

July, 2017
Volume 15, Issue 7

The Green Scene

Save a tree! Send your email address to lpeterse@iastate.edu to receive this publication via e-mail.



2017 Master Gardener Training Course

Take Advantage of our Early Bird Special! Sign-up by **July 10th** and receive \$20 off Registration

Thursday night classes 6:30-8pm; Sept. 7th—Nov. 2nd

\$195 Registration (\$175 for Early Bird Special)

Registration Deadline: August 11th

Contact Lauren Petersen for more information at 641-842-2014 or lpeterse@iastate.edu

Marion County Annual Plant Sale

The 2017 Marion County Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale had a great turnout once again. Our Master Gardeners donated a large amount and variety of plants and donated a lot of time in helping run the plant sale. This year we raised a total of **\$363** to be donated to Habitat for Humanity of Marion County. Thank you for all of those who volunteered, donated plants, and purchased plants. Your time and money went towards a great cause here in Marion County!



Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Mark Your Calendar...

July 10th - Early Bird Sign-Up Deadline for Master Gardener Training Course

July 14-20—Marion County Fair

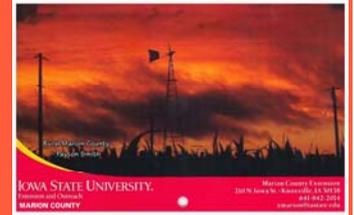
July 31st - Deadline for Marion County Photo Contest Entries

August 11th - Registration Deadline for Master Gardener Training Course

2017 Marion County Photo Contest Deadline July 31st

This year we have some new categories for the Marion County Photo Contest. Our categories are:

- ◆ Seasonal Scenes: Scenic photos of Marion County throughout the year
- ◆ Livestock and Wildlife: Photos of livestock and wildlife in Marion County, includes any domestic animal that is not a pet
- ◆ Celebrating Marion County: People participating in different events, festivals, and local businesses in Marion County
- ◆ People in Action: People participating in recreational activities and work in Marion County



For complete rules and entry forms please contact Lauren Petersen at 641-842-2014 or lpeterse@iastate.edu

Seed Mix for Monarchs and Bees Developed by Iowa State



Determining the right mix of perennials to use as habitat for monarch butterflies and bees can be challenging. Researchers with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach have worked to provide a mix that provides a diversity of flowers that bloom throughout the growing season.

This information is available through a new ISU Extension and Outreach publication titled “[Monarch Seed Mix High Diversity](#)” (ENT 0047) and is available through the Extension Store. The publication and seed mix were developed by Seth Appelgate, Sue Blodgett, Steven Bradbury, Diane Debinski, Robert Hartzler, John Pleasants and Dana Schweitzer with Iowa State and Richard Hellmich with USDA-ARS.

“We hope this seed mix will be used by people in Iowa to provide habitat for monarch butterflies and bees,” said Blodgett, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology at Iowa State. “The seed mix includes a diversity of flowers which bloom through all months of the growing season to provide nectar and pollen sources from early spring to late fall.”

All perennials in the mix are native to Iowa, including three species of milkweed, which is the monarch caterpillar’s only host plant. The mix also contains nectar-producing species that benefit butterflies as well as many pollinators, such as bees.

“A robust seed mix that contains a variety of species is important because it allows for establishment in a wide variety of environments,” said Appelgate, agricultural specialist with Iowa State.

The species included in the mix were selected to perform in well and moderately well-drained soils. The mix has been planted at ISU Research and Demonstration Farms, as well as on private land in cooperation with farmers and landowners throughout the state.

“Large or small areas planted with this mix can complement other conservation efforts,” said Schweitzer, program coordinator with ISU Extension and Outreach. “We appreciate the early adopters who have provided plots for our demonstration projects.”

The publication also includes a chart showing the months when specific grasses and forbs from the mix will bloom, as well as forb flower color.

Iowa State University is not directly selling this seed mix but the list of species can be purchased from native seed suppliers in Iowa.

“The Green Scene” is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Recent issues are also available at www.extension.iastate.edu/marion/.

This material has been prepared by Lauren Petersen, Agriculture Program Assistant.

If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014. Sincerely, Dale R. Miller, County Extension Program Director