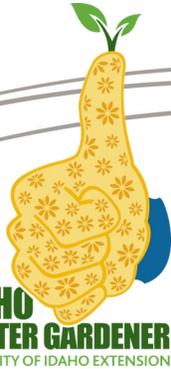


The Green Connection

Kootenai County Horticulture News for Idaho Master Gardeners and friends

Spring 2016



Hello Fellow Idaho Master Gardeners, and Friends

by Kara Carleton

Another year has gone by and another season of planning, preparing, planting, tending, and harvesting a garden is upon us. We have been quite busy these winter months preparing for the season to come and cultivating partnerships to aid in the overall goal to educate members of our communities.

We are collaborating with the Inland Northwest Food Network (INWFN) on a number of projects. One exciting project was our Seed School in a Day workshop on February 27, 2016. We, along with INWFN, received a SARE grant to bring this innovative workshop to our area. Thank you to Western SARE for making this happen for our community. The instructor, Casey, is a small farmer from Boise who is passionate about seed saving. This intense course was aimed at small farmers, market gardeners, seed library participants, backyard gardeners and seed saving enthusiasts. This course dug into the craft and history of seed saving. Did you know you can't decide half-way through the season to simply save your seeds? There is planning and care that has to happen in order to achieve your goals. We invite you to learn more about it from our Plant Clinic opening April 5th, or by

contacting the True to Seed seed Library located inside the Coeur d'Alene Public Library.



Another partnership under cultivation is with Pilgrim's Market and the City of Coeur d'Alene. We see great things happening at the proposed market garden on Pilgrim's property in midtown CDA. Educational and research possibilities, classes and workshops and a chance to see farm-to-table develop in front of our eyes. The proposal (if the ordinance changes) is to grow the mainstays for the salad bar, deli and some produce in the backyard of the market. Talk about a reduction in food miles!

And of course, the relationship with our clients. We have the pleasure of continuing to cultivate many relationships with you each time you visit our Plant Diagnostic Clinic, talk with us at the Saturday Farmer's Market and the many community events we attend. We are proud to help you solve your challenges and talk about growing in and with Kootenai County.

University of Idaho Extension Kootenai County

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www.facebook.com/UIExtension.Kootenai
IdahoMasterGardenerProgram

Impact Statement

Idaho Master Gardeners “Help People Grow” in the Idaho Panhandle

The situation:

The population of northern Idaho is increasing rapidly. Approximately nine thousand new residents arrived in Kootenai County over the last three years.* Many newcomers are interested in properly landscaping to add value to their property and community. They want to maintain environmental quality, protect our waterways, produce food and stay active outdoors. Some want to earn income and contribute to our local economy with their land. They look to UI Extension for information on how to accomplish their goals by developing their communities and increasing their knowledge base.

Our response:

Idaho Master Gardeners are volunteers who receive extensive training within the university, in exchange for volunteering at least 45 hours every summer. Our volunteers assist homeowners with gardening and landscape questions. Goals of the program include:

- Provide in-depth information to home owners about environmentally friendly gardening.
- Shorten the response time to inquires in The Plant Clinic.
- Increase the awareness of homeowners of proper pesticide and fertilizer use to protect our soils, ourselves and our watershed and proper selection and care of plants in their landscapes.
- Train a group of volunteers in horticulture, public speaking, writing, personal communication and development.
- Host education classes and opportunities with local citizens, agencies and schools.

Achievements:

- Idaho Master Gardeners volunteered over **7,800 hours in the community in 2014 and 2015**. They volunteer answering inquires in The Plant Clinic (April-September) and diagnosing plant and insect problems for clients. They write articles for local newspapers and give educational presentations to community groups, schools and libraries. They operate a remote Plant Clinic at the Kootenai County Farmer’s Market on Saturday and staff our fair booth at the North Idaho Fair. They give demonstrations, and speak at workshops and conventions. They work on community beautification projects and advise in areas of our local food movement and CDA 2030.

- **Extension outreach from your Idaho Master Gardener volunteers has increased by 210% over the last two years.**
- **Extension Plant Clinic contacts increased by 40.6% in 2015.** We helped over 1,770 people in our office and over 300 requested assistance from our professional volunteers at our KC Farmer’s Market booth.
- **Our monetary value to the community in 2015 is \$69,700.00.** Over 3,030 volunteer hours were logged within our program in 2015. Multiply that by \$23.00/hour (specialized volunteers due to their ongoing training) = \$69,700.
- Because of the efforts of our volunteers, homeowners have demanded more access to biological controls (according to local supply stores, the USFS and the Nez Pierce Bio Control Center).
- **We have many Idaho Master Gardener volunteers who have been with the program for over 20 years!**

Co-Operators and Co-Sponsors:

We are proud to have joined forces in 2015 with the following organizations:

The Inland NW Food Network, The USFS, The City of Post Falls, The City of Coeur d’Alene, The KC Noxious Weed Department, The Kootenai County Fairgrounds, our local nurseries, Master Forest Stewards, the Master Water Stewards and IDAH20.

The future:

- Certification training will be conducted in 2017 to accommodate our long waiting list of applicants.
- A new “Basic Gardening Teaching Team” is being assembled in 2016 to better address the requests of our community members. Over 400 citizens are interested in an event on basic gardening techniques.
- Continued partnerships to strengthen research and educational opportunities for small farms, schools, backyard gardeners and small acreage forest owners.

*Data sourced from www.census.org

For more information Contact:

Kara Carleton
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Kootenai County

1808 N. 3rd Street
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
208.446.1680



Important Dates to Remember

March 23 - Ready, Set, Grow Celebration from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. at the CdA Library.

March 26 - Chicks in the City Class. Learn about raising chickens and the requirements of our cities. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the UI Extension Office, Kootenai County. Preregistration Required 208.446.1680.

April 2 - The Real Dirt on Soil Workshop. NIC.
Contact: <http://inwfoodnetwork.org> for details.

April 5 - The Plant Clinic Opens to the public TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FROM 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM each week.

April TBD - Post Falls Tree Giveaway. Tentative event due to tree availability.

April 29- Arbor Day

May 23 - Tentative last frost date in zone 5 but we do not suggest leaving your warm weather crops or annuals outside unprotected overnight until June.

July 8 - Forest Shrubs Field Day. Contact UI Extension, Kootenai to register. 208-446-1680.

August 24-28 - The North Idaho Fair at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. Come have "A World of Fun" This year!

Red Grape Salad

A hit at our end of the year potluck!

4 lbs. red grapes

8 oz. pkg cream cheese (softened)

8 oz. sour cream

1/2 cup of sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla together until smooth. Add grapes, mix well.

Topping:

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup toasted pecans

Mix sugar and nuts together and completely cover the grape salad.

Chill well. Serve. Enjoy.

Gardening Tips

Tomato stake watering devise. Consider staking your tomatoes with a 5-foot length of 2-inch PVC pipe. Make a mark 1 foot in from the end of the pipe. Then push the marked end of the pipe into the ground as far as you can. If the marked level on the pipe has not reached the ground, use a piece of 2x4 placed on the top end of the pipe to protect the pipe and hammer until the mark is level with the ground. This will leave 4-feet of the pipe sticking out of the ground. Plant your tomatoes a few inches from the stake. As the plant grows, tie them to the stake with strips of nylon pantyhose. Water and fertilize your plants through the pipes. You may have to fill it several times. On the last fill, place a PVC cap on the end of the pipe. This will slow the delivery of the water, giving the roots time to absorb the moisture.

The number one communication to our office over the 2015 season was to report signs/symptoms of drought stress in our gardens. Our soils were so dry, they were not percolating water to the deep roots even if a large amount of water was applied to the surface of the soil.

It has been accomplished!

Native Roots' plants have been bred to retain the beauty of wild native plants while growing within a consistent set of traits.



You may know of Native Roots.

It is the brainchild of Dr. Steven Love, a professor at the [University of Idaho](http://www.uidaho.edu). He sought and acquired seed from exceptional plants native to the west - selected further the few from the many - and over the years established a stable line of nearly native plants better suited to home and urban landscapes. You may have wondered what became of his vision.

Three years ago Native Roots, LLC was formed and we built a 14-acre production facility including 130 plots for seed increase. We then acquired and planted seed from Dr. Love's selections and waited. Transplanted the resulting mother-stock. . . and waited for this moment:

The opportunity to present growers plants that go beyond beautiful - ones offering far reaching and practical impacts benefitting Americans and our landscape for generations to come.

Look for  in our area soon

<http://www.native-roots.net/index.php>

Native Plant Spotlight



Greenleaf Manzanita -

Arctostaphylos patula

- ◆ Small shrub (to 3') with shiny, evergreen leaves.
- ◆ Outstanding and unique.
- ◆ Needs some supplemental irrigation in a dry area.
- ◆ Plant as many as you can.. It is on the decline due to low populations and being out competed by non-natives.
- ◆ Prefers sun but will grow in many different situations.
- ◆ Can survive our cold spells during the winter.



“Native” can refer to many different situations and locations. We will mainly focus on native to Northern Idaho and our regional areas within similar growing conditions and climates. All plants need water until established which can take a few years. Native plants tend to need less water, once established in the correct site.

Learn more about it here: .

<http://web.cals.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/files/2012/08/Dr-Loves-Native-Plant-List.pdf>

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/capmspg5871.pdf



**IDAHO
MASTER GARDENER**
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION



New Exotic Invader to our Area

Elm seed bug,

Arocatus melanocephalus:

an exotic invasive bug new to North America confirmed in Idaho.

This bug is referred to as a true bug; or one whose wings cross its back in an X pattern. This bug has been identified in Idaho since 2009, yet not in our area until 2015.

Pest Status in Idaho:

Likely inconsequential at worst as a plant-feeding pest (unless it is your business to produce elm seeds).

Intolerable nuisance pest during July/ August when nymphs and adult bugs congregate on homes and buildings (esp. structures adjacent to elm trees) and subsequently but accidentally crawl into homes. They do not bite nor sting nor feed on stored foods nor damage structures but do (like many true bugs) emit odors that some people find unpleasant. Would someone kindly crush a specimen between your fingers and email to me a description of the odor? I suspect an odor something like over-ripe cantaloupes + turpentine!

Advise for Homeowners Dealing with Bugs Inside Homes:

1. Remove bugs by vacuuming as needed; I do not know how offensive is their odor so I suggest a shop-vac (so as to not contaminate the household vacuum with their scent).
2. Apply residual insecticides per the label OUTSIDE HOMES as a barrier along the foundation and around patios, doors and windows where bugs gain entry. Any of the many over-the-counter homeowner insecticides registered as outdoor barrier treatments for crawling insect control should be effective. For specific pesticide products, SEE recommendations for related home-invading nuisance bugs in these two University of Idaho publications:

<http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/CISCIS1147.pdf>

<http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/CIS/CIS1155.pdf>

AS ALWAYS, unless the label specifically says the product can be used as a perimeter barrier treatment outside homes for general crawling insect control, the homeowner has selected the wrong product.

3. I do not recommend use of insecticides inside homes; *Arocatus* is extremely active and one would need to treat every room. Nor do I advise treatment of elm trees to kill bugs
4. Bug proof homes by caulking and weather-stripping.

- Edward John Bechinski, Professor of Entomology,
University of Idaho, Moscow ID



Lifecycle of Elm Seed Bug. Image courtesy of www.utahpests.usu.edu

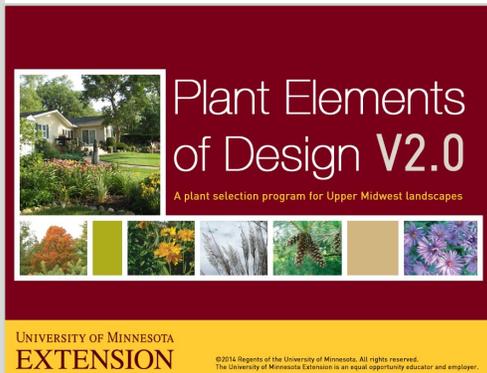


Ventral (upper) surface, adult *Arocatus melanocephalus*. Dashed lines are the reddish-colored abdominal segments. White arrow points to the backward facing piercing-sucking mouth tube. Photo 19, Jul 2012, Frank Merickel University of Idaho.

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Resources for Homeowners, Nursery Professionals and Landscape Designers

Plant Elements of Design Plant Selection Program



available from University of
Minnesota Extension:

<http://www.landscapeplants.extension.umn.edu>

Designed to encourage plant selection based on site conditions and requirements, it is **open to the public and free of charge**. To select plants, identify site conditions and plant characteristics desired from menus and click search. A list of plants matching the criteria will be listed. Plants have downloadable images and can be exported to a spreadsheet to build a plant list.

Featuring 2800 woody and herbaceous plants, and 3500 plants (updated weekly).

Preserving and Canning Resources to Bookmark for your Summer Garden Bounty

- ◆ **The National Center for Food Home Preservation USDA Recipes and Instructions:**

http://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_usda.html

- ◆ **Freezing Fruits and Vegetables , a PNW publication #214:**

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/sites/default/files/documents/pnw_214_freezingfruitsandvegetables.pdf

- ◆ **Drying Fruits and Vegetables, a PNW publication #397:**

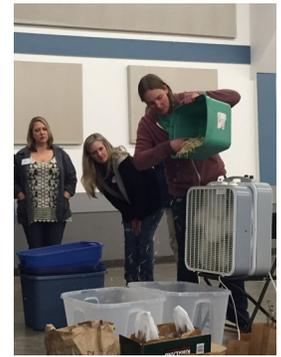
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/sites/default/files/documents/pnw_397_dryingfruitsandvegetables.pdf

You may click on these links to be directed to the publication, or copy and paste into your browser window.

The PNW publications are sourced from the Pacific Northwest Extension Publication Handbook. A collaboration between The University of Idaho, Oregon State University and Washington State University

University of Idaho
Extension

Seed School in a Day was a Great Success!



"Botanically Fascinating!"

*- Idaho Master Gardener,
Benewah County, ID.*

"Very informative and hands-on. I enjoyed the presenter's enthusiasm for the topic. Super job!"

*- Idaho Master Gardener,
Kootenai County, ID.*

"It was definitely worth the 200 mile drive to take this course"

-K. H. Victor, MT.

75.6% of attendees noted this workshop improved their awareness of the topic, provided new knowledge and skills and modified their opinions about seed saving. The 31 evaluations stated they would estimate their new knowledge and skills would reach over 488 additional people in the next 12 months! Now that is outreach!

This workshop offered a comprehensive overview of seed knowledge available nowhere else. It covered a wide range of topics spanning the history, science, business, and craft of saving seeds. Practical, hands-on activities were balanced with engaging lectures to provide an interactive learning experience.

Thank you to our presenter, Casey O'Leary who came up from Boise to offer her expertise. Casey runs Earthy Delights Farm and co-founded the Snake River Seed Cooperative. This co-op houses seed producers, a seed library, hosts seed art projects and events and educates communities about seed saving.

The Idaho Master Gardener Program was proud to offer a scholarship to sponsor a Lakeland High School student for this program.



Presented by
Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance



Hosted and
Coordinated by



Get to know a local, Idaho producer of seeds

Snake River Seed Cooperative seeds are all:

- *Grown by Intermountain West farmers, meaning you support our bioregion's alternative agriculture economy!
- *Organically grown (though not certified organic), meaning they'll grow well in your low-input garden!
- *Open-pollinated, meaning you can save seeds off them!
- *Non-GMO, meaning you can plant without fear!
- *Adapted to high desert soils and climate, meaning they'll be right at home in your Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, eastern Oregon or Washington, or northern Arizona and New Mexico gardens!
- *High Mountain Gardeners seed selection of short-season tomatoes, native flowers, and low-input adapted cold-weather crops!
- *Unique local and heirloom varieties, meaning they have an awesome, tangible story!
- *Open-source, meaning we share and share alike.

ORDER SEEDS HERE www.snakeriverseeds.com





Our Volunteers:

- ◆ Deliver practical, researched-based solutions to your gardening questions.
- ◆ Host the Annual Horticulture Series classes for the public every February and March.
- ◆ Offer advise for today's problems.
- ◆ Work in your community.
- ◆ Continue their education & certification annually

Come visit our Plant Clinic to learn how to care for your garden and see us around town at the following events:

*The Kootenai County Farmer's Market each Saturday
The North Idaho Fair
Arbor Day Celebrations
The River City Garden Club plant sale
Q'emiln Park Tree Give-Away
CDA4Kids
Planting flowerbeds at Kootenai County Fairgrounds*

For more information about our Diagnostic Plant Clinic or how to

become an Idaho Master Gardener go to:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/kootenai>

or call us at: (208) 446-1680.

Summer Plant Clinic Hours

Tuesday and Thursday Only

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

April 5th through September 29th,
2016

A HUGE Thank You
to our volunteers!



Our Biological Control Class Training

Planting the Fairgrounds



Learning to Graft Apple Trees



The Sat. Farmer's Market Booth

*You mean so much to UI Extension
and to our community members*

"Like" us on 

www.facebook.com/UIExtension.
Kootenai.IdahoMasterGardenerProgram

- ◆ Weekly Gardening Calendar Reminders
- ◆ Stay up to date with classes and programs in our area
- ◆ Research-based articles to help hone your gardening and landscaping skills