



Japanese Anemone

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Graceful, delightful, elegant, charming, and spectacular are all words that are used to describe the Japanese anemones. These plants signal summer's end and the beginning of fall and shorter days and cooler weather.

Japanese anemones, also known as fall-blooming anemones or windflowers, have been around since the 17th century. Originally thought to be from Japan it was later determined that they are native to China.

Japanese anemones are members of the Ranunculus (buttercup) family. The flowers sway in the breeze on tall slender stems, giving them the common name of windflower. They have a clumping habit, and once established they will spread by rhizomes to form large colonies. The plant can be aggressive but are not considered invasive in the Upper Midwest. The shallow roots allow for the easy removal of unwanted sprouts, although root segments can re-sprout if left in the soil.

These plants are hardy in zones 4-7. They prefer soils that are moist but well-drained and do not tolerate drought or being waterlogged. Root rot can occur in waterlogged conditions. Plant in full to part-sun. They thrive in light to medium shade, although too much shade can result in leggy plants that flop over easily.

There are numerous varieties of Japanese anemones. Most are less than 3 feet tall, but some cultivars can reach 5 feet when in bloom. Blooms are typically 2-3 inches and range in color from

creamy to pure white, purple, and a range of pinks. Flower forms vary from single, semi-double, and double. All blooms have a dense ring of yellow stamens. There are multiple buds on the stems providing a long flowering period – it's not uncommon for plants to bloom continuously for more than two months. After the petals drop, globe shaped seed heads form adding interest to the garden. The seed head may also provide nesting material for hummingbirds and other small songbirds. Deadheading is not necessary to prolong blooming. They make great long lasting cut flowers that will keep their color.

Japanese anemones are late to come up in the spring, which make them a good cover for dying foliage of spring bulbs. When needed, plants should be divided in the spring. After a hard frost the plants can be cut back to the ground. Good drainage and a winter mulch will help with the plant overwintering successfully.

Japanese anemones are not bothered by too many pests. Slugs and snails may like to munch on new growth and Japanese beetles can defoliate the plant.

Chris Jacobs
Master Gardener Volunteer



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.

Until further notice, in-person Master Gardener meetings are on pause.
For meeting updates watch for emails or Facebook posts.

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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 of the Month



Faith Zoellick, the Master Gardener Volunteer of the Month, took her training in 2018. Although newer to the organization, she has become a very valuable member. She stepped in right away and took on the monumental task of coordinating the Seeds for Kids project in 2021.

Through this project, DCMGA distributed over 5000 packets of seeds to public and parochial elementary school children in Dodge County along with information about the importance of pollinators.

Faith's mom has always loved to garden and passed that passion along to her daughter. At 87 years old, her mom continues to garden, although she no longer has to work the large vegetable garden that she needed to feed her five children.

Faith's specialty is flowers, flowers, and more flowers. She enjoys experimenting to see what she can add to her patio and landscape each year. She has several hibiscus that have come back bigger and better each year for the past few seasons. That has given her the encouragement she needed to try and start some seeds that she collected from them.

Her best garden advice as she gardens is: Right plant/Right place. She tried cilantro one year in the perfect spot and had a bumper harvest! She especially enjoys weeding, although that is an acquired taste. She didn't appreciate it as much when she was younger and was required to do so. Now, she finds it therapeutic to get the weeds out and allow the proper plant to grow and flourish.

Thanks, Faith, for being a great and willing volunteer. We are looking forward to many years of service.

Seed Saving and Sharing

Fall is a good time to ponder how the garden performed. Was there a plant that you particularly liked and want to try again? Saving seeds is a good indication that you have joined the ranks of the serious gardener.

To save seeds from your garden, there are a few basics to follow. Do not save seeds from hybrids. Seeds saved from hybrid plants will not produce the same plant, but will be a mix of the grandparents of the plant. However, seeds collected from open pollinated or heirloom plants will produce true plants to the parents.

To save pure seed, plant just one variety of the species. Some plants are self-pollinating, but others are not and cross-pollination will compromise the seed. If cross pollination occurs, the resulting seed will be a cross between the two varieties.

Harvest only fully mature seeds. Seed structures should remain on the plant until they turn brown and dry. If inclement weather threatens, pull the entire plant and hang it to dry in an enclosed area.

Some vegetable plant seeds are not ready to harvest until they are well past the edible stage, including cucumber, beans, and peas.

Clean seeds before storing by a dry or wet method. Use the dry method for beans, peas, lettuce, most flowers, and herbs. Allow them to dry as long as possible on the plant; complete the drying process on a screen in a well-ventilated area.

Use the wet method for any seed that is contained in a fleshy fruit, such as melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Scoop the seed masses into a jar and cover with a small amount of water. Allow the mixture to ferment for two to four days, stirring daily. This process kills any virus and bacteria and separates the bad seeds from the good, allowing the good seeds to sink to the bottom. Spread the good seed out on a paper towel to completely dry them.

Label accurately and store all seeds in a cool dry location.

Carol Shirk
Master Gardener Volunteer

"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today." — ro er

Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*)



aka: writing spider—legend has it that if you disturb or damage the web, then the spider will write your name when it reweaves the web

The yellow garden spider is beneficial - it eats mosquitoes, gnats, flies, aphids, and other bothersome pests

They are not poisonous—their venom is harmless to humans.

Females are up to three times larger than the males.

Big, visible, circular webs, that can reach 2 feet in diameter, appear all around the garden, especially in the late summer or early fall. The web has a highly visible zigzagging X-shaped pattern called a

stabilimentum. Entomologists theorize that it might be there to warn birds of the web!

It takes hours for the spider to create its impressive web. The spider may eat and re-spin its web each night.

Most spiders have two claws on each foot, but the yellow garden spider has an additional claw to help it spin the complex web.

Spider silk is one of the strongest natural fibers.

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/garden-spiders/>
<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Invertebrates/Yellow-Garden-Spider>

Great Black Wasp (*Sphex pensylvanicus*)

aka: Katydid Hunter and Steel-blue Cricket Hunter

Great black wasp is a species of a solitary, hunting, digger wasp.

They are common pollinators in mid to late summer.

The adults drink nectar from flowers while hunting for prey for their young. The females hunt katydids and related insects to provision her solitary ground nests for her young to eventually feed and develop on.

The Great Black Wasp females build their nests in the ground. She will dig about a foot beneath the soil and create a series of tunnels using her mouth and spiny legs. Each chamber is assigned an egg and a paralyzed insect to go with it.

When a brood tunnel is eventually filled up with developing young, a female will seal off the chamber to protect the larvae from parasites or thieves coming to steal her young's food. To do this, she will often use her head and vibrate her abdomen to tamp down the soil but may also use small tools like a pebble or

piece of a stick to do the job

The males are territorial and their only purpose is fertilization.

A female Great Black Wasp will clean up the garden of herbivorous pests and pollinate flowers into the early fall

In their Field Guide to Insects of North America, Eaton and Kaufman say that the solitary wasps are “Perhaps our most undervalued insects, many are gentle and colorful.”



<https://uwm.edu/field-station/great-black-wasp/>

<https://www.entomology.umn.edu/small-wonders-april-2021>

Fall Tree and Shrub Planting

A well-known, but anonymous, quote states: “The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second-best time is now.” The benefits of trees and shrubs cannot be overstated. Trees provide shade, prevent soil erosion, improve air and water quality, create homes for wildlife, and increase property values. While spring is the best time to plant a tree, many can still be planted in the fall.

Fall planting can be successful as long as you do not wait too long, do not choose a fragile and difficult to establish species, and are willing to invest time to properly care for your new specimen.

Most deciduous trees that are “balled and burlapped” or in a container already have well established root systems and can withstand fall planting. Do not plant bare-rooted trees in the fall, but limit them to spring planting. Fall planting needs to occur early enough that the soil temperature is above 55 degrees. In our area, this will be true until roughly mid-October. Conifers prefer soil temperatures in the range of 60–70 degrees and should be planted earlier, before late September.

There are some species that do not adapt well to fall planting. Those include: sweet gum, fir, American hornbeam, ginkgo, larch, willow, bald cypress, hemlock, red maple, birch, hawthorn, poplars, cherries, plum and oaks. These trees are susceptible to winter damage and should be reserved for spring planting.

The following trees make good candidates for fall planting: alder, ash, buckeye or horse chestnut,

catalpa, crabapple, hackberry, hawthorn, honey locust, elm, Kentucky coffee tree, linden, maple, sycamore, pines, and spruces.

Most deciduous shrubs can be planted in the fall. However, broadleaf evergreens like rhododendrons and narrow leaf evergreens like yews prefer spring planting. A good rule of thumb is to plant shrubs with few, larger roots in the spring. Those with shallow, fibrous root systems can make the transition to fall planting.

Fall planted trees and shrubs will require some additional attention. Plant them immediately upon arrival. If you are uncertain about proper tree planting procedure, this brochure covers it in complete detail: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/files/2014/11/Tree-Planting-Brochure-VPandian.pdf>. Many trees do not make it through one season because they were not planted correctly.

Once planted, make sure the tree gets an inch of water each week until the ground freezes. Do so even after deciduous trees have lost their leaves. Adding mulch around the base of the tree will help conserve moisture.

Wrap the bark of the thinner barked trees in November to prevent damage, but be sure to remove it in early spring. If necessary, stake the tree.

Carol Shirk
Master Gardener Volunteer



Why plant in the fall?

No transplant shock

Plants use less water in the fall.

Plants grow and flower faster compared to spring-planted perennials.

Warm soil encourages root growth until the ground freezes.

Better root growth increases the nutrients stored in the plant over winter.

Established roots can better handle harsh winds of spring and heat of summer.

Now's a great time to fertilize your lawn

Lawns benefit from fertilization at least once a year with nitrogen-containing products to maintain turf density, prevent runoff, and retain the ability to shade out weed seedlings. If you only do it once, the most important time to fertilize is now, around Labor Day into early September! Apply no more than one pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet per application. Be sure to check the 'N' (nitrogen) number on the label of your product, which indicates the percentage of nitrogen present in the product. You will need to do a little math to calculate how much of it is needed for one pound or less per 1000 square feet if it is not listed in the instructions.

Autumn fertilization in early September promotes faster green-up and growth next spring. For conventional lawn fertilizers, ideally, select one with at least 25-50% slow release (insoluble) nitrogen—this information should be written on the bag. Avoid blends with a high proportion of quick-release, water soluble nitrogen. Higher solubility means there is a great chance that the nitrogen will wash through the soil and not help your lawn. Sandy soils or soils with high water tables are particular concerning since the nitrogen may get into groundwater.

While turfgrass grown in sun needs one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet; turfgrass grown in shade needs less; one-half pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Don't add more in shade thinking it will get you stronger turf, because it will just result in weak lush growth that may be more susceptible to diseases like powdery mildew or rust. You can reduce the amount of fertilizer you need to apply annually by up to one application per year by leaving clippings on your lawn when you mow.

Want to learn more? The Publication titled '[Lawn Fertilization](#)' will get you started. If you have a lawn spreader this publication '[Calibrating and Using Lawn Fertilizer and Lime Spreaders](#)' will demystify the math for you. You can use organic [lawn fertilizers](#), but be aware that they contain less soluble nitrogen, so you may not see the effect on your lawn right away as soil micro-organisms must break down organic products to release the nitrogen, unlike some conventional fertilizers.

Lisa Johnson, Dane County Extension Educator

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/2021/09/06/news-a-great-time-to-fertilize-your-lawn/>

**ONE MINUTE YOU'RE
YOUNG, HIP AND CAREFREE
AND THE NEXT MINUTE
YOU'RE PHOTOGRAPHING
VEGETABLES IN YOUR
GARDEN.**

Volunteer Hours Requirements Due to COVID

In 2021, you may report less than 24 hours of volunteer time at 2021 COVID approved projects (this may be zero hours). Only volunteer at approved projects if you feel you can do so safely.

We continue to require the minimum of 10 hours of continuing education. The 10 hours of continuing ed plus completing all the volunteer mandates will be required to certify next year. You have until December 31, 2021, to complete and report your hours.

Master Gardener Projects



Daybreak Waupun



Judging Containers at Dodge County Fair



Cut flowers for Care Centers



Parkview Nature Center



Jail Kitchen Garden

