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# The North Central Quarterly

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## Horticulture Day - Wednesday, September 2

David K. Wildung, Horticulturist

The annual **Horticulture Visitors Day** will be on **Wednesday, September 2, 1998 from 2-6 pm.** Because Labor Day is late this year our Visitors Day will be in September for the first time in many years. Visitors will be able to take two different tours of selected stops in the horticulture research plot area. Tours will be led by Master Gardeners. University extension and research people will explain the studies and answer questions. Many of the harvested samples and displays of the research will be shown in the horticulture warehouse before and after the tours.



The 1998 growing season has been one of many extremes resulting in a number of challenges for growers and gardeners.

Spring came early and was much warmer than average allowing for early planting by many. We were fortunate to escape serious frost damage in May and June. A dry May was followed by over six inches of rain in June. Both months have shown above average temperatures so most horticultural crops are slightly ahead of average, especially for growers who were brave enough to plant early in May. The early spring weather also accelerated the growth of perennial crops. Lilac bloom was the second earliest in 28 years of record keeping at NCES. Our strawberry fruiting season was completed on July 13 whereas in 1997 it was just beginning. Blueberry harvest also is 10 days ahead of last year.

What will some of the highlights of this year's tour be? In the All America Flower Display Garden there is a new area that has been developed for shade plants. It features many of the newer begonia and impatiens cultivars and, as I write this article, the area is just starting to look good. It should be at its peak September 2. There are several new All America Selections, two new Wave petunias and several of the new University Maxi-Mums in the plots. Vegetable plantings include broccoli, tomatoes, carrots, sweet corn and pumpkins. Tomatoes, carrots and sweet corn should be at their best in early September for our tour. The small fruit plots have been extremely interesting during the 1998 season. A new raspberry planting was established that contains many new cultivars from Minnesota, New York, New Jersey and Canada. Several fall bearing types are in this planting. The strawberry plots have been extremely useful this season, not because of fantastic yields but because of striking hardiness differences and unusually good performance of some of our newest breeding lines. The two newest U of M-USDA cultivar releases 'Winona' and 'Mesabi' produced very well this season. Results of this research will be explained. Some of the strawberry research initiated in 1997 with an LCMR grant has progressed and will also be presented.

While visitors are always welcome to walk through our horticultural plot area, Horticulture Day is your opportunity to talk with the people involved in the research, see the research first hand and get your questions answered on horticultural crops and gardening. If you need additional information about the day, contact our office. I hope to see many of you on the tour.

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.  
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

# Wild Rice Disease Update

Robert F. Nyvall, Plant Pathologist

**Application of Tilt to Control Fungal Brown Spot.** To those growers who are contemplating applying Tilt, now is the time to do it. Our research has shown that at the early grain formation stage of plant growth, approximately 20 percent of all lesions you see on the flag leaf and bottom leaf of plants are fungal brown spot. You may see upwards of over a hundred spots per leaf; however only 20 percent of those spots (at this stage of plant growth) are fungal brown spot. The other leaf spots are unidentified or unknown diseases. We have had ideal weather conditions for disease development the last week or two; that is temperatures in the 80's and high humidity in the fields. We have noticed rapid disease development in some fields.

At plant maturity or before harvest, the percentage of brown spot lesions on the leaves changes. Approximately 37 percent or all lesions on the top (flag) leaves and approximately 50 percent of all lesions on the bottom leaves are fungal brown spot. However, it is thought that the bottom leaf is contributing very little to grain fill at this stage of growth. The bottom line is if you have a high number of lesions on the flag leaf now, expect these to increase in number and to potentially reduce yields, given the present weather conditions.

**Scab.** There are reports from the Red River Valley that scab is becoming prevalent on wheat and barley. Our research has shown that scab is an important disease of cultivated wild rice also. Scab on wild rice has the potential to substantially reduce yields. However, unlike wheat, most scabby grain of cultivated (and lake and river wild rice) tend to shatter before they are harvested. If scabby grain is harvested, the scabby grain is lighter weight than uninfected grain and will pass through the combine. Therefore, little or no scabby grain actually reaches the processing plant. Based on our research, I don't think there is a problem with scabby grain in wild rice, either cultivated or lake and river rice.

Symptoms of scabby grain are light colored kernels compared to the dark brown (dark-purple brown) of healthy kernels. Diseased grain appears white to light tan and there may be a pinkish growth in wet weather which is the mycelium growth.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact Bob Nyvall. Telephone 218/327-4364 or e-mail nyval001@tc.umn.edu.

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## Wild Rice Research Field Day

Thursday, July 30, 1998 • 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am

Location: North Central Experiment Station Research Fields, Grand Rapids MN  
Topics: •Soil fertility in wild rice - Paul Bloom •Status of wild rice molecular genetic mapping project - Paul Imle •Effects of hormone treatments on wild rice flower development for seed production - Qinqin Liu •Wild rice disease update - Bob Nyvall •Plant population and nitrogen fertilization - Erv Oelke and Ray Kirsch •Wild rice breeding and genetics - Raymie Porter (Franklin re-release status, new variety release timetable, half-sib family evaluations/selections, highlights from nursery lines, development of wild rice growth room, and cooperative variety trials •Riceworm control - Subi Subramanyam, Ian MacRae, and George Himpel.

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## Beef/Forage Day

Thursday, September 3, 1998 • 10:00 am

Location: NCES Beef/Forage Research Farm on Harris Town Road, 4 miles south from Grand Rapids on Hwy 169, then 1/4 mile East on the Harris Town Road.

Registration starts at 10:00 am and Lunch will be provided at Noon. Tour topics have not been completed as of this printing.

Visit our home page at [www.nces.agri.umn.edu](http://www.nces.agri.umn.edu)  
Another web site for useful information is the University of Minnesota Extension Service at [www.mes.umn.edu](http://www.mes.umn.edu)

# Pancake Cook-Off

**Kay Sargent, Horticulture Scientist at NCES, wins the Open Fruit Division**

On May 18 the Golden Gopher Pancake Cook-Off was held at the North Star Ballroom of the St. Paul Student Center to help U of M President Mark Yudof find the "perfect pancake." Contestants would cook 100 pancakes (plus four for presentation to the judges) on a portable griddle. The public could attend and pay \$1 a serving for pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee which raised \$5,000 for scholarships in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Kay Sargent, Scientist at NCES, perfected a blueberry pancake recipe after several test runs and entered the contest. Kay's presentation plate for the judges was garnished with mint, fresh blueberries and blueberry flowers. It looked very impressive and the blueberries were all Minnesota bred: Minnesota 168, Northblue and North Country. Kay's recipe was the champion fruit pancake. She has agreed to share her recipe with our readers. For those of you who might be interested, a pamphlet containing all the contestant recipes may be purchased for \$2 by calling 612/624-6252. Thank you Kay, for your pride in being a part of the University of Minnesota and for being such a good ambassador for our experiment station!

## Not Half Bad Blueberry Pancakes - Kay Sargent

1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup whole wheat flour  
1/4 cup quick cooking oats  
2 Tbsp. yellow cornmeal  
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
1-1/2 tsp. salt  
1-1/4 cups buttermilk  
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 large egg  
2 Tbsp. brown sugar  
3/4 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen, thawed and drained.  
Blueberry Sauce:  
1-1/2 cup blueberries  
1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
1 cup sugar  
1 Tbsp. Triple Sec (optional)

Pancakes: Combine dry ingredients: flours, oats, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In large bowl mix together buttermilk, oil, egg and brown sugar. Add dry ingredients to buttermilk mixture, stirring just to combine. Add blueberries and stir in. Heat griddle over medium heat. Grease lightly if not a nonstick surface. Pour sufficient batter to make pancakes the size you desire. Turn heat down to moderately low and cook pancakes until bottoms are golden brown and the tops begin to bubble. Flip pancakes and cook until the undersides are golden brown.

Sauce: Combine first three ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to oil. Continue simmering, stirring occasionally until thick, about 15-20 minutes. Add Triple Sec, stir to blend. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Serve immediately. Top with butter, real maple syrup or blueberry sauce if desired.

## Calving Shelter Plans

Detailed construction plans for portable calving shelters are now available to the public. The calving shelters were featured in our November 1997 *Quarterly*. Material and supply costs run about \$2,500 for each shelter. Actual construction time was estimated to be about 120 hours per unit. The plans cost \$5 (includes tax and postage). Please make you check payable to the **University of Minnesota** and send to: Portable calving shelters, N.C. Experiment Station, 1861 East Hwy 169, Grand Rapids MN. If you have any questions about the shelters, please call Jim Boedicker, Agricultural Engineer, at 218/327-4490.

## Alumni News

Unfortunately, the only alumni news to report since our last newsletter is the passing away of several individuals:

Herb 'Spike' Shumaker, class of '45, passed away in April. He always attended reunions and stopped by the station frequently to see "what was going on!" He always had plenty of stories to share -- we will miss his visits and appreciated his on-going interest in our station.

Nick Lucachick from Int'l Falls passed away in March.

Two former employees - Oliver Toven, boiler maintenance worker and Don Jacobson, building and grounds, that retired in the 70s, both passed away in May.

# News from North Central

David L. Rabas, Head

Summer arrived at North Central following a hotter and much dryer May and a cool dry beginning to June. The rains came as they usually do around haying time and temperatures have improved. First crop hay yields were very poor due to a very dry May and some winter injury which occurred following a very warm winter and lack of snow cover in March.

In addition to the more usual exciting research discoveries that occur at NCES each year, 1998-99 will be a year of new faces and new opportunities. We are expecting three and perhaps four new University staff members to set up office at NCES in 1998-99. We look forward to welcoming two new Extension Educators. These legislatively funded Extension positions are the result of a competitive application process within the University of Minnesota Extension Service to identify issues of concern to Minnesota citizens which could be addressed by several new positions located throughout the state. The new positions to be officed at our station are in the areas of Tourism/Community Resources and Environmental Stewardship/Shoreland Revegetation. The station provided letters of support for the two positions and offers of office space and some support services. We will welcome the successful applicants for these new positions to our station later this summer.

Another position to be located at our station which is currently under discussion is a forestry position to deal with silviculture, forest management and wildlife issues. The position is expected to be a joint research/extension appointment. Station forestry researchers and area landowners can look forward to additional research and information regarding the management of our forest resources.

On July 1 we were pleased to welcome Dr. Cliff Lamb to our station as an Assistant Professor in Animal Science. Dr. Lamb will replace Dr. John Hall who left to take a position in Virginia last fall. Dr. Lamb will head the University's beef cow/calf research project. He will also be involved in outreach and extension programs for state beef producers.

Dr. Lamb is a 1998 graduate of Kansas State University. He received a degree in Reproductive Physiology with his graduate work centering on investigation of the factors affecting reproductive efficiency in beef cattle.

Dr. Lamb is a citizen of Zimbabwe, Africa. His family immigrated from Europe and settled on a farm in the area formerly known as Rhodesia. The farm is a large beef, dairy and crop farm. Dr. Lamb came to the United States in 1992 to begin work on a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science at Middle Tennessee State University. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Kansas State.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Lamb and the new extension/research staff to our station. These new positions and Dr. Lamb's arrival at NCES mark the beginning of opportunities for increased University service to the people of Minnesota.

Another exciting event at NCES this summer will be the beginning of the planning process to construct new office, meeting room and distance education space. The new 4100 ft<sup>2</sup> facility will allow us to

grow and to provide accessible meeting space and credit and non-credit distance education opportunities for northern Minnesota residents. These new facilities represent our commitment to continue to diversify our research and education programs and to strengthen our role in improving access to the University of Minnesota for all citizens.

While we celebrate the new staff arrivals we also will be saying goodbye to our station's Principal Accountant, Jim Anderson. After more than 39 years of service to the University, Jim will be retiring to the golf links and bass habitats. We will all miss Jim. He has been an important part of our North Central family since he replaced Harold "Doc" Stunck in the Business Office in January of 1974. I personally will miss Jim's experience and advice on managing station budgets and accounts. We will miss Jim, but we are also happy that he will have more time for recreation, to travel and to share with his grandchildren and their families. Congratulations to Jim and best wishes to Jim and his wife, Priscilla, as they enjoy retirement together!



Dr. Cliff Lamb, Animal Scientist



Jim Anderson, Principal Accountant

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