



Wrapping Up the Garden Year

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Some more days of mild weather are very nice for those few last projects you wanted to get to. Here are a few reminders to jog that memory.

Spring flowering bulbs can still be planted as long as the ground is not frozen.

Mulch layers can be applied to perennial flowers as soon as the top 1-2 inches of ground are frozen. Roses, chrysanthemums and tender perennials in general. Apply at least 2-4 inches of mulch to help moderate temperature fluctuations that can heave plant crowns out of the ground as it freezes and thaws during late winter and early spring.

Asparagus stems and other frosted remnants of your garden should be discarded, that disease and pests might be controlled.

Delay all unnecessary pruning until late winter or early spring just before budbreak since wounds will heal most quickly when the tree or shrub is growing most vigorously.



Cover your garden with composts and give your compost pile a little attention.

This is a good time to clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools and equipment. Oil

and store gas powered equipment like lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Repair shops are in a slow period now before the snowblowers start needing repair.

While you're in the garage or garden shed you might check for any chemicals you don't want to freeze or plastic items that can be damaged by freezing.

Check the houseplants for insects that may have come indoors as you brought the plants inside. Pick pests off by hand or use insecticidal soap for control. Give them a sponge bath or shower regularly to keep leaf pores clear.

You can also stop fertilizing indoor plants now since they will use less water and nutrients due to the lower light levels.

Interest points...

- MG General Meeting October
- Gift a MG Training for the holidays
- Have hours for 2006? Bring them to the office
- Got a service idea? Call 627-6313
- Apple program drew over 30 people!

Service Opportunities

Have you wished that you could be used in a particular way to be a blessing to someone or to be a part of something that makes a difference in the lives of others but don't think you have anything to offer? Chances

are, if you're reading this you have at least some knowledge about growing things.

How can this be used to build up our community, meet and get to know new friends, and still do some-

thing you're passionate about?

We have 2 community projects just about to begin the planning stages.

Habitat for Humanity
City of Antigo Revitalization

Already a Master? Taking it to the next level.

Currently we have 6 of us enjoying the Tuesday night specialized training sessions.

We have learned a bunch! From flowerbed prep, to lilies, to our most recent session on houseplant care and culture.

We participated in the program this past week at An-



tigo High School that we could see the presenter during the Q/A part of the program.

The sound quality is nice and we plan to continue through the end of the program at this location.

We invite you to attend a “freebie” session on December 12. See below.

*Green fingers are the extension of a verdant heart.
-Russell Page*

Remaining Schedule for MG Specialized Training

November 21	Indoor/Outdoor Insect Pests.....	Chris Williamson
November 28	Diseases of Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants.....	Brian Hudelson
December 5	Garden Design.....	Diana Alfuth
	Home Landscape Irrigation.....	Robert Tomesh
December 12	Native Herbaceous Perennials and Wildflowers.....	Dr. Evelyn Howell



Upcoming Events

PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM DECEMBER 12

You are cordially invited for a “freebie” program on December 12 from 6:00—9:00 p.m. at the Antigo High School Distance Learning lab. Enter from the east door number 26. Go upstairs, down the hall till you see our sign. Cost is \$10 and includes program, materials and snack. Call us and let us know you’re coming! 627-6236

GROWING HERBS IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Jan 8, 2007 Wausau

Would you like to learn how to grow herbs? This program from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. will give you tips on how much sun, soil preparation, drainage, watering and mulching that herbs need. You will learn about starting herbs on your own with seeds or purchasing plants

from local nurseries. The size of your herb garden can be from a few herbs to many depending on your personal needs. Tips will also be given on how to harvest and store your herbs. Lynn Buhmann, North Central Wisconsin MG, will present this pro-

gram incorporating slides of plants and gardens at 212 River Dr., Room 5, Wausau. \$3; preregistration required. To register, send check payable to NCWVG to Growing Herbs in Wisconsin, UW-Extension, 212 River Dr., Ste. 3, Wausau WI 54403. Info: (715) 261-1231.

Spring Master Gardener General Training

Please join us for the MG General Training! Offered right here in Antigo. All sessions (12) are on Tuesday evening beginning January 23rd and continuing through

April 17th from 5:45 – 9:00p.m. Program format is 5:45 – 6:00 p.m., classroom orientation; 6:00 – 8:50 P.M. Cost of the general training is \$120 and volunteers must

aim for 24 hours of community service for the 36 hours of training they receive.

Simply register (627-6236) and bring payment Jan. 23.

Date	Topic	Guest
Jan. 23	Intro. to the Master Gardener Program	Tomesh
	Plant Propagation	Maddox
Jan. 30	Entomology	Pellitteri
Feb. 6	Backyard Wildlife	Craven
Feb. 13	Fruit Crops	Roper
Feb. 20	Introduction to Turf Management	Stier/Tomesh
Feb. 27	Herbaceous Annuals and Perennials	Alfuth
Mar. 6	Weeds and Pest Management	Colquhoun
Mar. 20	Using Native Plants	Howell
	Invasive Plants	Kearns
Mar. 27	Vegetable Crops	Delahaut
Apr. 3	Plant Pathology	Hudelson
Apr. 10	Soils and Fertility	Wolkowski
Apr. 17	Woody Landscape Plants	Jull



Brown Bag Programs

Brown Bag Programs are held from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. monthly generally the last Friday of each month. These are free and open to everyone. Come join us at the office!

Dec 15, 2006 (12:00 noon)
Riparian Zone...What Is It? And How to Protect It
 Brown Bag Program
 (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access)

The Riparian Zone is the vegetated buffer including

both the dry and water adjoining any wetland area. Join Dr. Mike Meyers, DNR researcher and John Haack, UW-Extension Basin Educator for their observations and applied research findings relative to the riparian zone.

Jan 26, 2007 (12:00 noon)
2006 Fruit Production Update: The Year In-Review
 Brown Bag Program
 (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access)

Dick Weidman, Superintendent Peninsular Agricultural Research Station will share his observations on the performance of various fruit crops during the 2006 growing season. He will also share the observed effects and impacts of the wet spring, followed by the drought of 2006 on certain fruit cultivars. The Peninsular ARS has been testing and evaluating cultivars for Wisconsin for years. Join us for an update on fruit crop performance.



Apples topic of MG General Meeting

Our apple program held September 7th was a big hit.

Over 30 people came to participate some sitting on apple crates because we underestimated the popularity of the topic.

Folks came to see common apple problems and to hear UW Extension horticulture tips and how the Gabriel's do it on their orchard.

We learned about foliar feeding apples to provide essential micronutrients and which can be accompanied



by a biological or chemical control for insects and fruit diseases.

We learned about improving the tree's habitat and reducing overwintering pests such as the plum curculio and apple maggot by practicing

good sanitation and non-toxic apple maggot traps.

Just a side note, I spoke with the Gabriel's following the meeting and we are planning to hold a tree pruning workshop later this winter so that you can get your trees in shape for the next growing season.

Part of this workshop will take a look at how to use your trimmings to make your own grafts.

We'll be talking about this at our next general meeting!

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