

The Green Patch

January 2016

Volume 8, Issue 1

A Tribute to the Master Gardener

By Vicki Rundell, Pierce County Master Gardener

Another "wonder of a year" in the garden has come to an end. Already the gardening books are arriving for next year. My fingers are dog-tagging pages and my mind is landscaping art in the areas to plant. Its dig, plant, mulch, and then wait for that wondrous time the seeds pop and give birth to the beginning of beauty again. Like a parent we tend to the little ones. We delve into the dirt and get it under our fingernails. There's watering, replanting, fertilizing, singing (play some Elvis and those plants will dance), and of course weeding, as the art flashes into full bloom. We're addicted. We can't get enough. It's add another "12 by 6" raised bed and till up another circle flower bed. We can't let that last plant sit on the shelf. There's a spot for it too.

Let us thank those fabulous master gardeners out there; the bees, bugs, and insects, along with birds, that work their marvelous magic, bringing about flowers and produce. We thank the business people for seeds, plants, trees, spades and gadgets, fertilizer, mulch and composts, water hose, soaker hose, watering cans, walking tractor sprinklers, rain barrels, etc. Thank you to all the university educators and leaders who guide us along at the master gardener meetings and newspaper articles they write.

A big "Thank You" to our spouses, children, family and friends. You give us time to spend with the wonder of it all.

This is dedicated to all striving gardeners out there, the master gardeners who study, work, share, volunteer their time, and to all those who have shared their art, talent, and have gone on to that magnificent, eye-popping "WHOO" garden in the sky, with the Master Mind of it all.

Late Blooming Iris

By Jane Jensen, Pierce County Master Gardener

I was surprised to find this little iris blooming here late October. It is very remarkable that it bloomed though it is very short.

I have never purchased re-blooming iris and the iris shown here came with the house when I moved here in 1997.

The yellow to the left is a clematis. Even in the Fall it is a lovely vine.



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How to Re-Bloom Your Poinsettia

Shared By Tom O’Gorman, Madison County Master Gardener

When the poinsettia’s bracts age and lose their aesthetic appeal, there’s no reason to throw it out. With proper care, dedication and a certain amount of luck, you too can re-bloom your poinsettia!

By late March or early April, cut your poinsettia back to about 8” in height. Continue a regular watering program, and fertilize your plant with a good, balanced all-purpose fertilizer. By the end of May, you should see vigorous new growth.

Place your plants outdoors, where they can bask in the warmth of spring and summer, after all chance of frost has passed and night temperatures average 55°F or above. Continue regular watering during the growth period, and fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks.



Pruning may be required during the summer to keep plants bushy and compact. Late June or early July is a good time for these steps, but be sure not to prune your plant later than September 1. Keep the plants in indirect sun and water regularly.

Around June 1, you may transplant your poinsettia into a larger pot. Select a pot no more than 4 inches larger than the original pot. A soil mix with a considerable amount of organic matter, such as peat moss or leaf mold, is highly recommended. In milder climates, you may transplant the plant into a well prepared garden bed. Be sure the planting bed is rich in organic material and has good drainage.

The poinsettia is a photoperiodic plant, meaning that it sets buds and produces flowers as the Autumn nights lengthen. Poinsettias will naturally come into bloom during November or December, depending on the flowering response time of the individual cultivar. Timing to produce blooms for the Christmas holiday can be difficult outside of the controlled environment of a greenhouse. Stray light of any kinds, such as from a street light or household lamps, could delay or entirely halt the re-flowering process.

Starting October 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a totally dark room, or by covering them overnight with a large box. During October, November, and early December, poinsettias require 6-8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with night temperatures between 60-70°F. Temperatures outside of this range could also delay flowering.

Continue the normal watering and fertilizing program. Carefully following this regime for 8-10 weeks should result in a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season!

The Do’s and Don’ts of Poinsettia Care

- DO place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sun can’t be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain.
- DO provide room temperatures between 68-70°F. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia.
- DO water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- DO use a large, roomy shopping bag to protect your plant when transporting it.
- DO fertilize your plant AFTER THE BLOOMING SEASON with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.
- DON’T place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat. Avoid placing plants near appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.
- DON’T expose plants to temperatures below 50°F. Poinsettias are sensitive to cold, so avoid placing them outside during the winter months.
- DON’T over water your plant, or allow it to sit in standing water. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering, and allow the water to drain completely.
- DON’T expose your plant to chilling winds when transporting it.
- DON’T fertilize your plant when it is in bloom.



Pine Wilt

By Wayne Ohnesorg, Nebraska Extension Educator

Pine wilt is a devastating disease of non-native pine species. The primary species of pine affected are Scotch and Austrian pine. The disease occurs throughout Nebraska. There are two organisms that are responsible for pine wilt: the pine sawyer beetle and the pinewood nematode. Without the beetle, the nematode would not be able to move from one tree to another.

The beetles utilize dead and dying pine trees. That includes trees infected with pinewood nematode. Larvae (immature stages) of the beetle feed underneath the bark. Once beetles reach the adult stage, the nematodes crawl into the breathing tubes of the beetle. Adult beetles will chew their way out from underneath the bark. The adult beetles can emerge from pine trees from May through October. Adult beetles feed on twigs of live pine trees. It is through these openings that the nematodes will "jump ship" from the beetle and enter a new tree. If the pine tree is an acceptable host the nematodes will reproduce rapidly. Once the tree is dying or dead it will attract female adult beetles that will lay their eggs underneath the bark and start the cycle over again.

The pinewood nematode is about 3/100 inch in length. Pine species that allow this nematode to reach disease-causing levels are Scotch pine and Austrian pine as mentioned earlier. Trees that have been infected can be killed in the course of a summer. When symptoms appear, the tree will die soon afterwards.

Summer is the primary time that we notice pine wilt. The warmer temperatures accelerate the growth and reproduction of the nematode. Large numbers of the nematode clog the transport tissues of the tree and prevent transport of water from that point on up. The loss of water causes the branches and needles above to die. They turn a characteristic rusty orange color.

To date there are not any effective or reasonable means for treating infected trees with pesticides. Some try to control the adult beetles with insecticides, but the large window of activity (May-October) makes this extremely difficult. An additional problem is that it only takes one twig to be nibbled on by the beetle to allow the nematodes into the tree. Even if the tree had been sprayed prior, a visiting beetle wouldn't die from the insecticide fast enough.

The best method to help prevent the spread of pine wilt is through sanitation. Remove trees that died during the summer, so that they do not serve as a reservoir of pine sawyer beetles, as soon as reasonably possible during summer months. Diseased trees should be chipped or burned to kill any pine sawyer beetle larvae or adults. Timing is key to prevent beetles from exiting the dead trees. Trees that die during the winter need to be removed before temperatures warm up in the spring. Saving wood from pine wilt-killed trees for firewood is not recommended as adult beetles can still emerge from the wood. Wood chips from pine wilt-killed trees can be used as mulch only if they have been allowed to sit for 6 weeks during summer before they are used. They can be used sooner if they are going to be used in plantings that do not include Scotch or Austrian pines.

Hops in Nebraska

By Jane Jensen, Pierce County Master Gardener

Farmers markets are abundant in Nebraska during the Summer months. Folks sell quantities of tomatoes, onions, and all sorts of vegetables. Fruit in season is another example of folks earning a buck. Apples, strawberries and cherries are delicious for canning and baking; and many are growing grapes for wine production on a small scale at home.

Recently I read a short piece on hops and beer production in Nebraska. It proved to be a very interesting subject. I do not care for beer but learned that people are actually making money in beer production and in various varieties depending on the hop.

Hops are a herbaceous perennial started from rhizomes that are planted near tall poles. Some poles are 25 feet tall and the bine needs a substantial support as each plant can weigh in at 20 pounds. Hops need room so these poles are six to eight feet apart. From the root comes a bine or shoot that climbs around the pole. (Not vine which uses tendrils or suckers to climb) The plant needs six to eight hours of sunlight and plenty of water, sometimes watering each day is required in our Nebraska heat. It doesn't do well in heat over 100 degrees F and is more suited to the weather of the Pacific Northwest.



There are however, six or seven growers in Nebraska, trying to keep up with the demand for this fragrant, green flower that looks like pine cones when harvested in late Summer. Only female plants are grown in hop fields to prevent pollination. The cones grow high on the bine and are harvested at the end of summer. The bines are pulled down and the flowers taken in for drying. These flowers are spread out evenly and heat is applied underneath. Hops are dried for 24 hours at 130 degree F heat. Higher heat cooks the hops rendering them unusable. Big operations bale the hops. Oils in this product give flavor and aroma to the beer and also have antibiotic properties which inhibit bacterial growth.

FUN FACTS

- * In 2012, the Brewer's Association rated Nebraska as 16th in the United States for per capita breweries with 19.
- * The leader in hop growing is Washington state with some 29,000 acres.
- * A Nebraska bill in the legislature would help promote more hop growth by providing a tax credit to breweries that use Nebraska grown hops and barley.
- * Hops have been around for a long time. The first documentation of hop growing was in the year 736 in Germany. Documentation for brewing has been recorded as far back as the year 1079.
- * A Google search of Nebraska grown hops produced well over 2000 hits making for some very interesting reading.
- * Fremont, Fort Calhoun and Papillion are some of the areas where hops are grown in Nebraska.
- * Nebraska hop growers cannot keep up with the demand for this product by home and commercial brewers.

Blueberry Almond Coffee Cake

The delicious dish Bonnie Smith served at the December monthly meeting.

- 2 cups granulated sugar 2 cups all purpose flour
- 3 large eggs (room temp) 12 ounces fresh blueberries
- 3/4 cup salted butter (room temp) 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 teaspoon almond extract 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°

Beat sugar and eggs for 5 minutes on medium speed, add butter and extracts and beat 2 more minutes.

Slowly add flour, mix until combined. Fold in blueberries. Using a spatula pour and smooth batter in 9X13 sprayed pan. Sprinkle almonds on top. Bake 40-45 minutes.

Gardening Word Search

R M J Z T G J H C R U W K Y R
 E E M U L C H S E A Z O C L E
 A N Z U R F D N E J Z R T F O
 L P O I T G I R Z E G M J R H
 V B N Z L A A N A A D S R E V
 R G N A T I Z Q K I O S H T H
 B V X N L J T F S R N R X T I
 E W O S E A P R K E A A L U N
 S C I V W M O W E K V A G B S
 E V A P O R A T E F D O D E E
 Y T E I R A V C J Y E I L O C
 D R A Y T W Q Q B L H J T G T
 X A E Y X U R U H P W O E Z S
 H C C T Q R G Z A J P F T I W
 J R U V P T L O J V J P K R F



APHID	HOE	TROWEL
BUTTERFLY	INSECTS	VARIETY
CONTAINER	LADYBUG	WORMS
DRAINAGE	MULCH	YARD
EVAPORATE	POT	ZONE
FERTILIZER	RAKE	
GLOVES	SEEDS	

Articles and information for the April issue of *The Green Patch* are due to Pam Greunke (pam.greunke@unl.edu) by March 2, 2016.

The Green Patch Contributors

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Planting Day at Barnes Park in Madison By Denise Trine, Madison County Master Gardener



The new Barnes Memorial Park Arboretum in Madison finally has some trees! On Friday November 13, we received trees from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Great Plains Nursery and Forrest Keeling Nursery. With the help of some great volunteers, an assortment totaling 54 trees was planted in the Arboretum by the swimming pool on South Lincoln Street. Aspens, Elms, Sycamore, Catalpa, Buckeye, Birch, Black Walnut, Kentucky Coffeetree and a dozen different kinds of Oak were among the varieties planted. An auger operated by a City of Madison employee and guided with the help of a volunteer, made quick work of digging the holes for the trees. The trees were then taken out of their containers, placed at the proper level, filled with dirt, watered and covered with mulch. Many thanks to Bob Henrickson and Justin Evertson (Nebraska Statewide Arboretum), Gary Zimmer (Gillman Arboretum in Pierce), Ruth Oswald (Master Gardener), Darol Ellwanger (PrairieLand RC&D), and other volun-

teers for helping to plant the trees. More volunteers hauled water to all the trees, staked and tied the trees that needed it, and tied the tree protectors on and put mulch on the trees. The mulch was donated by D&D Industries. Cinnamon rolls, coffee and hot cider, sandwiches, cookies & brownies kept the volunteers nourished and happy! Ruth Oswald and others did a great job highlighting and marking the planting diagram so everyone knew where to place the trees.

Many, many thanks to Superintendent Jim Lewis and his City of Madison utility crew for all of their hard work preparing and placing the walkway around this new park.

The trees will need to be watered again this fall and we welcome all volunteers to help with this project. The project is partially funded with a grant from the Lower Elkhorn NRD and matched by the City of Madison. Please contact Denise at 402-920-3761 if you would like to help with this new project.

Pictures:

Top left- Justin Evertson, Betty Ray, and Ruth Oswald
 Top right- Naomi Hemphil
 Bottom right- Phyllis Trine



2016 Spring Training Dates: 6:30-9:00pm Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

- February 2 – **Selection and Care of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs**
Todd Faller, Faller Nursery and Landscaping
- February 9 – **Putting Perennials to Work**
Scott Evans, Extension Assistant
- February 16 – **Basic Botany/Plant Identification**
Stacy Adams, UNL Associate Professor
- February 23 – **Weed Identification and Control**
Natalia Bjorklund, Extension Educator
- March 1 – **Polarizing Yard and Garden Issues**
Kelly Feehan, Extension Educator;
Tamra Jackson-Ziems, Extension Plant Pathology Specialist; and Nicole Zoner, Extension Educator
- March 8 – **Efficient Landscape Irrigation**
John Fech, Extension Educator

New Master Gardener Interns can begin (or continue) their education certification while current Master Gardeners can recertify. For non-Master Gardeners, there will be a charge of \$5 per person for each training session attended. All six training sessions can be attended for \$25. All members of the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners do not have to pay.

Any questions, contact Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator at 402-370-4040.

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Plant Fair and Market

Mark your calendars!
Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30, 2016

- ◆ Vendors are invited to rent a space to display/sell their products. 500+ visitors attend this annual event.
- ◆ Larger location— NECC Chuck Pohlman Ag Complex.
- ◆ Guest speakers present on various horticulture related topics.
- ◆ The Master Gardeners volunteer their time to make this Plant Fair and Market a success. Proceeds help fund a scholarship to Northeast Community College students in Horticulture.
- ◆ Free Admission, Great Plants, Vendors, Speakers, Door Prizes, Lunch Stand and a Children's Activity Corner all make this Plant Fair a special must attend event!

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners

Meetings held at:
Nebraska Extension in Madison County
601 E Benjamin Ave, Suite 105
Norfolk NE 68701

Phone:
402-370-4040 Madison County
402-563-4901 Platte County
402-375-3310 Wayne County



Master Gardeners are people who love plants, gardening, landscaping, and teaching others.



We're on the web at

<https://www.facebook.com/NortheastNEMasterGardeners>

<http://madison.unl.edu/mastergardenerhome>

NEBRASKA EXTENSION in WAYNE COUNTY
510 N PEARL ST, STE C
WAYNE NE 68787

What is It?? By Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator

Tammy Furstenau was first to correctly respond for what the October *What is it?*. Jane Jensen also answered correctly. The spider in question is a fishing spider. There are a number of species, but this is one of the larger ones. This one is *Dolomedes tenebrosus*. These spiders are commonly found near water. The pictured species is one that will wander further from water than the others. As their name suggests, they do occasionally catch small fish, but they do feed on other arthropods.



I found this object attached to the globe of an outside light at my house in 2014. An insect did build this out of mud.

If you think you know, you can give me a call at (402) 370-4044 or shoot me an email (wohnesorg2@unl.edu). Please be as specific as you can. The first person to contact me with the correct answer will be awarded one (1) training hour. Everyone that submits an answer will be entered into an end of the year drawing for a free Extension Circular such as the *Landscape Diagnostic Guide for Problems Affecting Woody Ornamentals and Herbaceous Perennials*. For every *What is it?* column you provide an answer for you will receive one entry. This offer is available for both the Platte County and Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener groups.

