



**WIMGA**

WISCONSIN MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

*Serving its members since 1992*

## Seeds

*Jeanne Mueller, Ozaukee MG*

**WIMGA Mission:** WIMGA is the collective voice for Wisconsin Master Gardeners who are cultivating the garden resources that bring our communities to life.

**WIMGA Vision:** We provide inspirational leadership and energy to Wisconsin Master Gardeners by:

- ❖ Sponsoring continuing education opportunities
- ❖ Supporting local horticultural projects with financial assistance
- ❖ Fostering leadership and mentoring skill development
- ❖ Promoting communication and information through multiple media platforms.

Seeds. They come in all sizes, but I don't have to tell you that...you are Master Gardeners! And amazingly, even the smallest seed grows into something many times bigger than itself.

Recently, I stumbled upon some interesting stats about Master Gardener volunteers. The Extension Master Gardener Program (EMG) reports:

- EMG is one of the largest volunteer organizations in the country with more than 86,076 volunteers in 49 states.
- On average, each active certified EMG volunteer donates 60 hours per year.
- EMG volunteers make face-to-face contact with over 8.6 million people across the U.S.
- In total, EMG volunteers contribute 5.6 million hours to:
  - Educating others.
  - Help people use gardening to grow food, improve their physical and mental health, and address environmental issues.
- EMG volunteers support over 1,400 produce growing projects:
  - Donating 1.1 million pounds of produce.
  - Valued at \$2.4 million.
- Conservatively, EMG volunteer efforts are estimated to contribute \$132.2 million in value to the general public.

Wisconsin Extension Master Gardeners contribute:

- Nearly 104,000 hours of service and
- Record over 28,000 hours of continuing education.

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA) has:

- 42 local Master Gardeners Association members with
- Membership of approximately 2,000 individual Master Gardener volunteers.

You are one of these 80,076 EMG volunteers!

Sometimes you might feel small, like you are the only one who cares. (Especially when no one but you showed up to weed the carrot row.) However, you are never alone. There are over 86,000 people, just like you, volunteering their time and talents to help bring the joy and benefits of gardening to communities throughout the United States.

That's pretty special. YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL!

A radish can grow anywhere from 50 to 100 times bigger than its seed. A pumpkin...more than 1,000 times bigger than its seed. My hope is that you, one of the tiny seeds in our nation's gigantic seed catalog, are honored to be a Master Gardener volunteer "cultivating garden resources that bring our communities to life".

"Sometimes the ones who work the hardest and give the most are the quietest about what they've done. That's called HONOR." I am honored to be the president of this amazing organization we call WIMGA. Together we're going to do amazing things in 2025 as we have done in the past.

Thank You.

*Jeanne Mueller,*

WIMGA President

### Continuing Education Calendar

*All events will be on Zoom and tentatively scheduled for 6:30pm. Events will be recorded for later viewing upon permission of the speaker.*

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### March Speaker Series:

*\$30 for WIMGA members and \$45 for non-members for the full series*

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, March 4, 2025    | Emily May, Xerces Society<br>Pesticides, Pollinators and the Garden  |
| Wednesday, March 12, 2025 | Glenn Herold, the Cottage Gardener<br>Ephemerals and Woodland Plants |
| Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | Glenn Herold<br>Unusual Perennials through the Three Seasons         |

Coming April 2<sup>nd</sup> for WIMGA members: Melody Orban, Herb Society of America. *Melody is a Carthage College Education instructor, a Racine-Kenosha Association Master Gardener and a member of the Herb Society, Wisconsin Unit. She will be discussing herbs, starting different herbs from seed in containers or outdoors, how to overwinter the container or dug up herbs, and herbs as pollinator plants.*

### WIMGA Member Dues

*By Roseann Meixelsperger, WIMGA Treasurer*

WIMGA dues are \$5 per person. It is the responsibility of each local association's treasurer to ensure dues are paid by March 1 of each year and sent to WIMGA's Treasurer along with a list of current paid members, including an email address for each member. MGs not affiliated with a local association may send their dues directly to the WIMGA Treasurer.

Roseann Meixelsperger, WIMGA Treasurer,  
204 Donovan Cove Rd, Shell Lake WI 54871

Please feel free to contact Roseann at [treasurer.wimga@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wimga@gmail.com) for more information.

## WIMGA Grant Reports

*Roseann Meixelsperger, WIMGA Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair*

A benefit of WIMGA membership is our Educational Grants. Grant Funding budgeted for the 2025 year is \$8,850. Applications for each of the three levels of funding are due by **October 1**. Application forms and WIMGA Educational Grant Criteria are on the WIMGA website under the [Grants tab](#). Each association that receives a grant will be responsible for submitting a written report about how the grant was used. The progress report must be submitted to the WIMGA Treasurer by **July 31** of the following year. Please email your grant application(s) to [treasurer.wimga@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wimga@gmail.com). The following articles are a sample of grants funded in the last year:

### Promoting Master Gardener Training

*By Carol Troyer-Shank, MAMGA Board Member*

*Photos by CTS and Emigh Cannaday*

In 2023, Madison Area Master Gardener Association (MAMGA) was delighted to receive a \$250 WIMGA Education Grant award. Initially, we planned to invest in give-away literature and plant labels for MAMGA's signature prairie restoration project. Ultimately, we spent the funds entirely on producing the info "bookmarks," finding these colorful tools useful for spreading the word in other forums.

MAMGA members Emigh Cannaday, Percy Mather, and Carol Troyer-Shank designed a colorful, brochure-weight bookmark to inform the public about how to become a Master Gardener (MG), about blooming times in the prairie, and about MAMGA in general. We placed most of the bookmarks in two free literature boxes at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. The drop-off of the bookmarks was timed to precede the University Extension September registration deadlines for MG training in 2023 and 2024. *(Photo: The bookmarks rest on the top left shelf of the literature box.)*



Thanks to the grant, we produced more than 500 copies of the bookmarks. One side focuses on the bloom times of prairie plants at a site collaboratively maintained by MAMGA, Dane County Parks and the Friends of Capital Springs. The flip side of the bookmarks directs readers to more information about training to become an MG and about membership benefits of joining MAMGA. MAMGA's participation in this project, under MAMGA member Percy Mather's guidance has engaged hundreds of Dane County visitors who come to meetings, weddings, guided prairie walks, or to summer naturalist camps. This prairie project gives our 300+ MAMGA members opportunities to accumulate volunteer hours during regularly scheduled workdays. The prairie location near a bike trail and a camp site is ideal for exposing many folks to prairie restoration information and to learn about MG training and MAMGA.

Originally, we envisioned using the bookmarks only at the Lussier Center and at the Dane County Farmers Markets in 2024. The outreach at the farmers markets has yielded a small list of potential MG students to whom we are sending reminder emails about enrollment deadlines.

Happily, the bookmarks also came in handy for our first-ever MAMGA table at the February Garden Expo. That event gave us more chances to chat with folks about the benefits of the MG training and of joining MAMGA. In addition, our county horticulture agent, Lisa Johnson, distributed the “bookmarks” to the local 2024 Master Gardener graduates, linking them to the Lussier volunteer opportunity and acquainting them with the wealth of programs offered by MAMGA.



MAMGA is a local non-profit whose members have completed Master Gardener training, or are currently MG students. MAMGA provides continuing education programs, fellowship projects & programs, volunteer opportunities, and other benefits to its members.

**MAMGA & the Lussier Prairie Project**

Since 2017, MAMGA has partnered with Dane Co Parks & Friends of Capital Springs to maintain and improve the Lussier Prairie.

Join MAMGA in taking care of this beautiful prairie. Every 1st and 3rd Friday morning during the gardening months, we invite beginners and experienced volunteers to join us. Non-MAMGA members are welcome too!

Want to make a difference in your community through gardening?

**Become a Master Gardener!**

Follow the QR code or visit:  
<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/get-started/>

*Classes start in September!*




Photo courtesy of Percy Mather

**Blooming Times of Prairie Plants in the MAMGA/Lussier Display Gardens:**

\* = Wisconsin Native

- \*Prairie Smoke - April-June
- \*Lanceleaf Coreopsis - May-July
- Smooth Penstemon - May-August
- \*Lead Plant - late May - mid-September
- \*Butterfly Milkweed - June-September
- \*Common Yarrow - June-mid October
- \*Common Boneset - Late June-early October
- Common Spiderwort - Late June-early July
- Rattlesnake Master - early July - September
- \*Prairie Dropseed Grass - July-August
- \*Western Sunflower - July-August
- \*Whorled Milkweed - July-Late Sept
- \*Stiff Goldenrod - August-October
- \*Tall Boneset - August-September
- New England Aster - late August - October



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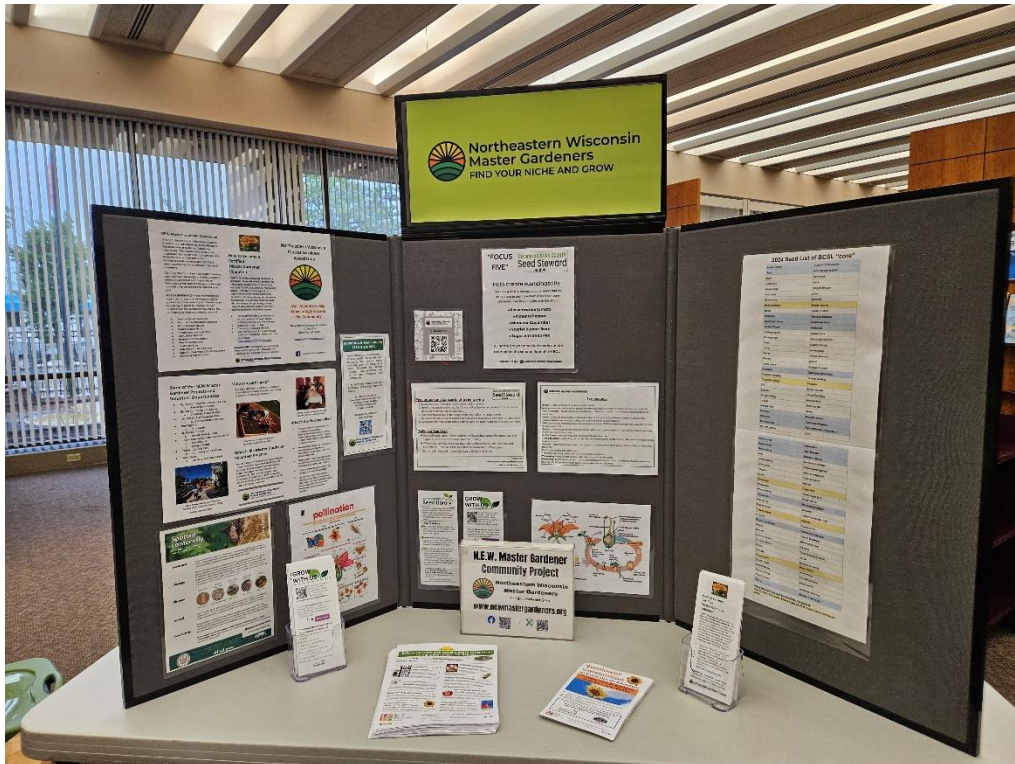
*MAMGA members Art DeSmet and Ritchie Rheame share info about our Lussier Center signature prairie project and information on winter seed starting in February 2024 at the MAMGA booth at Garden Expo in Madison.*

We are grateful to WIMGA for helping us reach a wider audience with a timely message about our group and about the Wisconsin Extension program for training Master Gardeners. It is our hope that the bookmarks will help recruit a larger class for the fall Master Gardener training program and perhaps thereby increase MAMGA and WIMGA future membership.

## Fold N Go Tabletop Display

*By Eileen Rueden NEW MG*

The \$400 WIMGA Grant awarded to Northeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association, Inc (NEW) was used to purchase a fold n go tabletop display. It is a sturdy display that can be folded and comes with a carrying bag. It is personalized at the top with our name. We laminate our information and adhere to the display with Velcro. There is enough room in the bag to keep our information on the board. It is two-sided and easily fits on a 5-foot table.



The display board has been instrumental in showing the benefits of becoming a NEW Master Gardener. It has been used extensively with seed saving demonstrations. NEW Master Gardeners have spearheaded a seed harvesting project. We have detailed steps of seed collecting. The display board has also been used at community events. Several events have over 1000 people in attendance. This is one way we encourage people to join NEW Master Gardeners. We hope more people become active in gardening and environmental stewardship.

## Racine Public Library MG Project

*By Linda O'Connell, Coordinator, Racine-Kenosha MG*

Rummage around in history and you'll learn that the first large free municipal library in the U.S. was established in Boston, MA in 1848, the year Wisconsin became a state and Racine a city. Racine's first public library opened in 1897. By 1904 it had its own beautiful new building, thanks to a generous \$50,000 grant from multimillionaire Andrew Carnegie. He financed libraries across the country; Racine's opened on the corner of Seventh and Main (now the Racine Heritage Museum).

The city outgrew that building and moved to a new home in 1958. The building's been expanded and renovated twice - 1991 and most recently in 2023. Sadly, history doesn't say a lot about the indoor plants that clean our library's air and create a welcoming environment. Did they always adorn the tops of bookshelves and window ledges?

I joined the Master Gardeners who had been caring for plants in the library over a decade ago. No one is quite sure when this project started. Some on our small team were here before I got involved, and a new member joined us late last year. We water weekly on rotation. If one of us drops in to check out a book, we may peek to see if one of our charges needs a drink.



*One patron was so excited, "I love your Christmas tree."*

This is the perfect project for the Master Gardener or Associate who loves indoor plants and libraries.



*Do you know what this plant is? It catches the eyes of young people in the Children's Room.*

Staff and patrons appreciate the library's plants: the Norfolk pine tree that greets you just inside the front entrance; the rubber plant in the second-floor window, Sansevieria in several windows on the north side and more. As I pruned back a Spider plant one afternoon, a man told me how his mom taught him to love plants. He didn't have a Spider plant. Now you do, I told him.



*Our Rubber Plant and Corn plant (rear) enjoy light from the east window.*

The library recently acquired a Hydroponic Tower that produces incredibly beautiful greens. It is currently maintained by one of the library staff, although we may get involved with it too. The library is also exploring ways to integrate the greens into their programming. Teaching the public about nutrition? How to grow your own food?

Our plants continue to surprise. On at least two occasions, something that's never flowered before suddenly does. It has to make you smile.



*Has your Snake plant ever flowered?*

## Herbs For You

*Article by: Donna Mae Stohlmann, St Croix Valley MG*

Herbs are a widely distributed and widespread group of plants, excluding vegetables and other plants consumed for macronutrients, with savory or aromatic properties that are used for flavoring and garnishing food, for medicinal purposes, or for fragrances. Culinary use typically distinguishes herbs from spices.

Herbs generally refers to the leafy green or flowering parts of a plant either fresh or dried, while spices are usually dried and produced from other parts of the plant, including seeds, bark, roots and fruits.

Herbs have a variety of uses including culinary, medicinal, aromatic, and spiritual.



*A variety of herbs are visible in this garden.  
Can you name them all?*

General usage of the term "herb" differs between culinary herbs and medicinal herbs; in medicinal or spiritual use, any parts of the plant might be considered "herbs", including leaves, roots, flowers, seeds, root bark, inner bark and cambium, resin and pericarp. In botany, the noun "herb" refers to a "plant that does not produce a woody stem", and the adjective "herbaceous" means "herb-like", referring to parts of the plant that are green and soft in texture".

Ancient Greek philosopher Theophrastus divided the plant world into trees, shrubs, and herbs. Herbs came to be considered in three

groups, namely pot herbs, sweet herbs, and salad herbs. During the seventeenth century as selective breeding changed the plant's size and flavor away from the wild plant, pot herbs began to be referred to as vegetables as they were no longer considered only suitable for the pot.

During the Middle Ages, parsley and sage were often used together in medieval cookery, for example in chicken broth, which had developed a reputation as a therapeutic food by the 14th century. One of the most common sauces of the age, green sauce, was made with parsley and often sage as well. In a 14th-century recipe recorded in Latin "for lords, for settling their temperament and whetting their appetite" green sauce is served with a dish of cheese and whole egg yolks boiled in watered down wine with herbs and spices.

Herbs helped preserve meat as well as covering the rotting taste of meals that could not be refrigerated. Herbs also helped mask the odors of people who bathed irregularly. This period was not favorable to the progress of herbs in medicine. The Catholic Church began burning herbalists, having associated them both with witchcraft and paganism. The early settlers grew herbs for seasoning their food, as well as for their medicinal properties. American Indians often used herbs for tanning and dyeing leather.

I asked two herbalists what their favorite herb is and why. Here are their responses. Katherine Krumwiede is an acupuncturist and owner of Diamond Stone Oriental Medicine, Hudson Wisconsin, and founder of Solidago Farm. She had the pleasure of being the Board President of the North Country Herbalist Guild and is the President of the St Croix Valley Herb Guild, chose Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*).

Basil is the Herb of Royalty and Love, and it is a member of the large mint family. Its spicy black pepper and anise flavor make for a great match with tomatoes in the garden as well as on the plate. In ancient times, when a man wanted a woman to fall in love with him, he would give her a sprig of basil. In modern times he makes pesto, which is exactly what my husband did when we first met. Our wedding favors were a basil seedling with my husband's pesto recipe.

Sue Larson, an herbalist who is a Master Herbalist with Green Wisdom School of Natural and Botanical Medicine, chose Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) because it is easy to grow, in a container or in the ground. Simple to start with cuttings and withstand temperatures down to 40 degrees and in a bright window, will also grow indoors. Rosemary is widely known as the herb of remembrance and as a legendary brain tonic. The essential oils of the plant are an aromatic stimulant said to improve concentration and memory. Rosemary is an excellent culinary herb adding a pungent taste to meats and stews and fatty meats for its ability to support the liver and help digest fats. Rubbing rosemary into raw meat helps to preserve and deter bacterial growth. Rosemary is versatile in that it can be used both internally and externally. Internally as a culinary herb, tea, or a tincture, and externally as a poultice, a salve, perfume, and for bathing.

Brian Hudelson, Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, at University of Wisconsin-Madison, stated, "I don't see a ton of herb samples come into my clinic, but there are a few diseases that I see occasionally: powdery mildew on rosemary, root/crown rot on lavender, and downy mildew on basil. "



I went to the Herbal Holiday Make & Take sponsored by the St Croix Valley Herb Guild to learn about herbs. I made "Herbs de St Croix" Finishing Salts recipe with Jessie Belden, who is a member of the St Croix Valley Herb Guild. Belden is a mother, folk herbalist, teacher, and homesteader currently tending land in Baldwin, Wisconsin. She is convinced that tending our inner ecology with plants has a natural result of living.

### **"Herbs de St Croix" Finishing Salts**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 3 Tbsp fine salt of choice
- 1 Tbsp dried Nettle leaf + seed
- 1 Tbsp dried Monarda (bee balm) leaf and flower
- 1 tsp Juniper berry + needle
- 1 tsp Sumac berry

#### **Directions:**

1. Combine all bioregional herbs into a coffee grinder and pulverize so they are equal in size. This salt recipe uses dried herbs.
2. Add salt to the herb blend. Mix thoroughly.
3. Bottle or jar in transparent glass to display its beauty. Put tag on the bottle.

\*\*\*This blend may also be made using fresh herbs. Simply pulse fresh herbs and salt in a food processor. Spread it in a thin layer on a cookie sheet and let air-dry for 2-3 days.



## Herbal Chocolates

### Ingredients:

130g Cacao/cocoa butter  
70g Cacao power  
15g herbal powder of choice  
5g Cinnamon powder  
1-2 Tbsp of raw honey/maple syrup/maple sugar  
1-2 Tbsp of decorative herbs (I like bee pollen, rose petals, lavender, or cacao nibs)

### Directions:

1. Sprinkle decorative herbs in silicon molds.
2. Melt Cacao butter in a double boiler.
3. Stir in herbal powders and sweetener of choice.
4. Pour into molds and pop into freezer to harden.

## 2025 Events

### [Garden U: Gardening for the Future](#)

Coordinated by the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners, on Saturday, **March 15**, 2025, from 8am-3pm at the Northwood Technical College, New Richmond Conference Center, this session will equip you with tools for a thriving, future-focused garden.



Explore sustainable gardening practices to adapt to changing climates, from understanding zonal shifts to cultivating resilient landscapes. Learn the importance of native plants for supporting pollinators, eco-friendly approaches to pest control, and essential pruning techniques for healthier trees and shrubs.



### [Let's Get Green and Growing](#)

Hosted by Columbia County Master Gardeners Saturday, **March 22**, 2025, 8:45 am - 2:45 pm. Keynote: Samantha Peckham – “Can Our Gardens Save Us From Ourselves?”

### [Garden Talk 2025 - March 22](#), 9:00am-1:00pm

UW-Green Bay Manitowoc Campus Theatre  
705 Viebahn St, Manitowoc, WI

Three great speakers, displays, door prizes, Free!

“**Flowering Shrubs for All Seasons**” by David Stevens,  
Curator at the UW Arboretum in Madison

“**The Science of Healthy Soils**” by Allen Pyle, Horticulture  
Outreach Specialist, UW-Madison, Division of Extension

“**The Art of Food Forest Design**” by Rachel Belida,  
Daily Harvest Designs



### [Metamorphosis: 2025 GARDEN CONFERENCE](#)

Hosted by Outagamie Co Master Gardener Association  
Saturday, **March 29**, 8:00am-3:30pm  
Bridgewood Resort Hotel, Neenah • \$50 per person

Five learning sessions – Monarch Butterfly Biology & Conservation; Four-Season Gardening in Wisconsin; Cut-Flower Gardening; Plant Health; and Must-See Gardens in Wisconsin. Plus, continental breakfast, lunch, shopping with vendors.

Barron County **Spring Garden Expo** in Rice Lake, Saturday, **April 5, 2025**  
at Northwood Technical College Conference Center  
in Rice Lake, 8:00am-3:00pm



Join us a day of inspiration and learning, perfect for both new and seasoned gardeners! Sponsored by the Barron County Master Gardeners, you will hear presentations on topics including pruning, ecosystem restoration, plant behavior, and general gardening wisdom. Don't miss this chance to grow your gardening knowledge! A hot lunch and snacks, vendor show, and conference materials are included.

**Annual Spring Garden Conference** Saturday, **April 5, 2025, 9:30 to 12 noon**  
Presented by Clark County Master Gardeners-Over the Garden Gate  
Clark County Courthouse Auditorium, 517 Court Street, Room 104, Neillsville  
Free and Open to Public – Two speakers:  
Dusty Schlinsog • Owner, Turn Pike Greenhouse - The Gardener's Workshop  
Nick Ternes • Owner, Botanophilia LLC - Vertical Elements of the Garden

**Wood County Master Gardeners Annual Spring Plant Sale**

on Saturday, **May 17** from 8:00am-4:00pm  
930 Westport Dr, Port Edwards, Wi.

Annual and vegetable starter plants; perennials, including native; succulents; houseplants; perennial seeds; Garden Treasures for sale. Our sale is during the Port Edwards Community Rummage Sale, so check out bargains all over town!



**Portage County Master Gardeners Annual Spring Plant Sale**

Saturday, **May 17, 2025** – 10:30am-2:00pm

Courthouse Annex Parking Lot

1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point

From our Garden to yours . . . grasses, perennials, herbs, vegetables

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help you choose wisely.



Send your association events to [news@wimga.org](mailto:news@wimga.org) for publication  
in the newsletter and on our website.



Additional Resources from the Extension Horticulture Program:

**Ask the Experts:**

[A Monthly Garden and Landscape Q&A Series](#)

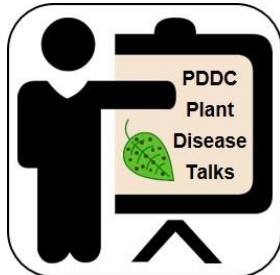
Sponsored by the UW-Madison

Division of Extension Horticulture Program

Join our monthly online programs in 2025 for an opportunity to connect with plant health experts from the UW-Madison Division of Extension. Each session, held on Mondays at 1:30 p.m., is your chance to ask questions about your trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawn.

Whether it's about plant diseases, pesky insects, or the selection and general care of plants in and around your home, our panel of seasoned experts will provide you with insightful answers. Don't miss out on this opportunity to cultivate your knowledge and keep your plants thriving.

These online sessions are free, but registration is required for each session you would like to attend. Upon registration you will receive an email confirmation with the link for joining the session.



**2025 PDDC Plant Disease Talks**

Each month in 2025, the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic sponsors a Zoom presentation on a plant disease-related topic.

Check out descriptions and a preview of the talks and register for one or more of the talks, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Growing Healthy Plants – Basics in Plant Disease Management**

March 26, 2025, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden.

**Ten Diseases of Native Plants (and Non-Natives, Too)**

April 23, 2025, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Learn about common diseases of plants that are native to Wisconsin. This presentation will include information on how to identify these diseases, as well as information on how to manage them.



**[Ask Your Gardening Question](#)**

This site is monitored by Wisconsin Master Gardeners.



## Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA)

Serving its members since 1992

March 2025 Newsletter

*The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association Newsletter is published six (6) times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). Articles, artwork and ideas are welcome, final selection and editing are the responsibility of the editorial staff. The opinions reflected in this publication are expressions from individual master gardeners or associations and not necessarily the viewpoint of the UW-Madison Department of Horticulture, Division of Extension Master Gardener Program Office.*

Visit the WIMGA Website at <http://www.wimga.org/>

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*The Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program supports a network of individuals dedicated to horticulture education, service, and lifelong learning. Through unbiased university research-based horticulture training they are equipped to address needs and opportunities in their community and throughout the state. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.*