

# Wisconsin Horticulture Update Summary, May 30, 2014

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## WI WEATHER REVIEW

A second week of summer-like weather favored a rapid planting pace across much of the state. Daytime highs were above-average and reached the upper 80°s on several days, while overnight lows remained warm in the 50°s and 60°s. Scattered showers and storms produced locally heavy rainfall over downtown Madison and other southern and west-central locations on May 27, but drier conditions returned for the latter half of the week. (May 29, 2014, WI Pest Bulletin)

Average soil temperatures at 2” as of May 29, 2014: Hancock 68.7, Arlington 80.0.

### Growing degree days (GDD)

Growing degree days is an accumulation of maximum and minimum temperature averages as related directly to plant and insect development. This week, the GDD<sub>mod50</sub> in Wisconsin ranged from 167.0 to 486.0. Following is a list of GDD as of May 29, 2014 for the following cities: Bayfield 167.0, Beloit 486.0, Crandon 218.0, Cumberland 258.0, Dubuque 465.0, Eau Claire 328.0, Fond du Lac 308.0, Green Bay 241.0, La Crosse 398.0, Madison 405.0, Milwaukee 296.0, Wausau 275.0. To determine the GDD of any location in Wisconsin, use the degree day calculator at the UW Extension Ag Weather webpage

[http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex\\_agwx/thermal\\_models/degree\\_days](http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/thermal_models/degree_days)

To put it in perspective, following is an abbreviated list of plant and insect phenological stages in relation to GDD accumulations at which the events occur (Ohio State BYGL): Silver maple, first bloom, 34; Cornelian cherry dogwood, first bloom, 40; silver maple, full bloom, 42; red maple, first bloom, 44; speckled alder, first bloom, 52; northern lights forsythia, first bloom, 58; Japanese pieris, first bloom, 60; red maple, full bloom, 75; star magnolia, first bloom, 83; border forsythia, first bloom, 86; **eastern tent caterpillar, egg hatch, 92**; Manchu cherry, first bloom, 93; northern lights forsythia, full bloom, 94; Norway maple, first bloom, 116; border forsythia, full bloom, 116; chanticleer callery pear, first bloom, 123; sargent cherry, first bloom, 127; **larch casebearer, egg hatch, 128**; Japanese pieris, full bloom, 129; saucer magnolia, first bloom, 133; common flowering quince, first bloom, 137; Bradford callery pear, first bloom, 142; **European pine sawfly, egg hatch, 144**; weeping Higan cherry, first bloom, 145; P.J.M. rhododendron, first bloom, 147; chanticleer callery pear, full bloom, 149; Norway maple, full bloom, 149; **inkberry leafminer, adult emergence, 150**; sargent cherry, full bloom, 151; star magnolia, full bloom, 151; Allegheny serviceberry, first bloom, 153; Manchu cherry, full bloom, 155; spring snow crabapple, first bloom, 155; apple serviceberry, first bloom, 159; **spruce spider mite, egg hatch, 162**; Bradford callery pear, full bloom, 164; Allegheny serviceberry, full bloom, 169; saucer magnolia, full bloom, 174; P.J.M. rhododendron, full bloom, 178; **boxwood psyllid, egg hatch, 179**; weeping Higan cherry, full bloom, 179; Koreanspice viburnum, first bloom, 185; regent serviceberry, first bloom, 186; Japanese flowering crabapple, first bloom, 189; eastern redbud, first bloom,

191; **gypsy moth, egg hatch, 192**; Koreanspice viburnum, full bloom, 205; **azalea lace bug, egg hatch, 206**; 'Spring Snow' crabapple, full bloom, 209; common flowering quince, full bloom, 214; **birch leafminer, adult emergence, 215**; 'Coralburst' crabapple, first bloom, 217; **elm leafminer, adult emergence, 219**; common chokecherry, full bloom, 221; **alder leafminer, adult emergence, 224**; **honeylocust plant bug, egg hatch, 230**; sargent crabapple, first bloom, 230; common lilac, first bloom, 234; Ohio buckeye, first bloom, 245; common horsechestnut, first bloom, 251; **hawthorn lace bug, adult emergence, 253**; **hawthorn leafminer, adult emergence, 260**; flowering dogwood, first bloom, 263; red buckeye, first bloom, 265; blackhaw viburnum, first bloom, 269; **imported willow leaf beetle, adult emergence, 274**; Sargent crabapple, full bloom, 298; red horsechestnut, first bloom, 304; **pine needle scale, egg hatch - 1st generation, 305**; **cooley spruce gall adelgid, egg hatch, 308**; **eastern spruce gall adelgid, egg hatch, 308**; common lilac, full bloom, 315; 'Pink Princess' weigela, first bloom, 316; blackhaw viburnum, full bloom, 322; redosier dogwood, first bloom, 323; dwarf fothergilla, full bloom, 325; 'Winter King' hawthorn, first bloom, 328; **lilac borer, adult emergence, 330**; slender deutzia, first bloom, 338; Japanese kerria, full bloom, 342; common horsechestnut, full bloom, 344; red chokeberry, full bloom, 351; doublefile viburnum, first bloom, 353; Pagoda dogwood, first bloom, 363; red Java weigela, first bloom, 365; black cherry, first bloom, 368; common sweetshrub, first bloom, 371; **lesser peach tree borer, adult emergence, 372**; Ohio buckeye, full bloom, 374; **holly leafminer, adult emergence, 375**; Vanhoutte spirea, full bloom, 406; **euonymus scale (first generation), egg hatch, 406**; black cherry, full bloom, 419; Miss Kim Manchurian lilac, first bloom, 422; **locust leafminer, adult emergence, 437**; doublefile viburnum, full bloom, 444; black locust, first bloom, 467; common ninebark, first bloom, 478; **oystershell scale, egg hatch, 497**; and smokebush, first bloom, 501.

## INTRODUCTION

The host for today's WHU was Racine Co. educator, Patti Nagai. PDDC Director Brian Hudelson, Insect Lab Interim Director P.J. Liesch and Director of Horticulture at Rotary Gardens Mark Dwyer were special guests. Participants in today's discussions were representatives from the following counties: Brown (Vijai Pandian), Columbia (George Koepp), Dane (Lisa Johnson), Eau Claire (Erin La Favre), Kenosha (Barb Larsen), Marquette (Lyssa Seefeldt), Milwaukee (Sharon Morrissey), Pierce (Diana Alfuth), Portage (Walt), Racine (Patti Nagai), Spooner (Kevin Schoessow), and Waukesha (Kristin Krokowski).

## HORTS' SHORTS

Agents report the following issues to be of interest this week: With everything thrillingly lush and green, apples and crabapples in bloom in most areas, lilacs in full to past bloom depending on the location, and moisture slightly high, spring is here. Dandelions are also full to past bloom; same with garlic mustard. Mosquitoes are out in full force in the north, deer and wood ticks are prevalent in Brown Co., winged carpenter ants are moving around in Columbia Co., June beetles are bopping windows in many counties, and tiger beetles have been mistaken for EAB in Pierce Co. Brown evergreens are still a cause of great concern to homeowners; some new growth has been seen on species, but many have none. Dead limbs cannot be noticed on deciduous trees, and there are many. An interesting observation was made by a Kenosha retail clerk: a large dead spider was found in a packing box from Indonesia. P. J. Liesch identified it as a non-aggressive tropical huntsman spider.

## SPECIALIST REPORT: Insect Diagnostic Lab Update

*Presented by P. J. Liesch, Interim Assistant Faculty Associate, UW-Madison Department of Entomology, and Interim Manager of the UW-Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab [pliesch@wisc.edu](mailto:pliesch@wisc.edu)*

### Carpenter ants

It's the time of year for winged carpenter ants to be out and about. The large, winged, mated queens are looking for good nesting sites. Unless there is water-damaged wood or rotting logs, they are simply an annoyance, despite their large size, up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long.

Carpenter ants (UMN): <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/carpenter-ants/>

## May/June beetles

There are many sightings of the May/June beetle. Again, it is the time of the year for them to be out.

May/June beetles (UMN): <http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/245MayJuneBeetles.pdf>

## Ticks and mosquitoes

Reports of ticks and mosquitoes are up this year. Newspaper and television broadcasters called this week wanting to know what was going on in the northern part of the state.

WI mosquitoes and their control (UW): <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/mosquitosite/>

Ticks and their control (UMN): <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/ticks-and-their-control/>

## Aquatic insects

A few aquatic insects have been reported. Giant water bugs, up to 2-3" in size, will be found near lakes and streams. They are strongly attracted to light. Strong flyers, they can travel quite large distances.

Someone sent in a photo of a male dobsonfly otherwise known as Hellgrammite. With tusk-like mandibles that are a few inches long, they look quite menacing, but actually the mandibles are so large they don't have the leverage to pinch.

Giant water bug (UWM): <http://www4.uwm.edu/fieldstation/naturalhistory/bugoftheweek/giant-water-bug.cfm>

Eastern dobsonfly (FCPS): <http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/dobsonfly.htm>

## Spiders

Besides the dead spider found in the packaging material in a box labeled from Indonesia mentioned earlier, there were a few photos sent of a native large spider, the fishing spider. They are not aggressive or harmful towards humans. They are often found near water or in thick woods, and they feed on other insects. The main genus of the fishing spider is Dolomedes.

Six-spotted fishing spider (FCPS): <http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/six-spottedfishingspider.htm>

## Questions

### Carpenter ant sexing

*Are all the flying carpenter ants female?*

As the carpenter ants swarm, there will be both males and females. There is no way to tell the difference besides examining microscopically. The queens are the one that will go off looking for nesting locations.

### Mosquito prediction

*What have you been telling the newspapers and radio stations up north about the mosquitoes?*

Basically it is the same old story, up north in the land of lakes and streams, mosquitoes will always be plentiful. There may have been a misconception that insects would not overwinter when it was so cold so long, and they would be knocked back. Some species of mosquitoes may have overwintered as adults in rock piles or even basements. A lot of insects, including nuisance mosquitoes, spent the winter as eggs or other life stages down in leaf litter, depressions or shallow pools of water, where they were covered with snow and insulated. As the snow melted and the depressions filled with water, and temperatures rose, the conditions were right for a hatch. With all the recent rains and high temperatures, expect the mosquito population to be high.

### EAB larvae survival rate

*A Twin Cities station reported that about 70% of the EAB larvae were killed this winter. Is that number accurate?*

It depends on the location. If the temperatures went down to -20°, as we saw in parts of WI, it is my understanding about 50% to 60% of the larvae could be killed. Farther north in MN, where temperatures were in the -30°s, it is possible about 90% of the larvae could be killed. In parts of MN, it seems probable that 70% could be killed. Overall, however, the impact will not be great enough to be beneficial to our trees.

Cold hardiness of EAB, a new perspective (USDA): [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5191794.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5191794.pdf)

## SPECIALIST REPORT: Plant Diagnostic Disease Clinic

Presented by Brian Hudelson, Sr. Outreach Specialist, UW-Plant Pathology, and Director of the UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) [bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu](mailto:bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu)

The PDDC update is attached to the end of this summary.

Rhizosphaera needle blight and winter burn continue to be samples of concern.

Rhizosphaera needle cast (UWEX): [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Rhizosphaera\\_Needle\\_Cast.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Rhizosphaera_Needle_Cast.pdf)

### Cedar apple rust

Two people at the Eau Claire workshop this week brought in samples of cedar apple rust beginning to fruit on juniper. It is active now, and the orange, gelatinous blobs may be seen on any variant of juniper, such as red cedar or carpet junipers. All junipers are susceptible, and there will be some level of disease at one point or another. The orange masses are reproductive structures introducing spores to the alternate host, most commonly crabapples, hawthorns and flowering quince, but they may also be found occasionally on pear and amelanchier. On the deciduous host, leaves will show relatively brightly colored yellow-orange spots that will form roughly mid-summer. Those spots will eventually produce spores that will get blown back to junipers to initiate new infections.

Cedar apple rust (UWEX): [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Cedar\\_Apple\\_Rust\\_Apple.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Cedar_Apple_Rust_Apple.pdf)

### Impatiens necrotic spot virus

Greenhouse samples of impatiens tested positive for impatiens necrotic spot virus, a thrip transmitted virus. Begonias also were also presenting symptoms, probably from the same virus. The definite viral symptoms on the leaf had a mosaic pattern of necrotic spots with targeted patterns and blotchy leaf color.

Impatiens necrotic spot (UWEX): [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact\\_Sheets/FC\\_PDF/Impatiens\\_Necrotic\\_Spot.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Impatiens_Necrotic_Spot.pdf)

## Questions

### 2014 disease predictions

*Given your vast knowledge, what do you predict for diseases this season based on the recent wet weather?*

Based on the weather pattern, anything fungal will do well. Expect leaf spot, leaf blights, many leaf diseases this year. Since many trees were just leafing out when the rains occurred, apple scab could be very severe. Bacterial diseases could also pick up, but most of the problems will probably be fungal.

### Dieback on Heptacodium

*Have you seen dieback on Heptacodium, the seven sons flower tree?*

Actually there have been a few samples submitted on *Heptacodium* for dieback, and we have been testing for *Verticillium* to see if there is an indication. There is very little literature on the particular host in terms of disease problems; even USDA and ARS has no listing for pathogens. If you have a sample of a dying, or wilting limb, send it in as an educational sample. I would be interested in getting more experience with that host to know what the pathogens are. If you want it tested for *Verticillium*, find that section and branches on the dead section that are as low as possible, because if it is *Verticillium*, it will be coming up through the roots. Also watch the main area that leads up to the section that is dead for canker indications. Pimply areas within the sunken areas may be indicative of fruiting bodies of fungi.

Japanese maple, on the other hand, is a very common host of *Verticillium*. We have already had one positive, and it looks like another will be. Definitely send in samples of suspicious branches from that host.

# SPECIAL TOPIC: New and Exciting Herbaceous Plants

Presented by Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Gardens, Janesville WI

The trend in breeding continues to focus on certain genera such as *Echinacea*, *Baptisia* and *Heuchera*. There is much time and energy being put into these plants, increasing what is available to the home gardener, but at the same time it is challenging to sift through and decide. More often than not, picture catalogs and plant tags do not do justice, nor do they explain some of the nuances of plants that may not yet have been trialed well. At the Rotary Gardens, trials are being carried on new and not so new plants.

“New plants are not always good, and good plants are not always new.” (author unknown)

Gardeners are looking for plants that are new and exciting, but that is not to say plants developed five, ten or twenty years ago aren't meritorious and appropriate for their gardens. As the palette continues to expand, Extension agents are trying to sift through them to find the strong growers. Plants should do more than survive, they should thrive.

Strong marketing may gloss over the fact that most plants are not adequately trialed and are rooted on the merits of a singular feature. More often than not, that singular feature is what you see in the gardening catalogs and what will sell millions of plants. It is overwhelming for the consumer to see so many plants released every year. It is important for homeowners to know what they need to provide that plant for it to thrive, even more than what the plant can provide for them.

## Herbaceous perennial plants for sun

### Echinacea

There are many strong varieties of coneflowers. With over 150 beautiful flower varieties available, it is important to consider characteristics of stem strength, and fading, or how they hold color. Many of the purple and new reds that have recently been developed have beautiful new flowers, but the fading flowers tend to detract from the appearance. In some cases the bicolor effect is good. Chicago Botanic Gardens is doing a lot of coneflower trialing for strong characteristics.

For native gardens and pollinator appropriate gardens, there is nothing better than the standard *Echinacea purpurea* or many of the species seen in native prairie gardens of the Midwest. The fancier ones are appropriate for garden settings. Two of the many *Echinacea* for the garden setting we have found to do well are:

*Echinacea* 'Leilani', a beautiful yellow hybrid coneflower that blooms for almost 6 weeks.

*Echinacea* 'Double Scoop Orangeberry', a nice double orange coneflower, interesting for its architecture. It does have the stem strength to support the added petal weight.

### Baptisia

A beautiful long-lived perennial, this plant takes up a lot of space and does not like to be moved. Choose a permanent spot in the sun for it. They ultimately lend themselves to the mid-spring garden and the early summer garden. *Baptisia* have very clean, green blue foliage, beautiful flowers for 3-4 weeks, and ultimately nice seedheads that carry the show later in the season. Stem color is also nice. It is considered to be a small to medium shrub-sized plant. Many of the new introductions come from the native species. Rotary Gardens features over 40 varieties. These are some favorites:

*Baptisia* 'Starlite Prairieblues' is a Chicagoland Grows introduction, bred at Chicago Botanic Gardens.

*Baptisia sphaerocarpa* is a native species, and one of the bases for hybridization. It is a nice clear yellow. 'Screaming Yellow' is basically identical.

*Baptisia* 'Chocolate Chip', a hybrid, is a beautiful variety.

### Phlox

Garden phlox, in general, may be selected for beautiful blooms and fragrance, which are valid components, but the added value of interesting foliage makes it particularly valuable. When choosing plants, foliage color and texture are components to be considered.

*Phlox paniculata* 'Shockwave' is a variegated garden phlox that provides more than one season of interest. It has a nice combination of reliable variegation and lovely flower. From the minute it emerges to the minute it is cut down after frost it looks nice. The foliage is prominent when it is not in bloom.

## Veronica

Veronicas are wonderful for their linear flower architecture and rebloom. They tolerate being cut back severely after initial bloom. This something recommended also for garden sages such as *Salvia* 'May Night' and 'East Friesland', hardy geranium and other early bloomers for fresh growth and rebloom.

*Veronica* 'Pure Silver' has silvery foliage and a 4-6 weeks season of bloom. It will rebloom quite late in the season.

## Campanula

The genus *Campanula* does not do well in a heavy rabbit population. They must be protected from rabbit or not planted because they are rabbit fodder. They are good for sun or part sun.

*Campanula* 'Sarastro' does very well in the Gardens. It is a nodding bell type, 24-30 inches tall, with a long bloom time.

## Allium

There are about 50,000 *Allium* planted at Rotary Gardens, and it is now the crux of onion bloom. The "puff ball on a stick" is starting to go dormant now.

*Allium* 'Summer Beauty' is a mid-summer blooming selection, heavily touted by grower and designer Roy Diblick of Northwind Perennial Farms. It is a great 18" tall summer blooming Allium, with no spreading or seeding issues. The spherical blooms hold the color and form for four weeks, and the faded flowers maintain the rigidity to offer additional interest. The is one of the top ten plants at Rotary Gardens, used in mass plantings, in repetition, and also as a solitary specimen.

## Solidago

Although Extension agents annually receive calls about hayfever when the goldenrods are in bloom, we know that is a misconception. Goldenrod does not cause hayfever. Canadian goldenrod is a thug in most gardens, great for native wild gardens, but too large for most home gardens. Germany has taken our native goldenrod and bred it for the past 30 years, introducing new compact and dwarf varieties.

*Solidago* 'Little Lemon' is a late summer bloomer for the front of the border.

## Asters

Much has been done with aster nomenclature. For this presentation, the word aster will be used. New York and New England asters are losing favor because of the mildew issues and floppiness. Larger asters must be cut back in half now to keep them compact and multi-stemmed; if not, they must be staked.

Aster 'Raydon's Favorite' is a very late bloomer. It is considered an aromatic aster, not for fragrant flowers but for foliage. It is only 30" tall, with a heavy flower count through a few light frosts. 'Raydon's Favorite' is a beautiful, smaller statured plant.

## Grasses

Native grasses are coming out in wonderful selections with more significant red fall color.

## Andropogon

Big and little bluestem usually get a pinkish haze in October, but fall color on grasses is as variable as it on trees. Having good fall color on a grass is a feature of interest additional to its form and winter interest.

*Andropogon* 'Red October' was chosen for very consistent deep red color. The tinting may become noticeable in late August, and becomes more significant as evening temperatures start to dip. It is a 6'-8' tall grass with strong coloration late in the season.

## Panicum

Many *Panicum* are being developed for a shorter stature to be used in mid-border or in smaller landscapes to provide fall coloration.

*Panicum* 'Red Ribbons' comes out of the University of Connecticut. This 3' switchgrass has a shock of beautiful color in late September. The red tinting exists in mid summer as well.

## Schizachrium

Excellent introductions are coming out of the University of Minnesota. They are being selected for being very rigid and not floppy through any part of the season. Little bluestem is a great mid-height grass for a sunny garden.

*Schizachrium* 'The Blues' is an older variety with great pink-amber coloration. It is a superior blue in spring and has nice fall color.

## Shade perennials

### Brunnera

Developments in *Brunnera* are exciting. Rotary Gardens is starting to promote the use of clump perennials planted closely together, offering the same benefits of a trailing groundcover while maintaining soil moisture and minimizing weed competition, without running into a situation of regret after planting trailing groundcovers. *Brunnera* is deer resistant and has very little damage over the season, as long as in it planted in a partially shaded garden and not allowed to dry out. In sun they will get crispy. It is a low-maintenance plant when planted properly.

*Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' is not new, but it is a solid performer. In Janesville, it is finishing blooming now with little blue flowers, but the silvery foliage will carry over the show through the summer in a partly-shaded garden.

*Brunnera* 'Sea Heart' is 'Jack Frost' on steroids with a larger leaf. 'Alexander's Great' is another large one, and there are some silvery versions.

*Brunnera* 'King's Ransom' has beautiful chartreuse highlights in spring and then the silver carries over. Chartreuse fades by mid-summer, but it provides a stunning spring combination of blue flowers hovering over chartreuse leaves.

### Aralia

The Japanese spikenard is hardy to zone 4. The green version gets enormous, reaching 6' with interesting flowers. It adds a subtropical appearance to spaces, and is more substantial and bigger than hosta.

*Aralia cordata* 'Sun King' is a super hot plant on the west coast. It is a pure gold form, reaching only 3-5'. Great for part sun, it offers illumination in a partially shaded garden.

### Aruncus

Many of the goatsbeard are 4-5' tall, but great plants for part-shade gardens.

*Aruncus hybrida* 'Misty Lace' is only 30" tall, more appropriate for the smaller garden.

### Heuchera

To keep coralbells successfully over winter, it is important to adequately mulch the plants through the winter and leave the foliage on. It is not recommended to cut the foliage off before spring, because it helps insulate the crown of the plant. They must also be planted in moist, well-drained soils. *Heuchera* have a color transition from spring to fall. Some may have very dramatic color changes, so plant tags do not give an adequate representation of what to expect. *Heuchera* tend to have a decent fall color and look good into November.

*Heuchera* Dolce® 'Back Currant' has lots of silvering on a dark background.

*Heuchera* 'Tiramisu' has beautiful coloration with dramatic color changes in the season.

*Heuchera* 'Cherry Cola' is a pure red that keeps its color through the year and transitions to orange in fall.

*Heuchera* 'Fire Alarm' is a bright red that keeps its color from May through October. It is not often that such a color can be incorporated into the part-shade garden.

## Tiarella

The foamflowers are great understory plants. They can be used as a clumping groundcover, but there are trailing versions as well. *Tiarella* adds the benefit of interesting foliage to the beautiful flowers.

*Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony' is just starting to bloom in Janesville now.

*Tiarella* 'Running Tapestry' has nice veination.

### X *Heucherella*

The crossing of coralbells with tiarella produces *Heucherella*. They do the same thing as *Heuchera* do, transitioning foliage color from spring, summer to fall but offer more leaf shapes and flower of *Tiarella*.

X *Heucherella* 'Sweet Tea' features beautiful orange coloration.

X *Heucherella* 'Stoplight' is a nice solid form with dramatic veination to offer illumination in part sun. It won't thrive in full shade.

## Pollinator's paradise

The Rotary Gardens is trying to satisfy the interest of many of its visitors in attracting pollinators to their gardens. They have shown interest in the plight of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, but few understand the dynamics of the pollinator on the importance of life on earth. In its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the Pollinator's Paradise is filled with perennials and annuals. Last year was a great year for butterflies in the Gardens with the almost-no-spray policy. Rotary Gardens is happy to promote ecologically sound gardening and the importance of plants.

*Salvia coccinea* 'Summer Jewel Red' is an annual hummingbird attractant because of the flower color and form of the flower.

*Cassia didymobotrya*, or popcorn plant, is a tropical. The unopened buds smell like buttered popcorn, and the leaves have the same odor. It has a huge wave of blooms into July, takes a rest in August, and has another wave of blooms in September. A visitor from Venezuela said it is grown as a small tree there. It is a novelty plant that gets up to 7'-8' in a year from 1' in spring. It is the most talked-about plant in gardening now, and it brings in the pollinators. It starts languishing at 40°. There is a challenge to overwintering it in a greenhouse.

## Annuals

### *Solenostemon*

There are great developments in coleus. The majority are sun-tolerant, but they need adequate moisture. No longer tucked into the shade anymore, they are front and center for their beautiful foliage options, not the little blue flowers.

*Solenostemon* 'Kong Jr.' is a favorite.

*Solenostemon* 'Trusty Rusty' has pink foliage, fitting in well to the Rotary's pink theme this year.

### *Colocasia*

The elephant's ears will thrive in Wisconsin summers, starting out at only 8" in spring and turning huge through summer. Winterization and storage of these tropicals can be a challenge, but they are worth it. They love water and can live in shallow water gardens.

*Colocasia* 'Black Coral' is the best black elephant ear.

*Colocasia* 'Mojito' is one to try to overwinter because it is so beautiful.

### SunPatiens®

Impatiens downy mildew is a big problem in the south, but since it still has not hit Janesville, the Rotary Gardens is still planting *Impatiens walleriana* this year. SunPatiens, out of Japan, is amazing. There are trailing forms, compact forms and larger forms that will get 24"-30". There are now 15 to 20 selections. Unfortunately, they are not immune to impatiens downy mildew. The Gardens will be segueing into New Guinea impatiens in the future.

SunPatiens® 'Compact White' and 'Compact Pink Blush' are two varieties used at Rotary this year.

## Begonia

*Begonia* 'Sparks Will Fly' is a nice begonia to keep an eye on. It has dark foliage with orange blossoms.

## Plectranthus

*Plectranthus*, a popular plant out of South Africa, is now used in partly-shaded gardens, blooming the entire summer.

*Plectranthus* Mona Lavender™ is our favorite.

## Edibles

With edibles in the interest of so many gardeners, they should be beautiful as well.

*Beta vulgaris* 'Peppermint' is a selection of Swiss chard, and vital in gardens.

*Capsicum* 'Purple Flash' is not typically eaten, but this pepper is beautiful in a container or full-sun garden.

*Capsicum* 'Count Dracula' is a totally edible hot pepper with dark foliage. It is a beautiful plant in a full-sun garden.

*Ocimum* 'Pesto Perpetuo' is a tall, variegated basil. Use it in the kitchen or leave this ornamental basil in the garden. Its natural form is ovoid and it stays that way. It looks like a little boxwood.

## Questions

### Plant sources

*Where can you find Ocimum 'Pesto Perpetuo'?*

We were able to acquire it from the wholesale grower, Radtke.

*Where can you find the popcorn plant?*

That one is not easy to start from seed, so we had a grower start them. We tried to keep it in a greenhouse over winter but were not successful.

### Echinacea seedlings

*Midwest Groundcovers mentioned it did not matter how many varieties of Echinacea there are, because after awhile, if planted near each other, all the seedlings will look like Echinacea purpurea.*

That is not a surprising statement. For us, *Echinacea* is a short-lived perennial. It reseeds to form a colony that regenerates itself. We have not seen the species overtake the areas yet, but it would not surprise me. Richard Hawke, manager of the trial gardens at Chicago Botanic Gardens, showed us the *Echinacea* and we found the flowers nice but often the stems were on the ground. We will wait until the breeding frenzy settles down and make choices then.

### Spikenard overwintering

*A comment on spikenard, the green version came back for us twice.*

Rotary Botanical Gardens: <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Plant Evaluation at Chicago Botanic Gardens: [http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/plant\\_evaluation/](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/plant_evaluation/)

## FINAL NOTES

Next week, the host will be Sharon Morrissey and the special topic will be marmorated stinkbug.

The full audio podcast of today's and archived WHU conferences can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/>

## UW LINKS

Wisconsin Horticulture webpage <http://hort.uwex.edu>

UW Plant Disease Diagnostics webpage <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/>

UW Insect Diagnostic Lab <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/>

UW Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/tdl/>

UW Vegetable Pathology Webpage <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

UW Vegetable Entomology Webpage <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/vegento/people/groves.html#>

UW-Extension Weed Science <https://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/>

UW-Extension Learning Store <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>

UW Garden Facts <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/fact-sheet-listing/>

## WHU “OFF THE AIR”

During this past week specialists have commented on these issues off the air:

### Vegetable Crop Update

Vegetable Crop Update Newsletter #7 is available at <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

Topics covered in the issue include:

Blitecast and P-Days for late blight and early blight management

National late blight updates for the week

Spotted Wing Drosophila update for fruit

WI Irrigation Scheduler Program advertisement

### New find of EAB in a quarantined area

- Dane County - City of Middleton

Dane County is among the 21 counties under quarantine for EAB. We expect to continue finding new locations within the quarantined counties. We will continue to issue press releases when we first find EAB in a county and quarantine it. <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/ConfirmedEABFindsInWisconsin.pdf>

(DATCP May 30, 2014)

# PDDC UPDATE

UW-Extension/Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update  
 Brian Hudelson, Ann Joy, Erin DeWinter and Joyce Wu, Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

The PDDC receives samples of many plant and soil samples from around the state. The following diseases/disorders have been identified at the PDDC from May 24, 2014 through May 30, 2014.

PLANT/SAMPLE TYPE	DISEASE/DISORDER	PATHOGEN	COUNTY
<b>BROAD-LEAVED WOODY ORNAMENTALS</b>			
Willow (Weeping)	Cytospora Canker	<i>Cytospora</i> sp.	La Crosse
	Sphaeropsis Canker	<i>Sphaeropsis</i> sp.	La Crosse
<b>FRUIT CROPS</b>			
Apple	Sphaeropsis/Botryosphaeria Canker	<i>Sphaeropsis</i> sp.	Washington
<b>NEEDED WOODY ORNAMENTALS</b>			
Spruce (Black Hills)	<a href="#">Rhizosphaera Needle Cast</a>	<i>Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii</i>	Sauk
Spruce (Norway)	Phomopsis Canker	<i>Phomopsis</i> sp.	La Crosse
<b>VEGETABLES</b>			
Basil	Sunburn	None	Columbia
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Fungus ID	Artillery Fungus	<i>Sphaerobolus</i> sp.	Waushara

For additional information on plant diseases and their control, visit the PDDC website at [pddc.wisc.edu](http://pddc.wisc.edu).