

January 2020

Muscatine County



WORTHWHILE
DIRT

Come Join the Celebration!

Muscatine Master Gardeners Annual Meeting and Recognition

1:00—3:00 pm Sunday; January 12, 2020

New Hope Church, 3215 Tipton Road, Muscatine



Bring a snack to share, a guest, and your appetite!

- * Welcome New Interns
- * Recognitions and Awards
- * Door Prizzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzes !
- Excellent Meal & Fellowship
- Vision for Muscatine MMG 2020

Also, if you have a gardening-related item to share, please bring it as a door prize.

Bring an snack/appetizer to share, the MG Association will provide sub-sandwiches and the Board will provide drinks. The church has another group coming in at 3:30 pm to set up by 4pm so we will need to clear out in time for them. Bring your spouse or guest to celebrate 2019 and plan for an even greater 2020.



Master Gardeners at Last Year's Annual Meeting

Upcoming Meeting & Event Highlights Muscatine County Master Gardeners

Coordinated by Jane Hodge, Master Gardener

— *Stay tuned for the 2020 Program* —

Many thanks to Jane for coordinating our Education Program for the past several years!



Master Gardeners Interns and Their Mentors

Nine people have completed their education hours to become Master Gardener Interns for 2019-2020 in Muscatine County:

These trainees experienced the new training program of listening to lectures at home. Then every two weeks on Saturday from 9:00 am- 1:00 pm, having speakers in the community talk about the topics covered in lecture. This format allowed more hands on experiences for the trainees.

We would like to encourage all members to welcome these Interns to the meeting, activities, and fundraisers our group has and to make them feel welcome.

Each Intern has been matched up with a volunteer to be their mentor.

Mentor pairs are as follows:

Angela Weber	Emma Mae Pruitt, MG
Erin Parks	Jane Hodge, MG
Becky Schmertman	Rachel Horner Brackett, MG
Teri Dibbern	Susan Cradick, MG
Brandy Olson	Maryrose Peterschmidt, MG
Lisa Freiling	Terri Hansen, MG
Mike McGrory	Lynn Pruitt, MG

Beverly Hart	Quad Cities affiliation
Jeff Shelley	Quad Cities affiliation

Thanks to all the mentors for helping the Interns become part of the Muscatine County Master Gardeners Group.

Kathy Haltmeyer and Rachel Horner Brackett, Coordinators



JANUARY 12, 2020, 1-3 PM

MUSCATINE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL MEETING

New Hope Church
3215 Tipton Rd, Muscatine

Sub Sandwiches & Drinks Provided

Spouses welcome!

Bring a snack to share



Muscatine County Master Gardener Board of Directors

An election will be held during the Annual Meeting on January 12 to complete the full slate of eight Board Members for the calendar years 2020 and 2021. The selection committee has established that five current Board Members have agreed to continue through the 2nd year of their terms. One current Board Member is eligible for re-election and has agreed to continue to serve if elected. Two new potential Board Members have agreed to serve if elected. Additional nominations from the floor will also be entertained. The current Board has selected one intern to also serve on the Board for year 2020.

Present Board Members continuing to serve:

- * Kathy Haltmeyer (2020)
- * Heather Haroun (2020)
- * Rachel Horner Brackett (2020)*
- * Ed Moreno (2020)
- * Maryrose Peterschmidt (2020)

Existing Board Member up for re-election:

- * Ron Jensen (2021)

Board Candidates up for election:

- * Carolyn Lemaster (2021)*
- * Mary Wildermuth (2021)*

Intern for Board Service in 2020:

- * Teri Dibbern

() Year term expires as of Dec. 31

* Eligible for re-election in future



SIMPLE TIPS FOR GARDENERS

Compiled by Rachel Quillin

Love is the only flower that grows and blossoms
Without the aid of the seasons.

— Kahlil Gibran

Continuing Education Opportunity — Starts January 13, 2020

Dear County and Campus ANR Friends:
Department of Horticulture will be offering a new **online** Vegetable Production and Management Course in Spring 2020. This course is being offered both for college credits and for non-credits (for professionals and individuals interested in vegetable production) and starts 13 January, 2020.



This online course provides introduction to principles and practices of vegetable crop production and also provides knowledge and expertise needed to grow and manage a vegetable production enterprise. That enterprise could be a backyard garden, community or school garden, small acreage or even a large commercial enterprise. Topics will include crop classification; emphasis on specific vegetable crops; soil, water, and pest management; cover cropping; crop rotation; weed management, season extension strategies, etc. The course is available for both credits (ISU fees) and non-credits (\$300). The class is web based so you can participate from anywhere with an internet connection at your own convenient time.

I have a grant from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education that will provide a total of **ten** \$300 scholarships for community or school garden coordinators, FFA instructors, county horticulturists, ISU extension staff, local food coordinators, industry leaders, master gardeners, agricultural entrepreneurs, and/or commercial vegetable growers. Please [contact Dr. Ajay Nair](#) directly for scholarship opportunity. Scholarships are on a first come basis.

This course also meets [Farm Service Agency](#) guidelines for production management training for loan eligibility.

Registration- <https://www.agonline.iastate.edu/Hort471>

Many Thanks,

Ajay

Ajay Nair, PhD

Associate Professor and Vegetable Extension Specialist

2206 Osborn Drive, Department of Horticulture

Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011

Phone: 515-294-7080; Cell: 517-898-5349

<http://iowavegetables.blogspot.com/>

<http://extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab>

Bald Eagle Watch in Muscatine—January 25, 2020

INFORMATION FROM NATURALIST DAVE BAKKE:

The 2020 Bald Eagle watch in Muscatine will be held Saturday January 25th at the Pearl City Station (as it has for many years). I invite all of your groups to have a table at this event to share the good things you do with visitors to this event. This event will be held from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Tables will be available beginning at 7:30 on Saturday. Below is a schedule for the day.

- 9:00-2:00
 - ⇒ Tables for various Conservation Groups from Muscatine area
 - ⇒ Coffee and Hot Chocolate for all!
 - ⇒ Kids Craft tables
 - ⇒ Bird viewing on the River from the deck
- 9:30 Raptor program with RARE Group from Iowa City
- 11:00 Raptor program with RARE Group
- 11:30 Lunch for volunteers
- 2:00 Clean up, go home, put your feet up!



INFORMATION FROM KRISTA REGENNITTER

Hello Master Gardeners,

Again this year Master Gardeners are being invited to have a table at the Bald Eagle Watch, January 25th at Pear City Station. The event is from 9 am - 2 pm. In the past we have put together a display and a simple craft project and Master Gardeners have manned a booth. To make it easier I have divided the event up into three shifts. It would be great to have at least 2 people per shift. If you would be interested in volunteering please let me know which shift(s) you would prefer.

- * Shift One - pick up items on Friday from Extension Office - Set up at 8:30, be at booth till 10:30 am
- * Shift Two - 10:30-12:30
- * Shift Three - 12:30 - 2 pm, pack up booth items and return to the Extension office sometime the following week.

This is a great way to kick off the year with some volunteer hours!

Thanks for your consideration,

Krista

563-263-5701

Master Gardener Winter Webcast Series



Iowa Weather

February 4, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

With a changing climate, Iowa will be warmer and wetter. State Climatologist Dr. Justin Glisan from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will share what people can do to adapt to changing growing conditions.



Bring Kids in the Garden

February 18, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

State Master Gardener Coordinator Susan DeBlicek wants adults to help get youth outdoors. She'll share ideas for Master Gardener volunteer project sites and landscape design tips.



Iowa's Botanists

March 3, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Love native plants? Deborah Lewis is the curator of the Ada Hayden Herbarium. She'll present on early Iowa botanists, introduce the herbarium, and share her favorite native plants.



All webcasts will be held at the Muscatine County Extension and Outreach Office and are free and open to the public. Questions? Call 563-263-5701

www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener

Muscatine County

1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine, IA 52761

www.extension.iastate.edu/Muscatine

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Linn County Master Gardeners Winter Gardening Fair



Saturday, February 15, 2020

New Location

8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at **Kirkwood Regional Center**

1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA

\$49 for your choice of five classes and a baked potato buffet lunch

\$25 for student registration (high school or college)

To register, go to <http://bit.ly/gardening2020>

SIMPLE TIPS FOR GARDENERS

Compiled by Rachel Quillin

Extending the Growing Season

Hotbeds and cold frames are great ways to extend the growing season of your vegetable gardens



February 21 – Pollinators: Growing Rural and Urban Habit 10am – 2pm @ Muscatine ISU Extension and Outreach, 1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine, IA 52761

A mini conference on pollinators with specialists from around Iowa. Presenters will include Sarah Nizzi, Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner with the Xerxes Society; Amy Bouska, Urban Conservationist with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Kristina TeBockhorst, Agriculture Engineering Field Specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Free event, meal provided. Space limited to 40- please RSVP to Lydia Whitman Lydia.whitman@usda.gov or 563-886-6214 x3!

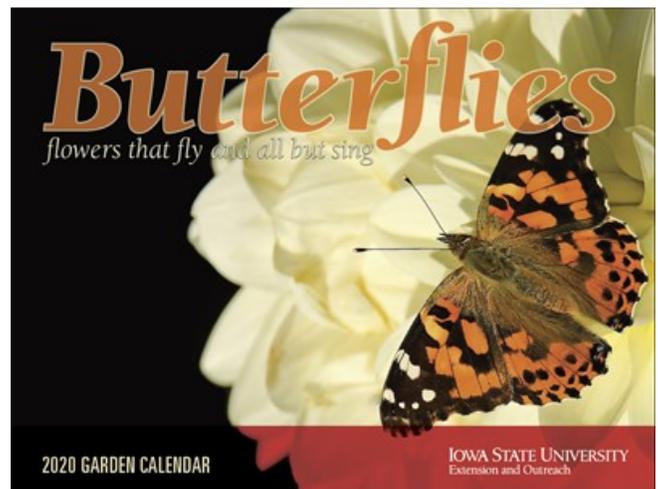
2020 Garden Calendar - Butterflies: flowers that fly and all but sing - available now!

Floating lightly on the breeze, butterflies add beauty to any garden. The butterfly takes center stage in the 2020 Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar, showcasing the vibrant colors and majestic beauty that makes them such a welcome part of any backyard or garden.

This 12-month calendar showcases butterflies throughout the year, as they bring their special beauty to each page.

The large calendar grid offers space to create a gardening journal to record the progress of your own garden. Refer to the monthly tips that provide timely cultural information for fruits and vegetables, lawn care recommendations, tree and shrub guidance, and other information. Whether it be flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees, or turfgrass, this annual calendar provides tips on a variety of topics so that you can easily know what task should be completed next in your own garden.

Available for \$7 each at the Muscatine County Extension and Outreach Office.



Save the Date!

ART OF GARDENING

March 21, 2020

Presented by:



 **DON'T FORGET** 

TO ENTER HOURS!

 mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/

Director's Input

By Krista Regennitter

Muscatine County Extension Director, Iowa State University Extension
and Outreach

Telephone 563-263-5701



Happy 2020 Master Gardeners,
I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the January 12 Annual Meeting. It is such a great opportunity to celebrate all the accomplishments, and share in fellowship. Don't forget, we have moved the event to Sunday, January 12, 1- 3 pm at New Hope Church, 3215 Tipton Rd, Muscatine. Spouses or special friends are welcome to attend with you. If you have any books, gardening tools or other gardening paraphernalia laying that you want to re-home bring them for the door prize table! The Master Gardener Association will be providing sub sandwiches and the board members will be bringing drinks; just bring a snack/appetizer dish to share. See you then!

If you want to start your year off with some education hours we will be hosting three webcasts in February/March. See info in the newsletter for topics and dates. I am looking for hosts, let me know if you are interested! Hosts are asked to pick up a key, open up the room, play the recording, collect attendance and shut down the room. Hosts can double count volunteer and education hours! If you are interested please email me at KristaR@iastate.edu.



The Bald Eagle Watch will again be hosted by the Muscatine County Conservation Board on January 25 at the Pearl City Station. I am looking for volunteers to help with the Master Gardener booth, 9 am - 2 pm, that day. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours please let me know. It is a great opportunity to talk with the public and help kids with a fun craft!



Last, but certainly not least, make sure March 21 is on your calendar for Art of Gardening!

Happy 2020!
Krista

News from the Chair

By Mary Danner, Master Gardener



Farewell to 2019! It was a very productive year. I was going through my notes to prepare my list for entering my volunteer and CEU hours and I was amazed at all the great events and opportunities our Muscatine Master Gardeners have access to and have achieved. There was something for everyone and something to do every month. The great speakers and presentations at our general meetings; the garden tours, the Webinars and of course Art of Gardening. I didn't get to all that I wanted but my year was full. I hope you have the same contented feeling as I do. We stood in rain to sell plants, stood in the hot sun at the Farmer's Market, sweat it out at the Fair, tromp through gardens and held squiggling worms in our hands.

We shook things up a bit with the new method of training for MGs; switched the months we met mid-year, and changed the annual meeting to a Sunday afternoon in January. I think it is good to try new things once in a while; otherwise we might get stagnant in our ways. Change is good for the soul.

Regarding the annual meeting, do be sure to grab your partner, bring a yummy appetizer and join us on Sun, Jan 12th 1pm to 3pm at the New Hope Methodist Church. We will have sub-sandwiches and drinks provided by the Board. With all the recognition and door prizes, it should be a fun afternoon. By the way, if you have any items you think would make a great door prize please let me or Krista know or just bring them that day.

Finally, I wanted to let you all know how honored I was to be the Chair for our local MG group this last year. I will be leaving the board after January--I've timed out and I will move on. I learned a lot and I'm sure I messed up a bit but I enjoyed it thoroughly and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to server you. I Love being a Master Gardener; there is nothing better than digging in the dirt.

Take care and happy gardening.

Mary

SIMPLE TIPS FOR GARDENERS

Compiled by Rachel Quillin

There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again.

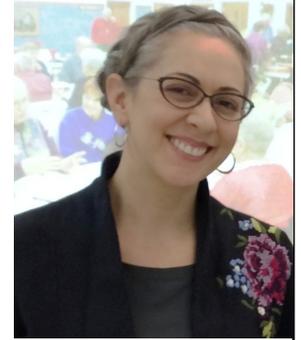
— Elizabeth Lawrence

November General Meeting Minutes

Muscatine Master Gardeners Association

By Rachel Horner Brackett, Master Gardener

November 12, 2019 Muscatine County Extension Office, 6:30 p.m.



Call meeting to Order: Welcome Members & Guests

Introduce speaker – Nick Gow, Muscatine Parks & Rec

- Nick discussed the hanging baskets that beautify downtown Muscatine, including information on coco liners, fiberglass insets, water-storing crystals, and drainage systems. The environment on 2nd Street is challenging- it's dry, windy, and surrounded by concrete and brick.
- There are 44 hanging baskets made every year- each is 22" and contains **24** petunia plants. Only 32 baskets hang on display downtown at a time. They are rotated and/or replaced as needed during the summer.
- Potting soil is NOT used in the baskets, as it is too heavy. Nick discussed the pros and cons of using peat versus bark-based growing mediums. Attention must be paid to the water-retention of the materials (especially in this hot and windy setting), fertilizer/nutrition, and the needs of the plants. The city uses Beautiful Land Products out of West Branch for the growing mix, which also sells to the public.
- The city uses the "Wave" series of petunias in purple and pink, mixed with the "Easy Wave" variety of petunia in white. Easy Wave is an earlier, more mounded/spreading type; the Wave colored petunias fill in over the season. Last year they measured a Wave petunia at 8 feet long!
- A water analysis was conducted to see what additives might be useful. The water source tested was slightly low in iron, and a 20-10-20 fertilizer is used on the pots. Even during rainy times, the pots must be watered in order to provide sufficient nutrients to the plants. Usually watering happens every other day- during last July's heat wave some of the baskets had to be watered twice a day.
- Their #1 suggestion for hanging baskets is to always make extras! Having "backup" hanging baskets at the greenhouse ensures that even if a few baskets struggle, they can be replaced to maintain the beautiful street front.
- Muscatine Parks & Rec has an adopt-the-park program and they would LOVE to have Master Gardener volunteers! There are also (paid) seasonal positions available.

Break

Introduce "Spotlight on MGs" Charles Rickey from the Arboretum - Jane Hodge

There are over 1000 trees at the Muscatine Arboretum. Many opportunities exist for volunteering- they need help with the hosta beds, dwarf conifer bed, mulching, weeding, and watering during the summer. If the shed door is open, stop by and see Mr. Rickey! You can also call him at 563-260-5807, or email Kathy Haltmeyer at haltmek@hotmail.com if you want to volunteer.

Take Attendance – Sign-up sheet

(Continued next page, General Minutes)

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Introduce the new fall interns- Kathy or Rachel

Treasurer's Report – Rachel/Krista- current balance on 11/12/19 is \$5,535.43

Approve minutes of Sept 10th General Meeting – *attached* – correct the log hours to 45 minutes (.75 hour)-

Haltmeyer moves to approve minutes with changes; L. Pruitt seconds

Upcoming Events & Up-dates: *(Refer to Newsletter for further details, event dates & times.)*

Nov 21st - Muscatine Volunteer Appreciation lunch- at Riverview Center 11:30 to 1pm; see
Newsletter

Dec 10th - Board meeting

Jan 12th – Annual meeting-discuss time & food options.

- o Voted to have the meeting at Annual Meeting at 2:00 PM with snacks/appetizers/desserts
- o Location TBD

Mar 21st – Art of Gardening

Old Business:

Zoo Garden – Volunteers still needed! – Clean up day was successful – Maryrose

You can contact Maryrose if you'd like to help, or sign up to volunteer at the Art of Gardening

Donation Gardens - Master Gardeners involved in Growing Together grant – they helped donate 2762 pound of produce to the Muscatine Food pantry this summer!!

New Business:

New Extension Office – Report on open house – Krista

Note: there are about 20 parking spots outside the building. Since our meetings are held after business hours, you can park across the street and next door.

4-H Digital Ambassador training available at General Mtg – Krista

The 4-H kids have a presentation on passwords and/or online shopping. The presentation will take place at 5:45 PM prior to our general meeting in March for those who are interested.

Possible change date/day of month for Board & General Meetings? Take poll?

An informal vote found that most members prefer to continue with second Tuesdays.

Heather Harroun- How many people would be interested in an informal apple tree grafting workshop?

Heather will look into finding a speaker and learning more about the cost of root stock. This workshop would be held in the spring.

L. Pruitt asked about membership on various committees. How do we know who is doing what?

After some discussion, we talked about having a handout that has a bit of info on each committee and contact information. At the January meeting we will show the power point presentation that Krista created for the interns. We may have a sign in sheet at that meeting as well if that seems

Final Announcements: Next General Mtg – Annual Mtg, Sunday, 1-12-2020 – TBA

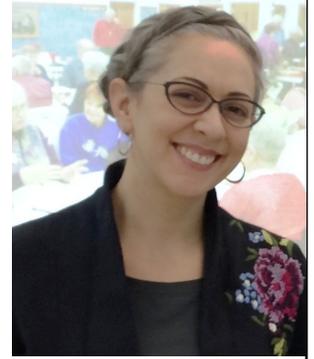
Adjournment: Agnes moves, Lynn seconds

Log hours from meeting: 1 CEU Hrs; 1 VOL Hrs ***(hours due 12-31-19!)***

Tour of New Extension office.

December Board Meeting Minutes

Muscatine Master Gardeners Association



By Rachel Horner Brackett, Master Gardener

December 10, 2019 Muscatine County Extension Office, 6:30 p.m.

Board Members in attendance: Mary Danner, Heather Harroun, Jane Hodge, Ed Moreno, and Rachel Horner Brackett, Krista Regennitter (Extension Liaison)

Absent: Gretchen Nollman (intern), Kathy Haltmeyer, Ron Jensen, Maryrose Peterschmidt

Presentation by Teri Dibbern on vermiculture composting

Agenda Details:

1. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order
2. Review and Approve Minutes of Last Board Meeting (10-08-19)
 - a. Minutes from 11/12/19 meeting also reviewed
 - b. *Harroun motions to approve, Horner Brackett seconds- motion carries*
 - c. Treasurer's Report and Payment of bills-Krista
 - d. Current balance is \$5,535.43
 - e. If students do not claim their scholarship within an academic year, the funds go back into our balance

- f. *Harroun motions to approve, Hodge seconds- motion carries*

Confirm remaining meetings for 2019 yr:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | <u>Board Meetings</u> | <u>General Meetings</u> |
| 2 | Dec. 10 th , 2019 | Jan 12 th , 20 (Note: Sunday @ 1pm) |

General Meeting Programs for 2019-2020:

- 1 Jan 12th '20- Annual Meeting at New Hope Church; 1pm to 3pm
- 2 Awards, election of MG Board, prizes.

Business:

6. MG Annual meeting-appoint planning committee (food, drinks, prizes)
 - a. \$50 payment for renting New Hope church
 - b. *Moreno moves to approve, Hodge seconds, motion carries*
 - c. Ed will bring ice; all board members bring a liter of soda
 - d. MG will purchase a six-foot combo sub sandwich and plates/silverware/napkins (Walmart)
 - e. *Moreno moves to approve purchase, Horner Brackett seconds, motion carries*
 - f. All members bring an appetizer/finger food
 - g. Mix & Mingle until 1:30, presentations/awards/elections until 3:00, must be cleaned up and out of the space by 3:30 at the latest
 - h. Door prizes: if MGs have an item to give, please bring one for the door prize table; Danner will look for Xmas Cactus plants to use as door prizes and decoration (up \$50)
Hodge moves to approve purchase, Moreno seconds, motion carries

(Continued next page, Board Minutes)

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- g. Review of all committee chairs and contacts for the annual meeting presentation
- 7. MG Scholastic Scholarship-Ed Moreno
 - a. Committee will continue as currently designated
 - b. Monday, March 30 is the deadline for the upcoming year
- 8. MG Interns-updates or final evaluations
 - a. One person dropped, but the other students completed the assessment successfully– 8 total for Muscatine county
- 9. Winter Web-Casts-
 - a. Topics: Adapting to Iowa weather changes; Kids in the garden; Iowa’s botanists and Native Plants
 - b. \$75 for all three
 - c. *Hodge motions to approve purchase, Harroun seconds, motion carries*
 - d. Krista will select available dates/times; the first webinar will show Feb. 11 at 5:30 PM before the Board meeting
- 10. Committee Reports:
 - a. MG Board Nomination committee- Who is on this committee other than Ed?
 - b. We have seats to fill next year!
 - c. Art of Gardening updates- organized by the committee; MCC is handling the contracts at this point
- 11. 4-H Digital Ambassador training at a General Meeting-What did we decide?
 - a. 4-H will present before the March 2020 general meeting
 - b. Is there interest for training on public speaking and presentation? Ask Linn County what their program looks like
- 12. Grafting workshop in 2020
 - a. Looking for someone to lead the workshop; split cost with arboretum?
 - b. Heather will speak to the greenhouse/suppliers
- 13. Other-miscellaneous
 - a. ISU Dept of Horticulture will be holding a Vegetable production and management ONLINE course starting January 13
 - b. Can be taken for college credit (tuition fees apply) or non-credit (\$300 cost)- Scholarship opportunities exist for MGs and those who work on community gardens—Krista will send out information

Adjournment

Hodge motions to adjourn; Horner Brackett seconds

The Lily Leaf Beetle Jumps To New Footholds Across Wisconsin

This Invasive Insect Causes Significant Damage To Lilies

By P.J. Liesch, UW Extension; December 3, 2019

It's been a big year for the lily leaf beetle in Wisconsin. Also called the scarlet lily beetle (*Lilioceris lili*), this invasive Eurasian insect made its first appearance in the state back in 2014. This species originally showed up in North America around the time of World War II, arriving in eastern Canada with shipments of plant materials. It eventually spread into New England in the 1990s and has been moving westward ever since.



An adult lily leaf beetle stands amid damage caused by the feeding of this invasive species.

True to its name, the lily leaf beetle has a fondness for lilies and can cause significant damage to true lilies (*Lilium* spp.), including both native lilies and cultivated types. The insect can also attack fritillaries (*Fritillaria* spp.), as well as lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*) and Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum* spp.) to lesser extents. However, daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.), canna lilies (*Canna* spp.), and calla lilies (*Calla palustris*) are not attacked.

The damage lily leaf beetle infestations cause can be severe. Since its arrival in Wisconsin roughly five years ago, some commercial flower growers in parts of the state have stopped growing and selling lilies altogether.

Adult lily leaf beetles are only about a quarter-of-an-inch long but pack a punch when they chew irregular holes and notches in lily leaves, stems and developing buds.

If there's a redeeming quality of this invasive insect, though, at least the adults are a conspicuous bright red color and are easy to spot. However, when disturbed, these beetles readily tumble from plants and land upside down on the ground where they play dead. Their dark-colored underside makes them much more difficult to see when this occurs.

If it weren't for their destructive nature, one might even consider the vibrant red beetles rather pretty.

It's hard to say the same of the larvae though. Lily leaf beetle larvae are a pale yellowish color with a black head capsule and approach nearly half an inch long. However, as a defensive behavior, the larvae typically camouflage themselves with their own excrement and look more like slimy greenish slugs or ooey-gooey animal droppings than insects. Just like the adults, the larvae cause significant damage as they chew holes and notches in lilies.

While pests like the Japanese beetle don't make their appearance until well into summer, the lily leaf beetle can be a threat throughout the entire growing season.

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This insect overwinters in the adult stage and the bright red beetles can emerge and start feeding early in the spring. After mating, female lily leaf beetles lay tiny reddish eggs on the underside of leaves. Eggs are often laid in batches of a dozen or fewer, but the long-lived females can lay hundreds of eggs in their lifetimes.

The emerging larvae start feeding and can be common during spring and early summer. After gorging themselves for a few weeks, larvae eventually wander from plants to pupate in the soil. The next batch of adults will be present through the summer and fall months.



A slimy, excrement-covered larva of the lily leaf beetle feeds on a lily bud.

For those Wisconsinites who haven't encountered this insect yet, it's not too surprising. The majority of the state has yet to see the lily leaf beetle — but that will likely change in the coming years.

When it was first detected in the Wausau area in 2014, lily leaf beetle was found nearly simultaneously in a number of spots around Marathon County, suggesting that it may have been spread by the movement of infested plant materials. Human movement of these insects remains an important factor today. Since its introduction, the lily leaf beetle has steadily been spreading around central Wisconsin through both human and natural movement.

Alarmingly, in the summer of 2019, the lily leaf beetle made some significant "jumps" and was detected in Dane and Door counties. In early October, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection confirmed the first detection of this species in Pierce County. This disconnected pattern on the map points to human movement as a likely cause.

Unfortunately, these detections represent new footholds in Wisconsin and residents of those areas now need to be on alert for this invasive beetle.

SIMPLE TIPS FOR GARDENERS

Compiled by Rachel Quillin

God made rainy days so the gardeners could get their housework done.

— Unknown

Plant Pioneers Still Contribute Today

By Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards trace their roots back to 1816 when James Hart Stark moved to Louisiana, Missouri bringing with him from Kentucky a bundle of apple scions to be grafted to root stock. He was so successful in developing superior apple trees and other fruit trees that he and his descendants made it into a business which was finally incorporated in 1889. At their 1894 International New Fruit Fair contest Jesse Hiatt from Peru, Iowa entered his delicious red apples and won first prize. Stark Bro's quickly purchased the rights and the Red Delicious apple was on the market. It wasn't until 1914 that A.H. Mullin from Odessa, West Virginia sold the rights to his Golden Delicious apple to Stark Bro's and it also became very popular.

In addition to these discovery plant purchases, Stark Bro's developed many new fruit tree varieties. Some of the most popular fruit trees are Hal-Bert Giant Peach (first patent in 1932), Red Delicious Apple, Yellow Delicious Apple, and Mortmorency Pie Cherry. Paul Stark, Sr experimented in 1938 with water misting to protect fruit tree buds during late cold spells. He also worked tirelessly with the Victory Garden program to promote home vegetable gardens during World War II.

Stark Bro's Nurseries was sold to Foster & Gallagher, a horticultural catalog company in 1994 and some family members stayed on to run the company until 1999. The parent company went bankrupt in 2001, however, a small group of dedicated employees continued to work without pay to graft and bud every rootstock thus saving that year's crop. Stark Bro's survived the bankruptcy and is now under private-family ownership once more.

Luther Burbank (1849-1926) — Luther Burbank successfully developed some 800 varieties of beneficial plants including fruits, flowers, grains, grasses and vegetables. Some of the best known are Russet Burbank potato, Shasta Daisy, July Elberta Peach, Santa Rosa Plum and Freestone Peach. Burbank's formal education was only through high school in Lancaster, Mass. In 1875 he relocated to Santa Rosa, California where he conducted extensive plant research including hybridization to combine positive traits from related plants. Some scientists were critical of Burbank's less than "scientific" methods but he was very successful in developing new and better cultivars. The business end of a plant nursery was not his strong suit so Burbank relied on grants from Carnegie Institution to support his hybridization research. His friends, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford also provided encouragement and support.

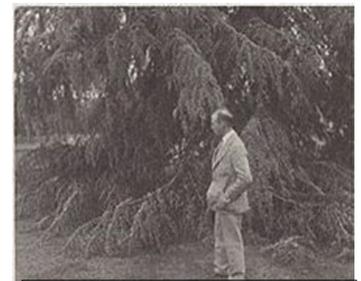


Thomas Edison, Luther Burbank and Henry Ford

Stark Bro's & Burbank -- Luther Burbank was attracted to the successful plant discoveries and propagation of Stark Bro's, and they were also impressed with Burbank's horticulture experiments. In 1893 they commenced a long and successful collaboration where Burbank continued his research and Stark Bro's provided the management and financial backing. Thomas Edison also join the duo to help them push through federal legislation to allow plant breeders to patent and thereby protect their plant research.



Original Delicious Apple from Jesse Hiatt of Peru, IA

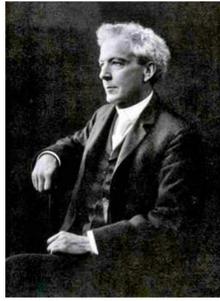


Paul Stark Sr. pays his respects at Luther Burbank's gravesite

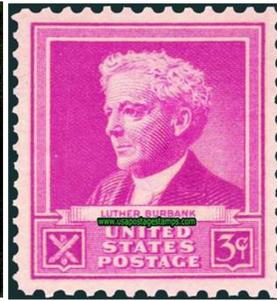
Memorabilia from Luther Burbank and Stark Bro's (see story previous page)



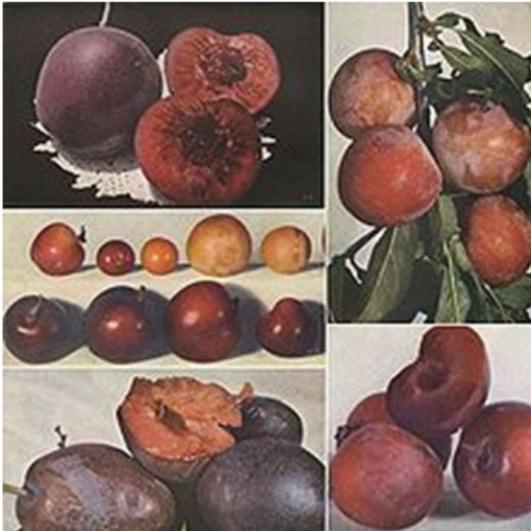
Burbank's Shasta Daisy



Luther Burbank – "The Wizard of Horticulture"



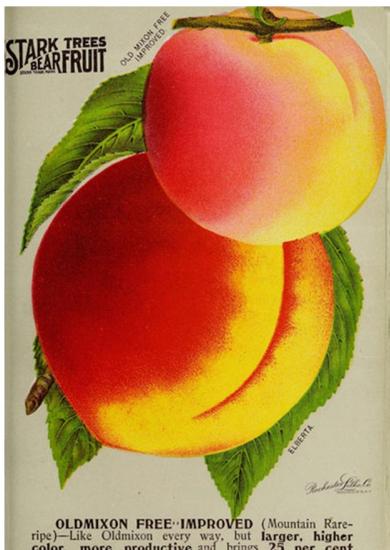
Russet Burbank Potatoes



Burbank Plums



Paul Stark, Sr experimented in 1938 with water misting to protect fruit tree buds during late cold spells.



Stark Bro's first color catalog was printed in 1896 and was the first color nursery catalog ever printed.



The "Golden Delicious" was a favorite of Queen Marie of Romania. On her widely heralded 1927 tour of the US, she visited St. Louis, where she first tasted it.



Now over a century old, the Golden Delicious Apple has a special place in Stark Bro's history.



Helping Trees and Shrubs Recover from Snow and Ice

By Gretchen Nollman, Master Gardener Intern,
and William Koellner, Lifetime Mshrubs cut back now



In Iowa, ice and snow storms can cause severe damage to trees that is difficult to repair. The weight of snow and ice can cause limbs to break trees and shrubs. This article deals with damaged trees and shrubs after the snow or ice melts next year and for years to come. Keep the following tips in mind when caring for storm damaged trees and shrubs:

If shrubs are weighed down with snow, sweep the snow off the branches with a broom, always sweeping in an upward motion. If you sweep from the top down it can result in broken branches. If the snow or ice is frozen on branches not dislodge by sweeping. Thus, allow it to melt as temperatures warm. Shaking trees and shrubs to remove snow could cause additional damage.

Trees with ice and snow have little you can do to help trees. Trees and shrubs bent, but not broken, by the weight of snow and ice will often recover without special care. Once the snow has melted, assess the damage. If only small limbs and twigs are damaged, the tree will likely make a full recovery on its own. If many large branches are damaged, the tree may be able to recover with conservative pruning and care, and time.

Young, recently planted trees that have fallen over can usually be saved. Cover any exposed roots as soon as possible to protect



them from drying out or freezing. Most shrubs damaged by snow and ice can be severely pruned if necessary. Most broadleaf evergreen shrubs (camellias, azaleas, hollies) and deciduous shrubs (spiraea, butterfly bush, Knockout roses) can be treated this way, but conifers (juniper, cedars, arborvitae) cannot. Conifers that break apart in ice storms will not recover and should be removed. Keep in mind spring blooming shrubs cut back now will not bloom this year.

When pruning broken branches, know where to cut. Cutting in the wrong place can lead to decay, failure in future storms, and tree death. Smaller pruning wounds are preferred, even if they leave what looks like a stub. There is no need to paint over pruning cuts with wound dressings – in fact, this can actually harm trees.

Continued next page, RECOVER

Continued from previous page, RECOVER

Don't over prune as over removing more limbs than necessary reduces the tree's ability to feed itself through photosynthesis that takes place in the leaves. Trees may look uneven or out of balance immediately after pruning but shrubs will fill in within a few seasons. You can help trees and shrubs recover from storm damage using a slow release or organic fertilizer in spring. Water recovering trees and shrubs just like you would new trees or shrubs during dry spells in summer and fall.



Most evergreen that have evolved with cold winter climates are bred to withstand winter snow and ice. They typically have a conical shape that more easily sheds the snow. They have the strength to bend

under the weight of snow and with the force of wind compared to other deciduous trees. However, after heavy storms, you may see a significant buildup of snow bending over evergreen branches. It can be quite dramatic with branches nearly touching the ground or bent back half way.

While you may be tempted to prune, we suggest waiting and assess the situation until midsummer. It is important to remember that the branches of trees in cold winter weather can be brittle and easily damaged by people whacking at them with brooms or

rakes. After the snow melts and the weather warms up, and sap flows again. It is at this point that the branches typically bounce back to their original position.

However, winter damage to evergreens is more common with trees or shrubs that have tips that point upward. Thus, if you see snow bending over evergreens such as arborvitae, remove the snow carefully and wait to see if they bounce back in the spring.

You can also prevent this from occurring in the first place by tying the branches together so snow can't get in between them. Start at the tip of the evergreen plant and work your way around and downward. Use a soft material that won't damage the bark or foliage. well but you might have to tie many pairs together.

If the branches don't bounce back in spring, you actually have evergreen snow damage. You can tie the branches to other branches in the tree or shrub for borrowed strength. Use a soft material (soft rope, pantyhose) and attach the branch below and above the bent over section and tie it to another set of branches. Check the situation again in six months. If the branch doesn't repair itself, then you may have to remove it.

Be Thankful

TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO THANK OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND KRISTA FOR ALL THEY DO TO MAKE OUR MASTER GARDENING ORGANIZATION VIBRANT AND SUCCESSFUL WHILE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY.

Muscatine County Extension Office

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Krista Regennitter
Muscatine County Extension Director
Master Gardener Liaison

. . . and justice for all

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

Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

 * **Current Emails and Addresses** *
 * As a reminder – keep both the Extension Office *
 * and Lynn Pruitt current on any changes of e-mail *
 * addresses, phone numbers, or mailing ad- *
 * dresses. These need to be current to keep you *
 * — our members — informed. *



Applications for the Search for Excellence award will be due on March 15, 2020.

Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program of the Iowa Master Gardener program. SFE has seven categories:

- Youth/School Gardens
- Demonstration/Research Garden (applied scientific methodology)
- Workshop or Presentation
- Special Needs Audience (i.e. seniors, low-income families, people with disabilities, minority groups, incarcerated individuals, etc...)
- Mass Communications (i.e. newsletters, television, radio, social media, website, publications)

2019 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board

(To be updated at Annual Meeting)

Board Members

- Mary Danner (2019) Chair
- Heather Haroun (2020) Vice Chair
- Rachel Horner Brackett (2020)* Sec/Treas
- Kathy Haltmeyer (2020)
- Jane Hodge (2019)
- Ron Jensen (2019)*
- Ed Moreno (2020)
- Maryrose Peterschmidt (2020)
- Gretchen Nollman (Intern)

() Year term expires as of Dec. 31

** Going off Board Dec 31, 2019/2020 but eligible for re-election*



Editorial Comments:

Please remember, this is YOUR newsletter. Your articles, photographs and other tidbits are welcome. Send them by the end of each month to pruit.lynn@gmail.com or call 563.260.0234

— Lynn Pruitt, Editor —