

## Horticultural Update

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# Special Edition

**Y**ou can now access a variety of Extension Horticulture Fact Sheets, Production Guides, Newsletters, and much more via the TAEX HORTICULTURE HOME PAGE on the **WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW)**. The WWW is an international computer network that contains information on a vast number of topics. The computers are linked physically through the INTERNET, a system of fiber optic cables, routers, and computer servers collectively referred to as the **INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY**. The Web links over 100,000 computers throughout the world, and it is estimated that this number doubles every 53 days.

The **TAEX HORTICULTURE HOME PAGE** is just one of several WWW sites throughout the Texas A&M University System. It provides a variety of information on the following topics:

**Extension Horticulture, Faculty and Staff  
Horticultural Update Newsletter(s)  
Master Gardener Programs  
Home Gardening Guides  
EarthKind Gardening  
Landscape & Home Gardening Fact Sheets  
Commercial Nursery/Floral Crops  
Commercial Vegetable Crops  
Commercial Fruit Crops  
Food Technology & Processing  
Insect & Mite Management for Horticultural Crops  
Disease Control for Horticultural Crops  
AND much more . . .**

### ***Advantages of the World Wide Web . . .***

One of the major advantages of this information delivery system is that the on-line publications can be updated immediately. This enables subject matter specialists to change variety recommendations, control tactics, production technologies, etc., at a moment's notice.

Economics is another major advantage of the WWW delivery system. In the past, the number of TAEX Horticulture publications available to Extension professionals has been limited by the \$ resources necessary for development, production, and reproduction. Since the cost for electronic publications is significantly reduced, Extension Horticulture will be able to provide even more quality newsletters, fact sheets, guides, etc.

### ***What's the Down Side ?***

With any new technology, there's bound to be a down side. Electronic publications and the WWW delivery system have specific computing requirements, and not all equipment may be capable of accessing the TAEX HORTICULTURE HOME PAGE at this time.

Although the software used to access the TAEX HORTICULTURE HOME PAGE is relatively "user friendly," there will be a **learning curve** associated with the various available options. However, once familiar with the means of accessing information, most users find the system easy to use.

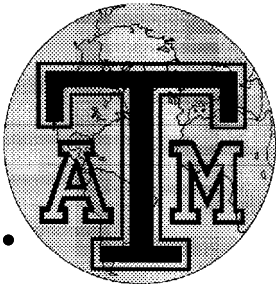


### Software Requirements

The software that displays information on your computer is referred to as a Web "browser." Browsers use an operating system capable of multimedia-type displays (i.e., Windows, Macintosh, UNIX, etc.). These browsers are truly multimedia, meaning that within the same document, one can display formatted text, high-resolution color images, sounds, and even motion video. The text and images can then be printed, resulting in high quality documents with the same fonts, etc., specified by you; OR, the text and images can be saved to disk and incorporated into other computer files like WordPerfect, PageMaker, etc.

Browser software approximates the "look and feel" of using a CD-ROM. However, instead of being limited to the data on the CD-ROM, you are simultaneously connected to any other computer on the World Wide Web. Moving from page to page, from computer to computer, is as easy as clicking the mouse on any text that is **highlighted** or, in some cases, on a given spot or special image that contains hidden links to other files.

**MOSAIC**, a product developed and updated frequently by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois, is available in versions compatible with most computer operating sys-



Now you can access the  
TAEX HORTICULTURE HOME PAGE  
for a wide range of information . . .



Our address is  
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

For more information, please contact us at

**F** (409) 845-7341

tems. Mosaic is free, and can be downloaded using Telnet, or a similar application with ftp (file transfer protocol) capability, from the server at the following Internet address:

<ftp.ncsa.uiuc.edu>

The application is in the directory: /Mosaic

The image viewer, sound-enabling helper applications, and instructions for installing and configuring the software are also available from the same site. The **readme** files that accompany the software are important for the initial setup of the program.

**NETSCAPE Navigator 1.0** has all the same compatibility features of Mosaic and operates quite similarly to it. Netscape is a bit faster, has many image-viewing capabilities built in, and has more advanced text-formatting features than does Mosaic. Netscape represents the second stage in the rapid evolution in the quality, versatility, and ease of use of Internet browsers. Netscape Navigator 1.0 is available by ftp file transfer from the server at:

[www.mcom.com](http://www.mcom.com)

Windows 95 has Internet browsing software built in, so that the user connected to the Internet via Ethernet connection or high-speed modem has "one button" access to the World Wide Web. The IBM operating system OS2-Warp incorporates an Internet interface and file exchange protocols as well.

