



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

By Priscilla Jurkovich, Master Gardener

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

Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia lanceolata*) is an upright, tap-rooted biennial or perennial herb belonging to the Asteraceae (sunflower) family and grows in zones 4 to 8. The first year is a rosette form with the 2nd year a semi-woody stem and flowers. The leaves and flower heads have a large amount of gummy resin. The daisy-like flowers are yellow and about an inch wide and bloom June to September in 2nd year. The plant grows up to 2 feet the 2nd year and prefers full sun in well-drained soil. The leaves turn at right angles to the sun which is why some species are referred to as a compass plant.

Great addition to wildflower gardens or borders. Native Americans have used gumweed leaves and flowers for medicinal purposes such as a wash for poison oak rashes and burns as well as lung issues such as asthma, bronchitis and cough remedies. Flowers are great bee forage.



<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/FullImageDisplay.aspx?documentid=73449>



<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/publications/bul/bul1016>

Alliums

By Carla Goetsch

Alliums are some of the prettiest spring and summer flowers you can add to your garden. They are also known as ornamental onions and grow from bulbs. Plant your bulbs in the fall, and they'll come back year after year. Most grow on a stalk and produce a globe like structure of a flower on top. In the case of chives, the stalk can be consumed as food.

- Ornamental alliums, such as Purple Sensation, Star of Persia, Mount Everest, Globe primary, Drumstick Allium, and Blue Allium.



- Ornamental alliums are usually sold as fall bulbs. Care for an allium includes:
Place your alliums in a site that gets a full day of sun.
- Use soil that drains well.
- Water alliums infrequently, and if it rains often that should do the trick.
- Hardiness depends on the variety being grown and the growing conditions, but most alliums will do well in USDA hardiness zones 4-10.
- Apply a complete fertilizer at the start of the growing season.
- To propagate allium plants, you can use division, or seed sowing.
- Often they are not bothered by deer or rodents
- Native alliums, such as nodding onion, prairie onion, American garlic, and narrowleaf onion, which are adapted to different habitats and can self-sow.



Culinary alliums, such as onions, garlic, chives, leeks, shallots, and scallions, which are widely used in cooking and have various health benefits. The majority of alliums are bulb-forming; however, there is a handful that grows from rhizomes, the way common chives do. These may never form any kind of bulb. Straw like stems are used in cooking.



Later summer blooming alliums are gaining in popularity. Varieties may include 'Millennium' with bloom times in August. These alliums are considered ornamental. Most often they are sold in the perennial area of garden centers as starter plants rather than bulbs. They can be planted anytime you would normally plant perennials.



Boulevard Makeover Update

By Pam Conklin, Master Gardener

Last fall, I shared steps taken for my personal boulevard makeover. You can revisit the October 2023 article by clicking,

<https://minnehahamastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/From-the-Ground-Up-2023-10.pdf>. It's been nearly a year, and I have the following observations to share.

1. If you use the soil solarization method to clear turf and weeds, start your ground preparation in mid-July. If you are not planting until the following spring when most plants are available, cover the bare ground with landscape fabric for weed suppression and soil erosion prevention.
2. Know what plants you want to showcase in your space. I went with a mix of perennial natives and cultivars known to attract pollinators. Don't forget the benefit of adding a few annuals for splashes of season-long color, and spring bulbs for early charm. The city of Sioux Falls encourages boulevard plantings, but they do have a few regulations to follow. [Click to see the parking strip planting brochure](#).
3. Starting plantings with seeds is much cheaper. Some seeds require cold stratification, which simply means, exposing seeds to a period of cold. Sowing seed in late fall will be an easy way to start such plants. Make sure you mark what seed went where. Being able to identify seedlings as they emerge is critical. I know that I mistakenly pulled several of my emerging plants, thinking they were weeds.
4. This was an atypically wet spring, weed seeds washed in, blew in, carried in by birds and critters, or the soil solarization technique didn't effectively kill all weed seeds. Whatever the reason, stay on top of weeds. For me, the problematic weeds have been [common purslane](#) and [crabgrass](#). If you use a pre-emergent herbicide, which does help control crabgrass, plan on planting established plants, rather than sowing seeds.
5. I reserved a 2 foot strip on the street side of my boulevard to seed native buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*) to give utility workers and pedestrians space to get in and out of their vehicles. Buffalo grass gracefully grows about 5 to 6 inches tall, making mowing an option. It also displays attractive seed heads that only add to the aesthetic appeal. Buffalo grass is heat and drought tolerant. Its deep roots anchor soil. Even though it is light and wispy looking, it is dense and

eventually out competes weeds. One drawback may be stolons (above ground runners) and it's a warm season grass, so it doesn't green up until late May. Plus, seed is expensive, but the tradeoff is that it fills-in quickly, and it's virtually maintenance free, once established.

late May

mid-June

July

early August

late August



buffalo grass seed

buffalo grass germination

summer blooms

coneflowers &
Heliopsis

mature buffalo grass

Does your lawn have bare spots?

From newsletter archives - author unknown

Late summer (mid-August to mid-September) is the best time to overseed existing lawns. Late summer seeding has several advantages over spring seeding. The seeds of cool-season grasses germinate quickly in the warm soil of late summer. Once the seeds germinate, the warm days and cool nights of early fall promote rapid turfgrass growth. The growing grass also has less competition from weeds, as few weed seeds germinate in fall.

When purchasing grass seed, select a high quality seed mix that is best adapted to the site. Kentucky bluegrass is the best choice for sunny areas that receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Choose a seed mix that contains at least two or three bluegrass cultivars. Because Kentucky bluegrass is slow to establish from seed, perennial ryegrass is often included in bluegrass mixes to speed establishment. The fine-leaf fescues (creeping red fescue, hard fescue, chewings fescue, etc.) are the best grasses for shady locations. In lawns that contain sun and shade, select a seed mix that is approximately 60 percent Kentucky bluegrass, 30 percent fine-leaf fescue and 10 percent perennial ryegrass. Kentucky bluegrass will be the dominant grass in the sunny areas while the fine-leaf fescues will thrive in the shaded portions of the lawn.

To reduce the competition from the established turfgrass, mow the lawn at a height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Successful overseeding requires good seed-to-soil contact. Simply throwing or broadcasting seed over the lawn typically results in poor seed germination, as much of the seed rests on the thatch layer or soil surface. Core aerators, vertical mowers and slit seeders can be used to ensure good seed-to-soil contact.



After seeding, keep the upper 1 inch of soil moist by watering once or twice a day. With adequate moisture and warm soil temperatures, the seeds of most turfgrasses should germinate in two to three weeks. When the grass seedlings reach a height of 1 to 2 inches, gradually reduce the frequency of watering, but water more deeply.

Upcoming MMG Events:



Minnehaha Master Gardeners Event

Teaching Gardens Tour

Presented by: Minnehaha Master Gardeners

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 10 • 7-8pm

Location: Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum

Admission: Free



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Master Gardener

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!

Thank you to all MMG contributors for researching and writing the attached articles.
