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October Shoutouts:

From the newsletter staff - a big thank you to all master gardeners who provided pictures, articles, and gardening guidance in this and previous issues!

On behalf of all master gardeners, we hope that you, our readers, have enjoyed your gardens as much as we have enjoyed ours. Hope to see you all next year!



COVID changed everyone's lives this year. My garden gave me so much peace and joy as I found more time than ever to get out and enjoy it! - Cindy Jungman, 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.

Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) is an aromatic herb in the Asteraceae (sunflower) family. It is an annual plant in zone 4 (perennial in zone 8). There are several varieties but the French Tarragon is best for culinary uses. The plants grow to a height of 24 to 36 inches and spread across 12 to 15 inches apart. The French tarragon rarely flowers so propagation is best by stem cuttings or root division. The plant loves full sun exposure with temperature less than 90°F. Tarragon leaves are long and thin, smooth and glossy green in color. Multiple leaves grow up the stems in pairs. The leaves and stem are both edible and give off an anise or licorice aroma and taste.

The medicinal qualities of tarragon can boost your energy, relieve headaches and nausea, whitens teeth, detoxify the body, relieve itching and soothe the digestive tract. It is a natural diuretic and eliminates offensive body and mouth odor.

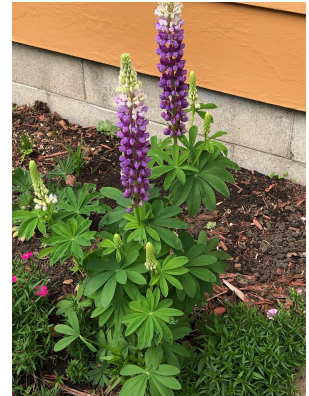


2020 Garden Season Retrospective in Pictures

We really missed hosting our annual events, such as Gardening with the Masters, our Mother's Day weekend plant sale, and garden tours. Community Gardens were still prepared by the Minnehaha County Master Gardeners and rented out to area gardeners. A new public garden to attract pollinators was started next to the West-side of the Arc of Dreams Sculpture. This "Garden of Dreams" is a result of master gardeners working with the Sioux Falls Sculpture Walk committee and has kept a couple of master gardeners very busy. Those who were not involved in community

gardens or public gardens took refuge in their backyard gardens. A few master gardeners have shared their personal photographs to help recap the 2020 growing season.

Mary Lerrsen loves her Yellow Peony (left) and Cathy Frederickson tries Dinner Plate Dahlia (middle) for the first time. One of Pam Conklin's favorite is perennial Lupine (right).



Mary Lerrsen is also the Chairperson coordinating & managing 7 community gardens in Sioux Falls. Covid certainly slowed many things down, globally, but Mary and other volunteers were able to get the community gardens ready for the 2020 growing season in order to provide an essential service need despite the pandemic. Gardeners in the Sioux Falls area thank you!



Many of the master gardeners grow an excess of produce to donate to Feeding South Dakota. Did I mention that the community gardens are chemical-free spaces?

Pam Conklin, master gardener
grows enough to share ❤️



**At home or at
the community
gardens**



Deb Howard,
Master Gardener is
growing places!



left photos top down: Castor
plant Deb started from seed
(leaf & full plant), Wild Violet
sweet corn

Right photos top down:
Ruby Passion sunflower,
enchanted sunflower path at
Leaders community garden,
Butternut squash growing
on the fence at Leaders
community garden

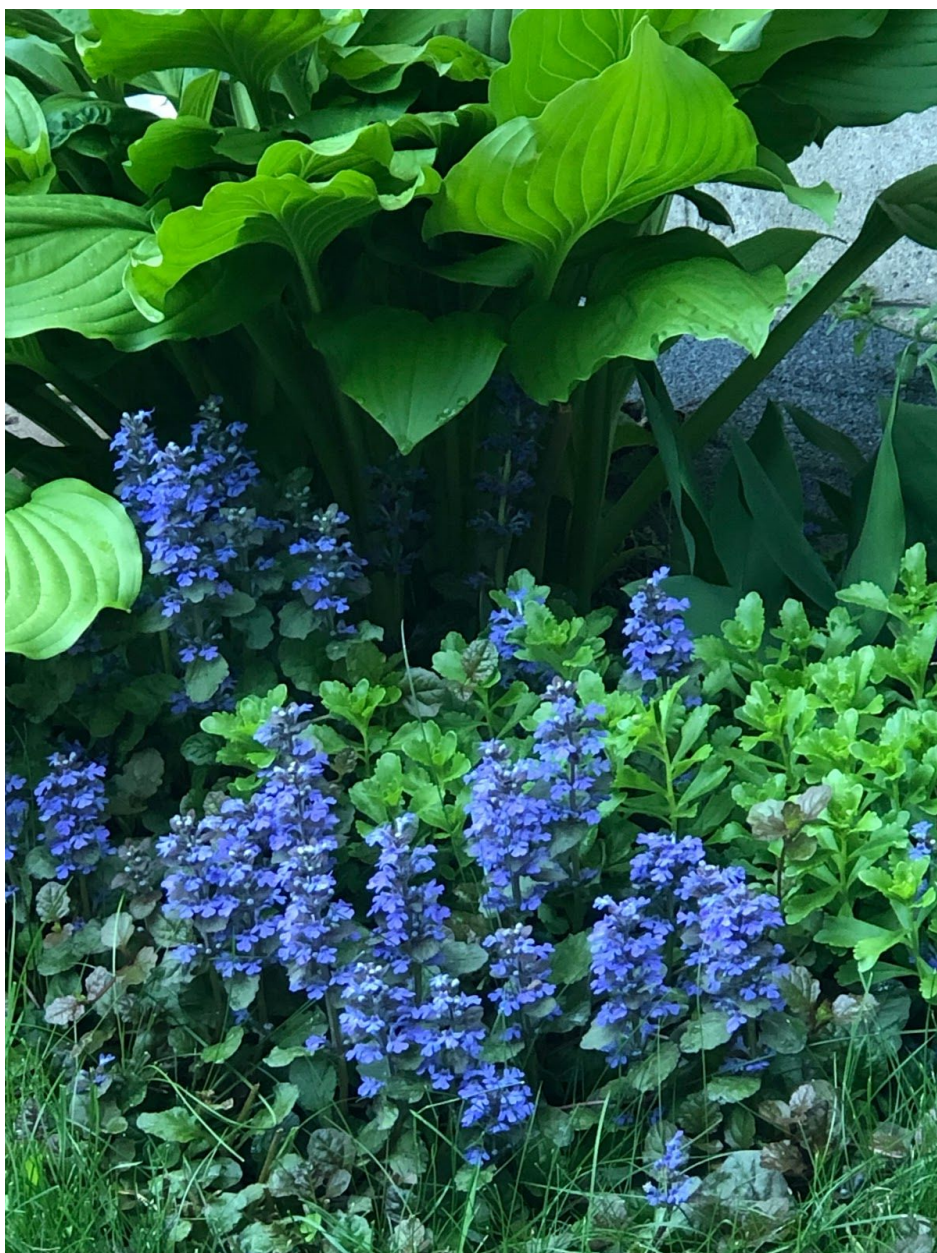


Gardens provide a place to connect with nature and take in all of the beauty, smells, and sounds it has to offer. We are providing more than aesthetic appeal for our own enjoyment, we are providing habitat for a bountiful number of wildlife, too.



Photos by Pam Conklin

Even if you have mostly shade, you can still enjoy a beautiful garden. Here is a mix of Hosta, Sedum, and Bugleweed - all shade-loving perennials. Photo by Pam Conklin.



The Arc of Dreams Pollinator Garden Project started last Fall by laying cardboard and wood chips to suppress weeds. This Spring volunteers, under the guidance of project leads, Deb Johnson and Ann Larson, planted dozens of native perennials and annuals notorious for attracting a variety of pollinators. One of the biggest issues was water drainage at one end of the garden, to which compost was added and native grasses were planted to amend the soil issues. Check it out!



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 - how do you kill perennial weeds?

A - The safest way to kill perennial weeds, in my opinion is to remove them by hand. However, if you have a large area, you can lay heavy plastic over the area, either clear or black. These techniques, known as solarization and occlusion, respectively will cook weeds dead. Click [UMN Extension](#) to learn how to do this. If you are in a real hurry, there are products over the counter that may be applied to perennial weeds. Fall is the best time to do this, as the plants are storing energy to help them overwinter. Be sure you have correctly identified the weed. The above sdsu garden line can help in identification. Next, make sure the herbicide is labeled for the weed you are trying to kill. Follow all instructions and safety protecall. And never spray on windy days.