

Green Pages

A newsletter for people interested in horticulture and
natural resources in Western Wisconsin

May
2014

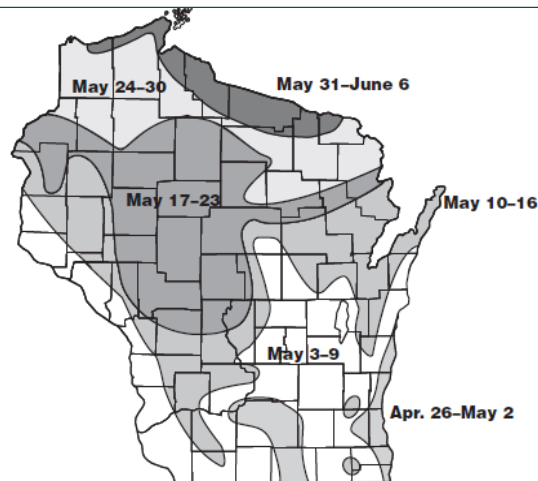
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FROM THE DESK OF THE HORTICULTURE EDUCATOR

We are getting close to the frost free days of June. In fact, we could have frost free days in May according to the median dates for last killing spring frost.

Many people have expressed that it seems as if the growing season is behind this year. However, vegetable gardens aren't recommended to be planted until the end of May with the exception of cold crops. Daffodils and other spring flowers are blooming, forsythia is blooming, and trees are beginning to green up.



Last killing spring frost median dates

Creeping Charlie is having a convention in my yard. It's up all hours of the night 'whooping' and hollering and carrying on like a bunch of teenagers.

With all kidding aside, I really do have a large amount of creeping Charlie I need to get under control. I saw some starting to flower near the warmth of the house. The flowering stage is one of the best times to apply herbicide to Creeping Charlie and the next best time is in the fall.



Forsythia in bloom.



Creeping Charlie with purple blossoms.

Erin LaFaive

Pest Bulletin Update

Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist, gives an update on current insect pressures taking place in Southern Wisconsin. These will soon make their way to Northern Wisconsin. Vegetables

CABBAGE MAGGOT

Peak emergence of first generation flies can be anticipated in the next two weeks across parts of southern Wisconsin. This event generally occurs at 300 degree days (base 43°F), as lilacs are in full bloom. Broccoli and cauliflower plantings on light sandy soils are at highest risk of maggot infestation and should be monitored closely later this month for signs of injury. Transplanting cole crops one week before or after peak fly emergence is recommended to avoid the primary damage period.

IMPORTED CABBAGEWORM

The appearance of these yellowish-white butterflies around field plantings and home gardens in spring signals that egg laying is occurring on broccoli, cabbage, kale and other cole crops. Serious early-season infestations are rare, but should they develop, may be controlled with Btk products applied while the larvae are small.



Imported cabbageworm butterfly

wildwhb.com

ASTER LEAFHOPPER - Adults were swept in very low numbers from alfalfa fields in Crawford, Richland and Sauk counties, indicating the first distinct immigration has occurred. The infectivity rate of the migrant population has not been determined, but vegetables, perennial ornamentals and other host plants will be at risk of aster yellows disease next month. To spread aster yellows, a leafhopper must first acquire the aster yellows phytoplasma by feeding on an infected plant, and then must incubate the phytoplasmas for about three weeks before infecting new plants. Growers should begin watching for aster yellows in early June, and promptly remove symptomatic plants.



Imported cabbageworm larva

Christian Bauer upload.wikimedia.org



Common asparagus beetle

DavidH-J flickr.com

COMMON ASPARAGUS BEETLE

Overwintered adults are appearing in advanced southern areas of the state. Egg laying on emerging asparagus spears will begin next week in locations where 150-240 degree days (base 50°F) are reached.

Source: [Wisconsin Pest Bulletin](#)

Krista Hamilton, DATCP Entomologist
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Planting guide for northern Wisconsin


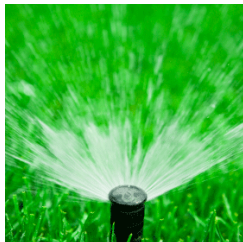

Vegetable	PLANTING TIME		SEEDS OR PLANTS		SPACING		days to first harvest ^b	Estimated yield per foot of row ^c (pounds)
	Indoors	Outdoors	for 100 feet of row	seed depth (inches)	between rows (inches)	between plants (inches)		
Asparagus		April 29	50 crowns	6-8 ^d	36-40	18-24	1-2 years	1
Bean, bush lima		June 8	8 oz	1	24-30	3-4	70-80	0.30
Bean, bush snap		May 24	8 oz	1	18-24	2-3	50-60	0.50
Bean, pole snap		May 24	6 oz	1	30-36	3-4	60-65	0.70
Beet		April 29	1-1 1/4 oz	1/2	15-18	2-3	50-60	.50-1.50
Broccoli	March 29	May 14 (plants)	40-50 plants		24-36	18-24	60-70	0.80
Brussels sprouts		May 29 (seeds)	1/8 oz	1/2	24-30	12-18	90-100	1
Cabbage, early	March 29	May 14 (plants)	50-70 plants		18-24	12-18	60-70	2
Cabbage, late		May 29 (seeds)	1/8 oz	1/2	24-30	18-24	90-100	2.5
Carrot		April 29	1/4 oz	1/4	15-18	1-2	60-70	1-1.5
Cauliflower	March 29	May 14 (plants)	50-70 plants		24-30	12-18	50-60	0.80
Celeriac	March 29	June 3 (plants)	200-300 plants	1/8	24-36	4-6	110	1.10
Celery	March 29	June 3 (plants)	200 plants	1/8	30-36	4-6	100-110	2.00
Chard		April 29	1-1 1/4 oz	1/2	15-18	3-4	40-50	2
Chinese cabbage		July 4 (seeds)	1/8 oz	1/2	24-30	10-12	90-100	3
Collards		July 4 (seeds)	1/3 oz	1/2	24-36	12-24	60-85	1.90
Corn		May 10, June 8 ^e	100-150	1-1 1/2	30-36	8-10	65-90	1.50
Cucumber		June 14 (seeds)	1/3 oz	1	36-40	4-8	38-55	2-2.25
Eggplant	March 29	June 14 (plants)	50-60 plants		30-36	18-24	70-80	1.75
Endive		July 9	1 oz	1/4-1/2	18-24	8-10	90	0.50
Kale		July 9	1/3 oz	1/2	24-30	8-10	50-70	.75
Kohlrabi		April 29	8 oz	3/4	15-18	3-4	50-60	1.50
lettuce, head	March 29	May 14 (plants)	100 plants		15-18	8-10	60-70	0.50
lettuce, leaf		April 29	1/4 oz	1/4	15-18	2-3	40-50	.25
Muskmelon	May 29	June 3 (plants)	34-50 plants		36-40	24-36	80-90	2
Mustard		April 29	1/3 oz	1/4	18-24	2-3	40	0.50
Okra	April 29	June 14 (plants)	50-75 plants		42-60	8-24	50-60	0.60
Onion	February 29	May 14 (plants)	300-400		15-18	3-4	110-120	2
Onion, sets		April 29	3-4 lb	2	15-18	1-2	40-50	1
Parsley (plants)	March 14	May 14 (plants)	100 plants		18-24	6-8	30-40	.25
Parsnip		April 29	1/2 oz	1/2-3/4	24-30	2-3	100-120	1.50
Pea		April 29	1 lb	1	15-18	1-2	60-70	.25-.50
Pepper	April 14	June 14 (plants)	50-60 plants		30-36	18-24	60-70	2
Potato, early		April 29	12-15 lb	3-4	30-36	12-15	80-100	1.50
Potato, midseason		April 29	12-15 lb	3-4	30-36	12-15	100-120	2
Potato, late		April 29	12-15 lb	3-4	30-36	12-15	120-140	2.50
Pumpkin	May 14	June 3 (plants) May 24 (seeds)	34-50 plants 1/2 oz	1-1 1/2	48-60 48-60	24-36 24-36	90-110 90-110	2 2
Radish		April 29	1 oz	1/2-3/4	15-18	1-2	25-30	0.50
Rhubarb		April 29	35 crowns	3-4	48-54	36	1 year	2
Rutabaga		June 29	1/8 oz	3/4	24-30	6-8	100-110	3
Salsify		April 29	1/2 oz	1/2	18	2-3	120	.75
Spinach		April 29	1 oz	1/2-3/4	15-18	1-2	40-50	1
Squash, summer		June 3	1/2 oz	1-1 1/2	48-60	24-36	50-60	2
Squash, fall	May 14	June 3 (plants)	34-50 plants	1-1 1/2	72-84	24-36	90-120	2
Tomato	April 29	June 3 (plants)	34-60 plants		36-42	18-36	65-80	2-4
Turnip		April 29	1/4 oz	1/2-3/4	18-24	2-3	60-70	2
Watermelon		June 3	1/2 oz	1	96	96	75-90	2.00

^b Cultivars vary greatly in time need to reach harvest stage; extend the harvest season by planting cultivars of different maturity dates or by making successive plantings of the same cultivar. ^c Estimated yields under less than ideal growing conditions; actual yields will vary widely with weather, soil fertility, and cultural practices. ^d Two inches of soil covering at planting. Gradually fill trench 6-8 inches with soil as plants grow. ^e May 25 for sugary enhancers and supersweets. From publication A1653 "Vegetable cultivars and planting guide for Wisconsin gardens-2008" by A.J. Bussan, Judy Reith-Rozelle, and Karen Delahaut. UW Coop Extension.



Gardening Tips


Sharon Morrissey, Consumer Horticulture Agent, University of Wisconsin-Extension in Milwaukee Co.

- If your lawn needs dethatching or core aerating accomplish these now while the grass is growing rapidly due to the moist, cool spring weather. Core aerating is the preferred treatment for lawns on heavy clay soils that suffer from compaction, lumpiness, thinning and thatch. 
- Don't roll to smooth out a lumpy lawn, core aerate. Rolling can compact the soil especially if it is heavy clay. You may need to core aerate again this fall if the lumpiness is severe.
- A thin lawn can be over seeded right after core aerating. Alternatively, use a slit seeder to get the seed into the soil where it is less likely to dry out. Be sure to keep it watered until all the seed has germinated which is about two weeks for bluegrass. 
- Scout the lawn for bare patches where last year's crabgrass grew and then died. Rake up dead plants and debris and work up the soil. Sow grass seed now so it can fill-in and outcompete the crabgrass seed that will germinate soon, too. Do not use crabgrass preventer compounds in these areas.
- If you choose to use a crabgrass preventer instead of reseeding, spot treat only problem areas rather than using combination fertilizers with crabgrass preventers. Crabgrass will not grow in shade or anywhere the lawn is healthy. Treatment of the entire lawn is therefore seldom necessary. 

- You can still start seeds indoors of Brussels sprouts, okra, pumpkin, cucumber, winter squash, melons, eggplant, pepper, and tomato.

Sow vine crops in individual peat pots since these do not transplant well if roots are disturbed.



- Outdoors you can sow seeds directly into the garden for beets, carrots, chard, kohlrabi, late cabbage, leaf lettuce, mustard, collards, turnips, radish, spinach, onion sets, onion seeds for bunching onions, peas, and potatoes.
- Purchase and plant trees and shrubs now. Prepare planting holes for balled and burlapped and container-grown plants twice as wide as the root ball. Do NOT disturb the soil at the bottom of the hole, however, to prevent settling later on. Backfill with the same soil you removed - do not mix with soil amendments such as peat moss. Wait until the end of the second year to fertilize new plantings. Mulch the entire root zone with 4" of organic matter. 
- Crabapple and apple varieties that are not resistant to apple scab disease tend to get dark green leaf spots and drop most of their leaves sometime in August every year. If possible, replace with a resistant variety. Some Hawthornes and Mountain Ashes are also prone to scab. It is too late now to begin a fungicide program. That should be started when leaves are expanded only about one-quarter inch. 

(Continued on page 5)



Gardening Tips

Sharon Morrissey, Consumer Horticulture Agent, University of Wisconsin-Extension in Milwaukee Co.

- Examine fruit trees and ornamental crabapples and cherries for clusters of tiny, hairy, Eastern tent caterpillars. Remove and destroy or prune out limbs where they are nesting. Or use the botanical insecticide B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) while they are still small. Although fall is the best time to control broadleaf weeds like dandelions, clover, thistle, and plantain, herbicides containing 2,4-D or three-way herbicides will be beneficial now if there is a serious weed problem or if you need to spot treat. Wait until late September to use a weed and feed product since that is a better time for both the weed and the feed treatments.



- Watch for creeping Charlie, also called ground ivy, to start flowering in the lawn and garden. Hand-weeding is very helpful but seldom completely controls this vigorous weed. Weed killers containing 2,4-D (Weed-B-Gone and many others) have proven effective if applied at full bloom and again after the first frost.



- Begin hardening-off frost tender plants now including vegetables, herbs, perennial and annual flowers that have been started indoors as well as summer flowering bulbs such as tuberous begonia, canna, dahlia, and caladium.

- Plants of broccoli, cauliflower, early cabbage, Brussels sprouts, head lettuce, onions, and parsley can tolerate some frost and can be moved to the garden now. Select smaller rather than larger plants of the cole crops (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage,



- Brussels sprouts) since overly mature plants exposed to low temperatures early in the season tend to bolt into flower too early.



- Look for iris borer larvae tunnels in new foliage. Destroy by hand if infestation is light or if this is the first year they have been present. In older plantings that were not thinned last fall, dig and destroy infested plants. If you can find it, there is now a biological control product for iris borer control that consists of nematodes. These microscopic soil inhabitants prey upon the borers.

- Fertilize perennial flowers now as growth is beginning. Most will only need fertilizing every three years and only at this time of year. Fertilize roses with one tablespoon of a complete, low nitrogen fertilizer after pruning. Repeat monthly or only after the first flush of blooms sometime in June. Repeat later in the season only if foliage is pale.



- Institute control recommendations for anthracnose and spur blight of raspberry now if diagnosed with this disease last year. (UWEX bulletin A2128- "Raspberry Pest Management For Home Gardeners".)

- To control broom-forming leaf-folding aphids on honeysuckle, prune out dried "brooms" and begin spraying new growth with insecticidal soap. Better yet, take the plunge this year and replace your honeysuckles with something less susceptible to pests and less invasive in our natural areas.



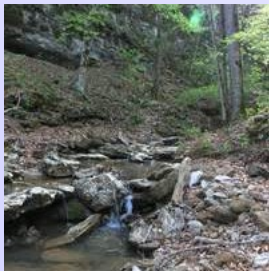
Upcoming Events - Cont.

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers

May 15 | 9:30 until 11 am | Wise Nature Center
\$3 for Friends, \$5 for Nonmembers

Only 4 spots available.

This program is targeted for our older nature lovers. Participate monthly or register for one week at a



time - the choice is yours. Led by BCR naturalist, the 60-minute hike on the Reserve trails will document the changes taking place in the woods at the Reserve. The hike will be capped off with coffee and a treat and

further discussion about the changes and things we've seen on the hike.

The program is geared for adults 55 and older. Hikers should expect a mile long hike with uneven terrain and stairs to negotiate.

Registration and full payment required by May 13.

Beaver Creek Reserve

S1 County Road K | Fall Creek, WI 54742
715.877.2212 | bcr@beavercreekreserve.org

Native Plant Sale

May 10 | 8:30 am until 1 pm | Wise Nature Center

Choose from many varieties of native flowers, grasses and herbs to mix into your existing flowerbeds or start your own mini-prairie in your yard.

Proceeds will help support activities at the Reserve. Plant experts will be on hand to answer questions at the sale.



Bird Hike - Beaver Creek Reserve

May 17 | 6:30 pm until 7:30 am | Wise Nature Center
Free for Friends, Free for Nonmembers

Beaver Creek Bird Club will host a bird walk at Beaver Creek Reserve. The walk is open to bird watchers of all abilities. The morning hike begins at 6:30 a.m. and hikers should meet at the site and wear comfortable clothing.

If there is thunder, lightning or moderate to heavy rain in the area, the hikes will NOT be held.

Don't forget your binoculars and field guides.



Soil Building with Worm Castings

May 20th | 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm |
Eau Claire County UW-Extension office, Free

Ed Rebak, a worm rancher from Whitetail Organics, will be speaking on using worm castings as an added soil builder for gardens. The castings are naturally organic and odor free. They will not burn at any concentration level and can be used directly from the bag for indoor plants. The use of the worm castings help to keep garden soil loose. Ed will discuss the many values of using worm castings and will also speak on raising earthworms for your own garden use. This presentation is free and open to the public.



Registration is appreciated 715-839-4712.

Sponsored by the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association.

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GREEN PAGES

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FREE online at: eauclaire.uwex.edu/horticulture-2

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