

Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau Topics & Descriptions by Category

Updated Dec. 2025

Native Plants & Pollinators

Bringing Native Plants into Your Garden



Our own gardens are wildlife preserves that represent the last chance we have for sustaining plants and animals that were once common throughout the U.S. Learn why it is important to

use native plants in your landscapes to support birds and insects and learn strategies for creating a diverse and beautiful home landscape.

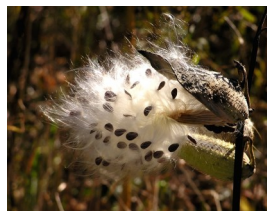
Creating a Welcoming Garden for Hummingbirds and Butterflies

How do you attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden? This presentation will guide you through the plant selection process as well as provide tips on what to do and what not to do to have success. Learn about the lifecycles of butterflies and hummingbirds as well as what to look for in their behaviors and physical features.

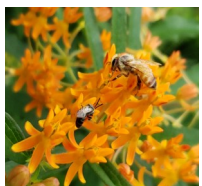


Harvesting, Saving and Planting Seeds

Learn how to identify, harvest, and propagate native plants from seeds that are found in your own backyard. Learn how to properly harvest seeds and the best ways to save them over the winter, plant them in fall, or start them in spring. Winter sowing will also be discussed.



Native Perennials & Groundcovers



Learn about easy to grow Native Perennials that can be added to your landscape to support pollinators and the environment. These plants will reduce your need to water, are lower

maintenance, and will eliminate the need for pesticides and herbicides. Learn about Groundcovers which will reduce the need to weed, mulch, or mow.

Flower Gardening

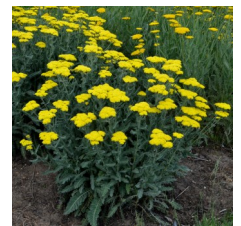
Dahlias



This class covers planting Dahlia tubers for optimal blooms, caring for these magnificent plants, and the best methods for cutting Dahlias for arrangements. Learn how to overwinter your tubers for successful crops for years to come.

Lower Maintenance Perennial Gardening

While we love the look of a lush, flower-filled garden, the classic border with three seasons of continuous bloom, such a garden requires a lot of work. But we don't want a concrete slab either.



We want something in between these extremes, something that meets our needs as our lives get busier and our bodies get older. This presentation covers the basics of lower-maintenance gardening, including designing a lower-maintenance garden, simplifying and editing existing plantings, and suggestions of plants that require less maintenance.

Perennial Garden Basics



Perennials are a wonderful way to have a garden that doesn't need to be replanted every year. In this presentation, you will learn how to select perennials that are right for your garden conditions, how to plant them, care for them during the summer months, divide them when needed and how to put them to bed in the fall. Bloom times will be addressed as well as native perennials that will attract butterflies. We'll take a look at species that thrive in the northeast in both sun and shade conditions.

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General Gardening

Awakening the Garden in Spring

This presentation covers essential steps for getting your garden off to a good start in the Spring including planning your garden, starting seeds at home, spring clean-up, amending your soil, reducing and diversifying your lawn, choosing and siting seeds and plants, and more.



Designing Your Garden: Tools and Tips

This talk is geared toward the home gardener contemplating a new or re-designed garden. The talk covers fundamental principles of garden design as well as key concepts for planting once a design is established. It includes tips and tools for the long haul as well. With this information in hand, it is possible for every gardener to have a well-designed garden.



Gardening Basics 101



This basic gardening presentation is intended for beginners or for those who have encountered difficulties in their garden. Site selection, garden preferences, sunlight, terminology, soil, fertilizers, hardiness zones, and reading seed packets are among the topics introduced. Both flower and vegetable gardening will be addressed. Gardeners should know that with some knowledge, success is possible, and gardening should be enjoyed!

Getting to Know Your Weeds

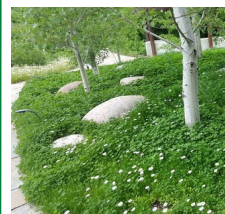
Discover what is considered a weed and how to identify based on classification (Annual, Biennial, Perennial, Invasive Species). We will discuss weed management strategies and the mistakes that homeowners make in controlling problem weeds.



General Gardening

Healthy Habits for Gardening

This presentation addresses the health benefits of gardening and precautions to take to prevent possible risks to health. Topics include avoiding exposure to harmful insects and excessive sun, appropriate hydration, body mechanics, ergonomics and the safe use of tools and chemicals.



Honey, I Shrunk the Lawn

Lawns are wonderful spaces to play and eat and talk but they are also ecologically and economically expensive. Perhaps we could do with less of them. If you are wondering what you might do to reduce pollution and restore our ecosystem, shrinking your lawn is one option. This program will present a range of lawn-reduction options from the least intensive to the most dramatic.

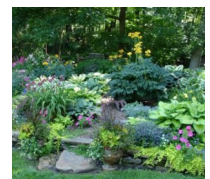
Putting Your Garden to Bed

This presentation covers many of the tasks you should tackle to prepare your garden for winter and anticipate its re-awakening in spring: amending your soil, planting bulbs, preparing your vegetable and perennial gardens for winter, protecting shrubs and trees, lawns, deer proofing, propagating by seed and division, caring for tools, and more.



Shade Gardening: Dream of the Possibilities

Shade gardens can be extraordinary. Green is not just one color and many shade plants flower. This presentation covers a range of plants available for shade gardening and provides tips and tools for success. As climate change prods many of us to want fun in the shade, not the sun, shade gardening may be in your future, if not in your present. Come learn what you need to know about shade gardens.



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General Gardening

Trees to Love

Everybody knows and loves the maple tree. But what if you want something different? Planting a tree is a major investment so we should know our options before we start to dig. This presentation covers some of the best choices available for the urban/suburban landscape. Trees featured have multi-season interest and range from those suitable for the urban backyard to those appropriate for a large suburban or rural location.



Waking Up the Garden, Waking Up the Gardener

Wondering what garden tasks should be done in early March or late April? This presentation gives a guided tour of how to wake the garden up month by month from February through May. The gardener needs attention too. So how do we wake her or him up? If you pay attention, you can wake up right along with your garden.



Weeds: An Ounce of Prevention...

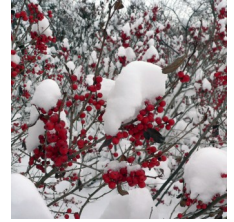


Successful gardening requires knowing weeds as much as knowing flowers. Come spring, it can be hard to decide whether to pull a sprouting plant or let it grow. Throughout the rest of the gardening season, you need to be on the lookout for common weeds to remove them quickly and properly to make certain they don't spread. This presentation takes a "Not in My Garden!" look at the most common weeds and how to detect, deter, and destroy them! When it comes to weeds, an ounce of prevention is definitely worth a pound of cure.

General Gardening

Winter Interest

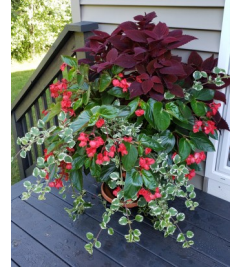
We live where winter can last four months, and we can't be without our gardens for this long. What can we do? Plant for winter interest! This presentation explores the many ways gardens can provide beauty and interest in the midst of winter, from trees and shrubs, grasses and perennials to rocks and pinecones. Eye-candy when we need it most!



Container Gardening

Container Gardening: Tips & Techniques for Success

Discover how to successfully grow annuals, perennials, and herbs in containers to highlight your landscaping. Learn what types of containers, soil, and amendments to use in different environments and what varieties of plants work best.



Gardening in Containers 101



An introduction to growing annuals, herbs or vegetables in containers. You will learn what to consider when putting together container gardens including care and maintenance.

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Vegetable & Herb Gardening

Creating a Backyard Vegetable Garden

This presentation provides a basic checklist for the beginner and some tips for the experienced vegetable gardener on the creation and maintenance of backyard vegetable gardens. Learn how to select what to grow and when as well as the types of gardens based on space and accessibility. Soil guidance, watering techniques, sunlight, crop rotation, seasonal plantings, and vegetable families will also be discussed with respect to the types of vegetables being considered.



Companion Planting – What is It & Why?



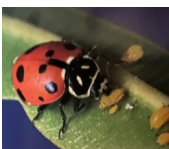
This is an introduction to planting different plants together such as vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, etc. that provide a benefit to their neighbors through nutrients, providing shade, or protection from pests or disease.

Everyone Loves Tomatoes

Everyone loves tomatoes presents information on the different types of tomatoes, options on planting, basic tomato plant care, how to harvest and preserve your crop. The presentation also provides some insight into the pests and diseases that threaten your tomato crop.



Pest & Diseases in the Vegetable Garden



As vegetable gardeners you must have experienced crop loss due to pests or diseases at one time or another. This presentation covers insects (both detrimental and beneficial), commonly occurring diseases, and conditions that impact common vegetables along with potential solutions and cures.

Vegetable & Herb Gardening

Introduction to Herbs - Growing, Using, and Drying

This presentation provides a basic checklist for the beginner and some tips for the experienced gardener on the creation, use, and maintenance of herb gardens. Soil guidance, watering techniques, sunlight requirements, and means of preserving herbs will be discussed including the uses for various herbs.



Soil: The Foundation of Life



Gardeners looking to improve their harvest will learn the difference between soil and dirt along with the different soil types. This presentation covers reasons for soil testing and its benefits, how to amend soil, how to garden in clay, and dealing with contaminated soil.

Why Raised Beds for Gardening & How to Build Them

This presentation provides an introduction into raised beds for gardening. The presentation discusses why to use raised beds, pros and cons, options for creating them, and how to locate them within your gardening spaces.



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Indoor Plant Care

Night Blooming Cereus



Learn about this tropical cactus known for its large fragrant white flowers that bloom at night. This presentation covers how to grow and propagate.

The Care and Feeding of Houseplants

Houseplants add beauty and fresh air to your home. This presentation will identify some common houseplants with general information on their care what to do and what NOT to do. You will also learn how to give them a summer vacation outside.



The Care and Feeding of Holiday Plants



It's always delightful to purchase or receive those attractive plants at holiday time. Poinsettia, Amaryllis, Christmas Cactus, Anthurium, Cyclamen, are lovely to look at, but how do you care for them afterward? This presentation will cover care of those plants as well as general tips for all houseplants.

Gardening in Art & Literature

Monet: Artist and Gardener



Few artists have captured the beauty and joy of gardening as well as Claude Monet. His fascination with plants and nature is reflected both in his paintings and in the incredible gardens he created at his home in Giverny. This presentation explores Monet's early life, his development as a painter, and his life as a gardener - all of which played a part in his incredible artistic legacy.

Wildflowers: Faces, Facts and Folklore

The presentation will inspire a renewed appreciation of the many beautiful wildflowers that grow without



our labors. Plant identification tips will be addressed along with fun facts and the folklore of selected wildflowers. Suggestions on how to motivate children (and the young at heart) to discover the various attributes of flowers will also be discussed.