



# The Sage Gardener

## Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



### From the President... Karen Anderson



**A**s the year is winding down, now might be a good time to make sure you have enough volunteer and education hours. The Park County Fair MG Booth is a convenient way to pick up some hours. Sign up with a friend or get to know another MG better. Don't worry about knowing the answer to every question asked. We keep a list of questions and peoples names if we are unable to answer them. The extension office can take over from there! So sign up early and often!

**S**andy Frost mentioned that the MG's are trying to get another class going. I think it is obvious that we need to reach out to younger gardeners. I have been thinking of bringing up the ideas of scholarships for the MG education programs instead of NW College. Tell me what you think. I don't even know if this is legal. Also could we hang posters at Northern Gardens, J & S Gardens, Kmart Garden area, Shopko, and the Walmart Garden area promoting the MG education classes?

**T**ry to come up with a few ideas to help us increase our membership!

**R**egarding the scholarships we work so hard to provide, I think we should consider offering them to MG candidates in the form of full or partial scholarships. The initial programs cost quite a bit and I believe they hold some people back from applying.

**Volume 7, Issue 10**

**July 2014**

#### **Forthcoming**

#### **Meetings & Events**

- **July 07**  
MG mtg. in Cody  
@ 7:00 pm
- **July 12**  
2014 Powell Soroptimist  
3rd Annual Garden Tour  
9:00 am to 1 pm
- **July 19**  
**2014 Cody Garden  
Tour** 9:00 am to Noon
- **July 22 to 26**  
2014 Park County Fair
- **August 04**  
MG mtg. in Powell  
@ 7:00 pm
- **September 08**  
MG mtg. in Powell  
@ **5:30 pm** (Sandy Frost  
Residence)



## Meeting Minutes... submitted by Valerie Bates

Valerie Bates, Secretary convened the July 07, 2014 meeting to order @ 7:03 pm in the EOC room of the Park County Courthouse.



**Attendance...** Karen Anderson, Bob Prchal, Mary Vogel, Darlene Manning, Suzanne Larsen, Rita Lewis, Sandy Frost, Ann Hinckley, Linda Pettengill, Donna Haman, Mickey Waddell, Cathy Swartz, Teri Boyd and Valerie Bates.

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

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

### Old Business

- **Canal Park:** Suzanne Larsen reported that the weather was nice for the plant sale and it was financially successful. In addition, the educational activities were well received.
- **Cody Garden Tour:** Suzanne Larsen reported that the pre-tour is on July 17 @ 4:00 pm. The Tour starts @ 9:00 am on Saturday July 19th. Salads, deserts, ice tea and lemonade will make up the luncheon which commences at approximately 12:00 noon.
- **Park County Fair:** Bob Prchal will send out a signup sheet to the membership. Please make a commitment to signup and man our MG Booth at the Fair.
- **Powell Community Garden:** Sandy Frost reported that the Garden is progressing quite well. The Boy Scouts have committed to making a sign for the Garden.

### New Business

- **NOTE September Meeting change:** The September meeting will be changed to September 8 and will be held at Sandy Frosts home in Powell @ 5:30.
- **Valerie Bates:** This was Valerie's last meeting and the PCMG's thanked her for her devoted membership and leadership efforts. Further, we wish her well in her future endeavors. Keep in touch Val!

### 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 Rachel Olsen (Powell) or Colleen Renner (Cody) @ the Extension offices for details and paperwork.

**Adjournment...** 7:50 p.m.

**Refreshments:** Donna Haman. **Educational Program:** There was No Educational program.

**Next Meeting:** In Powell @ 7:00 p.m. August 04, 2014 in the Park County Fairgrounds Extension meeting room.

## Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston & Ann Hinckley

### Things to do in July:

- ◆ Mound up soil round potatoes (gathering a few “new” potatoes when they begin to flower.
- ◆ Water in early morning, watering soil rather than leaves. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth.
- ◆ Dig spring bulbs when tops have down: divide iris, tulips
- ◆ Monitor raspberry, blackberry, cherry and other soft fruits and berries for SWD (Spotted Wing Drosophila).
- ◆ Spray for codling moth in apple and pear trees as necessary.
- ◆ Watch for early or late blight on tomatoes. Correct by pruning for air circulation, picking off affected leaves.
- ◆ Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off or use Bt-k (Thuricide, for example) if necessary.
- ◆ If you find spider mites during hot dry weather wash infested areas with water.
- ◆ Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control or diseases. Sterilize tools between cuts with alcohol.
- ◆ If necessary spray corn for corn earworm. Protect bees from spray.



*From Oregon State University Extension service (for our Big Horn Basin area)*

- ◇ Deadhead spent flowers for continual bloom and use a water-soluble fertilizer. Make sure plants are well watered before spraying or fertilizing.
- ◇ Weed and fertilize asparagus and rhubarb. Remove seed heads.
- ◇ Harvest Swiss Chard, spinach, peas before they get too bitter.
- ◇ Feed garlic twice (the first and third weeks in July) two weeks before harvest.
- ◇ Put in a second planting of radishes, turnips, lettuce.
- ◇ Start making jelly and jam from cherries, apricots, strawberries.

*From Joyce Johnston*

Companion plants are those that work well together. Pairing them provides a benefit to one or both... just like friends. When chosen carefully, companion plants for tomatoes can:

- deter pests and diseases
- improve tomato health
- improve tomato flavor
- act as “good neighbors”

There are several plants to consider as excellent companions for tomatoes: basil (repels pests and improves germination), borage (repels pests and improves flavor), chives (repels aphids), garlic (repels spider mites), marigolds (repels pests), mint (deters pests and rodents), nasturtium (deters pests and wards off fungal diseases), and parsley (attracts hoverflies, which feast on tomato pests), to name a few.

*From Tomato Dirt*

**Happy Gardening**

# Cody Garden Tour Montage



## 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*

## Recycling Info... From DoSomething.org

- ⇒ The average person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of solid waste per year.
- ⇒ Americans make more than 200 million tons of garbage each year, enough to fill Busch Stadium from top to bottom twice a day.
- ⇒ Over 75% of waste is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.
- ⇒ We generate 21.5 million tons of food waste each year. If we composted that food, it would reduce the same amount of greenhouse gas as taking 2 million cars off the road.
- ⇒ Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to listen to a full album on your iPod. Recycling 100 cans could light your bedroom for two whole weeks. Recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy used to make alum cans from new material.
- ⇒ Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic bottles every hour.
- ⇒ Over 87% of Americans have access to curbside or drop-off paper recycling programs.
- ⇒ In 2009, Americans threw away almost 9 million tons of glass. That could fill enough tractor trailers to stretch from NYC to LA (and back!).
- ⇒ In 2010, paper recycling had increased over 89% since 1990.
- ⇒ If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we could save about 25 million trees each year.



## Epsom Salts & It's many uses... By <http://www.backyarddiva.ca/>



Are the leaves on your tomatoes or pepper plants turning yellow? Want more blooms on your rose bushes? Wondering why your lawn is looking brown? Buy Epsom Salts!

These problems may be the result of a lack of magnesium in your soil, which prohibits roots from absorbing much needed nutrients. Give your foliage and flowers a boost by using Epsom salt. Studies show that magnesium and sulfur, two major components of Epsom salt, may help plants grow greener with higher yields and more blooms.

This natural mineral, discovered in the well water of Epsom, England, has been used for hundreds of years, not only to fertilize plants but to treat a range of human and animal ailments. When magnesium sulfate is absorbed through the skin, such as in a bath, it draws toxins from the body, sedates the nervous system, reduces swelling, relaxes muscles, is a natural emollient, exfoliator, and much more.

**Lawns:** Apply three pounds for every 1,250 square feet with a spreader or dilute in water and apply with a sprayer.

**Houseplants:** Use two tablespoons per gallon of water; feed plants monthly.

**Tomatoes and Peppers:** Use one tablespoon per foot of plant height per plant; apply every two weeks to keep the leaves from yellowing.

**Roses:** Use one tablespoon per foot of plant height per plant; apply every two weeks. Also scratch 1/2 cup into soil at base to encourage flowering canes and healthy new basal cane growth. Soak unplanted bushes in one cup of Epsom Salt per gallon of water to help roots recover. Add one tablespoon of Epsom Salt to each hole at planting time.

**Shrubs (evergreens, azaleas, rhododendron):** Use one tablespoon per nine square feet. Apply over root zone every 2-4 weeks.

**Trees:** Apply two tablespoons per nine square feet. Apply over the root zone 3 times annually.

**Garden Startup:** Sprinkle one cup per 100 square feet. Mix into soil before planting.

**Flowering plants:** Put one tablespoon of Epsom Salt into one gallon of water. This mixture helps to force blooms.

## Simple, effective garden ideas



Rinse veggies right in the garden and then re-use the water on the plants. Plastic bucket and small laundry basket/colander from Dollar Tree would do nicely.



- 1 gallon Vinegar
- 2 cups Epsom salts
- 1 cup dish soap

## What are we doing? from Joyce Johnston and Ann Hinckley



## Ways to Use Bananas as a Plant Food Supplement



◆ **Banana Water:** Soak a fresh banana peel in water for a day or two... then use the water with the leached nutrients in it to water your staghorn (or other plants). Don't let the peel go to waste though!

◆ **Add Peels to your Soil or Worm Farm:** Chop up peels and add to your compost, worm farm or dig it into the soil around other plants to build up the organic matter and attract worms. Lift the mulch around your pot plants and side dress as a slow release food, then replace the mulch.

*TIP: The smaller you cut the pieces, the greater the surface area for microorganisms to get to work and the faster it will break down to feed your plants.*

- ◆ If you have bananas you won't use up (whole or just the skins), don't waste them... **freeze them!** When you have time to work on your garden, defrost the banana and add to the soil around the base of your plants.
- ◆ Alternatively, **store bananas or peels in a self-seal bag in the fridge** until you are ready to use them. Ideally, **sprinkle some bokashi grains** onto the chopped up peels so the breakdown process is already getting started.
- ◆ **Spray the chopped up banana and/or peel with diluted seaweed or kelp...** this provides additional 'food' for the microbes that will help break down the fruit faster so the nutrients can be absorbed by the plant.
- ◆ **Use with other homemade fertilizers** such as crushed eggshells and coffee grounds for greater effect.
- ◆ **Use bananas (whole/peels) as a soil amendment.** They are a rich source of organic matter so they add valuable minerals and the decaying organic material attracts beneficial microorganisms (microbes) and earthworms which help create air pockets in the soil and add their free fertilizer (worm castings).
- ◆ **Banana peels** can also be added to worm farms for microbes to dine out on; dug into the soil around plants in pots or the garden.
- ◆ **Overripe bananas or peels** can be added to compost. It is preferable to increase the surface area for microbes to break down by chopping up into smaller pieces first.

*Want to know more? Check out [Frugal Gardening](#) for more money saving tips; [How to Grow Your Own Food from Seed: Harvesting Vegetables & Herbs](#) and [Garden Maintenance](#) for more ideas. © Copyright Anne Gibson, The Micro Gardener 2010-2013 – <http://www.themicrogardener.com>*

## Summer Tomato Care... From <http://www.garden.org>

If you grow tomatoes, be aware that summer's heat can put a damper on production. It's a time when problems can crop up, slow down growth, and set back production. So be on the lookout for some common diseases and other problems with fruit and foliage.

### Blossom End Rot

**Blossom end rot** is not a fungus disease but rather *a physiological problem*. The dark spots on the blossom end of tomato fruits are caused by improper watering practices while the young fruit are developing. During this developmental stage, calcium must be trans-located into the young fruit, and water needs to be readily available for this to occur.

The blossom end of the fruit (the region farthest away from the stem) develops a black or brown leathery lesion that becomes somewhat flattened. This can happen to all or only some of the tomatoes on the plant, and to green as well as ripening fruit.

The best way to avoid this problem is to make sure your tomato plants don't suffer drought stress or large fluctuations in soil moisture. Water them thoroughly and deeply once a week. Don't just lightly sprinkle them. On the other hand, don't water tomatoes daily since overwatering is just as bad. Use a mulch to retain uniform moisture and reduce stress conditions.

### Sunscald

You may have heard that pruning plants and removing leaves will hasten ripening of tomatoes. On the contrary, removing leaves does not hasten ripening or do anything beneficial for the plant. It cuts down on the amount of food energy the plant can manufacture, and exposes the developing fruit to sunscald injury -- white or yellowish spots on the green fruit. Tomatoes do not need to be in the sun to ripen, *so keep the leaves*.

## Weed Alert... from Park County Weed & Pest



# Thistle Got You Down?



## Cost Share Available!

**Park County Weed and Pest Control District**

Powell 307-754-4521

Cody 307-527-8885

Includes **Russian knapweed** too!

[www.parkcountyweeds.org](http://www.parkcountyweeds.org)



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Volume 7, Issue 10

July 2014



## 2014 Officers

President... *Karen Anderson*

Vice President... *vacant*

Secretary... *Valerie Bates*

Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*

WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman & (one vacancy)*



'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](mailto:rjprchal@tritel.net)

REMEMBER... Keep it pithy!



## Committee Chairs

Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*

Cody Garden Tour... *Suzanne Larsen*

Historian... *Jo Anne Arzillo*

Greenhouse... *Bob Prchal*

Scholarships... *PCMG President*

Park County Fair... *Bob Prchal*

Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Rachel Olsen (Powell)*  
or *Colleen Renner (Cody)*



**Mae Smith**

**UW 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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Glen Whipple, Director, UW Extension, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

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