

Horticulture Tips

September 2022

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University

GARDEN TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER!

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

Landscape

- Watch for fall specials at garden centers and nurseries since fall is a great time for planting many ornamentals.
- Choose spring flowering bulbs as soon as available.
- Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or kale, snapdragons and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool.
- Watch for and control any late infestations of tree webworms.
- Twig girdler insects should be controlled if large numbers of small branches of elms, pecans, or persimmons are uniformly girdled from the tree and fall to the ground.
- Begin to reduce the amount of light on outside tropical houseplants by placing them under shade trees before bringing them indoors for the winter.

Vegetables

- You have all of September to plant cool-season vegetables like spinach, leaf lettuce, mustard and radishes, and until the middle of September to plant rutabagas, Swiss chard, garlic and turnips.

Lawn

- Last nitrogen fertilizer application of the year on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15. ([HLA-6420](#))
- Winter broadleaf weeds like dandelion will begin to emerge in late September, which is also the best time to control them with a 2, 4-D type herbicide.
- If pre-emergent control of winter-annual weeds (henbit, chickweed, annual bluegrass, etc.) is desired in lawns, the application should be completed by the second week of September. ([HLA-6421](#)) *Note: Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall.*
- Continue bermudagrass spray program with glyphosate products for areas being converted over to tall fescue this fall. ([HLA-6421](#))
- Plan to seed bluegrass, fescue or ryegrass as needed in shady areas in mid- to late-September. Fall is the best time to establish cool-season lawns ([HLA-6419](#)).
- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem ([HLA-7306](#)). Water product into soil.

Native Pecan Harvest Highlighted at Upcoming Field Day

Becky Carroll, Associate Extension Specialist, Fruit & Pecans

SAVE THE DATE

NATIVE PECAN HARVEST FIELD DAY

▶ **October 13, 2022**
Claremore, OK



The Mike Spradling Family, Oklahoma State University Pecan Management, and the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association are hosting a Native Pecan Harvest Field Day on October 13 from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Check-in will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Flying G Ranch, 8102 E 550 Rd, Claremore, OK.

A few topics planned include:

- Harvest Equipment
- Harvest Demonstration
- Checking Pecan Moisture
- Drying Methods
- Prolonged Drought Stress Effects
- Wildlife Depredation
- Pecan Leasing
- Oklahoma Food Freedom Act
- Updates on the 2022 Season including insect & disease observations

The field day is free of charge, but participants should pre-register by October 11 at https://okstatecasnr.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OLu1KdmsfhXySO. Please bring a lawn chair and plan to stay for dinner in the grove at the conclusion of the field day.

For more information contact becky.carroll@okstate.edu or 405-744-6139.

Heuchera

Casey Hentges, Associate Extension Specialist

Bailey Lockhart, Extension Assistant

When searching for new landscape plants, people often want something that checks all the boxes. Heucheras do just that.

It is a native, spring bloomer that can be utilized as cut flowers, can handle sun or shade, hardy from zones 4-9 (which covers much of the US.), works in containers as well as it does in the landscape, has no major pest problems, comes in a range of leaf colors and patterns that will even put hostas to shame, and is evergreen. Not to mention it is a native.

Heucheras, or coral bells, can handle full sun better in northern climates. However, they do appreciate having some shade in our Oklahoma summers. This makes them an ideal plant to transition from the sun to the shade garden. Heucheras can also handle being on the drier side in the shade, which is ideal because there is often more root competition for water under trees.

With dainty little panicles of flowers, this plant adds a touch of sweetness to the garden, but its showiness is emboldened by the range of foliage it offers.

‘Palace Purple’ is on the darker end of the spectrum. While it has been around for some time, it is still a good plant to have in the garden. In fact, it was recognized as the perennial plant of the year in 1991. While it does typically have darker foliage, it may fade to a bronzy-green with more sun exposure.

‘Obsidian’ is one of the darkest of the coral bells and will not fade in the sun. The leaves have a more scalloped margin versus some of the other cultivars.

‘Frosted Violet’ PP15085 has a bit of a serrated margin to the leaves and will have about a two foot height and spread. It has a silvery-purple foliage with dark venation and offers a soft pink flower that will pop against the darker foliage.

‘Silver Gumdrop’ is similar because it will give a purple iridescent look yet have more of a scalloped leaf similar to ‘Obsidian’. It has a bit more heat and humidity tolerance because it is a hybrid of *Heuchera villosa*, which is native to southeastern U.S.

‘Dark Secret’ transitions from dark purple to dark green but maintains a purple underside which creates a nice flash of color in our Oklahoma wind. This one works best in a shadier location to help maintain a darker color. It produces significant floral panicles with pink flowers.

All of these cultivars with darker foliage are great accents to compliment other lighter-colored heuchera or help those hostas stand out even more.

Adding more color to the garden could include utilizing a heuchera with more red foliage to them such as ‘Galaxy’ PP24574. It offers a mottled leaf with splotches of pinks and red. Or you can incorporate ‘Georgia Peach’ that displays the veins of the leaf as if they were artwork. Or ‘Magma’ is another vigorous heuchera reaching two feet tall and tops out at three feet with flowers.

‘Caramel’ is a heuchera that will shift the color palette towards copper, with the occasional pop of a burgundy, but will stay a bit shorter at under a foot tall.

There is no better way to brighten up the garden with the other end of the spectrum than to add ‘Citronelle’ USPP# 17934 heuchera. While many heucheras have been cultivated, this one was discovered as a sport of ‘Caramel’ in France in 2002. While ‘Caramel’ was discovered as a seedling, it is thought that its parentage is also *Heuchera villosa*, making both of these more adapted to warmer, humid summers.

These are just a few of the numerous introductions now available on the market. In fact, due to their popularity, there are now more hybrids than species on the market. While many of the cultivars utilized five North American native species (*H. sanguinea*, *H. americana*, *H. micrantha*, *H. villosa* and *H. cylindrica*), each of these species prefer specific areas within North America from rocky cliffs to woodlands. And because the parentage of some is unknown, many hybrids can have some variability in its preferred environment.

Often when we think about shade plants we think of hostas. While hostas will always have a place in the garden, heucheras are a great companion plant to consider. Best of all, this beautiful herbaceous foliage will remain evergreen for most of our winters in Oklahoma. Regardless of which hybrid is chosen, heucheras are a great addition to any garden.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKET9GL5XbY>

Tomato Ripening and Holding

David Hillock

As we enter the shorter and cooler days of late summer and fall tomatoes that survived the summer may begin setting fruit again. Hopefully they will ripen before freezing temperatures set in, but in case we have an early freeze that threatens the plants, tomatoes can be picked before they are fully ripe and stored indoors to complete the ripening process.

The tomato is a perishable fruit. Once the ripening process begins it can't be completely stopped. Tomatoes ripen rapidly at temperatures of 72°F, store well at 60°F, and can be held at 55°F.

The tomato ripens from the inside out. The tomato that is called vine ripe in the trade is actually picked when pink color first shows at the blossom end.

Tomatoes will turn color and ripen in light or in the dark at proper temperatures. High temperatures (above 80°F) prevent good color and flavor development and increase the chance of decay.

In the heat of July and August in Oklahoma, tomatoes left on the plant to fully ripen tend to turn red-orange in color. To get good red color development, the tomatoes must be picked when pink color first shows on the blossom end and placed in a cooler environment. In four days, at 70 to 75°F, tomatoes will develop full red color and excellent flavor. Picking tomatoes at this stage also reduces the chances for fruit cracking and garden losses due to birds, worms, sun scald, and other causes.

For the best flavor, ripe tomatoes should not be stored in the refrigerator for any length of time. Temperatures below 55°F are damaging to the fruit. You will get top flavor if tomatoes are stored in a cool place as near 60°F as possible.

Fall is for Planting Trees and Shrubs

David Hillock

Fall is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs. In fact, research suggests that early fall planting is best for container-grown and B&B shade and ornamental trees and pines, but spring is best for planting bare-root plants and broadleaf evergreens, such as holly and Southern magnolia. Plants planted in the fall have more time for the root system to become established before the onset of summer heat. Plants installed during the growing season are susceptible to high transpiration rates leading to drying of plant tissues.

A perfect example of this was seen at the Oklahoma Gardening® Studio Gardens several years ago when we planted the Edible Landscape bed. One blueberry shrub was planted in the fall and then several more were planted in the spring. There was a noticeable difference between the one planted in the fall and those planted the following spring. Despite the heat, the fall planted shrub looked awesome and was barely phased by the extreme temperatures that summer. The others struggled, having crispy leaves, dropping many of them, and barely hanging on despite the intense watering provided to keep them alive.

So, if you need to replace a tree or shrub or want to add more to the landscape, now is the time to be looking for that perfect plant. The weather should be changing for the better as we move through the month of September, bringing cooler temperatures and additional rainfall, something we all will eagerly welcome, and our plants will greatly appreciate.

Cool-season Lawn Planting and Renovation

David Hillock and Dennis Martin

The period mid-September through early October in Oklahoma typically has near-ideal day/night temperature combinations for germination of cool-season grasses. So, let the tall fescue,

perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass seeding begin (if you have access to water)! Sodding of these grasses is also appropriate at this time. The best temperatures for germination are when we experience a mid-80's day and upper 50's/low 60's night. You might be asking, is it possible that we will get fooled, and the temperatures will shoot back up. Sure, anything is possible in Oklahoma, but what is key to remember is that the nighttime lows are what's important. When you see evening temperatures from the upper 50's to mid-70's, it's time to seed cool-season lawns. So even if a few day-time highs slip back in the mid to upper 90's, (and it will happen) our day-time lows are looking great!

Fact sheet [HLA-6418](#) covers turfgrass selection, while [HLA-6419](#) covers the establishment (planting method) and [HLA-6420](#) covers the mainstream long-term maintenance practices (mowing, fertilization, irrigation, etc.). A newer fact sheet, [HLA-6608](#), addresses managing turfgrass in the shade.

There are many satisfactory performing tall fescues. These include, but are not limited to Crossfire II, Houndog V, Millenium, Rembrandt, and Plantation to name just a few. There are dozens of good performers. A blend is a combination of two or more varieties within the same species. A mix is two or more species combined. Blends and mixes are beneficial in cool-season lawns as they broaden the genetic diversity present. In theory, this decreases the likelihood that your lawn will be completely wiped out by a single disease or single insect infestation.

Most importantly, if turf-type quality is expected, choose a turf-type rather than a forage type tall fescue. Forage type fescues include Fawn and Alta. General purpose soil stabilizer types include the old K-31, Kentucky 31, KY 31, they get used as a forage and as a lawn, but these variations on Kentucky 31 are not true turf-type tall fescue despite what the marketing message on the seed bag might say. Turf-types are selected for improved color, texture, density, slower vertical leaf expansion rate and other important characteristics for lawn use.

Tall fescues are best in medium to light shade. There are no hard and fast rules for "hours of sunlight" required. There are no perfect solutions to dense shade where grasses fail repeatedly, year-in and year-out. It is best to take a hint if grass is failing in a shaded site many years, it's time to move on to mulches, shade tolerant perennial ground covers, hardscape elements, etc.; a list of alternate shade tolerant plants can also be found in fact sheet [HLA-6608](#). Sometimes grass does not die exclusively from shade, but rather the combination of shade and tree root competition for nutrients and water in combination with added disease pressure due to less air movement and more grass canopy moisture caused by less air movement in a "tight and mature" landscape.

In lightly shaded areas, mixtures of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass can sometimes work best. While Kentucky bluegrass is generally not as shade tolerant as tall fescue, it still has some shade tolerance, and it has improved brown patch disease and *Rhizoctonia* blight resistance over that of tall fescue. Brown patch is usually the most serious disease of tall fescue. These mixtures will often have Kentucky bluegrass present at 5 to 10% by weight and tall fescue at 90 to 95%. There are 10 times as many bluegrass seeds in a pound of bluegrass as there are tall fescue seeds present in a pound of fescue, so we use about 10 times less bluegrass seed to get to a 50/50

species count. Never, use a 100% stand of Kentucky bluegrass in most areas of Oklahoma because pure stands of Kentucky bluegrass in most of Oklahoma can get summer patch disease. Also, older Kentucky bluegrasses such as Park, Newport, South Dakota Common (SD Common), Kenblue and variety not stated (VNS =when there is no variety name stated) really don't bring any value to the cool-season mix. So, if these are the only ones available locally, you might as well use 100% tall fescue. Most other varieties of Kentucky bluegrass that you might encounter (there are hundreds nationally, and yet few repeatedly available in OK from year to year) are improvements and will benefit the mix!

There is seldom any benefit and there is often detriment created by mixes of cool-season perennial grasses with annual or Italian ryegrass. Yet, if you scout the store shelves, you will find these mixes. Annual ryegrass simply competes with the cool-season perennial grasses in the mix in the cool portion of the year when good growth can take place and then annual ryegrass, having taken its fair share of the lawn, dies out in the heat. This leaves uninformed consumers in a panic at worst and with unsightly dead areas in their remaining cool-season perennial lawn at best. Avoid mixes of annual ryegrass with the desirable cool-season perennials like tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass.

Managing Turf in the Shade

David Hillock

Turfgrasses can be difficult to grow in shady areas and proper management strategies are needed for success. The following is a list of tips for growing turfgrass in the shade in Oklahoma.

1. Right plant, right place. Select the most shade tolerant species and/or cultivars available according to site usage. Zoysia grass (*Zoysia* spp.) is a heat tolerant turfgrass that will generally outperform bermudagrass in the shade light shade. St. Augustinegrass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) is relatively shade tolerant among warm season turfgrasses *but can only be grown in the southernmost Oklahoma counties* due to its relatively poor freezing tolerance. Cool season grasses like turf type tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are more shade tolerant and often used in shady areas of the landscape.
2. Remove or selectively prune trees and shrubs if feasible. Trees and shrubs can be selectively pruned to improve light penetration to the lawn surface without destroying the growth habit of the plant. Remove tree limbs within 10 feet of the ground and clear brush, plants, or structures that block air movement and/or sunlight. For information on proper pruning practices, see Oklahoma State University (OSU) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Fact Sheet [HLA-6409](#). The north side of buildings, homes, and other non-moveable structures may not be conducive to turfgrass growth; where there is heavy shade or poor light conditions, alternative landscape plantings and materials may be the best option.
3. Increase the mowing height to at least 3 inches for tall fescue (or other cool-season grasses) and at least 2 inches for zoysiagrass or St. Augustinegrass. In addition, it is likely that these areas can be mowed less frequently than full sun areas. This would also help to reduce traffic stress to the area. If you are managing warm-season grass in the full-sun

and cool-season grass in shade, mowing equipment should be adjusted based upon recommended heights-of-cut by species for shady versus sunny areas.

4. Fertilize lightly and frequently as opposed to heavy and infrequent. Shaded turfgrass areas can survive with half of the nitrogen needed to maintain turfgrass in the full sun. In the shade, Zoysiagrass, St. Augustine, or tall fescue may need no more than 2 to 3 lbs of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year. If possible, apply fertilizer at the rate of 0.5 lbs N per 1,000 sq. ft. per application, making 3-4 applications over the season. *For warm-season grasses, only fertilize during the warm summer months. For cool-season grasses, only fertilize during the spring and fall.* If possible, use blended fertilizers containing both a quickly available and a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer source to avoid a quick flush of growth. Always apply fertilizers based on yearly soil test results. For more information on proper soil testing procedures and analysis, see OSU CES Fact Sheets [PSS-2207](#) and [PSS-2225](#).
5. Avoid excessive foot and/or equipment traffic. Instead of mowing shady areas every time you mow full-sun areas, mow every other time. Rope-off or otherwise protect turf in shady areas, especially if laying new sod or re-seeding. Try not to use heavy lawnmowers or tractors in shady areas or at least try not to repeatedly mow or drive over the same tire tracks every time.
6. Reduce irrigation amount and frequency when compared to full-sun areas. Shade areas take longer to dry out than full-sun areas. If shady areas are constantly wet, there is a significant increase in the probability of disease development, especially for cool-season grasses such as tall fescue. Allow the area to sufficiently dry between watering. If you have an automatic irrigation system, put shady turf areas on a separate zone from full-sun areas. At the same time, note that turfgrasses, trees, and shrubs that are grown in the same immediate area all compete for the same resources to survive. Turfgrasses in the shade that are directly competing with large trees may need more frequent watering than turfgrasses under building or structural shade.
7. Remove weeds either by hand or with herbicides. In a home lawn situation, it may be feasible to remove weeds in shady areas by hand rather than using herbicides. Herbicides can often have a phytotoxic effect on desirable turfgrass plants. Herbicide phytotoxicity to desirable turf plants may be exacerbated by shady conditions. Also, many turfgrass herbicides can be phytotoxic to trees, shrubs, or other desirable landscape plants. Always read the entire label before applying any pesticide to any part of your lawn.
8. Remove debris and leaves, especially in the fall and spring. Tree leaves and other debris only serve to block precious light to the turfgrass plant. Raking and removal is necessary and can often make a nice compost/mulch pile for other landscape beds. For tips on composting and mulching, see OSU Fact Sheets [BAE-1744](#) and [L-251](#).
9. Overseed, re-seed, or sod. If the turfgrass plant does not receive adequate light and/or management, yearly or bi-yearly overseeding, re-seeding, or sodding may be necessary. If so, follow the same basic lawn establishment instructions found in OSU Fact Sheet [HLA-6419](#). For warm-season grasses, complete this task in the late spring/early summer. If using zoysiagrass in a shaded site it will usually need to be installed as solid sod since development from seed will be extremely slow. For best results with cool-season grasses, seed or sod in the fall. If turfgrass repair in the shade is necessary, incorporate the most shade tolerant turfgrass species and cultivars.

10. Be prepared with other planting options if necessary. If you have tried to use tall fescue and or Kentucky bluegrass combinations and they have repeatedly failed in the shade over a 3-year period even after selective tree pruning and modified management for shade, it is time to move to an alternative shaded landscape strategy that can include shade tolerant ground covers, ornamentals, and hardscape elements. Many other ornamental plants can be utilized in shady areas and many of these can tolerate shade much better than turfgrass plants. Sometimes, a nicely designed ornamental bed can be more aesthetically pleasing and easier to maintain than a thinned out turfgrass area in the shade. Hardscape elements such as mulch, pavers, and other interest elements can be welcomed additions to shaded landscapes.

If you have further questions about managing turfgrass in shady areas in Oklahoma, please consult OSU CES Fact Sheet [HLA-6608](#) “Managing turfgrass in the shade in Oklahoma” or contact your local OSU CES Extension Educator.

Top Perennial Plants for the Shade

David Hillock

Shady areas in the garden are often welcome by providing a cooler environment around the home. However, it can be a bit of a challenge sometimes when it comes to landscape plants. Fortunately, we have many plants that do well in shady areas including herbaceous perennials. Below are some of the perennial plants that perform consistently well in shady areas of the Oklahoma garden.

Acanthus mollis – Bear’s Breach

This plant is known for its very large glossy leaves that provide textural contrast in the garden. Spikes of purple to white flowers can appear in midsummer, but the real feature of the plant is the striking foliage; variegated forms are also available.

Ajuga reptans – Carpet Bugleweed

The bugleweeds are excellent mat-forming groundcovers that provide carpets of bright blue flowers in the spring. Several varieties are available with colorful and interesting foliage colors as well such as Burgundy Glow, Black Scallop, Mahogany, and Chocolate Chip.

Anemone x hybrida – Japanese Anemone

This is a valuable plant because it is one of the few species that shows off in the fall when most other plants have already done their thing. Throwing out sprays of bright pink and white flowers in late summer and fall really add life to the shady garden.

Aquilegia – Columbine

Columbine species are found growing throughout North America as well as other countries throughout the world. *Aquilegia chrysantha* is a species native to the southern states, has large yellow flowers with long spurs and will grow in sun or shade. They are known for their unique flower structures with backward projecting portions of the petals called spurs, which vary in size

and shape depending on species. Hybrid forms are available with large flowers and bicolored petals.

Begonia grandis – Hardy Begonia

How about a hardy, perennial begonia for the shady garden? Hardy begonias have sprays of pink flowers that appear late summer/fall. The plant forms a clump of broad, green leaves and reaches about 2' tall. Hardy begonia prefers moist humus-rich soil and tolerates deep shade and walnut trees.

Bletilla striata – Hardy Orchid

The hardy orchid is an attractive and welcoming sight in the spring. Leaves are bright green, long, narrowly linear and have a papery feel. The wiry, leafless stems carry the flowers above the foliage in spring displaying the beautifully purplish pink, orchid-like flowers.

Hakonechloa macra – Hakone grass, Japanese Forest grass

Hakone grass grows in dense, mounded clumps about 1 to 1 ½ feet tall. It is a well-behaved grass with arching, bamboo-like, bright green to yellow foliage. 'Aureloa' is a golden form with bright yellow leaves with a slender green line creating a striped pattern. Foliage will turn a pinkish red in the fall as cooler weather sets in.

Helleborus spp. – Hellebores, Lenten Rose (*H. x orientalis*), Christmas Rose (*H. nigra*)

The hellebores are known for their late winter to early spring flowers and evergreen foliage. Older varieties have nodding flowers that are difficult to appreciate unless you lie on the ground and look up. New cultivars have been bred with flowers that stand upright above the foliage so you can enjoy their beauty. Flowers can be white, pale green, pinkish, plum, and even spotted. The plant is unpalatable to deer, rabbits, gophers, and moles. An Oklahoma Proven Selection.

Heuchera sanguinea – Coral Bells, Alum Root

These North American natives are durable, long lived, and attractive plants that bloom in late spring to early summer. The wiry stems hold tiny flowers above the foliage appearing as misty sprays of color. However, the flowers are not the only part of this plant that is showy; the leaves can be equally attractive exhibiting various colors and patterns. In mild climates they are evergreen. Mulch after the ground has frozen in early winter to control heaving.

x *Heucherella*

X *Heucherellas*, or foamy bells, are a cross between *Heuchera* (coral bells) and *Tiarella* (foam flower). This intergeneric cross results in spectacular plants that join the exotic leaf colors of *Heuchera* with the delicate flowers and beautiful cut leaves of *Tiarella*. Many cultivars exist.

Ligularia spp. – Ragwort

Ragwort is happy in moist to wet soils and is largely grown for its interesting foliage colors and textures. Flowers are daisy-like, bright yellowish orange providing some unexpected eye-popping color in late summer to fall. Several cultivars are available displaying interesting foliage that may be purple, spotted with yellow, crinkled, variegated or wavy.

Spigelia marilandica – Indian Pink

Indian Pink is a native to eastern Oklahoma providing interesting flowers in late spring. Flowers are tubular, bright red on the outside and yellow to yellow green on the inside. When the tips of the flowers open it reveals the yellowish throat providing striking contrast to the deep red color on the outside of the petals. Indian pink grows about 1-2' tall and 1 ½' wide in part to full shade and moist to dry soils. It is quite drought tolerant but also tolerates short periods of wet soil making a great choice for a rain garden. The bright red and yellow flowers are also attractive to hummingbirds. New cultivars have been recently released including 'Little Redhead' and 'Ragin Cajun'.

Tricyrtis hirta – Toad Lily

Toad lilies are known for their very unique flowers. Flowers are pale lilac with dark purple spots that appear on upright arching stems late summer to early fall when many other plants are beginning to wind down. Though flowers are quite unique, they are small so place toad lily in a spot where the flowers can be appreciated up close. The plant grows 2' to 3' high and about 2' wide with bright green leaves. Toad lily is easy to grow, resistant to deer, somewhat drought tolerant, but grow best in moist soils and will even tolerate wet conditions. Several cultivars with varying flower colors are available. An Oklahoma Proven Selection.

Being Earth-Friendly

David Hillock

Everything we do each day influences our beautiful earth, landscaping and gardening has no exception. There are many little things we can do to protect our environment. Here are a few suggestions.

- Be more tolerant of minor surface imperfections on our fruits, vegetables, and landscape plants. By doing so, we can significantly reduce the amount of pesticides used.
- Properly selecting and placing plants such as trees and shrubs around the home can significantly reduce our energy bills. Shade trees can help keep the inside temperature of the home lower longer during the summer. Evergreen windbreaks can reduce heating costs by as much as 15-30 percent in winter.
- Plant more trees and shrubs. There are many experts who believe that large-scale plantings of woody plants can help reduce the “greenhouse effect.”