



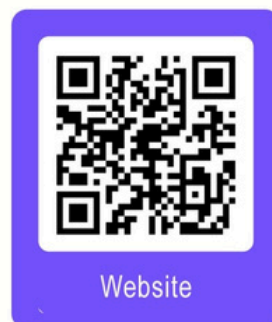
A word about Minnehaha Master Gardeners: We are volunteers trained through the South Dakota State University Extension [Master Gardener Program](#). The mission of MMG is to enhance and supplement community educational efforts of the SDSU Extension Master Gardener Program and to provide research-based education and information on horticulture and environmental stewardship. For more information on becoming a Master Gardener, visit [SDSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer program](#)

Stay in touch with Minnehaha Master Gardeners' news: [on Facebook](#), [our website](#), or [email us](#).

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Find out more about us!



Minnehaha Master Gardeners Host First Teaching Garden Tour

Jerry Mills, Master Gardener, Chair of Educational Gardens

The first monthly Minnehaha Master Gardener (MMG) Teaching Garden (TG) tour was held Tuesday, May 13. Participants were most interested in the cool-season vegetable and strawberry demonstration beds.

Michelle Spader, MMG Intern, explained how kohlrabi, kale, Bok choy, broccoli Raab, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, and more, were all started indoors March 2 and then transplanted to the garden bed on April 6. A solar row cover was spread over hoops to cover the bed and protect the plants from cold temperatures. The row cover protects the plants from low temps but allows light and moisture into the bed.



Michelle described the system and showed the mature, ready-for-harvest plants. Participants were very interested in the solar row cover system and the potential for “beating the season” and having garden-grown produce so early in the year.

Paulette Keller and Gail Doyle, MMGs, explained the three types of strawberries and the six strawberry varieties.

Jenn Thom, MMG, discussed the four varieties of rhubarb growing at the Teaching Garden. All the rhubarb plants are robust and thriving this year. Some have huge leaves, some green stems and others bright red.

The asparagus bed, with its four varieties of asparagus, was covered by MMG President Arlene Brandt-Jenson. The fourth variety, Purple Passion, was started this year, so the trench planting method was discussed.

Sara Rogich, MMG, related the plans for this year’s tomato bed. Various types of mulch and four types of tomatoes will be trialed this year, including a new “outdoor garden-sown” beefsteak type tomato. This should be interesting!

Master Gardeners answered a wide range of garden-related questions from tour participants throughout the tour.

Teaching Garden tours are held on the second Tuesday of each month through October at 7 pm. The October tour will begin at 6 pm. The Teaching Garden is located at the lower level of the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, 1900 Perry Place, Sioux Falls (near the maintenance building). The public is invited, and it is free. Come with your garden questions and leave with answers from Minnehaha Master Gardeners!



Photos, left to right: Monarch caterpillar on swamp milkweed (Xerces Society / Stephanie McKnight); Bumblebee on butterfly milkweed (Xerces Society / Sarah Foltz Jordan); Monarch over showy milkweed (Xerces Society / Stephanie McKnight)

Got Milkweed?

Donna Breed, Master Gardener Intern

Hopefully you answered “yes,” and you have some milkweed growing on your property. Monarchs still need our help, and milkweed is the answer!

You may have seen recent news clips that, like most pollinators, the Monarch butterfly population is in decline. It’s also no surprise that, as the Audubon Society recently released, our bird populations are also declining. It makes sense because insects are a food source for many of our bird species. Fewer insects mean fewer birds and fewer pollinated plants. There is hope to reverse these declining populations, and we are part of the solution.

Habitat expansion is the fastest way to improve Monarch numbers due to their short reproduction cycle. This is a crucial time to help the Monarchs. They are moving north from Mexico and will need nectar plants to fuel them and host plants on which to lay their eggs.

It’s important to understand that the ONLY plant Monarch caterpillars eat is milkweed.

Many of us have an abundance of nectar-producing plants for the adult Monarch butterflies, but without milkweed, there won’t be any new Monarchs. The following page lists regional milkweed species best suited to plant in your gardens, pollinator plots or dedicated Monarch habitats.

If you are worried about milkweed spreading beyond your target area, cut off the seed pods before they open and share them with others to start their habitat or add the seeds to the roadside ditches in the surrounding area.



(Photo: Bryan E. Reynolds)

Monarch Butterfly - *Danaus plexippus*
Phylum: Arthropoda.
Class: Insecta.
Order: Lepidoptera.
Family: Danaidae.
Genus: *Danaus*.

Monarch native milkweed host species in our region (Eastern SD, IA, Eastern NE)

It is important to plant milkweeds that are native to our region. Native plants typically require less water and maintenance once established and offer a greater benefit to local wildlife.

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

- Habitat: Prefers sunny, open, dry areas like ditches, meadows, and roadsides.
- Leaves: Broad, oval-shaped with prominent central veins, smooth on top with fuzzy hairs underneath.
- Flowers: Pale pink to white, dome-shaped, with a unique floral fragrance.
- Height: four to six feet
- Bloom time: May – August
- Other: Can be aggressive and weedy in some landscapes



Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

- Habitat: Thrives in damp, marshy areas.
- Leaves: Narrower leaves compared to common milkweed.
- Flowers: Pink or white, clustered at the top of the stems.
- Height: four to five feet
- Bloom time: June – October
- Other: Also known as pink milkweed.



Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

- Habitat: Prefers well-drained soil, often found in dry, sunny locations.
- Leaves: Narrow, oval leaves that taper to a point.
- Flowers: Bright orange or orangey-yellow, in flat-topped clusters.
- Height: One to three feet
- Bloom time: May – September
- Other: Has hairy stems and a clear sap, not milky white like other milkweeds.



Prairie Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*)

- Habitat: Prefers sandy, loamy soils, in wet meadows, creek banks and river bottoms.
- Leaves: Large leaves, especially in moist, shaded conditions.
- Flowers: Medium pink, fragrant, larger than common but smaller than showy milkweed.
- Height: 4 feet
- Bloom Time: June – August
- Other: reproduces through the spreading of underground rhizomes.



Photo: R.W. Smith, Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center

Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)

- Habitat: Thrives in full sun, adaptable to various growing conditions, often found in prairies and open spaces.
- Leaves: Large, oval leaves, soft hairs
- Flowers: Pink, spikey flower clusters, largest flowers of all milkweeds.
- Height: Three to five feet
- Bloom time: May – September
- Other: Less aggressive than common milkweed, making it more manageable in gardens.



Photo: MJ Hatfield

I encourage you to lead the way and inspire others to create Monarch habitats. There is a program focused on adding "[Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation Program](#)." (Monarch habitats) in home gardens, at schools, businesses, parks, zoos, nature centers, along roadsides, and on other unused plots of land. No effort is too small to have a positive impact. Here is the link for the Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation Program. You can even [register your habitat\(s\)](#) and encourage others to follow in your footsteps.

Resources Used In Writing This Article:

[Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation Program](#)
[Xerces Society -Publication Library - Identification & Monitoring Guides – Native Milkweeds: Pollinator Plants Of The Central Unites States](#)
[Monarchs in Decline | Xerces Society](#)
[Get Involved | Iowa Monarch Conservation Consortium](#)
[A Sweeping New Report Shows U.S. Birds Declining Sharply Across a Range of Habitats | Audubon](#)

Bringing DEI to Your Plant World

Part 3: Inclusion

Debi Ulrey-Crosby, Master Gardener

Part 3 of Bringing DEI to your Plant World is “Inclusion”.

Part 1 defined Diversity as planting a variety of plants and vegetables together in your garden or yard for the benefit of all that you plant.

Part 2 defined Equity as the task of providing each plant with its specific needs such as water, sun exposure, and general care. Parts 1 and 2 are available in the April and May newsletters respectively.



Photo: The Western Producer

Inclusion for your yard and garden refers to the plants, bugs, and structures within your plant world. By including a variety of plants, you not only provide companion plants for designated plants but also for a variety of pollinators which will bring in both good and not-so-good bugs. In order for pollinators to visit and stay in your garden they need food sources such as nectar,

pollen and bugs. Without a supply of food, the pollinators may not survive or stick around in your yard which means your produce might not get pollinated and your harvest can be affected.

By tolerating a few extra weeds and including a small pile of debris (cut branches and leaves) in a corner of your garden, you're providing additional nutritional sources depending on the type of weeds and a source of protection for some small birds and amphibians like toads or frogs. Birds and frogs or toads also help to keep the bug population under control. And dare I suggest that you include a good will offering of desirable plantings for bunnies or deer in a small area?



Photo: The Frog Lady

By including both heirloom /open-pollinated and hybrid plants you will be creating a variety of pollen and nectar for your visitors as well as an abundance of color and interest to your yard.

Use the natural growth habits of plants to your advantage. Consider planting smaller plants under or near the shade of taller plants. For example, plant lettuce under the shade created by tomatoes or plant basil to encourage beneficial bugs around your tomato plants. This is considered “companion planting” so be sure to include this process of planting for the benefit of all your plants.



Photo: Garden Tech

Include special structures that add visual interest in your yard, and also provide a support for plants that like to climb, such as clematis or beans and peas. These structures can be man-made, for example wooden or metal supports. They can also be natural structures such as corn that allow beans or peas to climb the stalk.

By providing a diverse selection of plants, equitable care specific to each plant’s needs, and the inclusion of a variety of plants (even weeds), bugs and structures, you will be making your garden space a personal space that will be enjoyed not only by you but by all visitors to your space, people, bugs, birds, etc.



Photo: Adobe Stock



ENJOY YOUR GARDEN!

Gardens of the UK: Six gardens in six days

Part I - Gardens of London

Candy Van Dam, Master Gardener Intern

Twenty seven SDSU horticulture students, Master Gardeners and garden lovers spent six days in May touring gardens in London and Edinburgh. A big thanks goes to Dr. John Ball, SDSU Horticulture professor, and Sydney Trio McCrory Gardens Education Coordinator, who shepherded the group.

We arrived in London on Thursday, May 8. Our first adventure was the iconic Hyde Park in the center of London. The 350-acre urban park, established by Henry VIII in 1536, was originally a hunting ground for royals. For many of us, it was our first sighting of a Monkey Puzzle Tree.

On Friday morning, we set out for Kew Gardens. Covering 326 acres, Kew Gardens (yes, plural) is home to the world's "largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections."



Araucaria araucana, commonly called the Monkey Puzzle Tree, is an evergreen tree that grows to a height of 90-130 ft. Native to Chile and Argentina.

Scientific name: *Araucaria araucana*
Family: Araucariaceae



Above: Formal garden behind Kew Palace.
Inset: Kew Palace



The first garden was established in 1759 by the mother of King George III. King George III (he's the king in the Bridgerton series – also the king during the American Revolution) was deeply interested in farming and horticulture. He expanded the gardens, and actually lived on the site.



Brugmansia sanguinea, the angel's trumpet, is a South American flowering plant belonging to the nightshade family Solanaceae.

Scientific name: *Brugmansia sanguinea*
Family: Solanaceae

Kew Gardens' tour guides showed us the highlights of the garden, then we were set loose to explore. We discovered there was more than one person could see in one day. The gardens are maintained to provide seasonal displays. There are also green houses, such as the Palm House and the Temperate House.

Kensington Gardens was the first destination on Saturday. We strolled past the Serpentine Lake, a beautiful, recreational lake in Hyde Park. Kensington Gardens, one of London's eight Royal Parks, cover 265 acres of old and new green spaces. It is also home to Kensington Palace, where Prince William and Princess Catherine reside.

Saturday afternoon we hopped on a double-decker bus to see the rest of the city. London is an amazing, vibrant city that is dotted with green spaces and parks throughout the metropolitan area.



Serpentine Lake



The official name of the clock tower commonly known as "Big Ben" is the Elizabeth Tower. This name was given in 2012 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

Part II – Edinburgh, Scotland next month



HELP! I Planted Tomatoes and Now It's Cold

By Carla Goetsch, Master Gardener

Mother Nature can be fickle.

Even the climatology experts said the second week of May that we should be fine to plant our gardens. And then we got 10 days of wind, wet, and temperatures mostly 40-55 degrees.

At least the warm season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant) did not freeze to death, but that does not mean there may not be some damage. More damage would have occurred to a plant that was already trying to set its fruit.

For most of the young tomato plants, leaf damage will be seen with white spots or purple edged leaves. A plant can survive some leaf loss, but growth may be stunted. If the stem appears, soft or mushy, you must replace the plant.

Signs that your tomato did suffer would be asymmetrical or twisted new leaves, smaller new leaves, leaves with a witch's broom type clustering, all of which could result in delayed or absent flowering.

So, what do I do?

Wait 3 to 4 days after it warms up before making the decision to replant. Make sure the plants are not dried out and temporarily shade plants from intense sun.

Prune off any clearly dead tissue. These plants are going to be more susceptible for secondary infections, so watch them closely.

So, in conclusion, it is a matter of "wait and see." For extra insurance, you may want to plant a couple green house plants and monitor if the growth was indeed stunted in comparison.

So next year in early May when the day forecast is for all 80 to 90 degrees, will we have learned our lesson?

Probably not -- it's just too tempting to continue to wait. But you may want to consider planting in milk/juice jugs (with the ends cut off), investing in wall-o-water, cloches, or row covers, to give a little extra protection.



Minnehaha Master Gardeners

Minnehaha Master Gardeners Event

Teaching Gardens Tour

Presented by: Minnehaha Master Gardeners

Date: Second Tuesday of the month until October

Time: 7-8pm (except Oct. 6-7pm)

Location: Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum

Admission: Free!



MARY JO WEGNER Arboretum
in East Sioux Falls, SIOUX FALLS, SD

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Master Gardener



Save the Date!

MINNEHAHA MASTER GARDENERS

2025 GARDEN TOUR

JULY 16 • 4-7 PM

Explore a variety of gardens in the Brandon and Valley Springs area

Minnehaha County Master Gardeners

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Master Gardener