



# Digging in Dodge

## Winter Safety

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The snow has arrived, and may stay for more than a day or two. For those that like fitness, fifteen minutes of snow shoveling counts as moderate exercise. Those who want a good excuse for hiring someone else to shovel, snow shoveling is responsible for thousands of injuries and as many as 100 deaths each year.

For those doing the shoveling, the National Safety Council recommends the following tips for doing so safely:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take it slow and stretch out before you begin
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter
- Push the snow rather than lifting it
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Lift with your legs, not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion
- Know the signs of a heart attack, and stop immediately and call 911 if you're experiencing any of them; every minute counts.

Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

If you are opting for a snow blower rather than a shovel, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons has a few safety tips for you:

- If the blower jams, turn it off
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide

risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space

- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running
- Never leave it unattended when it is running

Another winter concern, carbon monoxide poisoning. In addition to installing a carbon monoxide detector in your home, here are other tips from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fireplace damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly
- Never use a gas oven for heating your home
- Never let a car idle in the garage
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

This may not be a typical garden article, but your safety is first and foremost, no matter what the season.

Have a safe winter.

Chris Jacobs, Certified Master Gardener

## Upcoming Meetings

Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to attend the following free programs. Master Gardener meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau.

**January 24—*Project Year in Review*** by Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers. A review of projects they participated in during 2018, complete with photos and discussion.

**February 28—*Youth Master Gardeners*** share what they've learned. Dodge County Youth Master Gardener Association began in 2015 with two classes, one at the Mayville School District and one at Hustisford. Since then it has grown to four classes, adding a Homeschool class that meets in Juneau in 2016 and one at the HoNoR School district in 2017. Last year 34 young people became certified Youth Master Gardeners. Members of the current classes will present something that they have learned in the past year. Students in the Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes cover a wide range of topics from wildlife control, insects, soil, plant diseases, trees, how plants grow, water cycle, phenology, invasive species, landscape planning, and more. Join us and see what you can learn from these very talented and bright young people.

**March 28—*Member Sharing***. Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers will be sharing their trials and triumphs that they have experienced with their various gardening projects. It might be a new variety of vegetable that did great—or not. Maybe it was a new type of mulch... a new piece of equipment or old one... something they tried for the first time... come and find out! Learn from their mistakes, experiments, and lifelong practices.

**April 25—*Annual Business Meeting***. Association business, including presentation of certification cards, updates on all projects, the annual potluck plus finalizing plans for fund raiser.



*Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream.*

*~ Josephine Nuese*



### Master Gardener Websites

<http://www.wimastergardener.org/>

<https://wimga.org/>

<http://dodge.uwex.edu/master-gardener/>

### Master Gardener E-mail

[askamastergardener@att.net](mailto:askamastergardener@att.net)



## Events of Interest

### Bring A Little Summer Inside—Learn How to Grow Windowsill Herbs

Saturday, February 2, 2019 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Cost \$2/person

The Watermark, Beaver Dam



Most herb aficionados agree that fresh grown herbs are much better than dried or anything purchased. However, winter tends to put a cramp in what can be grown outside. Take heart; there are a number of culinary herbs that can be easily grown inside with a little effort.

Beaver Dam Community Activities & Services (BDCAS) will host Certified Master Gardener Carol Shirk for some tips on growing herbs, which ones will do best inside, how to combat pests, and find some great recipes to use your final product.

Each participant will be able to plant an herb or two to take home and grow on their own windowsill.

Please note that class size is limited, and advanced registration is required for this program. Deadline to register is Friday, January 25.

Register now online at [www.cityofbeaverdam.com/bdcas](http://www.cityofbeaverdam.com/bdcas), by mail, use the drop box near our Center Street entrance or stop in our office Monday-Friday between 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at 209 South Center Street in The Watermark. Please call 887-4639 with additional questions.

### Wisconsin Garden Expo

February 8—10, 2019

Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison



Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo is a midwinter oasis for people ready to venture out and dig their hands in the dirt. This three-day event celebrates the latest trends in gardening, landscaping and edibles, and attracts more than 20,000 people from across the Midwest. Join other gardening enthusiasts to share ideas, gain inspiration and create something new. All proceeds support Wisconsin Public Television. For more information go to: <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

### The Art of Pruning

Saturday, February 16, 2019 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Fee: \$20

UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison



Learn the science, tools, and techniques to help ensure healthy tree structure and proper wound closure, as well as shrub pruning for plant renewal. Instructor: David Stevens, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens curator. Register by February 12. More information at <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/events/>

### Perennial Garden Maintenance

Thursday, April 4, 6:30-8 p.m.

Cost: \$17/\$13 member | Course Number: 10-20

Olbrich Gardens, Madison



Perennial garden colors and forms are dynamic, which results in a dynamic garden maintenance program. Pinching, cutting back, dividing, and other gardening tasks are all done at different times throughout the seasons. Learn how to make your perennial garden easier to maintain through design and plantings.

**Instructor:** Paul Drobot, Perennial Landscapes

**Registration Deadline:** March 28

<http://www.olbrich.org/education/>

For more events, visit the Wisconsin Master Gardener website at <http://wimastergardener.org/>

# Plant Trials

## Project 19-52

A new project for 2019. For those interested—here are some guidelines.

The Plant Trial committee will decide on which plants will be on trial yearly. This year there will be two vegetables, an herb, and a flower.

There will be three different varieties of each type of plant. i.e.—carrots... One would be a variety that has been “tried and true” to this area. Another would be a heritage/open pollinator variety. The third one would be a non-traditional color.

The results from the trial will be collected from all participants and shared with other Master Gardeners and the public.

Those participating:

- Can choose to do any number of trials
- Will receive seeds and planting instructions of the varieties chosen
- Will receive enough seeds to plant a 3’ row of each variety
- Will keep track of growing conditions and practices used such as mulch used, if any, watering, type of soil, and type of garden, any trouble with pests or diseases
- Will rate quality and flavor
- Write a summary at end of growing year

Goals: To trial specific vegetable, herb and flower varieties, evaluate and share information. Evaluation data includes germination rate, growing habit, flavor, size, color and texture. Results from data collected will be compiled and reported in the Dodge County Master Gardener Association newsletter, “Digging in Dodge”, the WIMGA newsletter and local newspapers. Results are used to recommend varieties to gardeners based on best growth performance in our Wisconsin area.



## 2019 Scholarship

The Dodge County Master Gardener Association will award their annual \$1000.00 scholarship to a high school senior who is planning a career in some area of horticulture.

The recipient must be a graduating senior from any public, parochial high school or home school in Dodge County.

The student must have applied to a two or four year accredited college or technical school that has a program leading to a degree or certification in the horticultural area. Careers may include, but are not limited to, teaching, plant pathology, agronomy, agricultural engineer, landscape contractor, or landscape architect.

As part of the scholarship application, the student will be required to write a statement of 300 or fewer words that his/her chosen career will meet the requirement of horticultural or related studies. Additionally, the student will need to provide two letters of recommendation. The specifics are detailed on the application form.

The completed 5-page scholarship form must be submitted or postmarked no later than March 20, 2019 to the scholarship committee chairperson whose address is on the application form.

Application forms are available in the guidance offices of Dodge County area high schools. They include Beaver Dam High School, Dodgeland High School, Horicon High School, Hustisford High School, Lomira High School, Mayville High School, Randolph High School, Watertown High School, and Waupun High School.

## Phenology—The Study of the Seasons

Wisconsin is blessed with four distinct seasons unlike our southern neighbors who don't necessarily enjoy definite differences in the seasons. We see the trees bud and bloom in the spring, leaf out and grow in the summer, turn into blazes of color in the fall, and then drop their leaves during the winter. We see the geese return in the spring to lay their eggs and raise their chicks through the summer. When fall comes, they head south, and we have a goose-less landscape for the winter. These changes give us a front-row seat to practice phenology: the study of seasonal changes and timing. This centuries-old science is of great benefit to gardeners as well as farmers, foresters, naturalists, hunters, birder watchers, and fishermen.

The word phenology comes from the Greek word *phaino* meaning "to appear or to show." Sometimes called "the science of seasons," phenological observations have been used for centuries to prepare for upcoming events. Spring sets off a series of events such as tree bud break, animal emergence from hibernation, bird migration, and insect emergence. However, phenologists are not just interested in the spring events but track the entire seasonal cycle.

Considered one of the oldest sciences, the Chinese are thought to have recorded phenological data as early as 974 B.C. The Japanese have kept records of the peak cherry blossoms since the mid-ninth century. In Europe during the 18th century Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist and the father of plant taxonomy, kept meticulous notes on 18 different locations for climate conditions and flowering times. In England, wealthy landowner Robert Marsham, kept copious notes of phenological changes including flower blooms, insect emergence, bud burst, weather conditions, bird migration, butterfly appearance, etc. His family continued what he began, and the records span several generations, providing long-term climate records. Linnaeus and Marsham are considered to be the founders of modern phenology.

Closer to home, Aldo Leopold came to Wisconsin in 1924. From 1935–1945 he recorded volumes of seasonal events from his Sauk County home. In 1949 his observations were published posthumously in a book, *A Sand County Almanac*. His daughter Nina continued his work and went on to publish more of their work.

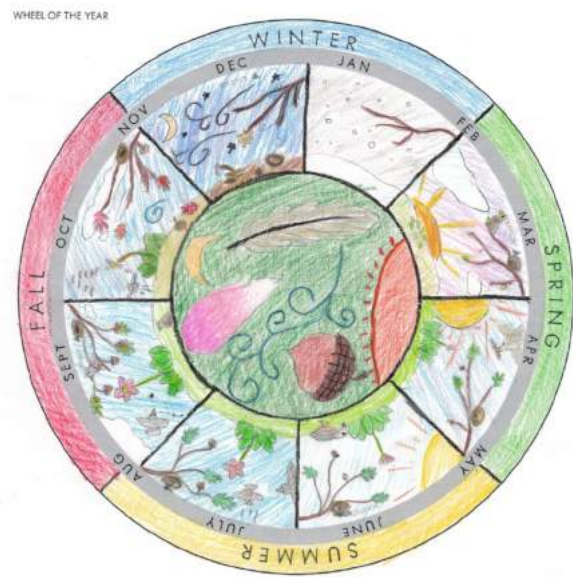
Many cultures use phenological indicators to predict events. Native Americans planted their corn when the oak leaves were the size of a mouse (or squirrel) ear. While there isn't a correlation between oak leaves,

corn, and mouse ears, we now know that when the leaves reach this size, the ground has warmed enough for the corn to germinate and not rot in the soil. Other gardening indicators include planting peas when forsythia bloom, plant potatoes when the first dandelions bloom, and plant warm season crops when lilacs bloom.

Gardening phenology indicators are not just confined to planting time. Eastern caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) egg hatch coincides with bud break on flowering crab apple and wild plum trees. Pay attention and proactively control them before they defoliate your trees. When chicory starts to bloom, be vigilant for squash vine borers (*Melittia cucurbitae*). When Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is in bloom, it is time to treat for apple maggots (*Rhagoletis pomonella*).

Does this topic interest you? Gathering a larger body of data benefits the scientist who correlate the information as well as future generations. If you wish to become a phenological observer, contact the Wisconsin Phenological Society or the USA National Phenology Network and contribute your observations.

Carol Shirk  
Certified Master Gardener



Phenology wheel by a Youth Master Gardener

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*The color of springtime is in the  
flowers; the color of winter is  
in the imagination.  
~ Terri Guillemets*

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