

UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agriculture



THE GERMINATOR

Publication of the Wyoming
Master Gardener Association

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 1, 2010

HIGH TUNNELS BURROWING INTO WY

It appears that high tunnels are becoming all the rage. They have burrowed, quite rapidly, into our lexicon, our gardens, and into our lives. Most had not heard of them until last winter and now everyone is talking about them. They extend the growing season dramatically, increase crops, and expand crop varieties. At the October 8 meeting of the Wyoming Master Gardener Association,

Jerry Simonsen reported for Jeff Edwards on the WY Dept of Ag/Extension Service High Tunnel Grants. 17 high tunnels were constructed in 2010. The smallest was 12 x 12 feet and the largest was 24 x 72. Project funding looks good for 2011 and requests for applications will go out in February of 2011 for ten more structures. All further designs will be either straight hoop houses or gothic style.

Jeff & Ted, the builders and instructors, logged over 6,000 miles and over 170 people participated in the workshops. Hoop houses were constructed in the areas of Afton, Pine-dale, Lander, Powell, Thermopolis, Sheridan, Gillette, Douglas, Wheatland, Guernsey, and Torrington. Tentative plans call for construction in Lusk, Laramie, Sundance, Lovell and Worland for 2011. (This information came from a map with pushpins so may not be totally accurate.) Get your apps in!

Converse County goes Solar

Converse Co will utilize the sun to heat and cool their new hoop house (or high tunnel). Wy Dept of Ag's Ted Craig and Goshen Co Educator Jeff Edwards have installed a solar ventilation system for the new 20 X 72 hoop house in Douglas. When the temperatures reaches 70 degrees outside, louvers automatically open and a fan circulates the hot air to the outside, all using solar power. Hoop houses heat up in a hurry in the sun; and without ventilation, plants can cook. Opening and closing the doors is labor intensive and simply not possible at all times. The solar system frees workers from manually opening the doors, windows, or sides depending on the style of high tunnel. Becky will keep everyone informed at the State Meetings on how the solar ventilation system works.

Goshen Co MGs talk on radio show

Extension Educators Jerry Simonsen and Jeff Edwards host a Friday radio show and MGs frequently are by their sides to answer questions and talk about horticulture questions. The show is a great success with pre-screened call-in questions discussed and answered on air. The show expands the community awareness of the MG program and answers a lot of questions.

*A callused palm &
dirty fingernails pre-
cede a green thumb.*

Welcome Hot Springs County MGs

Hot Springs Co has a new program with 6 MGs. 5 were trained by or with Park Co MGs and one transferred in. They have organized, have By-Laws and officers and are working on payback hours. A Farmer's Market is also in the works for 2011. A delegate was sent to the WY MG Association meeting in Casper in October. The Association welcomed the new county MGs and wish them the best. They are a very active bunch with lots of enthusiasm and we look forward to many innovative projects from them. WELCOME!!

Garden Walk in Laramie County

Vegetable gardens and small gardens were featured in Cheyenne MG's educational Garden Walk in July. This is free to the public to get the word out about different types of gardens. Last year they featured yards in a specific areas of the city, this year it was vegetable and small gardens. MGs are available on site to answer questions and hand out information. Try it in your county! Or make it a fund raiser. Thanks Laramie Co for the innovative ideas.

CAMPBELL Co MG OFFICE MOVES

The MGs have moved, along with the Extension Office, back to Gillette Avenue in Gillette. They were in this George Amos Building in the 1980s and are now back to a remodeled building. Stop in and see them at 412 S Gillette Ave and help them unpack!

NATRONA Co PLANTS PLANTSELECT DEMO GARDEN

Casper, once again, plants a Plant-Select Demonstration Garden to trial a variety of new plants from the PlantSelect program. This is a valuable asset to the whole state as everyone can see what did good in Casper and how that plant did in other sites in the Rocky Mountain area. Go to PlantSelect.org for more information. Natrona Co Educator Donna Cuin says to go to the Demonstration Gardens and see the map and click on the Casper area to see the results of their trials. I couldn't get this work but there is lots of info on the site. I didn't look long for the Casper info but try it out. This is a valuable site to dream over all winter, plus you learn lots and it can help planning your flower garden for 2011. Check it out and thanks to Natrona Co MGs for their hard work in keeping the data and working the garden.

PARK CO TRAINS NEW MGs

Park Co trains it's largest class of Park Co & Big Horn Co residents in the 2010 MG class. Park Co is a leader in sharing information and training with surrounding counties. Their enthusiasm is contagious and refreshing. They trained a total of 10 people with 2 for education only. Six are out there putting in educational hours in the community and two are high school students that are still in training. Allowing high school students to take the classes is an innovative idea considering their limited time to make payback hours and long term commitments. Park Co 2010 Chairman Bob Prchal reported the project is working out well. Contact him if your program is thinking of expanding to highschoolers.

CHAIRMAN JUDY LOGUE RETIREES FROM OFFICE

At the October meeting of Wyoming MasterGardener Association, Judy Logue did not run for re-election for the office of Chairman after a successful four years. She agreed to write a final message to her "subjects" as a farewell from office; but not farewell from MGs. She will continue, we hope, for many more years in her "What's bugging you" column. Thank you, Judy, for your excellent leadership, guidance, and time serving the state. And, now, from Judy:

In Retrospect...

After four years of serving our state Master Gardener organization, it's certainly time to lean back and enjoy Bob Prchal's fine leadership. Bob is the kind of guy who commits 120% on any project that shows up in his path. He'll be doing a fine job of keeping us all enthused and on track.

We have many other mighty fine local Master Gardeners and local groups around the state! Some veterans have been serving their local communities for 10+ years, and really know the ins 'n outs of local horticulture issues. They have also demonstrated skills in dealing with volunteer and organizational issues. And then, we have the newbies who contribute so much welcome energy and enthusiasm. Both veterans and newbies together create a dynamic representation of the University of Wyoming's Cooperative Extension Service. I am so proud to have been included in this super group of movers & shakers.

Of all the positive activities that our state organization offers, I find the networking between local groups being the most valuable. We can count on inspiration from many new ideas being presented in our discussions, and helpful solutions are offered to those groups who are dealing with problems.

During the past few years, our hard-working committees have refined our by-laws, and initiated policies and procedures for our state organization. These improvements clarify duties and responsibilities that will be particularly helpful in easing our future leader's work within the organization.

Patsy Larson, single-handedly produced a wonderful newsletter to keep us all connected. Her lively reports and humor kept us going when the daily grunge was getting us down.

For me personally, the most enjoyable activity of all, was our first attempt at conducting a "Hort Blitz" in Rock Springs last year. This is a win-win activity for our organization as well as the community. It gives us an opportunity to work with our fellow Master Gardeners to compare notes and appreciate our different growing conditions and styles of solving horticultural problems. Also, this community activity focuses attention on the local Master Gardener program and it's knowledgeable personnel. It is my hope that we can do more Hort Blitzes in the future, and I hereby volunteer to lead the charge on that 'funnest' of activities.!

Finally, my most heartfelt thanks to Mike Whitmore, Sylvia Kirby, Patsy Larson, Kayce Weber, Bob Prchal, Christy Crochet, and Donna Cuin for their knowledgeable assistance in keeping our organization moving forward. And a special thanks to our Natrona County delegates, Mary Garrod, Martha Morris, and Arlene Russell for their quiet and capable support.

Bob Prchal, Becky Harris, and Kayce Weber are perfect selections for continuing the progressive work of our organization. **You Go Team!**

Judy

Meeting Locations Established

Wyoming MG Association has set the February 11, 2011, meeting of the organization in Gillette at 10 am. All counties with a Master Gardener organization can send two voting delegates, plus all others wishing to come. Voting delegates should have a term of one year in each county, determined by their fiscal year. The May 13, 2011, meeting will be in Torrington, at 10 am. Each county should try and attend. Check with each other and car pool! Just come.

Hot Springs Co plans on Farmer's Mkt for '11

Master Gardeners in Hot Springs Co are working on starting a Farmer's Market for 2011. This is a new organization of six MGs who will be putting in lots of hours on this project so wish them well.

Laramie County Jr MG Program is Active

Laramie Co has 105 active Junior Master Gardeners at various locations in the county. These are school age children learning about gardening with the help of Master Gardeners. Catherine Wissner, Extension Horticulturist in Cheyenne can answer any of your questions about this program.

PAYBACK BELOW AVERAGE

Both Natrona and Campbell Counties reported the new MG trainee payback hours are down. No other counties reported in this area; however, most programs (and any volunteer program) struggle in this area. What do you use for an incentive? Got any innovative ideas? Let Chairman Bob Prchal hear your ideas.

2010 MG Conference Made a Profit

Laramie Co MGs did such a good job putting on the State MG Conference that they made a profit for the State organization. Part of this money is allocated towards the 2012 conference and part is available to the counties for educational grants. Contact your State voting delegate for more information on the grants. A grant application is available from the State Association. Be thinking of innovative ways to put this money to good use.

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY in PARK COUNTY

Both Cody and Powell benefited from the Park Co "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program. Individuals donated their extra row of produce to the Food Distribution sites in both town. Master Gardeners produced over 200 pounds of fruits and vegetables for this program.

HYPERTUFA WORKSHOPS

Both Laramie County and Weston County hosted Hypertufa Workshops this summer to make birdbaths and planters. JoAnn Stearns of Newcastle lists Materials Needed as: Molds - plastic or metal dishpan, lid or container or a foam ice chest. Or use a garbage can lid for a birdbath mold.

Portland cement - straight cement - not the premixed cement

Sand, Peat Moss, Water

A measurer — large coffee can works well, Plastic garbage bags

Rubber gloves, Repertory face mask, Eye protection, Wire brush

Trowel or something to stir with - or a cement mixer for larger planters

Short pieces of pipe or old hose to make drainage holes in the bottom

JoAnn has some great directions and suggestions. Contact her through Weston Co Extension Office.

Natrona Co Decreasing Yard Calls

In an effort to maximize time and money, Casper is working to decrease yard calls. They do more horticultural detecting over the phone and try to have clients bring specimens to the office. Budget crunches hit all over!



JoAnn Stearns & Shelia French, Weston Co MGs at Hypertufa Workshop in Newcastle. One planter is still in the mold on the ground.

*I'd rather be on my
farm than be emperor
of the world.
George Washington*

Hoop House 101

Have you ever wanted to extend your growing season? Or are you looking for a way to protect your garden from the hoards of grasshoppers, deer, elk, antelope or cattle? If so, a hoop house may be the answer.

Hoop houses are simplified greenhouses with no additional heat other than what they gather from the sun's rays, thereby making them easier and cheaper to operate. Even though there are no furnaces in a hoop house it is amazing what a difference one can make. By covering your plants with a high tunnel (1 layer of plastic that rises at least 6 feet above the ground), it's as if you have moved your garden 500 miles south of your present location. And by adding a 2nd layer of plastic as a short tunnel (3-4 ft tall over an individual row or crop *inside* your high tunnel) it moves those plants an additional 500 miles south. What a great way to garden in a more plant friendly zone without the commute!

Hoop houses can be built with ribs of wood, PVC or metal pipe, or if you prefer, kits are available in a variety of sizes and prices. In most cases, the covering will be the biggest expense and the hardest decision you'll face. Just be sure to use one with UV ray protection. The plastic sheeting sold in hardware stores will not hold up to the sun's rays for more than one season on the outside of your structure but I have had good results using it as the inside layer, under a UV protected sheet.

Over the years I have tried several styles of hoop houses. The first one was built by my father in 1982. It was built of railroad ties and scrap 2X4's with a rippled fiberglass glazing that quickly turned yellow. It survived 12 years and 2 moves until a heavy snow laid it flat one spring. It was ugly, but that simple structure made it possible to grow red, ripe tomatoes at Custer, SD. One summer my green beans froze 3 times in the garden but inside the hoop house we had beautiful tomatoes.

After the collapse of my ugly, but beloved hoop house, I experimented with short tunnels. I bent rebar frames and stuck them into the ground over raised beds, covering them with clear plastic sheets. These helped but they never seemed to have the 'bulk' needed to hold the heat like a large structure will.

Last spring I purchased a used 'display' greenhouse from my sister's flower shop. It came complete with lots of shelving and a propane furnace (which I didn't use last summer). It was just what I needed as our son was getting married at the ranch and I wanted someplace to grow flowers and keep them safe from the grasshoppers that had devoured my garden the previous 2 years. I also wanted to be able to protect the lettuce, peppers and cucumbers, and hopefully grow enough produce to sell at the farmers market. The hoop house made it possible to keep the wedding flowers looking great as the plants outside its walls quickly disappeared once the hoppers arrived. I did have one problem - I had planted veggies in the ground with flowers in pots on the shelves above and even though the veggies had lots of water and fertilizers from the flowers above they didn't get the sunlight they needed until the flowers moved out.

In December of 2009 the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) launched a 3 year pilot program in 38 states, including WY. Through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), qualifying producers and participating farms can receive funding for one hoop house. Visit your local NRCS office or check the USDA website for details.

Every season I learn something new about gardening but hoop houses have spoiled me forever. My plants have protection from the sun, the wind and a good share of the insects that make our lives miserable – and I can always garden no matter what the weather is like outside. JoAnn Stearns, Weston Co MG



PUMPKIN TRIVIA

1. Which state grows the most pumpkins? A) Alabama B) California C) Illinois D) Florida
2. What were pumpkins once recommended for? A) Removal of freckles B) Diarrhea C) Curing Snake Bites D) Indigestion
3. From which country did the tradition of pumpkin carving come? A) Italy B) Yugoslavia C) Ireland D) Germany
4. What is the percentage of water in a pumpkin?
A) 50% B) 90% C) 75% D) 2%

See next page for answers.

WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU?

By Judy Logue

As our growing season ends for the year, we can always count on a few repeat bug issues form the general public:



1. Q. "How can I get rid of all these boxelder bugs?"

Answer:

- a. Physical Exclusion: Seal cracks around the house's foundation and windows. Boxelder bugs especially like to get in that south-side crack that opens between the foundation and sidewalk or stairs leading into the house.
- b. Sanitation: Remove leaf litter in the autumn from the vicinity to eliminate hibernating places.
- c. Spray: Treat trees and shrubs, especially the boxelder trees, with horticultural oil just before bud-break in the springtime to smother eggs laid in the bark and other cracks and crevices.
- d. When all else fails, utilize Grandma's method of pouring boiling water on the cluster of boxelder bugs hanging on the door knob!

2. Q. "I found this spider by *my porch light, in the garage, under the deck*. Is this a *Brown Recluse, Hobo, or exotic spider* that will certainly cause flesh-eating sores on myself, my children, and my pets?"

A. Nope that's a *Catfaced spider, Agriope spider, or Wolf spider* that has finally reached its mature size at the end of our growing season. They're probably the best natural predators of unwanted insects that we can employ. If you don't mind, since it's alive, I'd like to release it outside our building.

3. Q "I found this spider running across the dirty clothes on the floor of the laundry room. It must be a *Brown Recluse, Hobo, or other exotic spider* that will certainly cause "flesh-eating sores on myself, by children and my pets! I know it's one of them because I saw it on the internet!"

(See next column)

- A. Well, yes, it is a Hobo spider, but Hobos are not really any more dangerous than any other common spider. They just happen to be big and scary looking for some people. All spiders do have venom and in rare instances, when they're pressed on from above, they might try a defensive bite sensing that they're about to die. But most spider bites will not cause much of a problem unless an individual is prone to allergies. The only spider we have medical concerns about in Wyoming is the Black Widow and we all know what that one looks like. Just put out some sticky traps, and seal cracks and openings where spiders might be entering the house from outdoors.

As soon as we have our first decent snow storm, our clients will be calling us about indoor pests. Whitney Cranshaw's Household Pests is my best reference in our Master Gardener office. I hope you're lucky enough to have a copy in your office since I've heard that it's out of print.

JUDY is a Natrona County Master Gardener and is past president of the Wyoming Master Gardener Association.



Catfaced spider



Agriope spider

Answers to Pumpkin Trivia: 1. C. 2. A & C 3. C 4. B

GARDEN CARE.....Helpful Hints from Bob Prchal

FALL PLANTING

- Fall is a great time to begin thinking about your 2011 flower beds. It is prime time for planting **spring and summer** blooming bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes.
- Plant more trees/shrubs. They help: Attract wildlife, Conserve energy, Clean the air, and Increase property values

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- Dig clean dry and treat (bleach solution) "summer" bulbs (anemones, f crocus, cannas, tuberous begonias, gladiolus, dahlias etc) that will not survive our winter temperatures. Store the bulbs in a cool (above 32 degrees but not greater than 40 degrees F) dry area well ventilated shaded location then replant in the spring/summer. NOTE: do not begin digging and storing bulbs **until after the first hard, killing frost.**
- Provide protection for your less winter hardy/non-native roses. Cut canes to 8 inches and mound (3 inches) with weed free manure.
- Begin your winterization by cleaning up all yard and garden debris
- Remove all leaves from your lawn. Wet leaves will prevent light and air from getting to your grass, suffocate your grass, and create an environment for disease. Bag leaves for composting.
- Remove all dead foliage from your vegetable garden. Till leaves (whole/shredded) and compost.
- Clean up flower beds by pulling annuals, and cutting back unsightly perennials. NOTE colorful, contrasting perennials and grasses add appeal to your winter landscape (ie ornamental grasses, flowering kale, a various colorful perennial seed heads.
- Add leaves and non-diseased plant materials to your compost pile (if you do not have a compost pile, consider starting one or ask a neighbor if they want the plant debris in lieu of the landfill)
- If you have a shredder, spread a thin layer of dry leaves around all your perennials, shrubs, and trees. They provide winter protection for the plants. NOTE: Do not add a heavy layer of compost because it could create a home for rodents (mice & voles) who can damage tree/shrub bark and roots. Keep mulch 3 inches away from the tree trunks.
- Wyoming 's dry winter winds along with sparse fall and winter precipitation causes desiccation on many evergreens. When a nice day arises, consider wa-

Campbell Co Farmer's Mkt GROWS

The Farmer's Market in Gillette has been moved, expanded, and revamped to serve more customers and vendors. Farmer's Market Committee Chair Susie Cooper and her team of trusty helpers secured the necessary agreement to move the market to the Gillette College parking lot, worked on getting more and new vendors, and a longer season. The transformation was a success with a constant stream of buyers during the whole time, not just at the early morning few minutes. There were breads, jellies, jewelry, candies, crafts, wood carvers, furniture, artwork, pies, cakes, and a plethora of garden produce. Something for everyone. It will take a lot of work to keep those 600 customers coming back, but the committee is up to the job. Well done and good luck next year.

Converse Co completes Berm at Ext Office

MGs reworked the berm at the Douglas, WY, Extension Office on the State Fair Grounds. Trees, grass and weeds were removed. Lots of positive comments during Fair were received by the MGs who designed and implemented the project.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESSES

Don't forget to update your email address if you plan on changing servers. Update to me if you get this direct from me and update with your county if you get it from them. We want to keep you part of our system. Also, get me the email addresses of any of the newbies that want to receive the newsletter. Lets stay in touch! And don't forget that feedback is always important .

Natrona Co donates to Weed & Seed Program

Some of the proceeds from the May Plant Sale went towards a donation of plants to a neighborhood cleanup for the City of Casper's Weed & Seed Program. Check with Donna Cuin, Educator in Casper about this program. Sounds worthy.

Welcome to Robert "Bob" J. Prchal as Chairman of Wyoming MG Association. (You pronounce Bob's name "purr call." It's Bohemian!) Effective January 1, 2011, Bob will be our Chairman. I expect great things from Bob and he always delivers. so be prepared!! In case you don't know him, I asked him to do a little bio for you as an introduction. Enjoy and welcome Bob as your new Chairman next time you see him. Editor Patsy

WYOMING MG ASSOCIATION IN-COMING CHAIR/PRESIDENTS REPORT...Bob Prchal

Greetings from the north end of the Big Horn Basin... the 'other side' of the mountains

Background:

I am a Native of North Dakota, via Montana where I spent my formative years. I have a B.S. in Agronomy from Montana State University (1974) and an M.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University (1976).

Before I took early retirement I was the Deputy Administrator for the Risk Management Agency (USDA) in Washington D.C. I moved to Powell in the fall of 2001 because I wanted to escape the 'hustle and bustle' of the urban lifestyle that was consuming me. I sought a more tranquil rural setting; and because I always enjoyed the Powell/Cody area whenever I would visit my relatives, I felt it was an ideal area and good fit. I have not regretted my decision or the re-location.

I have often said I am busier now (and enjoying it more) than when I was 'climbing the career ladder'. In addition to working in my immediate yard, I find a lot of solace in Community Service/volunteer work. Thus, I spread my time and energies around 'The Basin' doing what I enjoy. Master Gardening has opened a-lot of doors for me. Most of my undertakings are interesting, some challenging, and occasionally some are filled with surprises. I enjoy my Master Gardener interaction(s) and the exchange of knowledge and information that those associations bring about.

We all bring varied experiences and knowledge to the table and that is what I relish. Personally I will never be a "Master" Gardener per-say. In my lifetime I have not mastered anything; least of all gardening. To me that is not what "Master Gardening" is all about. I enjoy exploring uncharted waters and searching for sage advice from individuals whose life experience(s) lend credence to the term "Master Gardener".

Incoming perspective:

People join organizations for many reasons. I joined Master Gardeners because:

- I like the concept
- I wanted to interact with people in my community
- I come from a plant science background
- I have a 'generational interest' in gardening
- I made a commitment to become actively involved... 'i.e. roll up my sleeves' and get engaged involved!
- I wanted to 'Make a difference'.....lead by example



Continue to help build more visibility for the Master Gardening concept and program within our "State-wide" communities.

Expose adults and kids to the world of horticulture.....outreach and education are important components

I am honored to be in this capacity and will work to uphold the Concept of Master Gardening and be an advocate. Master Gardening is evolving and I want to continue building on all the 'efforts' of those who have willingly blazed the trail(s) and made meaningful in-roads before me!

~You can always tell a Bohemian, but you can't tell him much! ~unknown

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

Evaluating Community Gardens

More and more communities are recognizing the advantages of Community Gardens nationwide. Campbell County Master Gardeners have operated a CG for over twenty years. This CG is a true community. There are butchers, bakers, Dr., lawyers, and drug court people. They are short on candle stick makers and Indian chiefs, to quote the nursery rhyme; but have just about everything else covered. Low income, high income; really, a full spectrum of income producers. Hard workers and more relaxed working attitudes; weed haters and more weed-tolerant people; the full gamut of people.

An evaluation is completed at the end-of-season Harvest Dinner. Eleven questions are listed and some change from year to year, depending on the previous year's problems. The questions covered: 1) the benefits...2) What problems...could be addressed next year. 3.. did you have contact with your Plot Advisor or a Master Gardener. 4) Did you use the printed information passed out...5) ..describe your contacts with other gardeners. 6) How did you use the produce... 7) What was the \$ of the produce..8) ..suggestions for next year. 9) ...meetings be improved? 10) ..work days be improved? 11) ..rate overall gardening experience.

Every year, Master Gardeners are surprised with the number of good evaluations about Question #1, the benefits. Under the question about the benefits of gardening, the expected response was fresh veggies and things along that line. But almost one-half of the responses contained references to social interactions with other gardeners. Answers to that question typically went like "Plenty of good veggies and interesting conversations," "Pleasure of outdoors companionship," or "all the smiling faces." These responses have been occurring for years; however, counting and finding that almost half of the respondents respond to the social benefits of gardening in a community setting enough to list it as a benefit is amazing.

Gardening usually makes us happy and maybe those operating a CG should be providing more opportunities to socialize and garden too. Gardening as therapy is a acknowledged treatment for mental diseases; however, it appears from the above valuations that community gardening is social therapy for everyone and it really does build a community..
Campbell County Master Gardener Patsy Larson

KALE

If you planted kale, you are probably harvesting lots right now. It is a cool season vegetable that loves fall. Kale has no fat, is high in Vit A & C, is a good source of calcium and iron and is considered one of the most nutritious of vegetables.

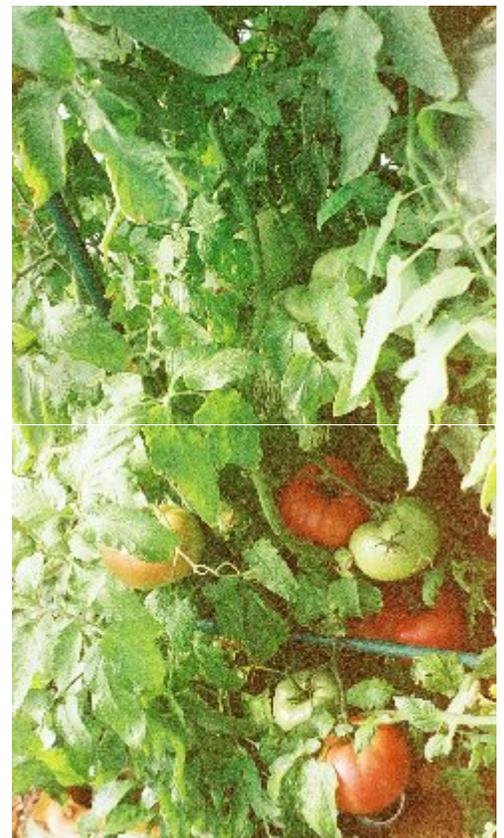
KALE CHIPS recipe from Lori Bates, Hort Program Coordinator at Campbell County (Gillette)

"I created my own recipe for Kale Chips after looking through lots of recipes online. These are fast and a good way to use up your kale before it goes to waste." Preheat oven to 450. Rinse kale well & spin out. Chop or tear into 2" pieces. Lay on foil lined cookie sheet. Spray well with cooking spray and sprinkle w/ salt and pepper. Bake for about 15 minutes. Keep an eye on these! Catch them before they start to turn brown. (Trial and error to discover timing.) Unusual and a good snack.

Laramie Co Logs 4,355 hours!!!

Laramie Co MGs have volunteered a total of 4,355 hours so far this year and they are still counting. That is an amazing feat, even for a large program like they have. That is like a full time person working 2 1/2 months. And they aren't done yet. Cheyenne MGs are a dedicated group and we take our hats off to them. WAY TO GO!

Never do anything you wouldn't want to explain to the paramedics. Anonymous



WYOMING MASTER GARDENER
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Typesetters: No Fingers Jones & Can T Spell
Proofreaders: I. M. Blind
Subscriptions: P.A.Y. ThruKnows III
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MEANDERINGS BY PATSY

Maybe we should have named this the Hoop House Times, or at least this issue. Everyone is excited about these season extending structures. And, last I heard, not a one has blown down in our high winds! The one in Gillette is anchored with rope criss-crossing the ribs on top. Then Jeff gave us some 3" pieces of that "fabric" and we put it over the top in between the ribs. This keeps the top from flopping in the wind and should extend its life. We have already had several frosts inside the HH, but it didn't kill anything, just a few branches. I still have tomatoes blooming—but they aren't getting very large. I planted an indeterminate heirloom, Mortgage Lifter. It was wonderful. 1—2 POUND tomatoes!! I have never, never, ever grown a 2 pound tomato before! This is a very thin skinned, pinkish tomato with few seeds. Doesn't travel well; but in the hoop house, it performed wonderfully AND tastes fantastic. We didn't get our HH up and running very fast so I didn't get my 4 X 8 ft plot planted until the middle of June. Next year will be a better judge of how many tomatoes we can grow as we will have all spring to get stuff planted. I trellised (looked more like a Tinker-Toy thing than a trellis) my whole plot and my cantaloupe and cucumber grew everywhere. I got over 200 nice, long slicing cucs on my one plant. It has pretty much stopped blooming and is giving up the ghost. I have a few cucs left and so will pull the plant when the cucs get full size. I have trans-



ready to get enough sun so I transplanted and it worked great. Would work with fall lettuce planted in the garden and moved in too. My cardoon just sat there all year until October and now it is getting tall. I'm not certain that it is worth the space —maybe I need a new recipe. It is a lot like eating nothing or maybe flavorless celery. Anyone ever eaten it? E mail me at wymastergardenernews@gmail.com if you have a good recipe. Earlier in the year, my jalapeño peppers and my cantaloupe were relatively tasteless & watery in the HH. The peppers have gotten better, now that I have cut back my tomatoes. I also have Super Fantastic tomatoes in my HH bed. I am very pleased with those tomatoes also. They are a very round, ball shaped, red tomato. Nice 8-10 oz. fruit. They were slower than the Mortgage Lifter, but that might have been the size difference in the plants when I planted them. The 15th of June is not the best time to be buying plants!! I kind of bought what I could get at that point. I can't wait to see what next year brings in the hoop house when I can plan and plant in there for the full year. Every day is a learning experience in the garden; and especially in the high tunnel. Fun, fun, fun. Can't wait for 2011!

Extension Educator Jeff Edwards of Goshen Co will be collecting production records from these high tunnels in 2011 and can share his findings. He is the hoop house guru so contact him with questions and results.

The era of Judy, Mike & Sylvia is coming to an end. New officers were elected at the Oct meeting in Casper. We hate to see them go, they did such a fine job; however, I have complete faith in the leadership skills of the incoming officers, Bob, Becky, and Kayce. Bob gave us an introduction of himself elsewhere in this issue. I will try to get Becky & Kayce for the next issue so you all can get to know them.

You will notice that I have more articles from other MGs. I am very excited about other people writing stuff. Please feel free to volunteer at ANY time. Also, I could use some more book reports!! I am still reading the book about the origin of botanical names. I had to dust it off a couple of weeks ago as I haven't opened it all summer! But, someday, I'll get it read!

Thanks again to all who contributed to this issue. I couldn't have gotten it done without you. And, as always, please send me what your group is doing, planning, whatever. Thanks. Feedback is always welcome.

Editor, Patsy

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Wyoming Master Gardener Association has elected new officers for 2011. Chairman will be Bob Prchal, Powell, Vice-Chair will be Becky Harris, Douglas, and Secretary/Treasurer will once again be Kayce Weber of Torrington. Welcome and we look forward to great things from you.

EXPERT, EXCITING, EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT

MGs have taken part in various type of educational entertainment throughout the state. Deserts at The Children's Garden by Laramie Co, Ft Collins Junior League Garden tour by Natrona Co, Strawberry Festival by Goshen Co, Chugwater wine grape tour by Goshen Co, and a honey company tour by Natrona Co are a few of the outside-the-university educational fun things MGs do through out the state. Send us what you do to cleanse your palate of the mundane.

EXTENSION CONTACTS:

If you need more information about some of these events, this is the county contact person: Campbell—Lori Bates lbates@ccgov.net Converse—Ashly Garrelts ashleyg@uwyo.edu Goshen —Jerry Simonsen jsimonse@uwyo.edu Hot Springs—Barton brstam@uwyo.edu LaramieCatherine Wissner cwissner@uwyo.edu Natrona —Donna Cuiin dcuin@natronacounty-wy-.gov Park — Sandy Frost sfrost1@uwyo.edu Swtwater—Cora Botello cbotello@wwcc.w.edu Weston—Bill Taylor Weston@uwyo.edu

If these people don't have all the answers, they can put you in touch with their Master Gardener who does know about these various activities and events. And, as always, you can contact this publication at wymastergarden-ernews@gmail.com

Get involved, get to thinking, brainstorm, get active, get enthused, get gardenerized!

Natrona Co blessed with Intern

Natrona county had the use of a UW horticultural summer intern. MGs were so pleased they awarded him a \$500 scholarship when he left to go back to UW. We should all be so lucky to have a hort intern and a scholarship to give away!!

Park Co MGs work with 4-Hers

4-H members tended 6 raised beds and assorted barrels and weed fabric bags full of herbs, vegetables, strawberries and potatoes. Produce was entered in the fair. Besides awards, newspaper write-ups, two pizza parties were held using ingredients from their gardens and sunflower seeds were roasted. Now that is a tasty payback!!

Goshen Co to have WINTER MARKETS

Goshen Co will have four Farmer's Markets this winter. There will be 2 in November and 2 in Dec. There are several vendors in the area with high-tunnels and greenhouses and lots of fall produce. Contact Jerry if ?s.



Bad angle, but it really is over 6 inches across

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Glen Whipple, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071

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