

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter



The Latest Dirt

OCT 2026

Note from the Chair

Happy Fall everyone. Looks like it is going to be here next week with lows in the upper forties and possibly lower temps in the countryside. Be sure to watch the temps if you still haven't dug up your sweet potatoes or if you still have a few tomatoes and other veggies in the garden.

We have been instructed to change our Logo to match with the new Logo for the Missouri Extension Master Gardener. See new logo below.



We will be looking for approval by our board office for there

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someone to create the new logo for as well as our membership. Before we show it to the Extension approval. If you would like to help design our new logo let me know so we can work on this as soon as I get the copy from the extension office for use to work with. We are also having an advanced course on Growing Blewit Mushrooms to be conducted by Lincoln University on Tuesday evening, October the 6th, from 6 to 7 p.m. and again on Thursday morning, October the 8th, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Registration is at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/iak29KudYN>. Each person who comes to the class will be given a mushroom spore to take home and groom in your own home.

The next speaker for the October 27th members meeting will be on "A Guide for Successful Tree Planting: Site Considerations, Species Selection and Early Care" to be given by Ryan Gross. Please make plans to attend.

Martha sent out an email about Cumulative Hours of Education and Meetings on Wednesday Sept. the 23rd 2026. Remember to place these hours under your education.

Enjoy the cooler weather as we get ready to get our gardens ready for the winter or you move into your winter gardening.

Ed Vitela

CMMG Chair, Edward Vitela

2025-2026

NEW

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter History Corner

*NEW

MG officers from 1999

Co-Presidents: Dick Crader and Peggy Davis

Treasurer: Judy Rizner

Secretary: Brenda Kennedy

Co-Presidents appointed and they listed all mg projects for the year. Two main projects were the Demo Gardens and Extension Center. Also featured a program at the "open gardens" this was at the old Demo Gardens. A call in committee took care of the Hot Line and Speakers Bureau or informed mg's about work parties at: Heisinger, Special Learning Center, Thomas Jefferson Middle School (with students), Villa Marie, helped with Blueberry Research. Plants were donated mainly by mg's or grown in Ray and Carole Evans greenhouse. The feature item that year was exotic plants. The sale took place on April 24 at the Extension Center.

First Plant Sale

10 Plants You'll Regret Planting Too Close To Your House

By [Brandee Gruener](#)

Published on March 20, 2025



Credit: bauhaus1000 / Getty Images

When it comes to [curb appeal](#), planting trees and shrubs next to your house is essential. [Foundation plantings](#) soften your home's sharp angles, add beautiful color and texture, and make your front entry welcoming.

It's just as essential to carefully [consider which plants](#) you choose to grow close to your house. It's easy to fall in love with a plant at the nursery, but the last thing you want is an overgrown monster swallowing the side of your home, uprooting your foundation, or stabbing people with thorns when they brush past. Consider the mature size of trees, shrubs, and other plants before you plop them in the ground a few feet from a window, path, or door.

To help you avoid gardening mistakes before it's too late, we've assembled a list of plants you shouldn't plant too close to your house.

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Wisteria



Credit: Evgeniya Vlasova

What could be more Southern than purple, pendulous wisteria blooms hanging from a covered [porch](#)? In reality, taking care of wisteria is a serious job that most homeowners don't want to undertake. The thick, heavy vines can bring down trellises, rails, and gutters unless they have adequate support. Wisteria should be pruned regularly and is better suited for growing on a strong arbor or trellis.



My house and deck Mary J Williams

Roses



Credit: Getty Images

Roses are incredibly romantic, so why shouldn't you plant a line of shrubby roses or a trellised climbing rose near your house? Thorns: that's why. If you choose to go this route, don't plant roses anywhere you need access. That means under windows you need to wash, near paths and doorways, or anywhere you need to get in and do regular landscaping and home maintenance. You'll find yourself in a lot of pain if you don't heed this advice.

English Ivy



Credit: kellyvandellen/Getty Images

Don't plant English ivy anywhere near your home unless you don't care about your paint job. The moisture-trapping vines can also damage stucco and brick mortar with their aerial roots. On top of that, English ivy is considered invasive in many locales. Stick with less damaging vines like jasmine.

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Hollies



Credit: Getty Images

Hollies are an incredibly versatile group of [shrubs and trees](#) in many shapes and sizes. However, many end up looking lopsided because a homeowner planted them too close without any consideration of the eventual size. On top of that, hollies with pointy leaves can be painful to run into. We're all for planting hollies for a lovely evergreen screen, but site these 5-8 feet from your house unless you've specifically bought a holly for small spaces.

Weeping Willow



Credit: Getty Images

Never, ever [plant a weeping willow](#) near a house. These trees have water-seeking roots that can uplift foundations and invade water lines and septic tanks. Plant this graceful tree at least 50 feet from your home and far from your septic tank—you'll be very glad you did.

Trumpet Vine



Credit: Getty Images

They don't call it trumpet creeper for nothing—this fast-growing [vine will invade](#) anywhere it can, and the aerial rootlets can damage your siding. While it is a stunning native plant, trumpet vine will spread its seeds and sprout up where you don't want it. Trumpet vine is so vigorous that we recommend removing all flowers after blooming and cutting the vine to the ground each winter. You're better off not planting it near your house.

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Arborvitae



Credit: Getty Images

When it comes to arborvitae, stay away from placing [privacy screening plants](#) like 'Green Giant'. Before you know it, this tree will grow taller than your home and at least a dozen feet wide. Even arborvitae designed for tight spaces, like 'Emerald Green', can get 15 feet tall and encroach on your gutters. It's best to plant 'Emerald Green' 4 or 5 feet from your house. Even better, choose one of the newer shrub-sized selections, like [Fire Chief](#).

Elm Trees



Credit: Getty Images

The classic elm tree will add rustic elegance to your property, provided you can keep it healthy. Elms also grow to 60 feet, damage sidewalks and foundations, and drop limbs. Plant elms at least 20 feet away from structures and stay clear of power lines.

Maple Trees



Credit: Getty/Kamal Zharif bin Kamaludin

Maple trees have shallow roots that can intrude on your foundation if you're not careful. Norway maples and silver maples are some of the worst offenders. You'll want to plant these 25 feet from your home, if not farther. If you want to plant a maple close to your house, stick with a small and slow-growing Japanese maple. The tree still won't look as beautiful without space to grow, so give it at least 5 feet of space on all sides, or half the expected width of the tree when it's full-grown.

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Juniper Trees



Credit: Getty Images

A pair of juniper trees on either side of your entry can seem charming until you find yourself brushing past the scratchy foliage every day. With the exception of very compact junipers, these plants are too large to grow close to your home. The Eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* is actually a juniper) has been known to damage foundations and water lines. Junipers also happen to be a fire hazard—a trait of many conifers. Consider low, mounding, ground-cover junipers that don't spread very wide if you want to plant these near your home.

Essential Tips for Overwintering Potted Plants

By Lori Vanover Birds & Blooms Editorial Policies Updated on Sep. 26, 2023

Learn how to keep your favorite potted plants happy and healthy with these answers to the most commonly asked questions about overwintering.

Overwintering



Tatiana Yakovleva/Shutterstock.com

Keep your potted plants alive over the winter with these helpful expert tips.

Although you've enjoyed your collection of houseplants, potted tropical plants, annual flowers and tender herbs out on the deck or patio all summer long, the show can't last. The days are growing shorter, temperatures are dropping and, if you don't take steps for overwintering them soon, a cold snap could turn them into a sorry ensemble of limp, blackened leaves and stems.

But before you decide to cart your entire collection indoors for the winter, take a careful look at each candidate. Sentimental favorites and valuable plants take priority. As for the rest, maybe some can go into the compost pile, or you can take cuttings from others. For the chosen few, however, it's important to make certain they are in good health and have no hitchhiking pests.

Here are answers to several common questions about overwintering your most-prized garden plants.

Q: How Should I Prepare Potted Plants for Winter?

A: Some little grooming is in order. Remove spent or damaged flowers, stems and leaves. If you discover the plant is pot-bound—the plant has grown too large for its container, resulting in tangled

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and matted roots—go ahead and repot. Otherwise, wash pot exteriors with a bit of soap and water (don't forget the saucers).

Q. What Are the Benefits of Overwintering Potted Plants?



Geraniums Daredevilsalmonwhite- Provenwinners.com

A. It's a great way to save money on gardening, for one thing. Birds & Blooms reader Darcy Larum of Janesville, Wisconsin, says she likes to "overwinter container plants like geraniums, sweet potato vine and asparagus fern indoors, instead of buying new ones each spring."

Q: Can I Keep Potted Herbs Producing Over the Winter?

A: You can try! Imagine how wonderful a winter soup or stew would be with a bit of fresh thyme or rosemary!

For best results, put a potted herb in a bright, warm spot (4 to 6 hours of light a day is the minimum for most) indoors. A kitchen windowsill is often ideal, not just because the plant will be close at hand when you're cooking but seeing it daily will remind you to take good care of it. Water as needed (don't overwater) and turn the pot occasionally so growth remains even on all sides.

Q: How Do I Provide Enough Light for Overwintering Tropical Plants?

A: Yes! If your home doesn't have a bright spot for them, which can be a challenge this time of year, supplement or replace with artificial light. Fluorescent bulbs are much better for the job than ordinary incandescent bulbs—because the combination of warm and cool light in fluorescent bulbs provides the whole light spectrum.

Aficionados have been known to devote entire rooms, or areas of them, to potted plants grown under fluorescent lights. There are even tables and carts available from specialty suppliers for this purpose—maybe worth the investment if you have a sizable collection.

Q: How Should I Care for Houseplants During Winter?



Indoor plants in ceramic pots, Calathea, Chinese evergreen, Dieffenbachia

Firdausiah Mamat/Getty Images

Give your plants a humidity boost with a pebble tray

A: It's good for houseplants to rest during the winter months. This doesn't mean you should neglect them, but feeding or watering them at summertime rates isn't a good idea, either.

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If your plants are not actively growing, fertilizing them is wasteful and only causes salt buildup in their potting mix, which can damage the plants. Gauge when to water by occasionally poking a finger an inch or so into the mix—if it's dry, water.

In truth, what your overwintering houseplants may appreciate most of all is a humidity boost, because heated rooms get dry. Try placing pots on trays filled with pebbles, so drained water evaporates around them. And group your plants, since there's strength in numbers. An occasional misting may also benefit them.

Q: Should I Place Tender Potted Plants by a Window?



Coleus Indoor in Winter Ali Majdfar/Getty Images

A: If your winters are freezing, icy or snowy, do not let individual leaves touch the window glass—the cold likely will damage or kill them. Move the pots back a few safe inches, making sure that the sunlight still reaches them. Alternatively, you can leave the pots on the sunny windowsill or shelf by day and move them “inland” to a table or counter each night.

Remember that south-facing windows get the best sun this time of year. East-facing ones may also be a good choice.

How to Get Rid of Indoor Plant Bugs

Melinda Myers

By Melinda Myers Birds & Blooms Editorial Policies Updated on Jan. 22, 2021

Learn effective tips on how to treat, eliminate and prevent indoor plant bugs, including aphids, mites, fungus gnats and more.



How to prevent bugs on indoor plants

Seeing sticky stuff on your houseplants? This is a sure sign that your indoor plants have bugs. Here's how to protect your plants and treat the most common indoor plant bug problems.

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Mites, Aphids and Scale on Indoor Plants

Pests such as mites, aphids, scale and mealybugs drink up plant juices, secreting the excess. This clear sticky substance is called honeydew and is often the first clue these pests are feeding on your plants. The leaves may also yellow and turn brown.

Try rinsing the bugs off indoor plants first. A strong blast of water dislodges many of the insects. If that doesn't get rid of them, move on to insecticidal soap or organic horticulture oil labeled for houseplants.

Fungus Gnats, or Small Flies, on Indoor Plants

Question: I received a plant as a gift, and along with it came gnats! Insecticidal soap didn't work. Watering less seems to help, but as soon as I water, the gnats are back. Do you have any pointers? — Peggy Haskin of Racine, Wisconsin

Are small flies flying around your indoor plants? Fungus gnats are those annoying insects that look like small fruit flies flitting around the house. Controlling immature fungus gnats, which are wormlike larvae that feed on organic matter in the soil, eliminates the problem. Fungus gnats are not harmful but certainly are annoying. To evict them, allow the soil to go a bit drier and trap the adults with a container of apple cider vinegar on the countertop. And there is another organic option. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) is a naturally occurring bacterium that kills the fungus gnat larvae, mosquitos and black flies. Mosquito Bits, a Bti product, has been approved for controlling fungus gnats and is available at garden centers, retail outlets and online. Just sprinkle the bits on the soil surface and water. When the fungus gnat larvae feed upon the Bti, they die. Best of all, the product is safe for pets, people, and wildlife. Sprinkle the product over the soil surface and repeat as often as the label directions recommend.

Dhruba Dhakal has asked to share these upcoming webinars:

The State Extension Master Gardener program has scheduled this additional continuing education webinar for EMG volunteers.

Registration is required and is free. The webinar will begin at 6:30 pm. Upon registering, you will receive the zoom link to attend the webinar. If you are unable to attend the webinar live but are interested in the topic, please register. An email will be sent after the event when the recording is available for viewing. For any questions, please reach out to [Debi Kelly](#).

Nov 3 – Sustainable Landscape Design – [registration](#)

Subscribe to the [Garden Spade newsletter](#) for home gardeners.

Subscribe to the [Commercial Horticulture video newsletter](#).

Subscribe to the [MU IPM YouTube Channel](#).

Protect your Tulip Bulbs and other bulbs squirrels like to eat:

Interplant Daffodils. Smell and taste toxic to squirrels. 1 Daffodil to every 2 tulip bulbs. From Bessy a Garden Educator. Extra comments on the video: sprinkle garlic powder and turmeric in the hole before putting the bulbs in them. Throughout the winter, I sprinkle this above ground all around them too. Been doing this for years and it's never failed. Another comment: Just dip them in a cayenne pepper mix before planting & sprinkles cayenne pepper around the ground. That'll stop them. Plant garlic cloves among the tulip bulbs. Not 100% squirrel proof but pretty close. When they grow the greenery just blends in with the tulip leaves and you don't really notice it. You also get a harvest in mid summer!

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RECIPE TIME

Karottensalat (German Carrot Salad)

This simple German carrot salad, known as Karottensalat, pairs grated carrots with a tangy-sweet dressing made with cider vinegar, lemon juice and a touch of sugar. A couple of hours in the refrigerator gives the carrots time to soak up the bright flavors.

By [Anna Porter](#) Published on September 9, 2026 Reviewed by Dietitian [Emily Lachtrupp, M.S., RD](#)

Emily Lachtrupp is a registered dietitian experienced in nutritional counseling, recipe analysis and meal plans. She's worked with clients who struggle with diabetes, weight loss, digestive issues and more. In her spare time, you can find her enjoying all that Vermont has to offer with her family and her dog, Winston.



Credit: Photographer: Victor Protasio.

Active Time: 10 mins; **Total Time:** 2 hrs 10 mins; **Servings:** 4

Ingredients: Original recipe (1X) yields 4 servings

- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1½ teaspoons lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon granulated sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and grated

Directions

1. Whisk 2 tablespoons vinegar, 1 tablespoon oil, 1½ teaspoons lemon juice, ½ teaspoon sugar, ¼ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper in a large bowl. Add grated carrots; toss well to combine.
2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serve chilled or let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before serving.

Whisk the dressing together, toss it with grated carrots and let the refrigerator do the rest.

Cider vinegar and lemon juice balance the sweetness of the carrots, with a touch of sugar. Some substituted honey instead of sugar

Serve it alongside schnitzel, sausages or roasted chicken for an easy, refreshing side.

To make ahead: Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
OCTOBER



OCTOBER ~ MARIGOLD & COSMOS

The October birth flowers are the marigold and cosmos

Marigolds traditionally symbolized **despair and grief over a loved one**. It may be surprising that such a cheerful flower is associated with the dead.

However, for many cultures, its those neon-bright orange and yellow hues that represent the sunrays or light paths that guide their dearly departed.

The bright orange and yellow hues also represent the beauty and warmth of the rising Sun, and its power to resurrect.

Today, we often focus more on sunny colors of the marigold, representing optimism and prosperity.

Cosmos are a symbol of **order, peace, and serenity**.

The name Cosmos comes from the Greek *kosmos*, meaning order, harmony, or the world.

Spanish mission priests in Mexico cultivated cosmos in the mission gardens, and gave it this name because of its “evenly placed petals.”

Meetings are held at the Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St, Jefferson City, MO

We hope to see you there!

Online Reporting Site: Hours must be entered at https://vms.momg.org/sec_Login/ please remember you need to enter hours on a computer, not a tablet or a phone. Again, all hours must be entered on line.

Enter your hours again starting in January.

Any emails that need to be distributed to ALL MG's should be sent to **CMMG Cole County Master Gardener <cmmg@missouri.edu>– please don't call in messages**

CMMG Official WEBSITE-- <https://extension.missouri.edu/counties/cole/extension-master->

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