

## Horticultural News and Research Important to American Gardeners

### NEW DISEASE WREAKS HAVOC ON WESTERN WALNUT TREES

The walnut twig beetle, a tiny insect native to Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Mexico, has never been much of a problem on walnut trees (*Juglans* spp.) before. But this has changed recently, scientists say, because of a newly discovered partnership between the beetle and an



aggressive fungus that has had devastating effects on walnuts in several western states. When the beetle bores pin-prick-sized holes into a tree's bark, it introduces the hitchhiking fungus, resulting in what researchers are calling "thousand cankers" disease. Symptoms include dark stains on the bark, yellowing and wilting of the leaves, branch die-back, and eventual death of the tree within a few years after the initial infection.

"It appears that all species of walnut will be affected, but in the field the walnuts from Asia (such as the commercial walnut, *Juglans regia*) seem to be less affected by this insect and disease combination," says Steve Seybold, a chemical ecologist and forest entomologist with the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station in Davis, California, and an affiliate of the UC-Davis Department of Entomology. "The most susceptible species appear to be eastern

black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and California black walnut (*Juglans californica*)." To date, thousand cankers disease has been documented in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. "Presently the disease appears to be confined to the western U.S., but we are actively looking in the Great Plains and central states for

the chain in 2004. Although the business's termination means the loss of hundreds of jobs, Jim Hagedorn, CEO of Scotts Miracle-Gro, has defended the step as the right move for the growth of the company at large. Scotts Miracle-Gro did have hopes of selling Smith & Hawken at one time, but eventually decided it was in the best interests of the company to liquidate it instead.



Thousand cankers disease, spread by tiny walnut twig beetles, above, causes walnut trees to defoliate and eventually die, left.

evidence of the problem," says Seybold. "There is no historical record of the walnut twig beetle in the eastern U.S., but it has demonstrated that it can colonize eastern black walnut when it has been planted in California, Colorado, Oregon, etc., so it is possible that the beetle may colonize eastern black walnut east of the Mississippi."

### SMITH & HAWKEN VICTIM OF ECONOMY

No amount of Miracle-Gro fertilizer can revive Smith & Hawken now. By the end of this year, all Smith & Hawken garden retail stores will be closed; online and catalog sales were discontinued in July. The parent organization, the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, cited economic instability as the reason for terminating the business. Smith & Hawken, known for its upscale selection of gardening tools and outdoor furnishings, was founded in 1979, and Scotts Miracle-Gro purchased

### HOT PLANT FOR COOL SEASONS

If you're looking for a top-performing viola to plant this fall, check your garden center for *Viola cornuta* Endurio® 'Sky Blue Martien'. All-America Selections has spotlighted this new cultivar with its 2010 Cool Season Bedding Plant Award. Named in honor of its breeder, Martien Gutter of Syngenta Flowers, the plant reaches six inches tall and spreads up to 12 inches wide. When planted in the fall, this cultivar produces purplish-blue flowers throughout the winter in mild southern regions. In northern temperate climates up to USDA Hardiness Zone 4, it will flower even after the first frost when planted in fall, overwintering to bloom again in spring after the soil has warmed. If planted in early spring, it will flower into the summer.



*Viola cornuta* Endurio® 'Sky Blue Martien'

## RAINWATER COLLECTION RESTRICTIONS LIFTED IN COLORADO

After decades of living as rain-harvesting renegades, the people of Colorado now have the freedom to utilize an element many may take for granted: Water. Two recently passed state laws will allow nearly a quarter-million people with private wells to legally collect and use rainwater, providing they have a valid permit. Prior to the



Using a rain barrel in home gardens is no longer a criminal offense in Colorado.

inception of these laws, Colorado residents—along with many of their neighbors in surrounding states—were practically prohibited from even sticking their tongue out to enjoy a few drops of rain. The old laws state that the rainwater belonged to ranchers, farmers, and water agencies that owned the rights to waterways where the precipitation is eventually deposited. Colorado officials admit that the old law was loosely enforced, but infringements could result in the perpetrator being taken to court and paying damages. Contributing to the passage of the new laws was a 2007 study that indicated 97 percent of precipitation that fell in an average year in Colorado's Douglas County was not flowing into bodies of water, but was evaporating or being used by plants.

## NEW OWNERSHIP FOR WESTERN GARDEN SHOWS

To the relief of garden-show goers everywhere, the Northwest and San Francisco Flower & Garden Shows will continue to be produced, albeit under new ownership. Founder Duane Kelly produced the shows



A display by Daniel Owens of EnviroMagic at a recent San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

for 21 years before announcing last October that he was selling them to pursue other interests. This May, the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show was purchased by a group of Bay Area businessmen. The San Francisco Show is the third-largest in the country. The Northwest Flower &

## How a cemetery revived a community

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Garden Show, the second-largest show in the country, drawing more than 50,000 attendees last year, was sold to O'Loughlin Trade Shows of Portland, Oregon, and Tacoma, Washington, in July.

Although the ownership has changed, Bill O'Loughlin, president of O'Loughlin Trade Shows, has pledged to follow Kelly's original format. Additionally, some em-

ployees will remain to ensure the success of the Northwest Show, including Kelly himself, who will serve as a consultant. Kay Estey, producer for the San Francisco Show, says the event will "have the feeling of a fair, but with the same emphasis on horticulture and the green industry."

The Northwest Show will take place from February 3 to 7, 2010, in Seattle,

Washington, while the San Francisco Show is scheduled from March 24 to 28 in San Mateo, California. Additional information for both shows will be available at [www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com) closer to the dates of the events.

*News written by Editorial Intern Amanda Griesser and Associate Editor Viveka Neveln.*

## PEOPLE and PLACES in the NEWS

### Missouri Botanical Garden Now a Horticultural Landmark

The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) has honored the Missouri Botanical Garden as the latest public



garden to receive its Horticultural Landmark designation. The Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the United States, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

The ASHS screening committee considers the historical, scientific, aesthetic, and environmental impact of a garden when selecting one for this honor. George Fitzpatrick, the 2009 chair of the ASHS Screening Committee, says they chose MBG because of its "excellent outreach and educational programs, its excellent research programs—especially in plant conservation and biodiversity—and the documentation of its extensive horticultural collections."

The Horticultural Landmark program was established in 1996 by then ASHS president, Donald Maynard. The first public garden to receive the Horticultural Landmark designation from the ASHS was Monticello: Thomas Jefferson's Home and Garden, in 1998. Other sites that have received the distinction include the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, the New York Botanical Garden, the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters in Virginia, and the San Antonio River Walk in Texas.

### Author of *Green Thoughts* Dies

Eleanor Perenyi, a longtime gardener with a flair for writing, passed away on May 3, 2009, at the age of 91. Perenyi was born in Washington, D.C., and later settled in Stonington, Connecticut. Her book, *Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Gar-*

*den* (Random House), was first published in 1981 and is her only book on gardening. The book is a compilation of essays that dovetails Perenyi's love of gardening with social commentary and wit. *Green Thoughts* was praised for its refreshingly contrary approach to typical Connecticut gardens and accessibility to a large audience of gardeners and non-gardeners alike. It was chosen as one of the American Horticultural Society's 75 Great American Garden Books and was reprinted in 2002. Perenyi's other titles include *The Bright Sword* (Rinehart, 1955) and *Liszt: The Artist as Romantic Hero* (Little, Brown, & Company, 1974), which was a finalist for the National Book Award.

### Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Receives Garden Excellence Award

Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail, Colorado, was recently added to a list of distinguished American gardens after it received the Award for Garden Excellence from the American Public Gardens Association in June. The award, sponsored by *Horticulture* magazine, was established in 2003. In order to be considered for the award, a public garden must exemplify a standard of criteria including environmentally conscious gardening practices, an outstanding horticultural display, and a commitment to the national or regional gardening community and to educating future gardeners.

Past recipients of the award are Olbrich Botanical Garden in Wisconsin, the Chicago Botanic Garden in Illinois, and the Chanticleer Foundation in Pennsylvania. Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is located more than 8,000 feet above sea level, making it the highest botanical garden in the United States. The garden, established in 1985 and named for the wife of former President Gerald Ford, has long been recognized for its displays of high-altitude wildflowers and woody plants.

—A.G.

