



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](#)

Be sure to stay in touch with all of Minnehaha Master Gardeners' news: [follow us on Facebook](#), [visit our website](#), or [email us](#).

What's inside

In the Herb Garden	1
DID YOU KNOW...that you can grow tomatoes on a string? Part 3	2
LOW TUNNELS – extending the growing season	2
Tender Bulbs	4
Closing the 2024 Season with Pictures	4

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.

Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*) is a biennial herb belonging to the Apiaceae or Umbelliferae family and grows in zones 4 to 9. Angelica thrives in moist, fertile soils in full sun or partial shade. Angelica produces foliage in the 1st year and flowers in the 2nd year. Best to plant in the rear border as it grows to 4 to 7 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide. Angelica seeds require cold stratification, so plant in the fall, or place in the refrigerator at least a week before direct sowing. Germination may take 30 days at temperatures 60 to 70°F. Propagation is done by dividing the roots in the 2nd year, around the fall.

The roots, leaves, seeds and young stems are all edible and have a flavor similar to licorice.



DID YOU KNOW...that you can grow tomatoes on a string? Part 3

By: Debi Ulrey-Crosby, Master Gardener

The growing season is nearly finished but I haven't given up on getting a few more ripe tomatoes, even if I have to ripen them in the garage. This was an experimental year for me with my tomatoes. (see part 1 & 2). After growing my tomatoes on a trellis for the first time, I think I'll try it again. I learned from some of my mistakes and want to see if I can improve on this. Some of the things I learned:

- Use two sets of string for each tomato plant
- Use a thicker string that lasts longer (my first strings broke after a month with the weight of the plants)
- Check plants more often because the branches grow so quickly and it is hard to string them without breaking them
- Trim/prune plants to remove extra weight
- Tomatoes are much easier to harvest, because they were more exposed
- There is room to plant more tomatoes

All things considered, I did enjoy growing my tomatoes this way and will definitely do this again, next year. I encourage tomato growers to give it a try, if you have the space.

LOW TUNNELS – extending the growing season

By Kat Murphy, Master Gardener

Are you looking for a way to extend your growing season? This year, with all the rain and unusual weather, the growing season seems to be unusual and not necessarily in-sync with its normal pattern. Would you like to extend that growing season without spending a lot of money? One low-cost method of accomplishing this is to use low tunnels. Low tunnels are one of the most cost-effective methods for extending the growing season of your vegetable and flower gardens, in both spring and fall. Tender species can be planted in fall with low tunnels to insulate over the winter and protect from subfreezing soil. Low tunnels can protect against spring freezes when planting

early by increasing air and soil temperature. Low tunnels are inexpensive, easy to construct and can be custom fitted to any size garden space. One low-cost method of accomplishing this is to use hoops constructed of wire (9-gauge) or pipe (metal or plastic) to support row covers made from spunbond fabric or polyethylene plastic to create a mini greenhouse over crops.

Here are some links to places that describe how to construct low tunnels.

<https://extension.wvu.edu/lawn-gardening-pests/gardening/gardening-101/low-tunnels-for-beginners>

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3262&context=extension_curall

There are several methods of hoop construction, both for in-ground garden beds and for raised beds.

<https://northerngardener.org/low-tunnel/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcfGdT75fP0>

Whichever method you decide fits your garden best, here is a tip that will allow you to easily slide the covering medium up and down making it easy to vent or work beneath the cover.

Bungee Cord Tie Downs: This step provides an easy means to adjust for ventilation and to prevent unwanted gusts of wind from getting under the plastic. Attach carabiners to the bottom of each end of your tunnel hoops with clamps. Cut your bungee cord into sufficiently long pieces to create a loop that will go over your hoops from one side to the other (about 12' for a 3' arc over a 4' bed). Tie the ends together to make a large loop. The cords then attach to the hoops by the carabiners. At each end, loop the bungee up over the tunnel and around the end of the tunnel. The central cords simply loop over the frame hoops. This method ensures that you can raise and lower the sheeting while it remains snugly fit to the hoop frame.



Tender Bulbs

by Pam Conklin, Master Gardener

This has been an atypical season, but we are now officially into fall. Right? The temperatures say otherwise, but start watching the overnight temperatures for dips into the 30's. The average last frost may arrive from late September to early October. So, many tender bulbs, those non-hardy flowering bulbs, like dahlias are still readily blooming for many, but in general, this is the time of year to dig up those tender bulbs, brush of the soil, cutback the roots, stems and leave, and let them cure for a few days before storing them inside.

Click on <https://extension.umn.edu/how/planting-bulbs-tubers-and-rhizomes> to find out just about anything you want to know about tender and hardy bulbs, a list of which is which, and how to care for them all.



Pineapple lily



Tender bulbs cleaned and ready for storage



Calla lily

Closing the 2024 Season with Pictures

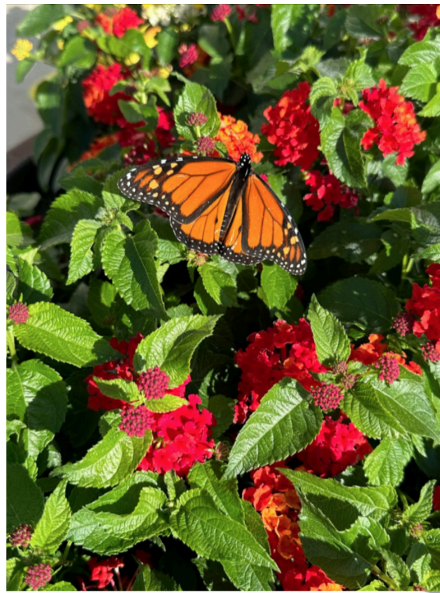
A few Master Gardeners displaying what they did in 2024



Pam Conklin grew a variety of snapdragons. They got their name because the flowers resembled dragon jaws, which open and close when gently squeezed from the sides. Bumblebees pry open the jaws to harvest their pollen. The resulting seeds then lay nestled in delightful skull-looking pods,



A big win this season for Cindy Jungman - a climbing zucchini variety called 'Incredible Escalator'



JoAnn Christensen shared her potted Lantana with iconic Monarchs 🍷
Spectacular!



Debi Ulrey-Crosby joined many other Minnehaha Master Gardeners on tours throughout South Dakota and Minnesota. These tours are not only hours of fun, they also teach us a lot about current trends in horticulture. Score!



Despite setbacks from spring flooding, Kat Murphy managed to grow beautiful Gaillardia (center), snapdragons, zinnias (top, left, then clockwise) sweet peppers and 'Sugar baby' watermelon.
Delicious!

*And that's a wrap ... for now! We'll see you again
in spring 2025, until then, enjoy your garden!*

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!