



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MARATHON COUNTY

Greetings!

The dropping temperatures and [turning of colors of leaves](#) is a signal it's time to start preparing for winter. The maintenance work we put in now can help reduce disease and insect pressures next season.



Now is a good time to split spring blooming perennials, such as [bearded iris](#) and peonies. Consider [leaving the stems and leaves](#) of perennial plants that were not affected by foliar diseases. This helps our pollinator friends overwinter for next summer. If you have shallow rooted plants, such as heuchera (coral bells), you will want to provide a nice thick [winter mulch](#) to prevent them from heaving out of the ground.

Be sure to record in your [garden journal](#) any insect or disease issues in your vegetable gardens. While you're at it, record the placement of the vegetables in your garden. This will make [crop rotation](#) easier next year. Remove all plant material. Crop rotation and good sanitation will help reduce diseases and insect pests next year. You'll want to protect your soil over the winter, either with [cover crops](#) or mulch.

Trees and shrubs need [protection from rodents](#) as well as continued watering until the ground freezes. And don't forget to dig up those [tender bulbs](#), like cannas, begonias, and dahlias. You can even [overwinter geraniums](#).

Gardening is ripe with many lessons for life. Fall maintenance is one. If we put in the work now, our future selves will thank us next summer.

Yours in gardening,
Janell

Timely Articles

Selecting Woody Landscape Plants for Fall Color: An Illustrated Guide

When selecting plants for landscaping, consider choosing ones that offer showy fall foliage. This beautifully illustrated 38-page publication provides an extensive (though by no means comprehensive) list of commercially available woody plants that offer spectacular fall color.

Woody Landscape Plants

Overwintering Tender Geraniums

Geraniums are as robust as they are attractive. Overwintering them is not difficult and there are three basic methods on how to do it.

Overwintering Tender Geraniums

How to deal with these little stinkers getting into your home: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Watch out for the pesky “Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)” that sneaks into the homes at this time of the year. In the last few years, the population of BMSB increased in southeast Wisconsin and in several other regions in the state. BMSB is native to Asia and was first detected in Wisconsin in 2010.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

Podcast

Emily Bick, an entomologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, researches ways to better detect the agricultural pests that drive serious economic losses worldwide. She says improving these methods could result in using pesticides more strategically — less often, at just the right time.

Podcast

UW Resource Spotlight

Bird Feeding: Tips for Beginners and Veterans

In this 15 page booklet, you'll find out about feeders and where to place them, food and tips on buying birdseed, water and grit, coping with squirrels, and more!

Bird Feeding

Citizen Science

Wisconsin Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey

To better understand the relative abundance and distribution of deer in the state, the DNR is developing a long-term database of deer hunter observation data. Past efforts have provided the agency with valuable information for managing deer.

WI Deer Hunter Survey

Upcoming Programs

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

Local (Marathon & Wood County) Programs In Person

Join me locally for these learning opportunities!

Putting the garden to bed

Wednesday, October 2 5:30-6:30pm
MCPL- Marathon City Branch (Library)

Beneficial Insects

Thursday, October 3 1-2:30pm
UWSP LIFE (Learning Is ForEver)

VA Wellness Fair

Monday, October 7 10am-Noon
212 River Drive, Wausau

Wildlife Primer

Tuesday, October 8 5:30-7pm
MCPL-Stratford Branch (Library)

Forcing Bulbs

Wednesday October 16 1-2pm and 6-7pm
MCPL-Wausau Branch (library)

Forcing Bulbs

Wednesday October 23 1pm
Woodson YMCA-The Landing

Forcing Bulbs

Wednesday October 23 6pm
Creske Library (Mosinee High School)

Virtual opportunities for programs!

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

Soil Solutions: Boosting Your Garden Soil with Amendments

Tuesday, Oct. 8, Noon–12:30 p.m.

Tackling Tough Weeds: Your Questions, Expert Answers

Thursday, Oct. 10, Noon–1 p.m.

Orchid Diseases

Wednesday, October 23 6:30-8:30pm

Plant Parenting: Choosing the Best Plants for your Indoor Space

Thursday, Oct. 31, Noon–12:30 p.m.

[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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