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THE GRAPEVINE

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CONSERVATION TREES FROM KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old and sizes vary from 8 to 18 inches, depending on species. Two types of seedlings are offered; bareroot and container-grown. Container grown provide a higher survival rate and quicker establishment. Orders are accepted from now through May 1, but order early to ensure receiving the items you want. Orders are shipped beginning in mid-March. Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, wildlife habitat, timber plantations and educational and riparian (streambank) plantings. They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale. All items are sold in units. Each single species unit consists of 25 plants. For example, a unit of Eastern red cedar has 25 trees per unit. Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available including a songbird bundle, quail bundle, pheasant bundle and wildlife mast bundle. Tree planting accessories are also available including marking flags, root protective slurry, rabbit protective tubes, weed barrier fabric and tree tubes. If there have been problems with deer browsing on young trees, the tree tubes are a must.

For details and an order form, go to: > <http://kfs.mybigcommerce.com/> Order< forms are also available from your local Butler County K-State Research and Extension office in El Dorado.

Caddo Sugar Maples

Sugar maples often have significant problems with our Kansas weather. Our hot, often dry summers and windy conditions can shorten the life of these trees. However, some sugar maples are better adapted to Kansas conditions than others. Our John C. Pair Horticulture Center, south of Wichita, has evaluated sugar maples for well over 20 years and has identified selections that are much better adapted to Kansas. Of particular interest are the Caddo sugar maples which originated from an isolated population in Caddo, County, Oklahoma. These are true sugar maples and are considered an ectotype and are more drought tolerant, better adapted to high pH soils and more resistant to leaf scorch and tatter than the norm. Just how resistant to scorch is impressive. The last three weeks of August in 2003 saw temperatures at our research station over 100 degrees each day with no rain for the month prior. All other sugar maples in the trial had severely scorched leaves. Not a single leaf of any of the caddo maples was scorched. Leaf water potential readings taken pre-dawn showed all other trees in the trial past the wilting point while the Caddo maples were barely stressed. Another interesting characteristic of caddo maples is that they tend to retain their leaves in the winter and therefore have been suggested as screens or for use in windbreaks. Dr. John Pair, the late

director of the Horticulture Center, selected and released two Caddo maples over 10 years ago. Both these selections color early and have consistent good red fall color. Drought tolerance and resistance to leaf scorch and leaf tatter are exceptional. However, neither will do well in a heavy clay soil that is frequently saturated. These trees can be damaged or killed if planted in wet sites. The first selection, 'Autumn Splendor', has the traditional sugar maple growth pattern and needs plenty of room to mature. 'John Pair' is smaller and more compact and more likely to fit a residential landscape. This tree is also noted for a dense, uniform crown. If you are in the market for a sugar maple, consider these before making a final decision.

How to Tell Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper Apart in the Winter

Winter can be a good time to tackle some of the invasive species that have taken hold on rural property. Two of these that seem to be a constant source of irritation (pun intended) are Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper. During the growing season, these plants are easy to tell apart as Virginia Creeper has five-leaflets per leaf and Poison Ivy has three. However, during the winter, distinguishing between the two vines can be more difficult as the leaves have dropped. The reason it is important to be able to tell the difference is that Poison Ivy causes a rash in most people but Virginia Creeper does not. First, let's cover some facts about Poison Ivy.

- Urushiol is the oil present in Poison Ivy that causes the rash.
- Urushiol is present in all parts of the plant but especially in the sap.
- Urushiol can cause a rash from 1 to 5 years after a plant has died.
- The amount of urushiol that covers the head of a pin can cause a rash in 500 people. The stuff is potent.
- Poison Ivy can grow as a ground cover, a shrub or a vine. We are concerned with the vine in this article.
- Using a chainsaw on Poison Ivy in the winter can release sap which makes a rash more likely. This is worse on warm days where there is more sap rise.

So how do you tell the two apart? This is actually easy once you know what to check. Look at the aerial roots on the vines of Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper. They resemble hairs on Poison Ivy but are plumper on Virginia Creeper and are about the size of a pencil lead.

All-America Selection Winners for 2019

All-America Selections tests and introduces new flowers and vegetables each year that have done well in trials across North America. Others have done well in certain regions of the US. This year there were six vegetable winners and four flower winners that were either "National" or "Heartland" winners. Descriptions can be found at ><https://all-americaselections.org/product-category/year/2019/><

Vegetables

Melon Orange SilverWave F1, Pepper Just Sweet F1, Tomato Fire Fly F1, Tomato Red Torch F1 and Tomato Sparky XSL F1.

Flowers

Begonia Viking™ XL Red on Chocolate F1, Marigold Big Duck Gold F1, Nasturtium Baby Rose and Petunia Wave® Carmine Velour F1.