



Article and photo by: Jamiel dado

One of the true joys of the spring garden has to be the whimsical beauty of the ornamental onion, or, **Allium**. With blooms that appear to be straight out of a Dr. Seuss book, Alliums add fantastical structure to any mixed border design, or can fascinate all on their own as a specimen planting. When done blooming, Alliums dry well for use in some wonderful artistic displays.

The Oakland Gardener

May 2025

Monthly Plant Feature

Rose of the Year 2025 - Reminiscent Coral Rose

Article by Pat Wilson

Photos: Provenwinnerscolorchoice.com

Love Beautiful, Fragrant Roses but Afraid to



Grow Them? Meet the Easygoing Reminiscent Coral Rose

If you've ever longed for the beauty and fragrance of a classic rose but hesitated, fearing they're too fussy or prone to disease, you're not alone. Many gardeners admire roses from afar, convinced that their elegance comes at the cost of constant upkeep. But Proven Winners ColorChoice Rose of the year 2025, Reminiscent Coral Rose, may just change your mind.

Part of Proven Winners' Reminiscent™ series, this rose offers nostalgic charm of heirloom varieties—layered, romantic blooms and an intoxicating scent—without the high-maintenance reputation. Bred in Serbia by passionate horticulturists focused on maximizing color, fragrance, petal richness, and prolific blooming performance. Its lush, bowl-shaped blooms in rich pink-coral hues open to reveal a warm copper center, beautifully contrasted by dark green foliage that remains vibrant and disease-free throughout the season. The Reminiscent Coral Rose is a game-changer for both new and seasoned gardeners seeking beauty without the stress.

What makes Reminiscent Coral Rose stand out is its exquisite fragrance and elegant form—traits usually reserved for more finicky rose types. Yet, unlike many traditional tea or floribunda roses, it offers dependable blooms from late spring through frost with surprisingly little effort.

Why It Works for Real-Life Gardens

Reminiscent Coral Rose thrives in USDA Hardiness Zones 4–9, adapting well to a variety of garden conditions. It performs best in full sun and well-drained soil, but it's forgiving enough to succeed even when conditions aren't perfect. With a mature size of 2 to 3 feet tall and wide, it's ideal for garden borders, containers, or cutting gardens.

A Breakthrough in Low-Maintenance Roses

Forget spraying and fretting—this rose was bred to be tough. It resists black spot and powdery mildew, two of the most common headaches for rose growers. Reminiscent Coral Rose excels in unsprayed garden conditions. With this series, you don't have to sacrifice fragrance for ease of care—these roses offer both, thanks to breeding that prioritizes vigorous roots, healthy foliage, and continuous blooms.

A little love goes a long way. Feed with a balanced fertilizer in spring, prune lightly if needed, and deadhead to encourage repeat blooming. A layer of mulch will help retain moisture and protect the plant's roots.

Everything You Love About Roses—Without the Fuss

Reminiscent Coral is a rose for real people with real gardens—not just those with perfect soil and hours of free time. With blooms that nod to antique roses and a fragrance that fills the air, it's the kind of plant that reminds you why you fell in love with gardening in the

first place.

If you've been waiting for a rose that loves you back without making you work for it, Reminiscent Coral Rose might just be the one.



Extension Master Gardener News



Emmanuel Community Farm

Article by : Louise Sloan
Photo courtesy of Pat McLamore

When avid gardener John Adams began growing food for the community in 2008, he likely had little idea that his legacy would be going strong nearly twenty years later. The **Emmanuel Community Farm** located in Southfield highlights the best of gardeners; the plots bring together community members who can learn gardening from one another while also sharing their harvest with those in need.

Pat McLamore, current president of the Southfield Parks & Garden Club and Historic Preservation Chair for Michigan Garden Clubs, proudly shared the garden's history. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, at Lahser and 9 Mile, has been host to the vegetable garden for the entirety of its existence. The gardens help the church with its outreach programs and to use an otherwise empty plot of land. Every bit of produce that is grown and harvested at the farm is donated to area soup kitchens and food distribution centers. This garden is just one of many within Michigan that ensure all Michiganders have access to fresh produce. Every year, Emmanuel Community Farm averages a harvest of about 2,200 pounds, contributing to Michigan's garden clubs' average of 75,000 pounds.

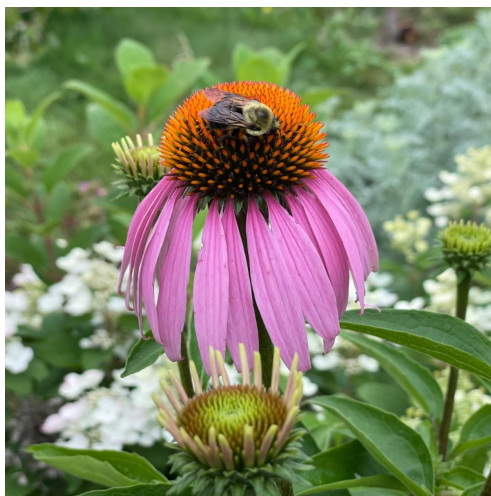
More than just providing healthy sustenance for neighbors, Pat pointed out the important horticultural and life education that happens in the gardens. The core group of seven to eight gardeners who tend the community farm have years of experience. She said that working alongside these gardeners provides novice gardeners a hands-on learning experience. In fact, Pat is seeing a need to bring in younger gardeners to ensure the longevity of the program. "Gardening teaches patience," Pat pointed out. "In the gardens, people learn from each other. They learn persistence and team work." All of these lessons help everyone thrive well

beyond the confines of the garden space.

Those interested in gardening are encouraged to join the Southfield Parks & Garden Club. Pat, who joined as a way to meet others when she moved back to the area, is a shining example of how gardening can hook a person. The club hosts a yearly garden walk as a fundraiser to support the community farm. Southfield's mayor helps host the three hour event, which has a shuttle between the show gardens. Pat praised the garden walk for its ability to highlight the various gardens in her community as well as to inspire the walk's visitors. Despite the club's name, you do not need to be a resident of Southfield to join. Members come from Detroit and other communities to share their passion for growing plants and friendships.

Pat invites anyone who is interested in learning more to reach out, especially now that the garden season is upon us. The community farm is in the early stages of spring clean up before the push to plant and tend the plots gets in full swing. Volunteer gardeners—there are no paid staff at the community farm—work Wednesdays 3-6 pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm. Extension Master Gardeners, community members, or organizations are welcome to the community farm. And while having a strong garden club to support the community farm is part of the successful equation, volunteers are not required to join the garden club. Working in the Emmanuel Community Farm is “very rewarding,” Pat explained. Being a part of this legacy would certainly help any volunteer feel the accomplishment of working together to grow healthy food that will nourish the larger community. For more information on the Emmanuel Community Farm or the Southfield Parks & Garden Club, please email sfldpgclub@gmail.com.

Gardening Tips and Tricks



Michigan Native Plants That Pollinators Love

(and Why You Should Grow Them)

Article and photo by: Liz Will

If you're planning your garden this year and want to make a real difference for local wildlife, native plants are a great place to start.

Michigan native plants are perfectly adapted to our local climate, which means they're not only easier to grow, they also support the native pollinators our ecosystems rely on. These plants bloom at just the right times, offer the right kinds of nectar and pollen, and provide food for caterpillars and birds, not just bees and butterflies.

Here are some top native plants that pollinators love, and that grow beautifully in Michigan home gardens:

1. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

This sunny purple-pink flower is a pollinator favorite and a garden classic. It thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, and the large blooms attract bees, butterflies, and even goldfinches when the seeds mature. It's drought-tolerant and long-blooming, making it a great low maintenance choice.

2. Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Also called wild bergamot, bee balm has frilly pinkish-purple flowers that are rich in nectar. It's perfect for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. It prefers full sun to part shade and moist soil, and spreads easily in garden beds or meadows.

3. Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This vibrant orange milkweed species is a must-have for monarchs. It provides nectar for many pollinators and is a host plant for monarch caterpillars. It thrives in full sun and dry to medium soil and is more compact than other milkweeds, which is perfect for small spaces.

4. Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

With its golden petals and dark centers, this cheerful flower attracts a wide variety of native bees and butterflies. It blooms from mid-summer to fall, loves the sun, and tolerates poor soils. It also self seeds easily, so you'll likely get a few bonus plants next year!

5. New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)

Late-blooming asters are a critical fall food source for pollinators. Their purple petals and yellow centers bring pretty color and nectar when most flowers are fading. Plant them in full sun with moist soil, and enjoy their tall blooms into October.

6. Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

This delicate red and yellow spring bloomer is loved by hummingbirds. It grows well in part shade and woodland edges, making it a great option for those with somewhat shady yards. It also reseeds gently without becoming aggressive.

Why Native Plants Matter

Native pollinators like bees and butterflies evolved alongside these plants. That means they rely on them for food, habitat, and nesting material. By planting even a small patch of native flowers, you're helping rebuild a critical habitat, right in your own backyard. And you don't need a huge space...a few native plants in a garden bed or container can still make a big impact!

One more tip: Skip the pesticides. Even organic options can be harmful to pollinators, especially when plants are in bloom.

Ready to Give Native Plants a Try?

If you're new to native gardening, start small. Add one or two of these plants to your existing garden this season and watch who shows up. You'll likely see more butterflies, bees, and maybe even a hummingbird or two.

Supporting pollinators doesn't have to be complicated, and your garden will be better for it. Use the following links for more pollinator information:

[Pollinator Health Tips](#)

[Native Plant
Facts](#)

Gardening Deep Dive

Why Do We Harden Off Plants?

Article and photos by: Jamiel Dado

There is a certain satisfaction you get from starting plants from seed. The deep connection felt from nurturing a flower or vegetable from its earliest stages to what will become the basis for your summer garden is unmatched. Sure, it's more work, but when May rolls around, and you have a bunch of beautiful plants just waiting to be put in the ground, it all feels worth it. But before you rush all your little buddies outside into their summer homes, make sure you take the time to harden them off. If you're not familiar with the practice of hardening off, or you are, but you're not sure what the point of it is, then this is for you.



Why Harden Off?

Basically, the process of hardening off your plants eases them into their new environment. This is important because, chances are, the current environment that you are moving them from is vastly different than outside conditions. Even if you have a fan blowing where you grow your plants, which is helpful for strengthening them, they still will need to be acclimated to the outside world. During the hardening off process, many important **transitions** take place, including: Waxes on the leaf surfaces thickening, reduction of freeze-prone water in plant cells, increases in carbohydrates for food storage, and cell walls strengthening through increased production of lignin. **Lignin** is a complex polymer found in the plant's cell walls that protect and strengthen the plant's structure. All these important changes make it possible for your new plants to thrive and survive outside of your home.

How Does the Process Work?

The hardening off **process** is not something you can rush through, but luckily, it isn't complicated either. Plan on spending 7-10 days bringing your plants in and out of the house before they will be ready to stay outside for the duration. Choosing a start date is as simple as counting back from your area's last frost date. Knowing how Michigan is, I always err on the side of caution and assume that Memorial Day will be a safe bet. When picking a location, make sure that it is fairly sheltered from harsh winds and sun. I have a large awning-covered porch that works perfectly, and it's right by my door so it makes for easy transport in and out of my house.

Beginning with an hour on the first day, slowly build up outdoor exposure by an hour or two each day, while also slowly increasing the amount of sun the plants receive. This should eventually lead up to several days of full sun exposure (or whatever that particular plant requires) while still bringing the plants inside for the night. Lastly, leave the plants outside for several more days and nights before planting them out.



Other Plants that Require Hardening Off Seed-grown plants aren't the only ones that benefit from this invaluable process. If you are a fan of tropical plants that require lifting in the fall, and, like me, enjoy starting them early inside, then you also need to harden them off. Last year, I had several Dahlias that required extensive hardening off to make them strong enough to withstand full sun. Speaking of tropical plants, if you enjoy giving your houseplants a summer vacation outside then definitely make

sure to acclimate them.

I know that moving your plants in and out every day seems daunting, but you already spent all that effort growing them so why not make sure that they have the best chance at a beautiful and productive summer as they can have.

STARTING VEGETABLES:

TRANSPLANT OR DIRECT SOW

When it's time to plant vegetables, which should you start indoors and transplant & which can be sown directly into your garden or container?

TRANSPLANT	DIRECT SOW
Broccoli Brussels sprouts Cabbage Chinese cabbage Cauliflower Eggplant Leeks Lettuce, head Peppers Tomatoes	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> Asparagus Beets Beans, bush Beans, pole Beans, lima Carrots Chard, swiss Collards, kale Cucumbers Kohlrabi Lettuce, baby salad Muskmelons Mustard Okra Onion, bulbing (sets or seed) </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> Potatoes Pumpkins Radish Rutabaga Southern pea (cowpeas) Spinach Squash, summer Squash, winter Sweet corn Sweet potato Turnips Watermelon </div> </div>

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

FOR MORE INFORMATION: https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/426/426-331/SPES-170.pdf

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Gardening for Health and Wellness

Hibiscus: Beauty and Benefits in the Garden

Article and photos by: Leah Blinstrub

Hibiscus plants are members of the Malvaceae, or mallow, family. Like most mallows, hibiscus is



edible—and quite the standout, both in beauty and utility. These plants are known for their brilliant blooms, which come in a variety of colors and range in size from 2 to 10 inches in diameter. Though each flower typically lasts only a day or two, hibiscus blooms over an extended season—from summer until the first frost.

These plants make a bold statement in any garden. Each summer, I get a call from my Aunt Marty when her hibiscus begin to bloom. The sight of her garden overflowing with a riot of tropical colors in every shape and size is simply breathtaking. While hibiscus is certainly a garden showstopper, it's also a favorite of butterflies and pollinators as well a valuable plant for your health. The calyx—the fleshy base of the flower that remains after the petals fall—is commonly harvested and dried to make tea. A 2022 study published in *Pharmaceuticals* cited several health benefits of hibiscus tea, including lowered blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol. It may also help with conditions like anemia, inflammation, dry mouth, water retention, and even weight loss. That's quite an impressive list!

Making Hibiscus Tea at Home

Making your own hibiscus tea is simple and rewarding. Once you've harvested the calyxes, follow these steps:

1. Harvest hibiscus calyxes when the flowers are fully bloomed and the petals begin to fall.
2. Rinse them thoroughly to remove any dirt or bugs.
3. Dry the calyxes by laying them out on a clean tray in a warm, dry place for several days
4. Store the dried hibiscus in an airtight container, away from sunlight and moisture.

To brew:

- Steep 1 to 2 teaspoons of dried hibiscus in 1 cup of hot water for 5–10 minutes.
- Strain and enjoy



The flavor is slightly sweet and a little bitter but delicious! Drink it on its own warm or cold. If you like a little extra flavor, try this [recipe from University of Michigan](#).

You may be wondering how much tea you'd need to drink to see those benefits. Fortunately, the recommendation is just 1–2 cups per day. Because hibiscus tea contains active compounds, it's best to check with your healthcare provider before adding it to your

routine. Drinking more than the recommended amount can lead to unwanted side effects, so stick to moderation.

The best part? You can grow your own hibiscus and make your own tea! These plants thrive in both pots and garden beds. Depending on the variety, hibiscus can be grown as annuals or perennials. They prefer full sun and moist, well-drained soil. With regular watering and occasional slow-release fertilizer during the growing season, your hibiscus should flourish.



Smart Gardening is MSU Extension's campaign using earth-friendly messages to help gardeners make smart choices in their own backyards. The goal is to equip gardeners with a "tool kit" of research-based knowledge to use immediately at home. Whether choosing plants, using garden chemicals, fertilizer or applying water, gardeners need to understand the long-term impacts on their communities. For more Smart Gardening information click [here](#).



Ask Extension

Call the MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline at 1-888-678-3464 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am to noon)

Upcoming Events



YOU VIBE, WE'LL DRIVE

Free shuttle to the
**W.E. Upjohn
Peony Garden**

May 24 & 25
May 31 & June 1
June 7 & 8
10AM - 5PM

M | NICHOLS ARBORETUM

W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden

Springtime brings many beautiful sights and smells with it, all with their own distinct joy and charm. One of my personal favorite offerings of the season takes the form of a yearly pilgrimage to the **W.E. Upjohn Peony**



Garden in Ann Arbor.

Located at 1610 Washington Hts., the garden sits next to the historic **Burnham House**, which happens to be the oldest university building in the city. The garden is also conveniently located at the edge of **The Arb**, which is well worth an exploration when you are there.

Originally established in 1922, the garden was not opened to the public until 1927.

The garden contains hundreds of herbaceous and tree peonies and is an absolute delight to behold. For the best times this spring to visit and routine updates on the blooming season, **click here**.

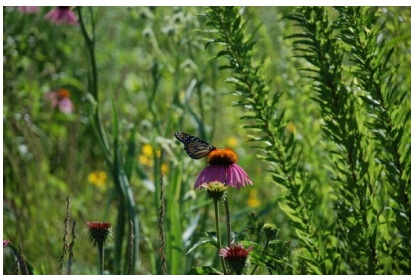


You vibe, we'll drive!

Enjoy the beauty of the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden without the parking hassle. We know parking near Nichols Arboretum can be tricky, so we're making it easier for you to visit during peak bloom.

A FREE weekend shuttle will run every 15–20 minutes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 24–25, May 31–June 1, and June 7-8, picking up from Mitchell Field (1900 Fuller Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105) and dropping off at Nichols Arboretum.

**Visit our
Website**



Oakland County Parks Spring 2025 Native Plant Events

Oakland County Parks will host two Native Plant Events this spring. For each of these events, interested persons must register in advance using the link below in the green box. One kit will be available per household.

This year's events will be held as follows:

- May 30 from 2-7 p.m. at the Oakland County Farmers Market, 2350 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford Township.
 - New this year - register and kick off the weekend of plant

celebrations by selecting the species you want in your kit. Ask Oakland County staff about planting options and native plant selections.

- If you weren't able to register for a kit, come to enjoy the activities and information from natural resource vendors and learn about local conservation, native plants and more.
- Stay tuned for more information about our invasive barberry turn-in program.
- May 31 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Milford Civic Center, 1050 Atlantic St. in Milford.
 - This will be a quick drive-through event where registered participants will pick up a pre-assembled kit.
 - Get your questions answered or learn more at resource tables available on site.

During these events, registered participants can pick out their own 16-plant kit based on their garden conditions. Linked below are the kits from 2024. In 2025 there will be similar species available with minor changes:

- **Average Garden Kit**
- **Moist and Sunny Garden Kit**
- **Partial Shade Kit**
- **Sunny and Sandy Kit**

**2025 Native Plant
Registration**

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers Spring Plant Sale



Saturday June 7, 2025
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



This major fund raising event helps support the development and maintenance of the educational gardens on the site for Extension programs and visitors. This event is held rain or shine. Experienced Tollgate Garden Volunteers will be assisting with questions and selections for a great shopping experience. The Tollgate Nursery specializes in providing a variety of hardy perennials popular to SE Michigan gardens. Our plants are divisions or seed grown perennials found in our beautiful Tollgate gardens, or are donations from the home gardens of our volunteers, friends of the farm or local supporting nurseries. Reasonably priced sun and shade perennials are available in 1-gallon pots. Look for deals on overstock or specialty plants with premium pricing as noted with signage posted at the sale.

Payment with Cash, Check, Mastercard or Visa will be accepted



**Michigan State University
Tollgate Farm and Education Center**
28115 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48377
248 347-3860 ext. 251
www.tollgate.msu.edu

Please-No Pets allowed

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event coordinator two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Cranbrook 53rd Annual Spring Plant Sale

Friday, May 16, 2025 | 10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, May 17, 2025 | 10:00am – 2:00pm

Cranbrook House & Gardens
380 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304



Celebrating 50 years of Native Plant Rescue
Shop in person for **native plants**, perennials, fairy garden plants and herbs,

tropical houseplants, a variety of rare heirloom tomatoes, gardening items, and more!

Cranbrook House & Gardens Auxiliary Master Gardeners and other experienced volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide tips to help you plant your best garden.

The Plant Sale is open to the public and free to attend. Please park in marked spaces in our main parking lot or on Lone Pine Road and walk over to the Plant Sale located in the Cranbrook House & Gardens Conservatory Greenhouse parking lot.

Please contact us at 248.645.3149 or houseandgardens@cranbrook.edu if you have any questions about our Spring Plant Sale.

Southeast Michigan 2025 Spring Native Plant Sales

Events Requiring Pre-Orders

Clinton River Watershed Council Spring Sale

- Pickup from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. May 17 at Thelma Spencer Park, 3701 John R Road, Rochester Hills, during O.A.K. in the Hills event. A small selection of native plants will be available to purchase in person. Pre-orders for native plants and rain barrels can be picked up during event
- Pre-orders due May 2. Visit the [Michiganense Natives website](#), use code CRWC25 to access the sale and select Thelma Spencer as your pickup location
- Visit <https://www.crrwc.org/native-plants> for more information
- Rain barrel [pre-order link](#)

Friends of the Rouge Spring Sale

- Pre-order by April 30 for native plant flats and rain barrels
 - * Pickup 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 17 at Livonia DPW, 12973 Farmington Road. Friends of the Rouge also has expert landscape consultations
 - * This event will also have same-day perennial plants for sale in smaller quantities from Designs by Nature
- FOIR members get a 10 percent discount on all items

Native Plant Kit Giveaway for Oakland County households - May 30-31

- A link to reserve kits will be available by early May 2025 on Oakland County's [Native Plant Event website](#). Master Rain Gardener students in Oakland County can pre-reserve kits by emailing Jaci Garrison (garrisonj@oakgov.com) with kit preference
- Kit pickup will be from 2-7 p.m. May 30 at the Oakland County Farmers Market, 2350 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford Township or 10 a.m.-noon May 31 at the Milford Civic Center, 1050 Atlantic St. in Milford

Oakland County Conservation District Tree & Shrub Sale

- [Pre-order now](#). Order Pickup is 10 a.m.-2 p.m. May 3 at the Waterford Oaks Event Center. Native shrub and tree saplings only (no forbs)
- Receive 20 percent discount on all native trees and shrubs courtesy of Oakland County Parks with Code: OAK2025

Plants for Ecology - Online plant sales with local pickup:

- Native Plants preorder online from 7 a.m. May 26 to 5 p.m. May 30. Order pickup from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 1 at Stage Nature Center in Troy
- Trees, shrubs and vines preorder online 7 a.m. May 26 to 5 p.m. May 30. Order pickup from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 1 at Stage Nature Center in Troy

Rochester Pollinators Native Plant Sale

- Pre-order now. Pickup will be from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. May 17 at the Rochester Farmers Market
- West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Native Plant Sale
- Pre-order window is May 10-15
- Pickup from 9 a.m.-noon May 17 at Marshbank Park, 2805 Hiller Road in West Bloomfield

West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Native Plant Sale

- Pre-order window is May 10-15
- Pickup from 9 a.m.-noon May 17 at Marshbank Park, 2805 Hiller Road in West Bloomfield

Open sales and events

[Argus Farm Stop](#) open year-round 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

[Blue Heron Headwaters Conservancy](#) native plant sale from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 14 in Clarkston

[Cranbrook House & Gardens](#) native plant sale May 16-17

[East Michigan Native Plants](#) mobile native plant sales start in May 2025 in various Southeast Michigan locations

[Growing Pontiac](#) Visit their [Facebook page](#) for 2025 event updates

Huron-Clinton Metroparks Event Page

- Native Plant Sale and Swap
 - * May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lake Erie Metropark Food Bar
- Native Plant Sale
 - * May 17-18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Kensington Metropark Nature Center
- Native Plant Sale
 - * May 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center
- Sustainable Saturdays Plant Swaps
 - * 1-4 p.m. at Lake St. Clair Metropark Nature Center
 - * April 26 - Houseplants & Cuttings
 - * June 14 - Veggies & Herbs
 - * Aug. 2 - Perennials & Seeds
 - * Oct. 11 - Native Plants

Seven Ponds Nature Center

- Native Plant Sale Saturday, May 24 in Dryden. Details will be posted at a later date

River Raisin Watershed Council

- Spring Native Plant Sale from 2-7:30 p.m. May 30 at 804 N. Evans St, Tecumseh

Washtenaw County Conservation District

- [Native Plant Expo & Marketplace](#), Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Saline

Wildflower Association of Michigan

- A monthly list of native plant events throughout the state, including sales



click here to view in
browser

MICHIGAN NATIVE PLANT SALE

Bowers School Farm

Online Pre-Sales begin in early March.

Help us support our local ecosystems with
native plants in your garden this year! Join



Bowers School Farm and East Michigan Native Plants for our 2025 Michigan Native Plant Sale. We have a wide variety of grasses and wildflowers for purchase.

Pick-up is on Sunday, May 17, 2025, from 10 am - 2 pm during Open Barn.

All proceeds from the Michigan Native Plant Sale will support the Master Gardeners of Oakland County who volunteer to provide our horticultural gardens.

The Meadow Brook Garden Club Plant Sale

Thursday, May 15, 2025.

There will be a large variety of Michigan grown perennials, including many from the Meadow Brook Hall gardens, and pollinator plants will be available at very reasonable prices. Visit our pollinator table to learn about pollinators and how to start a pollinator garden. There will also be a bake sale. Open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Meadow Brook Hall, 350 Estate Drive, Rochester, MI 48309. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds benefit the gardens at Meadow Brook Hall. For further information, please call 248-364-6210, email MBGCmembers@gmail.com, visit www.meadowbrookhall.org or find us on Facebook.



**Visit our
Website**



The Meadow Brook Garden Club Monthly Meeting

Friday, May 16, 2025, at Meadow Brook Hall
350 Estate Dr.,
Rochester MI 48309-1904

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:15 a.m. with the program to follow at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we welcome Glen Pace, retired RN and Botany Enthusiast, as he discusses "Color and Texture in the Spring Garden." New spring growth and spring flowers add color and excitement to the garden after a long, cold winter. Glen will present ideas for adding extra color, texture, and dimension to the spring garden landscape.

Please enter through the new DeCarlo Visitor Center. Guests are welcome and reservations are not required. There is a \$5 non-member fee. For more information, call 248-364-6210, email MBGC@Oakland.edu or visit

Bowers Farm Upcoming Garden Workshop Series

GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Join Kate to learn about regenerative gardening practices and how to implement them in your own vegetable garden. Each class will cover a different topic and incorporate some hands-on learning. These workshops are designed for adults. New and experienced gardeners will enjoy expanding their knowledge and getting their hands dirty.

➞ SATURDAYS 10:00 - 11:30 AM @ BOWERS SCHOOL FARM

MARCH 8

Growing Raspberries

MARCH 22

Seed Starting

APRIL 5

Intro to Gardening

MAY 10

Building Healthy Soil

JUNE 7

Pruning & Trellising

JUNE 28

Organic Pest Management

JULY 19

Vegetable Harvesting Tips & Tricks

AUGUST 16

Garlic Braiding

SEPTEMBER 6

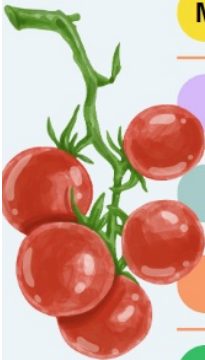
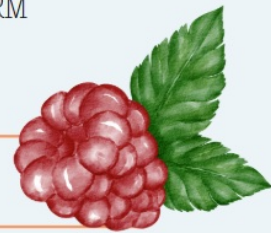
Harvesting and Designing Bouquets

OCTOBER 25

Planting & Growing Garlic



Taught by Kate Debs, Agriculture Production Coordinator
kdebs@bloomfield.org



Introductory Backyard Fruit Online Course

Visit our website for
more information and to
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[https://www.canr.msu.edu/
courses/backyard-fruit-101](https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/backyard-fruit-101)



Backyard Fruit 101

MSU Extension now has a completely online, self-paced, introductory course on **Backyard Fruit 101**. Learn how you can contribute to the Smart Gardening principles of creating healthy soils and plants, while enjoying the health benefits of growing and eating fresh fruit.

In this course, Consumer Horticulture Educators, Brent Crain, Rebecca Krans, David Lowenstein, and Nate Walton cover all the basics of growing backyard fruit.

It consists of six different units focusing on the following:

- Introduction to growing fruit
- Apples & pome fruits
- Strawberries and blueberries
- Brambles
- Grapes
- Unusual fruit



All aspects of fruit growing, such as getting started, soil preparation, planning, variety selection, pruning, pest management and various maintenance activities are discussed. Over 6 hours of video instruction, activities, and additional resources are available. Qualifies for 6 educational credit hours for Extension Master Gardeners.



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News You Can Use



What are lichens and what are they doing on my tree?

Bert Cregg, Michigan State University Extension, Departments of Horticulture and Forestry - April 16, 2025

What are lichens? Lichens are actually two organisms, a fungi and algae. The two organisms occur together and form a symbiotic, or mutually beneficial, relationship. The fungi provide protection and a place for algae to live while the algae provide energy via photosynthesis. There are thousands of types of lichens made up of various fungi and algae, and some types of cyanobacteria.

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Compost Deep Dives – A webinar series

Eliza Hensel, Michigan State University Extension - April 15, 2025

Are you ready to turn food scraps, yard waste, or even manure into something valuable for your garden or farm? MSU Extension is excited to offer a **free summer webinar series on composting** and there's something for everyone, from backyard beginners to experienced farmers. Sessions will repeat monthly, with each topic offered four times throughout the spring and summer. All sessions are free and hosted online via Zoom. Registration is required to attend.

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Grow like a pro: Shop smart and pick the best plants

Caitlin Splawski, Michigan State University Extension - April 18, 2025

Updated from an original article written by Mary Wilson.

If you're like me, you're starting to plan out the varieties of vegetables, flowers, perennials, trees and shrubs that you'll be adding to your garden this season. For as long as you might spend mulling over seed catalogs and plant selection guides, remembering to spend some time inspecting the plant material you're putting into your garden matters too. Choosing vigorous, pest-free plants sets the stage for a productive and attractive garden.

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Dealing with storm-damaged trees

Bert Cregg, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Horticulture and Department of Forestry - April 01, 2025

A powerful line of storms moved through Michigan recently, bringing winds of over 60 mph and spawning several apparent tornadoes. The high winds and heavy rains led to widespread tree damage and power outages. Dealing with a yard full of damaged trees can be an overwhelming and sickening feeling for homeowners. In some cases, the decision of what to do with a damaged tree is obvious, but often the decision of whether to try to keep a tree can be difficult.

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