

Gardening Matters



Yates County Master Gardener Newsletter

Fall 2022, Issue 3



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Executive Director's Note

The Season of Harvest Is Upon Us

Every decade needs its own manual of handicraft
(Liberty Hyde Bailey)

This year has been an everchanging growing season in Upstate New York.

We have experienced extreme weather conditions—downpours, droughts, and drizzles. We have had to be resilient and practice *time* management to keep our gardens as healthy, hearty, and robust as possible.

Garden hoses and watering cans got heavy use in July and August. Not only annuals and vegetable gardens were watered, but hardy perennials such as hostas and my boxwood hedges also received water from the hose and benefited from the dehumidifier and air conditioning discharge receptacle[s].

My easy and cheap side dressing and weed suppressor- grass clippings- were few and far between. During the long dry spell, strategies included hand-pulling dandelions and wild plantains [the only things growing on my lawn].

This year has put our Master Gardeners to the test. Cooperative Extension received more phone calls and emails about garden challenges and vegetables that were getting too much heat, sun, or rain... and we continued to find answers in these changing times.

One of the roles of the Master Gardeners is to encourage and provide ongoing information and education on whatever may be happening in your neck of the woods. We also need to be a voice of calm and reassurance, reminding people that crops sometimes fail and plans do not always go as we hoped. We are here to help you find comfort, affirmation, and encouragement.

Take time to sit in your garden—watch the bees feed on the flowers. Enjoy the cleansing of the leaves during a rain event.

And remember—the grass will become green again with enough rain—this year or next.



Executive Director & Master Gardener
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County



CCE-Yates County has daily office coverage, with 50% working in-person, and 50% working remotely. This includes work within the community (agriculture, gardening, natural resources, youth, and families) using social distancing protocols.

Should you need to reach any of our staff members, visit <http://yates.cce.cornell.edu/staff>. You can also send us a message via our Facebook page, or call the office at 315-536-5123.

Garden Chat:

Catching up w/ the Yates County Master Gardeners!



Which plants did well in your garden during this dry year?

Any surprise standouts?

Michelle

3 plants are still blooming and look amazing, even after a hot, dry summer: Phlox (must be a late summer variety), Ligularia, and Rudbeckia. My Rose of Sharon, Blue, Double-pink, and Little Kim also did really well this year.



Cheryl



The Valencia peanuts that I planted last year went crazy! I mulched them to retain moisture, and they loved the hot weather. I can't wait to harvest them after the first frost. This picture (right) was from six weeks ago.



Susan

At last year's plant sale I bought a heliopsis. Did not do much plant care, actually forgot where I had planted it!! This year, with help from friends (you MGs know who you are!), there was lots of weeding/pulling/tidying in the garden - later this summer that Heliopolis poked up out of 'garden' and has blossomed beautifully 🌻🌻. It took care of itself - yay native plants!! I look forward to getting couple more!



Dixon



The only plant in my garden that seemed completely unbothered by the drought was the rosemary. That, and the shrubby cinquefoil, which is more or less indestructible.

Christine

The only thing that did really well was my Sago Cactus. Herbs did well. All veggies were okay but if I missed several days of watering they faded fast. Deer killed (chewed up) one new apple tree, all tomato tops and peppers, probably for moisture. Even my black eyed Susan plants are done blooming almost two months early.



Garden Chat:

Catching up w/ the Yates County Master Gardeners!

Arlene



My red kale did amazingly well! I have gotten three harvests from it. My red raspberries did well in the pre-drought wet and recent rains.

Celeste



I had great success with my bell peppers and Hansel eggplant in my vegetable garden, while my beans were blah! Tomatoes did well until the rain really started in August, then they split before I could pick them! We tried a new annual variety in our pots this year: Gazoo Series Gazania. Purchased a pack in early June and they have been blooming all summer!!! Very heat tolerant!

Caroline



I had a couple standout plants this summer! *Diervilla lonicera*, a native honeysuckle, shrugged off the drought completely. By mid-August I was having to water most of my plants at least once a week even with a thick layer of mulch in place except for the *Diervilla*. It looked lovely all summer and its small, yellow flowers were a surprisingly big hit with the hummingbirds and bees! Another plant that seemed unfazed by the drought was my Baptisia. I knew they were drought resistant, but wow, they not only got by with incredibly little moisture, but their soft blue green foliage made the garden look cool and refreshed one even the hottest of days.



Have a gardening question?

Contact us at 315-536-5123, or stop by the CCE-Yates County office!

What to do in...

October

- * Cut back peony foliage and remove from the garden. Though we mostly recommend leaving perennial clean up until the next year, peony foliage can harbor disease and is best cleaned up in the fall.
- * Mow your lawn one last time to get ready for winter. Lazy gardener tip: get mulching blades and mow your lawn weekly through October to chop up fallen tree leaves. These will add nutrients to your lawn and mowing instead of raking will save your back!
- * Plant your garlic anytime between now and the soil freezing hard. To be on the safe side, we try to get ours in before the end of November, but you can plant anytime the soil is soft enough to dig in.



November

- * At our house, November is when the bird feeders go out! Make sure to clean and sanitize your bird feeders regularly to keep visiting birds healthy.
- * For those who love deals (me, me!) November is a great month to pick up end-of-the-season deals on bulbs. Try to get them in the ground as quickly as possible. Your numb fingers will be worth it in the spring!
- * Place hardware cloth or plastic collars around the bases of young fruit trees to prevent winter rodent damage.



December

- * Now that trees and shrubs are fully dormant you can begin pruning.
- * Many native plants need months of cold to stimulate germination. Late fall and early winter is a great time to direct seed native plants.
- * To avoid the spring rush, bring your mower in to be serviced now!



Want to be featured in *Gardening Matters*?

If you have any seasonal tips or photos you would like to share, please submit them to:

**Master Gardeners/CCE Yates County
417 Liberty Street, Suite 1024
Penn Yan NY 14527**

Yates County Master Gardener's Corner

Cheryl Flynn (Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator)

Penn Yan Community Garden Update:

It's been a busy summer! We had hot, dry weather, which required we water the Master Gardener beds at the Penn Yan Community Garden at least three times a week. I want to thank Master Gardeners Bev Barnwell, Karen Welch, Celest Lewis, Christine Vojt (new Master Gardener in-training), and Jan Barrett for watering and weeding the garden. With your help, we produced 195 pounds of produce donated to the Hope Food Pantry at the end of August. We also grew and donated 35 pounds of peppers and 15 pounds of garlic to Milly's Pantry. We still have many peppers and parsnips that we'll harvest and donate in the fall.

The Master Gardeners also took part in the 2022 Cornell Vegetable Variety Trials. The Cornell Vegetable Variety Trials are an excellent way to test vegetables across the state to see how they perform in "real life" conditions. This year featured vegetables connected to cultures from Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and the Indigenous People of New York. We enjoy growing and tasting new vegetable varieties and passing on our harvests to the Hope Food Pantry. Please visit their website if you're interested in learning more about the Cornell Vegetable Variety Trials or accessing the ratings: <https://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/adult-programs/citizen-science/>.

The Master Gardeners held an open house at the garden on September 10th, serving hotdogs, chips, apple cider, and other treats. Invited community members toured the garden, sampled produce from the Vegetable Variety beds, and learned more about the Master Gardener Program.

The Penn Yan Elks Lodge donated funds for plants, supplies, and bed rentals at the Penn Yan Community Garden, Penn Yan Elementary School, and the Dundee Public Library. At the Penn Yan Community Garden, we planted strawberries, installed a bean pole tent, a flower bed, and a vegetable bed. The children who attended the Penn Yan Public Library weekly story hour in the garden enjoyed these beds throughout the summer.

The Penn Yan Community Garden also has a beautiful new sign! We are actively working on getting permission to have signage at the beginning of Pleasant Street and the end of South Street and East Main so that the community knows about the garden. I received a lovely email from someone who

stumbled upon the garden. They wrote, "I have been to many community gardens, and the Penn Yan Community Garden is very lovely and so well maintained" They are growing okra at home in a small garden bed and would like to rent a bed in the garden next year.

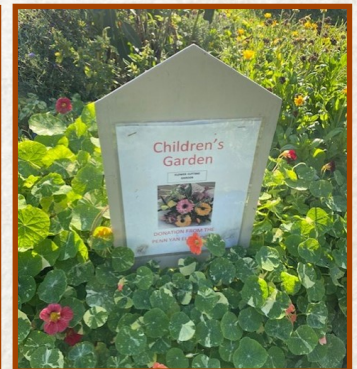
In addition to the beds at the Penn Yan Community Garden, the Master Gardeners plan, plant, and help maintain the children's gardens at Penn Yan Elementary School and Camp Cory.

Of course, the Master Gardener Program isn't all about work. Bringing back a former tradition, the Master Gardeners held a summer picnic! Everyone brought a dish to pass. We had a fantastic time and reminisced about our gardening experiences!

It was a busy summer, but as always, it was made better by the hard work and great attitudes of our small but mighty group of Master Gardener volunteers! If you are interested in joining the Master Gardeners, please email me at cj348@cornell.edu or call (315) 536-5123.

Special thanks to Allan Iddings, who has taken special care of the gardening, mowing, weed whacking, and keeping our water tank full so that we and all the other garden members could water this year!

Are you interested in learning more about the Penn Yan Community garden? Please visit <https://bit.ly/pygarden> to learn more about the history of the garden and how to become a member!



Establishing a Fall Pollinator Garden

You can easily support bees, beetles, and butterflies by adding late-blooming pollinator friendly plants to your garden. Late summer and early fall blooming pollinator plants are an essential source of nectar for many insects as they prepare for the onset of winter.

Even though some species of flowers have completed their growth cycle by the time cooler weather arrives, other plants are just beginning to come into bloom. Though pollinator garden options may be limited by one's garden location, amount of sunshine, or soil condition the focus should be on plants that produce blooms that are heavily nectar—rich. Many pollinator-attracting plants for fall feature vibrant colors and large flower spray.

Some popular and easy to grow options for our area are:

Agastache scrophulariifolia- Purple Giant Hyssop

- * Pollinator value- very high
- * Bloom Time- July to Sept
- * Flower color- purple
- * Height- 2 to 4 feet
- * Light requirements- full sun to part shade
- * Soil - Moist
- * Beneficial Insects - native bees, honey bees



Echinacea purpurea- Purple Coneflower

- * Pollinator value- high
- * Bloom time- July to October
- * Flower color- purple
- * Height- 2 to 4 feet
- * Light requirements- full sun to part sun Habitat-open areas
- * Soil - dry to moist
- * Beneficial Insects- bee flies, Halictid bees, butterflies, skippers, long- tongued bees, such as honeybees, bumblebees, digger bees (and leaf- cutting bees.) Butterflies include Monarchs, Fritillaries, Painted Ladies, Swallowtails, Sulfurs, Whites, Silvery Checkerspot.



Helenium autumnale- Common Sneezeweed

- * Pollinator value- high
- * Bloom time- August to September
- * Flower color- yellow
- * Height- 2 to 5 feet
- * Light requirements- full sun
- * Soil Moisture- moist
- * Value to Beneficial Insects- long- tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, digger bees, cuckoo bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Sphecids wasps, Vespids wasps, Syrphid flies, butterflies, and beetles



Establishing a Fall Pollinator Garden

Solidago caesia- Bluestem Goldenrod

- * Pollinator value- high
- * Bloom time- Aug to Oct
- * Flower color- Yellow
- * Height- 1 to 4 feet
- * Light Requirements- full sun to part sun
- * Soil Moisture- dry
- * Value to Beneficial Insects- shorttongued bees, wasps, and flies



Information provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service was obtained from a variety of sources and field research conducted at the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center. Pollinator rating values were provided by the Xerces Society as well as past and current research.

How to Tell the Difference Between Goldenrod & Ragweed

Don't Blame Goldenrod for Your Allergies!

Know the difference between goldenrod (*Solidago* species) and ragweed (*Ambrosia* species). There are over 75 different species of goldenrod and 20 species of ragweed native to the United States. Goldenrod gets the blame for your itchy eyes and runny nose, but the culprit is actually ragweed. Both plants are members of the Asteraceae family, grow in roadside ditches and open fields, and bloom at the same time. Goldenrod flowers contain nectar to attract pollinating insects, and the large, heavy pollen grains attach to the insect bodies. It is an important nectar source for pollinators. Ragweed flowers do not contain nectar, and the plants are dependent on the wind to transfer the small, lightweight pollen. This pollen has the ability to blow for miles. A single ragweed plant is capable of producing over a billion pollen grains. The next time you think it's the beautiful goldenrod causing your allergy woes, think again. For more information, visit <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/goldenrod-ragweed/>.

Author Credit: Barbara H. Smith, HGIC Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson University



Goldenrod has characteristic bright yellow flowers.
Barbara H. Smith, ©HGIC 2018, Clemson Extension



Ragweed has inconspicuous flowers that produce small, lightweight pollen that blows in the wind.
Barbara H. Smith, ©HGIC 2018, Clemson Extension

Now is the Perfect Time to Add Garlic to Your Garden!

Caroline Boutard-Hunt (Agricultural Educator)

Garlic is one of my favorite plants to grow. It has been cultivated for its medicinal and culinary properties around the world for at least 4,500 years. We started out growing garlic around 15 years ago with four heads given to us by a friend. Her parents had been growing the strain for decades. We sampled a head and were amazed at the beautiful cloves and deep flavor. After eating one head, we decided to plant the rest. That was the beginning of our long-term love affair with growing garlic. This article will focus on how we grow our garlic to maximize head size. There are plenty of other methods to grow garlic. Experiment with what works best for you!

First off, you need to decide what type and variety of garlic you would like to grow. There are two basic types of garlic- **softneck** and **hardneck**. There are some advantages and challenges to each type.

Softneck garlic is the garlic you see sold in braids. It has a long shelf life and more cloves per head than hardneck garlic. However, it can be less winter hardy and the individual clove size may be smaller than that of hardneck.

Hardneck garlic is extremely cold hardy and easier to peel than softneck garlic. However, it tends to sprout and get soft in storage more quickly than softneck garlic.

We only grow hardneck garlic, but I suggest trying out a few varieties of both types to figure out which you like the best. Once you've found "The One" stick with growing and improving that variety. Growing many varieties is fun but it's more difficult to manage and harvest each at the right time, especially during the busy summer months.

One of our goals is to grow the biggest garlic possible. As we produce seed garlic commercially this provides us with ample stock to sell as well as plenty to save and plant next year. There are a few things you can do to grow big garlic. First off, always plant the biggest and best of your garlic. The larger the cloves are going into the ground, the bigger the heads will be coming out the next summer.

Garlic is not a very competitive plant, so it needs plenty of space around it to grow. We place our garlic cloves about 8 inches apart when planting. This gives each plant a wide zone to grow in. Some people recommend planting garlic up to 6 inches deep. With hardneck at least, we find planting a couple inches down is plenty deep enough and makes digging easier in the fall. If your soil is soft, you can usually push them down firmly with a finger or you can use a dibbler to make nice holes to drop the cloves into. After planting we spread fertilizer along the rows. We use a mix of chicken manure fertilizer and gypsum, but you can use whatever you prefer.

After fertilizing, we heavily mulch our garlic. Mulch is very helpful throughout the growing process. It protects the cloves from frost heaving and keeps them at a steady, cool temperature until later in the spring. This prevents them from sprouting too early during the up and down temperatures of March and April. After they are growing the mulch keeps the soil cool and helps hold in moisture. Weeds are also reduced by using mulch and the weeds you do end up getting are much easier to pull.



The large white bulb is a softneck (Inchelium Red, top) and the two smaller red bulbs are hardneck varieties (Moroccan Creole left and Russian Red on the bottom). In addition to the overall size difference, you can see the hardneck types have fewer overall cloves clustered around a hard center (the hard 'neck').

From: <https://homesteadandchill.com/garlic-hardneck-softneck-difference-varieties/>

Now is the Perfect Time to Add Garlic to Your Garden!

Caroline Boutard-Hunt (Agricultural Educator)

Speaking of weeding, it's important to keep your garlic patch weeded. As I said earlier, garlic is not a competitive plant. If weeds are taking up nutrients and competing for sunlight, the garlic will still grow but your heads will be much smaller. Weeding thoroughly once or twice usually is enough but it's not a job to skip.

If you are growing hardneck garlic, around June you'll notice long stems with a bud at the end emerging from the center of your garlic. This is the garlic flower, or scape. If you leave it in place, the plant will put much of its energy into the scape and less into the bulb. We cut ours off when they've emerged about 6-10 inches. The scapes can be chopped and cooked or blended to make a delicious pesto. Softneck garlic will not produce a scape.

During the growing season we keep an eye on rainfall and the garlic tops. Garlic needs regular moisture to produce large heads. The mulch helps keep the soil evenly moist, but I recommend watering on weeks with under an inch of cumulative rainfall. If the leaves become pale or begin to yellow, we fertilize with diluted fish emulsion in water. Not the best smelling of jobs! You can fertilize with any water-soluble fertilizer; I tend to fertilize at half rates.

Around mid-June to early July, you'll notice that the lower leaves on your garlic are beginning to yellow. This is a sign that the plant has reached maturity and is pulling the nutrients from its leaves into the bulb. Stop watering your plants during this process. Check your garlic regularly and harvest once all but 2-3 leaves are yellow on the plant. You want to harvest before all the leaves die as each green leaf represents a wrapper layer on your garlic which will protect your garlic during storage.



*Pictured: Garlic Scapes from Attleson Farm
Photo Credit: Eli Duke (cc Flickr)*



Pictured: Mulched Garlic-resistant weeds



Pictured: Harvest Garlic Bulbs

Harvest your garlic with a fork or shovel. Please don't pull it out of the ground without lifting first with a tool. I've been tempted and given in a few times but it's very easy to accidentally rip off the neck. Then you still need to use a fork to dig out the head and the damaged neck can reduce storability.

Now that your garlic is harvested, hang it up to dry for a week or two in a shady, dry place until the top is crispy dry. At this point we separate our seed garlic and store away from our eating garlic to avoid the temptation of grabbing a huge head for cooking.

They always say that hardneck garlic only lasts a couple of months. I've found that if you keep it in a cool, dark location, most years you can enjoy it until March. Try out different storage spots in your house until you find the best one.

Garlic is a great addition to nearly any garden. If you haven't planted it before, I highly recommend giving this fragrant allium a try! Meet its needs and it will provide you with ample harvests of flavorful heads to enhance your meals and to share with good friends.

Frequently Asked Questions About Garlic

There are a couple of questions that we get regularly that I wanted to address below:

Seed garlic is expensive, can I just plant garlic from the store?

Garlic from the store may have been treated to prevent it from sprouting. This is helpful in a kitchen setting but will pose a problem for growing. If you don't want to buy seed garlic due to expense, I suggest taking a trip to your local farmers market and purchasing garlic there to plant. I always recommend starting with seed garlic. Yes, it's more expensive, however, with some patience, you can grow a near-endless supply of garlic from one initial purchase. We started with 4 heads and ate one before we decided to try growing our own. We now harvest well over 1,000 pounds of seed-grade garlic annually.

What happens if I don't get my garlic planted in the fall?

If you're reading this article in December and eyeing a bag of seed garlic in the corner of your kitchen, don't worry. Garlic needs a chilling period of 6-8 weeks to consistently produce good sized heads. In practical terms, that means you have until February to get your garlic planted. If you don't think you'll get your garden in the ground before spring, store it in a cold location and plant it as soon as you can.

What sort of pests does garlic get?

Not many! But if you have a problem with your garlic, feel free to reach out the Yates Master Gardeners at (315) 536-5123 and we'll do our best to help find the cause!

I have a very small garden. Can I grow my garlic in a pot?

Yes, but it should be a large pot (minimum 5 gallons) and your garlic will be smaller. Make sure to water generously and feed regularly.

References:

The origins and distribution of garlic: How many garlics are there?

[Philipp W. Simon](#), [USDA](#), [ARS](#), [Vegetable Crops Research Unit](#), [Department of Horticulture](#), [University of Wisconsin](#), Madison, WI 53706



Pictured: Garlic in the gloaming



Pictured: Garlic Cloves

What To Do With Your Pumpkins After Halloween

Karen Welch (Master Gardener Volunteer)

Halloween is over, and you still have all your pumpkins. What can you do? You can cut your pumpkins open and roast the seeds with a bit of salt and oil in the oven, or cook the pulp and make pumpkin yummies such as cookies, pies, or pumpkin bread. Using the cooked pumpkin puree for the Thanksgiving pies and letting your child help make the pies gives them a proud moment at the Thanksgiving dinner. Just freeze the pumpkin until you are ready to use it.

Wildlife like squirrels, deer, mice, and chipmunks love to eat pumpkins. I have had many a pumpkin nibbled as they sit on the front porch! If you have pumpkins that are now Jack-o-lanterns, they are no longer suitable for human consumption, but the animals in the wild would be most appreciative if you put them out for them to nibble. You can also put pumpkins in your compost pile.

My favorite use of a pumpkin is to create a bird feeder with it!

To make a pumpkin bird feeder:

1. Cut the pumpkin in half and scoop out all the seeds.
2. Next, insert sticks across the top of the pumpkin that are long enough to go from one side to the other.
3. Then, cut two lengths of twine or rope long enough to go from under the pumpkin to where you will hang it.
4. Knot them together in the middle and at the top of the rope.
5. Fit your pumpkin in the middle with the middle knot at the bottom of the pumpkin.
6. Fill the pumpkin with birdseed and watch the birds dig in!

For a demonstration, visit the website link below for a video tutorial: https://youtu.be/eniE7_2ewmw.



Photo Credit: Greg Dunlap (Flickr)



*Many backyard critters find pumpkins to be a tasty treat.
Photo Credit: National Wildlife Federation*

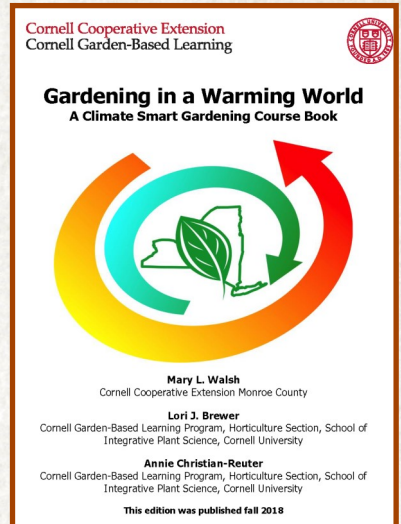


*Pictured: DIY: Pumpkin Feeders for Birds
Photo Credit: National Audubon Society*

Adapting Your Garden to a Changing Climate

Whether we like it or not, as our climate changes our gardens will change with it. Luckily, with some planning, your garden can handle the uncertain weather ahead. We'll share some of the observed and predicted effects that will impact our region, along with a few garden practices that can help your garden adapt to hotter summers, unpredictable rainfall and longer growing seasons.

The below effects are adapted from *Gardening in a Warmer World- A Climate Smart Gardening Course Book* by Mary J. Walsh, Lori J. Brewer and Anna Christian-Reuter, published 2018 (pictured right) using data from New York's ClimAID report (2011, 2014), the National Climate Assessment (2014).



Temperature

Effects:

- The annual average temperature statewide has risen about 2.4°F since 1970, with winter warming exceeding 4.4°F.
- Annual average temperatures have increased across the state.

Garden Adaptations:

- Select shade trees that are adapted for a wide range of temperatures.
- Heat stress can cause pollination issues in some crops such as zucchini. Make sure to water well to reduce plant stress. You can also try hand-pollinating your flowers or growing parthenocarpic varieties that produce fruit without pollination.
- Add in native plants from slightly south of your region. This is slightly controversial as they are technically not native to our region. However, as the climate warms, we could help expand the range of some threatened plant species to where they will be better adapted to the new climactic conditions. This may in turn help pollinators and birds expand their ranges as their food sources move farther north.

Precipitation

Effects:

- Overall, average annual precipitation has increased across New York State since 1900, with year-to-year (and multiyear) variability becoming more pronounced.
- New York is getting more precipitation in the winter and less precipitation in the summer.
- Between 1958 and 2010, the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events (downpours) increased more than 70% across the northeastern United States.

Garden Adaptations:

- Mulch your garden annually to help preserve soil moisture. Mulch can also protect your soil during extreme rain events.
- Install a drip irrigation system in your garden to allow for effective watering without waste.
- When watering, water deeply but less frequently. This encourages plants to produce deeper roots,

which gives them a greater tolerance to summer dry spells.

- Instead of utilizing annuals, which can be more sensitive to unpredictable weather conditions, choose perennials that are tolerant of both dry weather and heavy rain events such as baptisia, buttonbush and red twig dogwood.
- Install bioswales and rain gardens to capture rainwater and prevent run-off.
- During dry weather, deer feeding may become more extreme. Choose plants that are less attractive to deer to reduce feeding damage within the garden.
- Mow grass higher throughout the season. Plant alternative species such as low-growing clovers to keep your lawn green throughout the season.
- Diversify your garden beds. Your favorite rose may not look great every year but when it's combined with a wide variety of plants, your garden will still shine!

Continued on Page 14

Adapting Your Garden to a Changing Climate

Natural Resources

Effects

- Spring begins a week earlier than it did a few decades ago; the first leaf date is more than 8 days earlier & the first bloom date is more than 4 days earlier than in the 1950s.
- Winter snow cover is decreasing.
- Pollinating bees in the northeastern US arrive about 10 days earlier than in the 1880s.
- NY breeding bird & ocean fish population ranges have shifted northward over the last decades.

Garden Adaptations

- Mulch early emerging perennials after a killing frost to keep them dormant until later in the spring. More delicate plants may also need winter protection as snow cover decreases.
- Plant flowering plants for the extended “shoulder seasons”. Early season bloomers such as crocus and hellebore will provide valuable nectar and pollen to early season pollinators while beds of sedum, aster and goldenrod will help pollinators provision throughout the fall.



Pictured: Sedum Autumn Joy

Photo Credit: Theresa Gunn (CC Flickr)



Pictured: Baptisia australis shrub

Photo Credit: Normanack (CC Flickr)

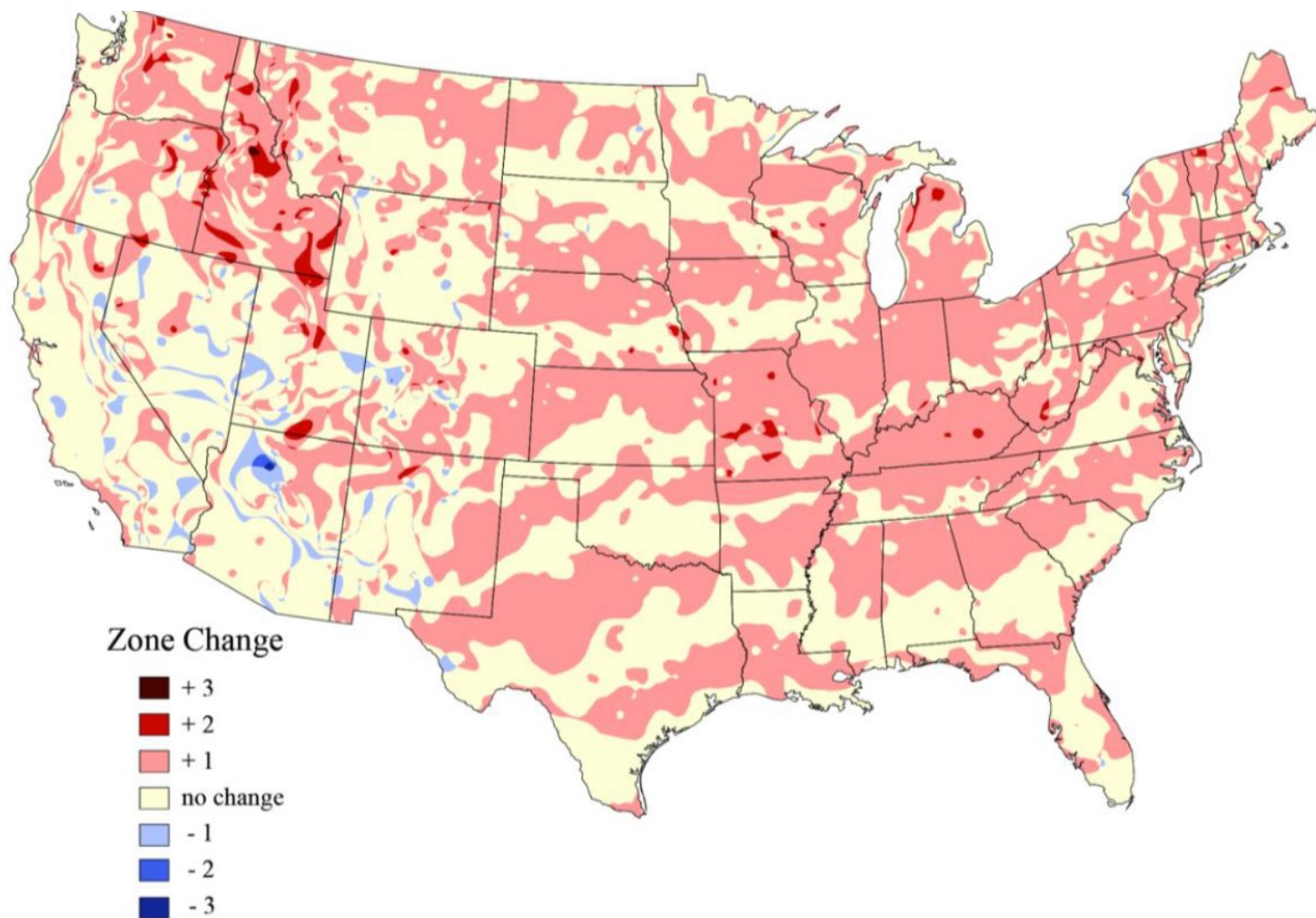


Pictured: Buttonbus

Photo Credit: Hanna Hesser (CC Flickr)

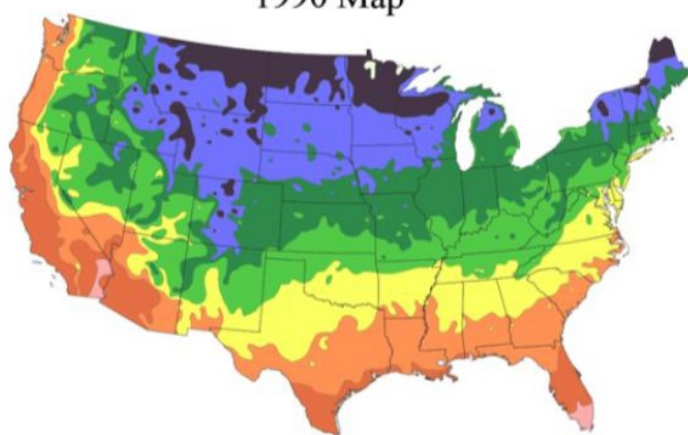
1. US EPA. 2012. The Greenhouse Effect. Accessed Sept 2018 from <https://bit.ly/3SBCJ69>
2. NYSDEC Impacts of Climate Change in New York World. Accessed September 17, 2018 from <https://on.ny.gov/3SBCMMyR>

Differences Between 1990 USDA Hardiness Zones and 2015 Arborday.org Hardiness Zones

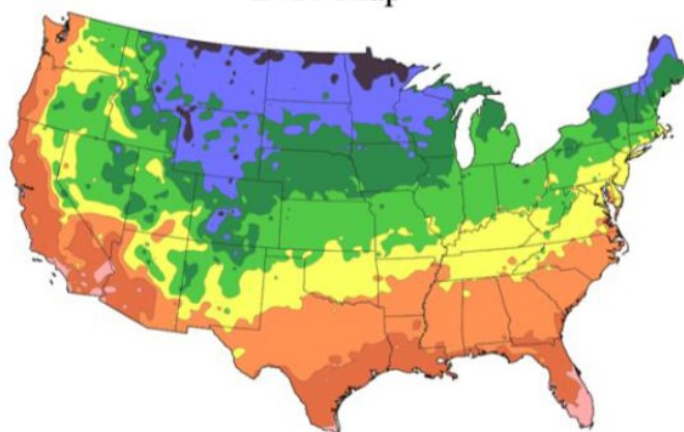


1990 Map

2015 Map



After USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 1475, Issued January 1990.



Arbor Day Foundation Plant Hardiness Zone Map published in 2015.



Growing Common English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

English lavender is the hardiest variety for our growing region (Zones 5-8). It is deer and rabbit resistant and rarely is bothered by garden pests. Lavender is an especially good plant for attracting pollinators.

Lavender should be planted in the spring in full sun in neutral to slightly alkaline, well-draining soil. Water new plants once or twice a week until established. Once established (beginning to bud), water every other week or when the soil is dry. Take care not to overwater as this could result in yellowing of the leaves and root rot. Lavender does not require fertilizing.

Pruning is key to keeping lavender shaped well and prevent them from getting woody and unsightly. Prune established plants in spring when green leaves start to emerge from the base. Remove about one-third of the top to keep the plant from becoming leggy and bare at the base, however, do not cut back into old wood, as it will not regrow. Spring pruning is the best time to shape your lavender plant. Prune a second time after the blossoms are spent and depending on the zone, they may bloom a second time. This is also a good time to cut back any woody stems that have not bloomed at all. Dead stems should be cut down as close to the soil as possible.

If you choose to harvest the blossoms, it is best to cut them before they are fully bloomed. Cut the blossoms in the morning keeping the stems as long as possible. The blossoms can be bundled and dried. Once fully dried, shake the stems over newspaper or similar material to release the flowers from the stems.

There are many good resources for the care of lavender. The following sources were used to compile this article:

- * <https://getbusygardening.com/pruning-lavender/>
- * <https://www.sunset.com/garden/flowers-plants/guide-planting-care-harvesting-lavender>
- * <https://www.thespruce.com/growing-lavender-1402779>



Photo Credit: The Spruce / Adrienne Legault



Photo Credit: thepurpledoor / Getty Images

Dealing With Deer In Your Garden

Beverly Barnwell (Yates County Master Gardener)

I started gardening years ago when I lived in central New Jersey in a fairly new development called Mountain View Farms. Did it have a view of a mountain? Not exactly, but it was farmland that had sold for housing development in our busy area. When the houses were built, where did the deer go? I would love to say they moved to Pennsylvania, but that was not the case. They remained in the area, looking for cover and food, eventually walking the yards and streets like large packs of dogs, but with no natural predators to control herd growth.

My first start at growing tomatoes was to plant them in containers on the deck over our patio. It was a perfect solution. But I could never put a vegetable garden in our yard. The idea became reinforced when deer ate my neighbor John's small garden of peppers and tomatoes to the ground one July night!

How do you deal with the deer if you want a garden in your yard? There are several options that you can try. We will explore a few of the most common methods.

Barriers

Many different fencing solutions can keep deer out of your garden. Deer are high jumpers, so a wire fence must be at least 8 feet tall to be effective. If you have a 4-foot fence in place, you could try the 2-fence approach with a second 4-foot fence, 5 feet from the original fence. Your garden will be inside the inner barrier.

There is the option of electric fencing, but this can be a difficult solution for a home garden. Consider access for yourself and to the garden. It needs to be wide enough to easily access with a wheelbarrow or any other tools you will regularly use. The entry point should be able to close tightly and remain secure. Winter is a wonderful time to plan to fence for installation in the spring. Contact your local Extension office for more information on designing a deer fence that will work for your garden.

Repellents

There are many commercially available options. The goal is the same for all of them. You want a repellent with an odor and taste that deer strongly dislike. As a reminder, reapplication is necessary after rain falls.

There are many products available. Please make sure the product you buy is labeled for the site where you plan to use it. If you are applying to a vegetable or herb, please review carefully to ensure no issue with consuming these later. A product I have used is Liquid Fence, but you may find your deer have different dislikes than mine.

Scaring the Deer

If you visit the vineyards in the fall and sit outside for a while, you may hear a series of loud "booms." They are a type of noise cannon that scare off deer and birds (not a neighborly approach for a backyard garden). Some gardeners have made homemade noise makers with aluminum pie tins on a trip line. Others have tried motion-activated sprinklers with the same effect without the loud noise, as deer dislike any sudden movement in their space.

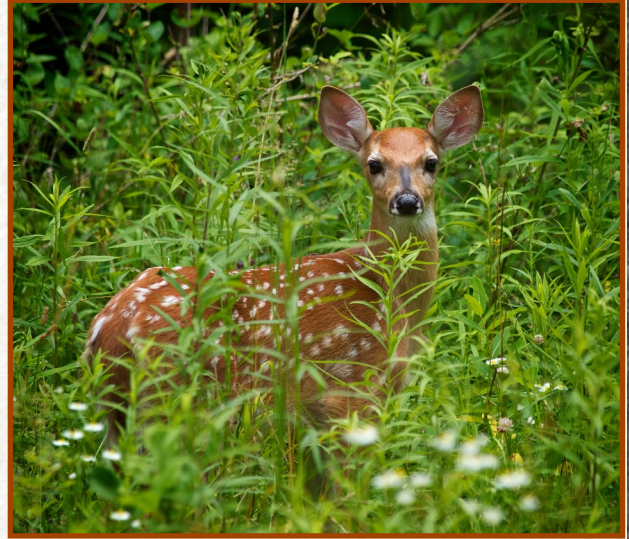


Photo Credit: David Marvin (CC Flickr)



Photo Credit: SLGCKGC (CC Flickr)

Dealing With Deer In Your Garden

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Deer Resistant Plants

Certain plants are not the favorites of deer and can help you have a garden in areas where they roam. However, please consider this a guide and not as deer "proof". In general, deer-resistant plants have a strong smell or taste, an unpalatable texture, or the plant may be toxic. Most garden catalogs will mark plants that deer dislike. Below are a few options to consider:

1. Herbs – Lavender, oregano, rosemary, thyme, chives, sage (pictured, upper right)
2. Flowers – Begonias, daffodils, bleeding heart (pictured, lower right), foxglove, snapdragon, Russian sage, bee balm, yarrow
3. Vegetables – Onions, garlic, beets, asparagus, rhubarb, cucumbers, zucchini, melons, potatoes
4. Shrubs – Juniper, blackberry bushes, English holly, barberry bushes

If you plan to add new plants to an existing garden or a new garden bed, research how deer resistant your choices are. You can also contact Cooperative Extension for Master Gardener advice on good deer-resistant varieties for our region.



Photo Credit: The Spruce/Margot Cavin



Photo Credit: Gratsanna / Getty Images

Winter Management

Deer are around us throughout the year. In wintertime, many of your shrubs and trees are the most vulnerable to deer, but you can plan to lessen their impact. If you are a feeder of birds (bird seed), you will attract deer. It is best to place the feeder(s) away from plants you want to protect. Also, net any trees and shrubs for protection. Deer can do more than feeding damage. Bucks will rub their antlers on trees in the fall, damaging the bark of young trees. This action can cause significant cosmetic damage and can even kill young trees. In times of snow cover, deer will eat almost anything to survive. So even with the best planning, you may have some damage. Remember, we share their habitat, so this should not be unexpected.

Links

- * CCE Schuyler County - Deer-Resistant Plants: <https://bit.ly/3DFgxnB>
- * CCE Tompkins County - Gardening With Deer Q&A: <https://bit.ly/3Sl3pbd>
- * UGA Extension - Garden Fencing: <https://bit.ly/3S3z2Gq>
- * Protecting Your Garden From Deer: <https://bit.ly/3dxNOGG>
- * How to Protect Your Garden from Deer - Organic Gardening: <https://bit.ly/3DHpRao>
- * 9 Homemade Deer Repellents to Protect Your Plants: <https://bit.ly/3R1qYvs>
- * 11 Ways To Keep Deer Out Of Your Garden (+ Dad's Foolproof Solution): <https://bit.ly/3S3ebmQ>
- * Deer Proof Garden: How To Protect Your Garden From Deer: <https://bit.ly/3xGbAXM>

Preventing Ice and Snow Damage on Trees and Shrubs

Aaron Steil (Dept. Horticulture, Horticulture and Home Pest News, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, 2022)

Heavy amounts of snow and ice on the branches of trees and shrubs can cause considerable damage. Multi-stemmed evergreens, such as junipers and arborvitae, and weak-wooded deciduous trees, such as Siberian elm, green ash, and silver maple, are most susceptible to branch breakage. Improper removal of ice and snow can increase the amount of damage to trees and shrubs.

Managing Ice

During the winter months, the most serious damage to trees and shrubs generally occurs during ice storms. Large branches or entire trees can be lost due to the tremendous weight of the ice. When the weight of ice causes a small tree to bend sharply, it may be possible to prop it up to prevent breakage. Don't attempt to remove the ice by beating the branches with a broom or rake. This will only cause greater damage. If the temperature is above freezing, spraying the ice-coated branches with cold water will help melt the ice. Hot or boiling water, however, may actually injure the trees and shrubs. Individuals should stay away from large, ice-laden trees. Nothing can be done to prevent damage to large trees. Individuals, however, can be severely injured or killed if a large tree or branch were to suddenly crash to the ground while underneath it.



Heavy amounts of snow and ice on the branches of trees and shrubs can cause considerable damage.

Managing Heavy Snow

Accumulations of heavy, wet snow on evergreens can also cause severe branch breakage. Tie up vulnerable plants before a snow or ice storm to help support branches and create a cone shape that will shed snow easier. When heavy, wet snow accumulates on evergreens, gently shake the snow from the branches or carefully brush off the snow with a broom by sweeping upward. Never brush downward – you run the risk of breaking already bent and stressed branches. Snow can slide from steep roofs onto plants. Construct a temporary wooden structure to protect the plants. When shoveling driveways and sidewalks, don't throw heavy, wet snow or ice onto shrubs or small trees. The weight of the heavy, wet snow and ice can cause considerable damage.

If branch breakage occurs on a tree, prune back the damaged limb to the main branch or trunk in late winter when you can access the branch safely. Damaged shrubs may need to be pruned in the spring to restore their attractive, natural shape.

Source:

Iowa State University Extension & Outreach Horticulture and Home Pest News (Published January 7th, 2022) : <https://bit.ly/3UudwMU>

Prepare For Emergencies

Cornell's NY Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) website includes information on how to prepare for emergencies including natural disasters, power outages, fires, infectious diseases, radiation spills and more!

Website Link: <https://eden.cce.cornell.edu/>



About Us

The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Cooperative Extension Office to share information throughout the community.



Master Gardeners are neighbors teaching neighbors about landscapes, vegetables, fruits, herbs, houseplants, beneficial and harmful insects, plant diseases, integrated pest management, wildlife management, soils, birds, composting, water conservation, and much much more.

Master Gardeners are considered researchers rather than experts. They participate in 40 hours of training provided by experienced staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension to gain a basic understanding of horticulture and available horticultural information and online resources. Course topics include plant nutrition, soils, vegetable, fruit culture, trees, shrubs, lawns, diseases and insects that affect plants, pruning and more.

You don't need to be an expert to join, if you enjoy gardening as a hobby, this may be perfect for you.

To become a Master Gardener, all you need to do is attend a 10-week training offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

For more information, please call us at 315-536-5123!

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