



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

Greetings!

It's been a busy month keeping up with horticulture inquiries. Most calls and emails have centered on the diseases the consistent rains have brought forth, but folks have reached out for help with insects and plant ID questions as well.



By far the most exciting inquiry came from a family who discovered the first [hammerhead flatworm](#) in Marathon County! While we haven't observed damage from wandering broadhead hammerhead flatworms in Wisconsin, there are other critters that may pose dangers while outdoors. Check out the publication, "Outdoor hazards in Wisconsin" to learn how to protect yourself from wild animals, insects, and plants this summer. Heading on vacation this summer and not sure how to prepare the garden? Illinois Extension has you covered in the linked episode of their podcast, "Good Growing". In this month's UW Resource Spotlight, I've shared an online tool for identifying insects.

I hope to see you at one of my upcoming in person programs! If you can't make them, there's lots of great online programming. Most of these programs are recorded for viewing later, too. And don't forget to save the date for this year's Sowing Success.

Sowing Success is a 12 week introductory Integrated Pest Management (IPM) based course that teaches participants how to link gardening practices and biology to prevent plant problems. You'll learn how to select, grow, and maintain the health of plants, including lawns, woody and herbaceous ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables. Learn how to apply the principles of IPM to pests, including insects, diseases, weeds, and wildlife. As you learn about how to grow plants in a way that helps them plan for gardening success, you can prevent plant problems before they start and manage issues when they happen. You leave the course with a combination of practical gardening skills to try plus the knowledge of why they work! Join me this fall in Wausau or Marshfield! Details below!

Yours in gardening,

Calls to the Marathon & Wood Extension Office

Last month, a 9 year old budding entomologist discovered the first sighting of the [Wandering Broadhead hammerhead flatworm](#) (*Bipalium adventitium*) in Marathon County! She discovered it in her driveway while tracking down an inchworm. These terrestrial, non-native hammerhead flatworms grow between 2-4 inches long. They are mostly found in damp/wet spots where they feed on (non-native) earthworms. Some flatworms have very low levels of toxins and while risk of poisoning from skin contact is extremely low, we advise people not to touch them out of caution. We have not observed damage caused by these flatworms in Wisconsin and very little is known about effective control measures.

Timely Articles

Winecups, *Callirhoe involucreta*

Looking to add a drought tolerant native to the garden? The intense wine-red blooms are a striking contrast when rambling through Missouri primrose with its lemon yellow flowers. They also combine well with lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*), yarrow (*Achillea*), columbine, daylilies, strawberries, and even prickly pear cactus.

Winecups

Outdoor Hazards in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's bountiful natural resources make it an ideal place for outdoor recreation. Most plants and creatures you encounter won't hurt you, but timber rattlesnakes, yellow jackets, wild parsnip, and others can be troublesome. This guide will help you recognize, avoid, and handle potential problems caused by wildlife, insects, and plants in Wisconsin (36 pages).

Outdoor Hazards in Wisconsin

Catchweed bedstraw, *Galium aparine*

While this fast growing weed causes problems in gardens with moist soils, it also has medicinal uses and can be used as a coffee substitute! Learn effective control measures in this article.

Catchweed Bedstraw

Podcast

Illinois Extension podcast: **Good Growing**

Getting your garden ready for vacation

Have you ever gone on vacation only to come back to an out-of-control landscape or, even worse, dead plants? Check Illinois Extension's Good Growing Podcast to learn about some steps we can take to get our landscapes ready for when we're on vacation.

Podcast

UW Resource Spotlight

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

Browse through 200+ Wisconsin insects by name, type, or by photo. While certain insects can be found across the country, many insects can be region-specific. *Thus, this online tool is most relevant for residents of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region.* If you aren't able to identify your particular insect or would like additional information, visit the main Insect Diagnostic Lab [website](#).

Online Insect Identification Tool

Citizen Science

Wasp Watchers

Calling all baseball enthusiasts!

Wisconsin's forests face a number of threats, including from invasive

metallic wood-boring beetles, known as Buprestid beetles. The most famous Buprestid in Wisconsin is emerald ash borer (EAB), which is continuing to spread across the state, leaving decimated stands of ash trees in its wake. Other invasive Buprestids, like gold-spotted oak borer and oak splendor beetle, have not yet been found in Wisconsin. These and other species threaten our beloved oaks and other tree species. Learn how you can help scientists use biosurveillance to detect Buprestid newcomers - all while at the ballfield this summer!

Wasp Watchers

Upcoming Programs

[Click here for more information, including registration](#)

Local (Marathon & Wood County) Programs In Person

Join me locally for these learning opportunities!

Gardening for resiliency

Wednesday, July 10 2-3:30pm. MCPL-Hatley (Hatley Library)

Multiply your joy with fragrant herbs

Tuesday, July 16 10am. MCPL-Wausau (Wausau Library)

Wednesday, July 17 1pm. Woodson YMCA- The Landing

Save the date: Sowing Success: Evidence-based gardening essentials

Marshfield. Sep-November. Monday evenings.

Wausau. Sept-December. Thursday evenings.

Virtual opportunities for programs!

Can't make it in person? There's other ways to tap into Extension programs!

Q&A with the Experts

Monday, July 22. 1pm

The Role of Moths in Our Ecosystems

Wednesday, July 24, Noon-1 p.m.

Ten diseases of native plants (and non-natives, too)

Wednesday, July 24, 6:30-8:30pm

[Click here for more information, including registration](#)

UW-Madison Extension Events

Stay up to date with virtual and in person programming across Wisconsin on our [Events Calendar](#).



Janell Wehr

Horticulture
Educator

An EEO/AA employer, Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



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