



The Washtenaw Gardener

Washtenaw County Master Gardener Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Spring brings Garlic Mustard	1-2
Integrated Pest Management in Sub	2-3
The Evening Garden Plants	4-5
Gazing Ball History	5
So Easy to Preserve	5
Tribute Garden Update	6
Start Plants in Recycled Pudding	7
Statewide Garden Hotline	7
Master Gardener Tote bag and Clothes	7
Master Gardener Alumni News	8
Salt Use in Winter Can Lead to	8
Calendar	9

Springs brings garlic mustard Marianne Rzepka (MG 2008)

You'd think that any spring greenery would be welcome. Then you see that characteristic shade of green, those scalloped leaves – and you see it all over your yard! When the snow melts is when you'll first notice the annual appearance of garlic mustard, that invasive weed that seems to spread faster every year.

The plant, *Alliaria petiolata*, is a member of the mustard family, Brassicaceae, and when you crush its young leaves, you'll smell the mustard-tinged garlic smell.

Except for gardeners who aim to keep the invasive weed out of our gardens, garlic mustard has no natural enemies in our part of the world. In its native habitats in Europe, the plant is kept in check by a number of herbivorous insects – and researchers in this country are checking to see if we can get some of those here, too.

If you're not convinced that we should interfere with a plant – even if it's invasive – you should know that the garlic mustard is not considered good for the natural environment, where it out-competes a number of native forest flora, including chestnut oak. It can also alter soil composition, according to information from Michigan State University Extension.

Garlic mustard is biennial, and the first year, you'll see only the green leaves close to the ground. The second-year plant grows taller – up to 4 feet tall – the better to send out up to 7,900 seeds per plant in the fall.

In a thick stand of garlic mustard, that could mean about 17,000 seeds per square yard, according to MSUE. That means the following spring, you might see 25 to 70 plants per square yard – or even more. And though most seeds germinate with a year or two, extension experts say they could be viable even five years later.

In its second year, garlic mustard can grow fast, up to a quarter inch a day. Leaves are bigger with sharper edges and blooms with four-petal white flowers that bloom from April to June in Michigan, according to MSUE.

You'll never have just a few garlic mustard plant. Studies of woodlots in Illinois show the invasive plant can spread an average of 20 feet a year, and up to about 120 feet in one year. That means it's not just your property that soon will be blooming with white garlic mustard.

So you might want to do something about it.

Some people say you should just stop complaining and make a big salad of your crop of garlic mustard. There are a lot of recipes on the Internet for the greens. and if you decide to eat your way out of your garlic mustard problem, keep in mind that the best time to get the full flavor is when the leaves are small.

You also could use a herbivore to kill garlic mustard, but only in early spring, when garlic mustard plants is out and native plants are not.

If you are single-minded about the eradication of garlic mustard in general, you could sign up as a volunteer with the city of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation, which each



spring gets rid of a lot of it, along with other invasive species, through controlled burns of local parks. Burning out the invasives early in the growing season gets rid of competing species for native plants, like those lovely trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit.

I wouldn't recommend taking out your garlic mustard with a controlled burn unless you have experience and the proper permits. But you can simply pull them out.

When I noticed my neighbor's yard had sprouted a growing batch of garlic mustard, I asked her if I could attack the problem. The first year, I pulled out about a third of the problem plants. If you get them when they're small, grab them right at the soil line. Those in the second year might need a little coaxing with a spade or hand fork to get the whole root out. They come out easier when the soil is a little wet.

Don't just dump the plants on the ground. I've heard reports of diehard garlic mustard living on in this state, and you want to get them out of the area especially if they're close to releasing seeds. I compose the young ones, but if the plants are blooming or ready to seed, stick them in a black plastic garbage bag for a week or two until they're dead, then bury them, or burn them if you live somewhere this is possible.

Cleaning out my neighbor's yard, I got cramps in my hand, and at night I'd close my eyes and see those green leaves etched on my eyeballs. When I'd spy a little garlic mustard in a park or along the sidewalk, I'd snatch it up. At friends' houses, I'd say, "Can I pull out this weed?" even while I was already yanking out the garlic mustard. It also took me about three years to get the garlic mustard out of my neighbor's yard, and I still keep a sharp eye out for it every spring.

Integrated Pest Management in Sub-Saharan Africa Amanda Woodward (MG 2010)

This morning, as I was sipping my coffee and watching the sun rise behind my vegetable garden, my mind wandered to the seedlings, happy in their little world in our conservatory (also known as the spare bedroom), and to the growing season ahead.

Between work and play, I'll be gone for much of June and July this year. I've contemplated not even planting a vegetable garden, knowing that it will simply be overgrown with weeds by the time I return.

But a summer without a garden? Inconceivable!

I've tried a variety of weed barriers in the past with varying levels of success, but this summer will be particularly challenging. My husband can be counted on to water, and the timer will take over when he can't. The quadrupeds (two cats and a dog) will patrol for moles, and they might even catch a couple.

But neither husband nor quadrupeds can be counted on to weed. In fact, the cats prefer a weedy garden for hunting and napping.

So I decided to do a little research to see if there was something I could do to minimize the damage while I'm gone.

I do research for a living, and when I'm not doing research, I'm teaching graduate students how to do research. I'm even pretty good at explaining scholarly research articles in terms non-researchers can understand. True, my research is on mental health services for older adults, not weed barriers and pesticides and turf, but the fundamentals of research methods and statistics are the same across disciplines.

However, it is immediately apparent that my gardening and social science researcher hats hang on the same hook, because what caught my eye was not "Hormesis influence of glyphosate in between

increasing growth, yield and controlling weeds in faba bean," or even one of the many studies on the strengths and weaknesses of different types of mulch as weed barriers, but research on the use of push-pull technology as an integrated pest management system used in sub-Saharan Africa.

The push-pull approach is not new, but its application in sub-Saharan Africa is recent. This is an area where poverty is high, and there is an increasing gap between food supply and food demand.

Two pests in particular have devastated production of maize, the staple crop on small farms. Stemborers have damaged anywhere from 10 percent to 80 percent of output depending on a variety of factors, and a genus of parasitic plants called *Striga*, also known as witches weed, also has contributed to significant crop losses.

In a nutshell, in a push-pull approach pests are repelled (or pushed away) from the target crop while at the same time attracted to (or pulled toward) a trap crop. In the efforts described here, desmodium is planted with the maize as a repellent and Napier grass is planted on the border of the plot as the attractive plant. The desmodium also has the added benefit of controlling the *Striga* in a variety of ways, including shading and interfering with the root system.

A number of research projects have found this approach to be effective, but as with any such project, it's one thing for it to work in an agricultural research station and quite another to implement it in the field, where so many things are out of the researchers'



Striga weed

control. Several articles cited below describe efforts to test the push-pull approach outside of a laboratory setting and provide compelling support for the method's effectiveness in a variety of challenging circumstances.

One field study took place over several growing seasons between 2003 and 2006 in 14 districts in western Kenya. These districts had different microclimates and different dominant stemborer species.

If the results are consistently positive across such variable conditions, that increases the strength of the support for the system overall.

Twenty farmers who had recently adopted the push-pull technology were randomly selected from each district to participate in the study. Each farmer then planted a push-pull plot based on specified guidelines and also planted a maize monocrop plot. Both plots had the same levels of *Striga* and soil fertility at the beginning of the project.

In all districts and seasons except for two, the proportion of maize damage by stemborers was significantly lower in the push-pull plots, (ranging from zero to 21.6 percent) than in the maize monocrop plots (ranging from 2.1 percent to 55.8 percent). The results for *Striga* were similarly positive.

Lower infestation in the push-pull plots was also associated with significantly taller maize plants and higher grain yields. The system has the added benefit of fixing nitrogen and enhancing organic matter in the soil, which contributes to overall productivity and pest management. The healthier the plants, the less pesky the pests.

Another study in the same region assessed the economic performance of push-pull compared to conventional practices.

Ten farmers from each of six districts planted three plots – one using push-pull methods, one with just maize, and one planted with maize and beans, which is another common practice.

Not surprisingly, initial labor costs were significantly higher for the push-pull plots than for the other two, but those costs declined in the second season to be equal or even lower than costs in the maize-bean plots.

This is at least in part because the desmodium is a perennial crop that in most districts does not require replanting and it is a cover crop that reduces the amount of weeding required between the maize rows during the growing season.

Grain yields and gross benefits were higher in the push-pull plots despite the fact that the Napier grass, the "pull" crop, took up 10 to 15 percent of the land available for planting maize. Furthermore, while the desmodium is fairly expensive to purchase, farmers can harvest its seeds to expand their own push-pull plots or to sell to other farmers interested in using the technology.

Farmers rated the push-pull technology as significantly better than their own practices on a variety of attributes, including control of stemborers and *Striga*, increased soil fertility and providing quality fodder.

Interestingly, female-headed households and older farmers were more likely to adopt the technology.

The authors use age to approximate for farm experience, and they suggest that older farmers are more likely to invest in the technology because they have a greater appreciation of the impact that loss of farm productivity has, as well as a greater skill and ability to implement the new approach.

The researchers don't speculate on the reasons behind the gender difference, nor is it clear how common female- versus male-headed households are.

It is also interesting that those who had more interaction with extension methods, particularly staff from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, were more likely to adopt the push-pull method, highlighting the importance of extension activities in building human capital through exposure to information.

So have I figured out how I will handle my weeds this summer? Clearly not. I still might just scatter lots of wildflower seed or plant nothing but popcorn and let the weeds do what they will. Or maybe I'll just leave it to the cats for a season.

Citations:

Khan Z. R., Amudavi D. M., Midega C. A. O., Wanyama J. M., Pickett J. A. (2008). Farmers' perceptions of a 'push-pull' technology for control of cereal stemborers and *Striga* weed in western Kenya. *Crop Protection*, 27, 976-987.

Khan Z. R., Midega C. A. O., Njuguna E. M., Amudavi D. M., Wanyama J. M., Pickett J. A. (2008). Economic performance of the 'push-pull' technology for stemborer and *Striga* control in smallholder farming systems in western Kenya. *Crop Protection* 27, 1084-1097.

Khan Z. R., Midega C. A. O., Amudavi D. M., Hassanali A., Pickett J. A. (2008). On-farm evaluation of the 'push-pull' technology for the control of stemborers and striga weed on maize in western Kenya. *Field Crops Research*, 106, 224-233.



Maize planted with desmodium. Napier grass grows around the edge. Photo courtesy of the Maendeleo Technology Fund.

The Evening Garden

Carol Sue Brodbeck (Advanced Master Gardener 2001)

It's been another very long and stressful day and finally, there's an opportunity to just chill out for a while before crashing into bed.

Ah...just the time to experience the magic of the evening garden or moon garden located near the patio.

Wandering out into the cool, moist air, all the cares of the day seem to be washed away. Once the eyes adjust to the dim lighting, those gorgeous white roses on a dark trellis seem to be tumbling in mid air, and the white cosmos appear to be dancing with each gentle breeze.

Along the winding path, the nose catches a waft of fragrance from the thyme planted between the pavers, as well as the sweet fragrance of the woodland nicotiana, sweet alyssum, datura and petunias — and of course, the honeysuckle.



It is a hypnotic time, watching the moon beams dance off the silver gazing ball and the reflection of the clouds moving over the moon in the water of the bird bath. As the light fades for a moment, the pleasing sound of the bubbling fountain, the distant call of the owl and the buzz of that night-flying pollinator perks up the ears.

If you read this with a yearning to be in this magical garden, one that appeals to all the senses, you surely can create one.

The moon, like the sun, can will be blocked by too many trees or buildings, so if you don't have a sunny location you'll need to use some auxiliary lighting, such as LED twinkling lights up in a tree, up and down spotlights or path lights at night.

Since many of the plants in the evening garden also give off fragrances, you may wish to locate this garden close to your deck or patio.

Needless to say, this garden could be designed to be a four-season wonder, starting with the first blooms of fragrant snowdrops to the frosty hues of winter snow on a conifer branch or frost clinging to the plumes of ornamental grasses.

A critical part of creating such a space is to know how we perceive colors.

As evening approaches and light begins to fade, colors disappear into the grays of nightfall. Red is the first color to fade, followed by purples, blues, greens, and the rest, until only the yellows and whites and some pastels remain. Finally, even the yellow fades.

Therefore, for an effective evening garden, choose white flowers, as well as plants with silvery foliage, such as Artemisia and lamb's ears, and variegated foliage. You may certainly include other colors that you prefer to see during daylight hours.

Many references on moon or evening gardening recommend painting objects, like trellises, fences, arbors and pergolas, white to make them stand out.

Personally, I prefer that these objects be painted dark colors so they disappear into the darkness and enable the blooms on them to appear as if they are suspended in air.

Many references recommend painting garden furniture white, making it stand out. Why not paint it dark and put a white seat cushion on it?

For garden paths, you may choose light gravel so it can be easily followed. Or why not use stepping stones on a dark path? You can still see the path, but wouldn't the contrast between the stepping stones and substrate add interest?

Other objects, such as shiny gazing balls used during Victorian times, would definitely be at home in this garden to capture and reflect moon beams. A bird bath could be included (night creatures also need a refreshing drink). A well-placed bubbling fountain or brook and a wind chime would appeal to our sense of hearing.

For this evening garden, the sense of smell is very important. Be sure to plant herbs between stepping stones, spilling over onto the paths, or next to garden benches so they emit their fragrance as we brush against them.

Saponaria, evening primrose and flowering tobaccos withhold their fragrances during the day, bursting forth in the evening. The smell of honeysuckle, petunia and others change from day to night, and pinks, stock and tuberose are sweeter at night than they are during the day.

We may want to plant every fragrant flower we can find, but too many could be unpleasant.



Some plants you might want to consider for your evening garden are:

- ◆ **Early Season White Bloomers:** Snowdrops, crocus, tulips, daffodils (especially Mount Hood), creeping phlox, bleeding heart, fothergilla, azaleas, rhododendron, magnolia, Bradford pear, crab apple, lilies, lilacs, mock orange.
- ◆ **Mid-Season White Bloomers:** Madonna lily, yarrow, Queen Anne’s lace, sweet alyssum, snow in summer, roses, candytuft, Shasta daisy, foxglove, lupine, delphinium, phlox ‘David’, Angel’s trumpet, moonflower vine, cosmos, iris, peony, poppy, cleome, flowering tobaccos, Pelargonium, dahlias, yucca plant, petunias, pinks.
- ◆ **Late-Season White Bloomers:** Mums, daylilies, aster, autumn clematis, false dragonhead.
- ◆ **White, Silvery-white Foliage or Fruit:** Artemisia, lamb’s ear, cabbage, flowering kale, white eggplant, ornamental grasses.
- ◆ **Winter Interest:** Conifers that collect snow, such as plumes of ornamental grasses, birch trees.



I hope that this will be one garden that you will decide to have for it is truly a magical place.



Gazing Ball History

Ornamental gazing balls can be traced as far back as the 13th century when they were made in Venice.

In 1612, an Italian priest, Antonio Neri, named them “Spheres of Light.” At that time, they were made of colored glass, though today metal balls are also available.

Gazing balls have been called various names throughout history, such as garden ball, gazing globe, garden globe, witches ball, butler globe, globe of happiness, rose ball, good luck ball, Victorian ball and garden gazers—and I bet there are even more.

They are purported to bring happiness, good luck, and prosperity to anyone who owns one and were often given as wedding gifts to bring the bride happiness in her new home.

Supposedly they warded off evil spirits, misfortune, illness and witches.

The original balls were small, about 4 inches across, of either gold or blue glass. They were hung in the front windows to repel witches.

Later, they were hung near the entrances of houses because witches cannot bear to see their own reflections. Another legend reads that a witch cannot tear herself away from her own reflected image.

In the 16th century, Francis Bacon stated that a proper garden would have round colored balls for the sun to play upon. But throughout the centuries, gazing balls came in handy for other uses.

During Victorian times, a butler ball was placed on a sideboard and used as a mirror so servants could see when guests needed assistance.

When placed in the foyer of the home, parents were able to spy on their daughter and her beau as they said goodnight.

A young Victorian woman would gaze into them in hopes to catch a glimpse of her future husband.

In the south, a garden gazer might be placed at the front gate so anyone sitting on the porch could see who was coming.

That would allow some time to either go in and close the door or go to prepare a glass of iced tea for the guest.

Tribute Garden Update

Lefiest H. Galimore (MG 2007)

Last November, I introduced the idea of developing a tribute garden in Washtenaw County for families and individuals who have lost a loved one to breast cancer.

The basic idea is to have a place in the community where people can plant flowers, shrubs or trees, or place other memorabilia, in remembrance of their loved one. The garden also could serve as a fundraising activity for the American Cancer Society.

I wrote a small article for the MG Newsletter, and shortly after it was published, I received a number of calls expressing interest in the idea. I spoke with a representative of the American Cancer Society about using the tribute garden as a fundraising activity, and they expressed a great deal of interest in doing so.

There were a number of telephone calls and emails from organizations such as the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department, as well as interest from a landscape architect in helping to design the garden and a meeting with representatives from the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Adopt-A-Park Program.

At a meeting last December, I was surprised by the enthusiasm and support, as well as how quickly the plan developed. I knew at this point the tribute garden was a valid idea.

Our initial planning meeting occurred at the end of January and was attended by Kathy Squiers from the county parks and recreation department; Alex Garnepudic, account representative from the American Cancer Society; landscaper Jesse Rauden; Bob Bricault and Cindy Fischer of MSU Extension Master Gardener Program; landscape architect Allison Krueger; a representative from Adopt-A-Park and, of course, me.

We discussed the feasibility of the idea, possible locations and initial funding. One question was whether the tribute garden should be limited to those who have lost a loved one to breast cancer or be expanded to include anyone who had lost a loved one to any

cancer.

By the end of the meeting, Allison Krueger agreed to develop a design concept to focus our discussion.

We reviewed the design concept in our February and March meetings. Much of this plan will be dictated by the location of the garden, but we have a general idea of what the garden will be.

We've agreed that the tribute garden will be dedicated to helping families and individuals who has lost a loved one to cancer. It will serve as a

focal point in the community to help individuals and families as they go through the process of healing from their loss.

We realized the tribute garden would not happen this year. As a result, we are focusing more on planning and development this year and implementation next year.

We are planning to have the garden serve as a fundraising activity for the ACS and become part of their



Relay for Life fundraising activity, which could generate publicity for the garden.

Kathy Squiers organized a meeting with officials from the county parks staff to discuss a possible location for the garden.

At the meeting, a number of issues were raised, such as maintenance, handling donations and purchases, as well as annual coordination of the garden plantings.

The parks staff will set up another meeting to continue our discussion about the garden's location.

We also received information from a foundation that provides funding for developing spaces in the community that promote healing, and we plan to pursue funding from this organization.

One of the key features of this grant is inclusion of key collaborators in the planning process, something we have done to form a partnership to make the garden a reality.

We would like to engage the MG program as a partner, and I hope to meet with representatives soon. The timing is excellent because the MG grant process starts in May and coincides with our efforts.

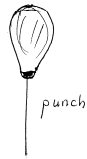
Anyone interested in the idea of the tribute garden, or has ideas or suggestions for the planning

Start Plants in Recycled Pudding and Fruit Cups Recycled Gardener (MG 97)

You can use empty plastic cups from pudding or fruit as handy starting cells for new plants. Starting seeds indoors is a marvelous incentive to get our little gardeners growing!

You will need:

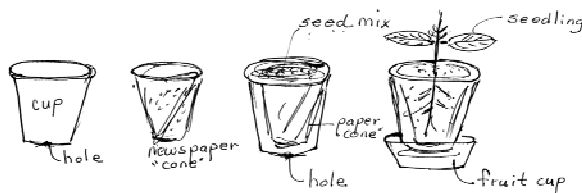
- Clean plastic pudding cups or fruit cups
- Newspapers
- Seed starter soil
- Hand punch
- Seeds
- Water
- Clean Styrofoam or plastic tray



On a hard surface, punch drainage holes in the bottom of clean pudding cups with the hand punch. Punch from the inside of the cup.

Using newspaper, form a cone to fit snugly inside of each pudding cup.

Fill the cups with soil and carefully add water to



each cup until the soil is very moist.

Push seeds into the soil at the proper depth.

Arrange the cups on trays and place the trays in a suitable location. If the light is not overhead, you may need to rotate the cups at times.

When the seedlings are strong and several inches tall, they are ready to transplant.

Turn the cup upside down and tap the bottom to remove the paper cone, soil and seedling in one piece.

Here's a hint: Place your fingers over the cup, positioning the plant between your fingers. Turn the cup over and tap it, and the plant, roots and soil will come out all at one time.



Seedling in plastic cup.
(Courtesy of the University of Maryland Extension.)

The paper cone will protect the roots and keep them moist until the plants are established. The paper will compost and enrich the soil.

Weather permitting, plant the seedlings directly into the garden. If you have the holes already dug, transplanting is a breeze.

A small hoop cover will protect the young plants in bad weather.

State-wide Garden Hotline

MSU-Extension will open a new 800 phone line on June 1 to answering gardening questions from across the state. For many counties garden hotlines have been in existence across the state for many years. Master Gardener Volunteers each year since the late 70's have educated consumers on managing pests to helping them understand healthy cultural practices in gardens and landscapes.

The Washtenaw Master Gardeners and those from five other counties will share their knowledge with consumers across the state. Mondays will be our day for answering questions. We have asked our experienced Master Gardeners that have answered the hotline in the past to help fill this role. Let us show the state how great our volunteers are in Washtenaw.

We will provide specific training in May on how to handle the calls from across the state, including some advanced training. We will ask you to take this responsibility to heart and make sure you can be available on the date you signed up for and be on-time.

If you need more information on this please contact Bob Bricault at 734 222-3926.

Master Gardener Tote Bags

Master Gardener canvas tote bags are for sale at a cost of \$15 each.

The bag has the Master Gardener logo and "Master Gardener Volunteer" printed on one side. It has a zipper closure across the top and is large enough to hold the Master Gardener manual.



There is a bag on display at the MSU Extension Office for viewing. Stop by the office to purchase yours.

Master Gardener Clothes Available for Purchase

You can order items from a line of Master Gardener clothing, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, denim shirts, polo shirts, fleece vests and hoodies – both pullover and zip front. The clothing is offered in a variety of colors.

Payment will need to be made at the time of the order. Prices range from \$9.50 to around \$50. Orders will be placed on a monthly basis. If you have questions, please contact Cindy at 734-222-3948.



Salt Use in Winter Can Lead to Weakened and Damaged Plants Come Spring

Bob Bricault (Extension Educator, Michigan State University Extension)

Icy winter conditions increase the use of salt on roads and sidewalks and this can damage ornamental plants adjacent to these areas.

Salt damage occurs on plants where spray and mist from passing cars coat leaves and buds and where large concentrations of salt buildup in landscape beds adjacent to sidewalks and driveways.

Sodium chloride, the most commonly used de-icer, desiccates the bud scales of plants, exposing the immature leaves and flowers underneath that can dry out or are destroyed.

Using sodium chloride on sidewalks can build up in the soil around plants where it dissolves in water, creating separate ions of sodium and chloride. The sodium ions reduce root uptake of necessary plant nutrients, such as potassium, calcium and magnesium. Chloride ions are moved into the plant and accumulate in leaf tissues where they interfere with photosynthesis.

The salt in the soil also can dehydrate the plants because it pulls water away from the roots. Sensitive plants like white pines, roses, rhododendrons and yews can become weak and stunted or have dried-out foliage. In cases where salt use is very high, plants may die.

What can be done to prevent damage to landscape plants? Alternative materials can be used around sensitive plants, such as coarse sand to provide traction on ice and de-icing products like calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate. Both types of calcium de-icing products are safer to use around plants, but are more expensive.

Spring rains will help to flush the salt out of the soil, but if conditions are on the dry side, it may be necessary to water plants in order to reduce salt levels. Barriers also can be placed around susceptible plants with stakes and burlap cloth to prevent splashing and drifting mist along the edges of roads.

Use of salt-tolerant plants may be the most logical solution, since it reduces the cost associated with replacing damaged plants and reduces the use of more expensive de-icing products.

Protecting the public from icy roads and sidewalks is a necessity in Michigan. Landscape designs should anticipate the use of salt in areas adjacent to roads and sidewalks, incorporating species that are tolerant of salt.

For a list of landscape plants describing their tolerance to salt, visit Salt Damage in Landscape Plants by Purdue extension. More information on salt damage can also be found by reading "Salt Damage and Warranty Issues" by Bert Cregg on MSU's IPM web site.

Published on March 31, 2011 in MSU Extension News;
http://news.msue.msu.edu/news/category/turf_landscap



Winter damage to juniper, often associated with the use of salt around plants. (Photo by J. Stanger)

Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County News

"Lilies and Day Lilies" is the topic Bill Ten Eyck will address at 7 p.m. on May 17, 2011, our final Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County meeting of the 2010-2011 year. As a plant specialist with Christensen's Plant Center, a wholesale supplier to landscape professionals, Bill will also be available to answer questions on "Successful Home Gardening."

The MGAAWC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, starting at 7 p.m. in the basement conference room of the County building at 705 N. Zeeb Rd. If you have suggestions for future speakers or topics, please send a message to Program Chair Bob Devereaux at rdevereaux@chartermi.net.

Get out your camera! All Master Gardeners are encouraged to take photos of their MG projects this summer and to send them, or a link to a website containing the photos, to mgaami@yahoo.com. We will use those photos and links to create a slideshow to display at the Fall Awards Banquet.

"So Easy to Preserve"

Have you ever had an abundance of fresh produce from your garden and wished you had the skills to preserve it for later use?

The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension is offering the fifth edition of its popular book "So Easy to Preserve."

This 375-page book contains the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture recommendations for safe food preservation and has more than 185 tested recipes, along with step-by-step instructions and in-depth information for both new and experienced food preservers.

To get your own personal copy for only \$18, contact Cindy Fischer at 734-222-3948 or email her at fischerc@ewashtenaw.org.



May Calendar

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor 734-647-7600

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/>

Call for classes and to register

Spring A.M. Hiker

Various locations visit website or contact 647-7600

Wednesdays, May 4, 11 & 18, 9 am - noon

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

Wednesday, May 11, 7 pm - 9 pm

Herb Fest

Saturday, May 21, 10 am - 4 pm

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday-Sunday, May 21 & 22, 10 am - 4:30 pm

Hidden Lake Gardens

Arboretum and Gardens

M-50, Tipton 517-431-2060

<http://hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu/>

Call for class fees and to register

Public Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7, 10 am- 2:00 pm

Spring Color in the Harper Collection of **Conifers**

Saturday May 21, 1 pm– 3 pm

MSU Extension Washtenaw County

734-997-1678

Master Gardener College

June 24-25 On the road in Grand Rapids

Program announcements will go out in early May

http://mg.msue.msu.edu/mg/mastergardener_college

Dial A Garden for May

Phone 734-971-1129 to listen to current topics

- ◆ Easter Lily Care
- ◆ Hardening off Transplants
- ◆ Growing Leafy Crops
- ◆ After Bloom Care of Hardy Bulbs
- ◆ Maple Petiole Borer
- ◆ Dividing Clumps of Perennials
- ◆ Spring Control of Lawn Grubs
- ◆ Eastern Tent Caterpillar
- ◆ Pruning Flowering Shrubs
- ◆ Planting Strawberries
- ◆ Slugs and Cutworms
- ◆ Plant Hardiness zones & when to plant
- ◆ Controlling Mosquitoes
- ◆ Black Walnut Toxicity in Plants

Master Gardener Alumni Association of Washtenaw County Membership Enrollment Sept. 2011 thru August 2012

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ MG Year completion _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: MI Zip _____ - _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Email: _____

Check this box if this is an email change

New items:

Gardening interests:

Please Circle: Yes / No to include personal information in Alumni Membership Directory

**Mail enrollment with a check
for \$20 dues, payable to:**

Master Gardener Alumni
Association or MGAA
c/o Pat Belluci
5312 Fox Ridge Ct
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

6960

Michigan State University
Washtenaw County MSU Extension
705 N. Zeeb Rd.
P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL ENCLOSED
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**



Office Hours: 8 a.m. — 6 p.m., Monday—Thursday, CLOSED Friday

Washtenaw County MSU Extension.....	734-997-1678
Fax.....	734-222-3990
Bob Bricault, Horticulture Agent.....	734-222-3826
Cindy Fischer, Master Gardener Coordinator	734-222-3948
Garden Hotline.....	734-997-1819
E-mail:.....	msuextension@ewashtenaw.org
County website:.....	www.eWashtenaw.org
State website:.....	web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener

Robert J. Bricault, Jr.

Robert J. Bricault, Jr.
Extension Educator,
Horticulture & Natural Resources

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