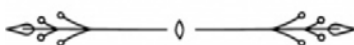


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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER

UVM Extension Master Gardener Program News
September 2019



Fall is in the Air!

Dear Master Gardeners, Composters and Alumni,

The recent beautiful weather has been keeping us in good spirits, we hope it's been enjoyable for you too. This is such a lovely time of the year in Vermont. I love the cool nights, the crisp, dew soaked mornings, the warm sunny days, and the way the sun bounces off the leaves causing them to appear translucent in places. Not to mention the joy that comes with staying busy in the garden and enjoying fall activities like canning, pickling, planting cover crops and garlic, digging potatoes, pumpkin carving, apple picking, and cider making.

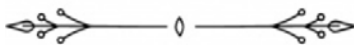
Here in the Master Gardener office, we've started the fall semester with a great group of 95 students enrolled in the Master

volunteer certification. This year we also have 20 students from out of state. They are joining us from Illinois, North Dakota, Kentucky, Oregon, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. This is also the second year that we are offering in-person classes in Ludlow and St. Albans taught by Natasha Duarte of the Compost Association of Vermont. These classes are focused on how to set up and run community composting sites. If you would like to get in touch with this new cohort of Master Composter interns please email beret.halverson@uvm.edu to have your message set to the group.

In the office, we've also been busy gearing up for the Annual State Conference on November 2nd, and we're looking forward to seeing many of you there that day. You can read more about the state conference planning in the article below.

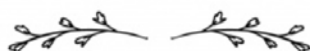
And don't forget we love visitors! If you're in Burlington, please come by the office to say hello and update us on your Master Gardener or Composter projects. Our office is open from 8:30 am-4:30 pm in Jeffords Hall Room 206.

~Beret, Lisa, Cindy





Project Spotlight



The State Conference Planning Committee

Five NW & Central Master Gardeners have been hard at work behind the scenes planning this year's state conference at the Shelburne Museum. They are Bob Kesner (marketing), Judy Mirro (Food), Karen Burke (Speakers), Linda Pitkin, (Marketing), and Carol Holmquist (Fundraising). Pictured above are Master Gardener Volunteer Karen Burke and Conference Speaker, Vic Izzo.

[Watch them on a short Across the Fence episode here!](#)

This will be the third annual conference and the second to take place in the North/Central region. The first state conference was held at The North Branch Nature Center in October of 2017, and the second was held at the Four Corners Foundation in Windham Vermont in October of 2018. Next year we will rotate back down to the southern region for the 4th annual conference.

Our staff would like to extend a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has worked so hard to make this conference a reality!

UVM Extension Master Gardener 2019 State Conference

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Featured Speakers

• Ann Hazelrigg • Victor Izzo • Matthew Benson •
Julie Moir Messervy • Gary Oppenheimer •
• Charlie Nardoizzi •

Topics

- Identifying plant pests and diseases • Growing extraordinary vegetables and fruit •
- Creating landscapes of beauty and meaning • Gardening to help reduce hunger and fight climate change •
- Distinguishing between native plants, weeds, and invasives •



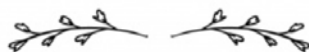
go.uvm.edu/emgconference

"Caring for People, Plants and Our Planet"

Registration is Open and limited in-person seats are expected to fill up fast!

For more information and to register [CLICK HERE](#)

Master Gardeners Doing Cool Things





Master Gardener Rob Kurth recently won judge's favorite at the Champlain Valley Fair for this beautiful display! Nice job Rob!



Master Gardener Karen Burke tours NW Chapter members around the new master gardener project at the Shelburne Museum.



Lynn Gardener, Robilee Smith, Sue Brown, and Lisa Kent, show off a gladiolus horticulture therapy project, at The Arbors at Shelburne.



To raise awareness about pollinator decline the Rutland Master Gardener Chapter hosted a screening of the [Pollinator's film](#) at the Paramount Theater in early September. Despite the rainy weather, approximately 165 people attended this event. Matt Riley a local beekeeper, Greg Cox President of the VT Farmers Food Center and Samantha Alger, a pollinator researcher from UVM were on hand to answer questions. The company "Beeswrap" was also there to donate samples of their product to the first 75 attendees.

The NW Rutland Chapter also set up an "Ask A Master Gardener" table in the lobby to answer community member's gardening questions. Special thanks to **Rutland EMG Sandy Khun** for all her hard work organizing this event.

Here's the latest **Seasonal Garden and Landscape Tips** from
Ann Hazelrigg & Leonard Perry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqsyTyFYd8Y>



September/October Garden Calendar

Perennial Garden

Plant daffodils, tulips and crocus for spring bloom. Work calcium and phosphorus into the soil below the bulbs at planting time. Remember when purchasing bulbs, the size of the bulb is directly correlated to the size of the flower yet to come in spring.

Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladiolas.

Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force into early bloom, indoors, in December and January.

Dig, clean and store tuberous begonias if frost threatens.

Divide peonies and iris.

Harvest sunflower heads; use seed for birdseed or roast for personal use.

Trim or stake bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage.

To suppress future pest problems, clean up annual flower beds by removing diseased plant materials, overwintering areas for insect pests; mulch with manure or garden compost to feed the soil and suppress weeds. Reduce water on trees, shrubs and vines to harden

Stake tall flowers to keep them from blowing over in fall winds.

Place mulch over roots of roses, azaleas, rhododendrons and berries for winter protection.

Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials. Fall planting of trees, shrubs and perennials can encourage healthy root growth over the winter.

Plant ground covers and shrubs.

Propagate chrysanthemums, fuchsias, and geraniums by stem cuttings.

Lawn

Aerate or establish a new lawn. Optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.

Control fall-germinating lawn weeds while they are small. Hand weeding and weeding tools are particularly effective at this stage

Fruit

Harvest and store apples; keep at about 40°F, moderate humidity.

Remove and dispose of windfall apples that might be harboring apple maggot or codling moth larvae.

Rake and destroy diseased leaves (apple, cherry, rose, etc.), or hot compost diseased leaves.

Spray apple and stone fruit trees at leaf fall to prevent various fungal and bacterial diseases.

Prune out dead fruiting canes in raspberries.

necessary.

As necessary, apply copper spray for peach and cherry trees.

Spray for juniper twig blight, as necessary, after pruning away dead and infected twigs.

Continue monitoring late-season soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. [Learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit.](#)

Vegetable Garden

Harvest winter squash when the "ground spot" changes from white to a cream or gold color.

Store squash and pumpkins; keep in dry area at 55 degrees to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mulch carrots, parsnips and beets for winter harvesting.

Harvest potatoes when the tops die down. Store them in a dark location.

Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.

Dig and divide rhubarb. (Should be done about every 4 years.)

Cover asparagus and rhubarb beds with a mulch of manure or compost.

Save seeds from the vegetable and flower garden. Dry, date, label, and store in a cool and dry location.

Protect tomatoes; pick green tomatoes and ripen

Plant winter cover of annual rye or winter peas in vegetable garden.

Control slugs as necessary. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits, or any other chemical control.

Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps into compost. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).

Use newspaper or cardboard covered by mulch to discourage winter and spring annual weeds or remove a lawn area for conversion to garden beds. For conversion, work in the paper and mulch as organic matter once the lawn grass has died.

Houseplants

Clean houseplants, check for disease/insects, and repot and fertilize if necessary; then bring them indoors first in the evening then back out during the day. After a few nights indoors bring them out later each morning. After a week keep them inside permanently in a sunny location or under a light.

Early October: Reduce water, place in cool area (50-55 degrees Fahrenheit) and increase time in shade or darkness (12-14 hours) to force Christmas cactus to bloom in late December.

Place hanging pots of fuchsias where they won't freeze. Don't cut back until spring.

Infrastructure Tasks

Drain or blow out your irrigation system, insulate valve

Clean and paint greenhouses and cold frames for plant storage and winter growth.

Clean, sharpen and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.

Store garden supplies and fertilizers in a safe, dry place out of reach of children.

If moles and gophers are a problem, consider traps.

General Tips:

Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

Practice preventive pest management rather than reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting, and opt for the least toxic approach. Conserve biological control agents such as predators and the parasitoids that feed on insect pests.

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls.

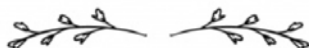
Choose the least-toxic options, and use them judiciously. Some examples include insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides.

**Adapted from the OSU Extension Garden Calendar*

**Information to Advance your
Gardening Knowledge and Leadership Skills!**

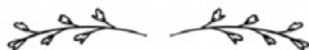


There is a new educational video series MSU Extension and Montana PBS have developed focused on how to start and maintain a small fruit or tree fruit orchard, how to best distribute crops or create value-added products, and resources on marketability and business practices for small orchard and vegetable farmers. There are 10 short videos in the series, all of which are posted to the MSU Extension You Tube channel playlist found here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAIkOOshMfC7UJOOKdH8aI-6nU9rELLZc>.



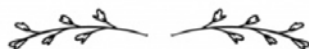
Timber press Discount Program for Master Gardeners
Please join our Master Gardener newsletter list, and to show our gratitude, upon subscribing you will receive a promotional code for 30% off any title ordered through www.workman.com/imprints/timber. Shipping is free for orders greater than \$25. What's more, this savings is good through the rest 2019! It expires on December 31, 2019.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

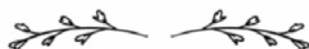




Join the NICH conversation. Visit consumerhort.org, click "join us" on the main menu, and enter your contact information. You will receive periodic updates about NICH activities and accomplishments along with timely tips spotlighting the benefits of consumer horticulture.



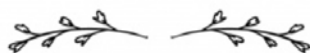
Farm to Plate Annual Gathering: This year's Gathering will be held on November 7th and 8th at the Killington Grand Resort in Killington, VT. [Register today](#) to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration rates, which last until September 27th.



Vermont Community Garden Network: Ambassadors volunteer program

Strengthen Vermont's statewide garden network by serving as a liaison between your community and VCGN. The VCGN Ambassador is a volunteer position to help VCGN understand the garden-related needs specific to local communities and help local

<http://vegn.org/get-involved/vegn-ambassadors/>



Just for fun this Fall!

[Watch Plants Light Up When They Get Attacked](#)

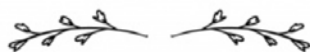
[You Can Talk to Plants. Maybe You Should Listen
Sedate a Plant, and It Seems to Lose Consciousness. Is It
Conscious?](#)

[Watch a Flower That Seems to Remember When Pollinators Will
Come Calling](#)

[Meet the Overcompensators, Plants That Get Tougher and
Meaner When Attacked](#)

[EAB Great idea from Canada!](#)

* Special thanks to EMG Kitty Werner for sharing these articles.



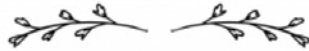
Garden grants:



2020 Youth Gardening Grant
[Click Here for more information](#)

[Budding Botanist grant](#)

be awarded a \$1,200 package. Any public or charter school serving students K-12 in the US is eligible to apply. Applicants must be planning a new or expanding an existing school garden program designed to teach students about environmental sustainability and the importance of biodiversity. Deadline to apply: November 8, 2019.



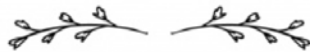
[Apply Now to Apis Fund](#)

The Gund Institute for Environment at UVM invites proposals for the [Apis Fund](#), which supports research and conservation of vital bee pollinators. Apis Fund proposals can address the ecology, economics, management or cultural importance of pollinators and pollination via research, conservation, training, collaboration or outreach. Submissions are due Oct. 15, 2019. Awards can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. We anticipate funding 3 to 5 projects this year.



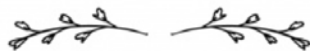


QUESTION OF THE MONTH:



Test Yourself

What is the plant in the picture above?

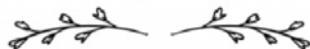


ANSWER:

This plant is known as "Dodder", a parasitic vine. Here are some fact sheets on it:

<https://extension.umaine.edu/cranberries/grower-services/weeds/dodder/>

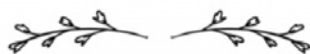
<https://pddc.wisc.edu/2015/07/21/dodder/>



**Master Gardener
Helpline Happenings!**

on Mondays, & Thursdays from 9 AM - 12 PM, you have questions, please give us a call @ 802-656-5421, and don't forget to refer others to the helpline.

Don't forget, the old 800 number is no longer in use!



Update from the Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Ann Hazelrigg and Gabriella Maia

Summer is winding down but fogs and dews may cause leaf spots to increase on brassicas, carrots, beets, and other crops. We had another summer without any late blight on tomato or potato, although the usual suspects (*Alternaria* and *Septoria*) were present.

There was quite a bit of defoliation again in home gardeners' crabapples and apple trees due to apple scab. When we have early wet weather, the overwintering spores are shot from the fallen apple leaves to the new green tissue. There are a finite number of these overwintering spores and they are usually finished by the end of June. If you have protected your trees with fungicides through June, trees should have very little scab the rest of the season. This is what commercial growers strive for. If you have not used protectant fungicides, the spots resulting from these early infections will start producing the second kind of spore that infects leaves the rest of the season. If the summer is wet, these spots can cover leaves, resulting in early defoliation. The good news is the tree is not dead. Rake and destroy leaves this fall to reduce overwintering inoculum and prune the tree this winter/late spring to open the canopy up to air and light penetration.

It is approaching time to plant garlic. Be sure to use only good-looking cloves with no depressions or rot. Rotate your garlic-growing areas and mulch when the weather gets cold.

We always get pictures and calls in the Clinic and Helpline about

typically don't cause a lot of damage because it is late in the season. Hickory tussock moth is white with tufts of hairs and feeds on several hardwoods.



We also received a picture and inquiry in the Helpline about the beautiful milkweed tussock moth.



A more destructive caterpillar that attacks a lot of fruit trees, hardwoods and blueberries is the red-humped caterpillar. These typically feed in groups and can be handpicked.



The fall webworm is common this time of year. We don't typically see this caterpillar because it is hidden up in nests at the ends of branches in hardwoods. The nests can be cut out of trees and destroyed if they are able to be reached.



Submit an Event to our Calendar!

Events

Below you'll find a wide variety of Master Gardener and Composter events around Vermont. Click on the event to learn more and register.

Extension Master Gardener Events

Today **Saturday, May 18**

[Print](#) [Week](#) [Month](#) [Agenda](#)

10:00am NW Plant Sale
10:00am UVM Hort Farm Lilac Walk & Talk with Kitty Werner

Monday, May 20

6:00pm Rutland Chapter Steering Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 1

9:00am Central/NEK Plant Sale-Open to the public
9:00am Rutland Chapter Annual Plant Sale
2:00pm Rhododendron Walk and Talk

Tuesday, June 4

4:00pm Williston-Hanging Basket Planting & Class

Saturday, June 8

5:00pm 25th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 15

SUBMIT A MASTER
GARDENER OR
COMPOSTER EVENT

Submitting an event for the calendar? Events welcome from Certified Master Gardener & Composter Volunteers in Vermont locations. Subject to review. Sorry! We do not accept events from the General Public.

EMG STATE
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13, 2018

Recruit Master Gardeners and Interns to help with your project. Keep the EMG state network updated on what's happening in your region.

[Click here to Submit](#)

**Please note the event calendar gets updated weekly on Friday afternoon

Help Us Grow!

The UVM Extension Master Gardener Program cultivates gardening communities through volunteer education and demonstration. Our volunteers work throughout the state to promote successful, safe, and environmentally prudent home horticulture practices. As a self-funded Extension program we need your help to keep growing. Please make a donation today!

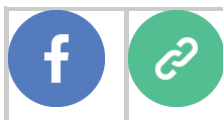


Did you know we have a State Program Facebook Page?

If you haven't yet, please visit and like our page.

Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/UVMExtensionMasterGardener/>



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Contact us:

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