



A publication of the Manitowoc County
Master Gardener Volunteers
July -- August 2009

Website: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/manitowoc/hort/index.html>

Three simple steps to a healthy lawn

Protect kids, pets, wildlife and water quality

Many people are thinking about their lawns this time of year. Maybe you're planning a trip to the store to get lawn supplies, or making a call to a lawn care company that promises a lush, green carpet in your yard. Before you take action, consider the following.

One lawn is only a small piece of land, but when you add up all the lawns across the country, they cover an area the size of Ohio. How we manage our lawns affects the health of our children, pets, wildlife and water quality. Here are three simple steps for creating a lawn that's healthy for all.

Step 1: Avoid pesticide use.

Avoid using pesticides because they are dangerous for children, pets and other wildlife. In addition, these harmful chemicals can be tracked into the house or leach into the groundwater. Pesticides include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and weed and feed products.

Step 2: Choose zero-phosphorus fertilizer.

If you must fertilize, avoid fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Remember, it's phosphorous that accelerates algae growth in our lakes and rivers. Whether you live next to water or not, the runoff from your lawn can make its way to the groundwater or local lake or stream. Consider this--one pound of phosphorous in runoff can result in 500 pounds of algae growth. If you follow the instructions on a bag of fertilizer containing phosphorus, you may be adding over 50 pounds of phosphorus to a half-acre lot each year. The middle number on a fertilizer bag indicates the amount of phosphorus it contains.

Step 3: Consider downsizing your lawn.

Golf course-type lawns are missing many of the benefits that more interesting lawns can provide. By planting more trees and shrubs, wildflowers and tall grasses you provide fun play areas for kids, as well as nesting spots and food for songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife. In addition, a smaller lawn takes less time to mow and provides more time for rest and relaxation.

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/lawncare.html>

Garden Events

June 20, 2009 Garden Discoveries Fox Cities area, WI

The Outagamie Co. MGA has organized this educational tour of 5 select gardens in Neenah, Appleton, Menasha and Combined Locks from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$5 + 2 non--perishable food items. For more information contact Tom Brinkman at (920) 729-9404 or Kathy Baum at (920) 731-9385

June 20-21, 2009 Waukesha Symphony League Summer Solstice Garden Tour 2009 Delafield, WI
Tour seven private gardens from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Melinda Myers (sponsored by Kanavas Landscaping Management) will be at Hawks Inn on Saturday starting at 11:00 AM to answer gardener's questions and will also have her books available for sale. Tea, lemonade and cookies will be served throughout the day on Saturday. \$12 advance; \$15 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra. Advance tickets will be on sale at specific Stein Gardens & Gifts locations (to be announced) in June. For more information contact the Waukesha Symphony Office at (262) 547-1858.

June 22, 2009 June Monthly Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Location: **Silver Lake Park with Host Dave Pozorski at 6:30 pm *Note Place Change***

June 26, 2009 -- 12:00 noon at the County Office Complex

Late Plantings of Cool- and Warm-Season Vegetables Brown Bag Program

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.

June 27, 2009 Manitowoc Co. 2009 Garden Walk -- See article on page 4 for more details

July 11, 2009 Sheboygan Area Garden Walk

From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Barb Schneiderhan at (920) 457-4243.

July 11, 2009 -- Garden Door Open House -- Sturgeon Bay, WI

The Door County Master Gardener Association will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the opening of the public garden, the Garden Door from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Peninsula Agricultural Research Station, 4312 Highway 42, just north of Sturgeon Bay. Events include tours, speakers, and exhibits. Bus parking is available at the site. For more information contact Jo Ann Tarczewski at (920) 746-7752.

July 15, 2009 Leaf Casting Workshop Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Create a concrete leaf sculpture to add to your garden this summer! Workshop from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. Some leaves will be available if you cannot bring your favorite leaves from home. Leaves need to be heavy veined the type that work best are rhubarb, burdock and hosta; leaves need to fit on a 16" x 24" board. \$44 (\$36 members). Advance registration required. For more information or to register, contact the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, at (920) 993-1900.

July 18, 2009 A Summer's Day Garden Walk Marquette Co., WI

Organized by the Thyme Shares MGV & Friends (Marquette Co.) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. For more information contact Karen Peterson at (608) 296-4442

July 21-23, 2009 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Dodge Co., Wisconsin

This premier exposition (previously called Farm Progress Days) – the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin – is also one of the largest in the nation. The three-day outdoor event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture, including many practical applications of recent research findings and technological developments.

July 27, 2009 July Monthly Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Location: Solaris Farms

Host: Nate Bremer 6:30 pm

July 31, 2009 (12:00 noon) at the County Office Complex

Managing Your Garden Bounty Brown Bag Program

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.

Aug 5, 2009 Food Preservation Series: Pickling Vegetables Green Bay, WI

Home canners have long enjoyed the art of pickle-making. It is one of the oldest methods of preserving foods. In modern times, pickled cucumbers are commonly referred to as pickles. A pickle; however, is any fruit, vegetable or meat preserved in vinegar or brine. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to learn how to can cucumbers and other vegetables. Co-taught by Brown Co. Extension Family Living Educator Judy Knudsen and and Master Gardener Volunteer Eileen Rueden. Sponsored by the Brown Co. Extension Office and NEW MGA. From 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue Street Green Bay. \$5. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. For more information or to register call Debi at (920) 465-8512.

August 24, 2009 August Monthly Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting

Location: West of the Lake 6:30 pm

Aug 25, 2009 Food Preservation Series: Canning Tomato Products Green Bay, WI

Tomatoes are probably the most popular home canned food. Their summer freshness can easily be preserved for seasons when it is not possible to run into the backyard for that right-off-the-vine taste. Canned tomatoes are excellent for preparing chili suppers, spaghetti sauces, casseroles and an endless variety of meal accompaniments. Information will be shared on canning tomatoes and salsa. Co-taught by Brown Co. Extension Family Living Educator Judy Knudsen and and Master Gardener Volunteer Eileen Rueden. Sponsored by the Brown Co. Extension Office and NEW MGA. From 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue Street Green Bay. \$5. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. For more information or to register call Debi at (920) 465-8512.

Volunteer Opportunities:

June 27 -- 1 pm Woodland Dunes Cutting Buckthorn

Now - Fall Volunteers are needed at the Two Rivers Library Gardens. Call Mary McLean at 242-2412 for more information.

A student at Washington Jr. High needs help with a flower garden at the school. Contact Christine Miller 920-683-4857 x5784

Anton Doneff would like help with his yard work. Call 901.9160

2009 Garden Walk:

When: June 27, 2009

Where: At the following gardens in Manitowoc

Shirley Sriver

Aurora Hospital 5000 Memorial Dr

Jim & Mary Carlson

1406 Hubbard Circle

Paula Radl

1721 Green Street

Chris Boeder

930 South 35th

Mary Jo Stangel

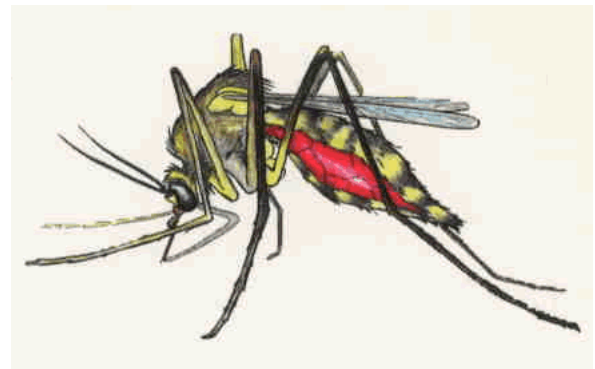
711 North 9th Street

Eunice McDonald

1131 North 18th Street

Marian Sepnafski

711 South 22nd Street



Picking the Better Plants

By: Michael Jinks, Garden Philosopher

People always ask me, "how do you pick them?" I gather they aren't asking about my non-ability in picking winning race horses, but in my ability in picking plants, that had the best chances in thriving. You can have this ability also.

The key to picking good plants is watching how the various garden shops and merchants of Spring plants maintain their stock. Are the employees busy cleaning and sprucing up their plants, or are they nowhere to be seen? How are they watering the plants, are they being careful to water each and every pot, or are they waving the hose around for the appearance sake. Does the shop have a fertilizing program, or are they hoping to sell out so they don't have to water?

Of-course, the best time to pick up your plants are when the shipment first shows up and when it is raining. The reason for that is plants are easily damaged. All plants have a structure that is very delicate, it is the hair roots. These hair roots are smaller than the root cells and are damaged every time the plant is moved. Since the hair roots main function is to provide water to the plant, when they are damaged the plant wilts. Proper after shipment care often spells the difference between great success and early death.

The same can be said about nursery plants. As you leave your home, notice the plants around your neighborhood. If those plants have not leafed out yet, and you see the very same plants at the shops already leafed out, question the clerks why it is the case. Most plants that are already leafed out are grown further south. Many of these plants will do well here, others have no chance. Extreme care must be given to these plants to accustom the plants to the area. A clue that this was not done is to check the leaves of the plants. If there are light brown dry patches in and around the leaves, then the health of the plant have been compromised.

Another problem with shop employees involves moving nursery stock. They tend to move the plants by picking them up by their top. That severs most of the hair roots. All nursery stock should be picked up by its root ball or pot.

Now that you've found the perfect place to purchase plants, now which plants. All the of the most experienced growers I have ever known say the same thing, and it's Garden Philosopher's Way #2 "Pick the smaller uniform stocky plants." Overgrown plants have compacted tight roots and limited chance for prosperity. Check for yourself when you dig up last year plants when you turn the garden soil over. The plants that did poorly mostly likely still had that cube-like root system it had when it was planted. Successful annual plants should have a root system a lot larger than your fist.

Food Preservation Presentation

Thursday, July 23, 2009 -- 6 - 7:30pm --
Canning Fruits and Vegetables Safely and Drying Foods at home

A food in season will be used to demonstrate the boiling water bath canning process, and the drying method. Learn about the latest procedures and get answers to your questions. UW-Extension food preservation recipes will be available for purchase, and pressure canner dials will be tested at no cost. Participants can bring in just the pressure canner dial or the dial and cover for testing. Tested dials can be picked up July 30 and 31. Reservations needed three days in advance. Call 683.4168. Please indicate name and phone number.

MASTER GARDENERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: April 27, 2009
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Manitowoc County Office Complex
ATTENDANCE: 18
EDUCATION: Wildflower Presentation – Dorothy Bugs – 50 min.

Following Dorothy's presentation, President Renee Lemberger called the April meeting to order. Reports from the secretary and the treasurer were accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Gladwyn gave us a recap on Earth Day. He felt that we should not consider having a booth there next year, but instead consider doing something at the Farmer's Market.
- 2) Renee reported that she has the paperwork and will be writing for a grant to help pay for the purchase of a computer. Applications are due October 1st and she will apply for the full \$400. This will be discussed further at the June meeting.
- 3) Pat updated us on the zoo gardens. She and Chris will be meeting with zoo personnel on May 6th. Cleanup at the zoo will be May 20th with a rain date of May 21st.

New Business

- 1) Sherry at the Farmer's Market would like a Master Gardener to do a presentation there on May 23rd.
- 2) Friends of the Mariner's Trail are interested in volunteers to help with renovating a berm.
- 3) There will be a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer at the Manitowoc Office Complex on May 5th from 7 – 9 p.m.
- 4) There will be a plant diagnostic training online at a cost of \$25. See Renee for further info.
- 5) Dorothy handed out info on various upcoming workshops at Roorbachs.
- 6) Joyce informed us that the Friend's of the Branch River will need help to plant 1200 trees this Saturday at Branch.
- 7) Fliers were also distributed for the 2009 WIMGA conference on October 2nd and 3rd.
- 8) The conference for 2010 will be July 23 – 24 in Sheboygan.
- 9) Dorothy informed us that there will be an Eastern District Meeting on September 19th from 10 – 2. They would like the President and Treasurer from each county to attend.
- 10) Dorothy also passed around a sign-up sheet to help with the planting at Silver Lake Park. Volunteers will be notified as to the date and time.
- 11) The subject of a summer bus trip was discussed. The Research Center in Door County would be the destination on July 11. There will be three speakers, book sales, etc. More info will be available after May 11th. Joann Tarezewski is the Garden Door committee chair. This may just be a car pool trip.
- 12) Debbie Otto invited us to possibly hold a meeting at Lowe's plant center where she's employed. The group thought this wouldn't work at this time.
- 13) NEW will hold a plant sale on May 15th and 16th.
- 14) Melinda Myers will be speaking on May 30th at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc at 11:00. Cost to attend is just \$3.
- 15) Kari Alice asked the group for information on planting strawberries.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tisler

Secretary

MASTER GARDENERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY
MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: May 18, 2009
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Cherney Maribel Caves County Park
ATTENDANCE: 16
EDUCATION: None

Following our spring plant exchange, President Renee Lemberger called the May meeting to order. Reports from the secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Rosie updated us on the Emerald Ash Borer presentation. There will be another presentation on June 5 informing people as to what to plant instead of ash trees.
- 2) Planting at Silver Lake Park will take place on June 16th at 8:30. There will be a representative there from Prairie Nursery. Bring your shovels, etc.
- 3) Joyce informed us that she recently helped with the tree planting for the Friends of Branch River.
- 4) Zoo cleanup is scheduled for this Wednesday at 3:00 with Thursday as the rain date.
- 5) There will be a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday at 9:00. Pat hopes that other MGV members can attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) There will be a plant sale at the Aurora Medical Center from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Thursday and Friday/
- 2) Melinda Myers will be speaking at the Holiday Inn on May 30th at 11 a.m.
- 3) Judy Vogel is in need of volunteers for the June 27th Garden Walk.
- 4) Ideas were discussed for the June 22nd Master Gardener meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Silver Lake Park.
- 5) Raffle tickets are available for the WIMGA Annual Conference.
- 6) Robert Dill has red oak and maple seedlings available.
- 7) Pat is considering a presentation at a future meeting on building topiaries. She recently attended a seminar on this at Disney World.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tisler
Secretary

WHEN IS A GUEST A PEST?

An “Invasive Species” is defined as a species that is nonnative (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Sometimes you will see invasive species referred to as exotic, alien, or non-indigenous species. The problem with these names is that they only refer to the nonnative part of the definition above. Many exotic or alien species do not cause harm to our economy, environment, or our health. In fact, the vast majority of “introduced” species do not survive and only about 15% of those that survive go on to become invasive or harmful. An invasive species grows/reproduces and spreads rapidly, establishes over large areas, and persists. Species that become invasive succeed due to favorable environmental conditions and lack of natural predators, competitors and diseases that normally regulate their populations.

What Is An Exotic Species?

An organism is considered exotic (alien, foreign, non-indigenous, nonnative) when it has been introduced by humans to a location outside its native or natural range. This designation applies to a species introduced from another continent, ecosystem, and even another habitat within an ecosystem. For example, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), a tree native to the southern Appalachian region and portions of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, was planted throughout the U.S. for living fences, erosion control, etc. for many years. Black locust is considered exotic outside its natural native range because it got there by human introduction rather than by natural dispersal. There are many other such examples throughout our country.

European settlers brought hundreds of plants to North America from their home lands for use as food and medicine, for ornamental, sentimental and other purposes. Introductions of exotic plants continue today and are greatly increasing due to a large and ever-expanding human population, increased international travel and trade, and other factors.

What Makes An Exotic Species Invasive?

Many nonnative species exist in apparent harmony in environments where they were introduced. For example, a relatively small number of exotic plants (e.g., corn, wheat, rice, oats) form the basis of our agricultural industry and pose little to no known threat to our natural ecosystems. The most important aspect of an alien plant is how it responds to a new environment. An invasive species is one that displays rapid growth and spread, establishes over large areas, and persists. Invasiveness is characterized by robust vegetative growth, high reproductive rate, abundant seed production, high seed germination rate, and longevity. Some native plants exhibit invasive tendencies in certain situations.

How Many Plants Are Invasive?

According to the Plant Conservation Alliance’s Alien Plant Working Group, about 1,100 plant species have been reported as being invasive in natural areas in the United States. This number represents an astonishing 1/3 or so of the exotic plant species established and self-reproducing in the wild. Some invasive species were planted intentionally for erosion control, livestock, grazing, wildlife habitat enhancement, and ornamental purposes. Others have escaped from arboretums, botanical gardens, and our own backyards. Free from the complex array of natural controls present in their native lands, including herbivores, parasites, and diseases, exotic plants may experience rapid and unrestricted growth in novel environments.

How Bad Are Invasive Species?

Invasive species impact native plants, animals, and natural ecosystems by reducing biodiversity, altering hydrologic conditions and soil characteristics, interfering with natural succession, competing for pollinators, displacing rare plant species, serving as reservoirs of plant pathogens, replacing complex communities with single species monocultures, and diluting the genetic composition of native species through hybridization.

Manitowoc County Master Gardeners
Manitowoc County UW-Extension
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Manitowoc WI 54220

**Wildflowers making lavish scatter rugs throughout the
woodlands -- Karl Maslowski**

**“Flowers leave some of their fragrance in the hand that
bestows them.”**

Chinese Proverb