



# Earthly Elements

"Helpful Information From The Trenches"

Issue 2

Summer Edition

June 2002



## Let the Sun Shine!

Summer is definitely my favorite time of year. Not just for the warm weather, although I am one of those people who doesn't mind 90 degree days. No, I like it because of the rich experiences I'm able to have in the garden, mine at home & my client's as well. Nature is a great teacher if only we stop & listen.



## In This Issue

- \*Habitat Gardens
- \*Daylily Rust Warning
- \*Berries for the Birds
- \*Bring in the Blooms
- \*Gardener Gatherings

## Home for Wildlife

Loss of habitat is the major reason wildlife is disappearing all over the country. Habitat restoration is critical for wildlife in urban and suburban settings where commercial residential development has eliminated most natural areas. Now, you can turn your yard into an enticing wildlife refuge every season of the year by creating a backyard habitat. Join the many habitat enthusiasts across the United States who, with the help of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), have learned the joys of gardening for wildlife. The NWF teaches people how to save a place for wildlife right in their own backyards while giving them a way to connect with the natural world. Since 1973, the NWF Backyard Wildlife Habitat program has certified over 28,000 habitats; approximately 50,000 acres. The average size of a habitat ranges from one third to a half acre, but certified sites can be urban balconies or thousand-acre areas. To get started on your own gardening for wildlife adventure, call 703-438-6100 or visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org) on the web.



## Daylily Rust Has Arrived In Michigan

by Jan Byrne, Diagnostic Services MSU  
(This is a reprint from the MSU CAT Alerts)



Daylily rust is a new disease on daylilies, and (recently) it was found at two locations in Michigan. The disease was first found in Georgia in August 2000 and, shortly thereafter, was confirmed in Florida, Alabama and South Carolina. The disease has continued to spread and, this year it has been confirmed in at least 24 states including the nearby states of Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. The disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Puccinia hemerocallis*, is a major concern to propagators, nurseries and home gardeners. The disease causes lesions on the foliage and completely kills foliage on especially susceptible cultivars. Researchers do not know whether or not tubers can be infected. Once the disease is established, intensive scouting, removal of infected foliage and regular fungicide applications are all needed to control the disease. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is likely to invoke quarantines restricting the sale of infected plant material at nurseries. There is not a lot of information known about the biology of this pathogen, The fungus has a short incubation time, spores are produced within 7 to 14 days after the foliage is infected, and the spores are then spread by wind. The pathogen has other hosts (*Patrinia* spp. and possibly *Hosta* spp.) but does not need them to complete its lifecycle. The ability of the pathogen to overwinter or survive on infected plants throughout a Michigan winter is not known. More information about the disease and images of the symptoms are available at two web sites:

[www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/plantpath/daylilyrust.html](http://www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/plantpath/daylilyrust.html) and [www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html). Chemical control of the disease is still under investigation. Trials conducted by Dr. Williams-Woodward at the University of Georgia found that Daconil Ultrex (chlorothalonil), Fore (mancozeb) and Heritage (azoxystrobin) applied with a surfactant are effective when applied prior to inoculation. The number of times Heritage can be applied is limited, so this product should be rotated with other effective products - consult the label for more details. Plants suspected of having daylily rust can be submitted to (MSU) Diagnostic Services (517-355-4536). This disease can be confirmed relatively easily and results are usually faxed back on the same day that samples are received.



## A “Berry” Good Way to Attract Birds

Who says your winter landscape has to be without color. When I see the red berries of a Holly or the orange fruits on a Burning Bush, what I'm really seeing is the link between color, wildlife, and food.

As summer fades, it takes its color with it. The flashy butterflies and brilliant wildflowers all fade away. Winter seizes control and subdues everything with its neutral grays and browns. But not quite everything has to succumb.

With a little research you can have those flecks of color speckle your landscape like paint splatters on a giant canvas. A dot of red here, a spot of orange there. These winter fruits are the calling cards of vines, shrubs, and trees. Here's a list that will help offer you a few plants to consider when making additions to your home landscape or backyard garden sanctuary.

**BERRY-BEARING PLANTS TO ATTRACT BIRDS**

- Holly** (*Ilex spp.*)\*
  - Oregon holly** (*Mahonia spp.*)\*
  - Wahoo** (*Euonymus atrgpu u-rea*)
  - Bittersweet** (*Celastrus scandens*)
  - Virginia creeper** (*Parthenocissus virginiana*)
  - Viburnum** (*Vibumum spp.*)\*
  - Sumac** (*Rhus spp.*)
  - Hawthorn** (*Crataegus spp.*)\*
  - Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos spp.*)\*
  - Bayberry** (*Myrica pensylvanica*)
  - Hackberry** (*Celtis spp.*)\*
  - Wintergreen** (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
  - Bearberry** (*Arctostaphvlos uva-ursi*)
- Note: \* hardiness varies by species, however these are all hardy to zone 5*



The birds of the air  
nest by the waters;  
they sing among the  
branches.

*Psalm 104:12*



*Bring in the Blooms*

Here's 8 tips to help your flowers last longer and stand taller once cut.

1. Harvest flowers early in the morning, when they're freshest.
2. Use a sharp knife or clippers to cut stems (as opposed to scissors, which can bruise stems), and cut at a slight angle, so stems can absorb more water.
3. To keep flowers firm, bring a bucket of lukewarm water out to the garden with you, and plunge newly cut flowers into it. Keep them in a cool location until ready to arrange.
4. Strip foliage off the part of the stem that will be in water; the water will stay cleaner.
5. With a mallet or hammer, gently tap the bottom of thick,woody stems to break the fibers and increase water absorption. Cauterize over a flame the bottoms of stems that bleed sap.
6. When readying the vase for the final arrangement, add a pinch of sugar (to help the stem take up water), an aspirin tablet or a drop of bleach, (to deter bacteria), and your bouquets will remain fresh longer.
7. For harmonious balance, extend the arrangement above the rim of the vase 1-2 times the height of the vase.
8. Arrange greenery slightly over the containers rim to soften the sharpness of its edge.



## Gardener Gatherings

Places to Go & Things to Learn



If you are considering adding that perfect specialty rose to your garden, check out what English Gardens has in stock. Rose Hill Center will be exclusively offering hybrid teas & floribundas this season after Mother's Day. Varieties such as "Livin' Easy", a floribunda that is just what it's name implies, "Electron", a hot pink hybrid tea & "Color Magic" a beauty that starts out pink & changes color as it ages. Just look for roses with a special Rose Hill Center tag. For store locations & specific rose availability contact English Gardens at 248-851-7506 or go on line to [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com). The roses can also be purchased directly at Rose Hill with **ALL proceeds** staying at the center. Contact them at 248-634-5530 for directions or find them on the internet at [www.rosehillcenter.com](http://www.rosehillcenter.com).

Rose Hill Center is a non-profit rehabilitation & treatment facility assisting adults with mental illness. Founded in 1992, the center offers a variety of therapeutic work activities for their residents, including the Horticulture program. The Center has been successful in assisting hundreds of persons regain their mental health and independence. By purchasing a rose, you are helping the residents of Rose Hill Center as they work to overcome serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression.



### What & Where

Trailwood Garden Club  
Annual Garden Walk

**June 25th (Noon to 8 P.M.)**  
call 734-459-7146 for ticket information

Canton Garden Club  
Annual Garden Walk

**June 29th (Noon to 8 P.M.)**  
call 734-455-8283 or 455-4472  
for ticket information

Contact us at 734-416-0866 or [earthen@rosehillcenter.com](mailto:earthen@rosehillcenter.com)

## LEMON-CRANBERRY FIZZ

This tasty drink will cool off even the hottest summer afternoons.

- 1 12-oz. can frozen cranberry juice cocktail concentrate, **thawed**
- 1 12-oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate, **thawed**
- 3 cups water
- 1 1-liter bottle (about 4 cups) club soda, chilled
- Cranberries & Lemon Slices (optional)



In a large punch bowl, combine cranberry juice cocktail concentrate, lemonade concentrate, and water. Slowly pour in the club soda; stir gently to combine. Garnish the punch with cranberries and lemon slices, if desired. Makes 16 5-oz servings (about 10 cups punch).