



Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County Wisconsin

May 2026

President's Message

May President's Message

I think as Spring progresses, we have endured all that Mother Nature could have thrown at us-ice, snow, hail, sleet, wind, rain, record warmth, cold... That's Wisconsin- a lot going on. Here at Wood County Master Gardeners, we have a lot going on!! Our Garden Walk Committee has been hard at it since Fall with the offering of yet another great garden walk experience. One visitor last summer exclaimed that our garden walk was the best one by far!

The Strategic Plan Focus Group has been meeting regularly. The membership offered comments to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) at our last meeting. These were incorporated and next steps will be naming objectives. It's exciting to see the beginning of a roadmap for our organization.

The Socialization Committee is busily working on activities for this year. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

We have members giving presentations to a women's group at a local church as well as a boys' organization at a church in Arpin and we have requests for more of our expertise. What a way to fulfill our mission of **TEACH, LEARN AND SERVE!**

Our May meeting at McMillan will feature Trevor Frank presenting on vegetable gardening tips and tricks. As a vegetable gardener, I hope to learn some tips instead of my "plant and pray" gardening philosophy. Our May meeting will also feature the presentation of service awards and presentation of the objectives our Board has identified for our strategic plan.

We have some updates for our programs for the year so please take a moment to look at them.

Finally, May brings Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Both are days to remember those who have gone on before us. Memorial Day is a time to appreciate all the sacrifices that those who served gave. On this Memorial Day, let us pause, remember and honor them.

Terrie

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May Meeting Information

McMillan Library—Wisconsin Rapids

April 28, 2026 6pm

Trevor Frank will be presenting our educational program

"Tips and Tricks for a Successful Vegetable Garden"

Growing a productive vegetable garden doesn't have to be complicated—but it does require the right approach. This presentation covers practical, proven tips to help gardeners of all experience levels improve plant health, increase yields, and avoid common mistakes. This presentation will cover vegetable garden considerations, such as site selection and location, soil testing, garden design and planning, crop rotation by plant families, succession and companion planting, transplanting vs. direct seeding, irrigation, and cultivar selection.



Updated List of Educational Programs for Membership Meetings

Programs begin at 6 PM unless otherwise noted

May 26-Trevor Frank will present on vegetable gardening tips and tricks at McMillan Library

June 23 Ann Rozner on edibles in the flower garden and backyard. McMillan Library

July 28-Mill Creek Gardens tour. Meeting will be held at Mill Creek Gardens

August 18-Tour of Powers Bluff. Plus our Summer Picnic.

September 22- Kendra Wilhelm- native and invasive lookalikes. Marshfield Library

October 27 Home Depot Staff member-Ace to present care and sharpening of garden tools. McMillan Library

November 17-Elizabeth Whelan -President of Wild Ones Meeting at Alexander House in Port Edwards

Calendar of Events*

May 12 Road Trip*

May 26 May Membership Meeting

July 18 Garden Walk*

August 25-30 Central Wisconsin State Fair

Sept 19-20 Fall Plant Sale*

*See other articles in this issue for more details.

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](#) 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.

Ask the Experts is back!! Now renamed **Ask Your Gardening Question Live**, it will be on Wednesdays at either 1:30—2:30pm or 6:30—7:30pm, not both in one day. The May session is on May 20 at 1:30. To register for the zoom invite go to: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

Big 3 Apple Insect Webinar Series: Part 1 - Plum Curculio May 1 12-1pm

Join us for Part 1 of the **Big 3 Apple Insect Webinar Series** covering the ins and outs of three major apple insects, including identification, monitoring and management best practices. This webinar series is geared for home growers and gardeners of all backgrounds. Part 1 will cover Plum Curculio, a common weevil species that impacts fruit between bloom and a few weeks after petal fall, presented by Josie Dillon, Statewide Fruit Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. [Big 3 Apple Insect Webinar Series: Part 1 - Plum Curculio, Friday, May 1, 2026, 12 - 1pm - Upcoming Programs – Wisconsin Horticulture](#) for registration info.



Big 3 Apple Insect Webinar Series: Part 2 - Codling Moth May 15 12-1pm

Join us for Part 2 of the **Big 3 Apple Insect Webinar Series** covering the ins and outs of three major apple insects, including identification, monitoring and management best practices. This webinar series is geared for home growers and gardeners of all backgrounds. Part 2 will cover Codling Moth, a wide-spread moth species that impacts fruit in late-Spring through early to mid-summer, presented by Josie Dillon, Statewide Fruit Outreach Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension.

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 [2026 PDDC Monthly Disease Talk Registration Form | Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic](#)

The Science (and Art) of Plant Disease Diagnosis May 27, 2026, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

Learn about the fascinating and complex process involved in identifying plant diseases. Learn about how to visually assess for plant disease symptoms, as well as about the range of lab tests that are often needed to confirm the identity of plant diseases.

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Program

Thursday, May 21 6pm All About Herbs

Wood County Master Gardeners will be here to talk about growing conditions, tips for harvesting herbs, how to preserve herbs for future use and a few tips on using herbs in cooking.



Melinda Myers Webinars

On her webpage she has a number of recorded seminars that you can watch anytime.. The following are new program for May and June:



Adding Native Plants to Any Size Gardening Space May 6
6:30pm

Whether gardening on a balcony, small city lot or larger space, Melinda will help you select the right native plants to include in gardens and containers. Including native plants provides many benefits such as capturing and helping clean and manage stormwater and supporting pollinators and other beneficial insects and songbirds. They add enjoyment and seasonal beauty to your landscape. Growing even a few native plants in a container can help support pollinators and songbirds and boost your enjoyment. [On Demand Webinars :: Melinda Myers](#)

Planting & Care of Your Rain Garden May 21 6:30pm
You've selected the location, purchased your plants and now you're ready to start planting. We'll take a step-by-step approach to make this process as easy as possible. We'll discuss fine-tuning the garden design, preparing the planting bed, and setting the plants in place for an attractive display. Once the plants are in the ground, Melinda will share tips on getting the garden established and ongoing care to keep your plants thriving and your rain garden looking its best.

[On Demand Webinars :: Melinda Myers](#)



Managing Your Landscape with Pollinators in Mind June 3
6:30pm

You can have a landscape that you and the pollinators will enjoy with a few changes to your garden and landscape maintenance. We'll cover pollinator-friendly plant care to keep your containers, gardens and landscape healthy and looking its best throughout the year. Then we'll explore ways to manage weeds, diseases and insect pests without chemicals that are harmful to your plants and visiting

[On Demand Webinars :: Melinda Myers](#)

Rome Area Garden Chats 2026 Events

April 15
9:30-10:30



Growing Rhubarb and Asparagus
Discussion Led Becky Gutzman

May 6
9:30-10:30



***Design and Plant a Container**
Make-and-Take at Foss's Garden Center

June 17
9:30-10:30



+Crafting Outdoor Wind Chimes
Make-and-Take with Laurie and Boots

July 15
9:30-10:30



Grow, Harvest and Preserve Herbs
Discussion Led by Donna Streiff

August 19
9:30-10:30



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Discussion Led by Janell Wehr

Sept. 16
9:30-10:30



Designing a Landscape
Discussion Led by Janell Wehr

Oct. 21
9:30-10:30



+Forcing Bulbs for Christmas
Make-and-Take with Laurie Francis

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



*Participants will purchase plants for their containers from Foss's Garden Center. Containers may be brought from home or purchased from Foss's. Please register in advance at the library.
+A small fee will be charged. Please register and pay in advance at the library. Payment upon registration is required.

The following is a new UW-Madison Extension resource and can be found at: [Gardening for Weather Extremes in Wisconsin: Extreme Precipitation – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)

Gardening for Weather Extremes in Wisconsin: Extreme Precipitation

Overview

Water is essential for plant growth and development, but too much for too long can be harmful. Excess soil moisture and flooding can damage roots, reduce oxygen availability in the soil, and lead to poor plant health. In Wisconsin, heavy rains are becoming more common. Learn what to do when Wisconsin experiences extreme precipitation to help you make better decisions when extreme weather strikes to mitigate damage to your gardens and landscapes.

Practices to use before extreme precipitation and flooding

- Know your planting site. Identify areas that are likely to flood or become waterlogged, such as low lying areas or slow-draining clay soils.
- Plant species able to tolerate wet conditions, especially in areas prone to water logged soils. Choose annual and vegetable varieties that can be planted later to avoid wet spring soils. Proper tree and shrub selection is especially important because these are long-lived landscape elements. See [Effects of Flooding on Woody Landscape Plants](#) for tree and shrub recommendations.
- Install a rain garden or vegetative buffer strip to help with stormwater management.
- Consider raised bed gardening for vegetable or annual gardens to replace inground areas that get too wet, especially in spring.
- Continue proper soil management practices, including the addition of organic matter, to improve soil properties over time.
- Correct drainage and runoff problems if possible (i.e. increase the amount of permeable surfaces that allow water to pass through, reduce hardscapes, etc.)

Practices to use after extreme precipitation and flooding

It can be difficult when our gardens and landscapes experience extended periods of waterlogged soil or flooding. Here is what you can do for your plants:

- Wait for the waters to recede and/or the soil to dry out. Unfortunately, there isn't much to be done once a soil becomes waterlogged. Plants may gradually recover if the duration of the flooding wasn't too long and root damage wasn't severe. How long this takes will vary depending on location and severity of the flooding.
- Wait to see what **flowers, vegetables, herbs, annuals, and perennials** recover over time as the soil dries out. Herbaceous plants completely submerged in water for more than 1-3 days will likely die, depending on species and size. Seeds, seedlings and shorter plants will probably not survive. Taller plants may hold out a little longer. Replant as desired once soil has dried out appropriately.
- **Turf** that has been submerged, exposed to low oxygen conditions for over four days, or covered in soil due to floodwaters may need to be totally renovated due to crown death. Wait to see if the turf survives after the soil dries out, potentially two to three weeks, before deciding to renovate. Learn more about turf renovation in our [Lawn Establishment & Renovation](#) article.
- **Trees and shrubs** exposed to flood conditions for an extended period of time may show stress symptoms or death, even in future years. If you have concerns about the health of your tree or shrub due to flooding, consult a certified arborist to discuss if it can be saved. If silt or soil deposits are three or more inches deep, carefully remove while taking care not to damage roots or crown. If roots have been exposed due to soil erosion, cover with soil to original depth.



Avoid these practices when water logged or flooded:

- **Don't** till, work, walk on, or operate heavy machinery on the soil until it has dried out sufficiently.
- **Don't** consume produce that has been submerged in floodwaters.
- **Don't** fertilize until after wet conditions have abated and plants have recovered.

Be on the lookout for future pest and disease issues that wet conditions favor, such as root rot diseases.

What is extreme precipitation?

There's no exact amount of precipitation that defines "extreme precipitation". Instead, several factors can make rainfall events more damaging:

- **A heavy downpour in a short time** can overwhelm soils and drainage systems, leading to increased runoff or flooding. Wisconsin has recorded different [precipitation records](#) and has seen more than 11 inches of rain in a single day, far more than most gardens can handle.
- **Multiple storms close together** can keep soils waterlogged, causing ponding or standing water.
- **Soil type** affects how quickly soils become waterlogged and how long they stay that way. Clay soils hold water and saturate quickly, while sandy soils drain faster.
- In spring, frozen soil can block water from soaking in, causing runoff and erosion.

Plant problems due to extreme precipitation or flooding

- Plant roots need oxygen to do normal cellular processes like respiration (making energy). Oxygen is found in pore spaces in soil. When water fills up those pore spaces instead of air, oxygen availability is greatly reduced. With reduced oxygen availability, the plant relies on anaerobic respiration to produce energy, which often results in the accumulation of byproducts harmful to the plant. Higher temperatures during flooding can increase a plant's metabolism, resulting in more energy usage and an increase in harmful byproducts.
- Deposits of silt or other material as a result of flooding may increase soil depth around or on top of trees, other plants, and turf, potentially worsening the low oxygen situation for roots.

These are examples of consequences of water logged soils you may see:

- **Tissue damage:** Low soil oxygen can result in tissue damage for underground roots, including vegetable crops, like carrots and potatoes.

- **Tissue death:** If subjected to low oxygen for long periods of time, plant roots die, which in turn leads to the death of the above ground plant tissue. Examples of this include branch dieback in trees and shrubs.
- **Plant stress symptoms:** General plant stress symptoms may be observed for years to come including leaf yellowing, leaf drop, sudden fall coloring, branch dieback, flower drop, fruit drop, fruit or vegetable cracking and other stress symptoms.
- **Disease and disorder risk:** Root rots and similar diseases may increase due to good conditions for pathogen growth. Nutrient disorders like blossom end rot may increase due to lack of water movement in the plant due to injured roots.
- **Nutrient issues:** Soil microbial communities change in soil without oxygen, favoring different nutrient cycling processes that can result in soil nutrient loss. Because of that, the soil nutrient profile may change, ultimately having negative effects for plants. Leaching of nutrients due to flooding is also a potential.
- **Contamination issues:** Flood waters can contain contaminants picked up elsewhere, such as pesticides, sewage, petroleum products, etc. This can cause plant damage and be a human health risk.
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Flooding or washout events can also damage plants due to the flow of water and other debris.

- **Physical damage to roots:** Plant roots may be exposed and damaged if soil is washed away due to flooding.

Excess moisture and flooding can cause direct damage to roots and plants, reduce oxygen availability in the soil, lead to poor plant health, and have other impacts to our landscapes. By understanding the climate trends in Wisconsin and the impacts of extreme precipitation and flooding, you can take steps to protect your plants and mitigate damage to your gardens and landscapes.

Plant lists adapted to wet soils and flooding (use links to open spreadsheets with plant lists and growing information)

Annuals [Annual Plant Characteristics Wet Soil Adaptability.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

Perennials [Perennial Plant Characteristics Wet Soil and Flooding Adaptability.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

Shrubs [Shrub Characteristics Wet Soil and Flooding Adaptability.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

Trees [Tree Characteristics Wet Soil and Flood Adaptability.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

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References

- 1 Wisconsin State Climatology Office – <https://climate.nelson.wisc.edu/>
- 2 WICCI – <https://wicci.wisc.edu/wisconsin-climate-trends-and-projections/>
- 3 NOAA State Climate Summaries – <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/wi/>
- 4 County Climate Profiles, Wisconsin State Climatology Office – <https://climate.nelson.wisc.edu/county-climate-profiles/>

Jumping Worm Reminder -- from Jill

Now that we are in the planting season, this is a reminder that we need to be very careful when sharing plants or buying plants from any source. If there is any soil included in the plant/root/bulb, there is a possibility of it containing the cocoons of jumping worms. This also includes buying bulk compost and mulch. Ask the seller what has been done to prevent the spread of cocoons or worms. In addition, be sure to clean all soil from shoes, equipment, tires, vehicles, and personal gear when moving from one area to another.

You can find many articles on jumping worms on the internet. I recommend New York Invasive Species Research Institute > <http://www.nyisri.org> and JWORM Working Group. Their research link is in the research tab of NYISRI.org website. This group is from the Northeast and Midwest area and coordinates with NYISRI. One of the seven lead members of JWORM is Brad Herrick, Ecologist & Research Program Manager, UW Madison Arboretum, who spoke at our 2023 March membership meeting. Another is Annise Dobson, Postdoctoral Researcher, Yale University. She has put together an extensive FAQ document, <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/invasive-jumping-worm-frequently-asked-questions> .

Identification and Life cycle

A common description of a jumping worm is that it violently thrashes and squirms when disturbed. It moves like a snake, easily falls out of a shallow container, and can drop its tail if handled roughly.

Here are some other basic facts:

- Adult – Jumping worms have a smooth shiny body that is pale grey to grey-brown. Their egg sack (clitellum) is smooth milky-white collar that fully encircles the body. It is flush, not raised and close to the head end. They can grow up to 6 inches long.
- No mate is needed to reproduce, thus 60 to 90 days after hatching they can reproduce.
- Their eggs are in a cocoon, which size has been described as a mustard seed or poppy seed.
- Currently adults die during Wisconsin freezing winters; cocoons do not.
- April – May/June: Tiny jumping worms hatch from cocoon encased eggs when soil temperatures reach 10°C/50°F. Not sure when they start their jumping behavior.
- During the summer, eggs continue to hatch with juveniles reaching adult stage as early as July.
- In August to October the population is mostly adults. This is the best time to spot and look for adults.
- Sept – Oct: Still some hatching, majority of worms are Adults laying cocoon encased eggs.
- Oct-Nov: Wisconsin Frost – Should kill all jumping worms.

Our first Road Trip of the year is on **Tuesday May 12** to Madison to visit **Allen Centennial Garden and the UW Arboretum**, where we'll see what Spring has to offer in those celebrated environments. We have reserved a motor coach and will require at least 25 participants, so you are welcome to invite friends. Price is **\$53 per person**. Paid registration is due by **April 28**. We'll have pick up by the bus in Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Plover. If you didn't get an email and you see this close to the deadline call, Chris Grimes at 715-424-2878 for arrangements.



Motor Coach: For the minimum of 25 people, the cost will be \$53 for the bus and gratuity for the driver. Because of current events and the uncertainty in pricing of diesel, a fuel surcharge may be assessed on the day of the trip. We will have to pass the hat to cover this extra charge. The company suggested it might be an extra \$25 (or \$1 per person), but it will depend on the market at that time, which remains unpredictable.

Admission fee: None for Allen Centennial Garden or the Arboretum

Lunch at Babcock Dairy Store or bring a bag lunch 11AM-12:15PM Walk to 1605 Lindon Dr (2 blocks) Deli sandwich menu; scooped and prepackaged ice cream; cheese in bulk or gift boxed; more stuff Self pay. This store does **not** take cash. <https://babcockdairystore.wisc.edu>

If you are interested in reserving a seat on the bus, bring registration and payment to Chris Grimes, 4010 Alpine Way, Wisconsin Rapids, 54494 by **April 28**.

NAME _____ **ADDRESS** _____

PHONE _____ **Email** _____

Emergency Contact Name and phone _____

Your Pick Up Location _____

Loading in Marshfield on May 12 at 6:10am; DOT Park & Ride across from Schalow's (Draxler Dr)
Leaving Marshfield at 6:20 AM

Loading in Wisconsin Rapids 7:00AM Boys & Girls Club parking lot (formerly the Younkers parking lot)

Leaving WR at 7:15 AM

Loading Plover at 7:40 AM; end of Metro Mart parking lot (the one across from Menards)
1850 Plover Rd. Do not park close to the store entrance

Leaving Plover at 7:45AM

Loading in Madison 3:15PM; Leaving Madison 3:30pm



When Is the Right Time to Plant Vegetable Seeds? Check Soil Temperature

Overview

Generic seed planting information is all based on the last average frost date; but the real date for the last frost can vary widely from year to year. And the last frost date has to do with air temperatures, not soil temperatures. In our rapidly changing climate, a calendar date is not the best predictor for an extra early onset of spring weather in March or an extremely late, cold and wet April. A better method to gauge when to put seeds in the ground is to test soil temperatures.

Difference between soil temperature and air temperature

Soil temperature is not the same as air temperature. Air temperature can change rapidly with a late winter storm or a warm, sunny day. Soil temperatures change much more slowly because of soil mass and moisture content. Whether soil is exposed (or not) to sun matters as well. A sunny day warms a dark surface like open ground, or ground covered with black plastic, faster than soil well mulched with light colored hay. Clear plastic also works to warm soil with a 'greenhouse effect', trapping heat and moisture. Even raised beds, if 4-8" tall or more will be warmer in the upper couple of inches of soil than soil at ground-level.

When do seeds break dormancy?

A seed itself knows when to break dormancy based on temperature. For example, yellow pear tomato 'volunteer' seeds dropped last fall in waste tomatoes (if they survive the winter) will wait until the soil gets above 70° F before putting out a root, so that rare warm March day doesn't fool the seed. If you plant too early in cold soil, the seed may rot, but if it does germinate, it will be slow to do so and likely to produce stunted plants that are more prone to disease. Give seeds the optimum soil temperature and seedlings will emerge more quickly and grow rapidly in size and strength.

How to measure soil temperature

To take soil temperature, you can purchase a soil temperature thermometer and use just for testing soils. Take temperature readings on three consecutive mornings at the same time, usually mid-day (between 10 a.m.-12 p.m.). Insert the probe to a depth of 2 inches for seeds or 4-6 inches for transplants. Use the chart below to guide you on when to plant seed (measured at the two-inch depth) or set out transplants (measured at the 4-6 inch depth). Of course, there might still be a late freeze, so be ready to cover the bed if necessary.

Soil temperature minimums and optimal temperatures for seed germination

The following chart gives minimum temperature to plant, optimum temperature to plant, and a viable range.

Crop Seed Type	Minimum Soil temperature	Optimum Soil temperature	Germination temperature
Beets	45° F	85° F	40-95° F
Carrots	45° F	80° F	40-95° F
Lettuce	45° F	75° F	35-85° F
Parsley	45° F	75° F	40-90° F
Radish	45° F	85° F	40-95° F
Spinach	45° F	70° F	35-85° F
Asparagus	50° F	75° F	60-85° F
Peas	50° F	75° F	40-85° F
Turnip	50° F	85° F	40-105° F
Cabbage	55° F	85° F	40-105° F
Cauliflower	55° F	80° F	40-100° F
Corn	55° F	95° F	50-105° F
Swiss chard	55° F	85° F	40-95° F
Onion	60° F	75° F	35-95° F
Celery	65° F	70° F	40-85° F
Cucumber	65° F	95° F	50-105° F
Pepper	65° F	85° F	60-95° F
Cantaloupe	68° F	90° F	60-100° F
Squash	70° F	95° F	60-100° F
Tomato	70° F	85° F	50-95° F
Beans	72° F	80° F	60-95° F

Author: Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Educator, UW-Madison Extension Dane County

Reviewers: Colleen Callahan, Carol Shirk and Doug Soldat

Revised: January 2025

References

- 1 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources – Extension Publications – Soil Temperature G2122 – <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/g2122/soil-temperature>
- 2 The Iowa Gardener: <https://theiowagardener.com/wordpress/planting-soil-temperatures/>



Garden Walk May Update

Garden Walk sponsorships are a BIG deal, and we are incredibly grateful for the support we received this year. With a record number of 16 sponsorships, most of our expenses will be covered, helping us to focus on other tasks at hand.

April showers and warmer weather have Garden Walk hosts anxious to get started in their gardens. On April 18th our team will be hosting an orientation for our hosts, vendors and musicians called "Ready, Set, Bloom!". This is a great kick-off event where all parties involved in the walk meet up over brunch to become acquainted and build relationships, generate enthusiasm, clarify garden walk plans, answer questions, and learn about the many ways we provide support.

This month with local greenhouses opening soon, our efforts to get advertising out really ramps up. We are hoping all Master Gardeners will participate in circulating posters and save-the-dates to help promote Garden Walk 2026. We'll be sharing these opportunities at the April Master Gardener meeting. In May, Garden Walk tickets will be ready and distributed to members for early sales. Early tickets will cost \$10, and tickets on the day of the walk are \$12. Once again there will be a friendly competition for Master Gardeners and the one who sells the greatest number of early tickets will earn a great prize - so get planning your targets for early tickets!

Finally, as YOUR gardening season begins be sure to shop with the sponsors who are supporting us this year-and let them know you are a Master Gardener and appreciate their help. Check out the dining and coffee sponsors also, you won't be sorry!

Allied Cooperative – Adams-Friendship
Abiding Vine Greenhouse – Wi Rapids
Tractor Supply – Wi Rapids
Reeves Greenhouse – Wi Rapids
Garden Villa – Wild Rose
Lake Aire Supper Club – Wi Rapids
Jay-Mar – Plover
Wolosek Landscaping – Wi Rapids

Foss' Garden Center, LLC – Nekoosa
Out-of-the-Box Coffehouse – Wi Rapids
Tri City Golf/Ironwood Grill – Wi Rapids
Urbans Greenhouse – Wi Rapids
Beaver's Variety Store – Nekoosa
Shalow's Nursery – Marshfield
The Hosta Stop - Plover
Wunrow's Greenhouse – Wi Rapids

PLANT SALE BUZZ



General reminders for all members of the items we need to continue to work on:

- Now is a great time to begin houseplant propagation for fall sales. Plant in potting mix.
- Plant specific plants for fall sale dried arrangements. A very popular booth.
- Start potting winter sowing for natives and perennials for fall sale when true leaves appear.
- Collect seeds, dried arrangement materials, bulbs for fall sale as plant flowers fade.
- Make a craft project, save colored bottles and other decor/garden related items.
- Let Bea know if you will be planning to help at the fall plant sale at Maple Fall Fest, Marshfield (Set up on the Fri) Dates Sept 18th & 19th.
- Tender bulbs can be washed, and then planted in a sterile potting mix. Starting them in late April or early May will give customers a visual of the type of plant grown.
- **Keep any outdoor plants off the ground to prevent possible invasions by jumping worms.**
- Collect native seeds and package them up for sale in a sealed envelope with seed/plant information.
- If you have a stash of viable seeds in their original packages, we will sell the packages.
- You are also welcome to seek out free seeds from accredited sources that we can hand out at events.

Winter sowing propagators:

- Start to check on winter sown seed. Plants are starting to germinate.
- Watering is probably not necessary right now but if we do not get regular rain, monitor jugs for moisture.
- If the temperatures consistently get into the 60s, start to remove tape and vent jugs on warm days. Only cover again if temps take a deep dive. Most native plants can withstand frost, but non-natives may need frost protection. Jugs will require more watering monitoring once they are opened.
- Move jugs of plants that prefer shade into a shadier area.
- Begin to pot up to 4 inch pots when the plants have 1-2 sets of true leaves.
- If plants are very thick, use the “chunk-o-seedlings” method. Plant a clump of seedlings and a week or two later, CUT off all but the healthiest seedling.
- Mulching plants will cut down on watering and weeding.
- **Keep any outdoor plants off the ground to prevent possible invasions by jumping worms.**



May Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener website

- Set Easter lilies in garden.
- Plant cool-weather crops: lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, peas, parsley, and potatoes in early May. Soil temperatures should be at least 45 degrees.
- Plant snap beans, pole beans, sweet corn, and onion plants in mid-May. Sweet corn planted earlier in the season has fewer pest problems.
- Inspect for Iris borer larva on iris leaves. Crush larva.
- For bigger Peony flowers, de-bud several branches. Stake before buds open.
- Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.
- Dig and divide mid summer and fall blooming perennials before tip growth gets too tall.
- Plant tuberous begonias.
- Watch birch leaves for birch leaf miner infestation. Use sticky traps to monitor emergence of adults to help time spraying with summer oil, Neem extract, or rotenone. Sprays are only effective on adults or larvae before they tunnel into leaves. Some soil applied systemic chemicals may be effective in controlling larvae after they have tunneled into leaves.



- Plant tomato seedlings by pinching off lower leaves and placing on its side in a shallow furrow 2.5 inches below the soil surface. Soil closer to the surface is warmer and will speed tomato growth.
- Plant and transplant new evergreens before new growth appears.
- Plant strawberries, bush fruits, and grapes in mid month. Pinch blossoms from newly planted strawberries to develop strong plants for next year.
- Remove faded flowers from spring-flowering bulbs. Cut off stalks but allow leaves to die down naturally. Fertilize af-

ter blooming with 5-10-20.

- Plant stored geraniums in well-drained soil after last frost and keep moist. New growth should begin in one week.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowers have faded. Apply fertilizer.
- Toward end of the month, harden off seedlings of vegetable transplants and annuals grown indoors. Bring in at night or place in cold frames before planting in garden.

2026 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

Log your hours in ORS.

Review the changes to the Master Gardener program in Canvas classroom.

Review the Plant Sale Buzz article and start growing plants and making plans for what you can do during the spring and summer to support the sale.

If you took index cards at the March meeting to donate items for the raffle baskets, remember to bring those items to the meetings to give to the Raffle Basket Committee members.

If you know of someone who is able to grow plants for a plant sale, please let a member of the plant sale committee or the board know.