

September 2021 Quarterly Newsletter Grant County Master Gardeners



Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2021

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.

2020-2021 Officers

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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/>

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/report-your-hours/>

Aronia by Marsha Schneider

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple!

Aronia Melanocarpa, also known as the black chokeberry, is a deciduous shrub native to North America. The intense violet-black colored berries are similar to the blueberry in size.

Aronia berries are extremely high in antioxidants. They have the highest concentrations of anthocyanin (pigments), and are very high in proanthocyanidins (tannins), and many other polyphenols. Scientific research gives evidence of strong anti-inflammatory properties which may be the reason for their health promoting benefits.



I planted my first Aronia bush in the spring of 2016. It was a 3 year specimen of the Viking variety. It grew strong and independent, no intervention! That fall I harvested approximately a quart of berries. Thrilled with the beauty of the plant, low maintenance, and delicious, healthy fruit, I decided to add 2 more plants the next spring. These were 2 year plants. Beauty in 3's, gracing the SW corner of my courtyard garden. A backdrop of a naturally weathering wood fence allows for good circulation & protection.

Fast forward to 2021. After a couple of challenging years of battling Japanese





beetles and aphids I decided that my craving for Aronia would put me in a proactive mode. With vigilant surveillance, a bit of intervention and a lovely tent of tulle netting, all 3 plants have grown in stature to nearly 5' and early in August I yielded approximately 4 quarts of berries.

I was reminded by my friend, grower and author, Roberta Barham, of her recipe for Aronia Rhubarb Jam, found in the 2015 edition of Midwest Aronia Association's (MAA) "Aronia Berry Recipes".

My rhubarb was still wonderfully viable and my pantry shelves are now stocked. Remaining berries were simply put in quart freezer bags and froze for muffins, dessert & hot cereal.

Inside and out! In good health, I shall wear purple now and always!

Aronia Rhubarb Jam by Roberta Barham

- 5 C chopped Aronia Berries
- 5 C Rhubarb (diced)
- 4 ½ C Sugar (less if desired)
- 1 Box low sugar pectin or no-sugar pectin

Chop berries. Mix pectin with ¼ C sugar. Stir into fruit. Bring mixture to a rolling boil (that doesn't stop bubbling when stirred) on high heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim off any foam with a metal spoon.

Ladle immediately into sterilized jars, filling to within ¼" from top. Wipe jar rims and threads. Cover, bring to a gentle boil and process 10 minutes.

Remove jars and cool on a towel or rack. After cooled, check seals and store. Unsealed jars should be refrigerated.





When I Am An Old Woman I shall Wear Purple

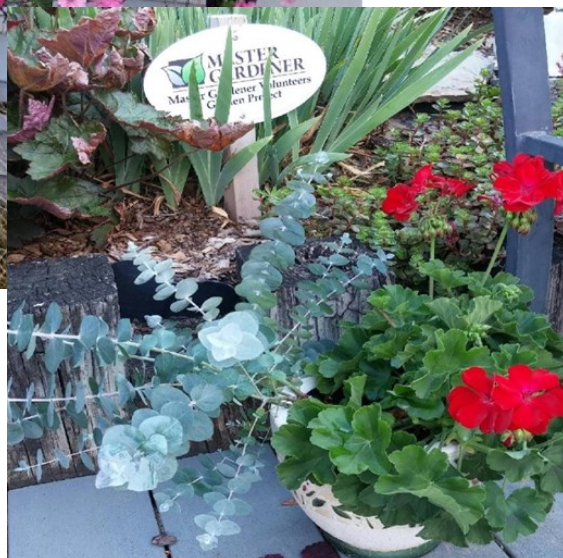
When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.
But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

Acknowledgement:

© Jenny Joseph, *SELECTED POEMS*, Bloodaxe 1992.

Grab A Cone

Come along on a tour at Grab A Cone in Montfort. The annuals were tucked in their pots & planters right before Memorial Weekend and the flower bed on the hill was starting to wake up. Some of the perennials got nipped by the late freeze but proved to be WI hardy.



The spring colors were beautiful in the flower bed which received some leaf compost and mulch this year. Both are good soil amendments and weed management especially on a slope.



By mid-summer the flower bed had changed its look with some visible damage to hostas and blooming Common Milkweed. Leaving the milkweed growing around the edges certainly turned some heads however made for great conversation about Monarch Butterflies.



The Monarch caterpillars were scarce this year which may be an indication of weather changes and habitat loss.

WIMGA

Here is your chance for fame! WIMGA is seeking newsletter content from Master Gardeners of interesting information or photos. The newsletter is published 6 times per year with the next one in September. Send your news along with photos to Sandy Vold, phone at 608-391-0494 or by email at ksclearcreekretreat@gmail.com and she will be happy to work with you on a write up. I believe she wrote about the project with Chris and the Doll Museum with Marsha. I think there are more projects out there that are worthy. It is time for Grant county to get in the newsletter-Karin WIMGA Representative

Alert, new postings on the GCMGA website:

Photos from Chris Swan <http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/whats-happening-in-members-gardens.html>,


More information and links to the revised onboarding process http://grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/1/3/12130627/mgv_press_release.docx.pdf & Foundations in Horticulture <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/foundations-in-horticulture/> through the UW-Madison Extension.


Do you know someone interested in horticulture or becoming a Master Gardener volunteer?


How to Become an Extension Volunteer in the Master Gardener Program

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/get-started/>


#1. Learn
Choose how you learn best!



In-person classes



Foundations in Horticulture Online


Transfer from another state.


#2. Accomplish



The orientation to the Extension Master Gardener Program



Enrollment into the Master Gardener Program
Includes: Criminal Background Check and other conditions of volunteer service agreements.


Entrance exam
Must score 70% or better


#3. Do
each year



Volunteer
A minimum of 24 hours on approved projects



Keep learning
A minimum of 10 hours continuing education


Enter your hours
Show how volunteering can make a difference by entering your efforts into our online system

#4. Make a Difference


Increase the knowledge of gardening in yourself and others


Use plants to improve lives and communities


Make the world better

All icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

Don't forget to request or activate your NetID account to be able to access Canvas.

NetID: Request to Resend

Thank you for your patience in getting your NetID to access our online classroom. If you have not yet activated your netID for our Canvas classroom, please use the button, below, to start the process.

[Request netID](#)

Tips for Getting the Email:

- Please check your junk or spam folder.
- Make sure your email will accept an email from “ svc-spworkflows@extension.wisc.edu.” with the subject line, “UW-Madison: Access Your Online Course Site”

Activating Your NetID (Once you have the email)

- **Instructions for activating your NetID are posted on the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website.** Please read and/or watch what is provided on this page: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/16/using-canvas/>
- **Pay particular attention to the part about "if you already have a NetID".** If you were in a previous UW-Madison Canvas course, or already associated with the campus, you may encounter a problem.

Logging Into Canvas

- Once your NetID is activated, you can log into our course at: <https://canvas.wisc.edu/>.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** When you get your NetID it will look like an email address (for example, rmmaddox@wisc.edu). When you log into Canvas, **you only need the first part.** (For example, only use rmmaddox to log into Canvas. Don't type the [@wisc.edu](mailto:rmmaddox@wisc.edu).)

Need Help? Troubleshoot with DoIT

If you have any difficulty in activating your NetID or logging into Canvas, please contact our friends at the DoIT Help Desk, **let them know you are a Lifelong Learner (L3)**, and they will help troubleshoot any problem you may have with logging in! DoIT Help Desk contact info: <https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=1>

Future GCMGV Meetings

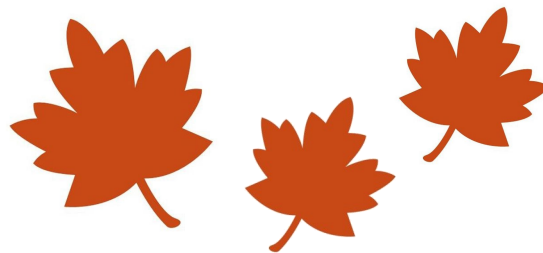
Thursday September 16, 6:30pm. Presentation by Tristan of Martin's Microgreens. Meet at the SunGarden Greenhouse in Lancaster. Business meeting to follow at the Youth & Ag Building in the North Room. Masks required.



<https://www.facebook.com/martinsmicrogreens/>

Thursday October 21, 6:30pm. Tour and presentation by Dr. Reddy of the UW-Platteville Greenhouse located in the Glenview Commons on campus. Masks are required in buildings per university policy. Business meeting to follow.

Thursday November 18, 6:30pm. No program, meeting to include elections and possible potluck.



Congratulations!

Kathy Kubitz and Betty Smith, Master Gardeners from Grant County, were awarded a Platteville Regional Volunteer Award for 2021 for their countless hours spent beautifying Katie's Garden.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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

Myleen, Editor