What’s in this September newsletter...

- News and Notes!
- General Meeting: September 14th
- Donation Garden Pictures
- Educational Hours! - Website resources
- Volunteer Opportunities: World of Gardening
- Word Search: Oktoberfest
- Don’t forget to Submit Hours!
News from Education Coordinator

Thank You — Carolyn Lemaster

Iowa State University Master Gardener News

See the full list of upcoming events, webinars and plant sales here: 
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events

Iowa Master Gardeners Facebook page

Have you “Liked” this page? Frequent posts are included about timely gardening topics.

International Master Gardener Conference 2021
September 12-17, 2021
This event will be virtual! Read more here.

Horticulture & Home Pest News, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: Upcoming Webinars

Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes, presents:
Free Webinar by Dr. Doug Tallamy
Tuesday, October 5. Register Here

Monarch Tagging
Saturday, September 18, 1:00 pm, Environmental Learning Center & Discovery Park—Free!
Come to the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park and learn about migrating monarch butterflies. Naturalist Michelle Berns will present a short program on tagging monarchs. Then we’ll head out to the prairie and try our luck at catching monarchs to tag. Please wear long pants and tennis shoes as we will be walking through tall grass. If you have a butterfly net, please bring it as we have a limited number of nets. Free family event - children must be accompanied by an adult.

Home Garden Tour? If you would be interested in giving Master Gardeners a tour of your home gardens, please let us know!
Here we are at the beginning of a new month and the inkling of a new season!! To kick off all of that please plan on attending our first Muscatine County Master Gardener General Meeting (in person) on Tuesday evening, September 14, 2021.

Please bring your favorite appetizer to share and yourself to the meeting at 6:30 pm at the Extension Office. Currently, at this writing there are no requirements regarding COVID stipulated by Iowa State University. That said, please bring your mask and wear it as you are comfortable in a group setting.

Our agenda includes a program about Master Gardener led Donation Gardens (Terri Hanson, Bonnie Reeb and Lynn Pruitt). Dana Allen from the Extension Office will be sharing information on the World of Gardening youth program and volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners with it. Hopefully, we will have an update on the County Fair led by Jan Koellner and other Master Gardener fair volunteers.

We will also be asking for your input regarding programming for future general meetings and involvement in other Master Gardener projects or initiatives like the Art of Gardening!!

We hope you will enjoy this month’s newsletter filled with ideas for education hours in a pandemic. Turn on that computer or tv and enjoy online education from your living room chair!!

Our next General Meeting will be on November 9, 2021 and the Board will meet again on October 12, 2021.

And to steal that line from Hamilton.... “we will be back together again”... with an added “we hope”. See you on the 14th!!
Dana Allen, K-12 Outreach Educator with Muscatine County Extension, will be starting a new program, World of Gardening, which is targeted for youth in 1st to 9th grade and runs through the 2021-2022 school year. This new program will give youth the opportunity to learn about gardening and how big of a world gardening actually is. Participants in the program will learn about the different ways you can grow plants, how to start plants from seeds, how to harvest, what are alternative ways to grow a garden, how to get the most harvest from the plants and so much work. Volunteers are needed to help teach different subjects for the program, help maintain the plants, assist during the education events, etc. If you are interested in volunteering please call or email Dana at dana@iastate.edu or 563-263-5701. **We are looking for people who can volunteer any time, even if it is only a day or a couple hours.** Dana will also be attending the Master Gardener General Meeting on September 14th to explain the program and talk to people interested in volunteering.
Donation Gardening — Plant an Extra Row
By: Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

This year I planted about 8 tomato plants of various varieties. Also some squash and bell peppers. Along with those vegetables, the rhubarb continues to produce. Here are some photos:

Except for a little personal consumption, the produce goes to the Muscatine Food Pantry.
The Muscatine Master Gardeners will be hosting a member meeting on September 14th at 6:30 pm at the Muscatine County Extension Office. Please Note: the location of the Extension Office changed in 2019 and is now located at 1601 Plaza Place, Muscatine, IA 52761. Please use the door marked ‘Meeting Room.’ We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

If you would feel more comfortable attending virtually please reach out to Lauren at herad@iastate.edu or call 563-263-5701 to get a Zoom link to attend the meeting. We are more than willing to accommodate members.
Oktoberfest Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

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Looking for some inspiration for your own garden? Check out these horticulture resources for inspiration and gardening tips! Please note that the resources below may not meet the Master Gardener continuing education qualifications. Continuing education is expected to advance the Master Gardener’s knowledge and understanding of horticulture. It must be factual, accurate and provided by a source generally recognized as research-based.

**Royal Horticultural Society** – The RHS is a British gardening charity that promotes horticulture and other related activities. The group’s official site has a full database that includes information on all the plants that you can use in your garden. The information on this site can be used by anyone around the world.

**Dave’s Garden** – While Dave’s Garden is useful for offering details on how to prepare your own garden, its most popular feature by far is its extensive plant database. It offers information on thousands of plants in terms of their characteristics and how they can be maintained. This should help inspire you to find great items that you can plant in your garden.

**Fine Gardening** – At Fine Gardening, you will learn all about how to prepare a garden from choosing plants to figuring out the soil and compost you need to use. Inspirational images will help you look at ideas for coming up with a beautiful garden on your own. You can even learn how to pronounce the Latin names of various plants through a full database on the site.

**GardenGuides.com** – Learn all about how to design a garden, how to prepare a sensible space and what pests and diseases to watch for through this site. It includes a series of easy to use and review sections.

**Herb Expert** – Herb Expert is a British site that works if you’re aiming to work with herbs in your garden. Use this site to learn about how to grow individual herbs and how to preserve them. Information on how many herbs can be used for cooking and beauty purposes is listed on the site.

**Kew Royal Botanical Gardens** – Learn about how to prepare a garden with a full database listed on this site. It has information on plants you can use in your garden. It has details on large and small plants alike among other key features.
List of the 52 Top Gardening Websites... Continued

**Mother Earth News** – The latest details on how to prepare a garden are included on this site. Learn about how to prepare a garden based on the types of plants you can use. There is a strong emphasis on organic gardening on this site. You will learn more about a number of organic compounds that you can use today.

**The Martha Blog** – It would be an understatement to say that Martha Stewart has become a prominent name in the world of home care. Her blog includes many stories about gardening and tips from experts on how to prepare only the finest gardens around. Various instructional posts are included with each being very easy to review.

**GrowVeg** – If you plan on growing vegetables in your garden then it helps to start here to learn more about how to do it right. This site has points on how to choose the right vegetables for your garden space. It also includes an assortment of pictures to help you learn more about what you can add.

**Garden Rant** – This is an offbeat site that delves into many of the more complicated or intricate parts of gardening. It is about understanding how to manage many problems or issues you might come across in your garden. The information on the site is carefully organized.

**Success With Seed** – You need quality seeds if you are going to get your garden to grow in a healthy and proper manner. Success With Seed helps you choose plants for your garden and gives you tips on how to find the right seeds for the task.

**Garden Design** – Get ideas for your garden design through this appropriately named online magazine. It has details on how to prepare a great garden and how a design can be organized with a variety of arrangements.

**Organic Life** – This website dedicated to organic products has an entire section dedicated to gardening. This section includes information on how to prepare organic compost and pesticides among other safe and natural compounds.

**A Way to Garden** – You will learn more about a number of special features associated with
gardening through this site. It has topics devoted to preparing specific features in your garden and about how to prevent many problems relating to pests that might get in.

Birds and Blooms – This is a website that offers details on a number of gardening ideas that you can consider. The ideas are listed all around the site as intriguing options for providing your garden with a more elaborate and appealing look all the way around.

Urban Gardens – If you’re going to plant a garden in an urban environment or other tight space then you will need special help with organizing it, getting enough light and nutrients and so forth. The Urban Gardens website helps you learn all about how to prepare a great garden in many forms.

Cold Climate Gardening – This specialty site focuses on gardening in colder areas. This includes points on how you can prepare a garden even in some of the most stubborn conditions including how to prepare a garden bed for freezing situations.

Root Simple – The Root Simple website has information on how to create a garden without being too complicated. It focuses on basic processes that do not require far too many outside materials to get it all working.

Flowerona – Find ideas for flowers that you can add to your garden through the Flowerona website. It has topics on types of flowers that you can grow and how they can be harvested after you are done preparing them.

Gardening Gone Wild – All key aspects associated with gardening are covered here. Learn about how to design a garden, how to choose the right plants and much more. This includes its own dedicated section for succulents.

You Grow Girl – Details on how to prepare a garden the right way and information on how to produce only the best herbs and other materials in your garden are included on this site. It includes a full seed sowing and planting chart to keep your plans organized. The blog on this site is regularly updated with plenty of information on how to get the most out of your gardening efforts.

Skippy’s Vegetable Garden – If you are going to grow vegetables in your garden then this website will be a worthwhile read. It includes details on how to build a vegetable garden of any size in your property. The instructions are carefully listed on many blog posts and are consistent updated with new information on trends in the gardening field.
Better Homes and Gardens – The Better Homes and Gardens publication has its own website that includes information on gardening plans. It has details on how to prepare seasonal gardens, maintaining a garden and much more. You will find many photos on the site to inspire you to create a great-looking garden.

Vegetable MD – Organized by Cornell University, this website helps you identify many problems that can impact your vegetable plants and other items in your garden. It helps you to look at the signs of serious problems in your garden and what you can do to resolve those problems as they come about.

Oregon State Extoxnet – This website organized by Oregon State University helps you learn about pesticides that may be used in your garden. It includes details on how certain pesticides are made and whether they might potentially be dangerous to your garden depending on how they are arranged.

United States National Arboretum – You can learn quite a bit about gardening through the USNA website. The site includes its own section dedicated to gardens that includes topics on plant hardiness zones, how plants can be maintained and even details on invasive plants that can harm a garden.

Mustard Plaster – As you read the Mustard Plaster website, you will learn about many unusual types of plants that you can add to your garden. The blog has points on producing beans and other vegetables. The information on the site is very detailed and organized with a number of special features in mind.

The Horticult – The Horticult is a website that offers a variety of gardening tips and includes an extensive variety of pictures showcasing the many things that can be done in a garden. The design sections of the site also help you learn about how to handle the arrangement of a garden.

Digging – With this website, you will learn about how to prepare a garden and how to keep its many features organized. The information on this site gives you plenty of details on how well a garden can look if prepared right.

Kitchen Gardeners International – This site focuses heavily on gardening with foods in mind. It places a strong emphasis on how to grow your own foods in your garden. Various recipes and blogs are included on the site.
List of the 52 Top Gardening Websites... Continued

**Chiot’s Run** – Read this website to learn about every aspect relating to preparing a garden from compost to foraging and so forth. This site offers information on how to compare different gardening materials as well.

**North Coast Gardening** – You must be careful when figuring out how you’re going to grow plants based on your local climate. This site has a focus on the Pacific Northwest but it includes topics for all people in cool and cold climates to use with regards to choosing proper plants and maintaining gardens even in tough conditions.

**Mini Gardener** – Learn how to create your own miniature garden that can be prepared in a variety of small spots through this website. The Mini Gardener website has details on how to prepare a small garden in a compact area.

**The Enduring Gardener** – Check out the Enduring Gardener to learn more about how to handle everything in your garden. It includes articles on how to decorate a garden. This includes working with items that are not only visually appealing but also easy to apply.

**Washington Gardener** – Based out of Washington DC, this website has information on how to handle a great garden in any situation. The gardening site offers information on how to produce a big garden and how environmental developments can influence your plans and efforts for creating a better garden.

**Plants Are the Strangest People** – You will learn about typical houseplants on this offbeat site including how these plants can be originated out of your garden. It has points on how to create some great plants that are useful for decorative and functional purposes alike. The site has a fully organized setup that helps you learn all about a number of ideas for preparing a good garden with such common plants in mind.

**Toronto Gardens** – This next site has been around for more than ten years and offers points on creating a beautiful garden. It includes many topics about how to keep a garden protected even when cold weather comes about, a point that is a necessity for residents in Canada.

**High Altitude Gardening** – This site focuses on preparing a garden at altitudes of 7,000 feet above sea level or higher. It has specific topics on how you can get a garden ready where the air is a little lighter.
List of the 52 Top Gardening Websites... Continued

**Epic Gardening** – Learn about a variety of different gardening styles on this site. Check out the page to learn about how to prepare a garden with or without soil. Hydroponic gardening is particularly discussed in detail on this site.

**Geek Gardener** – Based out of India, the Geek Gardener site focuses more on the process of maintaining a garden bed. It focuses on tilling and other key plans. You can learn about growing seasons and how they can be applied in your area by reading the site.

**Anthropogen** – Learn all about the histories of individual plants and how they can be prepared in your garden by reading this guide. You will learn all sorts of points in this guide about how to create a beautiful garden.

**Perennial Meadows** – Perennial Meadows is designed as a site that helps you understand how to work with perennials in your garden. It talks about specific types of perennials that you can use and how to identify them. Points on how to properly care for your perennials are also included all around the site to help you see how they can grow in your space.

**Five Apple Farm** – While the Five Apple Farm website helps you learn all about a variety of different topics, it especially focuses on the use of productive insects. It especially talks about bees and how they can be used in your garden to produce healthy pollen that allows plants to grow and thrive.

**My Veggie Garden** – This site is ideal for those who are trying to work on getting their own gardens started up for the first time. The site has various topics on how to prepare a great garden and how you can make it run quickly. You will be surprised at how detailed the information is and how it offers plenty of photos to help you learn about how to get a garden up and running.

**Nigel Gnome Grows a Vegetable** – This is a very charming website about gardening that is based out of New Zealand. It has an entertaining look and theme while it focuses heavily on understanding how to create a garden the right way. When you read the site, you will get
plenty of detailed information on how to prepare a garden and make it stand out.

**Plant Care Today** – This is an extensive gardening website that covers many gardening topics in detail. It’s loaded with images and discusses flowers, plants, gardening tools, seasons and pretty much everything there is to know about gardening. It’s been around for many years and is considered an authority on gardening.

** Properly Rooted** – Here’s a new gardening website so it’s not on the radar yet, but I have no doubt it’s going to be one of the more popular gardening sites on the web in short order. The design is amazing and the depth of coverage for all topics is excellent. It’s also exceptionally well organized so it’s easy for you to find what you’re looking for. Great care went into the many illustrations and graphics which really enhance the content.

Libby is a simple app that you can download onto your tablet, phone or computer. Using your library card for Musser Public Library or others in the Riverbend System you will have access to oodles of gardening magazines for free and books that are entered into the library system regarding gardening and any other book or magazine of your interest!!
Friendly Reminder: 2021 Hours!

Just a reminder that in 2021 the Master Gardener hour requirements have returned to normal – completion of 20 volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours. If you have already completed hours but haven’t had a chance to enter them into the volunteer reporting system, make sure to get them reported. It's easier to enter hours as you go rather than all at once at the end of the year. Thank you all for all that you do! [https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/](https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/)

DON'T FORGET TO ENTER YOUR HOURS!
Master Gardener Volunteer Guidelines

These guidelines are part of the Master Gardener Volunteer Manual. Check with your county MG coordinator or Iowa MG Advisory Committee member if you have additional questions on what counts towards volunteer service or continuing education hours.

MG Volunteer: What counts as volunteer service?

- Maintain a public garden (e.g. city park, county fairgrounds, healthcare grounds)
- Answer garden questions for the public (e.g. farmer’s market booth, ISU Extension & Outreach county office)
- Create community connections (e.g. collect excess produce from farmer’s market for donation to food pantry, build partnerships to increase pollinator habitat)
- Support garden design for a community space (e.g. school garden, Main Street plantings, Community Visioning program)
- Teach gardening lesson (e.g. demonstration at a community garden, present at school)
- Coordinate a hands-on event (e.g. street tree planting, invasive species removal from park)
- Create communication materials about gardening (e.g. write newspaper article, post on county MG social media page)
- Plan a public event (e.g. plant sale, garden tour, garden symposium)
- Participate in MG management (e.g. attend monthly MG meetings, lead local MG team, serve on Iowa MG advisory committee).

MG Volunteer: What counts as Continuing Education?

- Webinars (e.g. live events listed on Iowa MG Upcoming Events webpage, recordings of webinars)
- Videos from ISU Extension and Outreach (e.g. Iowa MG YouTube channel)
- Workshops (e.g. hands-on tree pruning event at local botanical garden)
- Guided garden tours (e.g. participate in a tour of a public garden led by a tour guide)

Continuing education is expected to advance the Master Gardener volunteer’s knowledge and understanding of horticulture. It must be factual, accurate, and provided by a source recognized as research based. Most training opportunities offered by educational institutions, public gardens, and education-focused gardening organizations meet this requirement.
Master Gardener
Volunteer Guidelines

What does not count as volunteer hours?
Maintaining private gardens (e.g. volunteering in a neighbor’s yard, gardening at a family member’s house).
Answering private garden questions (e.g. giving garden advice to a neighbor, friend, or family member).

What does not count as continuing education hours?
- Listening to radio programs,
- Visiting gardens,
- Travel time to continuing education programs,
- Watching television programs, and
- Reading books or magazines.
Note: gardening sessions offered by entertainers, mass media, and salespeople are not continuing education.

Volunteer Reporting System
Master Gardener volunteer and continuing education hours must be logged online in the Volunteer Reporting System by December 31st each year.

Annual requirements:
- Minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service
- Minimum of 10 hours of continuing education

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www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener
We continue to spread the good news about Gardening at the Muscatine Farmers Market on Saturdays. We are still looking for a few good Master Gardeners to work the booth. You have your choice of Saturday’s during the months of September and October. Carolyn LeMaster has the materials already to go for the booth with the help of Lauren Nerad. You can pick up the booth materials, tables and tent at the Extension Office. You need to be set up and ready to go by 7:30 am.

Additionally, you will be encouraging folks at the Market to become a Master Gardener or at least be aware of the opportunity to do such!!

Carolyn has worked the booth this summer and has enjoyed sharing Master Gardener information and just talking with market goers!! Thanks, Carolyn!! This is a great way to earn volunteer hours!!

Mary can be reached at 563 260-1203 or email mlwilder@machlink.com.
Muscatine County Extension Office
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Muscatine, IA  52761
563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894
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.

2021-2022 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board

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

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NEWS YOU CAN USE