



The “Show-Me” Gardener

Webster Groves Garden Club

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July Outing
Monday, July 18, 2021 6:30 pm



July Meeting

For those of you who have recently joined our club, we try to have two outings in the spring/summer months and then resume our meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at the Webster Groves Recreational Center. This month our outing will consist of touring a native garden and yard in Brentwood, Missouri. The tour will take place on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 06:30 pm. The address is 2833 Manderly, Brentwood, Missouri. We will visit the native yard of Andy and Sue Leahy.

Sue is on the board of the Wild Ones Chapter of St. Louis and has a passion for native plants. Wild Ones is a national organization whose purpose is to educate and support homeowners with growing native plants in their yards and their community. You may have also seen her at Greenscape Nursery in west county where she works with native plants. She and her husband, Andy have been gardening with natives for fifteen years and report seeing much wildlife in their yard since planting natives. Their yard has two rain gardens, two shrub beds, a glade garden, a waterfall and a pond. One of the rain gardens was planted with a grant she received from the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. In addition, there are fifteen trees on the property! Sue has much to teach us about the plants and will explain how they started transitioning to an all native yard.

As you may have imagined, native yards help combat climate change and support wildlife. However, what you may not have known, is how grass lawns cause ecological problems and contribute greatly to climate change. Scientists have been reporting for years that lawns in America contribute to climate change through wasteful water usage, and an increase of greenhouse gases with the use of gas lawn mowers and leaf blowers. Also, synthetic nitrogen fertilization use in lawns, results in the loss of soil carbon and organic nitrogen in the ground which leads to erosion and runoff. Thus, the release of CO₂ contributes to climate

change and the runoff released into the water causes pollution. One study concluded that our lawns produce more CO₂ than they absorb! In addition to climate change, lawn chemicals and pesticides have been linked to a greater risk of developing various cancers and neurological diseases in humans.

Please come and join us, as we learn about native yards! Have a happy July 4th and see you on July 18!

President's Corner – July 2022

We are coming into the very hot days of summer. It requires that we water plants almost daily to keep them healthy. I just came in from my 6:30 a.m. watering of flowers and vegetables in pots and in ground, cleaning out the birdbath and filling it with water, and performing other general gardening duties. Best to get it done early before the heat of the day.

There are several tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** for July. They remind us to keep those birdbaths full of water (a note: the birds can be very entertaining to watch as they splatter around in the water). It's time to remove infected rose leaves and use fungicidal sprays on the plants and on hardy phlox as needed. They suggest fertilizing plants in containers every couple of weeks with a water-soluble solution. Don't forget to deadhead your flowers—it may bring a second bloom and it makes the garden look tidier. Also keep the weeds down so they don't go to seed. Now is the time to divide bearded iris. If you want your mums to flower in early fall, don't pinch them back after mid-month.

Costa Farms, in Florida, also has 10 handy tips for things to do in July. While some of it may be specific to that region, there is some helpful garden information for you here . You can check that out here:

<https://costafarms.com/get-growing/news/10-things-to-do-in-your-garden-in-july>

For those of you who have problems with deer, this article on deer resistant plants and flowers from **GardenDesign** might be helpful, <https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/deer-resistant.html>. Also here are some hints to keep rabbits from the garden, <https://www.gardendesign.com/how-to/rabbits.html>. Rabbits are problematic in my garden, and I personally use blood and bone meal to deter them. It seems to be as effective as anything else tried, and a bonus is that it fertilizes the plants. This article from **The Spruce** discusses these natural deterrents and gives some additional recommendations for ways to discourage rabbits from creating havoc in your garden:

<https://www.thespruce.com/controlling-and-deterring-rabbits-1402144>.

Several virtual programs of interest are available this month:

July 12 – 1:30 – 2:30. Identifying Common Lawn and Garden Weeds.

Presented by the University of Illinois Extension as part of their Four Seasons Garden Webinar series. Find it at:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25788>

July 13 – 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Insect ID for the Home Gardener. Presented by **Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House**. Learn more about bees in our area.

Register at: <https://www.slcl.org/content/virtual-program-insect-id-home-gardener>

July 14 – 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Summer Pruning for Tree and Cane Fruit.

Presented by Seed St. Louis. Register at:

<https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=298260>.

Finally, the **Ecological Landscape Alliance** has a webinar series called **A Walk in the Garden**. The recordings range from **The Gardens of Paris** through **Specialist Bees**. To date, there are 12 recordings in the series. You can find the recordings for each presentation here: <https://www.ecolandscaping.org/a-walk-in-the-garden-a-webinar-series>.

Metro Garden

Extra plants may be available in September.

The WGGC maintains the Metro garden at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood Avenue. We sometimes have extra plants available to the membership. We expect to have extra Shasta Daisies available in September. The Metro garden is generally sunny and well drained and these plants will do best in this type of garden.

Anyone who is interested in having some of these plants or who would like to volunteer at the Metro garden is invited to contact Mike Tierney at michaeljtierney@sbcglobal.net.

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