

Alterniscapes Tour

With the warm up in spring weather, I have been receiving many phone calls involving general landscaping questions. I do my best to help these folks and can offer suggestions on plant selection and on very common errors to avoid. However, I am not a landscape architect and struggle as much as the next person on how to artistically design a yard. My wife and I were overwhelmed by this situation a couple of years ago and found ourselves slowly driving or strolling past others yards in the area where we recently moved from to get ideas for our own. To actually remember what we liked about the yard, we would often take a picture of the specific features we were interested in. This sometimes made us feel a little bit funny because people often wondered what we were doing taking pictures of strangers' yards, especially when we were caught by them.

Even if you have never had this happen to you, but you are still looking for fantastic ideas to use in your yard, USU/Cache County Extension in partnership with the Cache County Master Gardeners and the Utah Native Plant Society is proud to announce the continuation of the Alterniscapes landscape tour. This tour is to highlight various locations where unique ideas and principles have been implemented to not only create a beautiful landscape, but also to reduce time involved in landscape maintenance and costs. All locations have unique features different from what is commonly seen locally and most also highlight beautiful, underutilized plants that are readily adapted to the local climate.

This year's tour will be held on June 21 starting at 4:00 PM. Five locations have been selected, each with unique characteristics and landscaping ideas. Tickets cost five dollars and are available at several locations including the USU/Cache County Extension office located at 179 North Main Street, Suite 111 in Logan in the new county administration building and the Master Gardeners booth at the Farmers Market on Saturdays located at Pioneer Park, 150 South 200 East, Logan from 9:00 A.M until 1:00 P.M. Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at the USU Greenville Experimental farm located at 1800 North 800 East in Logan starting at 5:00 P.M. Participants will receive an information packet including maps and information about each location. More information will also be available at the Greenville Experimental Farm relating to horticultural subjects. In addition to this, experienced tour guides and volunteers will be at each location to answer questions not only about their specific location, but also about general landscape and gardening questions. This is a great opportunity for those having to create a new landscape and also for those that are interested in landscaping and gardening in general.

On another note, I have been receiving many calls about spraying fruit trees for insect pests and diseases. The most common of which have been about apples and cherries. It is time to start spraying for apple coddling moth, and cherries should not be sprayed for western cherry fruit fly until the fruit turns straw-yellow. The USU Pests Lab (<http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/advisories/treefruit>) has very specific information on what to spray and when. Visit their website at the address listed above for further details. You can also sign up to receive automatic free email advisories containing this information and more.