



At the Garden Gate



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

August September
and October 2019

Carnivorous Plants Presentation rescheduled for July 30

Join the Mahaska County Master Gardeners for a presentation from Keith Becker, International Carnivorous Plant Society member. Carnivorous plants are plants which derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming insects (typically). Venus Fly Trap, Pitcher Plant, and Sundews are the more commonly known carnivorous plants. Learn about the distinct growing conditions they need (which varies by species).

Presentation will be at the Mahaska County Extension Office Auditorium **Tuesday July 30 at 6 pm**. This was originally scheduled for May 14. This program is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome. **Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.**



Discovery Garden Tour-Iowa State Fair August 3

The Discovery Garden is a cooperative effort between ISU Extension and Outreach Polk County Master Gardeners and the Iowa State Fair. The Discovery Garden is located on the south side of the Agriculture Building. Most of the materials used in the garden are grown by Polk County Master Gardeners in the group's greenhouse, ensuring new and fresh displays each year. **Mahaska County Master Gardeners (and friends) will tour the Discovery Garden on Saturday August 3 at 1 pm**. They will meet at the Iowa State Fairgrounds with Polk County Master Gardener committee member(s) to learn about the processes for this great garden display.

Iowa State Fair Nothing Compares...August 8-18

Tending Beauty: Forty Moments in the Garden presentation on August 6

Join the Mahaska County Master Gardeners for a presentation from Carol Van Klompenburg. Carol has lived in Pella since 1979; and been flower gardening for about 25 years. She is the author of *Tending Beauty: Forty Moments in my Gardens*. She will be reading selections from this book. Presentation will be **Tuesday August 6 at 6:30 pm**. It will be at the Mahaska County Extension Office Auditorium. This program is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome. **Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.**

Mahaska County is not offering Master Gardener training this fall.

We plan to offer it in Fall 2020. Keokuk, Marion and Davis counties are offering training in 2019; enrollment is due soon.

Keokuk meets Wednesday 9 am (due 8/2), Marion meets Thursday 6 pm (due 8/5), and Davis meets Tuesday 6 pm (due 8/5).



Mahaska County Master Gardeners Meetings

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have their monthly business meeting on **Tuesday, August 6, September 10, and October 8 at 6 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension Office unless indicated otherwise on our agenda.

Master Gardener Office Hours

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will be present at the Mahaska County Extension office on **Tuesdays 9-11 am and 1-3 pm for client inquires; Memorial Day through Labor Day.**

MG Booth at the Oskaloosa Vender & Farmer's Market

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have an informational booth at the Oskaloosa Farmer's Market the first Tuesday and Saturday of the month June-September. August and September booths will be: **Saturday, August 3 and September 7 ; 8-11 am and Tuesday, August 6 and September 3; 4-6 pm**. Stop by and ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions!

If you want more information about any of the horticulture events or have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, Horticulturist at Mahaska County Extension 212 North I Street, Oskaloosa; phone 641-673-5841 or email striegel@iastate.edu.

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Butterfly Gardening Resources

RG 601 Gardening for Butterflies

revised September 2015

RG 603 Iowa Butterfly and Caterpillar Food Preferences

PM 1795 Common Butterflies of Iowa



These publications and many others are available at our office, some are available to download from the *ISUEO* online store <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>.

Better Cut Flowers

It is better to cut flowers with sharp scissors or a knife making a slanting cut.

A slanted cut will expose more surface area and prevent the stem from resting on the bottom of the vase.

It is also better to put fresh cut flowers in a bucket of water to carry them in from the garden.



Plant Some Shade discontinued

The Plant Some Shade program with Mid American Energy and many partners in Iowa; including the Mahaska County Extension, Master Gardener's and Oskaloosa Trees Forever has been discontinued. Alliant Energy has also discontinued the Operation ReLeaf program.



Additional Events

Mahaska County Master Gardeners and ISU Extension and Outreach may schedule additional events in horticulture and other program areas (which may be of interest to gardeners) this winter. They will be publicized in local media, email, facebook pages as well as our website.

Tomato Fest 2019 Scheduled for August 22

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will hold Tomato Fest 2019 on **Thursday August 22 at 6:30 pm**. We will be learning about tomatoes including growing and tasting tomato varieties and tomato recipes. It will be held by the garden at the Mahaska County Extension Office. If there is inclement weather, the event will be in the Auditorium.

The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.

Seeds; Garden Basics topic September 19

Come learn about seed saving, seed storing, seed germination testing, and making seed bombs on **September 19 at 6:30 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension office.

Garden Basics classes are local Master Gardeners presenting on a variety of basic general gardening topics. Each one is an independent topic presented as a family friendly presentation; normally held on the third Thursday of the month. These programs are open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Anyone interested in the topic is welcome. **Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.**

Putting the Garden to Bed; Garden Basics topic October 17

Come learn about "Putting the Garden to Bed"; also known as fall gardening tasks including fall rose care, mulching strawberries etal, composting fall gardening tasks, including tool maintenance on **October 17 at 6:30 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension office.

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Final Summer Webcast: Ecology Plus Diversity

ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardeners offers summer webcasts (taped programs available over the internet) for counties to show. Mahaska County will offer the final summer webcast on **Tuesday, August 20 at Noon and 6 pm**. Topic is Ecology Plus Diversity (plant communities which mimic nature) with Grant Thompson, assistant professor of horticulture at Iowa State University.

The webcast last one hour, attendees may attend either viewing session. *Mahaska County Master Gardeners are providing this presentation. It is open to the public without cost to the attendees.*

All Bugs Good & Bad Webinars

All Bugs Good and Bad are monthly webinars presented nationally by eXtension. They provide practical information utilizing Extension staff across the nation. Mahaska County Extension will host a viewing of the upcoming webinars the **first Friday of the month at 1 pm:**

August 2 GMOs and Their Effect on Insect Populations

Explore the world of insects and how genetically modified crops effect their populations with Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Alabama Extension.

October 4 Scale Insects on Ornamental Plants

Scale insects are odd looking creatures. In fact, you may have sad plants in the landscape, and not recognize these insects. Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Alabama Extension will provide clues to their identification and strategies to keep them under wraps.

These webinars are open to the public and free to attend. Prior registration is not required, but appreciated. After the date an archive may be viewed at <https://learn.extension.org/events/3599> (GMOs) and <https://learn.extension.org/events/3601> (scale).

Home Food Preservation Resources



Monday-Friday 9 am-Noon 1-4 pm; 800-262-3804

Or email answer@iastate.edu

Link to Iowa State University Extension Publications located on website

National Center for Home Food Preservation <https://nchfp.uga.edu/>
Many videos and publications, including ordering information for the *So Easy to Preserve* book (now in 6th edition with 388 pages) or DVDs.

Do you have excess garden produce?

If your garden has produced more than you, your family and friends can utilize—please consider donating to local organizations (including but not limited to: local daycares, local churches, Summer Lunch program, End of the Month meals, Senior Center, Center for Independent Living, Crisis Intervention, Imagine the Possibilities, LOVE INC, New Hope Community Center, Youth for Christ, YMCA, Mahaska County Outreach) or the Oskaloosa's Ecumenical Food Cupboard (205 South D Street, Oskaloosa 641-676-0431).

As with any donation, please call first to be sure you are donating an item they can use and you have other needed information to make the donation.

ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications of Interest

- FOR 366B **Consulting Arborist
Provide Service in Iowa**
- PM 534 **Planting and Harvesting
Times for Garden Vegetables**
- PM 666 **Weed Management in the
Home Garden**
- PM 683 **Composting Yard Waste**
- PM 820 **Garden Soil Management**
- PD 54 **Tomato Disease and
Disorders**
- PM 1313 **Growing Garden Peonies**
- PM 1319 **Forcing Flower Bulbs**
- PM 1932 **Drought Tolerant Annuals
and Perennials**
- PM 1398 **Harvesting and Drying
Flowers**
- PM 1966 **The Garden Guide to
Midwest Annuals and Perennials**
- PM 2036 **Ticks and Tick Borne
Disease in Iowa**
- PM 2086 **Growing Organic
Vegetables in Iowa**
- RG 311 **Growing and Overwintering
Tender Perennials**
- RG 319 **When to Divide Perennials**
- SUL 14 **Hosta Disease and Pests**
- SUL 12 **Using Mulches in
Managed Landscapes**

These publications (as well as many others) are available to purchase at the Extension office or at the ISUEO online store <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>. Many of ISUEO publications are available for download at the same site.

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Gardening Guide

August

- Stop fertilizing annuals
- Visit the Discovery Garden at the Iowa State Fair
- Harvest onions when the tops yellow and fall over
- Water newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials as needed
- Harvest potatoes when tops die
- Sow grass seed
- Sow lettuce, spinach and radish for fall crop
- Tour an Iowa winery



September

- Water newly seeded lawns regularly
- Aerate lawns
- Pot up hyacinth bulbs for forcing indoors
- Divide and transplant peonies
- Plant deciduous trees
- Leave asparagus foliage over winter
- Harvest green tomatoes before frost
- Check houseplants for insects before bringing inside for the winter

October

- Harvest winter squash before hard frost
- Visit an Iowa apple orchard
- Dig up dahlias and cannas for indoor storage
- Apply broadleaf herbicide to control dandelions and other broadleaf weeds
- Leave ornamental grass foliage over the winter
- Compost tree leaves
- Continue to mow the lawn until the grass stops growing
- Buy pumpkins from a local pumpkin patch

These items were taken from the 2019 ISU Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar "Gardens Through the Seasons".

***"I like gardening—
It's a place where I
find myself when I
need to lose myself."
- Alice Sebold***

Care of Plants Growing in Containers

Growing plants in containers has rapidly increased in popularity in the last 15 to 20 years. There are a number of reasons for growing annuals and vegetables in containers. Container gardens are an excellent way to grow vegetables when suitable garden sites are unavailable. Container gardening allows individuals to beautify patios, porches, balconies, the front steps, and other areas around the home. Container gardens also provide individuals with physical limitations an opportunity to grow flowers and vegetables.

Container gardening is relatively easy. The basic requirements are suitable containers and a high quality potting mix. Gardeners also need to meet the basic needs of the plants in regards to watering and fertilizing.

Watering

The frequency of watering may vary considerably from container to container. It depends on the size and type of container, composition of the potting mix, plant species, and weather conditions.

Plants growing in containers should be checked daily (especially in summer) to determine if they need to be watered. If uncertain about the need to water, poke your finger into the potting mix. Water the container when the potting mix is dry at the 1 to 2-inch depth. Watering frequency may vary from once or twice a day (small container, hot windy weather) to once or twice a week (large container, cool weather). When watering plants in containers, continue to apply water until water begins to flow out the drainage holes in the bottom of the container.

Do not allow the potting mix to dry out completely. Potting mixes shrink and pull away from the sides of the containers when completely dry. Dry potting mixes are difficult to moisten as water tends to flow between the potting mix and container and then out the bottom of the container (while the potting mix remains dry). Containers that have been allowed to dry out completely should be placed in a tub of water for 20 to 30 minutes to remoisten the potting mix.

Fertilization

Plants in containers need to be fertilized on a regular basis as nutrient levels in potting mixes quickly fall due to absorption by plants and leaching during watering.

Many commercial potting mixes contain a slow release fertilizer. However, slow release fertilizers usually don't last the entire growing season. When using a potting mix containing a slow release fertilizer, begin to fertilize plants when plant growth slows or the color of the foliage fades. A granular fertilizer can be applied to the soil surface or plants may be fertilized with a water soluble fertilizer. Check the product label for application rates and frequency.

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Other Maintenance Chores

Remove spent flowers on annuals to improve plant appearance and encourage continuous bloom. Pinch back plants that get tall and leggy.

Harvest vegetables at the proper stage of maturity for best quality and to encourage additional production.

Inspect plants on a regular basis for insects and diseases. Control insects by either handpicking or by spraying/dusting with the appropriate insecticide. Control diseases by removing infected leaves or entire plants.

This article is modified from an article prepared by Richard Jauron, ISU Extension Horticulturist. It was originally published in Horticulture and Home Pest News 7/1/2016. Current and archived articles can be found at <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/>

Fall Vegetable Planting Time nears

A second season of many quick growing crops; especially cool season crops can still be enjoyed. Some crops produce their best quality and flavor when they mature in cooler weather. Also disease and insect pests aren't as much of a problem in fall plantings. Secure your seed for planting in August and September of :

- Radish
- Lettuce
- Peas
- Spinach
- Turnips

Source: ISUE PM 534 **Planting and harvesting time for garden vegetables**



Crops are defined as tender (damaged /destroyed by light frost), semi hardy (can tolerate temperatures in upper 20°F), and hardy (survive temps in the low 20°F). Sow seeds early enough for harvest by the average first frost (Mahaska County early October). Crop choices and garden location's microclimate will affect your garden crop's temperature tolerance.

Harvest periods can be extended by protecting plants with blankets, sheets, milk jugs, plastic water holding walls, floating row covers or cold frames or hot beds. Remove protection when temperature is above 32°F.

If it is too late to plant the garden crop you desire—consider planting a cover crop in your garden!

Storing Onions

After harvesting the onions, dry or cure the onions in a warm, dry, well-ventilated location, such as a shed or garage. Spread out the onions in a single layer on a clean, dry surface. Cure the onions for two to three weeks until the onion tops and necks are thoroughly dry and the outer bulb scales begin to rustle. After the onions are properly cured, cut off the tops about 1 inch above the bulbs. As the onions are topped, discard any that show signs of decay. Use the thick-necked bulbs as soon as possible as they don't store well. *An alternate preparation method is to leave the onion tops untrimmed and braid the dry foliage together.*

Place the cured onions in a mesh bag, old nylon stocking, wire basket or crate. It's important that the storage container allow air to circulate through the onions. Store the onions in a cool, moderately dry location. Storage temperatures should be 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The relative humidity should be 65 to 70 percent. Possible storage locations include a basement, cellar or garage. Hang the braided onions from a rafter or ceiling. If storing the onions in an unheated garage, move the onions to an alternate storage site before temperatures drop below 32 F.

...If the storage temperatures are too warm, the onions may sprout. Rotting may be a problem in damp locations. Inspect the stored onions on a regular basis in fall and winter. Discard any that are starting to rot.

Source: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-onions-and-garlic>



Soil Testing

Iowa State University Soil Laboratory closed in December 2017. But, we still have great information on soil testing. Please consult our office or website for information; including a listing of mid-west soil labs; private and university.

**“THERE ARE NO GARDENING MISTAKES,
ONLY EXPERIMENTS.”**

-JANET K PHILLIPS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

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~Office Hours~

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—1 pm, 1:30—4:30 pm

*Community events which Mahaska County
Master Gardeners will be at this fall:*

54th Annual Fall Festival
Nelson Pioneer Farm
2211 Nelson Lane, Oskaloosa
Saturday, September 21
9:30 am—4:30 pm

15th Youth Outdoor Field Day
Russell Wildlife Area
2254 200th Street, New Sharon
Saturday, September 28
9 am—2 pm

Hope to see you there!



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Mahaska County

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