



April 2019

# THE NEW HORT THYMES

Serving Cleveland County, Oklahoma with the most up to date gardening, lawn, landscaping, and horticulture information.



## Cleveland County Extension Office

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## 2019 Master Garden Class Registration is Open

Spring is here and so are some great class opportunities for Cleveland County gardening enthusiasts! Extension Master Gardener Class registration has opened for 2019. Master Gardeners help members of the community develop their horticulture knowledge and assist the Cleveland County Cooperative Extension Service in distributing this research-based information. The class meets for 12 weeks on Fridays, starting August 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:30am – 3:00pm. State specialists from OSU speak on topics like soil health, home fruit and vegetable production, entomology, and landscape design.

Students will receive copies of “Major Insects of Oklahoma”, “Growing Oklahoma’s Fruit, Nuts, & Vegetables Handbook”, and “Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses”, in addition to a flash drive with copies of OSU Fact Sheets, The Extension Agents Handbook, and the Master Gardener Training Manual.

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To complete Master Gardner certification, participants must complete 60 payback hours after finishing the course. Service hours include responding to horticulture inquiries at the Cleveland County Extension Office and working in the Cleveland County Master Gardener Association demo garden.

To register for the class, download the [pamphlet](#) from our website and return to the extension office. Registration is \$200 per individual. Master Gardeners who complete their service hours before November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will receive a \$100 refund. Registration is non-refundable after July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## 2019 EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER CLASS SCHEDULE

August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Basics of Botany
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Soil Science
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lawn and Turf
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Plant Pathology and Pesticide Safety
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Entomology
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Irrigation and Landscape Design
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Vegetables
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Herbaceous Ornamentals
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Woody Ornamentals
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fruit and Nuts
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Plant Detective
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Final Exam



Ever wanted to take the Master Gardener Class, but haven't had time?

## Consider the Summer Gardening Series

Tuesdays, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Classroom "C", 601 E. Robinson, Norman, OK 73071  
\$50 to attend the entire series or \$10 for individual classes

### June 11<sup>th</sup> – How Does Your Garden Grow?

- Plant Biology
- The Science of Soil
- Composting
- Mulching

### June 18<sup>th</sup> – Garden to Grub

- Garden Site Selection
- Bed Construction
- Vegetable Varieties for Oklahoma
- Season Long Strategies

### June 25<sup>th</sup> – Go With The Flowers

- Annuals and Perennials
- Bed Preparation
- Drought Tolerant Plants
- Landscape Design Basics

### July 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Bee's Knees

- Making Bee Friendly Backyards
- Attracting Butterflies
- Beneficial Insects in the Garden
- Earth-Kind Pest Control

### July 9<sup>th</sup> – Branch Out

- Selecting Trees and Shrubs
- Planting Trees and Shrubs
- Pruning and Trimming
- Tree Diseases and Insects

### July 16<sup>th</sup> – The Great Indoors

- Houseplant Care
- Succulents
- Orchids
- Making Terrariums



# Weird Growths on Cedars? Might Be Rust



Something emerges in early spring that creates panic among homeowners. Bright orange, slimy tentacles begin to emerge from the dark green foliage of cedar trees. Is it an alien infestation? Leftover Christmas ornaments? Neither! It is part of the unique disease cycle of cedar-apple rust.

Cedar-apple rust, caused by *Gymnosporangium* sp., affects both cedars and apples. Ornamental cedars and Eastern red cedars are both affected by the disease. The brown fruiting galls develop throughout the year. During the following spring, the bright orange horns, called “teliospores”, emerge from the galls. These teliospores discharge microscopic “basidiospores”, which can travel two to three miles to infect the next susceptible host – apples and crabapples.

Symptoms on apples and crabapples appear as orange-yellow spots on the leaves. On the underside of the leaf, fruiting bodies will appear giving the leaf furry blemishes. From this, spores will travel back to a susceptible cedar.

Except in severe cases, it is unlikely that this disease will kill cedars. The best method of control is to remove the galls before teliospores emerge. This will limit the spread by breaking the disease cycle. It can be impractical, though, if neighbors are not controlling the disease with the same diligence.

Planting resistant cultivars of apples and crabapples is recommended in Oklahoma. Below are some of the resistant crabapple varieties to consider. For more information and a comprehensive list of varieties, see OSU’s fact sheet [EPP-7611](#).



Cultivar	Flower	Fruit
‘Adirondack’	White	Red
‘Centurion’	Rose-Red	Bright Red
‘Eleyi’	Red	Purple
‘Prairiefire’	Pink-Red	Dark Red
‘Profusion’	Deep Pink	Maroon

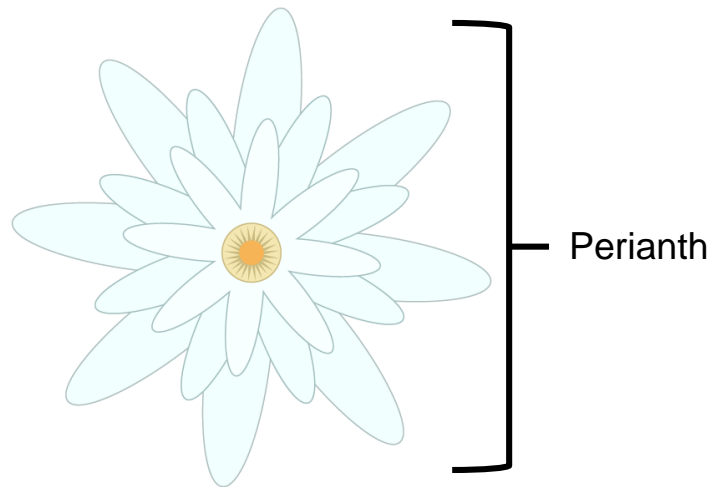


## April Plant of the Month: Star Magnolia

An early blooming, small tree to consider for the landscape

Looking for a tree that will bloom in early spring? With white flowers? That's not a Bradford pear? The star magnolia, *Magnolia stellata*, can put on a show this time of year. The tree is slow growing and will get anywhere from 8 to 25 feet tall, depending on variety. Select a location that is well-drained, slightly alkaline, and receives six hours of direct sun every day for the star magnolia.

The flowers are fragrant and showy, with a many-petaled perianth. White and pink varieties are available. Flowers can be damaged by late frosts or strong winds, so consider a more protected back of the landscape for this tree.



**Perianth** /perē, anTH/: the non-sexual part of the flower, consisting of the petals and sepals



## Garden Tips for April

- Thoroughly water newly planted trees and shrubs, as this can make the difference between success and replacement
- Prune out any winter damaged branches or plants
- Prune spring flowering plants, like forsythias, after they are finished blooming
- Ground covers can be pruned back to remove winter injury and clean up plants
- Watch for diseases after a period of warm and humid weather
- Choose compact, bushy plants when buying annuals
- Plant warm season bedding plants after soil temperatures are in the low 60s
- Hold off on mulching garden beds until the spring rains have passed and the soil has warmed up
- Protect warm season vegetables and annuals when temperatures get close to freezing
- Plant vegetable crops in successive plantings to have a steady harvest
- Do not plant cucurbits or okra until early May
- Watch for cutworm damage on vegetable crops
- Fire blight can be controlled at this time; take control measures for susceptible plants
- Hummingbird scouts come around in early April; prepare feeders with one part sugar and one part red food coloring
- Insects will become active again soon – scout frequently for infestations that can be taken care of early
- Warm-season grass lawns can be established in late April
- Begin fertilizing the lawn in April based on soil test recommendations
- Check for the presence of grubs in the lawn

## Eat Seasonally

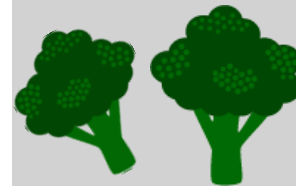
In-season produce is fresher, cheaper, more nutritious, and better for the environment. These are some of the seasonal crops for April:

Artichoke



Asparagus

Beets



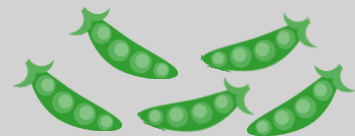
Broccoli

Cauliflower



Lettuce

Peas



Spinach

Swiss Chard



## Upcoming Events

### April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 2:00pm – Earth-Kind Earth Day Workshop

Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

This workshop is geared to help new and experienced Oklahoma Gardeners learn practical ways to garden and utilize earth-kind practices that help sustain the environment and our natural resources. \$10 per person, which includes a locally sourced picnic lunch and giveaway.

For questions, please call 405-297-1392.

### April 20, 10:00am to 2:00pm – Plant Party in the Garden!

Cleveland County Master Gardener Demo Garden, Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 601 E. Robinson St., Norman, OK 73071

Join the Cleveland County Master Gardeners for their annual plant sale! Come shop for beautiful annuals, hardy perennials, and tasty edible plants while supporting this local volunteer organization. Workshops include live plant garlands, attracting pollinators, and container salsa gardening. Fun for kids too! There will be an Easter egg plant hunt, rock painting, and face painting.

### April 27 & May 4 – Oklahoma Proven Plant Sale

Oklahoma State is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oklahoma Proven plant selection program by partnering with local nurseries to offer 10% off select water-smart plants (limited to 5 gallon or smaller plants). Oklahoma Proven is a plant evaluation program designed to help consumers choose the best plants for Oklahoma.

Participating locations (selections and hours vary by store):

- Lowe's Garden Center (Yukon location)
- Marcum's Nursery (Norman and OKC)
- Plant Wisdom Garden Center
- Prairie Wind Nursery
- Precure Nursery and Garden Center
- Ross Seed Company (El Reno location)

### About the editor...

Courtney DeKalb-Myers has been the Cleveland County horticulture educator since August 2018. Her position handles homeowner inquiries, master gardener advisement, and other horticulture education programming throughout the state. She is originally from Norman, Oklahoma and developed a passion for gardening at a young age. She went onto study horticulture at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. After graduating from OSU, she moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to attend NC State for graduate school. Her research was heavily focused on vegetable production, specifically processing tomatoes for a local salsa product. The emphasis on local products motivated her to move back to Oklahoma and she is so excited to now serve the town that raised her.

