

UW-Extension Wood County Master Gardener Association

Wood County UW Extension

September-October 2021

Moving Toward 2022

WCMGV General Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
6 PM at MARS in Marshfield

September 28th will find us back at a familiar location.....the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, MARS. It will be the first indoor face to face meeting since we closed the 2019 year in November. **AND IT IS AN IMPORTANT MEETING!**

Beside the normal business meeting, we will focus on the future of the WCMGV. The board of directors has been struggling with any number of issues including a significantly reduced membership, beautification and education projects that are understaffed or have fallen by the wayside, a change in the focus of our work, new policies that need to conform to those of the UW, etc. And of course, we all are learning to swim in our new online relationship with the Wisconsin Master Gardener program.

The BOD has determined that the September meeting will try to get all attending members on the same page by opening up the floor for questions, listening to your thoughts and feelings about the WCMGV organization, giving us your opinions on the directions you want to see us go, clarifying our relationship with Madison and in general, beginning to rebuild a more cohesive organization. This will be your opportunity to help us toward that goal. Newsletters, e-mails, etc. can help us stay together. But there is nothing better than a face to face meeting with everyone listening closely to each other to get us on the right track.



Mars still requires full masking.....regardless of vaccine status.....and social distancing. We will try and arrange the room to accommodate those parameters and make it comfortable for you.

So, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 6 pm AT MARS.** See you there.

- ◆ WCMGV July and August Minutes p. 2-3
- ◆ Upcoming Educational Opportunities p.4-5
- ◆ Important Reminders p. 6
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Membership Meeting Minutes—July and August

Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
July 27, 2021 -- Sue Wilford's Garden Tour
18 members; 3 guests in attendance and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm by Ruth Cline, President.

Minutes from June 22, 2021: Lynn Bushmaker moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Donna Streiff, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. Reminded Project Chairs that grant money would need to be returned if they do not use the money. Marshfield projects submit vouchers to Karleen Remington and Rapids and outlying communities submit vouchers to Barb Herreid by end of gardening season. Karleen Remington moved to accept financial report; seconded by Chris Grimes, motion carried.

Extension Report: given by Janell Wehr

Foundations in Horticulture – Registration deadline August 13th online at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/foundations-in-horticulture/>. Course from September 12th to December 11th. Limit of 500 people. This course is open to the public without commitment to become a MGV. Cost of \$299 includes a pdf online manual or \$30 extra for printed manual. If manual requested after registration, cost is \$50 plus S&H. Cost for 4 optional online labs \$40. The Onboarding course is required to become a MGV for an additional \$100 which starts in January. **Those MGV who did not enroll in ORS by March 31st**, can take Onboarding in January 2022 for no cost, as long as their Criminal Background Check has not expired.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Gardens in WI Rapids: Looking for MGV to assist in maintenance of the garden beds.

MGV Booth at Marshfield State Fair: Tuesday, August 24th to Sunday, August 29th. With new COVID guidelines in July, can now provide a booth at the fair. Sign-up sheet distributed and Sue Wilford will contact the fair to see if there is space.

Ask a Master Gardener Update: Doing Farmer's Market every Tuesday in Marshfield and three Thursdays in Rapids with great response.

Open Positions and Newsletter Editor: Donna Streiff agreed to be newsletter editor. Thank you Donna. Publicity position still open and suggestions to recruit high school or college students. Board will explore.

Fall Plant Sale Update – Maple Fest in Marshfield September 18th & 19th. Committee consists of Jill Becker, Karleen Remington, Donna Streiff, Bea Kohl and Joyce Fischer. Plants ordered. Sign-up sheets available for set up on Friday, September 17th 10am-4pm; Saturday and Sunday from 8:30-12:30 and 12:30-4:30pm, with take down at 4:30 on Sunday. Work day from 3-7pm on August 12th at Sue Wilford's home to create stepping stones and glass bird baths. Asking for donations of:

Dried weeds and flowers

Garden décor

Seeds – seeds collected from our gardens

Bulbs – that are cleaned well

Native Seed mixture: Peg Harvey shared that River Country of Eau Claire has native seeds available.

Next Meeting: August 24th 6-8pm at South Wood County Historical Museum with memorial for Nancy Alger, long time MGV.

Motion to adjourn at 7:57pm made by Bea Kohl; seconded by Jill Becker. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Wilford, Secretary

week of June. Registration for Horticulture class July to August. Sue Wilford and Bea Kohl requested marketing materials for farmers market – to promote the education and becoming a MGV.

BOD concern: As Board addresses plans for future with changes and decrease in membership, send concerns, input and ideas to Ruth Cline.

Lily Leaf Beetle: Out in full force in Marshfield area – devouring the lilies.

Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm made by Donna Streiff; seconded by Bea Kohl. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – June 22, 2021 6-8pm via Zoom; Education by Rachael Whitehair, Natural Resources Educator from UW Extension.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Wilford, Secretary

**Wood County Master Gardener Volunteers Membership Meeting
August 24, 2021 -- Nancy Alger memorial and South Wood County Historical Museum
20 members present and Janell Wehr Horticulture Advisor**

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm by Karleen Remington, Vice President.

Minutes from July 27, 2021: Lynn Bushmaker moved to accept minutes as written, seconded by Donna Streiff, motion carried.

Financial Report: Expenses and income shared by Barb Herreid. Audrey Brundidge moved to accept financial report; seconded by Bea Kohl, motion carried.

Extension Report: given by Janell Wehr

Foundations in Horticulture – Two people from Wood and Adams County signed up to take the course. Janell Wehr has approval to provide the horticulture training at a reduced price; \$75 or less. Mostly likely to occur in fall 2022 with onboarding in January 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project leaders need to submit self-evaluation and project approval forms by October 1st. Discussed being creative with funding requests since there are limited funds. Board decided that due to low MGV membership, there will be no Garden Walk in 2022, as it would take all current members to work the event. Also, depending on MGV who sign up to coordinate, there may not be a spring plant sale.

Native Seeds: Peg Harvey distributed Native Seed Price List from River County in Eau Claire.

NEW BUSINESS:

Project Leader Survey: Survey sent to Project Leaders to get input about their projects. This is to help the Board make decisions about our organization for the future. Surveys due to Karleen Remington by first week of September.

Projects Dropped: Zoo in Rapids, Weber Park in Marshfield, Veterans Urns at Courthouse, Green Valley, and Pittsville Historical Society.

Newsletter Editor: Donna Streiff has volunteered to be our newsletter editor. Her director position on the board will be done at the end of this year, and a replacement on the board will be needed.

Fall Plant Sale Update – Maple Fest in Marshfield September 18th & 19th.

Rapids plants and sale items can be dropped off at the back entrance of the South Wood County

Historical Museum on Wednesday, September 15th. Coordinated by Micky Erickson

Judy Miller will transport from Rapids to Marshfield on Thursday, September 16th.

Need someone to volunteer to pickup the tables and tent from Barb Herried's, prior to Sept 10th.

Will need wagons to transport plants to people's vehicles.

Set Up will be on Friday September 17th from 10-4pm.

Looking for volunteers to create dried flower arrangements.

Ask a Master Gardener tent will be set up.

Looking for Volunteers to assist customers in gardening/ plant questions during the sale days.

Looking for volunteers to manage cash box, as well as track sale of items, a record for next year.

If any parking issues or difficulty in getting to the park, contact Jill Becker.

Electronic sign-up sheets for what plants/items you were donating and days available to work were emailed to members. Also paper sign-up sheets available.

Discussed how to clean bulbs for the sale to ensure no Jumping Worms.

Discussed how to prepare dried flowers

Next Meeting: September 28th 6-8pm at MARS-Input from membership about WCMGV.

Motion to adjourn at 7:34pm by Lynn Bushmaker; seconded by Audrey Brundidge. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Wilford, Secretary

Educational Opportunities

Have you earned your 10 hours of education for this year? Just want to increase your knowledge? Learn something interesting? Here are some free webinars you can take just by registering!!

Melinda Myers Webinars

Sept. 23, 2021

Pollinator-friendly Perennials for Difficult Situations

6:30 p.m. (Webinar) - Selecting the right plant for the location is not as easy as it seems. Are you looking for perennials that will tolerate extremes of moisture, drought, heat and challenging soil? Melinda will recommend plants and combinations best suited for your garden location. Tips for successful planting and care will be covered to ensure your landscape additions get off to a good start. The webinar is free, but registration is required.

Sept. 30, 2021

Shade Gardening for Beauty and Pollinator Appeal

6:30 p.m. (Webinar) - Shade gardening doesn't need to limit plant selection or pollinator appeal. There's no doubt that the shady areas of a landscape however can be a challenge when it comes to gardening. Melinda will share lots of colorful and interesting options beyond hostas for those shady spots in your landscape that add seasonal interest and pollinator appeal. Plus, learn more about planting and care to ensure success. The webinar is free, but registration is required.

October 20, 2021

Kid & Pet friendly Houseplants

6:30 p.m. (Webinar) - You love them all; kids, pets and houseplants. Discover ways to enjoy them all under one roof. Melinda will cover plants that are safe to grow when kids and pets are in the house. She will also share tips on safely displaying them out of the reach of most pets and children. Then finish off the discussion with ideas for keeping your plants safe from curious, playful, and destructive pets. This virtual seminar is free, but registration is required.

Oct. 27, 2021

Pruning Tips for Shrubs

6:30 p.m. central (Webinar) - Learn the basics on how and when to prune shrubs. Pruning paranoia is common among gardeners, but once you understand the basics you will make better pruning decisions in less time and with much less stress. We will cover a variety of shrubs commonly found in the landscape. Melinda will also share information on the what and when to prune shrubs for optimal health and maximum beauty.

The webinars are free, but registration is required to get the link to the session.

Educational Opportunities

To register, go to <http://www.melindamyers.com>, scroll down under Upcoming Appearances on the right side and click on the purple “Learn More” button. There are still many recordings available from her spring webinars that you can view. To view recordings, click on “On Demand” button, scroll to webinar you want to watch, click on “Click Here” and enter the password.

In addition to the webinars, she has a list of in-person appearances for the rest of the summer.

UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Opportunities

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021, 6 – 7:30PM

Ten Plant Diseases NOT to Compost

Certain plant diseases are so horrible or so deadly that composting is not an appropriate way to get rid of affected plants. Come learn about some of these diseases and their proper management.

This program will be presented by Dr. Brian Hudelson.

*Note: This program is the same night as our membership meeting but if you register for the program you will have access to the recording to view later. Register at the address below.

And don't forget to check out our UW-Madison Division of Extension's Calendar of Events

<https://extension.wisc.edu/events>

Find articles, resources, educational events and more at UW-Madison Division of Extension's Horticulture page

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>

Important Reminder

You do **not** have to have any Volunteer Hours for 2021 to renew your membership for 2022 **BUT** you **do have to have 10 hours of Continuing Education.**

Important Reminders From the State Organization

In case you have not been keeping up with announcements from the VIBE:

Every Master Gardener Volunteer has to renew their membership every year through the state portal by completing Onboarding. Just submitting dues to the treasurer is not renewing your membership as a certified Master Gardener. We had a few members who did not get this done last spring and as a result they are not recognized as active members for 2021.

For those who missed the March 31st deadline last year

To renew your membership you will need to complete your registration on the state website: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/> If you have not done this or are unable to do it on a computer, contact Janell Wehr to help you get started. You CANNOT complete Onboarding now but this will help you be ready to do so after Jan. 1, 2022 for next year.

For those who are current active members:

If you have registered for 2021, you should have a Net ID to access the Onboarding Lite program. Completing this program can be used for 10 hours of continuing education for 2021, giving you enough hours to qualify as an active member for 2022. If you do not know your Net ID, the program will take you through steps to retrieve it. This is the link to the program: [Introducing Canvas, Our Online Classroom – Master Gardener Program \(wisc.edu\)](#)

Just a head's up from Chris Grimes, communications representative...

If you are expecting an email relating to MGCV activities (zoom meeting links, project announcements, etc.) and it is getting close to your activity time, check your spam file to see if the email was caught there. Sometimes attachments on emails are flagged as potential spam by some internet providers, but not all. I usually send out zoom links and other time sensitive announcements 2 or more days ahead. Check with me by email or phone if you have not received the information you need.

Project Updates for 2021



2021 Fall Plant Sale Results

We did an amazing job!

The total profit will be around \$2500 with a few small bills and income from the sale of extra plants at our membership meeting in September. The previous sale in 2019 netted about \$1600. This

is due to the fact that all of the members (and non-members) involved worked well together and success was achieved because of the positive attitude and work ethic of our volunteers. It was exciting to watch the synergy, problem solving, and modified marketing strategies going on those three days. These were all factors that helped us obtain the profit we did. Special thanks to the members who took on the new challenge of raising native plants for the sale; and to Ann Rozner's contributions of her painted rock which netted \$300 of profit. The addition of houseplants, bulbs and seeds were primary factors also. The seeds especially took little display space; we could have had more. People were also particularly interested the dried arrangements, houseplants, and native plants. We also worked with local plant propagator Ben Lindner and hope to extend that relationship next year.

Looking forward to next year, we are planning continuing education programs at membership meetings that will help us increase the supply and variety of plants and other items. The October meeting will be on winter sowing of natives and perennials (see meeting notice on page 9). We encourage those who donated succulents and houseplants to continue to propagate more of those for future sales. If you have dying plants that could be used for dried arrangements or maybe friends or neighbors do, make note for next year. We are always looking for more variety in this area. Collecting seeds over the next growing season is another item we could use to expand our sales. It is important that we continue the great participation we had this fall because plant sales will probably be our major fund-raising source.

When you think about it, we achieved what we did by thinking outside the box. From electronic sign-up sheets, the addition of new products, possible new suppliers we discovered, and finding some niche products, we learned new things this year that will help us overcome the inability to sell 'dug' plants. If any members have additional thoughts on what went well or needs improvement, let one of the committee members know.

Jill

PS from the committee

Jill did an awesome job as chairperson. We salute her for "her service above and beyond the call of duty". (She is ex military if you don't know)

Project Updates for 2021

More kudos for other well done projects this summer and fall!!



Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield

Our 'Ask a Wood County Master Gardener' booth at the fair was a success. Thank you to Joyce Fischer, Donna Streiff, Micky Erickson, Barb Herreid, Jill Becker, Ann Rozner, Sally Sadowska, Bea Kohl and Sue Wilford for staffing the booth for 7 hours all 6 days of the fair. We talked to over 108 people over the 6 days, despite the fair attendance and exhibits being down. We educated many people on the benefits of planting natives and all about jumping worms. Japanese beetles and Lily leaf beetles were also on the minds of fair goers. We



managed to give away 16 cookbooks to some lucky people and they were thrilled to get the book. One gentleman stopped not to ask a questions, but just to say how much he appreciated the Master Gardeners and what we do. He loves the gazebo gardens at the fair. There were others who showed some interest in becoming a Master Gardener who were referred to Janell Wehr. All in all, a very successful week on very short notice.

October Membership Meeting Information

Due to lack of a meeting place in Wisconsin Rapids, the October meeting will also be at MARS on October 26 at 6 pm. Donna Streiff will present the program on growing plants by the winter sowing method for native plants and perennials.

In preparation for that program, if you have plants that are finished blooming and beginning to set seeds, collect those seeds to use for this project. If you are unsure what the seeds look like, cut the entire dried flower head and place it in a paper bag or envelope and label it. If you use plastic bags or containers, leave the top open for plenty of air circulation to prevent the formation of mold. Paper is preferred. Seeds are not always easily identifiable. For example, the spikey parts of dried coneflowers are not the seeds; they are imbedded further into the cone.

You are highly encouraged to come for the program and meeting to follow as Zooming may not be possible at MARS.

The following article is being included here for your information. Please print it or save it for future reference. You might want to bring it to the October meeting to take additional notes.

Native Plants Winter Sowing Project

Preparation Steps

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. You can use your research hours for education hours!! We want this to be an educational project for our members. Some are very small and fine, and others are not what you think they are. For example, coneflower seeds are not the spikey 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 for more education hours.

Background Information

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

Winter Sowing continued

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. You can start anytime up to mid-winter. Maybe an after Christmas project??

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.

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", or "wildflower" or "weed" or "wild" 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, such as northern, Canada, or alpine.

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

Winter Sowing continued

lids, and half gallon or 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 paint pen or china pencil, write the seed's name, the mature size and planting instructions. (Or write the name of the seeds on the top half of the container and the bottom.)

Use packaged seed starting mix marked as "soil-less". Do not use soil mixes which are prone to harden, or mixes that contain fertilizer or water retention 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. For very fine seeds, do not cover since many need light to germinate.

Insert the label inside the container along the side if using. If your container (not a bottle or jug) has a clear lid, poke 4 to 5 holes in the lid to provide air tran

Winter Sowing continued

spiration. 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. Because these are miniature greenhouses, it's possible to overheat the seeds if the container is not properly vented.

Tape the top (half) of the milk jug or soda bottle to the bottom (half) with a 4-inch piece of duct tape. 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!



Help Wanted

We have a vacancies in our Communication team and are looking for 1 or more people to take over this activity. (You can also share this responsibilities with another volunteer). This positions is vital for keeping our membership informed of association activities and publicizing our events to the public.

The Publicity Director is responsible for contacting radio, TV, print media, and online media, as appropriate to publicize our educational events and fundraisers. These days, information is mostly shared online, so this is not time consuming. We have a list of media outlets and contacts to guide you.

The job description:

- Compose and submit information related to WCMGVA activities and events to broadcast (TV, radio, CCTV), print, and internet sources for dissemination to the public.
- Coordinate event announcements with WCMGVA newsletter editor and other social media administrators.
- Serve as co-administrator of website and/or social media pages.

Please consider agreeing to fill this position. Our organization needs good communication within and outside to the community to be successful.

The possibility exists for sharing the duties for this positions so find a partner and give it a try.

Board of Directors positions open for 2022:

President and Director(preferably from north) These positions are very important to the smooth transition to our new organization. If you have questions about the role descriptions, please ask a current board member. The possibility of sharing a position is also open.

September Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- Allowing September rose blooms to stay on plants aids in winter protection. Watch for black spot on roses and remove infected leaves.
- Lift gladiolus corms when leaves begin to brown. Dry in sun a few days.
- Divide most perennials except asters and mums, which haven't bloomed.
- Divide and replant peony roots. Avoid planting too deeply.
- Bring coleus, geranium, caladium and begonias indoors.
- Place amaryllis in cool basement for a 3-month rest period.
- To set buds, Christmas cacti require a rest period and cool nights (55 degrees.)
- Sow snapdragons, cornflowers and other hardy annuals a few weeks before the first frost date. Mark where planted to avoid damaging seedlings in spring.
- Carefully inspect spring flowering bulbs before planting. Discard soft bulbs.
- Remove newly set tomatoes, blossoms and new growth five weeks before expected frost because they won't have time to mature.
- Sow annual ryegrass or oats for winter cover and green manure in beds that won't be planted until late in spring. Keep watered.
- Remove all weeds from garden before they go to seed.
- Pinch out the growing points at the top of Brussels sprout stems so bottom sprouts will reach maturity.
- Watch for early frosts. Cover the garden when frost is predicted to obtain up to another month of growth. Water plants well for greater frost protection and maximum growth.
- Cut back perennials after frost.
- Dig and pot parsley, chives and tender herbs for transfer indoors to sunny window.
- For better keeping, harvest carrots, beets and turnips before first frost kills foliage.
- Gather squash, pumpkins and gourds when ripe and before frost damage. Leave 2-inch stem on vegetable for better storage.
- Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile or sealing in container for disposal.
- Early September is the latest time to plant spring-flowering shrubs.
- Aerate lawn when temperature is 60-70 degrees.
- Stop planting evergreens by mid-September.
- Harvest pears when light green. Separate from branch with slight twisting motion.
- Harvest grapes. Fertilize with one-cup bone meal per plant.
- Harvest apples. Rake leaves and fallen fruit from apple trees to control disease and inspect problems next year. Be careful not to injure long-lived fruiting spurs when harvesting.
- Cut out spent raspberry and blackberry canes after fruiting.



October Garden Guide

from [Portage County Master Gardeners Volunteers](#)

- On October 1, start treatment of poinsettias for bract coloration. Place in total darkness for 15 hours every day for 2 months. Night temperature should be 65-70 degrees F. Keep soil moist.
- Plant peonies until October 15. Mulch after ground freezes.
- Seed perennials such as Oriental poppy, Iceland poppy, gas plant, primrose, scabiosa, phlox, pansy and penstemon. Mark where planted.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs can be planted up to six weeks after first fall frost. Fertilize existing bulb beds with bone meal, milorganite, or 5-5-5 fertilizer.
- Harvest gladiolas at least six weeks after bloom and before ground freezes. Cure for three days at 80 degrees before storing. Label and store at 40-45 degrees in open trays.
- Remove iris leaves to prevent over wintering of iris borer eggs. Cut leaves to four-inch fans.
- Store tuberose at 45 degrees F, tuberous rooted begonias at 45-50 degrees, and caladium at 60 degrees.
- After killing frost, rose bush foliage should be stripped and old leaves cleaned from bed. Shortly before ground freezes, roses should be given good deep soaking. Prune branches enough to prevent whipping around in wind or to fit under rose cones.
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals: cleome, pinks, candytuft, larkspur, bachelor buttons and calendula. Mark where planted.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke during last two weeks of month.
- Prepare vegetable garden soil for early spring planting. Remove old stalks to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Spread manure, incorporate into soil.
- Rejuvenate rhubarb by dividing into quarters and replanting.
- Cut back asparagus ferns and dispose to prevent insect and disease problems next year. Incorporate manure into soil and mulch with straw.
- Use mulch around Brussels sprouts to moderate soil temperature and prolong harvest.
- Water plants well for more cold tolerance.
- Plant garlic 2-3 inches deep and cover with 4-6 inches of straw mulch.
- Rake, chop and compost any fallen leaves from lawn.
- Fertilize shade trees when leaf color changes and leaves drop.
- Plant dormant deciduous trees and shrubs from now until ground freezes. A two-inch layer of mulch reduces freezing and thawing, which can damage roots.
- If fertilizing lawn one time a year, apply it in the third week of October. If fertilizing twice a year, apply in October and early June. If three times a year, include a September application.
- Water evergreens and foundation plantings before ground freezes.
- Protect woody ornamentals and fruit trees against mice.



2021 WCMGV Board of Directors

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Wood County Extension Horticultural Agent—Janell Wehr
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Future Article Submission

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 10th of the month to woodcountym-ga@gmail.com.

Public Relations Chair OPEN POSITION

Lead time for television and newspaper is four weeks. Call a board member for clarification of dates and deadlines.

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

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

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

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.

Final Reminders

September Meeting

Please make every effort to attend the **September 26th meeting** to discuss the future of the organization and have any of your questions answered after a year of COVID restrictions and the reorganization at the UW. **We are sorry but this meeting will not be Zoomed due to the activities planned for the meeting.** Mask wearing and social distancing will be observed.

Open Positions

Please seriously consider one of the open positions, Public Relations Chair, President and Director for 2022. PR Chair and President positions can be shared between two or more people if you do not want to go it alone. Training for both positions are available.