

**Mahaska County  
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
8am –1 pm, 1:30 –4:30 pm



Reminder to sign up  
for Master Gardener  
Training by August 24!



# At the Garden Gate

August September October 2018

Mahaska County Extension Horticulture Newsletter

**ENROLL NOW\***  
**Due August 24**

**Class Fee \$195 \*\***

Mahaska County Master Gardener training will be held **Tuesday evenings September 4 through November 20; and** an all day workshop Saturday, November 3 at ISU campus, Ames

**New “Flipped” Format for training:** Webcast presentations will be viewed on your own and face to face sessions with related activities and tours on Tuesday evenings beginning at 6:30 pm and last 1-3 hours.

\* Enroll online at Iowa Master Gardener website or contact the Mahaska County Extension Office. Enrollment is not complete until background screening submitted and class fee is paid.

**\*\*Mahaska County Master Gardeners will cover \$45 of the class fee for the first six to pay the class fee in Mahaska County in 2018. Additional \$25 Late fee after September 7.**

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

2018 ISU Extension & Outreach  
Master Gardener Training

Mahaska



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

## Tomato Fest

On **Tuesday, August 28 at 6 pm** we will be learning about tomato growing and highlighting ISU Extension tomato preservation resources.



We will taste heirloom tomatoes and tomato recipes. **It will be held by the garden at the Mahaska County Extension Office.**

**The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.** If there is inclement weather, the event will be in the Auditorium.

*Attendees with an heirloom variety they wish to share are encouraged to bring a few tomatoes. A minimum of one tomato should be washed and cut into sample size pieces.*

## Monarch Rearing Presentation

Monarch butterfly populations are currently low due to many factors. One way citizen scientists can help populations rise is to rear monarch caterpillars or assist the monarch caterpillar in reaching the adult stage.



The Richardson family reared their first monarch caterpillar following the Iowa State Fair in 2013. They have reared them each year since, rearing over 100 in 2017. Minnie Richardson will explain the process and some of the tips they have learned on **August 30 at 6:30 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension Auditorium. This event is for all ages who are interested in monarch rearing.

**This presentation is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Prior registration is NOT required, but appreciated.**

## Mahaska County Conservation Park Sites

Mahaska County Conservation has some great sites available for the public to visit, all located in Mahaska County. Come and learn where they are and the features of each site at this

*(continued on page 3)*

## That is an insect?

In late July or early August, many people in southern Iowa begin to notice accumulations of plant tissue hanging from shrub and tree branches. They are commonly found on conifers, but can also be on deciduous trees. They are bagworms. The caterpillar is 1/8 to 1/4 inch long when it hatches and will grow to one inch at maturity. If populations of bagworms are high enough, the defoliation can be extensive. Defoliation, when severe, can kill branches or plants.



As they feed, a silken case with plant tissue pieces is created for each caterpillar. At maturity the case will be 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long and have been secured to the host plant. The mature bagworm is often described as looking similar to a pine cone, but will look different depending on the host plant and the plant tissue will change from green to brown after the caterpillar stops feeding. After pupating and mating, the females will lay up to 1,000 eggs in her case. Those eggs will overwinter and hatch next spring. Once a plant has a few bagworms, the population can grow quickly within a year or two.

Once the caterpillar is mature, it is ineffective to spray insecticide on the cases for control; as the caterpillar and eventually the eggs are protected within the case of accumulated plant tissue. If you notice bagworms on your trees, the cases can be handpicked and destroyed through next spring. Insecticides can be used next spring and early summer when the caterpillars are young, small and actively feeding or outside their cases.

More information about the bagworm can be found at <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/bagworm>

Photo credit: Laura Iles, Iowa State University

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*If you have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, the Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist at 212 North I Street Oskaloosa, email [striegel@iastate.edu](mailto:striegel@iastate.edu) or call 641-673-5841.*

## ISU Extension and Outreach (ISUEO) Publications of Interest

PM 230 Insect and Disease Management in the Vegetable Garden

PM 534 Planting and Harvesting Times for Garden Vegetables

PM 666 Weed Management in the Home Garden

PM 731 Harvesting and Storing Vegetables

PM 820 Garden Soil Management

PM 1266 Tomato Disease and Disorders

PM 1894 Garlic

PM 1938 Growing and Drying Everlasting Flowers

PM 1933 Common Rose Diseases

PM 1966 The Garden Guide to Midwest Annuals & Perennials

IAN 302 Iowa's Summer and Fall Wildflowers

RG 105 Garden Tips: Guidelines for Seasonal Chores

RG 310 Caring for Roses in Iowa

RG 311 Growing and Overwintering Tender Perennials

RG 312 Suggested Daffodils Cultivars for Iowa

RG 319 When to Divide Perennials

SUL 12 Using Mulches in Managed Landscapes

*These publications (as well as many others) are available to purchase or download at any county Extension office or at the ISUEO online store <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>.*

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presentation by Dave Sedivec, Mahaska County Conservation Director.

The presentation includes an update on the construction of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) on **Monday September 10 at 6:30 pm at the Mahaska County Extension Auditorium**, 212 North I Street Oskaloosa.

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

### Garden Basics

Come learn Garden Basics topics at classes at monthly (normally 3rd) events held on **Thursday evenings at 6 pm** at the Mahaska County Extension and Outreach Office; 212 North I Street, Oskaloosa.

Garden Basics classes are local Master Gardeners presenting live classes on a variety of gardening topics. Each one is an independent topic presented as a family friendly presentation. 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.** Scheduled sessions are:

**September 20 Fall Planted Bulbs** learn bulb species, botany and planting tips; and



**October 18 Scarecrows, Apples and Pumpkins** Scarecrow making tips (we will make one for the office) and apple and pumpkin information.

To register and/or for more information about any of these or other horticulture programs, call the MCEO at 641-673-5841 or email Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist at [striegel@iastate.edu](mailto:striegel@iastate.edu). *The fees for service will be used to offset direct expenses and to support the Agriculture and Natural Resources County Extension Program.*

## Master Gardener Booths

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have an informational booth at Oskaloosa Farmers' Market and other community events this fall.

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will be at the Farmers Market in Oskaloosa the first Tuesday (4-6 pm) and Saturday (8-11 am) of each month. Remaining booth dates will be **Tuesday August 21, Saturday August 25, Saturday September 1, Tuesday September 4, Tuesday October 9, and Saturday October 6.**

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will be at Nelson Pioneer Farm's Fall Festival on **Saturday September 15; 10 am—4 pm**

Mahaska County Master Gardeners and Oskaloosa Trees Forever will team up for the Tree Identification station at Mahaska County Conservation's Youth Outdoor Field Day **Saturday September 29; 9 am—2 pm.**

Stop and "Ask a MG (Master Gardener)" your gardening questions!

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**Master Gardener business meetings** for the Mahaska County Master Gardener will be held **August 14, September 11, and October 9 at 6 pm.**

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## Iowa State Fair August 9-19, 2018

Check out the many horticulture displays and contests results (there are contests at many locations over the fair's duration) and Polk County Master Gardener's Discovery Garden (outside the south side of the Agriculture building)

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## 4H Judges Training

October 6 Polk County Altoona Iowa  
Possible SE Iowa training TBA

Additional information and registration will be available at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/judgestraining>

## All Bugs Good and Bad Webinars

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

### August 3 Bees, Wasps and Hornets Oh My!

Late summer, picnics can become a battling ground with hornets, bees, and wasps. Before moving indoors, learn about the biology, identification, and practical control measures in this webinar presented by Lynn Braband, Community IPM Extension Area Educator, Cornell University

### September 7 Winterizing Your Home to Keep Out Pests

Unwanted visitors in the home often make us uncomfortable especially when the visitors are insects. We see them every year as it gets cold trying to come inside. Join Janet Hurley, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension as she discusses methods on winterizing are homes to keep these invaders out

### October 5 Structural Misidentified Pests

Insect pests often inhabit our structures - homes, sheds, businesses. They can be difficult to control especially when they are not identified correctly. Join Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife as she discusses the identification of often misidentified structural pests

**Webinar viewing is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Prior registration is not required, but appreciated.** Individuals may view this webinar on their own. After the date, archives (and for previous years also) may be viewed at <http://articles.extension.org/pages/74590/2018-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series>.

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**Play in the dirt,  
BECAUSE LIFE IS TOO SHORT  
to always have clean fingernails.**