**Planning a Successful Plant Sale**

 Let’s make this year’s plant sale the best! You can help by gathering plants from friends, families and your own gardens. Our goal is to have every MGV donate healthy, sellable plants. Members are willing to help you dig and plant if the task seems overwhelming to you. To prevent the Jumping Worm from spreading we ask you take these precautions: wash off the roots of plants and place in potting soil only! Do not donate plants if you have spotted Jumping Worms in your yard during last year’s growing season. For your convenience, we will be distributing plant labels.

**Potting**

Pot the plants early enough so they become established. Usually two weeks ahead is plenty of time. Clean the inside and outside of your pots. Use soil free of bugs, worms and debris. Remember to wipe the pots clean after filling them. Place your pots in a protected area and keep watered before the sale. Do not use reused pots for tender annuals such as tomatoes. Instead, use disposal cups. The plastic absorbs bacteria from previous plants. Match pot to the plant size. Blooming plants sell well. If you raise plants to sell, begin these in March. Vegetables plants should be tall enough for transplanting in the garden.

**Labeling**

For consistency, use the labels we made up for guidance. They can be found on the website to print. Over the years we have found the more information you include about your plant, the better they sell. Pictures are great! Labels need to be visible and easy to read. Attach them securely to your plant. Look online or in seed catalogues if you need more plant information. **Please have plants labeled before** **arriving to the sale set up.**

**Examples of information you can include on your label:**

***1. Common Name*** *This is what the plant is generally called.* ***Add the color here*** *and* ***a picture*** *of the plant blooming if you can. Use old seed catalogues for this or online plant data bases.*

 ***2. Scientific Name*** *Every plant has a scientific name. The first part is Latin and usually italicized on the tag. It describes the genus, or group, the plant belongs to and its species. The scientific name also includes the cultivar, which is in single quote marks and classifies the plant even further in terms of color and leaf and petal shape.*

***3. Mature Height and Spread*** *This is the maximum height and width the plant is likely to reach when fully grown. Include the* ***bloom time****.*

***4. Hardiness Zone*** *These numbers let you know the region a plant grows best in. Zones are established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture based on temperatures.*

***5. Sun Exposure*** *When a tag indicates a plant needs full sun, it should get at least six hours of direct sunlight per day. Partial sun/shade, means it needs about half that amount. If a tag says a plant needs full shade, it should get less than three hours of sun per day.*

***6. Water Needs and Animal Resistance*** *Optional Information*

**Bulbs**

Remember to use brown lunch bags or netted bags for air circulation when packaging. Bulbs planted in a container or a window box appeal to buyers.

**Shrubs**

These need to be potted or at least bound with material that will hold in the dirt and be easy to lift for transport.

**Natives**

### We can only accept non-invasive native plants. Butterfly and Bee pollinators sell well. Go to a listing of invasive Wisconsin plants here dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives.

**Hostas**

The unusual size and colored Hostas sell well rather than common ones.

**Other types** of plants that sell include; vines, ground cover, woodland, miniature, succulents

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