
Boone County ISU Extension Master Gardener Update

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Thank you Lynnette Carpenter for speaking at our last meeting about pruning. My favorite quote: "Pruning is 10% knowledge and 90% nerve."

Our next meeting is February 11th at 7p.m. Bill Martin will be speaking about his local foods project and encouraging people to grow some of their own food. He would like some volunteers to be mentors in the Boone community and needs help with the community garden.

Please come and help inspire others.

Another day closer to spring! I am sure we are all picking out our seeds and plants. Everyday I receive new catalogs. I can't help but dream of some warm weather. In the mean time I found a recipe for some landscape friendly ice melt. If we stop using rock salt on our drives and sidewalks we can avoid damaging our roots and plants. Instead use complete NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) garden fertilizer to de-ice anything near landscaping. Spread the fertilizer in the same quantities recommended for salt. The potassium, or potash, will melt the ice, and the phosphorus will provide a slip-proof surface.

Your Enviro Minute:

Valentines Day Alternatives

Hybrid tea roses found in your bouquets are often grown with lots of pesticides and imported from miles away. Try these love inspired plants instead.

- 1. Living Valentine, *Dicentra spectabilis**
- 2. Hearts-a-burstin, *Euonymus americanus**
- 3. Lover's Plant, *Artemisia abrotanum**
- 4. Love-in-a-mist, *Nigella damascena**
- 5. Heartleaf philodendron*

Helpful Websites:

*I wont cut and paste everything going on in the area.
Please check out their websites or call for upcoming events.*

*Reiman Gardens --[http://www/reimangardens.iastate.edu/](http://www.reimangardens.iastate.edu/)
Central Iowa Water Garden Association—<http://www.ciwga.org/>
Des Moines Botanical Center—<http://www.botanicalcenter.com/>
Brenton Arboretum—<http://www.thebrentonarboretum.org/>
Boone County Conservation—<http://wccta.net/gallery/bccb/>*

*Please email me if you have an
event that you would like me to
feature:
gwenms@msn.com*

Des Moines Home and Garden Show: Ia Events Center 730 3rd St.

www.iowaeventscenter.com

Feb. 12th - 11am-9pm, Feb. 13th - 11am-9:30pm, Feb. 14th - 10am-9:30pm, Feb.15th -10am-6pm

Adults \$10 (\$7 online), Children 7-12 \$4, under 6 free.

VALENTINE SUNDAY AT REIMAN GARDENS



Valentine Sunday

Sunday, February 8 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Bring your sweetheart, your family, and your friends to celebrate Valentine's Day at Reiman Gardens. Enjoy a family Valentine event with activities for everyone including a chocolate mold demonstration by Temptations on Main complete with samples (while supply lasts), a presentation on the Language of Flowers by Aaron Steil, and the opportunity for children and adults alike to make Valentine's Day cards for that special someone. The afternoon will be filled with the sounds of a baby grand piano played by Kris Grotheer of Ames. In addition, the Conservatory will be filled with begonias, representing the first of our 2009 Landscape Before Time themed displays, Dinosaur Epidermis relating the many patterns and textures of the begonia to the skin of the dinosaurs.

Free for CoHorts' members; price of admission for general public.

For more information call 515-294-2710 or visit www.reimangardens.com