



Master Gardener Update December 2017/January 2018

In This Issue

Level 1 Training

Rotary Botanical Gardens December and January Events

RPMGA Pollinator Project Planning Session

Farewell

December Calendar

January Calendar

Quick Links

[UW-Extension Rock County Website](#)

[Rotary Botanical Gardens](#)

[RPMGA Blogspot](#)

Perspicacity

"I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.
'We are nearer to Spring
Than we were in September,'
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December."
- Oliver Herford,
I Heard a Bird Sing

As gardeners begrudgingly had to move indoors for the season (and some brought plants in to overwinter), here are a few tips for houseplant care, and for decorating for the holidays!



*Water houseplants with tepid water. Cold tap water may shock plants.

*Be sure newly purchased indoor plants are well protected for the trip home. Exposure to icy temperatures for even a few moments may cause injury.

*Overwintering geraniums like bright light and cool temperatures. Keep soils on the dry side.

*On cold nights, move houseplants back from icy windows to prevent chilling injury.

*Holiday poinsettia plants do best with sun for at least half the day and night temperatures in the 50's or 60's. Keep plants away from drafts, registers and radiators. The soil should dry only slightly between thorough waterings. Be sure to punch holes in decorative foil wraps to prevent soggy soil conditions.

*Hairspray works well to keep seed heads and dried flowers intact on wreaths and arrangements.

*Only female holly trees bear the colorful berries. There must be a male tree growing nearby for pollination, if fruits are desired.

*Hollies may be trimmed now and the prunings used in holiday decorations.

-Tips from the Missouri Botanical Garden
[more seasonal information](#)

New Year's Eve

New Year's eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another twelve months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights."

*-Hamilton Wright Mabie
(American Writer, 1845-1916)*

Happy Holidays to you and yours!



2018 Master Gardener Volunteer Directory & Year Stickers

Look for the 2018 Master Gardener Volunteer directory and year stickers coming soon!

2018

Master Gardener Level 1 Training

Irvin L Young Memorial Library

Whitewater WI

Every other Wednesday, February 7-August 27, 2018

9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.

Are you interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer, know someone who is seeking training, or wish to attend a class for a specific topic as a refresher? Master Gardener Level 1 Training begins in February for Rock and Walworth counties. The cost for the complete course is \$200 and includes all training sessions, the training manual, and supplies. This joint-county training will be provided by the state program office.

Training will use a flipped classroom approach. Participants will watch video lectures and read at home and come to class to engage in hands-on activities and applications designed to prepare students to be a Master Gardener Volunteer. Topics include: botany, soils, woody ornamentals, herbaceous ornamentals, entomology, plant pathology, weeds, lawn care, vegetables, fruits, and backyard wildlife. Because of the online components of training, it is recommended that students have access to a computer and internet connection capable of watching YouTube videos.

Interested volunteers must be available to volunteer in either Walworth or Rock Counties at approved program locations.

Please see the website for more information and registration documents:

<https://wimastergardener.org/events/level-1-training-in-walworth-and-rock-counties/>

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Freidig, Program Coordinator at the UW-Extension Master Gardener Program office by email at amy.freidig@ces.uwex.edu.

Rotary Botanical Gardens December and January Events

Janesville WI

In December Rotary Botanical Gardens host their annual Holiday Light Show.

Dates are: December 8-10, 14-23, 26-31 from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per person ages 2+. Tickets may be purchased online or at the door.

Enjoy a walk-through light display filled with 425,000 lights. Concessions available for purchase. Select evenings include live entertainment, Santa visits and more. Please visit www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org for more details. Animals are not allowed.



Surprisingly, January is the time to think spring when starting seeds of native plants. You will be starting them in old milk jugs outside right now.

Native plant seeds need to experience winter before the seeds will germinate.

Attend 'Milk Jug Planters' on Monday, January 1, 2018 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Rotary Botanical Gardens. Larry Scheunemann will show you this simple way to grow lots of native plants with minimal work. You will be amazed at how successful this technique is. Nature does the work outside! Larry had nearly 100% germination of 30 different plants last year. You will save lots of money and have fun at the same time.

Registration not required. \$7 non-members, \$5 members.

RPMGA Pollinator Project Planning Session

Hedberg Library

Janesville WI

Thursday, January 4, 2018

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Please check the RPMGA blog as more information becomes available: <http://rpmga.blogspot.com/>

Farewell!



As you may have heard, my position has been eliminated at UW-Extension Rock County. My last day is December 31, 2017.

It was my pleasure to be support staff for the Master Gardener program. The volunteers in this dynamic program are caring and exceptional individuals and it has been a privilege to work with them.

I will really miss curating the *Master Gardener Update* each month! It has truly been a labor of love for me these past five years.

I believe that the Master Gardener Volunteer program is a very important part of what UW-Extension has to offer to the community and I sincerely hope that this program continues to be well supported going forward.

In friendship and respect,

Kim Mork

The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning.

~Ivy Baker Priest

December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 OBG Nighttime Walk in the Tropics details	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30

January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 RBG Botanic Talk: Milk Jug Planters New Year's Day 	2	3	4 RPMGA Pollinator Project Planning Session	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Toward Harmony with Nature details
28	29	30	31			

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