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Editor Pat Hubert, Master Gardener



Gardening With The Masters



We are planning for the 2017 Summer Gardening with The Masters Series, and we would like to hear

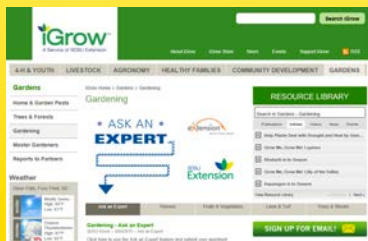
from YOU! Do you know someone that would be a great presenter, or perhaps there is a topic you would like to know more about! Post your ideas on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaMG>



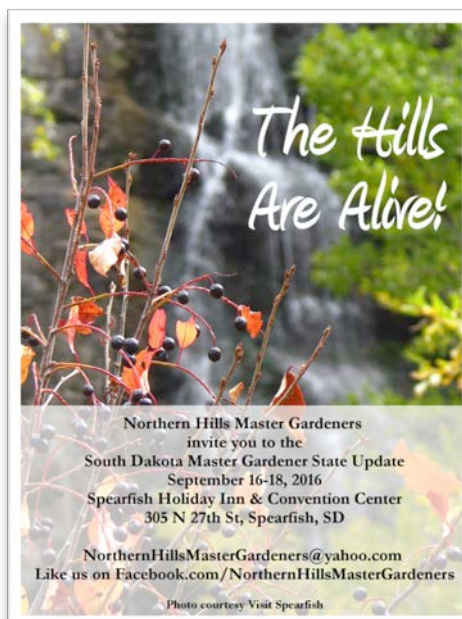
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RESOURCES AVAILABLE

As you know, the face of our parent organization, SDSU Extension, is iGrow. Don't forget to check all the resources available at <http://igrow.org/> Click on the Garden tab, then click on the Gardening dropdown. Explore under the tabs Publications, Articles, Videos, News,



Master Gardener State Update to be held in Spearfish



Northern Hills Master Gardeners' main focus is the SD State Master Gardener Update planning: **The Hills Are Alive!** September 16-18, 2016, in Spearfish. We believe we have an interesting, informative, and educational experience planned for you. Included at the event will be a photography contest, and silent auction, and a variety of instructive, timely garden/outdoor sessions. Topics include: Keynote Page Lambert's *Sustaining the Land by Cultivating Her Stories*; the Sustainability Panel presents *Organic Gardening, Hugelkultur,*

and *No-till Gardening*, and breakout speakers feature *Making Garden Tools and Low-tunnel Hoops; Pollinators and Pesticides*, and A database of plants of the region and potential uses for sustainability. In addition, the IMGC Grant recipients will give highlights of the International Master Gardener Conference and the Sunday morning breakfast talk will address, *Beautiful "Dirt" without the Work* and how it helps the Education Garden. Source: Weeds of the Great Plains/James Stubbendieck, Mitchell J. Coffin, Lori M. Landholt.

You can register to attend at <http://northernhillsmastergardeners.blogspot.com>



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Photos from Priscilla
Jurkovich garden



In the Herb Garden

By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

Bee's Friend *Phacelia tanacetifolia* is an annual herb from the Hydrophyllaceae family, a subfamily of Borage that grows in zone 0. The fragrant lavender-blue flowers attract pollinators and beneficial pest-eating insects. Herbs from the borage family are said to refill with nectar every 2 minutes! It provides pollen that is needed for egg production for the bees

and nectar that is needed for energy. The flowers are edible similar to borage and can be put in salad or in ice cubes to cool a drink. The flowers bloom in June and July and are known for their long flowering period. The feathery leaves grow up between 12-18 inches. As a cut flower, it has unique flowers, a strong stem and long vase-life. *Phacelia* can grow in a variety of soil types, but they

do require at least partial sun and thrive in a sunny environment. You can direct sow the seeds after the last frost. If you allow the plant to flower, the seeds will self-sow. Farmers use as a cover crop or green manure but would need to turn into the soil before it flowers.

Sept 2016



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Monthly Minnehaha Master Gardeners Mtg. 7 pm | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Apples! Apples! | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Harvest Pumpkins and Squash | |
| | | | | | | |

Weeds! Weeds! Weeds! Witch Grass

By Paulette Keller, Master Gardener



<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/witchgrass.html>

Witch grass, also called tickle grass, panic grass, tumbleweed grass, tumble panic and witch's hair is an annual warm season grass that grows in clumps. It can grow up to 3 feet tall. The leaf blades are anywhere from 2 to 10 inches long and about 1/2" across. A fringe of long hairs appear on the bottom of the leaf where it is connected to the stem of the plant. The sheaths, which are the lower parts of the leaf that enclose the stem, are about 1 1/2" to 3 inches long, have long hairs and are purplish in color. The inflorescence or flower of witch grass, is a panicle which has a main axis and many re-branched stems. It has an open, spreading structure and is often half the length of the entire plant and nearly as wide as long. At maturity, the stem breaks off and tumbles to the ground, hence the name tumbleweed grass.

Witch grass is commonly found throughout the Great Plains on cultivated land, roadsides, waste places and rangeland in poor conditions and in my garden, happily growing in my green beans until I weeded them out. It does not have any nutritional value at maturity. It is lightly grazed when the plant is young but is left alone as the inflorescence forms. Birds such as mourning doves and quail dine on the seeds.

Source: Weeds of the Great Plains/James Stubbendieck, Mitchell J. Coffin, Lori M. Landholt

Container Garden Update

By , Judy Walz, Master Gardener

My raised bed garden has been growing, with some plants doing well, others not. This is my first year, and there is a learning curve. I planted tomatoes in the middle, with green beans on either side of those, and peppers at the end. The other end has broccoli and

cauliflower in the middle, flanked by onions and carrots on the sides. The onions have all dried up. I have one very small carrot left (thank the deer for that). I do have an excellent crop of tomatoes, after dealing with blossom end rot for several weeks. I was able to use my Master Gardener training to diagnose and treat this problem. Peppers are starting to ripen as well. I have had a handful of green beans. The broccoli and cauliflower have been besieged by cabbage worms and neither has produced a crop. The main problems I have had are:

- Organization: I need to re-think my plan. The tomatoes work well in the center as they are very tall. The broccoli/cauliflower have not done well. I may leave them out next year and put the green beans there. The beans have been too shaded. I also need to move the bed to a sunnier location.
- Deer: I think the deer see my garden as a buffet. I may need some netting or other deer deterrents next year.
- Nutrient deficiencies: Although I did start out with topsoil mixed with peat moss and a general slow release fertilizer, my tomatoes clearly showed a nutrient deficiency. I need to check the nutrients in the soil in the spring and adjust as necessary.

Artichoke update: I have two of the four plants left. I transplanted two plants into the ground and neither survived. I found that they are very delicate and difficult to transplant. I have two left in containers, but they are still relatively small and have had some insect issues. I will keep watering them, treat the insect issue, and see what happens. My plan is to try to overwinter the plants in an unheated garage.





Bottle of Wine....

By Debra Brost, Master Gardener Intern

The fifth winery in our series is Baumberger Vineyard and Winery. Located north of Dell Rapids, this winery is owned and operated by Pete and Julie Baumberger. Pete confesses to a passion for winemaking, with twenty plus years of trial and error on his credentials as a winemaker. Several years ago, this hobby took a major leap when they decided to step into grape producing and develop a line of their own wines.

The vineyard, located on the family farm, was largely planted in 2011. Their vines include St. Croix, Frontenac and Marquette varieties. With hundreds of healthy vines, the Baumbergers often enlist the help of family and friends to see to all the tasks required of operating a vineyard. Harvests have varied over the years, but have provided well enough to allow Pete to create a variety of taste treats labeled with their definitive "B" and to also sell grapes to other local wineries for their usage. Due to busy lives, they are leaning more towards being a vineyard and are allowing for less time to be winemakers. But their desire to remain a casual and social place to enjoy wine and fellowship will continue.

Pete describes his wines as varying in taste, but each holding that "signature" Baumberger finesse. There is a full-bodied semi-sweet red called "Sneaky Pete" that goes well with lasagna; a semi-dry table red named "Crimson Prairie" that creates a wonderful mulled winter wine recipe; and an Aronia berry labeled "Sassy Pants" with a floral aroma that pairs well with chocolate. Did you know that the Aronia berry, also known as Black Chokecherry, is considered a super food (so how could partaking of wine made from a super food be a bad thing?)? For added summer fun, Pete provided us with his recipe for Sassyritas: 1/2 bottle Sassy Pants, 2/3 cup Country Time Lemonade powder (strawberry is best, pink second best, regular will work also), and ice. Blend to slush consistency, adding ice slowly. Trust us, it is really thirst quenching on a hot summer day!! Their wines have been sold at HyVee stores and at various locations in Brookings, Dell Rapids, Colman and Brandon.

Baumberger Winery is at 47327 SD HWY 34, Dell Rapids SD 57022, just east of Interstate 29 exit 109. Their tasting room has a welcoming atmosphere and has become a local gathering place. Past events they have hosted include "Wine & Canvas", birthday parties and anniversary celebrations. Saturdays usually see numerous visitors enjoying wine and the quiet country setting. You may contact them at (605) 254-8986 for specific hours.



...Fruit of the Vine

By Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener

STRAWBERRIES, members of the rose family, are unique in that they are the only fruit with seeds on the outside rather than the inside (averaging 200 seeds per berry). They are the first fruit to ripen in the spring. With favorable conditions, each plant should produce one quart of strawberries. The flavor of a strawberry is influenced by weather, the variety and the stage of ripeness when harvested. Use strawberries as soon after harvesting or purchasing as possible. Store unwashed berries loosely covered with plastic wrap in the coldest part of your refrigerator for 2-3 days at most. Do not wash until ready to use.

There are basically 3 types of strawberry plants to choose from: June Bearing, Everbearing and Day Neutral; all are perennials.

June Bearing strawberries produce a single, large crop per year during a 2 - 3 week period in the spring. These varieties produce buds in the autumn, then flower and fruit the following spring. June bearers are the most commonly grown variety, producing a single flush of flowers and many runners. They are classified into early, mid-season and late varieties (depending on when they fruit).

Everbearing strawberries produce 2-3 harvests of fruit intermittently during the spring, summer and fall.

Everbearing plants do not send out many runners. These varieties form buds during the long days of summer and the short days of autumn. The summer-formed buds flower and fruit in autumn, and the autumn-formed buds fruit the following spring.

Day Neutral strawberries will produce fruit throughout the growing season. These strawberries also produce few runners. Insensitive to day length, these varieties produce buds, fruits and runners continuously if temperature remains between 35 and 85. Production is less than that of June Bearers.

Everbearing and day neutral strawberries are great when space is limited, but the fruits are usually somewhat smaller than June Bearers. Fruit is ready for harvesting 4-6 weeks after blossoming. Harvest fully red (ripe) berries, and pick every three days. Cut by the stem; do not pull the berry. Harvest will last up to 3 weeks.

Renovation is an important part of strawberry care. In order to insure good fruit production, June-bearing strawberries grown in the matted row system should be renovated every year right after harvest. A strawberry patch will continue to be productive for three to four years as long as the bed is maintained. The first step in the renovation process is to mow the old foliage with a mower, cutting off the leaves about one inch above the crowns. Rake the leaves and if disease-free, compost or incorporate into the soil. Fertilize with one lb of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 sq. feet. Narrow the rows to six to twelve inches wide and remove all weeds. Thin the plants 4 to 6 inches between plants. Water with 1-2 inches of water per week to promote growth and to make new runners for next year's crop.

Diseases to watch for are gray mold, powdery mildew and verticillium wilt (this fungal disease will not only prevent fruit production, but it will also kill the plant). Buying healthy certified plants, providing an area with good sun, desired pH and adequate airflow, and properly managing their water and nutrient needs will go a long way towards successful strawberry production.



In BLOOM: Joe Pye Weed

By Roine Klassenr, Master Gardener

Zone 4-9

Full Sun to part shade

Genus: *Eupatorium purpureum*

If you have room in your garden for a striking accent plant with superb flowers attractive to butterflies, consider Joe-Pye Weed. This Missouri native grows impressive clumps of tall stalks from 4-9 feet tall depending on the variety selected. These tall stalks are topped with broad clusters of pinkish purple flowers in late summer, fading to pinkish beige in fall. If the stalks are cut back by a third in late spring, branching is encouraged and the overall height is reduced. Plants do not require staking. Whorled leaves of a 3-5 large toothed pattern are vanilla-scented. The attractive seed heads can be enjoyed in fall; cut to the ground in late winter. Divide the plant in fall or early spring when the center dies out. This plant is tolerant of deer, clay or wet soil but likes regular deep watering during a hot summer. In the past Joe Pye weed was used medicinally for typhus fever and as red or pink dye for textiles.



Master Gardener Notes

- September MG meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 12th at 7 pm at the Extension building, located at 220 W 6th St Sioux Falls, SD 57104. JOIN US! ☺
- Remember to keep track of your hours for recertification. Forms and more information can be found at our website:
www.minnehahamastergardeners.org



Edibles: “Pumpkins”

By Judy Walz, Master Gardener



Photo by
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pumpkins_Hancock_Shaker_village_2418.jpg

As we head into fall, we head into pumpkin season. Pumpkin is a warm weather fruit that is grown in many parts of the country. Fruits and vegetables are categorized by the part of the plant that is eaten. For plants characterized as vegetables, we eat the leaves, stems, roots, tubers, bulbs, or flowers, but for fruits we eat the ovary of the plant. Therefore, pumpkin is botanically a fruit.

Pumpkins (*Cucurbita pepo* or *Cucurbita pepo*) should not be planted until all danger of frost is gone. Seeds can be sown directly into the garden, but seedlings are very tender, needing soil that is warm. If you want pumpkins for Halloween, plant them in late May in our part of the country. Most are a vining fruit, requiring a lot of space, 50 to 100 square feet per hill. Plant about 5 seeds per hill, then thin them to the best 2 or 3 plants. There are semi-bush, bush, miniature, and jumbo varieties available, and some can be planted in hills or rows requiring less space.

Once established, pumpkins can tolerate hot, dry summer weather for short periods of time, but in general need about 1 inch of water per week. They like a soil pH of around 6.5. An application of nitrogen fertilizer or manure can be done in midseason. Keep them weeded, but be careful, as the roots are close to the surface of the soil. Use care with insecticides as pumpkins are bee-pollinated and insecticides may harm the bee population. Common diseases and pests affecting pumpkins include:

- Powdery mildew, which causes white mold growth on the upper leaf surfaces
- Cucumber beetles or squash bugs, which can be a problem from the seedling stage all the way through to maturity

Harvesting generally occurs in the fall, ideally October, for use in Halloween decorations or pumpkin delicacies. The fruit should be dark in color with a hard rind. It can be stored in a warm, dry place for a short time. When picking and storing, leave 3-4 inches of the stem attached, as pumpkins without stems do not keep well.

Pumpkins are a recognizable warm weather fruit that is fun to grow, and has many culinary applications such as pie, butters, breads, cookies, or soup. Pumpkins also form the basic unit of many fall decorations.

Sources:

<http://vric.ucdavis.edu/main/faqs.htm>, <https://extension.illinois.edu/pumpkins/growing.cfm>

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/growing-pumpkins-and-winter-squash/>