

# Weeder's Digest

All the dirt that's fit to print



Newsletter of the Whatcom County Master Gardeners

November 2004

FALL is here! Actually I always say Apple Pie season is here, so it is time to enjoy the fruit of your labors.

Don't forget to attend the Graduation/Potluck at the Ferndale Senior Center on Thursday, November 11. Bring guests (kids included) and your favorite dish to share. You will also need to bring your own dishes and silverware. We will furnish coffee, tea and juice. We will announce the incoming officers of the Foundation for 2005, and will have as the featured speaker Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley. This is always a fun event.

If you have not completed your required volunteer hours - come anyway and share a good time. We can then make plans to complete your hours.

There are many on-going activities that will be worked on through the winter. So contact the office or appropriate Board member to join a committee, or a volunteer activity. There are plenty of educational things to do that are fun, also. Join up and give us your ideas.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered this year. This is what keeps the program going. BUT, remember to report your hours to the office, because it is very important to us. Thanks!

*Al McHenry*

## Hovander Happenings

~David Simonson

Pumpkin day at Hovander Park had to have been our best ever! We had more group homes participate, and the home residents who came out really enjoyed coming to the park for this event.

Following the group homes, we gave pumpkins to children, and by noon we had given away nearly all of our approximately 400 pumpkins.

We had a good turn-out of volunteers to participate and I believe it was an fun morning. And, of course, for me, it was my birthday complete with a cake with candles and gifts—a "kohlrabi king" sweatshirt and a kohlrabi cookbook! Thanks, MG friends!

Beginning November, the garden is seeded with cover crop, the fences are down and the sheds have had their annual cleaning. Planning for next year will be under way soon—so if you have a red-hot idea, let us know.

## Do you still have hours to give?

I would like to help all Master Gardeners—veterans and trainees reach their volunteer hour goals. So, if you are short-call me! Also, if you are a program coordinator who needs volunteers-call me! I need places for people to volunteer.

If I can put the two of you together, both problems will be solved! 360/312-8306, Thanks-Pat

### **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

Compiled by *John Van Miert & Cheryl Kinsley* from *Garden Miscellany & Garden Sense*.

*We have guest writers due to Faye Agner being unable to write this month's column. John Van Miert and Cheryl Kinsley offered to fill in until she returns.*

November is the time for fall clean up in the garden and preparing the garden for the winter season. Removing all debris in the garden is an important preventive way to eliminate the spread of overwintering plant diseases and to keep ahead of slugs for the following spring by getting rid of their eggs now. You can be sure that you will find slug eggs under all piles of garden debris. They particularly like to hide their eggs under old boards left lying around.

Leaves now stripped from trees are heaped in piles on the ground. They are good additions to your compost pile, but remember the pile must be turned well when you add them so the leaves will be thoroughly mixed in. Otherwise they will compact into one soggy mass and compress the air spaces in the compost pile that are needed for oxygen. Shredding the leaves by running over them with your lawn mower is not a bad idea. You can also compost rotting fruits and vegetables, leaves and vines from squash and pumpkins, and tomato plants—unless the material is diseased. Beware of apple scab, late blight, and mildews. If your compost is well maintained and you know its temperature is sustained at a high enough level to kill pathogens—a minimum of 145°F—still take the precaution of putting all possibly diseased material in the center of the pile, where it's likely to be the hottest. Apples that may be infested with apple maggots should be kept out of the compost entirely. Opinions differ regarding the composting of particularly pernicious perennial weeds such as horsetail and morning glory. We suggest that if you do add these materials to your compost, you should screen the finished material before applying it to your garden, to remove bits of roots that may not have been killed. We have heard stories of morning glories

growing right from the tops of compost piles!

Finish planting all your spring-blooming bulbs this month and then mulch their beds and the rest of your planting areas with several inches of woody organic material—or better yet, put down a layer of finished compost or aged manure and top-dress that with wood chips or medium-grade untreated bark. Most spring-flowering bulbs are winter hardy, but it's a good idea to put a layer of mulch over them to avoid heaving during freeze-and-thaw cycles. The best time for mulching the bulbs is after some freezing weather, so the planting soil will stay evenly cool and forestall any too-early showing of the bulbs' new growth.

Dahlias and gladiolus should be dug up and stored before heavy frost arrives. If the winter is moderate, they may winter over in the ground in some areas, but it's not advisable to take a chance with your highly valued tubers.

Tender loving care of all your perennials is important. Cut down the stalks of perennials that have finished blooming to four or five inches above the ground. Leave your ornamental grasses in place as they are—they'll add winter interest and should be cut back in the late winter or very early spring. The last of the season's herbaceous perennial flowers—asters and chrysanthemums—might bloom through November. Cut them back all the way to the ground when they're done, or when the frost gets them. If they seem crowded or their blooms decreased in size or number this year, now is the time to divide them. Many times overcrowding is the cause of smaller flowers. There's still time until the end of this month to divide other perennials for better blooms next year. Dividing your perennials can be done now with generally good results; however, spring is the safest time. If you divide in the fall, a good cover of mulch is recommended. Use compost, leaf mold, peat moss, manure, etc.; and to avoid weeds top whatever fertile mulch you use with plain wood chips or untreated bark.

Continue caring for your lawn and keep it cut as long as it keeps growing into winter. Rake fallen leaves off the grass regularly; otherwise they will form a mat that will smother your grass. A

feeding in November will keep your lawn green and nourish the roots during the wintertime. Remember, if you plan on fertilizing only once a year, November is the best time to do so. Applying some dolomite lime this time of year could be very beneficial too. Beware; don't apply nitrogen fertilizer and lime at the same time! Apply the lime first, early in the month, and then wait a couple of weeks before adding the nitrogen.

In our mild climate, many kinds of mushrooms are very likely to appear in your garden and lawn. Mushrooms are interesting plants. The part you see is only the fruiting structure. The main body is below ground level; it is called "mycelium" and is made up of a series of white threads growing in the organic material in the soil. These can be as deep as eight inches. Mushrooms in lawns are hard to control. Some success may be obtained by watering heavily in the infested areas. When the fruiting bodies appear, don't let them develop spores. Use a strong stream from your garden hose to knock them over, or rake them up.

Any tender plants still outside in containers should be brought indoors early this month. Larger tubs with hardy plants can stay outdoors, but not if they are in terra cotta pots. These will crack from freezing during our winters. If a pot is too large to move, wrap it in insulating material—burlap, even newspapers—and if you can, put more material between the pot and its wrapper. Styrofoam peanuts, shredded straw, even crumpled newspaper will all work.

It is important for deciduous plants—those that lose all their leaves each year—to achieve dormancy, during which they stop growing entirely. Many plants have a hard time of it in warm winters because they never go completely dormant. Without going into too much more detail, this can weaken a plant considerably and affect its performance and its lifespan negatively. When plants are dormant, they can resume active growth very quickly when confronted with favorable conditions. This is why we recommend not covering shrubs with blankets to protect them from the cold. They get fooled, start growing, and then are shocked and harmed when they lose their blanket and the cold weather resumes—as it certainly will.

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## President's Message

**Linda Bergquist,**  
*MGF President*

THANKFUL...

Since this is the month of Thanksgiving and the graduation of a new crop of Master Gardeners, I thought we might take a moment to consider how fortunate we are to have our Master Gardener program in Whatcom County. I received an email from one of the State Master Gardener representatives saying that her County Council was voting on a budget for next year in which the Master Gardener program funding was \$ 0. She was interested in getting ideas and advice from members of the State Board. This has happened in several other counties, too. To help our local and state governments understand the nature and value of our program in Whatcom County, a Whatcom County Master Gardener Brochure was produced by Jill Cotton, Marlene Robinson and Roger Mitchell (Kathy's husband). Nancy Cleminshaw and Kaye Dykas took our brochure, and other relevant information, to our County Council and also sent it to our state legislators. Cross your fingers and hope we avoid the \$0 funding problem here in our own county.

### COME TO GRADUATION

This year's newest Master Gardeners will graduate on Thursday, November 11, at 6:30 pm, at the Ferndale Senior Center. We will have a delicious potluck dinner (there are lots of good cooks among us), Craig and Al will be awarding graduation certificates, John will be presenting the John Van Miert Award to our Master Gardener of the Year, the Broken Shovel Award will be presented, the newly elected Master Gardener Board will be announced, AND our own Cheryl Greenwood Kinsley will speak! This is always a fun event – hope to see you there.

In March 2005, another class for new MG's will begin. If you know someone who just can't keep their fingers out of the soil and wants to increase and expand their gardening skills, please ask them to look into our Master Gardener program. Kathy Mitchell had new Master Gardener Volunteer business cards printed that have all the pertinent information on how to contact us for more information. You can pick up some of these business cards at our Master Gardener office, from me, or from Kathy Mitchell.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

## Pots\_Pots\_Pots

Yes, once again, we're running low on certain sizes of pots for next year's plant sale. So many of you have donated a large number of wonderful plants from your fall garden clean-up that we're looking a bit on the sparse side for pots for next spring. We particularly are looking for pots of 1 gallon size and larger. Of course, we will still take some of the 4" square pots if you have extras. Please, NO SMALL ROUND pots. We simply don't use them. The 1 gallon, and larger, ones can be round or square. Thanks!

What to do with your extra pots??? 1.) You can bring them to the greenhouse area at Hovander 2.) You can bring them to one of the evening Foundation meetings, and we'll take them off your hands 3.) Contact Jean Powell at 360/384-8023 or jr\_powell@earthlink.net if you need to have them picked up.

Thanks again, Jean

## Poinsettia Tour

Join us for a very colorful tour of Van Wingerden Greenhouse, 8210 Portal Way, just chockfull of colors and styles of that holiday favorite, the poinsettia, a native plant of Mexico. We will have a private guided tour of the facilities on Tuesday, November 16, at 9:00 a.m.

To get there, go north on I-5, take exit # 270 at the Custer Factory Outlet Mall. Turn left, go over the freeway to a stop sign. Turn right onto Peace Portal Way and drive north for 1/4 mile. The greenhouse is on your right. See you there!

Please reply to Chris Hurst by e mail (cchurst@gte.net) or phone (360/366-5501), if you wish to attend. We need to know how many will be there. You are welcome to bring a guest as well.

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

### Crimson-eyed Mallow

Family: Malvaceae  
(Mallow family)  
Genus: *Hibiscus*  
Species: *moscheutos*



Photograph courtesy Ozarks Regional Herbarium  
<http://biology.smsu.edu/Herbarium/>

Okay. So you're asking, why am I writing in November about a summer-blooming, deciduous shrub with tropical connections? Don't we all think of Hawaii when we think of "hibiscus"?

If we do—and I did—then we're missing out on a great opportunity, particularly for any water-logged trouble spots in the full sun. Some of us have boggy areas kept wet by an underground spring.

Our yards may be set lower than the ones all around. Or perhaps many new homes have sprouted on the hillsides behind us, resulting in run-off and extra water squeezed from the land above. Major drainage problems may require engineering, but minor ones can often be managed by choosing the right plants.

Its ability to grow in wet places is just one of the reasons *Hibiscus moscheutos* earns its space this month. Another has to do with its name. I'm still recovering from the Case of the Mis-Named Nasturtium so it's interesting to me that *moscheutos* is easily confused with *moschatus*—and *H. moschatus* is an outdated name for *Abelmoschus moschatus*, also a member of the Mallow family but a cousin from tropical Asia most typically grown as a houseplant. *Hibiscus moscheutos*, on the other hand, is a native of eastern North America, named by Linnaeus and noted by Thomas Jefferson as a characteristic plant of Virginia, in the "medicinal" category. Mr. Jefferson grouped native plants by their primary use in his day: medicinal, edible (he used the term "esculent"), ornamental, and "useful for fabrication." He also misspelled the botanical name—or let a printer's error slip through—in at least one of his texts, where it's listed as *H. moschentos*. He ascribed to it the common name "Syrian mallow." Today it's

known by many other names that vary by locale—swamp mallow, marsh mallow, swamp hibiscus, wild cotton—but the one that seems to be as "official" as any common name every gets, the one used by USDA, is "crimson-eyed mallow." Which is slightly misleading because while there are many varieties of *Hibiscus moscheutos* with pale pink or white flowers and a bright crimson eye, there are just as many with flowers that are uniformly deep red. And sometimes the eye is yellow or white.

The connection to "swamp" or "marsh" is sensible, because *H. moscheutos* grows very successfully where the ground is quite wet so long as its crown is not covered. It will also do well in ordinary soil that's amended with compost to improve its ability to retain water, getting by with supplemental watering that must be regular but not necessarily excessive. It's a deciduous shrub with a free form that takes some room—allow for a spread of six feet and don't wedge it into a too-small space. If you've ever done that with a *Weigela*, you'll know what will happen to your *Hibiscus moscheutos*. Unlike the *Weigela*, however, the *Hibiscus* is likely to die back to the ground every year. Think *Fuchsia magellanica*. Don't trim back any branches left standing until early spring. Rainwater that collects in open cuts on the branches can encourage rot that will kill the whole plant. For this same reason, avoid piling mulch right on top of its crown. Have faith that the roots are completely hardy through whatever temperatures our Sunset Zone 4 winter has in store.

If it doesn't emerge right away in the spring, don't panic. This plant is a late starter, which makes it a perfect overstudy for a bed of bulbs. Once they fade, your *Hibiscus moscheutos* will be up and running. One glance at its flowers—they should open by early summer and last through September—will take away any worries about somebody noticing the bulbs' faded foliage.

The flowers are *huge*—up to 10 inches across. They'll shine in the sun—all the members of the *Hibiscus* genus appreciate full sun—and just take your breath away. They really do look like they belong in the tropics. But you won't have to haul them inside for the winter. Just the thought of these blossoms is enough to chase the November drears away—another reason to feature *Hibiscus moscheutos*. At this time of year, caught between the last of the leaves and the arrival of seasonal hollies, the Chinese witch hazel and winter-blooming jasmine, all of us in the Pacific Northwest appreciate even *thoughts* of bright colors.

A certain bright spot in November that brings cheer and good thoughts is Thanksgiving. This holiday has its own origins in the region where *Hibiscus moscheutos* is native. So that's yet another connection—at least in my mind—between one beautiful shrub and this typically gray month.

As you share Thanksgiving with family and friends, I hope your meal is much more than *esculent*. Let it be *succulent*—moist, toothsome, and tasty.

The Case of the Mis-Named Nasturtium is finally closed. The co-op distributor took the plant breeder's word for the plant's classification. The distributor regrets doing this. The tags are now being redone. Next year, at area garden centers, you're likely to spot *Tropaeolum majus* 'Red Wonder'.

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

### Rats!

**Order:** Rodentia

**Family:** Muridae

**Species:** *Rattus rattus*,  
*R. norvegicus*

**Identification:** The two rats most commonly found around the Puget Sound are the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and the roof rat (*R. rattus*), also known as the black rat. The Norway rat is easily recognizable by the “oh my god, run!” response while the roof rat can be distinguished by the typical “yuk, that’s gross” response when encountered. The Norway rat is a big, hefty rat and is much larger than the other rodents in the neighborhood. Norway rats can weigh 1¼ pounds while the roof rat stays at an agile ½ pound when fully grown. Roof rats have a longer tail, pointier snout and longer ears while the Norway rat’s tail is shorter than the length of the body. Both rats have naked tails but the Norway rat’s tail appears as two-tone from the partially haired skin.

**Life History:** Rats are perfect pests; they have a high reproductive capacity and can compete well against other pests for our rubbish. Rats can reproduce all year long depending on environment and food. They usually reach their peak reproduction in the fall. Both species average about eight offspring per litter. A single female rat can produce as many as 80 rats in her lifetime. Gestation and weaning of young can last about two months; baby rats can be reproductively mature within three to four months. If you do the math, rat populations can build quite rapidly in good conditions.

Rats will eat just about anything. Rats are very successful at feeding on garbage food items that humans throw out. Rats can also eat plant material such as grains and have been known to attack other animals such as insects, birds, fish and other mammals (including humans).

**Damage:** Rats have been historically associated with death and disease. Rats are the carrier of the Bubonic plague along with other nasty diseases and have been responsible for millions of human deaths throughout history. When rats are populous, they act as the perfect reservoir of disease because they are so closely associated with our lifestyles and homes.

Most of us aren’t too worried about disease but still cannot tolerate them in and around our homes. Rats get into everything and can ruin our food and gardens. Rats contaminate our living spaces and food by leaving behind feces and urine. Rats dig into garden beds and gnaw at our electrical wires. They can do physical damage to our homes and property by their foraging and nesting habits. They have also been known to bite and scratch people.

**Monitoring:** Be sure to visit neglected areas of your home and yard regularly. These include crawlspaces, attics, and the nooks and crannies around pipes. Frequency of your visits should increase as temperatures drop in the fall and winter. This is when rats seek better shelter and their populations increase. Look for evidence of rat activity such as nibbled wood, dry wall and paper scraps. Rats leave behind droppings that are dark, elongated pellets that are about ½ inch long. Rats also tend to run along the same trails. Preferred trails of Norway rats are next to vertical edges such as where the floor meets the wall or along foundations at ground level. Often grease marks are left from the rat’s fir rubbing along the wall. Roof rats are excellent climbers and will scale walls along gutters and pipes and will climb on wires, trees and vines.

**Management:** The best way to control rats is through cultural amendments to deter rats from nesting and foraging around your house and yard.

Don’t feed the rats!

- o Secure stored food products in rat proof containers, such as metal bins with tight sealing lids. Be sure to securely store animal food such as dog food and bird seed in a similar manner. Glass storage jars are great for preventing rodents from feeding on stored foods. Rats can chew through some plastics and wood.
- o Clean up ripe vegetables and fruits from the yard. Joyce Jimerson has great information for preventing rats in compost bins: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/ratsincompost.htm>
- o Be sure to keep your garbage cans secure and closed. Metal cans are best to avoid rats from chewing in. A bungee cord is a great way to keep the lid closed.
- o Pick up after pets. This included wasted food and droppings.

Don’t give rats a home!

- o Remove dense vegetation that offers shelter. Blackberry patches and English ivy provide great protection for rats.
- o Keep newspaper stacks, woodpiles and hay stacks clean and away from your house. If possible, set piles up off the ground.
- o Fill in burrows and holes that rats may use to nest in. Rats are excellent burrowers.

*Continued on next page*

# Weeder's Digest

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## Garden Friends & Foes

*Continued from previous page*

Keep rats out of your home!

- o Remove vines that attach directly to the house such as climbing ivy, or wisteria. Do not let tree branches touch the roof.
- o Place rat guards on pipes and gutters leading up to the house.
- o Seal up any gaps or cracks along the foundation.
- o Place sturdy screen around vents and openings. The mesh size should measure at least ¼ inch.
- o Repair gaps in sewer lines and other pipes leading to the house.
- o Place sturdy covering on drain holes.

If populations are very high, it may be necessary to reduce the population size through trapping or poisoning. Snap traps are effective and are the most advisable mode for killing rats. Set traps in areas where rats are active such as along wall boards, nest entrances but do not place them in areas that could cause potential harm to people and pets. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully. Traps can be dangerous and painful if sprung at an inopportune time. Rodenticides and poison baits should be used as a last resort. If problems are serious and pesticides are warranted, it might be worth contacting a pest control professional. If you apply a rodenticide yourself, always read and follow the directions on the label.

Although cats can cause as many problems as rats and I think are equally disgusting (I'm not a cat person), cats are effective at hunting and deterring rats in your home and yard. The presence of cat urine is known to cause predator-avoidance behavior in rats and sends them scurrying. Regardless of the management tactic that is decided upon, habitat reduction and prevention are critical for reducing rat problems.

For more information on managing rats and other vermin, visit Dave Pehling's chapter on vertebrate pest management: <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/vertchap.htm>

To learn about rats and other mammals in Washington State, visit the Burke Museums online catalog: <http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/collections/mammalogy/mamwash/mamwash.html>

## Fresh Herbal Wreath Class

*~Jo Anne Roose*

I will be having a fresh Herbal wreath class on Tuesday, December 7, at my residence, 3808 Taylor Ave., in Bellingham at 1:00 p.m. I only have room for 10 people, so if you are interested, please contact me right away. I will purchase the metal wreath base and wire at a cost to you of about \$5.50.

There are many perennials, annuals, and herbs that can be used in the wreaths. The wreath can be used as a wall hanging or as a centerpiece; they are very fragrant, drying beautifully. You do not want to hang them in direct sunlight as the foliage will bleach out. Shrinkage occurs as the plants dry on the wreath so we use a lot of plants and make them very full.

Keep in mind that we need plants for color, texture, and fragrance. We only use fresh plants. You can use dried Clematis heads, Fairie roses, and Pepperberries, a bow if you want. The following are different plants that can be used: Rosemary, various Thymus, Santalina, Curry, Honeysuckle, Sage, Lavender, Oregano, Sedums, Marjoram, Lemon Balm, Basil, Japanese Quince, Astilbe, Blue-berry foliage, Feverfew, Artemisia, Lady Mantle, Lamium, Dianthus, Smoke Tree leaves, Virburnum, Peoris, Heathers, Juniper, Cedar boughs, Heavenly Bamboo, and Hinoki Cypress. You may have other plants that could be used that I have not mentioned, so bring them. The plants should be placed in water after you cut them.

We will need extra Cedar and Hinoki boughs, so if anyone has extra of these, please let me know and bring to the class. For those of you who do not have Herbs, maybe you know of someone who does and can get them. I hope that the weather stays good so that I can get some Herb plants from Hovander Farm. Usually Herbs survive frosty weather, but if we should get some extreme cold, frosty weather, it might be difficult to have the class.

*Directions to residence:*

If coming from North, I-5, take the Samish Exit, left lane to stop-light; turn left and go back over freeway in right lane to stop light; turn right onto Samish; take Samish to Ridgemont entrance (across from the Elks Lodge); turn left and follow street up to 38th<sup>St.</sup>; turn right and follow up to Taylor Ave.; turn left on Taylor - 3808, 3<sup>rd</sup> house on right. Light cream with teal trim, brick.

If coming from south, I-5, take Samish exit; turn right onto Samish to Ridgemont entrance on left. Turn left and follow street up to 38th<sup>St.</sup>; turn right on to 38th, follow to Taylor Ave.; turn left on Taylor - 3808, 3<sup>rd</sup> house on the right. Please contact me at 360/733-7514 if you are interested.

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

## Brazilian Elodea

*Egeria densa*

**Threat:** Brazilian elodea, native to South America, has been imported to North America, as well as many countries around the world, as an aquarium plant (often sold under the name of Anacharis). It has been intentionally or accidentally introduced to freshwater bodies in many of these areas. Brazilian elodea forms dense stands in both still and flowing waters, which can cover entire lake surfaces. These dense stands affect water movement, water quality, recreational uses and navigation, as well as trapping sediment and impacting native plants and fish. Brazilian elodea grows rapidly in the spring, shading out slower growing native plants. In the United States, this weed apparently spreads solely by plant fragmentation, as no female plants are known to be present in this country. It is illegal to sell this plant in the state of Washington.



**Description:** Brazilian elodea is a submersed, freshwater perennial. It roots in water up to 20 feet deep, with the stems growing up to the surface of the water, where they form dense mats. Adventitious roots grow from the stem nodes. The leaves and stem are generally bright green. The leaves are minutely serrated, 1-3 centimeters long and up to 5 millimeters wide. Brazilian elodea produces small white flowers, with three petals, in late spring and again in the fall. The flowers float on the water or rise above the surface on threadlike stems. In this country, only male flowers have been found so seed production is not known to occur here. This plant is often confused with other aquatic plants, both native and introduced. Brazilian elodea has four (sometimes eight) leaves per whorl (hydrilla, another introduced weed has five leaves per whorl, while the native American elodea, or waterweed, has three).

**Control:** Like all aquatic weeds, control is difficult and eradication may be unrealistic. To prevent the spread of any of these plants, trailers, boats and fishing gear should be carefully inspected to avoid transporting plant materials between water bodies. Aquarium plants should never be discarded in sewer systems or water bodies. Accurate identification of Brazilian elodea is essential before control work can begin, as it resembles other aquatic plants, including some native species. Control efforts can include chemical and mechanical measures, although success is usually limited. Cutting the plants will open up the water body, but does not kill the plant. All plant pieces must be removed from the water as escaped plant fragments will spread the infestation. Bottom barriers can be used in small areas, such as docks or swimming areas, to prevent the growth of bottom-rooting plants. Where possible, water drawdowns may be used to control Brazilian elodea, although success is dependent on many variables (degree of desiccation, substrate, air temperature and presence of snow. Grass carp will eat Brazilian elodea readily and may be effective in appropriate sites. Contact the Weed Board for site-specific chemical recommendations.

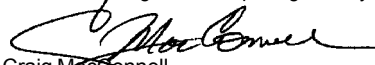
Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board, 901 W. Smith Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226, 360/354-3990



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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### Dates to Remember:

- |                        |                       |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| November 4 .....       | 10 a.m. to noon ..... | <b>Monthly Foundation Board Meeting</b><br>Extension Office  |
| November 11 .....      | 6:30 tp 9 p.m. ....   | <b>MG Graduation Potluck</b><br>Ferndale Senior Center<br>(Extension Office will be closed this day) |
| November 25 & 26 ..... | All Day .....         | <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b><br>Extension Office Closed   |
| Wednesdays .....       | 8 to 9 a.m. ....      | <b>Master Gardener Breakfasts</b><br>Babe's in Ferndale  |