



QUESTION

WHAT IS THE KEY THING TO CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING A HOUSEPLANT?

PRO TIP

Be mindful when determining the best spot for your new plant about the light available from windows facing a particular direction may not apply in your case. Obstructions like trees or other buildings, coatings on the window, or even the width of the overhang on your roof can all change the amount of light coming through a window.

ANSWER

The first thing to consider when selecting a houseplant is the light available in your home.

1. Many common houseplants found in Iowa are popular because of their lower light needs.
2. Most houseplants will thrive in bright, indirect light.
3. Place a plant next to a window, but not in a direct ray of sun.

Allamakee County Master Gardener Seeds of Wisdom

ISU Extension in Allamakee County

218 7th Ave SE Suite #102
Waukon, IA 52172
Phone: (563)-568-6345
www.extension.iastate.edu/allamakee

Upcoming Dates to Remember

See page 8 for more information.

17th Annual Gardening Symposium

Hosted by the Buchanan County Master Gardeners

Saturday, February 24, 2024

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

116 6th Ave NW, Independence, IA 50644

Sessions and Speakers

- Wildflowers and Their Benefits, Sondra Cabell
- Container Gardening, Eileen Schmidt
- Waking the Garden in Spring, Aaron Steil
- Let's Put Water in Your Garden, Jackie Allsup
- Preserving Your Garden's Bounty, Dan and Becky Alberts
- Success with Houseplants, Aaron Steil

Vendors

- In the Country Garden and Gifts
- Country Vibe Designs
- Willow and Wood
- Johnston Creek Beef
- Merryfrog Menagerie

Silent Auction

Registration information

By Feb 14: \$35 After Feb 14: \$40
Payment includes light breakfast and lunch

Contact Buchanan County Extension
319-334-7161 or karav@iastate.edu

Allamakee County Master Gardener Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Waukon Wellness Center 10 a.m.

Hostesses: Sharon Hofmann and Sue Cahoon

Roll Call: What "new for you" are you planting this year?

Secretary's Minutes: October minutes published in the December newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

Old Business:

Madison Garden Expo reports

Plant sale – May 11 (FFA) and May 18 (FFA & MG)

New Business:

Sign-up for meeting hosts/hostesses

Calendar of Events attached to newsletter

Reservations for evening at Rossville to Don by April 8

Master Gardener Scholarship

Mondays in March – Delaware County Master Gardeners

Houston County Gardening in the Driftless

Election of Officers - Don

Next Meeting: April 25, Waukon Wellness Center at 7 p.m.

Hostesses:

ISU Featured Publication

A newly revised publication about Growing, Harvesting, and Preserving herbs is now available! Herbs are the perfect project to bring your garden indoors and add fresh flavor to your kitchen.

In this month's featured publication, you will find eight pages worth of information about 20 different species of herbs, including information about planting location, care, and preservation.

For more publications, visit the Horticulture and Home Pest News publications page <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/resources/publications>



Seed Starting Workshops

Unlock the Secrets of Successful Seed Starting at Seed Starting 101 Workshop. Gardening enthusiasts and beginners alike can delve into the art of seed starting at our upcoming workshop. This hands-on event promises to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge to kickstart a successful gardening journey.

Date: February 26, 2024 Time: 5-6 PM Location: Fort Atkinson Community Center, 303 3rd St. NW. Fort Atkinson, IA Cost: \$10

Workshop Highlights: 1. Soil and Containers: Discover the importance of choosing the right soil and containers for successful seed starting. Our experts will guide you through the selection process to ensure optimal conditions for your seeds.

2. Soil Blocking: Learn the innovative technique of soil blocking, a sustainable and efficient way to start your seeds. Uncover the benefits of this method and how it contributes to healthier plant growth.

3. Sowing Seeds: Master the art of sowing seeds with precision. Our workshop will provide hands-on experience, ensuring you leave with the confidence to sow a variety of seeds for a bountiful harvest.

4. Growing Conditions: Understand the key factors that contribute to ideal growing conditions. From temperature to light exposure, our experts will share valuable insights to help you create the perfect environment for your seedlings.

Join us for an informative and engaging workshop led by seasoned gardening experts. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just starting your gardening journey, Seed Starting 101 has something for everyone.

Take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your gardening skills and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts. Registration is required: 563-382-2949 or allienc@iastate.edu.

Preserve the Taste of Summer Workshops in Waukon

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach—Allamakee County is hosting TWO workshops from the Preserve the Taste of Summer program. Jill Weber, a human sciences specialist in food and health with ISU Extension and Outreach, will lead the workshops. “These workshops are fun and helpful for beginning canners as well as experienced canners,” states Weber, workshop instructor. “We will provide the most up-to-date science and guidelines for water bath canning.”

Jam Making and Dehydrating—*You'll learn safe methods to preserve jams and dehydrate foods in this 'jam' session and take home the fruit of your labors! Monday, April 29 5:00 pm Register Online <https://go.iastate.edu/JBWLFD>*

Pickle Making and Pickled Products—*If you relish a jar of homemade pickles, come experience the joy of pickle making in this hands-on workshop. Tuesday, May 14 5:00 pm. Register online <https://go.iastate.edu/VQMCRY>*

Both workshops will be held at Ms. B's Quilting Event Room, 201 Allamakee Street, Waukon.

Cost is FREE compliments from Allamakee County Extension and Outreach. RSVP is due one week in advance, class size is limited!

To learn more or to ask questions, contact Lana Dahlstrom at 563-568-6345 or dahlstro@iastate.edu.

Keeping Your Private Well Water Safe

The Allamakee County Extension office will host a free, one-hour learning session for private well owners on April 10. The program will help attendees understand their well's water quality and connect them to resources to manage their well.

Did you know that Iowa has a unique funding source for free or low-cost annual testing of private wells? Or that some water pollutants are odorless, tasteless and will not be removed by boiling water? If you're curious about the answers to these questions, then take advantage of the upcoming learning session which will detail how to test your well and who can help, common contaminants, and factors that affect well water quality.

The program will be taught by Catherine DeLong, Water Quality Program Manager for ISU Extension and Outreach. According to DeLong, “About 230,000 Iowans rely on private wells as their home's main water source, yet many do not know they should be testing once a year, and that Iowa has a unique funding source to help cover the cost of testing.”

The free program will take place on Wednesday, April 10 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Allamakee County Extension office located at 218 7th Ave SE, Suite 102 in Waukon. Pre-registration is requested; to RSVP contact the Allamakee County Extension office by phone 563-568-6345 or email dahlstro@iastate.edu.

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“In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.” William Blake

Clara's Clippings—Clara Lensing

Please plan on attending the February meeting on **Saturday, February 17, at 10 a.m. at the Wellness Center.** Our hostesses will be Sharon Hofmann and Sue Cahoon.

In addition to the ISU winter webinars currently being held on Tuesdays, there are three additional educational opportunities:

The Buchanan County Gardening Symposium is being held on Saturday, February 24, in Independence. We will carpool again this year for those interested. (Email sent 2/12/24 and posted on the Allamakee Master Gardener Facebook Page)

Houston County Master Gardeners will host "Gardening in the Driftless" on Saturday, April 6. It is being held at the high school in Houston, MN from 8:30-2:45. Registration this year is \$40.

The Delaware County Master Gardeners are planning their "Mondays in March" program. They are held from 7-8 p.m. March 4, 11, 18, and 26 at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

I receive the Dakota County Minnesota master gardener newsletter. Included this month is an excellent resource for seed starting:

<https://www.dakotamastergardeners.org/bythemoth/winter-is-a-perfect-time-to-start-seeds>

Mark your calendars for the annual night-out – April 11 – at Rossville. We will plan on meeting at 5:00 p.m. Please let Don Haler (haller@acegroup.cc or 563-568-1714) know if you are able to attend and if you are ordering ribs (their special that night) by April 8.

There will be a sign-up sheet passed out at our next meeting for hosting a meeting in 2024. Dates for the meetings are April 25, June 27, August 22, October 26, and February 15, 2025. Please note that the October and February dates are a Saturday. I have reserved the meeting room at the Wellness Center for these dates.

Please check the membership list that was on the back of the December newsletter. Please let us know if any corrections are needed.

"It's exciting to see things coming up again, plants that you've had twenty or thirty years. It's like seeing an old friend." Tasha Tudor

Thymely Tidbits—Pat Meeter

A favorite winter activity of mine is reading garden books. One winter I read every library book available on methods of gardening and homesteading. I read through an entire shelf. One of the first books that I still enjoy is How to have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back by Ruth Stout. It was first published in the 1950's and has been copied many times by different authors with different titles. Ruth also published the No Work Gardening book and both of these advocate the use of spent hay as a mulch and growing medium. Sort of like the gardening in straw bales which is popular now.

I own or have read books on plant propagation, seed starting, growing, harvesting and storing the harvest. I think Judy Egeland and I could match each other in the number and variety of books we've read with gardens as the topic. Best Flowers for the Midwest Gardens by Laura K. Duggan and Best Garden Plants for Iowa by Chuck Porto and Laura Peters are both written by Iowa authors and give a pictorial dictionary form of what grows here. Talk to Your Plants by Jerry Baker and Trowel and Error by Sharon Lovejoy are full of tips and humor. Sharon has also written books on gardening with children that are a joy to read and implement. It would be hard to choose just one but perhaps Sunflower Houses might be a favorite.

Carrots Love Tomatoes by Louise Riotte covers everything possible about companion planting. Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew instigated gardening in sections very much like the old English knot gardens. Perhaps it was the forerunner of raised beds. Many books are available on growing herbs. You can read how to grow, when to harvest, how to dry and how to cook with herbs. There are books on crafting with herbs for home decor or gifts. One I have is Herbal Treasures by Phyllis V. Shaudys. For daydreaming and inspiration read through all the seed catalogs that came in the mail. If you're lucky enough to find magazines, pick up a copy of Garden Gate, Horticulture, Country Living, Birds and Blooms, Fine Gardening or Better Homes and Gardens. The photography in a magazine can't be found on the internet.

Book Review 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Wall Kimmerer—Connie Benedict

The author is a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is also a botanist, mother and decorated professor. I think this book shows us how much plants and animals are our oldest teachers. As she was walking through the woods gathering plants she quoted an herbalist she knew who said "one of the cardinal rules of gathering plants—'never take the first plant you find, as it might be the last—and you want that first one to speak well of you to the other of her kind'" People often ask her what one thing she would recommend to restore relationship between land and people. Her answer is almost always "Plant a garden". It's good for the health of the earth and it's good for the health of the people. Something essential happens in a vegetable garden. It's a place where if you can't say "I love you" out loud, you can say it in seeds. And the land will reciprocate, in beans".

You will see our natural world in a much different way after reading this book and seeing it through her eyes. I felt a few parts were a little too scientific for me but her sharing stories of wisdom from the Native Americans really captured my attention. She showed us so many gifts the earth gives us and how we should take care of the earth in return.

It is a book that I will definitely read again and I hope many of you will too.

"There are only two seasons-winter and baseball." Bill Veeck

Winter Dreams—Sue Cahoon

I always look forward to winter, as a time to focus more on indoor projects and maybe get a bit more rest with the shorter days. It seems that a lot of things get put off when the weather is good and the garden is calling. My houseplants get a bit of attention, and the sewing projects get pulled out again. I get more books read and write some letters.

It certainly is fun to look at garden catalogs, and I am always drawn to perennials and tools. What could I plant to give our place some lasting beauty, and what tools could make the process easier and my work more efficient? My vegetable seeds are still not ordered, but the goal is January 31 so that's likely the day I will be placing my order. We were gifted a membership to Seed Savers this year, so I am enjoying taking a better look at all they have to offer.

A few years ago I bought the book Roots, Shoots, Buckets and Boots by Sharon Lovejoy. It is filled with ideas on how to garden with children. Our daughters tried some of the projects listed inside, and now that we have grandchildren I am once again looking for ideas to entice them into gardening. I tried the Sunflower House with mixed success. It involves planting a variety of sunflowers in the shape of a rectangle, and then planting morning glories to crawl up the sunflower stalks and across string at the top of the taller flowers, creating a “ceiling”. I think I needed more strings across to end up with a better ceiling effect, but I had fun giving it a try. Hopefully I will find something in there to try this year, as there are lots of planting ideas and crafts made from garden materials.

Currently I have friends visiting Mexico, and they sent me a photo of lush palm trees and green grass next to sandy beaches. It does look inviting, but I am content to have snow and cold, as long as it's not the extremely frigid type. Spring will come to Iowa, and most surely it will come before I am ready for it.

Winter Garden Tasks— Horticulture and Home Pest News

While winter is often considered a slow time in the garden, there are still several things that can be done from December through February to prepare for spring and keep yourself active in the garden even when there is snow on the ground!

Perennials-Consider Starting Some Perennials from Seed. While most gardeners prefer to grow perennials from transplants in containers, it is possible to grow some perennials successfully from seed. Several perennials have cold treatments (stratification) or other requirements for successful germination and most will take several years to become large enough to flower in the perennial border. Winter is a great time to start the seeds indoors or to provide the necessary cold treatment so they are ready to germinate outdoors in the spring. Research the growing requirements for the perennial to understand what special germination requirements are needed to grow them from seed.

Perennials grown from seed will be similar to the parent plant but may differ in flower color, leaf pattern, size, or in other ways. For some perennials, this is problematic because there is a very specific size, color, or leaf pattern you may want. Growing perennials like daylily, hosta, or peony from divisions or transplants ensures they are clones and identical to the parent plant. For other perennials, there is little variation from plant to plant when grown from seed, or the variation is something that is desirable. These perennials are perfect candidates for seed propagation. Perennials to try growing from seed include columbine, purple coneflower, and blackberry lily. Get a more complete list here: What perennials are easy to grow from seed? <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/faq/what-perennials-are-easy-grow-seed>

Enjoy the Beauty of Perennials with Winter Interest—It can be difficult to see the beauty of winter some times. While woody trees and shrubs are often thought of as plants with beautiful winter attributes, many perennials can also add to the garden even in the dead of winter. Take time to appreciate the beauty of your perennials in the snow. Learn more in this article: Perennials with Winter Interest. <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/perennials-winter-interest>

Vegetable Gardens—Plan Garden Layout. Winter is a good time to make plans for the vegetable garden. A well-planned vegetable garden ensures productive and healthy plants. Use the winter months to determine what vegetables you want to grow and where you will plant them. Crop rotation is important as it can reduce issues with diseases and pests and balance the soil's nutrients. Vegetable crops in the same botanical family are often susceptible to the same diseases and insects. For crop rotation to be most effective, gardeners should not plant vegetables belonging to the same plant family in the same location for 3 to 4 years (or 5+ years, if possible). Learn more in this article: Crop Rotation in the Vegetable Garden. <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/crop-rotation-vegetable-garden>

To read more about Winter Garden Tasks visit <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/winter-garden-tasks>

African Violets— by Becky Litterer

The following is from Becky's Greenhouse.

African Violets are one of the most favorite blooming houseplants. These are so popular because are not difficult to care for, they have beautiful velvety leaves, also, because these are known as plants that can bloom all year round.

African Violets can bloom even during the winter when most of the plants are dormant.

So, you can always add some color to your home with these lovely plants.

Except when they are not blooming. And this can happen sometimes. You are just waiting for the magic, but that is not happening.

In this article, I am going to talk about African Violets' blooming issue, what is the reason they are not blooming and how to get them to bloom.

African Violet Not Blooming There can be several reasons why your African Violets are not blooming. Usually, these problems can be easily corrected to help your plant in flower production.

– **Light** The most common reason why an African Violet is not blooming is the lack of light.

African Violets need at least 12 hours of bright light. This makes them perfect windowsill plants; however, direct sunlight is also bad for them.

Keep your African Violet on an eastern windowsill, but also a northern or a western window will do it if this is not getting too hot.

A south-facing windowsill can be too hot and too bright during the hot months. Your plant can get damaged by direct sunlight. You can keep an African Violet on a south-facing windowsill only during the winter.

If you cannot provide the perfect light conditions for your African Violet, you can opt for fluorescent light.

But don't forget to give your plants a break. African Violets also need at least eight hours of darkness. The flowering hormones need darkness to be able to get activated.

– **Water** Watering is another main reason why an African Violet will not bloom.

If you don't water it adequately, and you under- or over-water it, this will refuse to bloom, or eventually, it might even die.

African Violets like moist soil. Never too dry or too soggy. Before watering, make sure you always check its soil. If this feels dry, then you water the plant. If it is still moist, then wait for another day or two and check again.

Also, be careful with the technique of watering. You should never water the soil itself.

Instead, water your African Violet from the bottom. Put some water in its saucer or place the pot in some water and let it soak for about 30 minutes.

Then empty the saucer from the extra remaining water, and leave the pot to drain as well.

You should also be careful what kind of water you are using. Always use room temperature water, which is sitting for one or two days, so the chlorine can evaporate from the water.

Another choice can be distilled water or rainwater. But never softened water because that adds too many salts to the soil and can be damaging for the roots.

– **Soil or Pot** The quality of the soil or the size of the pot can also be a reason why your African Violet is not blooming.

The soil should be a special mix for African Violets that is not too heavy or dense and combined with some perlite.

These plants like their soil to be well-draining and loose. A soil that is too dense can lead to root rotting.

The right pot is also essential for African Violets to bloom.

African Violets are blooming only when they are root-bound. So, whenever you repot your plants, don't go for a bigger pot unless it is outgrown.

A pot that is too big for your African Violet can also harm the plant because there can be too much soil that keeps too much water for the plant.

– **Humidity and Temperature** I think humidity and temperature go hand in hand. Also, these two factors can be another two reasons why your African Violets are not blooming.

African Violets like humidity around 50% to 60% and a room temperature of 65°F to 75°F/ 18°C to 24°C, in which 70°F/21°C would be perfect.

Anything out of these numbers will affect your plant and this will refuse to bloom.

Also, you should always be careful not to keep your plants crowded or touching each other. Keep the room ventilated and ensure airflow around your African Violets.

By doing so, you can prevent stunted leaves and diseases.

Make African Violet Bloom Again As I said above, many factors can be wrong and can stop your African Violets bloom.

African Violets— by Becky Litterer (Continued)

However, if the room temperature and humidity are on the right level, the soil and the pot is perfect, your plant gets enough light and you are watering it as you should, but your plant is still not in bloom, then here are some more tips what to do to make your African Violet bloom again.

First of all, cut out all the suckers and divide the crowns. The suckers and the baby plants can take away the energy from the mother plant and this cannot focus on blooming.

You can also enhance your plant's health by cleaning its leaves. Make sure you use room temperature water when you rinse the plants. Ideally, rinse them with distilled or rainwater.

Trimming your plant regularly will also help in producing flowers. African Violets need only 3 or 4 rows of leaves to bloom. Also, cutting off the old, dried leaves and spent blossoms will keep its energy to grow new flowers.

Flushing the soil from to time is also essential. This helps clean out the built-up salts from the soil. Do this when the plant needs watering. Just pour room-temperature water on the soil, just under the leaves, until excess water comes out of the draining holes, and leave it to drain.

Do this, every three months, and you're good.

Last but not the least, another tip I can recommend to get your African Violets to bloom is to fertilize them regularly. Using an adequate fertilizer every 2-4 weeks in spring, summer and fall will make wonders and will keep your plant healthy and in bloom.

How Long do African Violets Flower? Once an African Violet matures, this can bloom nearly constantly. But only if it gets the proper care.

African Violets blooming season depends on its environment. The most important factor is the light.

If the plant gets enough sunlight, it will produce flowers, and in the perfect temperature and humidity, a single flower can last from few days to a few weeks.

Once a flower is spent, remove it, so the plant can focus on producing new once, rather than on producing seeds.

So, keeping the plant happy and ensuring the needed environment and care, you can enjoy lovely colored flowers during the whole year.

Best Fertilizer for African Violet Flowers To help your African Violets bloom and keep the flowers for as long as possible, I recommend the Espoma fertilizer, made special for African violets.

Espoma Organic Violet Plant Food is designed especially for all types of Violets, but you can also use it for orchids and bromeliads.

It is a natural and organic food that contains all major plant nutrients, such as kelp extracts and humic acids and millions of beneficial microbes that ensure the plant's health.

Espoma Organic Violet Plant Food is derived from hydrolyzed poultry manure, bone meal, hydrolyzed fish protein, hydrolyzed soy protein and potassium sulfate.

You can use this fertilizer every 2 to 4 weeks and make sure you are using it properly. The bottle has a measuring cap, so you cannot go wrong with the dosage.

Shake the bottle well before mixing it. Then with the lid closed, turn the bottle upside down and then turn it back upright.

Then open the lid by flipping it and the pre-measured dose of the fertilizer can be added to 1 quart of water.

When you apply it, you can either pour it into the soil or in the saucer, but always avoid the leaves.

Wrap Up African Violets, with proper care, can bloom all year round, nearly constantly.

If yours is not blooming, you should question yourself what could be the problem. Is it getting enough light?

Are you watering from the bottom? Is the soil good for your plant? Or the pot is too big?

African Violets need 12 hours of bright, indirect light and 8 hours of darkness.

They don't like getting wet, so always water yours from the saucer. Also, don't over or under-water it.

But if you are doing it all right, then maybe your plant needs some fresh soil, that is light and well-draining.

You should also remember, that these plants are blooming only when they are root-bound. So, a pot that is too big will not be on your help.

However, with all your hard work, sometimes the plants just need some fertilizer as a booster. Don't get hesitant to use fertilizers, because they can make such a difference.

Using the appropriate fertilizer, you can get your African Violet to bloom in a few weeks and enjoy its flowers for several weeks.

Taken from <https://www.plantindex.com/get-african-violets-bloom/>

Till next time this is Becky Litterer, Becky's Greenhouse, Dougherty Iowa beckmall@netins.net 641-794-3337 cell 61-903-9365

COOKS NOOK

Blackberry Breakfast Cake—Clara Lensing

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon salt
2 ½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup granulated sugar
3 large eggs
1 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
zest and juice of 1 lemon
½ cup unsalted butter (melted and cooled)
2 cups fresh or frozen blackberries
2 tablespoons coarse sugar (for topping)

Preheat oven to 325°. Lightly grease a 9-inch springform or square-baking pan, set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and sugar. Make well in the center.

In a medium mixing bowl whisk the eggs until blended. Add the sour cream, vanilla. Lemon juice and lemon zest. Whisk until blended. Slowly add the melted butter whisking constantly until combined. Pour the sour cream mixture into the flour and sugar mixture. Stir with a spatula until the dry ingredients are moistened. The batter will be very thick.

Pour 2/3 of the batter into the prepared pan. Sprinkle 1 cup of blackberries over the batter. Dollop the remaining batter over the blackberries, and smooth with an offset spatula. Top with all remaining blackberries, pressing the berries slightly into the batter.

Allow the cake to rest for 10 to 15 minutes before baking. Sprinkle coarse sugar on top, mostly on the exposed batter avoiding the blackberries.

Bake at 325° for 60 to 70 minutes or until a toothpick or knife inserted into the center comes out with no wet batter. Moist crumbs are okay.

Cook the cake for 20 minutes, then remove the side of the springform pan. Slide the cake onto a serving platter or plate. Serve slightly warm or at room temperature. Dust with powdered sugar, or a dollop of whipped cream, if desired.

If using a square cake pan, serve straight from the pan.

Notes: a. Store leftovers at room temperature in an airtight container for up to 3 days. Refrigerate for longer storage, if desired.

b. Blackberry Breakfast Cake may be frozen, well sealed in an airtight container. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator or at room temperature for a few hours.

c. Substitute plain Greek yogurt for the sour cream, if desired.

d. If using frozen blackberries, do not thaw before adding to the batter.

e. This cake is also great topped with sliced almonds before baking. Add ½ teaspoon almond extract in addition to the vanilla extract, if desired.

Puffy Potato Doughnuts—Becky Litterer

I have been making these since 1975. I have made 1000's of them. Always for the last day of our kids athletic practice, which was a long time ago, still those kids remember these.

2 cups milk 1/2 C butter 1 C sugar 1 T salt 1 pkg active dry yeast add 1 t. sugar dissolved in 1/4 C lukewarm water 1 t Baking powder 1/2 t Baking soda
1 C unseasoned mashed potatoes (I use instant potatoes) 3 eggs 8 C sifted flour
Cooking oil Vanilla glaze Scald milk. Stir in butter, 1 C sugar and salt. Cool to lukewarm and add the yeast that has been dissolved in water and sugar. Add baking powder, baking soda, mashed potatoes and 2 C flour. Beat with electric mixer at medium speed until smooth about 2 minutes or beat with spoon until batter is smooth.

Gradually add remaining flour, blending well, dough will be soft. Place in lightly greased bowl turn dough over to grease the top. Cover and let rise in warm place until doubled, about 2 hours. Roll out dough ¼" thick on floured surface. Cut with floured doughnut cutter. (I use the Tupperware piece that you would make hamburger patties in. It is bigger than a normal donut cutter) Place on floured waxed paper. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 1 hour.

Fry a few doughnuts at a time in hot cooking oil until golden brown, turning once. Drain on paper towels, coat warm doughnuts with vanilla glaze. Place on cooling rack to dry. Makes 3 ½ dozen.

Vanilla glaze. Combine 1 pound box of confectioner's sugar, (that description should let you know this is an old recipe) ½ cup soft butter, 7 tablespoons milk and 2 ½ teaspoons vanilla. Beat until smooth. And then just enjoy.

"I can't get out of bed on days when the temperature is less than my age." Unknown

Upcoming Events

Please join us on the second Tuesday of the month at Jet's Café at 10:30 for an informal gathering.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tuesday, February 6	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
February 9-11	Madison WI Garden Expo	Madison, WI
Tuesday, February 13	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, February 13	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
Saturday, February 17	MG meeting at 10 a.m.	Wellness Center
Tuesday, February 20	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
Tuesday, February 27	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
Saturday, February 24	Buchanan County Gardening Symposium	Independence
Tuesday, March 3	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
Tuesday, March 12	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, March 12	Iowa Master Gardeners Webinar 6 p.m.	Virtual
Saturday, April 6	Gardening in the Driftless	Houston, MN High School
Tuesday, April 9	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Thursday, April 11	MG annual dinner, 5 p.m.	Rossville
Thursday, April 25	MG meeting at 7 p.m.	Wellness Center
Saturday, May 11	FFA Plant Sale	Waukon HS Greenhouse
Tuesday, May 14	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Saturday, May 18	MG/FFA plant sale	Fairgrounds
Tuesday, June 11	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
June 14-16	Big 4 Fair	Postville
Thursday, June 27	MG potluck w/spouse 6:00 p.m.	TBA
Tuesday, July 9	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Saturday, July 13	Clean open class exhibit building	Fairgrounds
July 17-21	Allamakee County Fair	Waukon
Tuesday, August 13	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Thursday, August 22	MG meeting 7 p.m. (Plant swap?)	Wellness Center
Tuesday, September 10	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, October 8	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Saturday, October 26	MG meeting 10 a.m.	Wellness Center
Tuesday, November 12	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, December 10	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Tuesday, February 11, 2025	Monthly informal gathering, 10:30 a.m.	Jet's Café
Saturday, February 15, 2025	MG meeting 10 a.m.	Wellness Center

Master Gardener Hours

Are you keeping track of your volunteer service hours? How about your continuing education hours? Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Master Gardener program has a website to make logging your hours easier. Sign in to the Volunteer Reporting System here <https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/> to log your hours.

The Master Gardener program encourages you to complete 10 hours of continuing education hours and 20 volunteer hours. Didn't get them all in? That's ok, report your hours anyway!

Don't wait until December to report your Master Gardener volunteer and continuing education hours for the year. Record them now so that it doesn't become a huge task at the end of the year. We know that you are doing great things as Master Gardener volunteers. Let us know about them!

Paper copy of the reporting form can be found here <https://mastergardenerhours.hort.iastate.edu/>

Always remember ~ have fun in the garden!