

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

Human vs. Horticultural Viruses



What a year 2020 was! I am sure that the majority of you are happy that 2020 is behind us and that you are looking forward with hope and anticipation for a better 2021! Let us hope that the Corona Virus will be a thing of the past soon!

As gardeners, we are concerned about the various viruses that attack our fruits, vegetables, and flowers. It can be unnerving to walk into the garden and find deformities of the plants, leaves that are crinkled or wavy, or leaves with various spots of color.

One of three types of viruses is the **Tobacco Mosaic Virus**. Growing up on a farm, every year we planted seventeen acres of tobacco. The only problem that we had one year was hail that damaged the entire crop. However, this virus spreads through seeds and direct contact. In other words, if someone smokes a cigarette that has a tobacco leaf infected, the smoker touches an object and someone else touches the same object, then transmits it to a plant, the virus goes viral! Washing our hands not only applies to the Corona Virus; it is a good practice to keep the tools used clean and disinfected. Another thing to consider is planting disease resistant varieties.

The **Bean Common Mosaic Virus** commonly affect beans of all types. This type is typically spread by aphids. And, the most common type of virus is the **Cucumber Mosaic Virus**. This too is spread by aphids. It affects other cucurbits as well as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, potatoes, lettuce, and spinach.

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How to prevent and control the viruses?

- Purchase healthy plants
- Cover plants with a floating row cover or use aluminum foil mulches
- Control weeds. Some weeds may serve as hosts for the virus.
- To avoid seed-borne viruses, soak seeds of susceptible plants in a 10% bleach solution before planting.
- Sanitize Tools
- Remove and destroy infected plants before the virus spreads.

Gardening Trends 2021

If there is one thing we can say about the pandemic, it is that there is an increased interest in gardening. The 'Victory Garden' concept caught on and will continue with the onslaught of new, interested gardeners. These 'newbies' want easy to grow flowers and veggies plus pre-planned designs. The 'newbies' want simplified plant selections and provision for 'how-to-plant'. They want to take the fear and cost of failure out of the equation. The Internet is a wealth of information for new, as well as seasoned gardeners (i.e. online gardening classes, design services, shopping online, and botanical gardens virtual tours).

One thing that gardeners can do while the quarantine is in effect is get out into the yard/garden for exercise, stress relief, and renewed energy. Another way to 'get out' in the fresh air is to utilize areas in the community gardens to grow edibles for those in need.

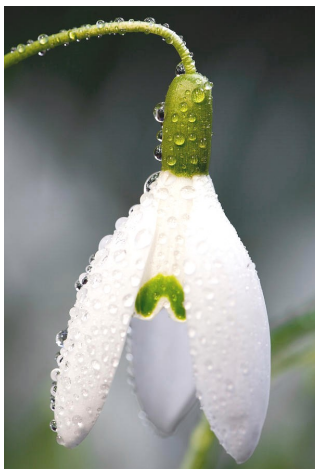
With that said, these are some of the gardening trends for 2021:

1. Due to a nationwide increase in cooking at home and a growing concern about food scarcity, more people are growing their own kitchen gardens. You don't need raised beds for a veggie garden to grow food at home.
 - Grow foods in containers or vertically
 - Mix edibles into existing ornamental beds and borders.
 - Growing veggies that provide big yields in small spaces such as tomatoes, herbs, peas, beans, cucumbers, etc.
2. With the quarantine, many of us are going stir crazy being confined indoors. One thing to consider is to turn your backyard into an outdoor living space. Bring the indoors outside!
 - Create a space for quiet contemplation with a garden design
 - Add the sound of water with a small tabletop fountain or small pond.
 - Keep it cool on hot days with shade from an umbrella, pergola, or even a shade tree.
 - Make it cozy and extend your time outside by adding a fire pit or outdoor fireplace.
2. Another trend is to plant tropical plants highlighting bright and bold, giving an exotic flair. Suggested tropical are bromeliads, elephant ears, and banana plants.
3. Unusual houseplants are in demand. Many have set up a 'home office' due to the pandemic. People are focusing on making their homes more livable and workable. Houseplants play a huge part in that.
4. Children are spending more time at home with home schooling and virtual learning, parents are looking for ways to get them outside.. In addition to the many health benefits of being outside, outdoor play and being involved in gardening offers endless learning opportunities.
 - Get them their own kid-friendly gardening tools and let them take care of their own garden area.
 - Plant veggies together (*they are much more likely to eat them if they grow them themselves*).
 - Combine reading time and gardening with children's books about gardening.

The future will look greener if you fill your home with plenty of houseplants; fill your garden with lush tropical plants and the nutritional edibles so you can feed your family and those in need.



“Gardening is a way of
showing that you
believe in tomorrow.”
-Author Unknown



Programs and Events 2021

Tuesday, January 26—KCGC Meeting at 7:00 p.m. No program scheduled

Garden Expo—Madison February 12—14, 2021

Tuesday, February 16 “Growing and Using Lavender:
sponsored by HCE-Algoma

If you are interested in presenting a program during 2021, please contact Tom and let him know which month and your topic.

Winterizing

- Cut the boughs from your Christmas tree and place around your perennials for mulch.
- Avoid walking or driving on frozen lawns. This can injure turf grasses. Once the crown is damaged, the grass is unlikely to grow back in spring.
- Any tree or shrub limbs damaged by ice or snow should be pruned promptly to prevent bark from tearing.
- In case of an ice storm, allow ice to melt off plants naturally. Attempting to remove ice can damage plants.
- Scatter sand, bird seed, sawdust, cat litter or vermiculite on icy paths and driveways to avoid slipping. Avoid salt or ice melters as these may injure plants along the way.
- Check for frost heaving on perennials. If you can, push them back into the ground and cover them with extra mulch.
- Gently brush off heavy snow on trees and shrubs. Do not shake the branches or hit them with a broom, or shovel, as the branches could break.
- Check all smaller trees for evidence of rodent injury to the bark. Pull away any snow around the tree.
- Check the bark and branches of ornamental trees and shrubs for scale insects and the egg masses of gypsy moth or other harmful pests. Remove or destroy the egg masses to eliminate hundreds of these plant-eating pests before they hatch,. You can use horticultural oil to control scale; it is much easier to control when there are not any leaves on the plant.
- Attract insect-hunting woodpeckers to your garden by hanging cakes of suet in trees. Keep bird feeders filled with fresh seed throughout the winter.

Good Growing Tip: Similar to humans, stress in plants makes them more susceptible to disease. Avoid stress by putting the right plant in the right place, planting correctly and provide good care during weather extremes.

A Gardener's Monthly Reflection

January brings back memories of years past;
poring over seed catalogues was such a blast!

February, peaking snowdrops are seen from under the snow.
Perhaps that is why gardeners have such a glow!

March is a time gardeners look forward to garden rebirth.
Grass becomes green again; spring seems to unearth!

April showers brings, not only flowers, but cleaner air;
while songbirds are circling everywhere.

May is such a delight to see daffodils and tulips reappear.
It doesn't seem that long since they were here last year.

June is when most gardeners flock to greenhouse,
to purchase flowers and veggies ... budget, asks the spouse?

July begins the hot and humid days of summer;
but birds ate my strawberries, what a bummer!

August sees the garden in all its glory,
but taking a vacation is just another story!

September is not only the month of Labor Day;
it is the exact time to harvest crops, they say.

October brings a certain chill in the air,
while falling and swirling autumn leaves deem fair.

November is an incredibly special time to give thanks;
hunters and gardeners can certainly fill in the blanks.

December, the garden is dormant, tools sanitized and put away;
perhaps getting ready for the holidays is on the agenda for today!

KCGC Christmas 2020

On Tuesday, December 8 the following garden club members joined in a ZOOM meeting to celebrate, in a very unconventional manner, Christmas 2020!

Present: Jan and Tom Zenner, Barb Thompson, Ann and Glenn Brunner, Barb and Mike Smith, Cheryl Eberle, Sue and Warren Hingst, Nancy Lamack, Marge and Joel Weichelt, Mary and Dale Goodner, Sandi Chrisman, Mary and Bob Novak, Barb Piechocki. Sue and Amiel Hepp.

Everyone agreed that it was a great year for growing vegetables. Must have been the heat! Nancy and Sandi reported success with their onions ... bigger and better. Nancy also said that her beets did very well. Mary Goodner had a bumper crop of beans! Tom had very good luck with rutabagas and parsnips. It truly was a banner year for carrots no matter what variety was planted. *(The Kewaunee County Food Pantry was recipient of carrots, cherry tomatoes, peas, zucchini, and beans all from the Algoma Community Garden.)*

The event was capped off with a 'trivia' question and answer session. All trivia questions were related to trees, fruit, vegetables, flowers, or grasses.





Website: www.kcgardenclub.org

www.facebook.com/kewaunee-county-garden-club

President: Tom Zenner

V. President: Cheryl Eberle

Treasurer: Ann Brunner

Secretary: Sue Hepp

Marketing Committee: Barb Smith, Tom Zenner, Cheryl Eberle, Mary Novak, and Joel Weichelt

Reuse and Recycle ...

When you purchase a button-down sweater, shirt, blouse, etc., they usually include an extra button or two in a plastic bag. Save the bags and use them to store seeds from your garden. These little packets of seeds can be labeled, dated, and given as gifts to friends, neighbors, or they could be sold or given away at plant sales. Just be sure that the seeds are healthy and do not carry any diseases.

*“Gardening takes a plot of land, a hoe and willing muscles. Scratching the soil, harvesting garden fruits and vegetables are peaceful results. **With a garden there is hope.:***

-Grace Firth

Phone Apps for Identifying Plants

The following apps are free to download on your phone ...



PlantSnap—It has a database of more than 600,000 plants to identify annuals, perennials, succulents, and mushrooms from around the world.



iNaturalist—Connect with over 400,000 scientists and naturalists who can help identify the plants and animals around you.



PlantNet—This app allows you to identify thousands of plants through your photos. The images are automatically compared to the thousands of images in themed botanical databases.