



Seeing Blue in 2020

Pantone and Sherwin Williams have selected shades of blue as the Color of the Year - Classic Blue (Pantone 19-4052), the color of the sky at sunset and Naval (SW 6244) which is a rich shade of blue. Blue is a cool and calming primary color.

In the garden, blue can add an illusion of depth, make small spaces feel bigger, or provide serenity to your backyard. Blue can be a difficult color to find naturally, it typically looks more lavender or purple than a true blue.

Blue works well with other colors in the garden. Blue and silver provide a restful scene. For a subtle contrast combine with lavender, grey or green. Blue can add pizzazz when combined with yellow and orange, or it can stabilize chartreuse, magenta, or hot pink. There are a variety of annuals, perennials, grasses, ornamental fruits, shrubs and trees that can in various shades of blue.

Besides for plants, blue can be added to structures such as benches, containers, birdfeeders or other decorative items.



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Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) have tubular flowers with white stripes on the outside of their throats. Rare true blue flowers.



Balloon Flower (*Platycodon grandifloras*) Perennial with blue star shaped blooms that last for several weeks in the summer.



Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) Sky blue flowers. Blooms mid-summer. Each flower only blooms for one day. Found along roadsides.



'Jack Frost' Brunnera is a perennial for the shade garden that produces sprays of pale blue flowers in the spring. .



Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) are spring native wildflowers with sky blue trumpet shaped flowers that will last many weeks.



Delphinium has the truest blue flowers that come in a variety of shades and forms. All parts of delphinium are poisonous.



Blue Flag Iris (*Iris Versicolor*) is a native plant that forms a mass of blue lavender blooms.



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 23—*Project Year in Review* by Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers. A review of projects they participated in during 2019, complete with photos and discussion.

February 27—*Maple Syrup* by Theresa Baroun Theresa will talk about the History of Wisconsin Maple Industry. We will explore Beginner Maple 101: how to make maple syrup, tree identification, how to tap, and how to the finish the product. We will learn differences in grades of syrup, nutritional value, and value-added products. Theresa is a maple syrup producer at Maple Sweet Dairy in De Pere and has been the Executive Director of the WMSPA for four years. In her position she takes care of planning WMSPA Association events, membership, working with the state on maple issues and attends many maple events throughout the year.

March 26— *Growing Roses in a Cold Environment* by Dick Zondag. Dick joined the family business, Jung Seed Company after attending Hope College, UW Madison, and receiving his MS from Cornell. He also occasionally appears on WI Public Radio on "Garden Talk". He is now partially retired, but still enjoys his radio program on the radio station in Beaver Dam, WI answering gardening question from his audience. He has been on many industry and other boards including Wisconsin Lutheran College.

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Master Gardener Websites

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

<https://wimga.org/>

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



Master Gardener E-mail

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Master Gardener Program in Dodge County 2019 Annual Report

At the end of 2019, 34 Master Gardener Volunteers reported 2,385 hours of volunteer service for an estimated value of \$57,228 (Independent Sector). They also reported 571 hours of continuing education and reached an estimated 15,822 individuals with various outreach projects.

Engaging Elders at Senior Expos

Master Gardener Volunteers interact with over 300 Seniors at both the Beaver Dam and Waupun Senior Expos. The Master Gardener booth is always a very popular booth with the attendees as they come to learn about horticulture topics, play a game, and win prizes. One MGV does a 45-minute presentation at the event which draws attention from not only the Seniors, but also many vendors.



Talking to clients about horticulture topics at the Beaver Dam Senior Expo.

Educating the Community with Gardening for Gold

Gardening for Gold is a daylong fall symposium with four speakers on current and trend setting horticultural topics. This was our fifth year and we had many returnees in the 70 participants who gave rave reviews to the event. People went home with copious ideas on improving their home landscapes. A tasty lunch as well as a silent auction rounded out the event and gave the participants something tangible to take with them as well as helped our organization raise much needed funds.



Putting together a pot of microgreens to take home at Gardening for Gold.

Gardening with Individuals with Dementia

Master Gardeners partner with ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) to bring quarterly programs on horticultural topics to early dementia clients and their caregivers. From pressing flowers to growing different varieties of pumpkins, the 12 participants come each quarter to learn and engage in hands-on projects. The program gives caregivers a much-needed respite from the stress of continual care, as well as sparks memories that might be dormant for the client. Clients often say that it is their favorite program of the month.



After learning how to press flowers, SPARK participants made a framed picture to take home.

Educating the Public through Media Outreach

Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers reach out to the county in various media formats in order to hit a vast range of populations. Master Gardener volunteers write newspaper articles for three newspapers that cover most of the county. These articles are then posted on Facebook and the Extension web site. Master Gardener Volunteers are also regular guests on a Community Comment radio program promoting events, the Help Line, and our organization. In this manner we impact hundreds of individuals, many of whom comment to us that they heard, read, or viewed our information through one of these venues.

2020 Scholarship

The Dodge County Master Gardener Association will award its annual \$1000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who attends a Dodge County public, private, or home school and who is planning a career in some area of horticulture.

The student must have applied to a two year technical or four year college planning a career in a horticulture-related program. Careers may include, but are not limited to, horticulture, plant science, soil science, agriculture, environmental science, landscaping, forestry, and science education.

As part of the application, the student will write a statement of career goals and provide two letters of recommendation in addition to class rank, GPA, and test scores. The deadline for applying is **March 6**. Applications have been sent to Dodge County High Schools - Beaver Dam, Dodge, Dodgeville, Horicon, Hustisford, Lomira, Mayville, Randolph, Watertown, Waupun, and Central Wisconsin Christian and to the agriculture teachers/ FFA advisors.

Master Gardener Annual Enrollment

If you have not done so, complete the annual enrollment process by the start of February. Visit the [Online Reporting System](#) where you will be automatically prompted to do so. For more detailed information about the annual enrollment process please see the following resources: [Master Gardener Website: Toolbox](#)

Winter Gardening Tasks

- ✧ Keep indoor plants clean. Use a soft, wet rag to wipe away any dust that accumulates on leaves. This will enhance the photosynthesis process for your light hungry plants.
- ✧ Study the winter landscape at botanical gardens, your neighbors' yards and community parks. Take photos of favorite natural scenes and do a little research to identify plants and grasses that create interest in winter gardens. Use this knowledge to plan a garden that will offer year-round delights.
- ✧ Peruse garden/seed catalogues to help determine new and exciting vegetable varieties to try in the garden. Develop a plan for the garden before placing your order.
- ✧ Plan out and design the vegetable garden--try to implement crop rotation of vegetable families to reduce disease buildup
- ✧ If storing bulbs, check the bulb's condition to ensure they are firm, removing any soft or rotten bulbs.
- ✧ Consider growing herbs and/or microgreens indoors to add fresh greens to your diet.
- ✧ Monitor herbs and other indoor plants for aphids and mites.
- ✧ Prune back over grown and leggy herbs.
- ✧ Pinch back leggy geraniums, coleus, and other annuals that are overwintering as houseplants. Remove the growing tips or pinch stems back to just above a set of healthy leaves. This encourages branching and stouter stems.
- ✧ Check roses and make sure winter protection is secure. Locate and replace any rose shelters, rose cones, or mulch that may have blown away during a storm.
- ✧ Monitor landscape for snow, deicing salt, and animal damage.
- ✧ Prune winter-damaged branches as they are found. Wait until the snow melts and the worst of winter has passed to start major pruning.

Month-By-Month Gardening in Wisconsin—Melinda Myers

National Garden Bureau's 2020 Year of The.....

Each year the National Garden Bureau selects one annual, one perennial, one bulb crop, one edible and one shrub as our "Year of the" crops. Plants are chosen because they are popular, easy-to-grow, widely adaptable, genetically diverse, and versatile.

Annual—Year of the Lantana



Lantana Little Lucky
Hot Pink by Ball Flora -
National Garden Bureau

Long lasting colorful blooms.
Superior heat tolerance.
Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.
Few diseases and relatively insect free.
Deer and rabbits don't like.
Use in containers, hanging baskets, and landscaping.
There are 150 species of lantana in the verbena family.

Perennial—Year of the Lavender



Lavender Scent White Early
by Syngenta Flowers -
National Garden Bureau

Lavender is a member of the mint family and is found worldwide.
Most common types:
English Lavender—hardest in terms of garden performance. Florets and foliage are heavily scented.
Spanish or French Lavender—native to the Mediterranean.

More fragile than English variety and less winter hardy.

Flowers and leaves of lavender are used in many herbal and self care regimes.

Bulb—Year of the Iris



Iris Blue Diamond by Brecks -
National Garden Bureau

Iris takes its name from the Greek word for a rainbow.

The genus includes 250-300 species.

Each iris flower has two types of petals. The "standard" petal

stands upright and includes the three top petals. The three lower petals, the "falls" curve downward. Three main types of iris:

Bearded—identified by the thick, busy "beards" on each of the falls. Grown from rhizomes.

Beardless—often used for naturalizing a garden or perennial border. Often called "water iris"

Dutch—grown from a bulb. Popular flower used by florist.

Edible—Year of the Corn

Sweet corn continues to be among America's favorite vegetable. It's abundant, adaptable and highly versatile.

Corn was first grown by several Native American tribes and was given to Europeans by the Iroquois.



Corn Strawberry by
Seeds by Design -
National Garden Bureau

Four most well known types of corn:

Field corn—grown to feed livestock.

Ornamental corn—grown primarily for its decorative purposes.

Popcorn—majority of popcorn sold worldwide is produced in the United States.

Sweet corn—most popular of the corns. Homegrown sweet corn is easy to grow.

Comes in a variety of colors—most common colors are white, yellow and bicolor. Pigment color of the kernels is not genetically linked to flavor - so no color kernel is sweeter than another.

Shrub—Year of the Hydrangea

Most sought after shrub in North America.

First cultivated in Japan, but are native to both Asia and the Americas.



Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry by First Editions
Plants - National Garden
Bureau

Four most popular species in North America

Bigleaf (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)- have the classic mophead bloom. Require very little pruning.

Smooth (*Hydrangea arborescens*) - big, white pompom bloom. Prune in late winter/early spring.

Panicle (*Hydrangea paniculate*)- cone shaped blooms that emerge white and age to various shades of lime, pink and red. Prune late winter/early spring to the ground.

Oakleaf (*Hydrandgea quercifolia*)- earliest blooming species. Native to North America. Prune right after flowering.

