

## Something Special About Yew

The finest evergreen for shady areas is rarely used in North Dakota. Why?

All of us plant shrubs around our home's foundations. Throughout the Upper Midwest, it's very common to plant yews (*Taxus* spp.) along the shady sides of homes.

Yet you don't see many yews in North Dakota. It is an underutilized shrub, especially in urban areas.

Yew needles are deep green and lustrous; they contrast beautifully with the snow of winter. Yew is a beautiful shrub all by itself or can serve as an attractive background to shorter perennials. The red arils (seedpods) are brilliant and attract birds.

Yews are especially useful in shady areas—where other evergreens struggle. This makes them special!

Yews grow slowly, tolerate shearing and require minimal care when planted in the right spot.

They prefer moist soil and must have good drainage. Give them bark mulch to keep the soil cool and moist. Give them a drink of water in autumn before the ground freezes.

Yews struggle when exposed to high winds; so plant them near your home in a sheltered location. Yews do very well in urban sites and suffer from no serious pests (only deer).

Among the most popular cultivars, 'Taunton' yew shows superior



Yews have glossy green needles and bright red seedpods. 'Taunton' (left bottom) resists winter burn and 'Dark Green' (right bottom) has deep green needles.

resistance to heat and winter burn. 'Morden' yew shows superior hardiness (good in Zone 3). 'Dark Green' is noted for deep green needles. 'Nana' is a dwarf form.

The next time you are looking for a shrub for a shady spot, consider what other gardeners in the Upper Midwest have discovered: Yews are superstars in the shade and provide year-round beauty.

### Inside This Issue

- ◆ Yews are Special 1
- ◆ Plant Health Care
  - ◆ Fruits and Vegetables 2
  - ◆ Flowers, Lawns, Woodies 3
- ◆ Weather Almanac 4

# Plant Health Care

## Fruits and Vegetables



### Slow Ripening Tomatoes

Be patient. Optimal ripening temps are 68–77°F. The more temps stray from this range, the slower ripening occurs. Clipping vines won't help. Tomatoes with a blush may ripen indoors.



### Harvesting Pears

Harvest before fully mature. Pick when its skin changes from dark green to yellowish green; its skin texture begins to feel waxy and smooth; and spots on the skin change from white to brown.



### Harvesting Pumpkin

Light frosts will not harm the fruit, but harvest before a killing frost (28°F). Leave a few inches of stem attached. Do not bruise. Cure in a warm (80°F) spot for 10 days for long-term storage.



### Grow Garlic

Add 1 inch of compost or peat moss and 2.5 lbs of 10–10–10 per 100 ft. Set cloves 2–3 inches deep; space 4–6 inches apart in rows 12–24 inches apart. Irrigate. Mulch when ground freezes.



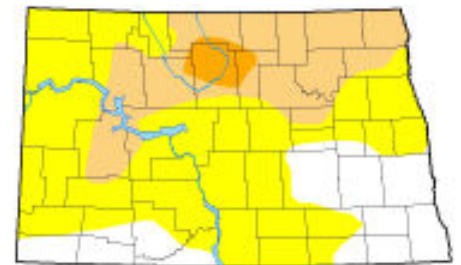
### Sooty Blotch and Flyspeck

Fungi create smudges and clusters of tiny dots. Fruits are edible. Prune next March to open canopy and prevent disease. Pick up these trimmings (the fungi may be on twigs). Fungicides can help next year.



### Harvesting Winter Squash

Harvest before a killing frost (28°F). Leave at least one inch of stem. Wipe but don't wash fruit. Except for acorns, cure in a warm (80°F) spot for 10 days to toughen skin for long-term storage.



### Drought Worsens

Updated September 4: Most (83%) of North Dakota remains *dry*. *Moderate drought* conditions rose from 26 to 42% of the state last week. Irrigation can benefit drought-sensitive plants.



### Prune Raspberries

Remove canes that bore fruit this summer; prune at ground level. Thin remaining canes now or in March. If grown in a hedge, thin canes to 3–4 inches apart. If grown in hills, thin to 6–8 canes per hill.



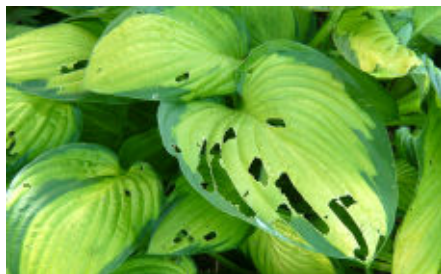
# Plant Health Care

## Flowers



### Divide/Transplant Peony

Do this ASAP, if needed. Cut stems to the ground and dig up roots. Shake off the soil and cut the crown into sections. Each section needs 3–5 eyes and a strong root system. Space new sections 2–3 feet apart, with eyes only 1–2 inches deep. Mulch after ground freezes.



### Slugs on Hosta

Mature plants will tolerate damage late in the season. Iron phosphate baits may be used, if needed. Diatomaceous earth may be sprinkled around garden edge.



### Plant Mums

Plant ASAP. Mulch after the ground freezes. It's better to plant mums in spring to allow time for establishment. Select hardy, early blooming cultivars.

## Lawns



### Sow Seed

Sow seed ASAP to allow seedlings sufficient time to get established before winter. Prepare seed bed, fertilize and keep soil moist until seedlings emerge.



### Lay Sod

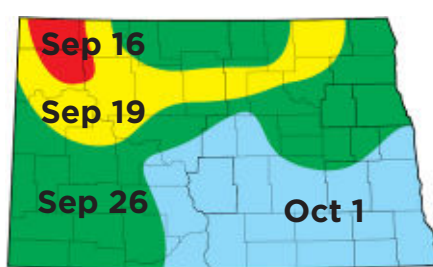
Cultivate soil and apply 4–8 pounds/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> starter fertilizer. Stagger sod pieces like laying bricks. Fill gaps with soil. Stake if needed to keep in place. Keep moist for 1–2 weeks.

## Trees and Shrubs



### Boxelder bugs

Bugs are swarming and may gather on sunny walls to stay warm. Seal crevices along doors and windows. Spray bugs with 5 tablespoons of liquid detergent per gallon of water.



### Planting Trees in Fall

Plant trees early enough to allow several weeks of root growth and recovery. Ideal planting dates are shown. Chances of success diminish later in the year, particularly with evergreens.



### Fall Needle Drop

We don't worry when *old leaves* change color and drop. Likewise, don't worry when *old needles*, located near the trunk, change color and drop. They are supposed to drop. As long as young needles (near branch tips) are healthy, the tree is fine.

# Weather Almanac for September 2–8, 2018

Site	TEMPERATURE <sup>1</sup>				RAINFALL <sup>1,4</sup>				GROWING DEGREE DAYS <sup>1,5</sup>			
	Sep 2–8				Sep 2–8		2018		Sep 2–8		2018	
	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	59	61	84	33	0.13	0.37	8.98	12.24	78	74	2020	1875
Bowman	64	62	90	42	0.00	0.28	10.51	10.32	93	81	1969	1940
Carrington	62	62	82	44	0.03	0.50	8.91	13.97	83	77	2171	2020
Crosby	61	59	88	33	0.00	0.30	7.62	10.67	85	72	2020	1739
Dickinson	64	61	89	42	1.61	0.34	11.75	11.79	97	81	2135	1917
Fargo	66	64	80	51	0.60	0.69	14.55	14.21	94	83	2474	2171
Grafton	59	61	82	34	0.50	0.63	11.35	13.98	71	75	2150	1883
Grand Forks	60	62	79	38	1.02	0.54	12.91	13.82	74	75	2239	1935
Hazen	64	63	85	42	0.37	0.35	7.62	11.99	93	87	2107	2106
Hillsboro	62	63	79	40	0.60	0.56	12.24	14.13	82	76	2247	2049
Jamestown	60	62	77	43	0.21	0.60	17.13	13.39	71	75	2096	2009
Langdon	57	59	80	37	0.49	0.42	8.84	13.87	59	64	1916	1614
Mandan	64	63	85	45	0.79	0.38	13.89	12.97	87	77	2217	2014
Minot	61	61	83	38	0.14	0.36	8.39	12.28	82	70	2143	1844
Mott	65	62	89	43	0.00	0.31	8.22	11.14	96	86	2102	2002
Rugby	61	61	83	37	0.23	0.44	9.70	13.63	78	74	2073	1868
Wahpeton	63	65	78	45	0.72	0.77	14.69	14.72	85	89	2381	2264
Watford City	65	61	90	43	0.08	0.25	8.77	10.35	96	78	2135	1933
Williston	64	64	91	42	0.06	0.31	9.84	10.20	91	87	2142	2180
Wishek	62	62	81	47	0.02	0.33	12.51	11.86	79	74	2077	1834

## DAYLENGTH (Sep 10, McClusky, center of ND)<sup>2</sup>

Sunrise: 7:12 AM Daylength: 12h 54m  
 Sunset: 8:06 PM Change since Sep 3: -23m

## LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS<sup>3</sup>

Sep 15–19: Temp.: Below Normal; Precip.: Above Normal  
 Sep 17–23: Temp.: Below Normal; Precip.: Above Normal

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Sources: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, [www.sunrisesunset.com](http://www.sunrisesunset.com), and National Weather Service, respectively.

<sup>4,5</sup> Rain data begin April 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.

## Credits

### Sources:

University of Nebraska. 2018. United States Drought Monitor. Accessed online.

Zeleznik, J. and E. McGinnis. 2016. Tree planting in North Dakota. NDSU Extension Publication F1785.

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