



The Sage Gardener



From the Editor... *Bob Prchal*



WE ARE A
COMMUNITY

Interesting Autumn Facts

www.metoffice.gov.uk

Autumn begins... There are two different dates when Autumn could be said to begin. Autumn as defined by the Earth's orbit around the sun, begins on the [Autumn equinox](#) which falls on 22 or 23 September. However, for the purposes of recording climate data, it is important to have set dates that can be compared, so the meteorological Autumn always begins on September 1.

Trees prepare for winter... One of the most stunning signs of Autumn is the turning of the leaves. The shorter days are a sign to trees to begin to prepare for winter. During winter there is not enough light for photosynthesis to occur, so as the days shorten throughout Autumn, the trees begin to close down their food production systems and reduce the amount of chlorophyll in their leaves.



The chemistry of color... Chlorophyll is the chemical which makes tree leaves green and as it declines other chemicals become more prominent in the leaves. These are responsible for the vibrant ambers, reds and yellows of Autumn. The chemicals responsible are types of Flavonoids, Carotenoids and Anthocyanins. Did you know some of these chemicals are the same ones that gives carrots (beta-carotenes) and egg yolks (luteins) their colors.

People born in Autumn live longer... A study in the [Journal of Aging Research](#) found that babies born during the Autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year. Their study found that 30% of US centenarians born during 1880-1895 were born in the Autumn months.

The days get shorter... The word equinox comes from the Latin *equi* (meaning equal) and *nox* (meaning night) accounting for the equinox marking the time when day and night are of equal length. We often notice the nights begin to draw in from this point as after the Autumn equinox, the night longer than the day, until this is reversed at the Spring equinox.

Autumn and Fall... We typically think of 'Fall' as the North American version of the word 'Autumn', but it was in fact in widespread usage in England until relatively recently. Originally a shortening of the phrase *fall of the leaf*, the phrase was common in England in the 17th century. The word Autumn entered English from the French *automne* and didn't become common usage until the 18th century.

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 2016

Meetings & Events

- **September 12**
MG Mtg. @ Terri Boyd's home in Garland @ 6:00 pm
- **October 03**
MG Mtg. in the Park County Fairgrounds, New Hall building @ 7:00 pm
- **October 14**
WMGA Mtg. in Casper @ 10:00 am
- **November 07**
MG Mtg. in Cody @ 7:00 pm
- **December 05**
TBD, Holiday Mtg.



Meeting Minutes... submitted by Teri Boyd



President Sandy Frost convened the September 12, 2016 meeting to order @ 6 pm in the home of Teri Boyd in Garland.

Attendance... Sandy Frost, Teri Boyd, Bob Prchal, Joyce Johnston, Ann Hinckley, Nancy Ryan, Kim Pierson, Andi Pierson, Rhonda Faulkner, Jackie Van Noy, Della Sheridan, Linda Pettengill and Cathy Swartz. **Guests:** Jeremiah Vardiman and

Approval of Minutes... not reported. **Treasurer's Report...** not reported.

Old Business...

- Covered under "Committee Reports".

Committee Reports and/or Announcements...

- Organizational activities and business was minimal.

New Business...

- **Nominating Committee:** Reported the following slate of candidates: **President - Kathy Clarkson; Vice President - Andi Pierson; Treasurer - Denise Fink; Secretary - position is open.**
- **October Elections:** Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the October meeting.

Reminders...

- **Response to emails/Requests for activity support:** Because of the necessity to use email to get important information out or gain feedback from the membership, please respond accordingly when requests/feedback is requested. **Let's respect and help the President or event organizer (s).**
- **WMGA Education Grants:** *Park County Master Gardeners should assess their educational needs and if there is a worthy project that needs assistance, consider applying to the WMGA.*

Refreshments: Fall Potluck @Teri Boyd's. Member contributions will supplement Teri's main Entr'ee

Educational Program: No program.

Adjournment... 8:45pm. **Next Meeting:** In Powell on October 03, 2016 @ 7:00 pm in the Park County Fairgrounds Extension meeting room. **Refreshments:** Nancy Ryan and Mary Vogel:

Extension Musings... from Joyce Johnston

Tips on Growing New Tomato Plants from Cuttings

I have had the best luck with rooting cuttings from indeterminate tomato plants. Indeterminate tomato varieties continue to grow and produce fruit all season. Stems trimmed from indeterminate varieties root within about a week and establish quickly after transplanting. The determinant tomato plants I experimented with rooted, but they did not produce many tomatoes. I recommend trying indeterminate tomato plants for your first attempt to root tomato suckers.

When propagating tomato plants from stem cuttings, choose varieties that mature quickly so they can produce a crop before your first frost. Most indeterminate tomato plants need 80-90 days to mature before ripening fruit. Cherry or grape type tomatoes usually produce quicker than other varieties and are a good candidate to experiment with.

Even though our growing season is short, I have had some good success with the second planting of tomatoes cloned from suckers. I found that if I transplant the rooted cuttings to the garden by the end of June, there is enough time for them to adapt and begin producing fruit before our first frost in October. If you live in a warmer climate with a longer growing season, you can take advantage of this method to grow a succession crop of tomatoes well into fall.

How to Root Tomato Suckers and Grow New Plants:

Choose a dry day to trim or prune your tomato plants so the cut area heals over quickly reducing the chances of disease.

1. Select healthy shoots at the base of the plant with no signs of disease. Use clean pruning shears or scissors to snip the sucker branches off the plant.



2. Remove the lower leaves and put the stems in warm water to root tomato suckers. The plants will wilt for the first few days due to the shock of cutting. Keep the jar out of direct sunlight for a few days so the cutting can recover. Once the leaves look normal, move the jar to a sunny window or return it outside.

3. Change the water every few days replacing with warm water so you don't shock the roots. You should see some roots forming within a week.

4. Once the roots are about an inch long, they are ready to be transplanted into larger containers or their permanent location in the garden.

5. Water the seedlings well after transplanting and keep well watered until the plants begin to grow. Shade the seedlings from the summer sun until it adapts and starts forming new foliage.

Rooting tomato suckers and growing new plants is a nifty little way of getting an additional tomato harvest for free. If you garden in an area with a longer growing season, cloning new plants from stem cuttings is a great way to grow a second crop of healthy tomatoes in the fall when the temperatures are cooler.

Content from growagoodlife.com



Perennials to give away... from Suzanne Larsen

I contacted this person to see when would be convenient for those of you that are interested to come and dig. She preferred you wait until the first frost, but will let you dig anytime.

Her name is: Alice Sullenger

307-578-7540

**Her home is on the Powell HWY.
Turn on Lane 19 around Shoshone River Farms,
go to #21 Pinto Road**

Thanks to all of you that responded. Suzanne

**New Website** from Rachel Vardiman

Just an FYI... the Master Gardener newsletters are being uploaded to our new website. Not sure how many of you have had a chance to look at it yet, but here is the address:

<http://wyoextension.org/parkcounty/horticulture/park-county-master-gardeners/>

We have a lot of potential here, so let us know if you have thoughts on the webpage.

~ ~ Rachel Vardiman

Fall Master Gardener Program from Denise Fink

You're invited to the annual Master Gardeners Fall Educational Series

WHAT'S NEXT ? THURSDAYS

Where: Cody Library: Grizzly Room

When:

November 3rd: TBA

November 10th: Kathy Clarkson M.G. Presents Orchids

November 17th: Denise Fink M.G. Presents Evaluating Hardscape and Landscape

November 24th: Happy Thanksgiving

Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m.



Importance of Volunteer Service... Park County Master Gardeners

Aiding Park County Horticulture & the University of Wyoming

Redoubles number of contacts... better service to the public

Expands 'pool of resources' ... increased manpower

Increases the number of 'work' hours to address questions and/or make yard calls

Permits the Horticulturalist to work one-on-one with more clients

Allows more time for development of educational materials and programs

Extends the Horticulture season... extra, available resources

Autumn... from bing.com/images

*There's something about autumn
that wakes up our senses and reminds us to live...*



Seed Bomb Pics... from Linda Pettengill



Member Birthdays

September

Linda Pettengill

Cathy Asay



It is scientifically proven that people who have more birthdays live longer



Meeting Pics... from Cathy Swartz



*We don't meet people
by accident.
They are meant to cross
our paths for a reason.*



Jr. MG Program pics from Kathy Clarkson





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September 2016

'Newsletter of the Park County
Master Gardeners'

~~ Content cannot be altered or
changed ~~

Newsletter Articles should be submitted by
the 15th of each month to Bob Prchal

rjprchal@tritnet.net

2016 Officers

President... *Sandy Frost*
Vice President... *Kendra Morris*
Secretary... *Teri Boyd*
Treasurer... *Rhonda Faulkner*



Committee Chairs



Newsletter... *Bob Prchal*
Scrapbook/Historian... *Cathy Swartz*
Park County Fair... *Andi & Kim Pierson*

Cody Garden Tour... *Suzanne Larsen*
Park County Delegates... *Bob Prchal & Sandy Frost*

Change of Address/Phone/"e" Mail... *Rachel Olsen (Powell)*
or *Rachel Vardiman (Cody)*



REMEMBER... Keep it pithy!

Jeremiah Vardiman

Extension Educator

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