

A Beginners Guide to Growing Orchids

Be careful of this class. Growing your own orchids can become an obsession. We will discuss choosing the right orchid plant for you, care and feeding, and a demonstration will be given on how and when to repot an orchid.

Ancestral Use of Herbs

The daily uses of herbs by our ancestors are both interesting and humorous. Also learn about the different herbs that are in the spotlight today.

Blueberry Culture

General information on growing blueberries will be presented.

Bulbs

Plants that grow from bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes, are easy to grow and add color to the garden in every season. Learn when to plant, where to plant and about the various types of bulbs. We will discuss the tricks and practices to ensure success.

Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening

These winged Jewels add another dimension to your garden. Learn how to lure them to your yard and keep them coming back year after year.

Composting

Anyone can compost and reduce the amount of trash we put into landfills. It is a simple recipe of layered brown and green yard and plant materials you probably throw away. Add some moisture, air, a little time and the result is 'black gold' better known as compost. Your garden plants will love it and you will be "recycling" materials instead of putting it into the garbage. Learn about how to build different composter styles and worm composting.

Container Gardening

What is "new" in container planting? While red geraniums and petunias are always beautiful; there are tons of combinations and new annuals you can use. Learn techniques which will make your containers the envy of the neighborhood.

Designing a Butterfly Garden

Butterflies have specific requirements. Learn the steps to design your gardens to attract butterflies and other wildlife that are native to Michigan.

Designing an Herb Garden

There are many interesting designs you can use for growing herbs. Learn how to design one to fit your personal taste.

Easy Plant Propagation

Seeds, division, layering, cutting, and grafting are various types of plant propagation. In today's economic times it makes more sense than ever to take advantage of plant propagation at home to beautify your garden, save money or even have extra plants to trade with others. These are things that can be done economically at home, so why not learn how, and give it a try! You do not have to have a lot of experience to do plant propagation, but a curious mind is a plus!

Fall Cleanup (Do as I say and Not as I do!)

Although fall marks the end of the gardening season, there is plenty to do to protect and prepare the garden for winter. Planting, soil improvement, winter protection and lawn care are among the topics covered.

Garbage Gardening: Reuse, Recycle

Make plants out of fruits & vegetables you might throw in the garbage. This is a good project to do with children.

Gardening for Therapy

The benefits of gardening go beyond the bounty of vegetables, the beauty of flowers, trees, shrubs or other plants we may tend and grow. We also receive "therapy" physically, mentally, and spiritually through nurturing plants and connecting with nature. I will share this gardening "therapy" and also invite you to come to my garden via a DVD so you can view the diversity and uniqueness of plants and the roll they play in gardening "therapy".

Gardening to Attract Native Pollinators

Although some plant species rely on wind or water to transfer pollen from one flower to the next, the almost 90% of all plant species need the help of animals for this task. Human activities have destroyed and fragmented many native pollinator habitats. Learn how to make your yard a haven for the native pollinators in our area.

Gardening With Children

I will give you tips on my experiences, what I found best to use, and some ins and outs of getting started. Pictures will be shown of seven to ten year old children actually gardening. You will see the gratification in the children's faces.

Gardening With Children

I will give you the how to, when to, and where to for gardening with children. Also, gardening tips to keep youngsters interested and successful in their first gardening endeavors. I will share ideas for faster results and age appropriate projects for both preschool and older children to age 12. The choice between planting flowers, vegetables or both will be discussed.

Growing Herbs

Learn techniques for growing, harvesting, and preserving Herbs.

Hostas

The backbone of the shade garden, hostas provide color, texture and form. Although basically easy to grow, there are techniques that help insure that these plants will grow and prosper. Learn how to grow and care for these great plants.

House Plants

What are some easy care plants? Learn how to combine plants for an interesting container and also learn the best practices for having healthy, happy plants in your home.

House Plants

Be your plants' best friend by learning how to give the best care and to recognize common problems.

Passing on Our Heritage

Sharing Your Love of Gardening with Children

I will share tools and tips and how to garden with children, including fun activities that will stimulate and cultivate youth interest in gardening.

Perennial Gardening

What is a perennial plant? Learn how to plan a perennial bed. A number of great plants will be reviewed and combination plants will be discussed.

Perennial Garden Maintenance

Perennial plants are not maintenance free, as is often stated. They need care to remain healthy and attractive. Care of perennial plants varies from one plant to the next. In this talk, you will learn the practices that help insure an attractive and great perennial garden.

Planting a Bulb Container Garden for Winter Bloom

Drive the winter blahs away by planting a bulb container to bloom indoors in the dead of winter. This is easy, fun and so rewarding. I will instruct you on choosing bulbs, how & when to plant, ways to store the container for the necessary cold treatment, how to care for them and when to bring them indoors to bloom.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are special gardens that help reduce storm water run off and recharge groundwater. Rain gardens reduce the amount of pollutants washing into our lakes, streams and rivers. Learn the steps to design and install your rain garden to help the environment.

Seed Harvesting

Learn how to harvest seed from your garden. Many gardeners wonder if they can save seeds from plants grown in their gardens and avoid the expense of buying seed the following year. Find out how you can do this.

Starting from Seed

A fun way to experience the whole growing cycle as you watch baby seedlings grow into sturdy plants into a beautiful garden. While many gardeners take the easier path to garden ready plants by buying them in April, learn how to grow them from seed.

Tree Identification

Learn how to identify trees any season of the year. I will take you on a field trip on the Alabaster bike path where there are many species of trees. I have been working on identification of these trees since November, 2007 and it certainly works best when you look at real trees as opposed to cuttings or even viewing pictures inside. While learning, you will get fresh air, a pleasant walk and a look at beautiful trees

The Good Guys vs. the Bad Guys:

Natives vs. Invasives

Issues of invasive species in our natural areas (parks, etc.) and in our gardens and their impact on native species will be presented.

The Name Game for Plants

Common name vs. scientific name or botanical name, or Latin name. That is the question. We'll explore some pros and cons.

Using Herbs in the Perennial Garden

Herbs used in the garden or mixed bed plantings can add both visual textures and heavenly scent. Learn which ones work best and how to care for them.

Vegetable Gardening

Vegetable Gardening would appear to be a means for supplying the family table with fresh summer foods and it is. But is it more than that too? Come join us for a discussion of how to, when to, and where to grow for best results. There may be a few surprises as to how interesting and rewarding vegetable gardening can be. We will discuss soil preparation, seed/plant purchase, tips to simplify your chores, fertilizing, and pest controls.

What is a Raised Bed?

A gardener may use a raised bed to improve the soil conditions, or raise a plot to make it easier to work on. Some beds are raised just to contain the plants while others are made to beautify the landscape. Let's raise it up!

Winter Sowing

Winter Sowing is easy to do! With this creative and easy germination
Winter sowing is easy to do! With this easy and creative germination method you will be able to start hardy seedlings for pennies. Winter sowing is done outdoors during winter using mini-greenhouses made from recyclables;
there are no heating devices, no energy wasting light set-ups or expensive seed starting devices.