



Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

November-December 2025

Gardening 2025

Now that our garden growing season is done, pour yourself a cup of coffee, pull up a chair, and reflect on the garden season 2025.

Common complaints ... the plants took forever to grow ... everything was behind! My garden doesn't reflect the work I put into it! **Gardeners tried to pinpoint what was to blame:** extremely hot temperatures, windy conditions, critters, humidity, and Canadian fires.

1. **Tomatoes** were very sparse this year, including the heirlooms, cherry, etc. Either the green tomatoes fell off the vine before maturing or leaves had signs of early blight. Even if they had a prayer of a chance to ripen, blossom rot was a problem. Some complained that deer ate their ripened tomatoes. The tomato plant put out tons of flowers even after pruning several times. Still did not help the maturing fruit below.
2. **Pollination issues** were prevalent in the garden. Zucchini, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, peas, and beans in particular were cited as not being pollinated. Some said the heat was too much for the bees to do their work. Even the nights didn't cool down as usual. Some went about hand pollinating their plants. The yield was far from the bumper crops in previous years.
3. **Pests, Diseases, and Critters on and around the plants.** Leaves were eaten by aphids, beetles, worms, ... you name it! Fungal diseases especially on squashes and some flowers. One complaint was 'I have squirrels and they are everywhere'. Raccoons and deer were problematic.
4. **Japanese Beetles:** They seemed to love some of the roses but didn't bother others. Managed to pick them off and drop them in soapy water.

*'Autumn
is a
second
spring
when
every
leaf
is a
flower'*



Ag Heritage Days

September 2025



Photos Submitted by Jean Rankin and Shirley Nell

Programs and Events

Monday, November 24—'Amaryllis Bulb' - Growing in Water
Jean Rankin, Barb Smith, and Barb Thompson
Kewaunee County Highway Department at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9—Christmas Party at Northbrook Golf and Grill
Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. **Dinner:** 7:00 p.m.
Sign up Deadline: November 24th

2026

Tuesday, January 27—'Bugs' - Barbara Piechocki

Saturday, February 14—Home and Garden Expo, Madison

Tuesday, February 24—'Year in the Life of Tomatoes' with Tom Zenner

Tuesday, March 24—Review of Garden Expo

Tuesday, April 21—Meeting with HCE—'Native Plants' with Marie Otto
KC Highway Department at 6:30 p.m.

'Thankful' Decorations 2025

Welcome friends, family, and guests with a **'harvest' wreath**. Collect pinecones, twigs, leaves, fall flowers, cornhusks and attach to a grapevine wreath form. Add a string of LED battery operated lights to the wreath for a stunning front door decoration.

Mums and Squashes make a colorful outdoor decoration for your front entry. Or, put an array of gourds, pumpkins, different squashes (*colors and sizes*) in a wire basket alongside mums or other fall arrangements to welcome visitors.

If you have a large front entry, place mums, pumpkins, gourds, vines of berries, colorful leaves, and dried hydrangea heads in a **wheelbarrow**. Don't forget to add LED battery operated lights.



Mary Novak

with her Prize

Butternut Squash

4 lbs. 14 oz.

Delicious Butternut Squash Dishes

- Creamy Soup
 - Risotto
 - Roasted
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Squash pizza
- Stuffed Butternut Squash Boats
 - Squash Tots
- Butter Squash and Apple Bake

Too many to eat ...

How about doing some craft projects!

Butternut Squash Centerpieces:

Select a squash with a flat bottom. Paint faces, flowers, or some appropriate images for a special occasion on the squash. Place a crown of sage or other herbs or flowers, fresh or fake at the top of the squash.

Hanging Basket for your Front Door. Place squash and gourds in the basket. You may need to hot glue them to the base or to each other so they do not fall out of the basket. Decorate with bittersweet or other fall vines. Hang on your outside front door for everyone to enjoy!

Squash Vase. Cut off the squash top. Use an ice cream or melon ball scoop to hollow out the squash. Add water and flowers. Or, just add fake flowers, pine cones, and vines.

Squash Candle: Cut off the top as far down as you want the base of the candle. Hollow out the flesh and seeds. Add liquid wax, candle wick (*hold in place with popsicle sticks*). Let wax set and you have a squash candle for your decorations.



November Word Find



November

Gratitude

Family

Fireplace

Scarf

Feast

Autumn

Pumpkin

Leaves

Acorn

Thankful

Frost

Harvest

Cranberry

Cozy

Gather

Turkey

Log

Dana Farm Gardening

The fall Dana Farm cleanup took place on Tuesday, October 7th. A lot of weeds and debris were extracted from the gardens.



In 2026, to help spread out clean-up, it was suggested to have gardening 'clean-up' sessions in June ... July ... August. This will make cleanup go much quicker with a lot less aching backs!



Photos Submitted by Tom Zenner

Poinsettia Day ... December 12, 2025



Congress created National Poinsettia Day in 2002

The House passed a measure recognizing National Poinsettia Day and the contributions of Paul Ecke, the founder of America's poinsettia industry.

Paul was a farmer in California and became the father of the modern-day poinsettia industry. He is celebrated for discovering a grafting technique which caused the seedlings to branch. Eventually, the flower bloomed into one of the largest and most profitable American businesses.

Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Poinsett was also an enthusiastic botanist who sent poinsettia cuttings home to Charleston, SC in 1828. When the plant first arrived, early botanists considered it to be a weed. National Poinsettia Day marks the passing of Joel and pays tribute to his love of a spectacular flower.

Poinsettias are revered in Mexico because of a legend that recounts the story of a poor little girl who despaired of having no gift for Jesus' birthday. When an angel appears to tell the child that the most important thing is to give a gift with love, the child gathers weeds from the side of the road to place in the baby's manger. Miraculously, the weeds bloomed into gorgeous red star flowers.

Poinsettias adorn homes as well as businesses during the holiday season. There are a plethora of poinsettia colors to choose from to complement your décor.

Make a Poinsettia Punch using cranberry juice (14 oz.) and ginger ale (20 oz.) and a dash of lemon juice. A great way to celebrate National Poinsettia Day !

May Your Holidays Bloom with Joy!

Merry Christmas!

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Officers:

President: Tom Zenner

Vice President: Cheryl Eberle

Secretary: Sue Hepp

Treasurer: Ann Brunner

Marketing Committee:

Tom Zenner

Barb Smith

Cheryl Eberle

Nancy Lamack

Joel Weichelt

<https://www.kcgardenclub.org/>

Gardener Presentations ...Thanks!

Since January there have been some pretty awesome presentations.

January - Warren Hingst presented 'Late Blooming Perennials'

February—'Invasive Plants' with Sue Hingst and Barbara Piechocki

March—'Growing Bulbs in Water' - Jean Rankin

April—'Climate Change and Gardening' - joint meeting with HCE

May—'Bugs' has been rescheduled for 2026 with Barbara Piechocki

June—'History of Photosynthesis' with Joel Weichelt

July—Mary Ouradnik Garden Tour, Casco

August—Irrigation System at Kathy Pederson's home, Kewaunee

September—'Leaves' ... they are not in Vein with Sue Hepp

October—Freeze-Dried Cherries, Honeycrisp Apples, and Cheese Curds—Dawn Krueger

November—will be growing Amaryllis bulbs in water with Jean Rankin, Barb Smith, and Barb Thompson.

Hope