



# Imagine

Illinois Master Gardeners' Information,  
News and Education

Vol. 10 No. 6

November-December 2009

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## Coordinators Comments

This November-December issue of Imagine will be the last print issue of the Imagine newsletter. Beginning with the January-February 2010 issue, the newsletter will go to an all electronic format. The newsletter will be posted on the University of Illinois Master Gardener website and it will be emailed out to each county/unit Master Gardener Coordinator. They will either send you a copy via email or alert you that the newsletter has been posted to the website. If you do not have Internet access—talk with your local Coordinator. You may be able to have a fellow volunteer print you a copy or view the newsletter at the local Extension office.

The new Master Gardener manual is due to be released in December. It has significant updates to many sections plus new chapters on weeds, living with wildlife, water gardening and ornamental grasses. The manual will be available in either print or CDROM format. **The manual will be available for purchase by currently active Master Gardeners, interns and staff in a pre-sale which will run Nov 1-30, 2009.**

The book will be offered at a reduced rate of \$70 for a print manual and \$50 for the CDROM. After December 1, the manual will be for sale for training classes at a cost of \$95. If you wish to buy a manual during the pre-sale, contact your local county office first to see if they will be placing a group order. If the county is not doing a group order, you may purchase a single copy by using the online order system available through the Master Gardener website ([web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg)) using either a credit card or check for purchase. The manuals will be ready in December for by pick-up or by mail. There is an additional charge for mailing.

The sale of the new manual benefits the state office and the expenses of running the program. Please remember that this manual is protected by copy write laws and intellectual property rights. The manual or its separate chapters or color sheets cannot be copied without express written permission of the copy write

owners—the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. This means that when you purchase a CDROM or print manual it is for your own personal use or as an office reference copy. Extension staff as well as Master Gardeners may not photocopy any part of this manual to give to other volunteers or clients and may not sell copies or sections of the manual. Please keep in mind that almost two years of work went into this manual and 29 Educators and Specialists contributed to the manual. By following these rules, you are supporting the state Master Gardener program and helping to pay for the costs of updating the manual.

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## Conference 2009 a Huge Success

Thanks to the Master Gardeners of Effingham, McLean, Champaign, Coles, Clay/Fayette and Edgar Counties for an outstanding conference. The speakers and tours received rave reviews from the 305 attendees. The Firefly Grill- “Taste the Difference of Farm to Table” sessions, the Vandalia/Mennonite Tour and the Gardens of Coles County Tour were favorites among attendees. **Mark your calendars to attend the 2010 conference in Rockford on Sept 16-18.**

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## Green Industry Partners Invite MGs to MidAm Trade Show

The Illinois Green Industry Assoc., Illinois Landscape Contractors Assoc. and WGIS wish to extend a special invitation to Illinois Master Gardeners to attend the MidAm Trade Show on January 20-22 at the McCormick Place in Chicago. This show is the largest horticulture trade show in the Midwest and is attended by horticulture professionals, nursery operators, florists, garden center staff and more. The show also offers educational sessions on a wide array of topics including perennials, diseases, landscaping. The cost for Master Gardeners to register for the trade show either early, regular or onsite is \$20. Educational sessions have an additional charge. For complete information about the show and to register visit the website at [www.midam.org](http://www.midam.org)

## Highlights from the Charleston MG Garden Trip

Twenty-four Illinois Master Gardeners joined with twenty-two Arkansas Master Gardeners to view private gardens and homes, magnificent plantation gardens and even the Cypress Gardens swamp garden during their recent trip to Charleston, SC.

The highlight of the trip for me was Brookgreen Gardens near Myrtle Beach, SC. Even though we visited this garden during the pouring rain, I would recommend this garden to anyone who enjoys garden spaces designed to highlight sculpture. Millionaire Archer Milton Huntington and his wife Anna purchased 9,000 acres of former rice plantation to create a sculpture garden to display Anna's work. The work of Anna Hyatt Huntington is internationally known, but the garden also contains works by Daniel Chester French (sculptor of the Lincoln Memorial in DC) and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The grounds are landscaped to provide a backdrop for the art and contain a lush understory of ornamental shrubbery along with beds of annuals and perennials. Water plays a major role in the garden and the fountains and lakes further highlight the statuary. Add an Italianate pool and a wonderful allee of live oaks dripping with Spanish Moss and you have a garden you won't want to miss if you travel to this area.

Middleton Place is the oldest continually maintained garden in America and is for the most part a very formally laid out garden with sweeping terraces, a striking reflection pool, beautiful vistas that overlook the Ashley river and delightful hidden garden rooms. This garden will be at its peak in spring when the azaleas are in full bloom and the spring and summer flowers highlight the formal gardens.

Another highlight of the trip was Magnolia Plantations and Gardens. The antebellum spirit is rich here and the garden with its famous long bridge is a popular spot for weddings. This is America's oldest public garden and it is rich in magnolias, azaleas and camellias. During our visit, the fall-blooming *Camellia sasanqua* were coming into peak bloom. The SC Master Gardeners hosted us for lunch and shared their plans for renovating a hidden garden at Magnolia Plantation.

The tour group also spent two afternoons visiting Charleston's historic homes and gardens— a great look at historic homes and delightful small garden spaces. For a completely different garden experience, the group ventured to Cypress Gardens where we boarded flat-bottomed "bateaux" to visit the swamp filled with ancient cypress and an assortment of wildlife including alligators. I highly recommend a trip to the Charleston area for all garden lovers!

✍ Monica David, Master Gardener Coordinator

## 2009 Photo Contest Winners

Thanks to Susan and Richard Day, professional photographers from Daybreak Photography for judging the contest. The winner of each category received a \$25 cash prize and the top three entries in each category were displayed at the annual conference in Effingham in September.

### Illinois Public Gardens

1st Place— Richard Zerfowski, Macon County  
2nd Place— Nancy Anderson, Henry County  
3rd Place— Mariellen Griffith, McLean County

### Master Gardeners at Work

1st Place— Rhonda Legan, Kankakee County  
2nd Place— Mariellen Griffith, McLean County  
3rd Place— Loraine Miranda, DuPage County

### Insects

1st Place— Laura Hayden, Champaign County  
2nd Place— Sharon Jaeger, McLean County  
3rd Place— Diane Grottola, Sangamon County

### Plants

1st Place— Ann Tice, Champaign County  
2nd Place— Becky Lockett, McLean County  
3rd Place— Jan Cassell, Kane County

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## Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

On behalf of the Coles County Extension Master Gardeners, **THANK YOU** for helping make the 2009 Master Gardener Silent Auction a success. We appreciate those of you who e-mailed us in advance with details of your donations. We also were pleased to have many additional items checked in at the conference registration.

What a variety of items you contributed---books, plants, tools, bird houses, jewelry, furniture, rain barrels, art work, gates, MG clothing, furniture, etc. Our goal was to have about 100 items and with your help, we were able to offer 119 auction pieces.

**THANK YOU** also to everyone who participated in the auction. We recognize the value of all of you who were bidding throughout the conference---whether you ended up with a purchase or not. We know it takes the interest of two or more, in an article to make the auction a success. And the Illinois Master Gardeners were certainly interested bidders!

When the auction was closed and the bids tallied, we had raised \$4,543. These funds are used to support the state Master Gardener office and this year will assist with the graphic design and printing of the new manual.  
✍ Coles County Extension Master Gardeners & Sharon Kuhns, County Director

## New Members Join State MG Advisory Committee

The MG State Advisory Committee welcomes two new Master Gardeners— Shey Lowman and Mary Jo Novak as well as staff members Doug Jones and Tracy Mulliken. The advisory committee provides council and input on programs and educational issues to the state coordinator. Please contact your regional representative with ideas and suggestions.

### NE Region:

Staff— Susan Grupp, Ron Wolford  
MGs— Steve Canavis, Mary Anne Spinner

### NW Region:

Staff— Peter Chege, Tracy Mulliken  
MGs— Mary Theising, Shey Lowman

### WC Region:

Staff— Carrie Edgar, Paula Robinson  
MGs— Robert Bisser, Roger Harfst

### EC Region:

Staff— Sharon Kuhns, Jennifer Nelson  
MGs— Harry Clayton, Linda Smith

### Southern Region:

Staff— LaDean Scheurer, Doug Jones  
MGs— Theresa Greene, Mary Jo Novak

**Administration Rep:** Rhonda Ferree

**MG Coordinator:** Monica David

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## Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant and Rain Garden Initiative Grants

Good news! The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education are working together to offer the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant and the Rain Garden Initiative this year. Educators and youth group leaders may apply for up to \$600 from the Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant and/or up to \$500 from the Rain Garden Initiative. Show the youth of our state that their actions can make a difference for wildlife and for their own lives. Wildlife habitat areas and rain gardens offer many educational opportunities. These funds can help you provide hands-on stewardship activities for the natural resources leaders of the future. Don't delay! The application deadline for both programs is **November 30, 2009**. The ICF administers both of these grants. The Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program is funded by private donations. Partial funding for the Rain Garden Initiative is provided through a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Applications and information may be found at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>

## Organic Gardening Day

Organic Gardening Day 2009 has been scheduled for Saturday, November 21, from 8:00 am (when registration begins and the retail area opens) through 4:30 pm, at the Hawthorn Hotel and Suites, 101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, IL. Organic gardening experts from around the country will present five educational sessions to inspire herb gardening and use in the coming year.

**Dr. John Biernbaum**, from Michigan State University, where he works with organics, herbs, greenhouses, and the student farm, will first talk about *Soil Building Techniques*. In the afternoon, he will relate his experiences with *Year-Round Production in Unheated Greenhouses*.

**Anne Patterson**, from Living Earth Farm, in Farmington, Illinois, will explain how to bring about *Real Health Care Reform – From Your Garden!* Eat healthy to be healthy.

**Niall and Kristie Campbell**, the owners of firefly grill in Effingham, Illinois, will co-present *From Garden to Table: Savoring the Fruits of Your Labors*, a discussion and cooking demonstration featuring recipes which incorporate fresh herbs and organic produce.

**Jim Schmidt**, a home horticulture specialist from the Department of Crop Sciences here at UIUC, will speak about *Pest-Free Posies*, which will detail some relatively trouble-free flowers for the organic garden.

There will be a retail area selling a broad spectrum of gardening products. Morning coffee, tea, and rolls will be available near the exhibit area, and an organic-themed lunch buffet will be served. The capacity of the lecture room at this location is limited to no more than 150 registrants, so be sure to send in your reservations right away. Attendees may register and reserve lunch at any time through November 13, as long as space remains available. Registrations will be allotted on a first come, first served basis.

Cost of registration, including lunch, is \$59 per person. This includes seating in the lectures, coffee, tea, and rolls during morning registration, an organic theme lunch buffet (including vegetarian options), and access to the retail area. Reservations must be received by November 13, 2009, to guarantee lunch. Mail your checks, payable to the **University of Illinois**, to: **Organic Gardening Day 2009**, Attn: Tracey Malkovich, AW-101, Turner Hall, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, Illinois 61801-4730 to reserve registration and lunch. For more information, call (217) 333-3420.

## Green Thumbs at the firefly grill

Last month green thumbs from around the state descended upon Effingham for their 2009 annual Master Gardener conference. For three days participants toured local gardens, farms and wineries and attended educational sessions



on a variety of garden-related topics. One of the most popular sessions was the firefly's Taste the Difference of Farm and Table,

which was the first program to sell out.

Kristie and Niall toured the group through the firefly and explained how the restaurant hums. Then they walked the garden, examining (yes these folks have a keen eye) the heirloom tomatoes, multitudes of different types of peppers and all of the unique veggies growing like Asian Long Beans and 8-Ball Squash, varieties that were new to many of the gardeners. Then Niall put on his apron and demonstrated how to cook with herbs and vegetables, dispersing a few tricks of the trade as well. Along the way they discussed how to prepare, and take advantage of, seasonal foods and how to make sustainable choices.

We really enjoyed having such an enthusiastic, eager-to-learn group spend time at the firefly. We're always happy to share our knowledge, a beautiful late summer day and of course



our love of food with others. But this group was extra-special as they're more discerning than most. All of them knew more about gardening than we do (which is why we have Nick from Alwerdts tend to the garden) and that can be a little intimidating. We know food—how to choose it, how to chop it, how to prepare and cook it— but we have to admit that we don't know all the ins and outs of growing it. So we were especially tickled by the after-event feedback we received saying that this was the best program that some of the Master Gardeners have ever attended. That type of feedback, is, well, just priceless!

Kristie Campbell, firefly grill  
<http://www.ffgrill.com>

## Secretary Vilsack Launches National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently launched the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Below are excerpts from Vilsack's speech: "The opportunity to truly transform a field of science happens at best once a generation. Right now, I am convinced, is USDA's opportunity to work with the Congress, the other science agencies, and with our partners in industry, academia, and the nonprofit sector, to bring about transformative change. We can build on recent scientific discoveries - incredible advances in sequencing plant and animal genomes, for example. We have new and powerful tools -- biotechnology, nanotechnology, and large-scale computer simulations - - applicable to all types of agriculture.

"These discoveries and tools come not a moment too soon. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization predicts that food production will need to double by 2050 to meet demand, and this has to happen in an environment where our production system already is under threat. For every one degree increase in temperature from global warming, we expect a 10 percent drop in yields. Water is in increasingly short supply in the U.S. and abroad for drinking, for irrigation, and for livestock production. Climate change already is disrupting farming and grazing patterns and food production, and not just overseas -- many sectors of the U.S. agricultural economy are exceptionally vulnerable to climate stress." "USDA science needs to change to respond to these pressures, to ensure the sustainability of the American food, fuel, and fiber system and to address some of America's - and the world's -- most intractable problems. Ultimately - our success in science has to be matched by impact in society.

"Formed from the existing Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, NIFA will be the Department's extramural research enterprise. It is no exaggeration to say that NIFA will be a research "start-up" company - we will be rebuilding our competitive grants program from the ground up to generate real results for the American people. To lead NIFA, President Obama has tapped a preeminent plant scientist from the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis - Roger N. Beachy, winner of the Wolf Prize in Agriculture and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. President Obama this spring pledged to invest more heavily in the nation's basic sciences, and to commit as much as 3 percent of America's GDP to science. Secretary Vilsack pledges to launch a new paradigm for the science that underpins our food, agriculture, and natural resources systems research.



# News from the Plant Biology Conservatory and Greenhouses

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November 2009

## Welcome to the 2009-2010 year at the Plant Biology Conservatory and Greenhouses

Our schedule for this year includes:



### December 2009 Poinsettia Open House

Saturday, Dec. 5: 10am-3pm  
Sunday, Dec. 6: 1pm-3pm  
Holiday Open House and Mid-American Poinsettia Trials. There will be poinsettias and Christmas Cactus (if blooming) for sale.



### March 2010 Spring Fling

Saturday, March 13: 10am-3pm  
Sunday, March 14: 1pm-3pm  
Spring shrubs such as rhododendrons and possibly Kalmias will be in bloom. You never know what will be blooming. There will be an orchid sale this weekend.



### April 2010 Mom's Day Weekend

Saturday, April 17: 9am-3pm  
Sunday, April 18: 10am-2pm  
Bring your family and friends. We will have a Plant Sale to help support the Plant Collections. There will be herbs, succulents, some tropicals and misc. plants.

### May 2010 Graduation and Plant Sale

**Graduation:** Saturday, May 15 11am-2pm

#### Plant Sale

Friday, May 14: 11am-1pm  
Saturday, May 15: 10am-12pm  
The plant sale will be held in Room 1103 at the Plant Sciences Lab. **Note:** The sale is two weeks earlier this year.



Illini Warrior Peony

### I need your help!!

I am creating a new **Illini Garden** in our outdoor garden area. If anyone has any peony, Siberian iris, Daylily or any other perennial plant with the name **Illini** in it and are willing to share, I would love to have a division to help create our Garden. I have Illini Warrior Peony, Illini Charm Siberian Iris, and Illini Showgirl Daylily. You can contact me at the phone number, e-mail or address above.



If you have moved and would like to stay on our mailing list please send your new information to us by e-mail, snail mail or phone. See our contact information at the top of the page.

There is free parking on the north side of the building on Sat. and Sun.

Visit our webpage at <http://www.life.uiuc.edu/plantbio/greenhouse>

## 2010 MG Training Sites

Location	Starting Date
Belvidere	January 14
Champaign	January 26
Chicago	January 13
Decatur/Springfield	January 21
Dixon	January 15
Edwardsville cluster	January 5
Effingham	January 20
Grayslake	January 8
Johnson	January 21
Kankakee	January 5
Macomb	January 14
Matteson	January 6
Park Ridge	January 12
Peoria/Pekin	February 1
Rock Island	January 15
Sycamore	January 13
Yorkville	January 15
Online Training	January 14

Please contact your local coordinator to attend these classes as continuing education. Complete schedules may be found at <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/>

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### Important Dates

**January 23: A Winter Day in the Garden.** Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners and Lincoln Trail College. The sessions take place at Lincoln Trail's Zwermann Theatre in Robinson, IL from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Experts who will be presenting include: Dr Kaizad Irani– *Designing and Installing a Small Garden on a Budget and The Inner Sanctum*; Carl Whitcomb– *Tree Selection for the Midwest & Air-Root Pruning Technology*; Danny Whitehurst– *Entertaining, Entertaining, Entertaining-Bring Flowers to Your Table*; Father Dominic Garramone– *Using Herbs from the Garden in Your Cooking*; and Sharon Sorenson–*Hooked on Hummers* (7:30 am). The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. To access the flyer and register after October 30, go to the website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford> or call 618-546-1549.

**September 16-18: Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference.** Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, IL.

## Illinois Specialty Crops Conference

The Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference will be held January 6-8, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL. Three pre-conference workshops (concurrent) will be offered during the daytime on Wednesday, January 6, which will include "Grow Your Market: Creating a Memorable Experience for Customers," "Getting Started in Local Food Production and Marketing," and "Expanding Seasons and Markets with High Tunnels."

On Thursday and Friday, January 7-8, the conference will kick off with an opening session entitled "From Market Gardening to Commercial Readiness: Keys to Effective Production and Marketing Across a Range of Market Arenas" by Tim Woods, University of Kentucky. The remainder of the conference will include the traditional concurrent breakout sessions on fruits, vegetables, herbs, irrigation, agritourism/marketing, and business management. Peach and apple production will take center stage in the fruit breakout sessions with talks on disease management, thinning, insecticides, and fertility management to name a few. Topics in the vegetable sessions will run the gamut of disease, insect, and weed management to production problems to marketing. Herb concurrent sessions will include subjects such as field herb production, composting processing and landscape waste, transitioning to organic greenhouse growing, seasonal herbs, and herb of the year. Jim Crosby, Crosby Mint Farm, St. Johns, MI, will talk about "History of Mint Production in the US and the Changing Market" and "Medicinal Uses of Mint and Sustainable Living."

Organic production joins the conference this year with two concurrent tracts of educational programming focusing on the following areas: integrated organic vegetable production systems, grain and livestock systems, fruit production, and research. Pete Johnson, Pete's Greens, Craftsbury, VT, kicks off the two organic sessions with "Building a Healthy Food System," followed by Steve Pincus and Beth Kazmar, Tipi Produce, Evanston, WI, with a talk on "Farming and Marketing in a Homegrown Wisconsin Co-op."

The trade show will have spaces for over 50 exhibitors. Plenty of time is allowed between sessions to visit with exhibitors.

To receive registration materials or to obtain exhibitor information, please contact Diane Handley at 309/557-2107 or [handley@ilfb.org](mailto:handley@ilfb.org). A detailed conference agenda can be viewed at [www.specialtygrowers.org](http://www.specialtygrowers.org). The Crowne Plaza Hotel is reserving a block of rooms for \$83 per night plus tax. Please call the hotel directly at 217/529-7777 to make your reservations and ask for the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference rate.

## 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards

The 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards, designed to give national recognition and \$5,000 in plants to community groups and organizations that are improving their local environments, is now accepting applications. The annual award, sponsored by Omaha-based Nature Hills Nursery, will be presented in April 2010 to groups and organizations that are literally “greening” their communities, parks, schools and public spaces by planting trees, shrubs and other plants.



The winners of the 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards will be those nonprofit groups and organizations that truly are making a difference in their local neighborhoods. The Grand Prize winning garden project will receive \$2,500 in plants from Nature Hills Nursery. The First Prize winner will receive \$1,500 in plants from Nature Hills Nursery, and the Second Prize winner will receive \$1,000 in plants. The plant materials can contain any combination of trees, fruit trees, bushes and shrubs, perennials and vegetable seeds that Nature Hills Nursery offers. The award winners will be chosen from those groups that submit a local community gardening or “greening” project that makes best use of the trees, bushes and shrubs that Nature Hills Nursery will award. Potential 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Award winning projects can be:

- Creating or refurbishing the landscape in a community park.
- A local soil erosion control plan that utilizes plants to stabilize steep hillside slopes or river banks.
- The reclamation of an abandoned lot with the creation of a fruit orchard that will provide much needed fruit to nearby low-income residents.
- Creating a wildlife habitat for birds or animals on donated land that is (or has been) abandoned or neglected.

Based in Omaha, Nebraska, Nature Hills Nursery is a website-only retailer that sells trees, shrubs, perennials and other plants. The company created the Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards as a way to give back to the communities and people who have contributed to the success of the eight-year-old company.

Applications for the 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards will be accepted nationwide from September 15, 2009 until April 1, 2010. The winners of the 2010 Nature Hills Nursery Green America Awards will be announced on April 19, 2010. To apply for the 2010 award online, visit the website at [www.naturehills.com/green\\_america\\_awards.aspx](http://www.naturehills.com/green_america_awards.aspx).

## National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative

Due to the devastating invasion of the introduced pest, Emerald Ash Borer, ash trees in the Great Lakes region are disappearing in record numbers and potentially from the landscape as we know it. Because of this problem, a non-funded cooperative agreement has been entered into between the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center. Through this agreement, ash seed collected from across the Great Lakes region will be stored at the National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation Center in Fort Collins, Colorado for future use. The goal is secure seed over the next several years through voluntary seed collections that will afford future generations the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate ash trees.

The seed collection project began in New England in 2007, then expanded to Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. The project is spearheaded by the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and includes the U. S. Forest Service, the National Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Interior Department, several state forest agencies, American Indian tribes, botanical gardens and even people with ash trees in their yards.

The USDA is seeking the help of citizens in collecting ash seeds. Volunteers from across the Great Lakes are needed to identify and mark ash trees during the summer months and then return in the fall to collect seed. The following four ash species are in jeopardy in our region: *Fraxinus nigra* Marsh, black ash; *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, blue ash; *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Marsh, green ash; and *Fraxinus Americana* L., white ash. Seeds for this project are handpicked in the fall, put in paper bags, then sorted and dried. Seeds shared with researchers are put in large jars and refrigerated. The U.S. Forest Service has agreed to x-ray the collected ash seed to determine sound seed for storage. Seeds stored in the “base collection” which will be used to replenish ash species are sealed in plastic and stored in a walk-in freezer. Some remain at the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa and some are sent to the National Center for Genetic Resources in Fort Collins, Colo.

A smaller project by the Department of Agriculture and North Carolina State University is under way for the Eastern and North Carolina hemlocks which are threatened by the hemlock woolly adelgid.

For information on identification, collection and preservation of ash tree seed visit the NRCS website:

<http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc.html>



## Fall France Garden Trip

A few spots remain for the fall garden trip to France. The trip is scheduled for September 20 to October 1st, 2010. France in the fall will be highlighted by warm sunny days with gardens full of roses, asters, dahlias, rudbeckias, cosmos, other late summer perennials, a full palate of annuals as well as lovely kitchen gardens. Destinations for this trip include stops on the French Riviera in Nice, Monaco and Eze; Arles, Aix en Provence and Avignon; the bullet train to Paris with free time to explore Paris and finally visits to five famous chateau gardens and Giverny in the Loire Valley. The complete itinerary is posted on the Master Gardener website at:

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/mg/events/>

Please contact Robyn Gulstrom as soon as possible to hold your spot ([rgulstrom@comcast.net](mailto:rgulstrom@comcast.net) or 269-629-9249).

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