



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Everyone that gardens knows how important plants are but NASA has determined that there are many common indoor plants that remove bad items from the air that make everyone sick. They were researching ways to make space stations have cleaner air and it was determined that formaldehyde, benzene and trichloroethylene can be removed by air filtering plants such as Boston ferns, bamboo palms, spider plants, elephant ears, mother-in-law tongues and rubber plants. Each plant will take care of up to 100 square feet of an area which can get rid of the poor air for buildings that have a closed air system. Pretty cool, heh? Our recent weather has made it pretty nice to be outside but our homes and offices are where we spend a great deal of time most of the year. I have always been surrounded by plants and I think they make our rooms nicer and more comfortable. Maybe that's why Alaska is the 'happiest' state. People are making their environment cozy no matter what the weather is doing outside.

We have our plant sale coming up near the end of May which is very exciting in Palmer and is an important indicator of the beginning of summer. I have heard of a few folks that have already started planting to get ready for the up-coming growing season. My flower beds are still covered up because as much as I want spring to show up I am afraid of winter's last hurrah and I don't want my plants suffering due to my impatience.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: MTA CONFERENCE ROOM
480 COMMERCIAL DR., PALMER, AK
 DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- **TREASURER REPORT**
- **MINUTES**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

SEED SWAP

BRING SEEDS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRADE WITH OTHERS. IF POSSIBLE BRING THE EXTRAS IN BAGGIES OR ENVELOPES, LABELED WITH VARIETY AND ANY OTHER HELPFUL GROWING INFORMATION. IF YOU COLLECTED THE SEED, PLEASE PROVIDE THE MONTH AND YEAR COLLECTED.

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener

The peasant was the happy recipient of a very large Asiatic lily bulb last October. It didn't get planted in the garden, but got thrown into a pot and relegated to the potato bin. By early January some shoots were poking through, and by late February it was obvious that it needed some light, and it was moved to a shaded spot in the greenhouse for a couple of days and then moved to full sunlight. The shoots, five in all, responded immediately to light and began to turn green, even in the shaded area.



Without a doubt the lily will bloom after a few weeks in the greenhouse. This is well off the regular cycle of a lily planted outside in Alaska. It will be interesting to see at what time the leaves begin to senesce. At that point the peasant plans to divide the bulb and plant the offshoots in their outdoor location. It is to be hoped that this doesn't happen so early that they begin re-growth

during the summer season. The photo shows the state of the plant on February 20, 2015. It is in an eight-inch pot, so that can be used to provide scale.

The other photo is of Northern Giant cabbage plants that were seeded at the winter solstice on December 21, 2014. It is interesting since it shows considerable variation in the plants. All were from the same seed packet, seeded at the same time, and received the same level of care. The peasant thinks this must be because of genetic variation in the seeds.



The OS Cross, which is also grown for its large size, is a hybrid and the plants are quite uniform in growth. The peasant thinks the Northern Giant has the potential to produce the largest cabbage, but if grown for competition purposes one would need to grow a number of plants from seed and then select the ones to be grown out and further selected at the time of showing.

During the growing season various combinations of techniques could be experimented with. It may take several seasons to hone the growing system, so if you plan on competing with the big dogs the time to start was in the previous millennium. The peasant jests. Start now, but expect it to take a while.

Thanks folks.

Minutes of the Mat-Su Master Gardeners

February 2, 2015

There were not minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer's report:

\$4,777.27 in checking

\$3,729.48 in savings

We have received \$138.00 so far in dues
\$166.90 for our web site

At last count we had 18 members/families
A reminder was made for people to remember to renew.

We received a letter from the Fronteras Spanish Immersion school. They would like some help with a project for 2nd and 3rd graders, and help with organic gardening. They have a green house but need help using it. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Wendy Taylor at wendyt@mtaonline.net or call her at 746-7671.

The members introduced themselves to a new member.

Lois Rockcastle gave a presentation on Horticulture Therapy.

Next month's meeting will include a seed

Seed Starting Schedule

Lenita Deda, Master Gardener

Since the weather has been so nice, I expect everyone is getting spring fever and has that feeling ike it is time to start their seeds. I always have used this schedule to determine what time of the season to start my flower and vegetable seeds. I just wanted to pass it on. This schedule has always been very helpful to me. Have fun.

From Seed to Starter

Ageratum	8 - 10 weeks
Alyssum	8 - 20
Broccoli	4 - 5
Brussels sprouts	5 - 8
Cabbage	4 - 5
Cauliflower	4 - 6
Celery	12 - 16
Cucumber	3 - 4
Dahlia	6 - 8 - 10
Dianthes	8 - 10
Flowering cabbage	4 - 6
Flowering kale	4 - 6
Geranium	12 - 16
Impatiens	12 - 16
Kale	4 - 6
Kohlrabi	4 - 6
Lettuce	2 - 3
Lobeila	10 - 12
Marigold	6 - 8 - 10
Nemesia	8 - 10
Nonstop Begonia	12 - 16
Pansy	8 - 10
Pepper	8 - 10
Petunia	10 - 12
Salvia	8 - 10
Schianthus	8 - 10
Snapdragon	10 - 12
Squash	3 - 4
Tomato	8 - 10 - 12
Wax Begonia	12 - 16

8 Weeks - April 5

10 Weeks - March 22

12 Weeks - March 8

Seed Search Made Easy!

Looking for a particular variety of seed or plant and can't find it? Here's a helpful search engine I found which searches the internet for you:

<http://www.pickacarrot.com/>



Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/>

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/index.htm>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<http://alaskamastergardener.blogspot.com/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Orchid Society

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

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Assoc..

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

Eat Local Alaska

<http://akfood.weebly.com/index.html>



Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/>

Junior Master Gardeners

<http://www.jmgkids.us/>

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

<http://www.localplants.org/Home>

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/raingardens>

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley **UPDATED**

<https://fairbanksmastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

<http://www.sababeekeepers.com/>

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/>

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/cmp/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12.

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website, www.matsumastergardeners.com

thank you

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	632-4401
Member at Large:	Marge Mueller	745-6144

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: kdblalock@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/
Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2015

Mar 2 Palmer, MMG Mtg, Seed Swap
Mar 3-5, Fairbanks, 11th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference,
<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>
Mar 7, Fairbanks, State Master Gardener Conference,
<http://www.interiormastergardeners.org/>

APRIL 2015 AND BEYOND

Apr 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Apr 10-11, Anchorage, Alaska Botanical Garden's Spring Conference,
<http://alaskabg.org/>
May 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
May 30, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (tentative)
Jun 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Palmer Library Planting
June 22-24, Anchorage, Alaskan Plants as Food and Medicine Symposium,
<http://www.alaskanplants.org/>
Jul 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Jul 11, Palmer, Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, <http://www.palmergardenandart.org/>
Aug 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Aug 27 - Sep 7, Palmer, Alaska State Fair
Sep 14, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Oct 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

How and what to Submit for the Monthly Newsletter

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so don't be shy about submitting items for publication. However, there are a few rules which we all must pay attention to:

Articles, stories, poetry, upcoming events, and pictures (garden-related) are gladly accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit pictures in JPEG format and other items in Word format with no special formatting other than paragraphs. When submitting pictures, please provide a brief caption or explanation as to who or what is in the picture. I do not have a scanner to copy pictures so I cannot accept hard copies.

If you are not the author or photographer, please ensure you have permission of the author or photographer to use their material in the newsletter. The newsletter editor is not responsible for obtaining this for you.

Please do not provide magazine articles or pictures from the internet unless they are public domain items.

Deadline for submission of articles and info:
20th day of each month -- Thank you--



March 2015



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Facebook

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/
Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
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