I am not sure if I love or hate this time of year. The weather is wonder but with it comes a ton of work. Ever since I bought the store three years ago I realize every April and May brings so much work that it kind of takes the fun out of actually going home and wanting to plant anything at the house.

**Best piece of advice I can ever give someone is not to take your hobby and turn it into a business because it will take the fun out of it.**

With all the work comes our one day plant sale on May 4th followed by the May 28th picnic. Please be watching your e-mails closely so you know what is coming up in the next few weeks. Also, our April 23rd membership meeting will provide you with even more information on the plant sale.

Thanks to all who are out in the greenhouse and working on our projects. See you all soon!

Jake

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**REMINDER:**

Fall CMMG Classes will begin Monday, August 19th. Be sure to tell anyone interested to contact Jane Kempker to get the registration paperwork going.
Plant Sale -- Plant Sale -- Plant Sale -- Plant Sale -- Plant Sale -- Plant Sale --

Check out our Facebook page for the plant sale-

Help Needed. We have 150 hanging baskets and 50 pots planted for the MG sale. We’ll be working Wednesday, April 10 -- 9:00 to 12:00, checking each container to be sure plants are doing well, replanting when necessary. We can use some help with this process. Please feel free to join us!

Thanks,
Marcia and Karen

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ATTENTION!!!!

All Master Gardeners have the opportunity to plant their own containers (pots, hanging basket, or other container) in the greenhouse April 17, 18, and 19. Round containers are $1 per inner-diameter inch. Prices for other shapes of planters are based on square inch. The price includes potting medium, fertilizer, and plants (annuals grown in the greenhouse).

The dates and times for making containers are:
Wednesday, April 17 -- 9:00-12:00
Wednesday, April 17 -- 1:00-4:00
Friday, April 19 -- 9:00-12:00
Saturday, April 20 -- 9:00-12:00

Please email Marcia at mlreed217@gmail.com or call at 634-5436 to sign up for a time to make your own container. We need to schedule people, so we have room to work.

Thanks,
Marcia and Karen
Work Party and Planning Meeting for the Children’s Garden

*Weather permitting*, the Children’s Garden, a section of the Demonstration Gardens, will be holding a planning meeting and work party on Tuesday, April 23, from 3 pm-5:30 pm, which is before the regular CMMG business meeting at 6 pm. If you would like to help out in the CG, but have not had an opportunity to sign up, here’s your chance to come by and check out all the cool stuff that we are going to do this year! There will be something for everyone, from planting and design, creating garden art, hardscape improvements, construction, watering/weeding/mulching, so please stop by and consider helping out. We can always use willing volunteers, and you will get your core hours as well, so it’s a “win-win” for everyone! If you have any questions please contact Jane Davis at davisfarmgardenart@gmail.com, or 573-216-5021. Thanks, hope to see you on the 23rd!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**April 23rd, 2013 Meeting** - Native Plants talk, speaker, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

**June 25th, 2013 Meeting** - Anika Norman will present "CMMG at Work and Play."

**August 2013 meeting** - Putting things to bed or Getting ready for winter- Getting beds ready, bringing in tropical's, trimming things up, etc. presented by Alice Longfellow.

**Worried**: After many, many years we will not have a "Yard of the Month" project.

There are many Master Gardeners and Bittersweet Members willing to help but no one wants to step forward and become the Chair (or co-chairs) of the project. Without someone to organize it, everyone will miss seeing the gardens and the articles about the gardens in the newspaper.

**Interesting Stuff**
Six feet under, the drought lives on

Story source: Randall Miles, MU Associate Professor of soil science April 3rd, 2013

Even as the Midwest has gained in precipitation in the form of rain and snow in recent weeks, it will take almost two years for soil moisture deep in the earth to recharge and sustain normal crop growth, said a University of Missouri soil scientist.

Randall Miles, associate professor of soil science at the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said that two years of drought in the Heartland have left many prime growing areas bone dry deeper than five feet down. This is where the roots of the crops live, sucking up moisture and nutrients. Without enough water, crops produce poor yields.

“Don’t count on a full recovery of soil moisture soon,” Miles said. “Even if parts of the Midwest receive more snowfall and rain, that moisture will take time to move deep into the soil where the driest conditions exist.”

Miles said that roots have had to go down as deep as eight feet to extract water. Soil moisture recharge is a hydrologic process where water from rain and snow moves downward from surface water and fills in the pore space found in soil. The soil is recharged naturally by rain and snowmelt. Movement into the lower reaches of the soil profile is slow because of the distance to travel in the smaller pores of the subsoil as a result of increased clay content and density of the soil material.

Hurricane Isaac helped a little - Parts of Missouri, Indiana and Illinois caught September rains from the remnants of Hurricane Isaac, which helped some of the recharging process there. Other areas, though, weren’t as fortunate. The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor shows decreasing drought from west to east in Missouri; with neighboring regions in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and the Dakotas still showing sustained degrees of drought. Miles has been observing the depths of soil moisture around Missouri. The soil moisture is primarily in the surface soil and upper subsoil. It would be appropriate for some time frame of decreased rainfall to encourage soil preparation and planting. However, if an extended two week dry period would appear, the advantages of the recent rain and snow could be minimized. Currently, many streams and rivers which were temporarily flooded from the pulse of snow and rainfall have retreated to lower than normal spring-time levels because of the long-term drought.

Miles pointed out that moisture near the surface can evaporate with just a few days of high winds, higher-than-normal temperatures or low relative humidity. This can prevent moisture from having a chance to move deep into the soil where it is needed. “The rain and snow will have to come almost continuously - an almost London type of weather pattern - if the soil is to be recharged soon,” Miles said. “It will have to come down slow and steady to minimize runoff.”

Microbial health and river depth a problem too - It could take two years of good rains for beneficial microbes and insects to recover as well, Miles said. “The soil lives in a balance of water and biological activity,” Miles pointed out. “The deep drought has disrupted that biological activity.”

The dry soil has impacted the Midwest’s corn crop. Without the drought’s influence, the USDA’s trend line called for an average yield of 162 bushels of corn per acre. In 2012, that yield was only 122 bushels per acre. There have been four years of below-trend-line production in many areas. Many Midwestern ranchers have culled their herds because there isn’t enough feed forage or water from ponds and streams that have dried up.
Extension Center is working with the MO River Regional Library to present Gardening Classes. On April 16, 7 p.m. Master Gardener Don Schnieders will talk on **Tomatoes: From Seed to BLT**.
To register, contact the library at 573-634-2464.

**CMMG Counting Hours Reminder:**

As you record your volunteer hours for 2013, remember that attending the monthly CMMG meetings gives you both Education and Administrative hours. Read the Monthly Minutes and you will find the information at the end of each set of Minutes.