



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

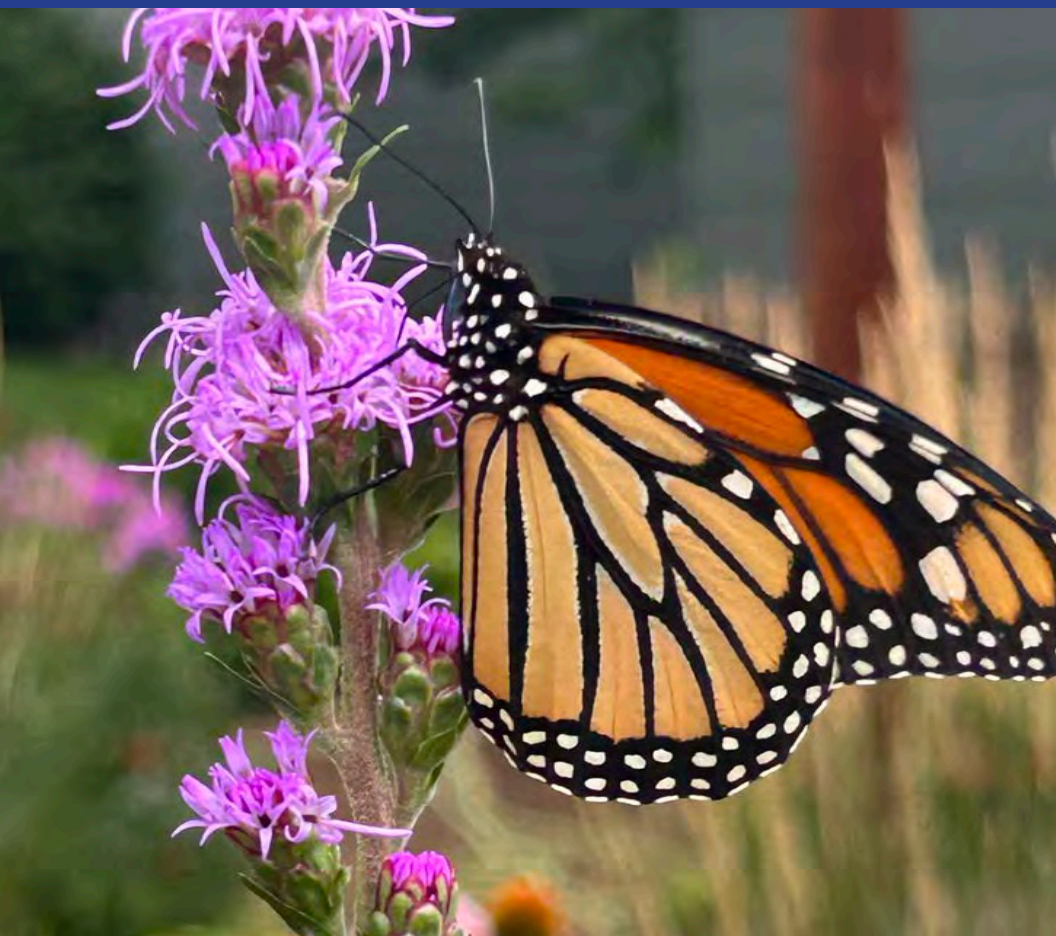


Learning Garden Tour

Saturday, July 11, 2026 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Come to look, to learn, to leave inspired

MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM | HENNEPIN COUNTY



Your guide in every season of growing.



Bachman's

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MAPLEWOOD | FRIDLEY | CEDAR ACRES LAKEVILLE

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending our 2026 Learning Garden Tour!

The tour highlights ten gardens across southeast Hennepin County. 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 (Garden D)

Find gifts for all the gardeners in your life, including yourself! This year's Garden Shed features our well-loved and appreciated cloches along with insect hotels, allium nail flowers, flower frogs, rain gauges, words in clay, concrete bird baths and stepping stones, wood obelisks, hummingbird swings, and much, much more. *See p13 for more info.*

FOOD TRUCKS (11am-2pm, Gardens E & I)

Look for food trucks at select gardens on the tour! *See p5 for more information and QR codes to their websites.*

THE BOOK NOOK (Garden H)

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 p29 for more info.*

TOP 10 GARDEN PLANTS

In each garden, look for signage highlighting 10 notable plants chosen by the Garden Host – 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 p18-19 for complete Icon Key.*

EDUCATION STATIONS

Fun and engaging Education Stations offer tips and demonstrations on a variety of garden topics. *Look for an education station description on each garden's booklet page.*

How to become a Master Gardener Volunteer (Garden G)

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 also ad on page 31.*

PARTNER BOOTHS:

The Minnesota Tree Care Advisors Program (Garden B)

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

U of M Soil Testing Lab (Garden F)

The University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory is an analytical service laboratory providing universities, state and federal agencies, private companies, and the general public with quality environmental analyses.

U of M Turfgrass Science (Garden J)

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

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Look for these food trucks on tour!

GARDEN E

GARDEN I



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This Master Gardener says: When I moved into my home eleven years ago there was a lot to do and undo. The front yard consisted of a mature spruce, several upright arborvitae, and two winged euonymus, all surrounded by plastic and rock. The side yard was a concrete slab. The back yard contained a beautiful mature crab apple tree, a white lilac, clumps of scrub trees, a compost-turned-to-garbage bin, and a deck that covered half the space. Besides the spruce, crab apple, and lilac, I salvaged a single peony.

In designing my perennial garden, I wanted a small lawn and patio for entertaining in my back garden. This grass also brings focus to the many flowers and plants growing on the perimeter. For other gardens, I wanted to see a woodland landscape in every season. To create a garden that looks as much as the natural world as possible, I added rocks and wood, berms and valleys, open space and secret nooks.

Except for spring wildflowers, my garden consisted almost entirely of introduced plants three years ago. At that time I began to grow native perennials. Now about a third of my garden is natives that provide food and habitat for pollinators and birds throughout the growing season. My garden covers my entire city lot with a wide variety of plants for both sun and shade. It features spring wildflowers, over 100 varieties of hosta, 90 native perennials, 6 varieties of martagon lilies, over 30 varieties of daylilies, and 40 woody plants and trees.

The recent death of the mature spruce and the removal of two other mature trees have been quite a challenge. Shade gardens for eight years suddenly became sun gardens for half of my front and side spaces. Besides creating new sun gardens, I also needed to create new focal points to stop the eye. I use focal points and texture to take a big garden space and break it into smaller spaces, so the eye is able to 'see' the many little gardens.

My garden is primarily clay, so I add compost regularly. I don't use any chemical treatments in my garden.

I garden for the beauty and peace it brings me and my neighbors. I also garden to expand the corridor necessary for pollinators and birds to thrive. Follow the winding path to discover a wonderland of hidden gems.

Top 10 Plants

1. Korean Maple Ice Dragon®
Acer x pseudosieboldianum
Ice Dragon®
2. Mini Twists Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus 'Mini Twists'
3. Weeping Threadleaf Arborvitae
Thuja occidentalis 'Filiformis'
4. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick
Corylus avellana 'Contorta'
5. Hens and Chicks
Sempervivum tectorum
6. Purple Prairie Clover
Dalea purpurea
7. Royal Catchfly
Silene regia
8. Hydrangea 'Pink Diamond'
Hydrangea paniculata 'Interhydia'
9. Ligularia 'The Rocket'
Ligularia 'The Rocket'
10. Cross Gentian
Gentiana cruciata 'Blue Cross'



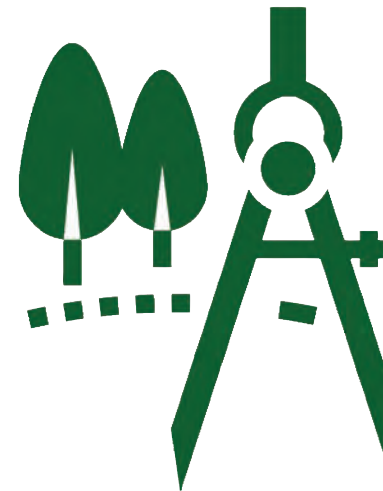
Located at Garden A

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.





This Master Gardener says: When we bought our house 22 years ago, there was a small front garden with a few natives. I didn't really garden at the time, but I did try and maintain what had been planted. Over time gardening has become more than a hobby. I love the variety of plants, especially the natives because there is always something new to observe and enjoy.

One of our first projects was the pond in the back yard. We uncovered two shallow concrete ponds that had been installed in the 1950s. We added a liner, a water line and electricity. Over time we discovered the ponds were too shallow for fish, so we removed them and installed a larger, deeper pond. Now we have a waterfall and two large koi. The pond requires a lot of maintenance, but I do enjoy it. It attracts all kinds of wildlife, including a pair of mallards every spring.

About 15 years ago, I decided to try and grow some vegetables. I've expanded my vegetable growing since those first days of the basics and now grow numerous types of veggies and herbs in several large raised beds. I start all my veggies from seed and make my own seed planters out of newspaper. We decided to have a bee lawn installed in 2024. Our backyard was bare and what wasn't bare was overgrown with weeds. For the first two months the new bee lawn required constant "weed" pulling (pig weed and lamb's quarter), but I was diligent and it looked amazing all summer.

We've been slowly adding natives to the front garden for the last 10 years. Being a big proponent of "plant what you like and plant for the pollinators and birds," I have a little of a lot of plants. I love milkweed because it attracts monarchs and other pollinators. Adding natives has really made a difference in the number of bees and butterflies. Last year, I had several yellow swallowtail butterflies in addition to the usual black swallowtails and that was fun. Many folks stop as they walk by the garden just taking it all in. When we are out in the yard, neighbors comment about how pretty the garden is. One of our little neighborhood girls calls our house the "bee house" and I love that.

► Minnesota Tree Care Advisors booth at this garden

Top 10 Plants

1. Celandine Poppy
Stylophorum diphyllum
2. Early Figwort
Scrophularia lanceolata
3. Eastern Prickly Pear
Opuntia humifusa
4. Grey-headed Coneflower
Ratibada pinnata
5. Virgin's Bower Clematis
Clematis virginiana
6. William Baffin Climbing Rose
Rosa 'William Baffin'
7. Cup Plant
Silphium perfoliatum
8. Amsonia
Amsonia hubrichtii
9. Makah Ozette Potato
Solanum tuberosum 'Ozette'
10. Eastern Red Cedar Tree
Juniperus Virginiana



Located at Garden B

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!



Helping You

Create Critical

Habitat





This Master Gardener says: When we moved here in 1980, there were no “active” gardens—just an assortment of arborvitae and mock orange shrubs, white marble chip mulch, and volunteer trees. Gradually, I removed the shrubs, mulch, and volunteers, and I began gardening at the edges of our small yard.

Over the years, I worked my way from the perimeter to the center of the yard, and from the back to the front. In 2018, a severe Japanese beetle infestation prompted me to abandon the grass in the front yard and plant a garden there. After that, we installed a rock terrace wall on the south side of our yard, which I gardened. Then, I converted our grassy boulevards into gardens.

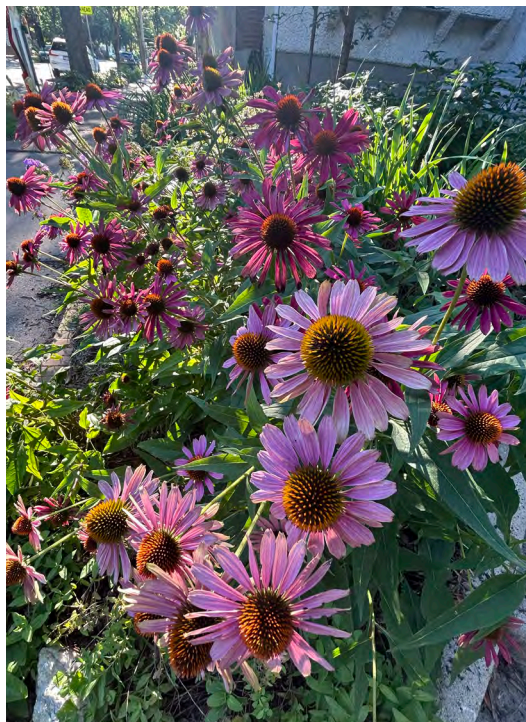
Because our lot is shady and dry, I’m always looking for plants—other than hostas—that thrive in these conditions. Most of my plants are perennials, and I love having plants that were in my mother’s and my aunt’s gardens, like gas plant (one of my top 10 plants), peonies, fringed bleeding heart, and bearded iris.

My consistent gardening challenges include watering diligently during dry periods as well as managing creeping bellflower, which I do by digging out its roots or spot-treating it with an herbicide.

Japanese gardens and cottage-style gardens are my favorite types of gardens. I call my own garden an “eclectic cottage garden with hints of Japanese style.” I enjoy when neighbors walk by and express delight with the garden, and I love relaxing on my patio with the fountain splashing nearby.

Top 10 Plants

1. Dwarf Northstar Cherry Tree
Prunus Cerasus “Northstar”
2. Clematis ‘Sapphire Indigo’
Clematis x hybrida ‘Cleminov 51’
3. Hosta ‘Gypsy Rose’
Hosta ‘Gypsy Rose’
4. Japanese Painted Fern
Athyrium niponicum var. pictum
5. Celandine (or Wood) Poppy
Stylophorum Diphyllum
6. Wisteria (likely Blue Moon variety)
Wisteria macrostachya ‘Blue Moon’
7. Sun King Golden Japanese Spikenard
Aralia Cordata ‘Sun King’
8. Gas Plant
Dictamnus Albus
9. Martagon Lily ‘Claude Shride’
Lilium ‘Claude Shride’
10. Lady’s Mantle
Alchemilla mollis



Located at Garden C

EDUCATION STATION

Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Learn the basics of pruning your trees and shrubs so you can prepare them for long, productive lives in your landscape. Pruning for safety involves removing branches that could fail. Pruning for health involves removing thin, rubbing, and/or diseased branches. Pruning for aesthetics involves enhancing the natural form of the tree or shrub. The goal is to develop well-structured young trees and shrubs. You’ll see how small pruning errors at the start can lead to larger problems later on. You’ll also learn about pruning safety, various types of pruning tools, and tool-cleaning procedures.



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This Master Gardener says: We have always been interested in native plants and gardening. When we moved to our current home 30 years ago, we started with one or two shade plants from the Edina Garden Club sale. Every new plant was an experiment. We shared plants with neighbors and friends and they shared with us. Later, we started a sunny south garden and an herb garden.

Friends sharing their interest in rain gardens and a lecture about urban neighborhood lots with yard compaction causing water runoff, pollution, and loss of pollinators piqued our interest. In 2012, we attended a rain garden workshop with Metro Blooms and that set us on the path. A home remodel project in 2012 provided an opportunity to rethink and redo the backyard and integrate rain gardens.

Native plants are our primary focus. The plants in our gardens must survive the current Minnesota climate conditions. We are tolerant of plants that want to thrive and spread, within limits, like dwarf bush honeysuckle, wild ginger, and cranesbill geranium. We start a few varieties from seed using milk jug winter sowing. We try to divide plants when appropriate and we share plants and seeds with friends and neighbors. We are always looking for interesting additions to the garden.

We have a love and lost theme in our garden. Plants we have lost: blue flag iris to the iris borer, pachysandra to volutella blight, cone flowers to aster yellows, ligularia that required too much water, and lilac to pseudocercospora blight. Other challenges include deep shade under our Norway maple where nothing grows, Japanese beetles, and of course, rabbits, especially in the spring when gardens are the only green game in town.

It's wonderful to watch plants emerge in the spring and follow them through the season. Almost every plant has a story. Who shared this plant with us? Did the new location work? Did our divided plants survive? Our garden is always evolving as we consider things we've learned and plan for next year's changes. Viewing the garden from different spots and watching the colors change with the seasons is very satisfying.

Now that I am retired, I particularly like the structured learning that the Master Gardener Program provides and having access to all the experts and literature.

Top 10 Plants

1. Little Joe Pye Weed
Eutrochium dubium
2. Various Peonies
Paeonia spp.
3. Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
4. Japanese Hakone Grass,
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'
5. Walker's Low Catmint
Nepeta faassenii 'Walker's Low'
6. Clematis 'Zostiva'
Clematis 'Still Waters'TM
Clematis x 'Zostiva'
7. Dense Blazingstar 'Kobold'
Liatris Spicata
8. Stachys Officinalis 'Hummello'
9. Cranesbill Geranium
Geranium maculatum
10. Autumn Joy Sedum
Hylotelephium spectabile 'Autumn Joy'



Located at Garden D

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

The Garden Shed

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

All items are made by Master Gardener volunteers



This year, The Garden Shed will feature cloches, insect hotels, allium nail flowers, rain gauges, beaded stakes, hummingbird swings, flower frogs, wood obelisks, words in clay, concrete bird baths and stepping stones, compost kits and many more garden delights!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

HENNEPIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



This Master Gardener says: I moved into my house in the fall of 2022. The garden had been neglected for years and was overgrown with weeds and dead trees. There were also large, dilapidated decks on the front, back, and side of the house that were falling apart. It was a whole year before all the decks were finally replaced. Their shapes were changed and one was replaced with boulders and a flagstone patio, which infuriated the resident chipmunk population (my adorable nemeses). All this meant the first year I lived here there was not much I could do with the garden.

Most of the summer of 2023 was spent dividing and relocating hostas that had surrounded the former deck, planting currants and raspberries, and starting a small vegetable garden.

My 2024 project was reshaping and redesigning the garden beds around the decks. My goal was to create a native-heavy, pollinator garden the length of the front deck, leaving a line of hostas in the front to contain it. I also opened Acorn Tree Child Garden, a home-based Waldorf-inspired preschool, and began actively formulating the garden spaces with that use in mind. In 2025, a line of fragrant sumac shrubs was added that will eventually contain and demarcate that area. A young prairie birch replaced a large maple lost in a storm and a pagoda dogwood was planted in my mom's honor. I added the treehouse and rebuilt the fenced-in area to include the side yard and added a lilac and perennial bed along that.

My approach to gardening has always been to just grab a shovel and start digging. I get an idea and go for it. My gardens are always in flux, changing as my whims and needs change. I always garden with my lifestyle and family in mind. With my background in edible landscaping and permaculture, beauty and function are what matter most to me.

I love the trees in my garden, which contain so much life, but they are also the biggest challenge. The animals and birds provide constant entertainment and interest. I enjoy that there are so many different spaces to try a little of this and a little of that. And I love sharing the garden as a magical space for children.

► Food Truck at this garden from 11am-2pm

Top 10 Plants

1. Bur oak
Quercus macrocarpa
2. Black chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa
3. Quick Fire Hydrangea
Hydrangea paniculata 'Quick Fire'
4. Strawberry Sundae Hydrangea
Hydrangea paniculata 'Rensun' (PP#25,438)
5. Pink Turtlehead
Chelone lyonii
6. Anise Hyssop
Agastache foeniculum
7. Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta
8. Northern Bush Honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera
9. White Birch
Betula papyrifera
10. Lemon Thyme
Thymus citriodorus



Located at Garden E

EDUCATION STATION

Engaging Children in Gardening

Children are naturally curious and gardening is a natural and beneficial experience. Introducing a child to gardening can encourage healthy eating, improve emotional health, and initiate a “hands-on” connection with nature that can continue to grow throughout their lives. Visit this education station to discuss key considerations and creative ideas for planning gardening activities with children.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

HENNEPIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 15, 2027

Our Annual Plant Sale features hundreds of varieties and thousands of plants. 9am—2 pm.

Minnesota State Fair

Aug. 27 – Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2026

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

“Grow Yourself Inside”

Houseplant Event Oct. 3, 2026

Eisenhower Community Center
8am—3pm.

Learning Garden Tour July 10, 2027

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



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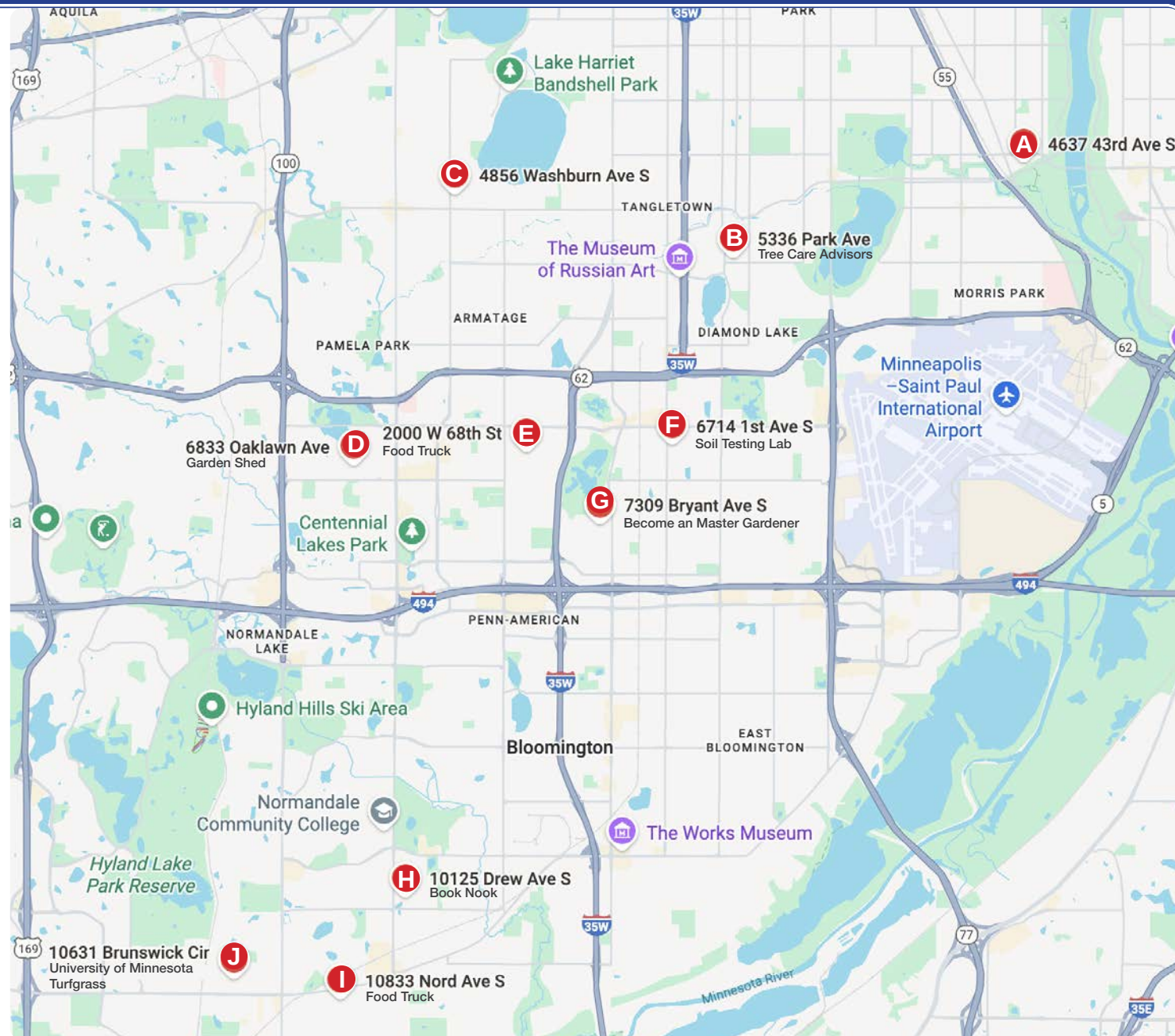
2026 TOUR MAP

Learning Garden Tour

Saturday, July 11, 2026
8:30 am-4:30 pm

- A. 4637 43rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
- B. 5336 Park Ave, Minneapolis, MN
** MN Tree Care Advisors*
- C. 4856 Washburn Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
- D. 6833 Oaklawn Ave, Minneapolis, MN
** Garden Shed*
- E. 2000 W 68th St, Minneapolis, MN
** Food Truck*
- F. 6714 1st Ave S, Richfield, MN
** University of Minnesota
 U of M Soil Testing Lab*
- G. 7309 Bryant Ave S, Richfield, MN
** How to Become a Master Gardener*
- H. 10125 Drew Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
** Book Nook*
- I. 10833 Nord Ave S, Minneapolis, MN
** Food Truck*
- J. 10631 Brunswick Cir, Minneapolis, MN
** U of M Turfgrass Science*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
 FOR NEXT YEAR'S
 LEARNING GARDEN TOUR
 JULY 10, 2027**



ICON KEY:

Look for the icons on each host garden spread for concentrated areas of interest.
 (Note: You'll find annuals and vegetables at most gardens!)



pollinators



bird sanctuary



turfless



shade



water feature



vegetables



compost



native plants



dry creek



cut flowers



raised beds



herbs

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- Organic Soils & Amendments
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- Year-Round Educational Events & Workshops
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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.

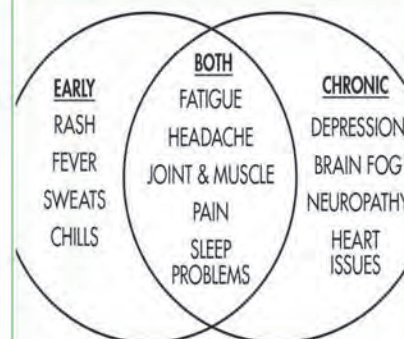


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LYME DISEASE SYMPTOMS



LYME DISEASE QUICK FACTS

476,000

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That's more than Hepatitis, HIV,
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\$24K

ESTIMATED ANNUAL
COST PER PATIENT
WITH CHRONIC LYME

1 TICK MANY DISEASES

Borreliosis / Lyme
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Borrelia Miyamotoi
Borrelia Mayonii
Powassan Virus

Babesiosis
Tularemia
Ehrlichiosis
Anaplasmosis
Bartonella

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





This Master Gardener says: Over the 46 years that we've lived here, our sunny garden has become mostly shaded, a change that prompted me to switch from growing fruits and vegetables to growing annuals and perennials.

I'd describe my garden as eclectic because I have a bad case of "one-of-everything-itis." However, I've planned it so that something is always in bloom, colors are distributed evenly, and plant heights are graduated. Our garden demonstrates that anyone can create beauty over time and on a small budget by doing the work themselves, as my husband and I have done.

Our biggest gardening challenges are rabbits and squirrels; we do our best to protect our seedlings, bulbs, and produce from them. Creeping bellflower seems to pop up everywhere even though I pull it, dig it, and paint its leaves with herbicide. We tried to fight creeping Charlie for years but finally quit. Some of our hostas may have Hosta Virus X, and we will likely remove and destroy the plants this summer.

Digging in the dirt is one of my favorite things to do, and my husband likes to harvest food. Both of us love to laugh at the antics of the creatures that visit our bird bath and fountain. Our garden is a source of beauty, peace, and wonder.

► **University of Minnesota Soil Testing Lab booth at this garden**

Top 10 Plants

1. Hosta
Plantain Lily 'Whirlwind'
2. Bleeding Hearts
Dicentra (Lamprocapnos) 'Gold Heart'
3. Hydrangea Tree
Hydrangea Paniculata 'Pink Diamond'
4. Smoke Bush
Continus Coggygria 'Ancor'
5. Variegated Sedum
Sedum 'Frosted Fire'
6. Hosta
Plantain Lily 'Blue Mouse Ears'
7. Irish and Scotch Moss
Sagina Subulata, Sabina Subulata 'Aurea'
8. Clematis
Clematis 'Pink Mink'
9. Climbing Rose
Rosa 'John Cabot', Rosa 'William Baffin'
10. Blueberries
Vaccinium 'Polaris'

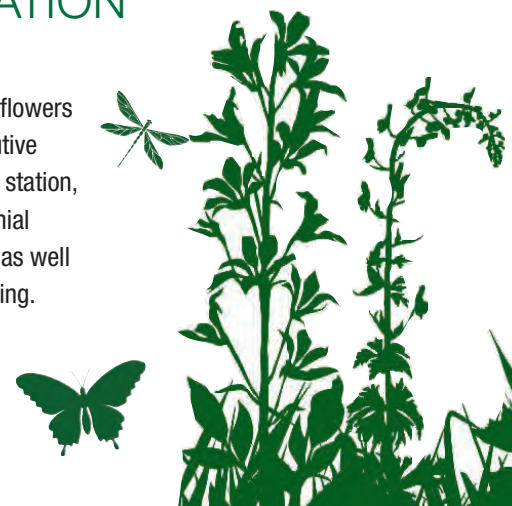


Located at Garden F

EDUCATION STATION

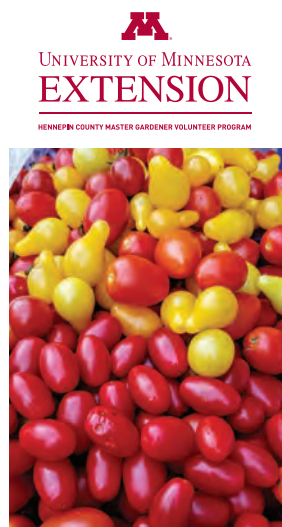
Perennial Gardening

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.



GARDENS FOR GOOD

Donating produce to our community



**Want to learn
how to donate
produce?**



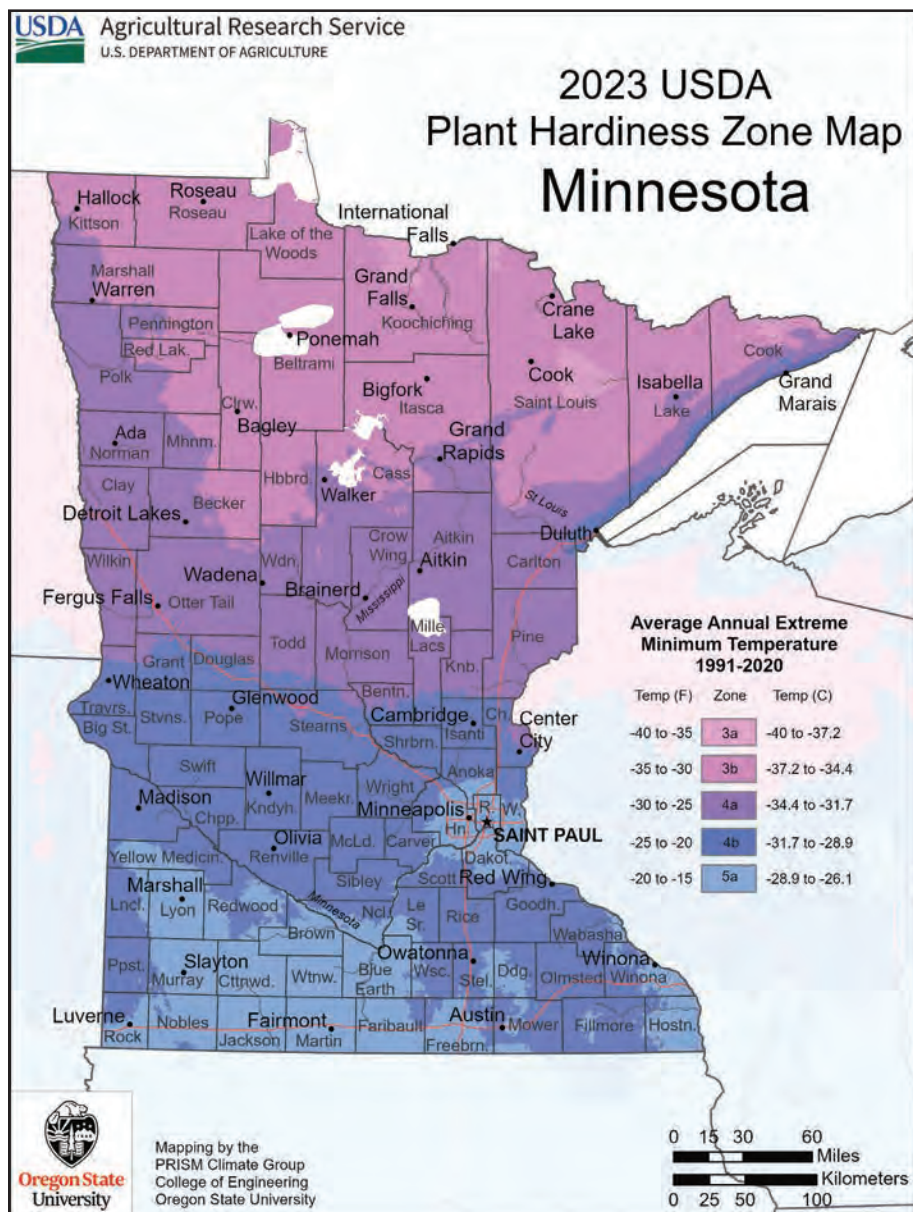
z.umn.edu/donatefood

Winter Hardiness in MN — It's Complicated!

The USDA recently revised hardiness zones for MN with the Metro Area now in zone 5A, one zone warmer than previous years. While this may open up opportunities for trying different plants, it doesn't guarantee success.

See a more complete explanation at the UMN Extension website:

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/new-plant-hardiness-zone-map-usda>



Grow Yourself Inside



Saturday, October 3

**Eisenhower Community Center
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Indoor Gardening Academy

9am to 12pm

Classes and demonstrations by experts

\$30 early registration fee

Registration opens late August

Houseplant Sale

12pm to 3pm

Over 2000 Houseplants for sale

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Free and open to the public

Learn more at hennepinmastergardeners.org/events/houseplant-sale





This Master Gardener says: Soon after we moved into our house in 2011, we built five raised garden beds in which I grew vegetables and pollinator-friendly plants. A decade later, the beds had deteriorated and my gardening interests had changed, so I decided to redesign the garden to feature the cut flowers I had grown to love.

The design you see today embodies the structure and softness of English gardens. The beds are laid out neatly, but the blooms spill together. I was inspired by Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden book and a Floret workshop that I took in 2020.

Because I grow mostly cut flowers, I aim for a balance of beauty and productivity. I use sustainable practices like composting, mulching, and hand weeding, and I'm always experimenting with new plant varieties and gardening techniques.

One of my challenges in the garden is managing the invasive weeds—buckthorn, creeping bellflower, and creeping Charlie—that require constant vigilance and hand-pulling. Other challenges include recognizing and treating or removing plants afflicted with powdery mildew, aster yellows, and dahlia virus. These challenges have taught me the value of patience, observation, and creative problem-solving.

My favorite garden feature is the fountain, which is the heart of the garden. Birds drink from it, bees hover nearby, and the soft trickling sound of the water creates a soothing backdrop for the garden's color and movement.

Top 10 Plants

1. Anemone
Anemone coronaria
2. Agrostemma (Corncockle)
Agrostemma githago
3. Lisianthus
Eustoma grandiflorum
4. Snapdragon
Antirrhinum majus
5. Dahlia
Dahlia
6. Scabiosa (Pincushion flower)
Scabiosa atropurpurea
7. Stock
Matthiola incana
8. Ammi
Ammi majus
9. Campanula
Campanula medium
10. Bells of Ireland
Moluccella laevis



Located at Garden G

EDUCATION STATION

Cut Flower Gardening

Imagine stepping outside and having all the elements you need to create a beautiful bouquet! A cutting garden prioritizes growing flowers and foliage for harvesting rather than landscape impact. At this garden, you'll learn about the basic elements of a bouquet, how to select appropriate plants, site design, and best practices for harvesting.





This Master Gardener says: After gardening at many different locations, we purchased our current home in 2015. The yard was a typical suburban lot with 90% lawn, an area of snow on the mountain, and a large patch of vines and trees that had planted themselves. Our renovation began with a few plants from my original garden.

We learned that one of the drains for the nearby storm water management pond was right in front of our house, so we applied for a watershed district grant to put in a rain garden. The grant provided money to buy plants, specifically the natives we were becoming more familiar with. Digging the rain garden resulted in a lot of dirt so, instead of paying for it to be hauled away, we decided to create a berm along the front of our yard and start planting that.

Our goals are to reduce lawn and increase the abundance of plants — on a budget. I seek out free and discounted plants online and at garden centers. We spend time at garden centers looking at clearance plants and deals. At the end of the season you can often find hugely discounted plants that look sad, but may come back the next year.

My style of gardening is pretty casual. I toss things in and see what happens, move them if they need to be moved, and try to add native plants, but still like some of the classic non natives. I use conifers, trees, and shrubs as much as possible for year-round interest, and of course, I love summer annuals, especially the ones the butterflies like too. I am strictly organic. If something is a problem, I find a solution or move that plant along. I have a little creeping bellflower and goutweed. For both I use a small pick ax tool and dig it out deeply. Occasionally I have to pull an entire plant out, rinse off the roots and inspect it closely to pull out roots of both weeds. Even the smallest piece of either will take root.

My husband is my gardening partner and we love gardening together. It's a lot of physical work which is always a good excuse for an ice cream treat. I'll carry on gardening until I can no longer do it — continuing to learn and share my garden with others.

Top 10 Plants

1. Various Conifers
Pinophyta spp.
2. Bee balm
Monarda
3. Stonecrop
Sedum
4. Prairie smoke
Triflorum
5. Leopard plant
Ligularia dentata
6. Goats beard
Arunco dioicus
7. Little bluestem
Schizachyrium
8. Japanese maple
Acer palmatum
9. Little joe pye weed
Eupatorium dubium
10. Zinnia
Zinnia elegans

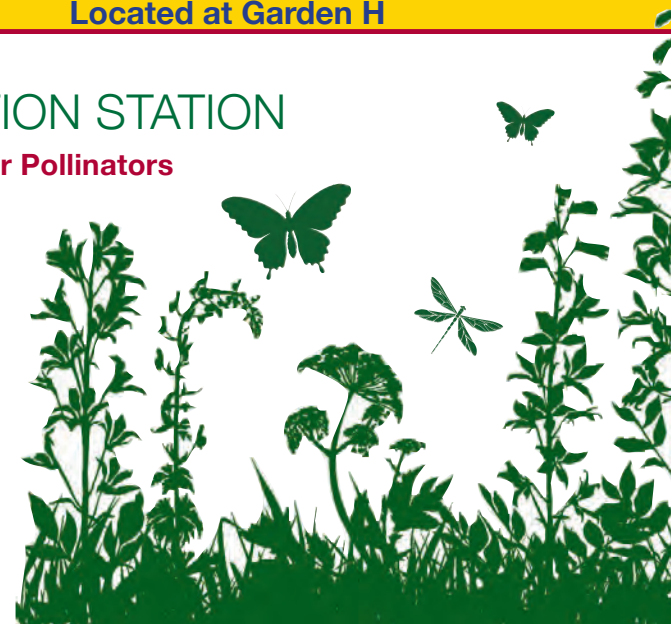


Located at Garden H

EDUCATION STATION

Gardening for Pollinators

Create a
pollinator-friendly
garden while
reducing pest
insects to support
the health of our
ecosystems.



Located at Garden H

The BOOK NOOK

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

HENNEPIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



This Master Gardener says: When we bought our house in 2003, the yard was a monoculture of grass and a few common trees. Now it is full of a diversity of trees, shrubs, vines, and plants with edible value.

We created our first garden in the front yard to solve two problems: cover the surface roots of the maple tree that kept getting nicked by the lawnmower and fill the area under the low branches of the cedar tree where the grass was hard to cut. Incrementally I have taken over more grass each year using cardboard and wood chips until mowing the remaining grass on my entire lot takes just 15 minutes.

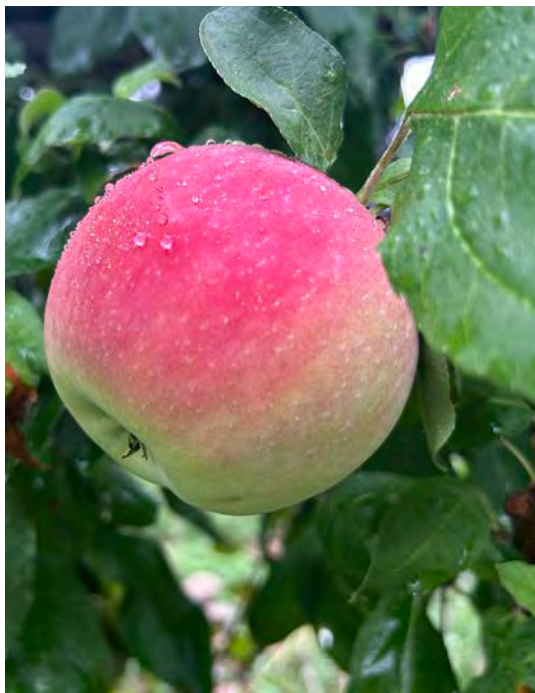
I have encountered many challenges in the garden, including sandy soil, chewing rabbits, squirrel and raccoon thieves, and this last fall, jumping worms. Despite these troubles, I have great delight meandering through my yard snacking and picking what is there. From the garden I make dinner for my family and preserve the rest of the harvest for the off-season using a variety of methods.

What started as a solution to a mowing problem grew into what I feel is an expression of my creative energy to make my own little Eden. It has all the varieties of fruit trees that I can grow in Minnesota, unique vegetables that are beautiful to look at and that differ from those readily available in my local stores, and an abundance of herbs for cooking and teas. Gardening for me is an experiment, an adventure, and always has a great story.

► **Food Truck at this garden from 11am-2pm**

Top 10 Plants

1. North Star Cherry Tree
Prunus cerasus 'North Star'
2. Blushing Star Peach
Prunus Persica 'Blushing Star'
3. Zestar! Apple
Malus domestica
4. Lemon Verbena
Aloysia citrodora
5. Pineapple Sage
Salvia elegans
6. Vera lavender
Lavandula angustifolia 'Vera'
7. Bread and Salt tomato
Solanum lycopersicum
8. Armenian Yard Long Cucumber
Cucumis melo
9. Lesya Pepper
Capsicum annuum
10. Aji Dulce Pepper
Capsicum chinense



Located at Garden C

EDUCATION STATION

Growing Fruits

Harvesting fruit from your own home garden is a satisfying experience both in flavor and for the pocketbook.

There is nothing to compare to the enjoyment of a homemade apple pie or berry compote made from fruit grown in your own backyard.

At this garden, learn about the many different varieties of fruit that can be grown at home.



CONTACT US:
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This Master Gardener says: When we moved into our house in 2022, we started gardening right away. Our first task was removing unwanted “rockscapes” and preparing the yard for native plants by adding soil and mulch. We received a grant from Minnesota’s Lawns to Legumes program that helped us purchase native plants from a local greenhouse. We spent the spring and summer of 2023 putting in the native plants, and we also built raised beds for vegetables and fruits.

The garden grew explosively. Plants that shouldn’t have reached their maximum size for another two or three years were fully grown by 2024. I credit the soil, mulch, and thunderstorms. In 2025, we decided to buy another native plant package for a different part of our yard. Even if this second garden doesn’t grow as quickly as the first, it will be beautiful.

Our main gardening challenge has been the removal of the rockscapes that were once considered a “zero maintenance” solution to weeds. I can attest that they are not zero maintenance, and it cost us a few thousand dollars to have nearly 20 tons of rock removed from our yard.

Our other garden challenges include managing unwelcome plants like crab grass, spider grass, creeping Charlie, common purslane, and black nightshade. We remove them by manual weeding, and we’ve had some success choking them out with mulch as well as growing native plants to outcompete them.

Perennials populate most of our garden, but we replant dahlia bulbs and elephant ear bulbs every year. I love that our garden is host to a variety of pollinators, including Minnesota bee species. I enjoy going outside and counting and photographing the distinct types of insects in our yard. I also love seeing—and smelling—all the flowers in our garden, especially the roses.

► University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science booth at this garden

Top 10 Plants

1. Cup Plant
Silphium perfoliatum
2. Anise Hyssop
Agastache foeniculum
3. Great Blanket Flower
Gaillardia aristata
4. Virginia Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum virginianum
5. Prairie Blazing Star
Liatris pycnostachya
6. Red Bee Balm
Monarda didyma
7. Showy Milkweed
Asclepias speciosa
8. Cranesbill Geranium Rozanne
Geranium ‘Rozanne’
9. Eastern Redbud Tree
Cercis canadensis
10. Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans



Located at Garden J

EDUCATION STATION

Gardening on a Budget

Want to stretch your gardening dollars?

Visit this education station to learn key strategies for budget-friendly gardening, including dividing and swapping plants, starting from seed, repurposing containers, and identifying local grant opportunities.



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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.

In 2025, 741 Extension Master Gardener volunteers in Hennepin County contributed 49,125 hours of service! That's the equivalent to 23 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 also ad page 31



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