

## President's Message August 2023

### Picnic Potluck!

We're planning a relaxing evening for our last summer meeting. Come to enjoy time and great food with fellow MGVs and share your 2023 gardening successes and lessons!

**Tuesday, August 15 (Early schedule to avoid Fair week)**

**6pm**

**Edwards-Alexander Park**

**210 2nd Street**

**Port Edwards**

**Fried chicken, water, tableware provided by WCMG**

#### Bring:

- Your own beverage if you prefer something other than water
- Your favorite dish to pass
- Your spouse/partner/best friend



**RSVP to Chris Grimes by Sunday, August 13** so we have enough chicken.

We will be using an outdoor shelter. Come prepared for weather & mosquitos.

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**WCMGV Annual Picnic**  
**Edwards-Alexander Park, 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Port Edwards**  
**6-8 PM, August 15, 2023**  
**In person only**

We will meet for our annual picnic at Edwards-Alexander Park, 210 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in Port Edwards utilizing the covered shelter and picnic tables. If you prefer, bring your own seating. WCMGV will provide chicken and eating utensils. Bottled water will also be available. **Each attending family is asked to bring a picnic potluck dish to share as well as your own beverage if you prefer something other than water. Electricity is available if you bring food in a crock pot.**

The program will consist of Central Wisconsin horticultural experts.....that's you!.....sharing experiences and lessons learned from the 2023 gardening season. It's called **Sizzles and Fizzles**. An informational guide to the program will be forwarded to you via e-mail closer to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Be on the lookout.

**Directions to (Edwards) Alexander Park, 210 2nd Street, Port Edwards.** The Park shares the block where the old YMCA is located. The Y building is closer to the River, and the Park is on the back side of the block on 2nd Street.

Google maps is rather outdated. It shows a large swimming pool which has been removed. There is a Splash Pad in that area now.

From the **north** on Hwy 73, through Wis Rapids: Stay on 73 to Port Edwards. Go past Edgewater Haven Nursing Home on your left and stay on 73 along the River. When 73 turns right, go straight ahead for 3 blocks until you see the Y. Turn right on Morill Ave. Turn left on 2nd Street. Park in the driveway or lawn near the shelterhouse.

**OR**, from the **northwest**, going through Pittsville: stay on 80. After Dexterville, turn left (East) on Hwy 54. Stay on 54 for about 19 miles. At Port Auto Service, turn right onto 4th Street. Go 4 blocks until Alexander Ave. Turn left onto Alexander Ave. and then right onto 2nd Street. Park in the driveway or lawn near the shelterhouse.

**OR**, from the **south**: When you come into Port, turn right at Port Auto Service, onto 4th Street. Go 4 blocks until Alexander Ave. Turn left onto Alexander Ave. and then right onto 2nd Street. Park in the driveway or lawn near the shelterhouse.

**Future Confirmed Programs:**

September 26: Keystone Plants for Wisconsin

**Thank you to all the contributors to this newsletter for being prompt and timely in your submissions this month.**

**It makes my job SO much easier.**

**—Editor**

# Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Assoc. General Membership Meeting

June 27, 2023 6 pm

Lonely Oak Farm, Milladore

**Program: Lonely Oak Farm CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)**

Joel Keinhold

Total Present: 19

**Business Meeting** - Called to order 7:32

Chris Grimes

**Secretary's Report:**

Judy Miller

Review of Minutes from May 23, 2023 Treasurer's report from May 23 clarified. M/S/P Remington/Streiff to accept.

**Treasurer's Report -**

Chris for Famia

M/S/P Remington/Kohl to accept.

**Old Business:**

**Programs :** No changes or additions

Karleen Remington & Judy Miller

**Social Committee Report:**

Chris Grimes

July – Respite Walk in Marshfield – July 16 Send note to Chris if you wish to carpool

Picnic – Aug 15 – Luncheon and Membership meeting – Alexander Park in Port Edwards

**Garden Walk 2024 Feasibility Team:** Lil Schotten reported on the findings. Board gave approval to begin planning and to add expense item to next budget. See attached Feasibility Study. Survey will be coming to members so they can add their input.

**New Business:**

Chris Grimes

**ORS -** Volunteer Hours and Awards/Reporting of 2022 - Since Chris still can't access hours from the State yet, she would like members to report their 2022 hours to her. She will send a note on how individuals can gather this information.

**Central Wis State Fair** – Tuesday, Aug 22 – Sunday, Aug 27 Jill circulated a signup which will begin the process of covering our booth with volunteers.

**New Training for Master Gardeners** - Janel will provide training at McMillan Library on Tuesdays from September 12 – November 28.

**Plant material** was made available from Audrey Brundidge for members to take.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10. M/S/P Brundidge/Remington

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, July, 25 Joyce Fischer Garden Tour, Marshfield

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Miller, Secretary

# Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

## UW Extension Horticulture

### July 17 to August 21 **Early Bird Registration for Foundations of Gardening** course

Early Bird fee is \$299 and \$100 scholarships are available during this time. If you know of anyone wanting to become a Master Gardener, this is the online course for them. Janell will be holding a course this fall also so email her for more details.

Recordings of the Pollinator Week programs can be found at [Pollinator Week – Wisconsin Horticulture](#). These were very good programs and worth your time to view for C.E. credit.

Recordings from last year's webinars, if you missed them, are at the bottom of the page at:

[Webinars for WI Gardeners – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

There are also recordings of webinars on various topics from the past at:

[Videos – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

The Extension Horticulture website is a treasure trove of educational articles, videos, webinars and courses. You can get on the Horticulture email list to be notified of educational opportunities at:

[Stay informed about Extension gardening learning opportunities!](#)

## From the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic

### **Deciduous Tree and Shrub Diseases**

**August 23, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

#### Description

Learn about common diseases that can adversely affect the plants in your home landscape. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them. [2023 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic \(wisc.edu\)](#)

**Garden Guru** August 21 at 6pm in person at the Marshfield Public Library or on Zoom

Topic is "Common Diseases in Gardens and Landscapes". To enter the Zoom presentation, go to Everett Roehl Memorial Public Library web page and click on Adults, then Programs, scroll down to Garden Guru and click on "Online". That will take you to the YouTube location of the program. Click on the Garden Guru icon to watch the webinar live. The direct link that should work is [Garden Guru: Seed Saving - YouTube](#)

# Plant Sale Buzz

## Plant Sale Buzz



- Mark **September 16 & 17** on your calendars for the WCMGV fall plant sale at Maple Fall Fest, Marshfield (Set up on the 15<sup>th</sup>)
- After Labor Day to September 14: Plants and donations will be collected at designated drop-off sites
- Sign up for a few hours to help with sale set up, staffing or take down at Wildwood Park. Jill will have sign-up sheets at our meetings
- Setup: September 15
- Staff for Sale: September 16 & 17,
- Staff for Ask a Master Gardener: September 16 & 17
- Take-down: September 17 after 4 PM
- Collect some boxes that can be used for transporting plants for customers with larger purchases. Amazon boxes are good!
- Pot up a few indoor plant shoots for the sale and let them grow to an appealing size
- Use a good quality commercial potting soil
- Match plant and pot sizes
- Label plants using the WCMGV designed labels
- [E-mail a list of your plants to Jill \(jb5mfld15@gmail.com\)](mailto:jb5mfld15@gmail.com) **SOON!!**
- Create a small succulent dish garden from your overgrown succulents
- Repot your winter-sown native plants if any are overgrown
- Mulch them to keep from drying out
- Water regularly
- [E-mail a list of your plants to Donna \(streiffonclay@tds.net\)](mailto:streiffonclay@tds.net) **SOON!!**
- Start watching for and collecting mature seeds to package for sale at Maple Fall Fest
  - Monarda
  - Purple Lovegrass
  - False Sunflower (ox-eye)
  - Woodland Rye
  - Downy Phlox
  - Indian Paintbrush
- Prepare handouts or other educational information to share at the sale.
- Collect any of the following during August from your garden or your neighbors' gardens. Dry them for fall bouquets (a major money-maker at the sale) The amount of materials doesn't matter. Every little bit counts!
  - Liatris
  - Curly willow branches
  - Clover flowers
  - Stems of lavender
  - Amaranthus
  - Everlastings/Straw flowers
  - Pampas grass
  - Wheat & oats sheaves, ornamental millet
  - Hyssop
  - Penstemon
  - Rose hips
  - Iris seed heads

Poppy seed heads  
Grasses, wild and domestic, not yet dropping seeds  
Bachelor buttons  
Statice  
Sage  
Celosia  
Artemesia  
Tall marigolds  
Globe amaranth  
Sea holly  
Hydrangeas of any kind  
Blackberry lily  
Goldenrod (not yet gone to seed)  
Cone flowers  
Ox-Eyed daisy seeds  
Chinese lanterns  
Boneset (not too mature)  
JoePy Weed (not too mature)  
Baptisia seed pods  
Black-eyed Susan seed heads

**Winter sowing update: Especially for newbie growers!**

- If you are growing mostly shade plants, move them to a shady location if weather suddenly turns hot. Shade loving plants should be grown in a shaded area anyway.
- Protect from jumping worms by placing on a tarp on the ground under the plants or setting them above the ground on a piece of wood or a rack.
- If plants are growing thickly, take a chunk of them and transplant, then CUT off extras after they are established, rather than trying to separate them.
- Mulch the pots to keep the plants cool and cut down on watering needs.
- Check pots nearly daily and water as needed

**PLEASE, if you are raising native plants, email Donna Streiff the names of your plants SOON so they can be included on the native plants posters for the Plant Sale. Since most won't be blooming in September, it helps shoppers see what the plants will look like in bloom.**

# **Garden Walk 2024**



Our garden selection committee has been touring 2-4 gardens weekly over the past 6 weeks hoping to find selections that appeal to garden lovers everywhere! Although we have identified several good contenders for next year's walk, we are keeping ourselves open to additional possibilities. Please notify Lil at 715-213-7672 (phone) or [lilyschoten@gmail.com](mailto:lilyschoten@gmail.com) by August 7<sup>th</sup> if you have a garden to recommend for the walk and we will do our best to contact the owners.

Members of the garden selection committee have also participated in "scoping out" local garden walks for new ideas as well. Not surprisingly, we encountered several friends from our Wood County area and adjacent counties delighted to hear that our walk would be returning next year.

A garden walk survey is being passed out at the July 25<sup>th</sup> membership meeting and being sent out electronically to members unable to be present to solicit input on garden walk planning. Of highest importance is selecting a date for the walk. A planning committee, timeline for activities, and budget will be developed from there.

## **Plants Talk If We Will Just Listen: Seeds** by Ann Rozner

Why do plants seed at different times of the year? As one of many survival strategies, plants are preparing for another growing period. Take this as a sign. Watch and listen to your plants. Stop and take time. As plants begin to seed out, we are excited to harvest and share seeds with friends and neighbors. Get a jump start before seeds drop on the ground and may begin to grow, stay dormant for several months to many years, never grow and decompose or are picked up and eaten or transported by animals. Help control unwanted growth and save unnecessary work in the future.

When a particular plant forms seeds and is ready to harvest and properly dry, be aware of this signal. Collect and plant the seeds even if it is in late spring or the middle of summer. Some seeds need a partial growing season such as biennials. They grow the base of the plant for the fall, go dormant and then produce the mature plant the following year before it seeds out and dies. Some seeds actually need the cold winter ground temperatures to help them stratify.

Plant, water and mark the location. Marking the area where the seeds are buried will remind and prevent future mulch covering the location. Prepare for the annuals, biennials and perennials in a garden space as the growing and seed harvesting season begins. Equally spacing the seed planting from current and mature plants may avoid having to move any in the future from over growth. Winter sow all year long. So let us plant as we go throughout the entire spring, summer and fall.



# Our Summer Educational Events

## **Summer Events 2023 — Ways to fulfill our educational mission**

### **Ask a Master Gardener**

Ask a Master Gardener inquiry questions come in all year by email or at our booths. Most questions are answered by 1 or 2 members. We could use help with this. You can do it at home if you have a computer and Internet. Donna briefly showed how to research questions at the May meeting. If you don't think you know enough to do this, you can work with someone or have your answers checked by a more experienced member. Some are very simple, like "what can I do about Japanese beetles?" Others you can refer to other MGV members or Janell if you are not sure. You need a background check if you are going to answer the questions that Janell refers to us. Check with Donna or Jill if you want to learn how to do this. In addition to the questions that come in from Janell and our website, [woodcountym-ga@gmail.com](mailto:woodcountym-ga@gmail.com), Ask a Master Gardener will be at:

- WI Rapids, Marshfield, and Rome farmers' markets
- Marshfield Area Respite Care Center 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour – July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Central WI State Fair – Marshfield, WI August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Simple ways you can support these activities:

- Help set-up/Take-down Booth.
- Pick a day to hang out in the booth.
- Prepare/copy handouts and resources for visitors.
- Set-up or create a trifold display.



### **Farmer Markets**

The Ask a Master Gardener Booth is usually staffed one to two times a month. We answer general and specific questions and hand out information.

WI Rapids Down Town Farmer Markets, Thursday 8am to 2pm or Saturday 8am to 2pm 100-198 1st Avenue South Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Marshfield has two sites Pick n Save, Main Street Marshfield Farmers Market, Tues. 9am to 1pm 641 S. Central Ave or Festival Foods Farmers Market, Sat. 9am to 1pm 1613 N Central Ave Mfld, WI 54449

Marshfield Area Respite Care Center 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour – July 16<sup>th</sup> We hope to have a booth at Joyce Fischer's home. Plus, Save the Date flyers are put into the gift bags.

### **Central WI State Fair**

Marshfield, WI August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. We have a booth for five days with two members staffing the booth at different shifts. Members receive a free day pass so part of the day they can check out the fair and the master gardener flower beds project. Help with finding parking can be provided.





# 25 Years. . . 25 Cool Diseases

By Brian Hudelson

July 1 marked my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as director of the University of Wisconsin Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic. In celebration of that milestone, this month's web article highlights 25 diseases, disorders, and oddities that look like diseases, but aren't. All of these tickle my fancy as a geeky plant pathologist. I am emphasizing diseases/disorders/oddities that can be identified by eye. Where I have a UW Plant Disease Facts fact sheet on the disease/disorder/oddy, I provide a link. Where I don't, I provide more extensive comments and a link to a photo. (Underlined text) For several of the entries, I wax nostalgic about unusual encounters I've had with the diseases/disorders/oddities over the years. Enjoy!

## LEAF/FRUIT DISEASES

The diseases in this section are all fungal and very common. I've made a fair amount of money diagnosing these diseases in my 25 years in the clinic.

**Powdery Mildews:** Powdery mildews are one of my favorite types of fungal diseases due to the very ornate microscopic structures that they produce. Powdery mildews are mostly cosmetic diseases but can be the bane of cucurbit, phlox, beebalm, and 'Diablo' ninebark growers.

**Tar Spot:** These incredibly visual diseases often pop up on maples, most commonly silver and Norway maple. When I first started in the PDDC, I tended to see these diseases primarily in counties that bordered Lake Michigan. Nowadays, I can find them anywhere in the state.

**Taphrina Diseases:** The most common of these diseases is peach leaf curl, which gives peach leaves a colorful, seersucker sort of look. The more bizarre versions of these diseases cause fruits to swell and become spongy. Plum pockets and what I have dubbed chokecherry pockets are examples. I encountered this latter disease for the first time in 2023. I LOVE seeing new diseases!!

## GALL DISEASES

Gall diseases lead to the overgrowth of affected plant parts. Some are fungal, some are bacterial. All are quite cool!

**Black Knot:** This is the fungal disease that I affectionately call "poop-on-a-stick". I can't tell you how many of my former students have told me that they remember this disease because of my use of this rather risqué name.

**Common Corn Smut:** Is this disease bad or good? It all depends on your point of view. If you're a sweet corn grower, you really don't want to see this disease at all. If spores of the fungus get into canned corn, they give the corn an off flavor. If you run a restaurant however, you may be quite pleased to find this fungus on your sweet corn, so that you can harvest it and include it on your menu as huitlacoche.

**Crown Gall:** This is the classic bacterial disease that kick-started today's industry of genetically modifying/engineering plants. This industry was first gaining traction back when I was in graduate school (i.e., the Jurassic Period).

**Leafy Gall:** Think of this disease as crown gall on steroids. You get the tumorous growth of crown gall but with the added bonus of tons of tiny leaves and shoots. After reading about this disease for years, I finally received a sample for the first time in 2022.

## RUST DISEASES

Rust diseases are a large group of diseases caused by closely related fungi that are very host specific. Some rust fungi complete their life cycles on a single type of plant. Others require two, often very different, plants to complete their life cycles. I think rusts are very interesting and tend to get a smile on my face when these diseases arrive at the clinic.

**Gymnosporangium Rusts:** I find this group of rusts, which includes cedar-apple rust, cedar-hawthorn rust, and cedar-quince rust, very attractive, particularly given that many of the diseases that I see routinely are rotting, slimy, and rather (ahem) odiferous. Gymnosporangium rusts are always suitable for inclusion in a plant disease bouquet to be used at a summer field day. Other diseases. . . not so much.

**Fir Broom Rust:** This is an alternating rust that infects both fir trees and chickweed. I have never seen the disease on chickweed, but the symptoms and signs on fir are very distinctive. Infection leads to production of a massive cluster of branches (i.e., a broom) with pale, wimpy needles that produce masses of yellow, powdery spores. Optimally, you would try to eradicate any chickweed near your fir trees to control this disease. Unfortunately, this weed is so common and inconspicuous that eradication is difficult. Management of fir broom rust more typically involves pruning out the branch masses in fir trees as they form. The first time I encountered this disease was when a client sent me photos of his fir trees. The photos were of such high resolution that I could zoom in and see sporulation on the needles! My client could tell I was very excited about seeing this disease for the first time, and, kind soul that he was, he dropped off the sample on one of his trips through Madison from the Eau Claire area.

**Elderberry Rust:** The symptoms of this disease remind me of a huge, yellow banana slug hugging an elderberry branch for dear life. This disease is definitely in the running for my #1, favorite plant disease.

**White Pine Blister Rust:** This disease is potentially lethal in white pine as the causal fungus can girdle the main trunks of white pine trees. In the spring, the fungus produces the blister-like reproductive structures on white pine that gives the disease its name. Many years ago, I had a VERY long phone conversation with a client who wanted to start a currant farm in northern Wisconsin in the middle of white pine forest. That's a really bad idea given that currants (along with gooseberries) are the alternate host for the white pine blister rust fungus. I don't think I convinced my client to abandon this idea, and I've often wondered over the years if she ever started her currant farm and if so, what the consequences were.

## **CANKER DISEASES**

These diseases girdle branches and cause branch dieback. I have seen a lot of these diseases over the years.

**Golden Canker:** This disease is specific to pagoda dogwood, particularly those trees improperly sited in hot, dry, full-sun locations. This is another disease that is "attractive" in my rather warped worldview. Like with Gymnosporangium rusts, I often include this disease in festive disease bouquets.

**Eastern Filbert Blight:** This disease is the bane of European hazelnut, and I often see it on Harry Lauder's walking stick. I really like how the fruiting bodies (i.e., reproductive structures) of the causal fungus pop out of the dead branches. It looks like an insect marched along the length of the branch leaving tiny footprints in its wake.

**Blister Canker (Nailhead Canker):** This disease tends to be an issue on stressed apples and crabapples (although I have also seen it on serviceberry). The causal fungus infects larger branches and tree trunks, and eventually forms clusters of large, round, black pads (technically called stromata) in amongst the bark. Embedded in the stromata are fungal reproductive structures that contain elongate sacks with eight dark-colored spores. This disease is awesome as a teaching tool because it preserves nicely at room temperature with little fuss.

## **MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES**

Not all diseases are easily categorizable!

**Ergot:** This disease has had a significant impact on human history, due to the toxic compounds that the causal fungus produces. Check out "St. Anthony's fire" or "ergotism" online if you'd like to read more on this. In a very personally satisfying PDDC moment, I diagnosed this disease and helped a horse owner save her horses. The horses were in declining health because they had been grazing in their paddock on grasses that had this disease. The fix was any easy one. The client just had to mow the grass to remove the infected seed heads and then had to be sure to

mow again anytime the grass began to flower.

**Dead Man's Fingers:** This is a root rot pathogen that I most commonly see on stressed trees and shrubs. The most hysterical photo of dead man's fingers that I've seen looked like someone's toes were sticking out from under a log.

**White Mold:** This is one of the more destructive fungal diseases that I see, causing problems across a wide range of herbaceous plants. Look for the mouse-dropping-like resting structures of the causal fungus on (and inside) infected plant tissue. If you see these, they are a dead giveaway that you're dealing with white mold.

## **FERTILITY ISSUES**

Not all plant health problems are true diseases where a pathogen (i.e., a disease-causing organism) is involved.

**Chlorosis:** This is a classic disease of pin oak and birch where the trees are suffering from an iron deficiency. In red maple, a manganese deficiency is typically the problem. Lack of these nutrients in the soil is often not the issue, but overly high soil pH (which makes these nutrients less available for plant uptake) is.

**Blossom End Rot:** People tend to tend to think of tomatoes when they think of blossom end rot, but any vegetables that's botanically a fruit (e.g., peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash) can suffer from this disorder. A calcium deficiency in the fruits is the problem. A lack of calcium in soils is typically not the issue but a lack of water (e.g., from drought or uneven watering) more commonly is.

## **NON-DISEASES**

Sometimes what I see are not diseases, but some other sort of amazing oddity. . .

**Dodder:** This is a parasitic plant that grows prolifically, covering parasitized plants in what looks like a mass of yellow or orange spaghetti. The most awesome example of dodder I've ever seen was back in my undergraduate days when I found an entire lot next to the Fort Atkinson, WI sewage treatment plant covered with the plant. You could make out shapes of shrubs under the growth. Mind boggling!

**Fairy Rings:** Fairy rings can cause aesthetic issues on golf courses and in home lawns but are relatively cosmetic issues. Their most classic form is a ring of mushrooms growing in a grassy area. If you believe in ancient lore, you may want to stake out these rings when you find them to watch for dancing fairies on a moonlit night.

**Slime Molds:** Slime molds come in many shapes and forms. The most common slime mold gardeners encounter looks like a neighborhood dog upchucked on newly spread mulch. My personal favorites are a) one that looks like a cluster of tiny cattails and b) one that looks like a spherical birdcage under the microscope. I have to give a shout out to Marilyn Hanson, my high school biology teacher, who introduced me to slime molds (and fungi as well) and was instrumental in setting me on the path that led to me becoming a plant pathologist.

**Stinkhorns:** I have had a number of somewhat awkward conversations with clients about these common garden fungi, some of which look like a certain part of the male anatomy (thus the awkwardness). In addition to their odd form, stinkhorns (as the name implies) have a rather unpleasant odor.

**Bird's Nest Fungi:** "Super cute" are the best words to describe these fungi. Their reproductive structures look like tiny bird's nests complete with eggs! Watch for these in clusters in mulched flowerbeds.

**Lichens:** These fantastic organisms are a symbiotic combination of a filamentous fungus, an alga (often a blue-green alga, more accurately referred to as a cyanobacterium), and in certain instances a yeast (a non-filamentous type of fungus). Please don't bemoan seeing lichens growing on the trunks of your trees (or anywhere else). If you see lots of different types of lichen in your area, that's an indication of good air quality.

I hope you've enjoyed this list and my trip down memory lane. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-2863. Enjoy the rest of your summer!!

# Sowing success!

## Evidence-based gardening essentials

Are you interested in learning more about gardening? [Register now!](#)

### What will I learn in this course?

At the end of the course, you'll be able to:

- Link gardening practices and biology to preventing plant problems.
- Explain how to select, grow, and maintain the health of different kinds of plants.
- Identify strategies to manage plant problems.
- Explain what Integrated Pest Management is and how it benefits you and the environment.

Learn about growing plants in a way that helps you plan for gardening success, prevent plant problems before they start, and manage issues when they happen. You'll leave the course with a combination of practical gardening skills to try plus the knowledge of why they work.

### Course overview

What: You'll work the assigned readings and video lectures hosted on Youtube prior to the weekly sessions. At the in person meetings, you'll have an opportunity to work through hands-on activities designed to reinforce the concepts introduced in the course materials. You'll learn about:

- General Gardening Practices
- Integrated Pest Management
- Soils
- Botany
- Insects
- Plant Diseases
- Wildlife
- Weeds
- Herbaceous & Woody Ornamentals
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Lawns

When: Tuesday evenings, 5:00-7:30 pm, September 12-November 28, 2023 EXCEPT the week of September 18th. That week we will meet Thursday, September 21st.

Where: McMillian Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Ave Wisconsin Rapids

Who: ***Sowing success! Evidence-based gardening essentials*** is open to everyone! This course is considered an approved learning opportunity for the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program in preparation to become a Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener. Visit the [Wisconsin Master Gardener Website](#) for more information.

Register for [Sowing success! Evidence-based gardening essentials](#)

# SUSTAINABLE LAWN CARE

AUGUST 16, 2023  
1PM  
WOODSON YMCA  
THE LANDING

MEMBERS - FREE  
NON-MEMBERS - \$15



FOR  
FOLKS  
YOUNG AT  
HEART  
55+



CALL 715-841-1855  
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# GROWING HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS

## FREE PROGRAM

**August 16, 2023**

**Marathon County Public  
Library - Wausau Branch**

**10am**

**<https://go.wisc.edu/65f8dr>**

**6pm**

**<https://go.wisc.edu/d35215>**

**Contact Janell with questions.**

**[janell.wehr@wisc.edu](mailto:janell.wehr@wisc.edu)**



**Extension**



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# Calendar of Events

**August 15 Membership picnic- Port Edwards**

**August 22-27 Central WI State Fair**

**Sept. 15-17 Fall plant sale**

**Sept. 26 Membership Meeting**

**Reminder:** If you know of a WCMGV member who should be remembered in case of illness, hospitalization, death of a family member, etc. be sure to contact Bea Kohl so she can send a card and/or note on behalf of our organization. It takes all of us to keep track of how well our members are doing and whether anyone needs a little bit of our thoughtfulness. Bea's phone number is 715 -423-8908

## Note from the Editor

I need the articles for the newsletter at least two days before the First of the month. I have been getting articles very late which makes it hard to get the newsletter out on time. When an article is submitted at the last minute, it means the pages have to be reworked and often articles need to be juggled around to make it all fit and still look nice and be readable. Please make every attempt to get articles turned in within a day or two of Chris' reminder on the 25th of every month. Your editor thanks you for your consideration!



**Join our Communication Team!**

**Facebook Co-administrator Wanted**

For those of you on Facebook...we're looking for another person to help administer the WCMGV Facebook page. It's a digital age and our page is an important resource for accomplishing our mission to educate and to engage with the public. We use it to promote our activities and fundraisers and feature educational topics of interest to Central Wisconsin gardeners. Administrators respond to inquiries from the public sent to our page, post promotional notices about our meetings and fundraisers, and post topical educational features. It's easy and does not require much of a time commitment, so it's a great way to volunteer to get our message out there. Training provided! Call Chris Grimes with questions.

# August Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County WI Master Gardener website and Melinda Myers website

- Mulch dahlias to conserve moisture and eliminate weeds.
- Stake plants with heavy blooms.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Keep phlox plants deadheaded. Never let phlox go to seed if you want to keep colors true.
- Start seeds of daisy, coreopsis, sweet william and pansy in peat pots or nursery beds. Transfer to permanent beds in late September. or early October.
- Cut gladiolus blooms leaving maximum amount of foliage on plants.
- Transplant and divide iris and day lily.
- Watch for red spider mites on phlox.
- In mid-month, take cuttings of coleus, geraniums and other plants for winter houseplants.
- Plant chrysanthemums for fall color. Fall planted chrysanthemums need extra winter protection.
- Plant Madonna lily and Japanese and Siberian iris.
- Continue watering flowerbeds at least once a week during dry periods.
- Plant or transplant oriental poppies. Do not mulch, as they prefer hot, sun-baked ground.
- Bring poinsettias indoors.
- By the end of the month, start withholding water from amaryllis. Amaryllis requires an eight-week period of drought to bloom. Place in cool basement for three-month rest.
- Sow cover crops in vegetable garden areas not in use.
- Cut and dry or freeze herbs. Pick herbs just before blossoms open for best flavor.
- Inspect corn regularly. Corn pests become abundant in mid-August.
- Keep eggplant and peppers picked so younger fruit develops.
- Plant late crops of radishes, lettuce, spinach and beets.
- Mid-August to mid-September is the best time to establish grass seed. Keep soil moist at all times or seed will dry and die.
- Plant evergreens now through mid-September so they are well established before winter.
- Remove thatch from lawn if more than one-half inch thick.
- Tip layer black and purple raspberries for replacement.
- Fertilize strawberries with 10-10-10 fertilizer applied at 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet. Thin plants if needed.
- Maintain lime-sulfur spray program on tree fruit to control apple and pear scab and certain other diseases.
- Collect and bury diseased, mummified plums for future brown-rot control.



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The Wood County Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with its members and the community alike. In addition, it is our charge to promote the UW Extension from which we are founded. We are a diverse group interested in the latest research-based horticultural information.

## Future Article Submissions

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 25th of the previous month to: [streiffonclay@tds.net](mailto:streiffonclay@tds.net)

**Wisconsin Master Gardener Website:**

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/>

**Wood County Extension Website:**

<https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/>

**Wood County Master Gardener Association Website:**

<https://wood-county-master-gardeners.org/>

**WIMGA Website:**

<https://www.wimga.org>

## Let's get planting for the plant sales:

- ⇒ Houseplant propagation for both sales
- ⇒ Collect plants for dried arrangements for fall sale
- ⇒ Winter sowing for natives and perennials for fall sale
- ⇒ Collect seeds, dried arrangement materials, bulbs for fall sale
- ⇒ Propagate succulents
- ⇒ Prepare fairy gardens or potted arrangements