



## Master Gardener Update April 2017

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### PERSPICACITY

#### April

"The roofs are shining  
from the rain,  
The sparrows twitter as  
they fly,  
And with a windy April  
grace  
The little clouds go by.  
Yet the back yards are  
bare and brown

As you prepare your gardens for planting this spring, keep these soil tips in mind from Vincent A. Fritz, University of Minnesota Extension:

"Soils should not be prepared for planting when too wet or too dry. If soil sticks to your shoes or shovel, it is too wet. Press a small amount of soil in your hand. When the moisture is right, the soil crumbles and breaks into small clumps. If it is too wet, it stays molded in a ball.

Have your soil tested for the amount of fertilizer or manure to apply before planting. A routine soil test gives information on any lime requirement, phosphorous and potassium needs and estimated nitrogen requirements.

Rake or harrow the planting area immediately after tilling or spading. A firm, fine seedbed is best, particularly for small-seeded crops, but packing the soil too much could promote crusting of the soil surface and damage emerging seedlings. Tilling the soil in late fall facilitates earlier spring planting."

For information on soil testing, contact the UW-Extension Rock County office at 608-757-5696.

With only one unchanging  
tree--  
I could not be so sure of  
Spring  
Save that it sings in me."  
-Sara Teasdale



## RPMGA Continuing Education: Identifying Trees in Winter

### Janesville WI

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

**4:00 p.m.**

Janesville Urban Forester, Ethan Lee, will be showing the fine points of tree identification in the winter season when the best clue is missing: the leaves. You will learn how to identify trees from shape, bark and fruit or blossoms.



This continuing education program will take place at the north end of Riverside Park in Janesville. Dress for the weather. Study guides will be provided.

For more information please see the RPMGA blog: <http://rpmga.blogspot.com/>

## Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar "Japanese Garden Design"

### Janesville WI

**Wednesday, April 26, 2017**

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

Tim Gruner, Garden Curator of Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Illinois, will present the lecture "Japanese Garden Design."



Learn about the guiding principles of Japanese garden design, including patterns found in nature and the human connection to the landscape.

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

## Rhododendrons 101

### Waterford WI

**Sundays: May 7, June 4, and July 9, 2017**

**3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

The Midwest Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is hosting afternoon sessions for anyone interested in the successful cultivation of rhododendrons and azaleas in Wisconsin.



These garden tours will take place at a private garden in western Racine County.

You will have the opportunity to walk among over 100 mature rhododendron and azalea varieties growing and blooming in a setting of century-old oaks.


***The number of participants is limited to 20 people for each date.***

This a free event but you must RSVP to Tom Horner at [psalmxl@aol.com](mailto:psalmxl@aol.com).

### RPMGA Thank You

Many thanks to Art Hilker for stepping up to help out on the RPMGA financial team.

### April Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 RPMGA Identifying Trees in Winter <a href="#">details</a>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Good Friday</i>	15
16 <i>Easter</i> 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 RBG 2017 Evening Garden Seminar "Japanese Garden Design" <a href="#">details</a>	27	28	29
30						

### Tip of the Month

April's tip is to turn the compost. If the weather is favorable and you are able to get outside for some yard work, don't forget this important task!

Please send your ideas for ***Tip of the Month*** to [kim.mork@ces.uwex.edu](mailto: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!!

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