



# Hort Notes

An educational newsletter with research-based information for businesses and individuals involved in selling, planning, designing, servicing, and enjoying landscapes and gardens.

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## AmeriGarden at Floriade 2002 An Opportunity for New England Growers

**Floriade 2002** is a world horticulture exhibit being held in Holland in 2002. The last Floriade was held in 1992 near The Hague and attracted over 3.3 million visitors. Floriade 2002 is an opportunity for growers in the United States to show their product to a worldwide audience from April to October in 2002. The U.S. exhibit will have a prime location near the entrance to the Floriade and is called the AmeriGarden.

The Southern United States Trade Association is the leading sponsor of the AmeriGarden project, but opportunities to exhibit plants in the AmeriGarden is available to any U.S. grower. Whether you are currently exporting plant material or are considering this option in the future, any grower is welcome to participate. It is expected that 25 to 30 foreign countries will have displays. It has been arranged for plant material from U.S. growers to be shipped to the Netherlands to be grown on for about a year before the show.

Thomas Wirth will be the AmeriGarden landscape architect. His experience includes working on the New England Flower Show, *This Old House* and *Victory Garden*, just to name a few. He will be working with Pieter van Loon of Eurolandscape in the Netherlands. Construction is currently underway for the 125-acre park. The United States will have a 5400 sq. ft area along the water with a stream passing through it. It will be visible from the main entrance.

Floriade 2002 is currently looking for growers interested in exhibiting plants from the U.S. whether for future export reasons or strictly to represent the U.S. They are looking for plants bred in the U.S. - native plants, bedding plants, trees, nursery stock, perennials, and aquatic plants. Whether you are interested in exporting or not, this is a great opportunity for growers to represent the U.S. For those in the industry that are not growers, Floriade 2002 is also seeking corporate sponsors to help defray the costs. There are four levels of participation opportunities.

For more information you may go to the web site for AmeriGarden: <http://www.amerigarden2002.com/> or contact Kristin McGrath, <mailto:info@amerigarden2002.com>, or Laura McCarthy, <mailto:BartlettGhse@aol.com>

Ron Kujawski  
UMass Extension Educator - Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry

## **New Member Joins UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team**

Randall Prostack has joined UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team. Randy received his B.S. in Plant Science and a minor in Oceanography and Atmospheric Science from Cook College, Rutgers University in 1990. In 1994, he earned a M.S. in Turfgrass Management and Weed Science from Rutgers University for his work evaluating the responses of roughstalk bluegrass and Kentucky bluegrass to postemergence herbicides. While at Rutgers, he worked as a research assistant in weed science, a teaching assistant for "Principles of Weed Science" and assisted in teaching for the Rutgers Cook College Continuing Professional Education Program.

In 1994, Randy accepted employment in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Massachusetts as a research technician in weed science. In 1998, his responsibilities were expanded and he became a member of the UMass Extension Turf Team. He worked with Turf Team members to develop an Extension publication titled *Protocols for an IPM System on Golf Courses*. In 1999, he served as temporary lecturer for "Principles of Weed Management". As a member of the Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry, Randy's program focus will be landscape turf and weed management in ornamentals.

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### **Mile-a-Minute Vine**

The Southern New England chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society recently held a conference entitled *Strategies for Managing Invasive Plants* at their annual meeting. Among the presenters was Bill Williams, Director of the Audubon Society of Greenwich, CT.

Mr. Williams reported on Mile-a-minute, *Polygonum perfoliatum*, which he described as the "kudzu of the north." This annual weed is native to Japan, Korea and China and was first introduced into the US in Portland, Oregon in 1890 in boat ballast. By the late 1930's, this weed was found growing in the wild in Pennsylvania and now can also be found in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, DC. In 1997 a small patch was found growing in the Audubon sanctuary in Greenwich. By 2000, it had spread to cover a 2 to 3 acre meadow and some adjacent open areas in the surrounding forest. It has also been identified at a site in Rhode Island.

What makes this weed a problem is its amazing growth and the fact that it is winter hardy in the north. This annual vine can reach lengths of 20 to 25 feet in a single growing season, climbing small trees and other low growing plants and forming dense mats. This weed grows in sunny, moist locations but can also grow in wooded areas with partial shade. The identifying characteristics of mile-a-minute include its alternate leaves which are triangular in shape, about 1 to 3 inches wide. The stems are reddish in color and have small recurving spines on them, as does the mid-vein of the leaves. There is a distinct saucer-shaped bract that surrounds the stem at each node.

The vine becomes established by seed believed to be distributed by birds. Seed germinates in late April to early May and the plants grow rapidly between May and August. Flowers are produced as early as June and continue to form through August. The flowers are inconspicuous and are followed by pulpy blue fruit from September to November. The fruit are very attractive to birds, which can then disperse the seed at some distance, starting new infestations. Mile-a-minute can also be a weed of landscapes and nursery crops. Tim Abby, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, reports that the initial spread of the weed in Pennsylvania can be traced to the movement of infested Rhododendrons from the original nursery. This suggests that mile-a-minute may be moved via nursery stock.

While this weed has not yet been reported in Massachusetts, it is probably only a matter of time. Should you spot this pest on managed properties or conservation lands, it should be reported to Paul Somers at the DEM, Div. of Fish and Wildlife, (508) 792-7270 ext. 149.

*Roberta Clark*  
*UMass Extension Educator - Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry*

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### **Bedding Plants - Spring 2001**

*Thursday, March 8th - 9 am to 1 pm*

*Mullins Center*

*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Greenhouse bedding plant growers are invited to attend *Bedding Plants - Spring 2001*. UMass Extension's Floriculture Program will review management strategies for insects and diseases, use of growth regulators to manage plant height, and biological control of thrips and fungus gnats. Four pesticide recertification credits have been approved. The cost is \$15.

*For more information, contact Tina Smith at (413) 545-5306, [tsmith@umext.umass.edu](mailto:tsmith@umext.umass.edu), or Paul Lopes at (508) 295-2212 x24, <mailto:lopes@umext.umass.edu>*

### **Plant Micropropagation Symposium**

*Wednesday, March 21 - 8:30 am to 4 pm*

*W.B. Young Bldg. - University of Connecticut, Storrs*

Cosponsored by the Eastern Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society and the University of Connecticut, this program focuses problems and challenges of micropropagation. A copy of the program is on the web at <http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~bridgen>. The cost is \$45 before 3/14 (\$60 after 3/14 or at the door) and includes lunch. Send registrations to IPPS Eastern Region, 26 Woodland Rd., Storrs, CT 06268 (make checks payable to IPPS).

*For more information, contact Mark Bridgen at (860) 486-1945, <mailto:bridgen@uconn.edu>*

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## **Highlights for the 55<sup>th</sup> NEWSS Annual Meeting**

The 55<sup>th</sup> Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting was held January 2-5, 2001 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For 55 years the society has brought together individuals of the northeastern United States concerned with any phase of the knowledge of weeds and their management. The goal of the society is to promote a better understanding of weed management problems and to share research results and ideas.

The 2001 meeting program contained 86 papers and 23 posters in the areas of ornamentals, turfgrass and plant growth regulators, fruit and vegetables, and agronomy. The theme of this years meeting was *Invasive Plants, A Growing Problem*. A keynote and five invited speakers participated in a symposium which

explored issues related to invasive plants on the state, regional and federal level. Robert Zaremba, the Nature Conservancy's Eastern Division Ecologist, lead the symposium and delivered the keynote address. Zaremba focused on a broad range of issues concerning invasive plants on the national level.

Dr. Allison Fox from the University of Florida spoke about many issues that Florida has encountered related to invasive plants and how they have been addressed at the state level. Dr. Les Mehrhoff from the University of Connecticut outlined the characteristics certain plants possess that make them particularly invasive. Beth Goettel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discussed the creation and establishment of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is involved in work with invasive plants in the Connecticut River Watershed. Dr. Robert Hedberg, from the National and Regional Weed Science Societies, summarized what is happening in Washington, DC concerning invasive plants and outlined the roles of individuals working in the field of weed science. Dr. Stratford Kay, from North Carolina State University, presented research examining the impact of the Internet on the commercial availability and movement of invasive plants.

*Randall Probstak  
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