



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

 Extension Sheboygan County
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Sheboygan County Master Gardener



Message from the Board

SHOW US YOUR POLLINATORS...

...AND THEIR HABITATS

We have all been hearing and reading an awful lot about the plight of our pollinators--bees, of course—but also wasps, and flies and other insects that are crucial to pollinating our fruit, vegetable and nut crops. You can read more about the issue at the UW's [Wisconsin Pollinators](#).

The Board of Sheboygan County Master Gardeners would like to challenge all our members to submit pictures of their pollinator habitats and/or the pollinators that visit them.

We would love for everyone to participate so that we can challenge other Master Gardener County groups. Our goal is to challenge every county in Wisconsin to SHOW US YOUR POLLINATORS.

We'd really love it if you took a selfie with your pollinators, or just a photo of your pollinators. Your pollinators may be in a basket or a garden bed, in pots or the lawn, in an old boot or the back forty or your project garden. Your pollinators may be bees, wasps, flies, birds, bats or whatever is pollinating your garden.

We are still working out how we will share this with you; but it will probably include some combination of all member emails, the fall and winter newsletters, and our Facebook page. So, grab your camera or selfie stick and get out into your pollinator habitat, and snap away. Send your photos and a brief description of how you are helping pollinators to: pollinatorschallengesmg@yahoo.com.

In addition to highlighting the importance of creating a habitat that is inviting and safe for pollinators, we hope



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2021

**June 14 - Master Gardener Board Meeting,
6:00 pm, UW-Extension Office - Room 5020**

**More continuing education opportunities
on age 3**

this is a way for our members to reconnect with each other after a year of social distancing, mask wearing and zoom lectures. We are all looking forward to the day we will be able to meet again in person.



To get us started, here is a photo from President Marty Steinbruecker.

Marty has a high tunnel and low tunnel in which she plants kale in late July and early

August. She covers the tunnel with clear greenhouse plastic in November when we have consistently freezing temperatures. Marty harvests her kale through the winter and in February as the days get longer it starts to grow quickly. The plastic is removed by mid-March as it gets too hot inside. The plants flower in early May and she leaves some for the pollinators. Kale often overwinters even when not covered. Try it. Or give it a double layer of row cover and see what happens.

Mastering the Art of Ungardening

By Stephanie Larson, Master Gardener

Stephanie Larson has been a Master Gardener since 2016. She is chair of the Camp Y-Koda project, works on the Kohler Andrae State Park project and will be taking on responsibility for the Newsletter. Here she describes her garden challenges.

A few years ago, I explained what I was doing on our east bank and lawn to a friend, he told me I was an *ungardener* and leader of the movement – in our little universe of a neighborhood. To be honest, I wasn't sure I should embrace the title. After all, I was a Master Gardener, shouldn't I be creating living master pieces and not rewilding?

I researched the word ungardener and learned I was not alone in my plight. I'm not sure how my neighbors really feel about it but as my friend said, when I asked him, "In the land of the blind the one-eyed wo/man is king." Hm, let me ponder that one.

What is rewilding/ungardening? According to the World Wildlife Fund, *Rewilding aims to restore natural processes to landscapes that have been degraded by humans. With its 'nature knows best' philosophy, rewilding distinguishes itself from other ecological restoration approaches, advocating for as little human interference in natural ecological processes as possible. However, that is not to say that rewilders are averse to offering nature a helping hand.*

Let me underscore the last sentence, rewilders/ungardeners are not taking the lazy approach to gardening. In fact, my projects are more time consuming as I get the area primed for 'letting go' than I ever spent trying to tame and/or change mother nature's intentions.

My ungardening project began about three years ago. I noticed that for the third time grubs had destroyed several areas of our lawn, but the milkweed flourished. The monarch butterflies were regular visitors and hunting for caterpillars became one of our favorite evening activities. My husband and I started mowing around



the milkweed. It was not the most attractive looking lawn from the manicured gardener's viewpoint, and mowing took a lot longer, but we enjoyed the rewards. Next, I began clearing the grub damaged lawn areas and replaced the sod with prairie flowers. I read about turning our lawn into a prairie and identified indigenous plants for dry (sandy) soil. Each year these 'kidney bean' prairie patches become more interesting and require the use of my hori hori knife (my new best friend in the garden) to help expand their boundaries.



In the spring of 2019, we had a serious erosion issue which, after the grading and rock reinforcement was completed, we needed to seed the embankment with a recommended prairie mix (for dry soil) from Prairie Nursery. This spring I added plants to the seeded area (to have a little more instant gratification as the seeds continue mature). While the erosion issue was a serious problem, we made the best of it and look forward to our expanded prairie.

Being an ungardener seems to be a life-long learning experience that rewards hard work with endless benefits. The joy of making a haven for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and whatever else flies in for nourishment is worth every callus!

I understand, the prairie look is not for everyone, but it makes me happy to see my yard slowly but surely becoming every bit as beautiful as a Monet painting – a prairie that offers nature a helping hand!



Continuing Education

By Sue Mathews

There have been a lot of changes in the Master Gardener Program in the past year and some of the biggest are to the continuing education component of the Program. The UW Extension is centralizing all its continuing education opportunities on their **Canvas Classroom**. If you have missed signing up for a Net ID which will give you access to the Canvas Classroom, below is the message sent by UW-Ex on how to get a Net ID.

Get Your NetID...

Are you still looking for your new NetID to log into our Canvas Classroom? If you need your NetID, email Mike Maddox in the MGP state office (mike.maddox@wisc.edu), give him your first and last name, and he will resend it to you. Anyone enrolled by March 31 was sent one in early April, but many were missed or deleted. No worries, just follow up with Mike.

Once you get your NetID email, follow the instructions posted on our website <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/16/using-canvas/>.

If you have any problems, please contact the Dolt [sic] Help Desk (<https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=1>), **tell them you're an L3 (Lifelong Learner) with Extension** and they'll get you all set up.

What's in Canvas?

- New Onboarding-Lite course: Highly recommended that you complete it this year. You can claim 10 hours of continuing education even though it will not take you that long.
- Plants-Plus
- WiBee Statewide Projects instructions and many other continuing education opportunities.

We'll also put the new Volunteer Vibes and continuing education modules there as they become available. It will be your one-stop-shop for all your learning!

Summer Zoom Programs

There are two upcoming Zoom programs sponsored by UW Extension.

June 7...*New and Emerging Plant Diseases* (Brian Hudleson UW-Madison Plant Disease Specialist)

June 17...*Insect Pest Management in Small Gardens* (PJ Liesch UW-Extension Entomology Specialist)

Check the [UW-Extension Event site](#) to sign up for either of those zoom workshops and to learn about future programs.

Using Educational Media

In the past I have recommended that volunteers read books or magazines, view videos or listen to podcasts that focus on their garden interests. That is no longer an approved way to gain continuing education hours. You can still read and view and listen to garden media, but that media begins with a list that has been approved by a UW-Extension. [The Approved Media List is here](#) and volunteers can make suggestions for additions to the list.

You can find the [Wisconsin Master Gardener Continuing Education policy here](#). In it you will find how to determine if media and programming not on the list is acceptable for continuing education credit. The main criteria are that media and programming be research based **or** support or improve your ability to serve as a Master Gardener Volunteer **and** align with the Master Gardener Program scope and scientific literacy guidance.



Tidbits from My Reading

By Sue Mathews

The Ants Go Marching

Horticulture, May/June 2021

Maybe it's time to rethink our response to ant nests in our gardens and lawns. Ants make many chambered nests with connecting tunnels in garden soil. The resultant loosening of soil increases water infiltration and soil aeration. Dead and decaying material added to the nest contributes organic matter to the soil. Bacteria present in an ant's gut helps it to fix atmospheric nitrogen. During nest building these gut bacteria are transferred to the soil, making it even richer in nitrogen. Increased microbial activity adds nutrient content useful to plant growth. And ants also maintain the neutral pH of soil by altering the soil chemically. Wow...that's a lot of good from a tiny bug.

Grow Bag Gardening: The Revolutionary Way to Grow Beautiful Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits, and Flowers in Lightweight Eco-Friendly Fabric Pots. 2021. Kevin Espiritu.

There are many benefits and a few drawbacks to growing plants in a bag. One benefit you may never have heard of is AIR PRUNING. Root circling is a curse of container gardening. The plant is root bound as roots tightly encircle the entire plant. It can be somewhat corrected by drastically chopping off the roots at the bottom and sides of the root ball at transplanting time. When a plant's roots reach the edge of a hard-sided pot, it hits a pocket of nutrient rich water and continues to grow...around and around the pot.

But root-binding is never a problem in grow bags. When roots reach the side of a grow bag, they contact an air rich environment that is low in water and nutrients and the tip of the root dies. This signals the plant to produce more roots elsewhere in the root system creating a well-branched root structure with more surface area and access to oxygen, water and nutrients.

Commercial grow bags are a bit pricey since they need to be replaced after a few growing seasons, but you can substitute found items such as burlap bags, growing mix bags, or reusable grocery bags. It's also possible to cheaply and easily sew your own grow bags from landscape fabric. Check out [You Tube](#) for instructions.

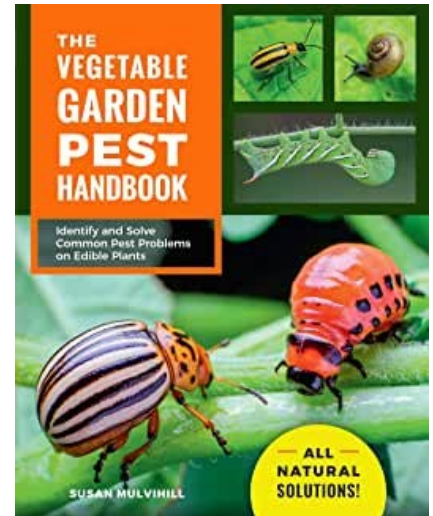
Grow bags are ideal for gardening on balconies and in other tight spaces and add some variety and pizzazz to a typical garden.

The Vegetable Garden Pest Handbook: Identify and Solve Common Pest Problems on Edible Plants (All Natural Solutions) 2021. Susan Mulvihill.

"Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a systematic approach of choosing the most environmentally friendly method of handling pest problems." The final control option is using synthetic chemical pesticides.

- Identify the bug.
This is the most important step to take before deciding to take action.
- Decide your bug tolerance. How damaging will they be?
- Follow good cultural practices.
 - Choose the best location for your plant.
 - Know your region's growing conditions.
 - Take care of your soil.
 - Water efficiently.
 - Choose resistant varieties.
 - Give your plants room.
 - Keep a garden journal.
 - Practice crop rotation.
- Keep up with weeding.
- Clear away garden debris.
- Attract pollinators and other beneficials.
- Attract birds to your garden.

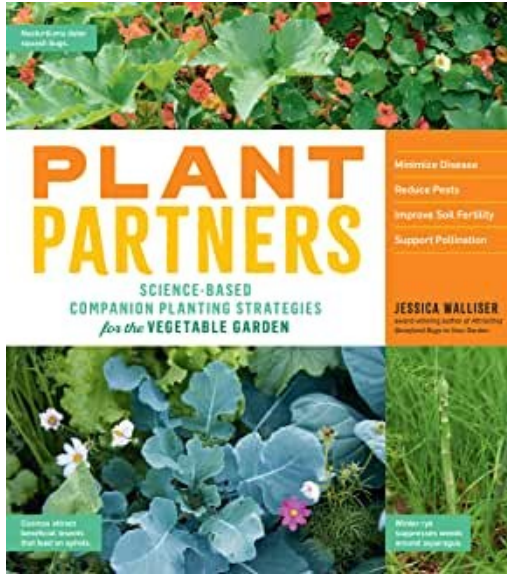
If you do all these things and still have pests (and you will) this book will help you identify the most common pests based on the damage they do and their physical appearance. Then it will show you the most effective organic pest-control products to minimize damage while preserving pollinators and other beneficial insects. Step-by-step DIY pest control projects round out the strategies available to gardeners in this very useful book.



Companion Plantings that Really Work.

Garden Gate, June 2021

There are a lot of old wives tales about what plants work for each other when planted together, but most have little scientific basis. The new book, **Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden** (2020. Jessica Walliser) has a lot of research to back up its recommendations. Here are a few:



- To lure away pests...
...Plant **lettuce and sweet alyssum** for aphid control
...**Eggplant and dill** to battle Colorado potato beetles
- To provide support...
...**Gherkin cucumbers** can grow up the 8 ft tall **Kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate**
...**Mini pumpkins** use tall, sturdy **sunflowers** as trellis
- Combat weeds...
...**Winter rye** keeps down weeds in the **asparagus**
...Plant **crimson clover** under your **cabbage** to form a thick weed-suppressing mat



Easy Elegance Music Box

Fine A.R.T.S....excellent roses for our varied climates.

Horticulture, May/June 2021

Choosing a rose for your garden can be difficult given the dizzying array of choices and, often, a lingering fear that plants will require regular application of chemical sprays. The **American Rose Trials for Sustainability** set out to evaluate excellent roses for our varied climates, seeks a "truly healthy rose that provided ornamental appeal throughout the growing season and was not chemically dependent."

We happen to live right on the line that separates two regions which gives us many great selections.

Dfa- Humid Continental (warm summer) climate

Dfb- Humid Continental (cool summer) climate

I have included selections for both regions here.

Double Knock Out (Dfa)...deep red

Easy Does It (Dfa)...apricot pink

Easy Elegance Music Box (Dfb)...Yellow with pink tips

Easy Elegance Sunrise Sunset (Dfa)...fuchsia with apricot yellow center

Flower Carpet Pink Supreme (Dfa & Dfb)...vivid pink

Icecap (Dfa&Dfb)...pure white

Oso Easy Petit Pink (Dfa)...bubblegum pink

Petaluma Cover Town & Country (Dfb)...orange pink

Raspberry Kiss (Dfb)...soft pink with raspberry center

True Bloom True Passion (Dfa&Dfb)...orange red

Badger Note: One of the founders of the A.R.T.S. trials was Dr. David Zlesak, professor of horticulture at UW- River Falls.



Easy Elegance Sunrise Sunset

Master Gardeners and the Garden Walk

A few details regarding the 2021 Garden Walk....

The Garden Walk has not gone through the Extension MGVCovid approval process for 2021 and does not meet the Covid criteria established by UW-Madison for approved MGVCprojects. Since Sheboygan MGVCs are not listed as sponsors this year and because the Garden Walk does not meet the UW-Madison Covid criteria for MGVCprojects, volunteer time donated to work the Garden

Work would be considered personal volunteer time and not recorded as Sheboygan County MGVCvolunteer hours.

Thank you all for your patience this past year and for the many MGVChours of service despite needing to take precautions.

We hope to be back on track soon. Looks like we are getting closer.

Mike Ballweg



Sheboygan County Garden Walk

By Doris Weber

The annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk, sponsored by Ivy League Garden Club, Lake Shore Garden Club, and Town and County Garden Club will be held at Christopher Farm and Gardens on Saturday, July 10, 2021.

Christopher Farm is located at W580 Garton Road, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Christopher Farm and Gardens is a 500-acre property which includes a 40-acre botanical garden including many plants, trees, and shrubs. The highlight of the property is the extensive flower gardens, vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, walking paths, and stocked fishing ponds. With every twist and turn on the paths, there is something new to see.

This Garden Walk is a benefit for Bookworm Gardens and Maywood Environmental Park. To ensure the health and safety of our guests, we are offering three reservation

opportunities to stroll the gardens: 8 a.m. - 11:00 am; 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.; and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

To purchase tickets and view parking information go to <https://bit.ly/3cQH1o4> Tickets purchased at this site prior to the event cost: Adults \$20. Youth /Ages 12 - 17 \$10, under 12 Free Day of event tickets will be available for an increased ticket price: Adults \$30, Youth 12 - 17 \$15, Under 12 Free

Contact Person - Connie Worm 920-458-6556



Options for Membership in our Sheboygan County Master Gardener Organization

By Marty Steinbruecker

There are a number of ways you can be a member of the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers.

Certified Master Gardener Volunteer is a volunteer who is certified by the UW-Madison Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program and is in good standing.

Annual dues are \$20.00.

Requirements

- Completed MGV Certification Training
- Completed Criminal Background Check
- Completed Mandated Training Requirement
- Completed 24 hours of volunteer work and 10 hours of continuing education.

Inactive Master Gardener Volunteer is the category for Master Gardener Volunteers who have not completed their volunteer hours and education hours. This could be due to a number of events in a volunteer's life that prevents them from the ability to work on projects and/or continuing education.

Requirements:

- Completed MGV Certification Training
- Completed Criminal Background Check
- Completed Mandated Training Requirement

While able to join our local organization, participate in local events and receive digital communications, inactive members do not have voting rights until they complete the requirements for volunteer and education hours. Annual dues are \$20.00.

Honorary Life Member is a new category for our local chapter. There are two ways to qualify for this membership.

First Option

- Active membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 20 or more years.
- Provided outstanding service to the Master Gardener organization and the community.

Second Option

- Age 70 or more years.
- Maintained active membership as a Master Gardener Volunteer for 15 or more years.

If you meet the requirements of either option one or two, the next step is to complete the "Honorary Life Membership Application" on our Sheboygan County Master Gardener website. Send this to Tammy Zorn at the UW-Extension Office. The current board will review the application to determine if the applicant meets the criteria above and if a majority of board members agree, you achieve the Honorary Life Member designation.

Honorary Life Members only receive digital information from our local Sheboygan Master Gardener Volunteer Organization and can participate in education events and programs, but are not part of the state organization. As an Honorary Life Member, you do not have voting rights, but you can participate in projects when working in cooperation with Certified Master Gardener Volunteers. Annual dues are \$15.00.

I hope this helps to clarify the kinds of membership choices available for our Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Zorn or Marty Steinbruecker.