



Michigan Master Gardener Association Northern Gateway Master Gardener Chapter

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Northern Gateway Master Gardener Association

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~~~~~ From the President...

Happy New Year to All! I hope this finds all of you having had a wonderful Christmas season. This is usually the time of year when I look forward to those new seed and flower catalogs and right on cue, I received my first one just a week ago. It's kind of hard for me to get in the planning mode when I can walk around my yard and see my mums sending up new shoots, and my sedum up about an inch and my poor forsythia confused not knowing what to do – I guess it means we must be living in Michigan!

I am also looking forward to great year for our Association. I would like to thank Janice Chapman for her work as our Vice-President for the last two years and I welcome Cheryl Rundle as our new Vice-President. Our elections were held in November and Lori Buzzelli ran unopposed as our secretary. Thank you Lori for your willingness to continue to work in this capacity!

We have chosen to narrow down the number of our projects and reorganize some of our current commitments to better utilize our volunteer efforts. The Master Gardener class promises to be better than ever and remember that if you want to attend one of the classes, perhaps as a refresher or because it is going to cover new information, please plan on doing so. It's a great opportunity to get to know the new class members and learn something too!

Keep your eyes and ears open for potential speakers that we can enjoy as an Association, even if it means we have to travel to their place of business. I would like to fill our calendar as soon as possible. It won't be too long before it is Spring in earnest (I hope) and we will be able to share our personal gardening plans as well as some of our project plans.

Here's to a great year of friendship and gardening!

Carol

Happy New Year!!!

I don't know about the rest of you, but I have been very happy with the type of winter we're having so far. I know it's not going to last, but I'll enjoy it while I can. Heck, my pansies are still blooming!

2007 is going to be an exciting year for Clare County Master Gardeners. There are a few different educational opportunities being offered at the Master Gardener class that some of us that weren't offered when we took the class, such as Winter Seed Sowing and Diagnostic Training. Diagnostic training will be offered to us again, so that the Horticulture Hotline can be implemented in our county.

Not only are we already planning our own gardens, we are also in the planning stages for some of the NGMGA projects. I am certainly looking forward to volunteering at the Mackie again this year. It is extremely rewarding to chat with the visitors, answer their questions, and hear the compliments. It makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

I urge all Master Gardeners to attend the NGMGA meetings to see what we're about. Come check it out. The fellowship with other MGs and the ability to earn education credits makes it all worthwhile. Hope to see you there!!!!
Cheryl Rundle

NGMGA Spring Banquet

Our Spring Banquet will be held on March 5, 2007. We are in the planning stage at this time, and will pass along all pertinent information as it becomes available.

Clare County Master Gardener Class Schedule 2007

Jan. 22	Soils for Plant Growth	Jerry Lindquist
Jan. 29	Plant Science	Paul Gross
Feb. 05	Indoor Plants	Nancy Fry
Feb. 12	Winter Seed Sowing	Monica Milla
	Composting	
Feb. 19	Tree Fruit Culture	Mike Jenkins
Feb. 26	Woody Ornamentals	Russ Kidd
Mar. 05	Spring Break – NGMGA Spring Banquet	
Mar. 12	Vegetable Gardening	Jim Lincoln
Mar. 19	Flower Gardening	Barbara Bischoff
Mar. 29	Small Fruit Culture	Lori Buzzelli
Apr. 02	Integrated Pest Management	Duke Elsner
Apr. 09	Turf / Lawn Care	Hal Hudson
Apr. 16	Household Pests	Paul Gross
	Diagnostic Training	
Apr. 23	Gypsy Moth Education	Jim Neff
	Wildlife Management	Kable Thurlow
Apr. 30	Inclement Weather Makeup Day	

Project Leaders: Don't forget to be thinking about which Monday evening you are available to attend one of the above classes to give your project report. This entails giving a five-minute or less presentation about your project to encourage class members to volunteer. Call Marybeth to schedule your evening.

MG Class Educational Opportunities will be available throughout the Master Gardener classes. If there is a subject being taught in the class that you did not have before, come join us and count these hours toward your recertification or advanced status. **Classes are from 6-9 pm.**

Educational Opportunities

NGMGA is in the process of lining up speakers for educational credit at our meetings. If you know of someone that could provide approximately an hour of educational credit on a topic you think would be of interest, contact Carol Neeper at 989-544-3116. **Please note: NGMGA meetings will be held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Clare County building in meeting room B unless otherwise noted.**

- **January 31, 2007** – Deadline for entering education and volunteer hours into the MG Record Keeping System.
- **March 3, 2007** – *Know and Grow Seminar* at Dow Gardens–9 am to 4 pm–Dr. Allan Armitage, Dr. Wm. Mathis, Douglas Chapman, and Tom Kimmel are the featured speakers. Call 989-631-2677 to register. Registration forms available online at www.dowgardens.org
- **March 16 & 17, 2007** – *Learn to GrowGreen* – Spring MG Conference at MSU. March 16 is a welcome reception. March 17 is the conference, which will start at 8 am with a keynote presentation. Following the presentation, concurrent classes will be held until 4:30 pm, with a break for lunch. There will be gardening-related vendors, the MG Shopping Mall, door prizes and more. The information brochure and registration brochure can be found at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/> Scroll down to the educational opportunities, and click on 2007 Master Gardener Spring Conference. The cost for Saturday's conference will be \$75.00 for early-bird registration. MG's will receive 7 hours of educational credit.
- **April 21** – *Spring Into Gardening Conference* – Isabella County MG's Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Cost is \$50.00. Contact Tracey Knack at 989-772-0911 ext. 215 or knack@msu.edu to be put on the mailing list for registration form.
- **April 24** – *A Garden Affair – Perennial Garden Seminar* – MSUE and Ogemaw County MG's Forward's Conference Center, West Branch, MI. Cost is \$40.00 by April 1. \$50.00 after April 1. Call Roy Elie at 989-345-0692 for info. MG's earn 4.5 edu. credit. Registration form available online at: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/programs/2007/2007-04-24-Ogemaw-Spring-Affair.pdf>

- **May 29, 2007** – *Gardens of Ireland* – For more information, call 517-355-5191 ext. 1-408.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mackie Welcome Center –Karen Winters 539-2795
Clare HS Memorial Garden – Karen Winters 539-2795
Lincoln Township Hall – Janice Chapman 588-9047
Clare County Roadside Park – Marybeth Denton 539-7805
Shamrock Park – Kay Haven 386-7541
Clare County Fair – Marybeth Denton 539-7805

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*The Clare County Fair will be held August 20-25*  
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EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE: PRESS RELEASE: Michigan revises Emerald Ash Borer quarantine to prevent further spread of beetle

Michigan revises Emerald Ash Borer quarantine to prevent further spread of beetle. All areas where pest is known to exist now quarantined.

Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Mitch Irwin today announced an amendment of the state's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine to prevent the further spread of the exotic insect and keep the Upper Peninsula free of EAB. Effective immediately, Michigan's EAB quarantine has been revised to include two levels in the Lower Peninsula. The two-level quarantine maintains the existing 21-county quarantined area of Southeast Michigan as Level I and the balance of the Lower Peninsula as Level II. Level I represents that area of the state that is generally infested with EAB and Level II has scattered but isolated infestations.

"Michigan's natural resources are at risk," said Irwin. "We want to minimize the impact of EAB across the state as much as possible. We think the two-level quarantine will help us accomplish this goal by not allowing the movement of ash materials or hardwood firewood from the quarantined area of Southeast Michigan to any other area of the Lower Peninsula or the movement of any ash material or hardwood firewood out of the Lower Peninsula."

The movement of hardwood firewood is still prohibited from leaving quarantined areas, and remains to be the leading cause of the spread of EAB. Firewood can also vector other destructive pests such as Asian long-horned beetle, oak wilt and beech bark disease.

"Our ability to regulate the movement of hardwood firewood in the Lower Peninsula is crucial to preventing the artificial spread of EAB into other areas of Michigan and surrounding states," said Ken Rauscher, Director of the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division. "It's imperative citizens comply with the state's quarantine and not transport firewood if we are to be successful."

Individuals or businesses found violating the state's EAB quarantine are subject to fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and jail time of up to five years for moving regulated ash materials, including firewood.

Additional information about EAB, and a map of the quarantine boundaries will be available online at www.michigan.gov/eab or www.emeraldashborer.info. You may also contact your regional MDA office, or your local Michigan State University Extension or conservation district office.

Curious Gardening Questions

& Issues from the
Northern Gateway Master Gardener Association

From 10-17-06 meeting:

bmh

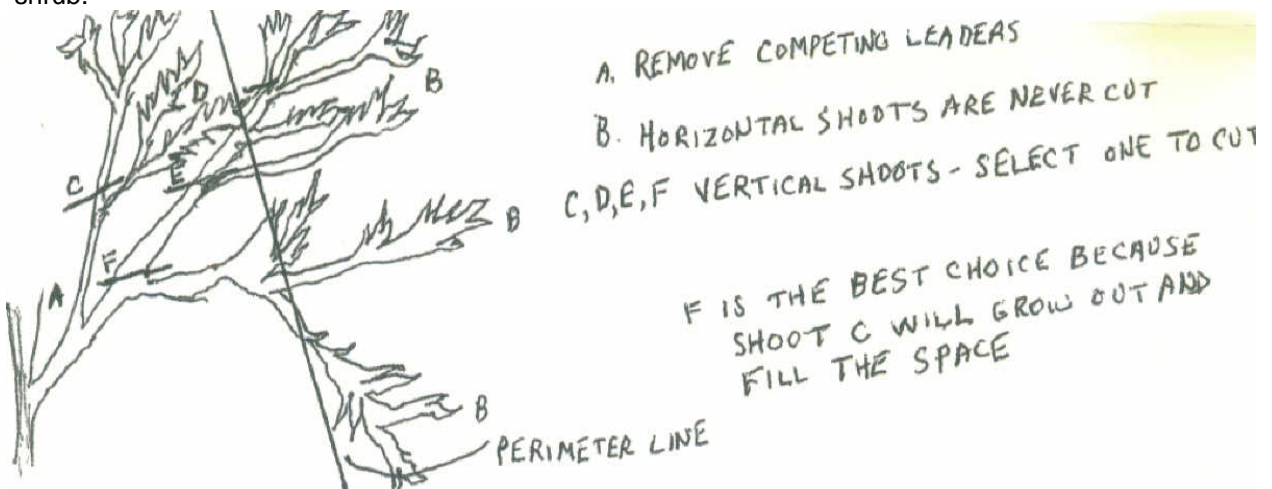
Q. How do I prune my "Arborvitae type" shrub? I want to keep it the same size.

A.

Pruning is dependent upon the growth habit of the individual species of evergreen. Most evergreens maintain their foliage throughout the year and fall into two broad categories, the narrow leaf and the broadleaf species. Examples of narrow leaf conifers include pine, spruce, fir, hemlock, yew, juniper, arborvitae and false cypress. Pine, spruce and fir grow only in the spring and early summer and do not need to be pruned each year. Arborvitae, juniper, yew and hemlock continue to grow throughout the season and need to be pruned annually.

Broadleaf evergreens include rhododendron, Japanese andromeda, holly and mountain laurel. They are normally pruned every 2-3 years depending on their growth rate.

Needle evergreens are best pruned in early spring after the ground has thawed. By using thinning cuts one can remove more growth, especially old wood, reducing the shrub's total size without changing its natural appearance. In thinning, work with the natural growth habit of the individual species. The thinning process is the same with all evergreen shrubs. Arborvitae (type) shrubs continually produce vertical shoots. Remove only vertical growth inside the perimeter line. This method prevents dieback of surface needles and allows sunlight to penetrate the interior of the shrub.



Q. It is time to rake up my yard, can I use autumn leaves as winter mulch?

A. A few stray leaves on or around your beds will not be a problem. In large quantities, however, the leaves will pack down and form a dense mat that can prevent sufficient moisture and air from reaching the soil. Even in winter, plants need an adequate supply of water and oxygen to survive. As the season progresses, the leaf mat absorbs more moisture and turns into a dense mass lying on top of your plant stems. This can break stems or soften bark, making them vulnerable to pests, disease and frost.