



In the Herb Garden

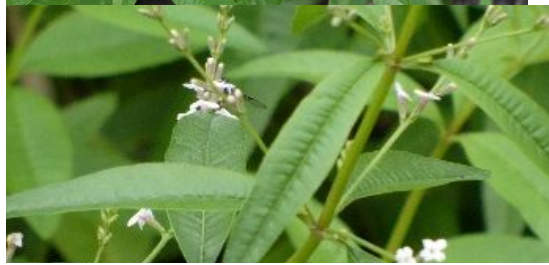
By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

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



Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) is a perennial plant from the **Verbenaceae family** grown year round in freeze free zones, but in Zone 4-5 is an annual crop and generally grown in pots to overwinter indoors. Lemon Verbena thrive in well drained soil and full sun. Lemon Verbena has an intense citrus scent without the bitterness of true lemons. The flowers are small, numerous and white to pale purple blossoms. The flowers are dependent on the length of the day and the stem length. The shrub can get up to 6 feet tall and 8 feet wide with long, pointed, green leaves. Harvesting the leaves often increases the branches at each point you snip the leaves.

The leaves are cooked like spinach but most commonly used in salad, fruit salads or teas. They can replace



lemon zest in recipes. There are many medicinal uses for nervous and digestive issues such as flatulence, indigestion and acidity. Also helps with acne, boils, cysts, depression and lethargy. It is a natural insect repellent, a diuretic and a gout remedy.

Visit the Conservatory at Lincoln Park in Chicago

By Eileen Cypher, Master Gardener Volunteer

I had the chance to visit Lincoln Park on a trip to Chicago. The highlight of the visit was time spent in the Conservatory. Here are some of the beautiful plants under the dome.



How To Find True Gardening Facts on the Web

By Carol Raabe Master Gardener



Last June when my false indigo were consumed by an invasion of small gray beetles, I identified them by entering “gray beetle” into search on Google, looked at the images, and identified the intruder.

Which proves the internet is a fabulous resource for gardeners. The rest of the story isn’t as upbeat.

Once I had the identification, I searched for “Ash Gray Blister Beetle.”

The first source said this particular blister beetle is seen as far north as somewhere in Nebraska and appears in July. My own garden was proof that information is false and leads to the question, “How do you find accurate gardening information on the web?”

In my opinion, two factors enter into assessing the accuracy of web information: the source and the date.

The date is important because gardening advice changes as the science improves. What was a gardening truth yesterday may be replaced by a different, scientifically proven truth today. For us home gardeners, that means we must use the most recent information we can find and do the best we can.

The source is important because it’s hard to know whether this expert or that one is up on the most current, scientifically accurate information. For that, I recommend the extension sites sponsored by the land grant colleges.

Colleges in states with soil and weather similar to South Dakota can give us very good information. This includes North Dakota, Nebraska (though warmer), Wyoming, Montana and, Minnesota (especially for East River). Look for those state sites with an “.edu” extension. I admit to using sites from other states as well but try to read them critically, asking questions like, “Would that be true for our winters?” or “for my soil?”

In South Dakota, the land grant college is South Dakota State University in Brookings. Their extension site is iGrow. The appearance of one or both of the two South Dakota Extension logos, **shown at right**, indicate that you are on an approved site (or are looking at an approved document) and can be confident of its content.

The iGrow site is located at igrow.org. No [www.](http://www.igrow.org) is needed. This site is called the iGrow dashboard. I might call it the “home page.” It is the central place to begin accessing the many

parts of the site, namely 4-H & Youth, Livestock, Agronomy, Healthy Families, Community Development and Gardens.

Topics under “Gardens” include: Home and Garden Pests, Trees and Forests, Gardening, Master Gardeners and Reports to Partners. Each of these topics opens to an immense amount of gardening information.

One resource on the Gardening dashboard is a place to search for articles in the Resource Library. For me, this area is useful when I want to learn about growing, say, grapes, or about common diseases of tomatoes.

Another useful resource is “Ask the Expert.” This section gives all of us access to the really smart and informed staff of South Dakota Extension from all over the state. I might have used this area to ask about small, gray beetles, including a photo, if I hadn’t been able to identify it myself. (Local Master Gardeners can often answer these questions, too.)

Extension also emails gardening information and articles on current topics to interested people. Notice the button on the Gardening dashboard to sign up for these emails.

We can be pleased and proud that South Dakota Extension can support gardeners with so much true and up-to-date gardening information. Sometimes, though, it is fun to enter your topic or question into Google and see what comes up. The information you find can be new, innovative, even fun to try (look up “Straw Gardens,” for example).

But besides being an enjoyable pastime, gardening can be expensive and time consuming. Failures (w at the far right of the gray buttons e all have them) can be demoralizing. One way to reduce risk is to use the best possible information.

Good surfing!

Masters in the Garden

By Cindy Jungman, Master Gardener

The first session of the new garden series **Masters in the Garden** was held last Saturday in Hartford at the home of Joe and Cindy Jungman. Forty people attended the session called **“Containers & More.”** Sponsored by the Minnehaha County Master Gardeners, the **Masters in the Garden** sessions take place in the gardens of local extension master gardeners. These sessions provide the opportunity to learn first-hand in the garden about gardening practices and techniques.



Attendees at last Saturday’s session were able to view 150 containers created by SDSU extension master gardener Cindy Jungman. There were containers for every exposure, from shade to full sun.



Of particular interest to many were the container groupings displaying 25 different coleus varieties.

Another showstopper was the large collection of succulent containers utilizing 175 succulent plants. Visitors were also welcome to wander around Jungman's flower and vegetable gardens where they could observe a number of unique gardening methods, including heavy-duty homemade tomato cages, vertical gardening on livestock panels, and a "hot house" method for growing peppers. SDSU extension master gardeners were on hand to discuss gardening techniques, share their knowledge, and answer questions. Everyone enjoyed the garden companionship.



The next Masters in the Garden session will be held in southeast Sioux Falls on Wednesday, August 1 at the home of extension master gardener Mary Lerssen. The topic is “Vegetables & Perennials.” This garden is loaded with character, and Lerssen will

share her experiences (good and bad) with vegetables as well as many perennial flowers and fruits. Visit <http://www.minnehahamastergardeners.org> for details on this session.

A third session is scheduled to be held at Ray and May Schaefer's on Tuesday, August 14. This session will feature Schaefer's extensive raised beds, native grasses, and unique planting style. Watch for an announcement soon.



