



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

Welcome!

Greetings Garden Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of “Can You Dig It?”. Every month I'll share a little about the calls that are coming into the Marathon & Wood County Extension office, timely articles from trusted UW authors, and a spotlight on a UW resource. Looking to get involved? I'll share citizen science opportunities each month, too. Finally, this is your one stop shop for upcoming local (Marathon and Wood Counties) and virtual state-wide Extension horticulture programs!

Your Truly,

Janell Wehr

Calls to the Marathon & Wood Extension Office

Area residents are noticing flecking on ash trees in their landscapes and adjoining woodlots. This is often due to Emerald Ash Borer activity. The Wisconsin DNR recently released this [news bulletin on flecking and EAB](#).

Suspect EAB in your landscape? Here are [considerations for homeowners](#). This page will walk you through the three main approaches that exist for Wisconsin homeowners dealing with Emerald Ash Borer.

Do you have an ash tree and are considering [if your ash tree is worth treating for Emerald Ash Borer](#)? This webpage walks homeowners through questions like why, when, and how to treat landscape ash trees.

Timely Articles

Lenten Rose, Helleborus × Hybridus

by Susan Mahr, UW-Madison Extension (retired)

Helleborus ×hybridus is a group of evergreen, late-winter or early-spring flowering perennials in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) with the common names of hellebore, oriental hellebores, or Lenten rose (the name Christmas rose refers to H. niger). Helleborus (hellebore) is a small genus of about 20 species of herbaceous perennials native to Europe and Asia. To read more on this article, click the button below!

Lenten Rose

Wintertime is a Great Time to Look for Galls on Trees

by Diana Alfufth, UW-Madison Extension (retired)

With no leaves to block our view, winter allows us to see trunk and branch structure more clearly. We also sometimes see unusual growths, or galls, on tree trunks and branches. There are a variety of different causes, depending on the tree species.

Galls on Trees

Avoiding Winter Salt Injury on your Landscape Plants

by

Laura Jull

Winter is here! Snow and ice on driveways and sidewalks need to be removed with each snow or ice storm that arrives. Are you looking for salt alternatives for your driveway or sidewalk? Do you want to learn more about salt tolerant landscape plants?

Avoiding Salt Injury

UW Resource Spotlight

[Insect ID Tool](#). This online insect identification tool is brought to you by the [UW-Madison Department of Entomology](#) and the [UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab](#).

Get Involved with Citizen Science Opportunities!

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#) with Cornell University. Join the world in connecting with birds! February 16-19.

Upcoming Programs

IN-PERSON LOCAL

Growing Citrus Indoors

Did you know you can keep citrus in containers indoors in Wisconsin? In this program, we'll cover everything you need to be successful including light and soil media, temperature, and fertilizer needs. We'll also cover potential pitfalls, like pests you need to look out for. We'll even cover cultivars to ensure your success!

Marathon County Public Library- Wausau Branch

Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024

10am and 6pm (same program)

Free but [registration is required](#).

Woodson YMCA-The Landing

Wednesday February 21st, 2024

1pm

Free for members, Day pass required for non members

Call 715-841-1855 to register

Vegetable Gardening Series: Mapping out the garden

Learn how crop rotation can reduce diseases and pests while improving soil health. We will also cover how to apply a garden plan to a garden map, keeping mind spacing, heights, and successive, sequential, and crop rotation techniques.

Mosinee School District Community Education @ Creske Library (Mosinee High School)

High schoolers are welcome, but this is intended for adults.

Thursday, Feb 22, 2024

6-7:30pm

Free but registration required. Call 715-693-2550, Ext. 3696

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Growing Citrus Indoors

By popular request! I have often had requests for virtual options for local programs. You asked, and I listened. I will be offering a monthly virtual option. This month you can join the Growing Citrus Indoors program!

February 28 at 10am. [Register here for the Zoom link.](#)

Join Wisconsin Horticulture Extension for the next series of free online gardening programs!

Programs consist of a presentation, followed by time for live Q&A with the presenter. These events are free, but registration is required. If you can't attend during the scheduled time slot, we will send the recorded version shortly after. This series is open to the public and is suitable for gardeners of all skill levels. We hope to see you there!

February 7, 12-12:30pm: Shedding Light on Indoor Gardening

February 13, 12:30-1pm: The Fundamentals of Shrub Pruning

February 21, 12:30-1pm: Low Maintenance, Natural Landscapes for a Neighborly Garden

Learn more and register here: bit.ly/3NWB0bC

This webinar series is hosted by UW-Madison, Division of Extension, Horticulture Program. Visit our website for [upcoming events and learning opportunities](#).

Q&A with the Experts

Join us for these FREE educational online sessions where you can connect with plant health experts to get answers to your garden and landscape questions.

The Ask the Experts: Monthly Garden and Landscape Q&A Series, gets underway Monday, January 22, from 1:00-2:00 PM. These sessions are your chance to ask questions about your trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and ornamentals, and lawn. Whether it's about plant diseases, pesky insects, or the selection and general care of plants in and around your home, our panel of seasoned experts will provide you with insightful answers.

The series will continue on Mondays February 19, March 18, April 22, May 20, June 17, July 22, August 19, September 23, October 21, November 18 and December 16. All sessions are from 1:00-2:00 PM. Registration is required for each webinar. Plan now to attend one or all twelve! This series

is open to the public.

To learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/40VsyP8>



Janell Wehr

Horticulture
Educator

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