

The Garden Gate



edited by Kit Cooley (the_editrix@yahoo.com)

July 2009

Sizzling summer

And successful! A great Garden Tour and July 4 Parade are behind us. On to the Fair and continued work helping the community in the Plant Clinic. If you are in need of community service hours, and are having difficulty scheduling time, please talk to any officer or board member. They can direct you to volunteer opportunities, such as working on the landscaping at the Extension office, that will fit into your busy schedule.

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

President's Note



Dear Master Gardeners,

Hot weather greetings to everyone. Summer is really here, with high temperatures and occasional storms. Enjoy all the new growth, but be mindful of your water usage.

The Garden Tour and Parade are behind us for another year. Our activities slow down a little now until the fair, August 25 - 29. The Plant Clinic continues to keep everyone busy this year, and hopefully you can take the time to enjoy the Master Gardener Garden-Visits-with-Potluck.

An important reminder: Please remember to record all your MG volunteer time on your time sheet. The completed sheets are due the end of September, and it is much easier to fill them out as you go along.

Remember to use sunscreen and wear a hat in the garden. Not only does it help to prevent skin cancers, but it helps to prevent wrinkles!

Janae Dale, President

Agent's Corner



I would like to congratulate Master Gardeners who were involved with recent highly successful projects. The Learning Garden is looking beautiful and is a functional outdoor classroom coordinated by Mikey Haven with help of many MGs who have worked diligently to bring this project to reality. It contains a demonstration of the Three Sisters Garden of Native American origin which takes advantage of the symbiosis of corn, beans and squash. It also contains several varieties of heirloom tomato, over which a plant protection structure will be built to extend the harvest season this fall. The garden also demonstrates the use of timber, cinder blocks and wattles (straw filled tubes) for raised bed structures. All of this is described in the annual report that is available at the box in the garden. Congratulations to Penny Barton who, with the help of many MGs, coordinated a very successful Garden Tour. There were 155 tickets sold, up from 107 last year, and there was great weather. Next up is the Fair Booth, and Gail Locke is making sure it is a good one.

Thanks to all MGs who are contributing to a very successful year!

Mike



Three Sisters in the Learning Garden.

Important Dates

August 1, MG Garden visit & potluck, 4 p.m., (Judith Pagliasotti)

August 2, Pend Oreille County Master Gardeners' Garden Tour, 12:30 p.m., Priest River/Newport, dinner at 5 p.m., \$10

August 4, BCMGA meeting, 9 a.m., Extension office, all welcome

August 15, MG Garden visit & potluck, 4 p.m., (Zoe Bolton)

August 25-29, Bonner County Fair, Bonner County Fairgrounds

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

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

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

Announcements



Visiting MG Gardens: Gardens and goodies

Judith Pagliasotti is inviting all Master Gardeners to her garden on August 1. **Zoe Bolton** will host a gathering at her garden on August 15. **Barb Moore** will host a gathering on September 19. These are potlucks, so please bring a dish to share.



Jail Garden needs our help: A Jail Garden committee is being formed. The Jail Garden helps to supply the inmates and the Food Bank. Please contact Penny Barton, 265-9733, to get involved.



Yard Sale: Please contribute to our annual sale, coming up in August, the Friday of Fair week. Janae would like to have more plants donated this year, as well as your gently used items for sale. If you wish to volunteer, or for information or to donate, please call Janae at 265-2205.



Pend Oreille WSU Masters Gardeners invite you to attend their annual garden tour and dinner on August 2, 2009. This year's gardens feature river-front properties that enhance their natural settings. Also featured are inland gardens that have water features, shade, fire-wise, and vegetable gardens.

Several years ago the tour committee added a dinner at a host garden as the day's finale. The dinner has been a tremendous success and has attracted about 100 people. This year's dinner is catered by Skeye's the Limit. The menu is: salad, London broil, red potatoes, seasonal vegetables, fruit, and triple berry cobbler.

All are invited to attend this year's event. Contact Pend Oreille County Extension Office, (509) 447-2401, for registration information. The tour is \$10.00, and the dinner is \$10.00. Dinner registrations must be received by July 24, 2009.



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.



July 4th Parade shovel crew.

Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic season 2009 runs May 5 through October 1.

Update

In the Plant Clinic, please use the correct form. The pink form is *only* for a general gardening question or plant ID. The white form is for plant problem diagnosis. The green form is for insect ID, and the tan form is weed ID. The questions on each form will aid you in the problem-solving process, and prevent multiple calls to the client.

When working afternoons in the Plant Clinic please remember to place courtesy calls at 3 p.m. to those who are scheduled for the next Tuesday or Thursday.

If you are unable to work your scheduled shift, please remember to arrange for a substitute, and to notify the office of the change. 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**.

Recertifying Master Gardeners who still need to complete their 9 hours in the plant clinic may fill the following available vacancies that were previously designated for trainees. Please call the office at 263-8511 to sign up.

Thank you to all,

Martha Fortunati, Plant Clinic Coordinator

Available shifts

Tuesday	September 1	a.m. and p.m.
Thursday	September 3	a.m. and p.m.
Thursday	September 10	p.m.
Tuesday	September 15	p.m.
Tuesday	September 22	p.m.
Thursday	September 24	p.m.
Tuesday	September 29	p.m.
Thursday	October 1	a.m. and p.m.



Plant Clinic Schedule, July & August 2009

July 14, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Jane Roach
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Tina Raiha
PM
CMG: Jane Roach
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Becky Reynolds

July 21, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Liz Kunze
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Joyce Lane
PM
CMG: Annette Smith
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Becky Reynolds

July 28, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Liz Kunze
Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
Trainee:
PM
CMG: Bob Blair
Trainee: Richard Bower
Trainee: Ellie Lizotte

August 4, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Ann Warwick
Trainee: Julie Woods
Trainee: Briana Staglund
PM
CMG: JoAnn Alexander
Trainee: Julie Woods
Trainee: Briana Staglund

August 11, Tuesday

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

August 18, Tuesday

AM
CMG: Liz Kunze
Trainee: Valerie Ripley
Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
PM
CMG: Jane Roach
Trainee: Briana Staglund
Trainee: Tom Callahan

July 16, Thursday

AM
CMG: Zoe Bolton
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Tina Raiha
PM
CMG: Zoe Bolton
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Tina Raiha

July 23, Thursday

AM
CMG: Martha Troughton
Trainee: Leona Fox
Trainee: Ellie Lizotte
PM
CMG: Bob Blair
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Tom Callahan

July 30, Thursday

AM
CMG: Martha Troughton
Trainee: Julie Woods
Trainee: Valerie Ripley
PM
CMG: Tricia Murphy
Trainee: Julie Woods
Trainee: Tina Valerie Ripley

August 6, Thursday

AM
CMG: Gail Swan
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
Trainee: Tina Raiha
PM
CMG: Tricia Murphy
Trainee: Marlisa Keyes
Trainee: Jay Baker

August 13, Thursday

AM
CMG: Marci Crockett
Trainee: Leona Gox
Trainee: Lynn Pietz
PM
CMG: Kit Cooley
Trainee: Joyce Lane
Trainee: Tom Callahan

August 20, Thursday

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

Items of Interest

The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America

Findings from the National Gardening Association's (NGA) new survey, *The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America*, indicate that food gardening in the U.S. is on the rise. Seven million more households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, or berries in 2009 than in 2008 — a 19 percent increase in participation. This anticipated increase is nearly double the 10 percent growth in vegetable gardening from 2007 to 2008 and reflects the number of new food gardeners emerging this year.

More Americans are recognizing the benefits of growing their own produce, including improved quality, taste, and cost savings. In 2008, gardeners spent a total of \$2.5 billion to purchase seeds, plants, fertilizer, tools, and other gardening supplies to grow their own food. According to NGA estimates, on average a well-maintained food garden yields a \$500 return when considering a typical gardener's investment and the market price of produce.

Full text can be found at:

<http://www.gardenresearch.com/files/2009-Impact-of-Gardening-in-America-White-Paper.pdf>

Source: National Gardening Association

Preventing Virus Diseases in the Garden

If your tomato plants look a little funny this year, then they may have one of the many viruses that effect this popular vegetable. Since it is so popular, there seems to have been an increase in virus problems this year. Symptoms include mosaic patterns, discolored streaks and distortion and stunting of leaves.

There is no cure for virus diseases, only prevention. The incidence of virus problems in gardens can be prevented by:

Planting resistant varieties. Newer tomato varieties may have resistance bred into them. You may see the letters V, F, N or T under the variety description, which indicates resistance to verticillium wilt, fusarium blight, nematodes and tobacco mosaic virus. In areas with a history of virus problems, be sure to plant resistant varieties. Many heirloom varieties do not have disease resistance.

Pest management. Control insects and weeds diligently. Insects transmit many viruses between weeds and desir-

able plants. Use row covers to keep insects out of tomato plantings.

Crop rotation. A three to four year period between tomato crops is recommended. Be sure that period does not include any similar crops, such as pepper, eggplant or potato.

Barrier crops between weedy areas and tomatoes, such as corn, can be effective.

Culling or destroying infected plants is imperative if symptoms are seen. It is very difficult to identify which virus is affecting the tomato, but the strategy is the same.

Sanitation. Be sure the garden is well tended and clean, including the control of plant debris.

Human activity. Some viruses are transmitted by humans. In the case of tobacco mosaic virus, it can be spread by workers who have handled tobacco. Avoid working in the garden when it is wet.

(Mike Bauer)

Garden Hints

Clothes pins and their many uses

Buy the old-fashioned wooden clothes pins to do double duty in your garden. Use them to identify plants, or to mark colors, heights, etc. Just clip them onto your plant or fence. They are easy to move to the next plant to keep it from becoming an unmarked mystery if you forget to mark it. Make sure to write on them with a permanent marker, or 'poof,' your carefully documented information will be gone with the first rain or watering. (Penny Barton)

Easy with a garden fork

A four-pronged garden fork is great for loosening the soil to easily remove weeds, as well as for digging and re-planting perennials. For sod removal, it has no equal: Dig the fork in under the sod, give it a shake, toss out the grass, and the mat is gone without having removed all your soil in the process. This tool can be found for about \$10.00 in any garden center. (Penny Barton)

The one small garden of a free gardener was all his need and due, not a garden swollen to a realm; his own hands to use, not the hands of others to command.

--Sam Gamgee (J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Lord of the Rings")