

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

November 2020

The Wood County Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with its members and the community alike. In addition, it is our charge to promote the UW Extension from which we are founded. We are a diverse group interested in the latest research-based horticultural information.

WCMGV 2020 President's Notebook

Hello Members...Thinking of you and wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving. I am trying something different this year; I ordered Thanksgiving Dinner via drive-through for the three of us! The dinner is homemade, complete and ready to eat! I will share our experiences in the next newsletter. Fall projects are almost complete; soon outside work will end and inside projects will start. I look forward to winter with enough snow to allow me to enjoy snow shoeing. I enjoy following animal tracks through the snow, and trying to identify the creatures and learning where their winter home is. I also collect branches, dried plants, other materials to create winter bouquets and artwork. The beauty of winter woodlands provides amazing art for visitors to enjoy!

Here are a few items to think about as we leave 2020 behind:

- Enter your hours for 2020!
- Fill out and return your Renewal Form/Pay Dues
- Fill out your in ground project forms and return
- Fill out other forms or surveys you received and return
- Think of ideas to go forward into 2021; share those ideas with the WCMGVA - BOD. See email addresses on back page of newsletter



Striped Skunk tracks: This file is made available under the [Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication](#).

In this Issue

- President's Notebook (1-2)
- Library Talks, Marshfield (2)
- Our Year Just Got Longer (3)
- Continuing Ed. Hours (3)
- Witch Hazel (4)
- Here's an Idea (4)
- 2019 Hours Awards (5)
- Garden and Landscape Expo (6-7)
- Extension Update (8-10)
- Plant Sale Survey (11)
- Winter Sowing of Natives (12-14)
- November Garden Guide (15)
- WCMGV BOD and Meetings (16)

President's Notebook

The 2019 Hours Awards were recognized in October 2020. Congratulation to the 24 MGV who received awards. Eight MGV attended one of the awards events. If you did not attend either of the 3 awards events held, you may contact Barb Herreid—South Wood County or Karleen Remington— North Wood County to receive your award.

Thank you very much for supporting WCMGV Organization. Your support helps our volunteer organization remain successful and enables us to continue serving Communities throughout Wood County in the world of Horticulture.

Please read all WCMGV information you receive and respond if requested. Contact Ruth Cline with questions. Thank You!

Ruth Cline



Sue Wilford and Donna Streiff at Awards Event



Ruth Cline at Awards Event

Suggested Topics for Library Talks in Marshfield

I am still open to members who wish to do a Zoom educational program for the Marshfield library. You can share your screen (Powerpoint, articles, pictures, YouTube videos) with the participants while you stay home safe and sound!! Bethany Pierson at the library is a great helper and supporter and I can also answer your questions or help you prepare your presentation. Programs are the third Mondays of the month at 6pm. Register on the library Facebook page to attend. Contact Donna Streiff at 715-207-6218 or at streiffonclay@tds.net if interested. See below for suggested topics.

Lasagna gardening

Straw bale gardening

Butterfly gardening

Growing fruit trees

Maintaining perennial gardens

Tree health

Soil quality

Native plants

Shade gardening

Growing flowers for drying

Rain gardens



Our MG Year Just Got Longer!

Just in case you missed the following information in the **VIBE** from Mike Maddox, Master Gardener Program Director in Madison.....

You have extra time to complete your 10 HOURS OF EDUCATION requirement for 2020!

The Wisconsin Master Gardener year will no longer run from October through September. Instead it becomes a calendar year (January through December) as of 2021. In order to make that happen, the extra months of October through December have been added to 2020. You have a little additional time to accumulate your 10 education hours after the gardening year winds down.

Be sure to enter your education hours on the Online Reporting System for Master Gardeners. Reported hours will be accepted until the end of the year.

Remember that since Master Gardeners were inactive in 2020 because of COVID-19, all members were exempt from the 24 hours of volunteer time normally required each year. However, if you did earn volunteer hours, make sure you report them as well. That information is most welcome by the Madison office.

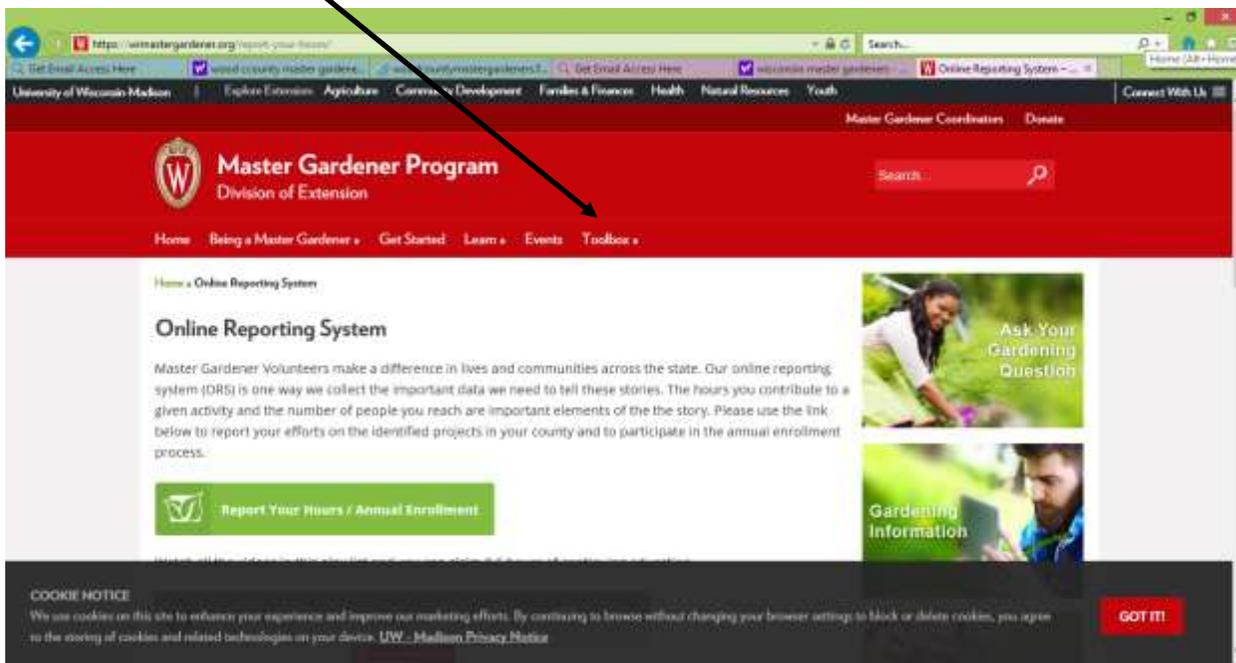
If you encounter any problems with the Online Reporting System, contact Ruth Cline at stonegate.tds.net or Janell Wehr at janell.wehr.wisc.edu.

Continuing Education Hours

Just a reminder that “CONTINUING EDUCATION” hours are due by December 31, 2020. Due to COVID 19, Volunteer hours are exempt, but any hours worked should be submitted. Enter all hours (both CE and Volunteer hours) into the “ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM.”

Access this system at: <https://wimastergardener.org/>

Click on toolbox If questions, there is a tutorial on this site or contact Janell Wehr.



The screenshot shows the website for the Master Gardener Program, Division of Extension, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The navigation menu includes links for Home, Being a Master Gardener, Get Started, Learn, Events, and Toolbox. A black arrow points from the text 'Click on toolbox' to the 'Toolbox' link in the navigation menu. The main content area features a section titled 'Online Reporting System' with a green button labeled 'Report Your Hours / Annual Enrollment'. There are also two smaller images on the right side: 'Ask Your Gardening Question' and 'Gardening Information'. A 'COOKIE NOTICE' banner is visible at the bottom of the page.

Witch Hazel



The other day, walking through my garden and thinking it might be the last time before snow arrives, I had a nice surprise—a **shrub in bloom with delightful yellow flowers!** It was my Common Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). Even though Virginia is built into the species name, this is actually a Wisconsin native shrub and the normal bloom time is very late autumn. It seems to wait until everything else is done blooming so that it can stand out and get its due appreciation.

This is a wonderful shrub for a woodland-type setting. It is an understory plant so it tolerates shade well but can also be planted in full sun to partial shade. The leaves are large oval shapes with jaggedy edges. Also, in fall, the leaves change color to a lovely golden yellow and drop just before the flowers appear—this helps viewing of the tiny yellow flowers.

To really set off the delightful flowers, plant it in front of a dark evergreen. You will need to protect it from deer. It will grow 10 to 12 feet tall but can also be pruned to keep it smaller if desired or can even be pruned into a small, wide-spreading tree - such versatility!

Submitted by Barb Herreid

Here's an idea...

Have you come across something interesting related to horticulture and you were prompted to share it with your mom or your sister or your best gardening friend? How about sharing that with your WCMG colleagues by submitting the information for our monthly newsletter?

We're looking for anything of interest...

- a great garden book you just read/bought
- a pertinent seminar
- a fabulous greenhouse you found
- an interesting gardening story
- a garden tip that really worked well
- a great recipe

We'd love to hear your experience. Feel free to send a picture featuring your find. All you have to do is send it to Peg Klinkhammer, our newsletter editor (wcmgvs@gmail.com). The deadline is the 10th of every month.

Now another place to share your messages

The WIMGA newsletter is also looking for submission of articles that feature some educational subject, MG tips, fun garden ideas, and especially, news about what is going on in our MG association. So keep that in mind as you plan and implement your project. What aspect of your project can you and your team highlight with an article and pictures? Let's show Wisconsin what Wood County is up to!

Send your submission to the editors of WIMGA newsletter Hali Dressecker at halirenee@yahoo.com or Nancy at westcoasternancy@gmail.com

Follow this link to the latest WIMGA newsletter to see what they are doing.
<https://www.wimga.org/>

2019 Hours Awards - Recognized October, 2020

Category	Award	Name
Newly Certified - 24 hours	Name badge holder	Helen Legare
150 hours	Pen	Jill Becker Deb Rokke Dick Shepherd
250 hours	Sports bottle	Shirley Anderson Laurie Francis
500 hours	Portfolio	Peg Harvey (499.5) Sally Sadowska Carolyn Schulein
750 hours	Bag	Donna Streiff Joanne Wilkinson
1,000 hours	Polo shirt	Julie Carlsen Chris Grimes Denise Larson Scott MacMillan Penn Wilkes
1,500 hours	Tool bag	Paula Klevene Judy Miller Kathy Poehnelt Jan Sabin Sue Wilford
2,000 hours	Lopper	Bob Cline
2,500 hours	State Plaque	Micky Erickson
3,000 hours	Twill Shirt	Mary Kay York
4,000 hours	Folding saw/pruning book	
5,000 hours	State Plaque	Ruth Cline
6,000 hours	Insulated windbreaker	
7,000 hours	\$50 gift certificate	
7,500 hours	State Plaque	

2019 WCMGV Awards.....Northern Style

Congratulations to EVERY ONE of the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer 2019 award winners. Ruth Cline has listed all the recipients in another article in this newsletter. Bob Cline shared photographs.

Since I am located on the north end of the county, I have had a box of awards delivered to my house with the hopes that my Marshfield location will make it easy for recipients who could not attend the outdoor ceremony at MARS to pick up their hard earned forms of recognition.

I have awards for the following people: Jill Becker, Dick Shepherd, Sally Sadowska, Carolyn Schulein, and Kathy Poehnelt. Please give me a "heads up" phone call before you stop at my house to pick up your award. I need to be sure my mask is on straight!

My phone number is 715.387.1863. My address is 918 West 8th Street. Looking forward to seeing you before the winter sets in.

Karleen Remington

Wood County Master Gardeners Volunteers



2021 Garden & Landscape Expo Transitions to Virtual Event

We hope this message finds you well. As you know, the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to disrupted routines, school and work closures, and event cancellations across the country.

The safety of our attendees, presenters, exhibitors and volunteers is paramount. Therefore, PBS Wisconsin has made the difficult – yet necessary – decision to cancel our 2021 in-person Garden & Landscape Expo. While we will not be meeting together at the Alliant Energy Center in February, we plan to unite and engage the gardening community virtually, sharing inspiration and educational opportunities.



And, we will still offer our Garden & Landscape Expo Photography Competition – virtually on the web! Be sure to visit wigardenexpo.com to learn how to enter your photograph. Entries are due December 15.

We humbly ask for your patience as we transition to a virtual event, and we promise you will be the first to know as soon as we have more details.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

-The Garden & Landscape Expo team
PBS Wisconsin

From *Let's Grow Stuff*: Mid-Summer Garden Hacks

In this episode of the new PBS Wisconsin series, host Ben Futa provides seven tips to keep you and your garden thriving through the final weeks of the summer!



[Click here to watch the episode and to explore the full series.](#)

PBS Wisconsin **GARDEN** & LANDSCAPE EXPO



From WPR's *Garden Talk*: Fall Lawn Prep

Fall is a great time to take a closer look at the health of your lawn. Professor in the Department of Soil Science at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and certified turf expert, Doug Soldat discusses what can be done to have a healthy lawn next spring.

[Click here to listen to the conversation.](#)



From Garden & Landscape Expo 2020: How Trees Built the Midwest

Jay Dampier, a statewide horticulture outreach program manager at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, explains how ash, pine, sugar maple, white birch and apple trees shaped Wisconsin.

[Click here to watch the presentation.](#)

And, we will still offer our Garden & Landscape Expo Photography Competition – virtually on the web! Be sure to visit wigardenexpo.com to learn how to enter your photograph. Entries are due December 15.



We humbly ask for your patience as we transition to a virtual event, and we promise you will be the first to know as soon as we have more details.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

-The Garden & Landscape Expo team

PBS Wisconsin

Extension Update

Hello Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers! I do not have a lot to report for this month as we wind down 2020. You may remember Foundations in Horticulture, which will replace Level 1 Training. The content is the same, however, the format that it will be delivered will be different than in the past. It is all online and will be delivered statewide. We recently launched the pilot program, which I am helping to facilitate. It is going very well. I am confident that we will be able to deliver this to Wood County residents in the fall of 2021. One of the benefits of the new model is there will not be a minimum threshold to hold Foundations in Horticulture. You may remember in 2019 we did not have enough people sign up to justify the resources needed for a 13 week program. Since the new model will be statewide, even if we only recruit minimal numbers, we will still be able to hold training and recruitment.

There will also be a new orientation to the Master Gardener program. I think the information in the orientation is very important, so I will be sharing this information with you monthly in the newsletter. Previously I shared “The History of Extension”. This month I am sharing “Who’s who in the Master Gardener Program”.

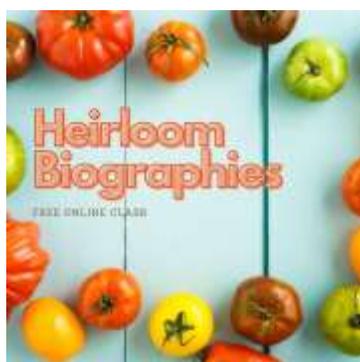
I’d also like to begin a new article to the newsletter: Volunteer Spotlight! Know a volunteer who goes the extra mile and deserves recognition? Nominate them by sending me an email- janell.wehr@wisc.edu .

What’s Crawling

“What’s Crawling in the Lab?” is a blog featuring short stories, pictures, and highlights from the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab. Topics range from the insects most commonly diagnosed in the lab to emerging arthropod pests and unique and bizarre cases from the lab. This month PJ Liesch share’s Busy beetles: lady beetles take to the air and our homes.



<https://insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/2020/10/09/busy-beetles-lady-beetles-take-to-the-air-and-our-homes/>



Heirloom Biographies

In this interactive online program, we will hear the backstory of some of our favorite heirloom varieties, including a local favorite, the Beaver Dam pepper. After learning the cultural and economic significance these plants have served historically, we’ll discuss the differences between the terms heirloom, hybrid, open pollinated and GMO. Class will be conducted via Zoom. Presenter: Janell Wehr, Horticulture Educator Extension Marathon County. This is a FREE program!

Monday November 9th 2-3PM

Tuesday November 10th 6-7PM

Thursday November 12th 2:30-3:30

Register here: <https://marathon.extension.wisc.edu/2020/10/28/heirloom-biographies/>

Who's who in the Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener Volunteer: By improving your community through science-based gardening, you are part of Extension and acting as its representative. You are considered by the UW to be in a Position of Trust, which creates additional responsibilities for you as a volunteer and may be different than other volunteer experiences. As a Master Gardener Volunteer you connect to a local and national networks of like minded individuals contributing time and talent. Your experiences as a volunteer lead to personal growth. And, you directly contribute to meaningful change at the local, statewide, and national level.



Extension Staff Local Program/Coordinator: Your local Master Gardener Program is county or multi-county based with oversight provided by Extension staff, referred to as your coordinator. This individual serves as your primary contact for all things related to this program. Janell Wehr is the Wood County coordinator.

Master Gardener Program (State Office): The statewide staff in the Master Gardener Program office is responsible for the overall facilitation of the MG program. The Master Gardener Program serves as your secondary contact within the program. Mike Maddox is the State Program Manager.

Associations Local Association- WCMGA: Local associations exist in many counties. They provide social support and camaraderie for volunteers. They can also conduct fundraising activities to help support approved projects. They also collect dues for local activities. Local associations will soon have a written agreement with Extension and can serve in roles to facilitate the local Master Gardener Program. The local associations work together to provide statewide representation through WIMGA.

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA): WIMGA is a statewide association which provides grants, an annual conference and a statewide newsletter to WIMGA members. Participation in associations is optional.

Reminder: Report your CE Hours

The volunteer hour requirement has been waived for 2020, however you will still need to report at least 10 hours of continuing education. We are transitioning the Master Gardener calendar to be the same as the calendar year, so you have three extra months to report CE hours in the Online Reporting System (ORS). Remember, if you need help reporting hours, I'm an email away. I'm here to support your success. Unsure if something counts as Continuing Education? Check the guidelines here. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Volunteer Spotlight!



This month's spotlight volunteer is Donna Streiff. Donna works with the community gardens in Marshfield, staffs the Extension office and answers Wood County resident's horticultural inquiries, and continues monthly educational programs via Zoom with the Everett Roehl Marshfield library. She trained in 2007 and has served at least 969 volunteer hours for a value of \$26,370. Thank you, Donna! You've made an impact for Wood County communities and families.

The Cutting Edge: A Podcast in Search of New Crops for Wisconsin



UW-Madison Division of Extension

Join UW-Madison Division of Extension as they search for new crops for Wisconsin growers, processors, and consumers. The strength of Wisconsin's agricultural economy is its diversity...something that doesn't just happen by chance. It is a product of the relentless drive of researchers and farmers to innovate, explore, and experiment. Join us for a glimpse into the exciting new research and development bringing new crops and diversity to Wisconsin.

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/cutting-edge/>

Plant Sale Survey

Member Interest Survey for Possible Future Fall Plant Sale Solution

We are proposing winter sowing native plants for possible future fall plant sales since we cannot “dig” plants. Depending on the success of this experiment, we might be able to do this for future fall plant sales. The advantage of this approach would be promoting native plants and allow us to continue to sell plants even though we can’t dig from own gardens Right now it would be an interesting learning opportunity for all (north and south) of us housebound MGV gardeners!

What would you be asked to do?

Collect seeds from native plants you might have in your yard. We would want true natives not nativars. Nativars are variations of species with different characteristics such as phlox or coneflowers with different colors, etc. If you have no native plants, others who do, could collect seeds for you to plant.

Winter sow the seeds in a small amount of potting mix in milk jugs or two-liter pop bottles in the snowbanks around your house.

Transplant the seedlings into pots and nurture during the summer for possible sale in fall.

Directions for collecting seeds, stratification, and winter sowing are provided on the following pages. Potting mix and pots for transplants next spring will be provided if needed.

I want to try this project by: (check all that apply)

I have native plants whose seeds I could harvest.

I have these native plants: -----

I am willing to plant and nurture seeds this winter and next summer. I would prefer plants that like:

sun part shade shade

I have Internet access for possible Zoom instructions.

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Return this survey if you might be interested in trying this experiment.

By mail to: Donna Streiff, 1610 Arlington St., Marshfield, WI 54449

Or fill in and return by email to: streiffonclay@tds.net

Questions????? Contact Donna Streiff streiffonclay@tds.net 715-207-6218

Native Plants Winter Sowing Project for ALL Members

Our hardy native plants do not get their start in a warm, cozy greenhouse somewhere. They brave the elements and take their chances of finding an amenable spot to start their life. Winter sowing is a way to give them a slight advantage over what Mother Nature provides for them. By winter sowing you are upping their chances of survival. You are providing a designated place in a chancy world for them to germinate and grow.



Winter sowing is easy to do. Most native plants need some stratification to awaken their seeds and prep them for germination. Cold and moisture are the two big factors for germination success. Scarification is a third requirement for some seeds with exceptionally tough outer coats.

The 2 bottles at the right yielded over 20 chamomile plants ready to plant in May.

If you would like to join this project contact Donna Streiff at 715-207-6218, or streiffonclay@tds.net. A few of our members have volunteered to give this a shot. If we are successful, it may be a way to provide plants for our Fall Plant Sale without “digging” plants. This project is open to ALL members. If you have not thought about it before, you can still start anytime up to mid-winter.

Maybe an after Christmas project??

If you are interested and have true native plants, not cultivars, and they still have seeds on them, please collect the seeds, to grow yourself or to share with others. If you have no native plants, and you are interested in doing this, seeds will be provided for you. If you are unsure what the seeds look like, harvest the entire spent flower head and research what the seeds look like. Some are very small and fine, and others are not what you think they are. For example, coneflower seeds are not the spiky things left from the flower. They are actually small bone shaped light tan seeds lodged between the spikes. Store the seeds in paper envelopes or open plastic containers in a cool, dry place for now. If you are unsure of the germination requirements for your particular native plant, use the Internet to find propagation information or call Donna. You can use your research hours for education hours!! We want this to be an educational project for our members.

Winter sowing provides stratification for native plant seeds and takes the guess work out of just tossing seeds in the ground to be at the mercy of the wind, weather, animals, etc. The following is an article from Penn State on the process of winter sowing of seeds.

Successful Winter Seed Sowing

What is "winter sowing"? Winter sowing is a method gardeners might choose if they want to get a head start on gardening by sowing seeds during the winter. Winter sowing is for gardeners who don't have the space or lighting available to sow seeds indoors.

Instead, this method uses recycled containers which act as miniature greenhouses to sow seeds of plants that would normally survive winter either as perennials or as reseeding annuals. The containers protect the seeds so more survive to germinate in the spring. They receive the same weather and temperature as those directly sown in the ground. The uncapped spouts allow rain and melting snow to keep the soil moist.

Generally, only a few varieties of seeds can be successfully sown indoors this early. But one can begin winter sowing any time after the first day of winter and as long as the nights are still chilly.

To determine which seeds can be winter sown, most plant descriptions will have notations about a seed's germination requirements or will have a few clue-in phrases such as: pre-chilling, freeze, refrigerate, stratify, colonize, self-sows. In addition, look for terms like "sow outdoors in early spring or while frosts may still occur", "sow early autumn", "hardy", "withstands frost", "direct sow early", "wildflower" or "weed" in the name. Also search for common names indicating a natural environment such as plains, mountain, field, river or an origin in a temperate climate.

Recommended containers are recycled clear or opaque containers such as plastic milk or water jugs, two-liter soda bottles, deep foil pans with domed clear lids, and quart dairy containers. Any of these can be used keeping in mind two important

requirements: if a container is tinted plastic, your hand must be visible through the plastic for sufficient light, and it must be deep enough to allow 3-4" of potting soil plus additional headroom for the seedlings.

Throw away the caps from the jugs and bottles and remove labels. Wash the containers in hot soapy water, rinse and drain. To convert a two-liter soda bottle or milk jug into a miniature-greenhouse, use a utility knife to cut a horizontal slit half way up the side. Then use scissors to cut the container in half (horizontally), but leave a 1" hinge. (If using a milk jug, I leave the hinge under the handle.) To provide drainage, place the bottle on a cutting board so your work surface isn't marred. Use a pointed object to puncture 3/4-inch diameter holes in the bottom of each container.

Another very important step is labeling. One can use vinyl mini blind slats cut into 5-6" lengths, but make sure they are lead-free. Using a permanent marker or china pencil, write the seed's name, the mature size and planting instructions. (Or use a permanent marker and write on the top half of the container the name of the seeds.)

Use packaged potting soil marked as "soil-less". Do not use soil mixes that are prone to harden, states "weed-free", contains fertilizer or water crystals. Pre-moisten with warm water until the soil is slightly damp so the soil will wick up the water. Fill containers with 3 to 4" of soil, then tamp the container softly on a hard surface to settle the soil and add more if necessary.

Sprinkle seeds directly on top of the soil and gently press down into the soil, making sure there is good seed-to-soil contact. For large seeds, which require a depth of an inch or more, press the seeds into the soil just below the surface, sprinkle soil over the seeds to just cover and lightly press down. Insert the label inside the container along the side.



How to Winter Sow Seeds Outdoors by [Trudi Greissle Davidoff](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#)

Continued on pg. 14

If your container (not a bottle or jug) has a clear lid, poke 4 to 5 holes in the lid to provide air transpiration. If the lid is not clear, cut out the inside of the lid rim to create a holder for clear plastic or cover with clear plastic and tape the plastic to the sides of the container with duct tape. Puncture 4 to 5 quarter-inch holes in the plastic.

Tape the top (half) of the milk jug or soda bottle to the bottom (half) with a 4-inch piece of duct tape. Because these are miniature greenhouses, it's possible to overheat the seeds if the container is not properly vented. To water your greenhouse, set the container in several inches of water overnight to soak up moisture.

Take the container outside to a protected area such as a deck, uncovered porch, against a fence or in a flowerbed. Don't put the containers against the house or under the eaves. Sunny locations work best so the air inside the containers warms up enough to create condensation. Condensation is the indicator of sufficient moisture. If the containers do not show condensation on a sunny day above 32°F, water the seeds by dripping water slowly down the sides of the container or setting the containers in water. If condensation still does not show, the ventilation holes in the lids may be too big. Try taping over some of the holes. If your containers are holding too much water, the holes in the bottom may be too small, and you will need to enlarge the holes.

The hardest part is waiting. When the weather warms, the containers will thaw and freeze repeatedly as winter gives way to spring. This action of freezing and thawing helps loosen the seed coat. Amazingly, just when winter is about to break and you're still getting nightly freezes, the first signs of germination will appear. The seeds know when it's safe to germinate because it's part of their genetics.

As your seedlings grow and the temperatures rise, make slits in the tops of the soda bottles/jugs or widen the slits in the covers. When you notice "true" leaves, make the slits a little bigger once every week or two depending on the temperatures until there are more open areas than covered. Now you can transplant the seedlings into your garden because they are also hardened off! (At this point, we would pot up the plants and keep them over the summer for the Fall Plant Sale much like we kept other plants over the summer between sales.)

The main requirements for outdoor Winter Sowing are selecting the appropriate seeds for your plant zone, and providing both adequate drainage and air transpiration. Follow these three principles and you will have success.

P.S. Some non-native cold tolerant garden plants can also be started this way if you don't have inside growing space!

November Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Finish planting spring bulbs.
- Prepare new perennial beds for spring planting. Soil will be conditioned over winter.
- With sunny conditions, paper-white narcissus planted indoors about mid November will bloom for Christmas.
- After ground freezes, mulch azaleas and rhododendrons with chopped oak leaves or pine needles. Perennial beds should also be mulched with coarse material such as marsh hay.
- Do not smother self-sowing annual beds with heavy mulch.
- Reduce watering and feeding houseplants as lower light conditions of winter approach.
- Test soil if you haven't done so recently.
- Clean window boxes and outdoor planters, fill with greens and berries or other seasonal display.
- Mulch carrots, parsnips and leeks with a foot of straw or marsh hay for winter digging. Mark rows with stakes.
- Mulch asparagus bed with chopped leaves or straw to protect crowns from frost.
- Inventory, clean, repair and coat the metal parts of garden tools with vegetable oil before storing.
- Drain gasoline from tiller.
- Harvest the last of the hardy vegetables, such as Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts and kale. These will continue to produce until a frost below 25 degrees F.
- Harvest vegetables to be stored indoors before ground freezes.
- Heavily water trees and shrubs before ground freezes. This helps prevent winter burn on evergreens.
- Cut back fall blooming hydrangeas, leaving one or two pairs of buds on each flower stem.
- Wrap the trunks of young shade trees and fruit trees to protect them from animal damage and sunscald.
- Make one last lawn mowing, setting blade one-half inch lower than usual. Drain gas from mowers.
- Cut to the ground any summer bearing raspberry or blackberry canes that have fruited this year.
- Dormant pruning of black, yellow and purple raspberries is done by shortening all lateral branches to 15 inches.
- Prune grapevines.
- Mulch strawberries and bramble fruits after the ground has frozen, but before the temperature falls below 15 degrees (usually late November.) Apply 2-4 inches of straw or marsh hay.



2020 WCMGV Board of Directors

President—Ruth Cline
stonegate@tds.net
715-569-4202

**Vice President—
Karleen Remington**
karleenbobremimgton@gmail.com
715-387-1863

Secretary—Sue Wilford
swilford@tds.net
715-652-6129

Treasurer—Barb Herreid
bherreid@wctc.net
715-325-2075

Director—Jill Becker
jb5mfl15@gmail.com
715-387-8040

Director—Ann Rozner
annmarisaroegner@yahoo.com
715-435-3804

Director—Jen Fane
jeni@wctc.net
715-325-1770

Director—Donna Streiff
streiffonclay@tds.net
715-207-6218

**Communications Representative
Chris Grimes**
chgrimes@wctc.net
715-424-2878

**Immediate Past President—
Famia Marx**
mapallc@tds.net
715-652-2405

WIMGA Rep—Micky Erickson
GaryMicky@charter.net
715-435-3616

**Newsletter Editor
Peg Klinkhammer**
WCMGVs@gmail.com
734-787-4630

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month.

**Public Relations Chair
Karen Thlacac**
ktlachac@yahoo.com
715-697-3911

Lead time for television and newspaper is four weeks. Call Karen for clarification of dates and deadlines.

**Wisconsin Master Gardeners
Website:** <http://wimastergardener.org>

Wood County Extension Website: <http://wood.uwex.edu>

WCMGV Website: <http://www.wood-county-master-gardeners.org>

Committees, teams, project leaders, members, BODs, are encouraged to send meeting notices for the column below.

The Wood County Master Gardener Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information with its members and the community alike. In addition, it is our charge to promote the UW Extension from which we are founded. We are a diverse group interested in the latest research-based horticultural information.

2020 WCMGV Meetings and Notices

Previously Scheduled Meetings and Programs have been postponed or cancelled! You will be notified when a meeting and /or program is rescheduled. Thank You for your patience!