



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well! I am glad spring is finally here and I am able to work (hide) in my greenhouse and get out of the house!

There is a huge interest in gardening and growing food because of the pandemic. I see many online seed companies unable to keep up with supply and demand. Many periodically shut down their web pages and some have limited purchasing to commercial growers only. Several Facebook gardening groups I moderate have had hundreds of new members join in the past month. As Master Gardeners, this is an opportunity for us to give back and help out all the novice gardeners out there. If you see a friend or neighbor struggling with a new garden, please reach out and share your knowledge.

At this time, we do not know if we will be able to do any of the usual spring and summer projects. Many things are on hold pending guidance from the State and Federal Governments. Part of the fallout, is our annual plant sale. An email was sent out earlier sharing the guidance from the state DEC regarding Farmer's Markets and how they must be set up. Our plant sale fell under those requirements and, unfortunately, we are not able to meet those requirements to keep ourselves and our customers safe. Additionally, there was a huge liability for our Association if someone became ill and the illness could be traced back to our event.

As far as our June planting events at the Palmer Public Library and the Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home, those events are on hold pending guidance on public gatherings. We actually still need a committee chair to coordinate any activity. If you would like to do this, please shoot an email to the Association at matsumastergardeners@gmail.com. Also, on hold is the summer garden tour we had planned. I believe the Palmer Midsummer Garden and Art Faire is also on hold at this time. So many questions and so few answers. We will update members when we have information or answers.

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GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

OUR MAY MEETING WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEETING USING THE ZOOM APPLICATION. IT WILL BE ONLINE MONDAY, MAY 4TH, AT 7 P.M. AN EMAIL WILL BE SENT OUT WITH DETAILS.

SPEAKER/TOPIC

AFTER A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING, OUR GUEST SPEAKER, KATHY LISKA, WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE CROPS AND FLOWERS DEPARTMENT ENTRIES AT THE ALASKA STATE FAIR

We do plan to hold our May meeting using a platform called Zoom. An email was sent out with the link to the meeting and/or numbers you can use to call in if you do not have a computer.

Topic: Mat-Su Master Gardeners

Time: May 4, 2020 07:00 PM Alaska Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/91148121747>

Meeting ID: 911 4812 1747

Phone numbers: 1 301 715 8592 or 1 253 215 8782 US.

Hope to "see" you there!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

With our winter's abundant snowfall since the new year, the soil is probably frost free where the snow has been allowed to remain. The trees should leaf out by May first, presuming we do not get another cold spell. Are we ready for some green?

The peasant, who is on the downside of his eighties, has vivid memories as a young lad during World War II days. Victory gardens were much encouraged during a time of rationed foodstuffs and other items: to name a few are butter, sugar, tires, gasoline, and shoes. Much of our food went to feeding our soldiers and sailors as well as people of other countries who had experienced the disruption of a brutal war. Victory gardens became a great source of food on the home front.

This, of course, brings us to the present day. We have been assured that we will have no food shortages, but a modern-day victory garden is certainly a satisfying backup to the produce departments of our grocery stores. There appears to be a renewed interest among the public in vegetable gardening. Small plots and container growing are easy ways people can get into providing some tasty free food for themselves. Therein lies an opportunity for us as gardeners to encourage this and to help it be successful. A basic part of being a master gardener is sharing our skills and what we have learned. This is certainly the intent of the program, and in fact it is a human desire to share.

Springtime is a wonderful time of year! Once again, we get to enjoy the wakening of the season. May it ever be so.

Thanks, folks.

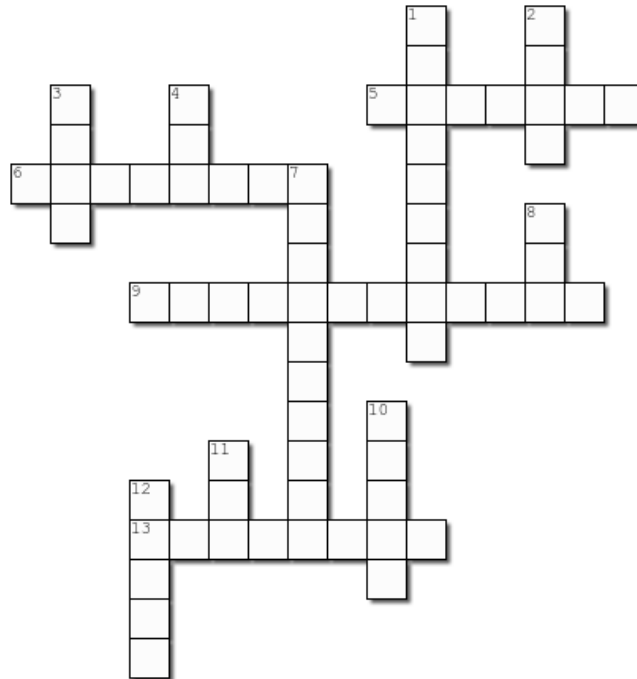


This is a view of a Mueller's perennial flower bed as of April 19, 2020. The snow is blown onto the flower bed as a mulch when the driveway is cleared using a snowblower. It definitely protects the plants, but this year it is taking a long time to melt.

MAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Vegetable Gardening

Questions and answers to this puzzle were taken from the April 2011 edition of the Alaska Sustainable Gardening, The Alaska Master Gardener Manual, HGA-00339.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

5. Another aspect of temperature is _____ degree days.
6. _____ will make your garden more productive.
9. Air and soil _____ are critical to maintaining healthy plant growth.
13. Be sure plants have been properly _____ off so they will easily adapt to environmental change.

Down

1. Check soil _____ and pH by having your soil tested before starting a garden.
2. The ideal vegetable garden _____ is deep, easily worked and well drained, and contains at least 5 percent organic matter.
3. In Alaska's _____ soils many seeds may rot before they have a chance to sprout.
4. 12 hours or more of this, is ideal for a good vegetable garden site.
7. Many of the desired garden vegetables will not perform well in the open garden and should be grown in a _____.
8. A _____ is essential for preparing a seedbed, removing weeds and breaking up crusted soil.
10. Soil temperature affects the _____ of seed germination.
11. Soil temperature is as important as _____ temperature for plant growth.
12. Transplant on a _____ day, in the less intense sun of early evening to prevent wilting.

Answers to April 2020 Puzzle

Across

1. This can stimulate or inhibit germination of some seeds. (**light**)
7. The part of the seed which is a food reserve. (**endosperm**)
9. Open pollinated plant varieties which have been saved and replanted for a minimum of 50 years.. (**heirloom**)
11. This prevents a seed from germinating until a favorable environment occurs. (**dormancy**)

Down

2. The result of the cross between two different species. (**hybrid**)
3. Respiration of seeds increases during germination, it is important to have a loose planting medium to provide this compound. (**oxygen**)
4. An adequate supply of this is important to seed germination. (**water**)
5. The young plant contained within the seed coat. (**embryo**)
6. This affects both the speed of germination and germination percentage. (**temperature**)
8. The result of the union of pollen and an egg within a flower. (**seed**)
10. To provide an artificial chilling period for plants to help break dormancy. (**stratify**)

Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Division of Agriculture

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>

Alaska Farm to School

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown

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

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/sourcebookindex2016.html>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<https://alaskamastergardener.community.uaf.edu/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Orchid Society

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

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Peony Society

<https://alaskapeonysociety.wixsite.com/alaskapeonysociety>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola

<https://www.akroseroot.com/>

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Grow Palmer

<http://growpalmer.org/>



Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardener

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.com

Master Gardener Research Link (Extension)

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

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

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<https://pestreporter.alaska.edu/>

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors for 2021.
- Volunteer to chair one of our committees or serve on a committee. There are several vacancies for chairs and most all will need members to help.
- Volunteer as the State Master Gardener Conference Committee chair.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
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 send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2020

May 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Kathy Liska, State Fair Entries

May 30, Palmer MMGA Annual Plant Sale - Cancelled

JUNE 2020 AND BEYOND

Jun 8, Palmer, Palmer Public Library Planting (Note date change!) (On Hold)

Jul 11, Palmer Midsummer Garden and Art Faire (On Hold)

Jul 22, Summer Members-Only Garden Tour, High Tunnels, Gardens & a Root Cellar and Alpine Plants (On Hold)

Aug 27 - Sep 7, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Seeing is Believing"

Aug 29, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

Sep 14, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Oct 5, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Nov 2, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting

Dec 7, Palmer, Christmas Party

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$15 and family memberships are \$20. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2020 to be listed in the annual membership directory.

Join or renew online

Thank you

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 publisher 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--



May 2020



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