

The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens



Welcome Gardeners

Welcome to the 2023 season of the Waukesha County Rental Gardens! My name is Ann Wied and I am the Extension Waukesha County Horticulture Outreach Specialist and Coordinator of the Rental Gardens. If you have a concern regarding the gardens, please let us know. Contact information can be found on page 2.

About Our Newsletter

The Garden Connections Newsletter is sent out 4-5 times during the growing season. This newsletter is a great way to communicate with all of you at once. In between newsletters, you can find up-to-date information and announcements on our website, <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/>, on the bulletin board at the Gardens, or sent out as emails.

Future of the Garden

As mentioned in our annual Garden letter in February, the Rental Gardens are on land owned by Waukesha County. We were notified by Waukesha County that the property is being reviewed for possible sale. In late May, we updated you that the Rental Gardens will remain at the location where it is through the 2024 gardening season. It could possibly be longer as the sale of the property will not be moving forward as quickly as they had originally anticipated. In addition, the County is working with us to look for potential new sites for the Rental Garden in the future.

Water at the Gardens

We have received feedback that the new water system at the Gardens is working well, with each water site having one short hose for filling buckets and watering cans and a spot to connect a personal hose. Please be gentle with hose connections, tugging on your hose can cause damage.

If you see a leak at any of the water connection points, please tighten the connection to stop the leak. It is a good idea to check our webpage for details on how the water works at the Gardens so you are prepared in the event of a leak. The water page is at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/Water/> and includes photos.

If you need help with a leak, ask a fellow gardener to give you a hand. If you aren't able to fix it, please call Lisa at 262-548-7775. If Lisa doesn't answer, always leave a voicemail! If you can, also email both Lisa (lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) and Ann (ann.wied@wisc.edu).



Feel free to contact us if you have questions!



Inside this issue

- Welcome Gardeners1
- About Our Newsletter...1
- Future of the Gardens...1
- Water.....1
- Bulletin Board1
- No Weed Killers2
- Gardening Questions2
- Pest/Diseases.....2
- Free Mulch.....2
- Garden Paths2
- Planting Schedule2
- Contact Information.....2



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!

No Spraying of Weeds Allowed

Just a reminder, **no herbicides can be used to kill weeds at the garden.** This includes organic and home-made solutions. **You cannot spray weeds to kill them.** Pull weeds and put down mulch to hinder growth.



Horticulture Helpline—Gardening Questions???

Do you have a gardening question? We can help! Contact the Waukesha County Extension Horticulture Helpline by calling 262-548-7779 or emailing your questions to uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov. This is free resource.

Pest and Disease Problems?

There is a lot of misinformation on the internet. Before purchasing a product to use, verify there is science or research behind the treatment/product that is recommended. Visit our UW-Madison Wisconsin Horticulture website, hort.extension.wisc.edu. It is packed with lots of great gardening information specifically for pests, diseases, and gardening in Wisconsin, This site also provides information about upcoming free on-line programs and free recorded gardening educational programs you can watch.

Mulch Pile

Feel free to take mulch from the large pile located to the north of the garden. It is best to use this wood chip mulch for garden paths in and around your garden but not around vegetable plants.

Garden Pathways

There are intentional pathways throughout the gardens. Some are larger than others due to plot size and shape. Most of you have a garden path on one or more sides of your garden. We need your help to control the weeds in the pathways surrounding your garden plot. Please pull weeds and/or apply mulch using the mulch from the mulch pile at the garden. We appreciate your help. Thank you.

Vegetable Planting Schedule

A Vegetable Planting Schedule can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/ExtVegPlantingSchedule>. We hope you find it helpful as you continue to plant and replant your garden (after you harvest your early season vegetables). There are several vegetables included that you can plant late in the season and still enjoy the harvest before the first frost!

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. The phone system does not allow us to view missed calls, so please leave a message!

Ann Wied

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