

THE GARDEN CONNECTION

ISANTI CO. MASTER GARDENERS

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ISANTI CO. MASTER GARDENERS – Mark Your Calendars



Chisago County will host PICCKM on Tuesday, October 17 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm.

It will be held at the Chisago County Community Center: 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. Isanti county attendees are requested to bring salads for the potluck dinner. The guest speaker will be Mary Meyer, Professor & Extension

Horticulturist, UMN Landscape Arboretum. Please make plans to attend and be sure to RSVP no later than October 12, using the information on the flyer Joan previously sent out.

SAVING SEEDS

By Poppy Irwin, ICMG

Saving seeds from your own garden is economical and easy. Select seeds from vigorous, healthy plants with ripe produce for harvesting seeds. Choose open-pollinated varieties rather than hybrid varieties. Hybrid vegetable and flower plants are products of crosses between two different varieties. Even if the hybrid plants produce viable seeds, the plants grown from these seeds will not be just like the parent plant. They will be a completely new combination of the good and bad traits of the original plant.

Open-pollinated plants such as tomatoes, peas, peppers and beans are good choices for seed saving. These plants are self-pollinating. Open-pollinated varieties may be “heirlooms”. Heirloom plants are varieties that have usually been passed down from one generation to the next, keeping the seeds the same as the original plant.

Vine crops such as cucumbers, melons, squash, gourds and pumpkins are pollinated by insects. These types of plants may be cross-pollinated from one variety to another. The current crop will not be affected but seeds that have been cross-pollinated will produce fruit unlike the original parent plant and is often inferior. For seeds that are embedded in pulp try to harvest the seeds from fully ripened produce on a sunny day after the dew has dried from the plants. Cut open the produce, remove all pulp and fiber from the seeds and place them on a screen, newspaper or paper plate to dry indoors. If you plant only one vine crop you can save the seeds and be reasonably sure your plants the following year will be the same as the parent plant. However, if you have close neighbors who plant different vine crops the neighborhood bees may have cross-pollinated them.



Bean, pepper and pea seeds are the easiest to save. For peppers, leave the peppers on the plant until they are fully ripe and start to wrinkle. Remove the seeds from the pepper and spread them out to dry indoors. For pea and bean seeds, allow the fruit to stay on the plant until they become dry and start to turn brown, rattling inside the pods. This may take about a



month after you would normally harvest the peas or beans for eating or canning. Pick the pods from the plants and spread them out indoors to dry for at least two weeks before shelling. You can also save the seeds in their pods until the next spring.

Once you have dried your seeds, store them in tightly sealed glass containers or individual paper packets. Keep seeds cool and dry. Be sure to label and date your seeds so you know what is in each packet or jar.

The pictures show a pollinator on a cucumber vine and seeds from peppers (top), Kentucky Wonder pole beans (left) and squash (right) grown in 2016.

MASTER GARDENER 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.

Southwest Region – Thursday, September 14 – Wilmar

Northeast Region – Thursday, October 19 – Timberlake Lodge & Hotel, Grand Rapids

Deadline to register, October 12, Fee: \$15.00, contact Jackie Froemming at froem022@umn.edu. Space is limited.

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.

Sept 14 – Making Wine by Ruth Paschke, ICMG

Oct 12 – Succulents by Julie Weisenhorn, UMN Extension Educator

Nov 9 – Storage of Vegetables by Beverly McLaughlin, ICMG

Jan 11, 2018 – What's New for Flowers in 2018 by Kelsey Sparks, Mgr. Green Barn Nursery

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

The Arboretum now has an Adult Classes catalog e-catalog or hard copy. Go to their website to browse the eVersion or request a hard copy.

Sept 16 – Saturday, 2 – 5 pm. *A Closer Look: The World within a Patch of Goldenrods*

Instructor: Larry Weber, Duluth, Teacher at State Parks and Nature Centers, Radio Personality, Author, Cofounder of the Minnesota Phenology Network

We all see beautiful, sunny patches of goldenrods in September, but rarely take a closer look. These large yellow spikes play host to myriads of insects and spiders- eating and being eaten, finding shelter and laying eggs. Join other environmental enthusiasts for an absorbing introduction to this world by Larry Weber, a Minnesota author and radio personality.

Sept 28, 2017 AND April 19, 2018 - Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm. *Growing Garlic: From Field to Fork*

Instructor: Frank Meuschke, Owner and Grower of Hudson Clove

Are you an interested in expanding your garlic options? There's no better way than growing your own! Join Frank to discover the many varieties that are just not available at the grocery store. In the fall, you will begin with a bit of garlic history and an introduction to a number of varieties from Frank's own summer harvest, including tasting of course. You will then learn the process for selecting cloves, preparing the bed, and growing garlic through the winter. In the spring, Frank will guide you through spring fertilization and cultivation, ordering next season's cloves, when and how to harvest, curing and storing.

Oct 26, Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. *Indoor Herbs: Pot up Your Own to Grow Over the Winter*. Instructor: Theresa Mieseler, Shady Acres Herb Farm and herb expert

It can be so tempting to pick up herb plants at the grocery over the winter, but what herbs grow best indoors and how do you take care of them? Learn from the very best: Theresa of Shady Acres Herb Farm will discuss everything you need to know to grow herbs over the winter, from varieties and plant selection to soil, light, fertilizer and containers.

MN Horticultural Society They are setting up a new website so to register for a class, call 651.643.3601. The following classes will be held at the MSHS Classroom in Roseville, unless noted otherwise.

Sept 12, Tuesday, 7 – 8 pm. *Home is Where the Habitat Is: 20 Yrs. Experience w/Native Plant Gardening*. Instructor: Hannah Texler.

Sept 19, Tuesday, 6:30 – 8 pm. *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Pruning*. Instructor: Faith Appelquist, owner of Tree Quality.

Oct 10, Tuesday, 6:30 – 8 pm. *Make & Take – Autumn Wreath*. Instructor: Jenn Hovland.

Oct. 17, Tuesday, 7 – 8 pm. *Introduction to Mushroom Cultivation – Webinar*. **Location:** At your home computer. Instructor Matt Ratliff.

Nov 4, Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 am. *Make & Take Evergreen Container*. Instructor: Chris Gueorguiev, Mgr., Wagners Garden Center. **Location:** Wagners Greenhouse, Mpls

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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www.isanticountymastergardeners
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“The Mission of the University of Minnesota Master Gardener program is to support Extension by providing volunteers trained in horticulture to educate the public with research based information on the best practices in consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship.”