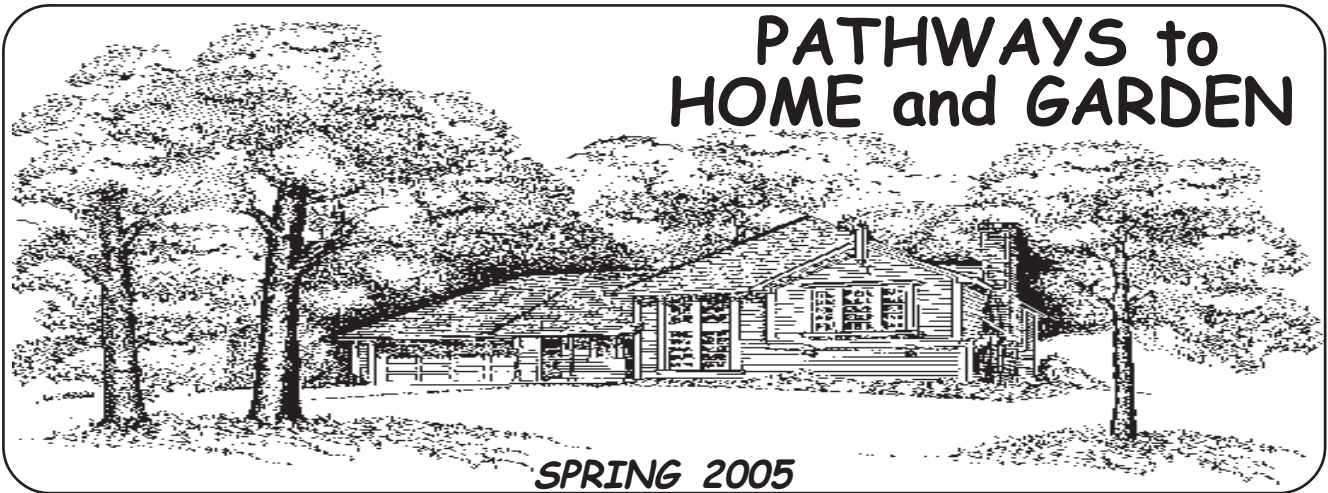


PATHWAYS to HOME and GARDEN



SPRING 2005



Gardener's Calendar



Late March

- Start slow-growing annuals indoors if you have good light.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulbs.
- If you use dormant sprays, be sure to use them before growth starts.
- Divide dahlia clumps.
- Clean up garden as weather warms.
- Cultivate and fertilize asparagus beds.
- Prune raspberries; thin canes to six to eight canes per foot of row; and remove the upper 20 percent of the cane.

Early April

- Finish pruning trees and evergreens. Avoid pruning maple, elm, birch, oak, and walnut trees at this time.
- Rake lawn when weather conditions permit.
- Prune summer flowering shrubs.
- Plant fruit trees.
- Graft apple trees when buds begin to swell.
- Do not work in garden soil when it is wet.

Mid April

- Don't feed roses until mid-May.
- Uncover and prune roses if weather permits.
- Seed or sod new lawns as soon as the soil can be worked. Re-seed or sod lawn areas injured by the winter.
- Dig and divide fall blooming perennials before top growth gets too tall.
- Consider planting flowers which can be dried for winter arrangements. Strawflower, statice, Chinese lantern, colosia, and globe amaranth are some of the best choices for successful drying.
- Do not mow the lawn until it has grown at least 2 inches. The roots are being renewed in the spring and grass needs vigorous initial top-growth.

- Plant onions, carrots, beets, chard, leaf lettuce, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Early May

- Fertilize bush fruits, grapes, and ornamental shrubs.
- Plant broccoli, early cabbage, cauliflower, and spinach.
- Interplant annuals among spring flowering bulbs.
- Avoid cultivation when soil is wet.
- Treat lawn for control of broad leaf weeds.
- Prune Mugho pines by pinching out two-thirds the length of the candles of new growth.
- Set Easter Lilies in the garden.

Mid May

- Plant bush beans, snap beans, and sweet corn.
- Plant muskmelon, squash, and cucumbers.
- Work systemic insecticides into soil around roses.
- Stake peonies and delphiniums.
- Prune out winter-killed wood on trees and shrubs by cutting back to green wood after new growth begins.
- Grass clippings can be used as a mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens if allowed to dry well before use. Fresh, damp grass clippings will mat and may attract pests. Never use clippings from a lawn that has been treated with a herbicide.
- Don't use a weed-and-feed fertilizer in the garden. Weed killers don't know a vegetable from a weed and may injure or contaminate your crops.



Late May

- Plant geraniums and tuberous rooted begonias.
- Set out peppers, tomatoes, and egg plants.
- Start compost pile.
- Dethatch lawn if thatch layer is half an inch or greater.

Fond du Lac County Natural Beauty Council

Invites you to attend its 23rd Arbor Day Dinner and Program at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Fond du Lac on Thursday, April 28 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom. Cost is \$10.00 (tax and tip included) **PAYABLE AT THE DOOR**. Featured speaker for the program will be William Volkert, Wildlife Educator and Naturalist with the DNR at Horicon. His presentation is "Mongolia; Traveling in the Land of Chinggis Khan." In August 2004 Bill and his wife Connie traveled 900 miles across Mongolia to explore the wild outbreak of vast vacant landscape. Together with their local guide they visited several cultural sites of Chinggis Khan as well as the old Buddhist Temples. This program will provide an insight into this largely unknown landscape that is Mongolia.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Monday, April 25; please call the University of Wisconsin - Fond du Lac Extension Center at (920) 929-3173.



Weeding Through the Web

www.uwex.edu/ces PowerPoint presentations for vegetables are available to view and download on this University of Wisconsin Extension site. Bulletins are available at every Wisconsin county extension office by clicking on County Offices and selecting a county.

www.ext.colostate.edu Colorado State University offers hundreds of publications, gardening online, cooperative extension locations, and a Plant Select link for plants that thrive in Rocky Mountain gardens.

www.hort.cornell.edu/gardening Cornell University's "Home Gardening" provides searchable flower and vegetable databases for selecting the perfect plants for your garden, flower and vegetable fact sheets, and garden photos illustrating garden design techniques. View

photos and read about a Cornell University horticulturist's garden.

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer The North Carolina State University "Hort On the Internet" has tons of links conveniently categorized by Planet Groups, Garden Topics, and Sources of information. "Quick Reference" topics include Hardiness Zones, Scientific Names, Fertilizer, Flowers, Herbs, Pest Management, Soil, and Vegetables.

www.webgarden.osu.edu Ohio State University's "Web Garden" offers an illustrated plant dictionary with 1,200 entries, a collection of 200 short gardening how-to videos, and a downloadable plant database for your handheld. The "Plant Facts" database searches for content from over 46 university and government sources. Over 600 frequently asked gardening questions, and more.

www.extension.uiuc.edu The University of Illinois "Horticulture & Home Garden" includes a listing of Extension Web sites in "Hort Corner" and "Ask an Expert". The U of I Plant Clinic services include plant identification; disease diagnosis; insect and weed injury and recommendations.

<http://plants.usda.gov> This national plant database provides standardized information about US plants. It includes names, plant symbols, checklists, distributional data, characteristics, images, plant links and references. Link topic areas include Culturally Significant Plants, Plant Photos, Plants & Names: Floras, Databases and Nomenclature, and Educational.

www.nbio.gov/disciplines/botany The National Biological Information System site provides many links for topics that include gardening information: Botany for Kids, Collections and Organizations, General Reference Sources, Taxonomies, Plant Identification Tools, General Plant Databases, General Image Collections, Websites with Extensive Botanical Links, and Dictionaries, Glossaries, Encyclopedias.

www.ahs.org The American Horticultural Society connects you to great gardens of the world and provides a national registry of children's gardens. Listings are provided for Children's Gardening Programs at Public Gardens and Horticultural Societies, Formal Educational Programs and Curriculum Guides, as well as Sources of Children's

Gardening Activities. Internet links and resources offer gardening education for all skill levels.

www.bgbm.org/idb/botgard.html Internet Directory for Botany site provides lists and links to worldwide organizations that provide gardening information. You can link to botanical gardens, museums, horticultural societies, as well as university botany departments.

www.all-americaelections.org The newly designed All-America Selections website features an AAS Winner Image Library, AAS Trial Ground information, a searchable database of AAS Display Gardens, Store Locators for AAS Winners, and direct links to AAS winner seed sources.

www.ngb.org The National Garden Bureau website "Year Of" offers flower and vegetable fact sheets with images, "Today's Garden" contains 55 gardening bulletins, "How A Garden Grows" features a photo gallery with fact sheets, and the "Membership Directory" links to member mail-order seed and plant company secure ordering sites where you can purchase thousands of flowers, vegetables and herbs to grown from seeds.

www.kidsgardening.org The award winning National Gardening Association's website offers a wealth of information for parents and teachers. "Digging Deeper" offers a Parent's Primer, classroom stories, gardening activities, and kids gardening FAQ/s. The online store features children's gardening supplies for home or school. The Teacher's Room page offers classroom stories, activities, and advice.

www.thegardenhelper.com If you are looking for help in getting started with gardening, this is a fun site to begin with. It covers general how-to's for seed starting, information on garden styles (vegetable, butterfly, shade, for example), lists of plants with cultural requirements (including indoor plants), gardening forums, and a handy month-by-month gardening calendar.

www.gardenweb.com One of the older internet destinations, gardenweb offers page after page of useful and fun information. In addition to incorporating Garden Net, with its directory of botanical gardens and plant societies, it offers bulletin boards for finding answers to your gar-

dening questions, links to products and plants, articles, and forums.

*Source: Today's Garden - June 2004
National Garden Bureau*

Plants for Shade Areas

Plants differ in their adaptability to different growing conditions with sunshine being one of the most significant factors. We often think of light as being either sunny or shady, but, in fact, there are many "shades" of light in between. Your garden may experience light shade, such as that filtered through an overhanging tree; dense shade, such as that found in a woodlands; or intermittent shade from an object, such as a building that blocks the sun for only a portion of the day. Some sites vary in their light exposure, depending on the season; wooded areas usually have much more sunlight in winter and spring when the trees are bare than in spring and summer when the foliage blocks the light.

Most plants perform best in full sunlight, but may be able to tolerate semi-shady conditions. Trimming nearby trees and shrubs may help increase the light. Some plants may produce lots of lush foliage in the shade but may produce few or no flowers unless adequate sunlight is available. Thankfully, there are a number of plants that thrive in the shade.

Perennial Flowers for Semi-Shade Areas

Anchusa azurea (Italian Bugloss)
Anemone pulsatilla (Pasque Flower)
Aquilegia sp. (Columbine)
Astilbe x Arendsii (Astilbe or False Spirea)
Iberis sempervivens (Candytuft)
Lamium maculatum (Spotted Deadnettle)
Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
Veronica sp. (Speedwell)

Perennial Flowers for Shade Areas

Bergenia cordifolia (Heartleaf Bergenia)
Brunnera macrophylla (Siberian Bugloss)
Hosta sp. (Plantain Lily or Funkia)
Lobelia sp. (Cardinal Flower)
Lunaria annua (Honesty or Money Plant)
Mertensia virginica (Bluebells)
Monarda didyma (Bee Balm)
Mysotis scorpioides (Forget-Me-Not)
Polemonium caeruleum (Jacob's Ladder)
Primula sp. (Primrose)
Pulmonaria saccharata (Lungwort)
Sanguinaria canadensis (Bloodroot)
Thalictrum aquilegifolium (Meadow-rue)
Viola sp. (Violets)

Annual Flowers for Semi-Shade Areas

Ageratum houstonianum (Ageratum or Floss-flower)

Begonia sp. (Begonia)

Calendula officinalis (Pot Marigold)

Callistephus chinensis (China Aster)

Catharanthus rosea (Vinca)

Coreopsis tinctoria (Calliopsis)

Dianthus chinensis (Garden Pink)

Impatiens waleriana (Impatiens)

Lathyrus odorata (Sweet Pea)

Limonium sinuatum (Russian Statice)

Lobelia erinus (Edging Lobelia)

Lobularia maritima (Sweet Alyssum)

Annual Flowers for Shade Areas

Begonia sp. (Begonia)

Coleus x hybridus (Coleus)

Impatiens walleriana (Impatiens)

Weed Control In the Landscape

No matter what kind of garden you tend, weeds are likely one of your more frustrating challenges. However, there are a number of practices you can incorporate in your bag of tricks to keep weeds under control.

Cultural control includes any gardening practice that prevents the introduction of weeds to the garden or makes the environment less favorable for weed development and more favorable for desirable plants. Controlling weeds before they mature their seed will help prevent future weeds. For example, a single dandelion plant can produce 15,000 seeds in one year, and each seed is capable of surviving up to six years in the soil.

Thorough preparation of a planting site is crucial to getting your garden off to a good start, especially where perennial weeds have gained a foothold. Till existing weeds under or use a nonselective herbicide to kill them. As an alternative to using chemicals, many gardeners have had success using a clear plastic cover to heat soil to the point of killing existing weeds. Depending on weather and stage of plant growth, both chemical and solar methods can take several days to weeks to kill the undesirable vegetation.

Use a mulch wherever possible to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Organic mulches include pine needles, bark chips, grass clippings and straw. Organic mulches have the additional benefit of

improving soil structure and adding some nutrients when they are worked into the soil at the end of the season. They also tend to cool the soil while they conserve moisture. Be sure your mulch is free of weed seeds, especially when using straw and hay, or you may end up with more weeds than you started with.

Plastic has long been used under other mulch materials in landscape plantings to help keep weeds out of the ornamentals. But poor water penetration has been a problem in such long-term plantings. Fabric mulches made of either spun or woven plastic cloth have been developed recently. Fabric mulch is especially useful for landscapes where good water penetration is a big boost. As a garden mulch, fabrics do provide good early-season weed protection. However, because fabrics allow some light to penetrate, weeds will germinate below and break through the cover unless some other material, such as rock or bark mulch, are placed on top.

Hoing can be very effective for controlling annual weeds. However, perennials often resprout from the roots after the tops are removed. Hoing should consist of short, shallow strokes that simply cut off the weeds at soil level. Hoing deeper will only bring more weed seeds to the germination zone and may injure the roots of desirable plants growing nearby. Weeds growing in close proximity to desirable plants should be hand-pulled. Weeds will be much easier to pull or hoe while they are still small.

There are a few chemicals available from garden suppliers that can be used with caution. Herbicides must be chosen carefully based on both the weed problems and the desirable plants involved. Remember, no one herbicide will control all weed in all desirable plantings. Look at the herbicide label for information such as weeds controlled, plants on which the chemical can be safely used, rates of application and precautions. Always read the label on any pesticide before you apply!

And finally, promoting healthy growth of desirable plants through proper watering and fertilizing techniques will make those plants more competitive with weed species. Most plants grow best with about an inch of water per week. Just about any balanced-analysis fertilizer can be used for garden or landscape plants if applied according to label directions.

Use of Fragrance Plants In the Landscape

Many gardeners complain that modern-day flowers have lost their sweet fragrance compared to old-fashioned varieties. It is true that some hybrid flowers have been bred for larger blooms, bolder colors, disease resistance, and other improvements at the expense of fragrance. However, there are still plenty of choices for planning an aromatic showcase.

The source of fragrance in plants depends a bit on the species; some plants' flowers produce scent in specialized glands to attract potential insect pollinators. Other plants may have aromatic oils in their foliage, only to be released if bruised or crushed.

Your fragrance garden should be planned with lots of study and personal experience. Like other gardens, you'll want to design a scheme that will have something of interest throughout the season, rather than having all of the fragrance at the same time. Some scents may complement each other, while others may clash. Beauty here is in the nose of the beholder, since what may be enchanting to one person may be offensive to the next.

To get you started on your plan, the following plants have earned their fragrant reputations. Cultivars and varieties of plants may vary in their potency, so be sure to do your homework, and don't be afraid to experiment with different combinations. You can always rearrange the planting should you find your design to be lacking.

Annuals

sweet pea
sweet alyssum
evening stock
nasturtium (some)
scented geraniums
heliotrope
santolina

Perennials

hyacinth
poet's narcissus
artemisia
daylily (some)
chrysanthemum (some)
hyssop
red valerian

lavender
peony
thyme
sweet woodruff
sweetautumn clematis
lemon verbena
sweet sultan
lily-of-the-valley
sweet rocket
hosta (some)
iris (some)
lily (some)
bee balm
evening primrose

Trees/Shrubs/Vines

lilac
mock orange
rose
snowball viburnum
honeysuckle
linden (basswood)

Master Gardener Plant Sale

Will be held at the UW Campus (Commons Area) on Tuesday, May 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Park in the East Parking Lot!

Community Garden Plots - Still Available

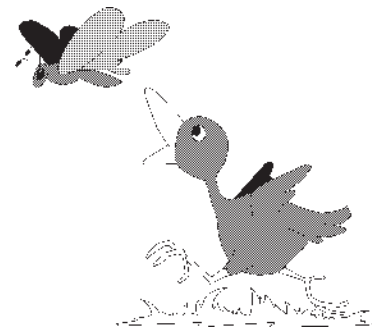
Plots are still available for rent. Following is the price and size:

40 feet by 40 feet: \$30

20 feet by 40 feet: \$20

NEW SIZE - 20 x 20 feet: \$15

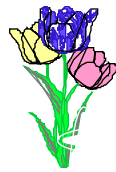
If you have questions or would like to reserve a plot, call Patty or Gloria at 929-3173 to reserve a plot.



FOND DU LAC COUNTY UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
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Pathways to Home and Garden
"SPRING ISSUE"

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www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/fonddulac/index.html



FOND DU LAC COUNTY

U.W. CENTER, 227 ADMIN/EXT BLDG.
400 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
PHONE: (920) 929-3173
FAX: (920) 929-3181
(COMMUNITY RESOURCE)

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Nan Baumgartner - Family Living Agent
Jim Hovland - Community Resource Agent
Irv Possin - Dairy and Livestock Agent
Mike Rankin - Crops and Soils Agent
Shelley Tidemann - Family Living Agent/WI Nutrition Ed.Prog.
Pam, Sharon, and Kris - Nutrition Educators
Denise Retzleff - 4-H and Youth Agent
Michelle Batterman - 4-H Staff Assistant

SECRETARIES

Ann Kaiser
Gloria Kelroy
Kathy Schneider
Sue Siegesmund
Karen Fannin

OFFICE HOURS:
8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Distributed from the office of James Hovland, Community Resource Agent, UW-Extension, Fond du Lac County.