



The Sage Gardener

Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



From the Editor... Bob Prchal

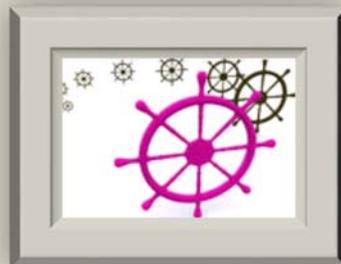


Random Thoughts

- ◆ **Congrats to Cathy Swartz for completing her internship.**

- ◆ **The recent, prolonged rains are wonderful... the yard and plants are looking great BUT so are my weeds!**

- ◆ **PCMG Leadership vacancies...** *this is a year unlike any we have experienced before. We have or will have vacant leadership positions for President, Vice President and Secretary. Thus, as a membership body we need to find committed volunteers to serve. Please give these leadership positions your strongest consideration. New blood brings fresh ideas and is always welcomed!*



Volume 5, Issue 10

May 2014

Forthcoming

Meetings & Events

- **May 05**
MG mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00pm
- **June 02**
MG mtg. in Powell
@ 7:00pm
- **June 07**
Canal Park Plant Sale
9:00 am to Noon
- **June 19**
Powell Farmers Market
starts
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- **June 23**
Cody Farmers Market
starts
4:30pm to 6:00 pm.
- **July 07**
MG mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00pm
-



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Valerie Bates

Valerie Bates, Secretary convened the **May 05, 2014** meeting to order @ 7:00 pm in the EOC room of the Park County Courthouse.



Attendance... Rhonda Faulkner, Bob Prchal, Dan Wasp, JoAnne Arzillo, Linda Pettengill, Rita Lewis, Donna Haman, Cathy Swartz, Darlene Manning, Nancy Ryan, Joyce Johnston, Ann Hinckley, Teri Boyd and Valerie Bates. **Guest:** Jackie Van Noy.

Approval of Minutes... The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report... The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Old Business

- **Arbor Day:** The Cody and Powell Arbor Days were well staffed and considered very successful events.
- **Canal Park:** There is still need for additional volunteers. Presentations, preparation... set-up, tear-down, pricing and members providing additional plant were discussed. This is a money making/fundraiser project!
- **Canal Park Cleaning:** Spring cleaning activities are planned. Please participate if you can!

New Business

- **Master Gardener Training:** Appears there will be training in 2015.
- **Girls Scouts:** The PCMG's are planning and preparing a Fairy Garden workshop with the group of girls.
- **Master Gardener Certification:** Congratulations to Cathy Swartz for completing her volunteer requirements.
- **PCMG Officers:** Because of relocation and health resignations the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary are open. A committee of Bob Prchal, Valerie Bates and Teri Boyd will solicit nominations.
- **Retirement:** Sandy Frost is retiring in June and the membership discussed and approved a farewell event/activity.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements

- **Plant a Row:** Please consider extra plantings to your 2014 gardening activities so we can contribute to the needy.

Reminders

- **WMGA Education Grants:** *Park County Master Gardeners should assess their educational needs and if there is a worthy project that needs assistance, consider applying to the WMGA.*
- **Volunteer Support Activities:** When activities are planned, please respect ALL requests for assistance by responding **yea or nay**. Let's respect and help the event organizer (s).
- **Background Checks:** All members who work with kid's need to undergo a background check. See Rachael Olsen (Powell) or Colleen Renner (Cody) @ the Extension offices for details and paperwork.

Adjournment... 7:45 p.m.

Refreshments: Cathy Swartz. **Educational Program:** Grapes & Wine by Joyce.

Next Meeting: In Powell @ 7:00 p.m. June 02, 2014 in the Park County Fairgrounds Extension meeting room.

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston & Ann Hinckley



While you are waiting for the proper planting dates you can be refilling your raised beds which have probably settled several inches since last season. Put in a layer of leaves or shredded newspaper, hay cubes, bagged topsoil and a slow release fertilizer to keep the nitrogen level up as your additions decompose. Turn it all under and you will be ready for late May planting.

Remove old plant materials from perennial and annual beds. Spray everything... plants, trees, lawn, shrubs **with 1 Cup antiseptic mouthwash, 1 Cup liquid soap, and 20 gallons of water.**

Bare root perennial plants can be put in the first part of May and/or move old ones to new places. Set the plants at the proper depth and water in thoroughly. Spread a light mulch, 1 to 2 inches deep around the plants to retain moisture and prevent the soil from baking and cracking.

Mow the lawn to 3" without a grass catcher, mowing so the last strip is in the path of the next strip so the grass gets thoroughly cut into small pieces. Spray lawn for weeds and fertilize. When you see new growth apply iron. **Sulfur helps the soil release iron** but not enough to be effective for the lawn. After the last frost you can plant showy annuals in pots and flower beds. You may want to add some fresh potting soil to top off the pots.

The National Gardening Assoc. newsletter has the following advice for lawns: Clover, brown-wheat and Banks grass mites feeding on turf grasses can cause damage in early to mid-spring in warm, dry areas of lawn, especially near house foundations, on south-facing slopes, around the base of evergreens, and in other drought-susceptible sites. To prevent severe damage from these pests, be vigilant and water dry areas in fall and winter as well as spring.

The NGA also talks about woolly thyme as a useful creeping and mat-forming evergreen ground cover. It has leathery gray-green, aromatic leaves and is a good choice for planting among stepping stones because it is tolerant of being walked on occasionally. It will even tolerate being mowed to keep the plant neat. Flowers of rose-pink to magenta rise above the foliage in late spring and are beloved by bees. It can be used as an under-planting beneath pasque flowers, species tulips dwarf iris, or other spring flowering blubs for a pretty early-season display

The **Fantastico** tomato matures 50 days from transplant. It is a high yielding grape tomato, a determinate type and is loaded with delicious half-ounce grape shaped fruit. It shows late blight tolerance and can be grown in a patio container or a hanging basket... NGA newsletter

You can start new succulent plants, ivies and other house plants with cuttings in a protected area now. Select cuttings, dry for 2 to 3 days. Use root toner to help start roots and plant in a perlite potting soil.

Happy Spring Gardening

Composting for the Homeowner... From University of Illinois Extension

Composting is the biological decomposition of organic material into a humus-like substance called compost. The process occurs naturally, but can be accelerated and improved by controlling environmental factors. People may wonder, “Why bother with composting if everything organic decomposes eventually anyway?”



If raw wastes are put directly into the soil, the decomposition process will rob the soil of nitrogen, an important nutrient for plants.... soil incorporation is one method of composting, but requires leaving the area fallow. Finished compost from a pile is typically a more uniform product with a better balance of nutrients. It can be used throughout the growing season in many different types of applications.

With a pile, composters have more control over adding and mixing the amount of carbon and nitrogen rich materials used to make the end product. In addition, a properly controlled composting environment can ensure production of high temperatures needed for killing weed seeds, diseased plant tissue, and pathogenic organisms.

How long does it take?

The amount of time needed to produce compost depends on several factors, including the size of the compost pile, the types of materials, the surface area of the materials, and the number of times the pile is turned. For most efficient composting, use a pile that is between 3 feet cubed and 5 feet cubed (27-125 cu. ft.). This allows the center of the pile to heat up sufficiently to break down materials.

Smaller piles can be made but will take longer to produce finished compost. Larger piles can be made by increasing the length of the pile but limiting the height and the depth to 5 feet tall by 5 feet deep; however, large piles are limited by a person's ability to turn the materials. You may also want to have two piles, one for finished compost ready to use in the garden, and the other for unfinished compost.

If the pile has more brown organic materials, it may take longer to compost. You can speed up the process by adding more green materials or a fertilizer with nitrogen (use one cup per 25 square feet). The surface area of the materials effects the time needed for composting. By breaking materials down into smaller parts (chipping, shredding, mulching leaves), the surface area of the materials will increase. This helps the bacteria to more quickly break down materials into compost.

Finally, the number of times the pile is turned influences composting speed. By turning more frequently (about every 2-4 weeks), you will produce compost more quickly. Waiting at least two weeks allows the center of the pile to heat up and promotes maximum bacterial activity. The average composter turns the pile every 4-5 weeks.

When turning the compost pile, make sure that materials in the center are brought to the outsides, and that materials from the outside edges are brought to the center. With frequent turning, compost can be ready in about 3 months, depending on the time of year. In winter, the activity of the bacteria slows, and it is recommended that you stop turning the pile after November to keep heat from escaping the pile's center. In summer, warm temperatures encourage bacterial activity and the composting process is quicker.

Recycling Facts from Recycling Facts.com



Benefits of Recycling... There are so many great benefits of recycling that we need to keep in mind. They outweigh the time it takes to get such efforts in motion.

Recycling Process... The process of recycling is very important for everyone to understand. The steps you take will determine if the products can be used again or not.

Tips for Recycling at Home... Recycling isn't just something that has to be done in the community. While businesses, schools, and factories should be making efforts each of us has the chance at home to make changes too.

Recycling History... The population in the United States doubled from 1950 to 2000 which led to the serious issues with waste.

Downcycling... You have heard the term downcycling and not been sure what it was in reference to. It has to do with the process of taking waste materials and then converting them into new materials that can be used.

Importance of Volunteer Service... 2014 Park County Master Gardeners

Helping Park County Horticulture & the University of Wyoming

Redoubles number of contacts... increased service to the public

Expands 'pool of resources'... increases manpower

Increases the number of 'work' hours to address questions/yard calls

Permits the Horticulturalist to work one-on-one with more clients

Allows more time for development of educational materials and programs

Extends the Horticulture season... extra, available resources

Planting/Growing Asparagus Plants

Overview

Asparagus is a perennial plant that is harvested as a vegetable crop. The plant grows to a height of 5 feet and will produce edible spears for up to 15 years. One asparagus plant will produce a half-pound of vitamin-rich vegetable spears each year once it becomes established. Plant asparagus on the north side of a garden to maximize the amount of light the plant receives. Asparagus should not be harvested until it reaches two to three years of age, as this will strengthen the crown to increase production.

Step 1

Purchase 1-year-old asparagus crowns. Inspect the plants to make sure they are healthy and do not present signs of disease.

Step 2

Plant asparagus in late spring once the soil has warmed to 50 degrees F. Planting the crown earlier puts the plant at risk for rotting as the ground is cold and wet. Add 3 inches of organic compost to the planting area and use a tiller to work the soil to a depth of 12 inches.

Step 3

Test the soil with a soil pH test kit. Add limestone to the soil if the pH is less than 6.0. Rake the soil to work the limestone several inches in.

Step 4

Dig a furrow to a width of 6 inches and depth of 12 inches. Space the rows 3 feet apart. Create a small mound in the furrow to spread the crown roots over. Apply 1 pound of a super phosphate fertilizer (0-20-0) to the bottom of the furrow for every 50 feet.

Step 5

Place the crowns on top of the fertilizer at a spacing of 1 1/2 feet apart. Crowns placed too close together are more prone to fungal disease due to poor air circulation.

Step 6

Fill the furrow with soil, making sure the crown has at least 6 inches of soil on top of it. Gently fill the soil around the crowns and do not pack in place, as this will slow the emergence of the asparagus spears.

Step 7

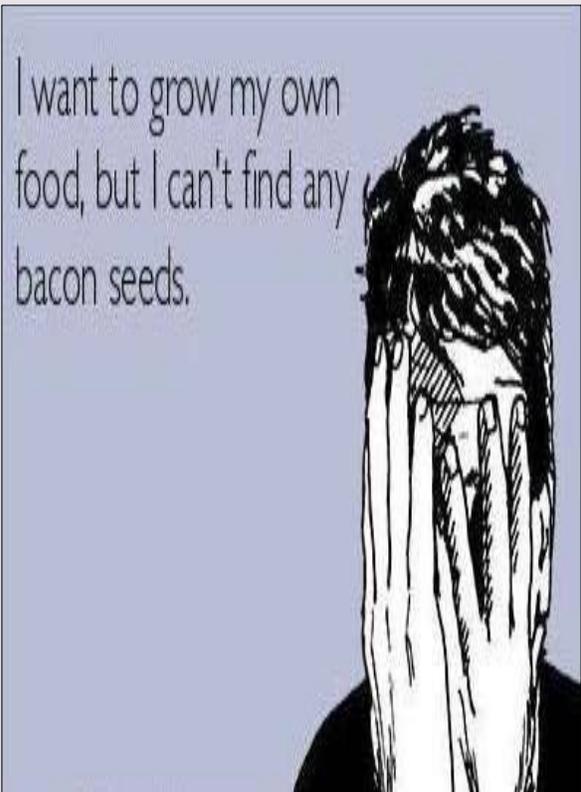
Water the asparagus crowns after planting to moisten the soil. Asparagus is drought-resistant and does not require a regular water application except during periods of drought.

Step 8

Allow the spears to grow the first year without harvesting them. This will increase the crown growth for a strong spear production the following year.

Read more: [Planting Asparagus Plants | Garden Guides http://www.gardenguides.com/92001-planting-asparagus-plants.html#ixzz35f66o6FZ](http://www.gardenguides.com/92001-planting-asparagus-plants.html#ixzz35f66o6FZ)

Garden Humor



What are we doing? from Joyce Johnston and Ann Hinckley



Companion Planting... *By Mindy Cherry*



Often times when we talk about Companion Planting we discuss the plants that play nice together and should always be planted side-by-side in our gardens. If you are just Getting Started With Square Foot Gardening, you may want to just plant everything that you want at once. But there is a catch...

Not too often do we talk about those plants that just don't get along. It's like we are gossiping about the neighbors or something. I mean, even though we love having sunflowers in the neighborhood they sure don't play well with others. They emit a toxin from their roots that inhibits other plants from growing too close to them as they want all the nutrients in the surrounding soil. Who knew?

Well, I'm here to give you the dish on **what plants to NOT plant together when you are companion planting**, even if they would look just perfect in your vegetable or herb garden next to each other.

Anything in **the bean family**, whether it is growing string green beans or bush beans all the way to lima beans don't get along with quite a few other vegetables. Their biggest nemeses in the garden are chives, garlic, leeks, and onions. They are not fans of bulb-type vegetables (luckily, you can grow many bulb vegetables from kitchen scraps)! **Beans also don't do well with peppers**, either the sweet green peppers or their fiery cousins the jalapeños. One plant that I was shocked that beans don't get along with are marigolds, which are typically crowd pleasers as they deter pests. In fact, all the plants that **the bean family shuns are those that deter pests**. Go figure!

Peas are cousins to beans and they also loathe the bulb veggies including chives, garlic, leeks, and onions.

Both **broccoli and cauliflower have a few enemies** in the vegetable world. They are **not fans of peppers, all types of squash** including yellow squash and even pumpkins (and yes – this means that if you are growing zucchini, you need to plant them far away). How they **don't care for strawberries or tomatoes** I will never know, but they don't. It seems the cool season crops of broccoli and cauliflower have something against those fruits and veggies that like it a little hotter to grow. Besides cauliflower and broccoli, **steer clear of planting cilantro and cucumbers near tomatoes**.

Dill and carrots would rather be at other ends of the planter bed too. So now you know too who would rather stay on their own sides of the garden!

To sum it all up when companion planting:

Beans: Don't plant near chives, garlic, leeks, onions, peppers, marigolds

Peas: Don't plant near chives, garlic, leeks, onions, peppers

Broccoli and Cauliflower: **Don't plant near peppers, squash, strawberries, tomatoes**

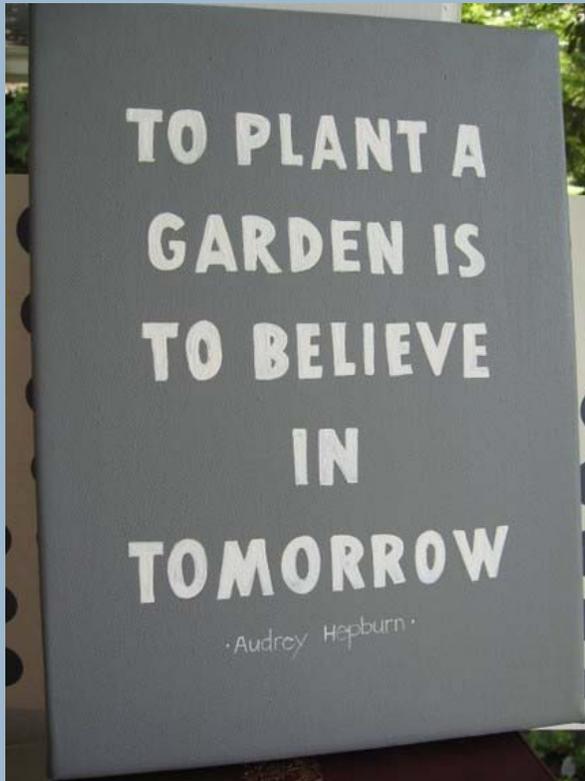
Tomatoes: Don't plant near broccoli, cauliflower, cilantro, cucumbers

Dill: Don't plant near carrots

Sunflowers need to be planted at least 12 inches away from any other plant.

Read more at <http://momsneedtoknow.com/companion-planting-plant-together/#ArdgZ8CtyIzfWWEr.99>

Signage stuff... *From unknown sources*



Cut Worm Alert... from UW Assistant Extension Entomologist, Scott Schell 307-766-2508



[http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Banded Woollybear](http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Banded%20Woollybear) The samples submitted are almost entirely black, like this specimen. The last generation of the **Isabella tiger moth** (*P. isabella*) overwinters as half-grown larvae that are active in the daylight on warm days in late winter and early spring. They feed on both grasses and broadleaf plants.



The various “cutworm species” are active at night and overcast days in the very early spring and are not hairy. They hide in soil cracks and debris in the daylight

NOTE: This is a pest to keep a watch for and to remind clients to scout their crop fields and pastures for.

<http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Cutworms>



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'Newsletter of the Park County
Master Gardeners'

~~ Content cannot be altered or
changed ~~

Newsletter Articles should be submitted
by the 15th of each month to Bob Prchal

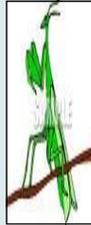
rjprchal@tritel.net

REMEMBER... Keep it pithy!



2014 Officers

President... *Vacant*
Vice President... *vacant*
Secretary... *Valerie Bates*
Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*
WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman*



Committee Chairs

Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*
Cody Garden Tour... *Suzanne Larsen*
Historian... *Jo Anne Arzillo*

Greenhouse... *Bob Prchal*
Scholarships... *Nancy Ryan*
Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*
Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Rachel Olsen (Powell)*
or *Colleen Renner (Cody)*

Mae Smith

University Extension Educator
4782 Highway 310
PO Box 587
Greybull, Wyoming 82426
(307) 765-2868

Bobbie Holder

Horticulturalist
1002 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414
~ ~
(307) 527-8560

Joyce Johnston

Horticulturalist
655 5th Street
Powell, Wyoming 82435
~ ~
(307) 754-8836

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