



The Sage Gardener

Park County Master Gardener Newsletter



From the President... Karen Anderson

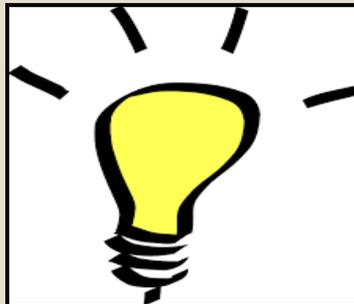


Volume 9, Issue 10

September 2014

I am looking forward to this month's meeting!

It seems like last month an idea came up to have an educational event like the one we attended two years ago in Thermopolis. So we will discuss this idea and any others at the meeting. It would take a tremendous amount of volunteer hours by our entire group, but, I do believe that it would be well worth it.



We would need to find new speakers, a venue and catering and so much more.

So I will see you in Cody at 7pm!

Forthcoming Meetings & Events

- **October 06**
MG Mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00 pm
- **October 10**
WMGA Mtg. in Casper
@ 10:00 am
- **November 03**
MG Mtg. in Cody
@ 7:00 pm
- **December 01**
MG Mtg. in Powell
@ 6:00 pm
- **February 21, 2015**
NW Regional Educational Conference in Thermopolis



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Teri Boyd

Teri Boyd, Secretary convened the September 08, 2014 meeting to order @ 6:50 pm in the home of Sandy Frost.



Attendance... Teri Boyd, Bob Prchal, Dan Wasp, Joyce Johnston, Sandy Frost, Ann Hinckley, Linda Pettengill, Rhonda Faulkner and Kendra Morris. Honored Guest: Chef Henry Yapple

Approval of Minutes... The minutes were not discussed or approved.

Treasurer's Report... The Treasurer's report was submitted. No action taken.

Old Business

- **Scholarships:** More discussion/ideas but no firm decisions were made! This issue needs to be resolved!

New Business

- **2015 MG Educational Venue:** Sandy Frost will pursue plans for a Spring (late February) Big Horn Basin gathering of Master Gardeners and friends of Master Gardeners in Worland. The following counties will be invited: Big Horn, Hot Springs, Fremont, Park and Washakie.
- **Emerald Ash Borer:** Joyce Johnston has update information on the Emerald Ash Borer and will be providing short seminars.
- **Educational Field Trips:** Sandy Frost raised the issue and suggested that, as a group, we should be considering this as an educational venue. The Denver Botanical Gardens and Billings were thrown out as options.

Committee Reports and/or Announcements

- **Plant a Row:** Please consider extra plantings to your 2014 gardening activities so we can contribute to the needy.
- **Powell Community Garden:** Sandy Frost reported that extra veggies are being donated to needy families and support organizations.

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 pm

Refreshments: Sandy Frost & PCMG Members. **Educational Program:** None; business & fellowship only.

Next Meeting: In Cody on October 06, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the EOC room of the Park County Courthouse.

Extension Musings... Joyce Johnston & Ann Hinckley

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to work at the information table at the Park County Fair. It is an interesting way to see your friends, put out the good word on Master Gardener information, and get your credit for volunteer hours. We could use some more volunteers so keep this in mind for next year's Fair.



While you are cleaning up the gardens don't forget the compost pile. The ideal size of a compost pile is 3' x 3'. The materials will break down faster if they are chopped up but will eventually decompose even if they are left whole. **Do not put any diseased plants on the pile.** If it heats up above 120 degrees it will kill any diseases but it is sometimes difficult to be sure the pile is that hot. Alfalfa hay, loose or in cubes, chicken, horse, pig, rabbit, or cow manure that is aged, grass clippings, or pine needles will add Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium to the garden, and will improve the soil. If you rake up your leaves, instead of mowing them and leaving them on the lawn as mulch, put them in your compost pile. Mix the peelings of fresh vegetables and fruits into the pile year-round.

In Wyoming we have to add water to our compost. It should be kept damp as a wrung out sponge. If it begins to smell it is a sign of too much moisture. Add some dry ingredients. Keep aside a bag of leaves or add some more hay to cure the problem. If it is not heating up it needs more oxygen so put in some fresh grass clippings or other green material. Sometimes you will find plants growing around the edge of the pile. If they are squash or tomatoes or such just consider that a bonus and transplant them. If they are weeds, they will pull up easily.

Now that the garden has been put to rest for the winter, your tools need their yearly tidying up, too. Zone 4 Susan Tweit gathers up steel wool, mineral oil, sandpaper, and files. She scrubs the dirt from the tools, puts each one in a vise and files blade edges, uses steel wool to remove rust, sands handles, and gives all the metal and wood several coats of mineral oil. After this the tools are ready for next season's activities.

An article from the Organic Gardening magazine describes how to use Fall leaves to design new garden beds. Lay out the shape of your new bed with a hose and mark it with flour or lime. Fill this area with leaves, leaving about a foot clear around the edges. Dig a shallow trench along this line, turning the sod upside down on top of the leaves. Dig holes where you want the plants to be, marking each hole with a stick or a marker with the name of the plant that goes in each hole. Spread a thin layer of compost over the area. If a soil test shows you need extra nutrients, spread them on now. To be sure the grass originally on this plot is killed smother it all with a layer of wet newspapers topped with a thin layer of compost. Allow at least six weeks or more before planting. If grass comes up as the bed is in use, pull it up and cover the spot with more newspaper and mulch if necessary. A bed prepared this way seldom needs to be dug or tilled in succeeding years as the earthworms and microorganisms do a great job of loosening and enriching the soil.

Happy Fall Gardening

Home Made Miracle Grow... Make your Own from the Gardening Cook

Here are a few ways to fertilize without the use of chemicals

DIY Miracle Grow

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 gallon of water
- ◆ 1 tbsp. Epsom salt
- ◆ 1 tsp baking powder
- ◆ 1/2 tsp of Household ammonia

Mix all ingredients together and use once a month on your plants.

Compost Tea

Get a clean glass jar. Add water to the jar. Keep it on your counter. Whenever you use eggs, crunch up the shells and put them into the jar. The same goes for coffee ground. Put them into the jar. Once you have quite a bit of this mix, add more water, shake and let it sit for a while.

It will need to sit for quite a while and you will need to shake it every day. Do not keep the jar in direct sunlight. After about a week, strain the mix and strain it through a paper towel into another bottle. That is all there is to it. Just the strained "compost tea" fertilizer to add to your plants.

Weed compost tea

Similar to the coffee/tea version but you use weeds. Don't use any weeds that have been treated with herbicide. Place the weeds in a jar with rain water. Cover and place in the sun. It will smell really foul, but in a week you will have your "weed compost tea." This mixture is far more effective than miracle grow and will last the entire season in the ground.

Epsom salt fertilizer

This is the perfect DIY fertilizer for your houseplants, peppers, roses, potatoes, and tomatoes. The reason for this because Epsom salt contains sulfate and magnesium, two important minerals needed by these plants.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt
- ◆ 1 gallon of water.

Mix well and add to your plants once a month when you water.

Fish tank water fertilizer

This has similar effects that fish emulsion fertilizer does. It doesn't require any labor at all. Just save all the dirty fish tank water and use it for watering the plants. Fish water contains nitrogen and other important nutrients that the plants need.

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 Ann Hinckley



⇒ **Over 75% of waste is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.**

⇒ **The average person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day and about 4.5 tons of solid waste per year.**

~~from Facts about Recycling/Do Something~~

Reminder: *Check out the recycling center nearest you and see what you can keep out of the solid waste stream!*

Emerald Ash Borer update... Joyce Johnston: from www.colorado.gov

[Where has the EAB been found? 8/14/2014](#)

[Sign Up for the EAB Newsletter!](#)

[Managing Emerald Ash Borer: Decision Guide](#)

[Ash Management Zones](#) (How close are you to EAB?)

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Boulder, CO, in September 2013. As a non-native insect, EAB lacks predators to keep it in check. EAB only attacks ash trees, and is responsible for the death of millions of ash trees in the mid-west. Help protect Colorado's ash trees! Treatment is recommended for property owners within 5 miles of areas known to be infested.

Effective 11/12/2013, an emergency quarantine was issued to protect Colorado ash trees. See links below regarding the quarantine.

[Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Rule](#)

[Front Range Monitoring & Detection Map](#)

[EAB Newsletter](#) (08/05/2014)

[News Release](#) (07/30/2014)

[News Release](#) (4/15/2014)

[News Release](#) (11/12/2013)

Colorado has many ash in the urban forest (we estimate about 15% of trees are ash). Ash trees are popular in Colorado with an estimated 98,000 in the city of Boulder alone; the Denver Metro area has an estimated 1.45 million ash trees.

It is possible that EAB could infest an ash tree for 3 or 4 years before visible signs of decline of the tree. If an ash tree is experiencing die back or looking unhealthy, residents are encouraged to have it examined by a professional tree company, contact CDA, or their city or county forestry office. Infestation signs include:

- Sparse leaves or branches in the upper part of the tree
- D-shaped exit holes about 1/8 inch wide
- New sprouts on the lower trunk or lower branches
- Vertical splits in the bark
- Winding S-shaped tunnels under the bark
- Increased woodpecker activity



© PA DCNR

If you think you have EAB in your ash trees, or if you have any questions or concerns, or would like additional information, please contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 888-248-5535 or email

CAPS.program@state.co.us. [Colorado State University, Questions and Answers about EAB](#)

How to Manage EAB

[Colorado Emerald Ash Borer First Responder Manual](#)

[EAB Quick Guide](#)

[Managing Emerald Ash Borer: Decision Guide](#)

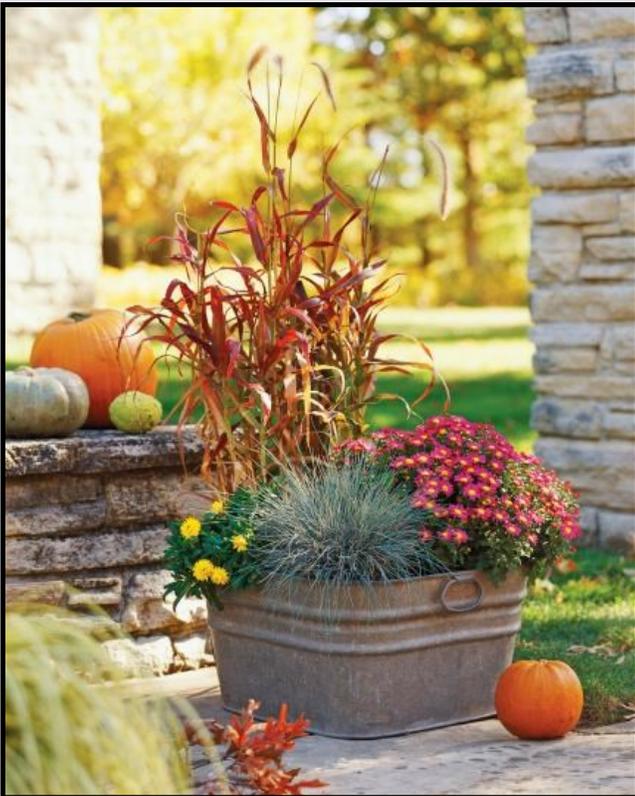
[Control Options for EAB by Dr. Whitney Cranshaw](#)

[2/4/2014: EAB survey located more areas with infested ash trees in the city of Boulder: branch sampling reveals hidden pest](#)

How Can You Help?

[Burn it where you buy it](#) the CAPS program is recommending that people use firewood from Colorado whenever possible, and to always ensure that their firewood is properly seasoned. In addition, when camping, people should try to buy firewood near their destination campground, to help prevent transporting pests elsewhere.

Simple, effective garden ideas from midwestliving.com/garden/containers



Leaf spot Image available... Contact Stump @ 307-766-2062 or wstump@uwyo.edu for more info

A growing number of tree and ornamental samples submitted to the University of Wyoming Extension diagnostic team have leaf spot issues.

A generic term used to describe a number of leaf spotting disease organisms that can affect all manner of plants, most leaf spot diseases develop as small, scattered circular-to-oval dead areas in leaves under proper conditions (usually damp weather), said William Stump, extension plant pathologist.

Spots can enlarge and grow together to form large angular to irregular dead areas and can range in color from tan, brown, yellow, grey or black and with or without margins.

Stump said late-season leaf spots are typically more unsightly than harmful, while those beginning early in the season can severely weaken a tree or shrub, especially if it occurs in two or more successive years.

Stump suggests to minimize leaf spot disease:

- Remove infected leaves and dead twigs before winter sets in
- Avoid wetting foliage while watering
- Maintain good plant health and avoid over-fertilization
- Use fungicides only in cases of severe disease causing defoliation for several consecutive years



Fungi overwintering in fallen leaves, buds, fruits and twigs can spread leaf spotting disease. Some fungi have specific hosts or may attack several species and, under proper conditions – usually extended periods of cool, wet weather – numerous spores are produced that infect leaves, said Stump.

These conditions are typically found in spring and/or fall for the intermountain regions of Wyoming.

5 Perennial Veggies to Plant Once and Enjoy from Organic Authority

Most of the foods we grow are annuals: Each winter, they disappear and must be replanted in the spring. A bountiful garden of delicious organic food is worth the work of planning and planting, but smart gardeners also curate a few perennials, which come back year after year with little maintenance required. Here are some classic perennials to plant now for harvest next summer.

Globe Artichoke (or other winter-hardy variety)

Artichokes are the edible flower buds of a bushy plant in the thistle family. Best suited for moist, light soils and full sun, artichoke plants grow larger each year, eventually producing several plump buds a year. They don't do well in dry soils, so mulch and compost well, and give the roots plenty of water. If you have cold winters (northern zones), cut the plant back in fall and cover it with a layer of straw.

Asparagus

Asparagus shoots are one of spring's first delights, poking out of cool soils alongside other perennials like tulips and crocus. But they're a long-term investment: The first year, you won't harvest asparagus at all, and each year you must leave plenty of shoots behind, letting them flower and grow into the next year's harvest.

Jerusalem Artichokes (Sunchokes)

The latest culinary darling, sunchokes are tubers grown from a flowering, towering relative of the sunflower. They've got a nutty flavor and are delicious roasted or in soups. Plant a single sunchoke in the fall or early spring, and it'll grow into a hearty plant with multiple tubers to dig up. Remember to always leave a few in the ground for next year... and give it plenty of space, because this plant is a hardy native that can invade your yard with its sunny, food-producing blooms.

Alliums

Garlic, onions and chives are all able to survive cold winters from their roots buried under the soil. Plant garlic and onion cloves, sets or seed in the fall, and they'll push up green shoots in the spring; leave a few behind each year, and they'll flower, seed themselves and divide their own bulbs to create the next year's crop.

Radicchio and Chicory

Ever chopped off a lettuce plant in summer, only to find it growing back the following spring? Some leafy greens are able to regrow from a root... an advantage for gardeners who'll have robust greens growing quite early in spring. Raddichio and other chicory relatives are good bets, but as most of us grow several types of lettuce and mesclun greens mixes, you never know what might come back. Instead of pulling up your roots, cut the plant back at the soil surface, cover the bed with straw through the winter, and see what pops up in spring.

September Meeting



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



The Sage Gardener

Volume 9, Issue 10

September 2014



2014 Officers

President... *Karen Anderson*

Vice President... *Rita Lewis*

Secretary... *Teri Boyd*

Treasurer... *Mickey Waddell*

WMGA Delegates... *Donna Haman & Darlene Manning*



'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!



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

Issued in furtherance of Extension work, Acts of May

8th and June 30th, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.