	359	1965	2221
Watford City	69	65	95	42	0.08	0.86	5.98	10.24	363	309	2073	1895
Williston	69	68	95	44	0.92	1.03	6.43	10.07	373	362	2138	2138
Wishek	65	65	90	44	0.12	1.46	7.48	13.55	299	298	1882	1798

DAYLENGTH (Sep 5, McClusky, center of ND)[4]

Sunrise: 7:06 AM Daylength: 13h 10m

Sunset: 8:16 PM Change since Aug 15: –1h 7m

LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS[5]

Sep 12–16: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Below Normal

Sep 14–20: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Normal

[1] Measurements begin April 1.

[2] 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.

[3,4,5] Sources: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, and National Weather Service, respectively.

Credits

Sources:

Cervenka. V. and J. Hahn. 2008. Fall nuisance flies. University of Minnesota

Stier, J.C. 2001. Lawn maintenance. University of Wisconsin.

University of Nebraska. 2017. Drought Monitor, droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.Home.aspx

Written by Tom Kalb, who expresses gratitude to the NDSU educators who contributed to this report: Dean Aakre, Craig Askim, Lindy Berg, Sara Clemens, Kelsie Egeland, Sheldon Gerhardt, Randy Grueneich, Alicia Harstad, Bill Hodous, Lezlee Johnson, Scott Knoke, Julie Kramlich, Esther McGinnis, Steve Sagaser, Yolanda Schmidt, Melissa Seykora, Megan Vig, Todd Weinmann, Kathy Wiederholt and Joe Zeleznik.