



NURSERY NEWS

Agriculture Commissioner

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Specialty Crop Grants Available

USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service has allocated \$2.5 million dollars to North Dakota for specialty crop grants. Projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in North Dakota are eligible. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) will distribute these funds through a competitive grant program.

Eligible applications include developing organic and sustainable production practices; developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops; pest and disease control; and investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes.

USDA defines specialty crops as "fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops." Specialty crops

grown commercially in North Dakota include dry beans, dry peas, lentils, potatoes, confection sunflowers, grapes, honey, nursery stock, bedding plants and various vegetables.

Applications must be submitted in electronic form by 4 p.m. CDT Wednesday, May 11, 2016. An external review committee will review and score the applications. The successful applications will be forwarded onto the USDA for final approval. The grants will be awarded in late fall/early winter.

For more information or for an application visit our website at www.nd.gov/ndda/program/specialty-crop-block-grant-program or contact Emily Edlund at 701-328-2191 or edlund@nd.gov.



NDSU Introduces Two New Woody Plants

The NDSU Woody Plant Improvement research program (WPI) has introduced two new woody plant cultivars. Lavaburst™ Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra* 'LavaDak', top left) is a narrow upright northern hardy Ohio buckeye. Foliage shows resistance to scorch and is bright green in summer changing to orange-red in the fall. The compact growth habit makes this a great selection for sites where planting space is limited. September Flare™ Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* 'SeptDak', bottom left) is a very hardy sugar maple selection with consistent red-orange fall color and winter hardiness to -40F. WPI hopes these cultivars will come to the market in the near future. Let your suppliers know you are interested in these cultivars and encourage them to begin production. More information on WPI can be found at their website: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/research/woody-plants>.

Update on Japanese Beetle

In 2015, NDDA received a specialty crop grant to pursue a large scale Japanese beetle survey. NDDA will continue this project through the 2016 growing season. It is anticipated that NDDA will place approximately 500 traps. This project will utilize a few volunteers from 2015 that asked to participate again. Nurseries will again be the focus of the project. The full report from the 2015 survey can be found on our website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/pest/japanese-beetle>.

Japanese Beetle Outreach Available

Some of the grant funds are available to print outreach and education material regarding Japanese beetle. A sample of the wallet cards we have printed is viewable below. Any one who would like some of these cards to distribute to customers during the 2016 season should contact NDDA and we can mail them out. Contact Charles at celhard@nd.gov or 701-220-0485.

Update on Emerald Ash Borer

USDA-APHIS-PPQ is contracting out all EAB trapping for 2016. Private contractors will be placing approximately 158 traps in North Dakota. NDDA will distribute excess supplies from previous years to cities for placement.

Emerald ash borer has been found in 25 states since 2002 and is slowly spreading west across the US.

Non-Hardy List Update

The non-hardy list was updated and reviewed for the 2016 season. A number of plants were removed and some new cultivars were added. These changes are recorded below:

- *Acer negundo* (Boxelder Maple) removed
- *Morus alba* 'Trader' (Trader White Mulberry) added to *M. alba* exceptions
- *Ulmus* (Elm) hybrids clarified
- *Viburnum plicatum* (Doublefile Viburnum) added to trees list
- *Buxus* spp. (Boxwood) exemptions clarified and updated with new cultivars
- *Rhododendron* spp. (Rhododendrons & Azaleas) will not be listed as nonhardy, but cultivars/varieties will be recorded
- *Viburnum nudum* (Possumhaw Viburnum) added to list

- *Chamaecyparis nottkatensis* (Weeping Alaskan Cypress) added to list.

The most commonly cited nonhardy plants are *Thuja occidentalis* 'Smargd' (Emerald Arborvitae), *Picea glauca* 'Conica' (Dwarf Alberta Spruce), *Cornus florida* (Flowering Dogwood), *Prunus avium*, *P. glandulosa* and *P. persica* (Cherry, Pink Flowering Almond, and Peach), *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple), and nonhardy cultivars of *Malus* spp. (Apple) and *Pyrus* spp. (Pear). Citations have already been issued to nurseries in 2016.

The non-hardy list is available on our website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/nursery-program>.



The image shows a wallet card for Japanese Beetle identification. It features a yellow ruler at the top with inches and centimeters. The card is divided into two main sections: 'Adult Japanese Beetle' and 'Japanese Beetle Larvae'. The adult section shows a photograph of a beetle with a metallic green head and thorax and coppery wings, with a 1/2" scale bar. The larvae section shows a photograph of a creamy white larva with a brown head capsule and a V-shaped hair pattern, with a 1" scale bar. Below the photographs are instructions: 'Look for metallic green head and thorax, and coppery wings.' and 'Look for creamy white color, brown head capsule and V-shaped hair pattern.' The bottom section of the card includes a photograph of a trap, contact information for the Agriculture Commissioner (701-328-2231, ndda@nd.gov), and a warning icon. Text on the card states: 'Japanese Beetles are highly destructive to plants. They feed on more than 300 host plants, including: field crops, ornamental trees and shrubs, flowers, vegetables and turf. Traps like the one seen below can be used to monitor infestation and control the Japanese Beetle population. Report any sighting of Japanese Beetle to your local extension agent or to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. You can learn more at: www.nd.gov/ndda/pest/japanesebeetle.'

North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association celebrates 50 years

Mark your calendars for January 29-31, 2017, as the NDNGA will host it's 50th anniversary convention. Plan on joining this organization and learn more about pertinent topics to the nursery, landscape and greenhouse industry. NDNGA is a professional trade organization dedicated to advancing the horticultural industry in the area. Members of the association are pledged to conduct themselves and their business on the highest ethical plane and endeavor to elevate the standards of the green industry in North Dakota. For more visit their website at www.ndnga.com.