



2011 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
FALL EDITION

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 5

A 2011 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. *Club of Distinction*

Gaylord, Michigan 49735

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Welcome to New Member *Kelly Mikolajczyk*
- Floral Design - Skeletonizing Leaves
- Casting Good Spells in the Alpine Village
- Scholarship Winners
- Enchanting Greens Sale
- Landscape Design - Cemeteries
- Edelweiss Wins Awards
- Happy Halloween! - Garden Tools - "Wands"

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"Scary Plants"

Invasives - The "Devils" Among Us

The Edelweiss, Michigan and National Garden Clubs, Inc. all include **Environmental Responsibility** in their Mission Statements. **Invasive Plants have the potential to impact hunting, fishing, boating, gardening, hiking, biking, horseback riding and other recreational activities in the Midwest** per the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN.org). **Inva-**

sive plants are spreading on almost all private and public lands in the Midwest.

An **Invasive plant** is defined as a plant that is not native and has negative effects on our economy, environment or human health. Not all plants introduced from other places are harmful. The term "Invasive" is reserved for the most aggressive plant species that grow and reproduce rapidly, causing major



changes to the areas where they become established.

(See pg. 8 "Invasive Species")

Skeletonizing Leaves

Treated Plant Material for Floral Design



The National Garden Clubs, Inc. *Hand-book for Flower Shows* teaches about their standards for **Treated Plant Materials**. The term "treated" refers to the *artificial altering of*

the exterior appearance of the plant material by use of a substance e.g. dye, paint, stain, bleach, shellac, lacquer, oil, flocking, shoe polish, glitter, glycerin, anti-freeze, mineral borax, etc. Skeletonizing can be performed on fresh plant material. The listed method is as follows: *Soak fleshy leaves in a solution of mineral borax and water for approximately 48 hours. Remove from the solution.*

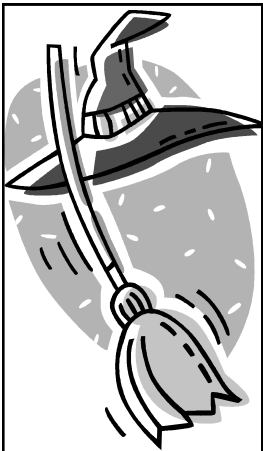
Place each leaf between the thumb and forefinger and gently rub to remove the leaf tissue leaving only the skeletal veining behind. Leaves may then be dyed.

Edelweiss Garden Club, Inc. had one student attending Course I at the August Flower Show School in Okemos, Marilyn McIntosh.

CASTING GOOD SPELLS IN THE ALPINE VILLAGE

Frost Dates and Fall Garden Clean Up

112 Growing Days in Gaylord (Midwest Climate Research)



Fall Garden Clean Up is to be completed by the week of October 9-15

Checking the Frost Chart to the right, there is always a chance for frost before the Fall Clean Up Week. Garden Chairs will let you know when your Clean Up date is scheduled.

2012 Committee Sign Up Continues in September and October

You may switch gardens if there is a spot available

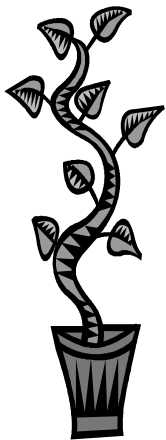
or sign up for more than one garden if you feel motivated to garden even more! Let us know if you are willing to help other gardens for big projects - Joan Collick, Planting Chair.

~For Spring Magic - tuck a package of bulbs in your garden~

First Frost			Last Frost		
10%	50%	90%	10%	50%	90%
SEP 01	SEP 19	OCT 07	MAY 10	MAY 27	JUN 12

Gaylord Area Council for the Arts

is our 2011 "Deck the Halls" recipient. Edelweiss Garden Club will be decorating this Non-Profit with fresh greens this Christmas season as a thank you for partnering with us at our May Membership Luncheon "The Art of Gardening" and our Garden Walk "Art and Country Gardens." Denise Matteini, Art Liaison will coordinate this gift.



Club Invites Community to Exchange Plants

September 17th, 9 a.m. - Noon, Courthouse Lawn by Pavilion - Label with Plant Names/Sun or Shade

In these economic times, Gardeners can always be assured their plants will continue to multiply and be able to share them with others. While performing this years' Fall clean up our Plant Exchange is the perfect time to review your own garden to make preparations for Spring. For

over a decade, Pearl Peurach Plant Exchange Chair has organized and provided a valuable outlet to our Club for our remnants destined for the compost pile.

Please label your plant and information helpful for growing such as sun, shade or partial shade. The exchange is not only for perennials, but, shrubs, seeds, tubers, houseplants, and gently used garden implements.

The public is invited by way of our Publicity.

With seasoned Garden Members and Master Gardeners on hand, you can often have your questions answered. This is a good time to invite your neighbors to share as well.....our Community Exchange keeps our town beautiful and spreads healthy living through gardening.



2 (\$750) Scholarship Winners

Following two Otsego County graduates who are studying in a horticulture related field this fall are checks for \$750 each made out to their respective colleges. The 2011 Scholarship Committee includes **Co-Chairs, Cynthia Hilling and Pam Karbowsky** along with **Committee Members Joan Sheaffer and Anita Davison.**

Kaytlyn Brinkman graduated from Gaylord High School in 2011. She is attending Michigan State University this fall majoring in Forestry. This summer, she worked at the Wilderness Valley Golf Course. Kaytlyn has volunteered for the OCCOA mother/daughter banquet, GMS peer tutoring, UNICEF and the TAP project as a coordinator and planner. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a GHS peer tutor and a participant in the model United Nations. Kaytlyn's goal is to change the world through volunteering and education in order to better herself. After achieving a masters in forest conservation, she, "hopes to work at a national park and then return to MSU for a PhD in order to further herself in the scientific community and promote a healthy global environment."

Matt Foster graduated from St. Mary's High School in 2008 and will graduate from Michigan State in 2012 with a degree in forestry. His work experience includes working for Northern Energy as a warehouse manager and at Alpine Restoration. Matt has volunteered for the Mark Mellon Triathlon and Alpenfest. In high school he participated in football, baseball and basketball. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Matt's main focus is to get a job with the department of natural resources and environment. He has been an outdoor enthusiast his whole life and his personal goal is to get others involved in the outdoors. He states, "Here in northern Michigan we have many different outdoor recreational activities that are provided for us. I think it is very important that we take advantage of them. Along with participating in these activities, we also have to take care of the environment. I hope that someday in my profession I will be able to help keep the Michigan environment as special as it is today."



Greens Sale Enchantment

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. promotes

use of fresh plant material! *Decking Edelweiss Members Homes once again is our 23rd Annual Greens Sale. This is a chance for our supporters--friends, neighbors, relatives, business associates and other purchasers to buy boughs live from our up north supplier on the sunrise side of the State. Green wreaths, candy canes and garlands sold sustain our Club for the upcoming year's activities.*

The approximately 340 units per year are made for "just in time" shipping on a wooden wagon and dropped off for Pick Up Day where the assembly by our Members includes the addition of our classic red bows and wired groups of three pine cones. (The Pine Cones will be wired at the November 9th Greens Workshop to be held at Waters RV, right next to the southbound I-75 Waters Exit. - Have your 75 baked red or white pine cones with you and ready to go!)

A thanks again to Rosy Moran for chairing this Club event, Cynthia Hilling (Ribbon Chair in charge of making all the bows) and Carol Breed

(Pine Chair who oversees the pine cone wiring).

The Greens Sale Forms will be available for all Members at the October Business Meeting and on our Website: www.edelweissgardenclub.com They can be copied and emailed to additional customers. All Members are expected to participate in the sales, wiring and Pick Up Day, November 19th.



Christmas Luncheon Beguiling

The theme, location and menu are all a **SECRET.** To use *Halloween language ---*

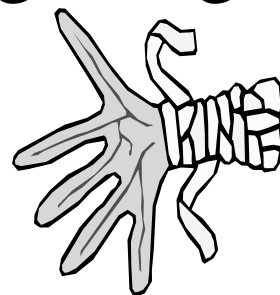
the Christmas Luncheon Committee is keeping the details under **"CLOAK AND DAGGER"**

Definition: Involving secrecy or intrigue, often as part of an espionage operation!

**WATCH FOR CLUES IN
UPCOMING EMAILS AND MEETINGS**

The Committee Members are: Nancy Valuet, Nancy Pike, Kathleen Bargert, Lois Kalis, Peggy Stafford, Marge Williamson and Pam Karbowsky.

They will snatch your \$ at the November 9th Greens Workshop.



CEMETERY GARDENS

THE “RURAL” CEMETERY MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

from the National Park Service (nps.gov)

The “rural” cemetery movement, influenced by European trends in gardening and landscape design, in turn had a major impact on American landscape design. Early in the 19th century, the prevailing tradition was the romantic style of landscape gardening which in the previous century the English nobility and their gardeners had invented using classical landscape paintings as their models. English garden designers such as Lancelot “Capability” Brown, William Kent, Sir Uredale Price, Humphrey Repton and John Claudius Loudon artfully improved vast country estates according to varying aesthetic theories. To achieve naturalistic effects, gracefully curving pathways and watercourses were adapted to rolling land forms. Contrast and variation were employed in the massing of trees and plants as well as the arrangement of ornamental features. The “picturesque” mode of 18th century landscaping was characterized by open meadows of irregular outline, uneven stands of trees, naturalistic lakes, accents of specimen plants and here and there, incidental objects such as an antique statue or urn on a pedestal to lend interest and variety to the scene.

The “rural” cemeteries laid out by horticulturists in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York in the 1830’s were romantic pastoral landscapes of the picturesque type. Planned as serene and spacious grounds where the combination of nature and monuments would be spiritually uplifting, they came to be looked on as public parks, places of respite and recreation acclaimed for their beauty and usefulness to society. In the early “rural” cemeteries and those which followed their pattern, hilly, wooded sites were enhanced by grading, selective thinning of trees, and massing of plant materials which directed views opening into broad vistas. The cemetery gateway established separation from the work day world, and a winding drive of gradual ascent slowed progress to a stately pace. Such settings attired an appreciation in nature and a sense of continuity of life. By their example, the popular new cemeteries started a movement for urban parks that was encouraged by the writing of Andrew Jackson Downing and the pioneering work of other advocates of “picturesque” landscaping, most particularly Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmstead, who collaborated in the design of New York City’s Central Park.

With the rapid growth of urban centers later in the 19th century, landscape design and city
(See pg. 6 “Landscape Design”)

NOTE: LANDSCAPE DESIGN COURSE I, SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9 IN LUDINGTON WAS ATTENDED BY MARILYN MCINTOSH WORKING TOWARDS THE CONSULTANT STATUS. DEE BURAU WENT AS SCHEDULED AS A COURSE REFRESHER FOR CONSULTANTS.



GARDEN CLUB BREWS

Compost Tea

(from Wikipedia)

Compost tea is a liquid extract or a dissolved solution but not simply a suspension of compost. It is made by steeping compost in water for 3-7 days. It was discovered in Germany and became a practice to suppress foliar fungal diseases by nature of the bacterial competition, suppression, antibiosis on the leaf surface (phyllosphere). It has also been used as a fertilizer although lab tests show it is very weak in nutrients with less than 100ppm of available nitrogen and potassium. Other salts present in the tea solution are sodium, chlorides and sulfates. The extract is applied as a spray to non-edible plant parts such as seedlings, or as a soil-drench (root dip), or as a surface spray to reduce incidence of harmful phytopathogenic fungi in the phyllosphere.

Fish Emulsion

Brad Morgan of Morgan Composting introduced us to all sorts of potions for our lawns and gardens this past season. Among them --- Fish Emulsion to be used in the summer to “perk up plants.” Native Americans successfully used fish as a fertilizer well before the first colonists arrived. Today, the nutritive value and benefit of the amino acids and nutrients is well documented in plants of all types: Vegetables, fruits, shrubs, trees, flowering ornamentals and home lawns. MultiBloom is the product Brad recommends from a Mississippi based company that produces catfish for grocery stores across the United States. The residual is put through a cold process that keeps the oils in a natural state and shipped to homeowners, landscapers, etc. **Try this and see if it works like “magic.”**

Fireplace Ash Fertilizer

(from About.com-Frugal Living)

Use in Place of: Garden Fertilizer - Lime

What You Need: Fireplace ash

What You Do: Sprinkle your fireplace ash over your garden beds and work into the soil.

Why This Works: Fireplace ash is rich in potassium and calcium carbonate.

Note: Fireplace ash should not be used if your soil is alkaline or be used around acid-loving plants.

Pine Cone Bake Recipe

(Greens Sale)

75 Red or White Pine Cones
from each Member for November 9th Meeting

To remove pitch and sap, kill bugs or spider mites that live in them, and/or to allow the seeds to fall out, pine cones need to be baked.

Directions: Use lined aluminum foil pan, set oven at 300 - 325 degrees for 12 -15 minutes.

Be sure to watch closely.

An Edelweiss Initiation:

Expect your home to smell like resin and/or char the cones at

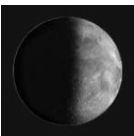
least once!

Plant by the Moon

When you cut your lawn by the Moon Phase, it may result in having to mow less --- Intrigued? Read on.



At the **new moon**, the lunar gravity pulls water up, and causes the seeds to swell and burst. This factor, coupled with the increasing moonlight creates **balanced root and leaf growth**. This is the best time for planting above ground annual crops that produce their seeds outside the fruit. Examples are lettuce, spinach, celery, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and grain crops. Cucumbers like this phase also, even though they are an exception to that rule.



In the **second quarter** the gravitational pull is less, but the moonlight is strong, creating **strong leaf growth**. It is generally a good time for planting, especially two days before the full moon. The types of crops that prefer the second quarter are annuals that produce above ground, but their seeds form inside the fruit, such as beans, melons, peas, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. Mow lawns in the first or second quarter to increase growth.



After the **full moon**, as the moon wanes, the energy is drawing down. The gravitation pull is high, creating more moisture in the soil, but the moonlight is decreasing, putting energy into the roots. This is a favorable time for planting **root crops**, including beets, carrots, onions, potatoes, and peanuts. It is also good for perennials, biennials, bulbs and transplanting because of the **active root growth**. Pruning is best done in the third quarter, in the sign of Scorpio.



In the **fourth quarter** there is decreased gravitational pull and moonlight, and it is considered a **resting period**. This is also the best time to cultivate, harvest, transplant and prune. **Mow lawns in the third or fourth quarter to retard growth.**

For more information about this article visit gardeningbythemoon.com. The *Farmers Almanac* is a good resource for astrological planting and data. This calendar lists favorable and not so favorable dates for various gardening and farming chores.

(Continued from p. 4, "Cemetery Gardens")

Landscape Design - Cemeteries

Planning merged in the work of Frederick Law Olmstead, the country's leading designer of urban parks. Olmsted and his partners were influential in reviving planning on a grand scale in the parkways they created to connect units of municipal park systems. Although Olmstead was more closely tied to the naturalistic style of landscape planning, his firm's work with Daniel H. Burnham in laying out ground for the World's Colombian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago conformed to the classical principles of strong axial organization and bilateral symmetry. The central unifying element of the imposing exposition building group was a lengthy concourse, a lagoon, terminated by sculptural focal points at either end. Following the Chicago World's Fair, civic planning was based for some time on a formal, monumental vision of "the City Beautiful."

The historic relationship of cemetery and municipal park planning in America is well documented in *Park and Cemetery*, one of the earliest professional journals in the field of landscape architecture. Inaugurated in Chicago in and briefly published as *The Modern Cemetery*, a title that was resumed in 1933, the journal chronicles the growth of an industry and indicates the developing professionalism within related fields. For example, the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents was organized in 1887.

Cemetery superintendents and urban park officials held a common interest in matters of design as well as horticulture and practical grounds keeping. The tradition of naturalistic landscape design that was developed by Olmsted and his followers continued into the 20th century. Widely influential was the work of John C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., successors of the elder Olmsted and principals of the Olmsted Brothers firm which was consulted throughout the country on matters of civic landscape design. But after 1900, parks and cemeteries took on aspects of formal landscape planning made fashionable by the "City Beautiful" movement and renewed interest in formal gardens of the Italian style. Typically, classical formality was introduced to early 20th century cemetery landscapes in the axial alignment of principal avenues of approach centered on building fronts, and also in cross axes terminated by rostrums, exedras, and other focal features drawn from various traditions in classical architecture. By the 1930s, newer cemeteries and memorial parks showed the influence of modernism in a general preference for buildings and monuments that were stripped of excessive decoration. Greek architecture, admired for its purity and simplicity, was the approved model for monumentalization in the early modern age.

Forbs - Word Definition

A Broad-leaved herb other than a grass, especially one growing in a field, prairie or meadow. From Greek phorb, fodder, from pherbain, to graze.

Boozhoo

2012 Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention

"Boozhoo" is Native American for "Greetings". All 27 District V Clubs are planning and gathering together to host the 2012 State Convention at Grand Traverse Resort in Acme June 4th and 5th. With "Honoring Mother Earth" as the theme and a Small Standard Flower Show "Walking in a Good Way", more details will be following in the next Edelweiss Newsletter.



CLUB AWARDS

2010-2011 "Club of Distinction"

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Central Region

1st Place Publicity

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.

1st Place Publicity

District V

1st Place Yearbook

2nd Place Newsletter

INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. Photography

Dee Bureau 3rd Place

“HARVEST GATHERING” - 2011 MGC GOAL

With Michigan's unemployment rate third from the bottom at 11.2% with only California 12.1% and Nevada 13.4% following, this Holiday Season, the Christmas Luncheon Chair, Cynthia Hilling has announced our Club will support the Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. goal of “Harvest Gathering.” Set by MGC President, Nancy Stark in response to the ongoing plight of Michigan residents, at our December 14th Christmas Luncheon, each attending Member will be asked to bring canned goods, personal care items and/or

paper products. The Otsego County Food Pantry will also accept donations.

The Michigan Harvest Gathering has been around since 1991 as a fundraiser campaign for emergency food. All food stays in the community in which it is donated. Statistics from 2010, show one of ten people in Michigan will need food assistance. Weekly, 200,000 different people used this service with 1.2 million annually. Fifty percent of the households had Seniors or children. Fort-two percent had to chose to pay for

food or heat and utilities. Twenty six percent had to chose between food and medical care and prescriptions.

Our local Food Pantry is located at 116 E. Fifth Street.



Invasive Species in Northern Michigan

(Cont. from p. 1, “Scary Plants”)

Many of our District V Garden Clubs are involved in identifying and removing Invasive Plants from lakes and waterways, forests, wetlands and home and community gardens.

It is estimated in statistics provided by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, the cost is \$34 billion annually to work towards eradication nationally.

So why should you be concerned?

- Invasive plants, if left unchecked, will limit many uses on lands now and for future generations.
- Invasive plants can harm the natural heritage of our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes and rivers.
- Invasive plants can decrease your ability to enjoy hunting fishing, mushroom hunting, bird watching and other recreational pursuits.
- The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be for control.

As gardeners we can stay educated on the subject. Our plants can spread to our neighbors yards. Seeds can travel down sewers and nearby waterways and germinate on moist banks and shores.

- Avoid using Invasive plants.
- Until you rid your yard of all invasive plants destroy the seed heads and do not compost.
- Don't share invasive plants with other gardeners.
- It is easy to find native plant alternatives with similar characteristics. *(If you like Asian bittersweet, then use America bittersweet, Purple Loosestrife for its vibrant magenta, try purple coneflower or blazing stars)*

Garlic Mustard is a huge problem in some northern Michigan areas. It is a biennial herb introduced from Europe in the 1860's. It can produce 3,000 seeds and grows up to 40 inches high in its second year. Seeds can survive 10 years. This plant alters the soil chemistry so other species can not grow in

the same spot.

A single plant of **Purple Loosestrife** can produce 2.5 million seeds and **Phragmites (Common Reed)** can invade 50 feet per year.

Crown vetch, a low growing herbaceous perennial vine has clusters of small, pea like white to purple flowers. Planted by roadsides for erosion control, it spreads readily into adjacent fields, prairies, and forest edges. With its rapid growth rate, it is difficult to control. Its presence reduces native plants and wildlife who depend on them. It alters the soil chemistry by adding nitrogen and after removed inhibits the growth of new plants.

Multiflora Rose, stop wildlife and humans from walking through woods with its tangle of plants and thorns.

Spotted Knapweed, is a biennial with pinkish purple, thistle like flowers and stem leaves with downy gray leaves. Introduced from Europe in the 1890's as a contaminant in hay and alfalfa. Cattle will not eat it because of its bitter taste. It releases a toxin from its roots that reduce growth and germination of neighboring plants.

FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011

September 8-9 Landscape Design Study School Course I, Cornerstone Church, Ludington

September 14 Edelweiss Business Meeting
 Location: BJ's Restaurant
 Time: 10:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. - Coffee and Chat
 10:30 a.m. - Business Meeting
Sign Up for 2011 Gardens and Committees
 Table Decorations: Member Floral Arrangements "View My Garden in a Vase"
 Hostesses: Marlene Everett and Jane Mead
 Thought for the Day: Kathy Hughes

September 17 Edelweiss Community Plant Exchange
 Location: Pavilion by the Farmer's Market Time: 9:00 a.m. until Noon
 Bring plants to trade or donate, labeled with Name and Sun/Shade requirements
 Members will be on hand to identify your plants.

September 23 Otsego Conservation District deadline for Tree and Native Plant Preorder
www.otsego.org/conservationdistrict

September 24 Alpine Master Gardeners' Fall Extravaganza
 Location: Otsego Club Resort Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Presenter: Janet Macunovich "Try It and See It -Visualize Changes to a Landscape"
 Contact: Dee Burau (989-732-2527) for brochure and details.

OCTOBER 2011

October 2-4 National Garden Clubs - Central Region Meeting - "Autumn Tapestry"
 Crowne Plaza Hotel Grand Rapids, Michigan Registration by September 15th

October 9-15 Edelweiss Fall Garden Clean Up Week (if no frost before that date)

October 11-12 Environmental Study School Course IV, Amigo Centre, Sturgis

October 13 Edelweiss Business Meeting and Program: Landscape: Planting a Four Season Canvas" by Barker Creek Nursery
 Location: BJ's Restaurant
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - Coffee and Chat Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
 Hostesses: Jill Gregersen and Pam Karbowski
 Thought for the Day: Sue Symkowiak
 Table Decorations: Tammy Fairchild

For more information:

Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. www.michigangardenglubs.org

and

National Garden Club, Inc. www.gardenclub.org



MEMBER OF MICHIGAN GARDEN CLUBS, INC., CENTRAL REGION AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

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www.edelweissgardenclub.com

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



Coming in the 2011 November and December Newsletter:

Greens Workshop November 9th at Waters RV and Greens Sale November 19th

Christmas Luncheon December 14th

2012 State Convention News

Edelweiss Charitable Giving in December

Nominations (2012 Officers)

GARDEN TOOLS

“WANDS” FOR WATERING

Recommended gardening tools for your shed are: Rakes, shovels, hoes, trowels, gloves, pruners, deadheading scissors, watering cans, tub trugs and pitchforks.

But, how about good equipment for watering properly? A telescoping watering wand is a great tool for containers where soil mix can be light, reaching hanging baskets, window boxes and other difficult areas. They are also good for those with physical limitations and can be used from a sitting down position. Gripping water cans can aggravate arthritis.

Gardening wands, according to allgardenplanters.com are available for as

little as \$8 or \$9. Watching for ads, they can be purchased cheaply but, if it is used frequently, there is good reason to pass up the bargains and invest in a wand that costs \$20-\$30.

The more expensive, upscale watering wands include features that make them more durable and easier to use. Cheaper ones are made out of PVC or other light weight materials that crack or split when you drop them or wear out easily. In a colder climate with temperature fluctuations they can deteriorate over just a few years.

For just under \$30 you can purchase a watering wand of durable aluminum that comes with variable spray patterns and a

crush proof head. The telescoping wands can be collapsed for shorter reaches or extended as much as thirty inches and have a trigger shutoff.

Since the spray mimics natural rain it is a gentler way to water, cooling plants down in heat and to soak plants at the roots. The wand is good for newly planted seeds, annuals, perennials, bushes and trees. They have multiple uses in a vegetable garden including rinsing off produce. Rosarians use the water flow to help control spider mites and powdery mildew spores.

