

North Country Gardeners

UW-EXTENSION COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BURNETT, SAWYER, AND WASHBURN COUNTIES ISSUE 35, AUGUST



Greetings

Gardeners,

This special edition of our newsletter is dedicated to our annual Twilight Garden Tour and some of the changes that have taken place at the Teaching and Display Garden.

Be sure to join us for the tour! This favorite event will be held at the Display Garden on Orchard Lane on Tuesday, August 15, from 4 p.m. until dusk (rain or shine).

University of Wisconsin faculty will be speaking and available for questions in the garden. PJ Liesch is a specialist in entomology, Brian Hudelson in plant pathology, and fruit and vegetable specialist Brian Smith. Our gardens feature a Monarch and Pollinator Sanctuary (MAPS), a certified Monarch Way Station. All-America Selection Gardens (AAS) is planted annually to a theme – this year it is “Foodscaping: Interspersing Edibles with Ornamentals.”

And of course our fantastic vegetable gardens and grape vines are all looking great. Experience our garden produce with a tomato tasting, grilled vegetables, and homemade salsa during the Twilight Tour.

Other exciting news is that 11 MGVT trainees graduated Level 1 Training, expertly planned and taught by MGVT leaders Russ Parker, Sue Reinardy, Carol Taylor, and Vicki Gee-Treft. What an exciting accomplishment!

Plan to attend the Twilight Garden Tour on August 15, and enjoy the gardens at any time during daylight hours.

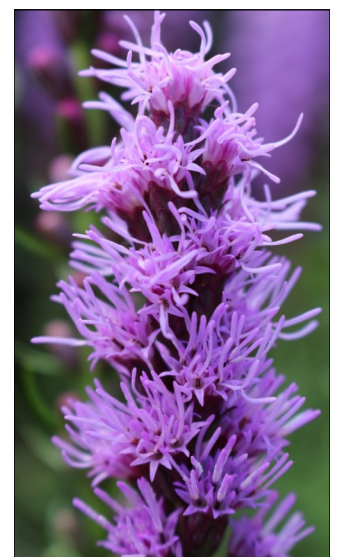
Look for our annual fall newsletter next month!

University of Wisconsin-
Extension
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Spooner Ag Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spooner, Wisconsin 54801
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Janet Mangold
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North Country Master Gardeners Association

Admiring the beauty in the details





Photos by Kevin Schoessow (above) and Julie Hustvet



Twilight Tour: Exploring another gardening season

The University of Wisconsin Extension, Spooner Agriculture Research Station, and North Country Master Gardener Volunteers will be holding their 19th annual Twilight Garden on Tuesday, August 15, from 4 p.m. until dusk.

This is one of the region's premier summer gardening events and will feature UW speakers, demonstrations, displays, food tasting, and wagon tours of the Station field plots.

The venue for the Twilight Garden Tour is the award-winning Teaching & Display Garden.

Speakers will be Brian Smith, UW Extension fruit and vegetable specialist from UW-Rivers Falls; PJ Liesch, director of the State Insect Diagnostic Lab at UW-Madison; and Brian Hudelson, director of the State Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, also at UW-Madison.

Master Gardener Volunteers and invited speakers will be available to answer your gardening questions and identify plant, insect, and disease samples.

The Teaching & Display Garden is an official All-America Selections (AAS) display garden featuring both

flowers and vegetables and has been awarded multiple awards in the National Landscape Design contest sponsored by AAS. The garden also includes organic vegetable gardening, adaptive and container gardening, displays of table and wine grapes and fruit trees, and the newly renovated Monarch and Pollinator Sanctuary perennial garden.

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

The Teaching and Display Gardens are located on Orchard Lane, one mile east of Spooner on Hwy.70. Watch for Garden Tour signs.

Visit us on the Web!

This newsletter and other useful information are online at:

spooner.ars.wisc.edu northcountrymgv.org facebook.com/spoonerag

Vegetable display: Final phase is completed

BY KEVIN SCHOESSOW

Visitors to the Teaching & Display Garden at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station will notice more changes again this year, especially in our vegetable display area. With the help of some very energetic student interns we have completely renovated the southern end of our garden space. This renovation was the final stage in the vegetable display area.

Gone are the remaining three long and narrow beds, replaced by 14 rectangular beds with mulched walking paths. These additional beds will allow for plenty of options for crop rotations and more flexibility in planting displays.

Another noteworthy change was improving the soil and weed management in the grape rows. Like all perennial plantings, keeping the soil healthy and the weeds under control is a challenge. We added a mixture of purchased top soil and farm-made compost under the vines and then covered it with 6 to 8 inches of shredded bark.

After much debate, we also included woven landscape fabric under the table grape mulch and spun landscape fabric under the mulch on the northern third of the wine grapes.



Photo by Kevin Schoessow

Keeping with the teachable moment theme, these should make for some good comparisons over time.

The final noteworthy change happened in the high tunnel. The fall-bearing raspberries were removed from the north half and replanted

with three rows of vegetables. A row of trellised watermelon, a row of trellised cucumbers, and a row of eggplants. This is a transition year in the high tunnel as we look to other vegetable crops in the future.



Photo by Julie Hustvet

Changes in the garden



Renovations in the grapes now demonstrate three options for controlling weeds and holding moisture: shredded bark alone, shredded bark with woven landscape fabric, and shredded bark with spun landscape fabric. Time will tell which methods works best. Photo by Kevin Schoessow



High tunnels or hoop houses are very useful for season extension and for growing quality produce, especially for fresh-market growers. Pictured here is a demonstration of trellising watermelon and cucumbers; fall raspberry is in the background. Photo by Kevin Schoessow

MGVs need to send timesheets by September 15

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered this gardening season. There is one final task for all Master Gardener Volunteers to complete: Fill out your 2017 timesheet and send it to the Spooner office.

Here are the steps:

- Download a copy of the current timesheet from wimastergarden-er.org/about-hours/.
- List your volunteer activities and continuing education hours. Master Gardener Volunteers will be recertified who have completed 10 hours of continuing education and at least 24 hours of community service or educating youths or adults. Even if you miss a year you can recertify if

you complete the hours the next year.

The volunteer year is October 1 through September 30. However, since we need to submit reports before September 30 – you can either anticipate or report them the following year.

- Send the completed timesheet by September 15 to:
Kevin Schoessow
Area Agriculture Development Agent
Spooner Area UW-Extension
Spooner Agriculture Research Station
W6646 Hwy 70
Spooner, WI 54801

Our contributions are important to our communities and as government resources continue to be stretched, accounting for these services helps

the Master Gardener Program be accountable to decision makers.

According to Wisconsin Master Garden Program Coordinator Susan Mahr: “This is a government-funded program, with UW-Extension, and as with any other public-funded program we have to show taxpayers how their money is being spent and any returns on their investment.

“All of the contributions of MGVs throughout the state are compiled annually in an annual accomplishment report that documents the contributions of MGVs in their communities and the value of that service to the public. The more accurately we can portray the program, the better.”