



March—April 2020

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

Annual . Biennial . Perennial (short or long-lived)



“When flowers
bloom
so does hope”

-Lady Bird Johnson



Do you sometimes wonder that the garden centers and nurseries don't want customers to know too much about plants? It is one thing to know that there are **annuals**, **biennials**, and **perennials** but then throw in the fact that perennials can be short or long-lived. If that isn't enough, some plants that are perennials (*herbaceous*) in their native region may be considered annuals in other regions. Snapdragon plants may be a perennial in a warm climate but may be an annual in colder climates. These are sometimes known as 'half-hardy annuals' or 'frost-tender perennials'.

And, add to the mix ... not all **perennials** are long-lived. Peonies, hostas, and trees are classified as long-lived. On the other side of the coin, columbine, lupine, delphiniums, and pincushion plants are short-lived (*3 years or less*) perennials. Some of the 'short-lived' perennials spread by rhizomes so one doesn't realize the death of the original plant. The offspring replaces the original.

We also hear the terms 'deciduous' and 'evergreen' perennials. Deciduous perennials grow part of the year and fall dormant the rest of the year. Pine trees are an example of evergreen perennials.

How would a customer know that a plant is **Biennial**? First of all, what is a biennial? They have a two-year life cycle. The first year they produce green leaves; then bloom the second year. After they bloom they produce seeds and then die. Some varieties of foxgloves (*digitalis*) and hollyhocks (*alcea*) are classified as biennial plants. Other biennials: California poppy, Canterbury bells (*Campanula medium*), pansy, sweet William (*dianthus barbatus*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Annual plants are just that; they live for only one growing season, produce seeds and then die. They normally are less expensive than perennials or biennials. They produce beautiful flowers and can be planted in a landscape to add color and interest. Familiar annuals would be zinnias, petunias, and marigolds. Some other examples: Geraniums, lantanas, begonias, sweet alyssums, impatiens, dusty millers, moss roses, sweet potato vines, and nasturtiums. However, some varieties of the above may live for more than one season. It all depends on the species and root system.

When one purchases seeds, potted plants, or six-packs it is so important to take the time to read the labels or tags. If the information isn't complete, ask for assistance. Generally, annuals (*bedding plants*) and biennials are sold in six-packs whereas perennials are sold in pots and are more expensive. However, perennials may be a better buy considering their life cycle. You can always look for planters that have several flowers/plants. Divide the flowers/plants and plant wherever to fill in a bare spot or add color to the landscape.

That is the 'Long and Short' of it ... Happy Gardening!

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Programs and Events

Tuesday, March 24	'Growing and Using Lavender'	7:00 p.m.	Algoma Youth Club
Saturday, April 18	Bird City Algoma Celebration	9:00—2:00 p.m.	Algoma Youth Club
Tuesday, April 28	KCGC Crafts/Preparation	7:00 p.m.	Heritage Farm (?)
Saturday, May 2	Lakehaven Garden Show	9:00—3:00 p.m.	Kewaunee
Tuesday, May 19	Dave Meyers, Park & Rec. Dept.	7:00 p.m.	Dana Farm (?)
Saturday, May 23	Annual Plant Sale	9:00—12:00 p.m.	Harbor Park
Saturday, June 6	Garden Tours (<i>possibly 3</i>)	TBD	Madison, Stoughton, Burlington

Other possible programs during the summer: Dan Fager from Footbridge Apiaries and a Hemp Farm visit

WPT Garden Expo Recap 2020

This was a nice break and enjoyable time once again.

Several seminars were very interesting and educational.

Mark Dwyer presented '**Gardening as We Age**'. He advocated that gardeners should think of their bodies as a 'gardening tool'. He stressed that gardeners should adjust their approach and expectations and not push themselves. Make physical, garden, and tool adjustments to take care of their bodies. Mark suggested gardening for shorter periods and take time to rest. Alternatives to bending and kneeling, build raised beds, container gardening, hanging baskets, vertical gardening, and to consider 'belly button height' gardening. His words: 'Not all tools are created equal'. Ergonomic tools should be considered for the type of gardening projects. Try out the gardening tools before purchasing.

Meet the Wild and Medicinal Plants of the Midwest

This was a very educational seminar by Linda Conroy

Interesting item is that it takes 100 to 1 to make birch syrup vs. 40 to 1 for maple syrup. Birch syrup has a caramel-like taste with a hint of spiciness. Even the Black Walnut can be tapped for syrup.

Many flowers are edible if they have not been chemically sprayed. Among them is bee balm which can be made into a powder and used like thyme. Burdock is good for pickling and French fries! Japanese Knotwood root is used medicinally for Lyme disease. The stalks make an excellent habitat for bees. All varieties of milkweed are edible if you grow it. Latex is produced from the stems of the plant.

Road Trippin'

It only took an hour to visit **thirteen botanical gardens** throughout Wisconsin thanks to Mark Konlock.

He outlined the themes, history, size, and type. Olbrich Botanical Garden in Madison was one of them. Olbrich is famous for its Thai pavilion, a gift from the king of Thailand, and the surrounding Thai garden. There is a great rose garden among their sixteen acres. The gardens won the prestigious Award for Garden Excellence of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta in 2005.

The Land Still Lives

His mantra: 'As we take care of the land ... the land takes care of us!'

Jerry Apps is such a passionate individual who loves nature. It is always a pleasure to sit in on his seminars. His son does all of his photography which is outstanding. Jerry has written several books with a new one this fall called 'History of the Log Industry'. "Writing takes me to a place that goes beyond observation and understanding; a place filled with feeling and meaning."



Garden Expo 2020



Jean Rankin and daughter

Program: Currants and Gooseberries



Presenter: Warren Hingst



Barb Smith



Dale, Sharon, and Sue K.



Currant Wine



Kathy, Barb P., Nancy, and Rose

A Scent for Relaxation

March KCGC Meeting



Growing Lavender in Wisconsin

with Kewaunee Cty Home & Community Education & Kewaunee Cty Garden Club

March 24 (Tues) @ 7:00pm

Free program on how to grow lavender and useful info on the benefits and uses of this fragrant flower.

Presenters: Diane Julian and Pat Heafy

Please RSVP: tessjl@hotmail.com

Location: Algoma Youth Club/The Dugout, (lower level) 620 Lake St., Algoma



Succulent Container Challenge

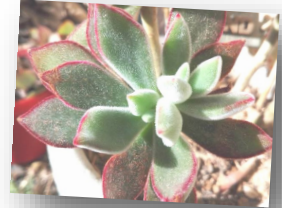
It might be kind of fun to see what our gardeners can come up with for 'unique' containers of succulents. Something out of the ordinary such as an embroidery hoop, large pine cone, or a cut out wine bottle. It could be an indoor or outdoor container with succulents. What can you recycle or repurpose?

Indoor Succulents

- Burro's Tail
- Crown of Thorns
- Kalanchoes
- Jade Plant
- Aloe Vera
- Panda Plant
- Pincushion Cactus
- Roseum
- Snake Plant
- Zebra Plant

Outdoor Succulents

- Hens and Chicks
- Stonecrop
- Whale's Tongue Agave
- Ball Cactus
- Plush Plant
- Dudleya
- Pig's Ear
- Zwartkap
- Sunburst
- Torch Plant



Plush Succulent

The popularity of succulents is no surprise. They are low maintenance, attract fewer pests, and they absorb carbon dioxide from the environment and give off oxygen. Even a NASA study has shown that houseplants, including succulents, can decrease dust levels by up to 20%.

The most common succulent pests are aphids and mealybugs. They can be controlled by rinsing the affected areas with water, using neem oil, insecticidal soaps or a **squirt bottle filled with rubbing alcohol**. A fine, light spray of rubbing alcohol does no damage to succulent leaves but kills the bugs instantly.

The best way to water succulents is to completely soak the soil and then let it dry out completely before watering again. Do not use a spray bottle to water succulents. A light spray does not promote healthy root growth. **Special Note: do not move a blooming or flowering cactus as the blossoms will fall off. They do not like to be moved!**

Water succulents with 'green tea' for beneficial nutrients; it won't burn the succulents even in large amounts.



Burro's Tail



Dudleya



Crown of Thorns



Zwartkap

Cinnamon Usage

It is not only used for baking; use it for combating plant **fungal diseases**. Orchid growers have been using it for years. If there are ants crawling around on your indoor plants, sprinkle some cinnamon on the surface of potted plants. They do not like it and will move on. **Added Bonus:** If gnats are a problem, they hate the smell of cinnamon. Try it!

Cinnamon as a rooting agent is as useful as hormone rooting powder. A single application to the stem when you plant a cutting will stimulate root growth in almost every plant variety. Put a small amount of cinnamon onto a paper towel and roll damp stem or leaf ends in the cinnamon. Then plant the stems or leaf in fresh potting soil.

International Migratory Bird Day

Algoma Youth Club
620 Lake Street, Algoma, WI

Saturday, April 18, 2020



'Birds Connect Our World'

Hosted by:

Bird City Algoma Committee
www.birdcityalgoma.com

E-mail
'photos of birds'
to shepp@charter.net

Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – Vendors, Children's Area with Janet Tlachac-
2:00 p.m. Toonen, Children's Book Author/Illustrator

Seminars:

10:00 a.m. Song and Shore birds; waterfowl – Robert Kuhn
11:00 a.m. Open Door Sanctuary (*live birds*) *Kid Friendly*
12:00 p.m. Lunch Break (*United Methodist Men*)
12:30 p.m. How to Attract, Feed, and House Birds -Charlotte Lukes

At the WPT Garden Expo in February, I caught the tail end of questions and answers for the seminar on jumping worms. The speaker recommended a mix of 1/3 cup ground mustard in a gallon of water and pour it around the area you suspect has Jumping Worm cocoons. It will bring the cocoons to the surface and you can then dispose of them.

Jumping worms, known also as Asian jumping worms, crazy worms, Alabama jumpers, and snake worms, are invasive earthworms that were first found in Wisconsin in 2013. These worms live and feed in the leaf litter layer on the soil surface and in the top few inches of the soil, but do not create burrows. And, excrete grainy-looking, hard little pellets that alter the texture and composition of soil. They produce cocoons in late summer and early autumn. Then the adults die and the cocoon stage survives through the winter. Cocoons hatch in early spring and adults mature in summer.

Besides consuming nutrients that plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria need to survive, the resulting soil, which resembles large coffee grounds, provides poor structure and support for many understory plants.

How To Identify Them:

- Look for soil with a similar appearance to coffee grounds. As jumping worms eat and excrete waste, the soil gets a unique texture like coffee grounds.
- They are very active, move like snakes and secrete yellow mucus when agitated.
- When a jumping worm is disturbed, its tail can break off and continue to flail.
- The ring (clitellum) on adults is closer to the end than on nightcrawlers, milky pink to milky gray in color, encircles the whole body evenly, and is barely raised above the skin.
- Setae (tiny hairs the worm uses to move) are evenly spaced around the entirety of each segment, not in pairs or concentrated on the bottom or sides of the body.

How They Spread:

- Moving soil, potted landscape plants, sod, mulch (including bark mulch or woodchips), or compost can move them and their cocoons from one place to another.
- Earthworms, such as red wigglers purchased for composting may be contaminated with jumping worms.
- Earthworms purchased for fishing bait, such as European nightcrawlers may be contaminated with jumping worms.

New research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum shows that temperatures of about 100 degrees Fahrenheit kill the cocoons of invasive jumping worms. They collected two jumping worm species that had invaded the Arboretum grounds. The worms were housed and fed with leaf litter and collected all the cocoons produced until the end of the reproductive season in late fall. (**One fact:** the worms are parthenogenic, which means they are able to reproduce on their own.) The cocoons collected were exposed to temperatures ranging from 20 to 60 degrees Celsius for three or 15 days. They found that any heat above 100 degrees Fahrenheit killed the cocoons in three days. This indicates that there is a limit to what temperature cocoons can survive.

Even if compost is sterilized properly, it could still get contaminated by cocoons after the heat treatment is done. (i.e. dirty equipment and other factors.) It is best to check potting soil, compost to make sure these invaders are not present.

What If You Find Jumping Worms in Your Landscape:

1. Don't despair ... take precautions to avoid spreading them. 'Arrive clean; leave clean'.
2. Report any findings to the UW Extension Office or DNR.
3. Remove and destroy the invaders. Seal them in a plastic bag.



Annual Plant Sale 2020

Date: Saturday, May 23

Location: Harbor Park, Kewaunee

Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Just what you are looking for ..

Annuals

Perennials

Heirloom Tomatoes

Herbs

Shrubs

Milkweed Seeds

Vines

Native Plants

Pollinator Plants

Succulents

Free Seed Packets

www.kcgardenclub.org

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