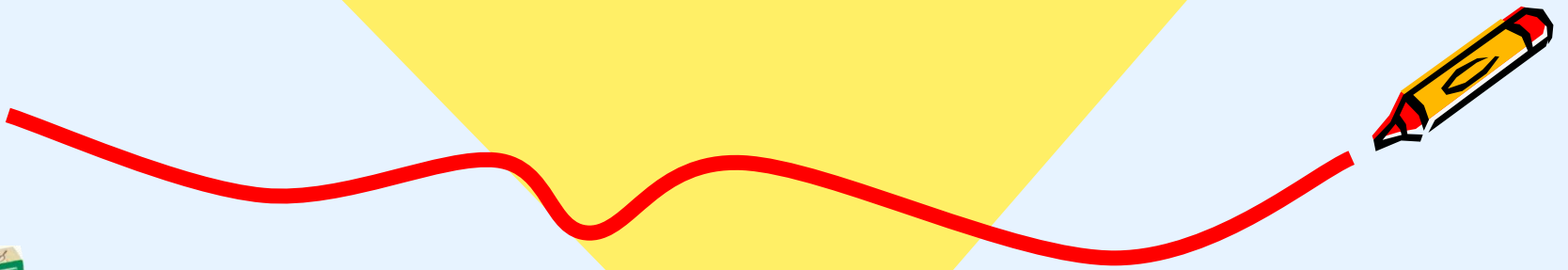


# Landscape Management

Nebraska Extension



# Know Your Plants

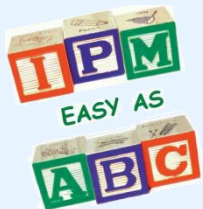
- ❖ Soil and water requirements
  - Well-drained soil, sandy soil, etc.
  - Dry, moist, drought tolerant, etc.
- ❖ Fertilizer and pruning timing
- ❖ Environmental preferences
  - Sun, part sun, shade preferences
- ❖ Common pest problems
- ❖ Common environmental problems
  - Drought stress, sun scald, winter desiccation
- ❖ Past problems



# Plant Spreadsheet

## Location A

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number	Soil	Exposure	Past Problems/comments
Autumn Fire Sedum	<i>Sedum 'Autumn Fire'</i>	5	tolerates dry soil	Full to part sun	none; cutback in spring
Purple Autumn Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	3	well-drained	Full sun	ash sawfly May 2003



# What is Your Tolerance Level for the Problem?

## ❖ Serious threat

- Quickly spreading insect or disease problem (ie. Pine Wilt)
- Root diseases or root-feeding insects
- Heavy populations of insects or diseases anywhere on the plant
- Weeds shading or crowding new plantings



**Picture:** Pine Wilt in September 2003 on campus



# What is Your Tolerance Level for the Problem?

## ❖ Non-serious threat

- Usually aesthetic problems
- Primarily leaf diseases or leaf feeding insects

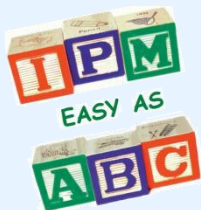


Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Management of many pests can be accomplished through proper management practices and plant selection

- ❖ Landscape Prep
- ❖ Planting
- ❖ Mulching
- ❖ Pruning
- ❖ Fertilizing
- ❖ Irrigation
- ❖ Plant Selection, for the site

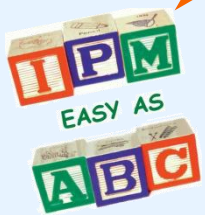




# Landscape Preparation

❖ Add organic matter to landscape beds

- Improves health of the plants
- Adds plant nutrients to the soil
- Reduces chance of crown and root rots in clay soils
- Reduces drought stress in sandy soils



# Planting Trees

- ❖ Place on firm surface
- ❖ Should be at or slightly above grade
- ❖ Flare should not be buried
- ❖ Fill hole with original soil
- ❖ Hole should be 2x as wide and only as deep as the roots





# Mulching

- ❖ Reduces mower and trimmer damage
- ❖ Improves weed control
- ❖ Retains soil moisture
- ❖ Cools soil
- ❖ Moderates soil temperature
- ❖ Reduces competition for water and nutrients

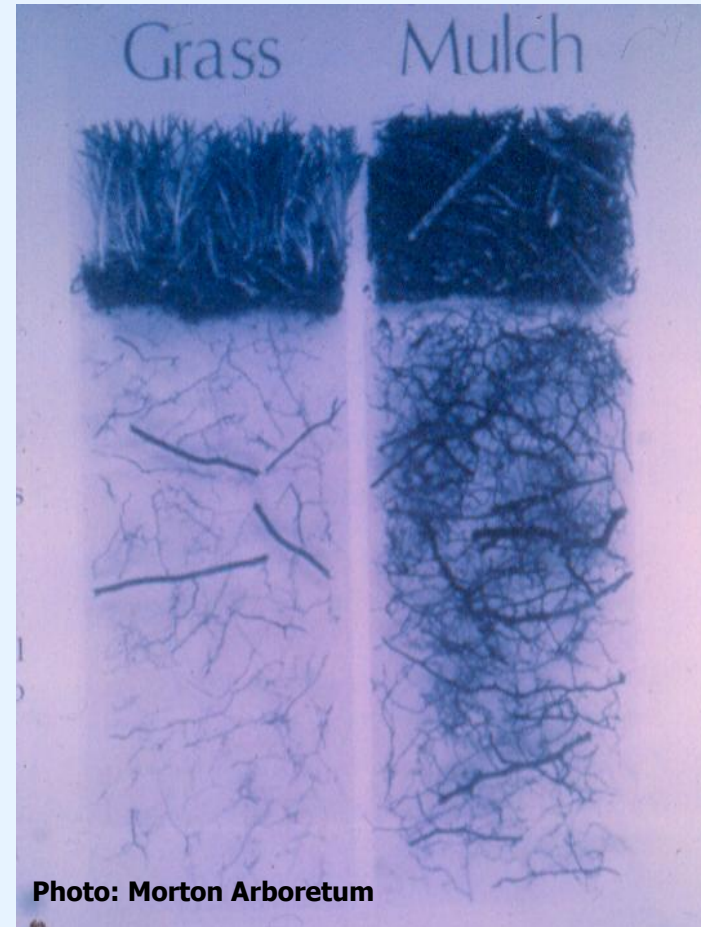


Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Benefit of Mulch

Research at Morton Arboretum: More tree roots are developed under a mulch bed than under turfgrass.



# Pruning Trees

- ❖ Most trees and shrubs should be pruned in late winter
- ❖ Spring flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned after flowering
  - To avoid fireblight, prune crabapples, hawthorns, pears, mountain ash, and other susceptible species during dormancy



Photo: University of Nebraska-Lincoln





# Pruning Trees

- ❖ Make correct pruning cuts
- ❖ Clean tools between cuts on diseased plants
- ❖ Remove no more than 1/3 of the plant in one growing season



# Pruning Herbaceous Plants

- ❖ Cut back foliage to eliminate insect or disease problems - rejuvenate fresh foliage
- ❖ Remove collapsed foliage - due to wind, ice or snow

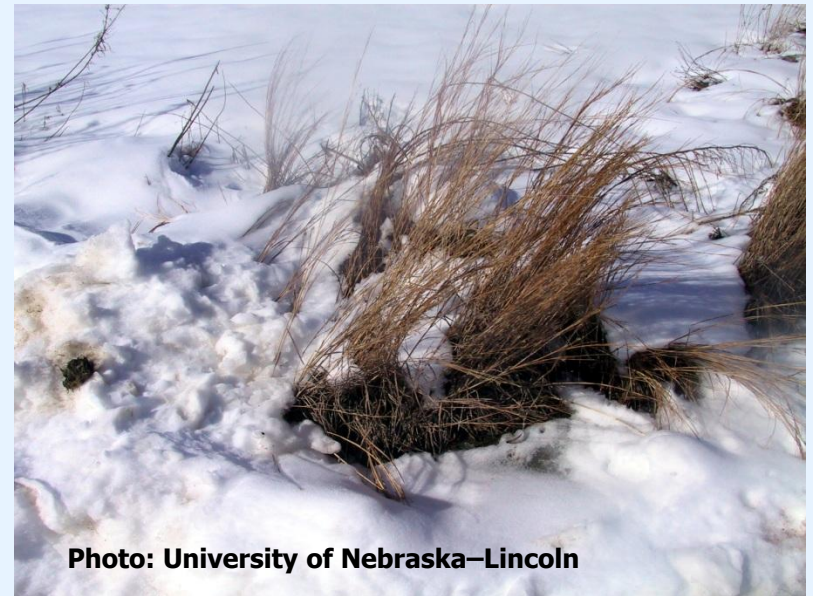


Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln





# Fertilizing

- ❖ Add as needed depending on plant signs
- ❖ Avoid mid-fall (N) applications, this encourages continued growth and prevents proper hardening off
- ❖ Avoid fertilizing drought stressed plants to avoid burning the leaves



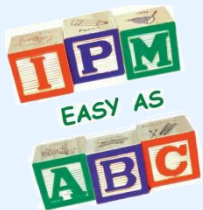
# Irrigation

- ❖ Early morning (4-10 a.m.) to reduce leaf wetness and disease incidence
- ❖ Avoid saturated soil conditions to reduce root diseases, especially in groundcovers
- ❖ Avoid watering turf and landscape beds with the same irrigation head



Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Overwatered turf stressing a littleleaf linden (thin canopy)



# Plant Selection

- ❖ Read publications at <http://ianrpubs.unl.edu> for more information (search by title)
  - *Wildflowers in the Home Landscape*
  - *Spring Flowering Bulbs*
  - *Perennials in Water-Wise Landscapes*
- ❖ Visit the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum: <http://arboretum.unl.edu/>
- ❖ Contact your local county extension office for more information.



# When Pesticides Are Needed

- ❖ Use curative, spot applications
- ❖ Apply at the correct time using the appropriate product
- ❖ Apply at the correct rate
- ❖ Potentially use preventative products in troublesome areas



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