

# North Country Gardeners

Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Co.

UW-Extension

Issue 5 , August 2000

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**University of Wisconsin-Extension**

**Area Agricultural Agents Office**

**Spooner Ag Research Station**

**W6646 Highway 70**

**Spooner, Wisconsin 54801**

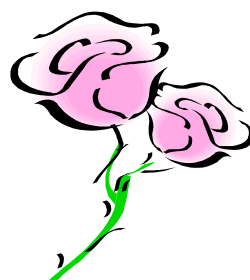
**(715) 635-3506 or**

**Toll Free 800-528-1914**

## Greetings

I hope every one is enjoying the gardening season so far. Things got off to a slow start with the cooler wet weather in May and June; hopefully we will finish the summer with some good heat units to keep things maturing before our fall frost. Our average fall frost at Spooner is September 23. Weather data from Spooner indicates a 90% frost occurrence October 3, and a 10% frost occurrence September 1. These dates will vary of course depending on your location and the micro-climate for your plants.

Summer is an especially busy time. I know a number of Master Gardeners who are volunteering in various projects. Remember to jot down your hours and what the project was so that you get credit for it. I'm impressed every year by the hundreds of hours master gardeners volunteer. Keep up the good work! It's county fair season again, don't be afraid to volunteer your horticulture talents helping with 4-H projects, fair displays, or even judging. There isn't a fair board committee around that would turn down your help. Enjoy your gardens and helping others.



Happy Gardening,

Kevin Schoessow  
Area Ag Development Agent

## Twilight Garden Tour on August 24

The annual twilight garden tour is schedule for Thursday, August 24 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Spooner Ag Research Station Display Garden. As in the past, this event will allow area gardeners a chance to view some of the different flower and vegetable varieties suitable for northwestern Wisconsin. Horticulture Specialists Dr. Bob Tomesh and Dr. Helen Harrison will be guest speakers and will be available to help answer your horticulture questions. In addition to admiring and learning about this year's varieties, we will attempt a tasting of some of the produce in the garden.

The display garden has been organized and maintained again this year by several local Master Gardeners. In addition to the vegetable and flower garden, there is the shrub rose variety trail and several perennial landscape plants and fruits for your viewing. We also have a demonstration on control options for Colorado potato beetle and an early tomato variety evaluation. Come out and see what's growing and enjoy an evening talking and meeting with fellow gardeners.

The display garden is located on Orchard Lane across from the Sheep Research facility. Orchard Lane is approximately one mile east of Spooner on Highway 70, just before the Historical Marker Park and the Yellow River bridge. Watch for garden tour signs.

## Help needed for Veterans Memorial Gardens

Reba Eslinger  
Master Gardener

As all of you probably already know, the date for the dedication of the new National Veterans Cemetery, which is located about three miles south of Spooner, has changed. As it stands now, the burials will start in November 2000, and the official dedication is scheduled for May 2001. With that in mind, the Spooner Garden Club has also changed their plans for the Veterans Memorial Gardens.

I spoke to the engineer at the site on Monday, July 10. There is a delay right now with getting the bell tower in place. That is supposed to be donated by the Amvets, but I don't know where the problem is. After the bell tower is in place, the columnbarium will have to be completed and the grounds will have to be graded, leveled, and prepared. Only after these things are done can the Spooner Garden Club start on the gardens. According to the engineer, it looks like it may be in late September.

Merle Klug, Spooner Garden Club President, is in charge of the plans. The plants have been purchased, and supplies such as topsoil, landscape fabric, etc. are ready to be used. As soon as we get approval, we will start preparing the bed and planting it. At that time, we will need lots of able bodies to help spread the soil, lay the landscaping fabric, set the wood and bark, and finally plant the plants. It will be a good time for many Master Gardeners to get their volunteer hours in. If you are willing to help, please contact Merle Klug (635-6239) or Reba Eslinger (635-8946). We will put your name and phone number on the list and will call you when help is needed. We hope to get everything done this fall, so next May we will have a lovely garden for the dedication. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Wisconsin's Northwest Heritage Passage seeks producers

Kevin Schoessow  
Area Ag Development Agent

*Celebrating our heritage and showcasing regional products that are handmade and homegrown.* That is the motto behind Wisconsin's Northwest Heritage Passage. In an effort to showcase regional handmade and homegrown products, a group of promoters are in the process of developing a brochure/map and book promoting the past and present culture of the region. It will guide travelers along the Highway 63 corridor and into the countryside, through small towns and down scenic byways to historic points of interest--artisans' studios, craft shops, galleries, **farmers' markets and farmsteads offering direct sale of produce and other goods.**

The intent is to generate year-round environment-friendly tourism and local awareness to promote economic development and to revitalize rural northwestern Wisconsin. The Inventory Work Group of Northwest Heritage Passage is currently looking for producers who offer direct sale of farm products, such as meats, vegetables, homemade jams and jellies, dried flowers, herbs, etc., or farmstead bed and breakfasts or farms that provide sleigh rides or farm tours. Again, the idea is to put together a listing of prospective niche agricultural businesses that can be featured in a regional map which will be distributed to target audiences and put on display at tourist information locations.

If you offer direct sale of produce or other handmade or homegrown goods and services and would like to be part of Wisconsin's Northwest Heritage Passage or simply would like more information about this sustainable development initiative, please contact Kevin Schoessow at 635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914.

## Calendar of Events

**July 28, 2000** Munsinger Garden Field trip.\*

**July 27-30, 2000** Washburn County Fair, Spooner.

**August 3-6, 2000** Sawyer County Fair, Hayward.

**August 10, 2000** 11th Annual Burnett County Garden Tour.\*

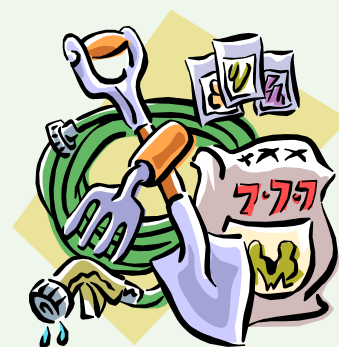
**August 24, 2000** Twilight Garden Tour, Spooner Ag Research Station, 5:30 p.m. - dusk.

**August 24-22, 2000** Burnett County Fair, Grantsburg.

**August 30, 2000** Hybrid Poplar Field Day, Spooner Ag Research Station.

**November 7, 2000** Grape Pruning Workshop, Spooner Ag Research Station, 3:30 p.m.

\* Sponsored by the Burnett County Garden Club. Call Kris Henning for details (715) 463-5247.



**Public Radio Garden Show,**  
Friday mornings 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 88.3 on your FM radio dial.

## Horticulture update

*Lee Daniels*

*UWEX Summer Horticulture Assistant*

With all the wet weather that we've been having, watch for bacterial diseases in beans, tomatoes, and peppers; angular leaf spot in cucumbers, squash, and pumpkins; and black rot in cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. Also, as tomatoes are starting to fruit, start watching for early blight and septoria leaf spot if you haven't seen it already.

A rule-of-thumb to keep in mind this year and in future years is that when chicory (the common native weed) starts to bloom, that is when squash vine borer adults are going to be out and about. This is the optimum time for control.

We are also seeing some fire blight in apple trees around the state. This is especially true in cases where trees have been damaged by past hail or wind storms. Other fruit tree diseases to watch for are apple scab and cedar rust.

I'm mentioning all these diseases or insect pests not to get everyone worried, but to alert everyone to watch for them. In many cases, the earlier a problem is discovered, the easier it is to solve. Often times, when a problem is discovered early, it can be solved or reduced by cultural controls (such as cleaning out diseased material, etc.) or biological controls. If you have questions on identifying plant diseases, insects, or control of either, remember you can call Lee or Kevin (635-3506 or 800-528-1914) or check with your local County Extension Office for a publication on the subject. There are publications available covering nearly all of the common horticultural problems or plants.

One final note: we are seeing quite a bit of unwanted herbicide damage in tomatoes, spruce trees, and other plants due to drift. Please follow all directions on labels carefully for precautions, rates, etc. This includes "Weed & Feed" applications for lawns. Problems can and do occur when directions on labels are not followed properly.



Master Gardener Ed Jacobsen of Webster learns how to plant roses from Dr. Laura Jull of UW-Madison.

## Gardener Profile: Get to know your fellow gardeners

### *Mary Anne Hable, Burnett County Master Gardener*

I was born and raised in zone Five. I took gardening as a 4-H project and turned up with the weediest garden in Walworth County. My interest in gardening began while I spent my adult life living between zones 7 - 10. I learned a lot living in the tropics. I had walls surrounding my home with four different colors of bougainvillea and a Flame tree in my front yard. I once planted my own pineapple, had enough frangi pangi flowers to make leis, orchids in a rubber tree, mango, banana, and Poinsettia trees. I couldn't get my American marigold seeds to germinate but the Hibiscus grew rapidly by simply putting cuttings in the ground.

My husband retired and we moved to Siren in 1996. My interest in gardening moved with me but not those lovely rhododendron and azaleas which had grown so big, nor the two Dogwood trees and four holly bushes that helped me decorate my home over the Christmas holidays in zone seven. I did bring along to Wisconsin two potted Nandina bushes. Their red berries always looked so nice in my windows.

The Nandina bushes died this year! I wasn't too sad because I have learned so much about zone 3 gardening. I think of myself in zone 3b rather than just zone 3 and I fantasize about the warmer micro-climates surrounding my home where the only deer are those belonging to Santa. How did I learn about micro-climates and what grows here? I read a lot and I have become a very active member of the Burnett Garden Club. The club offered me new friends (nice when you're new to an area), access to speakers and, best of all, frequent tours. We have an annual garden tour in August and we visit nurseries and other gardens. The club also plants and maintains different sites in Grantsburg such as the Welcome to Grantsburg/Crex Meadow sign. Back to the tours: We are doing a bus trip to Munsinger Gardens in St. Cloud. We're always looking for new people to join us on these adventures. Should you be interested you may call me at 715-653-2264.

Yes, I have the "gardening sickness" I have visited 13 different nurseries this spring, purchased from twelve of them and have visited some more than one time. I became a Master Gardener this year. Since moving to Siren, I have created flower beds, a fledging orchard, a fruit garden and a veggie/picking garden. I also have a slope near the house with 14 evergreen tree species. I haven't tackled the lakeshore as yet, but I did spend quite a bit of time helping with the Siren/Crooked Lake lakeshore planting. Did I mention the 18 Blue Spruce I planted before our basement was dug?

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## Shrub roses for the rose enthusiasts

*Kevin Schoessow*  
*Area Ag Development Agent*

Roses are perhaps one of the most treasured flowers in the garden. There are many kinds of roses: bush roses, which include the hybrid teas, tree, or standard roses; shrub roses; and climbing roses. All can be grown in Wisconsin; however, each rose type requires different care and maintenance. Winter protection is required for all roses except the hardy shrub roses. For this reason, hardy shrub roses are becoming more and more popular as gardeners lose patience with the less hardy hybrid teas, tree, or climbing roses.

Hardy shrub roses have been planted in gardens for centuries. There are many heirloom and wild species being grown as well as new and improved hybrids and cultivars. The new hybrids and cultivars come in all shapes, colors and sizes. Shrub roses usually have smaller flowers and petals than other types of roses, many shrub cultivars bear very attractive seed pods—fruits or hips. They have fine textured foliage and some are quite useful for hedges or screen planting.

But not all hardy shrub roses are created equal. Some cultivars are extremely winter hardy, some of the newer cultivars have good insect and disease tolerance, while others have superior ornamental value. So how does a gardener determine which hardy shrub rose is best for them? Most often gardeners base their variety selection on the information they get from the nursery, greenhouse or catalog they are purchasing from. Other times we seek advice from friends or fellow gardeners. On occasion gardeners seek variety information from independent sources such as horticultural societies, nonprofit groups or universities.

Universities obviously cannot research all the latest horticultural varieties but they

do provide unbiased information on quite a few of them. There are several extension publications available that list recommended cultivars. Some are updated more frequently than others, but the information in most cases will be relevant.

## Hardy shrub rose variety trial debuts at Spooner

*Kevin Schoessow*  
*Area Ag Development Agent*

In an attempt to help gardeners make informed decisions about which hardy shrub rose varieties perform best in Wisconsin a hardy shrub rose evaluation research project is currently under way. This project is coordinated by Dr. Laura Jull, UW-Extension Woody Ornamental Specialist. This evaluation includes 20 different cultivars planted at three different sites in Wisconsin (Madison, Green Bay and **Spooner**). The purpose of the evaluation research is to determine the best species of shrub roses that are hardy to Wisconsin (zone 3,4, and 5), pest resistant, and have superior ornamental value.

The evaluation began this summer and will last approximately three years. Rose plants will be evaluated for winter hardiness, amount of die back, powder mildew and black spot resistance, insects, height and width and form of plant, flower color, fragrance, frequency and duration of bloom, rose hips foliage color and growth rate. By the end of the project there should be some clear-cut scientific evidence which roses are indeed superior for Wisconsin growing conditions.

On June 7, 2000 Dr. Jull and a crew of horticulture assistants from Madison arrive at the Spooner Ag Research Station. With the help of several local Master Gardeners, 180 potted rose plants were planted and mulched by early afternoon. It was quite a site to see an open tilled plot of ground transformed into a beautiful field of roses. Since this is a research project, the 20 varieties of roses were randomly planted in the plot area

and each variety is replicated nine times. The data collected therefore should be statistically represented.

As part of the research proposal the roses will be fertilized with a slow release rose fertilizer on May 1 June 1 and July 1. Plants will be watered after fertilizing. Plants will not be watered unless they do not receive rainfall for a 20 day period. Weeds will be controlled by hand weeding and mulching, no herbicides will be applied. No pruning of shoots during the growing season will be needed. However, in early May, removal of dead wood and stems will be completed. Roses will be deadheaded on a weekly basis until early August to ensure a continuous flush of new rose flowers (Master Gardeners Ed Jacobsen and Sue Donatell are volunteering for this). There will be no dead-heading of roses in late summer as hip production will be compromised. No winter protection will be used. No pesticides will be applied to the shrub roses. Part of the study is to evaluate for disease tolerance and thus cannot be completed if roses are sprayed.

The 20 rose cultivars being evaluated are: Robusta, Carefree Beauty, Carefree Delight, Wisconsin Cheese, Serendipity, Marie-Victorin, Living Easy, Magic Meidiland, Kaleidoscope, Cambridge, Madison, Paloma Blanca, Flower Girl, Red Fairy, Betty Boop, Mix N Match, Baby Love, Knock-out, Fire Meidiland, and Mystic Meidiland.

Preliminary results are already showing some differences between varieties, especially their tolerance to black spot. There are also some striking differences in flower colors and shapes and plant growth.

If you are in the Spooner area during the week and would like to view the rose evaluation stop by the Spooner Ag Research Station headquarters on Hwy 70 and let us know. The garden fence is usually open during the day. Otherwise come check out the roses on August 24 when we have our Garden Twilight Meeting.

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## Brown Bag ETNs for 2000

**July 28 (Noon) Urban Forestry.** Bob Tomesh and others will discuss urban forestry planning and tree maintenance and other issues of trees and parks and residential areas.

**August 25 (Noon) The Diverse Selection in Potato Varieties and Their Uses.** Bob Tomesh will cover the popular, new, and colorful potatoes to grow in your garden or purchase at the market.

**September 29 (Noon) Managing Your Soil for Optimum Plant Productivity.** Bob Tomesh will discuss organic soil building and maintenance to get plants growing their best without leaching or runoff.

**October 27 (Noon) Native Plant Restoration: Sources and Implementation.** Bob Tomesh will discuss landscape planning and methods to restore native plants into your landscape.

## WI Gardener TV Programs for 2000

*On WI Public TV (check local listing to confirm date and time).*

**July 30 (5:30 p.m.) The Summer Garden.** Take a look at daylilies and summer blooming trees and shrubs, see how to divide irises, and learn how hot, humid summer days can lead to plant problems.

**August 27 (5:30 p.m.) TBA**

**September 24 (5:30 p.m.) Fall Color in the Garden.** Learn how to achieve fall color in your perennial garden and about trees and shrubs with fall and winter interest. Also pick up some tips on identification, proper storage, and safe disposal of pesticides.

**October 29 (5:30 p.m.) Putting the Garden to Bed.** MG Shelley Ryan takes on end-of-the-season projects including cutting back perennials, digging and storing bulbs, and pruning raspberries. See how proper preparation means getting a jump on next spring.

## Important Association information needed

*Kevin Schoessow  
Area Ag Development Agent*

I realize that many of you may not consider yourself to be active Master Gardeners since we do not have a local association; however, your volunteer information is important since it will be used to document your efforts both locally and to the State Master Gardener Association. If you have volunteered on garden projects or educational events, please let me know.

I am also seeking your input on future involvement as Master Gardener volunteers. There are approximately 75 individuals who have taken the training over the years. I would like to determine if there is any interest in forming a local Master Gardener association, or if people would rather be members of the State Master Gardener Association as individuals. Please indicate your preference:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be a member of the WIMGA by joining as an individual (see below).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be a member of the WIMGA by forming a local Master Gardener Association.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to be a member of the State Master Gardener Association, but I am happy to volunteer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am no longer interested in the Master Gardener Program or volunteering. Please remove me from your mailing list.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have not taken the Master Gardener training. Please inform me of the next training (tentatively fall 2001).

Please complete this information and return it to:

Kevin Schoessow  
W6646 Highway 70  
Spooner, WI 54801



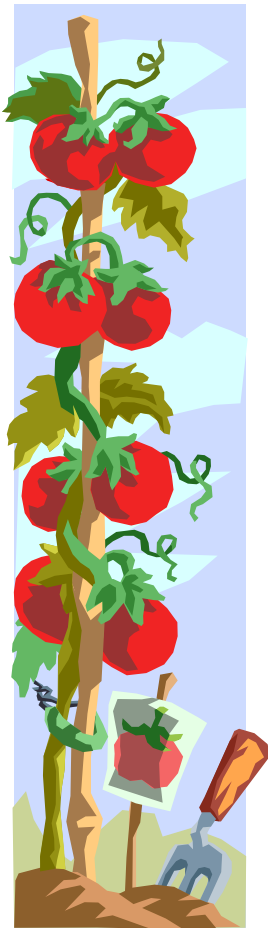
For your records....

Individual membership to the WIMGA is \$3.00 per year. Contact:

Byron Hacker, Treasurer  
N4511 Hwy. 57  
Chilton, WI 53014  
Calumet County Master Gardeners  
bghacker@tcei.com

This membership entitles you to receive the WIMGA quarterly newsletter and attend the annual statewide WIMGA conference.

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# North Country Gardeners Newsletter

A publication for gardening enthusiasts from the  
Tri-County area of Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn

Cooperative Extension  
**United States Department of Agriculture**  
University of Wisconsin Extension  
432 N. Lake St.  
Madison, WI 53706

*EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER*

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Official Business

Visit us on the web! You may find this newsletter and other useful information by visiting the website of the Spooner Ag Research Station. It has recently been redesigned and updated with new factsheets and program information: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/index.htm>