

Grab Bag

A tree that talks?

"The Talking Tree" is one of the latest publications distributed by the International Society of Arboriculture. Written for 7-9 year olds, the illustrated book addresses the differences between city and forest trees and the importance of caring for the trees. Call 217/355-9411 for information.

Give 'old three' a rest

Evergreen groundcovers are popular for hard-to-mow areas. The three most commonly used evergreen groundcovers are *Hedera helix* (ivy), *Pachysandra* and *Vinca minor* (myrtle).

"Give the old threesome a rest, and try something different!" says Bobbie Schwartz, owner of Bobbie's Green Thumb, a landscape design consultant and lecturer in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Her recommendations in the Ohio Landscape Assn.'s *The Growing Concern*, include:

Arabis caucasica (rockcress) with felty, gray-green foliage. Full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil.

Geranium cantabrigiense 'Biokovo' or 'Biokovo Karmjina'. A hardy geranium with small, lobed leaves that form a tight mat which becomes tinged with red in the fall and remains that way all winter. Full sun to partial shade.

For shade sites, consider using one of several liriopes.



More color for deep South

It's hard to grow ornamental cherry trees in South Georgia but a University of Georgia scientist at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA, is testing a new cherry tree that can splash some early-spring color deep into Dixie. "We're recommending the Okame cherry tree for landscapes below Columbus, Macon and Augusta," said John Ruter a research horticulturist. "We can grow this tree all the way over to the coast in Savannah. And it will grow all the way up the Eastern seaboard to Massachusetts." Ruter started evaluating Okame in 1990 with a rooted cutting. The variety is commercially available in the wholesale trade, but not well known in retail nurseries yet.

Don't make excuses based on weather

"Consider El Niño a means to boost your professionalism and value to your golf club, and not a way out of accountability.

Organize your day into lists based on [weather]conditions. Have these items written down ahead of time and be ready to implement on a moment's notice..."

TONY MANCUSO, NEW ALBANY CC, NEW ALBANY, OH, WRITING IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL OHIO GCSA.

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