

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

May—June 2019

Vision Statement: *Providing the environment with beauty, sustainability, and stewardship through horticulture.*

Mission Statement: *It is the mission of the KCGC to support the horticultural efforts of the people and communities of the county with volunteer work, education, and example.*

Gardening Made Easy



Has gardening become a chore or you feel as though you need to cut back on the size of your garden? At some point you need to step back and take stock as to what is most important. Maybe you would like to change up your landscape in order for you to spend more time doing other hobbies and social events. Or, maybe you just would like to make some changes. Perhaps with all the rain we have been having, you now sport a 'Rain Garden' in your backyard. If not, this may be a solution.

If spending time watering and you are concerned about usage and the cost, how about considering 'drought-tolerant' plants? Drought-tolerant perennials thrive with little moisture once established. You can plant them quite a distance from your watering source, plus, they add color and interest in hard-to-plant dry areas or those with harsh sun.

When purchasing these plants look for fuzzy or waxy leaves as those plants tend to retain water better. Gray-blue or thick, fleshy foliage are also strong indicators of drought tolerance. Also, if leaves on a plant are very small, there is less surface for water to escape.

Some plants to consider:

Russian Sage: It's taproot grows deep into the soil, drawing up moisture as needed; it is pest free and grows well in clay soil. To keep the plant from flopping, plant it in full sun.

Shasta Daisy: They come in a wide variety of sizes and can go just about anywhere in the garden. Shorter varieties can be placed in the front of a border; taller varieties work well in the middle or back of a border area.

Globe Thistle: They are very easy to grow and can be planted anywhere as long as it gets full sun. It blooms from midsummer into fall; its flowers are a favorite for butterflies and hummingbirds. A plus ... the foliage is deer and rabbit resistant.

Coreopsis: These airy and showy flowers bloom until frost and are loved by butterflies. After the first flowering, cut back about one-third of the plant to promote more blooms and encourage the foliage to stay fresh and tidy.

Vinca: This is a hard worker in a garden. This vine keeps weeds down and can prevent soil erosion. The leathery evergreen foliage doesn't appeal to deer. This plant spreads quickly, cut back in early spring. If it becomes too vigorous, just pull up the stems ...they root wherever they touch soil.

Giant Feather Grass: Ornamental grasses add multi-season structure, height, and interest in the garden especially the giant feather grass. It has impressive size and unique blooms to draw attention, no matter where it is placed in a border. When the sun shines through the blooms it is very striking as well as when the breeze rustles through the stems.

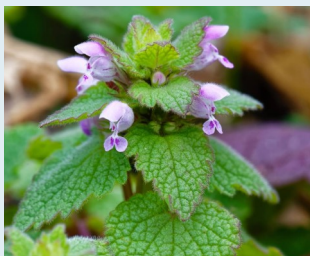
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Broad-Leaved Plantain

*My green thumb came only
as a result of the mistakes
I made while learning to
see things from the plant's
point of view.
-H. Fred Dale*



Purple Dead Nettle



Lambs' Quarters

Programs and Events 2019

- Tuesday, May 21** KCGC Meeting; 'Wood-Wide Web' - Joel Weichelt
7:00 p.m. City Hall, Kewaunee
- Saturday, May 25** Annual Plant Sale at Kewaunee Harbor Park
9:00 a.m.—Noon
- Tuesday, June 25** KCGC Meeting at The Plantscapers, Luxemburg
6:30 p.m. Tour: Eric Marcelle
- Tuesday, July 23** KCGC Meeting at Nancy Lamack's, 306 First Street
6:30 p.m. Garden Tour
- Tuesday, August 22** Dana Farm Clean-up with 4H-Group
- Tuesday, September 14** 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
TBD

4 Weeds to Know

Broad-Leaved Plantain—to ease pain from a minor cut or sting, apply crushed leaves of this plant to the wound for relief. If they are a pest in your lawn just dig it out of the ground roots and all.

Dandelion—The seeds ripen just in time to nourish goldfinches and indigo buntings during their spring migration. The greens are great in salads and taste similar to arugula.

Purple Dead Nettle—This plant does not have painful, stinging hairs. Yank it out in one big handful so that you don't have millions the following year.

Lambs' Quarters—Birds snack on its seeds all winter. It can be used safely in small amounts in salads. Pull out plants if you want them out of your yard.

Kewaunee County Garden Club



2019 Plant Sale

Date: Saturday, May 25

Location: Harbor Park by the Gazebo, Kewaunee

Time: 9:00 a.m.—Noon



- Annuals
- Perennials
- Heirloom Tomatoes
- Herbs
- Shrubs
- Asparagus
- Milkweed Seeds
- Vines
- Native Plants
- Pollinator Plants
- Fairy Garden Plants/Fairies

FREE Seed Packets

Some plants to share for the May 25 Plant Sale

4 Featured Plant Categories



Vines

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Morning Glories | Clematis |
| Black-eyed Susan Vine | Wisteria |
| Trumpet Vine | Climbing Hydrangea |
| Vinca | Sweet Pea Vine |
| Honeysuckle | Bittersweet |
-



Monarch Butterfly



Pollinators

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| Monarda | Catmint | Butterfly Weed |
| Lavender | Milkweed | Butterfly Bush |
| Russian Sage | Lantana | Sweet Alyssum |
| Zinnias | Yarrow | Pincushion Flower |
| Sunflower | Coneflower | Salvia |
| Aster | Cleome | Nasturtium |
-

Flowers . . . are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty out values all the utilities of the world.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



Fairy Garden Plants

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Weeping Fig | Peperomia |
| Polka-Dot Plant | Pansies |
| Mexican Heather | Lily-of-the Valley |
| Wood Sorrel | Fuschia Begonia |
| Thyme | Oxalis |
| Coleus | Irish Moss |
-

Native Plants and Shrubs

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| New England Aster | Coneflower |
| Monarda | Sedum |
| Lobelia | Tickseed |
| Columbine | Virginia Bluebells |
| Liatris | Wild Geranium |
| Ninebark | Viburnum |

Bee Balm





*"The garden is a love
song; a duet between a
human being and
Mother Nature.*

-Jeff Cox



May and June Gardening Tips

May brings an explosion of flowers with plums, cherries and flowering crabapples putting on a fabulous show that is quickly followed by fragrant lilacs and other beautiful trees and shrubs.

We as gardeners will be taking advantage of the longer days to complete a variety of yard and garden tasks. May can be very busy, but remember to make time for enjoying the beauty of the spring flowers, birds, and butterflies that appear along with warmer temperatures.

Tips:

1. Cut back dead tops of perennial flowers and any dead or broken branches in roses and other shrubs. Fertilize flowers and roses with a complete fertilizer that is low in nitrogen.
2. Mow the lawn any time the grass is 1 1/2 times its normal height.
3. Fill empty containers with good potting soil and create attractive arrangements for your yard, deck, or patio.
4. Prune spring flowering shrubs that have finished blooming. Older branches may be pruned to the ground; longer branches shortened, and any crossing and broken branches removed.
5. Remove spent blooms on tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowering bulbs. Leave the foliage as it is making food to replenish the bulb for next year.
6. Install plant supports for peonies, delphiniums, and other tall, floppy plants.
7. Clean and refill hummingbird and oriole feeders to attract these colorful birds to your backyard.
8. Mature asparagus plants need little care. It is the first vegetable of spring; it also is one of two perennial vegetables that lives for several years. The other is rhubarb! To keep this spring crop producing, pick tender, young spears continuously until the spears begin to get thin.
9. Protecting your plants is important, especially in places where June brings storms with hail and strong wind and rain. Use gallon milk jugs to protect transplanted seedlings and be sure to anchor them so they don't blow away.
10. Watering is critical especially during dry periods. Monitor the soil regularly and water accordingly. Water deeply planted veggies such as tomatoes to encourage early growth.
11. It is time to do some thinning of your plants. This is hard to do but is necessary for health of the plants. This will give plants room to facilitate quick growth and discourage pests and diseases.
12. If you have extra seeds, store them tightly in a closed glass jar. To help keep the seeds dry, fold up some milk powder inside a small square of paper towel and include in the jar.



Epsom Salt (*Organic Fertilizer*)

It provides magnesium and sulfur and is highly soluble making it easy to be absorbed by plant roots and leaves. The salt improves the plants ability to take up minerals like nitrogen, phosphorous, and sulfur. It is a natural deterrence for some garden pests. Slugs stay away from it as do voles, squirrels, and rodents. It is most useful on roses, tomatoes, and peppers. Spread it around a plant and work it into the soil in spring.

For summer applications, mix one tablespoon of Epsom salt in a gallon of water. Do not apply to plant foliage.

For tomatoes and peppers, mix one tablespoon of Epsom salt in a gallon of water, and water around the plant to help improve productivity. (**Special note:** another mineral that tomatoes need is calcium. Bury crushed egg shells around the soil and work in when planting tomatoes ... helpful to avoid blossom end rot.)

Flower Quiz

- Which flower has the smallest seeds?
a. tulip b. daffodil c. orchid d. sweet pea
- What flower bulb can be used in place of onions in cooking?
a. freesia b. tulip c. dahlia d. gladiolus
- This flower gets its name from a story about young lovers separated by the sea.
a. rose b. forget-me-not c. lily d. sweet William
- A pretty little flower that shares its name with a musical instrument.
a. drumflower b. flutewood c. harp flower d. viola
- A Rose is related to a well-known pie ingredient. What is it?
a. pumpkin b. blackberries c. rhubarb d. cloves
- What is the state flower of Wisconsin?
a. wood violet b. trillium c. buttercup d. wild geranium
- What part of a flower is the corolla?
a. stem b. stamen c. petals d. pistil
- Where are more than 60% of the USA cut flowers grown?
a. Florida b. Texas c. Georgia d. California
- If a bride chooses pink roses for her bouquet, what message is she conveying?
a. grace/joy b. modesty c. unity d. innocence/purity
- Which is the biggest flower in the world?
a. lily b. rafflesia c. rose d. petunia



Spread coffee grounds around acid-loving plants to boost plant growth, increase soil nutritional value, better the soil texture and fertility, and aids in attracting earthworms.

Acid-lovers:
marigolds, roses, azaleas, gardenias, ferns, rhododendrons, tomatoes, blueberries, and lily-of-the valley