

from the Ground Up

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Editor Pat Hubert, Master Gardener



Gardening With The Masters

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|---------------|--|
| April 6, 2015 | Early Vegetables, Flowers and Pollinators |
| May 9, 2015 | No presentation, PLANT SALE Fairgrounds |
| June 1, 2015 | Weeds, Weeds! What Can I Do? |
| July 6, 2015 | Rain Gardens / Xeriscape Gardens |
| Aug.-Oct. | TBA |

All "Gardening With The Masters" seminars are held at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, are open to the public and free of charge. For more info, visit our website!

A Pollinator Friendly Garden

By Deanna Streeter, Master Gardener

From Colony Collapse Disorder affecting our honey bees to the need for native host plants for migrating Monarch butterflies the humble pollinators are in the news.

We know that bees and butterflies are important to our ecosystems to provide the pollination of plants. What

we may not have realized is that North America is home to over 4000 species of native bees! From the small *Osmia ribiflovis* that pollinates the blueberry flower to the *Bombus pensylvanicus* buzz pollinating our tomatoes to the *Peponapis pruinosa* for our squash and cukes — we need amazing bee diversity to pollinate all the different types of plants and flowers.

The 4000 species of native bees are the unsung heroes doing most of our pollination! Only 30% of native bees are social and live in hives. While the 70% majority are solitary and each female acts as queen to lay eggs for the next generation. These solitary bees are very gentle and usually never sting! Due to habitat loss and pesticide use all these native bees need our help.

Establish a pollinator friendly garden space. Choosing to beautify your yard by planting areas of native flora is one of the best ways to give our pollinators the nutrition they need. A pesticide free haven will attract and nourish bees and butterflies without stressing them. Complete your special garden by providing essential water for thirsty pollinators by transforming a birdbath into a pollinator watering hole with sponges, gravel or sand. Remember to maintain and change the water frequently to prevent mosquitos!

These are just some of the ways we can help save our pollinators and have fun watching bees and butterflies all summer long!



ANNUAL MINNEHABA MASTER GARDENERS' PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 9 - 9-11 AM
W.H. LYON FAIRGROUNDS - ARTS BUILDING



SDSU

Extension



from the Ground Up

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Photos from Priscilla Jurkovich garden

In the Herb Garden

By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

Tormentil ***Tormentilla erecta*** is a perennial herb from the rose (*Rosaceae*) family. The leaves are on stalks that grow to 12 inches with one single yellow flower. The stalks will eventually fall as the weight of the leaves and flower pull it to the ground. The leaves have 3-5 oval leaflets that are toothed towards the tips. The flowers bloom July through September

in zone 4. The 4 petal flowers are unusual for the rose family which usually has 5 petals.

Another herb for your herbal medicine cabinet. The red, woody rhizome root is mainly used for medicine to treat infections and pain. Tormentil (named after "torment") has been known for its use for diarrhea (studied on Rotavirus) while nourishing the

bowels and relief of hemorrhoids. It can be used as a gargle to relieve sore throats and laryngitis. Because of the astringent quality, the roots can be made into a fluid to place on cuts and wounds and will decrease inflammation and bleeding. As a tea, it can be used as a pain reliever and to decrease fevers. The roots are used for dyeing materials red.

**Thank
You!**

The Minnehaha Master Gardeners would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to Margaret Murphy, former long-time editor of "From the Ground Up"! Your hard work and commitment was a gift of talent and time! We appreciate it!

April 2015



Remember **doing**
reminders
remember
don't forget **today**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|---|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Sow tomato seeds indoors for May planing | 4 |
| 5 Don't till garden when soil is wet | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Begin spring cleaning of yard! | 10 | 11 Plant pansies & other cool season flowers |
| 12 | 13 Plant cool season vegetables | 14 | 15 | 16 Divide fall blooming perennials as new growth begins | 17 | 18 Start fertilizing houseplants, repot if needed |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Start a compost pile for Earth Day | 23 | 24 Remove mulch on Strawberries when see new growth | 25 |
| 26 Plant a tree for Arbor Day | 27 | 28 | 29 Aerate your lawn if necessary | 30 | | |



Malag.aes.oregonstate.edu

Weeds! Weeds! Weeds!

Western Poison Ivy: *Toxicodendron Rydbergii*

By Paulette Keller, Master Gardener

Growth: Poison Ivy is a woody perennial vine that attaches itself to trees with aerial roots. The vine has leaflets that are grouped in threes. The leaves are arranged on the stem alternately and are pointed at the ends with the widest part of the leaf being in the middle. The edges of the leaves are notched and are smooth or with small hairs on the midrib. The leaves turn yellow

to deep red in the fall. The flowers that bloom May through July are small, yellowish green and are not very significant. They produce 1/4" whitish berries that grow in clusters and are poisonous. Birds and other animals can eat them without any ill effects. Deer eat the leaves and twigs.

Where Found: Poison ivy can be found throughout the Great Plains from Texas all of the way into Canada in thickets, swampland, waste areas, pastures and rangeland.

Problems Associated with: Poison ivy contains an oily and resinous compound called urushiols that cause an allergic skin reaction within a few hours of contact. The vine retains the urushiols after the plants have dried and smoke from burning vines can be dangerous. Animals are seldom bothered by the urushiols but their fur can transmit the oils to humans.

Soil is Sponge...Not Brick

By Mary Ellen Connelly, Master Gardener

In today's world, there are conflicting attitudes towards soil.

There is that of the farmer, gardener and homeowner who value soil as home to roots, for growing crops, trees and ornamental plants. They wish to bestow fertile soil on generations to come. Ideal soil for this group contains as much as twenty-five percent pore space to allow saturation of air and water.

Then there is that of engineers and land developers that regard soil over the short term, its immediate altered use. They quantify soil in terms of compaction for great density to support building foundations, driveways and highways. When air and water are squeezed out of such soil, little pore space remains. At extremes, soil can become anaerobic at which hardly any roots can grow.

While a home or business built in the last twenty, thirty or forty years may have above-par street appeal, there is a *dirty* little secret that often hides beneath a thin carpet of grass. Much of the time, soil has been sacrificed: topsoil, with its inherent organic matter stripped off and scant few inches replaced, and subsoil, packed to impermeability.

In the October program, "**Soil is Sponge, not Brick**" Mary Ellen Connelly will:



- Compare the extremes between a soybean field on one side of the fence and that of an urban development on the other;
- Compare soil of today's developments to that of older neighborhoods;
- Explain how the quality of the lakes and streams is linked at the hip to the quality of soil;
- Describe how low organic matter and impermeable soil limits plant choices, increases lawn maintenance costs, and sheds abundant storm water along with polluting lawn chemicals.
- What's a person to do who has brick-like soil? The program will include ways to restore your soil and stop treating your soil like dirt.

Assessing Community Support for a Farmers Market

By Chris Zdorovtsov and Sierra Blachford

Are you interested in starting a Farmers Market in your community? One of the steps is assessing if the community would support a market. The planning team should aim to involve the broader community in the process of developing a new market, because community members will eventually become market patrons.

The planning team will have many questions to ponder and discuss regarding the new market: Is there community demand for the products at the market? What products are community members seeking? What locations are convenient for community members? Will any pre-existing local food distribution businesses feel threatened by the entry of a new farmers market? Will the community support the market's physical or logistical needs? What is the demographic make-up of the community? Where is the nearest farmers market outside of this community? How will this market affect the new market? These questions can be hard to answer. Evaluating the support level of citizens can help determine if a new market will be successful.

Distributing a community survey and hosting a community meeting can help provide answers. A survey can include questions that help establish a picture of what the market might look like in the community. SDSU Extension has created an example Farmers Market Community Interest Survey for markets to utilize. It is available at iGrowSDLocalFoods.org.

The survey can be distributed in a variety of ways; including local businesses, coffee shops, restaurants, gas stations, the elevator, a senior citizen center or the local newspaper. Obtaining a central drop off location for returned surveys will help increase the return rate.

Additionally, the planning team could host a community meeting, inviting members of the community to discuss the possibility of starting a new farmers market. The previously mentioned survey could also be distributed and collected at this meeting. During the community meeting, the organizers should seek to identify the important ideas from community members about the market. Ask what community members would like to see, buy and experience at the market.

Every community cannot sustain a vibrant farmers market. If the answers to many of the survey questions are not positive, then it may not be wise to start a farmers market in this community. Hopefully, the planning team will find high levels of community support for a new farmers market. Utilizing tactics like a survey and community meeting can clarify the needs, demands and desires of the community members who will patronize the market.



"What products are community members seeking?"



"SDSU Extension has created an example Farmers Market Community Interest Survey ...available at iGrowSDLocalFoods.org"



"Every community cannot sustain a vibrant farmers market..."

In BLOOM: Snowdrops

By Roine Klassenr, Master Gardener

Snowdrops are the first to bloom in my garden every spring, usually late February or early March. Just as robins are harbingers of spring, these tiny flowers let me know that winter is losing its grip. It doesn't mind being snowed under as it emerges afterward without any ill effects. Snowdrops tolerate deer, clay and black walnut trees. They are native to Europe and SE Asia. They have no serious insect or disease problems.

Each flower has 6 tepals; 3 are outspreading outer tepals, the 3 remaining tepals are inside and shorter.

Galanthus (Gr: milk flower) *nivalis* (snowy Amaryllidaceae—Amaryllis family, bulbous perennial

H: 6-9 in. S: 4-6 in, zone 4

How to grow: Full sun or partially shade; well-drained soils; tolerates summer dryness. Plant 3 inches deep and 3 inches apart in fall. To divide, lift bulbs immediately after flowering, while the leaves are still healthy and green.



Master Gardener Notes

- May MG meeting will be held on Monday, May 11 at 7 pm at the Extension building, located at 220 W 6th St Sioux Falls, SD 57104. JOIN US! ☺
- Reminder: the upcoming plant sale is one of our largest projects! Plants that sell well are houseplants, Hostas, unusual perennials.
- Volunteers are still needed for the summer Garden Tour. See the April meeting minutes for details
- Remember to keep track of your hours for recertification. Forms and more information can be found at our website:
www.minnehahamastergardeners.org



Edibles: "Walking Onions"

By Mary Lerssen, Master Gardener

Many of us can't wait to taste our first fresh tomato or peas straight from the garden! It will be a while for some of the produce but I have already had my first bite - fresh green onions from my garden. They are the "winter onions", "walking onions or "Egyptian Onions" my grandfather used to grow

in his garden. We always had them

for Easter Sunday dinner and we did this year again! They are an heirloom perennial onion that "walks" across the ground. Small onion "sets" are produced on the leaf tops in late summer and fall to the ground to set the root and the cycle is repeated as the onions continue to "walk" or grow for the next year. If left unused they will continue to spread so leave a few for the next spring. They get about 36 inches tall and are a conversation piece in the garden. Plant them where they will not be disturbed by tilling. I will make sure there are a few plants at the Master Gardener's Plant sale on May 9 at the Fair Grounds so you can enjoy a fresh spring taste next spring. Actually I use them in cooking and salads/dips until my spring planted onions are ready to harvest. By then my walking onions are beginning to get a bit woody so use them early in the spring for a taste of fresh!



Become a Master Gardener!!

Master Gardener training classes are now being formed for 2015. Classes will be offered in the **Watertown, Mitchell and Hot Springs/Custer** areas this year. The majority of the training **is offered online** so you can get the training in the comfort of your own home! Only four days of face-to-face, hands-on training is required in addition to the online modules. Sessions begin as early as April 20, 2015. Trainees will have the opportunity to learn skills such as planting, pruning, plant propagation, along with plant and pest identification by seeing and doing. These will be held in each of the training sites. Participants will be able to choose from the three locations for their hands-on training.

Application forms and more information are available on www.igrow.org, through any of the Extension Regional Centers or by contacting David Graper at: david.graper@sdsstate.edu or 605-688-5796. Application deadline is approaching so do not delay!



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