

# NCTA offers horticulture day for enthusiasts <sup>3</sup>

By CAROLINE SABIN  
Telegraph correspondent

June 11 is a day for garden enthusiasts and landscape artists to plan a trip to Curtis for the Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture-University of Nebraska Horticulture Day. Workshops are being planned by Trentee Applegarth, NCTA Horticulture assistant professor; David Lott, WCREC (West Central Research and Extension center) horticulture extension educator; and Drew Anderson, NCTA professor, sports turf instructor.

A plethora of information sure to please any gardener will be available through nine different workshops instructed by NCTA instructors, WCREC specialist or a Lincoln County Master Gardener. Topics will include: Container Garden-

ing with herbs, Lawn grubs and other turf problems, Proper pruning techniques, Plants that are toxic to animals, Soils, Small Business Challenges, Plant for Shade Gardens, Floral design basics and an irrigation demonstration. Two workshops are offered during the first three sessions with the last session having three offerings. The workshops each last an hour. The day of activities starts at 8:30 for registration and finishes up around 3 p.m. The cost for the whole day is \$10 per person or if three or more from a family are enrolled, it is \$25. Lunch is included in the cost of the day of workshops.

Many of the workshops will be activity related because much of the work in Horticulture is that way. Applegarth

points out that the student involvement makes for learning that can be applied more effectively in a real life setting. That is the type of instruction that is carried on in the Horticulture program at NCTA.

Drew Anderson, Horticulture department head, instructs the students involved in sports turf management, and Tee Applegarth teaches the classes for Landscape Production, Design and Management.

"In two years, we try to give the broadest view of the industry including flower production," said Tee Applegarth.

Class offerings for students involved in Horticulture include plant biology, identification of trees and perennials, landscape appreciation, propagation and irrigation, pest management,

soils, landscape construction and design. After the first year of classes, students are required to find a summer internship in a horticultural setting. The Horticulture program at NCTA receives more requests for internships and job offers than they have students to fill those positions. To complete

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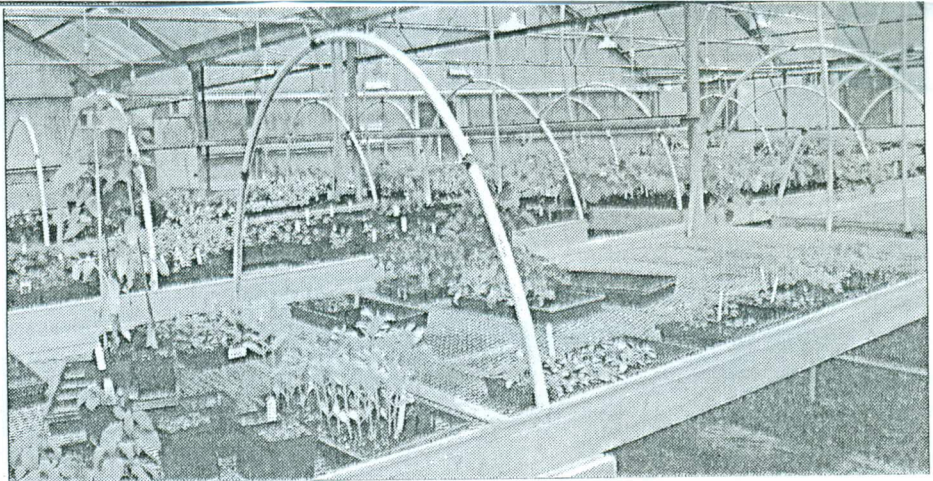
This banana tree is a part of the tropical plants collection in the greenhouses at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA). The greenhouses also contain a succulent garden collection, pond habitat/plants display and a plant production area.

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the second year of instruction, a capstone project is completed. The student must create a year long management plan for the landscape and plant requirements at a facility. The department tries to find real life clients to provide a realistic experience. These classes are offered to full time students for completion of an associate of science degree. Students are often able to find work after the two year program at NCTA. Others decide to transfer those credits to a university to complete a degree.

An option that might be particularly useful to present greenhouse workers, lawn service employees, or facility groundskeepers is the certificate program available through NCTA. A Horticulture certificate in either Landscape De-



Caroline Sabin /For The North Platte Telegraph

**Horticulture students** at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) had various plant projects that were carried out in the production greenhouse at NCTA.

sign or Sports Turf Management can be earned through a 30-credit certificate program. It can be completed in one school year. Some of the classes are available online, but most are activity related, so students need

to attend on campus. Applegarth said that if there was enough interest, it is possible that classes could be offered in the evenings.

A bounty of harvest in fruits or vegetables from a garden often results

from a bounty of gardening knowledge. For more information on the Horticulture Day on June 11th, call Tee Applegarth at 308-367-5226 or e-mail at [tapplegarth2@unl.edu](mailto:tapplegarth2@unl.edu). Registrations need to be completed by June 1.