

THE GARDEN CONNECTION ISANTI CO. MASTER GARDENERS

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BURST INTO SPRING 2017

Thank you to everyone that worked behind the scenes confirming the venue, contacting vendors, soliciting silent auction donations, planning food services, contacting speakers, assembling registration materials and scheduling our annual Burst Into Spring horticulture day. Thank you also to everyone who made this year's event a success.

2017 Master Gardener State Conference

Our Plants, Our Planets, Our Volunteers

Registration is open. Experience empowering speakers, enhance your horticulture knowledge, attend exclusive workshops, network with your peers, and explore ways to inspire and engage your community in sustaining a healthy planet, through healthy plants, for healthy people. Go to the Minnesota Arboretum website for full information on registration, times, classes and lodging.

Friday, June 23, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. *St. Paul Garden Bus Tour; Friday Keynote, Sessions & Evening Entertainment at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska MN*

Saturday, June 24, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. *Breakfast, Friday Keynote, lunch & Sessions at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska MN*

PRUNING FLOWERING SHRUBS

By Poppy Irwin, ICMG

We prune our flowering shrubs for many reasons other than size and shape. We prune to promote the health of the shrub. This includes removing dead, dying and damaged branches and branches that rub together. If a branch has been injured by animals, storms, insect infestation or disease it needs to be removed. If removing a partial branch, cut just above the bud for the length you want, remembering that whichever direction the bud points, the new growth will grow that direction.



Pruning for plant maintenance may include maintaining a dense hedge, maintaining plant form or encouraging flower and fruit development. If the shrub is near a sidewalk or entryway pruning may be necessary to prevent obscuring the entry to your home. Branches may be thinned out for good spacing, allowing good air flow.

Sometimes we prune to improve plant appearance, but a plant's natural form is best. If pruning is done correctly, it is difficult to see that pruning has been done. We often prune to control plant size and shape, sometimes due to space requirements. Other reasons for pruning are to keep shrubby evergreens dense and well-proportioned, removing suckers, and unwanted branches for ease of adding mulch, mowing and weeding.

Spring blooming shrubs should be pruned just after blooming as they set next year's buds when they finish this year's bloom. Shrubs included in this group are: Lilac, Serviceberry, Chokeberry, Azaleas/Rhododendrons, Weigela, Juneberry, Early blooming Spirea, Viburnum, Forsythia and flowering Plum and flowering Cherry.



Summer or fall blooming shrubs should be pruned in late winter or early spring before growth begins. Some common



landscape shrubs included in this group are: Hydrangea Paniculata, Barberry, Dogwood, Alpine currant, Burning Bush, Ninebark, Potentilla, Purpleleaf sandcherry, Last blooming Spirea, Smokebush and Sumac.

Rhododendrons bloom in early spring, Azaleas, Lilacs and Serviceberry bloom in mid-spring, Weigela blooms in late spring, Roses (dependent on cultivar) bloom in late spring to late summer and Hydrangeas bloom in mid-to-late summer. An easy rule to remember is if you have a spring bloomer, prune it just after it blooms and all others prune in late winter/early spring. Shrubs that bloom on new growth may be pruned in early spring before growth begins. If unsure when to prune your shrub, do some research for the shrub on the Internet or ask at your local nursery.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS – SAVE THE DATES

The Extension Master Gardener State Advisory Board is holding a number of gatherings across Minnesota to connect with volunteers and coordinators, seek feedback on the program offer specialized training and create networking and learning opportunities. The specialized workshop training in 2017 will be on pollinators. Only volunteers that have attended a training workshop will be given access to the newly developed training package.

Mark your calendars to save the dates and locations.
Northwest Region – Wednesday, August 9 – Crookston
Southwest Region – Thursday, September 14 – Wilmar
Northeast Region – Thursday, October 19 – Grand Rapids
Southeast Region – Saturday, November 4 – Waseca

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Monthly on the second Thursday, the Isanti Master Gardeners offer free garden related topics to the public at 7:00 pm at the Isanti County Government Center. Call 763.689.1810 or email jrwatson@umn.edu to register for one of the upcoming presentations.

April 13 – *Water Gardening in a Container*, presented by Soni Forsman

May 11 – *Seed Starting*, Robin Weber, Isanti Co. MG

June 8 – *Roses*, Gary Skarsten

MN Landscape Arboretum - go to the website to register for classes.

FREE! Saturday, April 22, 10 am – noon / Earth Day with the Minnesota Bee Atlas. *Minnesota Bee Atlas staff*

Participate in this exclusive training from the Minnesota Bee Atlas Project to help create a comprehensive, brand new, state-wide inventory of the native bees found in Minnesota! Honey bees and bumble bees are easily recognized and play an important role in pollination. Minnesota is home to hundreds of bee species. As part of this project, you will receive specialized training from the project staff, starting with an overview of native bees and pollination. You will receive hands-on instruction, practice in the field, and a comprehensive handout. *Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center*

Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am – noon / Spring Houseplant Clinic - *Julie Weisenhorn, Horticulture Educator, University of Minnesota Extension*

You have sheltered those potted beauties all winter long, but after months of low light and dry air, how do you ease your houseplants' transition into the warm seasons? Bring along a few of your favorite houseplants for an informative, practical morning that will give you confidence and your plants a boost for the months spent on sunny balconies and patios. Julie will start with an overview of houseplant basic needs, species-based special considerations, and troubleshooting. Afterward, you will transition to a "plant lab" for repotting, assessing your plants, and scouting for insects. *Learning Center*

Saturday, June 3, 9:30 am– noon / Landscaping for Pollinators - *Julie Weisenhorn, Horticulture Educator, University of Minnesota Extension*

Pollinators are responsible for two thirds of the food we enjoy, and gardeners of all levels can help encourage pollinators to thrive by providing much needed food and shelter in the form of plants. Join fellow gardeners as Julie gives you a "pollinator perspective" on landscaping, and shares practical ways you can transform your yard to support these important insects. *Snyder Building*

Saturday, June 17, 9:30 - 11 am / Edible Landscaping: Blending Beauty with Bounty
Julie Weisenhorn, Horticulture Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Do you enjoy growing food, but tire of hiding your humble vegetable garden in the back? There is another way: edible landscaping combines both ornamental and edible plants and results in a completely beautiful, completely delicious property! After an introduction to the concept, Julie will show you and your fellow gardeners how to make good plant choices for this type of garden, how to creatively mix and match for your desired garden look, and of course how to plan for sustainability and healthy long-lived plants. *Snyder Building*

MN Horticultural Society - go to the website to register.

Tuesday, April 18, 7 – 8 pm, Webinar, *Beardless Iris for Northern Gardens* / Pre register by 3 pm on the day of the class.

There is a beardless iris for every gardening situation. Find out everything you need to know to select iris varieties for your garden. William will cover the various types and cultivars of beardless iris, their growth cycle, diseases and care, and much more.

William Dougherty is a garden writer and speaker. He has been growing and hybridizing iris for over 30 years.

Tuesday May 9, 7 to 8pm. / Make a Kokedama for Mother's Day Gift

A kokedama or Japanese moss ball is a form of Japanese garden art that is centuries old and related to bonsai. Kokedama is a unique and creative way to present and display plants. This class includes a brief history and description, demonstration including planting, care and display ideas, plus guided work time. Participants will take home one finished kokedama plant with a small orchid. Additional plants and materials may be purchased from the instructor at the class. Make a beautiful gift for your favorite gardener!

Jenn Hovland is the owner and principal designer of Fleur de Louise Flower Studio in Stillwater
Location: MSHS classroom, Roseville

Plant Sales – information will be added as it becomes available

May 12 – 14 / Friends School Plant Sale, State Fair Grandstand. www.friendsschoolplantsale.com

May 20 / Isanti Co. MG plant sale located near the Cambridge Community Garden on East Run River Drive

May 20 / Four Seasons Garden Club sale located near the Cambridge Farmer's Market

May 24 – Pine Co. MG

Check local nursery websites for classes: Green Barn (www.greenbarngardencenter.com); Nelson Nursery (www.nelsonnursery.com) Mickman Brothers Nursery (<http://www.mickman.com>); MN State Horticultural Society (www.northerngardener.org); MN Landscape Arboretum (www.arboretum.umn.edu)

Leadership Team

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