

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

Hostas: Love ... Hate Relationship

Recently I divided my hostas and planted them in a raised bed at our church. The comment that one of the members made reminded me that not everyone appreciates hostas like I do. The comment was "I never liked hostas because they were green/white, boring; just plain ordinary." When she saw the varied hostas in the bed, her comment was much different. "They are 'beautiful'!"

Another member expressed her dislike of the single flower spike. "No one chops it off once shriveled and dead; it hangs there mucking up the entire landscape for half the summer." If it causes one such a dislike, cut it off and enjoy the beauty of the gorgeous leaves! Hostas will grow fuller as they are not putting their energy into producing a flower.

I love the fact that hosta vary so much in looks, size, and pattern. A hosta garden is serene with its blues and greens which are very relaxing colors. Hostas look like sculpture as it reminds me of artwork. The different levels of heights and colors work together to create a tapestry. They bring peace, joy, beauty, and are very therapeutic!

These are some reasons why I personally love them ...

- They brighten up an area that otherwise would be boring
- They come back year after year. Almost are indestructible.
- They love shade and look great between rocks
- They look great against dark mulch
- They are easily transplantable and divide exceptionally well.
- Some have flowers that are very fragrant
- Good companions with astilbe, bleeding hearts, ferns, caladiums, and begonias.
- Larger varieties can fill up a lot of vacant space in a garden.
- They can be planted in a container rather than a garden space

Consider a couple of planting possibilities:

1. Texture is important because there is often less color to draw the eye. Pair hostas with something wispy, like ferns for an interesting textural contrast.
2. Brighten up the shadows of a garden by incorporating some variegated hostas into the area. Another option is to go with blue-green hostas and let the white flowers shed some light in summer as well as in the dark.



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Garden Club Programs and Events 2019



August

*“The warm
summer
days
continue
but as the
garden
ripens
nature
reminds us
that fall is
near”*

Tuesday, July 23

KCGC Meeting at Nancy Lamack’s
306 First Street, Kewaunee 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

Dana Farm Clean-up with 4H-Group
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Rain Date: Tuesday, August 27

Tuesday, September 24

KCGC Meeting; ‘Gardening Alphabetically’
7:00 p.m.—Algoma Youth Club Sue Hepp

Tuesday, October 22

KCGC Meeting; ‘Native Plants’ Dale Goodner
7:00 p.m. - Algoma Youth Club

Tuesday, November 26

KCGC Meeting; Crafting/Grinch Tree
7:00 p.m. Barb Smith

Tuesday, December 3

Annual KCGC Christmas Party
Location and Time: TBD

Plant Sale Success

There were a lot of attendees for the annual plant sale in May. The weather was absolutely gorgeous! The day started out extremely foggy; however, the sun came out and burned off the fog.

Each year the sale gets easier to organize and this year was no exception. Perhaps it was because of the ‘category’ marketing or the usual offerings of tomatoes, annuals, perennials, grasses, etc. The Marketing Committee promoted the four categories: vines, native plants, pollinator plants, and fairy gardens. This brought in a lot of interesting plants for selling. Asparagus plants were available again this year as well as worm castings.

Staging did not take place as usual because of rain. Those who brought plants priced their own. As a result, similar sized plants had different pricing. Customers purchased the cheaper priced plants. Eventually, the ones left behind sold anyway.












Plant Sale May 2019





Good vs. Bad Garden Insects

Creating a beautiful garden is hard work. It is a shame when the hard work is ruined by pesky bugs that wreak havoc on your vegetable and flower gardens. Some of the insects are extremely beneficial to have in the garden. Check out the chart below to welcome the beneficial insects into your garden to eliminate pesticides. You will be glad you did!

7 BENEFICIAL INSECTS FOR GARDEN PEST CONTROL		
INSECTS	PREYS ON	ATTRACTED BY
 LADYBUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APHIDS • WHITEFLIES • COLORADO POTATO BEETLES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILL • DANDELION • FERN-LEAF YELLOW • BASKET OF GOLD
 GROUND BEETLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLUGS • CATERPILLARS • COLORADO POTATO BEETLES • CUTWORMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVENING PRIMROSE • AMARANTHUS • CLOVER
 MINUTE PIRATE BUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPIDER MITES • APHIDS • THRIPS • CATERPILLARS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARAWAY • FENNEL • ALFALFA • SPEARMINT
 GREEN LACEWINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APHIDS • WHITEFLIES • LEAFHOPPERS • MEALYBUGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILL • ANGELICA • GOLDEN MARGUERITE • CORIANDER
 APHID MIDGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APHIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DILL • PLANTS WITH PLENTY OF NECTAR AND POLLEN
 DAMSEL BUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CATERPILLARS • MITES • APHIDS • CABBAGE WORMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARAWAY • PETER PAN GOLDENROD • SPEARMINT • FENNEL
 BRACONID WASPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CATERPILLARS • APHIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FERN-LEAF YARROW • LEMON BALM • PARSLEY • COMMON YARROW

Facts to Know About Jumping Worms



How to identify Jumping Worms: They got their name from their behavior. When handled, they thrash violently, may jump into the air or shed their tails.

Some important differences from regular earthworms—their body is more rigid and does not produce slime like other earthworms. They are more gray or brown in color than pink. They can be 1.5 to 8 inches long. The band of lighter-colored tissue near the head is smooth, not raised like other earthworms and whitish, not pink.

Why Jumping Worms are a Problem: They grow more rapidly, reproduce more quickly, and consume more nutrients than other earthworms. Once they are established, they quickly transform organic soil into dry, granular pellets with a texture like discarded coffee grounds. Invasive species will move in when native plants die.

These invasive worms do not burrow far into the soil. They live on the soil surface in debris and leaf litter. Look for them in your yard, garden, in mulch, compost, potted plants and other suitable places. Besides consuming nutrients that plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria need to survive, the resulting soil provides poor structure and support for many plants.

They do not reproduce like other earthworms ... they self-fertilize and do not need mates to reproduce. Each new generation begins with the productions of hardened egg capsules, known as cocoons that overwinter in the soil to hatch the following spring. Adults however die in the winter. Jumping worm cocoons are resistant to cold and drought and are as tiny as mustard seeds. It is hard to detect the worms that hatch from cocoons in the spring, they can be unknowingly spread through plant exchanges and other landscape materials.

Prevention is Key:

- Educate yourself and others to recognize jumping worms
- Watch for jumping worms and signs of their presence
- Arrive clean, leave clean—clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment, and personal gear before moving to and from a work or recreational area.
- Only purchase, plant, or trade landscape and gardening materials that appear to be free of jumping worms.
- Only purchase or trade compost that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols that reduce pathogens.



Cocoons

Remove and destroy jumping worms when you see them. Simply seal them in a bag and throw it in the trash. They will not survive long. Reducing the adult population will eventually reduce the number of egg-carrying cocoons in the landscape.

If you suspect that jumping worms are in your lawn or garden, keep any potentially invaded plant, soil, or mulch on your property. These materials should not be shared with anyone or transplanted on other properties. Sightings of jumping worms should be reported to the Wisconsin DNR at invasive.species@wi.gov or by uploading a photo to the First Detector's Network at fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/get-involved/report-invasive-species.



The Plantscapers
Garden Tour
June 2019





Plants that attract Ladybugs *(good bug)*

- Dill *(also attracts praying mantis and green lacewings)*
- Dandelions
- Fern-leaf yellow
- Basket of gold



Basic Rules for Growing Roses

It is no secret that I love roses! Whenever I can sneak another rose in my garden, I am extremely happy. You too can have these lovely flowers in your garden to enjoy them all summer long. I'm particularly drawn to the hybrid tea roses ... the more fragrant varieties!

- Select hardy roses ... disease resistant
- Plant in your garden where they will get at least six hours of sun daily
- Provide adequate drainage for your roses ... they do not like wet feet!
- Water regularly especially during the hot summer days. Be sure to soak the base of the plant; do not water from above.
- Feed them using an all purpose, slow release fertilizer, or a fertilizer designed for roses.
- Roses can be planted in a container; however, moisture needs to be maintained as well as fertilizing regularly.
- Cut spent roses to encourage more buds, flowers, and a fuller bush.



Deter Slugs ...

Mulch around plants with coffee grounds—a common household item. The gritty stuff adheres to the sticky undersides of slugs.

Keep Garden Tools Clean ...

Fill a bucket with coarse sand, then pour half a quart of motor oil over it. Plunge clean tools into the oiled sand and even store them there to keep the implements primed and ready to go.

Decrease Plant Stress ...

Divide, transplant, and plant plants on cloudy days. Water plants right after completing any of these tasks to help them recover quickly.

Curb Plants' Enthusiasm

Plants that form seed heads such as chives, purple coneflowers, and bachelor buttons, can sow seeds too gregariously and become weedy. Deadhead the spent flowers to control the spreading of the plant.