

Learning Garden Tour

Saturday, July 13, 2024 · 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Come to look, to learn, to leave inspired

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM | HENNEPIN COUNTY





The garden is calling - answer with annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs. Need inspiration and outdoor decor ideas? Visit our stores and make plans with the help of our purple thumbs. Let your imagination bloom in the season of possibility.

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Valid in-store only through September 30, 2024

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending our 2024 Learning Garden Tour!

The tour highlights ten gardens across Edina and Minneapolis, demonstrating landscapes that can be adapted to a wide variety of situations. Each stop is a home garden of a Hennepin County Master Gardener volunteer.

Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand to explain highlights of each garden and to answer your questions. In addition, each garden features an Education Station where you'll learn about specific topics and build your skills.

What to look for on the tour:

The Garden Shed (at Garden A)

Find gifts for all of the gardeners in your life, including yourself! This year's Shed features our well known cloches, leaf stepping stones, birdhouses, mosaic birdbaths, pottery items, compost kits, and so much more.

Block Activities (at Gardens B1/B2)

Plan to spend some extra time at this stop! You'll find a food truck and educational resources from University of Minnesota Extension and other community partners. See pages 10-11 for more info.

Food Trucks (at Gardens B1/B2 and F)

Look for these food trucks at gardens on the tour! See page 4 for more info and QR codes to menus.





The Book Nook (at Garden D)

A perfect place to buy the perfect gift! You'll find an engaging selection of gardening and nature-themed books for adults and children alike. Included are many titles written by Hennepin County Master Gardeners. See page 17 for more info.

Garden Plant List

In each garden, look for signage highlighting 10 notable plants - including a QR code which links to additional information. The names of the plants are also noted on each garden's booklet page.

Garden Feature Icons

Within this booklet, look for icons to help navigate to specific gardens with areas of interest or features. See pages 20-21 for complete Icon Key.





Education Stations

Fun and engaging Education Stations offer offers tips and demonstrations on succession planting, shade gardening, urban farming, garden design and more. Look for a station description on each garden's booklet page.

All proceeds from Learning Garden Tour tickets as well as items in The Garden Shed and The Book Nook provide funding for the Extension Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County. The University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program -Hennepin County, homeowners and volunteers are not responsible for any damages, injuries, lost or stolen articles. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Direct requests to hcmg@umn.edu or 612-596-2130. Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10 percent post consumer waste material.

Look for these food trucks on tour!

GARDEN B1/B2

1607 Main St NE, 55413



Offering from-scratch sandwiches such as catfish and sweet potato po'boys, award-winning fries, plus seasonal specialities with made from scratch ingredients.

www.parralily.com



GARDEN F

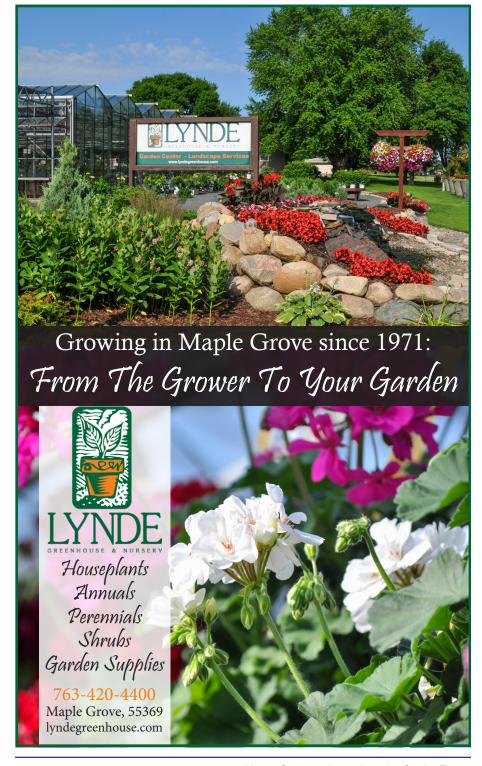
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Doc E's serves mouth-watering, slow roasted BBQ by the sandwich, plate or the pound, along with special BBQ items like BBQ Nachos, Roasted Sweet Corn, Sweet or Hot Peppers, and Black Beans. Doc E's also serves a variety of home made side dishes: Corn Bread, Smoked Pinto and Black Beans, Carolina Slaw, Red Tater Salad, and Roasted Sweet Corn.

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3523 McKinley St NE, Minneapolis 55418









This master gardener says: Over the seven years that I've lived here, I've transformed a plain lawn and simple garden into a wildlife haven that is bountiful and beautiful. I've been inspired by the challenge of balancing two types of gardening: first, the traditional perennial gardening I learned from my mom when I was young that emphasizes beautiful flowers, pruned shrubs, and neatness; second, the wildlife gardening I've learned as an adult that emphasizes native plants for pollinators, minimizing pesticides, and letting things go just a little wild.

Though my garden includes lots of native plants, I also experiment with combinations of native and cultivated plants. One of my favorite garden projects has been reclaiming a three-foot-wide section of asphalt along the driveway and turning it into a garden bed to catch storm runoff and provide pollinator support. I strive to garden without pesticides and have grown vegetables and fruits using integrated pest management techniques that minimize health dangers and environmental risks. I invite visitors to look closely at the plants, insects, and other creatures that coexist in my garden, which is deliberately unmanicured.

To combat my yard's heavy clay sub-soil, I buy pine bark mulch every year and cover my garden beds with it. I also mulch grass clippings and apply cuttings from my spring clean-up to the garden beds. Over the years, the soil has become looser and more workable, both in the garden beds and in the lawn.

Another gardening challenge has been winter damage from rabbits. Every winter, I wrap plants in chicken wire to protect them. The year that I didn't use the chicken wire, the arborvitae and pussy willow bushes suffered severely.

As my garden matures, it attracts more and more wildlife—bees, wasps, flower flies, caterpillars, butterflies, and other creatures. I've planted trees and shrubs with berries to encourage birds to visit. Overall, my garden gives me a sense of well-being and connection with nature, which is something that can be easy to miss living in the city.

Top 10 Plants

Rattlesnake master Eryngium yuccifolium

Blue vervain Verbena hastata

Compass plant Silphium laciniatum

Culver's root

Veronicastrum virginicum

Great St. John's wort Hypericum ascyron

Ironweed

Vernonia fasciculata

Late/Maryland figwort Scrophularia marilandica

Missouri evening primrose *Oenothera macrocarpa*

Prairie blazing star Liatris pycnostachya

Royal catchfly Silene regia



Located at Garden A

EDUCATION STATION

Gardening with Native Plants

Plants that are native to Minnesota are often easier to grow than non-native varieties. They are already adapted to our soil and climate and need minimal care to grow and thrive.

This station will provide resources to get you started on selecting and growing native plants in your yard or garden.



Located at Garden A

The Garden Shed

Find gifts for all of the gardeners in your life, including yourself!

Come and see all the creative items for the garden!











This year the shed will feature leaf stepping stones, birdhouses, cloches, pottery items, suncatchers, mosaic birdbaths, compost kits and many more garden delights!



University of Minnesota | extension

HENNEPIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM











Located at Garden B1

This Master Gardener says: After growing in my backyard for a few years. I started my front yard garden in 2020 as a pandemic lockdown whim. I quickly discovered I loved having more growing space and the chance to connect with neighbors, who tell me how happy the garden makes them. Every year since, I've reduced the amount of grass and added new raised beds to enjoy more flowers, veggies, and pollinators. This growing season will be my first with my fully converted, grassless front yard.

After being inspired by a fellow Master Gardener who is an expert in extending the growing season, I have been experimenting with using low tunnels to heat up my soil and get plants in the ground early. I also use vertical growing techniques to maximize my space. I don't have a specific style for the garden, I just plant veggies we like to eat and flowers that me us happy. Almost everything in the front is annuals, so I get to reinvent the garden every year. I start about 80-90% of my plants from seed because there are so many great flower and veggie varieties only available as seed.

Because I grow a lot of the same veggies every year and don't have a lot of space to rotate crops as frequently as recommended, I really try to stay on top of disease control and soil health.

I love that my garden offers a little spark of joy to everyone who walks by. It's so fun to invite kiddos to pick a new kind of veggie straight from the garden and to have people share their own garden memories and dreams with me. I also love watching the butterflies and bees enjoying all the flowers planted especially for pollinators.

See pages 10-11 for more information on activities at this garden!

Top 10 Plants

'Black Beauty' tomato Solanum lycopersicum

Flowering tobacco Nicotiana sylvestris

Honeywort Cerinthe major

Kossak kohlrabi Brassica oleracea var. gongylodes

False Queen Anne's Lace Ammi majus

Balloon Vine, 'Love-in-a-Puff' Cardiospermum halicacabum

'Blue African' basil Ocimum kilimandscharicum x basilicum

Panicle Hydrangea 'Little Quick Fire' Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Quick Fire'

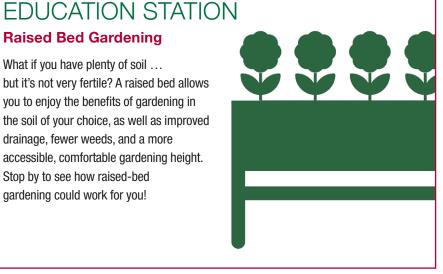
Feather top grass Pennisetum villosum

Artichoke Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus



What if you have plenty of soil ... but it's not very fertile? A raised bed allows you to enjoy the benefits of gardening in the soil of your choice, as well as improved drainage, fewer weeds, and a more accessible, comfortable gardening height. Stop by to see how raised-bed gardening could work for you!

Raised Bed Gardening





Main Street Gardens — B1 & B2

GARDENS B1 & B2 Located at the 1600 Block of Main Street NE

Ample street parking and overflow parking available at Eastside Neighborhood Services (1700 NE 2nd Street).

We've blocked off the street to feature some unique learning opportunities! In addition to the Featured Gardens and Education Stations, representatives from the following organizations will be on hand to answer questions and share resources.

How to become a Master Gardener Volunteer

Visit www.HennepinMasterGardeners.org to learn how to get on the notification list for this year. Complete 50 hours of core course training and continue your education and service every year! See ad also on page 33.

Metro Blooms

Metro Blooms partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges.

The Minnesota Tree Care Advocate Program

Minnesota Tree Care Advocate is a program committed to volunteerism and to helping make your community and state a healthier place to live. If you think that trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and other natural resources add to the quality of life in your community, then you've found a home.

University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science

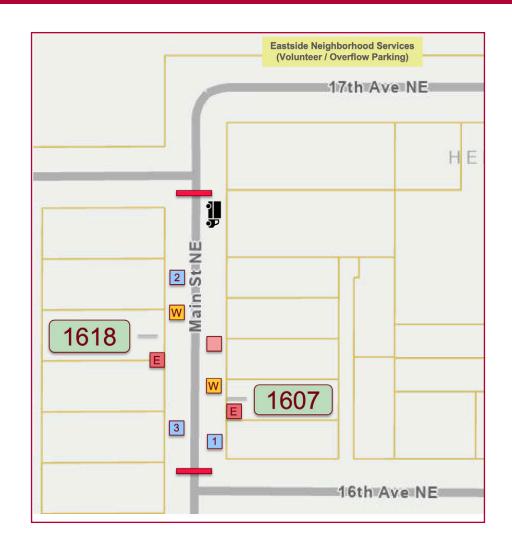
The University of Minnesota's Turfgrass Science Program conducts field-based research and offers education and consultation to both commercial turfgrass managers and homeowners caring for their yards.











- 1 Tree Care Advocates
- How to Become a MG

2 Metro Blooms

W Welcome Table

3 Turf Care Science

E Education Station

1607 Main St NE, Minneapolis 55413









This Master Gardener says: My husband and I moved into this house in 2017 and have been slowly making the space work for us. Each year we've added, changed, or moved plants around to help create the current landscape. I wanted all my plants to flow together, whether flowers or vegetables or herbs.

My Master Gardener home project in 2022 was creating sidewalk gardens. I chose native plants that were heat, drought, and salt tolerant that would provide bursts of color all season long. During the summer of 2023, I added raised beds along the fence line. Since the beds are up and away from squirrels, rabbits, and dogs, I decided to use this area to bring even more pollinators to the yard. Installing soaker hoses for the vegetables and raised beds meant one less thing to think about during the summer. I also grow additional edible plants that I use in making herbal tea — lavender, chamomile, lemon verbena, etc. I would call my gardening style "high impact, low maintenance." It's a small space, but we've made the most of it using native perennials that don't require much, if any, watering. The remaining space includes vegetables and herbs that blend in with the landscaping and don't look like traditional raised beds. In the summer of 2022, sumac flea beetles (Blepharida rhois) wreaked havoc on my Sumac tree and I didn't notice until I came home from vacation and all the leaves were gone. I did lots of research and used IPM (Integrated Pest

Management) to manage these bugs without harsh chemicals, including picking them off and dropping them in a cup of soapy water and removing the eggs by hand. It has been a labor of love, but my tree survived and I am very proud of that.

My ultimate goal is progress, not perfection. Every year we learn a little more and try new things. And every year there are issues, but we give ourselves the grace to fail and take notes for next year's garden. I love that my garden is out front for everyone to enjoy. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing people smiling, smelling the flowers, and watching the butterflies as they walk by. I am glad to be a source of color and nature for my neighborhood.

See pages 10-11 for more information on activities at this garden!

Top 10 Plants

Black-eyed Susan Rudbeckia hirta

Blue False Indigo Baptisia australis

Goldenrod, 'Golden Fleece' Solidago sphacelate 'Golden Fleece'

Lavender Lavandula angustifolia

Ornamental Onion Millenium Allium

Northwind Switch Grass Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'

Purple Coneflower Echinacea purpurea

Phlox, 'Purple Flame' Phlox paniculata 'Purple Flame'

Sedum, Autumn Jov Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy'

Staghorn Sumac, 'Tiger Eyes' Rhus typhina 'Bailtiger' PPAF



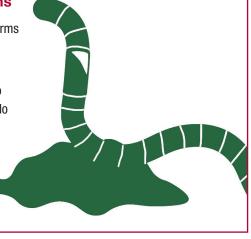
Located at Garden B2

EDUCATION STATION

Living with Jumping Worms

Jumping worms are invasive earthworms that deplete the soil of its nutrients, killing plants and increasing erosion.

At this education station, learn how to identify jumping worms and what to do once you find them.





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- Mississippi Market (both)
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- Agrarian Garden Supply
- Hiawatha Supply
- Jack's Hardware & Farm Supply

Elsewhere in Minnesota

- Knecht's Nursery, Northfield
- Sargent's, Redwing
- Sargent's, Rochester
- Pozanc Landscaping, Winona

To Order Direct:

Call John at 608-626-2571 E-mail jrosenow@mwt.net











This master gardener says: My garden is natural, organized chaos that has evolved through trial and error over the last 32 years. When I bought the property, it contained aging fruit trees, grapevines, a couple of cedar trees, and lots of grass. Once I removed all the grass from the front yard, I planted a woodland fern garden on my home's north side and a red oak meadow garden on its northeast side. In 2017, I bought the adjacent lot to the southeast from the Minneapolis Park Board and created a garden called "The Sanctuary," a wildlife habitat with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. The first part of this project was the construction of a rain garden along Fifth Avenue. Next was the removal of concrete, the relocation of a wrought iron fence to the Marshall Street side of the garden, and the addition of a chain link fence around the other two sides of the garden. What I call "Platform 13" is a deck that connects the front yard to the Sanctuary and features a marvelous view of the Minneapolis skyline. For fun, I've added art throughout the garden. I designed paths to meander through the Sanctuary, inviting curiosity and bringing rhythm to the garden. Many of its plants—including ferns, columbine, and Virginia waterleaf—came from my grandmother's garden. I've planted native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, sedges, and incorporated dead hedges, logs, rocks, and water to increase wildlife habitat and improve biodiversity. The garden is registered with the National Wildlife Federation, Homegrown National Park, and Acts of Restorative Kindness, three organizations that recognize the value of this work.

I attribute my love of native habitats to a drought in the summer of 1988 that prompted me to learn about xeriscaping, the practice of gardening and landscaping with water conservation in mind. I'm inspired by many gardens, particularly the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, and books such as "Landscaping for Wildlife" by Carrol Henderson, "Nature's Best Hope" by Douglas Tallamy, "We are the ARK" by Mary Reynolds, and "A Sand County Alamac" by Aldo Leopold. Some of my biggest gardening challenges have included changing light patterns as trees have matured; variable precipitation amounts and drought due to climate change; invasive perennials and weeds; and poor soil quality. But these challenges are countered by the satisfaction I've experienced watching my garden grow into a place of peace, beauty, and refuge.

Top 10 Plants

Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

Black Chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa*

Blue Beech Carpinus caroliniana

Blue False Indigo Baptisia australis

Eastern Red Columbine Aquilegia canadensis

Ostrich Fern

Matteuccia struthiopteris

Pale Purple Coneflower *Echinacea pallida*

Raspberry, 'Heritage' Rubus idaeus

Red Oak Queris rubra

River Birch Betula nigra



EDUCATION STATION Gardening for Wildlife Wildlife requires food, water, cover, and space for survival. At this education station, learn how to provide these elements to help wildlife not just survive—but thrive—in your home garden.











Located at Garden D

This Master Gardener says: We moved here in 1982 — there was no garden, just a spirea hedge. I had no gardening experience. We installed the boulevard garden in 1987, added shade gardens, and finally put in the rain garden in 2016. The front garden has organic shaped berms and borders. The kitchen garden in back is rectilinear and geometrical.

This is a parkway with high pedestrian traffic, so we wanted a front yard in the spirit of the park. As my knowledge and interest grew, the educational value of a garden in the public space became increasingly important. There are many people who regularly visit the gardens on this block.

I am devoted to demonstrating that one can have an attractive garden without using pesticides, herbicides, or phosphorus. I treated the lawn twice with Milky Spore and occasionally use ladybugs when the aphids get out of hand. The boulevard gardens get a small amount of organic nitrogen/potassium fertilizer twice a summer. Everything is designed for pollinators. The lawn is naturalized with snow glories, squill, violets, forget-me-nots, crocus, and narcissus. The beds bloom until October ending with asters.

Because of our proximity to the Mississippi River, the rain garden is essential for water management. A barely visible swale of stones carries water down the side of the driveway to the sidewalk where a natural slope drops the water into the rain garden. A swale on the north side of the house carries water to the lawn where it eventually seeps down to the rain garden. The rain garden captures all surface water, which is filtered through 80 feet of limestone before getting to the river. Sedimenting dead leaves and other organic material accumulate in the rain garden. I dig out two to three times as much soil as I ordinarily would every time a new plant is put in. The rain garden is never fertilized or mulched and requires very little watering.

One of the most satisfying aspects of gardening is having a struggling plant become exuberantly happy when I move it to a new microclimate biome.

Top 10 Plants

Yucca, 'Adam's Needle' Yucca Filamentosa

Hosta, 'Empress Wu' Hosta PP20774

Intersectional Peony Paeonia Itoh

Tree Peony
Paeonia Moutan

Barrenwort aka Horny Goat Weed *Epimedium*

Giant Lenten Rose
Helleborus x hybridus

Summersweet, 'Ruby Spice' Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'

Spikenard Aralia racemosa

Windflower

Anemone sylvestris

Hardy Lady's Slipper Cypripedium



EDUCATION STATION

Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a planted low area that allows rainwater runoff to soak in from hard surfaces like roofs, driveways, walkways and parking lots. A rain garden removes pollutants from water before it enters surface waters, prevents erosion by holding soil in place with its deep roots and attracts birds and butterflies. Rain gardens also require little watering and maintenance once established.



Located at Garden D

Landscaping with Native Plants Native Plants All the Course of the Cou

HYDROPONIC

GARDENING

The BOOK NOOK

The Book Nook offers an engaging selection of gardening and nature-themed books, many written by Hennepin County Master Gardeners.

Here's what one recent tour visitor had to say:

"Thank you so much for having all these books together in one spot. It made my present-buying so easy!"

Stop by and stock up on gifts for friends and family of all ages.



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HENNEPIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM









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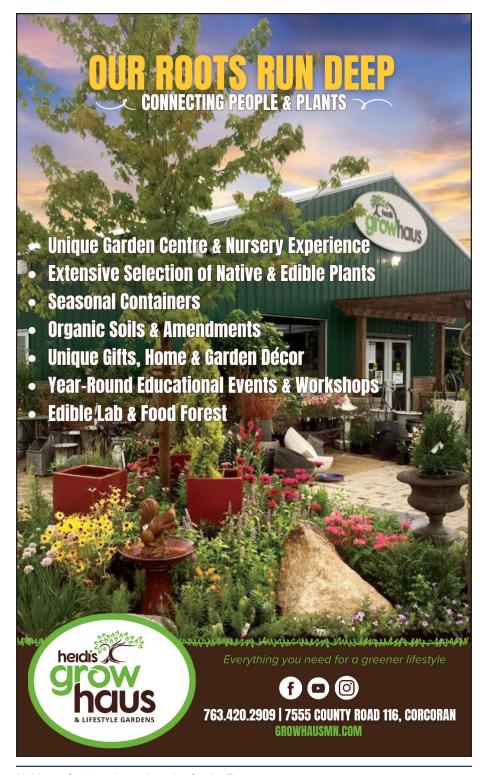




















Located at Garden E

This master gardener says: When I purchased my 1914 Arts and Crafts home in Linden Hills 34 years ago, there was a row of peonies in the front yard and grass everywhere else. My first gardening projects focused on planting perennials that would bloom in succession in the front yard and on the boulevard.

Then, while traveling and living in Europe, I discovered the gardens of the British horticulturalist and designer Gertrude Jekyll. She created formal gardens that featured distinct areas or "garden rooms," natural stone materials, topiary, and colorful plantings. I was inspired by Jekyll's gardens and have modeled my own gardens after hers.

In the front yard, in 2012, I planted a formal, four-square design of boxwood with a large urn in the middle as a focal point. I've enjoyed filling the squares with perennials that bloom at various times and in different seasons. In the back-yard, I created one garden room in a courtyard with a bluestone wall and patio and a second garden room on a raised patio surrounded by evergreens that provide winter interest.

My gardening challenges include drought, which has been particularly hard on my boxwoods, evergreens, and trees. I water as often as needed, but that's not a substitute for a good soaking rain. Rabbits are another challenge. Two winters ago, rabbits crawled up snowbanks to reach the branches of my Royal Raindrops crabapple tree and damaged it badly. They also love my plants, especially the tulips, lilies, and the small tender hostas I put in last summer. To protect my trees and plants from additional damage, I've started fencing my garden in the winter and spring.

I enjoy relaxing in my garden and hosting book club meetings in the backyard. When neighbors walk by and compliment my garden, I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that my hard work brings joy to others and beauty to my neighborhood.

EDUCATION STATION

Garden Design

Garden design can transform a collection of plants into a lovely and cohesive space.

In this garden, learn how to design a garden that is attractive, low-maintenance, and environmentally friendly.



Top 10 Plants

Daylily, 'Maestro Puccini'

Hemerocallis 'Maestro Puccini'

Boxwood 'Green Velvet' Buxus 'Green Velvet'

Siberian Iris, 'Kaboom' Iris siberica 'Kaboom' purple

Pink Flowering Almond
Prunus glandulosa 'Rosea Plena'

Chinese Astilbe 'Superba'

Astilbe chinensis var. taquetti 'Superba'

Crabapple Royal Raindrops

Malus transitoria 'Royal Raindrops'

Crabapple Tina

Malus sargenti 'Tina'

Wiggles and Squiggles Hosta

Blazing Star Liatrist spicata

Mugo Pine 'Tannenbaum' *Pinus mugo var. mugo 'Tannenbaum*



GARDENS FOR GOOD

Donating produce to our community









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LYME DISEASE PREVENTION



Avoid tick habitat, especially areas with long grass, lots of brush or leaf litter. Stay in the center of hiking and biking trails. Don't sit on fallen logs.

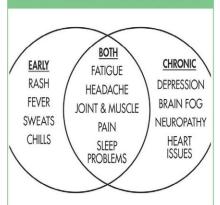


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LYME DISEASE SYMPTOMS



LYME DISEASE QUICK FACTS

476,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL CASES OF LYME DISEASE IN U.S.

That's more than Hepatitis, HIV, Colon Cancer or Breast Cancer. \$24K

ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST PER PATIENT WITH CHRONIC LYME

1 TICK MANY DISEASES

Borreliosis / Lyme Rocky Mtn. Spotted Fever Borrelia Miyamotoi Borrelia Mayonii Powassan Virus Babesiosis Tularemia Ehrlichiosis Anaplasmosis Bartonella

For more information visit the Minnesota Lyme Association at **mnlyme.org**





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 - · Sales tax included in all prices
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To learn more: https://hennepinmastergardeners.org/events/











This Master Gardener says: We bought our house 27 years ago and I began work on the gardens shortly after we took possession. About half of the existing beds were in place when we bought it. I've added new beds and expanded the old beds considerably since then.

Our front yard gardens are primarily perennial flower beds with some annuals for accent in a more or less cottage garden style. Our back yard gardens are a mix of veggies, flowers, and shrubs. I also have a patch of "bee lawn" on the south side of the house and a pollinator garden on the boulevard.

I almost always add plants according to a plan. I keep a computerized schematic of each garden bed, which I update annually. Some of my favorite plants have come from the Hennepin County Master Gardener plant sale including my "Golem" jade plant and a small red-flowered primrose in my backyard. I have grown many different perennials and vegetables over the years, and recently have been trying many new, sometimes unusual, vegetables. I start all of my vegetables and annuals from seed, except for onions and garlic.

My biggest challenge when I started gardening here was that the gardens were overrun with weeds (bitter cress, yellow nut sedge, creeping belliflower, quickweed, pigweed, clearweed, bindweed, etc.), which I continue to battle to this day. Also, drainage in some of the beds was a problem, which I've improved by incorporating lots of organic matter. My soil is mostly a clay loam with a very gravelly subsoil. I've added lots of compost over the years and the older beds test out at 7% or more organic matter. Some years I have major problems with rabbits, and 2022 was the worst. The deep snow cover allowed the rabbits to climb over the protective fencing around certain plants, and they denuded the bark on quite a few. My "Ice Dragon" maple has gone from being a shrub to small tree!

I love growing alpine plants and succulents in trough gardens and harvesting fresh vegetables. I also love sitting on the deck in the summer (sometimes with an adult beverage) and looking out at the garden in bloom.

Top 10 Plants

Dwarf Japanese Maple 'Chitose yama' Acer palmatum 'Chitose yama'

Dahlia, 'Bee-yond' Dahlia pinnata 'Bee-yond'

Ice Dragon Maple Acer x pseudosieboldianum 'Ice Dragon'

Butterfly Weed Asclepias tuberosa

Peony, 'Red Charm' Paeonia lactiflora 'Red Charm'

Hibiscus, 'Starry Starry Night' Hibiscus moscheutos 'Starry Starry Night'

Aleppo Peppers Capsicum annuum 'Aleppo'

Alpine Trough Garden

Trumpet Lily, 'African Queen' Lilium 'African Queen'

Short's Aster Symphyotrichum shortii



Located at Garden F

EDUCATION STATION

Edible Landscaping

Edible landscaping, also known as "foodscaping," is a practice in which consumable plants are grown in aesthetically pleasing arrangements. In this garden, learn the basics of creating a landscape that is beautiful and delicious.



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Located at Garden G

This master gardener says: When we moved into our home on a standard city lot in 1984, the landscape was simple. There was lots of grass, a couple of maple trees, a green ash tree, a few small boxwoods, an old lilac, and a cotoneaster hedge along the alley.

Since then, our sunny, vegetable-producing yard—which had plenty of room for our children and their play structures has become a shady, sustainable landscape. With climate change in mind, I've redesigned the landscape for year-round interest by adding trees, evergreens shrubs, perennials, and native plants to attract butterflies, bees, birds, and other wildlife.

I garden with regenerative principles in mind. I limit soil disturbance; always keep soil covered; strive for plant diversity; maintain living roots as long as possible; and provide a home and habitat for pollinators, insects, and everything else that helps keep soil healthy. I've also incorporated rain gardens, swales, and other landscape techniques to prevent stormwater runoff, reduce soil erosion, and protect water quality.

When I discovered invasive jumping worms in my garden in the fall of 2020, I decided to switch from standard mulch to living mulch, such as masses of sedges, ferns, heuchera, tiarella, Jacob's ladder, phlox, and prairie smoke. I manage jumping worms throughout the summer by hand-picking and bagging them, and then throwing them into the trash. The jumping worms have changed the consistency of the soil, turning it into the texture of coffee grounds; to ameliorate the soil, I've amended it with peat moss, sand, and compost.

In addition to jumping worms, the rabbits that live in the neighborhood are a gardening challenge. I use chicken wire and hardware cloth on the inside of my picket fence and gates to keep them out of my garden.

I relish the variety of textures, shapes, and colors that my garden offers year-round, and I delight in the haven I've created for wildlife, birds, and pollinators.

Top 10 Plants

Ann Magnolia Magnolia x Ann

Boxwood Buxus

Clematis, 'Alan Bloom' Clematis heracleifolia 'Alan Bloom'

Clematis, 'Princess Diana' Clematis texensis 'Princess Diana'

Crimson, 'Fernleaf Peony' Paeonia tenuifolia

Eastern Star Sedge Carex radiata

Holly

llex x meserveae

Howell's Dwarf Tigertail Bicolor Spruce Picea bicolor 'Howell's Dwarf Tigertail'

Sargent Weeping Hemlock Tsuga canadensis 'Sargentii'

Weeping Norway Spruce Picea abies 'Pendula'

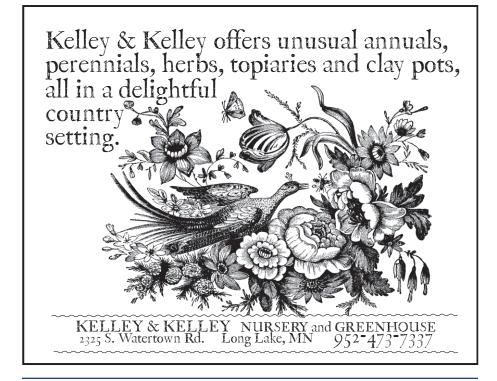


EDUCATION STATION

Sustainable Gardening

Sustainable gardening draws on practices from organic gardening with the goal of minimizing the use of unsafe resources. Maintaining healthy, rich soil with minimal input of chiemicals will create beautiful, healthy plants while protecting our ecosystems. Learn the key principles of sustainable gardening at this station, as well as how to implement sustainable practices into your garden.



















Located at Garden H

This Master Gardener says: In 2003, I met a beautiful lady with a beautiful garden and fell in love with both. A year later we started to create our sanctuary in the city. Embracing lots of new, exciting ideas, this garden has become a reflection of both of us.

Our postage stamp size backyard has a chicken coop and yard, potting shed and bench, a small water feature, pergolas for grilling and sitting, and a fire pit. We repurposed our garage into a "Gardenhuis" where we enjoy dining and entertaining from spring through the holidays. Our cottage garden is an eclectic mix of natives, perennials, ground covers, shrubs, and trees. We have always had lots of ground covers—creeping thyme, wild ginger, lamium, and biokova geranium, but after learning about living mulch we have added more including creeping phlox, ajuga, and sweet woodruff.

Veggie gardening became a challenge as trees matured and shaded more of the garden. Now we grow herbs and veggies in the garden and in pots where there are pockets of sunshine as well as a raised veggie bed in a mostly sunny part of the yard. Originally, the soil was amended with composted cow manure from my wife's family farm in western Wisconsin. We compost yard waste, kitchen scraps, and chicken manure to add to our beds and lawn every spring and fall. Since we have a lot of shade, we have learned to push the boundaries a bit. Many sun perennials can tolerate a bit of shade as can some annuals.

Last year we added a couple of pocket prairies on the boulevard and in the front yard. A bee lawn is also under development. Two areas in the yard were hard to mow, so we added Pennsylvania sedges and these lovely patches of native lawn are thriving. To provide more privacy for our open front yard, we added vertical elements along both property lines. We enjoy entertaining in our Gardenhuis or having dinner there after we've prepared something tasty on the grill. We love to sit in one of our seating areas and gaze at the gardens, watching the birds, bees, and dragonflies, enjoying coffee in the morning, greeting neighbors walking by, and watching the chickens being silly.

Top 10 Plants

Bee Balm Monarda didyma L.

Big Blue Stem Andropogon gerardii

Black-Eved Susan Rudbeckia hirta

Coneflower Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit'

Creeping Phlox Phlox stolonifera 'Emerald Blue'

Creeping Thyme Thymus serpyllum

Flame Grass Miscanthus purpurascens

Geranium Cranesbill Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo'

Globe Thistle **Echinops**

Russian Sage Pervoskia atriplicifolia



EDUCATION STATION Perennial Gardening Perennials are plants that produce flowers or seeds for three or more consecutive growing seasons. At this education station, learn about the principles of perennial garden design and plant selection, as well as the benefits of perennial gardening.



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University of Minnesota Extension







This master gardener says: When we moved into our home 30 years ago, our first project was the installation of a fence around our corner lot. The fence gave us privacy and helped us turn a bare backyard into our own little oasis.

Even though I didn't have a specific design or plan in mind for the yard, I was inspired by our trips to Europe and the gardens we had seen there. I gained an appreciation for the whimsy and beauty of window boxes and the use of stone and metal pieces. Every year, I try to add a new element to our garden.

The style that best characterizes our garden and yard is "cottage." I've created beds in the front yard and filled them with daylilies that bloom at various times as well as echinacea, bee balm, and ligularia. I like masses of the same plant. We have wonderful mature trees and plenty of shade. Hostas thrive here, especially on the north side of the fence and in the backyard.

My biggest gardening challenges are the clay soil, to which I add compost periodically, and the abundant shade. To achieve the color, variety, and lushness that I love, I've had to add pots and hanging baskets. We don't have many deer, but rabbits are a problem. I've used a few commercial products—with relative success—to discourage them from moving into our yard.

In 2021, my first year in the master gardener program, my mentor gave me a terrific idea: find an old chandelier, convert it for outdoor use, suspend it from a tree, and light it with flameless candles. The chandelier has been a charming addition to our yard.

Like all gardeners, I love my garden. I find watering and deadheading in the morning meditative. It's a rare day that we don't use our patio, which we expanded several years ago when we replaced the concrete slab with pavers. We enjoy entertaining and have hosted many dinners and parties over the years. With our folding tables and chairs, white tablecloths, and scores of napkins, I'm always ready for guests.

Top 10 Plants

Daylily, 'Stella d'Oro' Hemerocallis 'Stella d'Oro'

Daylily, 'Barbara Mitchell' Hemerocallis

Daylily, 'Pardon Me' Hemerocallis 'Pardon Me'

Geranium, 'Americana' Pelargonium

Geranium, 'Calliope' Pelargonium

Hosta varieties Hosta

Hydrangea, 'Limelight' Hydrangea

Lobelia, 'Techno Heat Dark Blue' Lobelia erinus Techno Heat Dark Blue

Peony, 'Shirley Temple' Paeonia lactiflora

Petunia, 'Supertunia Bordeaux' Petunia hybrid



Located at Garden I

EDUCATION STATION

Container Gardening

Creative containers can be used in your garden or around your home — accenting areas of green shrubbery, highlighting architectural details, brightening your entryway, or adding splashes of color and texture wherever you choose!







My favorite thing about trees? How much time have you got?

Steve Miller is a Bartlett Tree Experts champion. He, like all on his team, is the best in the business. An expert who champions the trees, landscapes and property investments of the customers in his care. He leaves no detail unexplored and no question unanswered.

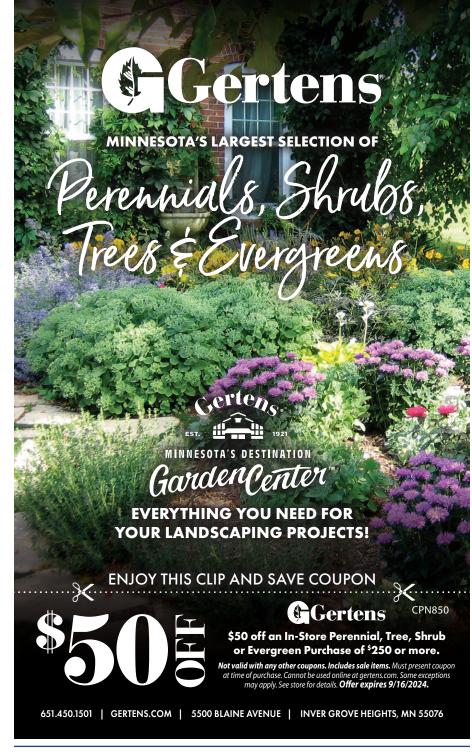
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EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM-HENNEPIN COUNTY

Who we are

Master Gardeners are gardeners just like you who have received extensive training through their county Extension program and then volunteer in their community. Master Gardener volunteers are active in all 50 states. Hennepin County Master Gardener volunteers promote environmental stewardship by providing research-based horticultural information and education to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

During 2023, 610 University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteers in Hennepin County contributed over 45,600 hours of volunteer service! That's equivalent to 22 full-time employees!

What we know

Our training covers a wide range of subjects such as soil health, plant pathology, sustainability and entomology.

How we know it

Master Gardener core courses are taught by University professors and Extension educators. Ongoing education is provided throughout the year in a variety of venues.

Who we work with

Master Gardener volunteers work with children, teens and adults in schools, community gardens, libraries, farmers markets and many other places.

How to become a Master Gardener Volunteer

Visit www.HennepinMasterGardeners.org to learn how to get on the notification list for this year. Complete 50 hours of core course training and continue your education and service every year! See page 33 for ad.

OUR FVFNTS

Farmers Market Schedule

Ask a Master Gardener booth at many Hennepin County farmers markets. Visit our website for dates and locations.

Free Classes Hennepin County Libraries

Please visit www.hclib.org for topics, locations and dates.

Annual Plant Sale May 17, 2025

Our Annual Plant Sale features hundreds of varieties & thousands of plants. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Learning Garden Tour July 13, 2024

Self-guided tour of beautiful Hennepin County gardens, featuring Education Stations and on-site Hennepin County Master Gardeners.

Minnesota State Fair Aug. 22 to Labor Day, Sept. 2. 2024

Agriculture Building. Ask a Master Gardener booth and The Dirt Stage presentations and demonstrations.

Fall House Plant Sale: Grow Yourself Inside Oct.6, 2024

Eisenhower Community Center



