

THE OPTIMISTIC GARDENER



Local Horticulture Newsletter
Chautauqua & Cattaraugus Counties

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"Dear Master Gardener"

Q: Can I plant chrysanthemums in my garden and have them rebloom every year?

A: Even though we purchase "mums" in the fall, they should be planted in the spring. They need the growing season to establish a good root system. You can overwinter your fall purchased mum in an unheated garage. Many will survive and you can plant in the spring and enjoy the blooms in the fall.

Do you have a question for our Master Gardeners? Please submit your question here:

chautauquamg@cornell.edu
cattaraugusmg@cornell.edu

THE OPTIMISTIC GARDENER

Sharon Rinehart
Chautauqua County Master Gardener Volunteer

As the growing season comes to an end, my optimism for a successful year had its ups and downs. Some things did better than expected while others did worse.

I did have a goal this year to plant everything (perennials, hostas, trees) that I had purchased last year (or prior years). Didn't totally succeed by came close. Now I will spend the next few months researching how to garden better and smarter.

I was excited to have a small pumpkin patch. Unfortunately, almost all the blossoms were male. I ended up with two smaller pumpkins. I had big tomato plants with lots of tomatoes. Just as they were starting to ripen, the tomato plants died. I bought several bags of mulch - it's still in the bags.

I had success growing red cabbage, banana peppers, eggplant, celery, kale, and pole green beans. The marigolds are still showy, and the anemones gives the flower bed that last pop of white against the brown spent plants.

Remember, this newsletter is written for you. What do you want to know, what are your garden struggles, what are your successes? Please share with us so we can keep connected. Gardeners make the world a better place to live.



Featured Business **Fair Spot**



Fair Spot Greenhouses are located in the heart of Amish county. Alvin and Annie Raber have operated a greenhouse for 13 years – 8 at their current location. In the spring, they have a large variety of fruit and nut trees, shrubs, perennials, berry bushes, and potted plants. You can walk through their greenhouses and find several varieties of flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Often, they have the unusual plants such as a paw paw trees, lemon trees, grapefruit trees, elderberries, and asparagus. In the fall they sell produce – beets, potatoes, apples, peaches, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, goards, and a variety of squash. They also have beautiful mums in the fall.

Many time their children are helping customers carry plants to their vehicles. They have allowed their children to look through seed catalogs and pick out something they would like to grow. A couple years ago I grew lemon cucumbers that was the choice of one of the children.

I asked Mr Raber how they became interested in running greenhouses. He said his wife raised vegetables in a small greenhouse. She was also a school teacher. One day she asked him to open up the greenhouse after the sun came up. He was busy doing other work and it was well after sunrise when he remembered to open the greenhouse. When he got there, the plants were wilted and flat. He said the tomato plants were level to the soil. He opened the greenhouse and thoroughly watered the plants but thought he had probably killed them. He went back to his work but felt terrible that he forgot to open the greenhouse earlier. When he returned later in the afternoon, all the plants were standing tall and healthy. He was amazed at the wonder of plants and decided they should expand their greenhouse to include flowers. Each year I go there, they have new and exciting additions. If you have a chance to visit Fair Spot Greenhouses, you will be amazed at what can be accomplished without electricity. Truly a “back to basics” experience.



**7535 Mosher
Hollow Rd
Cattaraugus, NY**

Featured Garden

Nancy Jager

Chautauqua Co Master Gardener Volunteer

Nancy Yager transformed her large 100' by 50' front yard that was all mowed grass into gardens of perennials and native plants. Six years ago, she started digging up the grass and replanting. It started when she went to a daylily farm that was closing. She bought several day lilies and planted them around an American plum tree that had been planted earlier in her yard. She went back to the day lily farm and purchased several more day lilies. To make room for the additional plants, she had to remove grass. This started with a circle bed. The bed grew larger when the plum tree grew, and the original day lilies had to be relocated to the growing circle bed. As more plants were added, this bed has grown to a 12 ft diameter.

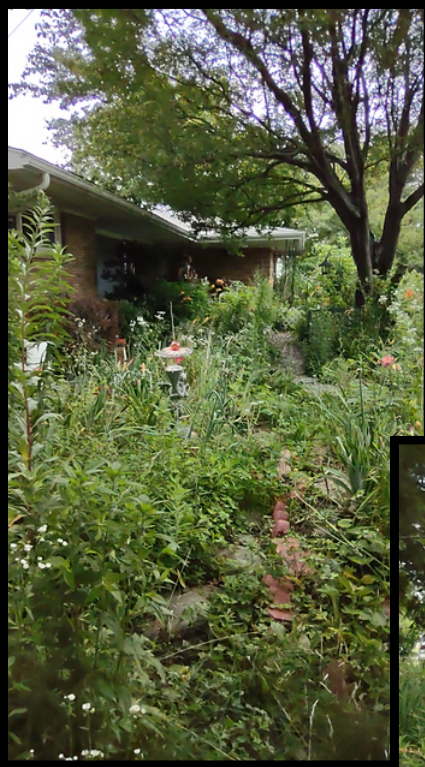
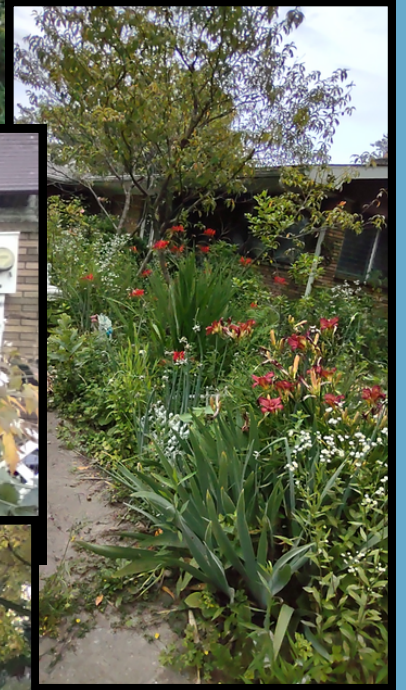
When a native flower bed was being moved at SUNY Fredonia, Nancy was one of the volunteers they asked to take some plants. The cut-leaf coneflower she got there was planted in her back yard and the other side of her corner front yard. She continued to plant more flowers and native plants along the walkway and driveway. She filled in with orange spotted jewelweed and red monarda for the hummingbirds. She has added asters, avens, lady's mantle, crocosmia, yarrow, daisy fleabane, and irises. She has added young paw paw trees along with a peach tree and some shrubs. She has planted a stand of milkweed that is bordered by sides of the sidewalk. It is very recognizable to the monarch butterfly.

Nancy planted two black cohosh, anemone and ligularia in the other front yard which was only about 20 feet of grass. She had to smother invasive plants that had taken over among the grass. She eliminated all the grass, including a small 10 ft area along the driveway that is now garden. She has filled the gardens with native, nonnative, and pollinators. Her goal is to have something in bloom during the entire growing season.

Nancy lives in the city limits and her transformation was met with opposition. Two years ago she started receiving notices from the city inspector that her grass was more than 6 inches tall. She would mow what was still grass but continued to get notices. At one point, her neighbor cited her and the letter was brought to her house by the city inspector. She was told she had too many pots along the sidewalk. Because this was the side lawn of the corner lot, she thought it was allowed but the inspector said it was another front lawn. She was cited for bags of soil, buckets, and other things around the yard that he considered refuse. If a plant wasn't blooming, the inspector considered it a weed and wanted it gone.

The inspector told her she couldn't expand her garden anymore and she ended up going to court 6 times. Each time she expected the worse but the inspector said he could see progress. It has been a year since the last complaint and her garden is full of blooms throughout the season. She has a small section of grass that she keeps mowed under 6 inches. Nancy's transformation of grass to gardens is proof that perseverance is worth it.

Nancy's Transformation



ARE TULIPS PERENNIAL? YES, NO, AND MAYBE:

Dianna Hovey

Chautauqua Co. Master Gardener Volunteer,

YES, all tulips are botanically considered perennials. But in many cases they don't return in following years. Many bloom only for a year or two; growing smaller and not as showy, or without blooming, and even eventually dying.

WHY? Many centuries of cultivation and hybridization have reduced the bulbs ability to return year after year. Hybridization has resulted in 150 species of tulips and over 3,000 cultivars. (Source Better Homes and Gardens, gardenia.net). These are categorized, as of 2018, into 16 divisions or groups.

Note: Tulips previously were categorized into 15 divisions depending on shape, height, bloom time or heritage. Descriptors are provided by the "Royal General Bulbgrowers Association" publication of the "Classified List and International Register of Tulip Names". But since 2018, the The Royal General Bulb Growers' Association, based in Holland has added Coronet tulips as division 16. Don't fuss. Make selections based on your gardening goals and what you like.

Note: Get a copy of "Brent and Becky's" catalog from their mail order nursery. It includes the Divisions for Tulips and Daffodils. Also a great reference is the catalog from John Scheepers, "Beauty from Bulbs". Read those catalogs! They are a great source of cultural (growing) information and filled with beautiful photographs.

TRUE BULBS: The plants loosely called bulbs are divided into 5 categories. Bulbs such as tulips and daffodils, hyacinths, and lilies are considered true bulbs. They are a complete or almost complete embryo of the plant to come. And are packed inside a covering of fleshy scales or layers of tissue that store food for the plant. They grow roots from a basal plate and have a paper-like covering called a tunic. I like to think of them as "A baby plant with a snack." The other categories include corms (crocus, gladiola), tubers (windflower, tuberous begonia, caladium, gloriosa lily), tuberous-rooted plants (dahlia, winter aconite, ranunculus, desert candle), and rhizomes (canna lily, calla lily, lily-of-the-valley).

ORIGIN STORY: Tulips are members of the lily family (Liliaceae). The word tulip is thought to be derived from the Persian word for turban. They have been cultivated in Persia (Iran) since the 10th century. They have a storied history which we will not be able to expand upon in this article. Tulips are native to a broad band from Southern Europe to Central Asia. In these areas, there is adequate moisture in spring followed by a hot, dry summer and a cold winter. Tulips must undergo a period of vernalization or exposure to cold in order to grow. They can be grown in hardiness zones 3-8. But in our Southern states, bulbs must be pre-chilled.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS: The key to success with tulips is to understand their origin. In a posting on the American Meadows website, Frans Roozen, technical director of the International Flower Bulb Center in Hillegom, the Netherlands, tells us "Tulips are indeed true perennials. Getting them to bloom in your garden year after year is no problem, if your garden happens to be located in the foothills of the Himalayas, or the steppes of eastern Turkey." Our climate in North America cannot replicate the conditions of their origin. Thus tulips growing outside their natural habitat in different geographical locations and alternative climates, do not return in subsequent years. (Source: allaboutgardening.com).

THE DUTCH TOUCH: While the growing conditions in the Netherlands do not replicate the long, hot, dry summers and arctic winters of tulips' origins, the professional Dutch growers use technology to produce tulips for the world market. Extensive climate control systems and a complex process using heat and humidity tricks the bulbs into thinking they have grown in their natural environment. So thanks to Dutch savvy, we can enjoy tulips in our gardens.

THE CUT FLOWER INDUSTRY: Most of the tulip bulbs produced in the world are used in the cut flower market.

Tulip breeders have focused on producing a single perfect bloom on a sturdy stem. These tulips were not developed with repeat bloom as a goal. After flowers are harvested, the bulbs are dug and composted. A fresh bulb is planted for next year's cash crop. So, the modern tulip was developed as a cut flower, not a garden plant. This has resulted in many modern tulips that are little more than biennials. (Source: The Laid Back Gardener)

FOR BEST RESULTS PERENNIALIZING YOUR TULIPS:

Certain tulip divisions are best for perennializing. Choose tulips that are marked "good for naturalizing" or "good for perennializing". These include tulips which have not been extensively cross-bred; wild species and cultivars that have been developed from these wild species.

Botanical Tulips include the species (wild) tulips and their hybridized variations. Not all Botanical Tulips correspond to our image of a classic tulip. They offer fairly short stems, often strap-like or wavy-edged leaves, unusual flowers, many star-shaped and with dazzling colors, and multiple flowers per bulb. Wonderful for rock gardens and planted in naturalized drifts. These perennialize better than most tulips. My favorites include 'Little Princess', 'Fusilier', and 'Peppermint Stick', and 'Lilac Wonder'.

Fosteriana: Early in the 20th century, a Dutch breeder named Dirk W. Lefeber worked with a wild red 'Tulipa fosteriana' and developed another red tulip 'Madame Lefeber' which became known as 'Red Emperor'. Due to their large blooms, the tulips that developed from this hybridization became known as the Emperor Tulips. They are members of the Fosteriana (or Foster) Tulip division. (Source: prettypurpledoor, gardenia.net))

This tulip division is named for Michael Foster, a secretary of the Royal Society, founded in 1660. The society was granted a royal charter by King Charles II and is the oldest continuously existing scientific academy in the world. Foster exerted a wide influence on the study of biology in Britain. He was an expert on irises. (Source: Wikipedia)

Among the earliest to flower. They descend from the wild 'Tulipa fosteriana'. Large, elongated flowers on strong stems. Bulbs are 2 x the size of most hybrid tulips. Early mid-spring (April) bloom time.

Among the best for perennializing. Try 'Orange Emperor', 'Apricot Emperor', and 'Purissima'.

Kaufmanniana Tulips: Named for Konstantin von Kaufman (1818-1882) who was the first Governor General of Russian Turkestan where these tulips were found. Also known as Water Lily Tulips. Low-growing with most having mottled foliage. Great for rock gardens and borders. Open fully on sunny days to reveal multi-colored interiors. Bloom in early spring (April/May). Try 'Floresta'.

Darwin Hybrids Early in the 20th Century, Dutch hybridizer Dirk W. Kefeber crossed the famous Tulip fosteriana 'Madame Lefeber' (also known as 'Red Emperor') with various cultivars of what were then known as the Darwin Tulips. They have a somewhat square base. They are difficult to breed. The flowers are usually triploid or tetraploid, meaning they have extra chromosomes. Will tolerate more shade than most tulips. The best for perennializing; often considered the longest term perennial tulip group. They bloom mid-spring. I like 'Daydream' (It changes colors from yellow to apricot to mellow orange.), 'Red Impression', and the 'Apeldoorn' cultivars.

Greigii Tulips: This species was originally found in Turkestan and was named in honor of the Russian Samuel Greig, once president of the Russian Horticultural Society and known as "Father of the Russian Navy". These tulips are of shorter stature but blooms are still substantial. They are known for their dramatically marked and . Flower in early spring (April/May) and after the Kaufmannianas. Open and close with the sun. Most don't need deep planting so 6" deep will suffice. My favorite is the perky 'Red Riding Hood'. Also nice are 'Toronto' and 'Pinnochio'.

Some Single Late Tulips: Also known as Darwin or Cottage Tulips. Long, strong-stemmed with a range of colors from white to near black. May flowering. Good choices for long-lived tulips are 'Menton', 'Queen of Night', and 'Temple of Beauty'.

Green or Viridiflora Tulips:

The name derives from a combination of the Latin words for green and flower. Delicately feathered green at base and on petals. The flowers contain the green pigment chlorophyll and they photosynthesize as well as the leaves. This gives the bulbs a burst of stored energy and they tend to rebloom very well. Late (May) flowering. Choose 'Artist', 'Greenland', or 'Formosa'. (Source: Catalogs from Brent and Becky and from John Scheepers)

DEEP PLANTING IS RECOMMENDED FOR MOST BULBS YOU WISH TO PERENNIALIZE:

Tulip bulbs produce offshoots; little bulbs called bulbils at the base of the mother bulb. These divert energy and crowd the mother bulb. If planted extra deep, the leaves of these bulbils cannot reach the surface and will die from lack of sunlight. This preserves the health and vigor of the mother bulb.

HOW TO GET TOP PERFORMANCE FROM YOUR PERENNIAL TULIPS:

Choose healthy bulbs. They should be firm and plump and heavy for their size.

Plant in autumn 6-8 weeks before the ground freezes. They may be planted later but the task may not be pleasant due to weather.

Plant in full sun.

If you can't plant right away, keep bulbs cool and dry.

Plant in good soil. Tulips require soil that is fertile, loose, and well-draining.

A pH range from 6.0 to 7.0 is best for tulips to receive the nutrients (minerals) for best growth.

For Fosteriana, Darwin Hybrids, Single Late and Viridiflora tulips, plant them up to 12" deep.

Fertilize at planting time with compost and a complete (NPK) organic slow-release fertilizer with Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) values higher than Nitrogen (N). At this time, P and K will encourage root growth and overall bulb health.

Fertilize thereafter in early spring as plants emerge. Here a higher N value is desired. In spring we want to encourage early vegetative growth. A second application in fall, again with a lower N value is also helpful. Water bulbs after planting to ensure adequate moisture to encourage root growth before the soil freezes. Use a 2-3 inch layer of mulch to conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.

Do not use tulips you wish to perennialize for cut flowers.

Note: Plant a special bed for use as cut flowers. These can be planted closely but not touching like eggs in a carton. Treat these bulbs as annuals for best results.

Remove spent flower heads but not leaves.

Let the foliage mature. It must be allowed to photosynthesize in order to manufacture food/energy (sugars) for next year's bloom. This year's leaves=next year's flowers. The stems and leaves will turn yellow then brown at which point they can be removed. They are good additions to a compost pile.

AND CONSIDER: "Flowers are the music of the ground. From earth's lips spoken without a sound." - From the poem titled "Flowers" by Edwin Curran (1902-1975), American poet and telegraph operator from Zanesville, Ohio.

LONG LIVE YOUR PERENNIAL TULIPS!

COLD FRAMES CAN EXTEND YOUR GROWING SEASON

Laura A. Marsala
Apprentice Master Gardener Volunteer

If closing down the garden for winter is a sad day at your house, consider extending your growing season by constructing a cold frame. They can be inexpensive to make, and many cooler weather vegetables—such as leaf lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, beets, carrots, chard, parsley, and radishes—do quite well into the cold months if protected properly. Cold frames are also great places to harden off seedlings that were started indoors in the spring.

Exactly what is a cold frame? Simply put, it's box with a translucent covering, rather like a mini-greenhouse, that protects your plants from winter's fluctuating temperatures, winds, and precipitation. Cold frames moderate these extremes by capturing the sun's warmth during the day. Closing the cover at night helps retain that warmth. The sides and cover of the cold frame provide protection as well.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION

While ready-made cold frames may be purchased, they can be made from scrap material you have on hand. Timber, bricks, plastic, Plexiglas, even hay bales can work, as long as light is able to enter and ventilation is adjustable. Here are some construction tips:

- Use hardwood if possible as it will last longer than softwood.
- Don't use wood that's been treated with creosote or similar non-earth-friendly products, especially if you'll be positioning the cold frame directly on the soil. If painting it, use a non-toxic paint.
- Top the box either with glass (perhaps an old storm window) or a frame covered with clear plastic. Thicker materials will provide more insulation. Old windows and shower doors are classic subjects for this project.
- Hinge the cover or add a sliding lid so that it may be opened for ventilation on warm days.
- A crude cold frame can be made by cutting the bottoms out of plastic milk jugs and placing them over individual plants, holding the jugs in place with mounded soil. During sunny days, remove the caps for ventilation.



POSITIONING YOUR COLD FRAME

Select a location that gets the maximum sun exposure (facing south), noting where the shade of trees and buildings fall. If the back of the frame is cut higher than the front, it is more efficient to catch the slanting rays of the winter sun. Set the frame directly on your garden soil if you have raised or garden beds. Prepare the soil as you would for any vegetable crop.

CHOOSING YOUR CROPS & PLANTING

Select cool-weather vegetables that are popular in your household. Make sure your cold frame is big enough to accommodate plant height. Consider your region's low temperatures.

Plant crops in later summer or early fall so they will grow to maturity before it gets too frigid. For most areas, that means your crops should be nearing full size by late November. After that, further growth will be limited. Once cold weather really sets in, the cold frame acts like a cooler that keeps your crops fresh until you harvest them.

After planting, water young plants as you normally would out in the garden. Even moisture, not overly wet soil, is best. As temps decrease, the need to water is reduced.

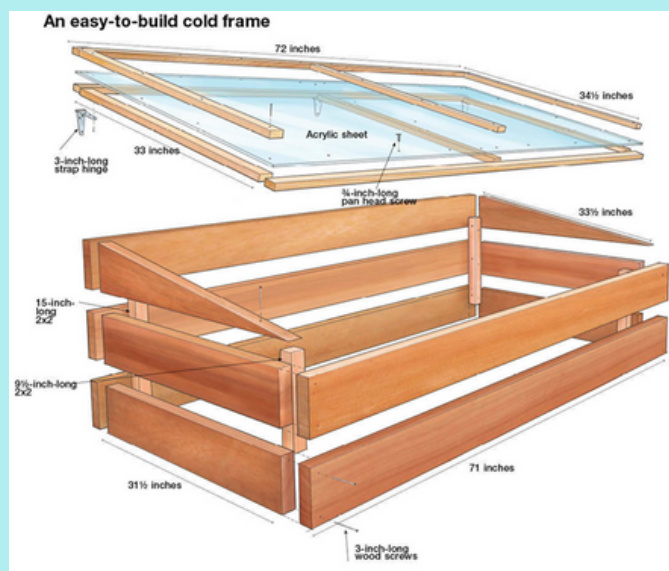
HOW TO USE YOUR COLD FRAME

A minimum/maximum thermometer inside the frame helps keep track of temperatures. In times of extreme cold, an insulated, reflective cover over the frames at night is helpful as long as it's opened during the day to let in the sun.

You won't need to use the cover for your fall-planted, cold-frame crops until night temperatures start to dip below 40°F. Once you start covering the cold frame, be mindful that most days you will need to lift the cover during the day, at least a bit, to vent the cold frame. On sunny days, the temperature inside a closed cold frame can get hot enough to ruin these cool-season crops, so always err on the side of venting too much than too little.

Once the weather turns cold, your crops won't need much maintenance other than venting and harvesting. Start harvesting early to thin out crops, allowing more space for the remainder to mature. As you harvest full-size plants and free up space in the cold frame, consider replanting lettuce or spinach for an early spring crop.

These are only some of the highlights for building and using cold frames. There are many styles and techniques, and an abundance of information is readily available online. These simple structures are ready to go to work for you with minimum effort, so take this pause in early fall—after garden cleanup and before leaf duty starts—to get your fresh winter vegetables off to a great start.



Dimensions for a simple cold frame. Most frames can be constructed in an afternoon.

DYNAMIC ACCUMULATORS

Mark Messinger
Cattaraugus County Master Gardener Apprentice

“Best of all, comfrey leaves make a brilliant liquid plant feed - so you never need to spend money on a shop-bought bottle again!”
(gardenorganic.org.uk) 1

They accumulate; we accumulate. We're dynamic accumulators. For them to accumulate minerals in their leaf tissues seems remarkable behavior. What do these need so much calcium for? How come those have so much potassium? They mine with their roots; we mine with our tools. It all seems a little uncanny, but these plants are so tough and assertive, that some further investigation is warranted.

“Whereas the study of hyper-accumulation is specifically focused on the accumulation of toxic heavy metals, dynamic-accumulation focuses on the accumulation of beneficial nutrients.”
(smallfarms.cornell.edu) 2

Hyper-accumulating toxic heavy metals, in the plants, is useful for gradual land remediation, by removing contaminants from the soil and concentrating them above ground in plant tissues, which can be easily removed. But for gardening purposes, accumulating nutrients, right in the garden, to be removed for use as fertilizer, seems like an interesting proposition.

“In the context of agriculture, ‘dynamic’ refers to the plants’ use of active transport, rather than normal diffusion, to transport a nutrient against the concentration gradient, to achieve a higher nutrient concentration in the plant than in the surrounding soil.”
(smallfarms.cornell.edu)2

If you really detailed where everything comes from (for example, from where was that fertilizer mined or extracted) you run across the problem of how to get it from there to here. The big box store takes care of that problem, but there is a cost. Do we really have to drive somewhere to get our plant foods anyway, with how much we already waste? Wouldn't it be preferable if the fertilizer was just here already?

“Dynamic accumulators are well-suited to extract specific nutrients from fertile soil, but they aren't going to create nutrition that isn't there.”
(smallfarms.cornell.edu) 2

An on-farm research study in Central New York proved that dynamic accumulators can concentrate the nutrients, but they are extracting them still. It's different than clover, which through the symbiosis of bacteria, fixate new nitrogen into the soil. It's closer to mycorrhizae which unlock the soils nutrients in their own ways. What some dynamic accumulators have going for them, is that they mine deep, and create a liquid product that can be applied in liquid form. The list of proven plants looks like a murderers row of weeds.

- *Dried lambsquarters foliage was found to possess potassium concentrations that exceeded dynamic accumulator thresholds (40,715 ppm), and liquid fertilizer made by steeping lambsquarters foliage in water for 5 days contained the highest potassium concentrations of all the trial crops (903 ppm).*

- *Russian comfrey foliage surpassed dynamic accumulator threshold concentrations for both potassium (52,959 ppm) and silicon (513 ppm), with similarly high potassium concentrations found in the resulting liquid fertilizer (889 ppm).*
- *Liquid fertilizer derived from stinging nettle foliage proved to be very nutrient rich, possessing the highest concentrations of P, B, Ca, Cu, and Mn after 5 days of steeping compared to all other trial crops, as well as the highest nutrient carryover rates for all of these nutrients plus K and Mg.*
(Tyler & Zarro, 2022)³

If you are just looking to decoct a witches brew and spray it on your plants, like topical steroids, of the three viable candidates, studied and measured above, the Bocking 14 Comfrey is the least risky, I think. The Bocking 14 cultivar is a sterile hybrid, so it will not self seed, and the upside down purple bell flowers are pretty and are attractive to bumblebees. It's also the only one that was bred for this specific purpose, without being invasive.

I've been growing a patch Bocking 14 comfrey for three years. I am convinced that it is worth the effort, because it's a welcoming looking multi-use plant that takes little work and doesn't spread unpredictably. It more or less spreads like a super-powered hosta, with a root crown, but also deep rhizomatous tap roots. I allow my patch to flower once per year, for one month, and frequently cut back the leaves.



It had been flowering for more than a month this year when I took my second cutting in July. As you can see, I entirely sheared off the tops, and less than three weeks later, the comfrey looks vibrant and refreshed again. In the next issue I'll go more in depth on its interesting history.

As far as the liquid comfrey fertilizer goes, it is easy. The recipe is chopped or bruised comfrey leaves in a 5 gallon bucket and water. Fill it to the brim, and cover. In three weeks it is ready, though it can go longer. After being strained, the brews final color and stench are indicative of it's strength. Opaque dark brown is full strength, and it's safer and easier to apply diluted with water till it's half-clear. I apply it with a pump sprayer to the leaves and base of my plants. It could also work well with drip irrigation, hose end fertilizer sprayers, and watering cans if you strain it well. One plant is enough to get started, and divide next year from the crown or root pieces, as you like.

Sources:

1. <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/expert-advice/garden-management/soil/comfrey>
2. <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2022/04/new-findings-further-the-study-of-dynamic-accumulators/>
3. A Dynamic Accumulator Database and Field Trials for Six Promising Species, Ben Tyler and Greta Zarro, December 2021, Northeast SARE

Local Master Gardener Volunteer

Laura Marsla

Chautauqua County Master Gardener

Laura Marsala is a resident of Mayville and has been working gardens since she was a child, helping in the family flower and vegetable beds. Having moved back to New York several years ago and noting the differences between her old environment and the new, she realized further education was essential. Enter the CCE Master Gardener program! A retired editor/book designer and avid food preserver, Laura is delighted to have access to Chautauqua County's rich food and farm community networks and enjoys the programs and activities that take place here. She looks forward to continuing her interaction, connecting with like-minded growers, and volunteering to ensure that everyone has access to local food sources. She is currently developing a tree planting and replacement program in her community and hopes that you will introduce yourself at the next function.



Garden Quote

"The best time to plant a tree was 25 years ago. The second-best time to plant a tree is today"

Eliud Kipchoge

Local Master Gardener Volunteer

Mark Messinger

Cattaraugus County Master Garden Apprentice

In our last issue, we published a short bio about Mark Messinger. In this issue we are adding more information about Mark. His bio is quite extensive.

I was born in Buffalo and spent most of my childhood in Randolph, NY. I studied English and Russian Literature at Kenyon College in Ohio. My interest in gardening started after college when I was living in Buffalo as part of the Nickle City Housing Co-Op. I became involved in urban farming, composting, and worked a number of jobs at restaurants, where I learned to cook from some talented chefs. I pursued a Masters degree in Secondary Education at D'youville College, but not long after pursued my dream of starting a Market Garden in Holland, NY. After some years of mixed success, selling to restaurants and at farmers markets, I joined Americorps VISTA to focus again on urban farming, and food insecurity on Buffalo's East Side. That led me to a position with Community Action Organization of WNY, directing their urban farming program to promote local food systems and combat food insecurity. I wrote successful grants for the program, gained lots of experience campaigning, administrating, and grew tons of fresh food for the food pantry. I also perceived the fraud, corruption, and inefficiencies that can infect non-profits under distracted leadership. After falling out with the program, I moved back to Holland, and then to Randolph to establish a farm that might have a positive direct impact on local food insecurity and be a model for sustainable practices. Joining the CCE Master Gardener program was a means of achieving those goals both in terms on networking and knowledge. So far, so good.



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Just A Thought

When our gardens need a rest from the growing season, we too need a rest from the nurturing, care, and worry of our gardens.

Community Workshops

MASTER GARDENER LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Visit our website for updates on our Winter & Spring Mini-Series:

cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu/events

GARDENING WITH BULBS FOR SPRING

Please register online or by calling (716) 699-2377 Ext 127

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/springbulbs_258



Gardening with Bulbs for Spring

with Master Gardener John Balacki

When: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
5:00pm-6:00pm

Where: Cornell Cooperative Extension
28 Parkside Drive Ellicottville NY

Register: Please preregister by visiting the link below
or calling the office at (716) 699-2377

https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/springbulbs_258

It's always a good plan to have something to look forward to. And in gardening, in late fall and winter, we look forward to spring. Spring blooming bulbs are the tonic to shorten the winter doldrums. In fact, there are spring blooming bulbs that will appear as early as a February thaw and continue sequentially into May.

Most of us are familiar with crocus, daffodils and tulips. But how about trying some new and interesting bulbs for that springtime lift we all need? And, how about some new variations of our old 'tried and true' standbys?

This talk will cover old favorites and suggest others that you may not be familiar with and will be based on the many years of experience in which I have enjoyed growing springtime bulbs. Suggestions and some advice will be offered to help you select the best bulbs for success in our climate and where to find them.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cattaraugus County
<https://cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu/>

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Lunch & Learn

Register today!
<https://cattaraugus.cce.cornell.edu/events>
or call 716-699-2377 ext 127

FREE Fall Mini Hybrid Series

Join us in-person (28 Parkside Drive Ellicottville)
or via Zoom **Noon-12:30pm** to learn about various horticulture or food preservation topics!

Growing Garlic in NY
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Master gardeners will discuss methods, tips and tricks to successfully grow garlic in our cold region.

Winterizing your Garden
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Master Gardeners will provide best practices for prepping your garden for winter. This is an essential step to having a lush garden next spring.

Growing Herbs
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
National Herbal Medicine Week takes place in October. Master Gardeners will share information on herb uses and tips on how to successfully grow your own herb garden!

National Pickle Day
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Does this pickle your fancy? In honor of National Pickle Day, Come learn the art of pickle making and how to pickle other products!

CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROVIDES
EQUAL PROGRAM AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.



Jamestown Garden Club Symposium

Questions or to register contact Sharon Reed
sharonreed1212@gmail.com



Jamestown Garden Club

Presents

Flowers for All Seasons:

Annual Gardening Symposium

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Doors Open at 9:30 am

Jonathan Townsend, Royal Fern Nursery 10 am-11 am
David Clark, Buffalo Botanical Gardens 11 am-12 noon

This event will feature David Clark from Buffalo Botanical Gardens and Jonathan Townsend, the Owner of Royal Fern Nursery. David will demonstrate how to make beautiful floral arrangements and Jonathan will lead a discussion about the importance of native plants. Refreshments will be served. Raffle tickets will be available for drawings for a variety of gifts.

- Preregistration is required along with \$15 payment per guest.
 - Register by mail before November 1, 2023.
 - Complete a registration form.
 - Make checks payable to Jamestown Garden Club.
 - Mail the registration form and checks to Angie Peck-Rodgers, 419 Orchard Road, Jamestown, NY 14701
 - Registrations will be limited to the first 100 paid responses.

The Symposium Will Be Held at the
YWCA Lake Lodge 185 E. Terrace Avenue Lakewood, New York

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

What's Bugging You?

Join us Live on the first Friday of every month from
Noon to 12:30 EST on Zoom.

2023 Schedule

- **November 3:** Winter Garden prep | Tick check reminder
- **December 1:** Houseplant IPM | Firewood pests

<https://cals.cornell.edu/new-york-state-integrated-pest-management/outreach-education/events/whats-bugging-you-webinars#2023>

Community Resources

Seed Libraries

Many local libraries have opened free seed libraries to encourage community members to garden and grow some of their own food!

The list is growing, below are a few libraries that are participating. Feel free to donate any seeds to help their seed library grow.

Ashville Free Library (Ashville NY) ashvillelibrary.com
Meyers Memorial (Frewsberg, NY) meyerslibrary.org
Anderson-Lee (Silver Creek, NY) andersonleelibrary.org
Mayville Library (Mayville, NY) mayvillelibrary.com
Seneca Nation Library (Salamanca NY)
James Prendergast Library (Jamestown, NY)
prendergastlibrary.org
Alexander Findley Community Library (Findley Lake, NY) findleylibrary.org
Darwin Barker Library (Fredonia, NY) barkerlibrary.org

SWARM REMOVAL

NEED HELP REMOVING A HONEY BEE SWARM?

The beekeepers listed below have indicated that they provide bee removal services. The following contact information is provided as a public service and is not an endorsement of any of the beekeepers listed. AGM does not license or issue permits to remove honey bees. In addition, AGM does not have any information regarding a beekeeper's qualifications or training to remove honey bees.

View the list
agriculture.ny.gov/swarm-catcher-list





Master Gardener Help Desk Is Open during growing season April-Sept

Questions can be asked during “off-season” by staff

Our master gardeners are ready to help with your garden question, identification or issue. Our garden experts will review your request and set you in the right direction. Also, as an extra bonus if you bring in a soil sample, our garden team will test for pH. pH is important for the adsorption of nutrients in your soil.



Cattaraugus County

Contact us at 716-699-2377
e-mail us at cattaraugusmg@cornell.edu

Helpline hours: Wednesday, 1:00pm-3:00pm

visit us at 28 Parkside Drive Ellicottville, NY 14731



Chautauqua County

Contact us at 716-664-9502 extension 224
e-mail us at chautauquamg@cornell.edu

visit us at the JCC Carnahan Center
525 Falconer Street

Helpline hours: Wednesdays noon-2pm

GPS address: 241 James Ave, Jamestown, NY

Life of a Monarch



Monarch Egg



Newly hatched caterpillar



Monarch caterpillar



Just before chrysalis



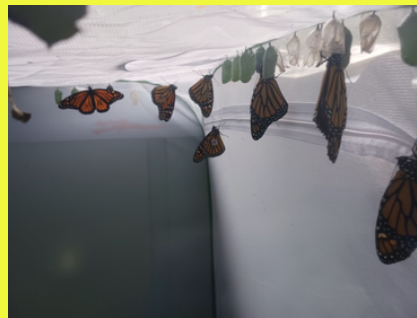
Start of metamorphosis



Chrysalis



Newly emerged monarch



Monarch Habitat



Released Monarch



For the last few years, I have raised Monarchs. These are some pictures I took this year (except the actual caterpillar). When I started, I used a 10 gallon aquarium. This year I purchased a 3 ft x 2ft x 2 ft habitat. This year I released 42 monarchs. I tagged thirty-two of them and hope that at least one can be traced on its journey. This is a fun and rewarding experience.



Support the Master Gardener volunteer program and get a chance to win this beautiful terrarium!

Wrought Iron Victorian Terrarium Raffle

Tickets
\$5/each
or 3/\$12



Funds to support Chautauqua County
Master Gardener Program

**Drawing will take place live on Facebook
November 17th. Winner will be notified.**

This terrarium was gifted to Master Gardener, Pat Martonis
from fellow volunteer and friend Rose Stark.

Pat - "Rose was a generous person who taught at Chautauqua Elementary school. Her extracurricular activities included the founding of the Environmental club. I became acquainted with Rose through the establishment of the native plant garden at the Audubon Center. As avid gardeners with a strong desire to improve the environment, we quickly bonded. I quickly found that she was intelligent, funny and a giving person. She was an active community member, including volunteering at the Busti Historical Society. I am donating this to the Chautauqua Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners."

"It is in the spirit of continuing horticulture education and community service, that the proceeds of this raffle will go to this organization. Thank you Rose."



Plants by The Mayberry Jungle, Mayville NY



Tickets can be purchased at
Cornell Cooperative Extension
JCC-Carnahan Building
GPS Address: 241 James Street
Jamestown

Cash or Check only

<https://chautauqua.cce.cornell.edu/>



GARDEN

TIPS & TRICKS

Add mulched leaves to your garden beds in the fall and they will compost by spring and add nutrients to your garden.



"LITTLE TOGS"

(The Optimistic Gardener)



Worm Composting

Worm composting can be done on a small scale with children. Use a small plastic storage container. Drill small holes in the side (for air) and bottom (for excess liquid) of the container. This container can be set in another larger container to catch any liquid that drains out. Fill the container with shredded newspaper and spray the paper with water to moisten. Add red wiggler worms (earth worms will not like this environment). Feed the red wigglers feed scraps of fruits, vegetables, and coffee grounds (avoid dairy, meat, and oil products). They will eat the scraps and produce worm casings (poop). They will also lay eggs and multiple. The worm casings can be removed and used to fertilize indoor and outdoor plants.

KID'S CORNER



References:

Worm Composting, www.KidsGardening.org

Monarch Watch Tagging Program, <https://monarchwatch.org/tagging>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County is your resource for information on soils, site improvement, plant selection, proper plant care, eco-friendly practices, integrated pest management, composting and so much more! We offer free or low-cost gardening classes and tours all year long, and opportunities to share your love of gardening as a volunteer!



Interested in Agricultural Resources?

Checkout Agriculture Program Subscription

Access to Chautauqua or Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension **Agriculture** Program services are granted upon program subscription. All subscriptions cost \$65, this includes the "Extension Connection" and other general mailings, Newsletters as well as the opportunity receive services from our regional teams, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, Cornell Vegetable Program and Southwest NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program. Additional fees may be necessary for print mailings of regional newsletters.

Please contact the below CCE locations if you are interested in subscribing to the Agriculture Program Subscription.

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

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