



Northern Gardener

The Weather of Late

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I think it's going to be a bad winter for perennials. The lack of snow cover and cold temperatures will probably cause some damage of the perennials with borderline hardiness.

The earliest time to tell if a forb has made it through a tough winter is after the frost is out. If you just have to know, examine the root flesh. If inside they are white and fresh looking the plant has hope, but if the roots are yellowish or brown, elastic or soft, the prognosis is not good.

A cover of 4" of snow will insulate the ground by as much as 10 degrees F. This

with a moderate helping of mulch will protect most tender perennials.



It may not be too late to do something about it. A covering of straw may be the ticket if it makes you sleep better at night.

On the bright side, the frost should come out fairly quickly if moderate tem-

peratures continue making those eager for soft ground all the more merry.

The next warm spell we have you might consider taking some time to get outdoors and prune some of your deciduous trees and shrubs so they have time to heal before the sap begins to flow excessively.

If you would like some tips on this, consider attending our upcoming pruning workshop. See promotional article later in this newsletter.

Stay warm, be well, and enjoy dreaming about spring.

Interest points...

- Gift a MG Training for a birthday!
- Got a service idea? Call 627-6313

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

We will be meeting out at Grandview Orchard on March 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a workshop focused on dormant pruning of apple trees. Where better to learn than from the experts at our local orchard! A properly pruned apple tree will promote healthy

growth habit, open the canopy for better air circulation, improve the longevity and vitality of your trees.

If you've been intimidated or just curious about this skill, this is the program for you. Here's your chance to learn and ask questions in a small group setting. Pro-

gram limited to 18 persons, so sign up early. Send a \$10 check per person to UW Extension, PO Box 460, Antigo, WI 54409 and indicate it as for the UW Extension Pruning Workshop. Come join us! Info? Contact Alex at 627-6313.

Too cold to go outside? Watch from your couch!

Jan 28th 2:30pm

Garden Style

A variety of garden styles from very formal to old fashioned country in this new special program. Will also feature bonsai gardens, a rooftop garden in Madison and learn how to create portable ponds.

Wisconsin Public Television



Feb 25th 2:30pm

Melting Pot

Celebrate gardening contributions by WI immigrants with Shelly Ryan. Versatility of hostas is demonstrated, how to make an English wattle fence and how to turn anything into a great container.

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



Upcoming Events

Thinking Outside of the Pot

with speaker Mr. Jan Wos

January 16th, 2007

Rhineland Airport

The program is free and open to the public. Jan is the funny & creative individual at the Expo who had the tent with the piano and paintings filled with flowers, the flower cake, etc. He will give the program that evening and there is no business meeting to sit thru. "Thinking outside of the Pot" is the talk. The Airport at Rhineland is on Hwy. 8, turn left at the sign.

11th Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference

Jan 20, 2007

Oshkosh, WI

This day-long seminar on native landscaping is sponsored by Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones. Key-note speaker Steve Hazell

will offer up a set of songs featuring the most requested tunes from ten years of Wild Ones performances. At the Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh, WI. For more information call Karen at (920) 987-5587 for more information or e-mail Harmony@for-wild.org

WPT's Garden Expo

Feb 9-11, 2007 Madison, WI Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 15,000 people to view 300 booths, provided by 160 exhibitors over 75,000 square-feet. The Madison Area Master Gardeners will staff their own booth. Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics. Hours are Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. For more information visit Expo website at:

www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/

Fruit Tree Pruning 101

Grandview Orchard and UW Extension Cooperating
March 24th, 2007

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participants will learn techniques for pruning apple trees. Bring pruning tools if you have them; participants will also learn how to sharpen and sanitize tools. Handouts will also be provided.

This program will be taught by the Gabriel family with support materials from the Langlade County UW Extension office

The class is limited to 18 participants. To register send a check for \$10 per person payable to UW Extension and mail to UW Extension, PO Box 460, Antigo, WI 54409.

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 the receive.

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!

Jan 26, 2007 (12:00 noon)
2006 Fruit Production Update: The Year In-Review
 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.

Feb 23, 2007 (12:00 noon)
Exploring the Growing of Garden Mums

The mums of today have undergone many changes. First their hardiness and blooming times have been greatly improved for gardeners. They come through the winter with

greater success and their flowering can often be enjoyed as much as two weeks sooner than in the past. To achieve this dependable blooming and winter hardiness, mums must be grown in a way that assures full sunlight, ample water, well-drained soil and proper fertilization. Mums offer a great diversity in plant habit, flower color, and form. Join us to review the new and old varieties, the cultural management requirements and for ideas to enhance care and management.



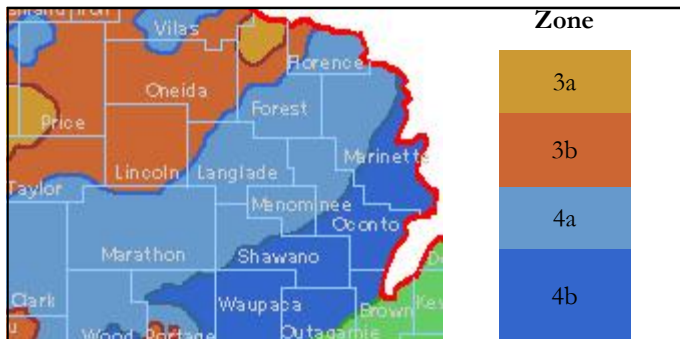
Considerations for Garden Catalog Orders



Several considerations should be made in regard to garden selections made from catalogs this time of year.

A general rule of thumb is to select cultivars respecting the fact we have from 90-120 frost free days in this area. The latter probably with some kind of protective fabric covering for the garden. Zone 3 and many zone 4 varieties will grow acceptably well.

Farmers in the area hoping for ripe field corn for livestock plant varieties with relative maturity dates of 80-85 days. Still, an early frost can cut even this short by a



week or more in some 1 out of 5 years.

Consider local and respected green houses for the varieties and plants generally suitable for this climate. The varieties they grow for transplants do well in these climates.

UW Extension has a bulle-

tin on fruit cultivars for Northern Wisconsin, contact us for a copy at 627-6313. Finally, talk to your neighbors or another Master Gardener for the varieties they choose and rely on to perform in this climate.

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