



In the Herb Garden

By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

The herb section will highlight an herb that can be grown in the South Dakota region.



Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*) is an aromatic herb in the Lamiaceae (mint) family characteristic of square stems and opposite leaves. It is a delicate annual plant in zone 4 (perennial in zone 6-11). Marjoram grows between 24 and 36 inches in height. Thrives in a sunny area, but will do well in a variety of soils and conditions. The flowers are great to attract pollinators and the plants attract beneficial insects for the garden.

For culinary uses, marjoram herb is one of the spices in the Herbes de Provence. Combine with summer savory to flavor soups, salads and meat dishes. Marjoram has medicinal qualities. Marjoram may help with digestion, nausea, diarrhea or constipation. Marjoram has antiseptic, antifungal, and antiviral qualities. The anti-inflammatory effects can help with asthma, sinus headaches, migraines, fever and body aches. Marjoram can also reduce stress, calm anxiety, and relieve insomnia.

Put the leaves in a pot of hot water and enjoy the calming, antidepressive effects and digestive benefits.

Scarlet Runner Beans (*Phaseolus coccineus*)

By Roine Klassen Master Gardener

(Other names for this plant are fire bean, mammoth, red giant or scarlet emperor)

Scarlet Runner beans are some of the oldest runner beans in existence. They are native to South America. This annual, best planted directly in the garden after the risk of frost has passed, needs support since it can grow as tall as twenty feet. It's bright red flowers add color to the vegetable or ornamental garden. Some varieties may have flowers in white or pink; "Painted Lady" has red and white bi-colored flowers. Expect blooms to appear mid- to late summer. Hummingbirds are attracted to these plants.

The plants need decent soil, full sun and monthly fertilizer like 5-10-10. Plant about 6 inches apart and about 1-2 inches deep. Water weekly if there is no rain. Consider trellis/tower structures that can allow the beans to provide shelter for early crops like spinach or lettuces.

While most people may consider this colorful plant to be ornamental the cooked pods are edible when treated like snap beans. The 8 inch pods may be a bit tougher than regular green beans but potentially more flavorful. Keep the pods picked to keep more flowers coming. Also pictured are the ripe beans that can be shelled after the pods dry.

www.gardeningknowhow.com

www.seedsavers.org/scarlet-runnerbeans



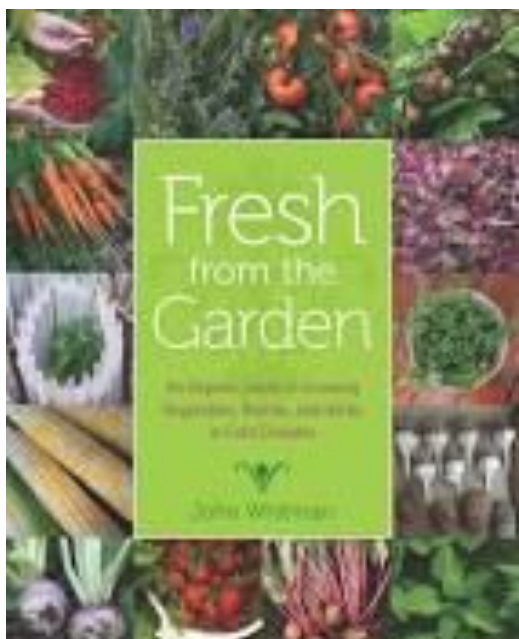
Take Time for a Good Book

Gardening Book Must-Have!

by Donna Haber, Master Gardener

While perusing the new non-fiction shelves at a Siouxland Library branch this winter, I discovered an interesting-looking gardening book and checked it out. Fresh from the Garden by John Whitman is an over 500 page organic guide to growing vegetables, berries, and herbs in cold climates. The author has over 50 years of gardening experience, and with few exceptions has done the beautiful photography throughout the book. It is a comprehensive reference book with 4 to 5 pages devoted to each variety of vegetable and herb from A to Z. His work details planting, how to care for the plant, problems, harvesting, and storing various vegetables. Nutritional content is listed for each vegetable, as well as creative uses for many of the herbs and vegetables. Published by the University of Minnesota Press, the book lists suitable varieties of plants and seeds for the shorter growing season and longer day length conditions of the Northern Plains.

I renewed this book twice, reserved and checked it out a second time, and finally ordered by own copy on Amazon! I'm sure it will be a well-used reference for many of my gardening questions. Reserve it from the library and see for yourself!



Master Gardener Plant **Sale**

May 12 2018

Women's Building

Sioux Empire Fairgrounds

Start Time 9:00

Weeds of the Great Plains

by Nancy Torkelson Master Gardener

- There are many different definitions of the word weed, the modern one being, “any plant that interferes with management objectives for an area at a given point of time.”
- The weed I want you teach your about today is the Asteraceae-Sunflower family.
- The common name is the Horseweed.
- It is native to the Great Plains.
- It is an annual that reproduces by seeds. It has pinkish and yellow disk, florets, that bloom June-September. The seeds are very small, which makes propagation easy, as winds or wildlife scatter them. Each plant can produce as much as 50,000 seeds.
- It has a taproot, making it hard to pull.
- Here is a photo of horseweed as it is starting to bolt.
- Many corn herbicides (atrazine and growth regulators) are effective in controlling horseweed.



Coming Up.... This summer's Garden Tour

June 20th 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Rain date June 22

Tickets available June 1st at all Sioux Falls and Brandon Lewis Drug stores

Cost \$10.00

Burpee Branded Vegetables

by Bill Torkelson Master Gardener

I went to the SIOUXLAND garden show in Sioux City, IA

New seeds introduced by Todd Brockshus from Spencer, IA

Tomato, Atlas Hybrid- Fruit bearing beefsteak tomato for porches. Matures 65-75 days after seeds are planted.

Pepper, Sweet, Confetti, Hybrid- A joyful color all on the same plant. Matures in 55-60 days. Fruit is 2 inches in size.

Eggplant, Behold Hybrid- Violet purple fruits with white stripes. 60 days to maturity. Fruit size is 4-8 inches.

Cucumber, Bragger Hybrid- Bountiful plant that produces sweet, crunch cukes by the bushel. Slicer in 45 days until maturity. The fruit is 6 inches.

Pepper, Hot Jalapeno, Ring Leader Hybrid- New leader for pickled rings, in Southwest recipes, salads and, tacos. 55-60 days to maturity. Fruit is 2-4 inches.

Tomato, Shimmer Hybrid- Small sized tomato that matures in 70-80 days. adapts to a variety of conditions.

Cucumber, Lunchbox Hybrid, Burpee Branded Vegetable. 50-53 days to maturity. Fruit size is 7-8 inches.

Pepper, Hot, Orange Pepperoncini- Small, bushy, and, hot. 77 days to maturity with 4 inch fruit.

Cowpea, Charm- If you like crowder peas, you will love Charm. 80-85 days to maturity with fruit 5-7 inches. Must be planted in full sun.

Watermelon, Mini Piccolo Hybrid- Perfect- Mini seedless, easy to grow and adapts to a variety of conditions.

You may buy any of these seeds at Del's Garden Center, in Spencer.

They may be available at other nurseries that handle Burpee seeds and plants.

Tomato Cages

By Cindy Jungman Master Gardener

After visiting this garden last summer, I asked the gardener for information on her sturdy cages.

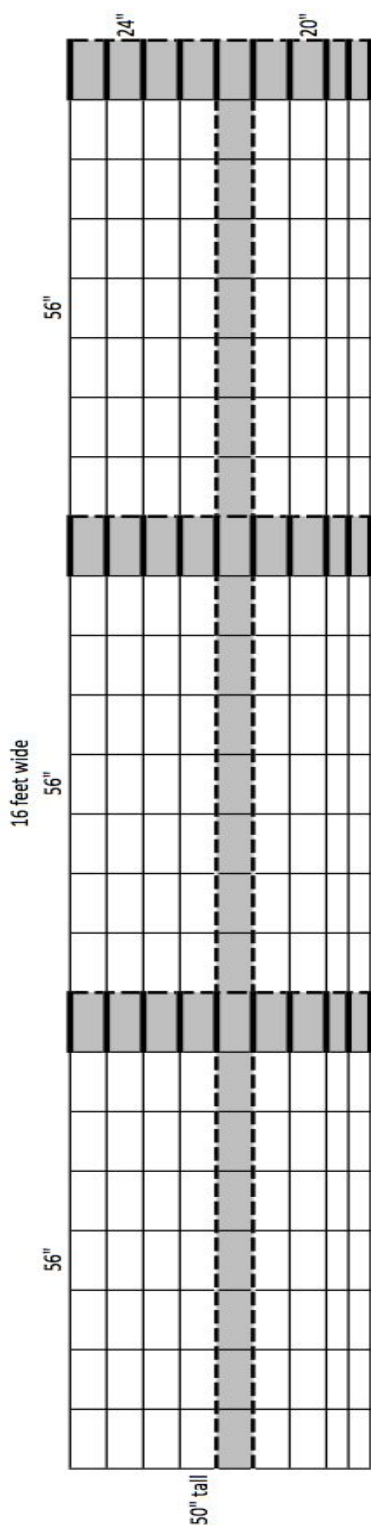
Here is a photo of one of my tomato cages and a PDF diagram of how I cut the sections from 16 foot livestock panels which we purchased at TSC.

I am happy to report the cages held against 60 mph winds, and they are only held in place by the 8" legs at the bottom that go into the ground. I have not used fence posts this year or last. A few cages were leaning a bit but they were easy to straighten.

One comment about these cages. They are 18" by 24" which is pretty big - too big when the plants are little. This year I bought some cheap cages and put those inside the big cages. The plants were supported first by the little cages until they "grew into" the larger cages. This worked very well.

I hope this helps to you to make these cages. I think the cost per cage was something like \$13-\$15. To me a big advantage is that the four sides are held together with zip ties and they can be folded flat for storage.





Top 7 holes are 8" wide x 6" tall. Bottom 2 holes are 8" wide x 4" tall. Total height = 50".

There are 24 (8") holes across. Total width = 192".

Shaded areas indicate waste from cutting.

Dotted lines show where to cut.

Heavy lines would be legs.

Cutting the panel as shown would yield

3 pieces 24" x 56"

3 pieces 20" x 56"

6 panels would yield

9 rectangle cages 20" x 24" x 56"