



# Spring 2020

## Master Gardener Update

### News and Notes

### Recipe of the Month

*Fun for the kids*

#### Scrambled Egg Muffins

##### Ingredients:

- 2 cups vegetables (washed and diced) (broccoli, red or green bell peppers, onion)
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup low fat cheddar cheese, shredded

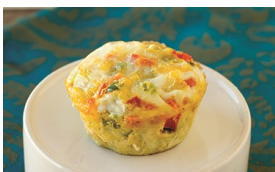
##### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray muffin tin with nonstick spray.
- Add diced vegetables to the muffin tin.
- Beat eggs in a bowl. Stir in salt, pepper, and garlic powder.
- Pour eggs into the muffin tin and bake 20-25 minutes. Remove the tin from the oven during the last 3 minutes of baking. Sprinkle the cheese on top of the muffins and return the tin to the oven.
- Bake until the temperature reaches 160°F or a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.

##### TIPS

Use other vegetables such as mushrooms, tomato, or spinach instead of broccoli and peppers. Vegetables can be *prepared the night before* and stored in the refrigerator for a quick breakfast. *Bake in an 8" x 8" pan* for about 20 minutes. Add ham or Canadian bacon. Serve leftovers in tortillas or with a green salad and roll for a meal idea.

Learn More or Watch How to Make Scrambled Egg Muffins at [Spend Smart. Eat Smart.](#)



### Update on MG Program Activities

From the MG Program office:

Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak and guidelines from Wisconsin Department of Health Services, UW-Madison, and federal agencies,

- ⇒ The following activities are cancelled for now through May:
- Face to face activities regardless of number attending including meetings, educational activities, and other volunteer activities
  - Bus trips
  - Plant sales
- Our priority is for you to stay home and be healthy.*
- ⇒ The following activities are currently allowable (subject to change):
- Ongoing online continuing education activities approved by Extension staff.
  - Volunteerism that can be done from home, such as newsletter creation, social media updates, and similar.
  - Meetings using phone and webinar technology.

- ⇒ Due to reduced ability to be involved in volunteer service projects, the MG Program *volunteer service requirements are suspended* for the remainder of the year. This means MGVs will be able to report *less than 24 hours* of volunteer activity and still be able to maintain certification status. The 10-hour minimum of continuing education *remains* in place.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) and your county health department.

### Tulip Fun Facts :





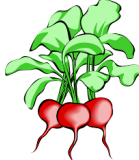



- Tulips are part of the lily family
- Tulip petals are edible and can be used in place of onions in many recipes
- Tulips are native to central Asia but didn't really become popular until reaching the Netherlands
- Tulips only bloom for 3-7 days in the spring

**You can find tulips in almost any color**

### Different colored tulips have different meanings :

- Red—declaration of love
- Yellow—perfect for smiling occasions
- White—forgiveness
- Variegated—symbolizes beautiful eyes—perfect date flower

# SPRING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Click underlined links for more information on a topic...			1 <b>April Fools' Day</b>	2 <u>Have you started your tomato or pepper seeds yet?</u>	3 	4
5	6 <u>Plan out your flower gardens</u>	7	8 <u>Plan out an herb garden</u>	9	10 <u>Remember to begin fertilizing your houseplants</u>	11
12 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 	13	14 <u>Forsythias in bloom? Apply crabgrass preventer</u>	15	16 	17	18
19	20	21	22 <b>Earth Day</b> 	23 <u>Plant a Tree for Future Generations</u>	24 <b>Arbor Day</b>	25
26	27 When soil can be worked, plant cool season crops	28	29	30 <u>Divide perennials that do well divided in the Spring</u>	1 <b>Happy May!</b>	2
3 Stagger plantings of spinach, radish, lettuce & beets for a continuous harvest	4	5 <u>Remember to acclimate your seedlings to the great outdoors</u>	6	7 	8 <u>Lawn Fertilization</u>	9
10 	11 Try a new vegetable in the garden or in a meal!	12	13 Don't forget the hard working pollinators—plant a pollinator friendly garden	14	15 Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs—keep mulch 4-6 inches away from trunk or stems	16
17	18 Keep foliage of tulips, daffodils and other bulbs until it yellows and dies	19	20 <u>Practice Integrated Pest Management</u>	21 	22	23 Deadhead flowers to encourage more blooms
24 Thin seedlings to prevent over-crowding and weak growth	25 <b>Happy Memorial Day!</b>	26 <u>Tips on lawn care</u> 	27	28	29 <u>Start a backyard compost</u>	30

I am following Wisconsin Department of Health Services, UW-Madison, and federal guidelines due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak and am currently working remotely. With the limited access now to county buildings, MGVs do not have access to the Extension offices until further notice. If you need to contact me, please do so via email at [margaret.murphy@wisc.edu](mailto:margaret.murphy@wisc.edu). You can also leave a message at 715-726-7957.

Extension remains a committed partner and continues to serve local needs. You can check out how Extension is responding to COVID-19 here: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/covid19/>. There are resources that may be helpful for your family, finances, food, non-profit, business, and/or farm. We appreciate your patience in this situation. This is surely a new experience and trying time for all of us.

## Meetings by Zoom

Please communicate with me if I can be of assistance in setting up Zoom meetings in April and May. I am scheduled for a training in Zoom on April 8<sup>th</sup>, which should set me up with a UW Zoom account that would allow more people to meet and for longer times. In the meantime, if you don't already have Zoom on your computer, you can download a free account that allows for 40-minute meetings. The meeting organizer sends out an invite with a link that allows invitees to join the meeting. Go to the link below to sign up for free: <https://zoom.us/>. Meetings count toward volunteer service time.

## Opportunities for Continuing Education

- Online **The Right Tree for the Right Site** Saturday, April 4, 2020, 9AM – 3PM - Join this continuing education opportunity that focuses on Tree Selection and Site Requirement. This training will include three presentations and a panel discussion. This training is being hosted by UW-Madison Extension Milwaukee County Master Gardener Program in cooperation with the WI MG Program and the UW-Madison Extension Horticulture Program. Fee:\$30. For more information & to register go to: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/mastergardener/files/2020/03/FINAL-MGV-Level-2-training-2020-registration-FLYER-3-19-AW.pdf>
- **Extension YouTube videos** on horticulture/gardening, regional to the Midwest  
Here are a few I have found from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener webinars- *(please keep in mind, some content may not apply to our area)*:
  - \* Compost 101 & Growing Roses-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHRy2Z6Zldg>
  - \* Limited Space Gardening- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpxL\\_OtuoMY&t=39s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpxL_OtuoMY&t=39s)
  - \* Ecology Plus Diversity- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8rDd2bjwCQ>
  - \* Insect Update & Tree Care- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IRwrOzNk88>
- The **Plants Plus series** includes a remix of past training presentations, printed materials and other references focused on specific plants or gardening topics. The information goes more in depth than a typical Extension publication for those who want to focus on specific topics. To get MGVC continuing education credit, watch the video and read the supporting materials, and complete the short quiz included with each group. Click here to get started: <https://wimastergardener.org/plants-plus/>
- Larry Meiller radio program "[Garden Talk](#)"

## Changes re: submitting plant, insect and soil samples

- Currently, UW-Madison sites that analyze yard and garden soil samples are not accepting samples due to the University's policy to prevent the spread of Covid 19. The University of Minnesota may still be accepting soil samples. Visit their website for more information: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>.
- The Plant Disease and Diagnostic Center is also not accepting physical samples for plant disease diagnosis. You are welcome to email plant disease questions and digital photos to the PDDC at [hudelson@wisc.edu](mailto:hudelson@wisc.edu) or [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu). Clinic staff members will do their best to provide assistance.
- To date, the UW Insect Diagnostic Lab is still able to accept physical samples by mail at this time. You are welcome to send digital photos for insect/arthropod IDs. See details on the lab's website: <https://insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/2020/03/20/insect-diagnostics-in-the-age-of-covid-19/>. Keep in mind this may change so check the website before sending a sample.



# Farm Technology Days

This year, the Farm Technology Days event is being hosted on the Huntsinger Farms in Eau Claire County, July 21-23, 2020

Currently, the plan is for the event to go on as scheduled so I am reaching out to Master Gardener Volunteers to ask for volunteer help in covering the horticulture / Master Gardener booth and/or provide garden containers for the Extension Education tent.

The shift schedule for the booth is:

- Tuesday, July 21st from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, July 22nd from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm, and 4:00 – 7:00 pm
- Thursday, July 23rd from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm (folks who work the late shift on this day, will be asked to help pack up)

Right now we have JP Liesch, Director of the UW-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab scheduled at the booth to answer insect questions on Tuesday morning 9 am—12:30 pm. On Wednesday, Dr. Brian Hudelson, Director of the UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, will present on vegetable diseases at 10 am on the main stage in the tent and then be available to answer questions at the booth Wednesday afternoon.

We are looking for MGVs to help cover the additional shifts with Ask-A-Master Gardener times.

The hope is to have 2 people at the booth for each shift, including the shifts that PJ and Brian will be at the booth. I plan to be there all three days too but maybe not for the entire day.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in creating a container or containers showcasing plants that grow well in small spaces (vegetables, flowers, herbs), demonstrate space-saving techniques or offer other educational opportunities.

There is a chance that this event will be cancelled. We should know more by the end of April but please let me know if you have an interest in participating in this event.

## Keeping an eye out for Bumble Bees

All bumble bees belong to the genus *Bombus* within the family Apidae. The family Apidae includes the well-known honey bees and bumble bees, as well as carpenter bees, cuckoo bees, digger bees, stingless bees, and orchid bees.

Bumble bees are important pollinators of wild flowering plants and crops. As generalist foragers, they do not depend on any one flower type. However, some plants do rely on bumble bees to achieve pollination. Bumble bees are able to fly in cooler temperatures and lower light levels than many other bees, and they perform a behavior called “buzz pollination,” in which the bee grabs the pollen producing structure of the flower in her jaws and vibrates her wing musculature causing vibrations that dislodge pollen that would have otherwise remained trapped in the flower’s anthers. Some plants, including tomatoes, peppers, and cranberries, require buzz pollination. The major threats to bumble bees include habitat destruction or alteration, pesticides, invasive species, low genetic diversity and climate change.

Source: [www.xerces.org/bumblebees/](http://www.xerces.org/bumblebees/)



Photo: Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Quick Links

[WI Master Gardener](#)

[MG Online Hours Login](#)

[The Learning Store](#)

[Plant Disease  
Diagnostic Clinic](#)

[UW Insect Diagnostic  
Lab](#)

[UW Soil Lab—Lawn &  
Garden](#)

[WIMGA](#)

[Questions or Comments](#)

**For questions, comments or to contribute an article or photo**

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