



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY

August 2019

Master Gardener News

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Columbia County MGV 2019 Activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Aug 17	Tomatopalooza @ Edgewater Home & Garden
Aug 17	Horticulture Open House, 9-11am, West Madison ARS
Aug 22	UW Organic Vegetable Variety Research Showcase, 2-5pm, West Madison ARS
Aug 27	MGV Meeting @ HHS, Rooms 2 & 3
Sept 12	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, Marathon County Offices
Sept 14	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, UW Madison Hort. Bldg.
Sept 20	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, Eau Claire County Extension



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Hello Again Friends,

Hope you are still enjoying the summer! Hard to believe that August is almost half over. I'm happy to have harvested my first tomato this weekend and can't wait to taste it! The cherry tomatoes have been plentiful thus far, but that fresh tomato taste from an Heirloom is hard to beat! And we only have a few months left before we have to go back to the "store bought" kind, so let's savor flavor!!! I can't wait for Tomatopalooza and to sample many different varieties at the event.

I'm also happy to have such a nice selection of local farm/produce stands in our area. I use my garden space for veggies that I know I can grow...tomatoes, cukes, beans, and shop local for produce that I don't have room for...melons, pumpkins, gourds; and for produce that I don't have any luck with growing...onions.



I have never been able to grow onions bigger than the size of a 50 cent piece. Peppers are becoming a problem too.

Did you visit the County Fair this year? There was a very nice selection of vegetables and flowers from both the Junior and Open class. One gentleman that I talked to one night was proudly showing me his flowers that he brought to the fair. He told me how many he brought (which was A LOT!) and we started discussing what the flower area would be like if it wasn't for him and his selection, or our very own Paul Bergum and his beautiful lilies and arrangements, or the others who entered multiples or even those who only entered once. We probably wouldn't have much to show? So...would you consider entering into the fair? Flowers or vegetables or both! It wouldn't take much, and it might be fun! Think about it for next year!!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who volunteered to help plan, set up, work, and tear down our fair booth display and the flower area. Everything looked very nice, and we should be proud of that!

Leah Stark

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Tomatopalooza

TOMATO & PEPPER TASTING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

EDGEWATER HOME & GARDEN

{ SAMPLE HEIRLOOM TOMATOES
Sample Peppers MILD TO HOT!
LIVE MUSIC SALSA CONTEST
Talk to Master Gardeners }



"We hope to see you at Tomatopalooza on August 17th. If you are bringing tomatoes and/or peppers that you grew, please drop it off at 10:00 AM. We would love any medium-sized serving bowls that you could bring. If you are able to stay for the event and help serve samples to guests and/or answer gardening questions, please also arrive at 10:00 AM to help set up. Feel free to bring any produce that you want to contribute to the "Produce Swap" table! Thank you again for your participation, and keep an eye on email for up-to-date information. In the event of a cancellation, we will notify you via email."

Thank you

Columbia County Fair MGV Booth

Thanks to all who helped with the MGV Booth at the Columbia County Fair. Many hands worked to plan, set up, work at the booth, and tear down. We will need to gather to evaluate how the booth went this year. How effective were our efforts? How many people did we interact with? What can we do to make it better next year? Thoughts on the interaction in the flower building vs the commercial building?

At the risk of missing someone who helped. Here is the list of members that I am aware of (that signed up) that worked to make this effort happen. Ardyce Piehl, Becky Gutzman, Paul Bergum, Kate Rietmann, Jean Damm, Bill Damm, Pat Trapp, Carol Ziehmke, Marie Rohrbacher, Len Betley, Milissha Meicher, Leah Stark, Deb Buechner, Ann Marie Fuerst, Linda Haddix, Lori Nadolski, Marcie Reed, Sue Bradley. If you helped and are not listed, please let me know. I will be happy to add your name to the schedule as a record of MGV involvement. Also, everyone who helped, please send me your thoughts about the questions above or any other suggestions that you might have. I know many of you are great thinkers while sitting at the booth. Your thoughts and ideas are important. Please share them.

Thanks again for a very nice display at the 2019 Columbia County Fair.

George

"Recipes from the Garden"



Sweet Corn in Instant Pot

By Carol Ziehmke

Instructions. Pressure Cook the **Corn** on the Cob: Pour 1 cup of cold water in the pressure cooker. Place a trivet in the **Instant Pot**, then place 4 ears of **corn** on the cob on the trivet. Close the lid and cook at High Pressure for 1 - 2 minutes. Serve: Serve immediately with butter, your favorite sauce or topping.

I have made this a couple times and the corn turns out great. The nice part is that you only heat up 1 cup of water. I fill the Instant Pot up with a dozen ears of corn. I also have not gotten them out immediately and they still turn out great.

Blueberry Zucchini Bread

By Donna McElroy

- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups white sugar
- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 Tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pint fresh blueberries



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour four mini-loaf pans or three 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 2 5/8" bread pans.
2. In a large bowl, beat together eggs, oil, vanilla, and sugar. Fold in the zucchini. Beat in the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon. Gently fold in the blueberries. Transfer to the prepared loaf pans.
3. Bake 50-55 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven until a toothpick or knife inserted into the center of a loaf comes out clean. Cool 20 minutes in pans, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating for Emerald Ash Borer?

PJ Liesch, UW Entomology, Patti Nagai, UW-Extension Racine County and R. Chris Williamson, UW Entomology

When should I consider treating my ash tree for EAB? Based on current research, EAB treatments are suggested only for ash trees located within 15 miles of a confirmed EAB site, or for trees located within a quarantined area. Insecticide treatments are **not** necessary for ash trees located outside of these areas. Even within the 15 -mile radius, not all trees should be treated. Due to the expense of insecticide treatments for EAB, consider the value of a particular ash tree in relation to insecticide treatment costs before making any treatments. Proper use of EAB insecticides can help maintain the health of high value ash trees over time. Lower value ash trees are not ideal candidates for EAB insecticide treatments.

How do I know if my ash tree has EAB? Symptoms of an EAB infestation can include **canopy thinning** starting in the upper portion of the tree, **epicormic sprouting** (i.e., formation of sprouts) along the trunk, **bark splitting**, and **woodpecker damage**. These symptoms indicate general tree stress, and can be due to EAB. However, they also can be caused by diseases or insects other than EAB. Specific signs of EAB include **D-shaped exit holes** (~3/16 inch wide) in the bark of the tree, **S-shaped larval tunnels** and/or **larvae** (cream colored, up to 1 1/2 inches long) beneath the bark, and **adults** (metallic green, ~3/8 inch long). Visit the UW-Madison Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin website (<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/>) for additional information on the symptoms and signs of EAB.

How much does it cost to treat an ash tree for EAB? A single tree that is 32 inches around at chest height (approximately 10" DBH) can be treated with a granular or liquid soil drench homeowner product for about \$20-35/year. Larger trees will require a larger amount of product and costs will be higher. Arborist treatment costs vary depending on tree size and location, the insecticide selected, and the application method. Other arborist-specific site visit charges may apply as well. Consult at least two arborists in your area to discuss treatment options and costs. To make an accurate comparison among service providers, make sure you know what insecticide will be used, the method of application, and how often treatments will be made. An arborist will not be able to determine the exact cost of treatment for your specific ash tree without a site visit, but an arborist should be able to provide you with a cost estimate for a typical ash tree.

For more information on controlling emerald ash borer: Visit <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/>, <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>, or <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>, see University of Wisconsin Pest Alert XHT1181, or contact your county Extension office. For a video demonstration of treating your ash trees using a systemic drench, visit <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/2014/07/12/protecting-your-tree-from-the-emerald-ash-borer/>.

Continue reporting your hours for 2018-2019 using the (ORS) On-line Reporting System

It is recommended that you begin here, reading the info online and watching the videos. In doing so, you may report .6 hours of continuing education. This takes you through most all the scenarios you might run into: forgot password, forgot user name, how to navigate the system, how to actually add hours to the system.



<https://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/>

Then go to this site to log in and begin reporting your hours. Take your time and try it out. Try to fit your hours in the options listed. If your hours are something entirely different, please let George or Becky know so that we may help you choose the correct area to report in or create a new more appropriate line to report against.

<https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/sec>Login/>

This is a learning process for us all, so please be patient, give it a try and then provide some feedback. Send me an email, or give me a call to let me know how it went. I am interested in hearing both your good comments that things went well or frustrations with challenges that you ran into. This should ultimately be an easy system to use once we all learn it.

My recommendation is to sit down at your computer with notes of your activities to report. Make sure you have your beverage of choice handy, a nice tall glass of lemonade, ice tea, or adult beverage. Put a smile on your face and give it a try. When you achieve success, shout out loud, "I did it, yes!!" Take a sip and enter the next event!

I have every confidence that this will work well. If you need help, give a call, send an email, or call for an appointment and I can either talk you through the process or have you come into the office and we can do a few together.

Best of Luck, George

About Hours

MGVs are required to complete a minimum of **24 hours of volunteer service** in one or more locally approved projects annually and a minimum of **10 hours of continuing education** after the first year in order to be certified.

Keeping a record of your hours and entering them into the [Online Reporting System](#) by the deadline each year is very important. Not only do these records allow for recognition of volunteers for their hard work, but they are also invaluable for program evaluation. This provides a record of the many ways MGVs serve the public. Local and state governments, which fund the program, are very interested in how effectively UW-Extension uses tax revenues. Consequently, detailed records benefit both the MG Program and its clients.

Reporting Hours

You will report your volunteer hours in the [Online Reporting System](#). Hours can be entered in the system:

- on a daily basis
- as a lump sum total for the year

For specific instructions on how to enter hours, help videos, FAQs about entering hours, and how access your account for the first time, visit [Report Your Hours](#). The deadline for entering hours is **October 1** of every year (or earlier in some counties).

For 2019 only: Some volunteers may have started out keeping track of volunteer hours using the soon-to-be-phased-out timesheets. For this reason, timesheets will be available as a resource to you for the rest of the year as a means to jot down hours before entering them into the Online Reporting System. *Please note: Hours cannot be submitted officially via timesheets for 2019 and must be entered in the ORS.*

Couldn't Complete All Your Hours?

If you are unable to complete the minimum number of hours for recertification, you can [complete a one year exemption request form](#) and submit it to your local county in order to receive MG Program Office communications for the following year. It is expected you will resume normal participation and submit hours the following year. All other requirements (including the CBC and MRT) must be met to be eligible.

If you have been away from the program and want to resume as a volunteer, see "Time Off" under [Policies](#).

Volunteers who have completed the current CBC should be in the ORS now. If you think you should be in, but can't find your name, email:

wimastergardener@cess.uwex.edu

What Counts?

The County Coordinator is the final authority on determining what is an approved volunteer project. A general rule of thumb is that the activity must benefit the community (not just an individual). Contact your local county Extension office BEFORE you embark on a project to make sure it is OK as volunteer service! Travel time based on the time a MGCV leaves home until returning home, minus personal errands, and preparation and research time can be included in volunteer service hours. (Travel time to CE programs cannot be counted.) See [Volunteer Projects](#) for more information.

Continuing Education (CE or professional development) is a way for MGCVs to learn more after Level 1 training and keep up with the latest horticultural information. Policies on what counts as CE vary by area. Check with your County Coordinator to be sure of what is acceptable in your county.

CE may include:

- Horticulture programs at your local meetings
- Twilight meetings or field days
- Horticultural seminars at local colleges
- Lectures at botanical gardens, or presentations by MGCVs
- MG conferences
- [Level 2: Plants Plus Training](#)
- Online Level 3 Training (advertised seasonally in the Volunteer Vibe)
- Approved TV programs
- Wisconsin Horticulture Updates
- [Responding to Horticulture Inquiries](#)
- Reading [articles on this website](#) (if approved by your facilitator)

Recertification (Must be done *annually* to maintain certification)

- complete and REPORT a minimum of 24 hours of approved volunteer hours by October 1
- complete and REPORT a minimum of 10 hours of Continuing Education
- sign the UW-Extension Volunteer Behavior Expectations form
- complete the mandatory criminal background check to be renewed as a UW-Extension volunteer (will be required every 4 years)
- complete Mandated Reporter Training (once) if not included in Level 1 training

Once all of the requirements listed above are completed an individual is a certified MGCV.



TREE WATERING: A SIMPLE ACT, A SCIENCE AND AN ART, BUT BOTTOM LINE – ALL TREES NEED WATER (EVEN IN AUTUMN)

If we use the K.I.S.S. principle, then here is your formula: if your tree needs water, then water it. If your tree doesn't need water, then don't.

But how do you tell if your tree needs water? There are obvious signs, like wilting leaves (but that can be misleading). Better yet, check the soil moisture with your hand. For some, simply sticking a finger in the ground a few inches will do (remove mulch first). Others may need to use a garden trowel. Remember, most of a tree's roots are in the top several inches of the soil, so you don't need to go mining for moisture. Yep, you can use a fancy soil moisture probe too. Just make sure it's accurate. Again, keep it simple: if it feels dry, then water it. If it feels moist, you're probably good. If it's wet, soggy or worse (smelly) – lay off the watering for a bit.

Another method some folks employ is using "indicator" plants, i.e. plants that show water stress sooner than others. Catalpa trees and hostas have been noted as indicator plants for water stress on trees. While not perfect, these "helpers" are a possibility. When they start to look a bit wilted, they probably need a drink and so does your tree. When planting hostas with your new tree – take care to avoid damaging the tree roots. Hostas have other benefits too. They can keep lawn mowers and weed wackers away from the trunk and are less nutrient greedy than bluegrass. Overall, they can be good little helpers, especially if mulching isn't your thing.

One of the most common questions we get is, "How much should I water?" Unfortunately, like many other tree things, the answer is not straightforward. How much water to use is dependent on your soil, tree location, the species and age of tree, etc. So, know your site and adjust accordingly. Remember, too much water will also stress a tree. All these indicators will help you gauge your tree's watering needs. That being said, we all like guidelines.....

Watering guidelines for newly planted trees (planted in the last 2 – 3 years) recommend about 1.5 to 2 inches of water a week. More established trees that have been in the ground for three or more years need about 1 inch of water a week. If it isn't raining enough, then the task falls to you. And if you have fast-draining or sandy soils, you may need to provide additional water especially during a new tree's establishment phase.

Throughout the summer, and even in the fall as temperatures drop, our trees need and use water. Evergreens (spruce, pine, etc.) can be especially stressed if they go into winter with low soil moisture. They will be more prone to needle desiccation and "winter burn" which many conifers suffered from last winter. It is appropriate to water your evergreens up **until the ground freezes**. As for deciduous trees, once they start to hit their normal autumn brilliance with leaf color changes, you are off the hook (slight exception – if you just planted your tree).

So, how do you get water to your trees? Water bags and buckets with a small hole(s) at the bottom work well to dispense water slowly to a new tree. The same goes for a hose on a slow trickle. Be careful to not have the water pressure running too fast, or it will just flow away from the tree before it can infiltrate the soil and get to the root system.

Larger trees need water under their entire canopy. Focus on the area within six feet of the trunk and at the dripline. Sprinklers work well for getting water to this larger area. One caveat: keep the sprinkler from spraying water onto the leaves and needles of your trees. This can exacerbate fungal issues like anthracnose and Rhizosphaera needlecast. If you don't want to water as often, consider applying organic mulch (e.g. wood chips) around the base of your tree. The wider the mulched area, the better. There can be as much as 400% more root growth under mulch compared to under bluegrass. Mulch helps maintain moisture and moderate soil temperature among a host of other benefits. Just make sure to pull back the mulch so it isn't touching the trunk.

Check out the [Tree Owner's Manual](#) for more tips on watering, mulching and other tree care topics.
Happy watering!



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