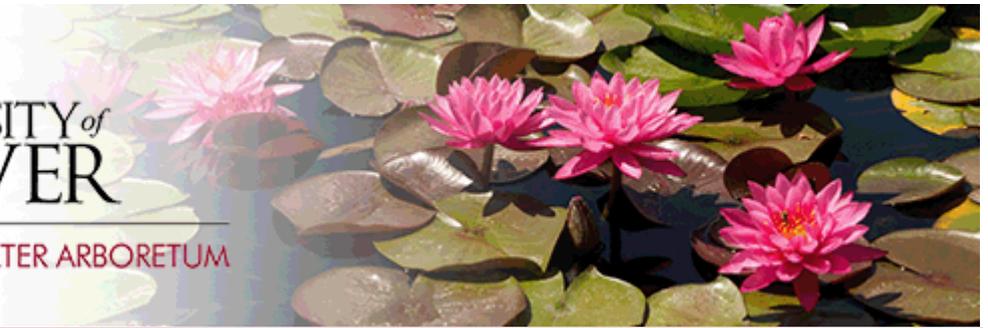




UNIVERSITY of
DENVER
CHESTER M ALTER ARBORETUM



E-Newsletter | October 2013

Last Chance for Summer Flowers & Fall Color!

With our up and down weather, hot and cold flashes every few days, the fall display is unfolding here at DU. Some trees are turning beautiful colors because we had those very wet days last month while others won't let go of their green leaves until they freeze from the twigs. While many summer annuals will be wilting in the cold, for the last time, there are still many perennials such as asters and mums, October Glory sedum and goldenrod-- that will persist until November. Things like geraniums turn to mush when they freeze, but the ornamental grasses remain standing, and most of them are impressive all through the winter.

It's also time to enjoy the fruits and nuts that are all around the campus, from the Horsechestnut west of Mary Reed, to the European Mountain Ash just east of Mudd Hall. Late grapes are still sweet and fresh, along Evans on the Ricks School fence. There are also tasty grapes on the alley fence west of Mudd. But don't eat fruits that you are not sure of!

The daytime temps are great, the campus looks lush—so be sure to take a walk from one end to the other.

Emerald Ash Borer in Colorado

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has made its way to Colorado, it was positively identified in Boulder in September. Based on the history of borer detection in other areas, EAB *may*



have been in Colorado for as long as 3 to 5 years. EAB attacks and kills a wide range of Ash (*Fraxinus* species) in North America and has caused billions of dollars of

ASCEND
Give to the Arboretum

TOURS

Tours have concluded for the season! Check back in the spring for future dates. [Take a self-guided tour.](#)

If you went on a tour this season, please share your experience with us:

[Take the Survey](#)

FALL FESTIVUS

Thanks for all who stopped by our table during Fall Festivus! If you didn't get there in time to take home a [plant, look for us at our next event.](#)

damage since 2002. It's too early to panic but not too early to take action. Over the past 10 years we have been phasing out Ash trees and increasing the diversity of trees in the Arboretum. In 2003 Ash trees represented close to 10% of our total inventory, today Ash only account for 4%. **For homeowners I would recommend not planting Ash trees in the near future and consider removing Ash trees that are in poor health.**

If you have Ash trees there are ways to protect them. The most effective treatment is a trunk injection of **TREE-age**. This application can only be administered by applicators licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in the state of Colorado. Other options include trunk sprays of **Safari insecticide** or soil applications of **Merit insecticide**. There are formulations similar to Merit that can be directly injected into the trunk of the tree but these would be low on my list of recommended applications because of their invasiveness, shorter protection duration and lower effectiveness. All of the Ash trees in the Arboretum have been preventatively treated with a trunk spray of Safari because it has minimal impact on the surrounding environment and is noninvasive.

For more information about the Emerald Ash Borer visit:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/ag_Plants/CBON/1251646251641



Spotlight on Cedar of Lebanon

The Chester M Alter Arboretum is home to the second largest known Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) in the State of Colorado (pictured on the left). The tree is located on the **west side of Ben Cherrington Hall**. It is native to Asia Minor, most notably Lebanon and Turkey. The tree was planted in 2003 and was only 12 feet tall at the time. It is approximately 40 feet tall now. So far the tree has preformed exceptionally well without the need for special care or the use of pesticides. It shows great promise for planting along the Front Range of Colorado.

A notable feature of this stately evergreen is the large cones that grow on top of the branches.

ALERT for Your Trees & Shrubs

Most of our trees and shrubs come from other parts of our continent, or from distant Eurasia. There are very few native trees (like willows and cottonwoods) that are actually native to our high prairie city. Though we have just had significant moisture (and how!) the biggest threat to our shrubs and trees can be a **dry winter**. Those sunny warm days in January or February are really hard on these plants. Their roots continue to grow slowly through the winter, and they need water to do that. Lots of us go out in the spring and wonder why so many buds are not opening, or why the tree looks depressed. It's probably root damage or dieback from dry winter soils. This is not a problem in the east, but we are high and dry here.

Let's all think about **watering our trees and shrubs once a month, unless the soils are really frozen down more than a couple of inches**. Your plants will reward you!



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CONTACT

Email: arboretum-l@du.edu
Phone: 303-871-4350



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CHESTER M ALTER ARBORETUM

Facilities Service Center Rm 104
2400 S Race St.
Denver, CO 80208
303.871.4350 | arboretum-l@du.edu

University of Denver
2199 S. University Blvd.
Denver, CO 80208

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