

The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens

Water at the Gardens

Just a few reminders ...

- **Please disconnect your garden hose from the connection unless you are actively watering.** We have learned that there have been gardeners who leave their hose connected while they weed their garden. If you stop to weed, please disconnect your hose so that the connection site is available to other gardeners and then reconnect your hose when ready to resume watering.
- **Please retighten** connections after disconnecting your hose from the water.
- **Do not tug on your hose** while connected to the water.



Review the information on our Water at the Gardens page on our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/Water/.

If there are any water leaks, **contact us ASAP**. Lisa's number is 262-548-7775. Leave a message on voicemail anytime. Lisa's number is also on the bulletin board at the garden.

Garden Harvest Breakfast Celebration –August 19th

Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, August 19th for our annual Harvest Celebration to celebrate the garden harvest. We will gather from 9 am to 10 am at the picnic tables by the garden entrance. No cost to participate, but we ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought in the past include: bakery, a hot breakfast dish, fresh fruit, veggies, etc.



Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee are provided. No need to RSVP. We will have a short garden meeting at approximately 9:45 am. Let's talk! I welcome your suggestions and questions. I hope you can come! If weather looks "iffy" on the day of the Harvest Celebration, call Ann's phone at 262-548-7788 and listen to the out going voice mail message.

Protect Your Gardening Supplies

We were recently notified that one of the gardeners had two expensive garden hoses stolen from their plot.

We want to remind everyone that the gardens are unprotected. We do not know who may visit the gardens after hours. We suggest you keep your valuable gardening supplies either in the trunk of your car or in an area of your garden that is not visible to those passing by your plot.

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Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

Plant Waste Piles

There are five established plant waste piles located at the garden. Please place plant waste in those piles rather than starting new piles. The approximate pile locations are between the Port-A-John and plot E1, near plot D1, across the road from B25P, across the road from A10P, and across the road from A1. Some piles are still small. Look for these piles before you dump your weeds at the garden.

Critters/Pests at the Garden

Our rental gardens are surrounded by woods and a big field. Over the years numerous critters have made the garden their home. It is a constant battle to keep the critters out of the garden and limit the damage. Critters include: rabbits, turkey, deer, mice, snakes, racoons, and groundhogs.

The most recent critter to invade the space is rats and we know this is concerning. We have placed rat bait stations in several areas of the garden. We hope the bait stations solve the problem.

We also ask all gardeners to eliminate any standing water at the garden and clean up any debris piles in or around your garden plot. Both can attract rats and other critters. Thank you.

Colorado Potato Beetle

Several gardeners have shared that they are dealing with Colorado potato beetle. These primarily feed on potatoes. Controlling the Colorado potato beetle in the garden can be challenging. Using a combination of different pest management strategies is recommended. Control strategies include:

- (1) Planting an early maturing variety (less than 80 days).
- (2) Hand picking beetles off plants and dropping adults and larvae in a pail filled with soapy water.
- (3) Remove or crush yellowish orange eggs found on the underside of leaves.

Colorado potato beetle are resistant to essentially all synthetic pesticides so they are unlikely to be effective and are not suggested. A few organic pesticides may be effective but may need repeated applications and may impact natural enemies of the Colorado Potato Beetle. Before purchasing any product to treat for Colorado potato beetle, read the University of Minnesota horticulture fact sheet: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-insects/colorado-potato-beetles>.



Photos: Top (adult beetle): By Scott Bauer; Bottom (beetle larvae): By Ben Bradford

Picnic Area

The picnic tables near the entrance to the garden are for you to use. Feel free to pack a lunch and picnic at the garden, but remember there is **no grilling allowed** at the garden.

Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov and/or Ann at ann.wied@wisc.edu. Our office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday—Friday. You can call Lisa at 262-548-7775. We cannot view missed calls, so please leave a message!

Ann Wied

Horticulture Outreach Specialist
UW Madison Extension, Waukesha County



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
WAUKESHA COUNTY