



Master Gardener Update March 2017

In This Issue

[Perspicacity](#)

[Pollinators 101](#)

[Background Checks](#)

[RBG Evening Garden
Seminar: Selecting a Tree
for Your Home Landscape](#)

[March Calendar](#)

[Tip of the Month](#)

Quick Links

[UW-Extension Rock County
Website](#)

[Rotary Botanical Gardens](#)

[RPMGA Blogspot](#)

PERSPICACITY

SPRING

The rain passes through
Coming down in a pitter-
patter as
it's slender wet feet plant
themselves into the
ground,
with green grass and
trees
blooming in their wake
It's just the third month
But the year, newly born,
has found its legs
and is marching in.

Spring is approaching quickly, now is a great time to start thinking about your community garden plots. This year like previous years I will have the plots tilled and marked by early May. Stop in or call Kim in the Extension office with any community garden plot questions.

A few additional reminders for Community Gardeners:

*No chemical herbicides or pesticides are to be used in the community gardens.

*Water is available and the hoses are property of UW Extension. Please roll up and return the hoses as soon as you are done for others to use.

*Respect others garden plots, and contact the UW Extension office with any concerns.

*Follow posted signs at the compost area. Please do NOT dump additional compost materials from home into the compost piles, only compost materials from the community garden plots.

*The compost is free to be used by all community gardeners on a first come, self-serve basis.

As the warm days of spring approach it is a great time to plan your gardens and think about starting seeds indoors, but remember the safe outdoor planting date for most garden plants is May 5th or later.

Nick Baker

-Alex Roberson

Agriculture Agent - Soil and Crop Science Emphasis
UW-Extension Rock County

RPMGA Pollinators 101

Janesville WI

March 9, 2017

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.



RPMGA is hosting "Pollinators 101". The presentation will discuss the importance of pollinators. There will also be a hands-on segment on how to build a pollinator hotel from straws and a tin can. The meeting will be held at the Rock County Courthouse in the Courthouse Conference Center. For more information click [here](#). RSVP to the UW-Extension office at 608-757-5696 or by email: kim.mork@ces.uwex.edu.

Criminal Background Checks Mandated for all UW-Extension Volunteers

The Master Gardener program has started the process of conducting national criminal background checks (CBC) as mandated by the UW-Regents for all certified MGVs (as announced in the December Volunteer Vibe: goo.gl/YpAaQz).

Instead of checking everyone all at once, they are starting with anyone who did training in 2013 or before and has completed all the requirements for certification. After working with incoming students to develop a process, they began with existing MGVs in Columbia County the week of Feb 6, and followed that with a batch of 11 counties.

Susan Mahr is in the process of contacting the counties that will be sent in to HR in batches of about 300 names over the next six to eight weeks. This is being done in roughly alphabetical order, but shifting a few counties around to balance numbers or keep counties that have a single MGA together.

Once UWEX-HR started the process, they found that they will have to delay its implementation a week or longer due to a technical issue. UWEX-HR is currently unable to export files into the GIS system in order to conduct the check. Until UWEX-HR and GIS resolve the problem, processing CBCs for existing MGVs is on hold (this should not affect new applicants).

Susan Mahr or Angela Schultz from HR will contact the counties with specific dates once the process is resumed and UW-Extension Rock County will keep you informed.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar: Introduction to Pruning Shrubs and Trees

Janesville WI

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



"Introduction to Pruning Shrubs and Trees" by Mike Maddox, State Director of the Wisconsin Master Gardener program and ISA Certified Arborist.

Topics will include when to prune, proper pruning techniques, and problem solving. This lecture is intended for gardeners with all levels of pruning expertise. Bring your questions and photos because Mike will address specific pruning questions.

See the Rotary Botanical Gardens website for more information: [RBG Evening Garden Seminars](#).

Cost is \$5 for non-members, \$3 for RBG Friends members, no registration required.

March Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 RPMGA "Pollinators 101" details	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 <i>Spring Begins</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 RBG Intro to Pruning Shrubs & Trees details	29	30	31	

Tip of the Month

March is a good time to:

Flush street side plantings. Flush the planting beds near the street with plenty of water to dilute the road salt that has accumulated in the soil. Even salt tolerant plants will appreciate it.

This tip comes from http://midwestgardentips.com/zone_5_march.html

Please send your ideas for **Tip of the Month** to kim.mork@ces.uwex.edu.

If it's a quote, please cite the author. If it's yours, let me know!

Gardening tips are very welcome!!
