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June 2019 correction: the article Compost was submitted by Jerry Mills, Master Gardener

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.



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a hardy biennial (sometimes annual or perennial) herb in the Asteraceae (daisy/sunflower) family. Black-eyed Susan grows in zones 3-9 in all areas of North America. The stems are upright and grow 1-3 feet. The leaves alternate and are covered by coarse hair. The daisy-like flowers have yellow florets circling a brown or black dome-shaped cone and bloom June to August. Black-eyed Susan's prefer a well-drained soil structure but tolerates slightly acidic or alkaline soils.



The plant also is a traditional Native American medicinal herb. The roots were used by taking 5 tsp of dried root in a cup of boiling water to make a tea to boost immunity and to fight colds, flu, and infection. It also can be used as a poultice to reduce swelling or soothe cuts and sores.

Millenium Allium

By Roine Klassen, Master Gardener

This hybrid allium, one of more than 700 species in the genus, (family: amaryllidaceae) has been described as practically perfect. This ornamental onion blooms in July and August compared to other alliums that bloom earlier in the season. Some sources list the cold-hardy zones from 5- 8 while others include zones 4a and 4b. Be sure to check the plant's label when shopping. The blooms are attractive to butterflies, bee friendly, and resist deer, rabbits, squirrels and drought.



Plant the bulbs in the fall in average, dry or sandy soils that are well drained. Bulb rot can occur in overly moist soil. To divide or move the clumps that form, lift and divide in spring or fall. The blooms will develop viable seeds. If self-sowing is not wanted, dead head the plant after flowering.

The plant grows in a compact, upright clump of grassy leaves and a perfusion of large 2-inch lavender-pink drumstick flower heads. The *umbels*, or flower heads, are completely round and as they dry, they turn light brown with the blush of their former pinky-purple tinge. The plants grow about 18-20 inches tall. Cut back the foliage in fall after the flowers fade. All allium varieties have oniony smelling flowers and foliage. Some are edible while others are not.

No serious insect or disease problems were noted.

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WHY MEN DON'T GARDEN

Submitted by Nancy Torkelson, Master Gardener

I attended an International Master Gardeners Convention. I was taking a break between sessions, when I was approached by a female gardener from Texas. As we were discussing our different regions, she said, Can I ask you a question? I said fire away. How many men do you think are attending? After a quick scan of four different areas, I said it looks like 1 guy for every 10 women. Roughly 10%, same as the Garden Club and Master Gardener Group back home.

Then comes another question. Why is this? I answered, I believe the problem is that the men do the grunt work. Prepping the garden for spring planting. In the fall cleaning it and putting it to bed for the winter.

However, when it comes to plant selection, they get little if any input. They are told this plant or that plant won't work. They become discouraged. Why not give them a corner of the garden and let them experiment. After all, isn't gardening about trial and error? What works for one doesn't always work for someone else.

Remember the definition of experience is recognizing the same mistake quicker the second time around. Wilbur

Gardening With the Masters

Nancy Thompson's flowers will be featured in July. Check the website minnehahamastergardeners.org for time and date

ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST WAYS TO GAMBLE IS
WITH A SPADE AND A PACKAGE OF GARDEN SEEDS.

DAN BENNETT

Enjoy the 4th of July!!

