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Gardening For Our Feline Friends

By Monica Milla (MG 2004)

The idea was so obvious and simple that it really should have dawned on me earlier. I love gardening and I've spent my life in the company of cats. My cats have always enjoyed going outside and sitting in my garden. So why not create a garden, or part of a garden, especially for cats?

Last spring, I got the chance to do just that for the Zimmer Foundation/for The Love of Cats (TLC). TLC is a nonprofit organization that promotes sterilizing feral cats and companion cats living with guardians with limited income. Through June 2004, it has funded sterilization and vaccinations for about 1,900 cats in Washtenaw County. TLC also runs a cat retirement program where cats who have lost their guardians can live out their lives in a home environment. I created the garden for the retirement cats at their facility in Lodi Township.

Aside from catnip, I was aware of only a few other plants especially attractive to cats. As I began researching the topic, I was amazed at how little information I found. In fact, I had to query cat owners locally and in a national gardening forum. That re-



Some cats prefer catmint (*nepeta racemosa*), which contains less nepetalactone, to catnip. TLC resident, Sebastian, thinks catmint is "real cool, man." (Also note the valerian at the far right and the heather at the bottom right.)

sponse provided about a dozen possibilities suited to our zone. From there, I created a garden design, met with Kitty Zimmer and other TLC staff, and readied the area for the garden. Initially, it was pretty much a bed of grass and weeds. I rototilled it, added compost and topsoil, and planted and mulched everything in late May, 2003. I don't use any chemicals in the garden. The plants were watered regularly after initial planting and then only when the ground was really dry. I was amazed how tall some plants were by the end

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of the season, and this year it's absolutely gorgeous.

Plants in the TLC Cat Garden

The plants in the TLC garden are described below, more or less in order of cat preference. I selected these plants based both on their appeal to cats and their appropriateness for the garden's location—south-facing in full sun. If you want to create a garden for your own cats, you can of course pick and choose from this list. I have also included plants for shade, and some for indoor use, in the next section.

Catnip (*nepeta cataria*) The quintessential cat plant is easy to grow and spreads quickly (it's in the mint family). It has white flowers and will rebloom if cut back. Catnip contains the chemical nepetalactone, which is intoxicating to cats when sniffed. However, when eaten, it has the opposite effect: It calms the stomach and relaxes the nerves. The dried leaves are used in cat toys, but cats also like the fresh leaves, both to smell and to eat. The catnip plants at TLC are about three feet tall and provide some shade and a nice place to hide. In addition, studies have shown that catnip essential oil is effective at repelling mosquitoes. The terms catnip and catmint are sometimes used interchangeably, but they are in fact different species (see below).

Catnip (*nepeta cataria*) contains the chemical nepetalactone, which is attractive to cats. TLC resident, Robin, gives a "high five" to catnip (notice the huge "Helen von Stein" lamb's ears in the foreground).



Catmint (*nepeta x faassenii* "Walker's Low" or *nepeta racemosa* "Walker's Low") This upright plant is easy to grow and also spreads easily. It needs some support to remain upright as it grows wider. It has purple flowers along the stem and contains the same chemical as catnip, but in a lesser amount. Its scent is particularly attractive to cats when the leaves are crushed. Some cats who don't like catnip enjoy catmint, and vice

versa. Some cats enjoy both. The three catmints in the TLC garden are big (about three feet tall and almost as wide), and often provide cover for a napping cat. Catmint blooms earlier in the season than catnip, but also reblooms if cut back.

Organic wheat and oat grass (*agropyron* and *avena*, respectively). The cats absolutely love the grasses. Cats instinctively eat grass if they need to rid themselves of a hairball, but non-organic and turf grasses upset cats' stomachs and they often throw up the grass itself. Organic grasses help cats digest their food and restock their systems with live enzymes. Best of all, the grass can be grown indoors over the winter on a sunny windowsill. Initially, the cats keep the grass chomped down, but as the summer goes on, the grass wins out. I try to keep it cut back so seed heads don't form. I reseed it in the spring or as needed.

Baby's breath (*gypsophila paniculata* "pink" and "Bristol fairy") My cat Penelope loved baby's breath and used to pull it out of flower arrangements. I planted two varieties in her memory: "Bristol fairy" is white and grows upright, while "pink" has pinkish-purple flowers and is mounding. One of the cats at TLC likes sitting in the middle of one of these plants. (See the section on toxicity as well.)

Valerian (*valeriana officinalis*) My cat Fiona absolutely loves these plants, especially when they first come up. These spring bloomers grow about four feet tall with little white flowers on erect stalks. This plant has a calming effect and is sold as a relaxant for humans. In earlier versions of the Pied Piper story, the piper charmed rats and children with the calming effects of valerian root. Valerian also nicely illustrates how Latin comes in handy: Another plant is commonly referred to as valerian (or Jupiter's beard), but it is a different species, *centranthus ruber*. It is also a gorgeous flower, but not the one cats like.

Calamint or lesser catmint (*calamintha nepeta*) I'm willing to try any variety of catmint in the garden. This type looks similar to *nepeta racemosa* with tall spikes of pale blue/purple flowers.

Siberian catnip (*nepeta sibirica* "Souvenir d'André Chaudron") I wasn't actually looking to add any more *nepeta* varieties to the garden, but there it was staring me down. Its leaves are more serrated than other *nepetas* and it doesn't have the same scent. In true *nepeta* style, however, it blooms in a pinky purple.

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Alyssum (*lobularia alyssum* or *lobularia maritima* “Easter bonnet mix lavender”) This low-growing annual smells nice to both cats and people, and was planted around the steps of the deck. It can easily withstand cat footsteps, but people shouldn’t walk on it. This is the only annual in the garden and I’d hoped it would reseed itself. It did not. This year I planted a white variety and am waiting to see if it reseeds next year.

Blue fescue grass (*festuca glauca*) This grass found its way into the garden as a bit of an afterthought. I had a few little blue fescues that had divided off a bigger plant. I love its color and texture, and as the cats just love their other grasses, I wondered if they’d like this variety as well. As it turns out, they do, although less ardently than the oat and wheat grasses.

Lamb’s ears (*stachys byzantina*; one “Helen von Stein,” three “silver carpet”) My cat James likes sitting on the edge of these plants, so I added them to the garden. The two varieties I picked don’t happen to grow stalks/flowers, but that is not important to the cats. Both varieties in the cat garden have grown amazingly gigantic in a short time, larger than any I’ve seen. The “Helen von Stein” in particular is awe-inspiring!

Creeping thyme, red (*thymus serpyllum coccineus*) This thyme actually blooms more purple than its name suggests. Any creeping thyme cultivar would be fine. They all give off a nice scent and can handle foot traffic of cats and people. I planted it around the kitty litter area in the cat garden, figuring the cats would walk over it after doing their business. It has spread a lot and is doing great.

Heather (*calluna vulgaris* “Kerstin”) I read about cats liking heather on an English website. I’m partial to the plant (I was born near the Lüneburg Heath region in northern Germany), and had been wanting to give it a try. There are many varieties with varying flower and foliage colors. Many varieties even have different foliage colors for spring, summer, and fall. There is nothing about “Kerstin” that makes it more cat friendly than any other heather (whether *calluna* or *erica*); it was simply a personal choice. Any heather rated for our zone would work just as well. The plants are still small and looked stagnant last year, but are now coming into their own. From what I’ve read, that is fairly typical for heather in this region.

Cat thyme (*teucrium marum*) This plant has tall, silvery green leaves with pale purple flowers. It’s not



A view of the garden in late May. Clockwise from under the deck: catnip and lamb’s ears, valerian, a wide expanse of catmint, more valerian, more lamb’s ears, pink baby’s breath, heather, more baby’s breath, and blue fescue. A five-foot cyclone fence (with netting at the top extending about a foot inward) prevent cats from escaping the garden.

botanically a thyme, but a mint and, as such, will spread. It likes it hot and dry and withstands wind. I was disappointed that it didn’t come back this spring; its location was perfect for its needs, so I’m not sure why it died. It wasn’t available locally, so I decided not to place another order for it.

Creeping (trailing) rosemary Santa Barbara (*rosmarinus officinalis lavandulaceus*) This bush-like perennial has small pale pink or purple flowers. Someone had recommended this as a cat plant and even though it is rated for zone 7, I decided to try it at the TLC cat garden. It was in a very sheltered, sunny location and I was pretty sure it would make it through the winter. It didn’t. I won’t replace it with another of the same species.

Lavender (*lavandula angustifolia* “Munstead”) After the cat thyme didn’t come back this spring, I decided to replace it with something similar in size, color, leaf shape, and scent. So far, it’s doing well and the cats seem to like it. I picked “Munstead” as it was readily available and had a stronger scent than other *lavandula angustifolia*. I also replaced the cat thyme (of which there had been five plants) with thyme:

Thyme (*thymus vulgaris*) I chose this “garden variety” thyme to replace some of the cat thyme that didn’t survive the winter. Granted, the cat thyme is in fact a different genus (*teucrium*, not *thymus*), but the plants look and smell similar.

White rosemary (*rosmarinus officinalis*)

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“*Albiflorus*”) I planted this rosemary this spring to replace the creeping rosemary that didn’t make it through the winter. It’s the same genus and has a similar smell. I chose white flowers as the garden already has a lot of purple flowers.

Other Plants Cats May Like

All the plants above need full sun and are hardy in this zone. Those below include plants for shade, plants not hardy in our zone (which can be planted indoors or as annuals), and plants cats may like that don’t happen to be in the TLC garden. They were submitted to me by members of the Frugal Gardening Forum on Garden-Web.com and are listed in alphabetical order.

- Barley grass, organic (*hordeum vulgare*)
- Cast iron plant (*aspidistra elatior*), zone 8 tropical plant, houseplant only or bring indoors in winter
- Flax (*linum usitatissimum*)
- Jacob's ladder (*polemonium caeruleum*), needs shade
- Lemon grass (*cymbopogon citratus*), zone 7; bring indoors in winter
- Liriope (*liriope muscari*), zone 6; will need protected area or bring indoors in winter
- Miscanthus grass (*miscanthus sinensis*)
- Pennyroyal (*mentha pulegium*), is a mint, will spread
- Purple fountain grass (*pennisetum setaceum*)
- Silver vine (*actinidia polygama*)
- Striped ribbon grass (*phalaris arundinacea*), can be invasive
- Sweetgrass (*hierochloa odorata*)
- Tufted sedge (*carex elata* “*Bolwes golden*”), needs shade

A Note About Toxicity

When researching plants for cats, I found quite a bit of information about plants dangerous to cats. Most sites warning about the toxicity of certain plants were, however, not developed by gardeners and did not provide detailed information (such as what part of the plant is toxic, what amount would do damage, or what kind of damage would occur). Many plants (such as daffodils and lilies), which have peacefully coexisted with my cats for years, were on these lists. My cats have never made an attempt to eat these or dig them up. Unlike another popular pet, cats do not “eat first, ask questions later.” They’re finicky and I trust that cats would be wary of poisonous plants.

I was surprised to find baby’s breath listed as toxic. My cat Penelope ate the dried flowers and leaves, and never experienced an adverse effect. It turns out only the roots are toxic, since they contain saponins. However, saponins pass through the body without causing harm. Based on this information, plus my own experience, I decided to include baby’s breath in the cat garden. No other plant in the garden was on a toxicity list.

Non-Plant Items for Cat Gardens

In addition to cat-friendly plants, a few other items should be included in a garden for cats. Depending on the size of the garden and the number of cats using it, you may want to create a kitty litter area. At TLC, a two-foot by three-foot peat moss area, edged with fragrant creeping thyme, serves that purpose. I don’t have such an area in my own garden, as I have fewer cats in a larger area.

It’s also important to have some shade and areas for cats to hide in or tuck up into. It does not matter if the shade is created by large plants or shrubs, trees, buildings, or actual cat play structures. Even informal items, such as a full yard waste bag, attract cats looking for a place to nap.

If your cats will be out for any length of time, a source of water is important, especially on hot days. A saucer of water is a big hit on the deck at TLC. A low fountain or pond would also work. Cats also love something cool and rough to roll around on, like stepping stones, a sidewalk, or a brick path. Such items are also handy to divide the garden into accessible areas.

Now that you know what your cats will like and need, put down this newsletter and go make them a little garden. They will thank you.

For more information on TLC, visit <http://tlconline.org>. The garden is listed under Our Facility.



After the garden was first planted last spring, Onyx enjoys sitting on a cat stepping stone, while Simon prefers a cement slab and some sweet alyssum.

Spotlight on Native Plants: The Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow, Part 2

By Aunita Erskine (MG 2000)

This is the second part of a list describing some of the interesting plants at Sharon Hollow Preserve. Please refer to website <http://nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/michigan/preserves/art5250.html> for directions to the preserve. Get out your guidebooks and enjoy!

Betula allegheniensis. Yellow birch. At the northernmost part of its range, yellow birch is found in wet swampy areas of extreme southern Lower Michigan. It has distinctively orangey-brown horizontally peeling bark and the twigs, when scratched, have a distinctive mint aroma.

Fraxinus sp. Ash. Sharon Hollow is home to several different species of ash trees. Unfortunately, emerald ash borer has begun to make its destructive appearance. White ash is the most abundant, but there is also black ash, red or green ash, and blue ash in the wetter areas. Native Americans prized black ash for basket weaving, pipe-stems, and tools. The hard wood of red or green ash was used for sleds and snowshoes. There are differences in the bark texture and twigs of the ash species that you will be able to discern with the help of a good tree guide.

Fagus grandifolia. American Beech. The characteristic smooth bark of these large lovely trees make up a rich beech-maple forest that is slowly disappearing from Southern Lower Michigan. You may have become familiar with the term beechnut from the chewing gum brand, but indeed this tree drops a good quantity of edible nuts, which were cooked into pudding and ground into flour by the Native Americans. It was also said that deermice would store up to eight quarts of these nuts in their nests, the locations of which were not lost upon the early settlers. Beech leaves were also used to soothe skin burns and frostbite.

Tilia americana. Linden, Basswood. The linden is a common wetland tree that is often multi-trunked. It has a flat bark striped with long vertical shallow fissures. Older trunks may be hollow. After bees pollinate the tree's flowers, their large hard seeds float to the ground attached to a leafy bract, which acts as a sail. The roots of the linden are wide, shallow, and spreading. The wood is very fibrous and was used by Native Ameri-

cans for cordage. A snakebite remedy was made from strips of basswood after it was struck by lightning, and the bark was made into a tea for hangovers. In keeping with the tree's helpful nature, porcupines also relish its leaves.



Aplectrum hyemale. Putty root (see left). This might be the weirdest orchid you will ever see. Also called Adam and Eve for its two joined bulbous roots, the root was ground into a paste and used to glue broken china by the pioneers. The springtime reveals a delicate leafless stem of purplish brown flowers, and in the fall a wide greenish single leaf appears, hugging the ground. Native

Americans used the powdered root to cure headaches and to make hogs and children fat.

Hydrophyllum virginiana. Virginia waterleaf. This is a lovely late spring wildflower that has irregularly divided leaves with white spots resembling water droplets. The powder blue flowers have prominent stamens. Native Americans used the leaves as a vegetable, and as fodder for their ponies.

Panax trifolium. Dwarf ginseng. Although it is related to medicinal ginseng, the tiny *Panax trifolium* has 3 leaves instead of the 5 leaves of its cousin, *Panax quinquefolium*. It is not purported to have the same powers as its larger relative, but was used by the Native Americans for chest disorders and colic.

Pedicularis lanceolata. Lousewort. This member of the snapdragon family has small curved tubular yellow to white flowers and a basal rosette of fuzzy dandelion-looking leaves. The Ojibway cooked the plant into food that was supposed to have caused quarreling lovers to reconcile.

Polystichum acrostichoides. Christmas fern. Settlers collected this evergreen fern for Christmas decorations.

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The over-collection of wild evergreen non-woody plants led to the passage of the Christmas Greens Act, which makes it a crime to collect Christmas fern and a number of other native Michigan plants. The Native Americans considered the springtime fiddleheads a delicacy.

Pyrola eliptica. Shinleaf. Also protected by the

Christmas Greens Act, this little plant has a few waxy oval leaves out of which arise a stalk of white flowers in midsummer. Shinleaf loves acidic conditions. Native Americans chewed the root, and then applied it as a poultice for wounds.

Enjoy Sharon Hollow!

Book Review

By Kathy Kamm (MG 2002)

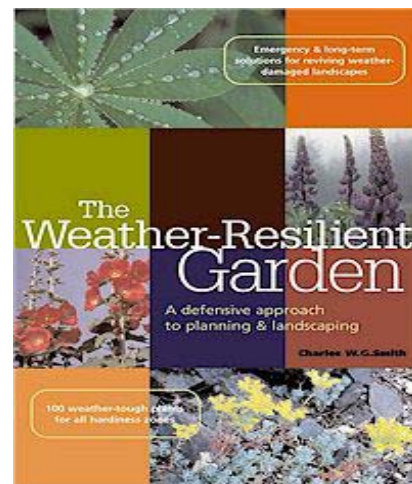
The Weather – Resilient Garden

Charles W. G. Smith
Storey Publishing 2004
Paperback \$19.95
ISBN 1-58017-516-3

The subtitle of this book is “a defensive approach to planning & landscaping. The author defines defensive landscaping as simply becoming more aware of your garden and the factors that affect it.

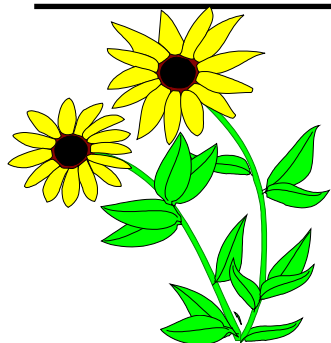
Part One is a general discussion of what defines a weather resilient garden. He urges the reader to walk around his or her garden and make an assessment of problem areas and then he continues to define the buffers that can make a garden resist and tolerate weather.

Part Two is appropriately entitled “Really Bad Weather.” This section discussed such factors as cold, icing, snow, flood, wind, salt and other weather related factors that can have an adverse effect on our gardens. Each of these factors is introduced by a scenario that is quite familiar to any gardener and then is followed by suggestions for strategy and remedies to avoid damage caused by that factor. These suggestions may include installing permanent or temporary devices for protection or maybe just planting the correct plants for that area and providing proper maintenance. Some of these sections contain lists of plants that will tolerate the weather being discussed and there are many illustrations to show how recommended tactics work.



Part Three is a description of 100 weather resilient plants in all categories, from shrubs and trees to annuals. These plants are widely identified and compiled from many governmental and horticultural sources as the most resilient to multiple weather conditions in much of North America. Categories are cold, drought, fire, heat, humidity, ice and snow, salt, lightning, salt, wind and storm. An additional category is resistance to deer. Plants are listed by common names in order from the most resilient to the least and are illustrated by line drawings. Each is identified as to what it is resilient to as well as culture and recommendations for cultivars.

Charles W. G. Smith is a naturalist, horticulturist, editor and educator. He is the author of eight books and numerous articles on nature, gardening, outdoor recreation and the environment.



Mellow Yellow: More Latin Colors

Dorothea Coleman (MG 1990)

It is amazing how many words there are to describe just two colors. This month we look at yellow and green.

alutaceus – leather-yellow, whitish yellow

auratus – gilt; golden yellow

aureolus - golden

aureus – the yellow of gold

auricolor – the yellow of gold

buxeus – the color of boxwood

byssinus – the color of raw silk

camelinus – camel colored

cerinus – waxy yellow (like beeswax), dull yellow with a bit of reddish-brown

cervineus – slightly darker than *fulvus*; deer colored

cervinus – slightly darker than *fulvus*; deer colored

cervicolor – slightly darker than *fulvus*; deer colored

chrysellus - the yellow of gold

chryseus - the yellow of gold

chrysitis - the yellow of gold

chryso- (Greek prefix) – golden-yellow

citreus - lemon rind colored; pure yellow, but not bright

citrellus – lemon rind colored; pure yellow, but not bright

citrinellus - lemon rind colored; pure yellow, but not bright

citrinus - lemon rind colored; pure yellow, but not bright

electricus – amber yellow

flavescens – pale yellow

falvicans – paler yellow than *flavus*

flavidus – pale yellow

flavissimus – the very brightest yellow

flavus – pale yellow

fulvellus - dull yellow with gray and brown; tawny; buff

fulvescens - dull yellow with gray and brown; tawny; buff

fulvidus - dull yellow with gray and brown; tawny; buff

fulvus – dull yellow with gray and brown; tawny; buff

galbanus – greenish yellow

gilvus – dull yellow with some red and gray

helvolus – grayish yellow

hinnuleus – fawn colored

ictericus – jaundice yellow

icterinus jaundice yellow

leochromus – lion fur colored

leoninus – lion fur colored

lividus – yellow clouded with gray, brown and blue

luridus- dirty yellow

luteolus – pale yellow

lutescens – pale yellow

luteus – yellow

lutosus – ochre colored

melleus – honey colored (although this could also refer to smelling like honey)

mellinus – honey colored

mustellinus – weasel colored

ochraceus – yellow with a brownish tinge

ochroleucus – like *ochraceus* but with a whiter tinge

paleus – straw-colored with a tinge of brown

primulinus – sulphur-colored with a tinge of green

ravidus – strongly grayed yellow

ravus – strongly grayed yellow

straminellus – straw-colored

stramineus – straw-colored

subflavus – pale yellow

succineus – amber yellow

sulphurellus - sulphur yellow, pure yellow with white

sulphureus - sulphur yellow, pure yellow with white

sulphurinus - sulphur yellow, pure yellow with white

testaceus – brownish yellow, like unglazed earthenware

vitellinus – egg yolk colored

xantho- (Greek prefix) - yellow

xanthellus (Greek) - yellow

xanthus (Greek) – yellow

Now moving on to the greens:

aenus – brassy green

aereus - bronzy

aerugineus - verdigris green; deep green with a bit of blue

aeruginosus – verdigris green; deep green with a bit of blue

aquamarinus – sea green verging toward blue

atrovirens – dark green, verging on black (remember, *atro-* is black)

atroviridis - dark green, verging on black (remember, *atro-* is black)

beryllinus – emerald green

chlorascens - greenish

chlorinus - greenish

chloro- (Greek prefix) – like *viridis*; clear green, but not as bright as *prasinus* or *smaragdinus*

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chloroticus - greenish

elaio-(Greek prefix) – olive green

flavovirens – yellow green (remember, *flavus* is yellow)

glaucescens - sea-green, dull green with some grayish blue

glaucinus - sea-green, dull green with some grayish blue

glaucus – sea-green, dull green with some grayish blue

gramineus – grass green (an old name for the grass family is Gramineae)

herbaceous – grass green

herbeus – grass green

melanochlorus - dark green, verging on black (remember, *melano*- is black)

nigro-virens - dark green, verging on black (remember, *nigro*- is black)

olivaceus – olive green

orobittinus – vetch green, slightly blackened

prasinus – leek green

psittaceus – parrot green

saligneus - willow green

smaragdinus – emerald green

subviridis – willow green

thalassicus - sea-green, dull green with some grayish blue

thalassinus - sea-green, dull green with some grayish blue

venetus - deep sea-green

virens - like *viridis*; clear green, but not as bright as

prasinus or *smaragdinus*

virescens- like *viridis*; clear green, but not as bright as

prasinus or *smaragdinus*

viridescens - like *viridis*; clear green, but not as bright

as *prasinus* or *smaragdinus*

viridis - clear green, but not as bright as *prasinus* or *smaragdinus*

viridulus - like *viridis*; clear green, but not as bright as

prasinus or *smaragdinus* ✨

Notes From Karen

Hello Master Gardeners...

I hope this issue finds you enjoying your gardening under sunny skies. Not that I don't appreciate the benefits of rain but, come on! I'm ready to give up gardening and start building an ark! That is, if I can save two of each species of plant before they develop root rot. Lucky for me, one of my interests is bog gardening.

On a drier, sunnier note, I am looking forward to our Meijer Gardens field trip on July 20. It promises to be a fun day. We have a bus and driver to take us and bring us back so we can really take it easy. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so soon.

Hopefully by now we also have the volunteer hour data entry program working smoothly. What a head ache! Just keep entering your hours and we will eventually be able to "ok" them without problems. If you haven't received your login and password for me yet, see me about doing so. Also final exams from the 2004 class are waiting for pick up. You can pick up yours at the front counter.

Have a pleasant July and I look forward to seeing you on the field trip!

Karen



Time To Buy A Tropical Water Lily?

By Marilyn Eggers (MG 2001)

THE AQUA THUMB

Two types of water lilies, genus *Nymphaea*, are available to pond enthusiasts from local water garden centers. Both hardy and tropical water lilies come in many species and cultivated varieties, producing brilliant colors and enhancing the beauty of any water feature. Their culture and care are different, however, and the pond keeper must be aware of this difference prior to purchase.

Tropical water lilies, the topic of this month's column, come from warm climates. Africa, Asia, Australia and South America are their continents of origin. They do well during hot Michigan summers, are profuse bloomers and can even be used in cut flower arrangements. Shades of white, pink, peach, yellow, purple or blue (my personal favorite) flowers are produced on stems held well above the water level.

The sweet fragrance, combined with lavender, blue or purple flower coloration are unique and are rarely found on their hardier cousins. Some types are heavily scented night-bloomers, opening at night and closing the following day around noon. This characteristic appeals to homeowners who work during the day and wish to come home and relax by their pond in the evening. Day blooming tropicals open in the morning and close in late afternoon. The blooms of both types last between three and five days.

Tropical lilies grow from tubers compared to most hardy varieties that grow from rhizomes. Hardy lilies can be left in the pond during Michigan winters, while the tropical varieties are hardy only in Zones 9 and 10. They are treated as annuals in our climate and must be removed from the pond prior to the first frost for storage. The majority of water gardeners simply discard the lilies in the fall, replacing them with new ones the following spring.

Tropical water lilies should not be planted until the pond water has warmed to a steady nighttime temperature of 70 degrees. If planted in cooler water, they may go dormant and are difficult to revive. They should be fed one slow release fertilizer tablet for every eight quarts of soil once a month during the growing season. Like their hardy cousins, they are

heavy feeders and get most of their nutrients through the substrate rather than the water. As they grow, older leaves will turn yellow and should be removed where the stem meets the substrate.

When shopping for water lilies, novice water gardeners may run across the term *changeable*. A changeable water lily can be either tropical or hardy. Its flowers change color as the blooms age. A changeable lily may start out yellow, turn orange, then red. Changeables offer another way to add interest to a water garden during the summer.

Below is a short list of tropical water lilies that can commonly be found in water garden centers or through mail order suppliers. New hybrids enter the market every year, so stay tuned for more updates. If you find a particular variety that seems to do well for you, feel free to email me at m-egggers@sbcglobal.net so that I can pass the information along to other interested pond keepers.

Until next time, buy a tropical water lily during the 4th of July weekend and create some colorful fireworks of your own in your water garden. You'll get the flash without the blast!!

DAY BLOOMERS

BLUE

'Pamela' - huge, sky blue flowers, deep green foliage mottled with purple, fragrant, good performer all season long, works well with 'Director George T. Moore' for a great color combo.



Blue Beauty' (left) - deep blue/lilac flowers, speckled foliage, very fragrant, seed parent of *N.* 'Laura Frase' (another nice lily), good plant for container or tub gardens

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



'Blue Capensis' (left) - blue flowers, small/medium size, speckled foliage, does well in shallow water

PURPLE

'Director George T. Moore' - deep violet blue flower with yellow centers, purple stamens, compact speckled foliage, fragrant, works well in pond of any size .

'Panama Pacific' - medium size, changeable blue to purple flowers, yellow centers, yellow stamens, very fragrant, viviparous, plantlets may bloom while still attached to mother plant, pollen parent of N. 'Laura Frase', good in any size pond

YELLOW

'Yellow Dazzler' (right) - bright yellow double blooms, speckled foliage, very fragrant, pollen parent of N. 'Lou Pignolet'.



'St. Louis' - star shaped soft lemon yellow flowers, speckled foliage, very fragrant.

'Aviator Pring' - very large, deep yellow star shaped flowers, mottled foliage with crimped edges, very fragrant.

WHITE



'White Delight' (left) - creamy soft white flowers, may have pink tips, large speckled foliage, very fragrant, blossoms remain open longer than most of the other day bloomers.

'Mrs. George S. Pring' - off white flowers, prolific bloomer, green foliage, very fragrant

PINK

'Pink Capensis' (right) - medium size, bright pink flowers, mildly mottled green leaves, fragrant, good in any size pond



'Pink Platter' (right) - large, double pink blossoms, gold stamens with pink tips, speckled foliage, fragrant, viviparous, does well in any size pond



'Mr. Martin E. Randig' - small, works well in container gardens, deep pink flowers, heavily mottled leaves, free flowering, can be combined with violet blue day bloomer 'Mrs. Martin E. Randig'

MY FAVORITE DAY BLOOMER

'Albert Greenberg' (right) - cup shaped orange, yellow and deep pink flowers, heavily mottled foliage, fragrant, robust lily that will bloom until frost, needs only 4 hours of direct sun a day



NIGHT BLOOMERS

WHITE



'Wood's White Night' (left) - large, prolific bloomer, creamy white flowers, fragrant, needs 4 hours direct sunlight

'Missouri' - for medium sized ponds, large pure white flowers, foliage begins a coppery brown and changes to green when mature, leaves have fluted edges, fragrant, can bloom in water as deep as 3 feet, will develop multiple crowns

'Sir Galahad' - for medium to large ponds, very large white flowers, fragrant, a more prolific bloomer than 'Missouri'

RED



'Red Flare' (left) - for medium to large ponds, brilliant deep red flowers, maroon stamens, mahogany red foliage, fragrant.

'H. G. Haarsick' - for medium to large ponds, large pinkish rose- red flowers, more purple toward the base, purple and bronze foliage, fragrant, reliable bloomer.

'Emily G. Hutchings' - for medium to large ponds,

(Continued from page 10)

deep pinkish red flowers, bronze foliage, fragrant, prolific bloomer when given at least four or more hours of sunlight

PINK



'Texas Shell Pink' (left) - for medium to large ponds, very large, star shaped pale pink flowers, green foliage, fragrant, flowers show well at niht against dark pond background, prolific bloomer.

'Mrs. George C. Hitchcock' - for medium to large ponds, huge light to medium pink flowers, maroon/bronze foliage, fragrant, needs lots of room for optimum growth

***Color photos of these tropical water lilies can be seen online by going the MSU Extension newsletter web site.*



Washtenaw County MSUE Landscape and Demo Gardens Work Day Planned

By Shelly Poliner (MG 2003)

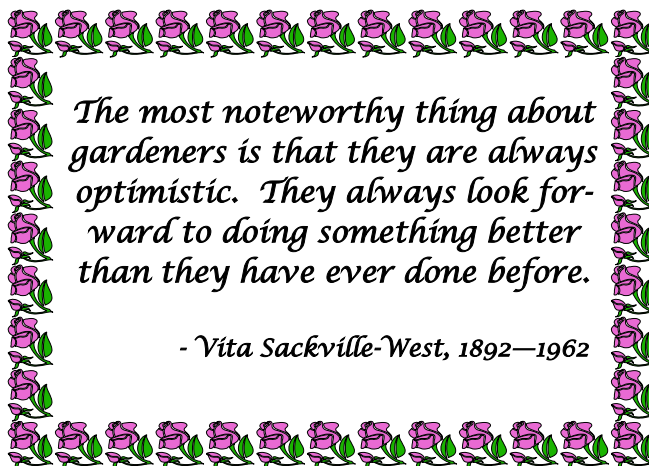
One of the unintentionally best kept secrets, the Landscape and Demo gardens, have been in progress for years. From lack of funds, "re-engineering" of the MSU Extension site, and a team in flux, the task of materializing the vision of the garden has seemed daunting. Never the less, members past and present have envisioned a site that would demonstrate the use of low maintenance, native plants to create beauty for the building's staff as well as a teaching garden for the public. Cultural practices such as pruning techniques and planting, as well as IPM can be demonstrated in a tangible fashion for the public or MG classes. Additionally, a mini -green house, the Plant-A-Row program, and organic planting/practices are just a few of the other possibilities suggested for the land on site.

install plants in the various pockets. The next work day will be held on Saturday, July 10th from 9:00 am-12 noon. Refreshments will be served. Bring your own water mugs, work gloves, sun block and kneelers. Many hands make the work go faster, create a sense of common purpose, and bring to reality, as many visions as we can dream. Please join us to create through discussion and physical labor a host of possibilities. It's our space, let's show them what we can do!!!

Contact Shelley Poliner by phone at 734-434-1893 or Alisande Read at alisande@ameritech.net, for more information.

This year, after several workdays, the Landscape and Demo gardens are starting to take shape. Some pruning and weeding took place in the front of the building, with appropriate mulching modeled under most of the trees (you know, that 2-3 inches of mulch spread to the drip line with a 'lip' of mulch around the circumference). Additionally, in the rear/demo garden, during our last workday, many of the beds, as well as the bottom tier, got weeded. We worked hard to get many of the lower steps free of the tall grass and creeping thyme planted in these pockets.

Further work will be needed to clear more grass and



The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before.

- Vita Sackville-West, 1892—1962

Butterflies Are Free

By Dorothea Coleman (MG 1990)

At the May MG Alumni meeting Michael Kielb presented a wonderfully entertaining program on some of the butterflies you will find in your garden or flitting about elsewhere in Washtenaw County.

Did you know that the monarchs that started showing up the day before this lecture did not hatch here? Monarchs are unique in that they migrate to Mexico for the winter. Then these now geriatric adults begin the long journey home laying eggs far down south when they first encounter milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.). These eggs quickly hatch; the caterpillars live accelerated lives, pupate and become adults. These adults head further north and the process repeats itself as the warmer spring temperatures bring milkweeds out. Eventually, adults arrive here that have a relatively brief life-span of 5-6 weeks. Their offspring will live for up to 8 months and make the long journey back to Mexico. Meanwhile, any eggs that they lay late in the season will die with the first frost; the larvae that hatch in the fall will die with the second frost; and any pupae that are still hanging around will die with the first snowfall.

While the monarchs go to such extremes, most other butterflies and moths are able to over winter here in Michigan. Many will do so as pupae, although a few adults will hunker down in the cracks of bark for the winter. This can prove fatal during January thaws as the warm temperature draws them out, and while they can find some sap running, there often isn't enough to replenish the energy stores used by this first flight.



A most interesting butterfly is the Harvester. It actually collects woolly aphids on alders, eats the sugars in their honeydew" (which is a nice way to describe their excretions), and lays its



eggs nearby so that the larvae can eat the aphids.

As far as what to plant in your garden to attract butterflies there are two important points to remember. First, the adults are attracted fairly indiscriminately to plants with a lot of nectar – any member of the aster (daisy-like) family, salvias, bee balms, foxglove, Joe-pye weed, boneset, morning glories, bull thistles (which appear to be almost intoxicating in their effects). Second, there are usually very specific plants on which they will lay their eggs: monarchs and milkweeds, certain swallowtails and parsley or dill, the harvesters and alders, Baltimores and turtlehead. So to attract the most butterflies for the longest times it is important to research which plants the larvae need for food, this will insure that the adults stick around to lay their eggs.

One interesting book that Mike recommended is *Along the Huron* by the Natural Area Preservation group. This covers the area of the river from the Foster Bridge to Parker Mill and lists all the plants, mammals, insects, fish, etc. that you can find there.

This program concluded this year's offerings of our Alumni Association. New programs will be offered beginning in September. Remember that this is one of the least expensive ways by which you can complete the educational requirements for continuing certification.



Master Gardener Alumni Association

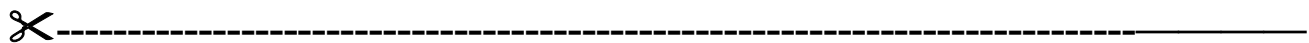
*Field Trip to
Frederik Meijer Gardens &
Sculpture Park
Grand Rapids, MI
July 20, 2004 8am - 5pm*

Come see the wonderful gardens and park, especially the new Children’s Garden and the Robert Kuhn sculpture exhibit.

Included in price: Transportation by bus, admission to gardens, and box lunch (choice of chicken salad or vegetarian).

Meet the bus at the Meijer store on the corner of Jackson and Zeeb. Park your cars in the back of the lot next to the Garden Center (east end of store). Bus will leave at 8:00 am and will return by 5:00 pm.

Cost: \$15/MGAA member, \$25/others. Not currently an MGAA member? Pay your 2004-2005 dues now and get the member rate for the tour. Friends, family welcome at the \$25 rate. Only 47 seats available, so register early!



Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park Tour Reservation

Name: _____ MGAA Member: (Y/N) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Payment Includes (please breakdown number of reservations paid for and if dues are included):

\$15 ticket (MGAA members only) _____ \$25 ticket _____ Dues _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Box Lunch Order (one per person) – please indicate quantity:

Chicken salad _____ Vegetarian _____

Mail form and check payable to:

Master Gardener Alumni Association (or MGAA)
c/o Patricia Belluci, Treasurer
5312 Fox Ridge Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9601

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER HOTLINE SCHEDULE JULY	Date	9:00 – 12:00	1:00 – 4:00
		Thursday, July 1	Viv Johnson/Lone Anderson
	Friday, July 2		Ann Chandler/Norma Wade
	Monday, July 5	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED
	Tuesday, July 6	William Boyd/Darlene Ledwon	Verna Spayth
	Wednesday, July 7	Kathy Kamm	Eloise Anagnost
	Thursday, July 8	Sandy Hines/Bob E. Miller	Jeannie Morfino
	Friday, July 9		Norma Wade
	Monday, July 12		
	Tuesday, July 13	William Boyd/Joan Black	Doug Evett
	Wednesday, July 14	Kathy Kamm	Eloise Anagnost
	Thursday, July 15	Lori O'Brien/Joan Black	Jeannie Morfino/Susan Bryan
	Friday, July 16		Ann Chandler/Norma Wade
	Monday, July 19		Ted Trimble/Ann Chandler
	Tuesday, July 20	Lori O'Brien	Verna Spayth/Doug Evett
	Wednesday, July 21	Ron Miller	Eloise Anagnost/Lone Andersen
	Thursday, July 22	Sandy Hines/Carole Buttrum	Jeannie Morfino
	Friday, July 23		Norma Wade
	Monday, July 26		
	Tuesday, July 27	Lori O'Brien	
	Wednesday, July 28		Eloise Anagnost/Lone Andersen
	Thursday, July 29	Sandy Hines/Bob E. Miller	Jeannie Morfino
	Friday, July 30		Doug Evett/Norma Wade
	Monday, August 2		Ted Trimble

There are still many slots that need to be filled for July and the rest of the season. Please call Karen or come in and sign up if you would like to volunteer for any of these openings.

TEAM UPDATES

Garden Team

The Garden Team is planning work days at 705 N. Zeeb Rd. To join this team, contact Shelly Poliner at smlpoliner@aol.com or Alisande Read at alisande@ameritech.net.

Diagnostic Team

Diagnostic team members should sign up for lab work on the lab calendar or call Karen for assistance at 222-3853.

Dial - A - Garden Team

The Dial-A-Garden group will meet again on Tuesday, July 13, 2004 at 2:00 at the Extension Office. We will be meeting the third Tuesday of the month from now on unless

otherwise scheduled.

Newsletter Team

The next Newsletter meeting is Wed., June 30, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. at the Extension Office. We are happy to include anyone interested in helping keep our newsletter a vital link with Master Gardeners. To submit articles or ideas, contact Editor Sue McDonald at SueMcD52@hotmail.com or 734-214-7882. *If using email, please put "MG Newsletter" in the subject line. Please remember all articles should be into the Extension office by the 10th of the month prior to publication.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hotline—The Master Gardener Hotline still has a good deal of slots available for answering questions on the Hotline, Monday through Friday, 9 AM—12 Noon and 1—4 PM. Contact Karen, (734) 222-3853, at the MSU Extension office or come in and sign up.

Leslie Science Center is in desperate need of a master gardener to maintain a few almost native planting beds that have grown and grown and grown almost out of control. Looking for volunteer hours? Contact: Francie Krawcke, Assistant

Facility Supervisor, Leslie Science Center, Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation. Phone: (734) 997-1075, fax (734) 997-1072

Project Grow Discovery Garden: Generations Growing Together. Project Grow Vounteer Work Day at the Discovery Garden at the Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor. Help out with the ABC Garden, Compost Center, and other theme gardens. Information: Discovery Garden Coordinator at (734) 996-3169 or pgchildrensgarden@hotmail.com. Sat, June 5 1—3 PM; Thu. June 24 5—7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Your Event Here—Do YOU have something to share? Remember our deadline for the August issue is July 10.

GRASS ROOTS NURSERY

New Boston (734) 753-9200

Streams and Waterfalls

Sat. July 3 11 AM

Water Garden Construction

Sun. July 11 11 AM

GREAT LAKES ROSES

49875 Willis Rd., Belleville

(734) 461-1230 www.GreatLakesRoses.com

Rose Propagation Workshop

Hands-on workshop, \$25 fee, reservations required

Wonderful Rugosa Roses

Sat. July 10 1 PM

Insect & Disease Control

Sat., July 17 1 PM

HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS

M – 50, Tipton 517-431-2060

Call for costs per class & to register

Landscape Design for Homeowners

Two Day Class

Sat. July 10 & 17 10 AM—1 PM

The Diversity of Plants in the Succulent Plant World

Sat. July 17 1:30—3:30 PM

Invasive Species!

Wed. July 21 6:30—8:30 PM

Star Gazing

Fri. July 23 9:30—11 PM

Owl Prowl

Wed. July 28 7:30—9:30 PM

Bonsai Workshop

Sat. August 7 10 AM—3 PM

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS

1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor

734-998-7061

(Admission open to the Public and free except as noted)

Matthaei's Garden Party

Sat., July 3 10 AM—2 PM

New event—featuring hot air balloon lifts, storytelling, The Saline Fiddlers, grilled food, ice cream, and the Gardens at their midsummer peak

HerbFest “Making Use of Our Herbal Abundance

Sun. August 15 Noon—4 PM

\$15 public; \$10 Friends of MBG; registration required by calling (734) 998-7061

Lecture: “Simple Remedies from Herbs and Common Items in the Kitchen Pantry” by Joan Wysocki, found of Herb Ease Inc. **Garden Tour** with Jim McDonald, herbalist.

MEETINGS

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Wed. July 28 7 PM—10 PM

Ann Arbor Orchid Society

No Summer Meetings

Friends Evening Herb Study Group

Mon. July 5 7 PM – 9 PM

Great Lakes Judging

Sat. July 17 Lecture – 11 AM;

Judging – 1:00 PM – 4 PM

Huron Valley Rose Society

Tues, July 13 7 PM—9 PM

Sierra Club

Tue. July 20 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

At Nichols Arboretum

Restoration Workday

Sat. July 10 9 AM—Noon

Locations vary from month to month, so call (734) 998-9541 or email Arb@umich.edu for more information. If you would like to join our email listserv for workday information, send a note to arbworkdaysrequest@umich.edu with the word “subscribe” in the subject line of the message.

MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF GARDENING

Offers classes at 3 locations, Livonia, Pontiac and Birmingham, on all aspects of gardening. For a full schedule and information, call 248-442-7336, or check out their website at www.michigangardening.com

GARDEN TOUR

Livingston County Sun. July 10 10 AM—4 PM

By LACASA at privately owned gardens. (517) 548-1350

GARDEN WALK

Northville Wed. July 14 10 AM—4 PM

By Country Garden Club of Northville. Six gardens. Plants and garden items for sale at Mill Race Village.

\$10 in advance only. (734) 591-0360

DAYLILY SHOW & SALE

Livonia Sat. July 17

By Southern Michigan Hermerocallis Society at Laurel Park Place Mall, 37700 W. 6 Mile. Entries accepted 8:30—11 AM. Sale & exhibits open to public 2 PM FREE (248) 739-9006

SUMMER GARDEN TOUR

Fenton Sun., July 18 10 AM—4 PM

By Open Gate Garden Club, 7 gardens featured. Garden bench drawing \$12 (810) 750-8969

Alumni Association News

MGAA is sponsoring a July 20 field trip to Meijer Gardens. Included in the cost of \$15 for MGAA members (\$25 guests) is bus transportation, entrance to the gardens, and lunch. This is a \$37 value, so get your tickets while they last. See page 13 for complete details.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the MSU Extension Conference Room, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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: 8:30—5:00, Monday—Friday

Washtenaw County MSU Extension.....	734-997-1678
Fax.....	734-222-3990
Karen Reynolds, Consumer Horticulture Agent.....	734-222-3853
Garden Hotline.....	734-997-1819
E-mail:.....	reynolka@ewashtenaw.org
County website:.....	www.eWashtenaw.org
State website:.....	www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener

**This newsletter is a publication of
the Washtenaw County/MSU
Extension Master Gardener
program.**

Robert J. Bricault, Jr.

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

Karen L. Reynolds

Karen L. Reynolds
Consumer Horticulture Agent &
Master Gardener Coordinator

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