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Upcoming Events

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- Master
Gardeners
Garden Tour
June 21, 2017
Rain Date: June
22

In The Herb Garden

By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

The herb section will highlight an herb that can be grown in the South Dakota region.

Peppermint *Mentha piperita* is from the [Lamiaceae](#) (mint) family characteristic of square stems and opposite leaves. It is a hardy, easy to grow, zone 4 perennial that grows between 12 and 35 inches in height. The purple flowers are produced in whorls around the stem and form thick, blunt spikes. They flower from mid to late summer and are a great resource for the pollinators. Thrives in a sunny area, but will do well in a variety of soils and conditions.

Peppermint is a familiar “minty” scent and used to flavor food and cocktails. The fresh leaves may be used for hot or cold herbal tea. The essential oil is used for flavoring candy, gum and toothpaste. The essential oil has been used for irritable bowel syndrome and respiratory issues. It has a high concentration of menthol which activates cold-sensitive receptors in the skin for a cooling sensation if used topically on the skin for joint pain, shingles pain or headaches.



There has been research on the aroma to enhance memory and alertness. It has been used to combat nausea and indigestion.

"Bottle of Wine".....Schade Winery

By Debra Brost, Master Gardener Intern

Time for a bit of a road trip to another winery, located near Volga SD (west of Brookings on Highway 14). Schade Vineyard & Winery is in its sixteenth year, owned and operated by Jim and Nancy Schade who grew up in the area. As a boy, Jim Schade liked a little piece of land near his family farm west of Volga. When he and his wife Nancy toured California's Napa Valley, they decided that 80-acre spot back in South Dakota would be perfect for a winery. Schade became the third licensed winery in the state of South Dakota. They describe their winery as "Extraordinary tastes from an unexpected place".

Their original plantings were of Valiant and Frontenac varietals but has since grown to include Kay Gray, St. Croix, and others. The vineyard itself has more than 1000 vines. Additional grapes are purchased from small vineyards located at neighboring farms. Schade uses locally grown fruits for their fruit wines, all grown within a 200 mile radius of Schade. These include apple, buffaloberry, cherry, chokecherry, rhubarb and many more. They also produce a Black Chokeberry wine made from the aronia berry which is receiving positive attention as a source of antioxidants. A juice from the aronia berry is also a product they will be soon selling locally.

Vertical shoot positioning (VSP) system is used at the vineyard and is common in cool climate regions. This system utilizes two wires at the same height holding the vines upward between them. The buds and fruits receive more sunlight and are easier to harvest. The more vigorous vines are grown on the Double Kniffen system. Work in the vineyard begins in early spring with pruning. The owners and staff remain busy throughout the year with maintenance, harvest and bottling. A well earned break takes place after the holiday season.

Rather than rely on soil testing alone to determine nutrient levels, Schade utilizes plant tissue testing. Things that should be considered with this type of program are to collect the leaves at the same growing stage each year, sample from the same area within the vineyard, and determine which tissue to sample - leaf or petiole (stem). This testing is more accurate in determining what the plant has utilized. To offset nutrient deficiencies, the vineyard has recently been experimenting with fish slurry which is sprayed directly onto the foliage of the vines. The results are encouraging and are a non-chemical alternative.

Available as part of the tasting room is the retail area where visitors can purchase their favorite wine or other Schadé Vineyard merchandise. T-shirts, wine baskets, wine jewelry, and other memorabilia will make your visit to Schadé Vineyard a memorable one. While relaxing /shopping one can also enjoy the view of the beautiful South Dakota landscape and the vineyard. Schadé wines can be found over 150 retail locations across South Dakota and may also be shipped to many states.

In the words of Jim and Nancy, "Our love for wine making grew out of our experience in touring the beautiful vineyards in the Napa Valley of California. We want to extend the experience to people in this area, but with the added twist of the South Dakota landscape. Our goal is to create a relaxed environment in which to taste the wines, have an opportunity to learn about the wine making process, and to tour a producing vineyard. We produce a wine that is made from South Dakota grown fruits and vegetables".

Schade Vineyard & Winery is located at 21095 463rd Ave. Volga, SD 57071. They can be reached at (605) 627-5545 or you may view their website at <http://www.schadevineyard.com>.

Fruit of the Vine.....

by Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener

PEARS are a favorite of home gardeners because they are attractive (beautiful white or pink blossoms), fragrant, suited to small spaces, grow well on lawns and taste great. A member of the Rose family, genus *Pyrus*, pears are one of the oldest cultivated fruit in the world and can be dried, used in baking, and made into juices, jams, jellies and WINES. Harvest pears when the fruit has a faint yellow blush but is still green and hard. Ripen the pears at room temperature for the best quality. If kept in the refrigerator, ripe pears should last for about 1-2 weeks. You can also keep them in containers in a cool (about 40°F), dark place where they should keep for 1 to 2 months. Canning is an option for longer storage. Dropping peeled pears into cold, lightly salted water will prevent browning. Standard trees can produce 5-10 bushel, dwarfs from ½ to 1 ½ bushel.

Several varieties of pear trees do well in South Dakota: Summercrisp, Gourmet, Parker, Ure, Golden Spice, Luscious and Patten. Pear trees do not self-pollinate and need a tree of a different variety to cross-pollinate. Be sure the varieties are compatible with each other (Luscious and Gourmet cannot be used as pollinators). Plant in any fertile, well-drained soil with full sun and good air circulation, on the highest elevation of your landscape (even if it's just slightly higher it will give the tree and buds protection from a late spring frost). Pear trees like warmth to grow well and lack winter hardiness so they do best planted in well-protected locations. If the PH is lower than 6.5, cultivate some lime into the soil to bring it up to 6.5. During the prior year, remove all weeds from the area where you plan to plant. In early spring, dig holes twice the diameter of the root ball and about 24 inches deep. Set the tree on top of a small mound of soil in the middle of the hole and spread the roots away from the trunk without excessively bending them. Position the tree with a strong branch pointing to the southwest—this will help shield the somewhat delicate bark from the direct summer sun. Lower the tree into the hole and fill with soil half way. Water so the soil packs around the root ball and then continue to fill the hole, tamping the soil down. Space standard-size trees 20 to 25 feet apart, dwarf trees 12 to 15 feet apart. Trees can reach heights of 15 to 30 feet and span 10 to 20 feet. Dwarfs may fruit in 3-5 years; standards may take 8-10 years. For newly planted trees, cut off any part of the tree over 3 feet from the ground. If not already pruned for shaping, cut off any side branches that are crossing other branches, have narrow crotch angles or are lower than 18 inches from the ground. Water well right after pruning and keep soil moist as the roots are getting established during the

growing season. Once the tree goes dormant for the winter, stop watering until early spring. Fertilize the trees with a half pound of 10-10-10 fertilizer about 3 weeks after planting. Keep the fertilizer 16 to 20 inches away from the tree trunk. In years 2 through 6, use a pound of fertilizer a year and increase to 2 pounds for the mature trees. If you have highly fertile soil, use less fertilizer. If the leaves are pale green or yellowish during the summer, use a little more fertilizer the next year. If the tree grows more than 12 inches in one season, use less fertilizer the next year. Too much nitrogen may make them more susceptible to fire blight, as does over-pruning. Regular, light pruning each October is ideal--removing any dead wood, suckers from the base of the tree and branches that form a narrow angle with the trunk. If fire blight is a problem in your locale, train your tree to have multiple trunks (if infected, a trunk can be removed without sacrificing the entire tree). It is best if no branch is directly above another. Encourage branches to spread outward rather than upward, opening the canopy to bring in sunshine and airflow. Reducing the upward growth makes a healthier tree that has less limb breakage and produces higher quality fruit. Remember to thin the fruit as well, leaving about 6 inches between each cluster of fruit per branch.

Check regularly for disease and insect infestation. The major disease of pears is fire blight evidenced by leaves, blossoms and branches appearing scorched, discolored and cracked, with oozing bark; it is often encouraged by wet and humid conditions. The bacteria can enter through open wounds from pruning, so shears should be disinfected between cuts with a one-part bleach to 10 parts water solution. To control the fire blight, remove and destroy infected branches and prune several inches below any discolored tissue; the disease is spread through the vascular system by moving toward the trunk and roots where it may then result in removal of the tree. Powdery mildew should also be watched for, appearing as a white moldy growth. Eastern South Dakota trees are attractive to psylla, a small red or green bug that will suck the juice from the tree. Although the insect is difficult to see, it secretes a substance that will mold and turn black. Applying horticultural oil, at the rate suggested on the packaging, will remove the infestation. Mites and aphids may also be a problem. Rodent and rabbit protection may be necessary in some locations during the winter.

Food For Thought

Why plant a vegetable garden when you can buy an heirloom tomato for a quarter at the farm's market? Don't ask me. I'm a gardener, not an economist. Gardeners will find any excuse to get their fingernails dirty. *Bonnie Blodgett*

Weeds to Know

By Paulette Keller ,Master Gardener

Musk thistle, also called nodding thistle or nodding plume less thistle is a biennial or occasionally annual plant that can grow up to 6 feet in height. The seeds germinate in either the spring or the fall and form a rosette of leaves. The spiny leaves are arranged alternately on the stems. They are dark green in color and have deeply serrated edges. The purple disk shaped flower heads are 1 ½” to 3 ½” in length and droop at a 90 degree angle when mature, hence the name nodding thistle. Each plant can contain 24-36 flower heads. Each of these flower heads can contain up to 1,200 seeds and each plant can contain 120,000 seeds which can be blown for miles. The seed can remain in the soil for ten years under favorable conditions. Musk thistle is found in pastures, rangeland, open woodlands and fertile lowlands in the Great Plains states in the U.S. and in Canada. It does not grow well in wet, dry or shady locations. Musk thistle must be controlled by hand or with herbicides before the seed head matures.

<https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/canu1.htm>; Weeds of the Great Plains/James Stubbendieck, Mitchell J. Coffin, Lori M. Landholt

<https://www.unce.unr.edu/blogs/lyon-county/category/agriculture/>

<https://www.unce.unr.edu/blogs/lyon-county/category/agriculture/>



<http://extension.missouri.edu/news/DisplayStory.aspx?N=1051>

Giving Your Easter Lily a Second Chance

by Ronine Klassen, Master Gardener

Indoors, Easter lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*) prefer bright light but not hot sun, moist soil and some fertilizer every two weeks. When the last blossom on your Easter lily is spent, trim off a couple of inches of the top, to remove the stems that held the blossoms. Find a sunny spot in your garden (6-8 hours of sun per day) and dig a hole big enough to place the bulb and soil into the ground. Plant about six inches deep or a few inches deeper than it was in the container. Loosen the root system if needed. Soon after planting the old top will wither and dry off. Cut the stalk as short as possible. If there is no rain, continue to water weekly. New shoots will emerge and it may flower again in August or September. If it doesn't bloom, look for flowers next summer by June or July. Lilies prefer that their roots be shaded either by mulching or by other flowers nearby. The plant may grow 3 feet so select the planting site accordingly. Winter care: mulch with at least 4 inches of mulch or dig and store as other tender bulbs.

www.ag.ndsu.edu

www.hortnewsextension.iastate.edu

www.gardeningknowhow.com

What's Bugging You

by Donna Haber, Master Gardener

Ants!

Worldwide there are over 12,000 species of ants. Ants in the garden are beneficial. They aerate the soil and redistribute soil nutrients, "roto-tilling" as much soil as earthworms. Ants collect dead insects and turn them into fertilizer. A vital part of the food chain, ants are a food source for other insects, frogs, birds, spiders, fish and some mammals. Ants can also protect plants from herbivores by eating the eggs of many insects. Many wildflowers are distributed by ants as they can lift 20 times their weight!

So before going on a rampage against the ants, recall two points of Master Gardener training. A plant in the WRONG place is a weed, an insect in the WRONG place is a pest. Two: control of any insect begins with proper identification. Species of fire ants (luckily not found in South Dakota), or carpenter ants are less tolerable than more benign ant species and require more vigorous control measures. Key to elimination of any ant colony is to destroy the queen. Control measures may include mechanical, sanitary or chemical means. Determine your particular tolerance threshold and choose your control method thoughtfully.

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Master Gardeners meeting 7:00			Last frost date for Minnehaha County i.grow		Master Gardeners Plant Sale
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Mother's Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day					