



President's Corner

by Diane Thieme

The Match Game: Using your MGV IQ

Harvard professor and psychiatrist, Dr. Howard Gardner, has identified eight intelligences that we all possess to varying degrees. These intelligences impact how we understand, how we perform tasks, and how we interact with others. As Master Gardeners, we all possess a high degree of "naturalistic" intelligence. We enjoy plants, ecosystems, and nature. We enjoy being outdoors and getting our hands in the dirt. We appreciate the beauty of the natural world which surrounds us, although it is sometimes a little hard to be thankful for the chipmunks, squirrels, groundhogs, and deer chomping and digging in our personal gardens and our volunteer work gardens!

But, how can we use our other seven intelligences? How can we use our personal strengths to benefit the SEWMG program? That is one of the beauties of our program. There is a match for everyone!

Do you love interacting and speaking with others? If interpersonal communication is one of your strengths, SEWMG is always looking for speakers and presenters for community programs. Sharon Morrisey is currently seeking

volunteers to work in 4H youth programs. You might enjoy becoming a Plant Health Advisor and helping the public with horticulture questions. The new Outreach Committee needs a chairperson and a few more members. Its goal is to create a plan to recruit a more diverse population into our training programs and to expand the reach of our programs in the community. Contact me if you would like to work with this committee.

Do you love the birds' songs, the sound of the fountain gurgling, the rustling of the wind through the leaves? Do you hum to yourself or hear the cadence of machines and traffic? If so, how can you use your musical/rhythmic intelligence? How about helping the plant sale committee create a photo montage set to music for our presentations? Or, how about providing entertainment at the annual picnic by creating a sound track or doing a short live performance?

Do you notice color, shape and form in gardens and the world around you? Do you walk into a room and immediately, in your mind, rearrange things, change the paint color, and redecorate? Are you drawn to art and graphic design? If so, SEWMG can use your visual/spatial help in the creation of our displays and power points for the home show, fall festival, and many community presentations. Contact Sharon Morrisey, and let her know that you would like to put your artistic talents to good use.

Do you enjoy physical movement and hands on activity? How can you use your kinesthetic intelligence? The Invasives Project would be a good match. Get the satisfaction of pulling garlic

Do you enjoy reading and writing? Do you journal about your garden? Could you use your verbal/linguistic skills to write an article or two for the newsletter? If so, contact Janet Wintersberger or Ann Weronke to pitch your story ideas or suggest a topic of interest. The editors are always looking for a good articles and suggestions.



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Special points of interest:

- Editors note to get to any of the websites in this newsletter copy the URL into the address line of your Web browser
- Pruning Workshop held in two locations
- New Reimbursement form for 2014
- 2014 Trips and Tours Announced

(Continued from page 1)

President's Corner

mustard and buckthorn at one of our many sites. Ruth Marshall could always use your help. The Life Long Gardening Committee focuses on teaching good body mechanics and movement. Talk to Kay Costello if you are interested in helping with this area. Can you help with DNR grounds clean up at the State Fair site for the plant sale and State Fair week? Can you hitch up the plant sale trailer and pull and maneuver it to Pot-A-Thons and the sale site? We are looking for a couple more drivers to share that work.

Do you want everything done in a logical and orderly manner? Do you appreciate the beauty of a spreadsheet and numbers? Are you comfortable working with technology? If so, we could use your math/logic IQ on the new Technology Committee. That

committee will be addressing a number of issues including 1) reviewing options and assessing the possibility of implementing a credit card system for the plant sale, 2) exploring a means for members to share and interact beyond listserv e-mails and 3) updating and promoting current technology throughout the program. Ben Rucka has agreed to chair this committee. Contact me if you would like to join him in this new venture. Your help could be beneficial at the Plant Sale's Pot-A-Thons where you could use your talents in the creation of informative labels made for each individual plant to be sold. Bonnie Paplham would appreciate your aid with the labeling software. We also need MGVs who are comfortable with numbers to work in the checkout area for the Plant Sale. I will send out notice for these volunteers as the date for the sale gets closer.

Lastly, do you do your best work in a quiet setting? Do you need to solve problems by working to a solution independently? While most of the MGV projects are group oriented, there are often one person types of tasks associated with each committee. Nancy Lehrer, in the Volunteer Office, sends out "help wanted" requests when needs arise for specific projects or jobs. You may also hear screams for help from me on occasion. Watch for those and, please, jump on them!

I'm sure you recognized yourself in several of the IQ areas. The unique combination of talents that makes each of us special truly complements the many facets of MGV work. SEWMG would not be the successful program that it is without the amazing strengths each of you brings to the program.

Membership Essentials

There are still about 115 members who haven't paid their dues. If your dues are not paid, you will be charged an extra \$5 for bus trips and you won't be invited to the Friday Night Plant Pre-Sale on May 16th, 2014. If you're not sure if you paid your dues, you may contact Patty Witt at pattywitt8@gmail.com or call 262-797-0719 and she will let you know.

2014 Leadership Committee *by MGV Kris Jensen, 2013 President*

The 2014 Leadership Committee (Kris Jensen, Kay Costello, and Patty Witt) is seeking candidates for 2015 Board of Directors and Officer positions. Open positions include President-Elect, Secretary, 1st Year Director (of a 3-year term) and two Directors-at-large.

If you would like to learn more about the duties and responsibilities associated with these positions, or to suggest possible candidates or volunteer yourself, please talk with one of the committee members. We are all listed in the SEWMG directory if you

prefer phone or e-mail contact, and we will be out and about at SEWMG functions and meetings and will be happy to talk with you there.

News from the County Extension Offices *by Sharon Morrisey, UWEX-Milwaukee Consumer Hort. Agent & Ann Wied, UWEX-Waukesha Consumer Hort. Educator*

DIY Fruits

Sharon Morrisey will give a special presentation for MGVs on our educational focus, "DIY Fruits," the subject of our newest display, brochure and booth for the Realtors' Home and Garden Show. The program will be on Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens. The objective of the educational focus is to help people be successful in growing their own fruits each of which seems to have some little tricks. This program could be called fruits in a nutshell, since it provides an overview touching on the most important growing points and facts. Featured will be apples, plums, grapes, raspberries and strawberries. As an extra challenge, we'll also cover how to succeed with blueberries in containers in southeastern WI. Pre-registration and RSVP are not required. Help with room setup and refreshments would be appreciated.

March Business Meeting in Waukesha

Consider attending the March SEWMGV business meeting in Waukesha on Wednesday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. Hear what's going on with the SEWMGVs. Afterward, stop by the Waukesha County UW Extension office (in the same building) and see our offices and the Horticulture Helpline office and resources. Consider volunteering on the Waukesha County UW Extension Horticulture Helpline. Training will be provided. We are always looking for new volunteers to help! Questions? Interested in learning more? Contact Ann Wied.

Volunteer Celebration & Graduation

The Level 1 class of fall, 2012 is finally graduating and we all want to celebrate. Wednesday, March 12th at the First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa certificates and, yes, finally your nametags will be awarded. The contributions of many a seasoned MGv will also be recognized. Arrive at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments and

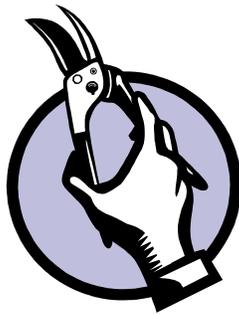
socializing. The program begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. We think our MGVs are royal gems and want to show our appreciation. RSVP to nancy.lehrer@ces.uwex.edu.

Realtors' Home & Garden Show

This year the Show begins on March 21st through March 30th at the Expo Center at State Fair Park. Volunteer sign-up is being handled by Faouzi Kablaoui (fkablaoui@aol.com). Orientation for scheduled volunteers will be on Thursday, March 20th at 1:00 p.m. (please note change of time from previous years). You will receive a map to the building and to our booth where we will meet. Shift captains should definitely plan to attend as well as anyone else who will be staffing our booth during the Show. You will not need a ticket to attend the orientation.

Pruning Workshops

See article and registration information in this issue of the newsletter for more information.



Sustainable Lawn Care Program

On Thursday, April 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. UW Specialist Dr. Doug Soldat will be presenting "Sustainable Lawn Care." It is being held at UW-Waukesha Room N133, 1500 N. University Drive, Waukesha. This program is being hosted jointly by UW-Extension and the Waukesha County Green Team. There is a suggested donation of \$5 at the door. This is open to SEWMGs and the general public. Watch for future

announcements.

Use New Timesheets in 2014

Here's the link to the new timesheet to use for all of your volunteer and continuing education hours from September 15th, 2013 through September 14th, 2014. (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/>) The worksheet that is on the third tab on the bottom of the spreadsheet is for your own use. There are instructions on how to link the hours you enter on the worksheet to the actual timesheet. Try it; I think you'll like it!

New Vegetable Garden Project at WMH

Waukesha Memorial Hospital has contacted Waukesha County UW Extension for assistance with its new courtyard vegetable garden. Thank you to all of you who expressed interest in helping on this project. Components of the WMH vegetable garden project will include: planning of it and/or possibly the planting; being the go-to people for questions with problems, care recommendations, etc.; offering horticulture classes at the garden (possibly teaming up with some of the WMH staff) about vegetable gardening; and developing signage for the gardening to educate the visitors to the garden and connect visitors to science-based gardening literature. Contact Ann Wied for more information on this project.

Spring activities include:

DIY Fruits

March Business Meeting in Waukesha

Volunteer Celebration & Graduation

Realtors' Home & Garden Show

Pruning Workshops

Sustainable Lawn Care Program

New Vegetable Garden Project at WMH

In-House Education Committee *by Rita Piper MGV, Chairperson In-House Education Committee*

The first program of the year got us off to a positive start with almost 200 participants attending the presentation on landscaping by Chris Miracle. Of those who attended, 108 completed the post survey, which will assist the program committee with future planning. Here are a few of the key results.

Preferred Locations:

Boerner Botanical Gardens
Pettit Center
Wauwatosa Library
Brookfield Library

Least Preferred Locations:

Waukesha County Courthouse -
UWEX Offices
Franklin Library
Mount Mary University

Scheduling

Best Option: Saturday A.M. followed by mix of Saturday mornings and weeknights.

Least preferred option: Weekday mornings

Top 6 Suggested Topics for future programs:

- ⊗ Design Ideas for Small Yards
- ⊗ Shade Gardening
- ⊗ Native Gardening
- ⊗ Herbal Remedies
- ⊗ Dealing with deer, rabbits and other pests
- ⊗ Butterfly Gardening

If you have ideas for speakers for any of the above topics, please send an e-mail to the program committee at piperz2@sbcglobal.net.

Since we moved to electronic registration, we evaluated the system. How would you rate the electronic registration?

Easy to Use: 85%

Only a few problems: 13%

Difficult to use: 2%

Many of you wrote comments about the ease of the system. Since this is the first time that SEWMG ventured into use of electronic registration, we

are still working out the kinks. The biggest issues are that there is not an option to immediately send an e-mail confirming registration. We will send an e-mail 10 - 14 days before the session.

We also have many MGVs who forgot that they registered, so they double or triple registered. **Please**, when you register for a program, immediately write it down on your calendar to avoid double registering. Also, if you cannot attend the program after registering, please send an e-mail to piperz2@sbcglobal.net, so that we can offer your space to someone else.

Schedule for 2014 Programs

Vertical Gardening with Mark Dwyer
Saturday, February 15, 2014 Time:
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: New Berlin Library 15105
Library Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151
We still have a few openings at this session. **To Register:** Copy and paste this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XVZTBJ3> into your browser making sure there are no spaces. Two people with the same e-mail can register at the same time. You will receive confirmation of your registration two weeks before the program. Due to room capacity, programs are open **ONLY** to SEWMG members.

Experience Vertical Gardening with an expert, Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture at Rotary Gardens, Janesville.

Mark describes Rotary Botanical Gardens as "all of our gardens offer situations where growing plants vertically can be both functional and beautiful. Learn how proper plant selection, paired with creative vertical structures, can maximize the beauty in your garden, while minimizing the 'footprint' of these plants in limited spaces." Mark will discuss vertical gardening ideas that use no traditional growing space and are perfect for the

steps, deck, patio, balcony or general tight spots. Mark has experimented with numerous types of vertical gardening structures. His slide show will show us first-hand the structures he built at Rotary Gardens.

Mark has been the Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, WI for the past 15 years. He directs the continued maintenance and improvement of this 20-acre botanical resource with a talented grounds staff and many dedicated volunteers. Mark has degrees in landscape architecture (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana) and urban forestry (UW-Stevens Point). Mark's true passion is obtaining, growing, observing and photographing all types of plants.

March: No In-House programs due to Level II training and the Home Show Topical Training

Saturday, April 26, 2014: Tour the City of Milwaukee historic nursery and greenhouses located on South 51st St in Franklin. See thousands of annuals that will be planted in the city's beautiful median beds. Learn about the innovative techniques used in the greenhouses. The tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last about 1.5 hours. Participants will be standing or walking during the entire tour. This session is limited to 60 attendees. The registration link will be sent out in March.

Due to the number of community-sponsored events and the focus on volunteering in the gardens, there will be no formal In-House education programs May through August.

September: Roof Top Basics

October 18: Slow Food Movement

November: To be Determined

UW Extension Pruning Workshop Offered

Two University of Wisconsin Extension Hands-On Pruning Workshops will be offered in March. Choose the date and location that works best for you!

Pruning workshops will be held:

Wednesday, March 26th, 2014 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Ten Chimneys (in program center); S43 W31575 Depot Road, Genesee Depot.

Saturday, March 29th, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Community Room at the Franklin City Hall, 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin.

Maps to these locations can be found at <http://waukesha.uwex.edu/2014/01/01/pruning-workshop/>

Registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Act fast if interested. Space is limited. Registration could close early if classes are filled.

The workshop will include an indoor presentation on pruning techniques and tools followed by an outdoor, hands-on pruning component where participants will be given the opportunity to practice what they have learned. The workshop will be team taught by Ann Wied, Waukesha County UW Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator and Sharon Morrissey, Milwaukee County UW Extension Consumer Horticulture Agent.

Pruning tools will not be provided. Participants should bring their own hand pruning tools and gloves and dress for the weather including comfortable shoes or boots. Workshop will be held regardless of weather. In case of extreme weather, call 414-256-4660 on the day of the workshop, one hour before the scheduled time, to confirm that the workshop will be held. Questions about workshop should be directed to Christa at 262-548-7775. Confirmations to this workshop will be done by e-mail or phone call. We prefer e-mail. If you do not have e-mail, you must have voice mail with your phone number so we can leave a message.

Cost of the workshop: \$20.00 for UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and \$30 for the General Public. No telephone registrations will be accepted. Fill out the registration form on the bottom of page and mail in with your registration fee.

Mail registration form and check (Payable to: University of Wisconsin Extension) Mail to: UW-Extension Waukesha County, Pruning Workshop, 515 West Moreland Blvd AC G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA

----- **Pruning Workshops Registration Form** (Clip Bottom Form & Mail with Check) -----

Have you attended our pruning workshop before? No Yes (year: _____)

(If you attended a pruning workshop in the past, your name will be placed on a waiting list. You will be informed if there is space for you. If space is not available, we will return your registration and check.)

Fee: \$20 - UW-Extension Master Gardeners \$30 - General Public (Check payable to University of Wisconsin Extension)

Choose date:

Wednesday, March 26th, 2014 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Ten Chimneys (program center)

Saturday, March 29th, 2014- 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Community Room at the Franklin City Hall

Are you a Master Gardener Volunteer? Yes No If yes, Milwaukee County Waukesha County Other

Name _____ (print) County where you reside _____

Address _____ City _____, WI ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Mail registration form and check to:

UW-Extension Waukesha County, Pruning Workshop, 515 West Moreland Blvd AC G22, Waukesha, WI 53188

Reimbursement Changes *by MGV Kathie Foti, Finance Committee Chair*

Please submit requests for reimbursement as soon as possible after purchases are made and at least by September 1st. Expenses incurred after that should be submitted immediately so the Finance Committee has that information by November 1st when preparing its budget proposal for the coming year. Expenses incurred in November and December can still be applied to the current year's budget but should only be for items needed in the current year.

New form is available here <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/documents/> This document is formatted so it can be filled in on the computer before printing. Paper copies will also be available at meetings.

SEWMG Garden Chair Forum is on Thursday, March 20th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building.



Garden Support Committee

By MGVs Patty Witt & Ken Loeffel Garden Support Committee Co-Chairs

What is the SEWMG Garden Support Committee? The Garden Support Committee (GSC) holds the volunteer opportunity fair and the garden chair forum and visits approved gardens to lend support to the approved gardens. We always welcome MGVs to join us at our meetings. At the Volunteer Opportunity Fair (VOF), thirteen people signed up potential committee members. Thanks! We will have a meeting in early March. The UWExt listserv will be used to inform you of the date, place and time.

SEWMG Volunteer Opportunity Fair On Saturday, January 18th, the GSC organized a very successful event for our new Master Gardeners-in-Training as well as any of our seasoned Master Gardeners (MGVs) to learn about venues where the 24 required volunteer hours can be earned. This event was held at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building.

Forty-two approved Garden Projects and other MGV Projects had displays with information about their garden or project. Over 200 Master Gardeners-in-Training and MGVs attended this event.

There was lots of energy and excitement among the attendees. It was a chance to socialize with other MGVs on a cold snowy day in January. And the breakfast-type refreshments were great! Thanks to all you bakers!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up on Friday and those volunteers who helped set up and clean up on Saturday. Many hands made the set up and clean up happen in short order. THANKS!

SEWMG Garden Chair Forum is on Thursday, March 20th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boerner Botanical Gardens Education and Visitors Building, the GSC will sponsor a Garden Chair Forum. This event is for all Approved Garden Chairs. Any MGV who volunteers at one of the approved gardens is also welcome to attend and learn more about some of the administrative tasks in operating an approved garden. Some of the topics that will be presented are:

- ⊗ Information on signs and garden stakes that can be purchased for approved gardens through the GSC Budget

- ⊗ Review of Reimbursement, Budget, Annual Report and Memorandum of Understanding Forms
- ⊗ Explanation of the new and greatly improved spreadsheet to list your volunteer and education hours to maintain your membership as a MGV
- ⊗ Ways to broaden the education component of your garden.

A PowerPoint presentation by Carolyn Dressler will display "What's New for 2014" regarding flower and plant varieties.

We hope to see all the garden/project chairs in attendance or at least send a representative if they cannot be there.

Please contact Patty Witt or Ken Loeffel with any ideas or comments for the GSC.

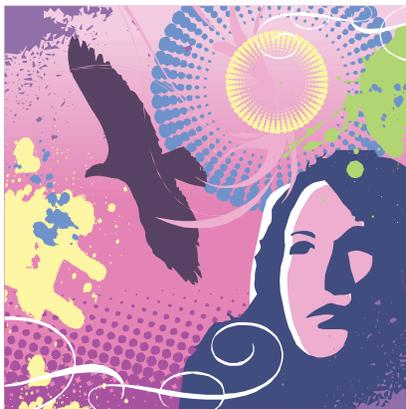
Volunteer & Education Opportunities

by Nancy Lehrer, UW-Extension Master Gardener Program Volunteer Coordinator at MCCC

MGVs have been busy the past two months despite the cold and snow. Check out what some of our volunteers have been doing:

- ⊗ 10 presentations were given at assorted venues including Women's Club of Wisconsin, Elm Grove Garden Club, Children's Hospital Dieticians department, and a Newcomers meeting in Menomonee Falls.
- ⊗ Volunteer Opportunity Fair- a large crowd visited the lower level at Boerner Botanical Gardens to chat with approved garden and project volunteers. Many of the visitors stayed for the speaker afterward, Chris Miracle. The speaker counts as 1.5 hours of continuing education.
- ⊗ Continuing Education hours through February include two Garden Talk programs on WPR radio, a Speakers Workshop, Tree Walk, PowerPoint Basics for Speakers and our educational focus for 2014-DIY Fruits.

Coming up in March and April:
Volunteer Celebration and Graduation
⊗ Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m.
Location: First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, 1511 Church Street Please come and cheer on the graduates and the MGVs with 2013 accomplishments
⊗ Booth Orientation for Home & Garden Show - volunteers that have signed up with Faouz Kablaoui, please come to see the booth space and how it is organized. Counts as 1 hour of volunteer service. Home &



Garden Show March 21st-30th at State Fair Park, Exposition Center
⊗ Art in Bloom March 27th-30th.
⊗ Level 2 MGV Training - 2 different opportunities for continuing education hours:

1. Local level 2- **Topic:** Garden and Landscaping Design Mondays: March 31st, April 7th, 14th and 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Boerner Botanical Garden, preregistration required
2. On- line Statewide Level 2 - **Topic:** Branching Out- landscape plants in the urban area. Registration information at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimastergardener/2013/12/09/level-2-training-branching-out/>

Like most of you, I am looking forward to the warm and sunny days of spring. I hope all your winter dreaming and planning can soon be a reality!

2014 Trips and Tours by MGV Doris Fons Trip/Tour Chair

Our first trip of the year will be on Friday, March 21st to the Chicago Flower Show. The registration for this began on Feb. 3rd and if you did not see the e-mail, we always have a waiting list. You will get your letter in the mail with instructions if you are one of the 55 people on the bus. Please follow them carefully.

Watch the next newsletter for our annual tour at Jerry Nelson's home where we will continue our education from last year on growing grapes. Jerry says the ones planted last spring have done extremely well. He will be

planting many more this year and training last years plants. Then there is always the tour of his great plant collection along with our fun little plant exchange. Probable date is Wednesday morning, May 28th.

Our summer trip is on Friday, July 18th when we will be visiting Green Bay Botanical Gardens as our main event along with a stop at an amazing private garden if all works out. This trip always includes lunch.

Sign up information will be in the newsletter and by e-mail. Be sure to

check for registration start dates and times. Registration is always in order of time received either by phone or e-mail.

Hope to see you at one or all of our events for 2014. We always have a great time.



Planning the Patio Vegetable Garden *by MGV Leigh Schlueter*

Patio gardens are not just for flowers. They can also produce a successful vegetable bounty. However, it would be good to have a plan in place for such patio gardening. Here are some tips for planning a patio garden, starting from seed or young plants.

1. Begin by thinking of the patio space and location. How much sun does the area get? How much space is available? I have a south, southwest facing patio which means it can be very sunny and hot. That kind of location allows for many vegetable plants to thrive. Other locations having less sun could use more cool temperature plants like lettuce and broccoli.
2. Consider the sizes of the containers you'll use on your patio. I have a half wine barrel which can hold about four large-sized pots with plants of equal size. Some individual plants need more space like tomatoes and peppers. If you want, find a place for a vine-growing plant like a cucumber and/or a three-shelf stand to hold many small pots for an herb garden. Evaluate space and light needed for each plant. Last year, I put a tomato in my wine barrel and it overshadowed and killed off the green onions and other small herbs that were next to it. What did work was the early season lettuce that completed growing before the tomato got too large. Using the right size container will increase the chance for successful fruit production.
3. Prepare your pots. I treat wood with apple cider vinegar to prevent mold. (*Editor's note: we have not found any extension publications that recommend this.*) You should also make sure your plastic and clay pots are rinsed or thoroughly wiped out to prevent spreading disease.
4. Don't skimp on potting soil. Use a pre-made potting mix, or a mix of peat moss, perlite and organic matter or light soil. I fill the bottom half of my wine barrel with peat moss and perlite to make sure there is good drainage.

5. Start your seeds early and follow the directions on the packet. Indoor seeds can be tough! I struggle with it every year since I do not have the most ideal space or light. I will be planting seeds in the end of February. The seeds will need plenty of light. Consider buying a grow light to help supplement natural light. Resist the urge to overwater, as this the easiest way to rot the roots and quickly kill the seedlings. Only water if the soil is dry to the touch. Start the seeds in a small growing tray and transition the plants into larger containers once they are about an inch or two tall, depending on the plant. Onions, for example, have delicate roots and can be planted in a degradable container so you do not need to transplant. I do not recommend using the degradable containers otherwise, because I have noticed that they do not deteriorate as advertised. I would recommend starting with a combination of some seeds but also buy starter plants. Because they are already established, they are much sturdier and less sensitive than seeds.



6. Transplant seedlings outdoors once the threat of frost is gone. Checking "Vegetable Gardening Spring Planting Schedule for Southeastern Wisconsin" can give information about the appropriate time to transplant in your area. Since I reside in northeast Wisconsin, I will have to transplant

seedlings outside one to two weeks later than someone in your region of the state. Even before final planting on the patio, I'll start hardening off seedlings towards the end of April by taking them outside during the sunny, warm part of the day and taking them inside at night and cold days. I will plant outside the second week of May.

7. Plan ahead to give the plants the support they will need. Research best conditions for each specific plant, otherwise you may have a season spent nurturing falling plants. For example, make sure to put tomato cages on young tomato plants, or give cucumbers something to hold on to so they can grow vertically. Get an early start and, when in doubt, over engineer! Hope that your plants will be so heavy with fruit that you will have wished you would have used more sturdy stakes and support from the beginning.

Make sure to read through a few of the UW Extension publications from the Learning Store (<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>) such as "Growing Vegetables at Home" (<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/a2801.pdf>.) You can find endless resources to make sure your vegetable garden this year is a success!



DIY Fruits *by Sharon Morrisey, UWEX MCCE, Consumer Horticultural Agent*

Consider this a primer for our educational focus topic for 2014 - fruits in a nutshell, so to speak. The expanded version will be in the brochure for the display being designed for the Realtors' Home and Garden Show booth. I will provide the full version in a presentation for MGVs on Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the MultiMedia Room at Boerner Botanical Gardens. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For each fruit you want to grow, there are a few, simple *growing points* to help you Do-It-Yourself for a bountiful, nutritious harvest. What all fruits need includes:

- ☼ Full sun & average soil with good drainage
- ☼ Enough space to grow
- ☼ Winter hardiness or winter protection
- ☼ Proper pollination
- ☼ Proper planting depth and spacing
- ☼ Early training and yearly pruning
- ☼ Ample water
- ☼ Pest control

Many fruits have specific pollination requirements. They are summarized in a table from the WI MGV Training Manual, Chapter 12 on fruits.

Growing Points for

Apples:

- ☼ Select disease-resistant varieties.
- ☼ Dwarf and semi-dwarf trees grow 10-20' high by 10-20' wide.
- ☼ Plant a pollinator unless there's a crabapple within 200 yards.
- ☼ Develop tree structure when young, selecting wide branch angles.
- ☼ Train young branches to 60 degree angles for higher yield.
- ☼ "Thin" fruit to 6-8" apart after petal fall for larger fruit.
- ☼ Prevent insect damage by "bagging" apples when dime-sized.
- ☼ Protect lower trunk from rodents in winter.

Growing Points for

Plums:

- ☼ European or prune-type plums are hardy and only one tree is needed to produce fruit.

- ☼ American hybrid red plums require specific pollinizer trees for cross-pollination.
- ☼ Each tree needs 125 sq. ft. of space, slightly less for dwarfs.
- ☼ Extreme winters or late spring frosts may kill flower buds.
- ☼ Train young branches to 60 degree angles for higher yield.
- ☼ "Thin" fruit to 6-8" apart after petal fall for larger plums.
- ☼ Use scare devices or netting if birds peck or eat fruit.
- ☼ Protect lower trunk from rodents in winter.

Growing Points for

Grapes:

- ☼ American grapes and some French hybrids are hardy in southern WI.
- ☼ Each plant needs a strong trellis 10 - 14' long and a bed 3-4' wide.
- ☼ Grapes vines are perennial and produce fruit annually on the current season's canes.
- ☼ Prune out all old canes every spring leaving only a few shortened ones to produce the current year's and next year's crops.
- ☼ Remove all but 2 flower clusters per cane for larger, sweeter fruit.
- ☼ Harvest when ripe and fully sweet. They do not ripen after harvest.



Growing Points for

Raspberries:

- ☼ Red, yellow, purple and black raspberries can be grown in southern WI.
- ☼ Plant in hedgerows or hills and cut back annually to keep plantings from spreading.
- ☼ Most red, purple and black raspberries are summer-bearing

and ripen in July; prune after fruiting.

- ☼ Fall-bearing raspberries bear a large crop in fall and a small crop next summer. For a larger fall crop, cut down all canes after harvest.
- ☼ Harvest when ripe and avoid over-ripe fruit which will attract picnic beetles.
- ☼ Plantings can produce for 12-15 years.

Growing Points for

Strawberries:

- ☼ Choose Junebearing, everbearing or day-neutral varieties.
- ☼ An 8'x12' bed of forty plants can produce enough for a family of four to eat fresh.
- ☼ Cover plants to protect flowers from late spring frosts.
- ☼ Remove flowers the first year for Junebearing plants; for other types remove flowers for 6-8 weeks during the first year.
- ☼ Renovate Junebearing plantings yearly after harvest, narrowing the rows and fertilizing.
- ☼ Mulch for winter with 2-4" of straw after soil has frozen. Remove when spring growth begins.
- ☼ Replant day-neutral types every year. Replant everbearing types every other year. Replant Junebearing every 3 - 6 years.

Other hardy fruits to grow in southern WI:

- ☼ Currants
- ☼ Gooseberries
- ☼ Elderberries
- ☼ Blueberries

Fruits not reliably hardy in WI:

- ☼ Peaches
- ☼ Apricots
- ☼ Sweet cherries

2014 Plant Sale Starts Now! by MGV Kris Jensen

It's plant sale time again! For the next twelve weeks, Master Gardener Volunteers donate their time, energy, knowledge, and plants to produce the yearly SEWMG Perennial Plant Sale. This year's sale will be held on Saturday, May 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wisconsin State Fair Park DNR Enclosure Area. The proceeds of this sale enable SEWMG to support the horticulture education programs of the University of Wisconsin Extension with direct donations, and to support approved gardens and projects through our annual budget. The sale and all the workdays and Pot-A-Thons also provide a great opportunity for fellowship, learning, and fun while earning volunteer hours.

The Plant Sale Committee members are hard at work and they can use your help. Some workdays are already scheduled and more specific information will be coming soon. Watch for e-mail reminders and details sent to the SEWMG listserv, as there may be changes due to weather.

- ⊗ Monday, March 31st - Trailer setup day and storage unit clean-up.
- ⊗ Monday, April 7th - Pick up and transport supplies from Carlin to Pot-A-Thon sites.
- ⊗ Wednesday, April 9th - Pot-A-Thons begin! More details will follow.

Again be sure to check the SEWMG listserv.

- ⊗ Saturdays, April 12th and 26th and May 3rd - Training Pot-A-Thons at Eble Park. This is a great way to experience a Pot-A-Thon, whether it is your first or your fifty-first.
- ⊗ Monday, May 12th - Prepping the State Fair sale site begins, including pick-up and delivery of plants from Pot-A-Thon sites. Watch for e-mails from Nina Jones soliciting members with vans, trucks, and SUVs to transport plants.
- ⊗ Friday, May 16th - Pre-sale for current paid SEWMG members.
- ⊗ Saturday, May 17th - SALE! We need many volunteers, including greeters to welcome customers and give them sleds (our plant-hauling device of choice,) and guides to help customers find the plants they want. We need experts in sun gardening, shade gardening, and butterfly gardening, and we need many MGVs to answer general questions about selecting, planting, and caring for plants. We need people to tally plants, we need cashiers, and we need MGVs to help customers take their plants to their cars (and to bring back those all-important sleds!)

- ⊗ Monday, May 19th - Post-sale and clean-up.

We are actively seeking plant donations, especially plants from the Encouraged Plants list of our Desired Plant Listing by Category. This list is available on line at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/sewmg/perennial-plant-sale/>. If you (or a friend or neighbor) can donate plants - other than those on the Not To Be Sold list - please contact a member of the committee (listed on the web page) soon to discuss arrangements. We are always looking for named varieties and plants that are not on our list, including specialty items such as small shrubs, peonies, and roses. A photo of the plant in bloom is especially helpful. If your quantity is too small for a Pot-A-Thon, do not despair; the committee will send a trained "dig" crew to help you lift and divide the plants, and to remove them to a Pot-A-Thon for processing.

If you are a new Master Gardener Volunteer, or you have been unable to help with the plant sale before, I hope you will join us this year. I think you will find it a very rewarding experience.





South East Wisconsin Master Gardeners

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Grow with us

Check out our website

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Our Mission Statement

To support and assist UW-Extension in community horticulture programs through volunteerism, education and environmental stewardship.