Take time to sharpen tree, lawn, and landscape maintenance skills by attending the first annual Lawn and Landscape School, Jan. 31 through Feb. 2, at the West Central Research and Extension Center, 402 W. State Farm Road, in North Platte.

This three-day school will help grounds keepers, maintenance crews, landscaping firm workers, and advanced skill homeowners build an integrated approach to maintaining landscapes in public and private settings through common sense applications. These applications can be used together to benefit trees, lawns, and landscapes for all-around landscape health and sustainability.

Learn from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Nebraska Forest Service professionals in an interactive setting how to maintain and improve landscapes while reducing dependency on pesticides and fertilizers in landscapes. Participants will learn how plant selection, soil fertility management, environmental conditions, and insect and disease pressure impact trees, lawns, and ornamental plants and their relation to each other in the landscape.

Each class will start at 8 a.m., CT, and will conclude at 5 p.m. Along with interaction with the speakers, participants will receive a large binder of resource material that will be covered in the school, reference charts and materials that can be used throughout the year.

A copy of the Integrated Turfgrass Management of the Northern Great Plains, written by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension professionals, is also included.

Tuition for the Lawn and Landscape School is $200 per participant. This fee includes resource material, speaker fees, meals, and breaks for the three-day school. Lodging is the responsibility of the participant. Please make all checks payable to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Participant registrations are due by Friday, Jan 6, 2012 to David Lott, Extension Educator, 402 W. State Farm Road, North Platte, Nebraska, 69101.

For copies of the Lawn and Landscape School brochure, please call David Lott at (308) 696-6781, by sending an e-mail to dlott2@unl.edu, or by visiting your local University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office.

If you have any questions about the Lawn and Landscape School, please contact me at dlott2@unl.edu, by calling (308) 696-6781, or by contacting your local University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office.