



# OFF SHOOTS

August 2017  
Issue 8

E-V-E-N-T-S

Buchanan County  
Master Gardener  
business meeting

August 15, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

Great Spaces @  
Heartland Acres  
Independence

Open to all Master Gardeners  
and general public

Submit articles to  
rbrandt@wildblue.net by the  
1st Wednesday of the month.

Buchanan County ISU  
Extension and Outreach  
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Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Harvesting, Drying and Storing Onions

by Richard Jauron, Department of Horticulture, July 19, 2016 - article may be found at  
<<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-harvesting-drying-and-storing-onions>>

Onions are a common part of garden crops across Iowa, but harvesting, drying and storing them can come with difficulties for the uninitiated. How can these issues be avoided?

ISU Extension and Outreach horticulturists can help answer questions about harvesting, storing and drying onions. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-294-3108 or [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu).

### When should onions be harvested?

Onions should be harvested when most of the tops have fallen over and begun to dry. Carefully pull or dig the bulbs with the tops attached.

### How should you dry and store onions?

After harvesting, dry or cure the onions in a warm, dry, well-ventilated location, such as a shed or garage. Spread out the onions in a single layer on a clean, dry surface. Cure the onions for two to three weeks until the onion tops and necks are thoroughly dry and the outer bulb scales begin to rustle.

After the onions are properly cured, cut off the tops about one inch above the bulbs. As the onions are topped, discard any that show signs of decay. Use the thick-necked bulbs as soon as possible as they don't store well. An alternate preparation method is to leave the onion tops untrimmed and braid the dry foliage together.

Place the cured onions in a mesh bag, old nylon stocking, wire basket or crate. It's important that the storage container allow air to circulate through the onions. Store the onions in a cool, moderately dry location. Storage temperatures should be 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The relative humidity should be 65 to 70 percent. Possible storage locations include a basement, cellar or garage. Hang the braided onions from a rafter or ceiling. If storing the onions in an unheated garage, move the onions to an alternate storage site before temperatures drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

### How long can onions be successfully stored?

The storage life of onions is determined by the cultivar and storage conditions. When properly stored, good keepers, such as 'Copra,' 'Redwing,' and 'Stuttgarter,' can be successfully stored for several months. Poor keepers, such as 'Walla Walla' and 'Sweet Spanish,' can only be stored for a few weeks.



## Buchanan County Master Gardener Business Meeting, August 15, 2017

The Buchanan County Master Gardeners are holding their next meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 15th, in the Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres. Guest speakers George Lake and Roger Allen will be requesting assistance for a Veterans Garden in Independence. Our regular business meeting will follow.

Meetings are open to all Master Gardeners and the general public.

### Horticultural Programs

These horticulture programs and others are listed at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events>

#### All Bugs Good and Bad: 2017 Webinar Series (Free)

First Friday each month

2:00 p.m. (Eastern)/1:00 p.m. (Central)

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| September 1 | Meet Our Native Pollinators - Molly Keck                          |
| October 6   | New Invasive Ants to Know About - Dr. Timothy Davis               |
| November 3  | Pantry Pests, Carpet Beetles, and Clothes Moths - Dr. Eric Benson |
| December 1  | Don't Let Bed Bugs Hamper Your Vacation Plans - Alan Brown        |

For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/73368>.

This website also has links to tapes of webinars presented over the past four years, 2013-2016.

### Growing Season Webcasts

Summer webcast topics:

**Wednesday, September 6, 6-8 p.m.** Landscaping for Wildlife, presented by Adam Janke, assistant professor and extension wildlife specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. Learn simple steps to bring landscaping alive with birds, butterflies and more. It will also explore ways to beautify the yard and provide critical habitats for migratory and resident birds.

The webcasts will provide ideas for Master Gardener volunteer projects and expand the knowledge base of volunteers. Master Gardeners can gain six continuing education hours for participating in the webcasts.

The two-hour webcasts will be shown at the Independence Public Library. The webcasts are free of charge and open to anyone who may be interested. Just contact Ashley Sherrets, Ag/Hort Program Coordinator, Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach, 319-334-7161 or [sherrets@iastate.edu](mailto:sherrets@iastate.edu). By letting the Extension Office that you plan to attend, there were be adequate handouts for you.

### All-Iowa Master Gardener Art Show

Be part of the sixth annual All Iowa Master Gardener's Art Show. The exhibition will be held at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, beginning with a reception on Thursday, September 21st, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Applications are being accepted now through September 4, 2017. Entries must have a horticultural, floriculture, or gardening theme and must have been completed within the last 3 years. Selected art work will be exhibited at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden's North Gallery from September 22 through November 11, 2017.

Free standing art pieces may be entered in the Art Show, but it is not possible to display free standing objects in the North Gallery; these entries will be represented in a photo collage. Selections for art to be hung in the gallery will be based on Botanical Garden criteria for exhibits and selection will be part of the judging process.

Awards will be presented at the Art Show Reception open to the public, friends, and family at the Botanical Garden's Swartz and Walsh rooms on Thursday, September 21, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For further information about entering artwork and the display of items entered check <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/news/all-iowa-master-gardener-art-show>

### Additional Educational Events Can Be Found at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events>

Currently events are listed through September 21, 2017

Also at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/polk/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/polk/nancy/Garden%20Talks%20and%20Events%202017.pdf>.

there is a flyer about various events this summer at the Polk County Master Gardeners public gardens in Altoona, Urbandale and at the State Fairgrounds.

All links in this newsletter were verified and working August 11, 2017.

# Master Gardener Calendar 2017

## January 17th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres Business Meeting**  
 Review plans for Symposium  
 Sign up for committees  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## February 21st

No meeting  
**BCMG Symposium**  
**February 25, 2016**  
**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## March 21st

Heartland Acres Theater  
 Program 7:00  
**Ashley will be reviewing volunteer services guidelines and the Volunteer Reporting System**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## April 18th

St. James Episcopal Church  
 202 2nd Ave NE, Independence  
 Program 7:00  
**To Be Announced**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## May 16th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres Plant Exchange 6:00 Business Meeting**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## June 20th

St. James Episcopal Church  
 202 2nd Ave NE, Independence  
 Program 7:00  
**The Fair, Planting a Butterfly Garden**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## July 5-9

**Buchanan County Fair**  
 Join us in the Master Gardener booth in the Garden Gate Building

## August 15th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres Business Meeting**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## September 19th

St. James Episcopal Church  
 202 2nd Ave NE, Independence  
 Program 7:00  
**To Be Announced**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## October 17th

**Great Spaces @ Heartland Acres Business Meeting**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## November 21st

St. James Episcopal Church  
 202 2nd Ave NE, Independence  
 Program 7:00  
**To Be Announced**  
 Open to all Master Gardeners and general public

## December

No Regular Meeting  
**Happy Holidays**  
 See you in 2018

**Successfully Growing Grapes in Iowa**  
 by Richard Jauron, Greg Wallace, 8/9/2017  
<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-successfully-growing-grapes-iowa>

Home gardeners can successfully grow grapes in Iowa's climate. Grapes can flourish in a backyard garden or a vineyard, but obstacles like insects and knowing the proper harvest time can keep them from reaching their full potential.

ISU Extension and Outreach horticulturists can help answer your questions about issues with grapes and proper growth. To have additional questions answered, contact the ISU Hortline at 515-204-3108 or [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu)

Site addresses verified August 11, 2017  
 Many articles are now indexed in the Yard & Garden FAQs Database  
<https://expert-hort.sws.iastate.edu/>  
 Current Yard & Garden and Horticulture & Home Pest News articles  
<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu>  
 Reiman's Pick (No archives - now published as one of four blogs. Others are Nathan's Notes, Plant Particulars, and Intern's Perspective)  
<http://www.reimangardens.com/education-ideas/blogs/>

**Gardening Publications from ISU Extension**  
 Available from the ISU Extension Online Store:  
<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductArea?TopicID=10>  
 Many of these publications are free to download.

## Assistance Requested for Upcoming Events

### "Afternoons with Master Gardeners"/"Hortline"

(Need as many volunteers as possible; preferably 2-3 volunteers per afternoon)

Weekday afternoons into evenings, 4:30- 6:30 p.m., one day per week or as frequently as possible

"Afternoons with Master Gardeners" and the "Hortline" are two opportunities for Master Gardeners to come and work in the office, answering client questions and researching to assist with insect and plant disease diagnosis at a time when the working public is able to stop in and talk. The "Hortline" would consist of calling clients back to gain more information to assist in research, answering the phone to take client calls about horticulture questions, or calling back clients once you have come up with a probable diagnosis that I have approved. Both of these opportunities are great if you are physically unable to do actual gardening work but would enjoy working with the public and sharing your knowledge. These programs are something we would like to see become permanent during the growing season (mid-May through September or October.) Those who wish to assist with these opportunities must adhere to the "Master Gardener Office Volunteer Job Description". Please contact Ashley as soon as possible if you are interested in helping.

### "Farmers Market Display"

(Need 2-3 volunteers to participate at the Master Gardener display table at the Independence Farmers Market)

August 26 - share general harvest information about plants and promote "Design a Scarecrow (or Plant Person)"

**For more information about any of the volunteer opportunities, don't hesitate to contact Ashley!**

### Check These Institutions for On-Going Classes, Garden Tours, and Special Events

Reiman Gardens - Iowa State University, Ames <<http://www.reimangardens.com/events/>>

Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens - Dubuque <<http://dubuquearboretum.net/special-events/events-calendar/>> (still has 2016 calendar but 2017 should be up soon)

Iowa Arboretum - Madrid <<http://iowaarboretum.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/>>

Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens - Des Moines <<http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/events-programs/calendar-events/>>

Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanical Gardens - Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo - <<http://www.cedarvalleyarboretum.org/events/>>

Central Gardens of North Iowa - Clear Lake <<http://centralgardensnorthiowa.com/calendar/>>

Better Homes & Gardens Test Garden - Des Moines <<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/test-garden-secrets/visiting-the-test-garden/>>

and a list of gardens in Iowa (and the other 49 states)

I Love Gardens <<http://www.ilovegardens.com/Iowa%20Gardens.htm>>

Do you know of any other gardens that provide ongoing activities or events? Let me know and I'll add them to the list. <[rbrandt@wildblue.net](mailto:rbrandt@wildblue.net)>

### Successfully Growing Grapes in Iowa (part 2)

by Richard Jauron, Greg Wallace, 8/9/2017 <<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-successfully-growing-grapes-iowa>>

#### When should grapes be harvested?

Grapes must be harvested at the right stage of maturity to insure high quality. There are several indicators of grape maturity. Berry color, size, sweetness and flavor are the most useful indicators.

Depending on the cultivar, berry color changes from green to blue, red or white as the grapes approach maturity. Color alone, however, should not be the sole basis for harvesting grapes. Berries of many cultivars change color long before they are fully ripe. At maturity, individual berries are full size and slightly less firm to the touch. As a final test, taste a few grapes for sweetness when berry size and color indicate the fruit is approaching maturity. Harvest grape clusters when the berries are sweet.

When harvesting grapes, remove clusters with a knife or hand shears. Sound grapes can be stored in perforated plastic bags in the refrigerator for up to two months.

**Horticulture & Home Pest News** <<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>> is published 19 times a year (monthly, October through February and biweekly during gardening season, March through September).

Articles in the July 28, 2017. issue include Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic Update - July 28, 2017 / Potato Defects / It's Spotted Wing Drosophila Time Again / Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Ringold County / Handling Problems with Landscape Trees / Harvesting Drying, and Storing Onions

## Yard and Garden News

Articles are published one to four times a month on an irregular schedule. They may be found at

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/aggregator/sources/1>

These are the articles listed since May 1, 2017:

- 8/10/17 Successfully Growing Grapes in Iowa
- 8/3/17 Harvesting Tree Fruits
- 7/27/17 Handling Problems with Landscape Trees
- 7/13/17 Watering Lawns During Hot, Dry Summer Weather
- 7/10/17 Controlling and Preventing issues with Japanese Beetles
- 6/29/17 When Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Peppers Don't Set Fruit
- 6/22/17 Dividing Irises
- 6/15/17 Handling Issues with Raspberry Plants
- 6/8/17 Handling Newly Planted Fruit-Bearing Plants
- 6/1/17 Identifying and Handling Tree Root Issues
- 5/25/17 Handling and Harvesting Strawberry Plantings
- 5/16/17 Caring for Newly Planted Trees
- 5/9/17 Constructing a Grape or Raspberry Trellis
- 5/3/17 Caring for and Harvesting Rhubarb



Enter Volunteer and Education Hours at: <https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu>

### 2017 Master Gardener Officers and Project & Committee Membership

#### Steering Committee Officers, 2017

Gean Cummings, Chair  
Shelley Schafer, Vice Chair  
Jean Gillpatrick, Secretary  
Nancy Weber, Treasurer

#### Master Gardener Nominating Committee

Need some volunteers!!!

#### 2018 Symposium Committee

\*Nancy Weber  
Denise Hawker  
Mary Davis  
Char Swarts  
JoAnn Crain  
JoAnne Van Cleave  
Hazel Kout  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Becky Sweeney  
Sue Schneider  
Shelly Ohrt  
Ashley Sherrets  
Kim Hansen

#### Cedar Rock-'Agnes Mathilda' gardens

\* Anita Miller  
\* Jean Gillpatrick  
JoAnn Crain  
Diane Dave  
Mary Lou Weepie  
Mary Steuben

\* Committee Chair

#### Wapsipinicon Mill gardens (prairie and south/front garden)

\* Anita Miller  
Shirley Rozendaal  
Leanne Harrison  
Becky Sweeney

#### Off Shoots (articles/ interviews)

\* Ruth Brandt  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ashley Sherrets

#### Farmers market booth and educational programs

Gean Cummings  
Ruth Hamilton  
Ruth Schneider  
Becky Sweeney

#### ABCM West Village

\* Anita Miller  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Becky Sweeney (East Campus)

#### Educational gardening programs/ public speaking opportunities

Nancy Weber  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ashley Sherrets  
Anita Miller

#### Project meetings

Jean Gillpatrick- programs

#### Design a Scarecrow contest

Anita Miller  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ashley Sherrets

#### Master Gardener Booth - Fair

Jean Gillpatrick  
JoAnn Crain  
Shirley Rozendaal  
Ruth Hamilton  
Mary Lou Weepie

#### April 1 - 'Spring in the Heartland' with Dan Wardell

Gean Cummings  
Sue Schneider  
Nancy Weber  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ashley Sherrets

#### Darrell E. Davis Adult Day Center

\* Jean Gillpatrick  
Rosalind Gibbs  
Anita Miller

#### Independence Library Butterfly Garden

\* Jean Gillpatrick  
JoAnn Crain  
Denise Hawker

#### Hazleton City Park, Veteran's

**Park, Community Gardens**  
\* Mary Davis  
JoAnne Van Cleave  
Hazel Kout (support)

#### Flower & Garden Show - fair

JoAnn Crain  
Char Swarts  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ruth Schneider  
Ruth Hamilton  
Lynda Fiester  
Becky Sweeney

#### Lee Mansion Gardens

\* Denise Hawker  
\* Shelley Schafer  
Kim Hansen  
JoAnn Crain  
Diane Dave  
Char Swarts  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Leanne Harrison

#### Independence Library (planters & statue)

\* Ashley Sherrets

#### Takway Heirloom Gardens

\* Mary Davis  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Anita Miller  
Ashley Sherrets (as available)

#### Hospice Garden

\* Jean Gillpatrick (Help! looking for co-chair)  
Denise Hawker  
Diane Dave (hosta bed)  
Anita Miller  
Kim Hansen  
Mary Lou Weepie

#### Rowley Community Center/ Welcome Sign & City Park

JoAnn Crain  
Rita Knutson  
Shelly Ohrt

#### First Presbyterian Sharing Gardens

Shirley Rozendaal  
Denise Hawker  
Ruth Hamilton

#### Hortline/horticulture research/ horticulture programs help

Gean Cummings  
Sue Schneider  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Ruth Hamilton (phone)  
Shelly Ohrt

#### Prairie Pioneer Schoolhouse Garden

\* Mary Steuben  
Ruth Schneider  
Ruth Hamilton  
Nancy Weber

#### Centennial Garden Committee

Nancy Weber  
Mary Davis  
Jean Gillpatrick  
Anita Miller  
Ashley Sherrets

These are committee lists as of May 12, 2017. Please let Ashley know if you want to be added to any of these lists. If you were on a lists in the past and don't find your name there now, please call to have it added.

Ashley Sherrets, Master Gardener Coordinator, 319.334.7161, or sherrets@iastate.edu.

## Mission Statement



The mission of the Iowa State University Extension Master Gardener Program is to provide current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Iowa through programs and projects. Through their participation in educational activities, Master Gardeners also increase their own personal knowledge in horticulture. Master Gardeners extend Iowa State University Extension's consumer horticulture education programs through volunteer activity.

### Buchanan County ISU Extension & Outreach

2600 Swan Lake Boulevard, Suite A  
Independence, IA 50644

#### Clear indications you have too much zucchini:

- Nightmares about a giant Zucchini wakes you in the night.
- Your kids are using it for building blocks.
- You spray your zucchini plants with sugar water to attract insects. But, they won't bite.

from <<http://www.gardendigest.com/humor.htm>>