

North Country Gardeners

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A publication for gardening enthusiasts from the tri-county area of Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn

In this issue

Greetings
Twilight Garden Tour
Spooner Park Renovation
Master Gardener Volunteer Training
ESHHG Doing Well
Natural Deer Repellent
Maintain the Garden
Monthly Maintenance Schedule
Winterkill of Apple Trees
Invasive Plants
University Online Classes
Pollination Help for Squash & Cucumber
Works For Us Tip

** Photos from the SARS Teaching & Display Garden*



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Greetings

It is time again for the annual Twilight Garden Tour at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station (SARS). You will be welcomed to the garden by North Country Master Gardener Volunteers (NCMGV) and University of Wisconsin Extension staff beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2014. As in the past we have a full program sure to please gardeners of all ages. (see article for more details)

“There exists in each ending a new beginning” An old adage but applicable in this case. Our perennial garden ended the 2013 season being “dug and divided.” It’s beginning this year is fresh, new, and delighting us week after week with new color and shape.

The All-America Selections (AAS) annuals garden ended its 2013 season with a bang, winning one of the nine awards nationwide in the AAS Landscape Design Contest. This same garden space began their 2014 growing season with a new AAS theme: Incorporating Containers into the Landscape. NCMGV’s creative team personalized the 2014 garden calling it “Down on the Farm.” We hope that you will enjoy the playful use of containers utilized in this garden space.

Moving on to the Adaptive Garden space adjacent to the AAS garden you can’t miss the large container holding an equally large pumpkin vine. This is a new beginning for an old container and should be a fun surprise for those who have not yet seen it.

There are more areas to explore but be sure to visit the tomato room. It’s truly a new design and quite different from the long row of plants that we usually see.

We’re looking forward to seeing you at the twilight garden Tour on the 19th of August. Come check out the new beginnings in an old, familiar setting.

Happy Gardening,

Kevin Schoessow
UW-Extension Ag Development Agent
kevin.schoessow@ces.uwex.edu

Nancy Reis
President
North Country Master Gardeners Assn.



***AAS Display Garden 2014**

Photo by Kevin Schoessow

Twilight Garden Tour set for August 19

BY KEVIN SCHOESSOW

This summer marks the 16th year that the Spooner Ag Research Station, UW-Extension, and the North Country Master Gardener Volunteers have teamed up to provide the region's premier outdoor gardening educational event. This year's activities will start at 4 p.m., with guest speakers, displays, and demonstrations until dusk.

As in the past there is no charge for this educational event.

The guest speakers this year are Brian Hudelson, PJ Liesch, and Brian Smith. Hudelson is the director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic on the UW-Madison campus and is a regular guest on Wisconsin Public radio's popular call-in show "On Garden Talk." Liesch is an entomologist at the UW-Madison Department of Entomology Insect Diagnostic Lab and is extremely knowledgably on both "good" and "bad" garden critter. Smith is a UW-Extension Fruit and Vegetable specialist from UW-River Falls who recently developed and released the new 'Black Ice' plum variety. He will discuss topics related

to both fruit and vegetables with emphasis on this year's winter hardiness issues in fruit. Participants are asked to bring with them their garden questions and plant, insect or disease specimens.

Master Gardener Volunteers and staff will have displays and demonstrations including composting, vermicomposting, container gardening, many uses of herbs, Spotted Wing Drosophila, and others.

The popular hay wagon rides around portions of the Station property to view the crops and sheep research facilities will be available. The short tours will be scheduled throughout the evening and will be led by Phil Holman, manager of the Spooner Ag Research Station.

Also offered will be tasting of tomatoes and other ripe produce, fresh salsa, grilled vegetables, and pepper roasting.

The Spooner Ag Research Station Teaching and Display Garden is an official All-America Selections (AAS) display garden and in 2013 was awarded a second-place finish in a

National Landscape Design contest sponsored by AAS.

In 2014, MGVA have their sights on a first-place award in this year's national landscape design contest. This year's AAS display includes award-winning flowers and vegetables incorporated into a creative use of containers.

The adaptive garden display includes displays of raised beds, containers, and vertical structures to demonstrate ways to garden in small spaces and assist gardeners with limited mobility. Several themed vegetable garden beds were planted in addition to over 40 varieties of heirloom tomatoes.

Mark your calendars, invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives and make the drive to Spooner on Tuesday, August 19, from 4 p.m. until dusk. It's worth it!

The tour will be held at the Teaching and Display Gardens located on Orchard Lane, just east of Spooner on Hwy. 70. Watch for Garden Tour signs. For more information contact Kevin Schoessow at 715/635-3506 or 800/528-1914.

Overgrown Spooner park reopens after renovation

BY KD CHILDS

The Town of Spooner Memorial Park rededication was held on Saturday, July 28. The North Country Master Gardener Volunteers donated the perennials planted at the park entrance sign.

The park, located on Town Parkway off Cty. Hwy. H near the Spooner Golf Course, underwent a makeover in early summer in order to restore its natural beauty from its ear-

ly days of existence in 1930. At that time the acreage and lakeshore was donated by Olga (Eastwald) Lundale to be enjoyed by those who served in the military.

Over the years it had become overgrown with vegetation and fallen trees. Lisa McNeally at the Washburn Veterans Service Office spearheaded a campaign to bring the park back to its original glory. American Legion Post 12, VFW Post 1028,

AMVets Post 190, all from Spooner, and the Springbrook VFW Post 10568 along with many veterans from the area facilitated the clean-up of the grounds and lake shore. They also built and donated several picnic tables, grills, and fire pits.

The beautiful Town of Spooner Memorial Park is ready for picnickers and boaters. The public is welcome from sun-up to sundown.

Visit us on the Web! This newsletter and other useful information are online at:

<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/ars/spooner>
<http://wimastergardener.org/?q=NorthCountry>
<https://www.facebook.com/spoonerag>
 or search 'Spooner Ag Research Station'

Master Gardener Volunteer training offered

Do you enjoy gardening and helping others? UW-Extension in partnership with the North Country Master Gardener Volunteer Association is seeking both experienced and beginner gardeners for the next Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) training program.

All interested gardeners are required to attend an informational meeting on either Tuesday Sept 9 from 6 to 8 pm at the Spooner Ag Research Station or on Wednesday Sept 10 from 6-8 pm at the Grantsburg High School. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce participants to the UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program, explain the benefits and requirements for becoming a certified volunteer in horticulture, and to pre-register.

In order to provide the best possible hands-on learning and incorporate outdoor learning, the MGV training sessions will follow as much of the growing season as possible. Classes are scheduled to start in September and continue through October 2014, and then start up again in early April and finish in May or June of 2015. Participants can choose class location in the Grantsburg or Spooner. There are required on-line prerecorded lecture materials which can be accessed individually on your own. In order to become a certified MGV participants must attend all classes, listen to on-line lectures, complete a final exam and volunteer time back to the community in a horticultural related project.

The first volunteer training session for all participants is set to begin Saturday Sept 27 from 9 am - 1 pm at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Dates and locations for future sessions will be determined by participants.

Cost of the program is \$120, which includes: MGV program manual, online and classroom instruction, and memberships in both the Wisconsin Master Gardener and the North Country Master Gardener Associations. Registration deadline is Sept 19, 2014.

For more information and for registration information contact the UW-Extension Spooner Area Agriculture Office at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914, or visit <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/ars/spooner/>.

ESHHG is doing well; public welcome to visit it

BY HEIDI RUSCH

The Spooner Elementary School Helping Hands Garden is well on its way to another successful year!

The 2013-2014 third-grade students were responsible for planting the garden! The classes started peppers, tomatoes, and squash from seed beginning in April. The last week of May/first week of June, the

students planted the garden. The flower beds were designed by the third-graders.

A couple of new pieces this year: Bean pole teepee, cucumber and squash trellis, recycled tin can chains, colored lathes and labels.

North Country Master Gardener Russ Parker assembled the bean pole teepee and trellis. Students in

Nature Quest Summer School class colored the cans, lathes, and labels.

This garden as well as the Experiences in the Middle School Garden are open to the community. The only thing we ask is if you visit the gardens, please respect the plants and their growth. If items get picked before they are ready, the community and students are missing out.

Review: Plant Saver All Natural Deer Repellent

BY NANCY AXELSON

How frustrating to check your garden and discover that the deer or another visitor enjoyed your tender plants.

A commercial product called Plant Saver All Natural Deer Repellent keeps your unwanted visitors away from your plants. It is a powdery, organic product that is available in five sizes from 2 pounds to 75 pounds. It has smaller cloth bags that are included with the repellent. Fill each bag with 1/2 ounce of the

product. Hang the bag every 4 to 6 feet around the perimeter of the garden. Hang them about the nose height of a deer. They can be hung in your fruit trees at the same height.

To keep your pets from removing the bags, dampen them. Then apply ground cayenne pepper to the outside of the bag. This method was suggested by a Cedar Creek employee. And it works!

The bag method lasts up to six months and is not affected by the rain. The product can also be sprin-

kled on the ground. This method lasts about 6 to 8 weeks or as long as you can see it on top of the soil. Cedar Creek product is safe on fruits, flowers, and vegetables. It is also safe for animals and the environment.

We have used this product for several years, and it is very reliable. It is economical, long-lasting, and has no offensive scent.

Cedar Creek Organics: 11878 Grouse Covey Ln., Arbor Vitae, WI; www.CedarCreekOrganics.com;

What it takes to maintain the garden

Tips that will work in your garden, too

BY SHARON TARRAS

The Spooner Research Station Perennial Display Garden was originally planted in spring of 2004, consisting of trees, evergreens, shrubs, vines, perennials, grasses and bulbs. Irrigation, winter protection, mulch, pest management, fertilization, dividing, deadheading, and pruning are several factors involved in its care and maintenance.

Because our site is open and exposed to extremes of heat, cold and drying winds, irrigation is a key component of garden maintenance. In 2009, a drip irrigation system was installed. A windmill provides pressure to pump water up to an elevated tank for storage. When needed, water is delivered through spot emitters, drip tubing, and laser-drilled soaker hoses. Our drip irrigation system is being renovated this year and is not currently in operation.

Winter protection is varied based on the hardiness ratings of individual plants. Our plant materials are rated as cold hardy from Zone 2 to Zone 6. We are in Zone 3. Those rated for Zones 5-6 are protected first with a 6-inch mound of soil around the base of the plant. After that freezes, they are mounded with 6 to 12 inches of straw. Those rated Zone 4 are mounded with 6 to 12 inches of straw only. Those rated Zone 2-3 don't require any extra protection.

Mulch is important for several reasons. Besides aesthetics, it helps keep the soil moist and cool. The shredded hardwood mulch we use in the plant beds mats down and helps discourage weeds from sprouting.



***Reshaping of lilac bushes needs to be done soon after the blooms die since lilacs set buds for the next year soon after flowering.**

Photo by Kevin Schoessow

The wood chips we use in the paths provide an inexpensive and comfortable surface for walking.

We use Integrated Pest Management methods to scout out pests and diseases. If treatment is needed, we time it for the most effective management of the problem. Leaf diseases such as septoria leaf spot and black spot are rarely treated. Insects such as false Japanese beetle, aphids, four-lined plant bugs, and lace bugs have been treated with insecticidal soap or synthetic pyrethroid. Sometimes severe pruning can be used for treatment of insects or diseases. When pests become too destructive, we have removed the host plant. Asters have been removed after struggles with lace bugs. A Hansa rose was removed due to recurring rose gall infestations.

Soil fertility is important to plant health. Prior to planting, we took soil tests and

amended the soil accordingly.

Occasionally we have added fertilizer as needed. For example, when hardwood mulch breaks down, it ties up nitrogen that plants need.

When leaves start looking a little pale, it is an indicator that nitrogen is needed.

Nearly every year we have divided and replaced individual plants. Generally, fall bloomers are best divided in spring and spring bloomers are best divided in fall. We try to avoid dividing plants in the heat of the summer. In the fall of 2008 and 2013 we completed major renovations in which nearly every perennial and grass plant was divided and replanted. The winter of 2013/2014 was very tough on these divisions. Several died and had to be replaced.

Deadheading, cutting back, and pinching are techniques we use to help keep many plants healthy. Re-

General Monthly Maintenance Schedule

April – Spring clean-up; remove winter protection; cut back perennials, grasses, and roses; divide plants.

May – Divide plants; weed; apply Preen (Trifluralin pre-emergence herbicide; prevents seeds from germinating) when lilac buds are swelling; replace benches and plant labels; test irrigation system for leaks and plugged emitters.

June – Plant annuals in open spaces; top-dress beds with mulch as needed; apply Osmocote (slow-release fertilizer) to roses; stake, tie, trellis and cut back plants as necessary; deadhead; water; check for pests and diseases; weed.

July – Check plant supports; apply pre-emergence herbicide to slightly overlap the three-month period from first application; deadhead; water; check for pests and diseases, weed;

August – Check plant supports; deadhead; water; check for pests and diseases; weed.

September – Divide plants; deadhead; water; check for pests and diseases; weed.

October – Water if necessary; weed.

November – Apply winter protection; remove and store benches and plant labels; drain drip irrigation lines.

removal of faded flowers allows most perennials and roses to rebloom. These plants also grow more vigorously when their energy is not being used for seed production. Cutting back perennials such as phlox, baptisia, and tall sedums helps keep them compact and upright. Once they reach their desired size, evergreens like Mugo Pine can be kept in check by pinching off up to two-thirds of new growth in June.

Each spring, we prune the roses and vines by cutting to shape and removing dead sections. Some shrubs need occasional pruning to keep in shape. Our Diablo Ninebark was cut completely back two years ago as a form of renewal pruning. Nanking cherry, lilacs, and the Prairie Radiance Euonymus tree have all benefited from pruning.

Over a period of 10 years, our planting plan has remained essentially the same, with some minor changes for plants that for various

reasons haven't worked out. We have replaced hybrid tea roses with hardy shrub roses; an Amur Chokecherry tree with a Prairie Radiance Euonymus tree; Wild Columbine, Sweet Woodruff, and Foxglove with plants more suited to the microclimate of our garden. With proper care and maintenance, this garden will thrive for many years to come.

Maintenance for specific plants

Trees

Crimson Frost Birch – Prune late summer or winter.

Royal Frost Birch – Prune late summer or winter.

Prairie Radiance Euonymus – Prune late winter, cut out deadwood.

Evergreens

Andorra Compact Juniper – Prune anytime by cutting stems back stems under overlapping green foliage.

age.

Russian Cypress – Prune anytime by cutting back stems below overlapping green foliage.

Macronata Spruce – If needed, prune in early June by pinching off half of new growth of lateral shoots. This plant grows so slowly, it will probably never have to be pruned.

Pumilio Mugo Pine – Candle prune in early June.

Shrubs

Royal Purple Smokebush – Needs winter protection: surround the base of plant with 6-12" of straw after the ground freezes. If it doesn't die back, cut back to the ground in early spring. This keeps the size to about 4'x 4' and gives the best purple foliage color from new shoots.

Endless Summer Hydrangea – Needs winter protection: surround the base of plant with 6-12" of straw after the ground freezes. If it doesn't die back, cut back to the ground in

early spring. Flower color is based on pH (acid soils equals blue blooms and neutral to alkaline soils equal pink blooms).

Limelight Hydrangea – Prune as necessary to shape or remove dead wood and remove old blooms in late winter or early spring.

Ninebark: Diablo, Summer Wine – Renewal pruning late winter or early spring.

Nanking Cherry – Prune as needed to correct shape right after flowering.

Azalea: Lemon Lights, Mandarin Lights, Northern Hi-Lights –

Deadhead by snapping off faded flower clusters immediately after flowers fade. Be careful not to snap off bright green new growth. Cut back leggy limbs right after flowering.

Lilac: Tinkerbelle, Primrose, Sensation – Because next year's flower buds form shortly after the current flowers fade, deadhead each variety immediately after blooms fade. Follow by renewal pruning, which is removing a few of the oldest stems as needed each year and any sucker growth. Head back any over-long shoots to shape.

Vines

Niobe Clematis – In early spring cut back to a strong pair of buds just above the base of the previous season's growth.

Jackman Clematis – In early spring remove weak and dead shoots, and then cut back to 6" above a strong pair of buds.

Grasses

Cut back all grass foliage to the ground in late winter or early spring.

Karl Foerster Feather Reed

Grass – Divide every 2-3 years.

Elijah Blue Fescue Grass – Divide as needed. Needs good drainage.

Blue Oat Grass – Divide every 2-3 years.

Heavy Metal Switchgrass – Divide every 2-3 years.

Little Bluestem Grass – Divide as needed.

Prairie Dropseed Grass – Divide every 2-3 years.

Bulbs

Casa Blanca Oriental Lily – Seldom needs staking. Deadhead only flowers, leave stem and leaves standing. Cut to ground in early spring.

Stargazer Oriental Lily – No staking needed. Deadhead as above.

Perennials

Cut back all foliage in early spring (exception: Tree Peony)

Ajuga: Atropurpurea, Mahogany, Chocolate Chip – Deadhead by



*Dividing grasses is hard work.

Photo by Kevin Schoessow

shearing to neaten appearance after blooms fade. Divide every 3 years.

Robustissima Anemone –

Deadhead or allow seeds to form.

Will reseed prolifically.

Thriller Lady's Mantle –

Drought tolerant. Deadhead after flowers fade to promote rebloom. If foliage becomes leggy or scorched, cut back by 2/3 early in season. Divide every 6-10 years.

Butterfly Weed – Drought tolerant. Deadhead to promote rebloom or allow seedpods to form for reseeding. Divide as needed only after new growth begins in late spring.

Baptisia – Drought tolerant, do not fertilize. Cut back with hedge shears by 1/3 after flowering. Does not like to be relocated once established. If it becomes necessary to divide or relocate, take up as much soil and rootball as possible in early spring.

Hot Lips Turtlehead – Needs consistent moisture. Divide every 4 years in spring.

Magic Fountains Delphinium – Loosely tie to supports with twine. Central flower spikes are deadheaded when blooms are three-quarters spent. After side shoots send up secondary blooms and they are ¾ spent, cut stems completely to newly developed basal foliage. Topdress with compost and or quick release fertilizer. By following this system, they should bloom in June and September. Plants are short-lived.

Old-Fashioned Bleeding Heart – Deadhead. Adequate moisture will prevent summer dormancy—avoid overly wet soils. Cut to the ground if foliage begins to look shabby. Divide late summer or early fall.

Bravado Purple Coneflower – Deadhead early in bloom season to promote rebloom. Later leave on for seedheads. Drought and heat resistant. Seldom needs dividing.

Biokova Geranium – Deadhead to neaten appearance after blooms fade.

Rozanne Geranium – Will mingle with surrounding plants if allowed. Shear back if it becomes too leggy. Deadhead to promote rebloom.



***Peonies are divided and awaiting repainting. Note the buds at the base of the sprouts.**

Photo by Kevin Schoessow

Tiny Monster Geranium – Deadhead occasionally by shearing to promote rebloom.

Daylily: Barbara Mitchell, Charles Johnson, Condilla, Happy Returns, Mauna Loa, Siloam June Bug, Strawberry Candy – Individual stems produce several flowers, each lasting about one day. Deadhead by snapping off faded individual flowers to direct energy to developing blooms. If foliage declines, deadleaf individually or shear back completely as needed. Repeat bloomers (Happy Returns) need division every 2 years; otherwise, divide every 3-4 years.

Summer Storm Hibiscus – Deadhead. After ground freezes, surround base of plant with 6-12" of straw. Remove in spring.

Coral Bells: Cherries Jubilee, Plum Pudding, Caramel, Encore – Deadhead. Shear foliage to the ground if it becomes shabby. Divide every 3 years in spring or as needed.

Hosta: Sun Power, Irish Luck, Kiwi Full Monty, Stained Glass – Remove foliage after cold damage in fall.

Cesar's Brother Siberian Iris – Deadhead flowering stalks after flowers have faded. Divide in early fall as needed. Prefers even moisture.

Alaska Shasta Daisy – Deadhead regularly to lateral flower buds. After all flowering from lateral buds is finished and new basal growth is developing, cut plants down to basal growth. Divide every 2-3 years. Rich, moist soil and good drainage is necessary. Fertilize lightly in spring and again early summer.

Kobold Liatris – Deadhead by cutting entire spike down to basal foliage when about 70 percent of the flowering is finished. Drought tolerant. Divide every 4-5 years as needed.

Walker's Low Catmint – Shear back foliage back by up to 2/3, to deadhead and to keep the plant from sprawling all over its neighbors. In about two weeks it will rebloom. Nearly continuous bloom all summer can be achieved in this manner. Divide in spring when needed.

Peony: Sarah Bernhardt, Karl Rosenfeld, Dr. Alexander Fleming – Deadhead after blooms fade.

Divide in late summer if desired, leaving 3-5 eyes per division. May need support, ours haven't needed it yet.

Schimadaijin Tree Peony – Does not get cut back to the ground in spring. Cut back to live buds as they swell. Does not need division.

Garden Phlox: Franz Schubert, Sandy's Pink – Cut back by 1/3 to 1/2 in early June to promote bushier plants. Deadhead to prolong bloom. Divide every 3 years in spring.

Black Eyed Susan – Deadhead early in bloom season to promote rebloom. Later in season, leave for seedheads. Divide every 3-4 years in spring.

Caradonna Salvia – Deadhead to lateral buds to promote rebloom. Cut back entire plant to basal growth if it becomes shabby. Drought tolerant. Divide as needed in spring.

Sedum: Autumn Fire, Neon, Vera Jameson – Zone 3-9. Cut back by 1/3 in early June to promote bushier plants. Drought tolerant, prefers good drainage. Divide as needed in early spring.

Propagation can be done early in summer by cutting a stem with 5 sets of leaves, strip the lower 3 sets of leaves off stem, poke a hole in soil where new plant is to grow and place stem in ground up to last set of remaining leaves, firm soil and water as needed. Eventually stem will produce roots and grow into a new plant.

Helene von Stein Lamb's Ear – Deadhead, deadleaf. Prefers well drained soil. Divide in spring every 4-5 years.

Spring Symphony Tiarella – Shear to deadhead. Divide in spring as needed.

Roses

Deadheading:

Apothecary's, Ispahan, Rosa Glauca – No repeat bloom, do not deadhead.

All others are deadheaded until early August.

Pruning:

All roses are cut back and shaped in late spring when we can see new



*Photo by Kevin Schoessow

growth and

Determine how far they've died back from harsh winter conditions.

Autumn Sunrise, Seven Sisters, William Baffin – Climbing roses need to be tied up and pruned throughout the season to train onto trellis.

Winter Protection:

Roses are protected based on their winter hardiness.

Seven Sisters (Zone 6) and **Teasing Georgia** (Zone 5) are the least hardy and need the most protection: Mound soil at least 6 inches high around the base of the plant in mid to late October. After the ground freezes, add straw to a depth of 6 to 12 inches. In spring, remove straw and allow the mounded soil to thaw; later remove that soil.

Autumn Sunrise, Bonica, High Voltage, Charles De Mills, Ispahan, John Franklin and Stanwell Perpetual are all Zone 4 hardy. They need a little protection: After the ground freezes, cover base of plant with straw to a depth of 6-12 inches. In spring, remove straw.

Apothecary's, Blanc Double de Coubert, Cuthbert Grant, Delicata, Hansa, High Voltage, J.P. Connell, Mme. Plantier, Marie Bugnet, Morden Snow, Rosa Glauca, Therese Bugnet, William Baffin, and Winnipeg Parks are all hardy to Zone 3 or colder and can go through the winter with no added protection.



*Photo by Kevin Schoessow

Mother Nature's winter did a number on apple trees

BY SUSAN ARMSTRONG

Mother Nature didn't choose favorites between homeowners or professional fruit growers – there has been a record loss of apple trees in 2014.

According to Patty McManus, fruit specialist, UW-Extension, there have been similar reports from the north (Turtle Lake, Colfax, Wausau), northeast (Door County), and south (Dane County), with the greatest losses in the north.

In addition to tree death and slow leaf emergence, there is leaf/flower emergence followed by collapse. On trees that leafed out and then collapsed, it's likely that either there was root damage, or damage to the vascular cambium. In either case, water conduction is compromised. As

fruit size up and the weather warms, the demand for water will increase and there will be more collapsing leaves. (photo at left)

In many cases the drought of 2012, followed by a heavy crop in 2013, and then a devastating winter created a perfect storm for apple tree demise. Also, how quickly it turned cold last December, before there was a lot of snow on the ground in many places, might have resulted in injury to scions and also roots.

If we have compromised fruit trees, what can we do?

- Avoid a heavy crop on already stressed trees by thinning set fruit.
- Irrigate well right up until frost. A good soaking once a week, or the equivalent of 1 inch of rain, will pro-

vide the necessary moisture requirements.

- Control weeds and especially grass within the drip line of trees to avoid competitors for water.
- Wrap the trunk late in the fall to protect from mice and rabbits.
- Or, you may choose to plant a new tree. If you do choose to replant, try to avoid the old hole, or amend the planting hole with fresh soil to get away from replant fungi. Unfortunately, there isn't a clear-cut outcome.

Monitor your tree's response this summer to determine whether these events have delivered a fatal blow. It may be that in two to three years it will experience a significant recovery.



(Photos in middle and at right) Basically the whole tree was dead down to about 12 inches above the graft. Pruned just above trunk sprouts to explore the chances of rejuvenating a new replacement trunk from the sprout. (The sprout is now about 2 feet long.) Close-up shows classic pitting, peeling, and cracking associated with dead tissue. Stump picture shows decision to prune just above what looked like good healthy tissue with vigorous bud sprouts.

Photos by Kevin Schoessow

(Photo at left) Mid-summer decline. Picture shows a limb giving up the ghost. The brand cambium does not have enough viable tissue to continue to meet the demands of the limb (supporting full flush of leaves and developing apples). The bark on this limb is showing signs of pitted sunken bark with small cracks forming. The color of the limb bark also indicates tissue death/dying.

Photo by Ed McClurken

Concerned about invasive plants?

Consider joining Cooperative Weed Management Area

BY KEVIN SCHOESSOW

Communities of landowners are joining with local, state, and federal partners to prevent and manage invasive plants and support healthy woodlands and landscapes by organizing cooperative weed management



Purple Loosestrife Photo by John Haack

areas (CWMAs) across the United States.

CWMAs are local organizations that bring together landowners and land managers to coordinate action and share expertise and resources to manage common weed species. Together, CWMA partners develop a comprehensive weed management plan for their area. At the least, CWMA plans include weed surveying and mapping components as well as plans for integrated weed management. More comprehensive plans may include education and training, early detection of new invaders, monitoring, re-vegetation, and annual evaluation and adaptation of the weed management plan.

Locally-driven CWMAs are especially effective at generating public interest in invasive species control and management as well as organizing community groups to support on-the-ground programs. For more information about CWMA's in our region con-

tact the following coordinators or view CWMA web sites:

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron)

Pam Roberts, Northwoods CWMA coordinator, in-fo@northwoodscwma.org

Web site: <http://www.northwoodscwma.org/>

St. Croix-Red Cedar Cooperative Weed Management Area (St. Croix, Barron, Polk, Burnett, and Washburn)

John Haack, Regional Natural Resources Educator, UW-Extension, W6646 Hwy. 70 Spooner, WI, 54801. 715/635-7406

john.haack@ces.uwex.edu

Web site: <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/haack/st-croix-red-cedar-coop-weed-mgt-area/>

Upper Chippewa Invasive Species Cooperative (Sawyer, Price, Rusk, and Taylor)

Anna Mares, AIS Coordinator, Citizens Science Center, Beaver Creek Reserve, S1 County Hwy. K Fall Creek, WI, 54742 715/877-2212 ext 118 anna@beavercreekreserve.org.

University hosts online classes through Coursera

SUBMITTED BY SUE REINARDY

The UW-Madison is offering classes through Coursera which is an education platform that partners with top universities and organizations worldwide, to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. Starting in January the UW will add six free online classes, five that may be of interest to gardeners.

According to the Wisconsin State Journal those classes are (guess which one may not be gardening related!):

- Understanding Aldo Leopold's Legacy
- Changing Weather and Climate in the Great Lakes Region
- Energy and the Earth
- Forests and Humans
- Climate Change and Public Health
- Virtual Shakespeare

When they become available the courses can be found at: www.coursera.org/wisconsin. You can sign up at no cost with a simple reg-

istration. There are currently over 400 courses offered from top universities around the world. The courses are taught by professors and are designed for both the novice and expert to expand their knowledge.

Currently there are four courses listed for the UW that they taught last year and reached more than 135,000 people around the world. Those courses are still available although the on-line forums are not being actively monitored after the course is completed.

Mother Nature may need help to pollinate squash and cucumbers

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CORVALLIS, Ore. – Heat-loving squash and cucumber plants will take advantage of hot weather to blossom and set fruit. Successful pollination depends on insect pollinators, such as honeybees and native bees, as well as timing and location.

Sometimes pollinators are in short supply, and Mother Nature may need help.

“This may be a particular problem when the weather is cool and wet,” said Jim Myers, vegetable breeder at Oregon State University. “The weather slows down pollinators, and fruit tends not to develop well. This accounts for tapered ends in squash and cucumbers and can lead to a loss of the whole fruit.”

Gardeners can pollinate the flowers themselves with a small watercolor paintbrush to lightly transfer pollen from male flowers to female flowers.

Most squash and cucumbers have separate male and female flowers on the same plant, Myers explained. Female blossoms have what looks like a tiny squash or cucumber below the flower. The tiny fruit is the ovary, full of eggs not yet fertilized with pollen from male flowers. Male blossoms have long-stalked stamens, each with pollen-filled anthers. Every pollen grain contains sperm nuclei, which fertilize the ovules in the female flowers.

Don't worry if the earliest blooms on squash or cucumber plants fall off before they set fruit. The male flowers of cucumbers and squash often bloom and wither before the female blossoms start appearing.

Be patient with squash and cucum-



*Photo by Julie Hustvet

ber plants, Myers advises. Eventually, most will produce both male and female flowers. When blossoms of both sexes are open at the same time and no fruit forms, pollination may be poor.

Research in the OSU horticulture department has shown that many plants attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. The plants include cilantro, yarrow, wild buckwheat, white sweet clover, tansy, sweet fennel, sweet alyssum, spearmint, Queen Anne's lace, hairy vetch, flowering buckwheat, crimson clover, cowpeas and caraway.

When fruit develops, keep the plants well watered. Don't let cucumbers or summer squash get too big – they often get seedy, stringy or tough, said Meyers.

About Gardening News From the OSU Extension Service: The Extension Service provides a variety of gardening information on its website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/community/gardening>. Resources include gardening tips, videos, podcasts, monthly calendars of outdoor chores, how-to publications, information about the Master Gardener program, and a monthly emailed newsletter.

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*Photo by Kevin Schoessow

WORKSFORUS

TIP FROM JULIE HUSTVET

Liatris (Blazing Star) is a bit unusual in that it blooms from the top down. It can get a little ratty looking as the spent blooms turn brown when the blooming progresses down the stem. A way to help it look better while enjoying the blooms a little longer is to clip off the dead portion just above the still-vibrant flowers, leaving a short stalk or ball of flowers.



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