

# Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

May 2004

Hooray! The classes are finally over with 32 surviving students ready to volunteer for our many projects. The volunteer coordinators are now accepting hours from Master Gardeners to fill out their schedules, so get in touch with them soon or the plum jobs might be filled.

We have need of a volunteer to work with the MG Foundation Board in advertising the Master Gardener program and all of the various functions and events where we offer home horticulture education to the public. If you are interested in this position please contact me or Pat Nelson.

**IT'S PLANT SALE TIME!** This newsletter contains all the information you need to know about when, where, and how to volunteer for the plant sale, and the set-up-day. Come dressed for all kinds of weather and conditions. See you there!

*~Al McHenry*

## Plant Sale News

*~Diane Rapoza*

The 2004 Plant Sale is upon us...and we are ready! Thank you so much for giving up your Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday, and for your generous donations of plants and baked goods. The plant sale couldn't go on without you. Hopefully the sun will shine and our sale will be as fun and successful as it has been in the past.

For those of you who are helping on Thursday, we will be starting at 9:00 a.m. Be prepared to set up sawhorses, haul boards, and pound in fence posts.

For Friday, the routine will be much the same as last year. We will be starting by 8:30 a.m. As the trucks drop off the plants, volunteers will categorize them by type and scientific name. Once that is done, the plants will be moved to the tables and priced. We will be providing lunch. Please e-mail me [r.rapoza@comcast.net](mailto:r.rapoza@comcast.net) if you are going to volunteer on Friday but have not yet done so. Friday is also the best day to bring your plants...but please bring them in the morning if possible.

Come early on Saturday if you are working the morning shift. I recommend no later than 8:30 but 8:00 a.m. is better especially if you have not been assigned a job or did not come on Friday. Remember to bring: your MG name tag, something to sit on (especially if you are a checker in the afternoon), sunscreen, a hat or an umbrella, your lunch or money to buy it, and waterproof shoes (if you come early in the morning). I also recommend that you dress in layers. We will be providing bottled water, or you can buy water, juice, pop, floats, and Italian sodas from Bay City Ice Cream Co. (They will also be selling lunch—hamburgers, veggie burgers and dogs).

If you buy lunch from them—do not wait in line. All volunteers who are on break may go to the trailer door to get faster service.

Besides your plants and baked goods we also need cardboard boxes, wheelbarrows, carts, and wagons, your Western Sunset Garden book—clearly marked with your name, card tables, and easy to put up canopies. Please call or e-mail me if you can provide card tables, or a canopy.

Teri Booth, Becky Falacy, the WWU business management 413 & 414 teams and I thank you for all your help. It's why we always have such an awesome sale.

### **WSU Master Gardener Program Purpose Statement:**

To provide public education in gardening and home horticulture based on research-based information from WSU Extension.

### **WSU Master Gardener Program Slogan:**

"Cultivating Plants, People and Communities since 1973"

### **Newsletter Deadline:**

*Third Wednesday of every  
month.*

## Tis the Season



### By Faye Agner

We got off to a rather stuttering start of spring, but now it is truly here. There are riots of color everywhere. The dandelions are really magnificent, fields of golden blooms are common and, if they are not in your yard, you can enjoy their blossoms

It is time to look around and take stock of your yard with an eye to next spring's bulb needs. Also, on your to-do list, is to cut back any flower stems. Keep the leaves so they act as a food source for next year's blooms. To keep your beds attractive during this period, interplant with colorful annuals.

When selecting annuals at the nursery, here are a few tips to keep in mind. Look for bushy, compact plants. Spindly, sparse plants may be root-bound and grown in poor light. Check the roots, see if there are roots growing out the drain holes of the plant. If none are showing, gently remove the plant and see if the roots are growing in a circular pattern. Either of these signs means the plant has been in the pot too long. Look for a plant with lush leaves. Look for leaf discoloration like yellowing or a purple cast. These mean the plant has had poor care, or may even have been cold damaged. Inspect the flowers to be sure the plant you are buying has the right flower color for the specific garden use you have in mind. Choose a plant that is not in bloom but has plenty of buds. This will leave more energy the plant can direct toward establishing a healthy root system.

With the above points in mind, go and choose your plants. Be sure there is a spot prepared for your treasures once you get them home. If you can't plant them immediately, have a holding area for them out of direct sun and keep them well watered.

Now is the time to prune early flowering deciduous shrubs. They need this treatment as soon as they have finished flowering. A good rule is to thin out one third of the oldest canes at ground level. Then cut back one third of the remaining branches by one third of their length. This applies to forsythia, spirea and weigelia as well as to the later blooming mock oranges and deutzia.

No perennials are fool proof. Quite a few of them will perform admirably with very little care. For a sunny, well drained spot, plant daylilies, black-eyed Susans, gaillardia, or Autumn Joy sedum. For a shady, moist place, give hostas, Christmas fern, or lily of the valley a try.

Dahlias, cannas, geraniums and begonias can all be planted by now. If you have peonies, phlox or other clumping perennials that tend to flop over when they bloom, here is one method to keep them standing tall all summer long. When tender shoots appear in the spring, carefully stake out a rectangle, or square of chicken wire suspended above them on four or more small wooden posts stuck in the soil. Then, the plants will grow up and through the grid.

Lawns need a bit of TLC at this time of year. It is the start of the regular mowing season. Start mowing about 2 inches high for most lawns or 1 inch for bent grass lawns. "Grass cycle" by leaving the clippings for the free fertilizer. Mulching mowers do the best job. If your lawn is in poor condition, aerate, overseed, and top-dress with ½ inch of compost. Fertilize lawns if it is needed in late May with natural organic or slow release fertilizer. Moss will infest shady, compacted or stressed turf. Leave it as it is or spot-treat with some of the less toxic moss control products.

If you have a problem with holly leafminer, this month is the time to control the problem. If you are inclined to use an insecticide, the month of May is the only time to try to get them. *Read the label before you buy or used insecticide. To be an approved insecticide the name of the problem, in this case, Leafminer, must be on the label.*

Now is the time to be exceptionally aware of emerging slugs. Baby slugs are coming out now. They may be small, but they have big appetites.

The end of the heating season is

here, and it is a good idea to place some of your house plants outside, but they would all enjoy a bath. Yes, you can give your African Violets a bath, just make sure they are dry before you put them back in their regular spot.

Azalea or rhododendrons: All azaleas are rhododendrons, members of the genus *Rhododendron*. But not all rhododendrons are azaleas. Although some people make a big deal of differentiating one from the other, azaleas and rhododendrons are much the same. Some are evergreen and some are deciduous (though more azaleas than rhododendrons are deciduous). While azaleas never have scales, as rhododendrons sometimes do, they can have hairs. So what is the big difference? Rhododendrons generally have 10 stamens, while azaleas have five. That's it. So if you really want to tell rhododendrons from azaleas, look closely at the flowers. Another mystery solved.

We have a new bug to worry about. The West Nile virus affects some wild birds (including crows, jays and ravens), horses and humans, and is transmitted by mosquitoes. You need to carefully check over your yard and garden for any standing water, even small amounts. If you have a birdbath, be sure to keep the water fresh. Mosquitoes are the most active on still days, in the early morning and shady places at dusk. If you have a fishpond with fish, they will eat the larva. Mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in still water. Check for standing water in buckets, an unscreened rain barrel or a clogged gutter, for example.

### WHO AM I?

I am a family of about 500 species. I am found throughout the world in various forms with a multitude of uses. I am used as a food source in some of my forms in many societies. I am also used as a building material in others. I'm found underfoot and in need of about weekly care during the summer months, or be tucked in the corner of your garden beds as an accent piece. You see me every day in my many forms and I might even make up part of your lunch.

Last month was *Papaver Orientale*, Oriental poppy.

Take care and have a happy and safe summer.

## President's Message

**Linda Bergquist,**  
MGF President



When the "season" arrives, Master Gardeners SPRING into action.

Pat Nelson, our Volunteer Coordinator has received 100 responses to our "tell us your areas of interest" veteran re-application form that was sent to you in the March issue of this newsletter. The form is also available on our website. If you haven't filled one out please do so and send it to Pat.

One reason we became Master Gardeners was to help our community and "we are everywhere." Thanks to Pat's "matchmaking" we participated in many areas for the first time.

Bill Baldwin spoke to the Hopewell Grange about our Master Gardener program.

Kendra Bradford spoke on native plants to the Mount Baker Garden Club.

We were asked if we could help at the Lynden Home Show, since they were featuring a new garden area. David Simonson, Cheryll Kinsley, John Van Miert, Joyce Jimerson, and Pat Nelson spoke on their favorite subjects and were a definite hit at the show.

Sharon Lindsay gave a class on her favorite subject, Bonsai, to 15 lucky kids at the Whatcom County 4-H Super-Saturday. That subject must have been new, different, and interesting to those kids and each took home their own Bonsai plant!

The Whatcom County Conservation District had a plant sale. Chris Hurst, Christina Tawes, and Kendra Bradford answered questions and helped people make selections.

The Youth Fair was held in Lynden and we were there the whole day teaching. David Simonson, Luana Scheidner, Ron Dinus, Joyce Jimerson, JoAnne Roose, and Pat Nelson were the instructors, sharing their knowledge with the kids.

At the Bellis Fair Mall Community Bazaar, Jill Cotton, Dave Manning, JoAnne Roose, Kolla Rodeman, Christina Tawes, Marilee Wilcox, and Pat Nelson explained our Master Gardener program and answered questions.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the people I have mentioned above and to all of those that I may have missed. You give visibility to our program and you are in the best spirit of TRUE Master Gardeners.

### Bee Keeper Speaker for May

Our monthly MG Foundation meeting speaker for May 13 will be Jim Lyons. Jim is a retired librarian from Missouri who has been keeping bees for twenty years. He will be presenting us with some interesting facts about bees "the only agricultural pursuit that takes nothing from the land".

### July Bus Trip

Are you ready for a boat ride? On Thursday, July 22, we'll be taking a leisurely 15 minute ferry ride to Vashon Island to visit Dig Floral and Garden. Dig is a specialty nursery dedicated to providing gardeners with choice and unique plants and innovative garden ideas. We may be able to take a tour of their cutting garden, but that's still in the works. More on that later. After touring and shopping at the nursery, we will eat lunch on-site under huge, beautiful maples. Then, it's back to the ferry on our way to City People's Garden Store. Here you will find a huge selection of fine plants from unusual herbs to ornamental grasses, water plants, old rose varieties and everything in between. They also carry a full line of organic products. Our third stop will be the Volunteer Park Conservatory. This Victorian style glass conservatory is fashioned after London's Crystal Palace. Here you will find a diverse collection of plants such as palms, cacti, bromeliads, cycads and an award winning orchid collection, as well as a seasonal display.

We will leave from Civic Field at 7:00 a.m. and return to Bellingham by 5:00 p.m. You will need to bring your lunch and plenty to drink. The cost of this trip is \$20 for Master Gardeners and \$25 for guests. Please contact Jean Powell or Chris Hurst for bus reservations and instructions on where to send your check.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Bellingham Senior Center is planning a plant sale on Thursday, May 20. They have asked the Master Gardeners to have a Plant Clinic at their sale. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Pat Nelson, .

## Plant of the Month ..... By Cheryll Greenwood Kinsley

### Canna

Family: *Cannaceae*  
(*Canna* family)  
Genus: *Canna*



Lily-of-the-valley—*Convallaria majalis*—is the “official” plant for the month of May. But this year, let’s think larger and bolder. *Much* larger and *much* bolder.

Recently I’ve been bitten by the summer-bulb bug, for reasons that aren’t entirely clear, even to me. Perhaps it’s because I want to explore yet another new aspect of gardening. But it’s also a practical way to deal with some bare spots in the garden—particularly in places where I haven’t yet hit on the specific plant I want to install as a permanent resident. Bulbs are easy and quick to put in and practically grow themselves—and here, I’m using the catchall term “bulb” to include rhizomes, corms, tubers, and tuberous roots. So for summer color I can choose from begonias, lilies, and gladiolus—and dahlias, of course. I leave the growing of the latter to Dick Porter. For years I’ve also eschewed lilies and glads. And cannas I wouldn’t even consider. But this year, inexplicably, I’m fascinated with them all—especially canna lilies. Maybe it’s all the times I’ve admired them in Peace Arch Park while waiting in line to cross the border. Or it might be distant memories of old gardens I knew as a child. Didn’t all our grandmothers grow “common” red cannas?

At last count, the genus *Canna*—the only one in the *Cannaceae* family—included 55 species indigenous to the tropics and now naturalized around the world. *Canna edulis* is native to South America, where its fleshy rhizomes are a food source. They’re dried and pulverized into what’s called *tous les mois* in France and “arrowroot flour” in Britain—although the arrowroot we use here in cooking as a thickener comes from *Maranta arundinacea*, another plant entirely. The seeds of several canna species are used to make jewelry, because they’re very hard and uniformly shaped. It’s rumored they served as a substitute for lead shot in flintlock muskets during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The canna lily is a perennial grown from a rhizome, just like the lily-of-the valley. The two plants are otherwise unrelated, although the large leaves of the canna do resemble the tiny leaves of the lily-of-the-valley, in form if not in color or size. Linnaeus categorized *Canna indica*—and he didn’t use leaves so much as the reproductive parts of flowers to organize his classifications. The *Canna* flower has one stamen and one pistil, which placed it in the Monandria class and the Monogynia order. The word “canna” is from the Latin for “cane” or “reed,” and Linnaeus named that first species he saw after what he thought was its country of origin—India.

What our grandmothers grew might have been *Canna indica*. It’s actually a New World native and grows in the wild throughout the Caribbean and Pacific islands, where it’s on the verge of being declared a nuisance. It’s unlikely to take hold to that degree in our area. An enormous number of named varieties are now available for our home gardens, and show-stopping they can be. Choose yours carefully. There are cannas with small flowers and others with very large flowers, in a range of brilliant colors. The foliage varies from variety to variety and is frequently as extraordinary as the flowers. You may actually have to depend on the foliage for effect rather than on the flowers, because cannas bloom late in what they hope will be a hot summer. They may be slow to blossom here, in any given year, and may not come into their own until the weather is too cool to sustain them. Where they do get a great deal of heat, some varieties can top out at almost fifteen feet, but you’re unlikely to see that here in our cool-summer climate. Those that are full-size may make it to five feet. If even that’s too much height for the space you have available, select one of the many dwarf varieties. You’ll get the same great flowers and almost as many outstanding foliage choices, but on plants that are only two or three feet high.

Plant your canna rhizomes before the middle of May in the richest, most moisture-retentive soil you can manage, where they’ll get full sun. Place them about four inches deep and eighteen inches apart—eyes up if you can find them, but don’t worry if you can’t. Just lay the rhizomes in the ground horizontally. Cannas are heavy feeders, so add some fertilizer according to package directions when you plant and at monthly intervals during the summer. Use a complete, balanced formulation or—better—one that goes easy on the nitrogen. Avoid feeding cannas excess amounts of this particular nutrient, so make sure that first number is not greater than the other two. All cannas need at least some moisture administered regularly. Read up on your varieties to learn their specific requirements. Some are actually bog plants and will thrive along the shallow edges of ponds. Others are marginal, and appreciate wet feet. Many will do fine with a weekly deep soak.

Watch for slugs when the shoots emerge, and keep checking through the growing season. We know our abundant slug population has quite a taste for things succulent and tropical! Then stand back. When late summer rolls around, you’ll appreciate the “bold” move you took in May.

## Garden Friends and Foes ..... By Todd Murray

### The European Paperwasp

**Order:** Hymenoptera

**Family:** Vespidae

**Species:** *Polistes dominulus*

#### Description and Life History

Remember getting harassed by yellowjackets last August when you began to prepare your gardens for winter? You thought that you'd get a break before they harassed you again, didn't you? In recent years, it appears that yellowjackets didn't reach their annual harassment quotas; they seem to be waiting to bother you in early spring, as early as March.

Whatcom County, along with the rest of the country, has inherited another critter from Europe. This new troublesome wasp is actually NOT a yellowjacket, but a paperwasp. The European paperwasp, *Polistes dominulus*, was first recorded in the U.S. in Massachusetts, 1981. We have specimens in our Master Gardener insect collection dated the year 2000. Washington State's first record for the European paperwasp was in 1998. Over a period of twenty years, this wasp appeared to spread from coast to coast.

*P. dominulus* has markings similar to the typical yellowjacket and are often confused with yellowjackets; they have the black and yellow warning coloration striped along their bodies. One superficial way to tell the difference is noting the body shape. Paperwasps in general are more slender and have longer legs. The constriction at the abdomen to the thorax is more gradual for paperwasps, while the constriction of the waist on yellowjackets tends to be abrupt.

Nesting habits are the easiest way to tell the difference between *Polistes* wasps and yellowjackets. Paperwasps create nests that are only one cell deep forming a single comb and resembling an upside down umbrella. The comb is not in an envelope and is exposed to the outside world. Yellowjackets create large aerial nests that are entirely enclosed in paper. Yellowjackets will also construct nests below the soil surface.

Female *P. dominulus* wasps overwinter as fertile adults in protected habitats such as under tree bark, woodpiles and inside walls of structures. Females become active in early spring, beginning in late March or early April. Overwintering females can colonize an existing nest from the previous year, or construct a new nest made from chewed and pulped wood fiber. The queen initially spends her time laying eggs and rearing the young. Queens deposit eggs singly into individual cells. These cells are home for the wasp larvae until they reach adulthood. The queen brings back prey items, such as caterpillars, and macerates the prey to feed to the developing larvae. The first brood can hatch to adults within forty days, given good environmental conditions. After the first brood, the queen continues to reproduce while the newly emerged workers take on the duties of foraging and maintaining the nest. Dr. Peter Landolt, USDA entomologist in Yakima, says that nests can grow large enough for 400 cells; however, most nests contain less than 100 cells. Male wasps, produced late in the season, mate with next season's new queens. The fertilized females seek out overwintering shelters to begin the lifecycle for next year.

#### Damage: Garden friend or foe?

Generally, *Polistes dominulus* has brought excellent early-season biological control of many pests in Whatcom County. Not many natural enemies of insect pests are out in early spring. I have witnessed European paperwasps feeding on winter moth larvae this season. *P. dominulus* solely feeds on insect prey items.

Paperwasps can inflict painful stings when disturbed just as yellowjackets. Paperwasps are capable of stinging multiple times. So far, the European paperwasp had been described as docile in the Pacific Northwest. While photographing a queen, I bumped her with the camera lens and she just shot me a dirty look and went back to work. Eric LaGasa (our state entomologists) claims that *P. dominulus* will give you a

"courtesy bump" telling you to back off before they threaten to sting you. Back east, this species is labeled as a fierce defender of nests and will attack potential threats. From what I've witnessed, the wasps are docile and are only concerned about maintaining their nests. Rarely do I see aggression when I'm present around their nests.



Figure 1. Unknown yellowjacket (left) and *P. dominulus* (right). Note the difference in body shape, wastes, and legs.



Figure 2. Newly emerged queen constructing a new nest under eaves.



Figure 3. Egg deposited inside cell



Figure 4. Queen foraging for food and building supplies (courtesy E. LaGasa)



Figure 5. Mid-season nest with brood maintaining the nest (courtesy E. LaGasa).

The pestiferous tendency of the European paperwasp is found in its nesting habits. *P. dominulus* appears to find human structures a favorable place to set up home. Often nests are constructed on roof eaves, decks, overhangs, doorways, outdoor light fixtures, BBQ grills, birdhouses and mailboxes.

Over all, the introduction of this highly successful wasp may impact our local ecology. Some scientists are concerned that the European paperwasp will out-compete native wasps for nesting sites and food. Other concerns are for early season native caterpillars and other insects that the wasps prey on.

### Monitoring & Management

If possible, leave the nests alone. You will benefit from having these voracious predators working for you in your garden and landscape. In fact, entomologists at North Carolina are providing instructions on how to construct a 'wasp box' <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Other/note121/note121.html>.

In April and May, regularly check for nests in areas that are frequented often by your family and mail carriers. If it can be done safely, remove the nest and dispose of it. I've done this on my eaves during mid-day when the queen was away and haven't been attacked. But please be careful when you do this; some people can be highly allergic to wasp venom and it is not worth the risk. Nest removal is best done early in the season before the first brood hatches. Many times there will just be a single queen present.

Prevention is key for keeping wasps out of wall voids, attic spaces and other interior habits. Seal any cracks, gaps and holes to prevent wasps from entering your house. For air vents, install small-sized wire screen to prevent wasps and other critters from entering. Wasps entering my house to overwinter was the only situation where I was stung by the European paperwasp. A wasp found my folded, winter blanket to crawl into. It was quite a surprise to me the next time I used the blanket!

Insecticides may be necessary if there is a fear of being stung or the nest is hard to reach and is in a problematic location. Aerosol cans of pyrethroid insecticides labeled for wasp control will kill *P. dominulus*. See <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0643/eb0643.pdf> for current recommendations. Many of these cans are constructed to deliver a precise stream of insecticide up to twenty feet away. Treat nests at night when the paperwasps have returned to the nest. Leave the sprayed nest in place for several days. There will be residual activity and latecomers to the nest will be exposed to the insecticide. Read and follow the label directions carefully.

Drs. Antonelli, Akre and Landolt have revised WSU EB 0643 Yellowjackets and Paper Wasps to include the European paperwasp. <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0643/eb0643.pdf>

## Tent Caterpillar Update

~Todd Murray

This year could be another good year (or bad year, depending on your perspective) for tent caterpillars. If you work in any of the clinics, be prepared for many inquiries about tent caterpillars if it's another outbreak year. Please remember that fire is NEVER an appropriate recommendation for managing tent caterpillars (or any other pest for that matter). Last year, when the outbreak became noticeable, newspapers, radio and television media offered some unfortunate information to the public. Recommendations such as, "Burn the tents with your flame weeder" were made. Soon after, headlines like "Poulsbo Teen Burned While Trying To Destroy Tent Caterpillars" started to appear. Eric LaGasa and I have put together a few web pages with pictures and information for people to learn more about tent caterpillars. Visit ([http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/pest/tent\\_caterpillar.htm](http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/pest/tent_caterpillar.htm)). The web site should be up and running shortly.

## Hovander Happenings

~David Simonson

Our Master Gardener Demonstration Garden projects are underway for the 2004 season! We are eager to have veterans come out to meet this year's class members. We are continuing with the projects we've done before—but we plan a partial relocation of the native plant garden. It was flooded out last winter, so it will be moved a little further uphill. Also, we plan to have a larger and improved corn maze. Or, as Dick Steele would say, a *maize maze!*

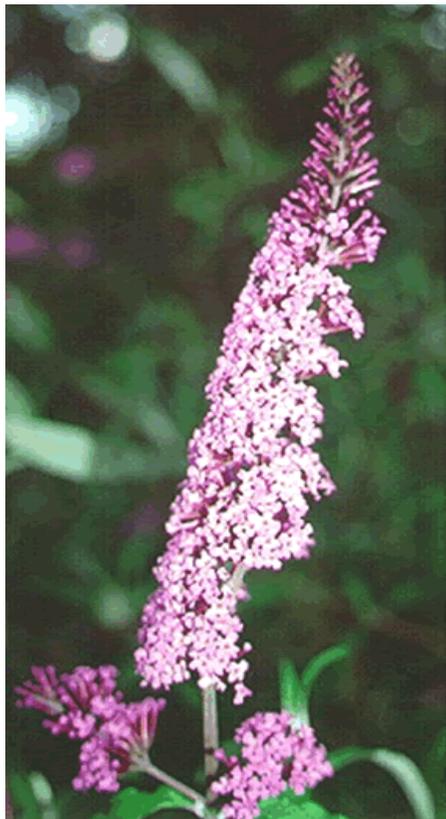
We will be working every Wednesday from 9 till noon; and starting after the plant sale, Saturdays from 9 till noon.

Weed of the Month ..... By Laurel Shiner

# Butterfly Bush

*Buddleja davidii*

**THREAT:** Butterfly bush, native to China, has become a very popular garden ornamental in North America. However, it has escaped cultivation, invading roadsides, riparian areas, pastures, river gravel bars and other disturbed areas. Butterfly bush produces large quantities of wind and water dispersed seed (up to 3 million seeds per plant), which can remain dormant in the soil for many years. When cut down, it resprouts readily from the rootstock and can be propagated through cuttings. Butterfly bush can reach maturity in less than one year, which allows it to spread quickly, forming dense thickets and excluding native vegetation. Although this plant is touted as a beneficial plant for butterflies, it cannot be used as a butterfly host plant and displaces the native plants needed by butterflies for reproduction. Butterfly bush is very adaptable, growing in most soil types and climates. This plant has also become invasive in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. *Buddleja davidii* is listed as noxious in Oregon.



**DESCRIPTION:** Butterfly bush is a large deciduous shrub, growing up to 10 feet tall. Leaves are lance-shaped and opposite, up to 4 inches long and ½ inch wide. While the tops of the leaves are dark green in color, the undersides are given a light appearance from numerous whitish hairs. The leaves have small serrations along the edges. The small, fragrant, funnel-shaped flowers are usually purple, although there are also red, pink, blue, orange, yellow and white varieties. The flowers are borne in showy spikes at the ends of the stems and bloom from mid-summer into the fall.

**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:** Butterfly bush can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Hand digging is possible for small numbers of plants or seedlings, although soil disturbance will encourage seeds in the soil to sprout. Controlled sites will need to be monitored in subsequent years to ensure no new plants become established. Although mowing/cutting could be used to prevent seed production, the plants will resprout. Contact the weed control board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, 901 W. Smith Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, 360/354-3990



Weeder's Digest is the monthly newsletter for the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program. Guest articles are encouraged. Please submit typewritten articles by the third Wednesday of each month to Karri at the Master Gardener Office. Articles can also be submitted by e-mail to: karrimac@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu. Editor uses MS Word for Windows and PageMaker 6.5. Any articles prepared on other programs or platforms should be saved as Text Files or Rich Text Files. Editor reserves the right to edit for space considerations, grammar, spelling and syntax.

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Craig MacConnell  
Horticulture Agent



## Dates to Remember:

|                  |                          |  |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| May 6 .....      | 10 a.m. to noon .....    | <b>Monthly Foundation Board Meeting</b><br>Extension Office  |
| May 7 .....      | All Day .....            | <b>MG Plant Sale Set-Up</b><br>Hovander Demonstration Garden |
| May 8 .....      | All Day .....            | <b>Annual MG Plant Sale</b><br>Hovander Demonstration Garden |
| May 13 .....     | 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. ....   | <b>Monthly Foundation Meeting</b><br>See article for details |
| May 17 .....     | 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. .... | <b>Bus Trip to Lakewold</b>                                  |
| May 20 .....     | 9 a.m. to Noon .....     | <b>Walk-Around Field Trip</b><br>Extension Office            |
| Wednesdays ..... | 8 to 9 a.m. ....         | <b>Master Gardener Breakfasts</b><br>Babe's in Ferndale      |
| Wed. & Sat. .... | 9 a.m. to noon .....     | <b>Hovander Work Parties</b>                                 |