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“One of the healthiest ways to gamble is with a spade and a package of garden seeds” - Dan Bennett

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June Events: Cancelled

Due to Coronavirus the Minnehaha County Master Gardeners are not hosting gardening events through June. Be sure to visit us on Facebook, the internet, and don't forget that the Garden hotline is available to help with your garden questions: sdsu.gardenseast@sdstate.edu.



By now, you may notice rabbits eating the long stems and seed heads of those Dandelions left in the lawn for foraging bees.

Showstopper Orienpet Lilies

By Roine Klassen, Master Gardener



When looking through any of many flower catalogs that come in the mail every spring, you will notice that there is a wide selection of colors and types of lilies available for purchase. Most lilies are hardy to Zone 4. They are ideally planted in fall when the temperatures are around 55 degrees during the day. Planting in fall allows the bulbs to establish some roots. With fall planting, the site could be marked so the plant is protected since they come up later in spring. Planting in spring is the second choice.

The bulb should be planted with the tip up about 6-8 inches deep. Six hours of daylight is needed. Allow enough space between plantings, about 8-10 inches apart, to permit good air circulation around the plants to reduce problems with fungal diseases. Lily leaf beetles can affect the buds, and aphids can carry lily mosaic virus. Destroy the insects by hand or with a sharp spray of water as soon as they are seen on the undersides of foliage.

Lilies, like most bulbs, need good drainage. Heavy clay, or an area that stays persistently damp will be the death of lilies. Compost can be added at planting, but ensure that excess water does not pond in the area. Consider a sloping area or a raised bed for planting. Fertilizer (4-10-6) can be used after planting, (not in the hole), early spring and after blooming.

If you want a real showstopper in your lily bed, consider purchasing bulbs for Orienpet lilies. These are also called OT hybrids or “tree lilies”. They were developed by crossing Oriental lilies and Trumpet/Aurelian lilies. This allowed for the combination of the beauty of Oriental lilies with the robustness, heat tolerance, disease resistance, and colors of the Aurelian lilies.

An additional consideration for the Orienpet lilies may be the need for staking as they can grow up to 6 feet tall. When lilies are finished blooming, don't cut back the foliage. Allow it to die back naturally so the bulb energy can be replenished for the next season. Once the foliage is yellow or brown, remove the stalk. Since these lilies are fragrant, cutting a stalk to bring lilies in (and use your tallest vase!) as a cut flower, don't harvest more than 1/3 of the stalk or the bulb's future performance may be weakened.

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.

Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*), also known as holy basil, is in the Lamiaceae (mint) family and has characteristics of square stems and opposite leaves. There are many varieties and some varieties have purple-tinted leaves with a distinct peppery aroma. The Tulsi is a delicate annual plant in zone 4 (perennial in zone 10-12). Tulsi grows as a shrub between 12 and 36 inches in height. The hairy stems sprout oval leaves with serrated edges. The flowers are small purple (or white) and tubular. Plant the seeds indoors 6-12 weeks before the last frost. Keep the soil warm as it may take 2-3 weeks to germinate. Tulsi thrives in a sunny area, and 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.

Tulsi herb is known for many medicinal qualities. Tulsi may rejuvenate tissues and cells, improve heart conditions, reduce stress, respiratory and gastrointestinal complaints. It may control blood pressure, combat harmful free radicals, relieve headaches, improve eye health, boost energy levels and act as a mouth freshener. Harvest leaves in the fall to dehydrate for winter use. Put the fresh leaves in a pot of hot water and enjoy the calming, energizing and digestive benefits.



Mate- a Family Connection

By Anelis C.Coscioni, Master Gardener

As I am sitting here and writing this article, drinking my mate, you might be asking, what's that? Mate, more commonly known as *chimarrão* in the Southern part of Brazil, is a tea made with the dry, ground leaves of the plant *Ilex paraguariensis*. It is prepared in a gourd and it has a straw with a filter in the bottom that serves for a way of drinking. It is a caffeinated tea, and you can find mate in stores as small tea bags. We buy it in 2-pound bags.

Mate preparation:

First you fill your gourd (*cuia*) half way through with *herva-mate* (herb tea), then you lay it sideways for it to accommodate to one half of the *cuia*. Then you add warm water all the way to the top. After that, you introduce the *bomba* (straw) to the *cuia* all the way to the bottom.

For me, mate is the base I use to drink other teas that I love, like chamomile, lemon verbena, mint, dry orange skin, and lemongrass. I just add one, or more of the other teas and enjoy it.

To drink mate, you fill it with hot water (not boiling) and sip through the straw. Each person will drink all the tea, then will give the *cuia* back to the person serving. Some people drink cold mate.

The *mate* culture

Mate is more than a tea that you drink. Mate is part of a culture of sharing. People from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and the Southern States of Brazil drink *mate*. Some wake up early and drink *mate* before going to work, some drink before lunch, some drink after lunch, some drink *mate* during work, at schools, parks, homes...everywhere. When you go visit someone in Rio Grande do Sul (last State on the bottom of Brazil), the first thing they will offer you is a *mate*. Then everyone sits in a circle (*roda de mate* or *roda de chimarrao*) and the *mate* is served and passed from hand to hand. That's a time when people share their news, talk about their lives and make plans. It is a tradition that is passed from one generation to the next. And it is a time when generations get together to share. *Mate* brings people together. For many, like me, *mate* feels like home, anywhere you are.

My husband and I wake up early every weekend and drink *mate* while we talk about our week. Our daughter sits with us and shares her stories. We listen to the music from back home (*música gaúcha*) and for one hour we just enjoy each other's company before the day really starts.

Some call it the "tea of the Gods". Some say it has health benefits like, improved digestion, lowering blood sugar levels, it is rich in antioxidants, and much more. But for us, it is a time to peacefully drink tea and strengthen our love as a family.



The Joy of Daylilies

by Nancy Torkelson, Master Gardener

Hemerocallis are perennials that have tuberous roots, a long narrow blade-like leaf, and a flower that blooms for a day. It is a monocot, like grass or corn. Tuberous roots do not grow on their own. All growth comes from the crown. Full sun is preferred. Some shade will be tolerated. Daylilies prefer loose loamy soil. They prefer a pH of 6-7, but will do ok outside of this range.

Planting Rules:

1. Dig a hole twice the size of the root system.
2. Remove all signs of mold and rotting. Optional: soak the bare roots in water for up to 2 days. You should do this if the roots are shriveled. It is better to buy bare roots plants as you can check for disease or rotting.
3. Plant crown level with the ground, spreading the roots over a mound of soil.

Cover and GENTLY firm the soil. Water. Mulching will help keep out the weeds. Do NOT mulch over the crown.

4. Label immediately.

Care during the season:

1. In the spring cut back dead foliage and water.

2. Fertilize as necessary. Experts suggest that you use a 3-2-1 fertilizer. A

10-10-10 (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Pot-Ash) is appropriate for daylilies. You may also use compost or bone meal.

3. Deadheading keeps pests away from the rotting blooms. It also prevents spent blooms from waxing over the other buds preventing proper blooms. Deadheading directs energy to where you want it, which is the blooms and roots.

DO NOT ORDER FROM THE NORTHWEST: You will introduce gall mites to our area.

Orders from the deep south may introduce rust to your garden. It will die over winter in our area over winter, or may weaken the plant.

ORDER PLANTS THAT ARE BARE ROOT! "Spring Disease " is malformed foliage that is noticed early in the season. It is not fully understood, and prevention is not known. Plants may or may not recover from "Spring Disease."

There are many beautiful daylilies. They are easy to grow. Enjoy them in your garden.

Deer and Rabbits Resistant Plants

by Roine Klassen, Master Gardener

While there is no plant that is 100% deer or rabbit resistant, by planting less of their favorites, they may visit your garden less often. Plants that are fuzzy or prickly, very aromatic plants (anise, thyme and allium or onion related), ferns and ornamental grasses or poisonous (foxglove or monkshood) ones are more likely to be avoided.

On the list of flowers identified on the Garden gate web site are fritillaria, snowdrops, allium, vinca minor, narrow leaf foxglove, Russian sage, floss flower (ageratum), marigold, yucca, potentilla and lilac. Whether all of these are suitable for Zone 4 would need to be researched.

Bee Balm (Monarda didyma) is a plant in the mint family with aromatic leaves and flowers that deer and rabbits are less likely to sample but the plant will attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

This perennial likes full sun, its hardiness zones cover 3-9. It likes good loamy soil and organic mulch - to save the moisture. It is best planted in spring or in fall about 18-24 inches apart. Good air circulation around the plants will reduce the chance of powdery mildew, it's most likely problem. Some varieties may grow 2 ½-4 feet tall but dwarf varieties will more likely be 10-15 inches tall. Read the information on the plant when making a selection. Deadheading will encourage

reblooming in the fall. After the first frost, the stems may be cut to about 2 inches. Division of plants should be planned about every 2-3 years.

Bee balm probably got its name from its use to relieve the pain of bee stings. It's antimicrobial benefits (from the thymol content) have been used by native Americans for many years. For more information about its uses, search the internet.

With 15 species and 50 cultivars and colors ranging from white, pink, red and purple, there surely are some plants waiting for a home in your garden.

www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/flowers-plants/plant_guide/11_deer-and-rabbit_resistant_plants/



Your Questions Answered

Have a question or comment for Master Gardeners? Email us at mcmgnewsletter@gmail.com or post questions to our FaceBook page, [Minnehaha Master Gardeners](#). You may also email garden questions to SDSU Extension Garden Line at sdsu.gardenseast@sdstate.edu.

Q - What does part sun mean?

A - Each supplier uses different labeling conventions on their plant tags, so pay attention to the details. The least confusing are those that give the minimum sun requirements in actual hours, but you will quickly learn that such labeling is rare. Following is a general rule-of-thumb to help you decipher sunlight requirements you may see on a plant label.

Full Sun means at least 6 hours of direct sunlight. Most vegetables do best in 8+ hours of direct sun (this may be broken by a period of some shade, as the sun moves, another plant, or structure may temporarily cast some shade).

Part Sun means that the plant requires 4 - 6 hours of direct sun.

Part Shade can mean less sunlight, but also can mean that the plant does best with some protection from hot, afternoon sun. For example, Astilbe, Phlox, and hydrangeas.

Shade usually means 4 hours of sun, or less. The Shade can be dappled (a mix of sun and shade filtering through something, like tree branches), or fully shaded.