



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

November 2004 Vol. 1 No. 3

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Helping you become your best.

Comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

Attention Master Gardeners:

Article submission may be counted towards fulfilling Master Gardener community service volunteer hours!

Garden chores are winding down...



Are your fall garden chores completed? If the weather stays nice, you can still plant bulbs for spring bloom this fall.

Bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus can yet be planted, but will bloom later than those bulbs planted in October.

Check any bulbs purchased late in the year for a healthy appearance. They should be firm, not shriveled and free of dark or black sunken spots, an indication of disease.

Another option for any unplanted spring-flowering bulbs is to pot them up to force for indoor bloom. It is best to use larger size bulbs for forcing.

To force bloom, spring-flowering bulbs need to be chilled at 40 to 45°F for 12 to 16 weeks to initiate flowering. Possible cold storage sites include the refrigerator, root cellar or an outdoor trench. During the cold storage period, bulbs need

to be watered regularly and kept in total darkness.

Following the cold period, bulbs can then be placed in a bright window and should flower in 3 to 4 weeks.

The flowers can be timed to bloom for special events, such as Easter or a birthday. Bringing color into your home during the winter is a great way to get a jump on spring.

Unfortunately, most forced bulbs should be discarded following blooming. Daffodils however, may be saved to re-plant in the fall.

For further information ask for the publication PM 1319: *Forcing Flower Bulbs*, at your local county ISU Extension Office. This publication lists recommended bulbs and planting how-to tips.

Happy Growing!

Yvonne Nilles
Extension Horticulturalist
Serving Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster & Wright counties

Iowa Master Gardener Update

Each year, Iowa Master Gardeners must complete 6 hours of community service to maintain their certification.

They also participate in educational activities each year to increase their knowledge in horticulture. These hours must be reported to Mid-Iowa Extension by December 31.

If you have a horticultural community service project available and would like Master Gardeners to assist you, please call your local county ISU Extension Office with the details.



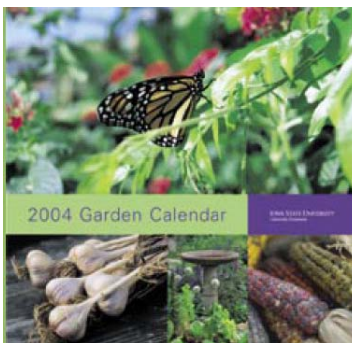
MID-IOWA AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

- Nov 4...Fort Dodge Area Gardeners
Webster Co. Extension Office
7:00 pm.
- Nov 4-6..Landscape Design School
Iowa Arboretum-Madrid
- Nov 6...Iowa Horticultural Society
& Iowa Arboretum Annual Mtg.
Iowa Arboretum – 10 am
- Nov 9...Master Gardener Training
Vegetables, Webster City,
Fire Station Mtg. Rm., 6:30 pm
- Nov 10..Town & Country Garden Club
Floral Buttons, Leila Hemmen
1 pm, Webster City Depot
- Nov 13...*Herbaceous Perennials
Across the State*, 8 - 5 pm,
ISU Scheman Bldg, \$85
Call 515-294-5961 to register
- Nov 16...Fort Dodge Garden Club
Containers, by Jackie Strother
1 pm, Izaak Walton
- Nov 16...Master Gardener Training
IPM & Pesticides, Eagle Grove
Memorial Library, 6:30 pm
- Nov 23...Master Gardener Training
Ornamentals, Humboldt Co.
Extension Office, 6:30 pm
- Nov 27...Wreath Making Workshop
Humboldt Co. Ext. Office
10 am – Noon, \$10 fee
- Nov 28...Wreath Making Workshop
Clarion, at the Depot
2 – 4 pm, \$10 fee
- Dec 4 ...Wreath Making Workshop
Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds
10 am – Noon, \$10 fee
- Dec 5 ...Wreath Making Workshop
Webster Co. Extension Office
2 – 4 pm, \$10 fee

For more event details, call 515-832-9597

Submit articles & events to:

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ISU Extension Garden Calendar now available

The 2005 Garden Calendar from ISU Extension offers monthly how-to tips in a full-color, 12"x12" format. The calendar includes lists of ISU Extension horticulture publications & county office phone numbers.

Calendars (PM 815) are available from your local ISU Extension county office for \$8.00.



More than a calendar, it's also a ...
...garden journal,
...year-round gardening reference,
...catalog of garden publications,
...list of garden-related help-lines,
...And a great Christmas gift!

RECIPE CORNER



Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

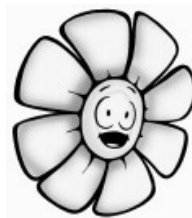
Wondering how those pumpkin seeds you've seen for sale are made?

Try a home-cooked version, using the recipe below by Paulelda Gilbert, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Q. How do I roast pumpkin or squash seeds?

A. You need to rinse and dry 2 cups pumpkin or squash seeds. Spread the seeds evenly in a jelly roll pan. Put in a 325°F oven for about 15 minutes or until light brown. Toss the toasted seeds with 2 tablespoons oil or melted margarine. You may season as desired. Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Call Paulelda at the Webster County Extension Office, 576-2119 or e-mail pgilbert@iastate.edu, with your nutrition and health questions.



**We need
your
help!**

If you know of any gardeners whom you think would benefit from this newsletter, please send us their names and e-mail addresses.

We will forward this newsletter on to them and send them future issues.

Thanks!

Meet a Master Gardener...

Marilyn Peterson-Shipp



Pictured L-R: Kacee Gollob, Kaela Gollob and Pam Gollob, all of Otho; Marilyn Peterson-Shipp; and Lucy Larson, of Fort Dodge.

Marilyn Peterson-Shipp of Fort Dodge is our featured Master Gardener for the month of November. Marilyn has been a Webster County Master Gardener since 1989, and is a member of both the Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club and the Fort Dodge Area Gardeners. She also serves as the State Garden Therapy Chair, for Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa.

Marilyn, along with her husband Dean, can be found at Fort Dodge flower shows as an exhibitor in both the design and horticulture sections. Marilyn is an Accredited Flower Show judge as well.

Always willing to share a tip or a bulb or two, she is constantly ready to lend a hand to fellow gardeners. Her extensive horticultural knowledge has been passed down to her daughter, Pam Gollob.

Pam remembers how her mother would always “drag” her to garden club meetings as a child and now Pam, who is also a

Flower Show Judge, is very glad she did. A third generation of gardeners, Marilyn’s granddaughters, Kacee and Kaela, are both budding horticulturalists who exhibit in the youth division at local shows. In fact, Kacee won the 2004 State Flower Show Youth Design Top Award as a 3-year-old. Marilyn enjoys helping children of all ages, as shown above at a recent dahlia dividing clinic.

Even Marilyn’s dog Tippy, her beloved Pomeranian, works in the garden by barking to scare away those pesky squirrels and rabbits!

Holiday Wreath Workshop

Mid-Iowa Horticulture Extension is sponsoring a series of wreath making workshops this fall. Participants will learn how to create a holiday wreath using fresh evergreens. Supplies for the basic wreath are provided.

Bring sturdy pruning shears, and gloves to work in are optional. Refreshments will be served. Registration fee is \$10.00.

Workshop dates are:

Nov. 27 at the Humboldt County Extension Office, 10am – noon. Call 515-332-2201 to register.



Workshop participants will create their own holiday wreaths.

Nov. 28 at the Depot in Clarion, 2 - 4 pm. Call the Wright County Extension Office, 515-532-3453.

Dec. 4 at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds in Webster City, 10 am – 12 noon. Call the Hamilton County Extension Office 515-832-9597 to register.

Dec. 5 at the Webster County Extension Office, 2 – 4 pm. Call 515-576-2119 to register.

There is a limit of 25 participants for each workshop, so call your local extension office to reserve your spot today!