



Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County Wisconsin

September 2026

President's Message

September is right around the corner and we see those reminders of Fall-a few turning leaves, pumpkins ripening and the ubiquitous offering of everything pumpkin spiced. School is underway and Green Bay Packer football will dominate the Sunday airwaves. We see Fall in more subtle ways- the migration of birds, the apple trees hanging heavy with fruit and for me, the preservation of nature's bounty.

The Wood County Master Gardeners mark fall with an important fundraiser. Our Fall Plant Sale will be held in conjunction with Maple Fest at Wildwood Park in Marshfield on September 19 and 20. Our members have been feverishly working to procure plants and to work on all the logistics it takes to pull off a huge plant sale. Many thanks to them for their many efforts.

We celebrated Summer with our Summer Potluck at the Arpin Municipal Building. Prior to our potluck meal, we were treated to presentations by Tom Breden and botany professor, Dr Robert Freckmann. Both are members of the Friends of Powers Bluff. Tom spoke on the efforts to restore prairie lands at the base of the bluff. Dr Freckmann spoke on the forested area on the top of the bluff. That area is considered to be pristine and is very much a subject of interest to state conservationists.

Our September membership meeting will be held on September 22 at the Marshfield Public Library at 6 pm. The speaker will be Kendra Wilhelm from Wood County Land and Water Conservation. She will speak on invasive look-a-likes.

Our strategic planning focus group will meet in September to develop priorities to present to the membership. Our October meeting will focus on the strategic plan. I am excited to see this take shape. It will give us a roadmap to follow as we navigate the future of our organization.

And speaking of future...our organization will have openings for leadership opportunities. We will be looking for 2 board members, one from the north and one from the south ends of the county. We will also be soliciting nominations for a vice president. (Continued on page 2)

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August Meeting Minutes

**Wood County Master Gardener Association
General Membership Meeting
August 18, 2026 - 5:00 pm
Powers Bluff/Arpin Municipal Building**

Program: Tour of Powers Bluff with Dr. Freckmann

Total Present: 33 total (all in person, no Zoom option)

Business Meeting: Called to order 7:57pm by President Terrie Brown.

Secretary's Report: (Stacy) Minutes from July 28, 2026 were reviewed and put on file.

Treasurer's Report: (Famia) Treasurer's report reviewed and put on file.

WIMGA Report: No report

Committee Reports:

Fair: (Jill/Bea) Workers were given books and schedules. All shifts are filled. We have our own spinning wheel now. We don't have candy this year, but other prizes.

Plant Sale: (Jill) Donna is making her list of natives. Get a list of what you are bringing to Jill so they can make signage and promote the sale.

Socialization Committee: (Audrey) Lavender Farm trip was great. Food was wonderful. Would have been better to go earlier in the year to see more in bloom.

Programs: (Terrie) Our next meeting will be at Marshfield Public Library and our speaker will be Kendra Wilhelm speaking on invasive look-a-likes.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning - committee is working on the next steps to formalizing the plan.

New Business:

Upcoming Leadership Vacancies - We are looking for 2 Director positions, one for the South and one for the North, as well as Vice President. If anyone has questions or would like more information, please contact Terrie.

Adjournment: M/S/P to adjourn at 8:11 PM.

Next Meeting: September 22nd at Marshfield Public Library at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Musch, Secretary

Please consider stepping up to serve.

In closing, we have had a busy year thus far and will continue to be. Plans are already in the works for next year's Garden Walk; we have the upcoming plant sale and more work to do on the strategic plan. Please consider volunteering to serve in any capacity. We need you!

Terrie

September Membership Meeting

September Membership Educational Program

Kendra Wilhelm, Conservation Specialist

Wood County Land and Water Conservation Dept.

September 22 6pm

Marshfield Everett Roehl Library

105 S. Cedar Avenue

Coming from Hwy 10 East, take the Hwy. 13 exit north. At the stop light on Maple Avenue, turn left. The library is immediately on your left. Park in the library lot in front of the building, or on East Second St. (one way), or follow East Second to the next cross street (Cedar Ave) and turn left. The back side parking lot is on your left at the end of Cedar St. The front lot is often full when there is a meeting, so try one of the other two areas.

WIMGA CORNER

The WIMGA continuing education series starts up again in September as the gardening season begins to slow down. **Diana Alfuth**, retired Wisconsin extension educator, will be featured on **Monday, September 14** on the topic of ***Gardening Myths, Untruths and Fallacies***. She will be followed on **Tuesday, October 20**, by **Simon Gilroy** asking ***Are My Plants Listening to Me?*** The last program on November 4 will feature the topic of grasses. All presentations will be via Zoom at 6:30 PM and recordings will be on the WIMGA website for approximately a month after each. All are good opportunities to catch up on continuing education hours.

A reminder: Check out the WIMGA Facebook page. You can join via **WIMGA GROUP**.

Another reminder: WIMGA dues will be increasing to \$10 annually in 2027. As with all our life experiences, costs have increased and the WIMGA program has expanded. The new membership fee will trigger a slight increase in WCMGA dues.

Karleen Remington
WIMGA Representative

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 without having to travel or pay for conferences, etc.

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 August session is on **September 16 at 6:30**. To register for the zoom invite go to: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

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](#)

Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Plant Disease Management September 23 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Join Brian Hudelson (of the PDDC and affectionately known as “Dr. Death”) to learn about common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden.

Marshfield Public Library Garden Guru Program

Thursday September 24 6pm Composting Basics

Interested in reducing waste? Want some free mulch & fertilizer? Come learn from Wood County Master Gardeners the process of turning scraps into black gold through the power of composting!

Melinda Myers Webinars

Tree Planting and Care September 3 6:30pm

Trees are the long-lasting framework of our landscape. They provide beauty, clean our air, cool us and our environment with their shade, and help manage stormwater. Proper planting is critical to the health and longevity of your plants. Melinda Myers will provide step-by-step tips for planting trees and the care needed to keep them healthy and a long-lived, beautiful part of your landscape. Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Fall Landscape Care and Planting September 17 6:30pm

Keep pollinators in mind as you manage fall leaves, prune shrubs, and clean up and prepare your landscape for winter. Fall is also a great time to add trees, shrubs, and perennials to your landscape. Melinda Myers will share tips for taking care of your new and established native and non-native plants, flowerbeds, rain gardens, and lawns. She'll cover proper watering, fertilization, winterization, and protection from wildlife to get them through our challenging winters and ready for an eye-catching spring display! Sponsored by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library.

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.

Why Grasses Vary from Green to Brown

Hot and dry conditions occurring throughout Wisconsin this summer have put considerable amounts of stress on plants. Grasses, for example, currently range in appearance from brown and looking dead to green and flourishing, with assorted shades of each color in between. This clearly illustrates various grass species react differently to the heat of summer.

Summer stress aside, diverse kinds of grasses naturally vary in visible appearance, including height, growth habit, leaf color and thickness, and development of flowers and seedheads. However, one fundamental internal difference among grasses relates to temperatures and the ability to efficiently go through photosynthesis, the process of producing food for growth. Every species of grass is either cool-season or warm-season, based on preferred temperatures for photosynthesis during the growing season.

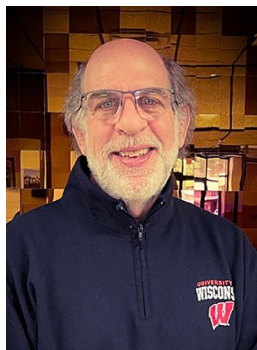
Cool-season grasses, as the name implies, prefer cooler weather in spring and fall for maximum food production and growth. In the heat of summer with temperatures consistently in the mid-eighties and into the ninety degree range, they will naturally slow down to the point they may go dormant. Common Wisconsin lawn grasses are cool-season, including Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and fine fescues.

Within a lawn you may often notice variations in color among these cool-season grasses in summer. This may be due to different cultivars of the same species reacting differently to stress, or growing condition variables. For example, cooler shade areas may look greener than full sun.

Conversely, warm-season grasses find temperatures in the 80 degree range ideal and can produce food very efficiently. The only significant warm-season lawn grass we see in Wisconsin is zoysiagrass, which is extremely aggressive in the heat of summer but dormant for much of spring and fall. As a result, it is not widely used here.

There are, however, two additional significant groups of warm-season grasses that are very commonly found throughout the state, most notably the native ornamental grasses, including popular species such as little bluestem, big bluestem, switchgrass, Indiangrass, prairie dropseed, and side oats grama. They are warm-season yet some of these are native to prairies extending into Canada, which points out the difference between growing season preference and hardiness. Cold hardiness refers to tolerating winter cold, whereas warm-season refers to ideal temperatures for active growth.

Finally, the most notable group on the negative side are warm-season annual grasses that typically become weed issues in lawns and gardens. Crabgrass leads the list, along with foxtails, barnyardgrass, and goosegrass. As warm-season grasses, these species flourish in the heat, outcompeting cool-season lawn grasses and overgrowing vegetable and flower plantings. As annuals, the good news is they will die off once fall arrives.



About the Author

[Bruce Spangenberg](#) is a Horticulture Outreach Specialist with UW-Madison Division of Extension. Get answers to your lawn, landscape and garden questions anytime at [“Ask Your Gardening Question.”](#)

Ideal Timing for Fertilizing Lawns

Early September is an ideal time for fertilizing lawns. Properly fertilized lawns will not only look better but will have fewer issues with weeds and certain disease problems. Key decisions to be made include choosing quality fertilizers and applying the correct amount to your lawn.

Nitrogen, which provides green color and improves lawn density, is the main nutrient to add when fertilizing lawns. Wisconsin law limits phosphorus application on lawns to newly established lawns or lawns where soil test results show phosphorus deficiency. Similarly, potassium, available in winterizer fertilizers sold in fall, is not necessary to add in any significant amounts unless soil test results indicate deficiencies.

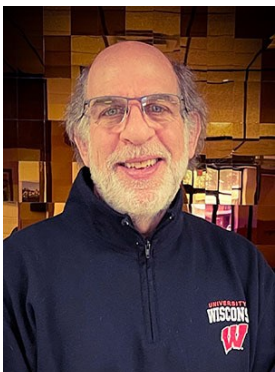
How do you choose a quality nitrogen fertilizer for your lawn? Refer to the guaranteed analysis section on the bag, usually on the back, which provides details about nitrogen and other nutrients in the package. Look for controlled-release nitrogen in the product. Controlled-release nitrogen, often referred to as slow-release or extended feeding on the package, will release smaller amounts of available nitrogen over a longer period, providing uniform lawn growth.

Examples of specific controlled-release nitrogen sources found in fertilizers include sulfur-coated urea, ureaform, coated urea, IBDU, and activated sewage sludge. Some products, in particular organic materials, may use the term water insoluble nitrogen, or WIN. These are all examples of good nitrogen fertilizer sources for use on lawns. Although they are more costly, controlled release nitrogen fertilizers are highly suggested for overall lawn health, and these benefits support the higher cost.

After purchasing a quality fertilizer, how much should be applied to a lawn? Apply about one pound of actual nitrogen for every 1,000 square feet of lawn. As an example, a fertilizer with 20 percent nitrogen (first of the three numbers on the bag) requires five pounds of fertilizer product to supply this one pound. Also to assist you, fertilizer labels often have suggested setting guides and indications on the lawn coverage the bag will provide, usually based on the one-pound nitrogen rate.

When using nitrogen fertilizers, take your time and use caution to both uniformly apply correct amounts and make sure the fertilizer is applied only to the lawn. Avoid fertilizer landing on impervious surfaces, as this creates potential problems with nutrients washing into storm drains, waterways, or other non-target areas. Research shows turfgrass is very efficient at holding nutrients in place, not running off, if fertilizer is applied directly to lawns.

Regardless of the overall annual fertilization level, early September is a key time to add nitrogen by fertilizing your lawn. For more information on lawn care practices for Wisconsin lawns, refer to our [Wisconsin Lawn Care Calendar](#).



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Quackgrass Difficult to Deal With

Most gardeners have their short-list of chronic, difficult to control weeds. Whether it is caring for a perennial bed, growing crops like raspberries and vegetables, or managing lawns, quackgrass is highly likely to be included on that list for Wisconsin gardeners.

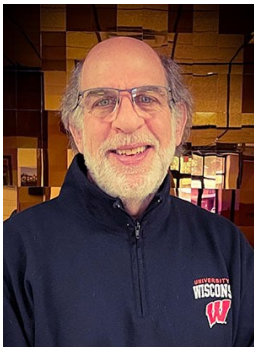
Quackgrass is best identified as a weedy grass with coarse (wide) leaves that when pulled up, has long whitish underground horizontal rhizomes often referred to as “runners.” Look carefully at these rhizomes and notice roots developing at each swollen node, or growing point, on them. Quackgrass is a perennial which readily spreads when these rhizomes are broken, either by unsuccessfully pulling them up or when cultivating the soil, which is why it can be such a headache to deal with.

Another characteristic to identify quackgrass is auricles. Look near the base of leaf blades where they attach to stems for long, slender clawlike auricles that clasp or wrap around the stem. Combine these with the distinct long rhizomes and the identity of quackgrass is easily confirmed as compared to other weedy grasses like crabgrass. Flowers and the seedhead will be a tall spike with two rows of spikelets.

Quackgrass (*Elymus repens*) originally came to the United States from Europe as a contaminant in agricultural products such as hay or straw sometime in the 1600-1700s. The common name has nothing to do with ducks. Instead, the term “quack” is derived from the German term “queck,” meaning lively or quick. In times of famine, quackgrass seeds and roots have been used in Europe as an alternative flour source. Quackgrass is also believed to have allelopathic qualities by releasing chemicals that inhibit growth of other plants.

Unfortunately, there is no effortless way to manage quackgrass plants in home landscapes and gardens. Digging them out by hand is the best option, but getting all the rhizome is difficult. Avoid simply tilling them under, as rhizomes will not die and if broken, the problem gets worse as pieces regrow into more quackgrass plants. Burying quackgrass plants with mulch is unlikely to kill them, as they emerge through it.

As far as herbicide use on quackgrass, the only materials available are nonselective, meaning they will damage or kill all types of plants on which they are sprayed. Thus, there is no way to spray a perennial bed, groundcover planting, or lawn area to only control quackgrass growing in it. Nonselective herbicides that do not leave plant-inhibiting soil residues can be used on areas being prepared for new plantings, or on lawns that can be reseeded afterwards. Always read, understand, and follow all label directions when considering any pesticide application.



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PLANT SALE BUZZ



2026 Fall Plant Sale during Maple Fall Fest - Sept 18th, 19th & 20th

We have a number of new members and as a reminder to everyone, please read.

NOW, as in TODAY!!

If you have not done so, email photos, names and quantity of plants you intend to bring. Native plants to Donna and all other plants and garden treasures to Jill by Sept 4.

Invite former or retired Master Gardeners to help at the sale. Many enjoy renewing friendships by working at the sale.

Prepare your sale donations from now until the 17th:

- We are selling the same items that we have sold in the last few years (plants, bulbs, seeds, dry materials for arrangements, garden treasures and art). Be sure all tools, pots, art, etc. are clean and in usable shape.
- Label plants with the WCMG labels or use that format to make your own. A PDF version you can print and use to hand write your labels is on page 12. Cover the front and back of the label with clear packing tape in case of rain. All plants need to be grown in potting soil. Remember we are still not digging up plants because of possible invasive jumping worms and cocoon transfer-ences.
- Water your plants well before bringing them. Water is not convenient at the park.
- Print pictures of your non-native plants in bloom to go with your label. Having a photo with the label and a photo board of all plants may increase sales. Native plants will be done by Donna,
- **Please, please clean up your pots and potted plants before dropping them off.**
- Finish collecting and packaging mature seeds and bulbs to sell. Include planting instructions and plant information from our WCMG label.
- Collect materials from your garden or your neighbors' gardens for dry arrangements. Every bit counts! OUR BEST MONEY MAKER!! See August newsletter for ideas.
- Check your donations for previous store/nursery price stickers and remove.

Thursday, September 17

- If you cannot bring your donations on Friday, you can contact Jill in Marshfield or Deb in Rome area to drop off, or leave them at the SWCHM on Thursday before 6pm. Place them near the ramp at the back of the building. Please leave space for ramp users to easily enter and exit the museum. At 6pm a M.G. will pick them up. Water well before bringing. Water is not convenient at the park. If you have multiple plants, please place them in boxes for more efficient transport.
- Committee people will mark where tents are to be placed at the park.

Friday, Sept 18th Start at 9am to finish late in the afternoon (staff 12-15 needed)

- Bring your donations to the park by 10 am. See instructions above if you cannot bring by 10 am.
- If you are coming to the sale with only a partially filled vehicle, contact Deb, Jill or Donna to arrange to pick up items to bring to the park. It saves a lot of time by keeping workers from having

to make several trips to get all the supplies and plants to the park.

- You can earn up to 24 volunteer hours by helping during the three-day fall plant sale if you are still in need of earning hours for this year. It takes about 25 hours in total, including 14 hours over the weekend, 2 hours for opening and closing, 3 hours for Sunday clean-up, and 6 hours for Friday set-up and pricing. Let Jill or Bea know when you can help if you have not already done so.
- **Workers** who have space in their vehicles will need to go to Jill's or Donna's place **to pick up plants before waiting in line to check in** at Wildwood Park at 9am on Friday, the 18th. This will save time by not having members make repeat trips to get all the plants and materials to the sale. Upon reaching the check-in station tell them you are a master gardener. We are allowed to drive into our grass area to unload. As the other vendors set up, we need to exit our area and park on Roddis Ave. or 17th St. as well as in the Vandehey Pool parking lot. I hope to get parking passes for members that need them in this lot during the weekend. Possible UTV transport from lot to sale site?? Watch - for no parking signs. You will be ticketed if you park where you shouldn't be parking.
- Deliver plants by 10 am to the Park. Maple Fall Fest is at 1800 S. Roddis Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449
- Volunteers to set up try to be there by 9am. See comments about picking up plants. Jill B, Rita M, Donna S, Catherine G, Micky E, Deb R, Bea K, Karen S, Audrey B, Cathy S, Lil S, Jeff H, and Julie Sienk. Plus, possibly Shelby W, Judy M, Carol T & Joyce F.

TASKS to be done during set-up

1. 8 members needed to set up the 10 x 20 canopy, then place 8 of ParkNRec's tables inside along the sides and one end wall. This canopy is for creation of Dry arrangements. There is also a Dry Arrangement tote, rake, containers for waste to go inside tent.
2. Set up remaining canopies in designated locations. (2 members per canopy)
 - The Check Out and Ask a Master Gardener canopies will be placed along the entrance pathway; which starts at the corner of the food truck parking area close to our site.
 - Natives – U shape tables to the south side of the 10 x 20.
 - Garden Accessories -A row of tables about 5-6 ft away and parallel to the 10 x 20, Place Special/Art Décor, then seeds and bulbs on the south end of this row.
 - The small 2 x 4 tables can be grouped to be used as pending tables for items that may need to be assigned to a space or as a cleanup, pricing spot. Place them on the 17th Street side of our area.
 - The remaining tables can be placed in groups or rows based on the landscape and quantity needed for the remaining categories - Houseplants, Succulents, and Perennials, etc. Place signs on tables.
 - Supplies – Cleaning items / tote of office supplies / Plant prep – scissors, labels, supports, soil, water, debris bucket. These supplies will be located on a card table in the center of the display area.
3. Unload items and place them in their locations, check for cleanliness and value. Correct what you can. Check for and remove erroneous store or nursery price stickers on the pots. When your vehicle is unloaded, move to alternate parking areas.
4. Arrange plants – Clean-up foliage, check for a plant label, correct as needed.
5. Price sale items – We need to sell everything and yet make a profit. See Micky, Donna and

Joyce. Jill has a pricing sheet.

6. Place additional signage, educ displays, supplies - See Jill and plant sale tote.
7. Create dry arrangements etc. - Create two sample sizes & enough for the start of Saturday sale.
8. Conduct tally of plants/decor by type and area – this helps us monitor sales.
9. Cover products for the evening – squirrel proof plants, place art, wagons, reference materials, etc. in the 10 x 20 white canopy. Attach sides and secure shut. Secure the cash box.

Saturday and Sunday - September 19 & 20

Saturday volunteers - Jill B, Rita M, Donna S, Catherine G, Micky E, Deb R, Barb H, Bea K, Karen S, Ann R, Terri B, Julie S

Sunday volunteers - Jill B, Donna S, Famia M, Catherine G, Stacy M, Bea K, Jan M, Julie S, Lisa B

Clean up volunteers - Jill B, Donna S, Famia M, Catherine G, Stacy M, Bea K, Jan M, Lisa B, Micky E, Karen S.

1. Workers' arrival time is 8am. Clean up starts at 4pm on Sunday.
2. Uncover squirrel proofing and tarping, place reference materials and educational displays, pull out wagons, start making dry arrangements, place any signs needed. Fill customer requests for dry arrangements on Sat and Sun.
3. Check to see if plants need water.
4. SMILE AND GREET PEOPLE. ANSWER QUESTIONS. Help people by taking purchases to their cars using wagons.
5. Consolidate and move products.
6. Tally remaining plants just prior to the end of each sale day.
7. At the end of the day on Saturday, all plants must be recovered in squirrel proofing, wagons and most display and educational materials must be secured in tents.
8. At the end of the day on Sunday:
 - First move your personal items and plants you are taking home out of the loading zone so there is room to bring in the vehicles to transport equipment/materials back to their storage area.
 - Help take down canopies and displays. Leftover plants will be sold at the Sept membership meeting. Or could be donated or adopted for wintering over.
 - Dispose of all trash, recycling material and take dry arrangement waste to city compose site.
 - Pick up all Plant Sale signs in the city.
 - All materials must be packed up in vehicles and removed by dark.

All weekend-- Water, granola bars, popcorn/pretzel/chips are available in the Ask a Master Gardener canopy. Bring lunch on Friday if you will want one. On Saturday and Sunday, food vendors are also available for lunch **but note**--there may be long wait times in food truck lines.



Common Name:
Botanical Name:
Light
Soil
Height
Flower color
Comments



Common Name:
Botanical Name:
Light
Soil
Height
Flower color
Comments



Common Name:
Botanical Name:
Light
Soil
Height
Flower color
Comments



Common Name:
Botanical Name:
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Road Trip to New Life Lavender Farm

After the hectic weeks leading up to the Garden Walk, 7 WCMGs plus 2 guests traveled to Baraboo on July 30 for a relaxing tour of one of the lavender farms in the area. A video of their operation detailed their history and process to obtain both culinary and fragrance lavender oil for a wide variety of products and food items sold in their shop. Awesome fragrance in there! The group then boarded an open wagon for a tour of the lavender fields and also the wildflower fields they plant and maintain for their bees. Great vistas with the rolling hills, blue skies, and fields of blooming flowers! At the end of the tour, Aron, co-owner and guide, answered questions. It's probably not hard to understand why all the other people quickly ditched the wagon once the MGs started rapid-firing questions about growing lavender. The grounds have places for meditation and conversation, as well as photography. Check their website for various fun events sponsored throughout the summer. <https://www.newlifelavender.com/>. After our tour, we had time before our lunch reservation, so we managed to find a sewing machine/quilt shop in downtown Baraboo for inspiration and future reference. We enjoyed a lovely lunch at The Little Village Cafe, located in a historic building and 1930s vintage cafe. Many thanks to Audrey for planning this trip!



Calendar of Events*

Sept 19-20 Fall Plant Sale*

Sept 14 WIMGA Educational Event**

Sept 22 Membership Meeting-Native and Invasive Lookalikes

Oct 20 WIMGA Educational Event**

Oct 27 Membership Meeting-Strategic Planning

Nov 17 Membership Meeting-Wild Ones Speaker

*See additional information in this newsletter

**Sign up and information in your WIMGA newsletters



Karli, our administrative assistant in the Extension office, will be on LOA from August 20 through the end of the year. In her absence, Wendy, (Wendy.young@woodcountyiwi.gov) will assist us with printing needs, newsletter mailing, etc. Please be sure to submit any printing needs to her at least a week before you need them.

Also note, we have a policy of not printing phone numbers in Master Gardener articles, because of problems in the past of people using member numbers for phishing/scams. Please refer to the “Members Only” page of the Wood County Master Gardener website for phone and address info. Emails can also be used for phishing and scamming purposes, so check with the member before replying to any questionable requests supposedly from a MG.

September Garden Guide

Taken from Portage County Master Gardener website

- Allowing September rose blooms to stay on plants aids in winter protection. Watch for black spot on roses and remove infected leaves.
- Lift gladiolus corms when leaves begin to brown. Dry in sun a few days.
- Divide most perennials except asters and mums, which haven't bloomed.
- Divide and replant peony roots. Avoid planting too deeply.
- Bring coleus, geranium, caladium and begonias indoors.
- Place amaryllis in cool basement for a 3-month rest period.
- To set buds, Christmas cacti require a rest period and cool nights (55 degrees.)
- Sow snapdragons, cornflowers and other hardy annuals a few weeks before the first frost date. Mark where planted to avoid damaging seedlings in spring.
- Carefully inspect spring flowering bulbs before planting. Discard soft bulbs.
- Remove newly set tomatoes, blossoms and new growth five weeks before expected frost because they won't have time to mature.
- Sow annual ryegrass or oats for winter cover and green manure in beds that won't be planted until late in spring. Keep watered.
- Remove all weeds from garden before they go to seed.
- Pinch out the growing points at the top of Brussels sprout stems so bottom sprouts will reach maturity.
- Watch for early frosts. Cover the garden when frost is predicted to obtain up to another month of growth. Water plants well for greater frost protection and maximum growth.
- Cut back perennials after frost.
- Dig and pot parsley, chives and tender herbs for transfer indoors to sunny window.
- For better keeping, harvest carrots, beets and turnips before first frost kills foliage.



- Gather squash, pumpkins and gourds when ripe and before frost damage. Leave 2-inch stem on vegetable for better storage.
- Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile or sealing in container for disposal.
- Early September is the latest time to plant spring-flowering shrubs.
- Aerate lawn when temperature is 60-70 degrees.
- Stop planting evergreens by mid-September.
- Harvest pears when light green. Separate from branch with slight twisting motion.
- Harvest grapes. Fertilize with one-cup bone meal per plant.
- Harvest apples. Rake leaves and fallen fruit from apple trees to control disease and inspect problems next year. Be careful not to injure long-lived fruiting spurs when harvesting.
- Cut out spent raspberry and blackberry canes after fruiting.

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Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent Janell Wehr janell.wehr@wisc.edu

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

Please review the Plant Sale Buzz article and have donations correctly tagged and prepared.

Gather dry materials for arrangements.

Check the work schedule to be sure of the hours you signed up to work. Put on your home calendar.

Pray for good weather for the Fall Plant Sale.