

November-December 2020

Kewaunee County Garden Club Newsletter



Lessons from the Garden

There is so much that our gardens tell us if we only take the time and energy to look, listen, and reflect. The year 2020 certainly has given us many opportunities to do just that. With the virus being so rampant, the economy has taken its toll on many families. This gave gardeners an opportunity to help the food pantries in Kewaunee County by supplying vegetables grown in the plots or raised beds in the community gardens. This definitely is a lesson of giving and sharing.

Our gardens contain annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs, bulbs, etc. Even if we don't have a true garden space there are many opportunities to have roof top gardens, or containers with beautiful flowers or vegetables, patio gardens, or make use of the community garden plots or raised beds. It is truly amazing the diversity of color, species, and fragrances that are planted in such gardens. There are no racial issues among the flowers; they all flow and thrive harmoniously in the summer breezes. This is a lesson of working together even though we have different cultures, color, beliefs, or ideals.

From time-to-time we come across some very aggressive plants that show their true colors by taking over the garden. We all have experienced this in our garden and life. In the garden, we can easily control it; not so much in life. A lesson here is to control what you can and let go of the uncontrollable things in the garden and life.

Other lessons we have learned while gardening; composting, crop rotation of vegetables, and more importantly, sustainability. Building the soil and planting wisely will preserve our land for generations to come. We as gardeners are stewards of the land.!



Inside this issue

Programs	
Garden Edge	2
Autumn Chores.....	3
The Chrysanthemum Give Thanks	4
Sedum Word Search... Apple Day	5
Poinsettia Day.....	6
Merry Christmas	7
Holiday Trivia Reminders.....	8

Always Keep Looking, Listening, and Learning from the Garden!



November-December Programs

Tuesday, November 24 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
'Garden Pests' - Joel Weichelt

Tuesday, December 8 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
'Virtual Christmas Party'

Tuesday, November 10: 'National Forget-Me-Not' Day!

(Get in touch with family, friends, and loved ones that you haven't seen in a while.)

Signs You Have Gone Over the Garden Edge ...

Your favorite poem is 'Roses are Red, Violets are Blue.'

Your kids are named Rose, Violet, Daisy, and Zucchini.

You have an 8" x 10" family photo of your 'tomato crop' on the shelf.

Your idea of a Saturday date night is going out into the garden and hand pollinating flowers!

You use a trowel to slice vegetables!

You think a cocktail is liquid fertilizer.

You rush home and go straight to the garden and hug your flowers.

On Christmas Eve, visions of 'Sugar Peas' dance in your head.

After the first frost, you are seen holding funeral services in your garden.

You sleep walk into your garden to check if everything is okay.

You use your multiple vitamins as supplements in your garden.

Every spring your family files a Missing Person's report. You remain missing all summer, and mysteriously re-appear in the fall.

Autumn Chores

Fallen **Autumn** leaves from healthy trees can provide valuable mulch, with the return of nutrients to the tree as the leaves slowly decompose. If you don't like the look, you can add the leaves to the compost pile and later spread the compost under the tree. Diseased leaves should be put out with yard waste recycling to avoid spreading disease in your garden.

Trim woody or overgrown perennials. Remove plant debris that allows insects and diseases to overwinter and then reproduce.

Bone Meal has traditionally been used as a phosphorus source for flower bulbs, but you may want to reconsider if your soil is healthy. You may not need it and you may be better off with a balanced fertilizer designed for bulbs, or even nothing at all. The nutrient content of commercial bone meal is lower than in the past due to the cleaning process and the bone smell may attract raccoons or dogs to dig up the bulbs.

Plant individual cloves of **garlic** and they will grow into full heads by next spring. Choose the largest cloves and leave the natural papery wrappers on them. (not store bought garlic cloves) Plant them in moist, well-drained soil in a sunny location with the pointy tips up, about one inch deep. Space cloves about four inches apart to leave room for large heads to develop.

Add a couple inches of compost or manure on top of your beds any time before the ground freezes. Then add a light layer of straw or mulch to prevent soil erosion, nutrient leaching, and weed development.

Empty all your outdoor containers to keep them from cracking during the winter. Store them upside down in your shed or garage.

Hang a bucket over a hook in the shed or garage and use it to store hose nozzles and sprinkler attachments.

Drain the fuel tank on your lawn mower or any other power equipment. Consult the owner's manual for other winter maintenance.

Scrub down, oil, and put away your garden tools.

Cover your compost pile with plastic or a thick layer of straw before snow falls.



The Chrysanthemum

Since the chrysanthemum was first introduced into the United States during colonial times, its popularity has grown such that mums now reign as undisputed “Queen of the Fall Flowers.”

Mums remain the most widely grown potted plant in the country and are one of the longest lasting cut flowers. In the United States, the chrysanthemum is the largest commercially produced flower due to its ease of cultivation, capability to bloom on schedule, diversity of bloom forms and colors, and holding quality of the blooms.

Now that the gardening season and fall cleanup have been accomplished, how about some mind exercises to fill your time. See just how many words you can come up with from ‘the chrysanthemum’. My husband and I stopped at 180



Give Thanks!

Thinking about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, many things come to mind. This year will be very different from previous celebrations. Many of you will be blessed with small family gatherings being careful about social distancing and wearing masks. This certainly is not what any of us expected 2020 would look like. However, we do have much to be thankful for in spite of everything. We have a roof over our heads, heat, ample food, and a bed to sleep in. There are so many people in this country who are homeless. First, let us show gratitude for what we are blessed with. Second, show gratitude by sharing what you have to those less fortunate.

With an abundance of wonderful summer days with the right amount of rain and sunshine, the vegetable garden really produced this year. Such a blessing! Perhaps you planted herbs to enhance or garnish your holiday dishes. Or maybe those vegetables will adorn your Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner this year. Some of the versatile vegetables that come to mind are carrots, green beans, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, and broccoli just to name a few. They can be cooked, baked, used in salads, roasted, used in soups, raw, or in combination.

For all gardeners, Thanksgiving truly is a celebration of the harvest season. Some of the magic of the holidays lies in the food we celebrate.

‘Thanksgiving comes to us out of the prehistoric dimness, universal to all ages and all faiths. At whatever straws we must grasp, there is always a time for gratitude and new beginnings.’

-J. Robert Moskin

Sedum Word Search

Angelina
Autumn Joy
Brilliant
Bronze Carpet

Chocolate Drop
Garnet Brocade
Matrona
Meteor

Neon
Postmans Pride
Purple Emperor
Rosy Glow

Stardust
Thundercloud
Vera Jameson





Tuesday, December 1 is 'Red Apple Day'

The science of growing apples is called 'pomology'. Apples date back to the Garden of Eden. The Bible tells us it was the 'Forbidden fruit'. Choose a juicy piece of the 'Forbidden fruit' and have a happy *Eat a Red Apple Day*.



National Poinsettia Day

is always celebrated on December 12. This year it falls on Saturday.

The poinsettia is well-recognized as a symbol of Christmas. Poinsettia Day was officially declared by an Act of Congress. It is in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, who died on December 12, 1851. Poinsett was the first Ambassador to Mexico. Poinsett brought this colorful plant back to his plantation in the U.S.A. He grew the plants in his Greenville, SC plantation and gave them out as gifts to friends.

According to Mexican folklore, there is a story of a little poor girl who had nothing to bring to church for Christmas. On her way to church, she picked some plants by the side of the road. As she entered the church, the leaves at the tips of the branches turned into bright, brilliant red flowers ... Poinsettias.



Happy New Year!

Holiday Trivia



Christmas cactus, poinsettias, cyclamen, kalanchoes, amaryllis, holly berries, and mistletoe all are poisonous. Different parts of each plant may be toxic.

Poinsettias are a tropical plant so they do best in a warm sunny place in your home. The soil can easily dry out; make sure to check the soil moisture regularly.

The showy red **Amaryllis** is a great bulb for growing indoors. Choose a pot just slightly larger than the bulb. Plant it in loose potting soil with a third of the bulb sticking up above the soil surface. Keep moist, but not so wet as to rot the bulb.

Christmas Cactus are easy to grow and propagate. Keep them pot-bound in sandy soil. Only water when the soil is completely dry. They like humidity and temperatures above 70 degrees/day; 55 to 65/night.

Kewaunee County Garden Club

www.kcgardenclub.org/

Officers:

Tom Zenner, President

Cheryl Eberle, V. President

Ann Brunner, Treasurer

Sue Hepp, Secretary

Marketing Committee:

Mary Novak

Nancy Lamack

Barb Smith

Joel Weichelt

Tom Zenner

Reminders:

WIMGA Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

Register ahead to confirm receiving an invite to the meeting.

Master Gardener Hours:

Due Date is December 31, 2020

Link: <https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/menu-mg/>

Healthful Gardening Series with Melinda Myers

Get a head start on your continuing education requirements!

November 11—Brighten Dreary Winter Days by Forcing Bulbs into Bloom

November 18—Growing Holiday Plants to Brighten Your Home & Relieve Stress

January 13—Improve Your Indoor Environment with Houseplants Tips for Indoor Gardening Success

January 20—Growing Flavorful and Nutritional Herbs Indoors

February 17—Growing Nutritious and Flavorful Edibles Indoors

February 24—Low Maintenance Gardening for Loads of Beauty & Health Benefits