SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020



BARRON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Spring Fever in a Not-So-Normal Year

By Carol Kettner

Encourage, foster, support, and promote horticulture for all Master Gardener Volunteers and residents of Barron County and to promote the UW-Extension from which we are founded.

OUR MISSION

STATEMENT

This year gives a whole new meaning to Spring Fever. This is the time of year when we would normally look forward to the Spring Expo and then the Master Gardener plant sale. But there is nothing "normal" about this year. Besides all of the effects on our daily lives of the corona virus, Spring seems to be coming early. I am writing this on March 30th in Rice Lake and daffodils. tulips. daylilies, and sedum are up everywhere. Buds are showing up on the lilacs, and the garlic is up in the vegetable Yesterday a garden. pair of ospreys were looking for fish on the

north side of the lake where there is open water.

For all those gardeners who are just chomping at the bit to get outside, garden activities are an excellent way to be active, yet don't require close contact with other people. There are some things you can do right now, but there are also things that must wait. You can clear away some of the tall stems from last year if it is not too wet where you have to walk. Repair broken objects or repaint ornamental things that are looking tired. Pick up small branches that fell over the winter. If the temperature does get below 28 degrees, cover those early

growing daffodils, tulips, etc. with old sheets, buckets, or anything else to give them some protection.

Wait, Wait, Wait to start digging in your soil. Remember, if you squeeze a handful of soil and it sticks together it is too wet. Working wet soil can damage it for more than just one season. Also remember that the soil temperature is far too cold – look at the requirements

on seed packets before you plant. It won't be long before you can plant cold weather vegetables such as peas, radishes, and lettuces, but read the seed packet.

One more idea: Earth Day is April 22nd. This year is the 50th anniversary of this day started by Wisconsin's own Gaylord Nelson. Be part of the "Great Global Cleanup" by removing trash from your neighborhood, or a local beach, river, lake, trail, or park.



Starting Your Seeds to Get A Jump On Spring Gardening

There are plenty folklore and even family

traditions of when to start seeds. UW-Extension provides а time frame of when to start seeds indoors or out, as well as when to transplant the plants (UW-Extension, 2008). General information on starting seeds (The Old Farmer's Almanac, 2018

1. Fill clean containers with a moistened potting mix made for seedlings. Soilless peat moss mixed with equal parts vermiculite and perlite holds enough water and allows oxygen flow. Do not use regular potting soil, as it may not be fine enough for seeds to root through properly.

2. Plant seeds according to the seed packet. Most seeds can simply be gently pressed into the mixture; the eraser end of a pencil may be used to push the seed into the mixture. When planting seeds, plant the largest seeds in the packet to get the best germination rate.

3. Cover containers with a transparent cover (this may

come with the seed tray or use plastic wrap with holes poked in for ventilation) to keep them from drying out too quickly.







4. Water newly started seeds carefully. A pitcher

may let the water out too forcefully. A mist sprayer is gentle but can take a long time. A meat-basting syringe (turkey baster) will dispense the water effectively without causing too much soil disruption.

5. When seedlings start to appear, remove the plastic and move containers into bright light.

6. When the seedlings get their second pair of leaves, individual prepare pots filled with a potting mix with plenty of compost. Move the seedlings carefully to the new pots and water well. Keep seedlings out of direct sun for a few days, until they've had a chance to establish themselves in their new pots.

Things to Keep in Mind:

• Seeds may need to be soaked, scratched, or chilled before planting, as directed on packet.

 Seeds sprout best at temperatures of 65 to 75°F (18 to 24°C).

• If seedlings are next to a window, remember to rotate the containers to keep the

seedlings growing evenly. If using grow lights, raise them a few inches above the tallest seedling every couple of days.

Planting Guide

When to Start Seeds Indoors

Mid-March

- Broccoli
- Celery
- Early Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Eggplant
- Head Lettuce
- Parsley

Early to Mid-April

- Okra
- Pepper
- Tomatoes

Early May

- Muskmelon
- Pumpkin Fall
- Squash

Mid April

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Carrots
- Chard
- Kohlrabi
- Leaf Lettuce
- Mustard
- Onion Sets
- Parsnips
- Peas
- Potatoes
- Radish
- Rhubarb
- Salsify
- Spinach
- Turnips

Planting Outdoors

Mid to Late May- Seeds

- Lima Beans
- Snap Beans
- Pole Beans
- Brussel Sprouts
- Late Cabbage
- Corn
- Pumpkin
- Summer Squash
- Watermelon

Mid to Late May- Plants

- Broccoli
- Early Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Celeriac
- Celery
- Lettuce
- Muskmelon
- Onion
- Parsley
- Pumpkin
- Fall Squash
- Tomato

Early to Mid June-Seeds

- Cucumber
- Rutabaga

Early to Mid June- Plants

- Eggplant
- Okra
- Pepper

Late June- Seeds

- Chinese cabbage
- Collards
- Endive
- Kale

Planting time frames are general as there are many variables to gardening in the Midwest to consider such as: last frost date, soil/media quality, light, water, and time until harvest.

Starting Your Seeds continued . . .

Frost Date

According the National Weather service the average last spring frost date for most of Barron County is

May 15. Growing media (anything that can be used to support the growth of a plant) such as soil, peat moss, coir (coconut husks), perlite, or other soilless materials are essential for the success of plants. The back of the seed packet will state the ideal conditions concerning water, light, space, zone, hardiness, area best for growing, and type of cultivar.

Indoor Season

Window light (southern exposure) may be adequate for starting a tray or two of seeds while grow lights are recommended for larger quantities or for providing the proper spectrum and intensity to supplant the sun (Modern Farmer, 2018).

After initially planting seeds, moisture and humidity are very important; the trays with transparent covers are an easy method to maintain humidity for the seeds. Plastic wrap with holes poked in can also

is Barron County is in Zone 4a so plants that reach maturity by 90 days are a safe fruit or vegetable to choose. Indoor plants in greenhouse.

retain moisture while allowing for ventilation.

Soil Testing

When planting directly outdoors, or for transplanting, it is a good idea to test the soil. Extension Barron County provides this service for \$18 per sample. To test, bring a 2 cup sample to the Extension office.

Special Seed Treatment

Some seeds need to go through a scarification process to break dormancy (like milkweed). Scarification is done through mechanical (scratching the seed coat), thermal (heat/cold cycle), or a chemical (soaking the seed in water) process.

For more information on agriculture, horticulture, or soil testing, contact Extension Barron County or call the Extension office at 715-537-6250.

If you have never started plants before and you decide this is the year to do it, keep in mind that it takes some commitment. Here are some common mistakes to avoid:

- Don't start too soon you will want to put seedlings out in 4-6 weeks.
- Don't use cold soil the seed packets specify the temperature seeds need to germinate
 soil temperature, not air temperature.
- Make sure there is enough light healthy, sturdy seedlings need 14-16 hours of light.
- Watch the water keep the soil damp but not soaking wet.
- Give them daily attention.



Phenology—Nature's Calendar

You may have heard someone say: "The lilacs are blooming so that means it is time to hunt for morels." Is this just folklore, or is there some science behind the statement? Actually, the prediction comes from the science of Phenology.

Phenology is nature's calendar—when cherry trees bloom, when a robin builds its nest, and when leaves turn color in the fall. Phenology is a branch of science that studies the relationships between periodic biological events—usually the life cycles of plants and animals—and environmental changes. Bird migration, the opening of local lakes, plant budding, flowering or fruiting, insect activities, and harvest dates of cultivated plants are all annual events that can be correlated with seasonal or climatic changes, particularly with weather or temperature, rather than specific calendar dates. It turns out that temperature and moisture are by far the most important factors for morel growth. Morels will not grow if the soil is too warm or cold. They also tend to like moist soil, so snowy winters and rainy springs are ideal.

Phenology is a key component of life on earth. Many birds time their nesting so that eggs hatch when insects are available to feed nestlings. Insects emerge when their host plants leaf out. For people, earlier flowering means earlier allergies. Farmers and gardeners need to know the schedule of plant and insect development to decide when to apply fertilizers and pesticides and when to plant to avoid frosts.

Phenology is the study of the timing of plant and animal life cycle events.



Nest Building



Leaf Out



Flowers Blooming



Migration



Emergence

Phenology– Nature's Calendar Continued . . .

Phenology influences the abundance and distribution of organisms, ecosystem services, food webs, and global cycles of water and carbon. In turn, phenology may be altered by changes in temperature and precipitation.

Phenology can be very useful as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program because it helps to properly time controls to target the most susceptible life stage of the pest. Insects are particularly well suited to predictions based on phenology because, as cold-blooded animals, their growth and development is directly correlated with weather conditions, particularly temperature. Indicator plants, common plants that are typically not associated with the pest insect whose life stage they predict, can be used to determine when pest outbreaks are likely to occur. For example, tent caterpillar eggs hatch when the buds of Crabapples and Wild Plums open, and squash vine borers appear when Chicory is in flower.

Some large commercial food growing companies have greatly reduced their use of pesticides by using phenology. Whether it is organic or not, the use of a pesticide when it is most effective, not just any time of the season, makes more sense.

The common lilac has become a cornerstone for phenological observations, particularly for comparing one year to the next. First leaf, first flower, and full bloom are three life events frequently observed with the common lilac. Observations over many years track a variety of moisture and temperature patterns.

The National Phenology Network's *Nature's Notebook* program encourages people to become involved as observers. As an observer, you'll notice things you never saw before: the *slightest* blush on a maple leaf that foreshadows the coming fall; the new, more vibrant feathers warblers put on days before mating. You can develop a more nuanced appreciation of our natural world when you participate in *Nature's Notebook*.

Want to know more or become involved?

USA-National Phenology Network - The USA National Phenology Network was established in 2007 to collect, store, and share phenology data and information. usanpn.org

Project Budburst – a project of the Chicago Botanical Gardens, brings together researchers, horticulturists, and citizen scientists to uncover the stories of plants affected by human impacts on the environment.

Phenology and Gardening - wimastergardener.org/ article/phenology-and-gardening/

Listen to a lecture about Phenology – Go to wimastergardener.org, click on Learn, then Level 1 Training. Scroll down the right side to Phenology, and you can listen to a lecture by Lisa Johnson.

Phenology Chart

The word Phenology is derived from the Greek phainomai - to appear, come into view - it is the study of annual plant & animal cycles & how they are influenced by seasonal changes.

| What to Do | When |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plant peas | forsythia & daffodils blooms red winged blackbird females return the chickadees build their nests |
| Plant potatoes | first dandelion blooms the shadbush flowers |
| Plant beets, carrots, cole crops, lettuce and spinach | lilac is in first leaf the chickadees build their nests dandelions are blooming |
| Plant beans, cucs and squash | lilac is in full bloom |
| Plant tomatoes | lily-of-the-valley are in full bloom |
| Transplant eggplant, melon and peppers | irises bloom |
| ← Plant corn | apple blossoms start to fall oak leaves are the size of squirrels' ears |
| Seed fall cabbage and broccoli | catalpas and mockoranges bloom |
| Seed morning glories | maple leaves reach full size |
| Plant cool season flowers (pansies, snapdragons) | aspen and chokecherry trees leaf out |
| Watch for hatching eastern tent caterpillars | crab apples start to bloom |
| Watch for gypsy moths to hatch | the shadbush flowers |
| Watch for squash vine borer eggs | chicory flowers |
| Watch for hatching Mexican bean beetle larvae | foxglove flowers open |
| Watch for the arrival of Japanese beetles | morning glory vines start to climb |
| mother earth gardens | |

HOLLYHOCKS AND THEIR COUSINS

By Marilyn Saffert

Hollyhocks are impressive tall additions to the cottage flower garden. Along with the other family members, they are quite easy to grow and have

very few problems. Thev want full sun and good moist, but well-drained soil. Most of our hollyhocks are short-lived perennials. This means that many of them will only live two to three years. But some of them easily reseed themselves which will keep the flowers consistent in the years to come. The "Outhouse Singles" or "Barnyard Mix" are hollyhocks with single blooms of white, pink, magenta and burgundy. An especially hardy hollyhock in our area is the yellow "Figleaf" type that orig-

inated in Russia. And those types freely drop mature dry seed to make sure that you have them in your garden forever. However, the fancy Powder-

puff Doubles such as "Peaches and Cream" are not so generous, and you will probably need to direct seed them into the garden every year. The dwarf hollyhocks such as "Queenie" and "Majorettes" are considered annuals here in our climate. They bloom that first year and die at the end of the summer.

Hollyhocks are not without problems and rust on the low-

er leaves is the main one. To keep the rust to the



minimum, water from below and give the plants good air circulation. You can treat with a fungicide early in the growing season. If you choose to take

> those unsightly lower leaves off the plant, completely remove them from the garden taking the rust spores with you. Do not compost them.

As for hollyhock's cousins, Malva Sylvestris Zebrina is a 2-footplant that is very useful in the flower garden as a self-seeding annual that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. The pale purple 1 ½-inch flowers have dark purple stripes. Each year in June you will see tiny new annual Zebrina plants emerging from the ground. They will grow in either full sun or light shade. All sum-

mer long, new plants will continue to add color to the garden.



The soft-pink-flowered Hollyhock Mallow, Malva Alcea Fastigiata is a large, bushy perennial that flowers for six weeks or more beginning in mid-summer. This 4 -foot plant has a somewhat upright form with many branches of flowering stems. It is covered with dozens of the 3-4-inch small pink flowers throughout the summer. The thick crown from which it grows has as many as 25 stems emerging from that crown.

It likes full sun and can withstand dry soil. It is considered a short-lived perennial, maybe for only

Hollyhocks—Marilyn Saffert, Barron County Master Gardener

3 years, but it will self-seed, so you will find new house or just direct sow the seeds in the garden.

plants every year in your garden. But I would not consider it a weedy aggressive plant.

Lavatera Trimestris or Rose Mallow is grown in our area as a 2-3-feet-tall annual that produces lots of blooms each "Ruby Regis" offers dav. large bright pink cup-shaped flowers. "Mont Blanc" is a classic variety that produces glowing bright white flowers. "Silver Cup" is an award winner that features large rosepink flowers that have deep-



They are wonderful lush plants that produce an abundance of the beautiful flowers. Mallows are native to the Mediterranean, so they like lots of sun and a welldrained soil.

Most of these flowers in the Mallow family can be placed in the middle or the back of the border because you can count on them working as "minglers." They will fill in holes in the garden, and work especially well in cottage gardens or any bed where you'd

er darker rose veins and it does seem to have a silvery sheen to it. You can either start the seed in the like a relaxed and informal look.

Vinegar and Epsom Salt as Herbicides – Do They Work? An Article from University of Minnesota Extension

Misinformation, pseudoscience, and gardening myths are everywhere, and are as stubborn as a

thistle. One of those thistles caught me by surprise, inspiring me to do this article-that a concoction of household vinegar and Epsom salts can be effective in killing weeds.

Which to tackle first? Let us start with Epsom salts. This chemical is comprised only of magnesium and

sulfate, and historically spread as a fertilizer, not a pesticide. It dissolves easily in water and can be applied to certain deficient plants. Plants tolerate high amounts of sulfur and magnesium, and it is difficult to observe examples where these nutrients cause direct toxicity to a plant. Theoretically, you could

> apply so much Epsom salts that the amount of magnesium would interfere with the weed's uptake of other essential nutrients such as calcium or potassium. This is not wise on several levels-first, because of how long magnesium can persist in the soil and second, the cost of doing so. In other words, keep the Ep-

som salts in the bathtub rather than use them as a pesticide.

Vinegar and Epsom Salt as Herbicides – Continued . . .

OK, but what about vinegar? Unlike Epsom salts, hor-

ticultural vinegar has been used in organic agriculture as an herbicide for many years. It can kill weeds through simply destroying plant cells through the acetic acid in vinegar. Bear in mind this type of vinegar is not available at your local grocery store-horticultural vinegar can have up to 20% acetic acid, be hazardous to handle, and is labeled for



Weather is also important with using horticultural vinegar. Rain can wash the product off fairly easily so

reapplications may be necessary. A few companies may use something called a surfactant to help keep vinegar onto the plant leaf. A surfactant is a product added with a chemical (often pesticides) which acts similar to soap or oil. Surfactants help keep the active ingredient of the pesticide from washing or evaporating off,

and thus increase its effectiveness. Surfactants are not foolproof, however.

Properly used, horticultural vinegar can act within 24 hours, with over 80% control on many common weeds. However, there are some big caveats associated with using this product. Unlike RoundUp (glyphosate), which moves within the whole plant, vinegar is a contact herbicide, which means it kills the area it touches. Anything less than 4 inches is a



prime target for vinegar, and I can see it being useful if you are dealing with a bunch of pigweed ger-

> Weed size is important because vinegar does not directly damage roots, and depending on the size of the weed, that root system can provide enough energy to keep the weed alive even after you scorch its growth aboveground—so if you are eyeing that 6 foot tall ragweed in your yard you can forget it.

Since horticultural vinegar is an acid, it can also scorch you. Read the chemical's pesticide label (it is the law) and wear appropriate gear to minimize contact, especially with your eyes if the vinegar splashes. Also, keep this herbicide well away from

> any metal tools or drains to avoid any nasty chemical reactions. Do I need to say do not cook with it either? Please do not throw it in with your salad; this is a potentially dangerous chemical.

All in all, unless you are working on a certified organic farm, horticultural vinegar has a limited use in home gardens. If you have a large area with many

weed seedlings, vinegar treatment may save you some time, but it will require possible reapplication due to wet weather. Tried and true techniques such as hand weeding, mulch, or cultivation may not be exotic, but they work. If you are dealing with a particularly nasty weed that resists these techniques, do not hesitate to call your local extension office where we would be happy to assist you.



Spring Means Rhubarb—by Carol Kettner

Many of us have rhubarb in our yard and are seeing it coming up already. Since it has been around for a long time in Wisconsin, and in fact was often given as

a gift to new settlers, many people think of it as a native plant. But it is actually native to central Asia. Awareness of its medicinal qualities as a physic (laxative) goes back five thousand years in China, and it was in common use among Arabs, Greeks and Romans in ancient times. It was no surprise to Marco Polo to find it on his travel to China in 1271.

It was the root of the plant which was bought and sold for its medicinal qualities. When Columbus wrote to the Spanish

monarchs upon his return from his first voyage, he congratulated himself on the fine products he had found; among them rhubarb. But he was wrong. We don't know what he found, but it may have even been something like burdock, which has large leaves similar to rhubarb. Still his expectations are understandable, since he thought he was near Asia, and rhubarb was among the drugs and spices he sought.

Roots and seeds of the rhubarb plant were brought to Western Europe in the seventeenth century, and in France it was discovered that

the stalks were edible and could produce a tasty sauce. When Benjamin Franklin sent a case of rhubarb root from London to his friend John Bartram in 1770, rhubarb was introduced into North America as a medicine, not as a food product.

But the British persisted in their experiments with rhubarb, and in the process produced varieties with acceptable taste and cooking qualities, and by the mid-nineteenth century rhubarb farms of many acres were common. In 1829



rhubarb appeared in American seed catalogues, and it has been a popular garden product ever since, becoming a primary ingredient in jams, sauces, preserves, and especially pies. It is especially successful in the northern states as a garden product, requiring minimal

care, and it is the earliest edible garden item in the spring.



If you grew up with rhubarb, you probably have no trouble making use of it. If you "inherited" a clump of rhubarb when you bought a property, you may have already noticed that it basically takes care of itself.

Here are a few things to know:

The leaves are poisonous.

• The redder the stalk, the sweeter the taste.

• The stalks are high in Vitamin C and fiber.

• There is no harm in letting your rhubarb flower, but keep

in mind that energy the rhubarb plant puts towards making a flower and growing seeds is energy that will not being directed towards growing leaves. Since rhubarb is grown for the stems, most gardeners choose to cut the flowers as soon as they appear so the plant can focus its energy on leaf growth.

Spring Means Rhubarb . . . continued

 Rhubarb is most tender and flavorful in spring and early summer, but can be used throughout the season. Select firm, crisp stalks when they are 8 to 15 inches long. To harvest, twist off the leaf stalk at the soil line and cut off the leaf. Do not harvest more than a third of the leaves in any year to keep the plant going strong (and don't pull any leaves during the first year of growth). On young plants, pick stalks only in the spring and allow them to grow unpicked all summer or growth will be delayed the following spring.

(Much of this information came from the University of Minnesota Extension.)

Rhubarb Custard Kuchen

(This recipe was contributed by Carol Kettner and came from Irene Werner in the 1972 Dunn County Homemakers' Cookbook)

<u>Crust:</u>

Cream together: ½ c shortening, ¼ c sugar, 1 egg yolk

Add: 1 ¼ c flour, ½ tsp salt

Pat into a 13 x 9 pan.

Sprinkle on crust: 1 Tbsp flour mixed with 1 Tbsp sugar

Filling:

Cut rhubarb into small pieces and fill pan about ¾ full.

Custard:

1 egg white, 2 eggs, 1 ¼ c sugar, ½ c cream. Beat well and pour over the rhubarb.

Bake at 350 for 1 hour.

Simple Rhubarb Sauce

1/3 cup sugar

1/4 cup water

2-1/4 cups sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb

Optional - 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest

Optional - 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Directions

In a small saucepan, bring sugar and water to a boil. Add rhubarb; cook and stir for 5-10 minutes or until rhubarb is tender and mixture is slightly thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in lemon zest and nut-meg.

Serve warm by itself, or over cake or ice cream. Add strawberries to the sauce when cooking for a strawberry rhubarb sauce.

WARM-UP/COOL- DOWN EXERCISES

Before beginning gardening activities, perform five to ten minutes of slow, rhythmic stretching and low-intensity exercises. During this warm-up exercise time the heart rate, body temperature and blood flow to the body's muscles will increase gradually. This will help prevent stiffness, soreness and even injury. Gardeners with health concerns should consult a physician before starting a new exercise program.

Try the following exercises while sitting:

Neck

Roll your head gently from side to side. Look to the far right, then to the far left, again holding each position for five seconds.





Touch your chin to your chest and hold for five seconds. Tilt head backward to look at the sky and hold for 5 seconds.

Shoulders and Upper Back

Lift your shoulders up as high as you can (as if shrugging), hold for five seconds then lower them as far as you can and hold. Repeat five times.



Wrists



Make your hands into fists. Rotate your wrists in circles, first clockwise, then counterclockwise. Repeat five times in each direction with both wrists.



Back

Start by placing a footstool under your right foot. With both arms, gently reach towards your toes. Place your left foot on the stool and reach towards your toes. Repeat each stretch five times.



Abdomen

Sit straight in the chair. Take a deep breath in through your nose, then slowly exhale through your mouth as if blowing out a candle. Feel the stomach muscles flatten as you blow out. Hold stomach muscles tight after blowing out, then relax. Repeat the sequence five times.



Legs

Sit upright with your knees bent and your feet flat on the floor. Raise one foot up and extend your leg fully. Lower the foot slowly to the floor. Repeat five times with each leg.

Hips

Place both hands on the front part of your right knee. Raise the knee as close to your chest as possible. Hold the position for a few seconds, then lower your knee and place your foot back on the floor. Repeat the movement with each knee five times.



Ankles



Place your legs shoulder width apart. Raise the toes on your right foot off the floor as if tapping to music. Do the same with your left foot. Repeat ten times with each foot.

Feet

With both feet flat on floor, raise the right heel (leaving all five toes on the floor). Hold the position for five seconds. Alternate by raising the left heel and hold for five seconds. Repeat ten times with each heel.



Following garden activities, spend three to four minutes performing gentle exercises to cool down the muscles to a resting state. This will prevent dizziness and allow the heart rate to return gradually back to normal.



Resources for Gardeners

This spring, as we minimize social interactions and create new routines, connecting with nature and spending time outside seems more important than ever. Looking for ways to stay active while spending time at home? Want to grow your own healthy food and cut back on grocery store runs? Dig into our new resource hub, inspired by current events—find links to free webinars, articles and videos about foodscaping, garden projects and other timely topics. Ready, set, grow....

Questions—call: 651-643-3601-Ehttps://northerngardener.org/resource-hub/-mail: info@notherngardener.org

Grow Your Own Food

New Vegetables for 2020 (blog) 6 Tips for New Vegetable Gardeners (blog) 8 Steps to Growing Your First Veggie Garden (NG) Shade Tolerant Vegetables (blog) How to Start Vegetables with Winter Sowing (blog) Why Grow Tomatoes in Containers (blog) How to Create Beauty in a Veggie Garden (blog) Best Books for Beginning Vegetable Gardeners (blog) Vertical Vegetables (book review) Hydroponic Gardening (book review) Postage Stamp Vegetable Gardening (book review) Indoor Kitchen Gardening (book review) Gardening by Cuisine (book review) Books for Beginning Vegetable Gardeners (book review) Wildlife-Friendly Vegetable Gardening (book review) Fruit Gardener's Bible (book review) Northern Heartland Kitchen (book review) Organic Edibles for Small Spaces (webinar) Introduction to Mushroom Cultivation (webinar) Tips for Growing Melons in the North (Northern Gardener) Heirloom Dry Beans (Northern Gardener) Growing Microgreens (Northern Gardener) Is it Safe to Grow Food on a Boulevard? (Northern Gardener) Bring on the Basil (Northern Gardener) Asparagus 101 (Northern Gardener) 5 Must-Try Carrots (Northern Gardener) Long-Season Vegetables to Grow (Northern Gardener) Apple Tree Pruning Made Easy (video)

Garden-Inspired Projects, Programs and Podcasts How to Draw Leaves (video) Still Growing (podcast) The Daily Gardener (podcast) Plantrama (podcast) The Gardenangelists (podcast) Garden Answer Library (videos) Monty Don's American Gardens (TV) Garden Photo Wood Blocks (project) Paint a Terra Cotta Pot (project) Design a new garden bed (project) Create a Garden Mosaic (project)

What to Do in the Garden

Vermicomposting (webinar) Garden Planning (webinar) What's a Gardener to Do? (blog) 6 Tips for Seed-Starting Success (PDF) Starting Seeds Indoors (blog) Best Equipment for Seed Starting (Northern Gardener) Compost Tips from a Pro (blog) Seed Saving: Planning for the Future (webinar) Companion Planting With Bulbs (webinar) Grow it Yourself Bouquets (Northern Gardener) DIY Greenhouse on a Budget (Northern Gardener) How to Deal With Problem Soil (Northern Gardener) Vertical Gardening How-tos (Northern Gardener) Pruning Hydrangeas (video) Red Dirt Ramblings (website) Test Your Soil (blog)

Minnesota State Horticultural Society 1935 County Road B2 W, Suite 125 Roseville, MN 55113





Extension—Barron County Barron County Government Center 335 E. Monroe Avenue, Room 2206 Barron, WI 54812

> Phone: 715-537-6252 Fax: 715-537-6814



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Barron, WI 54812 Permit No. 74

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The University of Wisconsin—Extension provides Title IX which include affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming, and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest or conviction record or veteran status.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are confidential (ADA requirements.)