



# **The Sage Gardener**

**Park County Master Gardeners**

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## **CALENDAR**

**Sept 8—Homesteader Days, Powell (Linda Pettengill)**

**Sept 10—PCMG Meeting, 7p.m.  
PC Fairgrounds, Powell**

**Oct 1—PCMG Meeting, 7 p.m.  
EOC room, Courthouse, Cody**

**Oct 11-12—Rocky Mountain Tree School, Cody**

**Nov 5—PCMG Meeting, 7 p.m.  
PC Faigrounds, Powell**

**Dec 3—PCMG Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Location TBA**

# President's Podium

Denise Fink

I am your new President. In my life I have gardened in Florida, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Montana, and Wyoming. The hardest was when we moved to Glendive, Montana. The family that we bought the house from had started onions and there was rhubarb present. I went out to till with my little Mantis tiller and the tines just skipped over the top of the soil. I said to my neighbor, "My tiller isn't digging in," and she said "Water the ground". I said "Are you crazy?" but tried it. That was my introduction to clay.

Of course, I joined the local garden club, so in 1994 I began my Garden Club journey. In 2001 two of us completed the first electronic Master Gardener course with Bob Gough of Montana University, Bozeman. I simultaneously completed the five courses of National Garden Club's Flower Show School and became a Nationally Accredited judge. At the time I was not working, so I served on the community concert board, volunteered at the Gallery, served in Breakfast Lions, was elected to the School Board, helped with 4-H and Boy Scouts, and the Eastern Montana Horse Circuit, raised my son and took care of my mother for 6 years. Next time I'll talk about climbing the chairs.

Denise

# Angel's Trumpet or Datura ?

By Sandy Frost

Two quite different plants have large, showy, trumpet-shaped blooms. When the plants are side-by-side it is easy to understand their differences.



Brugmansia (Texas A&M)



Jimsonweed (U. of Maryland)

**Angel's Trumpet** (Brugmansia) is in Solanaceae family that includes seven different species of flowering plants. Other members of this family include tomatoes, potatoes, peppers and tobacco. Brugmansia is a fast growing, small, tropical tree native to South America and warm, humid climates (Zone 9). It is a long-lived perennial with many flower colors possible. Plants may grow up to 30 feet tall when grown in tropical or sub-tropical climates. Select a site with room for it to grow. Flower color ranges from white to yellow, gold, orange, peach, pink and red, but flowers rarely set seed. There are singles, doubles, triples, and quadruple forms with a variety of trumpet or funnel shapes.

Some cultivars bloom throughout the season, others flower in flushes every 6-8 weeks. The number of blooms and the temperature at which they bloom are highly variable. There is a wide range in the intensity of fragrance among cultivars. Species can be grown from seed but most people purchase specific cultivars grown from cuttings.

**Jimsonweed, Devil's weed, Moonflower** is a member of the *Datura* genus and also in the *Solanaceae* family. Jimsonweed, a herbaceous, summer annual native to Asia is related to other poisonous plants such as mandrake, henbane and deadly nightshade. It is found almost everywhere in the US on waste ground and cultivated land where nitrogen is available. It was introduced to the US at Jamestown, Virginia and resulted in a massive poisoning of soldiers in 1676.

Jimsonweed is a poisonous plant. All parts of the plant are toxic: however the seeds, fruit, and leaves contain the highest level of alkaloids and are the usual source of poisoning in humans and livestock. Growing conditions that influence the size and shape of Jimsonweed also influence the toxicity of the plant and can change toxicity variability by 5:1. As a result, it can be very hard to determine how lethal or detrimental exposure (by ingestion) may be. Tropane alkaloids (atropine, scopolamine) in Jimsonweed inhibit acetylcholine (the main neurotransmitter used by the parasympathetic nervous system).

Jimsonweed has large, smooth, heart-shaped leaves on petioles, forming mounds that sprout 6-inch long trumpet flowers, white to pink, borne singly on short stalks in the axils of branches. Each flower blooms in the evening and for only one night. Blooms are very fragrant. Fruit are walnut-sized, spiny egg-shaped capsules covered with stiff prickles. When fruit is ripe it bursts open, splitting into 4 segments and scatters poisonous black, kidney-shaped seeds. One plant may produce 30,000 seeds.

#### **References:**

Wisconsin Master Gardener website, posted March 6, 2006

Alabama Cooperative Extension Service website

<http://news.aces.edu/blog/2018/06/29/growing-angels-trumpet/>

Franklin County Noxious Weed Control Board website, Franklin County, Washington

# Elm Seed Bug (ESB)

From Idaho DOA by Wanda Spragg

## New bug in town

The Elm Seed Bug, *Arocatus Melanocephalus*. They belong to the order **Hemiptera** which includes Stink bugs and Box Elder Bugs. They originally came from Europe and was first spotted in Idaho in 2012. They were found in Park County in 2018.

This little winged pest feeds on Elm seeds and can also be found on other trees such as Lindon. They do not pose a threat to the trees or humans, but are a pest that invades houses and other buildings. They give off an unpleasant pungent smell when squished or disturbed.

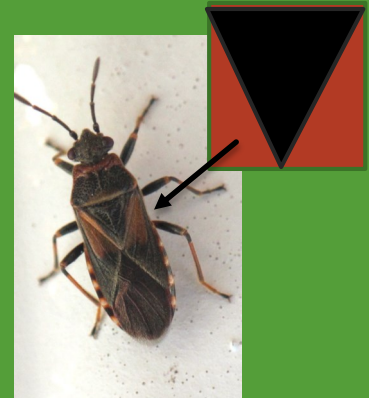
Adult ESB will winter inside buildings. In the spring they emerge to mate and lay their eggs on Elm trees. They also like piles of Elm seeds piled around buildings. In May and June the immature ESB will feed on Elm tree seeds. During the summer, when they grow into adults, they invade buildings trying to escape the summer heat.

The best way to control them is by pest proofing buildings. You can use the same guild lines for pest proofing as you do for box elder bugs. The University of Utah Extension has links in their website to Box Elder Bug Fact sheet, which describes techniques on how to do this. Shop vacuuming them up into a soapy water mixture when you find them in swarms also helps to control them. Unfortunately they are hard to control with insecticides as they are a very mobile pest. Nor can future infestations be prevented with insecticides.



## IDENTIFICATION

An easy way to identify adult ESB is to look for a black triangle inside a rust colored rectangle on their back.



Characteristics of **Hemipterans** include crossed wings in an x pattern, flat over their backs. Their tube like mouthparts point backwards under their head.

Adult ESB are dark brown and are about 1/3" long. The edge of the body extends slightly beyond their wings. The part of the body that extends past the wings has five or more narrow white bands. Their abdominal segments are a reddish brown.

# Atlantic Dill Giant Pumpkin

By Sandy Frost

The Powell Community Garden is growing one Atlantic Dill Giant pumpkin from one seed planted on Tuesday, May 5, 2018. Soil was amended with kelp and blood meal, as well as two bags of sheep manure. Pumpkin roots have easy access to two drip emitters, each giving 1/2 gallon per hour for one hour each morning. I pull off other sets. The pumpkin is on a raised platform for removal. Below are some dated photos.

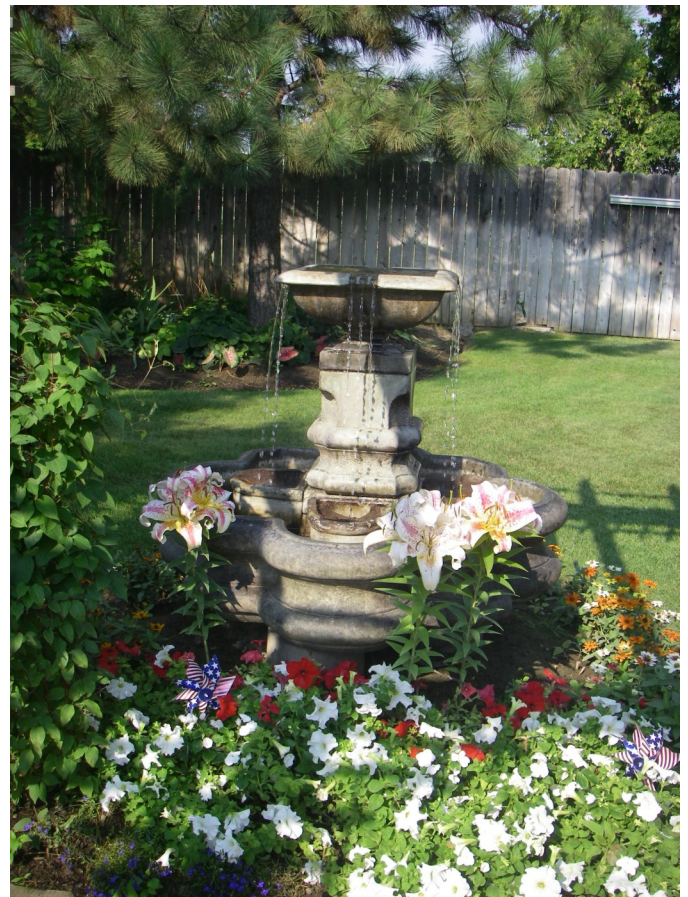


July 30, 2018

August 19, 2018



# Where Have We Been Lately?



# Where Have We Been Lately ?



