

# Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter

September-October 2025

## Another Invasive Beetle?

Just when you thought everything was under control ... another warning about an invasive insect. The **Asian Longhorned Beetle** (*ALB*) is a wood-boring beetle that will decimate hardwood trees, especially maple. They also attack birch, elm, buckeye, and willow trees. The beetle sometimes will attack ash, mountain ash, or poplar trees.

In its larva stage, the invasive insect feeds deep inside tree trunks and branches, feeding on the living tissues that carry nutrients. It creates tunnels as it feeds. As an adult, the beetle chews its way out, creating 3/4" round exit holes. Once the beetle exits a tree, it feeds on its leaves and bark before mating, laying eggs, and starting another generation of tree-killing beetles. Infested trees cannot heal from the damage caused by this beetle.



**Now is the time to check trees for this beetle and any damages they have caused.**

### **These are signs that a tree might be infested:**

- Round exit holes in tree trunks and branches.
- Egg sites, or chewed spots, on the bark about the size of a dime with sap oozing out.
- Sawdust on the tree, ground or branches.
- Branches or limbs dying or falling from an otherwise healthy tree. (*safety hazard*)

### **The Asian Longhorned Beetle is easy to identify:**

- ◆ It has a shiny, black body with white spots.
- ◆ Its body is about 1" to 1 1/2" long.
- ◆ Its black and white antennae are longer than its body.
- ◆ Its six legs and feet appear to be bluish.

You can help by checking trees on your property, report any findings to the Asian Longhorned Beetle website, and reduce the spread of the infestation by not moving woody material and untreated firewood from your property.

## Programs and Events

**Tuesday, September 23**– ‘Leaves’ - “Are Not in Vein” - Sue Hepp  
1005 Washington Street, Algoma at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, October 28** – ‘Freeze Dried Cherries’ –  
Dawn Krueger – TBD

**Tuesday, November 25** – ‘Amarylis – *Growing in Water*’  
Jean Rankin, Barb Smith, and Barb Thompson  
KC Highway Department at 6:30 p.m.

**Note:** *If you have a vase you would like to use, bring it otherwise, one will be provided.)*

**Tuesday, December 9** – Christmas Party - Location TBD

**2026**

**Tuesday, January 27** – ‘Bugs’ - Barbara Piechocki TBD

**Tuesday, February 24**—Tom will have a presentation TBD



## Autumn Garden Soup

### Ingredients:

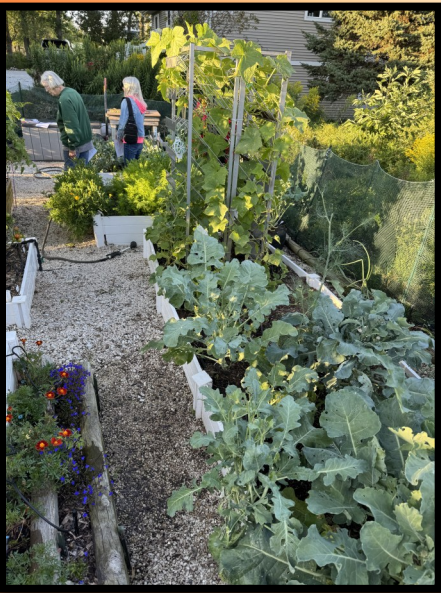
1 ham bone  
1/4 C. chopped salt pork  
1 clove garlic  
Parsley (*several sprigs*)  
2 onions, chopped  
4 carrots, peeled and diced  
1/2 C. navy beans  
4 large tomatoes  
Fresh spinach or other greens,  
trimmed and chopped  
Handful of celery leaves  
1 C. squash or pumpkin, cooked and  
mashed  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Grated cheese (*garnish*)

### Directions:

1. Put ham bone into a large stockpot, cover with water. Simmer over medium heat for 1 hour.
2. In frying pan, cook salt pork until fat is released. Add garlic, parsley, onions, and carrots; cook lightly, without browning.
3. Remove ham bone from stockpot, skim any fat from the stock. Cut any meat from the ham bone and return them to the stockpot.
4. Add onion and carrot mixture to ham broth, simmer for 1 hour.
5. Add beans, herbs, tomatoes, greens, celery leaves, and squash. Simmer for 30 minutes.
6. Season with salt and pepper.
7. Serve hot with a sprinkling of grated cheese.



**Pederson Irrigation System Presentation  
August 26, 2025**



## Mums are Autumns Natural Color

Now that we have cooler temperatures with a bit of nip in the air, it is time to let the colorful mums shine! When the days start getting shorter and the nights longer, the mums set buds and bloom. We are seeing garden centers with every color of mums, except blue. If you don't already have mums in the garden, they are very easy to grow and maintain. Mums are suited for gardens as a border plant or companion to a blooming hydrangea, fountain grass, or simply, placed in containers. As you can see, they are a very versatile, colorful plant.

It is best to plant the smaller mums in spring to ensure that roots have time to spread and survive. However, if planting them in fall it is advised to heavily mulch the crown over the winter months. If the winter is anything like the warm/cold spells of the last couple years, they may not survive. In any case, the mums will give color and many cuttings for your fall bouquets.

Garden mums will survive without fertilizing; however, giving them a time-release fertilizer every spring will give more flowers and stronger stems. Mums do not tolerate drought; keep them moist and they will reward a gardener with much more colorful flowers and a robust plant.

To keep mums short for the front of a garden plot, cut off an inch or so of each stem in late spring or early summer. By doing this until mid-July, mum plants will remain shorter and will produce more flowers.

## Autumn Containers

When your veggie or flower garden are getting to the end of the season, it may be time to bring out those plant containers. Or, if existing flower containers are showing signs of despair, maybe it is time to resurrect them to 'dress up' your fall landscape. There are lots of possibilities ... start from scratch or remove spent, dried plants from existing planters.

If a container has existing fountain grass and sweet potato vines, you are well on the way to creating a fall arrangement for the entry. Possibilities: add ornamental kale, mum plant, pumpkin, or gourds. Or, add all for an amazing arrangement!

Fountain grass as a centerpiece surrounded by million bells or petunias in a planter is very striking. Especially if the bells or petunias are a complimentary color of the fountain grass.

Coleus is another eye pleaser as well as large, sunflower heads amongst fountain grass or other grasses in a container. Don't discount ornamental peppers, salvia, or impatiens to add color. They all are worth their while.



## Asian Longhorned TICK!

These ticks are light brown in color and are smaller than a sesame seed. They are difficult to detect because of their small size and quick movement. The adult female is only about the size of a pea when it is full of blood. Males are rare as the female ticks can reproduce without a male between 1,000—2,000 eggs at a time. It only takes a single tick to create a population in a new location.

Tick exposure can occur year-round, but ticks are most active during the warmer months. Ticks are found in the garden, walking a dog, camping, pastures, in tall grass, or hunting. Always check your clothing and body after coming indoors. Check pets and other animals carefully.

Ticks should be removed immediately using a fine-tipped tweezers, a foil-covered gum wrappers, or plastic sandwich bag. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist the tick which could cause the mouthparts to remain increasing the risk of infection. Place the tick in a zip-top bag and seal it and give to doctor, or vet, for examination.

After removing the tick, wash the area with soap and water. Disinfect the bite with a topical antiseptic.



## Tomato Harvest

Gardeners are lamenting that their tomatoes are slow to ripen or not ripening at all. The culprit may be the hot temperature or the plant is focusing too much energy on producing fruits and foliage. Tomatoes will not ripen when it gets above 85°F or below 50°F.

To help ripen tomatoes, it is suggested to try removing tiny green tomatoes, flowers, remove suckers (*they suck energy from the plant*) and cut back foliage to force the plant to put energy into ripening mature fruit.

If all else fails, put the unripen tomatoes in a brown paper bag with a banana to ripen. Green tomatoes are tasty pickled! All that is needed ... some garlic, dill, vinegar (*white or apple cider*), sugar, salt, pepper and green tomatoes. Green tomatoes can also be grilled or fried. Fried tomato ingredients: eggs, milk, flour, corn meal, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, and hot oil. Enjoy!

**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.kegardenclub.org/>

## A 'Happy' Place

With so much negativity circling our planet, make your mealtime and family time happy by adding a lot of color from the garden. Your happy place, as gardeners, is the garden. Why not bring some of that 'happiness' indoors to share with your family at mealtime, or anytime.

Pick a bouquet of flowers for indoors or wherever you want to relax or have family time. Some ideas ...

- A vase of sunflowers and green vines will make your home cheery.
- A bouquet of roses will fill your home with a beautiful fragrance and color.
- Daisies won't tell if you have secrets; they put a smile on your face!
- Dainty flowers, such as coreopsis, will help one relax.



### Mealtime:

This is a great time to harvest various vegetables with a palate of color. Instead of heating up the oven, spend time grilling colorful veggies.

Carrots, broccoli, onion, peppers, beets, potatoes, and squash make a great combination for grilling. Either use a grilling basket or a double layer of foil to hold veggies. If using foil, consider adding a sauce over the veggies, wrap veggies securely and place foil wrapped veggies on grill. Timing depends on the veggie size, veggie amount, and how you prefer the veggies done. The combination of veggie colors and flavor will draw everyone to the table. Don't forget to add a nasturtium flower or rosemary sprig for garnish. The grilled veggies will make for a happy table, tummy, and time!