



## Minnesota Master Gardener State Newsletter

April 2005

Hi Master Gardeners,

Happy Spring!! Things are new and exciting at the Arboretum with the new **Visitor's Center**. I look forward to seeing many of you here this year at the Yard & Garden Desk. Working the desk gets you free admission to the Arboretum, a chance to see the new building and gardens, time to walk the grounds and enjoy the gardens. See the sign up information at [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu). Your projects will be highlighted this year with the 2005 **Master Gardeners Make a Difference** theme and our September State Conference at Brainerd. Look for the conference registration in the June MG State newsletter. Enjoy the spring!! **Thank you for your volunteer work in Minnesota.**

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### 2005 Master Gardener Theme: **Master Gardeners Make A Difference**

What programs are you working on in your community? For 2005, we will be highlighting many of your projects online at the MG Make a Difference link on the MG homepage; [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu). **Send me your photo and a brief description, 50-100**

**words.** Be sure your program is included in this emphasis. Its important that we show the difference you are making in your community, so send me your project today!



in Minnesota



Anne Gachuhi, Regional Extension Educator, is the Junior Master Gardener Coordinator for Minnesota. Anne is compiling a list and database of all the people and JMG programs in Minnesota. If you have not done so already, please contact Anne to let her know about your JMG program: Anne Gachuhi [gachu001@umn.edu](mailto:gachu001@umn.edu), or call 763-767-3875.

The **online volunteer hours system** is up and working at [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu). Try it out and see if this doesn't help you keep track of your hours! For 2005, we need all MG to use this new system as it will help you and us to keep track of your hours. If you have any questions, let me know ([meyer023@umn.edu](mailto:meyer023@umn.edu) or 952-443-1447). Some metro coordinators may ask you to still send a separate county paper form, but we are working to combine these two reporting systems. Please be sure your hours are counted for 2005 online. Thanks for all your volunteer work.

**State Fair signup is coming soon: June 1 you can go online and pick your time and demonstration. Watch [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu).**

**Volunteer at the Arboretum: Enjoy the gardens, stroll in the new building, free admission!! Sign up online at: [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu).**

**Advanced Trainings for 2005: Need educational hours??, new events are added regularly, check them out: [www.mg.umn.edu](http://www.mg.umn.edu). Many are NOT in the metro.**

***Black Magic and Purple Passion*** is the title of a new book by British plantswoman Karen Platt. Founder of the International Black Plant Society, Platt says her book contains all you need to know about black plants including when to grow them, how to plant them and the suppliers where you can buy them. See [www.karenplatt.co.uk](http://www.karenplatt.co.uk) for more information.

Bill Miller at Cornell is in charge of the **Flower Bulb Research Program** <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/miller/>. He has some new information on handling bare root perennials. He looked at planting depth and found plants placed HIGH: crowns or buds placed at or slightly above the soil line, grew MUCH BETTER than perennials that were planted DEEP: crowns or buds were placed 1-1 1/2 inches below the soil surface. For hardiness we know that exposure to air temperatures is likely to kill perennials, but for planting and initiation of growth, bare rooted perennials may respond better to being planted at or near the soil surface. You can view a slide show of actual planting depth at the above website.

Bill also conducted a 4 year experiment of over **60 cultivars of daffodils** at three locations: South Carolina, Long Island and Upstate New York. He recorded flower numbers over 4 years. The coldest location, Upstate NY, had the most flowers. Cultivars with highest number of flowers: Carlton, Chanterelle, Ice King, Jack Snipe, Slim Whitman and Tete a Tete. Read the full story at the website above.

Seventeen hyacinth cultivars were also trialed for 3 years at the same three locations. Almost all of the hyacinths performed well!! Anna Liza, Atlantic, City of Haarlem, Fondant, Gipsy Queen, and Snowwhite all had 25-35 flowers from 20 bulbs after 3 years when grown in up state NY, zone 5.

**All American Selections** Read all about the winners and use this information to write an article for your local paper. You do not need to review all these winners, pick one or two to highlight. Photos and drawings are at the website for your use. Go to: <http://www.all-americanselections.org/>

**Container Gardening** is one of the most popular topics in gardening today. These websites have many “recipes” for planting, complete with pictures and exact number of plants required.

<http://www.plantbynumber.com/> Ball Horticultural, Inc.

<http://www.provenwinners.com> click on: Combinations



## 2004 New & Award Winning Flowering Crops for Minnesota

These results are compiled by Neil Anderson, Steve Poppe, Karyn Vidmar, Dave Wildung, University of Minnesota, Department of Horticultural Science. For more information see:

<http://www.florifacts.umn.edu>

### St. Paul (USDA Winter Hardiness Z4; Heat Z5; 169 growing days)

1. *Argyranthemum* 'Butterfly Vanilla'
2. *Begonia* 'Rhine Barkos'
3. *Eragrostis elliottii* 'Wind Dancer'
4. *Gazania* 'Kiss White'
5. *Impatiens hawkeri* 'Infinity Dark Salmon Glow'
6. *Osteospermum* 'Tradewinds Expt'l. Purple'
7. *Petunia* Trailing 'Surprise Lavender'
8. *Phlox* 'Intensia Lilac Rose'
9. *Scaevola* 'Whirlwind Blue Velvet'
10. *Tagetes* 'Moonstruck Orange'

### Morris (USDA Winter Hardiness Z3/4; Heat Z4; 144 growing days)

1. *Argyranthemum* 'Butterfly Vanilla'
2. *Begonia* 'Rhine Barkos'
3. *Dianthus* 'Dynasty Rose Lace'
4. *Impatiens hawkeri* 'Sonic Lilac'
5. *Impatiens wallerana* 'Double Fiesta Pink Ruffle'
6. *Nemesia* 'Aromatica Rose Pink'
7. *Osteospermum* 'Tradewinds Expt'l. White w/Blue Eye'
8. *Petunia*, Trailing 'Surprise Lavender'
9. *Rudbeckia* 'Prairie Sun'
10. *Scaevola* 'Whirlwind Blue Velvet'

### Grand Rapids (USDA Winter Hardiness Z3; Heat Z3; 109 growing days)

1. *Argyranthemum* 'Butterfly'
2. *Begonia* 'Bayou Pink Bicolor'
3. *Bracteantha* 'Sundaze Golden Yellow'
4. *Diascia* 'Flying Colors Coral'
5. *Lobelia* 'Waterfall Blue'
6. *Nemesia* 'Compact Pink Innocence'
7. *Petunia* 'Sweet Surprise Purple'
8. *Petunia* 'Surprise Pink Vein Improved'
9. *Petunia* 'Supertunia Lavender Dawn'
10. *Zinnia* 'Magellan Coral'

### Top-Performing, Winter-Hardy Herbaceous Perennial (Z3-4).

1. *Helenium* 'Mardi Gras' (Blooms of Bressingham)

## State and County MG Programs

A new MG commented on the Core Course evaluations this year: **“I am still confused between the (MG program) relationship between the state and the county.”**

The Minnesota State MG program was founded in 1977. Extension specialist, Mike Zins, set up the first classes in the metro area and we have a core of about a dozen MG who are still active from that original class!! As the program grew, larger numbers in metro counties, required a local person to help with the coordination of program, teach additional classes for MG and help with horticulture questions. Counties have always been involved in the application and selection of people who will volunteer in the program. Counties approve new MG, since they will be working locally with the county Extension Service. No MG begin at the state level, everyone comes in with a county affiliation.

**The state has always set the standard for the number of hours of training**, provided professors or extension specialists to teach **high quality topics for the Core Course**. The state also sets **the standard for the number of educational and volunteer hours to stay active in the program**. (Some metro counties have a higher educational requirement of 12 hr, because these counties offer more training locally). The **state MG policy statement** is given to all MG during their training, which defines what counts for volunteer hours. Counties decide on specific projects and usually have local individual MG to coordinate or assist with specific projects, such as county fairs, plant clinics, community ed, etc. County MG and MG coordinators decide what programs they can initiate depending on the needs of their local communities.

**The state also keeps the database of annual hours for all participants**. So anyone who has completed the Core Course is in the database, which after 28 years is almost 5,000 people!! We compile an annual state report of all volunteer hours and a federal report as well. The state program **gives service awards: 10, 15, 20, 25 yr nametags** and total hour awards in 1,000 hour increments. The state holds an **annual conference** for educational training; **develops a quarterly newsletter**; and offers you **opportunities to volunteer** at the State Fair; Home & Garden Show and at the Arboretum. A **State MG Advisory Board** meets quarterly and determines the annual locations of the Core Course, and sets program and policy for the state program. 16 MG volunteer on this Board and you can too!

Many states do not have a State MG program, and each county has their own program for training, educational and volunteer hours, so in these states there is no standard for education, or volunteer work. Individual county programs often are far from the state Extension specialists and work very loosely. In Minnesota, our program is consistent, of high educational quality, and all MG work is part of the Extension Service. In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have several local county coordinators who assist with local programs and help support MG locally. I hope this answers any questions you have about the county and state MG program. Please feel free to call me if you have further questions.

# What can be done with leftover lawn fertilizer which contains phosphorus?

As of January 1, 2005

Twin Cities seven county metropolitan area  
Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

## **Phosphorus lawn fertilizer WITH pesticides For example – Weed & Feed Use allowed under the law:**

- . ● Lawns with low phosphorus soils as shown by soil testing
- . ● Golf courses by trained staff
- . ● Sod farms
- . ● Household hazardous waste collection program

**NOTE:** Fertilizer and pesticide combination products may only be used as directed on the label. Use on non-lawn situations and when establishing new lawns is typically not allowed.

**NOTE:** The term “pesticide” includes such substances as herbicides (weed control), insecticides (insect control), and fungicides (disease control).

## **Phosphorus lawn fertilizer WITHOUT pesticides**

### **Use allowed under the law:**

- . ● Lawns with low phosphorus soils as shown by soil testing
- . ● Golf courses by trained staff
- . ● Sod farms and other agricultural crops
- . ● Establishing new lawns by seeding or sodding
- . ● Flower and vegetable gardens
- . ● Place in trash – check with trash hauler

**NOTE:** When lawn fertilizer is used on flower and vegetable gardens care needs to be taken not to over fertilize. Lawn fertilizer is typically two to three times higher in nitrogen than garden fertilizers.

**Greater Minnesota** Lawn fertilizer containing 3% or less phosphate, which was purchased before August 1, 2004, can be used on lawns.  
For lawn fertilizer containing more than 3% phosphate, follow the same recommendations as those given for the Twin Cities seven county metropolitan area.

For more information contact: Jerry Spetzman, MN Dept of Ag. 651-297-7269;  
[jerome.spetzman@state.mn.us](mailto:jerome.spetzman@state.mn.us) or [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

**2005 State Conference September 16-17, 2005  
Master Gardeners Make a Difference  
Central Lakes College, Brainerd, MN**

Mark you calendar!! New this year will be sessions on Friday, in addition to the tours, we will have morning or all day workshops on topics you want to learn in depth. Gary Johnson, Urban Forestry, will be the keynote speaker on Sat, Sept 17: **Trees, Master Gardeners and Communities**. Full details will be in the June MG newsletter.

**The "Master" in Master Gardener doesn't mean you know everything about gardening, it means you volunteer and teach horticulture for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.**

**Master Gardener Calendar of Events**

April 4-29, 2005	Galls and Borers: Online	Statewide
April 18-22, 2005	Advanced MG Training	Several Locations
June 1, 2005	Sign Up for State Fair	<a href="http://www.mg.umn.edu">www.mg.umn.edu</a>
July 24-27, 2005	International MG Conference	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
August 12-15, 2005	American Community Gardening Conference	St. Paul
August 25-Sept 5, 2005	Minnesota State Fair	St. Paul
September 16-17, 2005	MG State Conference	Brainerd, MN



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