

2009 June – December “Brown Bag” WisLine Programs

June 26 — Late Plantings of Cool- and Warm-Season Vegetables

Though often overlooked by the gardener, planting vegetables in July and August for fall production is an excellent practice. Late plantings of cool- and warm-season vegetables can extend the harvest long after spring-planted crops have ceased production. Most cool-season vegetables grow as well as or better than those planted in the spring as they mature during shorter, cooler days. Flavors of vegetables maturing in the cool, crisp days of autumn are often sweeter and milder than those grown during hot summer weather. Join us for a discussion for planning a fall crop of vegetables.

July 31 — Managing Your Garden Bounty

What to do with all those tomatoes that are ripening on the vine? Is it safe use great-grandma's pickle recipe? What recipe do I follow for canning vegetable soup? Is it safe to can summer squash? These and many other questions will be the topic of our discussion as we highlight tips to get you safely through the processing season. Join Barb Ingham for a discussion on managing the produce from your fruit and vegetable garden.

Extension resources that will be highlighted include:

- Wisconsin Safe Food Preservation series bulletins (newly revised 2008):
http://www.foodsafety.wisc.edu/preservation_publications.html
- and special resources from the National Center for Home Food Preservation
www.uga.edu/nchfp/

August 28 — Perennial Flower Garden: Establishment, Renovation and Care

A well-designed perennial garden can provide many years of beauty and enjoyment. Careful selection of plant materials and thoughtful planning can result in a full season of color. Once established, they generally require less water than annuals and often have fewer pest problems. Perennial gardens may serve as borders along a fence or property line, thus easing mowing, trimming and water requirements that a lawn may present in such areas. It is also visually pleasing to locate the garden against a background such as a fence, wall, shrubs or evergreens. Annual maintenance activities as renovation and seasonal care will be reviewed for the improved performance of selected flowers. Join us as we address the establishment and maintenance of perennial flower beds.

September 25 — Composting: How to Make and Use

There is continued strong interest in backyard composting among Wisconsin residents. Similarly, the desire to compost organic materials is growing dramatically among commercial and industrial enterprises such as grocery stores, restaurants, and food-related manufacturers. All yards produce waste from pruning, lawn mowing and other routine plant care activities and composting is a way to reduce the volume of organic wastes and return them to the soil to benefit growing plants. Composted organic matter improves the drainage and aeration of clay soil, serve as a separator that "shoulders apart" tightly packed clay particles to allow water and air to enter, helps sandy soil hold water and nutrients and has many more benefits. Join Dr. Robert Tomesh for a discussion on making and using compost.

October 23 — Raspberry Selection and Management

Homeowners have long enjoyed the fruit from raspberries. Since there are various cultivars and seasonal selections available to extend the summer growing season: cultivar selection and plant management will be the topic of discussion.

The following UWEX bulletins will be helpful to compliment the program

- Growing Raspberries in Wisconsin...A1610
- Raspberry Pest Management for Home Gardeners...A2128
- Home Fruit Cultivars for Northern Wisconsin...A2488
- Home Fruit Cultivars for Southern Wisconsin...A2582

November 13 — Landscaping to Attract Wildlife

Loss of habitat is a major threat to wildlife. As a result, if wildlife populations are to be successfully conserved, we must provide habitat for them on private lands. Habitat restoration is especially critical where urbanization and agriculture development has eliminated most natural areas. So providing backyard habitat for wildlife also is important for landscape aspect for the appreciation of nature. Join us as we address landscape approaches to improve wildlife habitat.

December 18 — Fruit Crop Pest Management Tactics

Gardeners are disappointed when a portion or all of a small or tree fruit planting dies or the quality of fruit produced leaves a lot to be desired. Injury to the trunk, crown (area at the soil line) or roots generally is the primary cause of death to plants and can be caused by winter cold, poorly-drained soil, mouse and rabbit feeding damage, root and crown diseases and borers-alone or in combination-can all cause loss of plants. Reduced fruit quality is often the result of poor pest management during the growing season. Join us for a review of the problems and tactics to improve the situations.