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# GARDENING DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS



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SEE MY MONTHLY CHECKLISTS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND LOOKING ITS BEST ALL YEAR ROUND

## SUMMER IS FOR PLANTING

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON PROPER POST PLANTING CARE

## A FEW SUMMER ANNUALS

AS PANSIES AND OTHER SPRING FLOWERS FADE, REPLACE WITH SUMMER ANNUALS

### AGERATUM - *Ageratum*

- 6-24" tall
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun to part shade
- Blooms all summer
  - Minimal deadheading
- Butterflies, hummingbirds
- Deer resistant
- Blue Horizon tall cultivar

### ANGELONIA

#### *Angelonia angustifolia*

- 12-24" x 9-18"
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun

### BEGONIA - *Begonia*

- 6-12" x 6-12"
- Moist soil
  - Especially when grown in full sun
- Full sun to shade
- Dragon Wing, Whopper & Big Red varieties
  - Sun to shade
- 12"+ tall and wide

### CALIBRACHOA - *Calibrachoa*

- 3-9" x 6-24"
- Moist, well-drained, rich soil
- Full sun

### CELOSIA - *Celosia* species

- 6-36" x 8-20"
- Space 8-12"
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Full sun

### COLEUS

#### *Plectranthus scutellarioides*

- 6-24" x 12"
- Moist, organic soil
- Full to part shade
  - Some are sun tolerant

### COSMOS - *Cosmos bipinnatus*

- 12-24" x 12-24"
- Well-drained soil
- Full sun
- Avoid over fertilization that leads to floppy growth and poor flowering

### CUPHEA - *Cuphea ignea*

- 12-24" x 8-12"
- Space 8-12"
- Moist, well-drained soil

### GERANIUMS

#### *Pelargonium x hortorum*

- 12-20" x 12"
- Well-drained soil
- Full sun

### HELIOTROPE

#### *Heliotropium arborescens*

- 12-18" x 12-15"
- Well-drained, fertile soil
- Full sun

### IMPATIENS

#### *Impatiens wallerana*

- 6-18" x 12-24"
- Moist, well-drained soils
  - Especially in sunny locations
- Full to part shade
- Downy mildew resistant:
  - Beacon
  - SunPatiens
  - New Guinea Impatiens

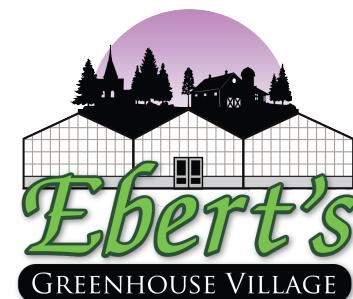
## Ebert's Greenhouse Village

When you visit Ebert's Greenhouse Village for the first time, you'll be charmed by our rustic ambiance and the beautiful surrounding countryside in Ixonia, Wisconsin. You'll meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff who share your passion for gardening and the rewarding, enjoyable life experience it provides!

Our selection of annual flowers and gorgeous hanging basket and container combinations are second to none – they are planted and cared for with your success and lasting enjoyment in mind. Our extensive collection of perennials, trees, shrubs and roses is one of the finest in Wisconsin, and our culinary herbs and vegetables can be planted with confidence! As our grounds continue to evolve, you'll see additions that will enhance your shopping experience with us. In our Gift Shoppe, we continue to build a delightful selection of indoor and outdoor home and landscape accents to inspire you to assemble an environment you will love spending time in all season long!

At Ebert's Greenhouse Village, "We Grow HAPPINESS!!"

[Learn More](#)



## LANTANA - *Lantana camara*

- 12-15" tall and wide
- Well-drained soil
- Full sun
- Heat and drought tolerant

## LICORICE PLANT & VINE

### *Helichrysum petiolare*

- Upright or trailing size varies
- Well-drained soil
- Full to part sun

## MANDEVILLA - DIPLADENIA

- 12-36" tall and wide
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun to part sun

## FLOWERING TOBACCO

### *Nicotiana alata*

- 8-60" x 6-24"
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full to part sun
- Reseeds readily

## A FEW TROPICAL PLANTS

### CANNAS - *Canna x generalis*

- 1-5' x 12-24"
- Well-drained soil
- Full sun
- Green, bronze, purple-black and striped foliage
- Pink, red, orange, yellow & white flowers

### PENTAS - *Pentas*

- 12-24" tall and wide
- Evenly moist, well-drained soils
  - Drought tolerant
- Full sun

### PETUNIAS - *Petunia x hybrida*

- 6-18" x 3-36"
- Adaptable
- Full to part sun
- Lots of new varieties that need minimal pruning and deadheading

### SALVIA - *Salvia splendens*

- 12-24" x 8-18"
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun
- Black & Blue and other Anise Sages
  - 2-3' x 2'
  - Moist, well-drained soil
  - Full to part sun

### BANANA - *Musa* species

- 3-15' x 3-12'
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full to part sun
- Overwinter indoors as a houseplant or let go dormant
- Fiber bananas have occasionally survived outdoors in Zone 5 in sheltered space with mulch

### FAN FLOWER - *Scaevola aemula*

- 9-18" x 12-24"
- Well-drained soil
- Full to part sun

### SWEET POTATO VINE

### *Ipomoea batatas*

- Up to 3' long
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Full sun to part shade

### ANNUAL VINCA / ROSE PERIWINKLE

### *Catharanthus roseus*

- 8-18" x 8-12"
- Well-drained soil
- Full to part sun

### ZINNIA - *Zinnia*

- 6-36" x 12-24"
- Space 8-15"
- Well-drained to dry soil
- Full sun
- Heat and drought tolerant



## About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, *the Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,  
[melindamyers.com](http://melindamyers.com)

## ELEPHANT EARS

*Colocasia, Alocasia, Xanthosoma*

- 1-15' x 2-4'
- Organic soil
- Sun to shade
  - Benefits from mid-day shade
- Consistent moisture and regular fertilization for full size growth
- Colocasia, Alocasia and Xanthosoma are commonly called elephant ears. Alocasia foliage tends to point upwards, like an arrowhead, while Colocasia tends to point downward to form the shape of a heart. Xanthosoma leaf tips tend to point downward with a vein running all along and just inside the edge of the leaf.

## PLANTING TIPS FOR PERENNIALS, TREES & SHRUBS

### SUMMER IS FOR PLANTING

- Perennials
  - Check tag for spacing
  - Plant with crown of the plant at the soil surface
- Shrubs & Trees
  - Crown of shrub and root flare of tree at soil surface
  - Hole same depth as root ball, but 2 to 5 times wider
  - Roughen sides of hole
  - Backfill with same soil
  - Water and mulch

Contact Diggers Hotline or your local underground utility locating service BEFORE you start digging  
- It's a FREE service

In Wisconsin file online at [diggershotline.com](http://diggershotline.com) or anywhere in the U.S., including Wisconsin, call 811 at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Once your request is received, Diggers Hotline (or your local locating service) contacts all the appropriate underground utilities. The utility's locators will mark the location of the underground utilities in the work area. Avoid digging near the marks to reduce the risk of damage, personal injury or even death.



## UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

*Check often as more information and webinars continue to be added.*

### June 15<sup>th</sup> Webinar

[Strategies for Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape](#)

### June 22<sup>nd</sup> Webinar

[Low Growing Shrubs & Vines to Attract and Support Pollinators](#)

### July 18<sup>th</sup>

### In-Person Appearance

[Drought Tolerant Perennials and Shrubs for Southeastern Wisconsin](#)

### July 20<sup>th</sup> Webinar

[Ask the Plant Doctor Q&A Session](#)

## **QUICK FIXES**

### **■ ADD SOME HANGING BASKETS**

- Shepherd's crook in the garden by patio and deck
- Sink pot in the ground - instant garden
- Protect these from nesting birds, chipmunks and more
  - Netting at planting
  - Scare tactics
  - Animal repellents

### **■ USE CONTAINERS TO FILL ANY VOIDS OR AS PLACE HOLDERS UNTIL YOU FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION**

### **■ DAZZLE THEM WITH GARDEN ART**

### **■ FOREVER FLOWERS**

## **WATERING**

### **■ NEW PLANTINGS OFTEN ENOUGH TO KEEP SOIL MOIST AROUND ROOT ZONE AND SURROUNDING SOIL**

### **■ ONCE ESTABLISHED, MOST PLANTS NEED AN INCH OF WATER PER WEEK - ADJUST FOR WEATHER**

- Provide 1" (or what is needed) once a week in heavy soils
- Provide 1/2" twice a week in fast draining soils

### **■ TREES & SHRUBS**

- Check newly planted trees and shrubs and those that require moist soil weekly
- Monitor established trees and shrubs during dry periods
- Water thoroughly, moistening the top 12" of soil
- Trees need 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter at each watering

### **■ GROUP MOISTURE LOVERS TOGETHER TO CONSERVE WATER AND SAVE TIME WATERING**

### **■ CONSIDER SOAKER HOSES OR DRIP IRRIGATION**

- Applies water directly to the soil where it is needed
- Easier for you - just water with the turn of a spigot



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## ■ CHECK CONTAINERS DAILY

- Water thoroughly when top few inches of soil are dry
- Self-watering pots
  - Water from above until plants are established
  - Monitor water in reservoir and fill as needed

## MULCHING

### ■ SPREADING A THIN LAYER OF ORGANIC MATTER OVER THE SOIL SURFACE

- Shredded leaves
- Evergreen needles
- Coarser the material, thicker the layer
  - Leaves (1")
  - Woodchips (3-4")
- Keep mulches several inches away from tree trunks and crown
- Conserves moisture - you'll water less
- Suppresses weeds - less to pull
- As mulch breaks down, it improves the soil
- Do not use weed barrier under organic mulches
  - Weed seeds blow in and root through mulch and fabric
  - Composted organic mulch never reaches soil and can block pores, preventing water and air from reaching soil below
  - As plants grow, can girdle tree trunk causing death

### ■ QUICK TIP FOR APPLYING MULCH

- Save pots as you plant
- Once plants in the garden, cover with pots and spread mulch
- Or, apply mulch to garden, push aside to plant

### ■ MULCHING TREES, SHRUBS AND PATHWAYS

### ■ STONE MULCH PROVIDES AESTHETIC VALUE, BUT DOES NOT IMPROVE SOIL

- Do use weed barrier under stone
  - Prevents stone from sinking into soil
- Remove organic matter (leaves and such) to reduce risk of weeds growing in the mulch and rooting through the weed barrier



## FERTILIZING

### ■ FOLLOW SOIL TEST RESULTS

### ■ IF USED, SLOW RELEASE AT PLANTING

- Reapply per label directions
- Milorganite second application 6 to 8 weeks after first - if needed

### ■ FAST RELEASE FERTILIZER EVERY WEEK OR TWO ACCORDING TO LABEL DIRECTIONS

- Recommended by Ebert's staff to keep hanging baskets looking their best

## STAKING

### ■ INSTALL STAKES EARLY IN THE SEASON

### ■ SELECT SUPPORT STURDY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE PLANT

### ■ USE SOFT TIES TO SECURE PLANTS TO SUPPORT AS NEEDED

### ■ GLADS & DAHLIAS WITH LATTICE HELD PERPENDICULAR TO GROUND

### ■ TWIGS AND BRANCHES TURNED INTO TRELLIS AND PLANT SUPPORTS

### ■ DECORATIVE OBELICKS AND TRELLISES

## EDGING THE GARDEN BED

### ■ DIG A V-SHAPED TRENCH AROUND GARDEN

- Fill with mulch

### ■ USE A MOWING STRIP

### ■ HAVE SOME FUN

- Old dishes
- Wattle fence
- Wine bottles and more

## POOR FLOWERING IN SUMMER

### ■ HEAT STALL

- Pansies
- French marigolds

- Purple alyssum

- Lobelia...

### ■ DROUGHT STRESS

- Calibrachoa
- Stems get woody
- Poor flowering
- Limited new growth

## GROOMING

### ■ MASKING FADED BULB AND SPRING PERENNIAL FOLIAGE

- Annuals
- Mix with perennials with season-long foliage

### ■ SELF-CLEANING PLANTS

- Impatiens
- Cuphea
- Calibrachoa

### ■ DEADHEADING

- Remove faded flowers to promote more blooms or tidier appearance
- Prevent reseeding
  - Columbine
  - Amsonia
  - Spider cleome...
- Stop deadheading late summer for seed heads to form
  - Winter interest
  - Food for the birds
- Here's how
  - Spike
    - ♦ Remove faded flower back to side shoots or healthy leaves
    - ♦ Remove second flush of flowers
    - ♦ Prune back halfway, if needed
  - Shasta Daisy
    - ♦ Remove faded flower back to healthy leaves or side branches

- Daylily, Balloon Flower
  - ♦ Remove individual flowers as they fade
  - ♦ Remove the flower stem once all flowers are done
- Coral Bells, Armeria
  - ♦ Cut flower stem back to rosette of leaves
- Coleus
  - ♦ Remove flowers as soon as they appear for better growth
- Peony, Perennial Geranium
  - ♦ For aesthetics - not rebloom
- Common Bleeding Heart
  - ♦ Cut back halfway after bloom for new foliage
  - ♦ Or, cut back yellowed foliage mid summer to the ground
    - ▶ Use nearby plantings to cover void

#### ■ SOFT PINCH

- Remove tip to encourage branching

#### ■ HARD PINCH

- Cut leggy stems back to above set of healthy leaves
- More compact, denser growth

#### ■ PRUNING FOR COMPACT GROWTH

- Mums and Asters
  - Prune to 6" through June
- Russian Sage
  - Prune in spring to 4-6"
  - Prune again halfway if needed in mid June
- Sedum Autumn Joy and other upright sedums that flop
  - Prune back halfway when 8" tall
- Catmint
  - Prune back halfway when plants flop open
- Coneflower
  - Prune some for shorter growth and delayed bloom

## DIVIDING

- IN GENERAL, DIVIDE SPRING BLOOMING PERENNIALS IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL, FALL BLOOMING PERENNIALS IN SPRING AND SUMMER BLOOMERS AT EITHER TIME. YOU CAN DIG AND DIVIDE AT OTHER TIMES AS NEEDED, BUT IT IS A BIT RISKIER AND POST TRANSPLANT CARE IS EVEN MORE CRITICAL.
  - Threadleaf Coreopsis
    - Divide every few years to eliminate the need for deadheading
  - Repeat Blooming Daylilies
    - Dividing every 3 years or so keeps them repeat blooming
  - Short-lived perennials
    - Dividing every few years can increase vigor

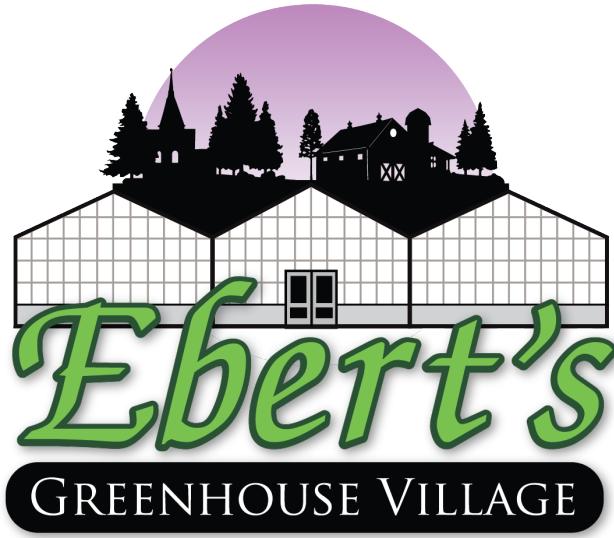
## SUSTAINABLE WEED, INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

- CHECK OUT THE RECORDING OF SUSTAINABLE LAWN AND LANDSCAPE CARE ON THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY YOUTUBE CHANNEL
- YOU WILL FIND THIS AND MY RAIN GARDEN WEBINARS UNDER THE ADULT SECTION

## TAKE CARE WHEN GARDENING

- GARDEN EARLY IN THE MORNING AND LATE AFTERNOON WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE A BIT COOLER
- BE SURE TO DRINK PLENTY OF WATER AND USE SUNSCREEN
- TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS

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