



A word about Minnehaha Master Gardeners: We are volunteers trained through the South Dakota State University Extension [Master Gardener Program](#). The Minnehaha Master Gardeners mission is to provide current, research-based, consumer horticulture information and education to South Dakotans through Master Gardener projects and services. For more information on becoming a master gardener, visit [SDSU Extension Master gardener volunteer program](#)

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In the Herb Garden: Chervil

Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

The herb section will highlight an herb that can be grown in the South Dakota region. Chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) is a delicate biennial in the parsley family (*Apiaceae*) and grows to 2 feet tall. Chervil thrives in cool, shady areas zones 3-8. The green leaves are anise-tinged and look similar to parsley. Plant seed 1/4 inch depth with light soil covering, keeping the soil moist until 7-14 days germination. Chervil has a long taproot and doesn't transplant well, so best to direct sow in humus-rich, loamy well drained soil. The small, white flowers bloom in umbels.

This culinary herb is used in French cuisine and often called French Parsley. The leaves and stems are used in cooking in a similar way one would use parsley in soups, salad, sauces, eggs, dips or garnish.



DIY Bee Water Source

Pam Conklin, Master Gardener



The importance of proper hydration extends beyond just us humans. Bees also need access to clean water sources as summer temperatures rise. Most of their water needs are supplied through flower nectar, but a little extra water will be a great benefit to keep these tiny friends cool and healthy. Here's a fun and easy project to help bees stay hydrated all summer long.

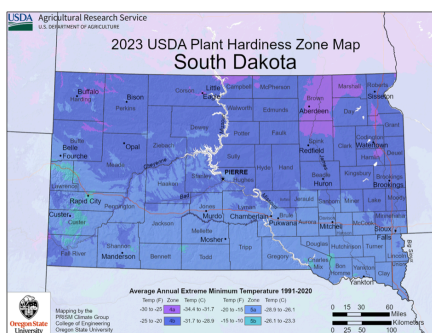
1. Basic supplies:

- A shallow pan, bowl, or clay saucer (if using a small tote-type container, drill a few drainage holes on the sides, about an inch, or 2 from the bottom to keep the water level from becoming too deep). Bees are not good swimmers, so shallow is best.
 - A clay pot turned upside down, a piece of wood, or a log to serve as the base.
 - Small rocks, a little pea gravel, or some twigs to give the bees something to stand on. (Alternatively, add these to an existing bird bath, so both birds and bees can enjoy a refreshing drink)
2. Best location:
 - Find a location in the garden that is somewhat sheltered from wind, and away from a lot of human or pet activity, but easy for you to access.
 - Make sure the ground is level, if not, you may want to build a little platform, or excavate a little soil for the bath to sit level.
 3. Assembly:
 - Place your base on the level surface. If using a clay pot, turn it upside down.
 - Set the pan, bowl or saucer squarely on the base
 - Add enough rocks/pebbles and/or twigs so they are above water level.
 - Add clean water to the container.
 4. Maintenance:
 - Change the water daily. This will keep larvae from developing, in case mosquitoes lay eggs in the bath.
 - Don't let the bath dry out. Bees are habitual when it comes to resources like water, meaning they will keep coming back to the same location throughout their life-cycle.

That's all there is to it! Make it as simple or as creative as you want. Here is another style of bee bath you can try to help you enjoy your garden while helping bees.

Plant Hardiness: Ready, Set, Wait!

Pam Conklin, Master Gardener



The USDA updated the plant hardiness zone map in late 2023, which has undergone several updates since its humble beginnings in 1960. Click [here](#) to watch a recent talk about the history of the map used by U.S. growers and gardeners, alike.

The calculations used to determine the hardiness zones is based on 30 years of the coldest annual, average temperature extremes that a plant will survive, as explained by Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension [State Climatologist](#). What does this mean for us?

The Sioux Falls area has moved from zone 4b to 5a indicating our climate is now a few degrees warmer. However, this new designation is not a guarantee that all zone 5 plants will survive, let alone thrive in our yards. There are many other geological factors to consider. For example, check plant tags for details about soil (we mostly have clay soil with an alkaline pH); water and drainage; and sun requirements are all necessary conditions to meet for plant health.

To mitigate the unpredictable weather conditions during SD spring and fall seasons characterized by drastic fluctuation in temperature along with inconsistent precipitation patterns, Dr. John Ball, SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist, recommends prioritizing diversity in plantings while also choosing species known for adaptability to extreme conditions of drought or wet coupled with heat or cold. An easy rule of thumb is to favor native plants as much as possible. Fortunately, most nurseries and garden centers are beginning to offer more native plant choices for trees, perennials, and grasses. To view an array of native flowering plants and grasses, checkout the Minnehaha Master Gardener, “Garden of Dreams,” located by the Arc of Dreams sculpture, downtown. There are many online resources to help you, like the [Native Plant Initiative](#), a program created by the SD Department of Natural Resource Management. They may also sell native plants in spring and fall.

The bottom line when it comes to planting your garden, pay attention to the last and first frost dates, early to mid-May and mid-October, respectfully. You can also look for soil temps to stay consistently in the mid-forties to fifties for at least 14 days straight. Still, the experienced Minnehaha gardener knows the best we can do is just *wait*, and if we do get caught in the snow, cover those seedlings or plants and hope for the best.

What Do I Plant?

JoAnn Christensen, Master Gardener

It is officially winter and the season has me already thinking about next summer’s garden. The first thing to consider when planning your garden is to identify what you like to eat. I love Asian dishes so snow peas are a given in my garden. If you plant something you don’t like, you won’t eat it and it will go to waste. If you don’t like okra, don’t plant it even if that is what your mom planted. If you eat a lot of Italian or Mexican

foods, tomatoes are certainly in your garden. Cilantro is a great summer herb but some people don't like the flavor as it has a lot of punch.

Kale is easy to plant but many people struggle to find ways to serve it. It is very nutritious but make sure you have a plan for ways to enjoy kale or plant a small amount. Carrots need to be thinned out for them to expand both length and width. Often, I hear people say they don't want to thin their carrots because it is wasteful but not doing so creates compact and stubby carrots. Carrot seeds are very small so it is hard to plant them far apart. Thinning carrots is key for well-formed carrots at harvest time. Cucumbers need to be picked regularly along with green beans. I love stuffed peppers late summer or early fall. I like a butternut squash or two but too many is not desirable. My goal this year is to try a new international dish each week and base my garden on new culinary experiences.

Tomatoes need space for air flow. If tomato leaves stay wet from dew or rain for too long, disease may result on the plant. Peas need to be shelled so plan on extra time for this vegetable. Zucchini grows fast and furious and oftentimes there are too many to manage during harvest time. Make sure you have a variety of recipes to manage your harvest.

It is a good time to start reviewing seed catalogs for your favorite vegetables, herbs and flowers. Winter is a good time to source recipes for your summer vegetables. This year I plan on planting more herbs to keep the bunnies away as well as incorporate more flavor in my dishes. I use carrot greens and dill in floral designs. Don't snip the entire carrot green off as the carrots need some green leaves in order to grow. I have a Vitamix so I generally toss tomatoes in after squeezing the seeds out. I add appropriate spices for Mexican or Italian sauces. Next, I cook the sauces, cool the sauce, and label each bag as Mexican or Italian and freeze them for later use.

I enjoy ornamental pumpkins for the fall so if space allows, I may grow a few pumpkins or miniature pumpkins. However, pumpkins take up a lot of space in the garden.

If you have more seeds than you need, have a winter seed exchange. February is a good time to swap seeds and prepare for spring. It is also a good time to have a floral design party and bring out your old vases and try your hand at floral design. Even though it is white out, think spring!

Beets

Carla Goetsch, Master Gardener

Pickled, roasted, steamed, baked- there are so many delicious ways to enjoy earthy, beets picked straight from your garden. They are easy to grow since seeds are directly sown into the ground. Picking beet seed is easy since most of the beet seeds on the market are “Heirloom” meaning that they have not been hybridized, therefore there is not an overwhelming number of varieties to choose from.

Popular choices include:

Detroit Dark Red: By far the most popular beet seen on the market. It has dark red, extremely sweet flesh.

Golden Beets: Golden beets have a sweet mild flavor with an inviting orange color.

Chioggia: This is the most beautiful of all the beets and has a very sweet flavor. When it is sliced horizontally, it has the appearance of hot pink and white rings.



Bulls Blood: The beet itself is similar to Detroit Dark but the tops are a very striking, dark maroon color. This makes a beautiful addition to the garden to add color. It could even be added into flower gardens for its maroon color contrast.

Avalanche: This beet is white in color. It has less of the earthy flavor of beets but has less of the antioxidant found in the dark red beet.

Growing Beets: Beets like sunny, well drained soil and can be planted early in the season since they can tolerate a light frost. They germinate at a very wide range of temperatures. The biggest trick to growing beets is getting them spaced correctly, so they have room to grow without being crowded out. Initially, sow seeds in rows a couple inches apart, half an inch deep, keeping rows separated by about a foot. Beets

need to be thinned to about 3 inches apart using a scissors rather than pulling the seedling which can disturb the roots of the beets you are not thinning. Water needs for beets are about an inch per week. They have relatively few pests or diseases. Rotate the spot where they are planted to avoid fungal infections and watch for flea beetles. Harvest beets at about 55-70 days. They can keep for 3-4 months when packed in sand in a cool dry spot or in the refrigerator for a week.

Minnehaha Master Gardeners Events:

We just wrapped up another successful Spring Event! This is a one-day event packed full of information and tip sharing to help each gardener, novice or expert, improve their gardening skill. Our keynote speaker, Meg Cowden presented succession and interplanting planting strategies to extend your vegetable garden. Check out her new book, [Plant, Grow, Harvest, Repeat](#). Dr. Kristine Lang, *SDSU Asst. Prof. and Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist*, shared tips for growing cut flowers, and Anthony Bly, *SDSU Extension Soils Field Specialist*, spoke about building healthy soil. Master Gardeners, Debi Ulrey-Crosby and Donna Haber delivered cost saving ideas in their panel discussion on Frugal Gardening. Guests were also able to enjoy excellent short bites of information in various table talks. Click each link to access the table talk handouts:

[Soil Blocks](#)

[Herbal Gardening](#)

[Drip, Drip, Drip Irrigation](#)

[DIY Lawn Care](#)

Up next: you don't want to miss our plant sale! May 11th at the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds, 100 N Lyon Blvd, Sioux Falls, SD. Doors open at 9 AM and plants sell out fast!

Do you have comments, questions, or topic ideas that you would like us to explore? Email us at MinnehahaMGnews@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

All articles are researched and written by Minnehaha County Master Gardeners and Interns. Thank you to all, for sharing your knowledge!