

Gardenfest

ready, set, grow

Saturday, April 15, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Luecht Auditorium at MCC
Building B, 8900 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake
www.mchenry.edu/gardenfest

Keynote—Adding Color with Annuals

Kim Hartmann

Explore the wide array of annuals available for your containers and gardens. Learn how to create beautiful combinations of color, texture, and form to establish a long season of bloom. Kim will highlight varieties for all seasons and styles so you can change your color scheme and approach each year to keep your outdoor spaces fresh and fun.

Session One—Choose one of the following sessions

The MCC Greenhouse Tour

Mandy Hood

The MCC Greenhouse includes three bays of plants and plenty of learning. Join Mandy as she leads a tour of the MCC Greenhouse and discusses the construction, facilities, and plants grown there. Plan to spend a few extra minutes in Bay #3, which houses the hydroponic and aquaponic gardens. *Class limited to 20 students.*

Making Native Plants a Part of Your Landscape

Garret Beier

Thinking about adding native plants to your landscape but not sure where to start? Learn how to incorporate these plants without starting from scratch. Come away with ideas to reinvigorate your scenery with natives!

Growing Epic Tomatoes in Northern Illinois

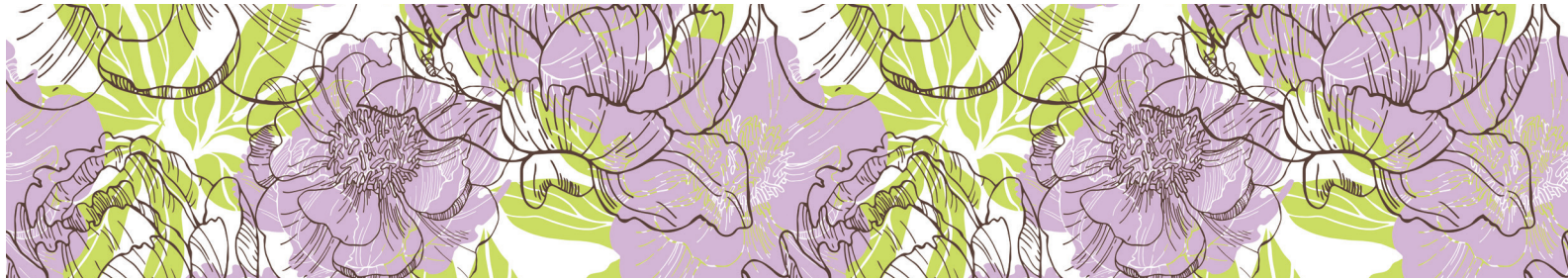
Jerry Gudauskas

Examine the full annual cycle of growing tomatoes in the area. You'll learn about different varieties, seed starting, hardening off and transplanting, common diseases, and growing hydroponically. Discussion includes seed saving and preserving tomatoes. Each participant will receive one tomato plant and a small packet of saved open pollinated tomato seeds.

The Backyard Orchard

Grant McCarty

Fruit trees can be a great addition to your backyard. Apples, pears, some stone fruit, and more can do well in Northern Illinois. However, each can present its own unique challenges that must be addressed in order to have a bountiful crop. This presentation will provide an overview of fruit tree selection, planting, the first three years, pruning, and yearly orchard maintenance.



Gardening in Comfort

Co-presented by Patricia Donald and Betty Lawler
Gardening can be renewing and therapeutic for people of all ages. Learn how to make gardening fulfilling, comfortable, and safe by discussing ergonomically correct and commonly used gardening concepts, tools, equipment that fit the needs of every gardener. The methods are equally valuable for gardeners of all ages wanting to prevent injury, pain, and limitations.

Session 2—Choose one of the following sessions

The Culinary Garden

Joyce Lande and Raechal Maat

Two of MCC's chefs showcase delicious ways to add flavors from your garden to create sweet and savory dishes. You'll learn how to use waste parts from the garden and incorporate fresh and dried herbs into culinary dishes. We'll also provide tastings and finish with a tour of the culinary lab. *Class limited to 20 students.*

Growing and Caring for Grapes

Rich Tobiasz

With a little bit of care, a wide variety of grapes—including those for juice, jams, jellies, and even wine—can be grown in McHenry County. Join Rich as he discusses varieties, planting, and the care of grape plants.

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A Crash Course in Tree and Shrub Selection

Garrett Beier

Adding trees and shrubs is a great way to diversify your landscape—but choosing the right ones can be a bit overwhelming. In this session, we'll cover the most important attributes of different trees and shrubs and review site conditions that need to be considered before making selections.

The Shape of Design

Dana Garretson

It's so easy to fall in love with the endless variety of plants, but it can be a real challenge to find the best place for them in our gardens. Learn how to use the shape, form, and texture of a plant to determine planting combinations that work with your house and create interesting contrasts in the garden. Once you understand the shape of a design, it will be easier to pick the plants and combinations that work best for your home garden!

Session 3—Choose one of the following sessions

The Culinary Garden

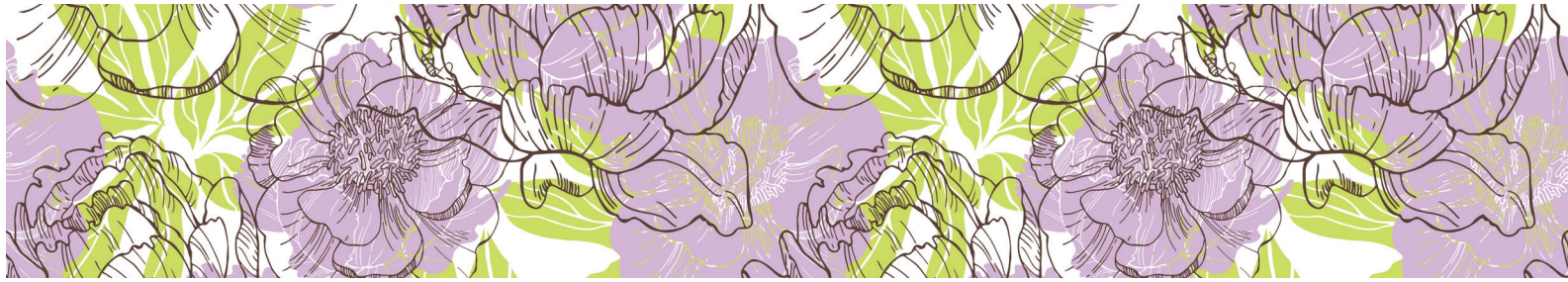
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Basic Pruning

Rich Tobiasz

Trees (both fruit and ornamental), shrubs, and small fruits require frequent pruning; some annually. This class will cover the basics of pruning each of these plants with a focus on those you most likely have in your own yard.



Common Backyard Weeds: Identification and Management Strategies

Sarah Farley

Friend or foe? The invasion of weeds in the home garden or landscape is inevitable. Join this session to learn about characteristics and approaches to weed management, identification of common backyard weeds in northern Illinois, and strategies for control.

Your First Vegetable Garden? Let's Plan for Success!

Doug Moore

Starting a vegetable garden for the first time can be intimidating, especially with so much contradictory information available online. This class will cover the basic steps from site selection to harvest to help make your first endeavor into gardening a success. Session uses science-based information from the University of Illinois Extension.

Midwest Pollinators: The Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation

Carol Elkins

Discover landscape and habitat suggestions that support our native Midwest pollinators.

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All About Tea Gardens

Christina Rank

What is a tea garden and where can you find them? Can you plant your own? Learn all about tea gardens as we touch on the history of real tea, how it is grown, and how it is different from herbal teas. We'll also have some samples of herbal tea blends to share with you!

Native Bees: Attracting Them to Your Garden

Nate Szkil

Planning a garden is a long-term goal, especially when attracting native bees is involved. Learn where native bees range around our area, their preferred habitats, and food sources during the warm season.

Session 4—Choose one of the following sessions

Tool Maintenance and Sharpening

Rich Tobiasz

Rusted, uncared for tools do not work well in the garden—and may even be dangerous! This class covers the basics of hand tool maintenance and sharpening. Attendees may bring one or two hand tools to sharpen at the end of class.

Limited to 24 students.