



Genesee County Master Gardener Newsletter

DOWN TO EARTH

MARCH

2017

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3



Inside this issue:

FEATURE ARTICLE1
HOME GROWN.....3
COOKS CORNER/and ALL IN-DEPTH COMPANION PLANTING.....4
MGAGCM MEETING MINUTES.....5
MGAGCM IMPORTANT INFORMATION.....6
BREAKING DOWN THE BROADFORK.....7
DATES TO REMEMBER.....12



FEATURE ARTICLE

2017 is the Year of the Pansy!

Pansies are such a friendly-faced flower! But until the 19th century most people considered them a weed. Today, pansies are a hybrid plant cultivated from those wildflowers in Europe and western Asia. Much of the collection and cultivation of pansies can be attributed to plantsmen and women in the UK and Europe more than 200 years ago. For example, Lady Mary Elizabeth Bennet, daughter of the Earl of Tankerville, and her gardener cross-bred a wide variety of *Viola tricolor* (common name “Heartsease”) and showcased their pansies to the horticultural world in 1813. Further experiments around the same time eventually grew the class to over 400 garden pansy varieties.

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Garden pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*) are a mixture of several species, including *Viola tricolor*. Oftentimes the names “pansy”, “viola”, and “violet” are interchangeable. However modern pansies are classified by the American Violet Society as having large-flowered blooms with two slightly overlapping upper petals, two side petals, and a single bottom petal, with a slight beard in its center. They’re considered annual bedding plants, used for garden decoration during cooler planting seasons. Pansies come in a rainbow of colors: from crisp white to almost black, and most all colors in between. They are also a great addition to your spring or fall vegetable garden as they are edible and pair well with lettuces. They can also be candied and used to decorate sweets or other dishes.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

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Most pansies fall into a few categories: Large (3 to 4 in.), Medium (2 to 3 in.) Multiflora (1 to 2 in.) and a new category of Trailing pansy. Some modern large-flowered pansy series are Majestic Giant Mix, bred by Sakata (a [1966 All-America Selections Winner](#)); Delta, bred by Goldsmith Seeds; and Matrix, bred by PanAmerican Seed. Medium-sized pansy series include Crown by Sakata and Imperial by Takii & Co., Ltd ([Imperial Blue](#) won an All-America Selections award in 1975). Multiflora pansy series like [Maxim](#) and [Padparadja](#) won AAS awards in the early 1990s. New on the scene for hanging baskets and ground cover are WonderFall from Syngenta, and Cool Wave® pansies, from PanAmerican Seed – the makers of Wave® petunias. These Trailing pansies spread over 2 ft. wide and overwinter in fall gardens. Today's garden pansy varieties can fill any sunny space – large or small, hanging overhead or growing underfoot – with soft fragrance and happy blooms.

Starting Your Pansies From Seed:

To germinate, start your pansy seeds indoors with a soilless mixture (this helps prevent disease on the seedlings). Plant seed 1/8-in. deep with a light cover and a gentle watering. Pansies prefer darkness for germination. The media temperature should be 60-65°F and keep air temperature at 70-75°F. The media should stay damp (covering with a plastic wrap or damp newspaper will help retain humidity. A fine spray or mister can be added if the media dries. Germination occurs in 10-20 days. When shoots appear, remove covering and move the flat to a brightly lit but cool room to continue to grow. Continue to grow cool. Separate seedlings into larger containers after two sets of leaves appear. Begin to feed with diluted plant food.

For Transplants or Purchased Finished Plants:

Space your pansies 6 to 10 in. apart in a well-drained and fertile soil location. The best location is an area that receives morning sun. Adding granular or time-release nutrition to the soil is encouraged, especially for trailing pansies as this increases their vigor and number of blooms. Offer plenty of water at planting and during their adjustment period to help establish roots and minimize stress. Mulching can help retain moisture and reduce any weeds that may compete with your plants. Pansies planted in the spring will enjoy the warm days and cool nights of the season. Most *V. wittrockiana* will begin to diminish or go out of flower as nighttime temperatures begin to rise in the summer. When planted in the north for fall outdoor decorating, pansies will enjoy a shorter but colorful season of blooms and in many cases will overwinter to pop up again the following spring. Southern gardeners often use pansies as their winter color and enjoy them all season long.



HOME GROWN 906

I am just beginning to become a vegetable gardener. I have this great idea for planting vegetables and my friends think this could work. When all the snow melts off my garden in a month or so, I will plant all my garden seeds. Then, in the spring, they can come up when it warms up. This would be a real time saver because they will come up when they are ready instead of me rushing to plant the garden all at once. Why hasn't anyone thought of this before?

There's a very good reason. It's time to go back to the idea machine. This can't work. Virtually all of the vegetables and garden fruit we grow are annuals. This means the plants cannot live over the winter. They cannot handle the cold Michigan temperatures. And their seeds can't handle being frozen, either. If ripe vegetables are left in the garden over the winter, it would be unusual to have seeds come up from those vegetables. Occasionally, a volunteer tomato plant might come up but it is usually in late June and there is not time to grow big enough to produce fruit before the first frost. And while you are planting seeds in the garden, little critters and birds are seeing free food for the hungry buffet. They will consume as many seeds as they can find. And to complicate all of this, vegetables are divided into two groups: cool season and warm season. If each is planted when the soil is warm enough for them, they germinate and grow. Otherwise, they just sit. And while they are sitting, many will become waterlogged and rot. There is a reason that people have planted vegetables a certain way. Learn from those gardeners who have gone before you.

I have a white spruce and in the last five years has been losing lots of needles. I was told it had a needle disease that causes the needles to fall off from the bottom of the tree up and from the inside out. It has less than half its needles. I really like this tree and want to save it. How do I fix it?

Unfortunately, you cannot fix this. But don't be upset that you might have waited too long. The needle disease is *Rhizosphaera* Needlecast and affects both blue and white spruce. *Rhizosphaera* is a disease that is almost impossible to beat, even if it is treated as soon as it is discovered. But by the time a blue or white spruce has lost half or more of its needles, the tree is severely weakened. It no longer has the ability to recover. *Rhizosphaera* is a fungal disease that is enabled by humid, moist or wet weather. It usually affects spruces older than 12 years old. The first needles infected are those lowest to the ground and closest to the trunk. Those areas are heavily shaded and the most humid. Fungal diseases thrive on warm, damp air. Trees can be sprayed to prevent *Rhizosphaera* but fungicides do not cure already infected needles. There are no products that can be injected into trees or used as a soil drench that have been proven to work. If you were spraying the tree to prevent *Rhizosphaera*, you would use a fungicide containing chlorothalonil. The problem becomes the number of times the tree needs to be sprayed during the growing season and timing is critical. The first spray is applied when the new growth is one-half to two inches long in the spring. The tree needs to be sprayed during the season on a three week repeat until late in the fall when the temperatures stay reliably below 50 degrees and the fungus is dormant. And if that isn't bad enough, you have to do this every year the tree is in your landscape. This is a huge commitment. And with less than half a tree to look at, consider removing it and replacing it with anything other than a white or blue spruce. Eventually, almost all white and blue spruces will succumb to *Rhizosphaera*. Take a look at concolor or white firs if you want something similar to blue spruce. To have questions answered, call the MSU Extension Master Hotline at 888-678-3464 Monday through Friday mornings.

Gretchen Voyle, MSU Extension Horticulture Educator, retired



COOKS CORNER

Southern-Style Green Beans

Christin Mahlig

Green Beans cooked low and slow until soft and tender in a bacon-infused broth.

Recipe type: Side Dish Serves: 6

Ingredients

4 slices bacon, diced
 2 pounds green beans, ends snapped off
 and longer beans snapped in half
 2 cups chicken broth
 2 cups water
 1 teaspoon seasoned salt
 ½ teaspoon black pepper
 ½ teaspoon garlic powder
 ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
 1 tablespoon butter, optional

Instructions

Brown and crisp bacon in a large pot. Remove bacon from pot and reserve. Add green beans to pot along with all remaining ingredients, except butter. Bring to a boil and then turn heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer for 1-2 hours, stirring occasionally. Drain beans and add butter if using. Check beans for seasoning and add extra salt and pepper to taste. I like lots of black pepper. Sprinkle with bacon and toss to distribute the bacon and butter.



An In-Depth Companion Planting Guide

A companion planting guide such as this one will show you which vegetables and flowers support or inhibit the growth of other plants and/or which pests they deter.

Basil

Plant near: most garden crops

Keep away from: rue

Comments: improves the flavor and growth of garden crops, especially tomatoes and lettuce. Repels mosquitoes.

Beans, Bush

Plant near: beets, cabbage, carrots, catnip, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, marigolds, potatoes, savory, strawberries

Keep away from: fennel, garlic, leeks, onions, shallots

Comments: potatoes and marigolds repel Mexican bean beetles. Catnip repels flea beetles.

Beans, Pole

Plant near: corn, marigolds, potatoes, radishes

Keep away from: beets, garlic, kohlrabi, leeks, onions, shallots

Comments: same as for bush beans.

Beets

Plant near: broccoli, brussels sprouts, bush beans, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, kohlrabi, onions,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Vicki Laurin at 7:15 pm.

Review of Minutes: Motion and 2nd by Alicia Ellis & Shirley Smela to accept the January 19, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Chockley reviewed the Treasurer's report for January 2017. The beginning balance was \$29,322.76. Income was \$125.24, Expenses were \$432.86 and the ending balance was \$29,015.14

Mel Kennedy - Projects Reports:

Projects

Chairperson

VMS - "Apply to Project": Choose "Community: Beautification

Desert Oasis
03/14/17.

Alicia Ellis/Kay McCullough- grass cutting scheduled for 9 AM-

Humane Society
supportive of Master Gardeners.

Maggie Gregg- there is a new Humane Society CEO who is very sup-

VMS - "Apply To Project": Choose "Supporting MSUE: Ask a Master Gardener/Diag./Outreach

Farmers Market – Flint

Judy Trombley- will be Saturdays 10-2, need help, even occasionally.

Garden Tour

Kay McCullough- the Garden Tour will be June 25, 2017. There will be an educational emphasis this year and MGAGCM members can get educational hours.

Outreach Events

Christy Jones- 1) Dort Federal 'Home Expo' April 1-2, 2) Bordines

April 23-24, more info to be sent out on VMS on the volunteer schedule

Grow Labs

Carol Groat- Grand Blanc Academy needs a shepherd, who would need to check the labs (4) every week to 10 days and water if necessary, time spent counts as volunteer hours. See Carol to volunteer or for more info.

VMS - "Apply to Project": Volunteer MGMT: MG Association Leadership

Banquet (Spring/Awards)
form will be in the DTE Newsletter

Loretta Ellwood- April 20, 2017 is the date, at Crossroads; registration

Bulb Sale and Tree Sale

Randy Tatro- bulb sale should start at the March 2017 meeting

Bus Trip (Educational)
is now open.

Sabrina VanDyke- date is July 20, 2017. Cost is ~\$45. Trip registra-

Clothing

Vick Laurin/Kay McCullough- clothing order deadline is 28FE17.

DTE

Vicki Laurin/George Rappold- we can always use articles!

Garden Stones/Plant Stakes/Tools & Garden Supplies
meetings. Tool order will be placed at the end of March.

Dick Moldenhauer- MG stones will be available at MGs

Hospitality

Gloria Roudebush- cards to: Karen Schilling, Priscilla Gutierrez, Jesse

Davis, JoAnn Haskins, Joyce Bellaire and Mary Yelland

Public Relations
Seminar'

Mel Kennedy- coming events: 'Plants of Distinction' & 'Know & Grow

VMS "Apply to Project": Choose "Supporting MSUE: Program Delivery Support

VMS Ambassadors/VMS Buddies

Abi Saeed/Ruth Simon/Michele Chockley- Volunteer hours can be entered in VMS. Use the codes shown above your activity for correct project identification. A MGAGCM Important information summary sheet was available to pick up.

New Business:

Kay McCullough is working on a ride sharing opportunity where MGs needing a ride to a meeting could get one from MGs willing to pick them up.

Thanks to: Loretta Ellwood, Sandy Johnson, Bobbie Parkhill, Margaret Soule & Alan Grove for providing the snacks at tonight's meeting.

Close of Meeting: Moved and 2nd by Nettie Sparks and Loretta Elwood to close the meeting. Passed. The meeting was adjourned by President Vicki Laurin at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Dick Moldenhauer, MGAGCM secretary

MGAGCM IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Acronyms

DTE – Down To Earth – Monthly newsletter

EMG – Extension Master Gardener – individual who has completed 40 hours

EMGVIT – Extension Master Gardener Volunteer In Training – working on 40 hours

EMGSGV – Extension Master Gardener Smart Gardener Volunteers – completed Smart Gardening training – we currently have 4 in Genesee Co

MGAGCM – Master Gardener Association Genesee Co MI – Name of local Genesee Co chapter

MMGA – Michigan Master Gardener Association – Parent organization to MGAGCM

VMS – Volunteer Management System. Examples of what you will find on VMS:

Calendar for meetings, hotline hours, and more

Link for chapter documents on board positions, project reporting and more

Link for clothing orders

Link for DTE

Link for Free online Education Webinars (right side of home screen under State Links)

Link for Reporting hours

Project category

VMS Ambassador Names/#'s: Can assist with password resets and all other questions

VMS Buddies: Volunteer EMG who are available to answer questions regarding VMS

Important Phone #'s

810-244-8458 Hotline – April-Oct, Mon & Wed & Fri, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm/Nov-Mar, Fri only
Hotline Address: 605 N Saginaw, Suite 1A, Flint 48502
Diagnostic fee waived for EMG and EMGVIT

1-888-678-3464 Toll Free Lawn & Garden Hotline

Important Links

migarden.msu.edu – Links for Ask an Expert & Find an Expert

<http://michigan.volunteersystem.org> – VMS Log in

geneseecountymg.org – link to our chapter website – Examples of what you will find on website:

Links to applications for Banquet, Bus trip and Fall Into Spring

Links to all chapter projects (including photos)

msusoiltest.com – soil test kit information

Important Dates

MGAGCM Board meets on first Monday of each month at the Extension office.

MGAGCM Business meetings are the third Thursday of each month at the GCCARD Building.

DTE articles are due by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month DTE.

Breaking Down the Broadfork

Soil is composed of layers that actually accomplish important purposes – to just till it all up destroys those benefits. Thus, the broadfork. Working your soil with a broadfork will not allow dormant weed seeds, which are hidden in the depth of your soil, to come close to the soil surface and germinate.

Maintaining soil structure — and the soil food web it supports — is such an important component of successful vegetable production that at our 2-acre market farm, we avoid tools that penetrate more than a few inches into the soil's surface. The one exception is the broadfork.

What is a Broadfork?

The broadfork is a simple yet powerful gardening tool that serves the purpose of efficiently loosening soil without flipping it upside down. You



see, soil is composed of layers that actually accomplish important purposes: Bacteria, fungi and earthworms working below the surface are all actively creating tunnels that give the soil structure.

This lively structure develops in different soil depths that have the right moisture and aeration conditions. To completely turn the soil over by using a rototiller or by double-digging disrupts this ecology for at least a while, so that you cannot rely on natural forces to help do the job.

Imagine it this way: Every time you till, you destroy your soil's habitants. Your otherwise free labor is then too busy rebuilding their homes and won't instead be driving biological fertility to its full potential. *Because the broadfork is designed to keep the user's back straight, the work is not the least bit strenuous. I might even call it fun — meditative.*

Turning your soil upside down also has the detrimental effect of bringing back up weed seeds that are buried in the lower layers of the soil. Do a test: Till one bed with a tiller and don't till another bed; I guar-

antee you'll see the difference with regards to weeds popping up everywhere.

All this being said, if you want to grow super nice crops with intensive spacing, then your soil should be as loose and well aerated as possible. This is why organic farmers use different plows, like chisels and subsoilers, to loosens their soil all while bringing air into it and speeding up the mineralization of their organic matter.

This technique increases short-term nitrogen availability, but limits the transformation of organic matter into humus. See it as blowing air on your fire — it burns faster, but won't last as long. Simplistically, that's how modern farming has been depleting soils for the last 100 years, and it's one component of agriculture that needs to change in the future.

How Broadforks Promote Healthy Soil

The broadfork is one answer to this problem. When used correctly, its vertical tines will let

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

water and air penetrate the soil, leaving its profile still upright. It creates an ideal environment for root growth, all while making it possible to build soil levels and rich humus. The broadfork is not a complicated device. Working in already loose, but not necessarily prepared soil, the grower stands on the crossbar with his or her full body weight and sinks the tines deep into the bed — about a foot.

Then, using the tremendous leverage of the long handlebars, the soil is loosened by working the handles back and forth in a kind of rowing motion. Finally, the broadfork is moved back about a foot, and sunk back into the soil again, creating a rhythmic, almost aerobic workout.

It's a human-powered tool that almost anyone can use effectively, because it requires minimal effort for the work it produces. Of course, I often hear from other growers that using such a tool is inefficient on a commercial scale, but I disagree. Two misconceptions need to be dispelled about using a broadfork.

How to Choose the Right Broadfork

First, not all broadforks are created equal. Over the years, I've personally tried about 20 different models and I can tell you that design really matters. You should aim to get one that is made and used for professional purposes, preferably a wooden-handled one over a heavier all-metal broadfork.

I'd rather replace a broken shaft every couple years than spend a lifetime lifting extra weight. The ergonomics of the tines also play a major role in the overall efficiency of the tool. The better broadforks have parabolic curves that simplify the rowing motion.



The broadfork traces its origins back to the grelinette, a tool invented in France by André Grelin in the 1960s. It was introduced and popularized in the U.S. in the early 1990's by none other than Eliot Coleman, master grower and author of The New Organic Grower.

Second, the circumstances of the area to be worked also need to be accounted for. A broadfork shouldn't be used to break new ground or break up densely packed soil, like converting hardpan into tillable soil. Certain broadforks, like the one designed by Meadow Creature, are made for that purpose only. But after you establish your beds, you'll want to have a broadfork that is lighter. The right tool under the right circumstance is the key to the whole thing.

I've been growing food for a living long enough to have seen the benefits of the broadfork. That's the reason why we named our farm "Les Jardins de la Grelinette," or Broadfork Gardens — not just because we love working the tool, but because our bio-intensive system *requires* it. Try it yourself over time and your soil will become softer while having better drainage, texture and structure. Plus, the beneficial organisms will absolutely love what you're doing. In both the home garden and the large market garden the broadfork is simply a must-have. But beware: Your tiller might get left sitting out in the garage all summer!



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Borage

Plant near: squash, strawberries, tomatoes

Keep away from: Plant near anything

Comments: repels tomato worms. Improves flavor and growth of companions.

Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts

Plant near: beets, buckwheat, calendula, carrots, chamomile, dill, hyssop, marigolds, mints, nasturtiums, onions, rosemary, sage, thyme, wormwood.

Keep away from: strawberries

Comments: marigolds repel cabbage moths. Nasturtiums repel aphids.

Cabbage and Cauliflower

Plant near: broccoli, brussels sprouts, celery, chard, spinach, tomatoes.

Keep away from: strawberries

Comments: tomatoes and celery repel cabbage worms.

Cantaloupe

Plant near: corn

Keep away from: Plant near anything

Comments:

Carrots

Plant near: cabbage, chives, early potatoes, leeks, lettuce, onions, peas, radishes, rosemary, sage, salsify, wormwood.

Keep away from:

Comments: onions, leeks, and wormwood repel carrot flies

Chives

Plant near: apples, berries, carrots, grapes, peas, roses, tomatoes.

Keep away from:

Comments: Improves flavor and growth of companions. Deters aphids and Japanese beetles.

Corn

Plant near: beans, cucumbers, early potatoes, melons, peas, pumpkins, soybeans, squash.

Keep away from:

Comments: soybeans deter chinch bugs.

Cucumbers

Plant near: beans, cabbage, corn, early potatoes, radishes, sunflowers.

Keep away from: late potatoes

Comments: Radishes deter cucumber beetles. Cucumbers encourage blight in late potatoes.

Dill

Plant near: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, lettuce, onions

Keep away from: carrots

Comments: Improves flavor and growth of cabbage family plants.

Epplant

Plant near: green beans, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes

Keep away from: potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, peppers

Comments: green beans deter Colorado potato beetles.

Garlic

Plant near: cabbage, cane fruits, fruit trees, roses, tomatoes

Keep away from: peas, beans

Comments: deters Japanese beetles and aphids. A garlic oil spray deters onion flies, aphids, and ermine moths. A garlic tea helps repel late potato blight.

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Kohlrabi

Plant near: cabbage/cauliflower companions (except tomatoes)

Keep away from: fennel, pole beans, tomatoes

Comments: kohlrabi stunts tomatoes

Lettuce

Plant near: beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes, strawberries

Keep away from: cabbage family

Comments: lettuce tenderizes summer radishes.

Marigolds

Plant near: all garden crops

Keep away from: Plant near all garden crops.

Comments: stimulates vegetable growth and deters bean beetles, aphids, potato bugs, squash bugs, nematodes, and maggots.

Marjoram

Plant near: all garden crops

Keep away from:

Comments: stimulates vegetable growth.

Mustard

Plant near: alfalfa cover crops, fruit trees, grapes, legumes

Keep away from: grapes, legumes, alfalfa cover crops, fruit trees

Comments: stimulates growth of companion plants.

Nasturtiums

Plant near: apples, beans, cabbage family, greenhouse crops, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, squash

Keep away from:

Comments: repels aphids, potato bugs, squash bugs, striped pumpkin beetles, and Mexican bean beetles and destroys white flies in greenhouses.

Onions

Plant near: beets, cabbage family, carrots, chamomile, lettuce, parsnips

Keep away from: beans, peas

Comments: deters most pests, especially maggots.

Oregano

Plant near: all garden crops

Keep away from:

Comments: deters many insect pests.

Parsley

Plant near: corn, roses, tomatoes

Keep away from:

Parsnips

Plant near: onions, radishes, wormwood

Keep away from:

Comments: onions and wormwood help keep root maggots from parsnips.

Peas

Plant near: beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, early potatoes, radishes, turnips

Keep away from: garlic leeks, onions, shallots

Peppers

Plant near: basil, carrots, eggplant, onions, parsley, tomatoes

Keep away from: fennel, kohlrabi

Potatoes

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Radishes

Plant near: chervil, cucumbers, lettuce, melons, peas, nasturtiums, root crops

Keep away from: hyssop

Comments: radishes deter cucumber beetles. Chervil makes radishes hot. Lettuce helps make radishes tender. Nasturtiums improve radishes' flavor.

Rosemary

Plant near: beans, cabbage, carrots

Keep away from:

Comments: repels bean beetles, cabbage moths, and carrot flies.

Sage

Plant near: cabbage family, carrots, tomatoes

Keep away from: cucumbers

Comments: deters cabbage moths and carrot flies. Invigorates tomato plants.

Soybeans

Plant near: corn, potatoes

Keep away from:

Comments: chokes weeds and enriches soil.

Spinach

Plant near: celery, cauliflower, eggplant, strawberries

Keep away from:

Strawberries

Plant near: borage, bush beans, lettuce, pyrethrum, spinach

Keep away from: cabbage family

Sunflowers

Plant near: cucumbers

Keep away from: potatoes

Comments: can provide a trellis and shelter for shade-loving cucumbers.

Swiss Chard

Plant near: bush beans, kohlrabi, onions

Keep away from: pole beans

Tarragon

Plant near: all garden crops

Keep away from: Plant near all garden crops.

Comments: improves vegetables' flavor and growth.

Thyme

Plant near: all garden crops

Keep away from: Plant near all garden crops.

Comments: deters cabbage moths.

Tomatoes

Plant near: asparagus, basil, cabbage family, carrots, gooseberries, mustard, parsley, onions, rosemary, sage, stinging nettles

Keep away from: fennel, kohlrabi, potatoes, walnuts

Turnips and Rutabagas

Plant near: peas

Keep away from: knotweed, mustard

Comments: mustard and knotweed inhibit the growth of turnips and rutabagas.

MGAGCM CLOTHING

You may browse our clothing website at:
geneseecountymg.org/shirt-order.html.

Our next order will be in May.

NAME TAGS

Due to the number of new members we have, I am reminding all members to please wear their name tags to our meetings and all projects while volunteering.

Grass Cutting at Desert Oasis

is scheduled on March 14, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

For more information call Alicia Ellis, 810-659-8164 or Kay McCullough, 810-635-9341

PROJECT WORK DATES

If you would like your project's work date's and times published in the DTE, please send this information to Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com or George Rappold, grap-pocp@att.net.

FALL CLASS T-SHIRTS are in and may be picked up during Hotline hours, 8:30 am-1:00 pm, on Fridays only. Please see Glenn Perry and he will help you find your shirt. Please remember to check your name off the sign in sheet. These shirts will be available at our monthly membership meetings also. If you need to make special arrangements, please call Vicki Laurin, 810-744-0725.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Our next MGAGCM membership meeting will be held on March 16, 2017 at the GGCARD building at 605 N. Saginaw St., Flint, MI. 48502. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm when our speaker, Jim Weathers will be speaking on "Honey Bees". Our business meeting begins at 7:10 pm and our snack providers are Mel Kennedy, Helen Mitts, Pam Kvasnica and Nettie Sparks.

April 20, 2017 we will be meeting at Crossroads Village for the 29th annual Master Gardener Awards Banquet

OUTREACH EVENTS

For the month of April we need volunteers for the Dort Federal Event Center 2017 Spring and Garden Show on April 1 and 2 from 9 :00 am-1:00 pm. and 1:00 pm –5:00 pm each day .

Bordine's Spring Expo will be on April 22 and 23 and volunteers are needed from 9:00 am-1:00 pm and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm each day.

To reserve your time slot call Christy Jones at 810-653-7971. Resources will be provided to answer questions.

MASTER GARDENER COLLEGE, FROM the GROUND UP,

JUNE 23 and 24, 2017 at MSU Campus East University Club. Speakers and Topics TBA.

SPRING BULB SALE COMING

Spring bulbs will be at our March MGAGCM meeting,. For more information call Randy Tatro: 810-232-2018

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2017)

President	Vicki Laurin
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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY:

Vicki Laurin, laurinvicki@gmail.com.
George Rappold, grappocp@att.net,
of counsel Ruth Simon.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES**

MMGA Inc Website at:

www.michiganmastergardener.org

MMGA Inc Facebook Page at:

www.facebook.com/MichiganMG

**MGAGCM Website at: Genesee
County MG.org**

MGAGCM Facebook Page at:

**http://facebook.com/groups/2169046
232310/**

Link to VMS: https://

michigan.volunteersystem.org

Abiya (Abi) Saeed

Consumer Horticulture Program Instructor

Master Gardener Coordinator

810-244-8531-saeedabi@anr.msu.edu

MSU Extension-Genesee

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Flint, MI 48502

(810) 244-8500

Plant & Pest Hotline:

(810) 244-8548

Hours: Friday from 8:30 am-1:00pm

geneseeplantpest@anr.msu.edu

Public Office Hours:

8 am - 1 pm Monday through Friday.

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