July 2018
Muscatine County

WORTHWHILE DIRT

Feel free to talk to these plants. They understand.

NEVER ENOUGH THYME

WEED IT AND REAP

RING BELL IF NO ANSWER
PULL WEEDS

If You Can't Be The Sharpest Tool In The Shed, You Can Always Be The Hoe.

God Made Rainy Days So Gardeners Could Get Housework Done

LIFE'S A GARDEN
DIG IT!

Courtesy www.pinterest.com
Upcoming General Meeting & Event Highlights

Coordinated by Jane Hodge, Master Gardener

July 10, Tuesday — Glorious Ferns at Wild Cat Den State Park
Time: 6:00pm till 7:30 or 8:00
Place: Meet at the parking lot above the Grist Mill (where we will get further instructions)
Bob Bryant, who will soon be charting all the ferns at WCD, will lead us along the fern strewn paths at WCD identifying each one. We will stay on the designated path. We’ll gather at the parking lot by the Grist Mill and Melpine School then travel together to a low parking lot where we will end the walk. Now we will carpool to a top location so that we will descend and those who have parked on the lower lot will not have to reclimb to the top location. Sorry if this sounds confusing...we’ll go over it again at the Grist Mill parking lot. As confusing as this sounds seeing between 17 - 19 varieties will make it all worthwhile.

July 15, Sunday — Heritage Gardens of Plum Grove
Time: Meet at ISU Extension parking lot at 1:00pm to carpool to Plum Grove or meet us there at 2:00pm
Place: Plum Grove, 1030 Carroll Street, Iowa City
Plum Grove is Iowa’s first governor’s home built in 1844 where Lucas lived with his wife, Friendly, and several children and grandchildren. IC Master Gardeners will lead our tour of the heritage gardens around the home. Governor Lucas had Muscatine ties from 1838 - 1841, he was the territorial governor and spent those years mostly in Burlington and Muscatine.

July 17, Bucket Brigade @ WL Fair Grounds (see page 4 for details)
July 24, 6:30pm — ISU Field Day — Fruit and Vegetable Meeting at Muscatine Island ISU Research Farm (see page 15 for details)
July 26, 6:30 pm Webcast — Local Bees and Organic Vegetables at ISU Extension Office
August 23, 6:30 pm Webcast — Compost 101 and Growing Roses at ISU Extension Office
Sept 11, 6:30 pm — MG Board Meeting at ISU Extension Office
Oct 9, 6:30 pm — General Meeting at ISU Extension Office - Tami Schmidt will present the prairie rejuvenation she has done at her Milan home.
Nov 13, 6:30 pm — MG Board Meeting at ISU Extension Office
Dec 11, 6:00 pm — MG Annual Meeting at New Hope Church

See ISU Website for additional information and many more opportunities:
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events
Hello Master Gardeners!

Fair is right around the corner and there is a lot of activity in the office getting ready! I look forward to seeing many of you in the Floral Hall. If the fair is new to you check out the Muscatine County Fair Book at http://muscatinecountyfair.com/fairbook.html to learn about all the great ways to get involved. I highly recommend the bucket brigade, not only because it is fun and the competition is stiff, but because the buckets are used to decorate the fairgrounds throughout the fair! Also check out the other Open Divisions (Division J is Flowers and Plants) and make sure to bring the family out to enjoy our great Fair. Stop in the 4-H building (close to the floral hall) and admire all the great 4-H projects and talk to the 4-H'ers hosting the building. If you are adventurous come on over to the barns and talk with 4-H and FFA members about their livestock projects. They are always excited to share! I will most likely be in the 4-H Livestock Office (a.k.a. tiny shed outside the large show ring) entering fair results from livestock shows – stop in and say hi! This year is my first year as a 4-H mom; looking forward to the 4-H Dog Show on Wednesday morning!

I am still looking for a host for the July 26 webcast: Local Bees & Organic Vegetables. Host can count both two hours of volunteer and education hours. The webcast is from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Extension Office. Hosts are asked to stop by the office and pick up a key in the week before, open the doors, take attendance, use the computer to play the recorded webcast and close up shop afterwards. If you are interested in hosting please let me know (Kristar@iastate.edu, 563-263-5701).

We also have Compost 101 & Growing Roses webcast on August 23. Thank you to the Pruitt’s for volunteering to host. This webcast will also be 6:30-8:30 pm at the Extension Office and Master Gardeners can record two education hours for attending.

(continued next page, DIRECTOR)
Harvest help will be needed soon at the Muscatine Island Research farm. If you are willing to help harvest we ask that you review this brief video:

https://iastate.box.com/s/ka9aqpw9kgxbmpswh0r0jx1qbs6gm84.

Data collection binders should be at each farm so that total marketable and non-marketable yields can be recorded at each harvest. Dominic Snyder will be emailing once he is ready for help.

The annual field days will take place at five Iowa State research and demonstration farms and two county fairgrounds in July and August. The public is welcome to attend these free field days, which take place rain or shine.

"The theme for this year is planting the rainbow, with vegetables planted to be donated to nearby food pantries ranging in colors like pink tomatoes, purple snap beans, yellow cauliflower and orange winter squash," said Cindy Haynes, a horticulture associate professor who coordinates the field days.

Hope you are all having a wonderful summer!

Krista

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**Bucket Brigade — Final Notice**

By Linda Wells, Master Gardener

The Muscatine County Fair is fast approaching, so therefore, is our annual BUCKET BRIGADE that is held in the Floral Building the night before the fair begins on July 18, 2018. The theme this year is "Lighten Up" with the colors for the live flowers are: Pale Pink, Lavender and White. The judges will be looking at each bucket to determine if all three colors are showing, if the theme is represented in the design, the condition of the flowers and if the flowers are sun appropriate.

The 5-gallon buckets can be decorated in any manner that shows the theme of "Lighten Up" by painting the bucket, use of fabric or any other method you feel appropriate. Items can also be added to the flowers that helps with the theme, but since they are shown throughout the fair, don’t use any items that are valuable to you. One other rule that is strictly enforced, is the bucket cannot weigh more than 30 pounds, (hint: don’t water your bucket before bringing it to Floral Bldg, it will be watered after judging). It will still be used as a decoration at the fair, but will NOT be judged.

Don’t forget registration is open for the Master Conservationist class starting on August 30!

Find out more at: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/muscatine/news/master-conservationist-program-be-offered-muscatine-and-louisa-counties

The buckets must be brought to the floral building on Tuesday, July 17 between 5:00 to 6:30pm. Judging begins at 6:30 pm and awards will follow the judging.
Master Gardener 2018 Summer Webcast Series

GROWING SEASON

Insect Update & Tree Care
6:30-8:30 | Thursday, June 28
Get the latest details about invasive garden pests. Then learn about how to maintain the health of your trees.

Local Bees & Organic Vegetables
6:30-8:30 | Thursday, July 26
Find out how you can attract native bees and other pollinators to the garden. Then learn how to organically maintain your vegetable garden.

Compost 101 & Growing Roses
6:30-8:30 | Thursday, August 23
Build your compost IQ. Then learn about how to grow roses that will make your garden shine.

Join us: Webcasts are FREE and Open To The Public!
Call to reserve your spot at 563-263-5701 or KristaR@iastate.edu
All webcasts will be held at the Muscatine County Extension Office, 1514 Isett Avenue, Muscatine

All webcasts count towards your Master Gardener continuing education hours.

www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener
Bill Koellner and I were visiting the other morning while I was watering the West Liberty downtown hanging flower baskets around 6:30 AM. This was a duty Bill shared with Vince Ottaway for many years as Muscatine Master Gardeners (MMG). Currently, Ron Jensen and I share this task as part of our MMG service agreement. We talked about the garden projects at the Fairgrounds, my recovery from recent health issues, and all the things we were involved in that keep our lives so busy. Bill smiled before heading to his morning coffee shop ritual and said, “I don’t know how to say no”. I smiled back and said, “I know what you mean” and we both chuckled.

I suspect we can all relate to this conversation. We are committed to volunteering and serving our communities.

You can hear the corn grow and the Muscatine County Fair is approaching quickly. I volunteered to man the Floral Hall on Sunday, which is a great opportunity to see beautiful displays and meet really nice people as representatives of MMG. Consider volunteering for a shift.

The MMG Research Farm tour is July 24th at 6:30pm. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I’ll close with some pictures of the West Liberty Donation and Community gardens that Ron and I are also partnering on!

(editor’s note: see remainder of photos on donation garden page)
Muscatine Master Gardener Association
General Meeting Minutes - Pruitt Home in Nichols
June 12, 2018

6-7 pm Garden Tour
Business Meeting called to order at 7:05

No Treasurer’s report

Upcoming events- Details in newsletter
June 26, 6 pm — Big Sand Mound
July 10, 6 pm— Fern walk at Wild Cat Den
July 15, Leave ISU Extension Office at 1:00 pm for Plum Grove
July 24, 6:30 pm — Field Day at the Research Farm

Three Summer webinars available. Open to the public

Committee Reports-
Mulford Garden is strictly community gardens now.
Hy-Vee Main Street Garden is going great with the Flickinger kids.
Fairgrounds -- Adding landscaping plants around upgraded buildings.
Have grants for new trees from Trees Forever and MidAmerican Energy.
Flower Building at the Fair Grounds- MG will be hosting. You can volunteer time to add to your hours. Thursday 5 pm-Sunday 4 pm. Sign up for your time slot with Jan Koellner.
Sherry Mahoney is not taking the grant she was awarded for the Old Barn site.
West Liberty Garden added irrigation
Zion Lutheran has already started harvesting..
Church of Christ Garden is coming along.

Kathy Haltmeyer gave a presentation on Lady Bird Johnson class. Kathy has the binder if anyone is interested in looking at it.

Adjourned 7:46pm
1/2 hour education
1 hour volunteer

Candi Whitmer,
Master Gardener,
Secretary/Treasurer
Every year at the end of May I can expect a phone call from Taylor’s Market. What this means to the team at the Zoo Garden is we can select many of the annuals that we want to use in all the beds at the garden. Taylors donate all the plants that are left from their growing season to various groups and organizations that are non-profit. The Taylors have been doing this for over 40 years. We arrive early to make sure we have a red wagon to load the plants into. We are so thankful to the Taylors for this kind act. Last year we had over $1000 in free plants to use at the Zoo Garden.
Monkey Business

By Mary Danner, Master Gardener

It is well known that the Weed Park was built on land donated to the city by a prominent early pioneer of Muscatine, Dr. James Weed and his wife, Mary in 1899, when he left his career as a Dentist to promote agriculture and horticulture. In 1921 a Zoo was established on the 63-acre park when two honey bears were donated to the project. Many animal species, including elephants, buffalo, mountain goats, bears, reptiles and monkeys were residents of the zoo over the years until rising costs forced the city to close the zoo in 1980 and sell the animals. The remaining zoo grounds suffered some dismal years and care of the remaining area was a challenge.

Then a group of local volunteers spearheaded by Master Gardener Maryrose Peterschmidt began the project to build theme gardens on the zoo grounds that represented several of the species that previously inhabited the zoo, and thus the Weed Park Zoo Garden was founded and opened to the public on May 23rd, 2010. The Monkey Business garden was designed with plants and metal sculptures on the area that had housed the monkey enclosure, with many plants that represented a monkey species name in some way. Plus it has a ‘tropical feel’ with the ornamental grasses such as Little Zebra Grass, Karl Foerster Feather Reed grass and White Pampas grass; variegated Solomon’s Seal and of course Spider Flower (Cleome) and Spiderwort for the Spider monkey. (continued above right)

I began helping to care for the “Monkey Business” Garden in 2013, so many of the foundation plants had already been established. (See the picture from 2010 below left.) Some of those were the Dwarf Burning Bushes, (although not so dwarf anymore!); Dwarf Korean Lilac, Shamrock Inkberry, a couple flowering Dogwoods, Magic Carpet Spirea, and many perennials like Cranesbill, Day Lilies, Purple Cone Flower, and Liatris.

(cont’d next page, MONKEY GARDEN)
In 2014 we added a Globe Blue Spruce standard after the deer ate our Cinderella Crabapple, but now we keep a hardware cloth cage around its trunk for protection. We also planted two Ash Leaf Spireas, which are very tropical looking with its tri-colored foliage. It fits in the theme perfectly but it has turned out to be a bit invasive, so we have to keep it in check and cut out runners annually.

This garden is somewhat secluded and located on the lower level walkway through the Zoo Garden, on the edge of the woody area there, and we have had issues with deer damage and vandalism. One of the monkey sculptures was cut off and removed early on, and there are always deer tracks to be found. Every spring we try to add in new perennials to replace any that have died, and with the gracious donation from Taylor’s Market, we plant annuals to add a pop of color, especially in the front to fill in between the perennials. *(See photos below and right)*

This spring we planted 3 flats of colorful annuals, but this week 90% of those were either eaten by deer or broke off and pulled out. Many will re-grow from the base, but we may need to stick a few more in, maybe with some Milorganite granules to ward off the deer! I guess you can say it is still a ‘wild animal’ park of sorts.

Simple Tips for Gardening

In the dooryard fronting an old farmhouse near the white-wash’d palings,

Stands the lilac-bush tall-growing with heart-shaped leaves of rich green, with many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the perfume strong I love,

With every leaf a miracle — and from this bush in the dooryard,

With delicate-color’d blossoms and heart-shaped leaves of rich green,

A sprig with its flower I break.

— Walt Whitman
Additional Zoo Garden News

By Marci Stephens, Master Gardener

Hello to July!!
It promises to be a month of celebrations. The Fourth of July and our Muscatine County Fair. Hopefully, you’ll be able to enjoy both events.

The “Zoo Keepers” at the Zoo Gardens have had a busy spring. Beginning with Spring Clean-Up, watering and the continual race against the weeds. The recent much needed/appreciated rains were not only appreciated by the plantings, but weeds loved it and are as pretty and green as the plants.

Several of the gardens were recipients of Taylor’s Market Plant Give-Away to Non-Profits earlier in the month of June. The Butterfly Garden received flats of Mini-Zinnias, a few Cleome, and Dianthus. You’ll notice a variety of annuals through out the gardens provided by Taylor’s.

We were pleased to see that several of the Butterfly plants returned this year, which our Butterfly ladies—Chris Sample and Candi Whitmer had planted. The first section of the two areas of the Butterfly Garden, has been designated as a Monarch Waystation—also due to Chris and Candi’s efforts. You may have noticed the sign depicting the garden as the Monarch Waystation beside the walkway to the overlook. There are usually butterflies gliding among the blooming plants, a delight to see and enjoy.

We have added 5 new Cone Flowers—“Butterfly Kisses” and are excited to see these beauties bloom. Blooms are to be a large pom-pom which is also fragrant. The Butterfly Kisses will be pink and should be easily seen against the Weeping Spruce Evergreen. This variety is a shorter, mounding Cone Flower, growing to about 20 inches in height.

Several Phlox—“Peacock White” were also added in the area where the white lilies are now blooming. White seems to add that fresh punch to the garden. Mature height for this variety is 24 inches and will be a good addition to the middle of the garden.

We also planted 10 of the ‘Rocketman” Russian Sage, a variety that is shorter and more compact than the taller Russian Sage Plants. Rocketman is to reach of height of 30 inches. However, we’re having major difficulty with these plantings, as the rabbits LOVE them. They have reduced every plant to about an inch in height. Thinking we will sprinkle each plant with a heavy layer of black pepper to deter the nibbling! Will continue to water at least once a week, as July seems to be hot & dry. We connect a sprinkler and run 2 hours on each side, allowing for a deep soaking.

Happy July Gardening to all, Marci
We're staying busy at the Research Farm, but things are coming along nicely. We actually just harvested some broccoli and zucchini this morning for the food pantry. There is one master gardener that contacted me about harvesting and delivering, so that is nice. If anyone else is interested just have them get in touch with me at dsnyder@iastate.edu.

Simple Tips for Gardening
Written and Compiled by Rachel Quillin

TAKE THE PLASTIC SPADE, IT IS THY PENCIL;
TAKE THY SEEDS, THY PLANTS, THEY ARE THY COLOURS.

— William Mason
Hy-Vee Main Street Garden 2018

The Flickinger Learning Center students have done a fantastic job of preparing the raised beds, planting and weeding the Hy-Vee Main Street Garden. Nancy Dew, recently retired from Hy-Vee, is our coordinator. Residents at the adjacent Jesus Mission will do the harvesting.

*We have beans, peas, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, cabbage, broccoli, etc. and a few flowers.*
Zion Lutheran Church Garden 2018

Here is a new Donation Garden for 2018 — Zion Lutheran Church’s members are creating and tending several raised beds with a unique and innovative name!

Terri Hanson, Master Gardener Intern is the project coordinator.

One of our youth helping pick radishes.

Getting started with Raised Beds

Beans and Peppers

Cucumbers growing on Trellis

Tomatoes
West Liberty Donation Garden 2018

This garden sponsored by Ed Moreno and Ron Jensen:

Simple Tips for Gardening
Written and Compiled by Rachel Quillin

Some plants are beautiful but invasive. If you want to include them in your garden simply cut out the bottom of a plastic pot and sink the pot in the ground to its rim. Fill the pot with soil and put the plant in the pot.
Church of Christ Donation Garden 2018

The upper left photo is where we started earlier this spring. The remaining photos show current growing conditions with some vegetables nearly ready for harvest; others, especially the tomatoes will come on later.
Ten Muscatine Master Gardeners traveled to Princeton, Illinois on June 9 to visit Hornbaker Gardens. They had an outstanding nursery for shopping. Rich Hornbaker gave a presentation on pruning Hydrangeas.

Thanks to Rachel Horner Brackett and Jane Hodge for making the arrangements for this unique out-of-town gardening trip!
Garden Tour and General Meeting

About 35 Master Gardeners and guests enjoyed an evening of touring flower beds, food and fellowship at the Pruitt’s in Nichols on June 12. We also received an interesting educational presentation by Kathy Haltmeyer as a part of our General Meeting. Below is the group circled up for the formal portion of the evening. Further down the page are some of the flower beds photographed about a week later (more in bloom). Unfortunately, the flower tours were self-guided because Emma Mae had fallen a few days earlier and was confined to a walker.
Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve Tour

Five of our Master Gardeners braved the threatening rain and enjoyed a very interesting and educational tour of the Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve the evening of June 26. This unique natural feature is located on land owned both by Monsanto and MidAmerica Energy just off of Wiggins Road south of Muscatine.

With 510 acres, Big Sand Mound is home to undisturbed prairies, shallow ponds and woodlands, and it has the highest concentration of threatened and endangered species in the state. Of more than 400 different plants at the site, 80 percent are native. Paul Mayes, who has been performing research on this site for many year, was our very able and informative guide.

Photo below shows Paul Mayes contemplating the beautiful grasses with a view toward the trees surrounding Spring Lake.

Photo below shows prickly pear (Opuntia), a genus in the cactus family, which grows fairly abundantly in this environment.

Photo below shows the low wire fence which is used to “herd” turtles through the opening to be “captured” briefly for identification, examination, then release.
West Liberty & Wilton
4th to 6th Grade
Going into the 4th to 6th grade during 2018-2019 school year.
2018 Summer Day Camp Schedule

Kids in the Kitchen
June 20, 21 & 22
12:30pm—5:00pm
First Church United—West Liberty
Join us and learn how to prepare simple, healthy and fun recipes that campers can make for themselves and their families. Campers will also learn about food safety practices and the benefits of exercising all while having fun!

Slimy, Gooey, Gross
July 26
8:30am to 4:30pm
Wilton City Park—Enclosed Shelter
This camp involves fun, hands-on activities that teach basic science principles. Campers will explore slimy, gooey, gross science while conducting icky, sticky experiments!

Let’s Get Growing
June 27, 28 & 29
8:00am to 12:30pm
Wilton City Park—Enclosed Shelter
During these camps, youth will get a chance to look at different aspects of horticulture, gardening and floriculture. They will also get to see how the world around us is using science, technology, engineering, and mathematics! They will be discovering many aspects of science through messy, fun, hands on activities!

Let’s Get Growing
August 1, 2 & 3
8:00am to 12:30pm
Floral Hall
Muscatine County Fairgrounds - West Liberty
During these camps, youth will get a chance to look at different aspects of horticulture, gardening and floriculture. They will also get to see how the world around us is using science, technology, engineering, and mathematics! They will be discovering many aspects of science through messy, fun, hands on activities!

The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to Ross Wilburn, 515-296-1462, wilburn@iastate.edu.
Muscatine Garden Club

A Small Standard Flower Show

“On The Banks of The River”

Riverview Center
Harbor Drive
Muscatine, Iowa
July 9, 2018
8:00-5:30pm

Open and free to the public 1:00-5:30pm

An NGC Flower Show
Member National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa
District 1
Japanese Beetle And Its Control

By Bill Koellner, Lifetime Muscatine County Master Gardener

This imported pest was detected in New Jersey in 1916, having been introduced from Japan. The adult beetles feed on over 400 species of broadleaved plants, although only about 50 species are preferred. The grubs will also feed on a wide variety of plant roots including ornamental trees and shrubs, garden and turf grasses. They seem to especially relish Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and tall fescues. The adults are skeletonizers, that is, they eat the leaf tissue between the leaf veins but leave the veins behind. The attacked leaves look like lace that soon withers and dies. The adults will often attack flower buds and fruit. The grubs can kill small seedling plants but most commonly damage turf. The turf first appears off-color as if under water stress. Large populations of grubs kill the turf in irregular patches.

The life stages of the Japanese beetle are typical of white grubs. The white oval eggs from the beetles are usually about 1/16” in size. The beetles lay the eggs in the soil where they absorb moisture and become more roundish.

The adult beetles are a brilliant, metallic green color, generally oval in outline. Larvae that have matured by June as it takes about 1000 degree days of heat and the adult beetles emerge from the last week of June and last through July, and occasionally early August. On warm sunny days the new beetles crawl onto low growing plants and warm for a while before taking flight.

The first beetles out of the ground seek out suitable food plants and begin to feed as soon as possible. These early arrivals begin to release a pheromone or odor which is attractive to adults that emerge later. These odors attract additional adults to gather in masses on the unfortunate plants first selected. Newly emerged females release an additional sex pheromone which attracts males. The first mating usually takes place on turf.

(Continued next page, JAPANESE BEETLE)
After feeding for a day or two, the females leave feeding sites in the afternoon and burrow into the soil to lay eggs at a depth of 2 to 4 inches. Females may lay 1 to 5 eggs scattered in an area before leaving the soil. These females will leave the following morning or a day or two later and will return to feed and mate. This cycle of feeding, mating and egg laying continues until the female has laid 40 to 60 eggs. About 95% of a population is generally laid by mid-August. This information is from research at Midwest universities.

If the soil is sufficiently moist, eggs will swell in a few days. Egg development takes only 8 to 9 days at 80 to 90 degrees F or as long as 30 days at 65 degrees F, based on studies at Iowa State. The first larvae dig to the soil surface where they feed on roots and organic material. If sufficient food and moisture are available, the first instars can complete development in 17 days at 78 degrees F or as long as 30 days at 68 degrees F. The second take 18 days to mature at 78 degrees F and 56 days at 68 degrees F.

While this development is occurring, grubs may tunnel laterally in search of organic matter and fresh roots. This creates a very spongy feel to the soil and turf. Generally most of the grubs are ready to dig into the soil to hibernate. The grubs burrow 4 to 8 inches into the soil as cold temperatures arrive. At this depth, the soil rarely gets below 25 degrees F and the grubs survive with no difficulty. If the soil begins to cool further, the grubs may dig deeper. The grubs return to the surface in the spring as the soil temperature warms. Generally the grubs can be expected to be active at the surface when the surface soil temperatures are about 60 degrees F.

Since the eggs and young grubs are very susceptible to dry soils, do not irrigate during the time the eggs and first larvae are developing. However, if natural rainfall occurs, this tactic will not work. Do not plant trees and shrubs that are highly attractive to adult Japanese beetles near turf.

(Continued next page, JAPANESE BEETLE)
(Continued from previous page, JAPANESE BEETLE)

Trees and shrubs most attractive to adults include: Japanese and Norway maple, birch, pin oak, horse chestnut, rose of Sharon, sycamore, ornamental apple, plum, cherry, rose, mountain ash, willows, lindens, elms and Virginia creeper.

Trees and shrubs rarely attacked include: red and silver maple, holly, boxwood, euonymus, flowering dogwood, cedar, juniper, arborvitae, red oak, tulip tree, magnolias, red mulberry, forsythia, privet, lilac, spruces, hydrangeas and yew.

The use of mechanical control in trapping has been developed to capture the adults. These traps generally use a mixture of sex pheromones. Those who use the traps indicate that these traps do not significantly reduce grub populations and in some cases may actually contribute to increased foliar plant damage. There has been no correlation between trap captures and reductions in white grub populations in surrounding turf grass areas. In fact, the traps will invite the neighbor’s beetles to your yard.

The use of chemical controls is best done by contacting your local garden center where they have the best pesticides. When using trapping to monitor adult activity, keep in mind that the females lay the majority of their eggs within the first 7 to 10 days of their existence. What are those green garden beetles? Here are tips on how to identify and get rid of Japanese beetles.

Unfortunately, the most effective way of getting rid of Japanese beetles are to hand pick them. It’s time consuming, but it works, especially if you are diligent. When you pick them off, put them in a solution of 1 tablespoon of liquid dishwashing detergent and water, which will cause them to drown.

Neem oil and sprays containing potassium bicarbonate are somewhat effective, especially on roses. The adults ingest a chemical in the neem oil and pass it on in their eggs and the resulting larvae die before they become adults. Neem can be harmful to fish and should be reapplied after rainstorms.

(Continued next page, JAPANESE BEETLE)
You can buy Japanese beetle traps of all sorts, but most are no more effective than a can of fruit cocktail. Open the can and let it sit in the sun for a week to ferment. Then place it on top of bricks or wood blocks in a light-colored pail, and fill the pail with water to just below the top of the can. Place the pail about 25 feet from the plants you want to protect. The beetles will head for the sweet bait, fall into the water, and drown. If rain dilutes the bait, start over.

Japanese beetles are attracted to geraniums. They eat the blossoms, promptly get dizzy, fall down, and permit you to dispose of them conveniently with a dustpan and brush. Plant geraniums close to more valuable plants which you wish to save from the ravages of Japanese beetles.

I have noticed that the very dark colored leaves attract the beetles first, like our ornamental plum, while adjacent to the plum is a serviceberry bush and it was not affected. In addition, our plants that have a waxy surface are not phased by the beetles. Last year was the worst year for the beetle population in our neighborhood.

We welcomed the Muscatine Garden Club to tour our place in early June.

Lynn and Emma Mae Pruitt
July Gardening Guide for Zone 5
(Courtesy of Midwest Gardening)

General tasks: Water, weed, deadhead
- **Water well.** Keep flowers and lawns green and healthy by making sure your landscaping gets enough water -- about 1 inch a week. If using a sprinkler, set out a pan or tuna can on the lawn to collect and measure how much water falls. The best time to water is in early morning; this prevents water loss from evaporation and gives foliage daylight hours to dry to prevent disease.
- **Keep up with weeding.** Try working in the cool of morning -- especially right after watering, when roots will be easier to pull -- or in the evening to minimize your exposure to heat.
- **Deadhead flowers regularly.** It keeps your landscape tidy and encourages certain flowers to bloom more.
- **Mulch.** Spread 1-3 inches of wood chips or other weed-suppressing material now that the soil has warmed.

Container garden care
- **Water often and thoroughly.** Container gardens usually need daily watering in hot weather, and some plants (such as fuchsia, impatiens and hibiscus) will need water twice a day. If the soil becomes dry and hard, set the container in a bowl or bucket of water for a couple of hours to rehydrate.
- **Pinch off yellowing or problem foliage and spent flower blooms** to encourage lush growth and flowers.
- **Fertilize containers every two weeks** to assure growth and bloom. Use a bloom-booster fertilizer on flowering plants.

(continued next page, GUIDE)
Harvest veggies regularly
• **Enjoy regular harvests** from your vegetable garden. Harvesting encourages vegetables to keep producing until fall. This is especially true with green beans, but also green peppers, hot peppers, cucumbers, squash, eggplants and tomatoes.

Plant with caution
• **Continue to plant trees, shrubs and roses.** Keep well-watered. But don't plant bare-root types, which need cool, wet weather to take off.
• In the northern Midwest, you may be able to **divide and transplant fall-blooming perennials now** (it's usually too hot and dry this month for this farther south). Wait to divide spring bloomers until fall.
• In the northern Midwest, you can **continue to plant summer bulbs** such as gladiolus corms, canna rhizomes, and begonia tubers.

Lawn: Go high
• **Mow high.** The longer grass shades the soil, conserving moisture and discouraging weed. Mow to 3 inches for cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, and 2 inches for most warm-season grasses, such as Bermuda-grass and zoysia. Remember to mow often. Don't remove more than one-third of the grass blade at a time or you'll stress the grass.

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**Simple Tips for Gardening**

Written and Compiled by Rachel Quillin

*When you are planning your gardens, remember that their purpose is to make your home more attractive — not to hide it.*
2018 Master Gardener Committees — Chair persons
(There are still opportunities for volunteers)

Arboretum — Charles Rickey 563-260-5807
Art of Gardening – Susan Cradick 563-299-9114
Bucket Brigade – Barb Woods 563-506-4506 and Linda Wells 563-263-0292
Community Donation Gardens – Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Education — Jane Hodge 563-272-1638
Fair Floral Hall — Bill Koellner 319-627-4545
Farmer’s Market – Susan Cradick 563-299-9114
Helping Master Gardeners Enter Hours — Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Historian – Emma Mae Pruitt 319-723-4362
Hy-Vee — Mainstreet Garden — Lynn Pruitt 563-260-0234
Manning Desk at Extension Office – Krista Regennitter 563-263-5701
Member’s Garden Tours — Jane Hodge 563-272-1638
Mulford Community Gardens – Heather Harroun 563-554-0028
Muscatine Branching Out – Kathy Chalupa 563-299-0887
Muscatine Bridge Entry Sign Area — Chair position open
Muscatine County Fair Office Garden — Bill Koellner 319-627-4545
Newsletter — Lynn Pruitt 563-260-0234
Plant Sale — Heather Harroun 563-554-0028
Publicity — Ed Moreno 319-331-0713
Zoo Garden — Maryrose Peterschmidt 563-263-0846

Now is the ideal time to volunteer to serve with one of the committees listed to the left. Just give a call to the listed chair person.

Please note there is one committee without a chair person. Give Laura McGinnis a call if you want to know what’s involved — 309-791-0054

Simple Tips for Gardening
Written and Compiled by Rachel Quillin

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES THAT A GARDEN MAKES AVAILABLE FOR USE, IS THE GARDENER’S OWN BODY. A GARDEN GIVES THE BODY THE DIGNITY OF WORKING IN ITS OWN SUPPORT. IT IS A WAY OF REJOINING THE HUMAN RACE.

— Wendell Berry
Muscatine County Extension Office
1514 Isett Avenue
Muscatine, IA  52761-4629
563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894
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.

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** 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.**
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Thank-you note from
Scholarship Recipient

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to be a recipient of
A MG Scholarship. I look forward to my
Studies at UNI. Thank you for helping
me further my education. I will be
Registering for class in early July and will
Send you all the necessary information.

Sincerely,
Emma Martinez

2018 Muscatine County
Master Gardener Board
Board Members
Ed Moreno (18)*  Chair
Heather Haroun (18)*  Vice Chair
Candi Whitmer (19)*  Sec/Treas
Kathy Haltmeyer (18)*
Mary Danner (19)
Jane Hodge (19)
Ron Jensen (19)*
Maryrose Peterschmidt (18)*
Rachel Horner Brackett (Intern)
Lynn Pruitt (Past Chair Advisor)
(  )Year term expires as of Dec. 31
* Going off Board Dec 31, 2018/2019
but eligible for re-election

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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 pruitt.lynn@gmail.com or call 563.260.0234

— Lynn Pruitt, Editor —