



Master Gardener Update May 2017

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This spring the Rock County Extension office has had people coming in with samples of moss, wondering what it is, why it is growing in their lawn and how to get rid of it.

Here are some questions and answers regarding moss growth from OSU Extension turfgrass specialist Rob Golembiewski:

Does your lawn have a poor diet?

Your lawn most likely lacks fertilizer. Moss tends to grow where grass stands are thin and malnourished. But properly timed applications of nitrogen will increase the turf's density, vigor and competitiveness. Fall and spring are the best times to apply it.

Is your lawn in a naturally soggy area?

Moss thrives in damp wet soils, which often are caused by poor drainage or excessive irrigation. Poor drainage sometimes can be improved by changing grading, aerating lawns, removing thatch, or installing subsurface drain lines to lower the water table.

Does your lawn get enough sun?

Grasses grow poorly in dense shade. Consider removing shaded mossy lawn altogether and planting shade-loving, native perennials and shrubs.

Do you water your lawn too much?

Avoid watering at night, particularly in fall or early spring when moss growth is vigorous.

Is your lawn "injured" by the activities of children, insect pests, pets or vehicles?

Baseball games, bikes, dogs and insect larvae can physically injure lawns and contribute to moss encroachment.

Perspicacity

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May."

- Edwin Way Teale

Are you stingy with the water in the summer?

Just like too much water, too little water can encourage moss. Lawns that are not irrigated turn brown and thin out during summer. When fall rains return, moss may grow in faster than the grass.

Do you need to seed or fertilize?

After dethatching, seed thin areas, and fertilize the entire lawn to stimulate growth of grass, preferably between April and early June. Follow up in the fall with more fertilizer to reduce the problem for the following spring.

Having the soil tested will identify the correct type and amount of fertilizer to add.

RPMGA Event: UW Family Garden Day and Fitchburg Farms

Madison and Fitchburg WI

Saturday, May 6, 2017

9:00 a.m.



UW Family Garden Day: Explore the Allen Centennial Garden, Steenbock Memorial Library and D.C. Smith Instructional Greenhouse at the UW-Madison facilities for teaching, research and outreach in the plant sciences, and also tour some beautiful gardens on campus. Learn more about gardening and take home some plants of your own!

UW-Madison and UW-Extension experts and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about plants, soils, weeds and pests; offer advice for gardens of all sizes; and host a variety of demonstrations and displays on topics such as limited-space gardens, edible gardens and ways to extend the growing season. Lots of fun activities for the kids or grandkids. Read more about it

here: <http://www.science.wisc.edu/family-gardening-day.htm>

Fitchburg Farms: On the way back the group will stop at Fitchburg Farms, a full-service 1/2 acre garden center that opened in the spring of 2014. This garden center has a vast array of annuals, perennials and other garden materials. The goal of owners Michael and Tyler Nauta is to provide world-class customer service and second-to-none product quality in a fun and educational setting. Please see their website for more information: <http://www.fitchburgfarms.com/>

Carpool/Caravan: Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Mercy Health Mall at the corner of Washington and Memorial in Janesville.

RPMGA Seed and Plant Swap

Janesville WI

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

1:00 p.m.

Swap your extra seeds with other Master Gardeners at the Seed and Plant Swap at the Rock County Community Garden shed in Janesville. Limit plant swaps to those grown in potting mix from seeds, cuttings or divisions because plants that come from the ground may contain jumping worm eggs.



There will be a brief talk about jumping worms and general practices to limit the spread of all kinds of pests. Participants will share information about what they've brought.

There will be free herb and milkweed seeds, plus milkweed seedlings.

The Community Garden is located just east of the Sheriff's Department in Janesville, near the intersection of Highways 14 and 51.

This program will count as one hour of Continuing Education for your MGV certification.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar "Lawn Care Basics for the Wisconsin Homeowner"

Janesville WI

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

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



Dr. Paul Koch of the UW-Madison Department of Plant Pathology will talk about "Lawn Care Basics for the Wisconsin Homeowner". Learn how to have a healthy green lawn by following the suggested timing of fertilizer and pesticide applications. Paul will also discuss alternative healthy lawn practices that can lessen the reliance on traditional pesticides, and also on some 'lower toxicity' or 'reduced risk' products that can be used in place of traditional pesticides.

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

Notice from UW-Extension Rock County

If you know anyone that wants to garden and doesn't have the space, please let them know that UW-Extension still has open plots at the Rock County Community Garden.

The cost is \$35 for one plot and \$60 for two. Plots are 20 feet by 25 feet (500 sq. ft.) For more information and rental forms, please see the UW-Extension website: <http://rock.uwex.edu/horticulture/rental-plots/>

The Community Garden will open in early May.

May Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 May Day 	2	3	4	5	6 RPMGA UW Family Garden Day and Fitchburg Farms
7	8	9 RPMGA Seed and Plant Swap	10	11	12 RBG Plant Sale details	13 RBG Plant Sale details
14 RBG Plant Sale details Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 RBG Volunteer Work Day details
21	22	23 RBG Evening Seminar: Lawn Care Basics for WI Homeowners details	24	25	26	27 RBG Volunteer Work Day details
28	29 Memorial Day 	30	31			

Tip of the Month

Spring Flowering Bulbs

Remove spent blooms on tulips, daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs. The plant will put all of its energy into growing new bulbs.

The leaves are needed to form new bulbs so leave them until they die in early summer.

More May gardening tips at: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/maygardeningtips.aspx>

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

If it's a quote, please cite the author or include a website link.

If it's yours, let us know!