

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

NEWS FOR U OF MN EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

November 2017



- photo by James Ruddy

*"If you stand still outside you can hear it... Winter's footsteps,
the sound of falling leaves".*

*-Animal Crossing: Wild World (Nintendo video game) written by
Takayuki Ikkaku, Arisa Hosaka, and Toshihiro Kawabats*

Winter is fast approaching - the garden pace has slowed to a crawl. We're approaching Thanksgiving, with December holidays following swiftly behind.

It is time to give thanks to Mother Nature for the goodness of her bounty. We have pumpkins, squash, onions and rutabagas, kale, broccoli and cauliflower, too!

It is also time for some introspection. Which plants worked this year, which ones did not? Should I have planted more of one – and less of the other? Make your notes and tuck them away until the garden catalogs start coming in. You'll be glad you did.

Have you cleaned your tools yet? Here's a quick garden guide on how to do so: [Clean Your Tools!](#)

Now, relax and take the time to read up [on one more reason to love coffee](#). "The spent coffee grounds have about a 2.5-3 percent nitrogen content, and a carbon to nitrogen ratio of about 20 to 1, which could theoretically make them fairly desirable for fertilizer application, Wherley said".

Update Session

It's that time: Indoor gardening questions, answers and resources to share

Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Educator

Monday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.
St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Ave S,
Minneapolis, 55408 ([map](#))

****BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE & WATER!****

5:30 p.m.: Youth Education Workshop

7:00 p.m.: Meeting Begins

Lost & Found: Terry's collection of lost items has grown. Missing a travel mug? Sweater? Vacuum attachment? Come claim your items before they're donated / thrown!

Now that summer is over, we begin to field more questions about growing plants indoors. Most questions are the same - why doesn't my Christmas cactus bloom or what do I do to make my Amaryllis or my orchid re-bloom - and some questions can surprise you, make you think (or make you chuckle). In all cases we answer questions and try to help. We'll take a look at some of these common, and not-so-common questions, possible answers and resources to help you help others.

Julie graduated from the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science with a Master of Agriculture degree. She teaches workshops, presents horticulture topics, and is the voice of WCCO radio's Smart Gardens. Julie is a former Extension State Master Gardener Program Director.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 21, 2018

Annual Awards & Recognition Banquet!

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Membership Committee?

EMG-HC Planning Day

Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave S, Minneapolis, 55410

Join us for our Annual Planning Day! You'll find more information, including the session's goals on the [sign-up](#). This session counts as 4 volunteer hours.

What's Happening with the Community Programs Committee?

Habitat for Humanity Update

We have completed another great year of designing and installing landscapes during the Spring and Fall of 2017. A total of 6 single family homes and a 5 townhome unit were installed.

The following is a list of the MGs (39 total) that participated in these projects: Mike Slinkgard, Sue Ponsford, Ann O'Fallon, Jan Schulz, Cris Philips, Kathleen White, Sandy Rader, Linda Bastian, Angela Lee, Martha Demetriou, Susan Thompson, Candace McClenahan, Anna Olsen, Nancy Larkin, Tina Falkner, Jerry Kennedy, Tonja Orr, Marcy Rinek, Sandy Lester, Rebecca Patient, Colleen Moriarty, Teri Haugland, Susan Saunders, Amy Billmeyer, Mary Ellen Becker, Sharon Eddleston, Shari Parsons, Dave Tobelman, Mary Dooley, Doris Wickstrom, Carol Garner, Rosemary Rinehardt, Jean Beccone, Julie Beitler, Robert Skafte, Val McGruder, Patty Kelly, Jo Frerichs, and Jeanne Sielaff

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and the homeowners are very appreciative of the effort put forth by all of you. There are now wonderful new landscapes being enjoyed by the homeowners. In addition, these new landscapes have enhanced neighborhoods. Home by home we/you are making a difference!

THANK YOU, NORMA!

Norma Wubbena, Habitat for Humanity Coordinator for the past 17 years, has decided it's time to move on and try new things. Thank you, Norma, for your many years of service, linking Extension Master Gardener volunteers with Habitat. YOU and YOUR WORK are GREATLY appreciated! Norma has done such an outstanding job that it's going to take two people to replace her! If you have questions or wish to participate in future Habitat for Humanity (HH) Landscaping projects, please contact Mary Dalsin (marydalsin@yahoo.com) or Judi Martin (thegardenlady4u@gmail.com). Thank you Mary and Judi for taking on this important task!

What's Happening with the Member Education?

Greetings fellow Master Gardeners. We have so many opportunities as HCMG to learn about horticulture and ways to be a better Master Gardener, but there is one that you may have been overlooking for years.

Become a Mentor!

How can that help you to learn, you may ask?

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You start by looking at the program through new (your intern's) eyes.

You may volunteer for things you never knew that the HCMGs did or have never tried before. (This can be helpful if you are a bit introverted or uncomfortable doing something new -- you will have a partner to go with you)! Some may become your new favorite.

You will be able to show off your favorite volunteer opportunities to a new person.

You have to become acquainted with all the different possibilities/categories of volunteering that your intern needs to meet minimum hours requirement.

Let me tell you a secret - well two actually. I was lucky enough to help to interview a few potential new MGs this fall. OH MY GOODNESS they were fantastic. ALL of them! All seemed really perfect for our program. And by becoming a mentor, you can get to meet and know one of these new interns yourself.

The second secret is... I love being a mentor. I have always gotten more out of it than you can imagine. I have enjoyed getting to know my interns, all are unique and wonderful people. It really isn't that hard and there is lots of support from Darren, Michaelleen, Terry and your fellow mentors.

So please, consider emailing Terry right now and ask to be a mentor, or think about it and when the call goes out for mentors, be brave, step up and enjoy the wonderful new experience. And for all of you who have been a mentor before, THANK YOU. I know you have made a big impact in your intern's view of our program. If you have questions about mentoring, talk to me or to any mentor. MGs love to talk about plants and we mentors probably love to talk about mentoring. It really can help you become a better Master Gardener. (And that is good for all of us and for our program).

Have an idea on Member Education? Just contact me: Theresa.Rooney@blackhawkid.com)

What's Happening with the Learning Garden Tour?

We are pleased to announce the hosts for our 2018 Learning Garden Tour!

Jonathon Alinder
Marta Knutsen
Jeanne LaBore
Darren Lochner
Lynn Meyer
Sunny Sevigny
Stephanie Steel
Linda Wilkins

To these new hosts we'd like to say "thank you", for graciously offering to share your gardens with the community! The Garden Tour Committee looks forward to working with you all to make this year's tour a memorable one.

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What's Happening with Adult Education?

We're pleased to report that Dave Tobelmann has graciously volunteered to serve with Karin Ciano as co-chair of the Adult Education Committee. If you have questions about adult education opportunities, would like to propose a topic for a new presentation, or are wondering how to get involved, please contact Karin at compostress@gmail.com or Dave at dtobelmann@gmail.com. And remember that if you'd like to see your fellow EMG-HCs in action, presentations can be found on the calendar at HCMGshares.org.

Coming up in December will be the annual appreciation meeting for the Speaker's Bureau team leaders as well as the leaders of VGB and Growing Connections. Please watch your inbox for a Signup Genius update. Thank you!

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Youth Ed Interest List

The best way for a EMG-HC to get current information on youth education volunteer and training opportunities is to sign up on the [Youth Education Interest List](#). The Interest List is used to provide MGs with a monthly email from the Youth Education Committee containing current YE sign-ups, training dates, and meeting notices and minutes. Know that the Interest List does NOT commit you to attending meetings – it will just keep you in the loop. Here's the link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-youth>

Junior Master Gardener Program

The JMG program at Champlin Brooklyn Park Academy (CBPA) is up and running with both seasoned MGs as well as those new to the program. If you've always wanted to participate in a children's activity, come join this group either as a small-group activity leader or as an observer. This is a great way to connect with children and experience a school setting that is committed to environmental sciences. Links to the Sign-up Genius pages are below:

5th Grade: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-cbpacademy12>

4th Grade: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-cbpacademy13>

Schoolyard Garden Resource Group

Join other Master Gardeners in offering consultation and lending your expertise in a variety of areas for schools within our community. If you are interested in taking on an initial role with a school, please sign up to be on the School Garden Resource Group. Once you have signed up, you'll have the opportunity to determine when you can respond to a school's request as locations and dates vary throughout the school year.

SYRG: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-schollyard>

2018 Schoolyard Garden Conference

Mark your calendars! The 6th Annual Schoolyard Garden Conference will take place on Friday, March 2, 2018, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend or, possibly make a presentation or be part of the Innovative Problem Solving Showcase. Conference attendance and presentation hours will satisfy education hour requirements. Presentations are typically one hour long, with an audience of

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25 – 75. Visit the link below to see more detailed information about presentation tracks and the Showcase. Proposals are due by November 12, 2017.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxjCY65bhNdjosbQhCXqXjE7oCq32g2ujeNZnW97e2RPJG7w/viewform>

Questions, contact Susan Fleming at sfleming23@gmail.com or Lynn Olson at lynnolson25@gmail.com



EMG-HC Julie Dahl prepares for a final Fall Harvest Day at the Camden Emerge Minneapolis youth program. Julie, Mary Cichon and other volunteers spent one day a week over the summer working with a group of children in the transitional housing garden.

What's Happening in Communications?

THANK YOU KATHY FREDERICKSON!

A huge "THANK YOU" to Kathy Frederickson who's been gathering and formatting this newsletter for the past couple of years. Her work in gathering news and herding the kittens is GREATLY appreciated. Pat her on the back and/or tip a hat towards her the next time you see her!

We will always need articles, social media, and general gardening writings. If you have interest in any of these facets, please contact Melinda Mattox for details.

Be it a sentence, a poem or a quiet thought, be a contributor to our Garden Confidential Photos Welcome!!! Bugs, Birds and Bees Welcome!! Send your contribution to Melinda at the address above noting it's for the newsletter.

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Newsletter Article Due Date Schedule in 2017

For your convenience, here are the estimated hard deadlines for newsletter articles for next month:

Newsletter	Articles due to Melinda Mattox mmattox@comcast.net
December	Thursday, November 23 rd , Thanksgiving Day
January	*To Be Announced at a Later Date

NOVEMBER CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

As we interact with Hennepin County's diverse audiences through our volunteering, we learn more about each other. Understanding the holidays and events of a culture provides one opportunity for insight. We would like to share several cultural observances and encourage Master Gardeners to check out additional ones at:

(Source: <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/CALENDAR-OF-OBSERVANCES-2017.pdf>)

- November Full Month:** **NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**
Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.
- November 1** **ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian**
Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
- November 2** **ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian**
Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
- November 4** **GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh**
A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nank Dev was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.
- November 7** **ELECTION DAY**
A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
- November 9** **KRISTALLNACHT**
Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
- November 11** **VETERANS' DAY**
Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.

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November 12

BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í

Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

November 12–18

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.

November 16

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

November 20

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

November 23

THANKSGIVING DAY

Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrim's harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.

November 26

DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of his son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month



Tip of the Hat to our own University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteers Mary Cichon and Del Hampton for their hard work at Heritage Gardens with [the Green Garden Bakery](#). The story was told by [Jasmine Salter](#) and recorded by [StoryCorps](#), a non-profit, and will be stored in the Library of Congress. Jasmine relates a truly good news story of dedication, gardening hopes and dreams with help from Mary & Del.

Photo: Del Hampton and Mary Cichon pictured with Jasmine Salter of Green Garden Bakery

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A special contribution from Val McGruder, EMG-HC, as we turn our thoughts to Thanksgiving for our loved ones and our safe, warm homes:

What is "Habitat?"

A definition of the word is simple: *"the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism" or "a person's usual or preferred surroundings."*

While I knew that "Habitat for Humanity" built houses for deserving families, I did not know much more about the process. The four walls provide shelter from the elements, and a safe refuge. But this is where "Habitat" goes beyond the basics. To enhance the house, each family is able to choose lovely flowers and plants to complement the yard and beautify their surroundings.

"This is truly what makes each house a home."

As an Extension Master Gardener – Hennepin County, I have been fortunate to be a part of this process.

- Each home is assigned a team of master gardeners.
- This team meets with the family to present choices and talk about the kinds of plants they might like and their visions for their yards.
- A plan is made and approved

On the morning of planting, I was filled with excitement as our team assembled and began to organize tasks for the day. The homeowner and two of her children arrived and were eager to join the team. We were also fortunate to have a group of volunteers from the University of Minnesota. Each of the young women and men were enthusiastic and ready to help. After some brief instructions, we began our work in earnest. We cut sod, broke up clay, added compost and prepared the gardens. Each plant was removed from their pot and placed in the garden. I mentored a group of four volunteers, answering questions and demonstrating proper planting techniques. I enjoyed working alongside them and I could see the concentration in each of their faces as the gardens took shape. When all the plants had found their spots, mulch was spread to minimize weeds and complete the gardens. The homeowners' children took turns watering the new plants and final instructions were given regarding plant care.

In a matter of a few hours, the yard was transformed with two beautiful flower beds and a raised garden for vegetables. A young crab apple tree was also planted, promising future shade and delicious fruit.

At the end of the day, I felt a deep sense of accomplishment and pride in being a part of this group. "Thank yous" were exchanged and everyone shared good wishes for the homeowner and her family. We all gathered together on the front porch and took a group photo. I know this photo will be a reminder of a wonderful day full of teamwork. It will also make me smile as I think about the bright future of this family in their beautiful new "Habitat."



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Planting a home with care, attention and teamwork!

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Check out Extension's Source Magazine!

The fall edition of [Extension's Source Magazine](#) has a very nice article on Master Gardener volunteer work being done in school gardens. Our very own Betsy Massie was quoted! Check it out!

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Arboretum Classes: [Upcoming Classes](#)

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A remarkable TED talk titled: *Mind-blowing magnified portraits of insects*. The presenter is Levon Bliss. He has a web site: microsculpture.net where you can explore the images he took. Thanks to Margie Blare, Dakota County MG, for pointing it out

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Central Regional Gathering

Regional Gatherings are being held across the state for Master Gardener volunteers. The Central Regional Gathering will be on Saturday, December 9 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Monticello High School, Lecture Hall, 5225 School Blvd., Monticello, 55362. The morning's session are a continuation of last year's "Pollinating New Relationships" discussion (free!) and the afternoon will be a Flowers for Pollinators training. To reserve a seat for the morning discussion, just contact Jackie Froemming at froem022@umn.edu). For the Afternoon session and lunch, register online [HERE](#) or by calling the Ed. Dept. at Landscape Arboretum at [612-301-1206](tel:612-301-1206)). CEU = 6.5. hours; deadline to register is December 2nd. For questions, contact Jackie Froemming at froem022@umn.edu or at [218-828-2323](tel:218-828-2323). Click [HERE](#) for promotional flyer.

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[Director Tim Kenny's recent news, includes Speaker Rosters, calendar of other MG "doings" and more!](#)

Master Gardeners continue to do more great work around the state. Read how **volunteers in Anoka, Hennepin and Otter Tail** are providing schools with the know-how to design and maintain schoolyard gardens in [Extensions' Source magazine](#). (In related news, the 2018 Minnesota Schoolyard Garden Conference is on Friday, March 2, 2018. Look for more details to come.)”

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[Reference and Mapping of Insect Pests maintained by the MN Department of Agriculture](#)

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Arboretum Calendar of Events: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/eventcalendar.aspx?date=01/09/2017>

****Let's Keep Jeff Hahn hopping with our latest insect sightings:**

[What's hopping or crawling in your house, pots, greenhouse or gardens???](#)

Jeff's latest notes on [next year's Japanese Beetle possibilities?](#)

“So what about next year? We received pretty regular rains in 2017 throughout areas where JB is common. That strongly suggests that if you saw a lot of JB this year, you most likely will see at least similar numbers next summer. Stay tuned!”

Latest Yard and Garden News Highlights: <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/>

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2017 Hot Topics are here!

You'll find brand new learning modules on [spotted wing drosophila](#), [box cut planting](#) and the [rusty patched bumble bee](#) posted on the [Continuing Education webpage](#). Volunteers can take these sessions online through the website for credit.

Or you can grab a few colleagues and use these as discussion topics at one of your meetings. Look for the handy facilitator's guide for each topic to encourage group discussion. Questions? Send an email to mgweb@umn.edu.

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All Master Gardener volunteers can access the online Core Course (view [instructions](#)) free of charge.

[View Core Course instructions](#)
[Purchase reference manual](#)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Terry Straub, Program Coordinator, at 612-596-2130 or straub097@umn.edu to sign-up for volunteer opportunities unless otherwise noted.

Hennepin County Volunteer Opportunities are posted in Sign-up Genius. Just sign into your account at www.signupgenius.com and look in “Items I’ve Been Invited To.”

The University of MN Landscape Arboretum has many volunteer opportunities. Learn how to help at http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/volunteer_opportunities.aspx. There are ways to work with both youth and adults! Training is required for most opportunities – check them out today!

Volunteering for the Yard & Garden Desk and Hotline

Please help staff the Hennepin County slots at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum’s Yard & Garden Desk on Saturdays. The hotline needs staffing, too. It’s a good way for interns to complete their required 15 researched calls. Visit the State Master Gardener website at www.mg.umn.edu and click on “For Volunteers.”

Answering the Yard and Garden Line Info PHONE NUMBER IS:

612-626-0001

You will then need to press the ‘*’ and use the ‘#’ signs. Mailbox ID is 17590 and PW=427336

Updates to the training will be available soon on the web.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/master-gardener/>) in the ‘For volunteer’ section under ‘Yard and Garden Line’ under ‘Training’.

Visit www.mg.umn.edu to sign-up for a shift. Thanks!

Are you able to help out in a pinch when the Master Gardener Q & A desk has a last minute opening on weekends? If you want to know about openings at the desk, please send an email to [Ariel Dressler](mailto:Ariel.Dressler@umn.edu) to be included on our emergency contact list. When a last minute opening occurs, you will be called or emailed. Together we can make sure there are always two Master Gardeners at the Q & A desk on weekends to answer yard and garden questions and share sustainable gardening information with the public. Thank you for volunteering!

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Be sure to review the Hennepin County web site for educational opportunities at <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/educational-opportunities/>

Be notified of upcoming webinars: [Sign up for auto-notification](#)

Opportunities Coming Up at the MN Landscape Arboretum

The landscape arboretum is proceeding apace with their schedule. Classes and registration information may be found online at <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/gardeningclasses.aspx>.

Coming Up from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Held at various locations. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. You can find a list of classes on their web site at <http://www.northerngardener.org/classes/mshs-classes>. Click on the class title to register. If you have any difficulties with registering online, please call their office at 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747.

RESOURCES FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Our own State University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Volunteer web site has a very extensive list on the page “**Find gardening answers online.**” Sign into the site as a volunteer to access the page. To find it:

- Sign in as you normally would to report your hours.
- You will come to the “For volunteers” page
- The page has a number of resources for master gardeners. Here is where you will find the gardening answers on line section.

HCMG LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017

Karin Ciano (Adult Education)

Tina Falkner (Fundraising)

Carol Garner (Chair)

Del Hampton (Community Programs)

Darren Lochner (Membership)

Betsy Massie (Youth Education)

Melinda Mattox (Communications & Marketing)

Kate Netwal (Chair Emeritus)

Theresa Rooney (Member Education)

Stephanie Steel (Secretary / Treasurer)

See the EMG-HC Directory for contact information.

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Garden Confidential is available online each month at <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/administration/newsletters/>. To receive the newsletter electronically, notify the Program Coordinator at strau097@umn.edu and a link will be sent to your e-mail address every month.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hennepin County

479 Prairie Center Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-5378

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Program Coordinator: Terry Straub
612-596-2130 / strau097@umn.edu

Phone: 612-596-2130
Fax: 612-466-9947
Yard & Garden Line: 612-301-7590

www.hennepinmastergardeners.org
www.hcmgshares.org