

## President's Message for Feb 2022

Things are starting to pick up for our association after the Board met in January. There is a group moving ahead to host a spring plant sale during the Port Edwards city wide garage sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>. A number of MGV are taking advantage of the online Diagnostic course this spring which starts on February 1<sup>st</sup>. A Project Leader Zoom meeting is set up for Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Focus of this meeting is to understand our new relationship with clients as a volunteer of that organization. Any member is welcome to join this meeting if you desire, just email Barb Herreid to be sent the Zoom link.

The Board will be having a 'strategic planning' meeting in February. We will try to narrow down a few goals and interventions which will help us to focus. What will our association look like in two years? Where do we want to focus our efforts?. It is the hope that all members, all 32 of us, can focus our efforts on these measures to move this association forward.

Our membership meetings will be starting soon, with the first meeting on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Place is yet to be determined. The meetings will be face to face with zoom capability, if it can be arranged. Looking forward to incorporating this technology, so more can attend.

The board is still looking for a MGV who would be willing to serve on the board as Secretary. Judy Miller has agreed to be the secretary for the membership meetings. Please consider this Secretary position on the Board.

Other things we are looking at:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Creating a new logo              | Creating a log of all our meeting spaces around the county |
| Increasing newsletter to monthly | Welcoming back past members of our association             |

2022 is going to be an exciting and challenging year. I look forward to working with all the members as we move forward.

Blessings to you all

Sue Wilford



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# Meeting Educational Programs for 2022. . .so Far

Programs for our WCMGV 2022 meetings are in the making. Thanks to all who volunteered to present a program or who suggested program topics. At this point, we have confirmed the following topics/presenters:

March 22	MG Program Update/Janell and officers	Site: TBD
April 26	Deer Resistant Gardening/Chris Landowski	McMillan Library/WR
May 24	Jumping Worms/Brad Herrick @ UW Arboretum	McMillan Library/WR
June 28	Orchid Culture/Maria Edelstein	Marshfield

Donna Streiff will host us at her Marshfield garden which features native plants on either July 26 or August 16.

We continue to work on additional programming and will let you know when details are finalized. Contact Karleen Remington at [karleenbobremington@gmail.com](mailto:karleenbobremington@gmail.com) if you have questions or wish to make further suggestions.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Spring Plant Sale May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Wisconsin Rapids area**

A simple plant sale will be organized for May 21<sup>st</sup> during the Port Edwards Garage Sale Day. MG member Cathy Schutz has graciously offered her driveway to be the location of the sale. We have a small planning group and will meet during February to get organized. But here's what we have in mind so you can plan to participate as you are able.

- We encourage MG and friends of MG to plant seeds to have marketable annual flowers and vegetables for the sale.
- We can accept divided and replanted houseplants in sterilized potting mix.
- We can accept tender bulbs, washed, and then planted in sterilized potting mix. Starting them in late April or early May will give customers a visual of the type of plant grown.
- Donate garden accessories in clean and good condition.
- If you have a stash of viable seed in their original packages, we will sell the packages. If you have harvested milkweed seed, this would be a good item too.

We do not propose to purchase any inventory from the wholesalers we have used in the past. We will not be offering divided perennials from our gardens because of the jumping worm infestation.

And finally, we would like to staff the "Ask a Master Gardener" booth for the day.

Stay tuned for more information as the winter progresses to Spring.

Submitted by Micky Erickson and Bea Kohl

# Winter Sowing Project for Fall Plant Sale

Winter Sowing Time is Here!!

Now that the holidays are over and the snow is piling up, it's time to start winter sowing of native plants. Please refer to the video recorded at the October meeting or the how-to article in the September -October WCMGV newsletter. Both can be found on the Wood County MGV website.

Below is a list of seeds from native plants that I had collected last summer. If you would like to try to grow some of these, let me know by email and I will send them to you. We had many requests for more shade plants last fall so you might want to try starting more of those. The plants listed are for full sun unless noted. F=Full Sun P=Part Sun S=Shade

If you want more info about the plants, such as plant size, bloom time, preferred soil type or preferred soil moisture level go to the Prairie Nursery or Prairie Moon websites. If you want to start more than a few plants for your own garden, you can order packets of seeds for \$3 each (a really good deal) from Prairie Moon. I included a few of those that I ordered 1st fall in this list. Contact me at: [streiffonclay@tds.net](mailto:streiffonclay@tds.net) Both sites also sell larger size seed mixes for starting native or prairie plantings for all different types of sites.

Aruncus (goat's beard) (P to S)	Tall Blue Larkspur (P)
New England Aster (F to P)	Leadplant
Big Leaf Aster (P to S)	Liatris (F to P)
Calico Aster (P to S)	Red Lobelia (F to P)
Hairy Beardtongue (F to P)	Blue Lobelia (F to P)
Large-Flowered Beardtongue (F to P)	Wild Lupine (F to P)
Showy Beardtongue (F to P)	Purple Poppy Mallow
Blackeyed Susan (F to P)	Monkeyflower
Boneset	Pink Monarda (native) (F to P)
Bottle Gentian	Smooth Penstemon
Butterfly Weed (orange)	Quinine
Purple Prairie Clover	River Oats
Tall Coneflower	Royal Catchfly
Purple Coneflower	Shrubby St. John's Wort (F to P)
Culver's Root (F to S)	Sweet Everlasting
Cream Gentian (F to P)	Switchgrass
Wild Geranium (F to S)	Pink Turtlehead
Golden Alexander	White Turtlehead (F to P)
Zigzag Goldenrod (F to P)	Hoary Vervain
Anise Hyssop (F to P)	Downy Wood Mint (F to P)
Ironweed	White Yarrow
Joe Pye Weed (F to P)	

## **For the Spring Plant Sale**

Start planning now by dividing or starting slips of houseplants, or by planting a few extra seeds for spring transplants. We need to have them big enough to make good looking merchandise by the end of May.

# Educational Opportunities

Looking for educational programs to fulfill your CE hours? Just want to increase your knowledge? Learn something interesting? Here are some webinars you can take!

## UW-Extension Programs

Winter 2022 Green Thumb Garden Series-Online For new gardeners or just to refresh your knowledge on basic gardening Fee: \$90 for series or \$12 per session

Nine programs on Mondays from Jan. 10 to March 21 6-8pm

Feb. 7 Vegetable Diseases

Feb. 21 Composting Techniques for the Vegetable Garden

Feb. 28 Cover Crops

Mar. 7 Weed Management in Vegetable Gardens

Mar. 14 Vegetable Insects

Mar. 21 Seed Saving and Harvesting/Storage

For more details on the classes and to register go to: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>

**Check the Horticulture website for more classes** as they are added each month at:

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

**WPT Garden and Landscape Expo** Feb. 11-13 Madison For details go to :

[Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo \(wigardenexpo.com\)](http://wigardenexpo.com)

**Marshfield Library Garden Guru Series** 3rd Mon. of the month at 6pm No cost

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Feb.21 Seed Starting and Winter Sowing

Mar. 14 The Importance of Using More Native Plants in Your Yard

**Extension Mini-webinars** Free!! To register and/or learn more: <https://bit.ly/3g0lfhF>

Feb. 23 Pruning Apple Trees

Approximately 30 Min webinars followed by Q & A

Mar. 2 Apple Pests

Mar. 9 Growing Strawberries in Containers

## **Melinda Myers Webinars**

February 23, 2022 6:30 p.m. Webinar: Dahlias - Proven Performers! free

To find out more and to register: [Upcoming appearances :: Melinda Myers](#)

Several recent recorded webinars are also available on her website.

# Updates from the MGV Program Office

## Some reminders for the new ways we are volunteering

### How are projects led in the future?

- We are moving away from “projects” to organizations. **The ORS will not list projects in 2022.** **Please attend the Project Leaders meeting on Feb. 22** to help you transition to the new format of volunteering.
- Starting January 1, 2022, volunteer service is conducted through other organizations. It will be up to the organization which you volunteer for to determine who may be overseeing the activities.
- Please remember that you must follow the requirements of the organization you choose to volunteer for. This may include behavior agreements, assumptions of risk, and other conditions of service for those organizations. It may include a background check if the organization requires it.

**Please fill out the form to have organizations you anticipate volunteering with in 2022 entered into ORS.**

(Control + click to follow link)

Submit Organization

### What do I need to do in 2022?

- **Accept new Terms and Conditions (this includes the Code of Ethics) for 2022.** This will be conducted through the ORS. We will notify you through email when it is available. Please make sure your information is updated in the ORS
- **Complete the updated Onboarding-lite 2022.** This is now available on Canvas
- The above items must be completed before you conduct any volunteer hours you are going to count toward the program.
- **Make sure you are a volunteer of the organization where you want your hours to count.**

If you have other questions about the new MGV program, email Janell and/or send them to the program office by using the link.

(Control + click to follow link)

Submit Question or Comment

# Updates from the MGV Program Office

## **Important Liability Changes for MGVs**

### **(This is why you must be a volunteer of the organization you are working with)**

January 2022: The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is revising the Master Gardener Program. Volunteers will be able to continue to serve their community in many of the activities through which they have historically contributed, while expanding their impact in new ways. Since Master Gardeners will no longer automatically be volunteers for the Division of Extension, it is important to review the following information regarding liability coverage: Master Gardeners are considered the volunteers of the organization for which they provide volunteer service. University liability protection is not attached to an individual's participation as a Master Gardener or the title of Extension Master Gardener. Liability protection provided by the University does not extend to volunteer service performed for any other groups or organizations with which Extension Master Gardeners may volunteer

### **Criminal Background Checks Clarification**

We encourage everyone to review the Q & A video. <https://t.e2ma.net/webview/e4ksvd/4afea357d2e697a0b6020c1e2da26e82>

Master Gardeners must follow the requirements of the organization they choose to volunteer for. This may include a CBC through that organization.

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

If you are expecting an email relating to MGV 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.

To make sure your WIMGA newsletter and other possible correspondence does not go to your Spam folder, **add the following contact to your email contacts list:** [news@wimga.org](mailto:news@wimga.org)

# At a Glance Checklist — Reference for using ORS

Master Gardeners are able to self-determine if **continuing education** and **volunteer activities** are eligible to report for program requirements. You must be able to answer **YES** to every question for time spent to be reportable. Master Gardeners must refer to information in Onboarding (with your NetID and Canvas) for complete guidelines. You might want to save this page and print it for your future reference.

## Continuing Education Criteria

### Did it occur within the year you want to report it?

(We follow a Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 reporting year.)

### Did it pertain to appropriate subject matter?

(Master Gardeners: Refer to the Subject Matter section in Onboarding.)

Additional questions to ask yourself:

Is the continuing education related to the growing and maintenance of terrestrial plants (i.e. ornamental and edible plants)?

Is the continuing education related to connecting terrestrial plants with communities, habitats, and people?

Does the continuing education appear on the [Out of Bounds](#) list? If so, it is not appropriate subject matter.

### Was the source of information appropriate?

(Refer to the Sources of Information section in Onboarding.)

Additional questions to ask yourself:

Was the speaker, author or organization using research-based information and presenting it in an objective manner

Is the speaker, author or organization considered a professional in the information? They should have technical, artistic or experiential knowledge.

# At a Glance Checklist — Reference for using ORS

## Volunteer Activities Criteria

### **Does it occur within the year you want to report it?**

(We follow a Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 reporting year.)

### **Does it pertain to appropriate subject matter?**

(Refer to the Subject Matter section in Onboarding.)

Additional questions to ask yourself:

Is the activity related to the growing and maintenance of terrestrial plants (ie ornamental and edible plants)?

Is the activity related to connecting terrestrial plants with communities, habitats, and people?

Does the activity appear on the [Out of Bounds](#) list? If so, it is not appropriate subject matter.

### **Will you use appropriate sources of information in your activities?**

(Refer to the Sources of Information section in Onboarding.)

Additional questions to ask yourself:

Does the information you use to conduct the activity come from:

A speaker, author or organization who uses research-based information and presents it in an objective manner?

A speaker, author or organization considered professionals in the information? They should have technical, artistic or experiential knowledge.

### **Is the activity conducted for an appropriate organization?**

(Refer to the Organizations section in Onboarding.)

### **Is it an appropriate activity?**

(Refer to the Volunteer Activities section in Onboarding.)



# Calendar Listings

## Important Upcoming Dates—Add to your calendars

- Jan. 4+ Complete 2022 Onboarding Lite on Canvas to remain a member of the of the Master Gardener organization
- Feb. 1 or so Look for the new ORS to be available to start recording hours. (Keep track of hours on paper until it is open.)
- Feb 17 Board Meeting for Strategic Planning 1-3pm at MARS
- Feb 22 Project Leader Meeting via Zoom 6-8pm
- Mar. 9 Adams County HCE invitation to hear Neil Diboll of Prairie Nursery speak on growing prairie flowers in dry sandy soil. More details later.
- Mar. 16 MGV Diagnostic Webinar via Zoom: 6-7:15pm (For those who are taking the online Diagnostic Course.)
- Mar.17 Board Meeting 1-3pm Room114 Courthouse
- Mar. 22 Membership Meeting: Tuesday, 6-8pm: Face to Face and via Zoom (place to be determined)

## Winter Salt Alert

Winter is here! Snow and ice on driveways and sidewalks need to be removed with each snow or ice storm that arrives. Are you looking for salt alternatives for your driveway or sidewalk? Do you want to learn more about salt tolerant landscape plants? Check out the UW-Madison Extension publication, [Winter Salt Injury and Salt Tolerant Landscape Plants](#). This free PDF publication focuses on recognizing and preventing plant damage caused by deicing salts, evaluates the pros and cons of alternatives to rock salt, and provides an extensive list of salt-tolerant plants.



# January 2022: Decontaminating Your Way to Healthier Plants

JANUARY 27, 2022 HUDELSON

When discussing plant diseases and their management, I often emphasize decontaminating pots, gardening tools and work surfaces as one part of a successful disease management strategy. To kill fungi and bacteria (and to a lesser extent viruses) I often recommend treating items for at least 30 seconds with alcohol, commercial disinfectants, or bleach.

When using alcohol, a 70% solution is optimal for decontamination. I use ethanol for decontaminating items in my lab, but rubbing (i.e., isopropyl) alcohol is a better option for home gardeners, as it is readily available at a local drugstore or grocery store. Rubbing alcohol is formulated as a 70% solution and can be used straight out of the bottle.

Commercial disinfectants come in many forms. I look for products that contain alcohol (you may see ethanol listed as an ingredient) and where the percentage of all active ingredients is as close to 70% as possible. If you opt to use a spray disinfectant, spray items until they drip and then allow them to air dry.

Bleach is probably the most challenging material to use for decontamination. Back when I started at the PDDC (almost 25 years ago), most bleach that you could buy at the grocery store was formulated to be 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (the active ingredient), and you just had to make a 10% solution (i.e., 1 part bleach and 9 parts water) to yield an approximate 0.5% solution that is optimal for decontaminating items. Nowadays, the bleach that you buy can contain very different concentrations of sodium hypochlorite (e.g., 1.8%, 5.25%, 7.5%, 8.25%), and you have to be more careful how you mix up your dilute bleach solution.



Here are some easy instructions on how to dilute the bleach that you buy (assuming it contains 1% or more sodium hypochlorite) to properly to yield a solution that is 0.5% sodium hypochlorite (or slightly higher):

**Find the percentage of sodium hypochlorite in your bleach in the ingredient list;**

**Multiple that number by two (2);**

**Round the resulting number down to the nearest whole number;**

**Subtract one (1) from that rounded number.**

**This final number is the number of parts of water that you need to mix with one (1) part of your bleach to yield the diluted solution you need for decontaminating items.**

When you use bleach on metal tools (alcohol is really a better option for treating metal items), be sure to rinse tools thoroughly with water after treating (to remove bleach residues) and then oil them. Bleach corrodes metal and will cause metal tools to rust if not used properly. Also use bleach carefully to prevent contact with your skin and clothing. Bleach can cause skin irritation/burns and eat holes in your clothes, if not used properly.

Now go forth and decontaminate!

For more information on plant diseases and their management, check out the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>) or contact PDDC staff at [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-2863.

# Boxwood Blight – Pest Alert

**Authors:** Matthew Shulman\* and Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison Plant Pathology

**Last Revised:** 01/24/2022

**D-number:** D0023

**What is boxwood blight?** Boxwood blight (also known as box blight and boxwood leaf drop) is a devastating disease of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) that can cause leaf loss and eventual death of affected shrubs. Boxwood shrubs are commonly grown as hedges and as individual plants in home landscapes and public gardens. Boxwood blight can affect any type of boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) including European or common boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), Korean littleleaf boxwood (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*), and Japanese littleleaf boxwood (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*). In addition, the disease has been reported on Japanese and Allegheny pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis* and *Pachysandra procumbens* respectively), two common groundcovers. Boxwood blight has been found in Europe and New Zealand, and was first confirmed in the U.S. in 2011. The disease was first detected in Wisconsin (in Kenosha County) in 2018. The disease has subsequently been found in Dane, Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties.

**What does boxwood blight look like?** Initially, brown spots appear on the leaves. The spots eventually enlarge and merge together. Infected leaves turn brown and fall off. Boxwood blight can cause total leaf loss on a shrub within days of the first onset of symptoms. Dark brown to black sunken areas can also form anywhere on the stems, leading to branch die-back. Boxwood blight often kills plants shortly after all of the leaves drop. Damage from winter burn (see UW Plant Disease Facts D0127, Winter Burn), dog urine and other diseases such as *Volutella* blight may look superficially similar to symptoms of boxwood blight.



Boxwood blight can cause severe leaf loss and eventual death of boxwood shrubs. (Photo courtesy of David Clement, University of Maryland Extension)

**Where does boxwood blight come from?** Boxwood blight is caused by the fungus *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* (sometimes referred to as *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* or *Cylindrocladium buxicola*) which thrives in humid, warm conditions. The fungus is typically introduced into any area on nursery plants that are infected, but not showing symptoms. Holiday wreaths containing boxwood sprigs have also been documented as a source of the boxwood blight fungus. Once the fungus has been introduced into the

landscape, spores can be easily spread by splashing water (e.g., rain or sprinklers), wind or contaminated gardening tools (e.g., pruners, shovels, gloves). The boxwood blight fungus can survive and produce spores in dead boxwood leaves and branches (including those that have fallen onto the ground) for several years.

**How can I save a plant with boxwood blight?** Because boxwood blight is new to Wisconsin and relatively rare, eradicating the causal fungus may be possible. Therefore, if you find boxwood blight, remove and destroy any affected shrubs. Currently, free testing for boxwood blight is available through the UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>). Plants (roots and all) confirmed to have boxwood blight, as well as any leaves or branches that have fallen from these plants, should be removed and destroyed by burning (where allowed by local ordinance), deep burying (at least two feet deep) or double bagging (in plastic garbage bags), then landfilling. DO NOT compost any parts of infected shrubs. Thoroughly decontaminate any tools used in the removal process by treating them for at least 30 seconds in 70% alcohol (e.g., rubbing alcohol or certain spray disinfectants) or (as a last resort) in 10% bleach. If you use bleach, be sure to thoroughly rinse and oil tools after pruning to prevent rusting.

## How can I avoid problems with boxwood blight in the future?

Consider using shrubs other than boxwood in your landscape. If you decide to use boxwood, choose boxwood blight resistant varieties where possible. In Wisconsin, hybrid boxwoods ‘Green Gem’ and ‘Karzgreen (Green Ice®)’, Japanese littleleaf boxwood varieties ‘Jim Stauffer’, ‘Little Missy’ and ‘Winter Gem’, and Korean littleleaf boxwood varieties ‘Eseles’ (Wedding Ring®), ‘Franklin’s Gem’, ‘Pincushion’, ‘Wee Willie’, ‘Winter Beauty’ and ‘Wintergreen’ are hardy to at least USDA hardiness zone 5 and have been documented to be resistant to boxwood blight. Always buy boxwood shrubs from local, reputable suppliers who have thoroughly inspected boxwood plants for evidence of boxwood blight.



Isolate new boxwood shrubs from established boxwoods for several weeks before planting, as boxwood blight symptoms not become apparent until weeks after purchase. DO NOT plant boxwoods in areas where boxwood blight has been a problem in the past, as the fungus can survive in boxwood debris (e.g., leaves and branches) for several years. When planting, space boxwood plants far enough apart from each other, as well as other shrubs, so that branches on adjacent shrubs do not overlap. This will increase air flow between plants and promote a drier environment that will be less favorable for boxwood blight development. Avoid watering plants with sprinklers or overhead with hoses; instead use a soaker or drip hose. This will limit splash of spores from plant to plant and also promote a drier environment that is less favorable for disease.

Leaf spots typical of boxwood blight on boxwood sprigs in a holiday wreath. (Photo courtesy Purdue PPDL)

Be cautious when buying holiday wreaths or other garlands. Avoid holiday decorations that contain boxwood, whenever possible. If you are unsure whether a wreath that you have purchased contains boxwood, assume that it does, and dispose of it appropriately by burning, deep burying or double bagging and landfilling as described above. Be careful to collect and dispose of any leaves or branches that may have fallen from wreaths as well. Make sure that no potentially contaminated materials end up near boxwood shrubs in your yard. Under NO circumstances should you attempt to compost any suspected boxwood materials.

Once boxwood blight has been reported near your location, you may want to consider using preventative fungicide treatments for management. Fungicides containing chlorothalonil (alone or in combination with thiophanate-methyl or tebuconazole), fludioxonil, metconazole, and tebuconazole (as a stand-alone product) have been shown to provide good control of boxwood blight if applied prior to the development of any symptoms. These fungicides will not cure existing disease. If you decide to use fungicides, you will need to treat every seven to 14 days throughout the growing season. DO NOT use fludioxonil, metconazole, or tebuconazole as the sole active ingredient for all treatments. If you decide to use one of these active ingredients, alternate its use with at least one of the other active ingredients listed above (except DO NOT alternate metconazole and tebuconazole as these products are chemically related). Alternating active ingredients will help minimize problems with fungicide-resistant strains of the boxwood blight fungus. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions of the fungicide(s) that you select to ensure that you use the product(s) in the safest and most effective manner possible.

Finally, routinely (e.g., weekly) check boxwood plants for boxwood blight. Immediately remove any symptomatic plants and fallen leaves and branches, and dispose of them as described above.

**For more information on boxwood blight:** Contact your county Extension agent.

This Fact Sheet is also available in PDF format:

## Want Ads



## Help Wanted

**Board Secretary**  
**Publicity Director**  
**Program Committee**

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.

**Secretary for the Board** position is open for 2022. The secretary is part of the BOD and records minutes for the Board and reviews and updates WCMGV by-laws, standards and forms as needed. Training for this position is available. This is an important position to keep members informed of membership news.

**Program Committee for 2022.** 2 or 3 members needed. Responsibilities include: Sharing the planning, coordinating and follow-through for monthly programs. No previous experience needed; program suggestions have been submitted by members; "how-to" guidance provided. Planning session(s) can be done via Zoom. Contact Karleen at [karleenbobremington@gmail.com](mailto:karleenbobremington@gmail.com) or 715.387.1863. This committee is necessary to have informative educational opportunities at our meetings.

All positions descriptions are listed on the WCMGV website in "Members Only" section.

## February Garden Guide

Taken from Stevens Point Master Gardener Newsletter; December 2012.

- Inspect gladiolus corms, dahlia tubers, begonia tubers and other fleshy rooted plants for rot and desiccation.
- Continue to inspect stored vegetables.
- To keep your houseplants growing evenly, give the containers a half turn every two days.
- Start seed for impatiens, vinca, pansies, geranium and begonias in mid month.
- Check for over wintering fire blight cankers on susceptible varieties of apples and pears; remove by pruning.
- Spray dormant oil to control scale and other over wintering pests. Spray on any day above 40 degrees F and when forecast temperatures are to remain above freezing for 24 hours. This may be done until buds swell.
- Prune dormant trees and summer flowering shrubs. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs until after they have flowered.
- When forced bulbs have bloomed and tops have dried, store and then plant in garden in fall.
- Prune roses, fruit trees, and bramble fruits.
- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water.
- Check young trees and shrubs for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent rodent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Try growing some perennials from seed.
- Start seeds for leeks and onions.
- Use a sterile soil-less medium for starting seeds to avoid dampening off.
- Continue to winter sow this month.



# 2022 WCMGV Board of Directors

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## Future Article Submission

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter by the 25th of the month to: [streiffon-clay@tds.net](mailto:streiffon-clay@tds.net)

## OPEN POSITIONS

**Board Secretary**

**Public Relations Chair**

**Program Committee member**

**Wisconsin Master Gardeners**

**Website:** <http://wimastergardener.org> or

[wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu](mailto:wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu)

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

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

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

Open Positions Please seriously consider one of the open positions, Public Relations Chair, Board Secretary 2022, or as a member of the Program Committee. PR Chair position can be shared between two or more people if you do not want to go it alone. Training for both PR and Secretary positions is available.

Plant Sales 2022 Winter Sowing Start your seeds in January for this year. See the info in the Sept.-Oct. newsletter about winter sowing, or the recording on the WCMGV website in the “Members Only” section. **Spring plant sale also needs plants, etc.**

Submit your organizations for the new ORS.

Agree to Terms and Conditions before beginning volunteering.

Check with your Volunteer Organization 1)What are its requirements and 2) sign up as a volunteer