



## September 2017

### 2017 Officers:

- Carol Ziehmke, President
- Jean Damm, V.P.
- Kelly Tomko, Secretary
- Jane Considine, Treasurer
- Lori Nadolski, Reporter

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DATE	EVENT
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SEPT 26	MGV MEETING, "WISCONSIN FOOD CO-OP" - PORTAGE LIBRARY, BIDWELL ROOM—6PM
OCT 13-14	WIMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WEST BEND
OCT 24	MGV MEETING, "APPLE CIDER" - JEAN & BILL DAMM RESIDENCE
NOV 28	MGV POTLUCK & MEMBER ACTIVITY

# President's Message

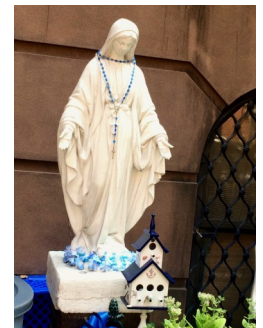
I am visiting my son and family in Brooklyn, New York. The area they live in is called Carroll Gardens and it is an old Italian community. This is a completely different culture from life in Pardeeville. The residents and stores are a mix of the old and the new. The old Italian meat markets and social clubs and the new Trader Joe's, high end clothing stores and restaurants. Ice cream is also very popular. There are two ice cream stores with in a few blocks.

We went to a farmers market where there were lots of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers to purchase, along with brown eggs and baked goods of course. My son bought 4 25-pound boxes of Roma tomatoes from Farmer Fred, for \$20 each. Farmer Fred has his farm in Jersey. The family lives in an old brownstone on the 4th floor, no elevator.

Many Carroll Garden residents have small areas in the front of their brownstones where they grow flowering plants, shrubs and small trees. Japanese Maples are popular. The hydrangeas are now in bloom and I see many of them in large pots. What we do not see is a lot of green grass. Because this is/was an Italian Catholic neighborhood we see a lot of statues of Blessed Mary in their gardens.

New York had a project called PlaNYC, through which the City and the New York Restoration Project planted and cared for 1 million new trees in all five boroughs over 10 years. City officials did their homework to ensure that the newly planted trees reached maturity. On sidewalks, they made tree pits bigger so more rainwater would reach the roots. They also enlisted block associations and individual volunteer to water trees during heat waves, remove trash from the tree beds and install tree guards to keep the dogs out. The project was completed 2 years ahead of time and was considered a great success.

Now I am anxious to get home and see how my own gardens are doing. For our September meeting Sarah Lloyd is going to speak on the subject of small farm businesses and the WI Food Co-op. See you at our September meeting.



Carol

# YOUR GARDEN PARTY OF FALL CLEANUP TASKS

By Gretchen Voyle, Michigan State University Extension

There are things that should get done, things not to do, and personal choice projects. Let's start the fall garden party now.

## Things to do:

**Removing leaves from the lawn.** As the leaves continue to fall, your lawn is being buried. The lack of light and the trapped moisture can put the grass into a weakened state to survive yet another Michigan winter. Leaves can be mowed and chopped into small enough bits that they can sift past the grass to drop to the ground. It is easier to get dry leaves to shatter into pieces than wet clumps, so it is important to choose your day.

You can become a "leaf herder." This involves starting in the middle of the yard and blowing and chopping the leaves in opposite directions with the discharge chute facing the side of the yard. Each time you run over the leaves, they are chopped and re-chopped. The leaf pieces can be blown into beds or borders around trees and shrubs. All those valuable tree leaf nutrients are recycled to the plants below. Since they are chopped, the water will run around the pieces and because they are broken down, the leaves are less likely to be blown out of the beds.

If perennials are completely buried, it will be necessary to rake or broom and knock the leaves off the tops of plants. If you are planning to rake leaves, at least they are now in one nice windrow to push into bags or containers. Since many are already chopped, more can be picked up at one time. Now you have organic matter to turn into the vegetable garden or stockpile for the compost pile and it is free. As the saying goes, cheap is good; free is better.

**Removing diseased flower or vegetable garden plants.** Remove vegetable garden plants now and either burn them or bury them where they won't see the light of day for at least a year. In the flower garden, wait until the first hard, killing frost and remove the diseased plant material while it is still limp and does not crumble. This will help with disease control for next season.

*More...*

## Things not to do:

### **Do not prune trees and shrubs.**

Even if they look a little overgrown, wait until next spring. Pruning involves removing tissue and opening wounds in a plant that still has the winter to contend with. The injuries have no time to heal. There exists a chance that a pruned tree or shrub could have dieback at the site of the injuries caused by severe cold. Pruning also stimulates a tree or shrub to attempt to grow new wood to replace the pruned material if the weather is mild. Any new growth produced in the fall is likely to be killed because it has not had any time to harden off or become woodier. This is not new information; Michigan State University Extension horticulture educators and Master Gardeners have recommended not pruning in the fall for many years.

### **An optional garden project**

Perennial flower bed cleanup. If fall is plant removal time, it is best to do this after the frost has flattened the plants for the year. Tops can be removed or they can be left in place. Seed tops may be food sources for small birds during the winter. The dead stems of the perennials act as snow fences to hold snow in the garden. This helps insulate the crowns of the plants against rapid temperature changes.

Long ago, snow was called "poor man's mulch" because it didn't cost anything and helped protect plants in the winter.

Grasses and tall sedums can add winter interest when there is little or not much going on. If leaving dead plant tops over the winter, remove them in the spring as soon as you can get outside. March or April gives eager gardeners a chance to dive in

and start the new gardening season. So party on while the



# FALL TOMATO CLEANUP

Fall tomato clean-up to help control Septoria Leaf Spot, Early Blight, and Late Blight in your tomato crop next year. It is too late to help your tomato crop for this year, but here are some hints to help you get a head start on managing these diseases for next year. Fall clean-up time and removing plants that had issues this year is a great way to help limit or avoid problems next year.

**How do I avoid problems with Septoria leaf spot in the future?** Septoria leaf spot is best controlled using preventative measures. Destroy infested plants by burning or burying them. Rotate vegetables to different parts of your garden each year to avoid areas where infested debris (and thus spores of *Septoria lycopersici*) may be present. Use Septoria leaf spot-resistant tomato varieties whenever possible.

*More...*

*Continued...*

Increase spacing between plants to increase airflow and decrease humidity and foliage drying time. Mulch your garden with approximately one inch of a high quality mulch, but DO NOT overmulch as this can lead to wet soils that can contribute to increased humidity. Finally, where the disease has been a chronic problem, use of preventative applications of a copper or chlorothalonil-containing fungicide labeled for use on vegetables may be warranted.

**How do I avoid problems with early blight in the future?** Early blight is best controlled using preventative measures. Destroy infested plants by burning or burying them. Rotate vegetables to different parts of your garden each year to avoid areas where infested debris (and thus spores of *Alternaria solani*) may be present. Use early blight-resistant vegetable varieties whenever possible. Increase spacing between plants to increase airflow and decrease humidity and foliage drying time. Mulch your garden with approximately one inch of a high quality mulch, but DO NOT over mulch as this can lead to wet soils that can contribute to increased humidity. Finally, where the disease has been a chronic problem, use of preventative applications of a copper or chlorothalonil-containing fungicide labeled for use on vegetables may be warranted.

**How do I avoid problems with late blight in the future?** In the spring, dispose of any volunteer tomato and potato plants (as well as weeds such as nightshade) as described above. All of these plants are potential sources of *P. infestans*. For the same reason, DO NOT use tubers from a previous year's potato crop as seed potatoes. Instead purchase certified seed potatoes from a reputable supplier each year. Also, consider planting tomato varieties with late blight tolerance or resistance. Such varieties include 'Defiant PHR', 'Iron Lady', 'Jasper', 'JTO-545', 'Lemon Drop', 'Matt's Wild Cherry', 'Mountain Magic', 'Mountain Merit', 'Mr. Stripey', 'Plum Regal', 'Pruden's Purple', and 'Wapsipinicon Peach.' The performance of these varieties may vary depending on the variant or strain of *P. infestans* that is present in a particular growing season, and depending on the weather conditions. It is recommended that gardeners plant several varieties of tomato because the resistance can vary depending upon the late blight pathogen variant or strain type. This approach will help ensure that you have some healthy tomato plants and fruits.

**Fungicides** also can be used to reduce the impact of late blight. However, fungicide applications must be made prior to the onset of disease or they will be ineffective. Fungicide applications are not needed during periods of hot, dry weather as *P. infestans* is not likely to be active under these conditions. Fungicides are most likely to be useful during periods of cool, wet weather. However, if weather conditions are excessively cool and wet, even properly-timed fungicide applications may not provide adequate late blight control. If you decide to use fungicides, select a product that is labeled for use on tomatoes (or potatoes) and that contains chlorothalonil or copper as the active ingredient. Certain, but not all, copper-containing products can be used for organic vegetable production. Be sure to follow all label instructions to ensure that the product that you select is used in the safest, most effective means possible. For more information on home garden fungicides for vegetable disease control, please consult UW Garden Facts XHT1211, "Home Vegetable Garden Fungicides".

## Meeting Agenda—September 26th

6:00 MGV meeting

Call the Meeting to Order (Carol)

Secretary's Report (Kelly)

Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Introductions

Old Business

- Report on International Master Gardener Conference in July 2017 that was held in Portland Oregon (we had 3 members attend)
- Report on MGV projects
  - New Micro Farm started at Randolph Christian School
  - Still have one unit in storage

New Business

- LGGG for 2018
  - Discuss dates and location options
    - March 17, 2018 (St. Patrick's Day)?
    - No Family Day of Learning to conflict with next year (March 3rd—half day)
  - Next month's program
    - Making apple juice and cider—home of Jean and Bill Damm
    - Will need apples and clean plastic containers
  - Other
    - Please turn in volunteer timesheets to George by October 1st!
  - Adjournment

7:00 Education Program—Sarah Lloyd, "Local Foods—Food Hub Update"



The meeting was called to order by President Carol Ziehmke at 6:45p. The meeting was held at the Museum at the Portage and was preceded by a tour of the building by John Waldman.

**Secretary's Report-** none

**Treasurer's Report-** Balance in checking account is \$5788.38. The report was sent to audit. (see attached).

**Introductions-** members were asked to give their names and a vegetable they have been enjoying this year. There were 12 members present and 2 guests (grandchildren of Bill and Jean Damm).

### **Old Business-**

International MGV Conference in July- no report. None of those who attended the conference were at the meeting.

County Fair Booth- Good coverage by volunteers throughout the fair. Several suggestions for next year's fair booth: Bring in our vegetables for display, have something to give away i.e. balloons, stickers for the children, have more items to sell, model of water run off cycle (Sauk County).

County Fair Awards- Present winners with something more useful than the plaques. It was noted that things like blankets and chairs were given out by other departments. Suggestions for garden winner, head gear, aprons, Fiskar tools.

### **MGV Project Reports:**

Food Security- Sue Bradley reported on the lunches at the Portage library. She said the kids come and go very fast, some come only for the lunch. Sue will check with Children's Librarian, Dawn Foster, about who uses the food in the library garden.

Vegetable Garden at the Indian Agency House (IAH). Carol Ziehmke reported that the "critters" got much of the produce in the garden. Four Heritage Apple trees have been planted; the MGV will have a chance to purchase a tree in the future.

Apple Cider press will be done at our October meeting

Pauquette Park- Carol and Ann Marie Fuerst have been working at the park from 8-11am on Thursdays. The irrigation system is working.

### **New Business-**

Next month's program (September) will be Sarah Lloyd from the Wisconsin Food Coop. Place and time TBA.

MGV Hours- reminder that volunteer and education hours are due October 1st. A hard copy of the time sheet is available at the extension office and on line. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

**Program-** "Roses at the Museum" was presented by Ann Marie Fuerst. We were treated to an informative and beautifully done program on roses and specifically the roses in the Museum garden. Ann Marie led us on a tour of the Zona Gale rose garden outside the Museum.



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