



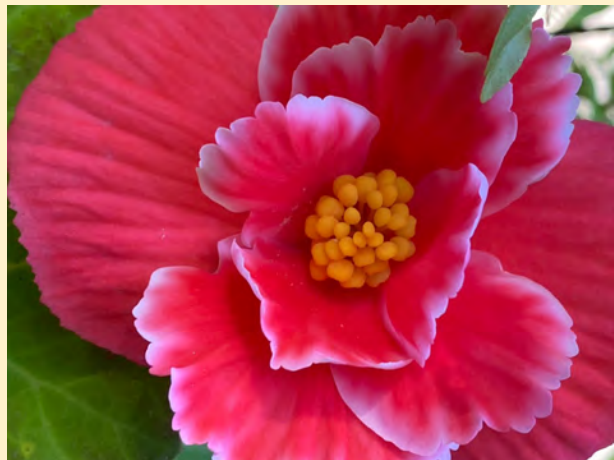
Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

September 2020

Mission Statement

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



Pink Begonia. Submitted by Kim Willman.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a native, perennial wildflower which grows to a height up to 12 inches and width up to 8 inches in zones 4-8. My plant consists of a basil rosette of leaves from which emerges one or more leafless stalks. Atop each stalk is a nodding flower with backward pointing petals which varies from white to deep pink with a yellow center and blooms from late spring to early summer. My plants go dormant and disappear by mid-summer. I prefer full sun or partial shade and sand, loam or clay soil that is evenly moist and well drained.

Propagation is by division with fall being the best time. Dig the mature crowns when dormant then divide and replant. These natives typically occur in open woods and glades, rocky-wooded slopes, bluff ledges, meadows and prairies. They are best grown in a native plant or wildflower garden, woodland garden, rock garden or naturalized area. Bumble bees are the chief pollinators as the pollen must be extracted from a narrow tube formed by the stamens. The bees accomplish this by vibrating their bodies against the tube to shake the pollen out, a technique known as buzz pollination.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Deby Voyles

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing in a future newsletter by writing an article or submitting a photo, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Thank you!

The Reporting Year is Changing!

We will operate on a calendar year, starting January 1, 2021.

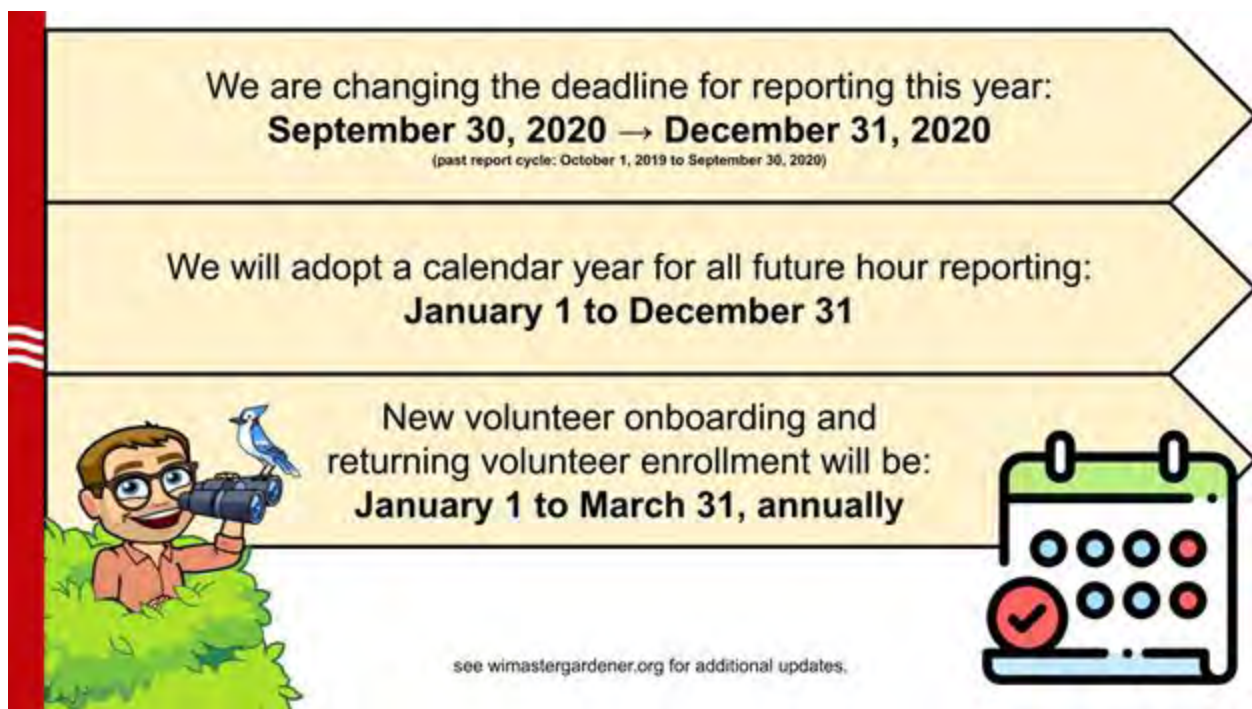
Traditionally the Master Gardener Program has used September 30 as a deadline for reporting and to allow us time to collect information for reporting. The Online Reporting System (ORS) has eliminated much of this need. In addition, this will be more inclusive to fall volunteer activities and reduces confusion by moving to the calendar year.

The deadline for completing all volunteer requirements will move from September 30 to December 31. That includes any hours you report for 2020 (you get three extra months).

Annual enrollment (you did this for the first time last January) for returning volunteers and the new onboarding for new volunteers will occur January 1 through March 31, each year.

Please see

<https://wimastergardener.org/2020/08/24/changes-to-wisconsin-master-gardener-programs/> for additional updates on changes to the Master Gardener Program.



We are changing the deadline for reporting this year:
September 30, 2020 → December 31, 2020
(past report cycle: October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020)

We will adopt a calendar year for all future hour reporting:
January 1 to December 31

New volunteer onboarding and
returning volunteer enrollment will be:
January 1 to March 31, annually

see wimastergardener.org for additional updates.

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

It is hard to believe that the first day of Autumn is approaching and COVID19 is an ever-present concern.

As preparation for finding speakers, we reviewed the Master Gardener Program guidance about scheduling speakers and wanted to share it with you.

First, speakers should be qualified to present on the topic, which means

- They use research-based information and present it in an objective manner or
- Has practiced in their field and have technical, artistic, or experiential knowledge

Second, speakers should present from an educational and neutral viewpoint, which means

- They should not be selling a good or service, advocating for a political or religious agenda, or using discriminatory language or content, and whether their general point of view aligns with the Master Gardener Program.

Speakers who do not meet the above requirements should not be engaged to speak for the Master Gardener Program.

For a complete review of speaker guidance and the continuing education policy, refer to: <https://wimastergardener.org/policies/> .

For a look ahead:

The board will continue meeting the first Tuesday of the month through the fall. The Business Meetings and continuing education presentations will occur the second Tuesday of the month during September, October, and November via Zoom. Watch for the email explaining how to access Zoom. Those members without the internet will be given information to attend via telephone. The educational presentations prior to the Business Meeting, include the following:

September 8: Brian Hudelson will discuss plant diseases

October 13: Mike Maddox will present on Teams: alignment, decisions, and relationships.

November 10: Anne Pearce, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator, will discuss invasive plants

Please stay safe and healthy.

Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Harvesting the Heavy-Hitters

By Lawanda Jungwirth

It's time to begin harvesting the heavy-hitters of the vegetable garden. Garlic, onions and potatoes will last throughout the coming winter and into next spring with proper curing and storage. They each need a slightly different curing strategy but none are difficult.

Garlic is ready to harvest when there are five green leaves remaining on the plant. Carefully dig down several inches away from the stem and lift the bulbs from the soil by gently pulling the stem upward. Rub the dirt from the roots and get the bulbs out of the sun immediately. Don't allow the sun to hit them for even 10 minutes as the shock of sudden sunlight and heat can cook the flesh inside the cloves turning it yellow and unsuitable for storage.

Keep garlic stems and roots intact for two to four weeks while curing the garlic in a place with good circulation and out of direct sun. A barn, shed or garage is good, as is a covered patio. After the curing period, cut the roots off and cut the stems about ½ inch above the head. Discard soft, damaged or diseased heads. Store the good ones in a cool, dry place with good air circulation.

Onions are ready to harvest a couple days after their tops fall over. If most but not all the tops have fallen, bend the rest over and harvest them in a day or two. Pull the onions from the ground and with stems intact, lay them out in the wind and sun for a couple days to cure. Next, cut the stems off and spread them out on a table under cover in an outdoor airy place. They can stay there until just before the first heavy frost when they should be brought indoors. Store them over winter in a cool, dry place.

Potatoes are ready to harvest when their tops die down. Likely that hasn't happened yet, but that doesn't mean you can't harvest some of them for earlier use. Carefully dig down, with your hands if possible, several inches from the stem and feel for the largest potatoes. Gently tug to release them, leaving the smaller ones in place to continue growing. Make sure to re-cover the still-growing potatoes with soil or mulch so that the sun doesn't hit them.

When all the tops have died down late in the season, pull the stems to release the potatoes from the soil, or if the soil is heavy, carefully dig down and lift the potatoes out. Digging should be done much further from the stem than you would imagine. A few spade-sliced potatoes will show you how far out to dig. Lay the potatoes out in a cool, airy place out of the sun for a couple days. After that, rub soil from them with a dry rag and keep them in a cool, dark place for long term storage.

What to do in the Garden Now

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Late summer is a busy time in the garden. There's just so much . . . zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans. And you need to keep harvesting all of it. Ideally you harvest every day, but at minimum every other day. There is no point in allowing large, overripe vegetables to tax a plant of resources it could devote to producing young, fresh vegetables. If you cannot use your excess produce, your local food pantry will welcome it.

Of course, no matter how often you check, there's going to be a watermelon-sized zucchini that wasn't there at all the day before. You can shred or chunk those monsters and freeze them for winter breads or soups. Even adding them to the compost bin has benefits.

Both the flower and vegetable garden can use freshening up this time of year. A good thorough weeding will make everything look better and prevent weed seeds from germinating either this year or next.

Cut spent blooms from annual flowers to keep them producing all the way until first frost. Harvest or cut back herbs for drying or fresh use. The exception is if you plan to save seeds. In that case, let some of the plants go to seed so you can collect them when the seeds are dry.

Replacing or adding to worn out or decomposed mulch will add a fresh, neat look to the garden.

If container plants are past their prime and won't benefit from cutting back, it's time to dump them in the compost bin. Perhaps replace them with fall mums or just enjoy a vacation from monitoring and watering the containers.

You can still plant things! Spinach, lettuce, arugula, kohlrabi, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale are possibilities. The seeds will need some shade after planting as the hot August sun will cook them before they can germinate. Shade cloth, floating row covers or anything else you can rig up to provide shade will get them off to a good start before cooler weather arrives,

This is also the time to take a good hard look at what worked and what didn't this year and make revisions for next year. Make a list of plants or seeds you want to buy, changes in number of plants from this year – maybe a few less zucchini! – garden projects to design over winter, or plants to move or eliminate.

We easily become blind to our own landscapes. Take several photos of your yard and garden from different vantage points and study them to see what other people see when they approach. Perhaps something will jump out at you that needs trimming, moving or even complete removal.

Also take photos of your vegetable garden as a reminder of where things were this year so you can rotate plant families next year. Rotation helps to eliminate insect pests and diseases that overwinter in the soil.

Finally, take some time to relax and enjoy your garden's beauty and bounty..

Park View Progress

By Jane Kuhn

With new sidewalks installed and areas adjacent to the sidewalks filled in with about eight inches of new soil, progress has been made in creating new beds using the hundreds of plants that had to be removed prior to the filling in. A new butterfly garden has been created as has a succulent bed and other perennial beds. The photos below show the new butterfly garden and the vegetable frames reinstalled and pots refilled with beds around them after the area was filled in. The two monarch caterpillars were seen on a four inch sprout of a milkweed plant that came up in a new area. Although much work has already been completed, there is a lot more to go.



Fall care for tender and hardy bulbs

Eliza Carlson, Stearns County Extension intern, and Julie Weisenhorn, Extension horticulture, University of Minnesota Extension

“Bulbs” is a general term gardeners use when referring to true bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes, and tuberous roots. All of these are storage structures for plants and hold nutrients and water to support the plant during the growing season and through dormancy in winter.

With fall right around the corner, it is important to take care of bulbs planted in your garden, under trees, in containers and in your lawn. Some bulbs are tender and require removal and storage over the winter while others are hardy and can withstand our cold winters. Here are tips for caring for both hardy and tender bulbs this upcoming fall.

There are two types of bulbs

Tender bulbs

- Planted in the spring for summer blooming
- Amaryllis, canna, gladiolus, begonia, dahlia, colocasia (elephant ears), caladium



Elephant ears (Colocasia) with blooming summer annuals and a Japanese maple tree

Hardy bulbs

- Planted in the fall for spring blooms
- Tulip, daffodil, lily, hyacinth, crocus, iris, snowdrops, allium, glory of the snow, fritillaria, grape hyacinth



Fritillaria meleagris



Crocus are some of the earliest spring bulbs

Caring for tender bulbs

Digging up

- Dig tender bulbs in the fall after foliage turns yellow, dries up or is killed by frost, about 6 to 8 weeks after bloom.

- Loosen the roots gently with a garden fork or spade by digging several inches away from the base of the plants to avoid cutting off the roots. When digging up larger plants, loosen the soil on all sides as well.
- You want to make sure to avoid cutting or breaking the fleshy structure as diseases can easily contaminate plants through cuts and bruises causing rot and even death.

Cleaning tender bulbs

- Some plants such as dahlias are best washed gently with a hose.
- For garden cannas and dahlias, you can put hardware cloth or mesh across the top of a large garbage can and set a clump of dahlias or cannas on top of it, then wash the soil into the garbage can. This eliminates mess and the soil and water can be returned to the garden.
- Gladiolus bulbs are best left unwashed and just allowed to dry. After drying, the soil may be gently removed.



Tropicana canna lilies have dramatic copper-colored, striped foliage and orange flowers

Curing or drying tender bulbs

The typical drying period for most species such as dahlias, cannas and callas is one to three days depending on temperature.

- Curing should be done in a room or area away from direct sunlight or drying winds.
- The temperatures for curing should be around 60-70°F.
- Gladiolus require long-term curing for about 3 weeks.

Label bulbs

- You can label bulbs before storage by writing directly on the fleshy root (one or several roots) with a felt marker.
- Or tie wood and wire tree labels to a root.
- Make sure to put the cultivar name or important characteristics on it.

Storing tender bulbs

Store the bulbs in cool, dry conditions, and an average of 40°F. Certain tender bulbs need to be stored at specific temperatures such as the Peruvian Daffodil at 60-65°F and Tuberose at 55-65°F.

- Store only large, healthy bulbs.
- Avoid storing bulbs that are damaged or too small.
- Damaged bulbs may rot and small bulbs may dry up.
- Check stored bulbs periodically and remove any that are damaged or rotting.

Caring for hardy bulbs



Alliums like 'Globemaster' are ornamental onions and provide great texture and form

Hardy bulbs require a period of cold temperatures (winter) in order to break dormancy and start flowering. These bulbs are perennial and thus left in the ground year after year. With good conditions, they will bloom every spring.

- Every three to four years, hardy bulbs should be dug up in the fall, divided and replanted.

- Rotting or dried up bulbs should be composted.
- New bulbs may be added at this time as well.

Prepare for winter

- Water hardy bulbs until the soil freezes. This prevents the bulbs from drying out over the winter. Before watering, feel the soil a few inches down. If it's dry, water to saturate the soil.
- Bulbs grow well in loamy, well-drained soil. Sandy soil requires more water than heavier soil and compacted soil will prevent water from seeping into the ground.
- Amend soil with compost before planting hardy bulbs.

Moving hardy bulbs

- If hardy bulbs must be moved before fall, wait until the foliage has yellowed and withered.
- Carefully dig up the bulbs and gently shake off loose soil.
- Discard small bulbs and store the remainder in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place until fall planting time.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am shooting star. Order: Primulales. Family: Primulaceae – Primrose family. Genus: Dodecatheon L. – shootingstar. Species: Dodecatheon meadia L. – shooting star. Other names: Midland Shooting Star, Prairie Pointers, Eastern Shooting Star, Roosterheads, Pride of Ohio. The genus name comes from the Greek words dodeka meaning twelve and theos meaning god. The specific epithet honors English physician Richard Mead (1673-1734). The inflorescence of this plant looks like a collection of pretty shooting stars, hence the common name. Shooting Stars received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit in 1993. I can be found in the rain garden adjacent to the Coughlin Center.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Butterfly Garden at Miravida

By Jane Kuhn

The butterfly garden at Miravida has seen more caterpillars and butterflies as summer progresses. We have been told that residents and staff frequently visit the gardens to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Pictured below are Master Gardeners Ruth Retzlaff and Kay Senderhauf working in the garden and a swallowtail butterfly on a coneflower. The monarch caterpillar and butterfly photos are by Ruth.



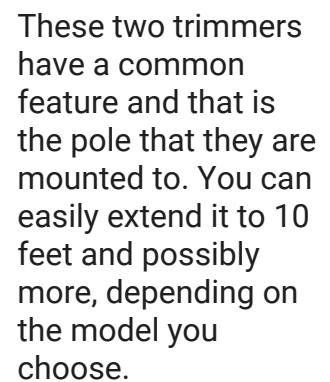


This was meant for decorative purposes but looks like someone didn't get the memo!
Submitted by Kim Willman.



This month's tool is actually two, but similar enough. The first one is "Lopper on a Stick" and the second is "Chainsaw on a Stick". Both are used for cutting and trimming small branches at some distance from the ground.

“Lopper on a stick” and “Chainsaw on a stick” to the rescue.



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photo, the blades look a bit different than a regular bypass pruner, but it gets the job done.

Lopper on a Stick is a manual tool. It cuts when you pull the cord. To use it, hook the Lopper over the branch you want to cut and pull the cord. You may have to adjust the length of its pole to reach the branch, and that is why the cord is so long. Lopper on a Stick is good for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch branches, as long as you have a nice sharp blade. As always, be sure to wear eye and hand protection with falling branches and sharp blades.



In the photo on the left, you can see the Lopper hooked over a branch. Pulling the cord will pull the black blade to the right, cutting the branch. The blade is spring loaded, so it returns to its starting position on its own.

A handy attachment for Lopper on a Stick is this Pull Saw Blade. It attaches to the back side of the Lopper and is good for places where the Lopper won't work. It can

take on 1 inch branches, possibly more, but it is a manual saw, so it will take some good arm energy. Here is a link to a YouTube video. The design is different from the trimmer in these photos, but it basically works the same way.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdYx6fvIMyk>

The second trimmer tool is Chainsaw on a Stick. As described before, it also has an adjustable-length pole to help you reach up into a tree or tall shrub to do the work. However, this tool is somewhat top-heavy, especially if you have the pole extended to a good length... 8 feet or more.



The Chainsaw on a Stick is electric and so it has a plug that will need an extension cord. This also means a bit

more attention as you don't want to cut the extension cord. Make sure you are aware where that cord is at all times. The other neat feature about this trimmer is that for this particular make and model, you can take the chainsaw 'head' off the pole and use it like a regular chainsaw. Again, attention to what you are doing, protective eyewear, gloves, etc. Chainsaws can cut quickly and deeply and you don't want that happening to your hand, arm or leg. (Note: Master Gardener policy specifically states that chainsaws cannot be used on MG projects, so this is for HOME USE ONLY)

Use is about the same for the Lopper, but since this tool can cut through thicker branches, you need to make your first cut about 8 inches away from the trunk and on the bottom side of the branch. This is standard branch cutting/pruning technique and minimizes bark stripping when the branch is cut through and falls from the tree.



Here is the saw poised for action. The following is a YouTube link that gives a great orientation to a "Pole Saw"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKsmJ0YfmDA>

This is a good time of the year to cut out dead and diseased wood. Best to wait until midwinter, when things are dormant to cut live wood.

Wow, next month is already October and time to think about cleaning up our yards and gardens. For the October issue, I will write on garden carts and here at Paulson Rd. we sure have our share.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - No August Meeting

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for September Events

Tues., Oct. 13: Business Mtg., 6 PM, ZOOM: Mike Maddox will present on Teams: alignment, decisions, and relationships.

Tues., Nov. 10: Business Mtg., 6 PM, ZOOM: Anne Pearce, Wisconsin First Detector Network Coordinator, will discuss invasive plants



Wild Garlic, *Allium vineale*. Submitted by Kim Willman.

WCMGA Projects <i>Check your Member Guide for contact information.</i>	
Project	Project Lead(s)
Algoma Town Hall	Petey Clark
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow/Audrey Ruedinger
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Diane Iott
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

September 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 Board Mtg. 6 PM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Business Mtg. 6 PM ZOOM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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