

- The Meristem -

Spring
2019

WHERE WE CULTIVATE GROWTH

NEBRASKA EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



MG Notes

By Kathleen Cue, Assistant Extension Educator

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Resources for Master Gardeners:

Websites:

Mastergardener.unl.edu

GroBigRed.com

Facebook:

[Nebraska Master Gardeners](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaMasterGardeners)

Send articles for publishing to:

mspath2@unl.edu

Next newsletter deadline: June 15

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Region: Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Saunders, Stanton, Thurston, Washington and Wayne Counties.

Thanks go to MGs John Mitchell and Connie Schliffke for staffing a table at the Eco Fair on April 18. At our display, about 300 Fremont-area youth learned about the importance of pollinators.



Master Gardeners John Mitchell & Connie Schliffke teaching about pollinators at Eco Fair.
Photo credit - A. Price of Keep Fremont Beautiful

In an effort to get everyone caught up with a MG t-shirt and name badge, I put out a sign-up sheet at Master Gardener education. If you've never had a t-shirt and name badge AND you didn't sign up for these during classes, please let me know your shirt size (S, M, L, XL, and XXL). Anyone with a shirt and name badge older than 3 years most likely has one with the old MG logo and is encouraged to let me know their size. I will place the order on May 10.

One of the projects on the to-do list for this year is the creation of a Master Gardener directory. If you have computer skills to format each Master Gardener's contact info and picture, please let me know via email kcue2@unl.edu or phone, 402.727.2775. This will count towards Master Gardener volunteer time. Thanks!

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Testing Your Knowledge

By Kathy Meyer, Washington County Master Gardener

Source of Information - IPM for Landscapes, EC1266 and Pesticide Safety in Landscapes, EC1271

1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices start BEFORE a seed, a plant, shrub or tree is purchased and planted. True or False
2. TEN insect species or related groups account for 83% of the arthropod pests encountered in our home landscapes. True or False
3. Identifying and understanding pest biology is important for several different reasons. Which of the following is NOT a true statement?
 - a. Care is needed so that beneficial organisms aren't wiped out while trying to manage pests.
 - b. Some insects are more valuable at specific stages of their lives.
 - c. Some grubs are best managed in May, others are best managed in the fall.
 - d. Young grasshopper nymphs cannot fly and are easier to manage at that stage.
4. Yellow sticky cards are an effective way to monitor for pests. True or False
5. A key component of IPM is knowing whether or not any action needs to be taken at the first sign of a pest problem. True or False
6. Match the following IPM practices to their specific control method.
 - a. Spray neem oil on plants infested with aphids, spider mites or scale
 - b. Allow lady beetles, green lacewings and praying mantis to eat harmful insects like aphids
 - c. Hand remove tomato hornworms from your tomato plant and drown them in soapy water
 - d. Thin seedling stands to the proper plant spacing so that plants have plenty of sunlight and good air movement.
7. Which of the following statements is not an acceptable form of mechanical control?
 - a. Put a row cover over broccoli in June to keep the cabbage moth from laying eggs on the plants
 - b. Vacuum small insects like thrips and white flies from indoor plants
 - c. Use a shallow pan of beer to attract and trap leaf-eating slugs near infested hosta
 - d. Holler at your lawn care guy for mowing too close and damaging your spruce trees.
8. Chemical controls are a last resort in IPM practices, and we start with the least hazardous chemical control method for our specific need. True or False
9. Synthetic pesticides are more toxic than natural or organic pesticides. True or False
10. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in a commonly used herbicide (Roundup) and is paired with other active ingredients and marketed for specific needs. Match the following active ingredients paired with glyphosate to the length of time before seeding or planting again.

a. Imazapic	1. delays ability to seed or plant for 4 months
b. Triclopyr	2. delays ability to seed or plant for 30 days
c. Diquat or perlargonic acid	3. seeding can occur one day after application

IPM Practices

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Answers

1. T
2. T
3. c
4. T
5. T
6. a. Chemical
b. Biological
c. Mechanical
d. Cultural
7. d
8. F
9. F
10. a. #1
b. #2
c. #3

Extension Master Gardeners Team Up with Blair Public Library to Create Seed Library

By Julie Rohlfsing, Washington County Master Gardener

The Blair Public Library and Technology Center will soon have a Seed Library where community members can obtain vegetable and flower seeds. One benefit of a Seed Library is that it helps families grow wholesome food by offering free seeds and education. This joint project is supported by the Blair Library and Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners. Following is information that will be made available to the public prior to the May 18 Seed Swap.

Library patrons checkout seeds from the Seed Collection, grow them, and if they wish, save some seeds to return to the Seed Library. Generally Seed Libraries provide free seeds to help patrons grow food for family consumption and to help preserve genetic diversity. The size and variety of seeds in the Seed Library collection will depend on donations and will change seasonally as people participate.



Our Seed Library will accept both leftover commercially packaged and personally saved seeds. Open pollinated and heirloom seeds will be the most useful. Often, commercially packaged seeds will be hybrid varieties. Hybrids are the result of controlled crosses, resulting in the outstanding characteristics of both parents. Seeds saved from the fruits, vegetables and flowers of hybrids do not produce a replica of the original parent, instead, progeny will show a wide range of characteristics. Leftover commercially packaged hybrid seed can still be donated along with open pollinated and heirloom seeds. Seeds that are stored properly remain viable past the date on the package.

Heirloom and open pollinated seeds are the seeds you can grow, save and return to the Library for the next growing season. A list of suggested seeds will be available at the Seed Library when it officially opens May 18, 2019 at 1:30. The Seed Library will focus on seed sharing and seed saving with a seed saving workshop, later in the growing season. Master Gardeners will maintain the collection and provide leadership for gardening workshops.

At the opening on May 18, Kathleen Cue will lead a workshop for gardeners. A seed swap will follow. If MGs would like to volunteer at the Seed Swap, please contact Julie Rohlfsing: 402.616.7521. Volunteers will assist the people who bring seeds as they fill out the form that will be attached to each seed envelope. I will email a copy of the form to volunteers prior to the event. As a point of interest, the Seed Library will be housed in the old wooden card catalog in the new Library and Technology Center.

Master Gardener Social

When: Friday May 17, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Blair Marina
E. Hwy 30
Blair, NE

Spouses Welcome

RSVP to: kimberly.nebraska@gmail.com

Propagating Plants

By Betty Hamata, Dodge County Master Gardener

There are many ways to propagate plants. Plants that are propagated asexually, grow genetically identical plants to its parent. The most popular way to propagate and reproduce asexually is to take cuttings from a mother plant. To do this, first get containers with drainage holes ready by sterilizing them with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Wet a soilless potting mix, such as perlite or vermiculite and place into containers. Sterilize pruning shears or knife with bleach solution.



Geraniums are easy to propagate. Take a 3- 4" stem cutting from the terminal ends of shoots. Pinch off lower leaves, then dip the base of a cutting into a rooting hormone. (In order to not contaminate the whole bottle, pour hormone into a small container.) Make a hole in the soilless mix with a pencil and place the cutting inside far enough to be self-supporting, water and let drain. Place the container into a clear plastic bag, tie, and place in bright light but not direct sun. When cuttings have developed good root systems, remove from rooting medium and transplant into a potting mix and grow on. I root several cuttings from my potted geraniums each year and repot them outside. In the fall, I bring them into my sunroom and they bloom indoors all winter.

To propagate an African violet, take leaf cuttings. Use a leaf and stem from a mother plant, dip into rooting hormone, and plant the entire stem up to the leaf in the soilless mix and place in a bag. Once roots have formed, repot in a potting mix.

Air-layering is used for houseplants like rubber plant, dieffenbachia, and schefflera. Air-layering is also used to propagate outdoor plants like lilac and azalea. First remove the leaves on a 4" section of a twig or branch. Scrape away a small area of bark or make a 1-1/2" long cut about 1/3 of the way through the stem, apply a rooting powder to the exposed area, and wrap the wounded branch in moist sphagnum moss. Next wrap the moss and branch with plastic and secure both ends. Check after 1-3 months. When roots are formed, clip the stem below the new roots and plant it.

Division is another example of asexual propagation. Fall-blooming plants like mums, asters and sedums should be divided in the spring. Spring and summer-blooming plants like peony, daylilies and hosta should be divided in the fall. To divide perennials dig up the whole plant, and divide it into segments making sure each section has at least one bud or eye. Replant it immediately or place it into a bucket of water to give away.

Several plants can be successfully rooted in water such as pothos, ivy, coleus, and some herbs. Plant after roots have formed. Shrub layering is another method of propagation and can be used for shrubs with arching canes like hydrangea, forsythia or raspberries. Pin the cane to the ground, cover with soil and a rock until the roots form, then cut it from the mother plant.

There are probably many other forms of propagation, but these are the ones that work for me.

Daylily Obsession

By Mary Spath, Dodge County Master Gardener

One of my favorite plants is the daylily. I believe it is my favorite because it is very resilient and does well just by being left alone during the hot summer months and the flowers are so colorful.

The daylily, *Hemerocallis* sp., has leaves that grow in a clump-like formation and can be up to about 2 feet tall and a trumpet-shaped flower that can be, depending on the variety, 2 inches to 8 inches in diameter. This flower comes in so many colors it is easy to use them to give your garden a beautiful splash of color in the summer months.

Daylilies grow best in the full sun, but will tolerate light shade. Daylilies do well in dry conditions but perform best in moist, well-drained soils. They are adaptable to most soils and can be planted as soon as the garden soil can be worked. To plant your daylily, dig a hole big enough so the crown of the lily is one inch below the ground line. When you have the plant at the right level you can gently back-fill with garden soil so the plant remains at the correct height and lightly pack the soil around the plant. Water the newly planted daylilies to settle the soil and give the plants a nice growing environment.

When choosing new daylilies for your garden make sure you have a hardy variety for your area. The best time to split or transplant your daylilies is in early spring or after they are done flowering in the late summer. Just be aware that if you choose to move them in the spring they may not flower that growing season.

Two publications that I used for reference in this article can be found at:

<https://communityenvironment.unl.edu/plant-month-daylily>
<https://extension.umn.edu/flowers/daylilies>



Above: 'Lake Norman Spider'
Below: 'Leonides'
Daylily Photos by K. Cue



MG Notes - continued from page 1

By Kathleen Cue, Assistant Extension Educator

Each Master Gardener project is responsible for conducting one “We Teach” event this year. What is “We Teach” you ask? Master Gardeners are ultimately teachers, spreading the word about research-based gardening information. By hosting a teaching event at a project site, Master Gardeners are fulfilling the requirements of the program at the same time they are benefitting their community. Programs can be on pollinators, growing your own food, landscape sustainability and other possibilities. Coupling the “We Teach” with another activity going on at the demonstration site is a great way to generate enthusiasm and attendance. Once you have a date for your “We Teach”, please let me know and I will send out word to all of the Master Gardeners, as well as highlighting it in my weekly newspaper article. Not sure about the topic you’ve chosen? Please ask!

Do you like picnics? Would you consider hosting a Master Gardener potluck picnic at your yard sometime this summer? It would be a wonderful way for us to get to know one another and you would get to show off your garden! Let me know if you’re interested in hosting and you could choose the date of the picnic. Thanks for considering!

The horticulture helpline will begin on May 1. Anyone with a gardening question is encouraged to call or stop by these counties on their respective day:

- Mondays, 9-noon, Washington County, 402.426.9455;
- Tuesdays, 1-3 pm, Cuming County, 402.372.6006;
- Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 am to noon, Dodge County, 402.727.2775.

MG Ray McTee will be project leader of the Washington County Office, coordinating staffing of the helpline. MG Sue Martin will oversee staffing at Cuming County and I will be project lead for Dodge County.

If you haven’t already, please sign up for 6 hours on the horticulture helpline. This is a part of the requirement for becoming a Master Gardener. This is important experience for everyone to have, informing MGs of the range of questions we are asked and how to research answers.

Upcoming events

April 27, 10 am, “Build a Pollinator Hotel”, Kathleen Cue, South Sioux City Public Library

May 4, 10 am, “Pollinator Spring Fling”, Natalia Bjorklund and Jody Green, Douglas-Sarpy Extension

May 17, 10 am, “Yard and Garden Live”, Nicole Stoner and Kathleen Cue, KUTT 99.5 FM, Fairbury

May 17, 5:30 pm, Master Gardener Social, Blair Mariana, RSVP to kimberly.nebraska@gmail.com (See page 3)

May 18, 1:30-2:30 pm, “Seed Starting for the Vegetable Garden”, Kathleen Cue, Launching of the new seed library at the Blair Public Library. An “Ask the Master Gardener” table will be featured. (Let Julie Roling know if you can help with this.) See article on page 3.

June 5, 1:00 pm, Diagnostic Lab for Master Gardener education at Dodge County Extension. This is part of the initial education for MG interns. Master Gardeners may attend for CEUs.

July 10-12, Fremont Expo. 4-H youth from throughout the area may submit fair entries with feedback from judges on how to polish their entry to enhance ribbon placement for their local fair.

