

The Green Patch

Clematis

By Joyce Eucker , Madison County Master Gardener

July 1, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

First of all the correct pronunciation is (KLEM-ah-tis) the word clematis comes from the Greek word "klema", meaning "a vine branch", but to me and I think most people, it's always been (kle-MA-tis) so you will probably hear me pronounce it that way.

Clematis is often called the "queen of the vines", a designation which is well deserved. However, the genus Clematis includes more than just vines. There are non-climbing, non-clinging types, ground cover forms, and shrubby types. Most people are familiar with the climbing type.

There are over 290 named species of Clematis and hundreds of cultivars. Some species and cultivars are available from many sources while others are very difficult to obtain.

Flowers vary in shape, size and color. Size ranges from about 1 – 8 inches and vary in flower fragrance. The length and time of the blooming season varies with the individual species and cultivars. Flower colors include white, yellow, shades of pink, dark lavender, and red.

The most common Clematis cultivar in the Midwestern garden is "Jackmanii". This is an old, vining, purple cultivar, introduced in 1862. Several other popular, large-flowered, climbing cultivars include 'Nelly Moser,' 'The President,' 'Barbara Jackman,' 'Niobe,' and 'Polish Spirit.'

Planting is usually done in the spring. Select a site with at least six hours of sunlight, well-drained soil, and good air movement. Place the Clematis plant about one inch deeper than it was grown in the container to help protect the crown, then mulch and water as needed.

Plants should be fertilized during establishment using a balanced fertilizer. I usually prefer 10-10-10. Once established, additional fertilizer is usually not needed.

Clematis have simple or compound leaves. Vining Clematis use the leaf petiole to cling, twisting it around a support much like a tendril on a grape vine. Supports for Clematis should be relatively thin because the twining petioles cannot grasp thick materials. Some training may be needed to direct the vines in the desired direction.

Mulching is useful not only to control weeds and conserve moisture, but to cool the soil. Clematis prefer 'warm heads' (tops) and 'cool feet' (roots). I like to plant other perennials around the base of Clematis to shade their roots and cool the underlying soil. Clematis can be planted as companion plants with roses, shrubs and trees as well as perennials.

Pruning can be the most confusing thing about growing Clematis. The main reason for pruning is to establish a neat and tidy framework, to stimulate the development of buds and flowers, and to encourage growth. There are three general methods of pruning Clematis and

Jackmanii



each is based on flowering time and whether or not the flowers are produced on stems from this year's growth or on stems from previous year's growth. Improper pruning is a common reason that gardeners are disappointed in the flowering of their Clematis plants.

1. This group flowers on old mature stems and usually flowers in the spring. They need little or no pruning except to be cut back and tidied up after the main flowering period has ended.
2. Species and cultivars in this group produce flowering in the spring on old, mature growth and a second flush occurs during late summer on the current year's growth. Remove dead and damaged stems in late spring. If more pruning is needed, do it immediately after the early flowering period.
3. This group is the easiest to prune. They usually flower on the current year's new growth in spring to late summer. Annual pruning can be done in late winter or early spring, cutting back all the old stems to the base of the plant

Clematis is usually quite free of diseases and pests. The most common disease affecting them is Clematis Wilt caused by a fungus. It infects the Clematis mainly thru the lower nodes. Remove the diseased stem by cutting about 1 inch below the dead area on the green part of the stem. The root will usually send up new shoots. Remove all dead leaves and other plant debris in the fall to reduce the over wintering of diseases. In general, insects are not a problem for Clematis in the Great Plains but you need to protect newly planted Clematis with wire cages to prevent rabbits from feeding.

Clematis is one of the nicest additions to a landscape. I hope you will consider planting one or more in your landscape. Once established, they last for years. I have one on my front yard light post, companioned with yew shrubs, that has been there for over 40 years. I cut it back to the top of the shrubs every year so it always stays about the shape I desire.

I hope this information is helpful. For more information go to NebGuide G1681 Clematis published by the University of Nebraska. <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/sendIt/q1861.pdf>

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The Nebraska Master Gardener Program

The Nebraska Master Gardener program is a horticulture related volunteer training program based in many counties throughout the state. It has been part of UNL Extension since 1976. Master Gardener volunteers are trained by UNL Extension faculty and staff. They contribute time as volunteers working through their local Extension office to provide horticulture-related information to their community. More specifically, they provide education about sustainable horticultural practices. Participants are required to complete 40 hours of training and 40 hours of volunteer service during the initial year of their involvement in the program. Master Gardener volunteers retain their certification through annual training and volunteering.

Master Gardeners honored for 10 and 20 years of service



<http://extensionhorticulture.unl.edu/mg/>

10 Year Master Gardener Awards: Deb Daehnke, Wayne County; Sharon Hinrichsen, Antelope County; and ViAnn Stange, Dixon County, after receiving certificates and hand carved bowls. Awards were presented at the 2011 Plant Fair April 30, 2011.



20 Year Master Gardener Awards: Karen Zierke, Pierce County; and Marge Holland, Cuming County, holding their engraved crystal vases with beautiful bouquet of flowers. Award was presented at the 2011 Plant Fair April 30, 2011.

L to R: Rod Supencheck, 10 yrs.; Jim Ball, 20 yrs.; Chris Dixon, 20 yrs.; Marge Prokupek, 10 yrs.; Ruth Brichacek, 10 yrs.

Pictured are Platte County Extension Master Gardeners honored for 10 and 20 years of service. These volunteers received county recognition at the 2010 annual Master Gardener potluck held last fall in Columbus. This past February, Extension Turfgrass Specialist and State-wide Master Gardener Coordinator, Roch Gaussoin; was in Columbus and presented these five volunteers with their state recognition awards.



What has the Master Gardener Program meant to me?

Marge Holland, Cuming County Master Gardener: Twenty years of being a Master Gardener has been an incredible experience. The knowledge gained from meeting presenters and training classes is secondary to the wisdom and expertise of our fellow gardeners. Their generosity and friendship symbolize the true meaning of gardening—caring for and maintaining not only the plot of earth we call our garden, but volunteering and preserving the fellowship of “down to earth” people who love nature

Karen Zierke, Pierce County Master Gardener: 20 years of Master Gardeners, 2011 seems to be my year of reaching milestones. I graduated from Pierce High 50 years ago and my husband LeRay and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 28. As the saying goes, ‘Time flies when you’re having fun,’ although sometimes farming with hogs, wasn’t too much fun!

What has the Master Gardener program meant to me? I have met and hold very dear, many friendships and relationships amongst members old and new, past and present. I have gained so much knowledge from all of you, and I love the little hints that have been shared, (like Rita Cox telling me how easy it is to root diamond frost, euphorbia. Do try it!) Garden tours to each other’s homes, brings us together on a new level. And then our Plant Fair – we all work long and hard and sometimes our frustrations with each other jump-up like a nasty weed - but without the plant fair, I fear our group would fade away. I often feel very inadequate, there is so much information for us to keep learning and to try to remember but I hope to keep learning from fellow Master Gardeners and our training lessons and good speakers. Happy Gardening!

Deb Daehnke, Wayne County Master Gardener: Master Gardeners is a national program started by an extension agent in 1972 in the state of Washington. Faced with many questions and not enough time to answer them all, he trialed a program where volunteers would be trained and in return they would assist the extension offices by providing volunteer service and leadership in horticulture related activities in their communities.

At this year’s Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Plant Fair, a few Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners were recognized with ten and twenty year service awards; and I was fortunate to receive my ten year award. In addition to the wonderful training I have received, I have met many new people and attended all kinds of garden activities. My husband and I like to travel and have toured some fantastic public and private gardens which we probably would not have done if not for the Master Gardener program. It is very gratifying to start something and see it to fruition and I would recommend anyone interested in gardening and volunteering to check out the program.

If interested, check with any extension office or go to the Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener web site, <http://madison.unl.edu/mastergardenerhome>. Becoming a Master Gardener provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about horticulture and give back to your community at the same time.

If you enjoy gardening and sharing with other people, the Master Gardener program might be for you. It offers an opportunity to learn more about horticulture and share this information with other gardening enthusiasts.

Sharon Hinrichsen, Antelope County Master Gardener: The most significant thing about being a Master Gardener, is the other Master Gardeners. Let’s face a very significant fact...Gardeners are good people. Anyone who enjoys digging in dirt, pulling weeds and just plain spending hours upon hours caring for plants, has to be made of good stuff!

I can look around my yard and spot perennials that I can associate with Master Gardeners from past plant exchanges. What better way to accumulate a wide variety of flowers than to be able to plant something that has come from another Master Gardener’s garden?

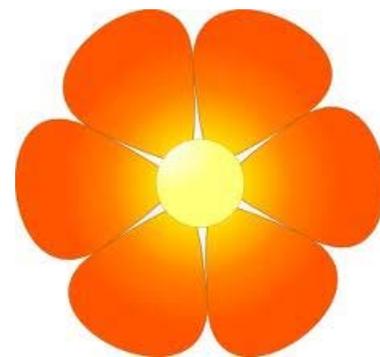
To have the knowledge of the many speakers we have listened to and be able to apply it to my own gardening has also been important. I think the response at the last Plant Fair to Shirley Hamernik’s flower talk is testament to the enthusiasm she instills for flowers! I think we sold out all of the flowers that she brought and then mentioned in her talk.

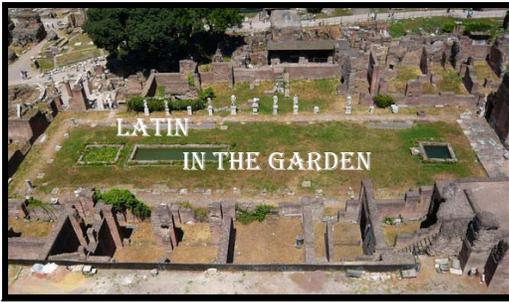
I remember being a little overwhelmed with the first Plant Fair and how much hard work everyone puts into this every year. I attended one plant fair before I joined the group (actually it was a big factor in me joining) and saw just what the Master Gardener program is all about. The plant walks and tours are great. Although, I missed the one tour I signed up for last year because of my knee surgery. Living an hour away from Norfolk makes it a little difficult to attend some of the activities, but I have tried to attend as many as possible.

Being a part of such a great association has greatly enriched my life in the last 10 years and I would encourage anyone to make the commitment and become a Master Gardener!!

Joyce Eucker, Madison County Master Gardener

In the 10+ years that I have been a Master Gardener, it has been a great learning experience. Master Gardeners are a friendly and great group of people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience plus willing to share their plants. The speakers and educational information has been outstanding as well as lifelong friendships. I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.





Check out this website:

<http://www.finegardening.com/pguide/pronunciation-guide-to-botanical-latin.aspx>

You can choose from a list of Latin terms and it will pronounce the word and give you the phonetic spelling as well.

Grass Miscanthus sinensis 'Blondo'
miss KANTH us sy NEN sis

'Blondo' is a beautiful, clump forming ornamental grass. It prefers full sun as most grasses do and grows 5-7' tall. The blades are green with white ribs and in late summer or fall they are topped by ivory-colored plumes. In late summer, the blades will sometimes arch and look like a fountain. This is one of my favorite grasses. As the blades turn a wheat color in the fall, it is just beautiful as it arches and sways in the wind. It will need to be divided periodically which is not a small task with any large ornamental grass. Zone 4.

Tree Abies koreana
AB ee ays kor ee AY nah

Korean Fir is a slow growing fir. 15-30' in height and 6-12' wide. It needs sun, moist but well-drained soil as it does not like wet feet, tolerates some wind. Pyramidal form with horizontal branches and purple cones. Some sources say Zone 5-7. We have had ours for about 6 years and it's doing great. Some varieties have silver tinges to the needles that make them look frosted. Very nice specimen tree.

Annual Cleome hasslerana
klee OH me hass ler AY nah

Spider flower has very long seed pods which gives it the spidery, airy appearance. Needs full sun and maintenance watering but is drought tolerant. Space 1-3' apart. Larger varieties can reach 4' in height. It will self-sow if seed heads are left on the plant. Some find it has an offensive smell.

Herb Eupatorium purpureum
yew pah TOR ee um per per EE um

Joe-Pye Weed (sometimes called Queen of the Meadow) has been in our garden for years and I never realized it was also considered an herb. Varieties can have deep purple stems, purple-tinted leaves and rosy pink flowers. Shorter varieties are now available and one variety now has white flowers. Butterflies love it and it is hardy in Zones 3 – 8. It also supports 40 species of caterpillars on its foliage. All parts can be used for alternative medicinal purposes from repelling flies to using as a diuretic. Named after an American Indian named Joe Pye, some Native American tribes still consider it an aphrodisiac. Ours never gets drastically tall as we water sparingly, but sources say the more you water the more likely it will be taller. Calling it Joe Pye 'Weed' is doing it a disservice. Very nice plant.

Perennial Dicentra spectabilis
dy SEN trah spek TAB ill iss

Bleeding Heart is an exotic-looking perennial that prefers part shade and evenly moist and good soil to perform at its best. Full sun might be tolerated if constant moisture is maintained. Most varieties have the racemes of pink, heart-shaped flowers but there is a less vigorous variety called 'Alba' or 'Pantaloons'. There is also one called 'Gold Heart' with brilliant golden-yellow foliage. Hardy in Zone 4, they do go dormant in the summer which can lead to gaps in your landscape. Use other plants with them that might conceal the gaps.

Garden Hat Contest at Plant Fair



Wayne Ohnesorg presented the winners with their awards

The public voted for their favorite Garden Hat on Saturday, April 30 at the Northeast Nebraska Plant Fair. The Master Gardeners could be seen wearing their creations that morning. Winners were Joyce Eucker and Pearl Laycock.



Many gardeners want to have a jaw-dropping-car-stopping spectacular flower in their garden. Well search no longer. I have one for you to try—allium. Allium is a bulb in the garlic or onion family that is planted in the fall which produces flowers in the spring or summer. Alliums bloom like a ball on top of a stem that rises out of the ground in May or June, almost like a balloon on a string. Some of the blooms can be a spectacular size ranging from 6 inches to 10 inches in diameter. The blooms last from 2 to 3 weeks at which time the color fades and they dry to remain as a decorative seed head in the garden or harvested for dried flower arrangements. Plant them in clusters of three to six bulbs for a pleasant visual effect. Another planting tip is to place them between other perennials such as iris, daylilies or peonies because the leaves will go dormant on many varieties and you don't want to misplace them later on and dig them up accidentally.



Allium bulbs are planted in the fall in full sun to part sun areas in well drained soil. They do not like heavy or soggy wet soil and may rot if given those conditions. Alliums are deer, mice, squirrel, rabbit, and rodent resistant due to their sulfide and alkaloid content. They also taste and smell like onion or garlic. Some people plant them among other bulbs such as tulips to ward off the wild creatures. Allium leaves emerge in the spring with the tulips and daffodils. The leaves, like tulips and daffodils, will usually go dormant after flowering. They will return next spring, often in greater numbers as

they do multiply or self sow from the seeds formed on the dry blooms. Just remember to let the leaves remain until they naturally turn yellow, because they are reenergizing the bulbs.

Alliums can be used for cut flowers and last up to 2 weeks in a vase of water. Eventually they lose the colorful flower but a bead with seeds remains where each flower sat for a wonderful green accent to a flower bouquet. If kept longer, it will dry for addition to your dried flower arrangements. Can you think of a more versatile flower? There are a few allium flowers that can even be eaten. Chive blossoms and leaves can be chopped up and sprinkled on salads or into sauces for a pleasant onion flavor. Garlic chives, "tuberosum", has flat leaves that persist all summer and can be harvested for a garlic accent to food.

If I have gotten your attention and curiosity

about alliums, let me suggest a few that are hardy in our zone 4 gardens. You will have to wait until fall to buy them in the garden center or you may have to order them from a catalogue.

The pure blue color of allium azureum, Blue of the Heaven, produces a 2 inch sphere in June on top of a two foot stem. We all love to find a blue flower and this one couldn't be easier to grow.

There are several white allium available. White Emperor produces a 6 inch globe of starry, loose, flowerets in May on top of a two to three foot tall stem. Allium stipitatum, White Giant, has a more compact 4-6 inch flower head on a three foot stem in June. Allium Silver Spring has a fragrant white floweret with a raspberry starburst in each floweret that blooms on a two foot stem in June. Allium Mount Everest starts out with large strappy leaves so give it plenty of room to grow. It will produce a 4-6 inch globe on a three foot stem in June. Allium karatviense, Ivory Queen, also starts out with large strappy leaves but the dense white 3 inch globe blooms on a stem that is only eight to ten inches tall that blooms in May.

There is a large number of lavender to purple allium. My favorite is allium christophii, Star of Persia. It is an amazing 10 inch loose, starry, silver-lavender globe on a twenty inch stem that blooms in June. The flowers remain for at least two to three weeks before they dry down and leave a wonderful seed head. I often pick the seed

(Continued on page 6)

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Plant Fair Youth Horticulture ID Contest

As part of the Northeast Master Gardener plant fair, a youth horticulture plant identification contest was held. Area youth were invited to participate in the competition. A total of nine youth participated with three in the junior division, four in the intermediate division, and two in the senior division. Each contestant was asked to identify 28 plants. A tiebreaker series of plants needed to be used to decide the intermediate division 3rd place finisher. Katherine Hemphill of Norfolk placed first in the junior division with Laura Perrigan of Norfolk placing second and Sarah Perrigan of Norfolk placing third. In the intermediate division,



Katherine Schudel of North Loup had the best score of the day only missing two plants and taking first place finish. Finishing second was Elizabeth Perrigan of Norfolk and placing third after the tiebreaker was Miri Sterner of Norfolk. For the senior division, Rachel Sorensen of Plainview placed first and Elsie Hemphill of Norfolk placed second.



Thank you to Mulch N More and Don Liedman for providing additional plants for the contest.

Picture: Front row Katherine Perrigan, Miri Sterner, Katherine Hemphill, and Sarah Perrigan. Back row Pam Greunke (Wayne County Extension Office Manager), Rachel Sorensen, Elsie Hemphill, Katherine Schudel, Elizabeth Perrigan, Laura Perrigan, and Wayne Ohnesorg (Northeast Nebraska Master Gardener Coordinator)

The word pollinator conjures up images of bees and butterflies, but there are others. They include bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, bats and even reptiles. They are insects and animals that move pollen from one plant to another; more specifically, from the anthers of a male flower to the female flower's reproductive organ or stigma. When a flower receives pollen from the same species of plant, successful fertilization can occur to develop seeds that carry the genetic information for new plants. Since plants can't move, all sorts of adaptations have occurred to move pollen around by wind, water and, of course, by pollinators.

Pollinators only inadvertently play a major role in plant reproduction. They're simply seeking their own food sources of nectar and pollen. But their work is essential to us, as more than 80 percent of the 1,400 food crops we depend on are pollinated by pollinators and 90 percent or more of flowering plants need pollinators to survive. Next time you're at the supermarket, take a look around. That colorful produce aisle full of apples, pumpkins, squash, soybeans and watermelons relies on the activity of pollinators. In the United States alone, the domestic honey bee pollinates over \$10 billion worth of crops.

There is increasing concern about pollinators. The numbers of native pollinators and domestic pollinators are declining due to disease, extensive and inappropriate use of pesticides and loss of habitat. Even aside from the very tangible and immediate need for food production, pollinators are part of the intricate and biologically diverse natural ecosystem that sustains both life and quality of life.

As citizens, property owners and stewards of the natural resources that sustain us, we can help by creating landscapes that are pollinator-friendly. We can do this by minimizing and properly using pesticides, and by changing landscape management strategies to create landscapes that provide food, shelter and water for pollinators. Many pollinators travel long distances in the process of migrating (one of the most notable is the monarch butterfly, which travels all the

way from Canada to Mexico). We can help by making sure proper food and habitat is widely available.

The simplest way to help protect pollinators is to realize that the chemicals we apply to kill unwanted insects also kill beneficial insects. Instead of reaching for the nearest bottle of pesticide when something appears to be nibbling on plant leaves, consider using Integrated Pest Management strategy and only use pesticides when no other option is available.

Take a walk around your property and neighborhood. Is your landscape pollinator-friendly? Is there a variety of plants? A diversity of pollinators? Are the plants in your landscape able to grow without fertilizer and pesticides? What could be added or replaced to attract more pollinators? Trees, shrubs and grasses are important components of the pollinator landscape since they provide food, shelter and resting places. Native plants are always good choices for attracting pollinators and there are adapted and annual plants that attract more colorful pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies.

Pollinators tend to have very specific needs or preferences in terms of flower color, bloom time, fragrance, etc. Below is a general guide for some common pollinators:

- Honey bees prefer fragrant blue and yellow flowers.
- Beetles frequent white or dull-colored flowers with yeasty, spicy or fruity odors.
- Flies like it stinky, but they also visit plants that attract bees.
- Butterflies and moths prefer sweet-smelling bright blue, orange or yellow flowers.
- Butterfly larvae feed on plant tissues from little bluestem and other native grasses.
- Certain pollinators, such as butterflies, also need access to mud puddles, which they sip to take in salts and minerals.
- Night-flying moths tend to visit highly-scented white or yellow flowers.
- Birds and hummingbirds prefer very large red and yellow flowers that produce an abundance of nectar.

Some plants to consider for a pollinator garden include: milkweed, goldenrod, aster, sorrel, native grasses, gayfeather, coneflower, yarrow, leadplant, New Jersey tea, Monarda, Rudbeckia, Joe-Pye weed, ironweed, pasque flower, salvias, sedum, clover and daylily.

Source: Karma Larsen, communications associate, Nebraska Forest Service



Photo: The black swallowtail butterfly is among the important pollinators in gardens. (Nebraska Statewide Arboretum photo)

Allium

By Marilyn Schmit, Platte County Master Gardener

(Continued from page 5)

heads to put with other dried flowers. Someone suggested spray painting the seed head for a more colorful addition to an arrangement. This allium is hardy and seems to increase its numbers because I have more of them every year.

Another violet purple allium that has the starry flowerets is Early Emperor. It has a 6 inch globe that blooms on a two foot stem in May. Allium Gladiator has a more compact purple 6 inch globe on three to four foot stems that bloom in June. This will grab your attention. Allium Globemaster has an even larger purple 8 inch dense globe that blooms in June on a three foot stem. The bulb is very large as well and needs to be planted in a well drained soil that does not get too much water or it will tend to rot. This bulb also needs to be planted at least 8 inch deep. Usually planting directions are included with the bulb order. Allium Pinball Wizard is another large 6-8 inch purple dense globe that blooms on a two foot stem in June.

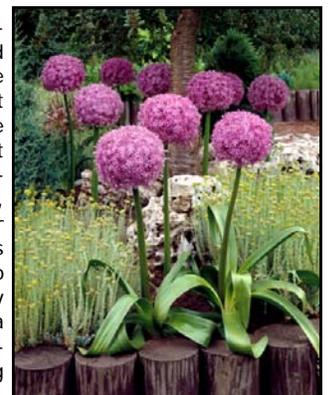
Allium Purple Sensation has a 3 inch violet-purple sphere that blooms in late May on a two foot stem. Allium atropurpureum has a 2 inch bloom of maroon-purple flowerets on a two foot stem that bloom in June. These allium are very inexpensive, return every year, and multiply. They are well worth the small investment.

If you like a whimsical flower that looks like a creation from a Dr. Suess book, plant the Hair allium. It is a green, fluffy, thread-like flower ball that blooms on a two foot stem in June. It is totally unlike anything else you've ever grown. Another unusual allium that has a large, spidery, spikey, rose-purple 12-15 inch flower head is allium Schubertii. This allium starts out with large, strappy leaves before it blooms in June. I observed this allium in several catalogues online where it was listed for zone 5. I might give it a try even if it blooms only one year because it looks like a spectacular flower.

Several allium have a nodding head and do not look like the typical sphere. Allium cer-

num, pulchellum, and flavum have persistent onion like stems that produce umbrellas of pink, yellow or white bells from June to August. They look like a sparkler fireworks sizzling in your garden. They easily self sow and form a nice clump in a short time.

I could go on and on describing many more allium. Get a few catalogues or go online and do a search. You have plenty of time now to investigate the wide range of allium bulbs available before you place your order for fall planting.



Another year has passed and another successful Plant Fair is in the record books. Patrons from sixty-five towns were represented at this year's Plant Fair. As always, our vendors provided an array of gardening plants and items to choose from. We appreciate their continued participation as they are an integral part of the success of the Plant Fair.

Bluebird Nursery of Clarkson, NE, provided the annuals and perennials in the Master Gardener plant sales area. Shirley Hamernik was one of our featured speakers and she graciously transported more plants on Saturday morning, replenishing the many varieties that had already sold out or were nearly sold out. Bluebird Nursery has been a staunch supporter of the Plant Fair since its inception, and the plants they provide are always of exceptional quality.

Each year the Plant Fair provides an outstanding venue to hear top notch speakers. Shirley Hamernik spoke about "New, Plus Tried and True, Garden Ideas"; Rosie Frey shared her expertise on herbs, "A Bit of Sage with Rosemary"; Stephen Vantassel explained how to manage "Rabbits, Voles, and More"; and Elizabeth Killinger discussed "Landscape Design Basics and Mistakes". We heard many positive comments about this year's speakers. We are very proud that we continue to bring outstanding speakers to the Plant Fair each year at no cost to our patrons. That is really quite a bargain in the world of gardening.



The second annual garden hat contest and youth horticulture ID contests were held. Some Master Gardeners received their ten year certificate and hand carved bowl. Several others received their twenty year designation and received a beautiful vase with flowers. Participating as a Master Gardener has many positive benefits. If you are interested, contact your local extension office.

Proceeds from the Plant Fair fund scholarships that are given to horticulture students at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers, vendors, sponsors, speakers, and especially the patrons who make this a success each year.

The 2012 Plant Fair will be May 4 & 5. Plan to come. There will be the vendors, concession stand, children's corner, door prizes and speakers. We hope to have a special speaker presentation next year. So watch for all the news at the beginning of 2012.



The Green Patch Contributors	
<u>Publisher</u>	Pam Greunke
<u>Editor</u>	Deb Daehnke
<u>Contributors</u>	Deb Daehnke
	Joyce Eucker
	Sharon Hinrichsen
	Marge Holland
	Wayne Ohnesorg
	Marilyn Schmit
	Karen Zierke



Do you have a favorite tool, plant to trade, "Go Green" idea, "What Works for Me" tidbit or a question for other Master Gardeners?

The Green Patch needs your articles.

Please get to Pam Greunke (pgreunke2@unl.edu) by August 31 to be included in October's *The Green Patch* publication.

Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners

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



Phone:
402-370-4040 Madison County
402-329-4821 Pierce County
402-563-4901 Platte County
402-375-3310 Wayne County

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



UNL EXTENSION—WAYNE COUNTY
510 N PEARL ST, STE C
WAYNE NE 68787

We're on the web at

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

What is It?? By Wayne Ohnesorg, Extension Educator

Your challenge is to correctly identify the insect and/or plant. The first person to contact me with the correct answer will be the winner. And what do you win? The winner will receive the bragging rights for that quarter and have their name posted in the next installment of the column as the winner along with the correct answer.

Ellen Glanzer was the first of many to give the correct answer. The insect in question was a lady beetle larva. If you want to be specific, it is a seven-spotted lady beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*). An introduced species, the seven-spotted lady beetle is native to Europe and Asia.



What is this insect???

This quarter's insect was photographed from specimens in Gilman Park in Pierce, NE. The leaf is from an eastern cottonwood. Abnormal growths on plants like this are known as galls. There are many types of gall-forming organisms including insects, mites, and viruses. Usually galls of different species of gall formers are distinctive because of their size, shape, color, and location on the plant. What insect formed this gall and can you tell me what species?

If you think you know, you can give me a call at (402) 329-4821 or shoot me an email wohnesorg2@unl.edu.

