About the Master Gardener Program

Who are Master Gardeners?
Master Gardeners come from a variety of backgrounds. They are passionate about serving their communities and sharing gardening best practices.

Master Gardeners are individuals who have taken the Master Gardener training and share their time and expertise as volunteers in community gardens, city beautification projects, and farmers markets to name a few. It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill in gardening, and giving back to the community that distinguishes a Master Gardener from other gardeners.

Master Gardener Mission
The mission of the Iowa State University Extension Master Gardener Program is to provide current, research-based, home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Iowa through programs and projects. Through their participation in educational activities, Master Gardeners also increase their own personal knowledge in horticulture. Master Gardeners extend ISU Extension’s consumer horticulture education programs through volunteer activity.

Centennial Celebration
Buchanan County Garden Tour
Sunday, Aug. 6, 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Upcoming FALL 2017 EVENTS

Scarecrow (or Garden People) Judging Contest
During Art Under the Oaks
Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017 | 10 am - 4 pm
Lee Mansion Gardens
805 1st Street East | Independence

The Buchanan County Master Gardeners will host the 3rd Annual Scarecrow (or Garden People) contest during Art Under the Oaks.

Art Under the Oaks is an annual arts festival featuring local artists and those from all over Iowa. During the festival, which is organized by the Buchanan County Arts, the Buchanan County Historical will provide tours of the Lee Mansion.

Entries will be displayed in the Lee Mansion garden and the public get to vote for their favorites throughout the day.

Any individual or group can sign up to bring a scarecrow to the contest. Art Under the Oaks is FREE and open to the public!

Scarecrow (or Garden People) registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 8, 2017 by Noon.

Registration form can be found on the extension website, by visiting the extension office, by calling (319) 334-7161 or by email at xbuchanan@iastate.edu.

Spring “Planting a Porch Pot”
Spring program, new in 2017
Saturday, May 20, 2017 | 9:00 am - 10:30 am
The Buchanan County Master Gardeners offered a new program this year, "Planting a Porch Pot". In this workshop, the Master Gardeners helped participants learn to design and plant a pot with a variety of flowers and foliage plants. Participants were also instructed how to enter and show their pots during the Flower and Garden Show for the Buchanan County Fair. This program will be offered again in 2018.

Holiday Workshops
Usually two workshops are held during December
Dates TBA
Traditionally Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach has offered holiday workshops in the month of December. Past workshops have included: fresh evergreen wreaths, holiday centerpiece workshops, evergreen cone garland and wooden craft projects. Please visit our Buchanan County Extension webpage this fall to watch for details!
Hospice Garden
801 1st Street East, Independence
South of the Cedar Valley Hospice parking lot
The garden was developed in an empty lot next to the hospice Office. The garden needed to be low maintenance, so a conifer garden with shrubs and companion plants was chosen.

Lee Mansion
805 1st Street East, Independence
Next to Independence Public Library
Designed to complement the area and hosts artifacts from the Buchanan County Historical Society.

Presbyterian Sharing Garden
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence
At Heartland Acres Agribition Center
Near the country school, produce from this garden is donated to the Food Pantry.

Wapsipinicon Mill
Main Street, Independence
Planned to teach the public on the benefits of using native plants and how to incorporate prairie plants in their present gardens.

West Village Care Center
1610 3rd Street NE, Independence
Front planters and garden area
This project encourages residents to become involved in the planning, planting, and maintaining of the garden.

Jakway Forest County Park
2791 136th Street, Aurora
The Jakway gardens are all heirloom vegetables and plans that have been started and grown over the years by our Master Gardeners. Some crops are sold at Farmers Market, all proceeds go to the Jakway/Richardson Foundation. Crops are also used for the Jakway Old Time Meal fundraiser held in the fall.

Hazelton Veterans Park & Community Garden
101 Benton Street East, Hazleton
A lot of planning went into the construction of the semi-circle concrete wall, sidewalks, Veterans Memorial Stone, and community gardens.

Rowley Community Center
109 Ely Street, Rowley
The plantings in front of the Rowley Community Center were initially completed in 2009.

Rowley Rock
408 Rowley Street, Rowley
The idea for the Rowley Rock Garden took shape with the closing of South Elementary School, as the community wanted a special place to put the cornerstones from the school building.

Cedar Rock State Park
2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd., Independence
Garden is near the front gate, tours of this park are not included with the Centennial Garden tour
Once neglected, this long narrow garden was once overgrown with weeds, but has now been planted with pollinator plants and flowers. There is also a rose garden that has been planted in memory of the original owners of the home.

Prairie Pioneer Schoolhouse Garden
NW Corner of School grounds on the corner of 1st St and 210th St., Jesup
The Prairie Pioneer Schoolhouse is a one-room schoolhouse on the grounds of Jesup Community Schools, that has been planted with native plants that would have been found in Iowa when prairies were prevalent. The committee plans for an outdoor learning space with use of the garden by teachers and students. This project is new for 2017 and is a work in progress.