What’s in this July/August newsletter...

- News and Notes!
- Pictures—Garden Tours
- Victory Gardens = Modern Day Donation Garden
- Fair Season is Here—Pictures!
- Birdwatchers Warning! - Bird sickness
- Picture updates! - Donation Gardens
News from Education Coordinator
Thank You — Carolyn Lemaster

Iowa State University Master Gardener News

See the full list of upcoming events, webinars and plant sales here: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/events

Illinois Extension Garden/Horticulture Events

Iowa Master Gardeners Facebook page
Have you “Liked” this page? Frequent posts are included about timely gardening topics.

International Master Gardener Conference 2021
September 12-17, 2021
This event will be virtual! Read more here.

Horticulture & Home Pest News, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Field Day – sponsored by Trees Forever
Tuesday, August 3, Solon IA
Free · Online Event

How to Collect and Sow Your Native Plant Seeds Webinar
Thursday, August 26, at 7 – 8:30 pm CDT

Home Garden Tour? If you would be interested in giving Master Gardeners a tour of your home gardens, please let us know!
Volumes and oodles of beautiful pictures demonstrate our earth’s beauty and the reason why Master Gardeners so enjoy their sport/hobby! We hope you enjoy the photos shared from 2 beautiful Donation Gardens created and mastered by Master Gardener members Terri Hanson at Zion Lutheran Church and Paul and Bonnie Reeb and Lynn Pruitt at the Church of Christ on Mulberry across the bypass!

Additionally, you have a glimpse of the beauty seen by those participating in the Garden Tour which included the yards of Else Paul, Paul and Bonnie Reeb, Brandy Olson, Randy Naber and the Paetz Farm. A perfectly overcast Friday afternoon lent itself to a great time exploring beautiful yards and gardens around Muscatine. We were treated to cookies, water, lemonade and tea at Else Paul’s and Bonnie Reeb’s!! A refreshing thought meant to stir conversation and quench thirst!!

Much conversation was had about lovely yards and plants and simply enjoying the pleasure of seeing our Master Gardener friends again without a mask!!

Else’s gardens were connected by rock surrounds. The idea coming from visiting Lasting Beauty Gardens in MacCausland, Iowa on 510 North Cody Avenue. Telephone: 563-225-2670.

Hopefully, we all left more inspired by our fellow Gardeners and their fine craftsmanship!! Art at it’s finest!!
Zion Lutheran Donation Garden!
Pictures Taken by Terri Hanson
Zion Lutheran Donation Garden!
Pictures Taken by Terri Hanson
Christian Church Donation Garden!
Pictures Provided by Kathy Halmeyer, Master Gardener

Brand new and fun vegetable washing station at the Christian Church Donation Garden!!

Beautiful lush vegetation and vegetables at the Donation Garden led by Bonnie and Paul Reeb and Lynn Pruitt!!
Else Paul’s Garden Walk!
Pictures Provided by Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardener

Peaceful and serene among the gardens at
Else Paul’s during the Garden Walk!!
Else Paul’s Garden Walk!
Pictures Provided by Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardener
Brandy Olson backyard ‘Secret Garden’
Photo’s Provided by Lynn Pruitt and Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardeners

Brandy Olson discusses the plants, changes and additions to her backyard “Secret Garden”.

A new face on an old bank...beautiful landscaping at Brandy Olson’s home!!
Brandy Olson backyard ‘Secret Garden’

Photo’s Provided by Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener
Randy Naber Backyard Garden
Photo’s Provided by Lynn Pruitt and Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardeners

Randy Naber greets the Master Gardener tour on July 9th and shares his lovely new backyard sun garden!
Randy Naber Backyard Garden
Photo’s Provided by Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener
Sit With Me!

Photo’s Provided by Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardener
Paetz Farm
Photo’s Provided by Kathy Haltmeyer, Master Gardener

A lovely diversion on a hot summer afternoon!! The Paetz Koi Pond!!
Muscatine Saturday Farmer’s Market Sign Up

We continue to spread the good news about Gardening at the Muscatine Farmers Market on Saturdays. We are still looking for a few good Master Gardeners to work the booth. You have your choice of Saturday’s during the months of August, September or October. Carolyn LeMaster has the materials already to go for the booth with the help of Lauren Nerad. You can pick up the booth materials, tables and tent at the Extension Office. You need to be set up and ready to go by 7:30 am.

Additionally, you will be encouraging folks at the Market to become a Master Gardener or at least be aware of the opportunity to do such!!

Carolyn has worked the booth this summer and has enjoyed sharing Master Gardener information and just talking with market goers!! Thanks, Carolyn!! This is a great way to earn volunteer hours!!

Mary can be reached at 563 260-1203 or email mlwilder@machlink.com.
Heather Haroun’s Summer Flower Garden
Pictures Taken by Lynn Pruitt

Lynn Pruitt delighted us in taking photos of Heather Haroun's beautiful summer flower garden while Mary Danner and Heather share planting ideas!!
CONGRATULATIONS and a shout out to Heather Harroun! She just received official word that her garden has been accepted as an American Daylily Society Display Garden!
Victory Gardens Modern Day Donation Gardens?
Mary Wildermuth, Master Gardener Chair

As part of the war effort, (WW II) the government rationed foods like sugar, butter, milk, cheese, eggs, coffee, meat and canned goods. Labor and transportation shortages made it hard to harvest and move fruits and vegetables to market. So, the government turned to its citizens and encouraged them to plant "Victory Gardens." They wanted individuals to provide their own fruits and vegetables.

Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call. They planted gardens in backyards, empty lots and even city rooftops. Neighbors pooled their resources, planted different kinds of foods and formed cooperatives, all in the name of patriotism. Farm families, of course, had been planting gardens and preserving produce for generations. Now, their urban cousins got into the act. All in the name of patriotism.

Magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post and Life printed stories about victory gardens, and women’s magazines gave instructions on how to grow and preserve garden produce. Families were encouraged to can their own vegetables to save commercial canned goods for the troops. In 1943, families
bought 315,000 pressure cookers (used in the process of canning), compared to 66,000 in 1942. The government and businesses urged people to make gardening a family and community effort.

The result of victory gardening? The US Department of Agriculture estimates that more than 20 million victory gardens were planted. Fruit and vegetables harvested in these home and community plots was estimated to be 9-10 million tons, an amount equal to all commercial production of fresh vegetables. So, the program made a difference.

Kelly Holthus remembers that it was hard to find fresh produce, and it was a way for individuals to do their part on the home front. "It was a great moral thing," he says. "And for young people like me, it was, you know, I could do my part. I was a part of the effort!"

When World War II ended, so did the government promotion of victory gardens. Many people did not plant a garden in the spring of 1946, but agriculture had not yet geared up to full production for grocery stores, so the country experienced some food shortages.

Written by Claudia Reinhardt, the Ganzel Group.

So today our 21st century version of a Victory Garden may just be the Donation Garden. Just the two gardens mentioned in this newsletter have contributed over 1500 pounds of food to families and individuals in our town. Pretty amazing when you think about what just a few seeds planted and nourished can provide to the health and betterment of hungry people!!
Muscatine County Fair Floral Hall
Photo’s Provided by Erin Parks, Master Gardener Intern
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Iowa Birdwatchers: Keep an eye out for sickness

Awareness provided by Brandy Olson
By: Matt Kelley, Radio Iowa

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is putting bird watchers statewide on alert to be vigilant for anything unusual they may spot with the health of songbirds.

There’s a sharp uptick in reports of sick or dead songbirds being found in the Mid-Atlantic states with reports as far west as Indiana. Rachel Ruden, the state wildlife veterinarian, says the reports first came into wildlife rehabilitation centers in northern Virginia around Washington D.C.

Ruden says, “These rehabbers began receiving reports of these birds that had either swollen or crusty eyes and these neurologic signs like twitching or what people might consider seizures, that kind of thing.” As yet, there have been no reports of such activity in Iowa.

The cause of the bird illnesses and deaths remains a mystery. Theories are wide-ranging, from pesticide exposure to it having something to do with the emergence of the Brood X cicadas, though nothing is yet certain.

“If it’s something transmissible or infectious like a bacteria or a virus or fungus, that’s something that with birds intermixing and their normal travels that we could end up seeing here,” Ruden says. “It’s just an unknown at this point if Iowans need to worry.”

The experts in affected states recommend residents take down their bird feeders to reduce the possibility of congregating birds and facilitating the spread of disease, but Ruden says that is not
Bird Sickness... Continued
By: Matt Kelley, Radio Iowa

something Iowans need to do. However, she does want Iowans to keep watch.

“Based on other state reports, it’s primarily grackles, common grackles, European starlings and blue jays and they tend to be fledgling birds, so, younger birds,” Ruden says. “There’s also been reports of American robins and northern cardinals. A lot of those birds people see at their bird feeders routinely.”

If you spot five or more birds with eye troubles or neurologic signs like disorientation, tremors and loss of balance, contact Ruden at rachel.ruden@dnr.iowa.gov.
Season of Lilies!
Pictures provided by Lynn Pruitt, Master Gardener

I took some photos recently of some beautiful Lilies in the month of July. I am unsure if they are oriental or Asiatic. Good thing I know so many wonderful Master Gardeners that may know the answer! Does anybody know?
**Muscatine County Extension Office**
1601 Plaza Place
Muscatine, IA 52761
563-263-5701 or 800-992-0894
Iowa State University Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. Iowa State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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**2021-2022 Muscatine County Master Gardener Board**

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**Current Emails and Addresses**

As a reminder — keep both the Extension Office current on any changes of e-mail addresses, phone numbers, or mailing addresses. These need to be current to keep you — our members — informed.

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE**