

August 2020 Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



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The Extension Master Gardener Program educates, empowers, and supports volunteers to use University research-based info to extend the Wisconsin idea, making a positive difference in lives and communities.

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Important Websites for MGVs:

<http://wimastergardener.org>

<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu>

<https://www.wpr.org/programs/garden-talk>

<https://www.wimga.org/>

<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectlab/>

<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>

<http://grantcountymastergardeners.wisc.edu/online-reporting---forms-->

Friday mornings are **Wisconsin Horticulture Updates** from around the State.

A good question popped up about watering.

If you are catching water in buckets or an open container, do not water veggies with the water. The reason being, critters can get into them and contaminate it, bird poop in it even if their aim is perfect as they fly over, dead animals may be found the next morning in them. And who knows what is on the roof of your house running into them. Put a lid of some kind on the vessel. Always wash your fruit and veggies. You can water your flower beds and scrubs with this water.

Stalk Borer-zinnias and everything else, this bug has no borders. When you see the tops of your plants droop over and see a small hole, there is a caterpillar that burrowed inside. Sad to say, there is nothing you can do but throw it out. Keep an eye on your plants for the caterpillar.



July is Smart Irrigation Month!

With all the hot dry weather, many gardeners are thinking about watering plants... a lot. Check out these resources from our outreach partners at the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture. July is Smart Irrigation Month!



<https://consumerhort.org/july-is-smart-irrigation-month/>



Summer Care For Your Water Garden



by [Melinda Myers](#)

Your water garden is flourishing – maybe a bit too much. Now is a good time to tame those aggressive plants and eliminate any unwanted or invasive plants that are crowding out their neighbors. Managing these now will allow your desirable plants to flourish.

Remove a portion of aggressive plants that are taking up more than their fair share of space in your water garden. And if this is an annual problem, consider

removing it and replacing it with something more suitable.

While you are weeding out unwanted plants, check for any [invasive plants](#) that may have found their way into your ponds and water gardens. Invasive plants may look beautiful, but they can escape your garden and wreak havoc on native plants in our lakes and waterways. Watch our [Summer Care for Water Gardens video](#) with more information.

If you discover an invasive species, especially one prohibited by the WI Invasive Species Rule NR40, in your pond or nearby waterway, let the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources know so they can advise on how to contain and manage the problem. And if you are interested in volunteering to help control these unwanted plants email DNRAInfo@wisconsin.gov for help finding a local organization to assist.

Don't share or set aggressive or invasive plants free in wetlands, lakes and streams. These nonnative plants crowd out our native plants and disrupt the balance in our waterways. This impacts the health and well-being of aquatic habitats and the fish, birds and insects that depend upon them.

Instead, remove the plants, seal in a plastic bag, label as Invasive, approved by WDNR for landfill and place in the trash. Do not compost these plants as most of our compost piles do not heat up enough to kill the plants and their seeds.

A bit of summer cleanup will help keep your water gardens healthy and looking their best. And properly managing aggressive and invasive plants helps protect our lakes and waterways. Together we can make a difference.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous books, including [Small Space Gardening](#). She hosts The Great Courses "[How to Grow Anything](#)" DVD series and the nationally syndicated [Melinda's Garden Moment](#) TV & radio program. Myers web site is www.MelindaMyers.com (photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com.)



This year's **Plant Sale** will be an online/email sale. A master list of plants available and how to reserve plants will be emailed to past customers and possibly posted on Facebook or our website. The Sept. 5 date will be the curbside pickup date at our usual spot at the fairgrounds. People will not be able to browse the plants, only drive up and have loaded what they ordered in to their cars. This is per Fairgrounds management. We could use a couple volunteers to help sort orders and load cars that day. If you can help, please contact Wendy (wendyj18@lagrant.net or 608-732-3893) for more info.

DATCP Guidance on Unsolicited Seed Packages

Release Date: July 28, 2020

Media Contact: Grace Atherton, Communications Director, (608) 224-5020,
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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has been notified that some Wisconsin residents have received unsolicited packages in the mail containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are currently unknown and may contain invasive plant species. Similar packages have been received in other locations across the United States.

If you receive a package of this type:

- 1) Do not plant or throw away the seeds.
- 2) If the seeds are in sealed packaging, do not open the sealed package. If possible, retain the original packaging. It may be useful as we investigate this issue.
- 3) Please report the seeds to DATCP using this [online form](#).

After filling out the online form, please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until DATCP or APHIS contacts you with further instructions.

All foreign seeds shipped to the United States should have a phytosanitary certificate which guarantees the seeds meet import requirements. Unsolicited seeds could be invasive species, contain noxious weeds, could introduce diseases to local plants, or could be harmful to livestock. Invasive species and noxious weeds can displace native plants and increase costs of food production.

DATCP works closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to prevent the introduction of invasive species and protect Wisconsin's diverse agricultural industry.

For continued updates and information on this issue, please visit DATCP's website.

COORDINATOR UPDATE FROM JULY 2020 MEETING

Covid-19 Update: and Volunteer Training

Moving forward, all volunteers are required to watch a [training video](#) prior to returning to approved volunteer activities. It can count as 0.5 Continuing Education in the ORS. We realize some volunteers may have already started volunteering at approved no-contact projects. Please share this with your volunteers. All MGVs should watch the training video even if they have already started volunteering and any MG who will be starting to volunteer in the near future should watch the video prior to volunteering.

Projects still must complete the approval process. Watching this video does not circumvent that requirement.

Visit [the COVID-19 section of the MG website](#) for:

- Information on suspension of training and volunteer hours for 2020.
- Information on no-contact project approval process
- Training video

Foundations in Horticulture:

You can [read the new FAQ](#) for **Foundations in Horticulture** and MG certification. The MG steering committee wrote this document following July's Coordinator Discussion. This begins to address the questions and comments that were brought up during the meeting and in later discussions. This is a living document and will continue to be updated as questions arise and guidelines are set.

<http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/coordinator-update-info.html>



Six Rivers Food Pantry

In February 2020, Donna Peterson, UW-Extension Coordinator for Food-Wise programs, met with a small group of volunteers and the director of the Six Rivers Food Pantry in Cassville, Wisconsin. The process to apply for funding to build and begin a raised bed garden on the grounds of the building where the food pantry is in Cassville were discussed. The Six Rivers Food Pantry is located on one side of a building owned by the Village of Cassville, and the other side is used by a nurse practitioner from Grant County Clinic. The group was given a tour of the food pantry products that are available there.

Donna Peterson explained the process to apply for a grant to initiate a raised bed on the grounds of the facility. Grant funds could be used for lumber to construct the bed, soil, plants, and/or equipment for watering and weeding. One of the requirements is a Master Gardener is required to serve on the committee helping gather costs for the grant and implementation if funds are received. Connie Larson, member of Grant Country Master Gardeners volunteered to research costs of material and submit the grant proposal to Donna Peterson. A staff member from Six Rivers Karen Bryant also would help with the process. Grant application was submitted in March which was also the time the COVID-19 virus closed schools, changed lives, and the grant process came to a halt.

In June Donna notified the Six Rivers Food Pantry that it would receive some grants toward building the raised bed which would be 4' by 8'. A hose and storage box could also be purchased as well as plants and soil. However, any hand tools because they might be used by more than one person were not eligible for purchase. Connie Larson contacted Great River Hardware Hank store in Cassville with a list and the cost of items that could be purchased through the hardware store. With the help of Mike Shields who ordered the lumber and had some of the other materials on hand. However, the one problem was that it was to be cedar lumber which would be shipped from logging companies in the West. Those companies had also decreased production and many places were experiencing lumber shortages also. Seems like there was a surge in gardening projects which is great!

Toward the end of July materials came. They were delivered to Connie Larson in Cassville whose husband graciously cut the wood, took it to the garden spot, and built the bed. Much appreciated were also some vegetable plants donated by Sugar and Spice of Fennimore, Wisconsin. Other plants were obtained by Connie Larson. The plants are in even though it was late in the season, but there will be an opportunity to plant some cool weather vegetables.

All things considered as the saying goes, thanks to Donna Peterson, Connie and Brian Larson, and Karen Bryant who have donated their time and energies to this project.



Platteville Regional Chambers 23rd Annual Hometown Festival Week Party in the Park a “Salute to our Volunteers”

The Grant County Master Gardener Volunteers has two special members that were honored that night for their part in the community. Our “Volunteers of the Year” are Julie Pluemer and Wendy Johnson.

Julie Pluemer is a 16 year of service as a volunteer. When Katie’s Garden started, Julie took on the treasures position for the gardens and volunteered to care and plant on to the largest beds. Over the past 16 years, she has given generously of her time, skills, and knowledge as a Master Gardener. She has pitched in and helped wherever and whenever needed. This included cleaning up and mulching a neglected bed so it would be ready for our newest Master Gardener interns to take over.



Friends of the Mining and Roll Jamison Museums of Platteville Wisconsin has named Grant County Master Gardener

Volunteer Wendy Johnson. Wendy has put in more than 50 hours of planning and planting and a continuing commitment to helping to maintain the Museum Terrace Gardens as the technical and creative mind behind the Gail E. and Wesley E. Kopp Memorial Pollinator Garden at The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. When contacted by Museum Director Erik Flesch, Wendy agreed to take on designing the pollinator garden for the Museum Terrace Garden space. She tested the soil, researched plants, and designed the gardens with attention to color coordination, three season beauty, pollinator benefits, and compatibility with the surrounding environment in mind. Wendy was also instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Grant County Master Gardeners to help pay for the plants. She provided coordination and guidance for volunteers on planting days in May and June 2019 and again in June 2020 when the garden was extended along Virgin Avenue. Since planting, she has continued to monitor the gardens and provide guidance to the Museums’ weekly Wednesday afternoon Green Team volunteers. Wendy has been instrumental in beautifying the Museum campus and her expertise and commitment are a true gift to the Museums. The Museum was happy to recognize Wendy as volunteer of the year.

Grant County Master Gardener Volunteers are very proud to have these two women as part of our group. Congratulations to you both for your fine work.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Amanda Cauffman, Grant County
Agricultural Educator, MGV mentor**

*Submitted by Shirley Audetat
Myleen, Editor*