



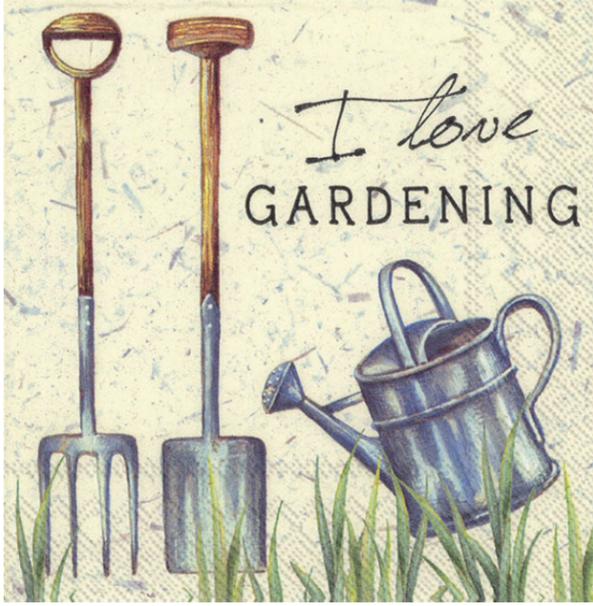
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- Soil
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- Tips to a healthy lawn
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Garden Tip:

Use plastic forks to keep pets and animals from destroying your garden.




Lady Bugs are cute with their bright red body with black spots and can be very beneficial to the ecosystem in a yard. As soon as lady bugs hatch, they begin to feast. The newly hatched larvae eats about 350 to 400 aphids in a two-week period. Along with aphids, they eat fruit flies, mites, and other insects. This makes them a welcome guest of farmers and gardeners alike. A single ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids in its short lifetime.

Beneficial bugs play role in garden health

Hold off on those sprays, you could be doing more harm than good

by Philip A. Janquart

As we sit back in our patio chairs – cold drink in hand – and gaze out over our handiwork, it’s easy to overlook the ecosystem happening right under our noses.

Bugs are a welcome sight for those who know a little something about gardens: no insects, no plants.

Others can’t see past visions of ravaged flowers and crops, scouring the garage for insecticide in hopes of eradicating whatever pest that has been deemed an enemy.

Before launching chemical warfare, however, it might be worth taking a minute to think about what you are about to do.

“The problem with wiping everything out, say you have aphids on a plant, the spray you use to kill them could kill other insects that are eating them,” said Edwin Lewis, Department Head and Professor of entomology, plant pathology and nematology at the University of Idaho.

“The aphids have a higher growth rate than the predators,” he said, adding that without the predators, the aphid population can get worse. “You get into a situation where you knock down all the background population, and you sort of get on this system where you are never going to have enough natural control because of that population growth.”

Likewise, many people don’t like seeing wasps hanging around, but unless you have a nest hanging from your house’s eave or from a tree, it shouldn’t be considered a problem unless they are a nuisance.

“Wasps ... most of those are predators, so most of them are doing some service to your ecosystem, whether it’s in your back yard or wherever, so leaving them alone is a good idea because they are doing a service for you,” Lewis said.

Many adults have complicated comfort levels with various species of bugs, but it’s good to know something about them, which could bring some ease and peace of mind.

After all, many insects are known as beneficial bugs.

By rule, any insect crawling around in your garden serves a purpose, such as collecting and depositing pollen, which helps pollinate your plants, allowing them to thrive.

Beneficial Bugs

So, what bugs are good for your garden?

Let’s start with the Lady Bug (Coccinellidae), for which there are 6,000 species worldwide. As cute as they may be, they are considered a predator, feeding on those aphids, which suck sugars out of plants, depleting them of the nutrition they need to flourish.

The Praying Mantis (mantodea) is one of the most interesting bugs around and have been described as the leopard of the insect world. They stalk their prey and then pounce with lightning speed once it is in their reach.

It sits at the top of the garden insect food chain and hunts all varieties of garden pests, but they have no regard for what they eat, so they will go after the beneficial bugs as well. In Idaho, there have never been any known Mantis population problems, so you can trust that in our neck of the woods they help maintain your garden’s ecological balance.

Ground beetles (Coleoptera) are less fascinating. Who knows what they are doing or where they are going as they crawl around, but you might be interested to know that beetles feast on slugs, snails, cabbage maggots, and other pests known to destroy otherwise healthy plants. They also feed on weed seeds, adding another level of protection to your crops.

Soldier Beetle (Coleoptera) larvae feed on grasshopper eggs, moths, and other beetles.

The Spined Soldier Bug (Podisus maculiventris) is often mistaken for its cousin, the “Stink Bug.” It uses its sharp “proboscis,” a penetrating mouth organ, to feed on cabbage loopers, moths, army worms, cater-

pillars, flea beetles, and potato bugs.

Ever notice that if you inadvertently squash a Green Lacewing (Neuroptera), it kind of stinks? Well, that’s because these flying insects, with delicate, translucent wings, have a unique way of subduing its prey. (Yes, the little fairy-like bug is a predator, too.) Sometimes referred to as “stinkflies,” they release a foul smell out of their rear ends – you might call it a fart – that is released when touched. They are also called “aphid lions” because their larvae feed on aphids – about 200 per week. They also eat spider mites, thrips, leafhoppers, mealybugs, whiteflies, and small caterpillars.

There are companies that sell Lacewing eggs, and other beneficial bugs, as a natural pest control. You can get them from ebay or Amazon, or you can find them at companies like Arbico Organics (www.arbico-organics.com).

Dragonflies (Anisoptera) rival the ladybug when it comes to adored insect. Dragonflies are a colorful, graceful insect that can seem weightless, an interesting fact considering it can consume several times its own weight in food in a day. It feasts on aphids, flies, midges, mosquitos, and even wasps, and some studies have shown that dragonflies can calculate the trajectory of their victims during hunting and predict the movement of their prey several steps ahead.

Everyone knows what bees (Anthophila) do. On a broad scale, they pollinate approximately 30 percent of the world’s edible crops, making a direct connection between their health and the health of humans. Wasps (Hymenoptera) are also pollinators and feed on small insects.

Helping the decomposition process are insects like worms, rove beetles, flies, and Pill Bugs (Armadillidium vulgare), that look like tiny armadillos and are also known as “Rollie Pollies.” They are not actu-



Another very beneficial insect is the praying mantis. They have been described as the leopard in the insect world due to their quickness when they pounce with lightning speed on their prey. The praying mantis sits at the top of the garden insect food chain hunting all varieties of pests and also beneficial insects.

ally an insect, rather a terrestrial crustacean that are distant relatives of lobsters, shrimp, and crabs. They are nonetheless commonly found in gardens and help decompose matter. They can be beneficial, harmless, or cause damage, but it all depends on the balance of your garden ecosystem, according to allaboutgardening.com.

Depending on the type of ant in your garden, they can be both beneficial and harmful. Typical black, or red garden ants (*Lasius niger* and *Myrmica rubra*) provide pest control, pollinate plants, and further support the ecosystem by digging tunnels that aerate the soil, and can carry water, oxygen, and nutrients to plant roots. They also speed up the decomposition of organic materials like leaves and dead insects, which fertilizes plants. Carpenter or fire ants are harmful to your garden and structures around it.

A lot of people hate spiders (Araneae), but there are at least five species that are beneficial to your garden. They are Hunting Spiders, Jumping Spiders, Orb Weavers, Sac Spiders, and Web Spinners.

Butterflies (Lepidoptera) are natural pollinators and are attracted to native plant species. They also attract other beneficial insect such as bees, lady bugs, praying mantis, and dragon flies.

Ecosystem Balance

Some of the ways you can achieve natural ecosystem balance is by including native plants in your garden because they are more resistant to insects and disease. And, because they are adapted to local soils and climate conditions, they require less watering and fertilizing, and are less likely to need pesticides.

One source indicated that it is good to have a 70:30 ratio of native to “exotic” plants in your garden.

Also, local and migratory wildlife, such as birds, are adapted to using native plant species for food and cover. You can use the native plant finder on the National Wildlife Federation’s website at www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder.

Instead of using chemicals, consider one of the many natural substitutes, some of which can be found at garden centers.

“You can use systemic insecticides, which translocate through the plant and only kill the things that you are targeting,” Lewis said. “You can also use things like horticulture oil that doesn’t stay around as opposed to something that kills everything. The object should be to spray as little as possible. If you can live with caterpillars chewing on something, then do that. If there are holes in your tomato plants, do you really care?”



Honey bees work hard buzzing around gathering pollen and nectar and in the process pollinates flowering plants. It is estimated that one third of the human food supply depends on pollination by insects, birds and bats, most of which is accomplished by bees. *Photo by Nancy Grindstaff*

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To have a healthy garden, lawn and flower bed the soil in your yard is important for the plant's health. Most of the soil around us is clay. Soil amendments will help break down the clay soil. Enjoy getting your hands in the dirt and the bountiful harvest it will produce.

What's in your soil will determine success of plant life in your yard

Amount of fertilizer is critical to a healthy garden

by Philip A. Janquart

Generally speaking, the soil in southwest Idaho primarily consists of loam.

Soil scientists have classified soil particles into three major groups: sand, silt, and clay. Sand particles are larger and don't hold water as well yet provides good aeration. Clay particles are the smallest of the group and prevent water from draining and do not allow air to penetrate. Silt consists of medium-sized particles that could be seen as the middle of the road in terms of the properties found in clay and sand.

With that said, it would seem that soil conditions in this region would be optimal for growing. And that would be a correct assumption, but there are variables in terms of the soil present on each individual's property that determine how well plants grow.

"Specific soil textures – sand, silt, and clay – on a textural triangle have parameters for different percentages of a particle soil analysis," said Nic Usabel, University of Idaho Canyon County Extension educator.

Usabel specializes in urban horticulture and directs the Idaho Master Gardener Program.

"Each one of those loams can have a specific range that can have a certain percentage of sand, silt, and clay, so there are a variety of soils that can fall within loam," he said. "It means each individual's garden site could be different."

Other factors include adjustments and amendments to your particular patch of ground over the years and whether you live in a subdivision or older neighborhood closer to downtown.

"If someone brought in some sand at one time, the soil could be off the normal scale of that area," Usabel said. "If there has been a lot of development that has occurred

around your house, depending on where you live, like in a subdivision, likely all of that top layer had been removed and now you are down to another layer of soil. And maybe they've brought other soil back in."

It's important to know what type of soil you are dealing with, and the level of nutrients present because it will determine how often you need to water your plants and how much fertilizer to use.

Plants growing in soil with more sand particles will need to be watered more often whereas plants in soil with more clay particles need to be watered less frequently.

"Sand particle doesn't have a lot of chemical charges around it, so it's not great at holding water and it's not great at holding nutrients either, so it doesn't hold a lot of nitrogen, phosphorus, and a number of other micronutrients. The clay particle has a strong bond on that particle, so it strongly bonds that water, that nutrient through that particle size," Usabel said.

"Sometimes our clay soils are difficult to water because it doesn't want to infiltrate or move down through the soil, so we may have to water and let that moisture to go through for a couple hours, and then water again in order to get it to move more deeply into the soil."

pH levels

Usabel said that determining the level of pH in soil is a critical factor in helping plants grow to their greatest potential. A pH (potential Hydrogen) level is a measurement of the alkalinity or acidity of soil. Gardeners need to know whether their soil is alkaline or acidic because certain nutrients can only be accessed by plants when the soil pH falls into an acceptable range, according to thespruce.com. If your plants are growing healthy, your

soil pH is most likely in an acceptable range.

"As a generality for southern Idaho, we have alkaline soils," he said. "We fall on the pH scale above a 7, or maybe 8.5 and most of our garden vegetables will do just fine growing in alkaline soil. Things like blueberries prefer a 4.5 to 5.5 pH, so those plants struggle, so there would need to be a lot of amendments and modifications made."

Raising the pH of an acidic soil requires adding lime, and the pH of alkaline soil is lowered by adding sulfur, according to The Spruce.

Can you overfertilize your garden?

"Yes, and our concerns would be for nitrogen, the nitrates that we would be applying that would be leaching into our ground water," Usabel said. "The concern for phosphorus, if it is applied too much, it doesn't get absorbed and there is run-off and it ends up in our streams, causing algae blooms."

The only way to figure out what is in your soil is to have it tested, which can be accomplished locally at Western Laboratories, Inc., located at 211 W. Highway 95 in Parma, Idaho. Cost is \$55.

There are other sources, such as AgSource, a larger company that has several locations in the Midwest, and the University of Idaho, which has a lab on its campus in Moscow. In both cases, you would have to mail your soil sample.

"Once you know the nutrient in the soil, they have a publication through the University of Idaho Extension, which has parameters, so if you had, say, 10 to 20 parts per million of your nitrates, and you want to use organic matter in your soil, and it's a vegetable garden, it will tell you how much you need to add per 1,000-square feet," Usabel explained.

Recent precipitation in the area has not improved the water storage outlook

by Philip A. Janquart

If you are wondering if the recent rain and colder temperatures has improved the outlook for water storage and river flow this summer, the short answer is no.

Earlier this month, the Weiser Irrigation District's Jay Edwards said water levels at Crane and Mann Creek reservoirs were less than half of normal and that the district would meet to discuss how it would handle water distribution this summer.

"The Crane Creek reservoir board has not made a determination on how much water we do in fact get," Edwards said on April 21. "It looked like we would get about 70 percent at the first of the month, but since then we've had some snow and some rain, so we don't know yet. We'll know here in the next couple of weeks."

Edwards added that flow for the Weiser River, water the district plans to utilize before drawing from Crane Creek, was way below average as well.

An April 21 U.S. Geological Report showed 600-cfs compared to its normal 2,500-cfs for this time of year.

During its April 5 meeting, the district board adopted a rotational water use plan that will help spare water resources over the coming months. Edwards said the plan will increase the

likelihood that users will get the water they need.

Irrigation was turned on around April 10, with the rotational plan beginning in June. Notices with watering schedules will be sent to all users before then.

Corey Loveland, Idaho Snow Survey Supervisor at the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), confirmed on April 4 that water levels at Crane and Mann Creek reservoirs were very low compared to normal this time of year.

"Mann Creek, we are talking about 43 percent full as of yesterday (March 27), so that's not even half full," he said. "Normally this time of year, it would probably be around 75 percent full, so the reservoir status is pretty low on that."

Loveland did not have an official level for Crane Creek but estimated it to be no more than about 50 percent full at that time.

Despite recent rain and lower temps, he said the outlook for water storage and stream flows hasn't changed much.

"Generally, the precipitation hasn't been a whole lot," he told the *Weiser Signal American* on April 21. "The biggest benefit has been that it has delayed the snow melts with the cooler temperatures recently because there

was the trend before when those series of storms came across the Pacific northwest, and it was a trend of warming and melting across the middle to higher elevations, much earlier than normal, I think by two to three weeks.

"Of course, we've [recently] received mostly rain in the Valley and some snow in the higher elevations, but in terms of adding anything, it's not much. We got a little bump, but realistically, it's not that positive of a thing because of the timing. If we would have received that precipitation and those colder temperatures, say, a month ago, during the normal season, it would have been better."

Weather forecast

Loveland said he does not anticipate any substantial precipitation in the coming weeks.

"Near term within the next 10 days, it looks like a little residual wetness and temperatures coming across Weiser and the central part of Idaho, but nothing to write home about; very light amounts I would imagine," he said. "Longer term, they still have the effect of El Nina in the outlook and that has been kind of disappointing thus far. They are calling for, maybe above average, at least for the northern Panhandle, but probably normal conditions in southern Idaho from about 8 to 14 days out."



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Flower baskets to beautify downtown Weiser this summer

Petunias are on order; pots could be hanging by Memorial Day weekend

by Philip A. Janquart

It won't be long before downtown Weiser is popping with color.

Spring has sprung and local businesswoman Linda Roundtree, owner of Station 30 Collectibles, has been busy coordinating efforts to get the city's hanging flower baskets ready for placement.

This summer will mark the 13th season Roundtree and her group of volunteers, under the Visually Improving the Business Environment (VIBE) program, have been hanging pots of cascading petunias from the city's light posts.

"In the past, we've tried to get them up before Memorial Day," Roundtree said. "If not, it will be the following week. It depends on a number of things: when they come in, what size they are, what condition they are in, and how long it takes them to bounce back after moving them into our pots, so it takes them anywhere from two to four weeks to get them acclimated correctly to where we feel comfortable putting them up."

Although you wouldn't know it by looking at them, Roundtree said there were problems with the flowers that were ordered last year, resulting in additional costs.

"We had issues with them, and they ended up with some sort of root rot as little plants," she said. "We lost a bunch of them, so it cost our program quite a bit last year. We ended up going to Bi-Mart and they helped us out with discounting flowers and transferring them to our pots."

Bi-Mart will be supplying the flowers again this year, Roundtree expressing gratitude to store Manager Bert Lopez for his willingness to work with VIBE.

"We are really thankful to Bert and Bi-Mart for helping us this year," she said. "We are eager to see where that partnership goes, and they are excited to be a part of helping the community."

In full bloom, the flowers go a long way in beautifying Weiser's business district, adding to the charm and visual appeal of the his-

toric city.

"People will stop and say, 'They look beautiful!' or 'Good job, lookin' good!'" Roundtree said. "One time, a couple of 10-year-old girls stopped while we were watering plants and said, 'Hey, good job, doing a good job!' so that's kind of become our motto."

Roundtree and local businessman, Keith Bryant, along with our own Sarah Imada, publisher at the *Weiser Signal American*, take time out of their busy schedules to keep the flowers looking fresh and lively. Roundtree said more volunteers are always welcome and individuals will be needed this year to help "deadhead" the flowers at least once this season. Deadheading plants simply means removing spent flowers to promote more flowering.

How it started

The idea for the hanging flower baskets came to Roundtree over a decade ago when she and husband, Andy, were driving through Sweet Home, Ore., a community of about 10,000 located about 100 miles south of Portland.

"We were traveling through on vacation, and they had these really beautiful, hanging flower baskets, and we would go through other small towns and see them, and I thought 'Why don't we have them in our town?'"

Roundtree began doing research and worked with the City of Weiser to make it happen, but it took a lot of planning and execution.

"First, these light poles were never designed to hold weight," she said of the city's vintage-styled light poles. "So, I met with Ken at Northwest Ironworks here in Weiser and we came up with a prototype bracket."

The City of Weiser sent the prototype to the light pole manufacturer, Roundtree and Ken first calculating how much weight they could actually hold.

"You have to know math to figure all of this out," she said. "We had to figure out swing weight, with the stabilizer rings and brackets, the

mass, and the wet and dry weight."

They sent the prototype and their figures to the company's engineer who called six weeks later to say they nailed it.

"We found we could have between 38 and 40 pounds on each side of the poles," she said. "We were pretty proud of ourselves."

Then it was time to do some sponsorship work, which ultimately resulted in the 34 pots that adorn the city's light poles. The buy-in was \$225 per 35-pound pot, including an engraved plaque with the sponsor's name.

The price has since gone down, costing sponsors about \$165 per year.

Watering takes about two hours in the morning and another couple hours in the evening with Keith and Sarah heading up the main watering duties using a four-wheeler to tow the program's water trailer.

"We use a big wand to reach the flowers, and run about three gallons through them," Roundtree said. "They have to be watered consistently because if they get dehydrated, they have a hard time catching back up."

Plans for the future

This year's flowers haven't even arrived, yet Roundtree is already thinking about summer 2023.

"There is one thing that we are wanting to transition to, and that is some bigger, cornerstone-type pots that can be on the street corners where we don't have hanging baskets, so that would be a goal we want to set for next year," she said. "We would like to start with four and add four more each year, for two to three years, so that we could get a few more on the ground."

The plan is still in the infancy stages, but Roundtree said the additional pots would be corporate sponsored.

"We are in the planning process, and once we have cost estimates and figure out where we would want them placed, we would take it to the city council for review, input, and approval," she said.



A lawn around a home has many benefits. It helps the property and home stay cooler, it provides oxygen and keeps dirt and dust at bay. When mowing, only mow the top one-third of the grass blades. The clippings will slow water evaporation, help keep weeds from germinating and put back some nitrogen to help keep the lawn green and lush.

You don't have to slave to keep lawn healthy

Lawns provide oxygen, help keep house cool

by Philip A. Janquart

In any given year, the typical homeowner may spend two to four hours, or more, per week on yard work and mow their lawn, perhaps, 25 to 30 times a year. Growing a healthy lawn has a few benefits that some might not be aware of. For one, your lawn acts as a giant air conditioner that helps keep your property, and your home, cool. That big blanket of green pumps out oxygen and keeps dirt and dust at bay, helping to keep you and your family healthy.

The healthier your lawn is, the better those properties become.

Here are some tips to keep your lawn healthy and more of your time free:

1. Adjust the height of your lawn based on the climate where you live. In the Treasure Valley, where temperatures can rise to over 100 degrees, it is advisable to keep your blade higher, which keeps the blades of grass a littler longer, which provides shade. You achieve this by adjusting the wheel height on your mower.

2. Use a sharp blade because it cuts the grass cleanly and evenly. A dull blade tears grass, turning it yellow, and makes it more susceptible to disease. More water and nutrients are required for it to recover. It is recommended that you sharpen you blade two to three times per year, maybe more if you hit lots of rocks.

3. Deep watering is better than lots of light sprinklings. It helps grass develop deep roots. Light sprinkling only moistens the grass and the soil surface, resulting in shallow root growth and increasing the need for more frequent watering. Lawns require 1 to 2 inches of water per week, applied at three- to four-day intervals. The best time of day to water is the early morning because water pressure is higher and less water is lost to evaporation. Lawns that stay wet overnight are more susceptible to disease.

4. Only mow the top one-third of the grass blades. The top third is leafy and decomposes quickly and can contribute to one-third of the nitrogen your lawn needs. While it's decomposing, this light layer of residual clippings also slows water evaporation and keeps weeds from germinating. The bottom two-thirds of a blade of grass is tough and stemmy and slow to decompose.

5. When using fertilizers and weed killers, consider geographic location, the type of grass, weed type, and soil conditions. A sick, unhealthy lawn leaves open space for weeks to take root and grow. Attack weeds in the early spring and summer before they have a chance to develop deep root systems, go to seed and reproduce.

Fertilize in early spring to jump start grass root development. Fall feedings help repair summer damage and spur the root growth that goes on for several weeks even after the top growth stops, helping grass survive the winter. Light feedings in between help maintain healthy growth.

Make sure to read the package on chemicals you may use. Some only work in the presence of moisture, others are useless with it.

6. Aerate your lawn to help it breathe. Roots need oxygen on top of water and nutrients. Aerating – removing small plugs of soil – improves air-to-soil interaction, allows water and fertilizer to penetrate the soil deeper and faster. You can aerate in the spring, but it turns out that fall, after everyone is through trampling the grass, is the best time to aerate.

To a great extent, it's not the amount of work you do on your lawn, it's what you do and when you do it. Following the above tips can help you achieve a thick, beautiful lawn that is sure to add to the aesthetics of your property while offering practical benefits to you and your family's health.



Quick Tip

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Garden Club shifts into gear for spring clean-up, planting

by Philip A. Janquart

Despite cold temperatures and periods of rain, the Weiser Garden Club has nonetheless sprung into action with post-winter clean up at the Weiser Train Depot.

A handful of volunteers arrived at the depot Monday, April 18 to prepare flower beds for new plants and to make sure the irrigation system is working correctly.

“My grandfather was a doctor for Union Pacific Railroad, so I feel there is a connection there,” said Garden Club member Joe Scheidegger. “That was one of the first projects when the club was formed about three years ago.”

The depot’s landscaping received much needed attention at the time through an Eagle Scout project and with added help from the Garden Club, the historic landmark was vastly improved.

“Three or four years ago, there were a few patches of bedding plants that were irrigated and still alive and all the rest needed replaced, so an Eagle Scout took it on as his project,” Scheidegger said. “They had a bunch of people and equipment. They ripped out a bunch of dead and dying material, and there was a bunch of gravel with material underneath it, which isn’t good because the soil doesn’t get any nutrients. They got rid of that; they did a lot. Then we went in and repaired the irrigation so we could put new plants in. Not everything lived, so now we are go-

ing in and putting in some more anchor plants.”

The Garden Club has also been heavily involved in pruning Hillcrest Cemetery’s 500 rose bushes and will be planting the flower beds at the Vendome Events Center this year and designing a landscaped corner at the Washington County (University of Idaho) Extension office.

The club was resurrected about four years ago by Weiser resident and garden enthusiast, Art Church, who wanted to create a support system and educational conduit for local gardeners. Church and his wife, Setsuko, have since moved to northern Idaho, but the club lives on.

“Members have been holding informal meetings once a month where they talk about their gardens, answer each other’s questions, share resources, and plan community education and beautification projects,” said Garden Club member Cheri Clausen. “The depot’s circular drive will once again be graced by the ever-cheerful zinnias.”

The club held its second annual Plant Swap this past Saturday. The event was an opportunity for members and the public to bring plants they have thinned out of their own gardens and trade them for plants they don’t already have.

The group also handed out free zinnia seeds harvested from last year’s crop of flowers.

“The club sputtered during the pandemic, and it started right be-

fore it, so there were times when we only had about five people at our meetings, but it’s growing now,” said Scheidegger who is a retired ornamental landscaper.

“There are a lot more people on the email list than show up, but the last couple of meetings we’ve had 10 to 15 people, which is a pretty good turnout. The idea behind the club is that it should be of service to the community. I love plants and I love sharing information. When you learn a trade and you can share that knowledge, it really keeps you connected.”

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the UI Extension office, located at 116 W. Idaho St. in Weiser.

“We will try to have a topic that is current with the season; the last one we had was on winter blooming plants, but mostly we talk about what we are doing in our own gardens and yards, what experiences we have, share advice on what works, and what varieties of plants grow here,” Scheidegger explained.

“And there are new people to the Weiser area that might not know how to garden here. I lived in the Willamette Valley for a time where you could throw a stick in the ground and have it start growing the next morning. And then there are people who have lived here their entire lives, so there is a good mix, a lot of good information sharing.”

For more information or to volunteer for community projects, call Joe Scheidegger at (208) 367-2830 or email him at shyshoveler@gmail.com.

You can also contact Cheri Clausen at sclausen@ruralnetwork.net to be put on the email list for future meetings and events.



Weiser Garden Club members are working to beautify the landscaping surrounding the historic train depot. The flower bed in front of the depot has been planted with zinnias the past couple of years, adding a sea of color. Cheri Clausen and Marg Chipman are pictured weeding the area in preparation for planting of the seeds. Members also worked on cleaning and adding plants around the depot. Photo by Philip Janquart

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