



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

July 2005 Vol. 2 No. 6

In This Issue:

Events Calendar.....p.2

Recipe Corner.....p.2

Canner Testing.....p. 2

Meet a Master Gardenerp.3

Master Conservationist Training held.....p. 3

Belmond's Biblical Garden.....p. 4

Trough Workshop.....p.4

Hamilton Co. 4-H Horticulture.....p.5

WRight Food Festival..p.5

FD Flower Show.....p.6

Fair Time.....p.7

Bruce more Bus Trip..p. 7

State Flower Show....p.8

Ground Ivy Control...p. 9

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Helping you become your best.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Weed It and Eat!



Rain, rain go away! Here in our mid-Iowa counties we've had plenty of moisture.

The upside is that we haven't had to water our newly planted trees and plants.

At the recent Federated Garden Clubs of IA State Meeting, the speaker, David Cavagnaro from Seed Savers in Decorah discussed "Edible Landscapes".

Now this wasn't just about your everyday pansy and squash blossoms. David also described ways to prepare weeds such as purslane and lamb's quarters!

Following this, I returned home to find that yes; purslane does have a rather "peppery" taste - similar to nasturtium. But I don't envision eating my way through weeding the garden.

But this could be handy--after all, haven't we all experienced

pulling up purslane and even after laying in the hot sun for about a week, it can take root and grow?

My newest achievement is that I have been hired to develop and teach on-line horticulture classes for the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University.

If you would like to take a peek at the world of on-line classes, go to: <https://webct.ait.iastate.edu/ISUtools/webhtml/login.html> Click on the "Login to WebCT" button; type in **w.horticulture** as the WebCT ID, and **horticulture** as the password.

This will take you to an Annuals class I am currently teaching. This fall a Perennials class will be offered with more topics for next spring.

Happy Gardening on the web!

Yvonne Nilles
Extension Horticulturalist
Serving Hamilton, Humboldt,
Webster & Wright counties

Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners adjourn for the summer

The next Mid-Iowa Master Gardeners meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the Humboldt County Extension Office, 727 Sumner, in Humboldt at 6:45 p.m.

Humboldt County Master Gardeners & Interns will host the meeting. The MG Advisory Council will meet prior to this meeting at 6:15 p.m.



MID-IOWA AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

- July 4....Have a Happy Holiday!
- July 6....Garden Trough Workshop II.
Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds in
Webster City. Call 515-832-
9597 to register. \$10 fee.
- July 7....Fort Dodge Area Gardeners
Webster Co. Ext. Off. – 7 pm.
- July 7-12....Wright County Junior Fair
- July 16...FGCI "Operation Wildflower"
Stratford, IA, 8 am – 5 pm
Call 515-232-6091. \$25 fee.
- July 19...Master Conservationist class
"Land Conservation Practices"
Webster Co. Ext., 6:30 pm
- July 13...Town & Country Garden Club
1 pm, at The Depot - W.C.
"Tips for Exhibiting Hort"
- July 13-18....Webster County Fair
- July 19-25....Humboldt County Fair
- July 26-31...Hamilton County Fair
- July 30....WRight Co. Food Festival
11 am to 2 pm. Held at Lake
Cornelia Park, Clarion.
- Aug 16...Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, 1:00 pm.
"Prairie Plants"-by MJ Hatfield
- Aug 27...Mid-IA Bus Trip to Eastern IA
Garden & Landscape Show.
At Bruce more Estate, Cedar
Rapids. Leave Ft Dodge 7am
Fee - \$40.00. Call 515-832-
9597 to register.

For further details on these events,
call 515-832-9597

Submit your articles & events to:

Horticulture Happenings
ISU Extension Hamilton County
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303

Phone: 515-832-9597
Fax: 515-832-9599
E-mail: ynilles@iastate.edu

Canner Testing Time!

It's that time of year, when the green beans are ready, strawberries are ripening and fresh peaches are available at your supermarket.

But what to do with all this fresh produce? Why not try canning or freezing some fruits or vegetables yourself?

For some people, this process starts with planning what and how much to plant in their garden, based on their family's needs.



Here Paulelda Gilbert, ISU Extension Family Nutrition & Health Specialist tests a canner lid for a client.

Testing canner dial gauges helps to ensure that the proper pressure is maintained to destroy heat-resistant microorganisms. Lids with weighted gauges do not need to be tested for accuracy.

Both types of canners should have gaskets in good condition for a well sealing lid. When proper processing procedures (try saying that 3 times fast!) are followed, home canned food will be free from spoilage as long as the jar remains vacuum sealed.

If you have further questions on canning or freezing your own produce, contact Paulelda by e-mail at pgilbert@iastate.edu or call her at (515) 576-2119, at the Webster County ISU Extension Office.

RECIPE CORNER



Stew Vegetables

- 6 c. carrots
- 4 c. peas
- 2 c. celery
- 4 c. cut green beans
- 3 c. cubed & peeled white potatoes
- 2 c. quartered small onions
- 2 c. chopped sweet red pepper
- ¼ c. minced parsley
- 2 T. salt
- 1 T. pepper
- 3 qts. chicken or vegetable stock

Combine all ingredients in a large saucepot. Bring mixture to a boil; reduce heat & simmer 5 minutes. Ladle hot mixture into hot jars, leaving 1-inch headspace. Adjust two-piece caps. Process 40 minutes at 10 lbs. pressure in a steam-pressure canner. Yields: about 7 quarts.

-from *Ball Blue Book, Guide to Home Canning, Freezing & Dehydration*

Flower of the Month Larkspur (*Consolida*)



Born in July, your flower is the larkspur, associated with vivacity!

An annual plant native to Britain, Larkspur was used by West Coast Indians to make a blue dye and by the European settlers to make ink.

Larkspur and its close relative, the Delphinium were once thought to be effective against poisonous stings.

Both of these plants, like all plants in the Ranunculaceae family, are poisonous. They were once dried and powdered for use as insecticides.

-from "100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names", by Diana Wells

Meet a Master Gardener Intern...

Doyle Darnall



Humboldt County Master Gardener Intern **Doyle Darnall** lives in Humboldt.

Our featured Mid-Iowa Master Gardener for the month of July is Humboldt County Master Gardener Intern Doyle Darnall of Humboldt. He completed Master Gardener training last fall and is currently working to complete his 40 hours of volunteer time in return for this training.

Doyle is a real "fruit" - he has a wonderful sense of humor- plus he grows every type of fruit from peaches and pears to raspberries and blackberries. He enjoys sharing his abundant crop with friends and neighbors. His trick for getting zone 5 fruits to produce in a zone 4 location? Stop by the next Master Gardener meeting and ask Doyle, he would love to share his fruit growing knowledge with you!

Doyle has been an active volunteer, speaking at a recent Basic Gardening seminar sponsored in conjunction with Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Humboldt.

Doyle also serves on the Mid-Iowa Master Gardener's Advisory Committee as a representative for Humboldt County. Doyle and the other Humboldt County Master Gardeners and Interns are working on the landscaping the new addition for the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital in Humboldt as a Master Gardener volunteer project.

Master Conservationist energy training held...



Chad Eells, an energy efficient home builder from Webster City, demonstrated his blower door that can discover areas of energy loss within a home for the Master Conservationist class on June 21, 2005.



John Eveland, Humboldt Co. CEED checks out the energy efficient heating system at Chad & Jean Eells home. The Eells home has been rated the most energy efficient home in Iowa. Lynn Flowerday, of Webster City & Jay Fritch, Fort Dodge are also shown.

For further information on Master Conservationist training sessions in our mid-Iowa area, please contact your local ISU Extension Office.



United Methodist Church of Belmond.



Plants are well labeled in the Biblical Garden.

Belmond's Biblical Garden

**by Mary Hawley
Master Gardener
Belmond**

I'd love to share the info on the biblical garden with you!

It started about 3 years ago with gathering the info from books and the web. I'm on the board of trustees at the United Methodist Church in Belmond. As we were putting on an addition to house the new elevator I approached the board about letting me put in a Biblical Garden.

They asked me to submit a plan, which was difficult for me as I had never put anything on paper before. I usually just plant wherever I think something looks like it should go. Then I submitted 3 plans and they chose one.

We lined the garden and path with leftover stone from the church addition. The garden contains plants mentioned in the bible or with biblical names. They are all marked with the common name, scientific name, and biblical reference.

The garden is approx 20'X30'. We installed a path, water fountain, benches, 10 commandment stepping stones and lots of mulch. It will be a work in progress for quite a while and they've offered to let me care for it until I die!

Garden Trough Workshop II to be held July 6...



Mid-Iowa ISU Extension Horticulture will be holding an additional Garden Trough Workshop on Wed., July 6 at 6:00 pm. The workshop will be held at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds in the Van Diest Building.

Materials fee is \$10.00. Bring a sturdy board 15" x 20" to carry your trough home. Call Hamilton Co. ISU Extension at (515) 832-9597 to register.

Hamilton County 4-H Horticulture Service Project...



4-H youth and Town & Country Garden Club members worked together to plant this planter located in the front of the Hamilton County Courthouse in a patriotic color scheme. Red and blue salvia were used for this project.



These Hamilton Co. 4-H Horticulture project members helped with the Courthouse planting. **Back, L-R:** Joe & Josh Mechaelsen; Courtney Stakey, all of Kamrar and Amber Sylvester, Webster City. **Front:** Mary Stribe, Webster City.

Trivia Question:

"How much money is spent on food in Wright County?" (For the answer see page 7.)

WRight Food Festival & Market Saturday, July 30 – 11 am to 2 pm Lake Cornelia Park, Clarion

The festival is sponsored by Wright County Here's to Our Health Committee whose goal is to increase access to locally grown food in Wright County for the health, community, and economic benefit.



Sweet corn eating contest will begin at 1:30 pm. Team registration is \$15 for a team of 5.

W
R
I
G
H
T
F
O
O
D
F
E
S
T
I
V
A
L



CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) provide fresh, in-season produce from June to mid-October.

The Festival will help to educate consumers on the availability of local produce, with local musicians, food demonstrations, youth activities and an all local lunch. Come celebrate local food and culture!

For further questions, call Jan Libbey, One Step at a Time Gardens, at 641-495-6367, or read the Eat Wright E-newsletter at: www.wrightcounty.org

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club holds Flower Show



Pam Gollob, Otho, swept the Design Division and was awarded the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue ribbons in the Design competition. Pam won the Award of Distinction for this dried design. Pam also won the Petite Award for the top miniature design.



Marilyn Peterson-Shipp, Fort Dodge won the Tri-color award for her design using all fresh plant material at Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club's recent Flower Show, held June 25 at the Crossroads Mall in Fort Dodge. The show's theme was "Memories".



Miniature rose 'Jean Keneally' won the rose Award of Merit.



Jeanette Lawrence of Fort Dodge took top prize for tables, winning the Table Artistry Award with this tray design titled "Mothers Day". Jeanette used her mother's china for this entry.



This educational exhibit on Baltimore Orioles, by Kathy Messerly of Fort Dodge took top prize in the division. Kathy reports her orioles just love grape jelly!

It's County Fair Time!

County fairs aren't just cotton candy, sno-cones and mid-way rides..they are so much, much more!! Everything from hog washin', horse hoof pickin', sweet corn eatin', chocolate cake bakin' and even scarecrow contests, our county fairs represent all the stuff we lowans have grown up with.

The Mid-Iowa counties - Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster & Wright – all will hold their county fair in the month of July. Please do your part to help keep the tradition of your county fair alive, whether by exhibiting, donating time or money, or even just simply attending with your family! See you at the fair!

The 2005 fair dates are:

Wright County Junior Fair – July 7 – 12, 2005

Webster County Fair – July 13 – 18, 2005

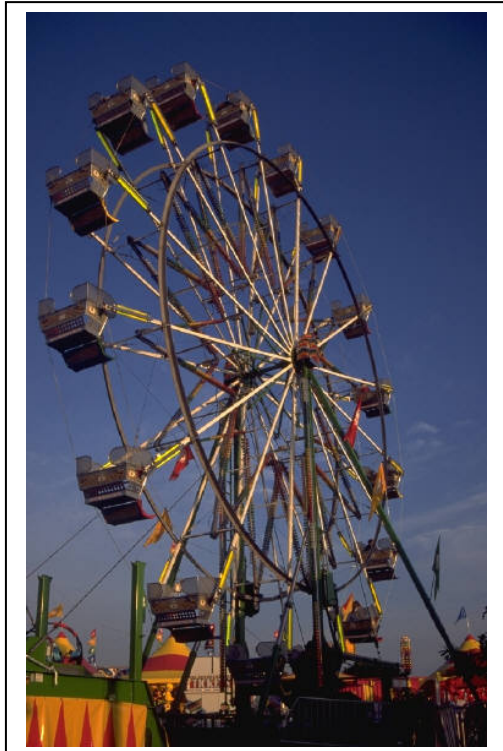
Humboldt County Fair – July 19 – 25, 2005

Hamilton County Fair – July 26 – 31, 2005

To check out the dates of other Iowa county fairs visit this site:

<http://www.iowafairs.com/index.htm>

Trivia Question Answer (from p. 5): According to a 2004 study, \$30 million is spent on food in Wright County and \$10,000 of locally grown food is sold by 8 Wright County farmers.



Bus Trip planned for August 27



The Brucemore Mansion. An optional tour of the mansion is available for \$7.00.

Mid-Iowa ISU Extension Horticulture will sponsor a bus trip to the Eastern Iowa Garden and Landscape Show to be held at the Brucemore Estate in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, August 27, 2005.

This event will showcase area gardeners and products in an educational forum. Keynote presentations and demonstrations for gardeners and landscapers of all abilities throughout the day.

Headline presentations will include **Elvin McDonald**, deputy editor for gardens and outdoor living at *Better Homes and Gardens*. Area flower and garden businesses will showcase their talents and wares at what promises to be the largest exposition of its kind in the state!

Cost for the trip will be \$40.00, with lunch on your own. Bus will leave from Fort Dodge at 7:00 am, with a pick up in Webster City at 7:30 am. The bus will return to Fort Dodge at 6:30 pm. Pre-payment is required. Call (515) 832-9597 to reserve your space today!

Come join us for a full day of horticulture browsing!

Local Women Do Well At State Flower Show!

The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc. State Flower Show was held on June 18, 2005 at the Iowa Arboretum. The theme of the show was "Picture This".



Sela Bryhne of Fort Dodge, received the Artistic Crafts Award for her picture frame using twigs & acorns.



Barbara Sylvester of Webster City received a blue on her miniature arrangement.



Betty Nail of Webster City won the blue with her design of all fresh plant materials.

Congratulations to All!

If you are interested in joining a garden club, call 515-832-9597.



The van is all loaded! Lois Macken of Ames, right, assists Marilyn Peterson-Shipp, Fort Dodge in packing up her flowers.



Jan Krass of Fort Dodge took a blue with this traditional arrangement called "Kaleidoscope".

Revised Ground Ivy Control Recommendations

-by Richard Jauron
ISU Department of Horticulture

Ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) is a common weed in many lawns. Ground ivy is a low-growing, creeping, invasive perennial. It spreads by seed and the vining stems (stolons) which root at their nodes. The leaves of ground ivy are round or kidney-shaped with scalloped margins. Stems are four-sided. Flowers are small, bluish-purple, and funnel-shaped. Ground ivy thrives in damp, shady areas, but also grows well in sunny locations. A member of the mint family, ground ivy produces a minty odor when cut or crushed. Ground ivy is also known as "creeping charlie." Control of ground ivy in lawns is difficult. If the ground ivy is not completely destroyed, surviving portions will continue to grow and spread.

Recently, research at Purdue University investigated the effects of fertilization practices and several broadleaf herbicides on ground ivy. The research found that a good nitrogen fertility program and the use of herbicide products containing 2,4-D or triclopyr will help control ground ivy. (For many years, dicamba has been regarded as the most effective herbicide in controlling ground ivy. However, the Purdue University research found that 2,4-D and triclopyr are much more effective.)

Research also found that populations of ground ivy vary in their susceptibility to broadleaf herbicides. For example, one population of ground ivy may be highly sensitive to 2,4-D, while another population may be somewhat tolerant to 2,4-D.

Ground Ivy Control Strategy

Apply 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year. Nitrogen improves the vigor and competitiveness of Kentucky bluegrass, slowing the spread of ground ivy. An excellent fertilizer program for Kentucky bluegrass lawns consists of applications of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in late April/May, September, and late October/early November.

Apply a broadleaf herbicide product containing 2,4-D or triclopyr to ground ivy infested areas. 2,4-D is an active ingredient in many broadleaf herbicide products. Triclopyr can be found in Ortho Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover, and Oxalis Killer for Lawns and a few other products. Herbicide applications should be made between mid-September and November 1. Two applications are most effective. The second application should be made 28 days after the first. Since ground ivy populations vary in their susceptibility to broadleaf herbicides, it is important to alternate herbicides when attempting to control ground ivy.

Clarion Garden Club plants the Park



The Clarion Garden Club planted the planters such as this, which can be seen around the park and town square in Clarion. Marian Jensen of Clarion is the president of this active group.



The club members also planted around the gazebo in the park in readiness for the town's Teddy Bear festival.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension
Hamilton County Extension
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303

PRST STD

U.S. Postage PAID
Non-Profit
WEBSTER CITY, IA
Permit No. 353

Horticulture Happenings – Iowa State University Extension Newsletter to Mid-Iowa Gardeners

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

Horticulture Happenings is brought to you by Mid-Iowa
ISU Extension Horticulture

*Join us on our bus trip, August 27 to the Bruce Moor
Mansion—read the article inside for further information!*



Victorian Knot Garden

This knot garden was designed by Master Gardener Carol Main of Webster City and is planted with begonias. It is located in the Mornin' Glory Community Gardens at Webster City and is open to the public.

Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating
Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion,
sex, age or handicap.