



Master Gardener Update November 2017

In This Issue

[Master Gardener Annual
Achievement Meeting &
Pot Luck](#)

[RBG 2017 Evening Garden
Seminar Series: Plant
Selection for Four-Season
Garden Interest](#)

[Thank You](#)

[November Calendar](#)

Quick Links

[UW-Extension Rock
County Website](#)

[Rotary Botanical Gardens](#)

[RPMGA Blogspot](#)

As the days become cooler, your days of weeding, harvesting and preserving are done and it's time to sit back and enjoy some rest and relaxation. But before you curl up with your peach chutney on toast, your favorite beverage and your pile of seed catalogs for next spring, remember to put your garden to rest and take care of your garden tools.

While cleaning up your garden, be sure to remove any insect or diseased plant material. Do not compost these in your compost pile as many insects and diseases will overwinter. After you've done this, consider planting a cover crop, which is a great way to revitalize the soil in your garden. Cover crops increases the number of microorganisms in the soil and the amount of nitrogen fixing, which frees up nitrogen to be used by your garden plants during the next growing season. Planting a cover crop is often referred to as green manure, which dates back to Ancient Greece where it was first recognized that these cover crops provided needed nutrients for the soil.

When selecting a cover crop, chose one that grows fast but can be easily discouraged next year. Oats or annual rye are easy to find and will not persist next spring.

After you have planted your cover crop, it is time to clean and store your garden tools. Here are a few easy tips from Michigan State University Extension that will help you keep your tools in tip-top shape:

- Rinse off dirt and dry thoroughly.
- Wipe down wooden handles with linseed oil.
- Hang tools indoors. Do not lean them against the garage wall touching the floor as moisture from the floor is the enemy.

If you have pruning shears, here are some special maintenance tips for those tools:

- Use a scrub brush to remove sap and other residues. If necessary, use mineral spirits.

Perspicacity

Autumn

"When the trees their
summer splendor
Change to raiment red
and gold,

When the summer
moon turns mellow,
And the nights are
getting cold;
When the squirrels hide
their acorns,
And the woodchucks
disappear;
Then we know that it is
autumn,
Loveliest season of the
year."

- Carol L. Riser

- Dry shears well.
- Lubricate the pivot point with a drop or two of 3-IN-ONE oil.
- Sharpen shears with a whetstone or carbide sharpener.

With a little tender love and care for your tools, you can help them last longer and serve you better for many gardening seasons to come.

-Dixie Sandborn, Michigan State University Extension

Master Gardener Annual Achievement Meeting & Pot Luck

Rock County Courthouse Conference Center

Janesville WI

Thursday, November 9, 2017

5:30-7:30 p.m.



The Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association will host the Master Gardener Annual Achievement Meeting & Pot Luck for all Rock County Master Gardener Volunteers and their guests.

Traditionally it's a time to recognize those who've reached milestones in accumulated volunteer hours, and to meet and talk with MGVs you may not have seen in a while.

It is also a chance to learn about and become a part of the projects some of your fellow volunteers have been involved in. Some projects received funding through special grants that became available late last year. The grants were for educational materials, so there are a number of new resources available that MGVs may find useful. Come see them up close and personal!

This meeting and pot luck has also become an opportunity for RPMGA to get valuable input and program ideas from Master Gardener Volunteers. RPMGA currently welcomes feedback from MGVs on one or two spending decisions coming up.

For the pot luck, RPMGA will provide: shredded pork BBQ, buns, coffee, water, plates, cups, utensils and napkins.

What to bring: yourself, a guest if you wish, a dish to pass and something to serve it with.

To RSVP, please call the UW-Extension office at 608-757-5696 by November 6.

**Rotary Botanical Gardens 2017 Evening Garden Seminar Series:
Plant Selection for Four-Season Garden Interest**

Janesville WI

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

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

Mark Dwyer, Horticulture Director of Rotary Botanical Gardens, will be speaking about "Plant Selection for Four-Season Garden Interest."



Drawing on his experience and expertise, Mark will share photos of his favorite plants that contribute over all four seasons in the garden. Plants with wonderful blooms, fragrance, structure, fantastic foliage and other attributes will be covered with a focus on those plants that offer the most lengthy and significant contribution.

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

Thank You

Thank you for submitting your certification hours and continuing with the Master Gardener Volunteer program for the 2017-2018 year!

Collectively, the Rock County Master Gardeners served close to 3,000 volunteer hours this past year, which is pretty amazing! Your work and dedication to the program helps build stronger communities all across the county. Thank you for taking part!

November Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 RBG Fall Symposium details
5	6	7	8	9 MGV Annual Achievement Meeting & Pot Luck	10	11
12	13	14	15 Tree Pruning Workshop details	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29 RBG 2017 Evening Garden Series: Plant Selection for 4-Season Garden Interest details	30		

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UW-Extension Rock County, 51 S Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545

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