Sweet summertime! Fairs, festivals, and fun. As well as plant diseases, pests, and weeds. We can’t have the good without the bad. I prefer not to use chemicals in my gardens. But, there are many ways to handle pests without chemicals that have gotten lost as we began to rely on death from a bottle. For instance, when I am done water bath canning my jellies and jams, I always take the pot of boiling water and pour it in the cracks in the sidewalk and driveway. Voilà! No weeds coming up in those cracks as the boiling water does them in. If you have a problem with grass or other weeds coming up in those cracks, you don’t have to wait for canning season, just douse them with some boiling water and be done. Carefully, of course. Boiling water can also do you in if you aren’t careful.

Did you know that salting the fields of enemies was once used as a war tactic? Why? Because it kills all vegetation and makes the soil unsuitable for future plant growth. Use this fact to your advantage and put a pinch of salt at the base of stubborn, undesirable plants. Again, used carefully and in limited amounts, it will be diluted after several rainfalls and the soil will not be harmed.

Got ants? If they aren’t causing a problem, leave them alone. However, if they become a nuisance, mix together some borax and sugar and place it in plastic lids around the garden. The sugar attracts the ants and the borax is toxic to them. (Both Cornell and The University of Colorado Extension support this method.)

Of course, the best natural method to limit insect pests in the garden is to discourage them from coming in the first place. Pull out any weak or diseased plants and dispose of them promptly. If they are not already infested, they will be soon. Minimize insect habitat. Promptly clear debris and weeds that are breeding grounds for the little pests. And, most importantly, for the healthiest and most vigorous plants, build good, healthy soil by mulching, composting, and/or topdressing the plants with a good organic fertilizer.

Happy Gardening!
Carol
2013 Projects

Master Gardeners will be working on various projects in Dodge County this year. Projects are underway in Beaver Dam, Horicon, Juneau, Mayville, Neosho, Watertown, and Waupun. Each project has a Master Gardener who coordinates the work. A complete and updated list of projects with contact person information is available from our website or from Carol Shirk (920) 387-5105.

Upcoming Meetings

Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to attend the following free programs. Master Gardener meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau.

**July 25** - *On-Farm Tour of David Laatsch Farm*. David Laatsch has raised chickens since he was big enough to do chores for his family farm flock. He became involved in raising exhibition quality birds as a 4-H member and majored in Poultry Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He now hatches, raises, and sells purebred Cochin and Brown Leghorn bantams and exhibits in state and national shows. His poultry manure and compost compliment his vegetable, pumpkin and flower gardens. Dave and his wife Kathy welcome the Master Gardeners to their farm and gardens.

**August 22** - *Garden Art, by Jennifer Kazmarek*. Jennifer’s M Therese Gift Shop has displayed artful garden and floral pieces for over 8 years. She will show simple ways to bring color, interest and design to pots, centerpieces, wreaths and containers with dried floral, sticks and branches, light effects and colorful accents. Bring your own pots, wreaths, branches, floral accent, ribbon or door decoration you would like to repurpose. Jennifer will also have smaller pots, centerpiece and wreath supplies available.

**September 26** - *Accessible Gardens: Adapting Gardens and Gardeners for Life-long Activity, by Barb Larson*. Gardens benefit people physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially. Learn how to modify gardens for all people regardless of physical abilities. Hands-on activities will help us experience simple garden tasks while coping with physical challenges. Barb Larson is Horticulture Educator/Associate Professor for Kenosha County University of Wisconsin Extension.

**October 12** - *4th Annual Photo Contest (SATURDAY PROGRAM)*. Eileen Herrling, award-winning nature and travel photographer, shares her expertise and techniques to make your photos stand out. Her seminar will be followed by the presentation of the Photography Contest award winners.

Master Gardener Websites

http://www.wimastergardener.org/
http://www.wimastergardener.org/?q=Dodge
http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/
Events of Interest

July 27, 2013
Prairie Fest ~ Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum Grounds, Fond du lac WI
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Experience the beauty of the Gottfried prairie at the peak of the summer bloom at the 12th annual Prairie Fest. There will be speakers on many nature-related subjects, children's activities, prairie tours and outdoor exhibits as well as the annual Rain Barrel Auction. The event is free and food will be available for purchase during the entire event. Rain or Shine. FREE  http://gottfriedprairiearboretum.org/prairie-fest/

August 13—18, 2013
Dodge County Fair ~ Beaver Dam, WI
Be sure to visit the Dodge County Master Gardener’s booth at the Dodge County Fair this year. The booth will be in the 4-H Youth Building and will be highlighting square foot gardening. Master Gardeners will be on hand at selected times during the fair to answer gardening questions.

August 16 & 17, 2013
Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Annual Conference ~ Janesville, WI
Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers from across the state are welcomed to register for the 2013 Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Annual Conference. This exclusive event will feature notable local and regional horticulture experts to share their broad swath of gardening knowledge. Seating is limited to 220 people and is open to WI Master Gardener Volunteers only. $65/person registration fee for full conference. Hosted by the Rock Prairie MGA at UW-Rock County. Visit the WI Master Gardener website to register or for more information on the conference

August 17, 2013
Prairie Nursery Display Garden Tour ~ Westfield, WI
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tour the display gardens at Prairie Nursery. The tour will include a plant sale, refreshments and good company. Take a picnic lunch and plan to spend the day. For more information and directions, call 608-296-2914 or visit their website at www.prairienursery.com

September 14, 2013
15th Annual Old Time Gathering ~ Dodge County Fair Grounds, Beaver Dam, WI
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Dodge County Master Gardeners will be displaying eleven heirloom plants at a booth during this special family day of living history. Many of the seeds from the heirloom plants originally came to America sewn in clothes or stored in traveling luggage of immigrants. The event is free and is held rain or shine

September 15, 2013
Native Gardening Conference ~ UW-Madison Arboretum
8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Native by Design: Gardening for a Sustainable Future. The UW-Madison Arboretum Native Plant Garden will be used as an outdoor classroom, combining workshops, take-home tips, and living examples to help you become an inspired and successful native plant gardener. Beginners to experienced gardeners can get their gardening questions answered, learn from fellow gardeners and come away with enthusiasm, inspiration and an impressive collection of native gardening resources. $60 Registration Fee. For more information call 608-263-7888 or info@uwarboretum.org

October 12, 2013
4th Annual Photo Contest ~ Administration Building, Juneau WI
Watch for more information in the near future for the Dodge County Master Gardener Association’s 4th Annual Photo Contest. Contest rules, entry form, and deadline for submitting photos will be posted to the websites soon.
Impatiens Downey Mildew

Impatiens are easy to grow, colorful annual, making them a go-to plant for the shade garden. There is a destructive disease affecting these popular annuals called impatiens downy mildew. Last year, Wisconsin along with at least 30 other states, reported cases of the disease and it appears it isn’t going away.

According to Brian Hudelson, Director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic at UW-Madison, impatiens downy mildew is caused by a fungus-like microorganism called Plasmopara obductans that infects Impatiens walleriana, the standard garden impatiens, including the double-flowered and mini-impatiens, as well as native impatiens such as jewelweeds. Impatiens downy mildew is host-specific, so it will not spread to other plants such as sunflowers or roses.

Impatiens downy mildew thrives in cool, wet, humid conditions. The disease spreads by windblown spores, spores being splashed by water onto leaves or surrounding plants, and spores being able to overwinter in the garden soil for several years. The disease is not spread by seeds, but infected cuttings could harbor the disease. It’s a good practice to clean and sanitize gardening tools to prevent spreading the disease, as the pathogen could potentially survive on bits of plant debris or soil clinging to the tools.

Young plants are the most susceptible and will probably show symptoms first. Early symptoms are subtle and may be mistaken for a nutritional problem or spider mites. Watch for yellowish or pale green leaves, downward curled leaves, and leaf distortion. Check the underside of the leaves for white to gray fuzz; this will be the key that the problem is impatiens downy mildew. Although in hot dry weather the fuzz may not be noticeable. In advanced stages, plants are stunted with reduced flowering. Eventually all flowers and leaves will drop off resulting in bare stems with only a few tiny yellow leaves remaining.

Carefully and repeatedly inspect impatiens for the disease. If symptoms of impatiens downy mildew appear, remove the infected plants immediately and dispose of in the garbage. DO NOT compost diseased plants. There are no chemical treatments available at this time for the homeowner to treat the disease.

To confirm impatiens downy mildew, plant samples can be submitted to the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic for an accurate diagnosis. Details on sample submission can be found at pddc.wisc.edu.

Chris Jacobs, Certified MGV

Lawn and Garden To-Do List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Check limp &amp; pale irises for borer</td>
<td>□ Order bulbs early for best selection</td>
<td>□ Remove &amp; discard foliage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Monitor the garden for pests</td>
<td>□ Watch for mildew and leaf spots on vine crops</td>
<td>□ Leave ferny asparagus leaves and stems standing for the winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Cut back leggy annual herbs</td>
<td>□ Begin seeding lawns in mid to late August as the weather starts to cool.</td>
<td>□ Cooler temperatures and regular rainfall make this a good time to start a new lawn or repair an existing one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Keep grass 3 to 3 1/2&quot; tall</td>
<td>□ Dig and divide overgrown iris, poppies and other spring blooming perennials</td>
<td>□ Stop applying fertilizer. This is a good time to take a soil test if plants are showing signs of nutrient deficiencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Deadhead and pinch back straggly plants.</td>
<td>□ Usually the hottest, driest month, check all plantings for moisture stress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Continue monitoring and controlling Japanese beetles. Pick by hand and destroy small populations.</td>
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From Melinda Myer's Month-To-Month Gardening in Wisconsin book
Save the Dates

**October 1, 2013**
Deadline for turning in timesheet of volunteer and continuing education hours. Turn timesheet into our local record keeper, Berwyn Westra.

**March 28—29, 2014**
2014 Annual WIMGA Conference, Appleton WI
Hosted by Outagamie Co. MGA

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**Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) *Halymorpha halys* is an invasive, exotic insect pest native to areas of China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. It was accidentally introduced into the United States, and was first reported in Pennsylvania in the fall of 1998. The first detection of this pest in Wisconsin was in March 2010 and has since been confirmed in Brown, Dane and Jefferson Counties.

The adult BMSB is very similar in size, shape and appearance to native stink bugs, with a few slight differences. The adult BMSB has alternating light to brown spots on the outer edge of their abdomen. The antennae also have alternating brown and light bands and their eyes are dark red.

The BMSB will feed on a wide host of plants from fruits, vegetables, and farm crops. Almost any crop can be at risk. Adults are mobile and will readily move from one crop to another.

Unlike native stinkbugs, adult BMSB will overwinter in our homes. They are attracted to the outside of houses on warm fall days in search of protected, overwintering sites.

There is no established trapping method, and few biological controls available. Insecticide control is unknown at this time as well.

Dodge County Master Gardener Association partnered with the Dodge County Sheriff's Department this spring to help them start their two raised bed vegetable gardens. Two Master Gardener Volunteers met with the Jail Diversion Coordinator and the Jail Kitchen Coordinator to determine their needs. The jail uses all of the vegetables they raise to meet the 400 meals per day that they serve. They knew from experience that they would use peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, and herbs. Therefore, herbs were planted on the ends of both beds. One bed was dedicated to 50 pepper plants and 50 tomato plants. The other bed has beans and cucumbers planted. It has been difficult to volunteer on a regular basis with the inmates due to a scheduling problem, but we continue to try and work out the glitches.

An Array of Dodge Co. MGA Projects

On a somewhat chilly Saturday in May, a group of hardy Master Gardener Volunteers planted the Educational Display Garden at the Administration Building in Juneau. This garden was designed in late 2012, came to be through donations from Dodge County Highway Department, Dodge County Maintenance Department and County Administration, Bennett's Nursery, Borden's Green Acres, Village Flower Shoppe and many Master Gardener Volunteer's home gardens. It includes perennials, annuals, a bench to sit back and enjoy the scene, a gravel path, and markers identifying each plant. This will be an ongoing project as the plants will periodically be changed and maintained. Later this summer, a page will be added to the Master Gardener section of the UW Extension website (http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/) with a complete description, including photo, growing conditions, and care needed of each plant.
Carol Shirk and Chris Jacobs are working with the residents at Daybreak, Waupun with planting, weeding, and answering a variety of questions on their square foot gardens. This year a hoop house was added, along with an asparagus bed. Smiles are plentiful also.

The Juneau Community Garden had their first educational presentation on June 19th. Marianne Zastrow gave tips on the compost bin and the contents were turned. The plans are to put the compost on the plots at the end of the season. For the second lesson of the evening, Marianne prepared a tasty Sesame Zucchini on a camp stove.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sesame Zucchini</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Tbsp. olive oil</td>
<td>2-3 medium zucchini, sliced</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Tbsp. sesame oil (on top)</td>
<td>onion powder or flakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>salt &amp; pepper to taste</td>
<td>1 Tbsp. lemon juice</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 tsp. soy sauce</td>
<td>2 Tbsp. sesame seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Tbsp. margarine</td>
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In medium-large fry pan pour the olive oil. Allow to heat. Add the sliced zucchini and drizzle the sesame oil on top. Sauté till soft, turning as the slices brown. Add the onion flakes or powder, salt and pepper, lemon juice, and soy sauce. Sprinkle the sesame seeds on top. Stir to coat the slices with the seeds. Lastly add the margarine and allow to melt. Serve and enjoy!

Under the guidance of Margaret Furdek, two neighborhood boys take care of planning, planting and caring for the circle at the end of MacArthur Drive in Beaver Dam. Luke and Jake chose the plants, designed their placement, and planted them in the circle in front of their houses. Mulching with grass-cuttings is meant to reduce watering and fertilizing.
**Board of Directors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Stanek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Shirk</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>(920) 387-5105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck Meyer</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>(920) 326-2219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Weisensel</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>(920) 885-5220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Zimmerlee</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>(920) 885-2137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berwyn Westra</td>
<td>Local Record Keeper</td>
<td>(920) 326-3885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Krause</td>
<td>Local Representative to the WIMGA</td>
<td>(920) 261-7939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Dodge County Master Gardener Association**

*UW-Extension, Administration*
*Building 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039*

*Phone: (920) 386-3790*