



# At the Garden Gate



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach

May June July 2021

## Mahaska County Master Gardener

Saturday May 15, 2021  
8-11 am

Mahaska County Extension Office,  
212 North I Street, Oskaloosa

Featuring: Perennials, Annual transplants  
(flowers and especially heirloom vegetable)

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.

During the sale, we will follow current COVID restrictions,  
currently ISU Extension and Outreach  
requires facemasks and six foot social distancing.



**Garden Resources, Related Projects, Activities (for all ages) and Tips;** including items first featured on the Mahaska County Master Gardener Facebook page, as well as recordings and handouts from many of our virtual programs from the past year are available on our website. <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/news/garden-resources-related-projects-activities-and-tips>

### Got Horticulture Questions?

Clients with horticulture inquires may call the office 641-673-5841, leave a message, email [striegel@iastate.edu](mailto:striegel@iastate.edu) or stop by in person. We can assist you with questions ranging from lawn care to fruit/vegetable production to ornamentals to pest management and much more.

## Growing Happy Houseplants

Do you wish your houseplants looked happier? Have you ever heard that having houseplants is beneficial to you? Join us on **Tuesday May 11 at 7 pm** as Mahaska County Master Gardeners share what is needed to grow healthy houseplants. Participants will learn: how to care for a wide variety of popular houseplants and some unique ones, a few propagation techniques and the benefits some of these plants can provide in your home.

This educational event will be in person, outside in the south parking lot to accommodate for social distancing. Please park in the east parking lot or in the street and bring a lawn chair for your personal seating. If weather is inclement, we will meet in the Mahaska County Extension auditorium. We will follow current COVID restrictions.

## Herb Garden Rejuvenation Showcase

A committee of Master Gardeners have been busy planning and planting to rejuvenate the herb garden at the Nelson Pioneer Farm. Several herbs used by the pioneers are planted in the space, come and learn about the project from Mahaska County Master Gardeners **Tuesday June 8 at 7 pm.**

## Remember the Master Gardener Plant Sale this spring



As you are working in your flower beds this spring, and need to divide perennials or have too many transplants please keep the Mahaska Master Gardeners in mind. We appreciate donations to sell at the Master Gardener Plant Sale **Saturday, May 15; 8-11 am. No houseplants or second time around garden items in 2021.**

Our Plant Sale customers prefer labeled plants. Labels should indicate variety/color, and growing conditions, if possible. We would prefer the perennial divisions to be in pots a week or two before the sale.

**Plant sale donations may be dropped off at the Extension Office during office hours May 13th & 14th. All donors are asked to provide a list of donated plants and suggested price/value.**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to [www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext)

**Additional Events:** Mahaska County Master Gardeners and ISU Extension and Outreach may schedule additional events in horticulture and other program areas this summer. They will be publicized in local media, email, facebook, as well as our website.



## Master Gardener Meetings

Mahaska County Master Gardener Business meetings are scheduled for **May 11, June 8 and July 13 at 6 pm.** We will meet at the Mahaska County Extension Office unless notified otherwise.

## Mark your calendars:

Tomato Fest **August 31, time TBA.**

This popular events returns! We will be tasting heirloom varieties and discuss other tomato topics!

## Oskaloosa Farmers' Market

The Oskaloosa Farmers' Market supports entrepreneurial vendors from Mahaska County. Nourishing the community, it offers diverse products including locally-grown produce, seasonal plants and flowers, farm fresh eggs, and fresh baked goods. It will be held at a new location this year, yet to be announced **Tuesdays 3-6 pm and Saturday, 8-11:00 am**, beginning May 15. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Deb Draper [ladyhawk2361@hotmail.com](mailto:ladyhawk2361@hotmail.com) 641-295-4214 or a message thru Oskaloosa Vendor and Farmers Market Facebook page.

**Gardening: It is so exciting, you may just wet your plants!**

This educational event will be in person at Nelson Pioneer Farm and Museum (2211 Nelson Lane Oskaloosa). Please park in Bradbury Hall's parking lot and bring a lawn chair for your personal seating. If weather is inclement, the event will be rescheduled. We will follow Iowa State University Extension and Outreach COVID recommendations.

## Showing Flowers and Horticulture

Have you wondered about showing the flowers and vegetables you grow at the Southern Iowa Fair? Wonder no more! Mahaska County Master Gardeners; Eileen Blom and Joy Prothero, Open Floriculture and Horticulture Show judges will give lots of tips and how-tos for potential horticulture show participants on **Tuesday, July 13 at 7 pm.** This workshop is for children, 4-Hers and adults. It will be held at the Mahaska County Extension Office. There is no charge for this event. We will follow current COVID restrictions.

All ages of local gardeners are encouraged to exhibit at the Open Floral & Horticulture Show at the Southern Iowa Fair. Entries are received on **Tuesday, July 20, 8-10 am.** No early entry is necessary. Open Class Fairbooks are available at the Southern Iowa Fair office or the website [www.southerniowafair.com](http://www.southerniowafair.com). **READ THE RULES THOROUGHLY.**

While entries in all classes are encouraged for adults, junior (ages 5-12) and (ages 13-18) and Special Needs divisions; entries in the artistic classes are specifically encouraged. The artistic classes include:

- Gypsy Rose Tea (using roses),
- High and Dry (dry materials)
- Pot it Up (using pottery)
- Green Acres (using all green including container) and
- Making Memories One Fair at a Time.

Information for 4-Hers exhibiting horticulture at the Southern Iowa Fair is in the 4-H Fair book or the Mahaska County Extension website. **4-H Horticulture Judging is Tuesday, July 20, 2-4 pm.** 4-Hers may sign in beginning at 1:30 pm and must be signed in by 3 pm. 4-Hers should consult publications **4-H 464** Preparing Cut flowers and Houseplants for Exhibition and **4-H 462** Harvesting and Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit. The publications are available at the Mahaska County Extension office or for download at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>.

## 2021 Mahaska County Garden Challenge

The Mahaska County 4-H Youth Development & Horticulture Programs are offering a Garden Challenge. This challenge is open to any youth in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade or adults ages 18+. Mahaska County Master Gardeners, Mahaska County Extension Council, & Mahaska County Extension Staff are ineligible to participate due to potential conflicts of interest.

Participants are challenged to **Learn** using resources provided by ISU Extension and Outreach and local gardening experts; **Plan** their gardens using some type of grid (by hand or electronically); **Do** – plan, tend to, and take photos of their gardens throughout the growing season; and **Share** what they have learned in a presentation

for their chance to win prizes!

### Divisions

**Open Children – Current Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade children**

**Open Youth – Current 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth**

**Open Adult – Anyone age 18+**

**Sub-Divisions:** Vegetable Garden, Flower Garden

**Garden Types:** In-ground, Container

**Registration** Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/mahaskagardenchallenge> by June 1, 2021.

Participants are encouraged to use the resources provided by ISU Extension and Outreach and to visit with local gardening professionals. Garden Plan needs to be completed and Photos must be taken. Before & After photos must be included in the presentation. Finished projects can be a presentation of photos/slides, videos, journals, display boards, etc. All participants must attend the Garden Challenge Presentation on **Thursday, September 9** at the Mahaska County Extension office. Each participant will be provided with 5-8 minutes for their presentation. Full details and resources can be found at [www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska).

## Become a Mahaska County Master Gardener

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 Iowa Master Gardener training and share their time and expertise as volunteers in community gardens, city beautification projects, and farmers markets to name a few.



There is no prerequisite of horticulture knowledge to enroll in the training. It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill in gardening, and giving back to the community that distinguishes a Master Gardener from other gardeners.

**Iowa Master Gardeners have four scholarships available for new trainees. If you would like to be considered, indicate as you apply online.**

**Mahaska County Master Gardeners are offering an \$45 incentive for first 5 trainees from Mahaska County (paid after the training is completed).**

Not interested in volunteering? Register for the core course as a Pro-Hort trainee (\$550 fee) and receive a certificate upon completion.

### Steps to Become a Master Gardener Volunteer

1. [Apply online by July 1, 2021](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/become-master-gardener) to be a part of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training. <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/become-master-gardener>

## ISU Extension (ISUE) Publications of Interest

Hort 3081 Growing Annuals in Containers

Hort 3084 Peppers

Hort 3085 Onions

Hort 3091 Tomatoes

PM 607 Suggested Vegetable Varieties for the Home Garden

PM 719 Rhubarb in the Home Garden

PM 819 Planting a Home Vegetable Garden

PM 820 Garden Soil Management

PM 870b Container Vegetable Gardening

PM 944 Asparagus in the Home Garden

PM 1707 Growing Grapes in the Home Garden

RG 104 Horticulture publication listing

RG 302 Edible Flowers

RG 317 Annual Vines

RG 319 When to Divide Perennials

RG 323 Cannas for the Home Landscape

Hort 3082 Growing and Using Basil

PM 1788 Growing Fruit in Iowa

RG 601 Gardening for Butterflies

*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.*

## Gardening Guide

### May

- Acclimate seedling to outdoor conditions
- Thin stands of lettuce, carrots and radishes
- Purchase hanging basket for Mom
- Sow snap bean seeds in the garden
- Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs
- Prune lilacs immediately after flowering
- Stake or cage indeterminate tomatoes



### June

- Mulch the garden to conserve moisture and control weeds
- Moisten and turn compost pile on regular basis
- Stop harvesting rhubarb and asparagus (mid month)
- Sow additional plantings of snap beans and sweet corn
- Purchase a garden tool for Dad
- Renovate June bearing strawberries after the last harvest
- Remove dead tulip and daffodil foliage

### July

- Pinch mums and asters one last time
- Control weed in vegetable and flower gardens
- Fertilize plants in containers
- Visit your local farmer's market
- Visit a public garden
- Water flower and vegetable gardens in early morning
- Harvest cucumbers and summer squash frequently
- Divide bearded iris
- Remove canes of summer-bearing red raspberries after last harvest

Source: 2021 ISU Extension and Outreach Garden Calendar.

**We are on Facebook-  
"Like" our pages!**

Mahaska County Master  
Gardeners



Iowa State University Extension and  
Outreach-Mahaska County

2. Be selected to participate (limited to 350 state-wide)
3. Submit and pass the background check. Background check not required for ProHort.
4. Pay class fee (\$195 for MG trainees; \$550 for ProHort); fee includes the training book MG Resource Guide.
5. Complete the ISU Extension and Outreach Master Gardener training online (utilizing Canvas) on your own time from: August 30-November 5

*Topics include: Vegetables, insects, houseplants, flowers, fruits, turfgrass, landscape design, native plants, plant propagation, wildlife, integrated pest management, and common plant problems. Contact the county extension office for accommodations for internet.*



*Individual counties may offer in person topical programs trainees may attend.*

6. Take pre- and post-assessment to gauge knowledge change.
7. Receive the MG Intern certificate (or Pro-Hort certificate) upon completion.
8. Volunteer in your community; completing 40 volunteer hours by December 31, 2022.

### To Stay involved :

Master Gardener volunteers remain active members by completing: 10 hours of continuing education and contributing 20 hours of volunteer service. Report your volunteer and continuing education [hours online](#) by December 31st of each year.

## Garden Seed Library Established

The Mahaska County Master Gardeners have established a seed library for gardeners. It will be housed at the Mahaska County Extension Office. Gardeners may visit anytime during office hours 8 am-4:30 pm. During the spring planting season (April 1- June 1) the seed library will be in a plastic tote located outside the Extension office west entrance for gardeners to visit at anytime.

The seeds within the library are repackaged seeds from seed companies donation programs and seeds donated from fellow gardeners. All seeds in the library are less than three years old, most will be open pollinated. Fellow gardeners are welcome to donate seeds to the seed library, even if the packages are opened or they are saved seed. Please contact the Extension Office to donate seeds.

In this first year of operation, the Master Gardeners have prioritized the types of seeds beginning gardener's seek. This includes easy to plant by seed crops and flowers. Gardeners who utilize the seed library are encouraged to let the Mahaska County Master Gardeners know additional types of seeds sought.

In addition to seed, the Master Gardeners have supplied the library with information for beginning gardeners including seed saving.

**Become an EMTree: Observe your plants to pre-**

## vent problems

Insects and diseases can wreak havoc on your landscape plants, and in your woodlands. The damage can be unsightly and can become costly if not properly addressed.

To help property owners identify and manage these issues, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in Woodbury, Dubuque, Polk, and Mahaska Counties and the ISU Extension and Outreach Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic hosted three virtual workshops focused on the identifying, preventing, and treating disease and insect issues in trees and shrubs.

“Participants will learn how to examine their plants before they have a problem, frequent observation and monitoring could mean finding a problem at early stages, streamlining the diagnostic process and where management tactics can be most effective,” said Lina Rodriguez Salamanca, plant pathology diagnostician with the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic (PIDC) at Iowa State University.

Insects can be friends or foes in your landscapes and gardens. Laura Iles from the PIDC told us how to tell if an insect is beneficial or pest insect. Learn the basics of insect lives and how to protect beneficial insects by minimizing or eliminating the use of pesticides to manage pest insects. We also discussed how to observe and enjoy the myriad of harmless insects in your yard.

Topics were: The Art and Science of Plant Problem Diagnosis; Insects and You!, and Common plant problems in Iowa, what resources are out there? Sessions were broadcasted live and can be viewed on the Woodbury County Extension website/ Youtube and the ISU Plant & Insect Diagnostic Facebook page. In person hands on workshops on these topics will be held in county offices this fall. Watch our newsletter for Mahaska County information.

For more information on plant and insect problems visit Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic website (<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/pidc>).

## Preserve the Taste of Summer

Preserve the Taste of Summer is food preservation programming providing the most current USDA-approved food preservation recommendations. It is a great opportunity for anyone age 18 years or older interested in learning safe food preservation techniques. The programs have been delivered online in 2020 and 2021. Sessions remaining include:

Food Preservation 101:

**Tuesday, May 18, 10-11 am and 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Jam Making Basics

**Thursday, May 20, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Salsa Making Basics

**Tuesday, May 4, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Wednesday, June 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

To register, go to <https://extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/preserve-taste-summer>  
Hands-On workshops are being offered in Iowa this summer, check the website for details.

## Consider Making Produce Donations

One in eight Iowans is food insecure; meaning they do not have access to enough food to make up a healthy diet.

Gardeners who grow produce items are a valuable community resource and can help this situation. Many gardeners produce more produce than they (and their family, friends, and coworkers) can consume/ preserve during the summer.

All gardeners are encouraged to consider donating any excess produce this season to a food pantry or other community organization which provides food/meals to food insecure Iowans. This will increase Iowans access to nutrient rich food.

Many food pantries and organizations will appreciate a call/contact before you donate.



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).

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

~Mahaska County Office Staff~

**Suzette Striegel**, Horticulturist  
**Amy Brainard**, County Youth Coordinator  
**Lea DeCook**, Office Assistant  
**Charles Brown**, Agricultural Economics Specialist  
**Cathy Drost**, Human Sciences, Nutrition  
and Wellness Specialist  
**Sherry Ford**, Regional Extension  
Education Director

~Office Hours~

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

**Mahaska County  
Master Gardener**

**Saturday May 15**  
**8-11 am**



**Mahaska County Extension Office**  
**212 North I Street, Oskaloosa**

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Extension and Outreach

**Mahaska County**

212 North I Street  
Oskaloosa IA 52577  
Phone: 641-673-5841 Fax: 641-673-0559  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska)

