



Glacial Gardeners Grapevine

Volume 23, Issue 4

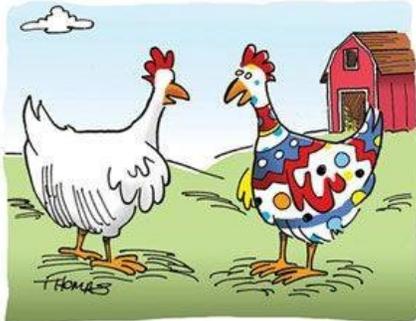
April 2018

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TO DO LIST:

- Review By-laws and come to meeting with ideas.
- Remember to pass the word about the Hort position in the UW office to your friends.
- Reminder: Meeting at 6pm.



"I was an Easter egg."

GGMGVA MEETING MINUTES

GLACIAL GARDENERS MINUTES March 13, 2018

Eight members met in the large conference room of the Natural Resources Center in Florence at 1:00 p.m. when Margaret Gerhard presented a very interesting program on "Yardening." We were encouraged to recycle our lawns because "lawns are for losers". "Mother Nature" Margaret also had many handouts.

The business meeting was called to order by President Fleurette with the following members in ATTENDANCE: Mary S, Kathy, Nancy, Sharon, Connie, Jean, Karen and Fleurette.

Sharon moved, Kathy supported and motion carried to accept Secretary Karen's February MINUTES as published in the GGs' Grapevine.

Karen moved, Jean supported and motion carried to accept Treasurer Nancy's report of ACCOUNT BALANCES. Nancy informed us we have 19 paid GG members.

Those who are due "funny money" for bringing in their up-to-date VOLUNTEER HOURS are Mary S, Kathy, Nancy, Sha-

ron, Connie, Jean and Fleurette.

Thank you Nancy, for our 2018 GG DIRECTORIES.

UWEX:

A Summer Horticulture Assistant position is available. Twenty hours per week for 12 weeks and pay is \$12 per hour. If you are interested in this position or know of someone who is, contact Sabrina at the Florence County UW-Extension.

WIMGA:

Each member received a copy of the GG By-Laws and our homework is to review them before the April meeting. We are to forward a copy of the updated by-laws to WIMGA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: A reminder that the Gazebo Garden Committee will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at the Spread Eagle Garden Center to discuss what needs to be done before digging begins for the irrigation system installation. Scholarship: President Fleurette informed us that application forms have been mailed to all area schools and press
(continued on page 3)

Fleurette's Chat

NOTE FROM CHAIR March 2018

What a difference a day makes! If I had looked out the window yesterday I would have been reporting on receding snow, visible bare ground. Today, not so much! Snow everywhere, even on the blacktop. The ice on the road in front of our house had finally melted from its shady tree protection and now it's all back. A gnome perched on a stump that got left outside has snow stuck to his hat and face, his little lantern is stuffed full of it. Woe is us. Maybe by next month I can report on something actually growing!

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NEXT MEETING
 Nancy & Sharon present
 An educational PowerPoint
 Tuesday,
 April 10, 2018
 6:00 pm



HOURS TO BE COUNTED—FOR APRIL

- 1-3/4 Support hours for attending meeting + driving time
- Continuing Ed hours—1 hour
- any time for planting seeds or getting ready for the plant sale

How to Protect Your Garden from Frost and Freeze

How to Protect Your Garden from Frost and Freeze

By: Julie Day from Today's Homeowner

One of the biggest worries of gardeners is the threat of freezing weather and frosts that can harm or kill plants and damage crops. Here's what you need to know to protect tender plants from freezing temperatures.



What Is a Freeze?

A freeze occurs when temperatures drop below the freezing point of water (32° F or 0° C). When the water inside a plant freezes, it can cause the plant cells to burst, resulting in irreparable damage.

Plants react differently to freezing temperatures:

- Tropical and frost-tender plants: Cannot survive freezing temperatures so they only grow naturally in warmer climates.
- Annual plants: Can't survive a freeze, but they disperse seeds to replenish their numbers once the weather warms.
- Root-hardy perennials: The foliage is killed back by a freeze, but the roots survive in a dormant state until spring.
- Fully hardy perennials, shrubs, and trees: Enter a dormant state, which decreases vulnerability to freezing temperatures by reducing sap content and conserving water. Spring blooms and early foliage may be damaged by late-spring freezes, but the plants themselves usually recover.

What Is Frost?

Frost occurs on clear, still nights. As the air temperature approaches freezing, the surface temperature of plants can dip below freezing, causing ice crystals to form in the same manner that dew forms on warmer nights. Because temperatures vary just a few feet above the ground, frost can form when your thermometer reads above freezing. Freezing temperatures may or may not be accompanied by frost.

Types of frost include:

- Hoarfrost is the familiar feathery white frost you see on chilly mornings. It results when water in the air is deposited directly in the form of ice crystals.
- Rime happens when water is deposited in liquid form through dew or fog which then freezes. Rime has a glazed appearance.
- Black frost is a term used when frost didn't form, but plants were nonetheless damaged (and blackened) by freezing temperatures.

Effects of Freezing Temperatures on Plants

For all but the most tender plants, it doesn't matter whether the conditions produced a frost or a freeze. What's important is how cold it got and for how long. When temperatures near freezing, a few degrees can make a big difference. To advise gardeners, so they can take proper precautions, different terms are used to describe the severity of a freeze. The chart below explains the various terms that are used:



(continued on page 6)

MEETING MINUTES - cont'd

releases have also gone out to all area newspapers.

Education:

- a) Saturday, April 7 - Florence Library Children's Program, volunteers: Deb, Nancy
- b) Saturday, April 14 - Iron River Windsor Center Garden and Craft Show (no one available)
- c) Thursday, April 19 - Lakewood, volunteers: Sharon, Nancy (Grasses, also, pruning perennials to extend blooming time)
- d) Friday, April 20 - Beechwood Garden Seminar (no one available)

Sunshine: Nancy moved, Connie supported and motion carried to give a thank you card with gift card enclosed to Margaret Gerhard in appreciation for presenting a program for us today.

OLD BUSINESS:

The GG SPRING PLANT SALE will be held on Saturday, May 26. Please tell Nancy and Kathy what you are planning to bring to the Sale. Fleurette will make posters.

President Fleurette has been in contact with Fine Gardening RE: a plant pronunciation guide for our April program. We hope to have an educational program for APRIL 10th.

JULY 17TH will be the date of our GARDEN TOUR in Crystal Falls, followed by a salad bar/dessert potluck at Fleurette's home. Please note the change from our regular meeting date.

NORTH STARS GARDEN CONFERENCE matter tabled until next month.

A Community Garden meeting has been held and a GROWING TOGETHER GRANT has been applied for. We should hear by the end of March whether we'll receive a grant.

The PHOTOSHOP matter is in progress.

Nancy will research PLANT SALE SIGNS at C J Graphics and report details at the April meeting.

It was decided not to replace the PLANT SALE STREET BANNER which has mysteriously disappeared.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nancy and Sharon plan to attend the MARINETTE CONFERENCE on March 24. No one plans to attend the ESCANABA CONFERENCE on April 21.

A ROAD TRIP is being planned to Monches Farm, Colgate, WI.

Please consider submitting an article or photo to Kathy to publish in the GG GRAPEVINE.

OTHER, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mary S invited us to the Northwoods Garden Club "SPRING INTO SPRING" EXPO to be held Wednesday, April 11, from 6:00 -8:30 p.m. at the Dickinson County Library in Iron Mountain. There will be gardening presentations by local businesses and a children's make and take gardening project.

THANK YOU to Jean for bringing in the yummy butterscotch dessert and gardening magazines.

PLEASE NOTE: The APRIL 10 meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. when we return to our summer schedule.

Jean moved, Sharon supported and motion carried to ADJOURN at 3:50 p.m.

WHAT ARE FIDDLEHEAD FERNS EXACTLY?

Fiddlehead ferns grow in mysterious places along the banks of rivers and streams. People who fancy them in cooking usually don't tell anybody where they've found them, as they are so precious. The fiddlehead, so-called because it looks like the tuning end of a fiddle, is the very top of a young ostrich fern, still tightly furled and sheathed in a covering that can be a real pain to remove. To eat them, they must be picked before unfurling. Otherwise the leaves are poisonous. They make great pickles and a delicious vegetable side dish.



Mache

Strafford County, NH, Master Gardeners Association

Posted on January 6, 2018

by SCMGA

This year I tried something new in my vegetable garden.

After the summer crops were done, I planted mâche (pronounced “mosh”) along with my usual fall crops of spinach and arugula.

It is sometimes called “corn salad” or “lamb’s lettuce.”

I found out that French farmers began cultivating mâche (*Valerianella locusta*) in the 17th century, and it’s high in vitamins A and C. What a great plant!



After germination, the seedlings did nothing for awhile, but I kept watering and as soon as it got cooler they took off. Lovely green rosettes grew thickly, and they might have been even better had I thinned them out as suggested on the seed packet.

I started harvesting in October, after the spinach and arugula were long gone. The leaves are tender, delicious, and not much damage by pests. They still look and taste as good as new after several hard frosts in Durham.

This photo was taken December 6. If I had more to harvest, I might try a floating row cover to keep it going even longer. I am definitely planting this again next fall, and encourage you to do so too!

(submitted by Kathy Coppock)

(ed: I just read that if you want to keep wrinkles at bay, eat more vitamin A)

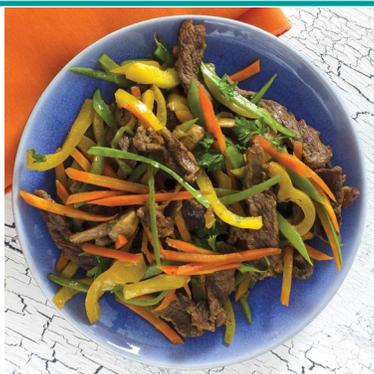
FARMER’S ALMANAC PREDICTION:

REGION 9: UPPER MIDWEST

- Milder-than-normal temperatures and rain showers will mark the start of spring.
- April and May will be cooler than normal, with near-normal precipitation.
- As spring tapers off and turns into summer, the weather will be cool, with a few thunderstorms.

Don't say that spring has come until you can put your foot on nine daisies.





Gingered Beef, Snow Peas, and Carrots

RECIPES

Ingredients:

3 cloves garlic, minced	1 teaspoon sesame oil (optional)
1/4 cup soy sauce	1 to 1-1/4 pounds flank steak
1/4 cup hoisin sauce	3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
3 tablespoons rice vinegar	2 cups snow peas
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar	1-1/2 cups matchstick-cut carrots
2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger	2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon lime juice	

Instructions:

1. Combine the first eight ingredients in a large bowl and stir to blend. Remove half of the marinade and reserve it in a separate bowl.
2. Blot the flank steak dry with paper towels, put it on a baking sheet, and place in the freezer to chill for 30 to 45 minutes, or until hard but still sliceable. (Chilling allows for very thin slicing.)
3. Cut the steak in half with the grain. Then slice across the grain into 1/8-inch-thick pieces. Transfer each slice to the large (not reserved) bowl of marinade.
4. Toss the meat and marinade to mix well. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.
5. Heat 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil in a large skillet or wok over high heat, add the snow peas and carrots, and cook for 2 minutes, or until tender but still crunchy, stirring often. Transfer to a bowl.
6. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil to the skillet, heat briefly, then add half of the meat, laying each slice across the skillet, and cook for 1 minute, without stirring, to sear. Cook for 2 minutes more, or until all signs of pink are gone, stirring often. Transfer the meat to the bowl of snow peas and carrots. Repeat, cooking the remaining meat without any additional oil. Add the first batch of meat and vegetables to the skillet.
7. Combine the cornstarch and the reserved marinade and whisk to blend. Pour into the skillet and cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until hot and thick, stirring constantly. Serve hot.

Butterscotch Torte

From Jean Gardner

Crust: 1-1/2 cup flour
1-1/2 cup margarine (I used butter)

Mix like pie crust, press in pan (9 x 13) and press. 1/2 cup walnuts into crust. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

-Next layer: 8 oz. cream cheese beaten with 1 cup powder sugar. Mix in 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. Cool whip. Spread over cooled crust—put in fridge.

-Next layer: cook one pkg. (3 oz.) butterscotch and one pkg. (3 oz.) coconut cream pudding (cook & serve) (not instant) with 3 cups milk until thick. Cool. Spread over cream cheese mixture. (thickens as it cools)

-Next layer: Frost with Cool Whip and finally chopped nuts.

Cool before serving

Temperature	Type	Effect on Plants
Down to 28° F for a couple of hours	Light Frost, Light Freeze	Usually only harms very tender plants. Ice forms only on the outside of the plant.
25-28° F for several hours	Hard Frost, Killing Frost, Moderate Freeze	Damages foliage and blossoms. Ice forms inside the plant, causing plant cells to burst. Will kill back root-hardy perennials and damage crops.
Below 25° F for several hours	Severe freeze	Causes damage to many plants, mostly through desiccation (drying).

The average first and last frost dates for a given area usually refer to the occurrence of killing frosts. These are most often caused by fronts of arctic air moving in and are more indicative of seasonal change. Research has shown that most crops and plants can recover from brief dips below freezing, but when the temperature reaches 28° F it begins to cause extensive cellular damage and crop loss.

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How to Protect Tender Plants from Frost or Freeze Damage

If frost is predicted in your area, you may want to take steps to protect vulnerable plants such as:

- Houseplants and tropical.
- Spring-blooming shrubs and trees such as azalea, rhododendron, and cherry.
- Citrus trees.
- Tender bulbs such as dahlia and elephant ear.
- Warm-season vegetables such as tomato, corn, and pepper.
- Warm-season annuals such as impatiens, petunia, and geranium.

Steps to take when frost or freeze threaten tender plants:

- **Bring Indoors:** Frost-tender plants in containers should be brought inside during cold weather. Dig up tender bulbs and store them in a cool dry place.
- **Water Plants:** Water plants thoroughly before a freeze to prevent desiccation and to add insulating water to the soil and plant cells.
- **Protect Tender Sprouts:** Cover tender plants overnight with an inverted bucket or flower pot, or with a layer of mulch. Be sure to uncover them in the morning when the temperature rises above freezing.
- **Cover Shrubs and Trees:** Larger plants can be covered with fabric, old bed sheets, burlap, or commercial frost cloths (avoid using plastic). For best results, drape the cover over a frame to keep it from touching the foliage. Fabric covers help to trap heat from the soil, so make sure your cover drapes to the ground. Uncover them in the morning when the temperature rises above freezing.
- **Assess Losses:** Hardy perennials, trees, and shrubs may recover from a late spring freeze, even if visibly damaged. Their blooms and fruit may be lost for the year, but once they begin actively growing you'll be able to determine and remove any permanent damage to stems and branches. Frost-tender plants will not recover at all, so avoid planting them until you're confident that freezing weather has passed.
- **Practice Prevention:** Choose plants that are hardy for your climate zone, or plant tender plants in containers that can be brought indoors. Avoid applying fertilizer until after the last frost, to prevent a flush of tender growth that can be damaged by the cold.

Further Information

National Climatic Data Center Freeze and Frost Maps;
Old Farmer's Almanac U.S. City Frost Chart

PUZZLE

How many 4-letter words can you make out of the word:

GARDEN

There are 26 on page 8.

Full Pink Moon – April 29th

This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes the Full Fish Moon, because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.



If you are awake in the pre-dawn hours on April 22nd, look up and see the Lyrid Meteor Showers in the Southern sky. You will see about 10 per hour.

CHAT - cont'd

There are things growing in the bathroom-turned-greenhouse. All my little annuals, tomatoes, and so forth are creeping along under lights and on heat mats. The grandkids came and went and nobody poked around in them or left marks. Hopefully by next month I can report on them being in the real greenhouse. Doesn't it seem we are always waiting for something up here? Next week, next month, etc., etc.

Hoping you are all doing your homework – reading the bylaws and marking up what you think could be changed. If you've got lots of marks on your copy I'm thinking you belong on the committee to rewrite. We will get that organized. We can also send around the Chit Chat signup in April, so start planning your yard accordingly!

Hoping that Sharon and Nancy have enough of their new PowerPoint ready to use for our educational program on the 10th at 6 p.m. Remember, we are going back to 6 p.m. meetings as of April 10. See you then!

Fleurette

(Kathy's young stock on Easter Sunday) 





Glacial Gardeners
Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

APRIL

- 7 Florence Library Children's Program
- 7 Grant County Master Gardeners
Ready, Set Grow Garden Conference
Grantcountymastergardeners@weebly.com
- 14 Winter Farmer's and Artisan's Market
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
217 W Hughitt St
Iron Mountain, MI, 49801
- 20 Beechwood Garden Seminar
- 21 Bay de Noc Gardening Conference
Escanaba, 8am-4pm. Cost: \$38
Brochure: [Bay de Noc Garden Conference Facebook page](#)

