

**From:** [Penn State Extension - Allegheny County](#)  
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**To:** [jerryors@comcast.net](mailto:jerryors@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Penn State Extension November 2011 Newsletter



**November**  
2011

of Allegheny County

Research based information for everyday life



**2011 Top Plant Performers**  
**Penn State Extension**  
**Demonstration Gardens in Allegheny County**



**Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County** plant and maintain demonstration gardens in both North and South Parks.

**Coming Events**

**November 2011**

**Urban Soils Classes**

Friday, November 11  
Thursday November 17  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Allegheny County Extension Office

**Western PA Vegetable and Berry Growers Seminar**

Thursday, November 15, 2011  
8:00AM to 3:30 PM  
Days Inn, Butler PA

**December 2011**

**Regional Food Policy Council Symposium**

Thursday, December 8, 2011  
10:00AM to 4:00 PM  
Pittsburgh Zoo, Lecture Hall

**4-H Celebrates 100 Years in Pennsylvania in 2012**

What's Your 4H Story? Be part of a statewide traveling exhibit...

**January 2012**

The primary purpose of the display beds is to showcase plants that perform well in local soils and climate with minimal maintenance. The plants are evaluated during the growing season and rated on a scale from 1 to 5.

A rating of 1 indicates that the plant did not perform well and may have succumbed to death due to environmental, insect or disease problems.

Plants that earned a score of 5 are considered outstanding performers. They bloomed throughout the summer, until frost. They were not damaged by either insects or diseases, and tolerated fluctuations in temperature, as well as excessive spring and late summer rain.

All plants are deer resistant, unless otherwise noted.

[For a complete listing of the 2011 performers...](#)

## Food Safety for Holiday Meats



It's that time of year when plans are in progress for the upcoming holiday feasts. If you are the cook, here are a few tips to ensure a safe, delicious meal.

Except for a frozen turkey, don't buy your ingredients too far in advance. A whole frozen turkey, weighing 20 pounds or more, will need 3-4 days in the refrigerator to completely defrost. Conversely, a fresh turkey is one that should be kept in the refrigerator for no more than two days before it is cooked.

Initially, it is important to wash the whole bird under cold running water, inside and out, in preparation for roasting. With the breast side up, place it in a large roasting pan with a removable rack on the bottom. The rack ensures an easier transfer of the cooked bird. Now you season the top and cavity of the bird with your favorite poultry seasonings.

[For more information...](#)

### Winter Tree ID

Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
9AM to 12PM  
Allegheny County Extension Office  
More information to follow.

### Estimating and Bidding for Landscape Installation

January 18-19 (Wed.&Thurs.)  
9:00AM- 3:30 PM  
Allegheny County Extension Office

### Burgh Bees Beekeeping in the Classroom 101

January 23, 25 & 30  
6 PM to 9:30 PM  
Allegheny County Extension Office

### February 2012

#### Western Pennsylvania Turf Conference

Tuesday-Thursday, February 7 - 9  
Four Points Sheraton North

#### Landscape IPM Seminar

Thursday, February 23rd  
8AM to 4:15PM  
The Chadwick, Wexford  
See December newsletter for details.

### March 2012

#### Burgh Bees Beekeeping in the Classroom 102

March 10, 2012 8AM to 2:30PM  
Allegheny County Extension Office

#### Local Food Showcase 2012

Tuesday- March 20th 9AM to 4 PM  
Shady Side Academy- Senior School  
Fox Chapel  
Watch this newsletter for details...

### April 2012

#### 2012 Western PA Gardening and Landscaping Symposium

Saturday - April 14th 8AM to 4PM  
Shady Side Academy - Senior School in  
Fox Chapel.  
See the article in this issue of  
newsletter.

## Attention

### Photographers

(Amateur & Professional)

Each month we find ourselves searching for the perfect photograph for our newsletter banner.

Our solution, a

### Photo Contest

[Details...](#)