

President's Message April 2025

Recently, I came across articles online along the line of "2025 Gardening Trends as Predicted by the Experts". Wanting to see what the 'experts' thought, I glanced through them. Although the articles came from different sources, they had similar lists. I was glad to see that our Association is already incorporating some of them into our programming, education, and focus in all our activities. We are about to engage in a project to develop signage and information that will step up our game in educating the public about our public projects and gardening principles. As you start working in your project gardens this spring, give a thought to how your site could or already does demonstrate some of these trends and consider how you can help create an educational feature to be added to our website. More information on this at future meetings.



These are some of the trends noted by the experts. You can see how some of them address the needs and interests of people at this particular time in our culture, so designing programming and projects around people's interests could help invite more people to engage in gardening in general and WCMGA in particular.

Use of bold colors and textures: In container gardens, borders, hardscaping. Use of tropical plants indoors in winter and outdoors for the summer. Apparently this helps Generation Z and Millennials reach back to a happy time, which all the rest of us can use too!

"Green Drenching" Using a monochromatic palate (I'd say green) to create a soothing, sanctuary environment for wellness, respite, and relaxation. This includes the use of house plants indoors; vertical gardening outdoors. "Living Fencing" is using plants to separate one area from another with the added benefit of creating a wildlife haven.

Native Gardens: climate adaptable, sustainable, naturalistic instead of formal, can use those bold colors and textures, water wise concepts

Creative and Hobby centered landscapes: People desire to get away from screens and technology and into something that expresses creativity and connectivity.

"Messy" Gardens: decrease the manicured look and increase the natural elegance by using native plants, natural stone, and eco-friendly materials

Vegetable Gardening: Will world affairs create a return to the "Victory Garden" of the past to help people adapt to changing prices and availability?

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March Meeting Minutes

**Wood County Master Gardener Association
General Membership Meeting
March 25, 2025 - 6:00 pm
Pittsville Community Hall**

Program: Tree & Shrub Care – Tom Hollar, ArborVantage Tree Care

Total Present: 26 total (19 + 7 online)

Business Meeting: Called to order 7:47 by Vice President Terrie Brown.

Secretary's Report: (Stacy) Minutes from November 19, 2024 were reviewed, corrections made and minutes will be put on file.

Treasurer's Report: (Famia) Written report from Famia reviewed without corrections or additions. It will be filed.

WIMGA: (Karleen) There are 2 opportunities for continuing education coming up. April 2nd at 6:30 pm - Herbs for the Garden and April 22nd at 5:30 pm - Celebrating National Volunteer Week

Old Business:

Project Education Signs/WIMGA Grant: (Terrie/Stacy) WIMGA lost our grant application so we did not get the grant. We will be working on getting new signs for each project area and using QR Codes to link to the pages on the website for each project, which will be updated with more educational content. Stacy will be working to update the website and getting QR Codes.

Community Education Request: Trinity Lutheran (Ann & Stacy) – This request is on hold for now.

New Business:

Programs: (Terrie) There are speakers and activities planned for each meeting this year.

Spring Sale: (Jill) Cathy will host. It is encouraged to bring more herbs, annuals, and bulbs. Bake sale will be happening again and encouraging fun things like dandelion jelly, tomato paste, dried herbs, etc. Continuing to work with Tender Shoots and also with Lindsay Madsen for vegetable starts and Robyn from Cypress Avenue Greenhouse. The team needs to know what people plan to bring. Cannot bring items dug from the soil. Save the Date flyers were handed out. Bea will follow up with everyone to see what people will bring.

Garden Walk: (Lil) Making progress. The team is broken down into groups for signs, host gifts, orientation for hosts, etc. Directional signs need to be replaced. Looking at corrugated plastic signs but they are very expensive.

Socialization Plans: (Diane & Cathy)

May 6th - Waupaca area for garden art and plants. 10% discount at Chain of Lakes.

June 10th - Empty Nest Winery in Milladore.

August - Monk Gardens and NTC - still working on details

September 9th - Food + Farm Exploration Center in Plover

Community Education Plans: (Donna) Working on a family activity in Marshfield. Stacy is working on children and teen activities at McMillan in Rapids. Pittsville library would like us to do a program in May - Terrie volunteered to do this.

30th Anniversary: (Terrie) 2026 is the 30th anniversary of Wood County Master Gardeners Association. Start thinking of ways to showcase it.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Next Meeting: April 22, 2025 - 6:00 pm at First English Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids - Seed Tapes

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Musch, Secretary

April Meeting Information

How to Make and Utilize Seed Tapes in Your Garden

April 22 6pm

Master Gardener Jennifer Fane will be presenting a program on making and using seed tapes in the garden. Seed tapes are an easy way to space seeds in rows. Commercial seed tapes are more expensive than a package of regular seeds. Making your own can save money, reduce time in planting, avoid waste of extra seeds, and reduce the need for thinning.

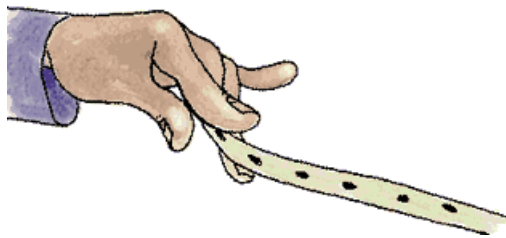
Program will be followed by a general business meeting.

Program will be held at

First English Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids
440 Garfield Street

Directions from Marshfield:

At the intersection of Hwys 73 (West Grand Ave.) and 34, continue east on West Grand Avenue, cross the river, and turn right on 3rd St S. Turn left on Walnut St and proceed 2 blocks to the church .



Education Opportunities for C. E. Hours

From UW Extension Horticulture

UW Extension Horticulture [Wisconsin Horticulture – Division of Extension](#) This site has a plethora of resources to explore. It is a great source for getting Continuing Ed credits. It has print and video resources for free use. Sign up to receive their monthly newsletter with pertinent topics: [Sign up](#) No new programs scheduled for 2025 yet.. If you need Continuing Education Hours, go to [Online Program Archive – Wisconsin Horticulture](#) to view many of the recorded programs This is a good way to get your Ed hours before you get too busy gardening this spring..

From the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic

The Clinic will sponsor a Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic each month. To register for one or more talks, go to [2025 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic](#)

Ten Diseases of Native Plants (and Non-Natives, Too) Apr. 23 6:30—8:30pm

Learn about common diseases of plants that are native to Wisconsin. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.

Ask the Experts 1:30 Select Mondays April 21

Join our monthly online programs in 2025 for an opportunity to connect with plant health experts from the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Each session, held on Monday afternoons from 1:30 pm, is your chance to ask questions about your trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawns, insects, disease, etc. Registration link: [Free Online Gardening Programs – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

Melinda Myers Programs [Home :: Melinda Myers](#)

Container Gardens for Sun and Shade Apr. 2 6:30pm

Presented by Melinda Myers. Container gardens add color and seasonal interest to balconies, patios, decks, and even your front entrance. No matter where they're placed, matching the plants to the available sunlight will help boost success. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share container plant combinations for both sun-filled and shady locations. Plus, she'll provide tips on the proper care to keep them looking good all season long. Sponsored by We Energies. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Reinvigorate Your Rain Garden Apr. 10 6:30pm

Keeping up any garden, including low-maintenance rain gardens requires some effort. Weeds move in, plants outgrow their space and some desirable plants die. Add to this the challenge of maintaining the area around the garden and keeping the water flowing from the roof, walks, and lawn to the garden. Melinda will share ways to manage these challenges to help you create an attractive garden that helps manage the water that falls in your yard. Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Fresh Coast Guardians. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Vertical Gardening May 12 6:30pm

Save space, screen bad views, and create privacy by growing vertically. We'll discuss fun, affordable, and attractive ways to use this gardening technique to incorporate flowers and edibles into your landscape and container gardens. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share ways vertical gardening can help reduce energy use by shading air conditioners, walls, and outdoor seating. Sponsored by We Energies.

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru

Planning and Planting Your Garden Apr. 17 6pm

Are you anxious to get your hands in the soil? Join us for tips on how to select seeds and plants at the garden center, how to plan your planting and the best ways to sow the seeds or transplant your plant babies. This is an illustrated talk for gardeners of all levels of experience.

March 2025: March Madness – Three Plant Diseases to Drive You Crazy in 2025



The 2024 growing season was an amazing time for plant diseases. Spring and early summer weather was particularly wet, which was favorable for development of an array of fungal plant diseases. In addition, 2024 was a great year for insect activity, and certain insects that were prevalent last year (in particular aphids and leafhoppers) are notorious for moving pathogens from plant to plant. Of the diseases that I saw at the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic last year, the following three are diseases that are likely to recur and have a significant impact in 2025.

Apple scab

Last year was the best year for apple scab that I can think of in my 26+ years at the PDDC. The wet weather that occurred as apple and crabapple trees began to leaf out in the spring was perfect for



Venturia inaequalis (the apple scab fungus) to infect. These early infections (characterized by dark, feathery-edged leaf spots) set trees up for an apple scab epidemic as wet weather continued later into the growing season. Many trees defoliated due to apple scab by mid-summer. The leaf debris from these trees is where the apple scab fungus has been hanging out for the winter. As soon as rains start this spring and trees begin to leaf out, spores from this leaf litter will lead to new infections, and we'll be off to the apple scab races once again.

To limit apple scab development, remove and dispose of (by burning, burying, or hot composting) any leaf litter that is still hanging around your apple and crabapple trees. If you have not recently thinned your apple or crabapple trees, consider doing this soon (as long as the buds on the trees have not yet begun to swell). Thinning improves airflow that promotes more rapid drying of leaves when they get wet. Drier leaves are a less favorable environment for the apple scab fungus to infect. For details on pruning trees, check out "Pruning Deciduous Trees" available on the UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture website. There are also fungicide treatments that can be used for apple scab control (see the UW Plant Disease Facts fact sheet on "Apple Scab" for details). However, treating for apple scab requires multiple, carefully-timed fungicide applications, which can be difficult to achieve for many home gardeners. If you are planning on planting a new apple or crabapple tree in 2024, make sure you select an scab-resistant variety to avoid apple scab problems in the future.

Septoria leaf spot of lilac



After a hiatus in 2023 (most likely due to the hot, dry 2023 growing season), Septoria leaf spot of lilac was back with a vengeance in 2024. Lilacs all over the state had leaves that first exhibited spotting, then turned partially or fully brown starting at the bottom of shrubs and working up the plant. The culprit was a species of Septoria, a fungus related to (but distinct from) the organism that causes [Septoria leaf spot of tomato](#). The browning caused by Septoria on lilac tends to be quite dramatic, but luckily, the disease is not lethal.

As with [apple scab](#), good clean up of leaves that have fallen from affected lilac shrubs is the place to start in managing Septoria leaf spot. Routine pruning/thinning (see “[Pruning Deciduous Shrubs](#)” for details) to open up lilac canopies and promote rapid drying of leaves will also help keep this disease at bay. Use of fungicides (in particular chlorothalonil-containing products labeled for use on woody ornamentals) to manage the disease may also be useful. However, early applications (as shrubs begin to leaf out) and additional regular follow-up applications (if there is wet weather) are critical for control of this disease. Applying fungicides is a lot of work, and if you are unable to commit to the regular applications that are needed, then I recommend foregoing any applications at all.

Aster yellows

Aster yellows is a phytoplasma disease that affects 300+ herbaceous plant species in 40+ plant families. Phytoplasmas are bacteria-like organisms that certain insects (most commonly leafhoppers) move from plant to plant. These insects feed in the phloem (i.e., the food-conducting tissue) of plants, and acquire phytoplasmas (and subsequently drop them off) as they feed. In 2024, high numbers of aster yellows leafhoppers (the specific leafhopper that transmits the aster yellows phytoplasma) led to an increase in aster yellows. Once infected, perennial plants remain infected, with the phytoplasma concentrating in plants' crowns and roots in the fall, as plants go dormant for the year. The phytoplasmas survive the winter in these tissues and recolonize new growth as it emerges in the spring. Given the high incidence of aster yellows in 2024, I expect to see a lot of this disease in 2025. Typical symptoms associated with aster yellows are plant stunting; yellow, orange, or purple leaves; distorted leaves; leafy, green flowers; and brooming (i.e., production of clusters of plant parts).



Unfortunately, the only management for aster yellows is to remove infected plants. You don't have to be particularly careful about disposing of these plants. Once plants have been dug up and have wilted, they are no longer attractive to leafhoppers (and other insects) that could potentially move the pathogen to other plants.

Need help?

Hopefully, my predictions for diseases that will be prevalent in 2025 will be wrong. That said, you will likely encounter plant diseases of some kind this coming growing season. If you need help in identifying whatever diseases you do encounter or need advice on plant disease control, please feel free to contact me at (608) 262-2863 or pddc@wisc.edu. For more information on plant diseases in general and their management, be sure to check out the UW-Madison PDDC website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>). To keep up to date on clinic activities and resources, follow the PDDC on Facebook, Twitter (X), or Bluesky (@UWPDDC), or subscribe to the clinic's listserv, UWPDDCLearn (by emailing or phoning the clinic to subscribe).

Events will be led by Master Gardener Educators at the Lester Public Library of Rome unless noted.

ROME GARDEN CHATS

2025 EVENTS



April 16, 2025
9:30-11:00

Designing Hanging Baskets*

Discussion/Hands-On/Registration Required/Held at Foss' Garden Center



May 21, 2025
9:30-11:00

Tackling Wildlife Damage

Discussion/Led by Janell Wehr, UW-Extension Educator



June 18, 2025
9:30-11:00

Sand-Casted Bird Bath Make-and-Take*

Hands-On/Registration Required/Led by Laurie Francis and Boots Stolt



July 16, 2025
9:30-11:00

Home-Grown National Parks

Discussion/Led by Barb Herreid



Aug. 20, 2025
9:30-11:00

Propagating with Cuttings

Discussion/Led by Linda Beck and Laurie Francis



Sept. 10, 2025
9:30-11:00

Bulbs and Tubers and Corms, Oh My!

Discussion/Led by Ardyce Piehl and Becky Gutzman, Retired UW-Extension Educator



Oct. 15, 2025
9:30-11:00

Growing Lettuce Indoors with the Kratky Method

Discussion/Led by Jennifer Fane

*A materials fee will be charged.

Plant Sale Update



Spring Plant Sale

May 17th
930 Westport Drive
Port Edwards

Featuring:

- Annuals, Natives, Perennials
- Seeds & Vegetables Starters
- Garden Walk tickets
- Bake Sale
- "Ask a Master Gardener" Booth

*22nd Annual
Garden Walk
Saturday, July 19th
Stay tuned for more details!*

Fall Plant Sale

September 13-14
Maple Fall Fest
at Wildwood Park
Marshfield

Featuring:

- Houseplants, Natives, Perennials
- Dried Arrangements
- Garden Accessories & Art
- "Ask a Master Gardener" Booth

**All event proceeds support Wood County Master Gardener beautification and educational projects.*

PLANT SALE BUZZ

Jill and her committee have met and prepared a semi-final list of vegetables, annuals and perennials to be purchased for the spring plant sale.

Vendors include Misty Acres Farm and Greenhouse in Vesper and Tender Shoots Gardens and Greenhouse in Greenwood.

They discussed adding herbs to the plant sale inventory and are researching a vendor.

A bake sale and free beverages will be a part of the sale.

The committee also started plans for transportation of plants and donations to the sale, pricing, signage, advertising and other organizational issues.

Your pricing suggestions are welcome.

Members are reminded of the following:

- Start additional annual and vegetable seeds to add plants to our inventory.
- Pot up houseplants that you plan to donate. Remember to use sterilized potting mix.
- Email Jill a list of houseplants and the quantity of each that you plan to donate. She would like to start those lists now. They can be altered later if necessary.
- Collect gardening related donations in your "Plant Sale Donations" box. Everything needs to be clean and in good condition. Unopened packages of viable seeds can be included.
- Start extra tender bulbs that need a new home. They must be washed and planted in sterilized potting mix. Bulbs that are already growing are much more appealing.



Winter Sowing Update for April

As the snow leaves and the weather begins to warm, start checking the containers to be sure they are still moist. If you are not seeing condensation in the containers on a sunny day, bottom water by placing the container in a pail or basin with a couple inches of water to allow the soil to rehydrate. Check for the start of growth also.

If the weather turns unusually warm, as it sometimes does in April, begin to vent the containers during the day by loosening the tape and partially opening the container. Check more often for water if the container is vented, and close if a severe cold spell occurs.

Once germination starts and before the weather gets warm, move shade plants to a shady area for the rest of the summer.

When the seedlings have one to two pairs of true leaves, transplant to individual containers to grow on. If you need 4-inch pots, check with Fania, Donna or Jill. We are trying to keep pots of uniform size for easier pricing. Contact Donna if you are willing to be a plant foster parent for a few of the many plant species that have been started this winter. Please specify if you prefer sun or shade plants. You can pick up a jug or two at the April meeting of those that have started growth.



WIMGA Corner

WIMGA Continuing Education Reminder:

April 2 at 6:30 via Zoom: Herbs **for Our Gardens** with Melody Orban, WI Master Gardener, member of the Herb Society of North America. She will discuss herbs, seeding them, their role in our gardens, wintering over and herbs as pollinator plants. Register on the WIMGA website to receive zoom directions.

Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer Recognition Program:

April 22 at 5:30 via Zoom: Every **Garden Tells a Story** with Dr. Reba Luiken, Director of the Allen Centennial Gardens. This program is presented as a “thank you” to Wisconsin Master Gardeners during Volunteer Recognition Week. See the latest edition of ***The Vibe*** newsletter from UW Extension to register for a zoom connection.

Each of these programs offers an hour of continuing education credit toward your 10-hour requirement in ORS.

Karleen Remington
WIMGA Representative



Garden Walk 2025 Update

Although gardens at home remain in their “dormant” phase, the garden walk team is in its “growing” phase, as a great bulk of Garden Walk preparation is happening now.

Sponsorships: Over 60 businesses in the Wi Rapids, Nekoosa, Plover, Stevens Point, and Marshfield areas have been approached about supporting us through sponsorship. That’s a lot of door knocking, emailing and follow-up. Responses are coming in slowly, but we are hopeful to cover the majority of our anticipated expenses through sponsorships.

Garden Host Preparation:

Staying in touch with our Gardeners is imperative. On April 12th we are hosting an orientation program to cover expectations, safety, and all the things garden hosts & supplemental participants are curious about. They will meet our team, and mentors have volunteered to continue to support select gardens. Our hosts are excited and filled with ideas to make their gardens unique. Cathy and Judy have put together a welcoming event while Jim and Diane assist with audiovisuals.

Raffle:

Jan and Barb need our help. As you know, our basket raffle at the garden walk has always been a hugely popular event and contributes greatly to raising funds for WCMG’s intentions. Please consider donating items for suggested baskets or put together a unique basket yourself. If everyone donated at least one item, how great would that be?

Host Gifts:

I must say, this year’s host gift tops them all! Deb and Jan have been cutting and grinding colorful glass pieces to fulfill the specifications of Famia, our designer. These coveted WCMG garden stones need to be ready for July. A lot of time and hard work go into these labors of love.

Plant Labels:

Deb and Kay’s work behind the scenes during the winter months supports visitors with plant identification at their fingertips during the garden walk. They research each plant name submitted by our garden hosts and complement the label with both scientific and common plant names, and have them mounted to stands, ready to poke in the ground for July. Their advance preparation pays off in dividends when the walk draws nearer.

Education:

Karleen, Stacey, and Donna have evaluated garden features, gardening methods, and plant types offered in our gardens, and are strategizing how to provide unique educational opportunities along the way. One gardener got excited about the “bird boutique” offered years ago at one of our previous walks and will have bird houses and bird feeders for sale, along with bird photography on display by a local artist. We will try to supplement this with information on supporting pollinators in the garden.

Until next time! Your Garden Walk Committee

HELP US WITH THE RAFFLE BASKETS AT GARDEN WALK 2025!

Due to the great success of the Raffle Baskets that were introduced at last year's Garden Walk, we would like to offer this to attendees again this year.

But, We Need Your Help!

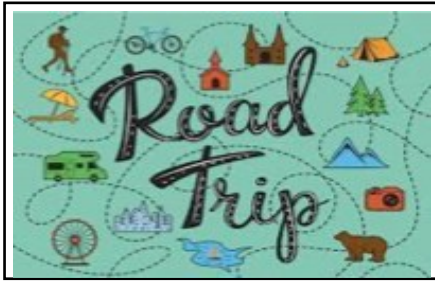
We will build raffle baskets based on themes with suggested items for each one. Sign up to donate **new items** for any of the featured baskets. You'll be able to sign up at the April meeting. If you're unable to attend, just email Jan Myers or Barb Herreid to let us know what you can contribute.

Here are the basket themes and suggested items:

Theme of Basket	Suggested Ideas for Items for Basket
Child's Garden Basket	Bib overalls, Small Hat, Wellie boots or Crocs for child, Kids Toolkit, Sunscreen, Bug Catcher, Seed packets
Birds in the Garden Due to their popularity last year, we'd like to offer 2 baskets this year	Birdfeeder, Deck Birdbath, Birdseed, Humming-bird feeder, Suet
Garden (use canvas bag as the basket?)	Rain Guage, Thermometer, Kneeling pad, Garden Gloves, Hand Tools, Slow-release Fertilizer, Garden Art, Book for inspiration, Watering Can, Flower Pot
Canning Basket	Canning Supplies
Italian Due to their popularity last year, we'd like to offer 2 baskets this year	Pasta, Wine, Italian Cookbook
Picnic	Checkered tablecloth, Blanket, Picnic tableware, Wine, Gift certificate at a deli or Sub shop
Flower Drying	Flower Press, Drying Rack, Instructions/How-to, Silica Gel, Hairspray
OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR US TO CONSIDER???	

We are also looking for donated baskets to put the items in – let us know if you can help with this. All items can be turned in at the monthly meetings or to Jan or Barb – we need them no later than the June meeting. Thank you for your support!

Do you have an item of higher value that you'd like to donate for the Silent Auction? Just contact Jan or Barb with your idea.



Spring Planting Road Trip !

Celebrate Spring with a tour of Waupaca County Greenhouse and Gift Shops w/ Lunch!

Chain of Lakes Home and Garden Center

N 2270 WI-22, Waupaca

We'll start at this greenhouse, which advertises plants of all kinds, garden art and accessories, and a feed store for pets and wildlife. They are offering us a **10% discount and refreshments**. <https://www.chainolakesgreenhouse.com>. After shopping, we'll head to:

Lunch at Fat Gretchen's in Waupaca

Dutch Treat Order off the Menu

New 2 You

A couple shops away is another place that advertises their specialty as "Garden Decor and Accessories". <https://new2youwaupaca.com/>. Shop as long as you want!

Cottage Garden Farm

E957 Wisconsin Highway 54, Waupaca

On the way home, if you have any more room, we'll stop at another fun Central Wisconsin gift and garden location. <https://cottagegardenfarm.com>. Stay as long as you desire and head home when you're ready.

Make sure your trunk is empty!

Tuesday, May 6

Carpool/caravan leaving from the **Wisconsin Rapids Wal Mart parking lot at 9am**. Or meet us at Chain of Lakes Home and Garden about 9:30am.

Hope you can join us. **Bring a friend!** Contact Chris Grimes with questions.

Calendar of Events*

- Apr. 2 Melinda Myers Webinar—Container Gardens for Sun and Shade***
- Apr. 2 WIMGA—Herbs in Our Gardens***
- Apr. 10 Melinda Myers Webinar—Reinvigorate Your Rain Garden***
- Apr. 12 Melinda Myers—Vertical Gardening***
- Apr. 16 Hanging Baskets—Foss' Garden Center***
- Apr. 17 Garden Guru –Mfld. Library***
- Apr. 21 Ask the Experts– PDDC***
- Apr. 22 Volunteer Recognition– Master Gardener Office Zoom***
- Apr. 22 April Membership Meeting***
- Apr. 23 Hudelson—PDDC Monthly Disease Talk***
- May 6 Spring Road Trip***
- May 12 Melinda Myers—Vertical Gardening***
- May 17 Spring Plant Sale**
- Jul . 19 Garden Walk**
- Sep. 13-14 Fall Plant Sale**

***Refer to separate articles for more information about most of these listings, including times and links to register.**

April Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener Website

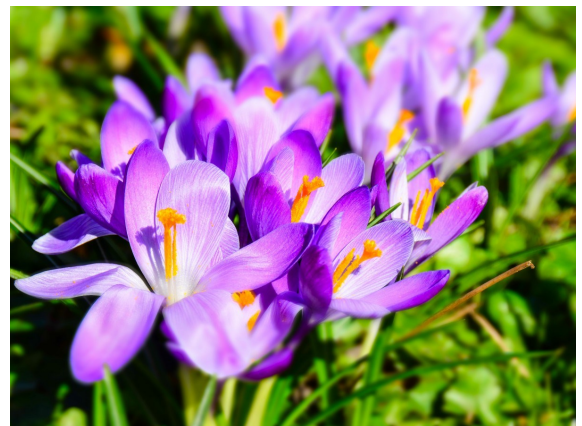
April Garden Guide

- Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.



- When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- Container grown or balled and bur lapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.

- Divide perennials and pot for the MG plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.
- Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants.



2025 WCMGV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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>

Reminders

ORS is open for recording your hours.

Onboarding Lite is open also. Sign in for 2025 and review your information, sign consents, etc. You are responsible for reviewing the material every year. You were sent quite a few updates in January that you MUST be aware of as a Master Gardener.

Consider what you can grow to contribute to the plant sales. A little later this spring, you can also start annuals by the winter sowing method. Succulents, bulbs, and house plants are always the first to go. Have any you can propagate?

Plan what you might grow to contribute to the dried arrangements for the fall plant sale.

If you are starting plants this spring for your gardens, consider sowing a few more to bring to the plant sales. Every little bit counts!