



Heads UP!

From the
Master Gardener Diagnostic Lab
in King County

April—May 2020
Volume 6, Issue 2

HELLO TO OUR PLANT-LOVING FRIENDS...

... from a socially-acceptable distance, of course,

This is an unsettling and worrisome time. So many questions and concerns as the needs and wants that make up our lives-as-usual are necessarily on hold. These worries would overwhelm us if it weren't for the silver lining of the day-by-day advancing of spring. Gardens are coming to life all around us. Early-spring bloomers are in flower. Trees are leafing out, and, OH NO!, there are even some plant problems you may stumble across that will remind you that you are a Master Gardener! You should know what that problem is... or at least where to find some information about it.

To our plant-loving friends, this is a good time to flex those Master Gardener muscles that have been relaxing through the winter. Here is a chance to get back into Master-Gardener shape while you get to enjoy those early spring treasures that are all around us. On the next few pages, we would like to share various photographs with you—some of early-spring problems—some of just plain loveliness. See if you can ID some of these pictures and then check page five for answers and links to further information. We hope you enjoy this electronic bit of spring as well as the encouragement of a reminder that we belong to a very special group of folks who share a very healthy passion for all things green. Garden on!

Your friends from the King County MG Diagnostic Lab



Barbara Reisinger

The blossoms of Camellia sasanqua provide a bounty of bodacious boldness.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hello from a Social Distance 1
Flex those MG Muscles: 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Weather Station
- Nerd's Corner
- Twigga Mortis

“Be a weed! A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.”

—Doug Larson

Heads UP! is the newsletter of the Master Gardener Diagnostic Lab in King County. All images are used with permission, credited accordingly, and in accordance with applicable licenses.



Dave Sheerbrook

Can you smell the sweetness? Daphne odora tempts you to break the social distancing requirement.



Barbara Reisinger

The dainty bells of Pieris japonica 'Little Heath' ring joyously for spring.

WEATHER STATION



We have experienced a rare but not unprecedented weather oddity this season with March being colder than January. On average March would typically be 5 degrees warmer than January. cliff.mass.blogspot.com

And on the good news front, despite the drier than normal month, the mountain snowpack builds with cooler than normal temperatures helping to preserve it. Major water shortages are not anticipated for this summer, and Western Washington continues to be drought free!



Barbara Reisinger

Last year's average temperatures were 36.6 degrees for February, 47.4 for March, 52.0 for April, and 59.5 for May. This year we have experienced 43.6 degrees for February and 44.6 for March.

The rainfall for 2019 was measured at 3.98 ins. for February, 1.6 for March, 2.21 for April, and 1.45 ins. for May. This year we have seen 5.01 in February and 3.38 in March... and NO SNOW!

Weather resources:

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/>
<https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/>

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



1130 ebnCartoon@gmail.com
 ©2019 Mark Parisi. All rights reserved. offthemark.com

FLEX THOSE MASTER GARDENER MUSCLES!

In this good old-fashioned trivia game, see if you are able to identify the pictured problem that is often seen in our springtime clinics. Check your answers on page five and follow the links to learn more!

Challenge 1:



R.F. Scharf, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org UGA1473124



Jay W. Pscheidt

Challenge 2:



University of Georgia Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org UGA1492002



Robin Rosetta, OSU Nursery IPM



J. Pscheidt, 2002. PNW Plant Disease Handbook

Challenge 3:



Dave Sherbrooke



Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org 1543377

Challenge 4:



Barbara Reisinger



MGD Lab

Continued to page 3...

Challenge 5:



Yurika Alexander



W. Hershberger

Challenge 6:



Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org 5361046



John Capinera, University of Florida, Bugwood.org 5511795

Challenge 7:



Barbara Reisinger



Barbara Reisinger



William Jacobi, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

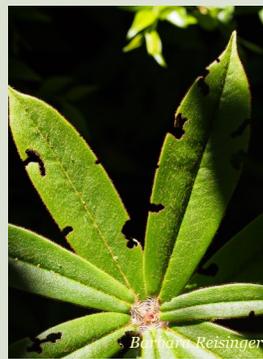
5366473

Challenge 8:



Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org

1549804



Barbara Reisinger

Continued to page 4 . . .

“I was just sittin' here enjoyin' the company. Plants got a lot to say, if you take the time to listen.”

—Eeyore

NERD'S CORNER:



In the corner this time, we explore beyond our garden gates. We are grateful for the permission to reprint this article written by Scott Sistek, KOMO News Meteorologist, and photographer [Cessna Kutz](#).

What timing: Photographer captures moment rainbow rises from Lake Sammamish

SAMMAMISH, Wash.—We all know about the legend of the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, but one photographer found treasure at the top of the rainbow in the form of some amazing pictures!

[Cessna Kutz](#) was out along the shores of Lake Sammamish Monday afternoon when a passing shower amid the sunbreaks lit up the water in a colorful array.



Cessna Kutz

How did this happen?

This is a traditional rainbow—raining in front of you with the sun behind you. But why is it hugging the water so closely? Kutz was at the right place at **exactly** the right time for this effect to be seen.

To see a rainbow, the sun has to “*sic*” below a 42 degree angle to the horizon. If the sun goes any higher, any rainbow is flat on the ground and not visible to us standing on the earth (unless you're looking down off a cliff or canyon or something where there is ground level below you). This is why rainbows always span the largest distance and appear the most dramatic when the sun nears sunset or just after sunrise when the sun is low on the horizon. (It's also a great trivia question: You can never see a rainbow at lunch in the summer in Seattle! Because the sun angle gets too high!)

In this case along Lake Sammamish, Kutz said she took the photo around 2 p.m. I went back and used a solar azimuth calculator to find the altitude of the sun and sure enough, the sun was **just** a fraction below 42 degrees above the horizon, meaning the rainbow had just barely risen off the ground. The photo shows just the very top part of the arc that was visible, giving it a flat look but if you could see into the ground, it would have still been a full halo.

Continued to page 4 sidebar . . .



DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sweet magnolias. Their blossoms are pictures of pureness. However, when frost nips at their buds...



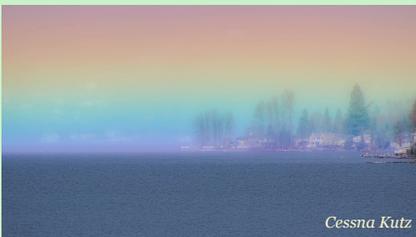
Bill Hurt

... Pureness is spoiled with unsightliness.

It is unfortunate that those sneaky, long-lingering late frosts can do such damage, but it is the way of Mother Nature. How do we recover from the disappointment? Don't react! Sit and plan, forgo the clippers until the remaining threats of frosts have passed, and then have another cup of tea to steel your resolve from acting irrationally and desperately in an attempt to clean away the unsightliness.

Take a look at the [Heads UP! April-May 2017 issue](#) for some more words of wisdom, encouragement, and resources to help you through this time. And finally, enjoy the blossoms that were not nipped!

... Nerd's Corner continued



Cessna Kutz

She says the effect only lasted a few minutes, but if the shower could have frozen in place, the sun remain unobscured, and you take a time lapse video, you would have seen the rainbow gradually rise from the water and bend into the more familiar arc as the sun continued its trek lower on the horizon on its journey toward sunset.

Stay there long enough and maybe even the pot of gold would be seen as well?

Challenge 9:



Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org UGA1370054



Ronald F. Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org UGA1274063

Challenge 10:



Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Challenge 11:



Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org UGA5051063



Donald Hobern from Copenhagen, Denmark

Challenge 12:



Plant Amnesty



Plant Amnesty

... Find the answers on the next page!

**STOP
these from
going after
our bees!!!**



WSDA

REPORT THEM:
[https://
lists.web.wsu.edu/
lt.php?
id=LURaBIACGIYDVQxL](https://lists.web.wsu.edu/lt.php?id=LURaBIACGIYDVQxL)
Ug

Answer 1: Pacific Coast Pear Rust; on its alternate host of incense cedar in spring.

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=93>

PNW Handbook: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/pear-pyrus-spp-pacific-coast-pear-rust>

Answer 2: Brown Rot. When in doubt don't rule it out.

PNW Prunus spp brown rot: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/prune-plum-prunus-spp-brown-rot>

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=27&ProblemId=482>

[CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=27&ProblemId=482](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=27&ProblemId=482)

Answer 3: Lace bugs: They should be hatching about now. Look for the nymph stage.

Heads UP! April-May 2018 <http://www.mgfk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/20180405-HeadsUP-April-May2018-web.pdf>

Answer 4: Powdery Mildew... sigh...

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=531>

Answer 5: Brown marmorated stink bug—WANTED FOR INSECT ID from instar to adult.

WSU Pest Watch FS079E: <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/sample/3971>

FS 829: <http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/blog/2012/12/bmsb/>

Pestsense Factsheet: <http://pestsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Public/FactsheetWebPrint.aspx?ProblemId=849>

Answer 6: Cutworm redux

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=13&ProblemId=6035>

PNW: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/vegetable/vegetable-pests/common-vegetable/vegetable-crop-cutworm>

Answer 7: Winter damage; damaged plants may be slow starters in the spring.

FS239E *Environmental Injury: Winterburn of Evergreens*: <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/sample/3567>

FS196E: *Cold Temperature Injury of Landscape Woody Ornamentals*: <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/sample/3564>

Answer 8: Root weevils: evil garden chewers with their own style.

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=4&PlantDefId=32&ProblemId=543>

[CategoryId=1&SubCatId=4&PlantDefId=32&ProblemId=543](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=4&PlantDefId=32&ProblemId=543)

PNW: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/common/landscape-root-weevil>

Answer 9: Tent Caterpillars... A spring time happening; don't be fooled in the fall.

WSU Extension: <http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/pubs/fs276e/>

PNW: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/nursery/hosts-nursery/alder-alnus-western-tent-caterpillar>

Answer 10: Boxelder bug—coming soon to a building near you.

WSU Fruit Tree Research: <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/opm/western-boxelder-bug/>

PNW: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hosts-pests-landscape-plants/boxelder-acer-negundo-western-boxelder-bug>

Overwintering: <http://entomology.wsu.edu/outreach/bug-info/box-elder/>

Answer 11: Elm leafminer. Specific to elm, but leafminers of all kinds start in the spring.

Hortsense: <http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=12&ProblemId=768>

[CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=12&ProblemId=768](http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=5&PlantDefId=12&ProblemId=768)

PNW: <https://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/hort/landscape/hosts-pests-landscape-plants/elm-ulmus-elm-leafminer>

Answer 12: Spring pruning. Be careful what you prune in the spring.

WSU *Pruning Tree Fruit - The Basics*: <https://extension.wsu.edu/maritimefruit/pruning-tree-fruit-the-basics/>

FS182E: *Home Pruning: Reasons to Prune Trees and Shrubs*: <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/sample/3731>