



HENNEPIN COUNTY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Presentations (1 ½ - 2 hours in length)

FLOWER GARDENING

➤ **Perennial Flower Gardening**

Perennials are flowering plants that beautify your landscape year after year. Here is an opportunity to learn how to care for perennials and how to select and combine the many varieties suitable for our northern climate. Topics also include site selection (shade, sun, moisture), soil conditions, and methods designed to decrease the need for pesticides. Many perennials identified.

➤ **Perennials for the Shade**

Shade gardening provides a wonderful opportunity to be creative. In a garden that gets less than four hours of sun a day learn what to grow – from spring bulbs to deep shade ground covers. We look at perennial plants from A to Z as well as the many types of ferns that thrive in shade.

➤ **Native Prairie Wildflowers**

Native Prairie Wildflowers are a beautiful natural addition to a garden that will add beauty for years to come. Add a natural or prairie look to your landscape by matching and harmonizing beautiful wildflowers. Covers cultivation and care of wildflowers as well as identification of over 30 species. Topics include: how to plan your site, soil conditions, heights of plants, length of bloom times, colors, planting, and maintenance.

➤ **Native Woodland Wildflowers**

Native Woodland Wildflowers are a beautiful natural addition to a shady garden that will add beauty for years to come. Covers cultivation and care of wildflowers as well as identification of over 30 species. Topics include: how to plan your site, soil conditions, heights of plants, length of bloom times, colors, planting, and maintenance.

➤ **Ornamental Grasses**

More people are adding ornamental grasses to their gardens. This presentation covers many varieties of ornamental grasses, where to get ideas for selecting grasses, and the good and bad qualities of each plant.

➤ **Hardy Roses for Northern Climates**

Many people find that growing shrub roses is a low maintenance alternative to growing hybrid tea roses. We describe environmental and cultural factors of raising hardy shrub roses, classifications of roses, and advantages of growing hardy shrub roses. Popular hardy shrub rose varieties are highlighted in slides.

➤ **Grow Your Own Roses**

Many of us dream about growing roses. With a little bit of work, your dream can come true. This class examines roses that do well in our climate, as well as chemicals and tools (sprayers) you'll need to keep your plants healthy. Learn the difference between miniatures, floribundas, hybrid tea roses, and potted roses vs. bare root plants. We'll also discuss fertilizing and pruning.

➤ **Spring Flowering Bulbs**

In fall, it's time to think spring flowering bulbs, especially if you want to have those beautiful early spring bloomers in your yard? Fall is the time to plant them. Learn how to plant many types of bulbs and enjoy slides on spring flowering favorites.

➤ **Butterfly Gardening**

To encourage the growth of butterfly populations, it is necessary to engage in habitat restoration first. In this class, you'll learn which plants attract varieties of beautiful butterflies. Find out how to select plants for adult and larval feeding, which ultimately encourages the establishment of butterfly species and their return to your garden year after year.

➤ **Annual Flowers for Minnesota**

Annuals fill the whole growing season with blooms – whether in pots or in lush waves of colorful gardens. In this show, we show you how to grow plants from seed and how to buy plants from garden centers. Annuals are described as hardy, semi-hardy, tender, and horticultural plants. Also, we look at most common diseases.

Flowering Annuals

This program covers starting annual seeds, transplanting, preparing and planting flower beds, and how and where to plant. Includes annuals for sun and shade, All-America selections, and other annuals. Also shows slides of many varieties.

➤ **Container Gardening**

Learn why so many people are interested in container gardening. Container gardening offers a wonderful opportunity to allow your creative imagination to run wild. You become the artist, while your containers serve as the canvases on which to add color and contrast to your garden, deck or front steps. Container gardening is also a great option for people who want to make a limited commitment to growing flowers or vegetables. In a container you can control the soil, vary the watering regime, adjust the amount of sun or shade, group plants for impact - and ungroup them if the idea doesn't work. Students will learn how to select containers, choose a good potting mix, discover what plants work best for containers and how to care for these beautiful “mini gardens.”

➤ **Rain Gardening**

Rain gardens are one of the fastest growing areas of interest for home landscapes. A rain garden is an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants. It is a bowl-shaped garden, designed to absorb excess rainwater run-off from a house and its associated landscape. The garden's loose, deep soils absorb water and filter pollutants. Rainwater is natural – rainwater runoff isn't. Up to 70% of the pollution in our lakes and streams is carried there by storm water. By building a rain garden, you are not only creating a beautiful landscape feature, but you are helping protect the surrounding natural water sources. Students will learn what a rain garden is, why it's beneficial for the environment, and how to make one. Plant material suitable for rain gardens also discussed.

VEGETABLE GARDENING

➤ **Beginning Vegetable Gardening**

Put those fears aside about growing your own vegetables. The basics taught here will get your green thumb going! Consider first the location of your garden site and what you'll need to do to prepare suitable soil conditions for plants. Topics include space availability, terrain features, planting, upkeep, fertilizers, common pests, and diseases. We'll also discuss techniques to reduce the need for pesticides, as well as how to garden in small spaces.

➤ **Advanced Vegetable Gardening**

What do F and VFN mean on seed packets and plant tags? When should you plant cool-season and warm-season vegetables? How long does it take plants to germinate? Learn about these topics and more: which fertilizers are best for growth and production; how intercropping and successive plantings of common vegetables help utilize available garden space.

➤ **Small Space Vegetable Gardening**

Even apartment dwellers and small home dwellers can create highly productive gardens. Learn to plan your space, however small, for best results. We'll cover topics such as trellising, gardening in containers, wide-row or square-row gardening, rounded beds, and the value of raised beds. The class includes the basics of vegetable gardening.

➤ **Edible Landscaping**

Picture this: a small, lovely garden for your home or apartment that includes the delicate touch of fern-like carrot leaves, flowering pea plants, colorful heads of kale, and climbing beans that double as a lush shade screen for a patio or deck. Did you know that you can grow compact cucumbers in pots, not to mention tomatoes, green peppers, and a host of herbs? Learn about growing plants that provide edible flowers and leaves: nasturtiums, daylilies, columbines, dianthus, and rosehips. With a little planning, a small garden provides tremendous eating and beauty. Topics include plant selection, watering, fertilizing, and pest control.

➤ **Growing Herbs in Minnesota**

A long history of using herbs the world over is described as well as the importance of herbs in our daily lives. Includes aspects of medicine, clothing dyes, crafts, teas and flavoring for our food. Growing these lovely plants for any of the above reasons is rewarding.

WOODY LANDSCAPE PLANTS

➤ **Selection and Care of Trees and Shrubs**

Trees and shrubs provide many, many years of beauty to your home landscape. In this class, you will learn about selecting the right species for your site (shade, sun, wet, dry), how to determine appropriate soil conditions, how to properly plant trees/shrubs, and what care and maintenance techniques facilitate their long-term health.

➤ **Pruning Trees and Shrubs**

There are many important considerations that go into pruning your woody plants. This class covers the best times to prune various species of trees and shrubs. Topics include how to prune, steps in pruning, the do's and don'ts of pruning, and the proper tools to use.

➤ **Landscape Plants for Winter Interest**

Boring and dead in winter are not at all mentioned in this class! Instead, plants – from trees to perennials – are admired for their beauty in winter. Some plants bring wildlife to your winter landscape, others show off when they drop their leaves. And, don't miss the magic of hoarfrost.

SOIL AND COMPOSTING

➤ **Managing Yard Waste and Composting**

If you're tired of piling up plant debris and shrub debris, which need to be disposed of, here is a class that offers some alternatives. Learn which yard and garden practices reduce the amount of plant waste and provide opportunities to reuse the materials in your landscape. The class also covers composting and how to use finished compost.

➤ **Creative Landscape Techniques to Reduce and Re-use Yard Waste**

As landscape designs vary from formal to less formal, so do their maintenance needs and the waste materials they generate. In this class, we look at a few landscaping options and compare highly formal designs, which need regular pruning, to landscape designs that are low maintenance. Learn how to design a landscape, using slow-growing shrubs and other plants that produce smaller amounts of waste materials. Also learn how to create garden artifacts from some waste materials.

➤ **Using Mulches from Yard Waste Materials**

There are many benefits to using mulches in the your landscape, and there are many options from which to choose: wood chips, shredded bark, cocoa beans, compost, and shredded leaves. Learn how and where to use these mulches.

➤ **Soils**

The class covers the wide range of soil types that make up our yard and garden environments. Learn how organic matter and compost improves (amends) urban soils, how soil tests give you the information you need to do that, and which compost bins might be right for you.

LAWN CARE

➤ **Low Input Lawn Care (LILaC)**

There are many benefits to using LILaC (Low Input Lawn Care) techniques. Learn what LILaC is and its benefits: cost savings from using fewer lawn-care products, conservation of water, and less mowing. The LILaC program considers all aspects of creating and caring for a healthy lawn.

FALL YARD AND GARDEN CARE

➤ **Fall Yard and Garden Care**

Fall is the time to plant bulbs and to prepare your yard and garden for winter. This class takes the mystery out of what to do for your lawn, and what and when to fertilize. Topics include proper techniques of composting, protecting shrubs, winterizing roses, and covering perennials. Find out what to do now so you'll be off to a good start next spring.

HOUSEPLANTS

➤ **Care of Houseplants**

Because houseplants grow indoors under limited conditions, they require care that is different from that of outdoor plants. Learn about the basics of lighting, temperature, humidity, and regular maintenance for indoor plants. Discover the different needs of different plants and the problems common to all plants. There are many ways to keep houseplants healthy and attractive for many, many years.

WATER QUALITY

➤ **Every Curb is a Shoreline**

Presents an overview of current water quality issues. This class features either a 20-minute video or slide show and discussion on water quality issues as related to landscaping, particularly lawn care.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS (shorter than the above)

Insect ID on Roses

Native Trees for Southeast Minnesota

Don't Bag It

Managing Aquatic Plants in Minnesota

Home Composting

Yard Waste Management

SHORTER TOPICS (about ½ hour)

Spring Yard and Garden

Flowers: Non-Chemical

Vegetables: Non-Chemical

Putting Your Yard and Garden to Bed

“Lighten” Shady Spots

Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

Starting Seeds Indoors

Indoor Plants

Accessible Gardening

DISPLAYS (The following tabletop displays are available for using at booths, fairs, etc.)

Creative Uses for Woody Yard Waste

Composting

Ethnic Gardening (Youth or Adult)

Mulches

Low Input Lawn Care

Lawn Care for Protecting Water Quality

Seeds and How They Grow (Youth)