

# Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

Quarterly Newsletter – Fall/Winter 2013



## Potpourri Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17,

from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Regency Mall

Located in front of Target.

Each member brings at least 200 plants, so there will be thousands available for purchase. Please bring your own boxes for carrying your plants. The sale is held rain or shine (but let's hope for shine)!

## Wild Ones Native Plant Sale

Saturday, June 7th,

from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at

Seno Woodland Center,  
3606 Dyer Lake Road,  
Burlington, Wisconsin

There will be many new offerings and old favorites to tempt you--this is not the time to restraint!

Contact Chris Russin at  
c-russin@northwestern.edu  
or (262) 857-3191



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## Poppies

Poppies deserve a place in any garden: in wildflower and meadow plantings, perennial borders, cutting gardens or mixed-shrub borders. Their flower colors range from vibrant to subdued—from deepest crimson, bright orange and yellow to soft pink, dusky peach, rose, lilac, and cream. Flowers may be single, double or semi-double, with amazing texture and size. The Iceland poppy produces flowers up to seven inches across above attractive blue-green, segmented foliage. The Shirley poppy bears single or double crepe-paper-like blooms edged with white. Field, or Flanders, poppies sport single, crimson flowers, which suit wildflower plantings perfectly. Poppies vary in height from 2 to 3 feet tall, although there are dwarf strains of the Iceland poppy that reach only 12 inches. The beauty of poppy blooms is like a magnificent sunset, somewhat fleeting. Flowers appear primarily in the spring or fall when cool temperatures prevail.

### What's in a Name?

Many plants in a number of genera reside in the poppy family, *Papaveraceae*, and bear the name poppy: California poppy (*Eschscholzia*), blue poppy (*Meconopsis*), plumed poppy (*Macleaya*) and prickly poppy (*Argemone*), to name four. This fact sheet will focus on the genus *Papaver*, which includes most of the poppy species. The genus *Papaver* contains annuals and perennials.

The annual poppy, *P. rhoeas* (pronounced row-ays), which gardeners have cultivated for centuries, goes by a variety of common names, from corn or field poppy to Flanders poppy and Shirley poppy. The “corn” of corn poppy does not, as some people assume, refer only to its habit of showing up in cornfields. Corn is Old English for seed and from korn, the Greek word for grain; the seed in this case refers to fields of grains like rye, wheat and oat. Poppy seeds may lie dormant in soil for years and germinate when the soil is disturbed, as by a plow. Flanders poppy is the single, red



Top: *Papaver somniferum*  
'Lauren's Grape'

Upper middle:  
*Papaver orientale*  
'Cedric Morris'

Lower middle:  
*Meconopsis betonicifolia*  
'Himalayan Blue'

Bottom:  
*Papaver orientale*  
'Papillon Pink'

flower that carpeted fields in Flanders in western Europe, noticed especially during World War I. It became famous when John McCrae, a Canadian soldier, wrote a poem about it in 1917 commemorating the soldiers who had died: "In Flanders Fields, the poppies grow/ Between the crosses, row on row...." The Shirley poppy also has an interesting history, which you can read about in the next section.

The Iceland poppy, *P. nudicaule* (new-dih-caw-lee), a perennial, isn't actually from Iceland but from Asia. It undoubtedly cross-pollinated in the wild and in gardens with a few of its closely related species, including *P. radicum*, which is from Iceland. Most catalogs list the Iceland poppy as *P. nudicaule*, and, no matter what species name it goes by, it is very easy to grow from seed. It is winter-hardy from Zones 2 to 8.

Other poppies include the perennial Alpine poppy (*P. alpinum* and other diminutive species), which fit beautifully in rock gardens and the perennial Oriental poppy, *P. orientale*, which gardeners usually grow from root divisions not seeds.

### Historical Perspective

People have grown poppies for thousands of years, as far back as 5000 BC, when cultivated in Mesopotamia near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Archaeologists have found the remains of poppies in Egyptian tombs dating back 3000 years. Myths about Greek and Roman gods mention poppies. The Greeks thought the poppy was a favorite flower of Demeter, the goddess of fertility and agriculture because she was said to wear a wreath of wheat and barley interlaced with poppies. According to myth, she also used the juice of the poppy in a concoction to cure a farmer's son when the farmer helped her in her search for her daughter Persephone. Because Demeter was responsible for good harvests, people believed that poppies growing around a field meant a bountiful crop, hence the common name corn (grain) poppy. That belief held for centuries in many parts of the world, even though the plants often proved to be a nuisance, interfering with harvesting.

Throughout Europe, Asia, and North Africa, poppies were important medicinal plants. The flowers of the

corn poppy contain rhoeadine, an alkaloid used in mild sedatives. In *The Complete Herbal*, published in England in 1649, mentions the use of the flowers and seeds in medicines to guard against coughs and sore throats.

The poppies grown were usually single-flowered, red, yellow or orange with dark or white blotches at the base of the petals. In the late 1800s, the Reverend W. Wilkes, vicar of Shirley in England, discovered a new form of the annual poppy growing in his garden. The flower had a narrow edge of white around each petal and no blotch. He sowed the seeds from that plant and continued to select from subsequent generations until he had a group of poppies with single, tissue-paper-like petals, no dark blotches at the base and colors ranging from pale pink to lilac and mauve, as well as red. These became known as Shirley poppies. Other gardeners over the years made selections from their plantings of Shirley poppies so that today there are double and semi-double forms and picotee flowers with lighter or darker edges.

Poppies, unlike many other perennials and annuals, usually attain improved performance, colors and sizes through selection, not hybridization. Some breeders in Europe and Australia produce F1 hybrids, but most companies in the United States offer open-pollinated varieties. English breeders are working on hybrid poppies that do not set seed, thus extending the flowering season.

### Annuals

Corn poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, grows 2 to 3 feet tall, blooms from late spring through summer and bears red, purple, lilac, white, salmon, peach, pink or orange flowers with a distinctive dark blotch at the base of each petal. The Shirley poppy, a selection from the species, grows to 4 feet tall; its pastel blooms lack the blotch but have a narrow white or tinted edge on each petal.

### Perennials

Alpine poppy *P. alpinum*, grows 5 to 10 inches tall, blooms from late spring to summer and bears white, yellow, or occasionally orange or red flowers. It is hardy in Zones 5 to 8.

Iceland poppy *P. nudicaule*, grows 1 to 2 feet tall, blooms

from late spring through summer and produces orange, red, yellow, apricot, pink, salmon or white flowers. It is hardy in Zones 2 to 8.

Oriental poppy *P. orientale*, grows 2 to 4 feet tall, blooms from late spring to midsummer and bears scarlet, salmon, pink, peach, white or rose blooms, usually with a black blotch at the base of the petals. The foliage dies back after flowering but begins to regrow in fall. It is hardy in Zones 4 to 9

### Purchasing Poppies at a Garden Center

Even though annual and Iceland poppies grow easily from seed you sow yourself, you can purchase started plants at garden centers and nurseries, where you are also likely to find the perennial oriental group.

Look for young plants with a number of flower stems and unopened buds. Examine the plants carefully. Pass up any with yellowed leaves, which can indicate over-watering and potential root rot. Check the crown of the plant where the foliage joins the roots; if it looks “mushy,” avoid the plant because that is another indication of over-watering or poor drainage.

### Pests and Diseases

Poppies are seldom bothered by pests or diseases. Their resistance to pests or diseases is advantageous because they often react adversely to sprays. The best solution is prevention. Space plants so they have good air circulation. Do not over water. Plant them in soil with good drainage.

Aphids may attack young plants in bud. Wash them off with a hard spray of water from the garden hose or, in severe cases, use an insecticidal soap spray.

Four-legged creatures such as ground hogs may find the plants tasty. The only protection against them is a humane trap that allows you to capture and transport the animals elsewhere.

Downy mildew, a fungus, can be a problem for young plants. Its symptoms include yellow blotches on the upper sides of leaves with a gray mold on the undersides. Because of their sensitivity to sprays, chemical or otherwise, your best cure is prevention.

To read the full text visit: [ngb.org](http://ngb.org) “2003: Year of the Poppy”



Top:  
*Papaver rhoeas*  
Common name  
Red Flanders

Bottom:  
*Eschscholzia californica*  
Common name  
California poppy

The source of this article is a Poppy Fact Sheet provided as a service from the National Garden Bureau. The National Garden Bureau recognizes Eleanore Lewis as the author of this fact sheet. We wish to thank the two Poppy experts who reviewed our text before publication. Howard Bodger of Bodger Seeds Ltd. and Gene Milstein of Applewood Seed Company greatly assisted our efforts to provide accurate information.

# Winter-damaged plants need a dose of patience

*It's hard not to notice the winter burn on so many evergreens in our area. The following is a recent article published in the Chicago Tribune.*

Many evergreens in Chicago-area gardens are showing such brown needles and leaves after the long, cold winter. This kind of damage — foliage and stems that have dried out — is commonly called winter burn. The staff of the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe is observing more winter burn than in past years.



## Symptoms

Winter burn damage appears after the snow and ice accumulation on evergreen material finally melts in the early spring. Typically the leaves or needles of the evergreen show signs of sagging, wilting and yellowing.

Evergreens are usually among the first plants to show visible signs of winter injury in the spring. Signs of winter burn include needles or leaves that have turned golden or brown. Sometimes a plant has an overall yellowish or off-green color. Leaves may appear bleached.

The damage commonly occurs on the south or southwest side of the plant or on the windward side of a plant in an exposed site.

During the cold winter months, evergreens continue to lose water vapor through their leaves or needles. The leaves must replace the water by pulling it up from the roots. But when the ground is frozen, the plants' roots cannot absorb water to re-supply the leaves.

If the weather turns warm and sunny while the ground is frozen, evaporation from the leaves increases and the water cannot be replaced.

The resulting symptoms, discolored or "burned" foliage, tend to show up quickly in spring, when days are sunny and warm.

De-icing salts used on paths and driveways also can damage plants, because salt draws away water and causes plants to dry out. In snowy years when more salt is used, there tends to be more plant damage. Most road crews used a lot of salt this past year.

Plants can be damaged when salt-laden snow is shoveled onto them or when salty spray is kicked up by passing cars. The faster the speed limit, the farther the spray can carry.

Evergreens damaged by salt spray develop brown or scorched foliage that is usually worse on the sides facing the road. The salt also will affect plants' roots when melted salt soaks into the soil.

If winter burn damage is minimal, you can simply trim off any brown tips of evergreens. If the browning is more extensive, the plant may not recover. If you are not

sure whether the plant is dead, give it more time to see what happens.

April 13, 2014 By Tim Johnson,  
Special to the Tribune  
[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-13/features/ct-home-0411-garden-qa-evergreens-20140413\\_1\\_salt-spray-winter-burn-plant](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-13/features/ct-home-0411-garden-qa-evergreens-20140413_1_salt-spray-winter-burn-plant)



Leaf scorch symptoms can occur on broadleaved evergreens. Damage is most severe on shallow rooted plants such as azalea, rhododendron, holly, grape holly, boxwood, mountain laurel, or those at their northern limit for winter hardiness (Magnolia grandiflora, Acuba japonica, Ligustrum lucidum, Camellia spp. and others). Injury occurs on dry, windy, warm or sunny winter days when the ground is frozen. Plants are unable to move water from frozen soil to replace water lost from the leaves. In many cases damage occurs during the winter months but symptoms appear in the spring as the plant begins to emerge from the winter dormant period and move into the spring growth phase.

See more at: <http://extension.umd.edu/learn/winter-damage-landscape-plants#sthash.ZF3wBpjK.dpuf>

# Eastern Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*

Our native species of columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis* – commonly called eastern red columbine, wild columbine, or Canadian columbine – is at its peak in spring when its dangling blooms offer ornamental interest and food for ruby throated hummingbirds. This wildflower in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) occurs naturally in open woodlands, clearings, and rocky slopes from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan and in most states east of the Rockies (zones 2-9). It is an attractive, old-fashioned garden plant that has received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

This erect, sparingly branched herbaceous perennial grows foliage each year from a caudex (a vertical underground stem) and may form woody rhizomes. Height is quite variable, from 6 inches to 4 feet tall, depending on soil, light, moisture, and other conditions. The glaucous, light green to blue-green, three-lobed leaves grow both from the base and along the flower stems. The basal leaves are produced first, forming a mound of foliage. Each compound leaf's three leaflets are divided into three rounded lobes, which may be further subdivided in threes to look like large rounded teeth. The foliage is quite attractive even when the plants are not in bloom and will turn yellow in fall (if moist enough; the foliage will senesce in mid to late autumn, dying back to the caudex, if dry). Under the right conditions it can develop red and orange coloration.

To learn more about this ruby-throated hummingbird favorite, visit the Wisconsin Master Gardener site ([wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org)) and search for Eastern Red Columbine or go directly to the full article at the address below:

[http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Aquilegia\\_canadensis](http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Aquilegia_canadensis)



Eastern Red Columbine

Can be purchased at the Wild One's Native Plant Sale, Sat., June 7th at the Seno Center in Burlington—contact MGV Chris Russin with any questions at [c-russin@northwestern.edu](mailto:c-russin@northwestern.edu) or (262) 857-3191

## Attention Fern Lovers

According to Better Homes and Gardens, "Ferns are the quintessential shade plants. Their graceful, arching fronds conjure up images of shaded retreats and cool walks by wooded streams. Ferns will grow in the deepest, darkest woodland. They will grow in moist soil and even standing water." The members of the Hardy Fern Foundation, a non-profit focused on public fern education would probably agree.

The Hardy Ferns Foundation has a great website filled with information about ferns including a fern database, resource lists, events, and even a spore exchange. As with other perennials, the best time to plant is during the spring and fall when the rain is plentiful. Their website is <http://www.hardyferns.org>

This year the Wild One's added four new ferns to their plant sale offerings:

Dennstaedtia punctilobula - Hay-scented fern (Shade)

Dryopteris intermedia - Fancy wood fern (Shade)

Matteuccia struthiopteris - Ostrich fern (Shade)

Osmunda cinnamomea - Cinnamon fern (Shade)



Cinnamon fern

Photo: Mike Dunn

## A Life Remembered: From farming to flowers, agriculture was his life

Paul G. Jaeger was an agricultural agent for Kenosha County UW-Extension,



associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a lifetime member of the Kenosha County Fair Board. He was also an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and for 23 years wrote a weekly column for the Kenosha Evening News. Jaeger died Feb. 26 at Canterbury Home of Kenosha at age 94. From

1953 until his retirement in 1980, Jaeger thrived in his role as Extension agricultural agent. He also became very involved with the Kenosha County Fair Board and the Dairy Breakfast.

Jaeger loved being a source of information. "He was very curious and interested in sharing knowledge with others," said Jaeger's son, Bill. His interest in community concerns led Jaeger to serve on the Fox River watershed committee, the Chicago-Milwaukee Corridor Geographic Study, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the governor's committee on the future of Bong Recreation Area and the site committee for UW-Parkside. He also organized the Gateway Florists Association.

Important as these achievements were, however, many people remember Jaeger for his daffodils and hyacinths. "He had a special talent for arranging flowers," said Phyllis Northway, Jaeger's longtime colleague at the Extension office. "Spring plantings were his specialty," said his daughter, Terri Jaeger, figuring that over the course of 50 years he planted at least 3,000 daffodil bulbs and jonquils.

Source: Heather Larson Poyner, hpoyner@kenoshanews.com, Kenosha News

## MGV Jim Kairis Wins Award

Congratulations to MGV Jim Kairis who is among the 12 recipients of this year's Volunteer Center of Racine County's Recognition Awards. Volunteers recognized through the VCRC's annual awards are chosen based on volunteer accomplishments; impact on an individual group or community; and leadership from nominations submitted by area individuals and nonprofit organizations.

## Plant Milkweed

Monarchs need your help! This year again marks the lowest number of overwintering Monarchs in the Mexican mountains in the last 20 years. There are 97% fewer than at their recorded height and 50% less than there were last year. Researchers are worried we may lose a large part of their migration this year, if immediate action is not taken.

In 1991, over 75% of the wintering Monarchs from North America froze to death in Mexico as a result of three days of rain and sub-freezing conditions. Their numbers showed some recovery but now there is a nationwide shortage of milkweed.

These natural events are not the only challenges that face the Monarch. Pesticide application and genetically modified crops cover important parts of the Monarch's migratory path and serve as killing fields for any Monarch. They are unintended casualties in a war to protect crops.

***So, please plant milkweed in your gardens this year.***

For information about acquiring free seeds visit the source of this article: <https://www.livemonarch.com/free-milkweed-seeds.htm> or e-mail/call MGV Chris Russin of the Root River Wild Ones for local sources of seed. Milkweed plants will be available for sale at the Wild One's Native Plant sale.

# Green Works keeps growing

The Green Works program keeps growing and reaching deeper into our community. We were very fortunate to receive financial support from the Racine Potpourri Garden Club which allowed us to purchase grow lights for the greenhouse, adjustable height work tables to accommodate wheelchairs, and supplies (please remember to shop their annual plant sale scheduled for Saturday, May 17th).

This winter we hosted the Arc of Racine's transition students. These young adults with developmental disabilities (ages 18-21) absolutely loved coming out to the greenhouse at the Southern Wisconsin Center in Union Grove. In addition to learning about working in a greenhouse, students learned basic plant botany and did various nature craft projects with the Master Gardener Volunteers.

We were also out at Lakeside Curative Services leading nature craft projects with an emphasis on sensory experiences (which isn't hard when working with beautiful, sweet smelling flowers and herbs). We helped them pot up pansies for their annual Pansy Day sale and simply had a great time sharing our love of plants with them.

Then in April we kicked off programming out at the Kenosha Achievement Center (KAC). There we built a low-tunnel over one of their raised beds and decorated cupcakes with spring flower motifs with their participants. KAC has made a serious commitment to continuing their gardening program and we in turn have promised on-going support.

MGV Gary Schultz is at KAC on Wednesday mornings to help and welcomes other Master Gardeners to join him. Consumer Horticulture Educator, Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen will be there once a month to guide them through the growing season. Please watch for her e-mails announcing when she will be there. And MGV Meryl Strichartz will be coordinating monthly Green Works team visits with or to KAC.

We have an incredible team of Master Gardener Volunteers involved in this project and are always looking for more. This summer we will be at The Teaching Garden on Thursday mornings and hopefully working with veterans at the nursing home at the Southern Wisconsin Center and with RADD—Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled located at 3131 Taylor Ave., Racine (commonly referred to as the "Taylor Home.") Please contact MGV Meryl Strichartz at [merylhs@gmail.com](mailto:merylhs@gmail.com), if you would like to receive e-mails announcing dates, times and locations.



MGV Ann McDonald helps a Green Works participant stain a gourd. The project was led by MGV Joyce Schnepf and was a huge success. The finished "apples" are pictured below.



# Arbor Day at Ridgewood Care Center

On Friday, April 25th, MGVs Corrine Merry, Sharon Shouldice, Jackie Brittig and Linda Graeper, planted a Cornus Mas 'Golden Glory' at Ridgewood Care Center of Racine as celebration of Arbor Day. Although it was cold and windy some of the residents came out to participate in the ceremony.

The Ridgewood Care Center has many gardens including a rose, water, flag, memorial patio and rock garden. Please contact any of the following Master Gardener Volunteers to learn how you can help: Linda Graeper, Jack Ludwig, Corinne Merry or Sharon Shouldice. Their contact information is listed in your RKMGA handbook.



# 2014 Racine Kenosha Master Gardener Association

## 2014 Racine/Kenosha Master Gardener Association Program Schedule

*Business meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; educational program starts at 7:15 p.m. Tour start time TBA.*

Date	Location	Speaker	Topic
May 19	Racine	Christelle Guedot UW-Extension Entomology Specialist	Native Pollinators
June 23	Tour	Stacy Iwanicki 28478 W. Brandenburg Road Ingleside, IL 60041	Volo Bog State Natural Area
July 28	Tour	Patti Nagai & MGVs The Teaching Garden, Garden of Giving and the horticulture therapy program at Lakeside Curative	Racine MGV Projects Tour
August 25	Kenosha	Mary Beth Mahoney Master Composter	Composting Methods
Sept. 22	Racine	Christy Marsden UW-Extension Rock County, Horticulture Educator	Seed Saving
October 27	Kenosha	Jeanne Hillinske – Christensen UW-Extension Kenosha County, Horticulture Educator	Rejuvenating an “Old” Garden
Nov.17	Racine	Tracy Hankwitz Burlington Garden Center	Care of Holiday Plants
Dec. 15	Kenosha	Holiday Pot Luck	Graduation, Awards & Gift Exchange

**\*Racine:** SCJ iMET Center is located in Renaissance Park on Highway H (between Hwys 11 and 20)

**Program Location:** **SC Johnson iMET Center**  
2320 Renaissance Blvd  
Sturtevant, WI 53177  
(262) 898-7500

**Program Info:** Racine Co. UW-Extension  
209 North Main Street  
Burlington, WI 53105  
(262) 767-2929

**\*\*Kenosha:** Kenosha County Center is located on the NE corner of highways 50 and 45

**Program Location & Information:** Kenosha County UW-Extension  
19600 75th Street, Suite 2, Bristol, WI 53104  
(262) 857-1945

VISIT THE RACINE & KENOSHA MASTER GARDENER BLOG :<http://rkmgablog.blogspot.com>

Kenosha Horticulture Hotline: 262-857-1942

Racine Horticulture Hotline: 262-886-8461

Burlington Horticulture Hotline: 262-767-2919

Submit articles to Meryl Strichartz (Editor) - [merylhs@gmail.com](mailto:merylhs@gmail.com)

