



Dane County Master Gardener Newsletter

April, 2009

Dane Co UW Extension 1 Fen Oak Ct Madison WI 53718

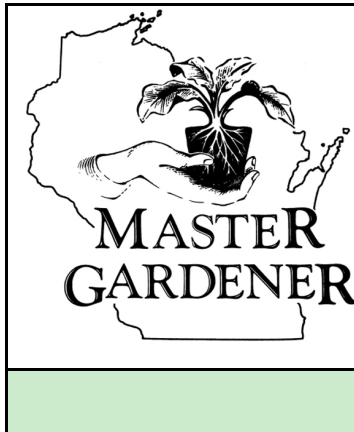
Gardening This and That

Master Gardeners and friends are invited to the MAMGA presentation of Zannah Crowe, of

Monches Farm on Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest. This presentation will be held at Olbrich on Tuesday, April 28. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., the talk will start at 6:45. Refreshments will be served. Zannah has included some very different and fresh ideas to add to your garden year-round. Are you familiar with *Leucojum*, *Camassia*, Woodland sweet pea (*Lathyrus*), *Gillenia* or Bowman's Root, Sweet Cicely (*Myrrhis odorata*) Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), the list goes on.

Zannah is an experienced photographer and gardener who has worn many hats in the horticulture world.

- [Master Gardener Pat Greathead](#) emailed the following information from the National Gardening Club. This information would also be useful in growing sweet peppers.



Heat Up Your Taste Buds: Grow Chili Peppers!

Add color to your veggie garden with chili peppers! Pepper plants are slow-growing, so start them indoors. Here's how:

- Sow seeds 8 to 12 weeks before your region's last expected frost.
- Sow several seeds 1/4 inch deep in 2-to 3-inch containers.
- Water well and keep in a well-lit, warm area (80°F to 85°F).
- Keep soil damp but not wet, and provide air circulation.
- When the first true set of leaves appears, fertilize every two weeks.
- When seedlings are about 2 inches tall, thin to one plant per pot.
- When nighttime temperatures are above 60°F, harden plants by placing them outdoors for longer periods each day.
- After two weeks, plant outdoors in full sun 2 feet apart.

- Pinch off flowers for one to two weeks, forcing them to put their energy into growing leaves and roots. Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of organic mulch.
- Stake varieties that grow taller than 2 feet.
- Most chili peppers start out green, then turn yellow, orange, red, or brown when fully ripe. Harvest when peppers feel firm and have a glossy sheen.

From the RealAge Tips of the Week Website:

A hobby is more than a way to pass the time. It may be a way to get more of it.

Know which hobby has probably added years to the longest-lived people in the world? It's gardening. Okinawans -- whose men typically live to age 78, women to age 86 -- have a long tradition of working with soil.

The benefits of gardening reach body and soul, according to Dan Buettner and his book ***The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest***. "It's a source of daily physical activity that exercises the body with a wide range of motion and helps reduce stress," he writes. So, as the ground thaws and the seed catalogues start arriving, make a pact to plan -- and plant -- a plot this year.

It's not a coincidence: There are lots of other wonderful side benefits to gardening besides the body and mind boost. Here are the other garden goodies Buettner notes in his book:

- **A veggie-packed life.** Okinawan centenarians eat a plant-based diet, often incorporating vegetables that they grow.
- **A bit of sun.** Vitamin D, produced by the body when it's exposed to sunlight, promotes stronger bones and better health. Vitamin D also helps your body fight cancer.
- **A dash of spice.** Mugwort, ginger, and turmeric are staples of an Okinawan garden, and all have proven medicinal qualities.



Consider Salt Issues and Jazz up your Sidewalk Gardens

Has your sidewalk garden been under-performing? Maybe it's what happened during the winter that kept the plants from thriving during the summer. The culprit may be the chemical deicer sprinkled too generously on sidewalks and nearby hardscapes as well as the salt spray thrown up by passing vehicles. (Neighborhood canines should not shoulder all the blame.)

Plants that have been damaged by deicer show a variety of symptoms including stunting, stem and bud dieback, arrested root growth, foliage discoloration, leaf burn, and premature leaf drop.

Many deicers contain salt, Sodium chloride (NaCl). When this compound leaches into the soil, the salt ions bind tightly to the water molecules, inhibiting water absorption and nutrient uptake.

Nowadays, deicers that are kinder to plants have been developed and might be considered over those containing salt. A better choice -- Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) made from dolomite limestone and acetic acid -- is easy on both plants and animals, and gentle on the environment, too.

If your sidewalk garden fell victim to a salt-containing deicer, try flooding the area as soon as the ground thaws to drive the salt below the zone of root activity. Another option is to search out plants that will tolerate moderate to high salt concentrations.

Many herbaceous and evergreen species do well in sidewalk gardens. Selecting plants from among the following may ensure a measure of success:

- Globe Thistle (*Echinops ritro*);
- Lamb's Ears (*Stachys lanтана*);
- Sedum (*Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy');
- Barren Strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*);
- Karl Foerster Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis acutifolia* 'Karl Foerster');
- Day Lily 'Stella d' Oro' (*Hemerocallis* 'Stella d;Oro');
- Evening Primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*);
- Tawny Day Lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*);
- Common Woody Aster (*Machaeranthera xylorrhiza*);
- Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*);
- 'Purple Palace' Coral Bells (*Heuchera micrantha* 'Purple Palace');
- Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*);
- and some species of Columbine (*Aquilegia*), Hosta, and Pinks (*Dianthus*).
- Tolerant evergreens include Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo*) and Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis*).

So good-bye puny Marigolds with maroon-tinged foliage, withered floral heads nodding on broken pedicels, and dry brown buds that never stood a chance. Hello *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' with floral heads that persevere all winter long.

Article by Marg Iwen, Master Gardener in Training

News from Olbrich Gardens: During our plant sale (May 8 & 9), Schumacher Library will have a used book sale.

We are looking for gardening, horticulture, natural history books and magazines IN GOOD CONDITION. They will be sold to benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens. They are needed by May 5. Donations should be brought to Schumacher Library at Olbrich. Donations are acknowledged with an "In-Kind" letter. However, the donor must provide their address and a valuation for their gift. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Jacobson, Horticulture Librarian

Schumacher Library

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave.

Madison, WI 53704

608-246-5805



Food Gardening is Growing in Popularity

From a recent article in Wisconsin Ornamentals Newsletter: This comes from the latest issue of the Green Profit newsletter from Ball Publishing.

- Veggie sales are double or more, and fruit trees are in very short supply
- The South is having a better-than expected start, if you compare traffic count and average spend with the last three months of 2008, which was the worst ever for many, especially back East.
- Much price cutting is going on, but the sharp guys are only cutting on big-volume, known-value lines and the really sharp guys are increasing prices on a few lines such as organic veggies where the public has little price perception.
- Everyone is thinking local and community these days, with more classes, open houses and gifts than in previous years.
- Ian is urging his clients to Plant a Row for the Hungry and to establish a community garden on any spare bit of ground. "I think garden centers have a huge opportunity to offer customers items for self-gifting or the l'd—n well deserve this item" like a nice hanging basket, a \$29 jar of hand cream or a fragrant gardenia. My general phrase is that it is going to be a "Chicken Soup Spring" with consumers buying safe, smaller and local", Ian says.

-Comments from Ian Baldwin, Garden Center Consultant in the latest Green Profit newsletter

Food Gardening to Go Up in 2009

According to The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America Survey conducted this January by the National Gardening Association (NGA) and sponsored by Scotts Miracle-Gro, 7 million more Americans plan on growing their own fruits, vegetables, herbs or berries in 2009 than did so in 2008. That's a 19% increase over 2008; the increase from 2007 to 2008 was 10%. If these survey results hold true, we're in for a lot more customers looking for all things related to food gardening.

Here are some highlights from the survey:

- 43 million US households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs and berries in 2009, up 19% from 36 million households in 2008.
- 21% of households said they plan to start a food garden in 2009.
- 11% of households already active in food gardening plan to increase both the amount and variety of vegetables they will grow in 2009; 10% also said they will spend more time food gardening this year.

Considering the current economy, one surprising result from the survey is that just one in three respondents said they were motivated to grow their own food because of the recession. The respondent's other reasons include:

- 58% for better-tasting food
- 54% to save money on food bills
- 51% for better quality food
- 48% to grow food they know is safe

Help Wanted: Want To Enjoy The Outdoors This Summer Surrounded By Your Favorite Things?

Local nursery and landscaping company has an immediate opening for a part-time, seasonal, nursery caretaker. Hours may vary depending on responsibilities. Perennial, tree, and shrub knowledge is desirable. Job entails pulling plant material for job installation, delivering material to job sites, tracking inventory, and general upkeep of nursery. Valid driver's license is required. If interested call 274.2443 for a job application.



Brown Bag Teleconferences

Held 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the **Dane Co. Extension Office**.
Please call Ann at 224-3721 to register.

April 24, 2009 Fruits and Vegetables: Ready, Set, and Preserve

Nothing is more enjoyable than home preserved food that is safe and of high quality. Beginning with jams and jellies and extending to canned potatoes, there are several basic **steps to preparing** for a season of preserving the bounty of your garden and orchard. This program will highlight tips and hints on getting ready to preserve safe, high quality fruits and vegetables. Join Dr. Barb Ingham in a review of safe food preservation tactics.

Extension resources that will be highlighted include: Safe Canning Methods <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Safe-Canning-Methods-P253C60.aspx> Using and Caring for a Pressure Canner <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Using-and-Caring-for-a-Pressure-Canner-P255C60.aspx> And the newly revised bulletins in the Wisconsin Safe Food Preservation series: http://www.foodsafety.wisc.edu/preservation_publications.html

May 29...Managing Vegetable Vine Crops for Better Production

Soil management, mulches, irrigation, pruning and trellising are requirements of any successful vegetable operation. It is also critical to the production of quality vegetables. Tomatoes as well as most vegetables are 85 to 95 percent water, so any loss in water weight is equal to a loss in production. Trellising tomatoes improves fruit quality by keeping plants and fruits off the ground and by providing better pesticide coverage. Join Dr. Robert Tomesh in a discussion of managing tomato vines during the growing season.

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.



A photograph of Zannah Crowe's Garden: See more on April 28, 6:30 p.m. at Olbrich Gardens. Talk sponsored by Madison Area Master Gardeners Association.



MG VOLUNTEER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR THE YEAR 2009

MGV-in-Training must turn in required volunteer hours within one year of completing training.
Recertifying MGVs must turn in volunteer and C.E. hours by **October 1, 2009** to their local county record keeper.

MGV Name: _____ Phone (____)_____

Address: _____

email: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____ -

Dane County UW Extension
 Attn: Ann Munson
 1 Fen Oak Ct
 Madison WI 53718

Date	Project Name, Work Accomplished or Continuing Education Topic	Volunteer Hours			Continuing Education Hours <i>(I learned something)</i>
		Youth Ed <i>(I worked with kids)</i>	Comm. Ed <i>(I taught something)</i>	Support Services <i>(I helped with...)</i>	
	Dane Co Extension Teaching Garden				
	Dane Co Extension Office Help – i.e. watering plants, clerical				
	Dane Co Extension Horticulture Help Line				
	Madison Area Master Gardener Association				
	Wisconsin Garden Journal				
	West Madison Ag Research Station Garden				
	U.W. Arboretum				
	Allen Centennial Garden – UW campus				
	Olbrich Botanic Garden				
	Madison City Parks				
	Other Parks				
	Community Gardens				
	Public Schools				
TOTAL HOURS <input type="checkbox"/> confidentiality requested					



Dane Co UW Extension
1 Fen Oak Ct Madison
WI 53718

Ann Munson, Editor
Phone 608-224-3721
Fax 608-224-3727
Email munson@co.dane.wi.us

University of Wisconsin, U.S.
Department of Agriculture and
Wisconsin counties cooperating.
An EEO/AA employer, University
of Wisconsin Extension provides
equal opportunities in
employment and programming,
including Title IX and American
with Disabilities (ADA)
requirements.



UW Cooperative Extension

1 Fen Oak Court
Rm 138
Madison, WI 53718-8812
Address Service Requested

Master Gardener
Newsletter

Master Gardener Volunteers Reporting Hours for 2008-2009

Hours to 36

Pat Richardson

Hours to 60

Beth Sweeney

Hours to 100

Suzanne Rieder

Thank you for reporting your hours!!

Tell us How You are Volunteering

Before you report your hours, (due date is October 1 for Recertifying or one year after class completion for students completing the General Master Gardener class) we would love to know what Master Gardeners are doing for their volunteer hours and projects. So drop us a note, or email us what you are doing. It doesn't have to be much, even a paragraph would be great.

Email your paragraph to Lisa at: johnson.lisa@co.dane.wi.us

First Teaching Garden Workday

April 25—9:30 to 3:00 Come when you can. Bring tools.

Let us know if you have plants to donate for Plant Sale!!

Garden Tours sponsored by MAMGA and Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

It's not too early to reserve a date on your May and June calendars for local garden tours. Directions will given in May newsletter.

Garden Tour—Fitchburg/Oregon

Wednesday, May 20, 2009
5:00 PM—dark

Garden Tour – McFarland

Wednesday, June 3, 2009
5:00 PM – dark