

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

August 2009

Fair time!

The theme for this year's Fair is "Blue Jeans and Black Tie A-Fair," and the Fair Committee has a fabulous booth planned. There are still shifts to be covered, and help is especially needed for set up and tear down. Sitting at the MG Fair Booth is a great time and a good way to get your community service hours. Please contact Gail Locke, this year's Fair Committee Chairperson, at (650) 867-6625, or email her at gardenersdaughter@yahoo.com, if you can help out at the booth. Remember also that the Plant Clinic will be closed the week of the Fair, August 25-29.

Please contribute to The Garden Gate. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome.

President's Note



Dear Master Gardeners,

Greetings to the "Dirty Fingernails Crowd"! August is going to be another busy month in your garden and in your association. Please look over the calendar so you don't miss any of the events. The big one, of course, is the

Fair. If you aren't working at the booth, stop by to check it out and say "hello."

By the end of September you'll be finishing your certification hours, so don't forget to fill out that volunteer time sheet, and remember, you can do more than the required amount! The time sheet is due in October.

Membership Meetings have been changed from the first Tuesday of each month to the first Wednesday. The next meeting is at 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, at the Extension office. Everyone is encouraged to come, including the new trainees.

If you have any concerns, questions, or opinions about the Master Gardener Association, please call me to reserve a spot for you on the meeting agenda. If you can't make it

to a meeting, please contact any board member or officer to let them know, and they will bring your concerns to the meeting in your stead. If you would like to be more involved, consider being a board member next year. Remember that your input is particularly important at the October evaluation and review. That is when policy and plans will be set for the following year. Your participation makes this organization work!

Some great new free handouts have been added to the file drawer in the Plant Clinic. Look through them next time you are in there. You might find just the perfect one to send along with the paperwork to a client.

Do you want to learn some more gardening tricks? The schedule for the fall Home Horticulture classes is being put together. Remember, it's only \$5 per class for Master Gardeners. The first class is September 9, "Fall Harvesting and Putting the Garden to Bed," taught by Kit Cooley. On September 16, Loie De La Vergne, MG Emeritus, is presenting a class on "Perennials." This one will be at Loie's house so you can see her unbelievable perennial garden. It starts at 5:30 p.m., instead of 6 p.m., because it will be getting dark earlier.

Keep looking down,

Janae Dale, President

Agent's Corner or ???



My Column Needs a New Name!

Up until now, this area of *The Garden Gate* was called something boring such as 'Agent's Corner' or 'Educator's Corner'; all that is in the past because, frankly, I am certain the title flunked the test of drawing readers' interest.

My challenge to all creative Master Gardeners out there is to come up with a winning name for this column. A special prize for the winning entry will be awarded, and I promise it will be something other than an outdated copy of the *Western Fertilizer Handbook*.

Entries can be sent to me via email, phone call, office visit or carrier pigeon, before the next *Garden Gate* deadline.

Thanks for all you do!

Important upcoming dates:

Wednesday, August 19, 9 a.m. to noon, Advanced Master Gardener training: Learning Garden Overview, Tour and MG BBQ. MG Mikey Haven will give an overview and tour of the garden, followed by a BBQ. Location: UI Bonner County Extension office. Please RSVP by calling 263-8511 as space is limited. Free to recertifying Bonner County MGs.

Thursday, September 3, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., University of Idaho Annual Fruit Field Day, UI Parma Research and Extension center, Parma, ID. Information: (208) 772-6701 ext. 228. Free to public.

Wednesday, September 16, 9 a.m. to noon, Advanced Master Gardener training: Landscaping with Native Plants. Instructors: MG Don Childress, MG Emeritus Valle Novak. Includes a tour of the Native Plant Arboretum with Sylvia Chatburn. Location: UI Bonner County Extension office. Please RSVP by calling 263-8511 as space is limited. Free to recertifying Bonner County MGs.

Wednesday, October 21, 9 a.m. to noon, Advanced Master Gardener training: Composting. Instructor: Mike Bauer. Location: UI Bonner County Extension office. Please RSVP by calling 263-8511 as space is limited. Free to recertifying Bonner County MGs.

Thursday, October 22, 9 a.m. to noon, UI Bonner County Master Gardener Program Annual Evaluation meeting. All MGs are encouraged to attend and tell us their thoughts about how to improve our program. Facilitator: Mike Bauer. Location: UI Bonner County Extension office. Information: 263-8511.

Saturday, October 17, 5 p.m. to ?? Master Gardener Graduation. Location: Sandpoint Community Hall. Potluck. Bring a friend!

Friday, December 5, 5 p.m. to ?? BCMGA Christmas Party. Location: Sandpoint Community Hall. Potluck. All CMGs and BCMGA Associates and their guests are invited.

Happy gardening!

Mike



Important Dates

August 15, Saturday, MG Garden visit & potluck, 4 p.m., (Zoe Bolton; see directions below)

August 19, Wednesday, Advanced MG Training, Learning Garden Tour and BBQ, 9 a.m. to noon, Extension office

August 25-29, Bonner County Fair, Bonner County Fairgrounds (Plant Clinic is closed this week.)

September 2, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., Extension Office, all welcome

September 3, Thursday, Idaho Annual Fruit Field Day, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., UI Parma Research and Extension Center, Parma, ID

September 9, Wednesday, Home Horticulture Fall Series, Fall Harvesting and Putting the Garden to Bed, Instructor: Kit Cooley, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Extension office (\$10 public/\$5 MGs)

September 16, Wednesday, Advanced MG Training, Landscaping with Native Plants, 9 a.m. to noon, meet at Extension office

September 16, Wednesday, Home Horticulture Fall Series, "Perennials", Instructor: Loie De La Vergne, 5:30 p.m. at Loie's garden, 436 Willow Lane, Sandpoint (\$10 public/\$5 MGs)

September 19, Saturday, MG Garden visit & potluck, 5 p.m., Laclede (Barb Moore)

September 24-26, WSU Master Gardener Advanced Education Conference, Pullman, <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/mgfws/>.

October 7, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, all welcome

October 17, Saturday, Master Gardener Graduation Ceremony 2009, 5 p.m. to ??, Sandpoint Community Hall

October 21, Wednesday, Advanced Master Gardener training: Composting. Instructor: Mike Bauer, 9 a.m. to noon, Extension office

October 22, Thursday, UI Bonner County Master Gardener Program Annual Evaluation meeting, 9 a.m. to noon, Extension office

November 4, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, all welcome

December 3, Wednesday, BCMGA Meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, all welcome

December 5, Friday, BCMGA Christmas Party, 5 p.m. to ??, Sandpoint Community Hall (Potluck)

Please contact any Board Member or Officer if you wish to participate in or organize any activity.


Directions to Zoe's for the August 15th potluck, 4 p.m.:

2908 West Spring Creek Road, Hope
(208) 264-1210


Take Highway 200 east past Hope (past the marinas)
Turn left on Sam Owen (fire station on the corner)
At the stop sign turn right and then an immediate left up West Spring Creek Road
Follow West Spring Creek Road for 3 miles (it feels like 6 miles)
Turn right into the entrance (there is an overhead sign that says Spring Creek Ranch)
It takes 30 minutes from Sandpoint.


Significant others are welcome! Zoe will be providing bottled water, pop, beer and wine. If it is warm and you want to take a dip in the pond, bring your swimsuit.


Announcements

 **Yard and Plant Sale:** Help! We need clothes racks for the plant and yard sale! We could use some extra tables, too. If you have clothes racks or extra tables we can use, please call Janae, 265-2205. The sale is Friday, August 28, in front of LPO Alternative High School on Boyer. If you have items to donate, please leave them on the back porch of the Extension Office, August 24 to August 27, or drop them off at Janae's. If you want to

help, please call Janae. And if you want to spend money, stop by! We are always our own best customers.

 **Iris!** An email was sent out recently about helping to thin Joyce Lane's neighbor's irises. Those that help with this can keep the extra rhizomes or donate them to the BCMGA Yard & Plant Sale. If you are interested in working one morning the week of August 16th, contact Joyce Lane at 265-4567

 **Poppies!** I have lots of poppy flower pods to share from this year's blooms. They were an amazing display this year, shades of lavender and pink. They need to be left to dry, then sprinkled on the ground in late fall or early next spring. Contact Pamelarose at pr.katz1@verizon.net

 **Submissions** to *The Garden Gate* are welcome. Photos (digital preferred), garden hints, and suggestions for articles that you would like to read are especially needed. Please send them to Kit Cooley by the first of the month for that month's issue.



Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic season 2009 runs May 5 through October 1.

Update

All Tuesday and Thursday positions in the Plant Clinic are filled for both Trainees and CMGs. For recertifying MGs who have not completed 9 hours in the Plant Clinic, please sign up for the Friday morning research sessions in August and September.

When you are working in the Plant Clinic in the afternoons, please remember at 3 p.m. to place courtesy calls to Trainees and CMGs who are scheduled to work in the Plant Clinic the next day. If you do not receive a courtesy

call reminding you that you are scheduled to work in the Plant Clinic, you still must fulfill that obligation.

If you are unable to work your scheduled shift in the Plant Clinic, please remember to arrange for a substitute, and to notify the office of the change at 263-8511. Available as a substitute for Trainees is **Richard Bower**. Available as substitutes for CMGs are **Brenda Fletcher, Annette Smith, Tricia Murphy, Lexie de Fremery, and JoAnn Alexander**.

Thank you,

Martha Fortunati, Plant Clinic Coordinator



Plant Clinic Schedule

August & September 2009

(Editor's note: This schedule is up to date as of press time, and copied from the master schedule at the front desk. Be aware that there may be changes, and check your own calendar to confirm your volunteer hours & commitments. Thank you, Kit)

August 11, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Gail Swan
 Trainee: Lynn Pietz
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 PM
 CMG: Tricia Murphy
 Trainee: Tom Callahan
 Trainee: Briana Staglund

August 13, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Marci Crockett
 Trainee: Leona Fox
 Trainee*: Annette Smith, *CMG
 PM
 CMG: Kit Cooley
 Trainee*: Willie Millard, *CMG
 Trainee: Tom Callahan

August 18, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Liz Kunze
 Trainee: Tina Raiha
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 PM
 CMG: Jane Roach
 Trainee: Briana Staglund
 Trainee: Tom Callahan

August 20, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Marci Crockett
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 PM
 CMG: Marci Crockett
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee: Marlisa Keyes

August 25, Tuesday
 Closed for Fair Week

August 27, Thursday
 Closed for Fair Week

September 1, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Shirley Barksdale
 Trainee*: Brenda Fletcher,
 *CMG
 Trainee*: Howie Fennimore,
 *CMG
 PM
 CMG: Jan Griffiths
 Trainee*: Howie Fennimore,
 *CMG
 Trainee*: Sue Helander, *CMG

September 3, Thursday

AM
 CMG: JoAnn Alexander
 Trainee: Valerie Ripley
 Trainee*: Don Childress,
 *CMG
 PM
 CMG: JoAnn Alexander
 Trainee*: Sue Helander, *CMG
 Trainee*: Don Childress,
 *CMG

September 8, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Lexie de Fremery
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 PM
 CMG: Deanna Vick
 Trainee: Tom Callahan
 Trainee*: Judith Pagliasotti,
 *CMG

September 10, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Kit Cooley
 Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 PM
 CMG: Gail Swan
 Trainee: Valerie Ripley
 Trainee*: Sue Helander, *CMG

September 15, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Marsha Williams
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
 PM
 CMG: Deanna Vick
 Trainee*: Judith Pagliasotti,
 *CMG
 Trainee*: Marsha Williams,
 *CMG

September 17, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Marsha Williams
 Trainee: Barbara Wilson
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 PM
 CMG: Janae Dale
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee: Barbara Wilson

September 22, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Lexie de Fremery
 Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
 Trainee: Pamelarose Crawford
 PM
 CMG: Deanna Vick
 Trainee*: Judith Pagliasotti,
 *CMG
 Trainee: Briana Staglund

September 24, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Jennifer Costich-
 Thompson
 Trainee: Barbara Wilson
 Trainee: Leona Fox
 PM
 CMG: Jennifer Costich-
 Thompson
 Trainee: Barbara Wilson
 Trainee*: Don Childress,
 *CMG

September 29, Tuesday

AM
 CMG: Lexie de Fremery
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
 PM
 CMG: Janae Dale
 Trainee: Regina Mundell
 Trainee*: Sue Helander, *CMG

October 1, Thursday

AM
 CMG: Shirley Barksdale
 Trainee: Tom Callahan
 Trainee*: Kristy Pierce, *CMG
 PM
 CMG: Brenda Fletcher
 Trainee*: Kristy Pierce, *CMG
 Trainee*: Mikey Haven, *CMG

Items of Interest

Preparing Vegetables to Exhibit at Fair

By this time, you know if your vegetable garden is flourishing, or, if you are like me, needs a little help. If you are one of the fortunate gardeners who are looking at a coming bounty, then you may want to exhibit your success with pride at the local Fair. I especially like the exhibits because in this rather challenging climate, one can see what is really possible.

Know your Fair rules. Look at the Fair Premium book to get familiar with local rules and regulations. It is always disappointing to come with your exhibit only to be disqualified because you didn't follow procedures in the Fair book. Entering items correctly and entering the correct number of specimens for a particular exhibit are common oversights.

Know the qualities Fair judges look for in vegetable exhibits.

Uniformity – specimens should be alike in size, shape and color.

Condition and quality – vegetables should be edible and in prime condition

Typical of type for the variety in shape, color and size

Specimens that are typical of that vegetable found in the store – no monster zucchinis!

Cleanliness – wipe soft-skinned vegetables with a damp cloth. Wash or lightly brush soil from root crops

Arrangement – carefully place specimens to show their most attractive and desirable characteristics

Know how to prepare different vegetables for exhibit.

I recommend the Oregon 4-H Horticulture Contest Guide for Vegetables, Publication 4-H 2334 found on the web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/4h/4-h2334.pdf>.

Learn the best ways to transport vegetables to the Fair. Handle vegetables carefully. Avoid bruising and prolonged exposure to sun or heat. Wrap individual fruits in paper and place in a strong container. Take extra specimens along as replacements.

(Mike Bauer, originally published in the *Bonner County Daily Bee*)

Preparing Flowers to Exhibit at Fair

In our last article, we described how you can prepare vegetable to enter in the Fair. This week, we will tell you how to prepare those beautiful flowers so they have the

best chance at that coveted blue ribbon.

Cut around 4 p.m. the previous day, since that time is when the greatest amount of sugar is in the leaves. Place the stem in 100-110 degrees F water and move to a cool location for 15 to 20 minutes. Then refrigerate at 35 to 40 degrees F until put on display. Flowers with woody stems should be split crushed or pounded before being placed in deep water.

Know when to pick flowers.

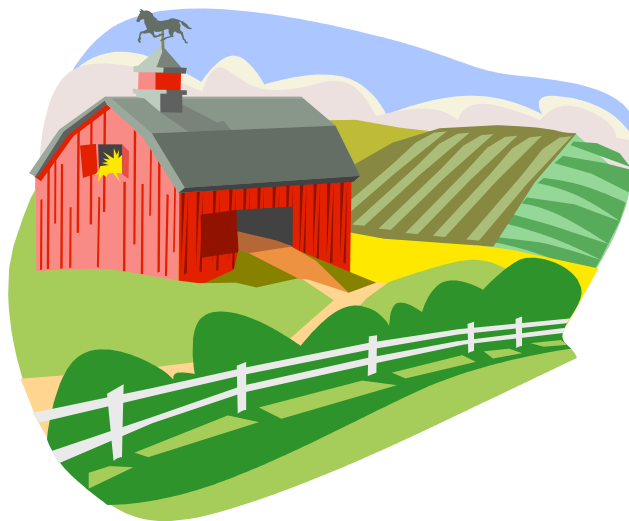
Spike-form flowers (i.e., gladiolus) should be picked when the bottom florets are open and in good condition and has two-thirds of the blossoms open and one-third developing buds. The spike should be straight and the stem should be sturdy.

Round-form flowers (i.e., mums) should be cut when fully developed and the outer petals fold out gracefully. The center petals should be tighter than the outer petals, but not so immature as to be green.

Know your Fair rules. A close look at the Fair Premium book will tell you that they require a certain number of stems, sprays and arrangements. A stem is just what you might think: a single flower on one stem. A spray is a single main stem with blooms on the side branches. An arrangement uses many different types of flowers, usually to address a theme. Be sure to consult your Fair premium book for specific requirements.

Resources. I recommend Kansas State's 4-H Guide Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibit found on the web at http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/4h_y2/4h826.pdf.

(Mike Bauer, originally published in the *Bonner County Daily Bee*)



Garden Hints

August checklist in the garden

- √ Replace some of those tired summer annuals with fall annuals.
- √ Start planning changes to perennial beds.
- √ During the cooler days of the month, divide and transplant older or bigger perennials.
- √ Move spring bulbs or plant them in a different pattern. (Don't forget to add phosphorus when transplanting.)
- √ Prune summer blooming shrubs after they have finished flowering. Remove any dead or diseased branches.
- √ Start your fall vegetables. (Plant starts or seeds of green onions, beets, lettuce, spinach, radishes, and garlic.)
- √ Keep the weeds pulled, before they have a chance to flower and go to seed.
- √ Let some of the heirloom plants seed out and get ready to collect them. Decide how you will label and store them for next year.
- √ Now is the time to attack weeds in your lawn so that by late August you will be ready to re-seed those now bare patches and over seed any thin areas.

(Tina Raiha)



Easy germination chamber

After you have planted seeds in a flat, place an empty flat--one with the geometric plastic grid, which allows light in--upside down over the planted flat. Cut a piece of plastic 3 feet wide by about 3 1/2 feet long. Place the flat on the plastic, pull the plastic up and around the flats, and secure with clothespins both on top and on the sides. Place in a warm place and wait for the little seeds to sprout. The upside down flat keeps the plastic from touching the soil and tender seedlings. It's also easy to open up to add water or to check to see if germination is happening.

(Ann Warwick)



*I was determined to know beans.
--Henry David Thoreau (from Walden)*