I have always enjoyed observing butterflies in the wild. When my boys were little, we would take walks along our road in Saratoga County, NY, and go on a butterfly hunt looking for monarchs and monarch caterpillars on milkweed plants. About eight years ago, monarchs were abundant and so easy to find! This year, I have seen only one. Because of the rapid decline in the populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators, it was important to me and the Schenectady County Master Gardeners to grow, plant and teach people about the importance of pollinator plants. Since milkweed is a native plant and essential to the monarch butterfly lifecycle, we chose two varieties of milkweed to grow. Last fall I collected the seed pods and seed from swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) that I had growing in my own garden. We ordered seeds of butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) through a seed company.

*Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp milkweed) is a favorite in my garden. This perennial is native to most of the continental U.S. and eastern Canada. It prefers full sun to partial shade and will grow four to six feet high and should be spaced two to three feet. During its long summer bloom period it produces pink-scented flowers with highlights of purple, and it makes a nice cut flower. It is a popular nectar source for monarchs and other pollinators. Don’t be surprised to find buckeyes, bumblebees, eastern tiger swallows, fritillaries, giant swallowtails, hairstreaks, honeybees hummingbird moths, hummingbirds, skippers and spicebush swallowtails on your plants. Photos 1 and 2 show great spangled fritillaries on swamp milkweed.
Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly weed) is a hardy North American native perennial growing up to three feet tall. It bears dense, flattened clusters of bright neon orange flowers that bloom in early summer. Butterfly weed is easily grown in average, well-drained soil in full sun. It is drought tolerant. Mature plants will freely self-seed in the landscape if seed pods are not removed. Butterfly weed does not transplant well due to its deep taproot, and is best left undisturbed once it establishes itself. It is another favorite of mine in the garden because of its color and attractiveness to monarchs as well as many other insect species, including the large milkweed bug, common milkweed bug, red milkweed beetle, blue milkweed beetle, and bees. Photo 3 shows butterfly weed in all its orange glory.

And last but not least, let’s not forget to mention the milkweed we are all familiar with, the common milkweed, Asclepias syriaca. Although it is a weed that most gardeners may prefer to do without, the plant attracts numerous species of pollinators including an assortment of butterflies and beneficial bees. Plus, it is deer resistant. The big pink blossoms smell incredible when they are in bloom! Note that it does spread rapidly by underground rhizomes, so you may choose not to incorporate it into your main flower gardens.

Propagating Milkweed (Photo 4). Milkweed plants are becoming more common in local garden centers and seed can be purchased through reputable seed companies. The Xerces Society has launched a “Milkweed Seed Finder” database to make locating seeds and transplants in your state easier.

Milkweed is easily propagated from seed. If you choose to collect seeds, it should be done in the fall, once the seedpod has ripened but before it has split open. When collecting “wild” seeds, please obtain permission from the property owner. To ensure that you maintain a genetic diversity and that you leave seed for wildlife and self-sowing, do not over-collect in one area. Be aware that milkweed sap can harm eyes. Paper bags work well for collecting. Before removing the seedpod, place a bag over it to avoid the seeds from dispersing in the wind. Seeds can be directly sewn into the ground in the fall. Remove any sod and/or weeds and proceed to cultivate the soil to a fine tilth. If you are planting seeds in flats indoors, the seed requires a cold treatment or stratification period before sowing. Mix milkweed seeds with one to three times their volume of sand, peat moss, or vermiculite. Place the mixture in a glass jar with a perforated lid or other container that provides aeration. After stratification, remove the container from the refrigerator or freezer and thaw. You can separate the seeds from the medium, or allow the seeds to remain in the medium for the germination process. Sow seeds immediately. Optimum germination temperature is 65 to 80 F. For best results, use fluorescent lights and bottom heat, if available. Or, if you are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse, seeds can be started in there.

Over the years, milkweed and nectar sources have declined due to development, the use of herbicides and mowing along roadsides. Butterfly gardens within these areas provide habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. To offset the loss of milkweed, we can help by planting milkweed in open areas and in our gardens. In addition to their benefits to butterflies and other pollinators, gardens serve to educate children and adults on the importance of pollinators, their lifecycles and conservation issues, and how we can help.

Text and photos by Angela Tompkins
Times were very different in 1916 when Cornell University established a Cooperative Extension to serve Albany County residents, mainly farmers. Leading up to this point, in the early 1800’s, people were moving west to find land to farm. Since the late 1830’s many legislators had been proposing the establishment of agricultural colleges to help people learn good farming practices. It was President Lincoln who signed the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 that established Land Grant colleges and universities that would teach people how to farm the land and care for their animals.

Recognizing that new farmers had little time to attend formal classes, the colleges developed a vehicle to extend agricultural knowledge. Thus, Cooperative Extension was born as an educational outreach in each county. In 1914, the passage of the Smith-Lever Act formalized and strengthened the relationship between Land Grant colleges and their Extensions as it provided for federal funds to Land Grant colleges to support Cooperative Extension Associations.

Much has changed in the last one hundred years with the tremendous economic growth of the 1900’s, the expansion of agriculture and transportation systems, wars, and advances in medicine that led to longer lifespans. Today, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Albany County still serves as a link from Cornell University’s Land Grant programs to citizens in Albany County; it is research-based information delivered in a practical way to help people solve real life problems and it remains comprehensive covering agriculture and horticulture, the community, the environment, nutrition, youth and family. Most recently CCE has been a part of a regional network to help farmers cope with extreme weather and climate variability, a Climate Smart Farming Team. For each of us who work under the banner of CCE there is a sense of this rich history and a strong responsibility to preserving these services not only for the present but for future generations. Scott Peters, an associate professor of education in the Horticulture Department at Cornell University, says it best in this excerpt from one of his speeches:

“There’s something in the spirit of the land-grant system and mission that is enduring and compelling… it represents and embodies some of our highest and best ideals and values—including our belief in and commitment to democracy. It’s both a challenge and a responsibility to carry it forward into this century, not as an antique museum piece, but a living, evolving and dynamic force in our public life and work.”
Anyone who is into gardening has undoubtedly spent a lot of time this summer holding the end of a hose to keep some thirsty plants alive. But just how dry is it? An excellent website entitled U.S. Drought Monitor can be found at http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/ and provides extensive drought information for all 50 states. As of July 26, most of our area of New York was classified as “unusually dry,” while west and south of us conditions are even worse. If we can’t make it rain, at least we can look at a map and wish it would rain.
We’re used to being told that “the time is now” to get the best deal on new living room furniture, give to charity or start losing weight. Unfortunately, I’m here to add one more to-do to your list: if you’ve got an ash tree, make a plan to save it, or sharpen your chainsaw. Emerald ash borer (EAB) is here and spreading. But unlike that limited-time offer on a mattress, this beetle isn’t going away anytime soon.

The trees in trouble aren’t all that obvious, not just yet. Soon we’ll be able to see trees dying from the seat of a car cruising along at 55 m.p.h, but now I’m finding the beginnings of the impending tragedy best while under my own power. Almost three and a half miles down the main trail of Schodack Island State Park, I turned around and saw an ash clearly infested by EAB. A kayak trip around the island last week showed some ash infested and declining, while others are green and healthy. Bicycling down Eichybush Road in the Town of Stuyvesant, one home’s front yard ash has EAB, while the neighbor’s tree appears clean. Along Schodack Landing, Goold and Sutherland Roads infested trees stand as silent sentinels. A resident reported a street tree in sad shape in the City of Rensselaer, and I was able to confirm EAB there, too. If seeing EAB from the air-conditioned comfort of your automobile is more your speed, check out they infested ashes in the parking lots of the Hannaford Supermarket in East Greenbush and the Dinosaur Barbeque in Troy. These first-infested trees are serving as canaries in the outdoor coal mine. Are we savvy enough to notice?

The initial signs of an EAB infestation are obscure, but as the pest population builds and the trees expire, the issue becomes clearer. The adult borers themselves, smaller than a penny, are hard to find. When they finish pupating and emerge from the tree trunk, they create a “D”-shaped hole, also tricky to detect. Woodpeckers, delighted to dine on the EAB larvae which are tunneling beneath the bark, peck and poke along the trunks and stems. This feeding activity removes pieces of the darker outer bark, exposing patches of lighter-colored, or blonde, wood. This blonding gives us one of the most conspicuous clues the borers are present, but unfortunately also indicates a well-infested tree. As the upper branches die, ash trees often produce a flush of new, vigorous shoots along the trunk, in perhaps a last-ditch effort to stay alive.

EAB not only kills trees, it hits you in the wallet, too. Dead trees will need to be cut down and removed to avoid possible damage to anything below when they fall. Barren landscapes will need to be re-planted with other tree species to obtain the arboreal benefits of shade, wind protection, beauty and privacy. Specimen trees in landscapes can be protected with insecticides applied either by homeowners or professionals, but this can be costly, most products need to be re-applied every two or three years, and there is no guarantee for success. Only professionals with special training can perform the required tree injections. Get to know these folks soon – going forward, they’re going to be plenty busy.
I won’t go so far as to say I enjoy the misery of others, but sometimes it seems that way. While I pity gardeners faced with insect invasions, weed infestations and plants under duress, seeing biology in action and solving mysteries for people with questions gets my juices flowing. Everywhere, August is showing us the good, the bad and the buggy.

Some insects which are difficult to see can do noticeable damage quickly. One such culprit is the twig pruner, a small beetle which lays eggs in tree branches in spring. The resulting larvae tunnel inside the twig, causing it to snap, fall off and litter the lawn below. The favored tree species locally is oak, although several other hardwoods might be attacked. Squirrels, blamable for so many other garden ills, might be wrongly fingered here. To confirm the twig pruner is involved, check the cut end of the fallen twig for a diminutive oval-shaped hole plugged with frass (a.k.a., sawdust-like poop). The action plan includes removing and destroying the twigs (to break the insect’s lifecycle) and giving a nod of tolerance to the squirrels.

Email brings us a daily dose of garden-variety troubles. A photo of a swath of plants with very large, umbrella-like leaves came for identification, with a note that the plants make good toad habitat. I determined it was a patch of a Petasites species, also known as butterbur, pestilence wort or flapperdock. I hope the owner likes it, as it is capable of spreading over a town-sized area via powerful rhizomes. Another photo of a large, mahogany-colored beetle also arrived for classification. Huge jaws on the top of its head make it look eager to inflict a painful bite, but this creature, a male stag beetle, rarely hurts humans. He is judged by females of his type by the size of his mandibles. Also in email were photos of the top of a dying sugar maple. While the highest branches are clearly in trouble, the cause likely lies below ground, with a girdling root.

While digital photos are wonderful, an actual plant sample best reveals the tiniest insects, and this seems to be the year of the thrips. One day eggplant leaves full of thrips arrived, the next day basil leaves, and at home I have daylilies full of thrips, too. While measuring a minuscule one millimeter in length, they can do a whopping amount of damage to flowers, fruits and foliage in the form of scarring, twisting and discoloration. Strong magnification and a dose of patience is needed to find them.

Other phenomena are large but sometimes largely unnoticed. Driving along the Thruway last week, I gradually noticed miles of dead shrubs in the fencerows. Then I saw the same along my own road. While I have yet to investigate, I think it is a massive die-off of multiflora rose, an invasive pest once sponsored by government planting programs. The killer, rose rosette virus, is doing us a favor, but what weed will take multiflora’s place?
Few weeks ago, I got a call from my brother in Oxford, Massachusetts requesting my assistance in diagnosing and treating a problem he had with his Rudbeckia ‘Goldsturm.’ He told me that the leaves of these plants had black spots with bumps that resembled “zits.” Looking at my own Rudbeckia, I also had black spots on the leaves that I thought were probably one of the common leaf spot diseases, and there were no “zits”.

Following my Master Gardener training, I asked him to bring me a few leaves since he was coming over to visit me the following weekend. Sure enough, he remembered to bring the leaves which indeed had a purplish-black spots with greenish raised bumps. Realizing that this was definitely not what was on my own Rudbeckia, I began to search the internet for similar photos. Since these spots were very distinctive, I was able to quickly find some similar photos that indicated that they were caused by the nymphal stage of an insect called Rubeckia psyllid (Bactericera antennata).

Further searching has failed to turn up a great deal of information for this creature. Scientists have found them as far away as Central America but don’t understand their biology completely. Some call them psyllids, others triozids, with one colorful common name being “jumping plant lice.” There are many other types of psyllids on other types of plants, however. In general, psyllids are host specific so that an infestation of one plant type will not spread to another. Adults overwinter in crevices on tree trunks. In early spring they mate and females begin depositing orange-yellow eggs in the crevices about the buds, and after the foliage is out, on the leaves. Hatching occurs in 4-15 days. Yellow to green nymphs pass through five in instars in 2-3 weeks before reaching the adult stage. There are one to five generations per year depending on species.

According to the University of Massachusetts, nymphs of Rudbeckia psyllid feed by inserting their needle-like mouthparts into lower surfaces of the leaf and sucking out plant juices. This feeding causes a distinct, shallow depression on the lower leaf surface and purple-like spots. The nymph has been found in Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

While I did not see any adults, when I examined the underside of the Rudbeckia leaves, I did see small oval greenish-yellow grain-like bits that I assume were the nymphs. However, I did not have a strong enough magnifying glass to distinguish any features.

The take-home message is that we now should be on the lookout for this new pest in our neighborhood!
Ode To A Rose

I compare ‘Knock Out’ roses to my Toyota car … both are very dependable, long lasting and pretty carefree if the routine maintenance is performed.

Will Radler is the landscape architect and rose breeder who developed the original ‘Knock Out’ Rose. He is the owner of Rose Innovations, a firm he runs out of his home with the help of a small staff, and he says all that he has is due to the ‘Knock Out’ Rose, a low-maintenance shrub rose he started working on in 1974 and introduced in 2000. It was a 2000 AARS (All-America Rose Selections) winner and hit a record for sales of a new rose. Tens of millions of ‘Knock Out’ roses have been planted in the United States since 2000, and they ultimately all came from the cuttings of one plant in Greenfield, Wisconsin. The ‘Knock Out’ rose bush is one of the most popular roses in North America, and it continues to sell very well.

This variety can be planted individually, in mixed beds or in borders. They provide a colorful hedge or they can be planted along a foundation to provide a bright border. They prefer full sun in USDA Hardiness Zones 5 to 11, will grow three to four feet high and wide without pruning and require a once a year cut (to about 12-18" above the ground) in early spring after the last hard frost. This is recommended for maximum performance. Although ‘Knock Out’ roses are hardy, they will need some winter protection. They are extremely heat tolerant and will do well in sunny and hot locations. These roses are also resistant to blackspot and mildew. They continue blooming to a hard frost in the fall and don’t need to have the spent blooms cut off.

Additionally, the ‘Knock Out’ family of roses offers seven colors. Some of the current family members are ‘Knock Out,’ ‘Double Knock Out,’ ‘Pink Knock Out,’ ‘Double Pink Knock Out,’ ‘Rainbow Knock Out,’ ‘Blushing Knock Out,’ and ‘Sunny Knock Out’ (has a slight fragrance).

When caring for ‘Knock Out’ roses, feeding them a good organic or chemical granular rose food for their first spring feeding is recommended to get them off to a good start. Foliar feedings from then on until the last feeding of the season works just fine to keep them well fed, happy and blooming. The Knock Out line of rose bushes is bred to be a low maintenance and low need for care rose bush.

Text and photo by Rensselaer County Master Gardener Bette DiNovo
What to do in July & August?

* Water, water, water!
* Be sure your plants get at least one inch of water per week. It is better to water in the morning or the evening; avoid the heat of the day when a lot of water would be lost in evaporation. A soaker hose system is a good way to water as no moisture gets on the foliage which can spread disease. If you’re using a sprinkler system, set a can in the garden to help measure the amount of water you’re putting on.
* Don’t prune or fertilize trees and shrubs now. Any growth stimulated will liked not harden before winter and will be killed.
* As the daylilies open their last buds, it is time to remove the old flower stems and brown foliage. All daylilies will respond to cutting back to the ground now by putting out new foliage for the fall. Some will even re-bloom.
* Don’t mow your lawn if it is dormant (brown). It is not necessary, wastes gasoline and can actually damage the crowns of the plants, which will make the lawn’s recovery when rains return even more difficult.
* Deadhead your annuals to encourage them to produce more flowering. This removal of spent blooms, accompanied by an application of fertilizer, will extend the beauty of your planting farther into the autumn.
* Container plants will also probably require pinching back. The plant will respond with new, thicker growth and a much more attractive appearance.
* Start to monitor for white grubs in your lawn in mid-August and continue through late September. See the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WIFBcV3I_w
* Move houseplants back into a shady location to prepare them for the return to the house.
* Second crops of spinach, peas, beets, radishes, and lettuce can be planted, if you have the time and water available. Your garden soil may need a boost of compost or light fertilizing before seeding second crops.
* Take time to be attentive to yourself also. Don’t forget to use your sunscreen and drink plenty of water or have cool lemonade of ice tea on hand after working in the garden.
ESTABLISHING A LAWN FROM SEED

With this summer’s hot and dry conditions, we may soon find that many lawns are dead. Here is our fact sheet on how to start over.

The establishment of a home lawn is a task that should not be taken lightly. Following proper establishment procedures and planting high quality seed are the keys to successfully establishing a lawn.

Time of seeding
The best time to seed a lawn in most of New York is between August 15 and September 15. Fall planting is preferred to spring and summer seeding because seeds germinate and grow rapidly in the warm soil. The warm days and cool nights are ideal for seedling growth and there is also less weed competition in fall than in early spring. Establishment in spring and summer is possible when irrigation is available, but infestation with annual weeds will likely be a problem.

Follow these steps carefully to establish a new lawn:
1. Remove existing vegetation. If there is existing weedy vegetation on the site, especially of the type with persistent stems or root systems, it will need to be removed. If this step is skipped, these weeds (such as quackgrass or ground ivy) will most likely appear in the new lawn. Removal is best accomplished by using a broad-spectrum herbicide (such as glyphosate). If only annual weeds are on the site, then this step can be safely skipped.
2. Modify the soil. If the native soil is extremely rocky, droughty, compacted or poorly drained, you may wish to make modifications, such as installing underground drainage or irrigation lines. For soils that are either very sandy or high in clay, adding four to six inches of loam, and/or rototilling four to six inches of high quality compost into the soil, will be beneficial. This is the only opportunity you have to modify the soil, so take advantage of it.
3. Soil test. The only way you can know what amendments are needed is to send a sample of soil to a laboratory for pH and nutrient analysis. Due to a New York State law which restricts the use of phosphorous on lawns, it is important to determine if the soil needs additional phosphorous, because it is most easily added during the establishment process. Getting a soil sample tested by a lab takes a few weeks, so it is best done well before you plan to plant the seed, but after soil modifications are done. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County can test soil for pH in-house for a modest fee, and can help you send your soil off to a lab for a nutrient analysis. Contact us for details.
4. Establish a rough grade. Eliminate low spots, large rocks, roots, etc.
5. Apply lime or sulfur. Use these products as directed by the results of the pH test and rototill them into the top six inches of soil. Do not add lime or sulfur without a soil test. There is no way to know the pH level without testing.
6. Rake and remove any debris.
7. Firm the soil surface by lightly rolling or watering (if necessary).
8. Apply fertilizer. If you have your soil test report, follow the recommendations for applying fertilizer based on the results. If you didn’t have your soil tested, you should apply a “turfgrass starter fertilizer” (these are special products sold under this general name) at the rate recommended on the label. Rake the fertilizer into the top few inches of soil.
9. **Sow the seed.** Select a seed mixture containing improved varieties that are suited to your site and the projected uses of the lawn. See the fact sheet “Turfgrass Species: A Description of Grasses to Grow in the Capital District of New York State” (#7.441) for help in choosing what type of seed to purchase. Broadcast the seed uniformly over the area using a drop or rotary spreader. Achieve a uniform rate by seeding in opposite directions after setting the spreader to deliver at ½ the desired rate. Excessive seeding rates create too much competition between the seedlings, so resist the temptation to apply the seed heavily. Seeding at the correct rate encourages tillering, which is the lateral development of the grass plants.

10. **Rake.** Using very light pressure, rake the seed into the top 1/8 to 1/4 inch of soil. While some seed may remain visible, it will still germinate better than if it is buried too deeply.

11. **Roll.** Lightly roll the area to establish good seed-to-soil contact, but avoid causing more soil compaction.

12. **Weed control (especially for crabgrass and other annuals in spring).** Unless prevented, crabgrass and other aggressive annual weeds can take over a new lawn, especially when starting in the spring. Crabgrass seed lies dormant in the soil for years, waiting for just the right opportunity to germinate. Garden centers sell herbicides that stop crabgrass from germinating, but only products containing either siduron or mesotrione are both available to homeowners and safe on newly seeded areas. Read the list of active ingredients on the package to know what herbicide is inside. These herbicides are sometimes packaged with starter fertilizer to make a “combination product.” Remember that most herbicides are NOT safe on newly seeded lawns – they will prevent the crabgrass AND the grass seed from germinating. Read the labels carefully before purchasing.

13. **Mulch.** Use weed-free straw uniformly over the area to conserve moisture and reduce erosion on sloping ground. Apply approximately one bale per 1,000 square feet of area. Do not use pasture hay as it contains abundant weed seeds. Other effective mulching materials are made from wood fiber or excelsior (formed into blankets) and newsprint (made into pellets). A thin layer (less than ¼ inch) of very fine, weed-free compost can also serve as a mulch.

14. **Water.** Keep the soil surface moist to prevent the seeds from drying out. This often requires light (five to ten minutes), frequent (twice daily) watering for two to three weeks after seeding. Gradually reduce the water after the seedlings emerge to encourage deeper rooting. Once grass covers about 60 percent of the ground, the surface can be allowed to dry to a greater degree between waterings.

15. **Fertilize.** About three weeks after the seedlings emerge, apply a lawn fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet (this will most likely be indicated on the bag). This will increase shoot density and the seedling’s ability to withstand diseases such as rust.

16. **Mow.** Once more than 60% of the grass reaches at least two to three inches, start mowing. Mowing encourages lateral shoot development, increases stand density, and helps the turf out-compete the weeds. Make sure your mower blade is sharp. Dull blades can tear young seedlings from the soil. Set the mower to cut the grass to a height of three to four inches.

17. **Broadleaf weeds.** After you have completed the task of establishing your lawn, you will notice broadleaf weeds germinate amongst the grass seedlings. Most broadleaf weeds can be easily controlled with a selective herbicide after the turf is established. In general, it is safe to apply most such herbicides after the lawn has been mowed at least two times, but read the product label for specific instructions.

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This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office.

**READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.**
“Oh, little rose tree, bloom! Summer is nearly over.
The dahlias bleed, and the phlox is seed.
Nothing’s left of the clover.
And the path of the poppy no one knows.
I would blossom if I were a rose.”

Edna St. Vincent Millay
(1892-1950, poet and resident of Austerlitz, NY)

Gardening Questions?
Call The Master Gardeners!

In Albany County: Call 765-3514 weekdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and ask to speak to a Master Gardener. You can also email your questions by visiting their website at www.ccealbany.com.

In Schenectady County: Call 372-1622 from 9:00 AM to Noon, follow the prompt to speak to a Master Gardener and press #1. You can also email your questions by visiting their website at http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/schenectady/.

In Rensselaer County: Call 272-4210 from 9:00 AM to Noon and ask to speak to a Master Gardener. You can also email your questions to Dhc3@cornell.edu.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County
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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County
Angie Tompkins (amj22@cornell.edu and (518) 372-1622)

“Root Concerns: Notes from the underground” is a shared publication of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer, Albany and Schenectady Counties. It is published by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County.
“Using Herbs Throughout The Seasons” Wednesday, July 27 from 7 to 8 PM.
Explore the varied uses of herbs you can grow yourself, including for teas, medicine and cooking. The basics of growing herbs and of drying and storing them for future enjoyment will also be discussed by Master Gardener Janet Poole.

“Integrated Gardens: Creating A Beautiful, Low Maintenance Garden Ecosystem” Tuesday, August 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. **NOTE EARLIER START TIME!**
Whether your yard is big or small there are ways that you can create a beautiful landscape using trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers that are visually appealing in every season. An integrated landscape is one that imitates the beauty and ecology of our natural ecosystems. By carefully selecting a diversity of plants that grow well together in a multi layered environment, you can create gardens that are less work, require less watering, provide food and shelter for pollinators, birds and wildlife, and look great all year long. Presented by Master Gardeners Beth Bechard and Jude Dinan.

For more information, call Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Horticulture Program at 272-4210 or e-mail dhc3@cornell.edu

Directions: From Interstate(I-90) Exit 8; east onto Rte 43; pass through Rte 4 intersection towards West Sand Lake; (approximately 2.1 miles); Left at Robert C. Parker School.

Individuals with questions or special needs requiring accommodation should contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (518) 272-4210. CCE provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Talks in the Garden
SUMMER 2016
Tips for the backyard gardener series

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners for a summer series that will kick your gardening skills up a notch or two.
These evening classes will meet in the Memorial Garden Gazebo at CCE, 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville with the gardens as our classroom.
Call to register: contact Sue Pezzolla at 765-3516 cost is $5 per class or $20 for the series.
Checks made out to CCE Albany and mailed to 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

July 27 6:30pm Herb Gardening with the Shakers
Join Master Gardeners Cathie Gifford and Lee Ryan to learn about the Shaker influence on herb gardening and the collection and sale of seeds. The class will include all aspects of selecting and growing herbs.

August 2 6:30pm Low Maintenance Perennial Gardening
Master Gardener Judith Fetterley will share her tips for planting wisely to maximize garden interest and minimize garden chores. Learn how good plant choices can make a big difference.

August 11 6:30pm Ornamental Grasses and how to use them
Master Gardener Keith Lee will share ideas for choosing and placing ornamental grasses in the garden. You will learn which types are best for backyard gardens and how to incorporate them into an existing landscape.

August 18 6:00 pm Compost Basics
The Master Gardener compost team will be on hand to discuss and show several types of composting systems for the backyard gardener. If you have been curious about what type of compost system would be best for you, this is the class! Participants will be given handouts and a sample of finished compost. This class will meet in the compost demonstration area across the parking lot from the CCE main building.

August 25 6:00 pm Vegetable gardening 101 and the basics of raised bed gardening
Join Master Gardeners Phyllis Rosenblum and Luanne Whitbeck for a tour of the demonstration garden raised bed vegetable garden to learn why raised bed gardens are often the best approach for vegetable growing. You will learn about garden preparation, selecting the best transplants, extending the growing season and how to manage perennial crops.

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Advanced Training
For Gardeners

Take your gardening knowledge to the next level!

Have you ever wanted to learn what a “Master Gardener” knows? This is an opportunity to attend our college-level Master Gardener training course but without the commitment to becoming a volunteer. We’ll study botany, soils and fertilizers, turfgrass, tree care, fruit, vegetables, perennials, plant diseases, entomology, wildlife management, pest management and more. Classes meet from 9:30 AM to about 3:00 PM on the following weekdays: September 7, 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 4, 18, 29 and December 6. Instructors are Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, Cornell University Faculty and Master Gardeners. Participants taking a final exam will receive a course certificate.

The program fee includes The University of Maryland Master Gardener Handbook, supporting publications, hand lens, soil pH kit and over 50 hours of training. This program will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 24 Martin Rd, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Questions? Contact David at 272-4210 or dhc3@cornell.edu. To register, please complete the form below and return it to our office with payment.

Advanced Training For Gardeners—Autumn 2016

Name(s): __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ________________
Number of people attending: ________ @ $495.00 each = TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Make check payable to Cornell Cooperative Extension and return to: Cornell Cooperative Extension, 61 State St., Troy, NY 12180. Registration deadline is August 12, 2016 or when class is full.

Individuals with questions or special needs should contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County at (518) 272-4210. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County provides equal program and employment opportunities.