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Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agriculture



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New Trainees

Excitement is flowing all around the state about the new trainees being trained in several counties. Not all counties start this early; however, training is happening in Campbell, Goshen, Laramie, Natrona, and Park at this time. No one reported numbers except Campbell (15), Natrona (13) and Park (7). Most training will be done by the end of March. No reports from Albany, Converse, Fremont, Lincoln, Platte, Sweetwater or Uinta. All new trainees, no matter in which county they are training, are welcomed and their hours are eagerly anticipated.

NATRONA CO EARNS \$67,720.80 FOR COUNTY

Natrona County Master Gardeners have volunteered 3248 hours to Natrona Co, valued at \$67,720.80, based on the volunteer rate of \$20.85 per hour. Rah, rah, rah for Master Gardeners. Chairman Bob is going to attempt to get hours from each county to see what the total donated to the whole state will be. And MGs are downplaying their hours generally. So that figure could be increased, easily, by 20%,

(See next column)

Wyoming Master Gardener Association Met February 11, 2011

Master Gardener Association met in Gillette to conduct the State's business. Chairman Bob Prchal lead the meeting. Representatives from Campbell, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Natrona, and Park were represented. Remember that each county with a MG program should send two voting delegates to the meetings, which are held three times a year. Officers are Bob Prchal, Park, Chairman, Becky Harris, Converse, Vice-Chair, and Kayce Weber, Goshen, Secretary/Treasurer. No grants were submitted. Check with your Educator or the Association if you are interested in a grant for an educational project.

(From last column)

from general observations. Also, this \$/hr figure could be increased in the real world with all MGs training and knowledge. **You** are all a very valuable part of your community. Congratulations Master Gardeners!!!

Coupon

ASSOCIATION OF ARM- CHAIR GARDENERS

This coupon automatically entitles the bearer to one year's membership in the Association of Arm-chair Gardeners. Valid only during times when the ground is snow covered, it is snowing, or below 32 degrees. Membership in this association only provides commiseration with fellow members, bragging rights to the number of catalogs you get in the mail, and a nice plaque (if you make it yourself—you have time, you can't garden). Offer void where prohibited by law and in any area that has over 120 days of nice weather (let alone a growing season).

HOT SPRINGS COUNTY TRAINING TO START APRIL 5.

Park County Educator, Sandy Frost, and Park Co MGs will be starting MG Training in Thermopolis in April for Hot Springs County. Welcome new Trainees!

SAGGING SHELVES

What is causing your bookshelves to sag? Keep us posted on what you have, what you want, what you have read, what you have borrowed from the Library.

Books on gardening in no particular order, just how I pull em off shelf!

Gardening In Wyoming, Month-by-Month by John Cretti 2007 pub by Cool Springs Press
ISBN 9781591863793

High Country Veggies, High Altitude Growing, & Cooking with Fresh Vegetables. BY Cheryl Anderson Wright Pub. By Pronghorn Press 2005 I
SBN 1932636153

The Vegetable Gardener's Bible by Edward C Smith, published 2000 by Storey Publishing
ISBN 9781580172127

The NEW Low-Maintenance Garden by Valerie Easton, published by Timber Press 2009
ISBN 9781604691665

High Plains Horticulture, a History by John F Freeman, published by University Press of Colorado 2008
ISBN 978-0-87081-927-8

A Guide to Rocky Mountain Plants by Ruth Ashton Nelson, revised by Roger L. Williams, published by Roberts Rinehart Publishers 2002. ISBN 9781570984129

Rocky Mountain Gardener's Guide by John Cretti published by Cool Springs Press 2003
ISBN 1591860385
Nancy Munier, Platte Co MG

Campbell Co Hoop House 2010
→→→
Built by
Ted Craig & Jeff Edwards

2012 State Conference to be in Gillette

Campbell County has agreed to host the State MG Conference in 2012. Tentative date is April 27-28-29, 2012, so keep that date free from plant sales, tree sales, speakers, etc., and plan on going to northeastern Wyoming. As yet, no theme, no speakers, but they are frantically working on all that. If you have any suggestions, offers to help, etc., contact Lori Bates, Horticultural Program Coordinator for Campbell County.

DATES SET FOR PLANT SALES

Natrona, Laramie, and Goshen Counties have set Saturday May 21 for their annual plant sales. They are all planting seedlings, preparing perennials and making plans to sell, sell, sell. A large part of the program money comes from these plant sales. Stop by in Casper, Cheyenne, or Torrington if you are about on those days to pick up some nice plants.

MENTORING WORKS IN PARK COUNTY

The 2010 mentoring program for MG trainees work exceptionally well in Park County. There was 100% retention of MG trainees for the first year. Congratulations Bob; keep up the good work.

Christmas Celebrated by Master Gardeners

Several counties celebrated Christmas with the December meetings. Natrona held their meeting with a carry in dinner at a member's house. Park County had a cookie exchange. Laramie County met at the Children's Garden at the Botanical Gardens in Cheyenne for a Christmas Social.

NATRONA CO HAS BUSY YEAR AT FARMER'S MKT

The information booth at the Farmer's Market in Casper stayed busy all season. After so many years of having the booth at the Fm Mkt, clients know that they can get good, researched based information on Saturday mornings. Good job Master Gardeners.



WYOMING MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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Park Co MGs Give Two Scholarships

Master Gardeners awarded two \$350 scholarships to college bound students. Is this to study horticulture? Anyone from Park Co let us know. .

Hot Springs County Elects New Officers

The Master Gardeners in Thermopolis have organized, elected new officers and have new trainees taking training. They are on their way to being a viable organization and we wish them luck in educating any and all in their area. Keep us informed and come to the State Meetings when you can.

GOSHEN COUNTY HAS FOUR WINTER FARMER'S MARKETS

There were four Winter Farmer's Markets in Torrington after the normal Farmer's Mkt season ended. They were very successful, well attended, and promoted Master Gardeners very positively. Because of the success of the market, there are a few hoop house farmers who are planning on planting more and more for next year's Winter Fm Mkts. Good thinking Goshen Co. MGs.

CAMPBELL CO HOOP HOUSE A SUCCESS

Campbell Co gardened in their HH until the week before Thanksgivings and then the weather shut them down. But things are growing already that were planted last fall and those with a hoop inside the HH have warm soil and they are planting. What a way to go!!

MEANDERINGS BY PATSY

I am pretty excited. As you can see I have two new contributing "stringers" to my paper. If you readers give me some feedback, maybe I can keep them writing. And anyone else who feels the urge to write, let me know and we will save space for you in the next issue.

If I could remember it, I'd take more pictures. I wanted to get pictures of all your officers; but I got too busy doing food and listening to the people at the meeting and forgot. I'll try to get some for the June issue.

I really do appreciate all the little updates from the few counties who send me "stuff." My only other way of gleaning information is from the State meetings three times a year. So keep me informed.

Breathing a fungus gnat is no fun. I got a wonderful basket of bulbs for Christmas. They bloomed so colorfully and NOW I am paying for that vision of loveliness. Out they go! I was gone for a week and upon my return, I have an infestation of gnats. And the bulbs came from a reputable firm. Have to get out my yellow sticky traps to knock them down to a breathable level. They probably have infested all my other house plants by now. Fun, fun, fun! Anyone interested in writing a little article on how to get rid of them for me? I really need the information!!!

I see where Park Co offers two scholarships now. I know Campbell Co has a \$500 scholarship to study horticulture but it has been several years since we have had an application. The College here doesn't have any hort. classes and high school students here don't see a future in horticulture, I guess. Wish we could generate some interest. Any suggestions? Pretty bad to have money to give away and no takers!!

I'm pretty tired of all this snow. And we just keep getting more. I did get to see a little open ground the other day—but then it snowed again. It has been "warm" for a couple of days now so maybe this week I'll get to see something besides snow and ice.

Now that I have my whine session out of the way, I'll get back to doing some more MG news!!! And as always, write to me. Tell me what you are doing or do a book report. Gardeners love books so tell us what you have, what you think would be a good read and why. Or just give us some titles that are on your sagging shelves for Nancy's column, SAGGING SHELVES.

Take care and Happy Spring. Patsy

WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU?

By Judy Logue



Racing Critters

As I was shaking the potting soil off of the tangled roots of an amaryllis bulb, I saw a flash of movement in the flowerpot sitting on the side of the potting bench. Looking closer, I see a little centipede racing around the circle of the pot's edge. In an attempt to catch it, another one appears, also running around the edge of the pot. I have a centipede NASCAR in my houseplants!

Finding the centipedes in my flower pot was a surprise. I had been struggling with a major case of spring fever while the snow was drifting over my vegetable beds outdoors, so I decided to survey my houseplants. First step was to discard those sun-loving plants that just couldn't survive the low, winter-light conditions indoors. I had removed a rotted cyclamen tuber from its pot that I had not allowed to go dormant, and I planned on re-using the nice florist's potting soil. I'd stirred up the soil and set it aside, ready to receive the spruced-up amaryllis bulb.

But, not now! Not with the NASCAR centipedes in it! If there's two, there are probably a dozen more that I can't see. This pot is going out on the patio in the snow storm where the little buggers can freeze their multiple knees!

Centipedes, and their cousins the millipedes, aren't insects, but for most of us, they fit in the casual "bug" classification. Centipedes are fast-moving, worm like creatures that have one set of legs in each body segment. They are predators of tiny insects. The largest, 4-inch long desert centipedes can sting with venom, but the little half-inch long centipedes we find in our houseplant soil are relatively harmless.

Millipedes are slow-moving, and feed on dead and dying vegetative material. They require moist areas and when threatened, curl up into a spiral disc shape. Millipedes have at least two legs in each body segment. Sometimes they 'swarm' and migrate when their numbers get excessive.

I remembered that a few years ago in the autumn, our MG office received an inordinate number of calls from residents complaining about an invasion of millipedes in their homes. Anyone with a walk-out basement was sure to be sweeping them out daily. We also had received calls from folks who had been finding millipedes/centipedes in potted plants coming from one of the big-box stores in town. Some years are like that. One caller even had an invasion of millipedes in the roots of her Shasta daisy bed.

Understanding that when a client hasn't actually brought in a sample of their problem 'bugs' to our

MG office, we have to assume that they could be either millipedes or centipedes. Controlling millipedes and centipedes requires similar tactics.

Our MG mantra for the clients was, *"Do they move quickly or do they move slowly and curl up when threatened? Since these critters aren't really insects, most insecticides won't be very effective measures. Millipedes like to dine on dead and dying vegetative material, they are the clean-up crew in our gardens. They especially like moist vegetative litter, so to keep them away from our house foundations, rake out the leaf litter and seal up any cracks in the foundation. Centipedes like the same living conditions. Yes, if a lot of millipedes die in your house they will smell bad, but they're really not there to hurt us."* For those folks who found them in their potted house plants we said, *"These little guys probably arrived with the potting soil, and since we need to keep the soil moist for the plant, you'll need to remove the infested soil from the plant and re-pot it with fresh soil."*

I guess I'm stuck with using fresh potting soil for the remaining houseplant upgrading project I've started. All the used potting soil will go to the outdoor compost pile where the centipedes and millipedes are at the mercy of predators and our Wyoming winter.



JUDY LOGUE is a Natrona County Master Gardener and is past Chairman of your Wyoming Master Gardener Association.

MEET A MASTER GARDENER

Hello, my name is Nancy Munier and I am a Master Gardener in Platte County, Wyoming. I have been gardening for at least 40 years in four states (Fla., Wyoming, California, Alabama, and one foreign country (Germany). Do I consider myself a "Master Gardener"? No, I am a potterer in the dirt! My dad grew veggies, mostly green beans and tomatoes as I recall, by a sea-wall in Fla. And I learned from him, any place works if you try. I have grown tomatoes in a stairwell (apartment) in Germany and lettuce in a pot on a sunny window in Wyoming. And I have had plenty of failures... blossom end rot, gnats, white flies, pets eating the plant starts as fast as I plant them... you get the idea. Some years I have been too busy with 'life', work etc to grow much. Other years I have had 10 12x3' beds going full out. (Laramie on SW with glacier winds to fight) I have raised cabbage for the cabbage worms, which was the preferred training food for my daughter's prize winning Bantam Cochin chickens, Tomatoes and Cukes for local garden markets (Wheatland WY) and to entertain my 2 yr old (Herlong, CA). As you can probably guess, I am not a professional writer, gardener, or anything else, but I enjoy all of it. At present I am running (being run by) an Independent book store in Wheatland, volunteering with our local Master (?Master less?) Gardner group, writing short bits for store blog (www.wheatlandbooknook.com) and for other publications, observing life in and out of the garden, and waiting for warmer weather.

Park County to start a Brown Bag Luncheon & Learning.

Eight luncheon seminars will be held at the Park County Courthouse basement. A variety of topics to learn are landscaping, square foot gardening, high tunnel growing, gardening journaling, deer resistant plants, wild flowers of Yellowstone, reflecting nature in the landscape, starting plants from seed, and growing sprouts. Bring your own lunch and learn at this free 45 minute seminar presented by Master Gardeners and Park County Educators and Horticulturalists.

Don't waste time waiting for inspiration. **Begin** and inspiration will find you. H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Powell to auction off High Tunnel

There will be a seminar in Powell and there will be a small high tunnel auctioned off. This will be a 12 x 12 structure that Jeff Edwards, Educator from Goshen County, will be building inside during the seminar and then auctioning off to a lucky winner. Check with Park County or Goshen County Educators to see how it went. Word was that the door to get it out is about that size, so we are all hoping their measurements are accurate! Check with Jerry or Jeff at Torrington or Sandy at Powell to see how it went. Might be something more of you want to try.

Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads. Henry David Thoreau

Natrona County MGs Publish Every Two Weeks

Natrona County Master Gardeners write lots of articles. These timely educational articles are published every two weeks in the Casper Journal, which is a local advertising paper. What a great way to keep the public informed and educated in horticultural matters. Keep up the good work.

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 e mail 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.



Meet Herb – Dill

Anethum graveolens

Dill is one of the easiest herbs to grow and should be a part of every garden. The name *dill* is from the Norse word *dylle* meaning to soothe or lull and is helpful in relieving gas and easing hunger. Plant seed in the fall or early spring – at least a week or two before your last expected frost as dill likes to be planted in cool weather but loves to grow in hot, sunny locations. It does not transplant well so plant seeds where you want them to grow. Dill is drought resistant and depending on where you live is either a short-lived perennial or annual but will easily reseed itself to the point of becoming a nuisance. Sow the seeds close together as the plants will help support each other as they grow to over 3 feet tall. Dill makes a great companion plant for cucumbers but doesn't like carrots or tomatoes and never plant it near caraway, fennel or angelica. It also draws helpful insects whose larvae feed on aphids so plant dill by your roses.

Dill is known as a 2 season herb as both the leaves and seeds are used. The leaves, known as dill weed are best used fresh but may also be dried or frozen (in ice cubes or plain) and stored for winter use. Either way dill will add a wonderful flavor to any recipe. To dry dill weed, simply spread on a paper towel and microwave till leaves crumble easily. The amount of time needed will depend on how much you are drying but check every 20 – 30 seconds. When dry, sort out the tough stems and discard them and allow the leaves to cool before storing in airtight containers in a cool, dark place.

Once the plants start to set seeds stop harvesting the leaves and allow the seed heads to ripen. You may allow the seed heads to dry on the plant but I find it is easier to cut the seed heads off as they begin to dry and place them in a large paper bag. Any seeds that fall loose will be caught in the bag.

Dill may be brewed into a tea that will soothe indigestion and nausea. Simply crush 2 teaspoons of seed per cup of boiling water and allow to steep for 10 minutes. Drink up to 3 cups of tea per day. Small amounts of weak tea may be given to treat colic in children under two. Chewing on seeds is also known to cure hiccups.

Dill weed is great with fish, cheese, eggs, vegetables and cream sauces. Just remember if the dish is hot to add dill just before serving as it will lose it's flavor fairly quickly in the heat. The seeds are used in making pickles, breads, stews, rice and root vegetable dishes. For an easy dip add dill to plain yogurt and chopped cucumbers.

Dill is rich in minerals and Vitamin C while the seeds are high in calcium. 1 tablespoon of seeds contains 100 milligrams – more than 1/3 cup of milk.

In the middle ages dill was used in love potions and to ward off evil and witchcraft. Ancient soldiers would apply burnt seeds to their wounds to promote healing and the ancient Greeks considered Dill to be a sign of wealth so plant a little dill in your garden and reap the benefits. **JoAnn Stearns, Weston County MG**

County News from Sweetwater Co.

The Sweetwater County Master Gardeners have had a very quiet winter. We do not meet from the first of November to the end of January. Our next meeting will be February 23rd. We begin our meetings with an educational study given by a speaker or one of our members and then have our business meeting. We participated in "Decorate a Tree," in both Rock Springs and Green River during the Christmas season. This helps us to be recognized within the two communities and the County. We will have an information booth at the Home and Garden Show in Rock Springs April 15th, 16th and 17th to be held at the Events Complex. Again in May and June, we will help ACE Hardware Stores in Rock Springs and Green River, answer gardening questions for the public on several Saturdays. A new Master Gardener Class is being advertised to start in the middle of March at the campus of Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs and we hope to have a good number sign up for this program. It will meet twice a week and be completed by the end of April. We are planning a fund raiser for this spring but have not decided as of yet when and where.

NATRONA COUNTY BUYS \$700 WORTH OF NEW BOOKS FOR THEIR MG LIBRARY

Master Gardeners have purchased new books for their library worth \$700.00. What a great way to utilize profits. Read on Capser!!!

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY IN PARK COUNTY GROWS BY 35%

In 2009, Park Co Plant-a-Row program grew 485 pounds of produce for the hungry. In 2010, they increased their total to 1400 pounds of fresh produce, available to the low-income, shelters, and soup kitchens. Next year we will be expecting a ton!!! What a worthwhile program without causing much outlay.

BOOK REVIEW

Flowerpot Farming, Creating Your Own Urban Kitchen Garden by Jayne Neville.

Published by The Good Life Press Ltd, 2008 ISBN 9781904871316

This is a fun book written by a lady in Great Briton. She has lots of great garden books but this one really works here in Wyoming.

First and foremost, low cost... you will soon discover how to raise salad fixing in a sunny window, even at dead of winter. (I write this as winds are howling-and it finally hit 10 above). So space, wind and temperature are not a big deal if your garden is in a flower-pot. And this little book also gets into raised beds, landscape you can eat, and larger outside container gardening.

Not a book full of photos and standard descriptions of plants, this is a hands on book with lots of good references for more information. Book is available from most book stores, or email Taebiz@triplearrow.com for more information. Better yet, stop by Wheatland Book Nook right off I-25 in downtown Wheatland, WY and ask me about the book. Nancy F Munier, Platte Co MG

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK..... *Bob Prchal*

02/21/11

Individual thanks to Campbell County for hosting our 1st meeting of 2011 and providing first-rate hospitality. It is the little things that make a meeting and their special welcome and touch was appreciated.

Campbell County has also agreed to sponsor the **2012 Wyoming State Master Gardener Conference**. It will be held on **April 27-29, 2012**, in Gillette. This will be a huge undertaking. As the Master Gardener's of Campbell County embrace this challenge and enter their 'planning & organizing' mode, please join me in offering as much support as we can all muster. Also, be thinking of what **your individual County** can contribute to the Conference and come prepared to share your possible contribution(s) at our next meeting in Torrington.

Collection of '**volunteer time**' data is a goal worthy of our undertaking. Please join me in taking on the task of assembling that information on a County by County basis. I think it is imperative, as an organized body, that we know the following (By County, State and Year):

- The number of certified Master Gardeners
- How many hours of Community Service we donate
- Number of Education hours we amass
- Number of horticulture visits/yard calls we make in our communities
- Number of trainees/interns and their retention...*these individuals are our future*

It is also important to be armed with "**the facts**" when we espouse the principles of Master Gardening and advocate our mission in our communities. Not only must we be advocates and representatives of the Cooperative Extension Service and the University of Wyoming but we also must assume the responsibility of being advocates for ourselves and what we do. Let's collect the data and turn that joint effort into an informational data base that we can utilize in future community outreach efforts as well as aid in supporting yet to come Wyoming Master Gardener Association endeavors.

Thanks again for all your efforts... we continue to make a difference in our communities!

GROW YOUR OWN: FROM THE GARDEN TO THE TABLE

Natrona County hosts their annual Spring Garden Conference, Saturday, April 9, 2011, at the Extension Office in Casper. Speakers will be Patty O'Neil covering kitchen garden planning, Penn and Cord Parameter, on high altitude/organic gardening and season extending, and Linda Hoffman on cooking what you grow. The conference lasts from 8 AM to 4PM and the \$30 cost includes lunch, berm tours, and breakout sessions with the speakers in the afternoon.

To encourage more new people to attend, there is a special price of \$15 for those people who have not attended previously when they come with a full price admission. Mark April 9 on your calendar and attend this Saturday learning session in Casper.

FROM MEETEETSE COUNTRY –

MESSAGE FROM THE GARDEN FAIRY

REPRINTED FROM THE SAGE GARDENER, PARK CO MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

BANANAS

Musa acuminata

Musa acuminata is not a tree, but a perennial herb. The banana is related to the lily and orchid family. Its leaves are usually grouped together, forming a trunk-like structure. The origin of bananas is believed to be Malaysia or India.

The banana as we know it today is a specifically-grown species of the wild banana. It originated from seed bearing relatives in the Pacific and Southeast of Asia. Bananas are more precisely referred to a berry! Wild banana varieties carry big seeds that would make it difficult for us to eat them (in turn, this would make it difficult for banana growers to sell them).

The banana we all eat is cultivated with the precise purpose of being made seedless (or with seeds so small they're barely visible); this is achieved by cultivating triploid varieties (which means they have three sets of genes, instead of the two sets that are normally found in wild varieties). Because of this, sexual reproduction of these modified bananas is impossible, and they have to be grown from offshoots of the parent plant.

Banana trees can flower at any time of the year; the fruits usually develop in a horizontal fashion, which then becomes vertical when the weight of the bananas is sufficient. From the moment the inflorescence is visible from the leaf sheaths, about three months are necessary for it to mature. Banana trees are best cultivated in a highly organic soil, with a neutral to slightly acid PH (5.5-7.0). A lot of water is usually needed for the plant to grow and yield bananas. The size of the plant in the first 3-4 months greatly affects the weight of the bunch and number of "hands" (the group of bananas.).

Young plants are best nourished with a fertilizer solution of 6-2-12, with 3 magnesium. The solution is to be applied approximately every 2 months, and the fruiting will be complete after about 10-18 months later.

The history of bananas have apparently originated in Malaysia in 2000 BC. Antonius Musa the personal doctor of the then Roman emperor Octavius Augustus was credited for promoting cultivation of the exotic African fruit from 63 to 14 BC. In 650 AD Islamic conquerors helped bananas make their way to Madagascar, and then spread to the African mainland by vegetative propagation. Here in Africa many genetic mutations occurred, that produced different species of bananas. Portuguese traded then spread the fruit from Africa to the Canary Islands. In 1502 AD the Portuguese and the Spanish are credited for bringing bananas to the Caribbean and to America. The yellow sweet bananas is a mutant strain of the green and red cooking bananas, discovered in 1830 by Jamaican Jean Francois Pujgot. He found that in his plantations one plant was bearing yellow fruits rather than red or green. Upon tasting the new discovery, he found it to be sweet in its raw state, without the need for cooking. He quickly began cultivating this sweet variety.

Bananas were officially introduced to the American public at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. Each banana was wrapped in foil and sold for 10 cents. Bananas are now considered a commodity and are traded by large companies. The United Fruit Company is credited for being of the first to commercialize bananas. Thanks to new transport technologies such as refrigeration, bananas have become widespread in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, bananas grow in most tropical and subtropical regions with the main commercial producers including Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Ecuador.

References: www.plu.edu/~bananas/brief-history/home.html
www.bananasweb.com/bananas/History+of+Bananas

GETTING YOUR GARDEN FIX IN WINTER

The wind is blowing, it is below zero, it is snowing, your seedlings aren't up yet. How in the world can you get your "garden fix"? And you need one NOW! Here are some ways to spend some time "gardening."

1. Go through your seeds. Inventory, test germination, and plan.
2. Clean out old chemicals. Check with your solid waste utility to see when they take chemicals for disposal. Our City Dump usually has a chemical day when we can discard all old paint, chemicals, etc. Check to see when you can do that. DO NOT FLUSH OR PUT IN DRAINS. Also, don't re-use those containers. Discard them.
3. Clean your pots. Scrub with a brush, disinfect with a mild bleach solution and dry. Sort and inventory.
4. Transplant houseplants. They are going to need a fertilizer soon anyway for spring growth.
5. Start journaling your garden. Good records are invaluable. I have to write varieties down, etc., as my brain acts like a sieve for most of that information. Maybe even organize some of your pictures from previous years with your journal.
6. Feed the birds. Set out a new bird feeder.
7. Clean your tools and repair them.
8. Read garden catalogs.

Surely by now your seedlings need transplanting so you can go back to gardening. If not, start from the top again and do the ones you passed over. I know you deliberately skipped some!! Spring will come once you get all these done. I am sure.

Natrona County Utilizes Intern

Last year Casper had an intern in Horticulture and it worked out so great the MGs gave the intern a college scholarship. Once again, they will get the services of a Horticulture Intern for the coming summer. How fortunate, gives some of those industrious Natrona County MGs a break and time to do more outstanding projects for which they are known.

Anyone Hungry for Fresh Tomatoes?



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