



# At the Garden Gate



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

May June July 2019

## Please remember the MG Plant Sale this spring

As you are working in your flower beds this spring, and need to divide perennials or have too many transplants or excess garden items; please keep the Mahaska Master Gardeners in mind! We appreciate donations of your extra garden items: plants, tools, pots, decorations, and especially larger nursery garden pots (for perennial divisions)!

**You do not have to be a Master Gardener to donate!**

Plant Sale customers prefer labeled plants. Labels should indicate variety, color, growing conditions, and suggested price, *if possible*. The perennial divisions sell best if they have been transplanted into pots two weeks before the sale. *Unfortunately, houseplants do not sell well and we discourage their donation.*

Note: The plant sale is May 18; one week later than traditionally held. Plants may be brought to the Extension office during office hours anytime Thursday and Friday May 16 & 17; second time around items may be brought in the week of May 13-17.

## Master Conservationist to be offered

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer the Iowa Master Conservationist program this spring in Jasper, Poweshiek, Marion and Mahaska Counties. The program will meet in various sites within the counties and provide the participants with hands-on interaction with the diversity of the state's natural resources.

The program teaches about Iowa's natural ecosystems & the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities that exist in the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for leading and educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

Master Conservationist are individuals who share an interest in the stability of Iowa's natural resources, and in becoming better stewards of Iowa's resources. This program alone will not make a person a "master", but this course is a step in that journey.

The program consists of approximately 12 hours of online curriculum and six in person meetings. The online modules will include lessons and resources by Iowa State subject matter experts to be reviewed at the participants own pace at home or at the ISU Extension and Outreach offices. Module topics include conservation history & science,



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## Got Gardening Questions? We can answer them!

### MG Office Hours

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have office hours 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 Farmers Market

Mahaska County Master Gardeners will have an informational booth at the Oskaloosa Farmers Market in Oskaloosa the **first Tuesday and Saturday of each month.**

## Stop by and ask a Master Gardener your gardening questions!

### Master Gardeners Meetings

will have their monthly business meetings on **Tuesday, May 14 and June 11 at 6 pm.** The June meeting is officer elections, committee sign ups, and meeting day/time establishment. July's meeting day and time are to be determined.

"I grow plants for many reasons:  
to please my eye or  
to please my soul,  
to challenge the elements or  
to challenge my patience,  
for novelty or  
for nostalgia,  
but mostly for the joy  
in seeing them grow."

— David Hobson

## Farmer's Market Shopping Tips

**Bring cash** As you will be purchasing from each grower, it is best if you use small bills and change.

**Bring your Own Bags** While growers often have bags, this is not a grocery store. A larger bag to consolidate purchases is a good idea also.

**When you can, try something new** Take a chance and try a new vegetable or variety.

**Have a Budget** Decide ahead of time how much money you will spend and the amount of food you will purchase. Purchasing more than you can afford or use is not fun.

**Keep it Cool**—Bring / Stow a cooler with a cold pack in your car to transport items home and go home timely.

**Ask Questions\*** If you are interested, inquire about the grower's production methods, including when something was picked, etc.

**Ask for suggestions\*** Growers often have great food preparation tips and recipes!

*\*Note: Please consider how busy the grower is at the time.*

To learn which vegetables are available, what to look for, and storage tips obtain a copy of **Fresh Vegetable Guide** (PM 2034) from Iowa State University Extension's county offices or website.



*(Master Conservationist—Continued from page 1)*

understanding Iowa ecosystems, implementing conservation practices in human dominated landscapes & developing skills to help educate others about conservation practices.

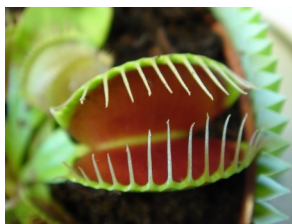
In person meetings will build on the online sessions and be held from 6-9 pm at various sites with Jasper, Poweshiek, Marion, and Mahaska Counties. The session dates and locations are:

- May 16 Orientation, Red Rock Visitors Center**
- May 23 Ashton-Wildwood Park – Jasper County**
- May 30 Quercus Wilderness Area - Mahaska County**
- June 4 Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge**
- June 11 Lake Red Rock**
- June 18 Drake Community Library - Poweshiek County**
- June 27 Closing session, Environmental Learning Center - Mahaska County**

Each meeting will be led by local subject matter experts to demonstrate how the principles covered in the online curriculum play out locally. Participants will work with program partners, who include Iowa DNR, Jasper, Poweshiek, Monroe & Mahaska Counties' Conservation, NRCS, and ISU Extension and Outreach, along with educational experts in their fields.

Registration for the course is \$60 per participant. Payment is due at the time of registration. There is limited registration. To register, contact Marion County Extension office; 210 N. Iowa Street; PO Box 409; Knoxville, IA 50138; phone 641- 842-2014; or email Lauren Petersen, [lpeterse@iastate.edu](mailto:lpeterse@iastate.edu). Deadline is May 6.

## Carnivorous Plants Presentation



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 plants, 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 May 14 at 6:30 pm**. 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.**

## Field Trip to Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie

Join the Master Gardeners as they explore the unique features of the Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie. This area is a patchwork of wind-blown sand, associated wetlands and woodland which is home to some of Iowa's rarest plants and animals. The inhabitants of the Eddyville Dunes represent one of the most complete (yet fragile) prairie communities in Iowa. It would be difficult (almost impossible) to find another place in Iowa where you can see as many different kinds of plants and animals as you can when you visit at the Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie area. This is a great place to explore—and so close to us!

Master Gardener Pam White will identify the plant species we find there **Tuesday June 11 starting at 6:30 pm.** We will meet at the designated parking area at the Dunes. Please dress for the weather and site.

This 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.** If weather is inclement, the trip will be postponed.

## Summer Webcasts to be shown

ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardeners will offer three, one hour educational webcasts this summer. The webcasts are open to anyone interested in learning more about the topics. The topics provide insight for beginning and experienced gardeners. This 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 will offer the following webcast on the dates indicated at Noon and 6:00 pm:**

- **June 25 Give Your Garden Wings**, (pollinator garden best practices) with Jessie Lowry, Director of conservation and research at Blank Park Zoo;
- **July 23 Gardening FAQ (vegetable and flowers)** with Aaron Steil, assistant director at Reiman Gardens; and
- **August 20 Ecology Plus Diversity** (plant communities which mimic nature) with Grant Thompson, assistant professor of horticulture at Iowa State University.

**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 summer. They will be publicized in local media, email, facebook pages as well as our website.



## ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications of Interest

- ENT 45 **Protecting Bees from Pesticides**
- Hort 3084 **Peppers**
- Hort 3091 **Tomatoes**
- PM 683 **Composting Yard Waste**
- PM 820 **Garden Soil Management**
- PM 1925 **Growing Dahlias**
- PM 1942 **Annuals**
- PM 1966 **The Garden Guide to Midwest Annuals and Perennials**
- PM 2004 **Home Landscape Design**
- PM 2036 **Ticks and Tick Borne Diseases in Iowa**
- PM 2063 **Sustainable Home Landscape**
- RG 326 **Growing Impatiens**
- RG 314 **Growing Petunias**
- RG 324 **Zinnias**
- RG 601 **Gardening for Butterflies**
- RG 603 **Iowa Butterfly and Caterpillar Food Preferences**
- 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.*

## Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Resources:

**Answerline 800-262-3804**

Monday–Friday; 9 am–Noon, 1–4 pm

Email: [answer@iastate.edu](mailto:answer@iastate.edu)

Questions relating to home and family

Visit: [https://](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/answerline)

[www.extension.iastate.edu/  
humansciences/answerline](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/answerline)

**Hortline 515-294-3108**

Monday– Friday

10 am—Noon, 1– 4:30 pm

Email [hortline@iastate.edu](mailto:hortline@iastate.edu)

## Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic

Visit [https://](https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/pidc)

[hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/pidc](https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/pidc)  
*Information and opportunity to submit  
samples*

Phone: 515-294-0581

Email: via a webform or  
[pidc@iastate.edu](mailto:pidc@iastate.edu)

## ISUEO Home Food Preservation Publications

Visit [https://](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-resources)

[www.extension.iastate.edu/  
humansciences/preserve-resources](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-resources)

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## Find Fresh Food at our local Farmers Market

Farmers Market season is here! Residents have two opportunities each week to buy fresh produce, baked goods and meet local farmers.

**The Oskaloosa Farmers Market is held on Tuesdays from 4-6 PM and on Saturdays from 8-11 AM beginning May 21.**

The market is held at **404 A Avenue West, Oskaloosa (the mall parking lot; between the Skate Park and KFC -this is a new location)**. The goal of the Oskaloosa Farmers' Market is to provide local residents with fresh produce from local growers. *For more information or to find out how to become a farmers market vendor, contact market manager Deb Draper by phone 641-295-4214 (leave message if no answer) or email [ladyhawk2361@hotmail.com](mailto:ladyhawk2361@hotmail.com).*

## 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.**

## Community Garden Plots

Community Garden sites and the facilitators at the sites in Oskaloosa include:

**OCSD Glendale Garden, Ron VanHeuvelen** (641-660-4329  
[rvheuvelen@gmail.com](mailto:rvheuvelen@gmail.com));

**Hope Gardens, Blaine Vos** (641-676-1601, [oskyhope@gmail.com](mailto:oskyhope@gmail.com));

and **William Penn Garden, Marsha Riordan** (641-673-1044,  
[riordanm@wmpenn.edu](mailto:riordanm@wmpenn.edu)).

Each site has their own fee, rules, etal. Please contact them if you are interested in gardening at one of our community garden sites!



## 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 these upcoming webinars:

**Friday May 3; 1 pm; Ins and outs of termite treatments** Termites and termite control cause homeowners a lot of worry and even more questions. What kind of termites do I have? Are termite controls worth the money? Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension will discuss termite controls in this webinar and how they work.

**Friday June 7; 1 pm Batty for Bats** Bats are one of the most interesting and important wildlife pests we encounter in pest control. At the same time, they play a giant role in agriculture - and eat a lot of our insect pests. Join Janet Hurley, Texas A & M Agrilife Extension as she discusses bat behavior and management strategies to keep them from the indoors.

The webinars can be viewed from any computer/location. Visit <https://articles.extension.org/pages/74786/2019-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series> to join. Archives are normally available shortly after the webinar is held. **Webinar viewing is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Prior registration is not required, but appreciated.**

## Southern Iowa Fair July 15-20, 2019

### 4-H and FFA Rule Booklet:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/page/4-h-fair-award-forms>

*Paper copies were provided to 4H/FFA members, Leaders/teachers and superintendents*

**4H /FFA judging is: Tuesday, July 16; 2-4 pm;**

*Judging at 4-H building;*

*Sign in begins at 1:30 pm, members must sign in by 3 pm.*

*Entry forms, entry tags and goal sheet (project write ups) should be completed prior to judging.*

### Open Class Rule Booklet:

<https://southerniowafair.com/fairbook.html>

**Open Class entry is: Wednesday, July 17; 8-10 am at Exhibit Hall.**

*Judging begins at 11 am.*

**All ages of local gardeners are encouraged to exhibit!**

*Paper copies of fairbook, entry forms and tags are available at Southern Iowa Fair office*

**Resources available at our office or ISU Extension and Outreach website <https://store.extension.iastate.edu> include:**

**4-H 462 Harvesting and Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit**

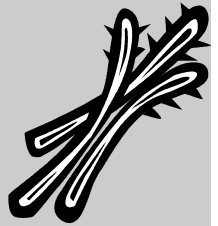
**4-H 464 Preparing Cut Flowers and Houseplants for Exhibit**

## Gardener's Tips

### Time to stop the harvest!

Many of us enjoy asparagus and rhubarb each spring. They are the earliest garden crops to be harvested, but must be given a chance to rebuild their food reserves for next year.

Generally the middle of June is when we should stop harvesting. It is a good time for a good weeding and addition of nitrogen fertilizer also.



### Deadhead to get more

A flower's goal is to produce seed.

If you deadhead (remove the spent flower) an annual plant before the seed is set, it will produce a new flower (or flowers) in its place in an effort to produce seed. Continually deadheading annual flowers will get you a longer flower show.

If you deadhead a perennial flower, it will put energy into storing reserves for the next growing season and be a healthier plant.

### Use "1-2-3" cuts to prune

If your trees receive storm damage this summer, remember to use the 3 proper cuts when pruning. This method is outlined in SUL 5. The three steps for branch removal are:

1. Undercut to prevent bark stripping
2. Removal of the majority of the branch
3. Removal of the stub with a final cut outside the branch collar.

If you want more information about any of the Mahaska County Extension horticulture events or have horticulture questions, please contact Suzette Striegel, Mahaska County Extension Horticulturist by phone 641-673-5841 or email [striegel@iastate.edu](mailto:striegel@iastate.edu).

## Mahaska County Master Gardener

Saturday: May 18  
8-11 am



Mahaska County Extension Office,  
212 North I Street, Oskaloosa

Featuring: Perennials, Annuals  
(flowers & vegetable)  
Second-Time-Around gardening items

Proceeds will be used to support  
future activities  
and speaker fees.

Many Mahaska County Master Gardeners  
events are open to the public without cost  
because of Plant Sale proceeds.



## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach

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