



Winnebago County



Issue 8

Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.



July 2015

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed., July 1 Garden Walk 6-7:30 PM
- July and August- Tuesdays at 1:00 Park View Cutting Garden
- Mon., July 29 Park View flower arranging

Items for the newsletter should be submitted by the 15th of the month

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Brussels Sprouts Taste Better Than You Think They Do

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Brussels sprouts are one of the most disliked vegetables, but that is due mostly to being boiled to the point of mush and then smothered in butter. There are more appetizing ways to prepare these mini-cabbages. I too hated Brussels sprouts until I bought some fresh at the Neenah Farmer's Market a couple years ago and ate them for a snack on the way home. They were delicious!

This year, I am growing them in my vegetable garden for the first time. I started seeds indoors in mid-April and planted the seedlings outdoors a month later. I also direct-seeded some into the garden in mid-May. To avoid pests and diseases, Brussels sprouts should not be planted in the same spot where cabbage, broccoli, turnips, kale or cauliflower have been planted in the last two years.

Outdoors, seeds are planted $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and about 18 inches apart. These are big plants. They look like miniature palm trees and the sprouts are like tiny cabbages that grow in the leaf axils along the trunk-like stem.

Brussels sprouts need 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches of water per week during the growing season. Well-drained soil that still retains some water is ideal. Digging organic compost into the soil before planting helps with water retention.

Brussels sprouts mature from the bottom up, and lower sprouts can be harvested when they are as small as marbles, or left to grow up to an inch in diameter if desired. Break off the leaf just below the sprout and then twist the sprout to remove it from the stem. The leafy plant tops are also edible and can be cooked as greens.

The variety I chose is 'Churchill' and its description is as follows: "Flavorful, medium-green, smooth sprouts are large and mature remarkably early . . . a vigorous, easy-to-grow variety for diverse climates."

To get a big harvest all at once, my seed packet says that to harvest a full stem of consistently-sized sprouts, the growing point at the top of the stem should be pinched off when lower sprouts are $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. Two to four weeks later, a full stem of uniformly sized sprouts will be ready for harvest.

Warm temperatures cause sprouts to be looser rather than held in tight balls and cause their mild flavor to become more intense. To help the plant deal with hot temps, place mulch around the stems to keep the soil uniformly cool. Brussels sprouts taste best when harvested after an autumn frost or two, but can be harvested continually throughout the summer as soon as they reach sufficient size.

Here is a cooking tip I found for boiling sprouts: Make a cross-shaped cut on the base of each sprout. This helps them to cook evenly into the middle without becoming overcooked to the point of mush on the outside. Another preparation method: lightly steam sprouts and then sauté them with bacon.

Give Brussels sprouts another try!

What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous perennial characterized by a distinct odor which some find unpleasant. I prefer full sun to part shade, soil that is moderately fertile and moist but well drained, and am hardy in zones 3-9. I grow to a height of 24-36 inches with a spread of 16-20 inches. My large 3-inch flowers bloom in early summer and my leaves are lustrous dark green with coarsely toothed margins. My blooms consist of petals (ray florets) around a center disk and will continue throughout fall with regular deadheading.

To propagate my plants, sow seeds in containers in a cold frame in autumn or spring. If seeding directly, blooms will occur the following spring after one season's growth. Plants in containers should be planted in spring while those in the garden can be divided in early spring or late summer. My features include being drought tolerant, attractive to birds and butterflies, and low maintenance. I am popular in the cutting garden, perennial borders and containers.



THE LATEST DIRT

Attention Master Gardeners:

We as a group want to continue to express concern and care for those in need within our organization. Please assist me in brightening our fellow gardener's day by sending information when you know that one of our members is ill, experienced a death or believe someone needs some words of encouragement. When I receive this important information I will send a card with a personal note to that person from Master Gardeners. We can all assist in bringing a ray of sunshine to all our members. Thank you!

Renee Donner/Sunshine

The news crew:

Editors: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Eric Kropp and Mary Jo Maher
Contributors: Lawanda Jungwirth, Jane Kuhn, Anne Murphy, Linda Loker, Lynne Slatt

Photographer: Nancy Karuhn

Volunteers Needed:**Park View Gardens**

Tuesdays at 1:00. Residents come outside to cut bouquets and vegetables samples. Please come earlier if you can help weed. Contact is Jane Kuhn

Neenah Park and Library:

We are short volunteers to deadhead and maintain the gardens. We are mainly looking for help on a team that works 4 hours one day of the month. Your time can be broken up within the week. If you can assist, please contact Mary Maher.

ANSWER TO WHAT AM I?

I am Shasta daisy. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae/Compositae – Aster family. Genus: Leucanthemum Mill. – daisy. Species: Leucanthemum x superbum – daisy. Common name: Shasta daisy. American horticulturist Luther Burbank originally produced this hybrid in 1890. It was named after Mount Shasta because its petals were the color of the snow.

**Garden Walk – 2 homes**

Wednesday, July 1st, 6 – 7:30 PM

Both live off of Leonard Point Road so you can visit either house first. They are very close together.

Petey Clark: 1680 Rasmussen Road, Oshkosh, WI 54904

Ruth Retzlaff: 1891 Scarlet Oak Trail, Oshkosh, WI 54904

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Garden Walk 6 -7:30 pm	2	3	4
5	6	7 Park View Cutting Garden	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Park View Cutting Garden	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Park View Cutting Garden	22	23	24	25
26	27 Park View Flowers	28 Park View Cutting Garden	29	30	31	

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29