Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Quarterly Newsletter – Fall 2014

this issue

MASTER GARDENER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

New Volunteer Agreement on the Way

Remember the MG Volunteer Agreement you signed? Well there is new one on the way that lines up expectations and responsibilities of all UW volunteers from 4-H to MGV…. Please read it carefully and sign when you receive it. We do take these commitments seriously, and want to ensure that you, as a Master Gardener Volunteer, have a safe, productive, and enjoyable volunteer experience with UW-Extension.

2015 Level 2 Master Gardener Training Statewide online Level 2 Training will be on landscape design

According to Mike Maddox, Wisconsin Master Gardener Program Director, details and topics are being finalized. The course will probably be held in late spring. More information will be sent from the state program office early next year. Level 2 training is open to all Active MGVs and Interns.

Perennial Plants to Cut Back in the Fall

By Marie Ionnatti http://gardening.about.com/od/maintenance/a/Fall_Pruning.htm

Even in colder climates, it can be nice to leave some perennials standing throughout the fall and winter months. The seeds of Echinacea and Rudbeckia will attract and feed the birds: Sedum will hold onto snow like frosting. There are also plants that like the protection their foliage provides for their crowns. Asclepias (Butterfly Weed), Chrysanthemums and Heuchera (Coral Bells) fare best if cleaned up in the spring.

But some perennials don't handle rough weather well. They won't remain attractive after frost and they have recurrent problems with pests and diseases, which will over winter in their fallen foliage and surface in the spring. These perennial flowers are best cut down in the fall. If they are diseased, throw the foliage away, do not compost it. There will always be exceptions and time will play a factor.

No one can really pinpoint when frost and snow will come. Many gardens survive just fine with no attention at all in the fall. Consider this listing and the complementary list Plants to Leave Standing Until Spring, as guidelines. You will learn what works and what doesn't, for your own garden. But it never hurts to take some time and put your garden to bed, in the fall.

Bearded Iris The tall foliage of bearded iris begins flopping early in the season. By fall, it's cover for iris borers and fungal diseases. Cut back after a killing frost and it would be wise to dispose of the foliage, rather than composting. (Zones 3 - 10)

Beebalm (Monarda didyma) Even the most resistant varieties of Monarda can succumb to mildew. When that happens, you'll be cutting them back long before fall. Fresh, new growth can be left on until spring. Sometimes selective thinning of the stems is all that is needed and you can leave the remaining seed heads for the birds. (USDA Zones 4 - 9)

Blanket Flower (Gaillardia x grandiflora) Gaillardia is a pretty hardy plant, but cutting back the spent stems seems to improve its hardiness even more, by improving its vigor. (USDA Zones 3- 10)

Bronze Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum') Bronze Fennel has increased in popularity lately and can be found accenting many gardens. The foliage provides food for swallowtail caterpillars, which can leave the stems completely stripped by fall. If that's the case, they are no longer providing any useful service and can be cut back to the ground. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)

Catmint (Nepeta) Nepetas respond well to severe pruning throughout the season. The foliage will be damaged by winter cold and will need to be cut back anyway, so get a head start by pruning in the fall. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Columbine (Aquilegia) Remove any foliage showing leaf miner damage and remove any debris around the base of the plants. Aquilegia send out growth early in spring and appreciate not having the old foliage to contend with. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Corydalis (Corydalis lutea) It's hard to kill Corydalis, but if you'd rather cut back on it's spreading habit and it hasn't been deadheaded during the summer, cut it back after a killing frost. (Zones 5 - 7)

Daylily (Hemerocallis) Daylilies respond well to shearing and unless you are in an area where they remain somewhat evergreen, fall pruning will save you a messy cleanup in the spring. (Zones 3 - 9)

Golden Marguerite (Anthemis tinctoria) By late summer, Golden Marguerite daisies have finished blooming and are nodding off. Pruning to the crown will encourage new basal growth that helps protect and sustain them through the winter. (USDA Zones 3 - 7)

Goldenstar (Chrysogonum virginianum) Often has problems with powdery mildew. If so, remove and destroy foliage in the fall. (USDA Zones 5 - 8)

Ground Clematis (Clematis recta) This is a clump forming clematis that blooms late summer into fall. It produces attractive seed heads, but when hit by a frost, it's as slimy as wet petunias. Blooms on new growth, so don't be afraid to clean it up in the fall. (USDA Zones 3 - 7)

Hardy Bergonia (Bergonia grandis) Frost will blacken and collapse the foliage of Bergonia. If left at the base of the plant, it can cause crown rot. Prevent this by cutting back in the fall. (USDA Zones 6 - 9)

Helianthus (Perennial varieties) H. x laetiflorus, H. salicifolium...) The perennial members of the sunflower family usually finish blooming toward the end of summer and go down hill from there. Deadheading does not improve their appearance and the tall stems are guaranteed to break and flop. Cut back to ground for aesthetics. (Zones 5 - 9)

Japanese Anemone (Anemone x hybrida) Japanese Anemones are favorites of certain beetles and are often defoliated by fall. If not, the foliage of Japanese Anemones turns black and very unattractive with frost. Unless your Japanese Anemones have had a very good year, it's advised to cut them back in fall. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Ligularia (Ligularia dentata) is predominantly grown for its foliage, which turns to a dark mush after frost. Feel free to cut it back. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Masterwort (Astrantia major) Masterwort is often deadheaded throughout the summer, to prolong the bloom time. If conditions are dry, the foliage will begin to yellow and it can be sheared to the crown. Allow the new growth to remain through the winter. If no yellowing occurs, leave the plants for spring cleaning. (USDA Zones 4 - 7)

Meadow Rue (Thalictrum aquilegiifolium) Performance wise, it doesn't really matter when you cut back Meadow Rue. But since it's done flowering for the season, prun-

ing in the fall is one less thing to do in the spring. However, some varieties will self-seed. If that's desirable, let it go until spring. (USDA zones 5 - 8)

Mountain Bluet (Centaurea montana) Mountain bluets tend to become black and unsightly with the first frost and can be cut back in the fall. However, if you sheared them back in late summer and only basal growth is present, you can allow that to remain. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Painted Daisy (Tanacetum coccineum) Painted Daisies can easily rot in wet soil. Prune in the fall to prevent the foliage from flopping over onto itself and acting as a mulch. (USDA Zones 3 - 7)

Penstemon (Penstemon barbatus) Penstemon don't like wet feet and should be planted a little higher in the ground than most plants. The foliage usually declines toward the end of summer and can be trimmed back, inducing new basal growth that is sufficient to mulch the plants through winter. Allowing the older, tall growth to flop would hold too much moisture around the crown. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)

Peony (Paeonia) Peonies need a period of cold to set buds for the following season. That coupled with the fact that their foliage is extremely prone to mildew is reason enough to remove the foliage in the fall. Infected foliage can be removed and disposed of in late summer. Healthy foliage will turn golden in fall and can be removed once it has turned to mush, after the first frost. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Perennial Sunflower (Helianthus) Helianthus foliage isn't a standout to begin with and by the time the flowers have faded, it's also time to cut the plants down. (Zones 4 - 9)

Phlox (Phlox paniculata) Phlox is prone toward powdery mildew. Even the resistant varieties can become infected in bad weather. If so, prune and destroy all foliage and stems in the fall. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Plume Poppy (Macleaya cordata) Cut these back before they go to seed or you will have Plume Poppies EVERYWHERE. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Salvia (Salvia nemorosa) Perennial Salvia benefits from several prunings during the growing season. In fall when blooming slows, cut the whole plant back to the new basal growth. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Siberian Bugloss (Brunnera macrophylla) Although it's not necessary, since Brunnera is an early riser in the spring and its foliage will turn black and unattractive with the first frost, fall clean-up is preferable. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale) Helenium usually doesn't finish blooming until mid-fall, but by that time it is often covered with mildew. The foliage can be cut back and removed before winter. (Zones 3 - 8)

So**lomon's Seal** (Polygonatum odoratum) Although listed here, Solomon's Seal pretty much disappears on its own, after a frost or two. Certainly the leaves will drop. If the stems remain, they can be pruned back to the ground. (Zones 3 - 9)

Veronica / Spike Speedwell (Veronica spicata) As flowering ceases, the plants can be sheared to the ground. They will only turn black and ugly if left until spring. (USDA 3 - 8)

Wild or False Indigo (Baptisia australis) Baptisia is one of those plants that splits in the middle if not sheared back after pruning, however many gardeners like the seed pods and simply stake the plants. Come frost, the foliage turns black and even staking isn't going to help its appearance. Cut back for aesthetics. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Yarrow (Achillea) Achillea don't like to sit in cold, wet soil. By fall, most of their blooms are spent and the foliage is flopping and possibly diseased. Cut back in early fall and new basil growth with fill in before frost. (USDA Zones 4 - 8).

Vole Control: Identification of Voles and Getting Rid of Them

Voles can burrow into the root systems of landscaping shrubs and trees, causing young specimens to experience dieback or to begin to lean. These rodent pests will also gnaw on a tree trunk and at the base of a shrub. In addition, voles damage the roots of perennials such as hosta plants, spring bulbs, and the root crops in the garden, such as potatoes. Mainly, however, voles eat the stems and blades of grass. And the runways they leave behind in the process make for an unsightly lawn.

A vole and what it would say if it could talk!

Example of vole tunneling :(

Young tree wrapped for protection :)

While you may not know the difference between moles and voles, even those who are not landscaping enthusiasts have heard of moles. But most people go their whole lives without ever so much as hearing about these similar-looking pests, let alone controlling them. To make matters more confusing, these pests are sometimes referred to as "meadow mice" or "field mice." But when you identify the damage they cause in lawn and garden alike, you'll quickly learn that this is no "Mickey Mouse" pest control problem.

Voles construct well-defined, visible tunnels, or "runways" at or near the surface, about two inches wide. Vole runways result from the voles eating the grass blades, as well as from the constant traffic of numerous little feet beating over the same path. And if any lawn and garden pest can literally "beat a path" through the grass due to their sheer numbers, it's the voles. Rabbits don't have anything over this prolific rodent!

A vole pest problem is most likely to arise in yards where voles have abundant amounts of vegetation and debris to hide under and build their nests. If you keep your garden weeded, avoid planting dense ground covers such as creeping junipers, and keep your lawn mowed, you're less likely to have to worry about voles in the first place. That's rule #1 of integrated pest management (IPM): preventing pest problems through foresight, rather than waiting for damage to occur and then killing pests as an afterthought.

But it's not just vegetation that voles take shelter under. Because vole gnawing will cause damage to trees and shrubs, you have to be particularly careful about applying mulch too close to trees and shrubs. Voles will be emboldened by the presence of a deep layer of mulch. Even in winter you're not home-free with respect to potential vole damage; voles will use snow as cover to perpetrate a furtive attack on your landscaping. So try to keep snow cleared away from shrubs and young trees. You can also protect young trees by wrapping the lower trunk with wire mesh.

But what if it's too late for preventive integrated pest management measures? If your landscaping is already being damaged by voles, you need to consider vole eradication. Voles can be removed humanely from a yard by using Havahart live-traps, exterminated by using mouse traps or poisons, frustrated by garden fencing, or driven away with vole repellents.

This article was excerpted from the following source:
http://landscaping.about.com/cs/pests/a/vole_control.htm by David Beaulieu

To learn more about vole control read the UW-Extension publication "Meadow Mouse Control"
http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Meadow-Mouse-Control-P623.aspx

Trichopoda pennipes, Parasitoid of Squash Bug

Trichopoda pennipes is a tachinid fly parasitoid of the squash bugand other members of the stink bug and leaf-footed bug families, including brown and green stink bugs. It has a wide distribution in both North and South America. It and the other six species ofTrichopoda in North America are sometimes referred to as the “feather-legged fly” because of the prominent fringe of feather-like bristles on its hind legs.

This distinctive and conspicuous fly is about the same size as a house fly, but is bright orange with a velvety black head and thorax. It has dark legs with a fringe of short black hairs on the hind leg and yellow feet, large brown eyes and brown and black wings. The tip of the female fly’s abdomen is black.

The flies may be seen hovering over squash plants when searching for squash bugs to parasitize. Each female fly lays on average 100 eggs, which are placed singly on the body of a large nymph or adult bug. Most of the small, white or gray, oval eggs are

placed on the underside of the thorax or abdomen, but they can occur on almost any part of the bug. Many eggs may be laid on the same host, but only one larva will survive in each bug. The young larva that hatches from the egg bores directly into the host body. The maggot feeds on the body fluids of the host for about two weeks, during which time it increases to a size almost equal to that of the body cavity of its host. When it has completed its development, the cream-colored third instar maggot emerges from the bug between the posterior abdominal segments. The bug dies after emergence of the fly, not from the parasitoid feeding, but from the mechanical injury to its body. The maggot pupates about an inch down in the soil in a dark reddish-brown puparium formed from the last larval skin, and an adult fly emerges about two weeks later. There can be three generations per year depending on location.

The fly overwinters as a second instar larva within the body of the overwintering host bug. Adult flies emerge in late spring or early summer. The only bugs large enough to parasitize at this time are overwintered adults. Subsequent generations develop on both nymphs and adults of the next generation.

Adult flies feed on nectar, especially from plants such as wild carrot (Queen Anne’s lace, Daucus carota) and meadowsweet (Spiraea salicifolia), and later in the year on asters (Symphotrichon spp.) and goldenrods (Solidago spp.).
The rate of parasitism can be as high as up to 80% on squash bug and 93% on southern green stink bug. T. pennipes is highly attracted by an aggregation pheromone produced by male southern green stink bugs, which results in the males being parasitized at a consistently higher level than females. But because the bugs continue to feed after parasitization,T. pennipes will not always prevent crop damage. However, the reproductive organs of the host bug begin to atrophy when the parasitoid reaches the second instar, so pest population increase will be reduced somewhat. The fly is most effective when it parasitizes nymphs, since 50% die before becoming adults and the remainder that become adults and overwinter will die before laying eggs. The life history of the parasitoid and squash bug are not well synchronized, and host finding by the fly is not efficient, so T. pennipes is not able to maintain this pest at low densities.

Article by: Susan Mahr,
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http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Trichopoda_pennipes

Please visit the Wisconsin Master Gardener website for more great articles like this one on a wide variety of topics.
http://wi.mastergardener.org

The Kenosha County Center All America Selections Display & Demonstration Garden, a RKMGA project, received national recognition by the AAS. The Master Gardener project which is led by Horticulture Educator, Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen, was bestowed with Honorable Mention, “Best Inspiration” Garden: Kenosha County Center Demonstration Garden, Bristol, Wisconsin..

AAS judges were so impressed with the many inspiring garden ideas contained in this first-year garden that they gave the garden an extra shout out and proudly boasted, “In one small plot, they used a rattan chair frame, a wicker wastebasket, a wire trellis, a palette as a vertical garden and other household items to support their theme of “Inside Out.” The rules for the AAS Display Garden design contest included:

- Follow the theme: “Incorporating Containers into the Landscape”.
- List all AAS Winners in the design.
- Minimum of 50% of the total area had to include AAS Winners (correctly labeled & containing AAS logo.)
- Write description of design.
- Submit 9 photographs of garden taken throughout growing season.
- Host a public event to increase awareness of AAS Winners and the display garden.

This project brought together many different Master Gardener volunteers. MGVs who planned the project, MGVs who started/nurtured/watered the seeds & seedlings, MGVs who worked to create/maintain the garden throughout the growing season, MGVs and participants of the Green Works program, and the many MGVs who visited the display garden during the season and offered constructive comments and concerns.

Also, Kenosha County maintenance workers and Kenosha County Parks offered assistance on an “as needed” basis, and Racine/Kenosha Nutrition Educators utilized the produce in their programming efforts. Together, we created a wonderful destination garden for the community!

Plans for our 2015 AAS Display Garden have begun, and we are looking forward to another year of growing and sharing!

Numbers

2014 Mandated Reporter Training
This year we had a significant change in requirements for MGV certification, in addition to the 24 hours of volunteer service and 10 hours of continuing education, the Wisconsin MGV program now requires that an online training be completed entitled "Mandated Reporter Training for Child Abuse and Neglect". Of the 180 MGVs turning in hours this year 172 completed the Mandated Reporter Training also – thank you!

Total Number of MGVs in Racine and Kenosha
Last year we had 231 MGVs reporting hours, 160 from Racine County and 71 from Kenosha County. Our numbers are down this year to 180, 129 from Racine County and 52 from Kenosha. Five people submitting hours lacked enough volunteer or continuing education hours to remain "Active" for 2015. Of the 35 people who completed Level 1 Training last year, 28 certified by completing the volunteer requirement.

2014 Total Hours Contributed
Volunteer hours remained relatively stable for 2014 compared to 2013, which indicates that MGVs are submitting more hours individually. In 2014 a total of 9731 volunteer hours were turned in, along with 3714 continuing education hours. This is very similar to 2013 when 9717 hours were contributed and 3389 continuing education hours reported.

More details forthcoming after the project data are summarized. Thanks to Rose Woodruff and Paulene Fleuchaus for diligently tallying timesheet data!

Plants to Leave Standing Until Spring

Artemisia schmidtiana 'Silver Mound'
Photo: nargs.org

Artemisia Most Artemisia don't like being pruned in the fall. The growth that results is too tender to survive the winter and the dieback is often enough to kill the whole plant. Clean in early spring. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)

Asters Fall blooming asters have generally been pinched and forced several times throughout the growing season. Once they are finally allowed to bloom, they appreciate being left alone to recuperate, until spring. Several bloom so late into the fall, the question of fall clean-up becomes moot. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Astilbe Astilbe don't require much maintenance. Fall clean-up is unnecessary and may weaken the plant's tolerance for cold. Minimal spring clean-up is required. (Zones 3 - 8)

Balloon Flower (Platycodon grandiflorus) If pruned for sturdiness, Balloon flower blooms late in the season and remains attractive until frost. Since it is late emerging in the spring, it helps to leave the old foliage as a marker. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Basket-of-Gold (Aurinia saxatilis) Although Aurinia fares best and lives longer if sheared back after flowering and not allowed to go to seed, the foliage can be evergreen in mild winters and there doesn't seem to be any benefit to cutting it back until spring. (USDA Zones 3 - 7)

Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia fulgida) Although not particularly attractive in winter, the seed heads will feed the birds. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Blue Mist Shrub (Caryopteris) Caryopteris bloom on new growth. Cut back to 6-8 inches in the spring. Newer varieties, especially, can be very sensitive to cold and shouldn't be cut back until buds begin to green. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia davidii) To lessen winter kill, wait for signs of green at the base and then cut back to 6 - 10 inches. (USDA Zones 6 - 9)

Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) Although Asclepias is a prolific self-seeder and should be deadheaded if dozens of new plants are not wanted, it winters better if the foliage is allowed to protect the crown. (USDA Zones 4 - 9)

Campanula Most campanulas get sheared back at some point during the summer, to clean up ugly or damaged foliage and encourage another flush of blooming. Fresh basal foliage will result and should be left through winter, so as not to encourage more tender growth in the fall. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) Although Cardinal Flower likes moist soil, it doesn't like sitting in cold, wet soil all winter. Leaving the foliage and flower stems in tact protects Cardinal Flower from some of the ravages of winter, so hold off clean-up until spring. At that point, you can trim the damaged areas or simply cut back to the ground. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Coral Bells (Heuchera) Heuchera are prone to heaving in soils that freeze and thaw. Leaving the foliage in tact helps to mulch the plants through winter. (USDA Zones 4 - 9)

Cushion Spurge (Euphorbia polychroma) In warmer climates, Euphorbia can actually become a shrub and it's fine to leave the plant alone until spring and then clean out the dead

foliage. In colder climates, simply cut the plant back to its base in the spring. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Delphinium If you're lucky enough to grow Delphiniums as perennials, remove the flower stalks, but allow the foliage to remain until spring. (USDA Zones 3 - 7)

Dianthus Most Dianthus can remain somewhat evergreen throughout the winter and nothing is gained by cutting back in the fall. They will still need some clean-up in the spring. (USDA Zones 5 - 8)

Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia) Tiarella enjoys the cool days of fall and may remain evergreen throughout the winter. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Foxglove photo: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu

Foxglove, Perennial (Digitalis purpurea) Since perennial Foxgloves are usually pruned back after flowering and produce a rosette of basal growth, nothing more is needed until a light cleaning in spring. (Zones 3 - 8)

Fringed Leaf Bleeding Heart (Dicentra formosa / eximia) Although the crowns like to be high enough in the soil to be protected from dampness, the foliage is slight enough to leave for the winter and almost disappears by spring. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Gas Plant (Dictamnus albus) The seed heads of the Gas Plant can look attractive well into fall, but the real reason to cut back in early spring is that the sap that irritates many gardener's skin is not as pronounced during the plant's dormant stage. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Gayfeather (Liatris spicata) Liatris is another plant that is more sensitive to cool, wet soil than to cold temperatures. When left standing over winter, the seed heads provide food for the birds and may provide some self-seeding, to make up for any plants that don't survive. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Geum Geum can remain semi-evergreen throughout winter, so no fall pruning is necessary, especially if you've been deadheading and cleaning up dead leaves during the growing season. (USDA Zones 5 - 7)

Globe Thistle (Echinops ritro) Much like coneflowers, Echinops will respond well to a pruning in July, producing more flowers and sturdier plants that will stand for the winter and feed the birds. The plant's winter survival seems improved if not cut back hard in the fall. (Zones 3 - 8)

Goldenrod (Solidago) The new hybrid goldenrods don't seed or spread all over the garden and can be left standing for winter interest. Study clumpers, like 'Fireworks' and 'Golden Fleece', will remain upright through spring. The old-fashioned species Solidago should be cut in fall, to avoid invasiveness. (USDA 2 - 8)

Heartleaf Bergenia (Bergenia cordifolia) The shiny round leaves can remain evergreen in mild winters and even cold damaged leaves can remain an attractive bronze color. Clean-up in spring, only as needed. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Hosta Although Hosta foliage gets ugly over winter, some Hosta varieties can be damaged by spring frosts and benefit from the protection of the collapsed foliage. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Italian Bugloss photo: noahproject.org

Italian Bugloss (Anchusa azurea) Much like Amsonia, Anchusa looks better and self-seeds less if sheared back after flowering. Anchusa can be sheared all the way back to the crown, since its foliage declines rapidly after flowering. But then allow the plant to recover and don't cut again until spring. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Joe-Pye Weed (Eupatorium maculatum) When a plant is bred from a common weed, you can usually assume that it doesn't need much care to survive. Joe-Pye will bloom well into the fall and then produce fluffy seed heads. You can cut it back if you choose, but it's not necessary to the plant's survival. (USDA Zones 2 - 9)

Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla mollis) Lady's Mantle doesn't really like to be sheared back frequently. Occasional shearing or selective deleafing may be necessary because of sun scorch, but Lady's Mantle will over winter better if left in tact and cleaned up in the spring. (USDA Zones 4 - 7)

Lady's Mantle photo: commons.wikipedia.org

Lamb's Ear (Stachys byzantina) There's no point in trying to clean up Lamb's Ear for the winter. Let it be and remove winter damage when the leaves perk up in the spring. (USDA Zones 4 - 8)

Lavender (Lavandula) Many areas have a hard time over-wintering lavender. The problem is more often moisture than cold, but cold is a factor. Don't prune lavender late in the season, as new growth is extremely cold sensitive. Wait until new growth appears in the spring before removing winter die back. (USDA Zones 5 - 9)

Lupine photo: commons.wikimedia.org

Lupine (Lupinus) Lupines are temperamental, short-lived perennials and they do not enjoy winter. Leave the foliage on for protection and hope for the best come spring. (Zones 4 - 6)

Mums (Chrysanthemum) Leave the foliage in tact to protect the plant's crown. All the better to let the flowers bloom well into the fall. (Zones 5 - 9)

Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa columbaria) You can remove the old flower stems, but this plant is so temperamental, leaving the old foliage may be the only way you will know where the plant was, come spring. In warmer areas, where it is hardier, the foliage may be evergreen. (USDA Zones 5 - 7)

Plumbago (Ceratostigma plumbaginoides) There's not much left to this plant in winter. But many gardeners like to leave it standing so they'll remember where it is, since it is late to emerge in the spring. (Zones 5 - 9)

Purple Coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea) Coneflowers don't look terribly attractive in winter, but they do attract and feed birds. If you'd like both birds and aesthetics, you can always prune your coneflowers in July and get squat, sturdy plants that will provide seed and remain standing. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Queen-of-the-Prairie /Queen-of-the-Meadow (Filipendula rubra / Filipendula ulmaria)Prairie or meadow, these tall plants almost always flop over before spring and can be cut back in the fall, after blooming. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Red-Hot Poker (Kniphofia) You can trim back the foliage as it begins to decline, but don't cut it back entirely. The crown is very sensitive to cold and leaving a clump of foliage will help protect it. Trimming by ½ will keep the foliage from completely flopping over and retaining too much moisture around the crown. (Zones 5 - 9)

Russian Sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia) Like its cousin Lavender, Perovskia doesn't like to be trimmed back in that fall, because it's tender growth is too sensitive to cold. Wait until new growth appears in the spring and then cut back to about 6 - 8". If the only new growth is from the base of the plant, the entire top woody section has died back and it can be pruned to the ground. (Zones 5 - 9)

Sea Lavender (Limonium latifolium) The flowers are held so high on this airy plant that it's easy to forget the cluster of leaves at the base. Go ahead and forget them. Let them be for the winter and clean-up any die back in the spring. (Zones 3 - 9)

Sea Holly (Eryngium) It's the rare Eryngium that isn't cut back for drying, but a good deadheading in late summer will encourage a flush of basal growth that will carry the plants through winter. No further fall pruning should be done. (Zones 3 - 8)

Sedum Many of the tall Sedums can remain attractive throughout the winter, even holding caps of snow on their flowerheads. 'Autumn Joy', in particular, holds up very well. The basal foliage appears very early in spring, so Sedum can be one of the first plants you prune in the spring. (USDA Zones 3 - 10)

Tickseed (Coreopsis) Like Chelone, most coreopsis seem to fare better if allowed to stand during the winter and cleaned-up in the spring. (Zones 4 - 9)

Willow Amsonia: commons.wikimedia.org

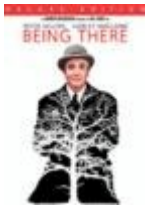
Turtlehead (Chelone lyonii) Keeping the foliage on until spring seems to improve Chelone's winter survival. (USDA Zones 3 - 8)

Willow Amsonia (Amsonia tabernaemontana) Amsonia holds it's shape better if sheared by about 1/3 after flowering. You'll lose the seed pods, but you'll prevent rampant self seeding. However after this initial shearing, Amsonia responds better to being cut back in the spring, rather than the fall. Spring pruning seems to rejuvenate it. (USDA Zones 3 - 9)

Article by Marie Ionnatti
http://gardening.about.com/od/maintenance/a/Spring_Pruning_3.htm

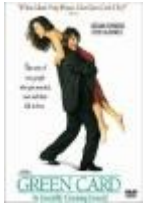
Movies with Gardens, Gardeners and Gardening

The following feature films prominently feature gardening, gardens, and/or gardeners.



Being There (1979)
Chance, a secluded gardener who has spent all his life in the house of an old man, is put out on the street when the man dies. After a run in with a limousine, he ends up a guest of an influential, but sickly businessman. Now called Chauncey Gardner, Chance becomes friend and confidante to Ben, as well as an unlikely political insider.

Enchanted April (1992)
Four women rent an Italian castle for the spring to get away. Their seaside Italian castle is drenched in wisteria and sunshine. The women find themselves in a transformative beauty so enchanting that each woman blooms in ways she never thought possible.



Green Card (1990)
Two strangers agree to a marriage of convenience. Bronte, a horticulturist, gets the apartment of her dreams and George, a Frenchman, gets a green card to live in the U.S. The two encounter difficulties, and even worse, they just might be falling in love.

Greenfingers (2001)
Colin, a convict, is placed in an experimental program to finish his prison sentence. When his roommate introduces him to gardening, Colin uncovers a surprising talent and passion for plants and prepares to compete for England's highest flower show award.

It's Complicated (2009)
In the Meryl Streep film It's Complicated, one scene takes place in an astoundingly beautiful Santa Barbara garden. The film's production designer admitted that the garden wasn't entirely natural - the vegetables were grown in a greenhouse for two months before the scene was shot, and the tomatoes were wired artfully to the vines.

Kill Bill, Volume I (2003)
At the end of the first installment of the Kill Bill saga, Quentin Tarantino's revenge-seeking assassin (Uma Thurman) has an unforgettable fight to the death with her enemy O-Ren Ishii (played by Lucy Liu) in a beautiful Japanese-themed garden covered in snow.

Pride and Prejudice (2005)
The scene of Darcy's first proposal to Elizabeth in this 2005 adaptation of Pride and Prejudice was the garden of Stourhead House in Wiltshire. He pops the question as they huddle from a storm on the Temple of Apollo, while she makes her horrified escape over the Palladian bridge.

Saving Grace (2000)
A recent widow joins with the caretaker of her estate on the Cornish coast to use her green thumb for fun and profit. All goes well until the business starts booming.

The Secret Garden (1993)
From the children's classic by Frances Hodgson Burnett. A young orphan named Mary is sent to live at the dark and foreboding English estate of her uncle. She discovers a secret garden which was abandoned after a tragic accident. With the help of her crippled cousin Colin, and Dickon the country boy, her spirit is gradually reawakened as they bring the garden back to life.

Also noted:
Atonement (2007)
Barry Lyndon (1975)
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005)
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)
The Constant Gardener (2005)
Edward Scissorhands (1990)
Enchanted (2007)
The Godfather (1972)
Heaven Can Wait (1978)
Little Shop of Horrors (1960, 1986)
Lord of the Rings (2001,2002, 2003)
Marie Antoinette (2006)
Mommie Dearest (1981)
Notting Hill (1999)
Pan's Labyrinth (2006)
A Room With A View (1985)
Rear Window (1954)
The Royal Tenenbaums (2001)
Somewhere in Time (1980)
Under a Tuscan Sun (2003)
Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)

Sources:
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/
http://www.seattlepi.com/
http://clpgh.org/
http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/

2014 Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; educational program starts at 7:15 p.m. Tour start time TBA.

Date	Location	Speaker	Topic
Nov.17	Racine	Tracy Hankwitz Burlington Garden Center	Care of Holiday Plants
Dec. 15	Kenosha	Holiday Pot Luck	Graduation, Awards & Gift Exchange
Jan. 19	Racine	Jim Sorensen	Hydroponic Gardening for the home
Feb. 16	Kenosha	RKMGA	Project showcase
Mar. 16	Burlington	MGVs: Sharon Shouldice, Jill Anderson & Mary Ann Kennedy	Gardening tips

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Racine: SCJ iMET Center is located in Renaissance Park on Highway H (between Hwys 11 and 20)
Kenosha: Kenosha County Center is in Bristol at the intersection of 75th Street (WI Hwy 50) & Bristol Rd. (US 45)
Burlington: Racine County UW-Extension bldg. is near the intersection of Hwy 11

SC Johnson iMET Center
2320 Renaissance Blvd
Sturtevant, WI 53177
(262) 898-7500

Racine Co. UW-Extension
209 North Main Street
Burlington, WI 53105
(262) 767-2929

Kenosha County UW-Extension
19600 75th Street, Suite 2
Bristol, Wi 53104
(262) 857-1945

RKMGA Meetings and Committee Work

Committee work is an important part of the RKMG Association, and does count as VOLUNTEER Support Service which includes any preparation and travel time. Consider joining the PROGRAM Committee for 2016!!! I know that seems like a long ways away, but the 2015 program is already put together by our current committee, Mary Mireles, Mary Ann Kennedy, and Chris Russin. If you are interested in selecting topics and speakers for future educational programs, this is a great volunteer project to adopt. Thank you Program Committee members for your dedication to education.

Continuing Education

Remember as you are filling out your time sheets for next year that at least 10 hours of education are needed to remain certified in the coming year. There are many ways to get education; please ask us if you are struggling with this. Check the back of your time sheet for ideas of what programs count, and send us an email with program information if you have questions about its suitability as MGV continuing education or if you would like to share the opportunity with your MGV colleagues.

Also make sure education is recorded correctly on your timesheet with the date, the name of the program and/or topic, and the number of hours actually in class or listening/watching a presentation. RKMGA educational programs count 1 hour. Spring into Gardening counts 5 hours if all 4 classes are attended. Please do not count registration, breaks, lunch or travel time for continuing education.