Master Gardeners

Rutgers Master Gardeners are volunteers who receive in-depth training in all aspects of gardening and horticulture by Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) faculty and staff. After completing this training, interns provide volunteer services to assist RCE with community education.

When the initial training and volunteer services are completed, each individual receives the title of Certified Master Gardener.

Continuing education and volunteer services are required annually to retain this title.

For information about becoming a Master Gardener in Hunterdon County see http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/mg.htm

See Page 2 for listing of current presentations.

To request a garden talk or to obtain more information, contact:

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Talks covering a variety of garden subjects are created and presented by Rutgers Certified Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County.

The speakers research specific topics that interest them and develop original, illustrated talks. Each presentation, which includes the opportunity for questions, lasts about an hour.

Three additional volunteers participate in each presentation. They operate the Master Gardener computer and projector, answer gardening questions, and assist the speaker. An informative handout on the topic is usually distributed. If necessary, a projection screen can be provided.

Typical audiences over the past 15 years have included garden clubs, libraries, seniors groups, and community organizations.
**Current Presentations by Rutgers Master Gardeners of Hunterdon County**

**Annuals**, from ageratums to zinnias, enable home gardeners to imagine and create new landscapes every spring. Learn about getting started, features that annuals offer, and interesting ones now available.

**John Bartram**, an unschooled colonial farmer in Philadelphia, became a respected botanist and international plant entrepreneur. His plant finds, on expeditions from Canada to Florida, transformed 18th century gardens.

**Birds in the Garden.** Not all species of the birds that naturally visit our area thrive at feeders. This talk shows how to enhance a home’s landscape to increase the diversity of birds visiting it.

**The Butterfly Miracle.** See the development of a monarch butterfly from egg to larva to pupa into an adult. Adults participate in many interesting behaviors, and photographs help listeners understand what butterflies are doing in their gardens.

**Colonial Herb Gardens.** Early settlers depended on herbs for flavor, clothing, medicine, and comfort. The speaker takes listeners on an imaginary stroll through colonial “kitchen” gardens.

**Conifers.** The speaker, who owns a Christmas tree farm, discusses conifers, emphasizing pines, spruces and firs. The presentation shows listeners how to identify specific conifers, by referring to their foliage and cones. Some examples from the farm are shared.

**Frederick Law Olmsted** designed NYC’s Central Park, helped protect Yosemite Valley and Niagara Falls, and landscaped Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. These and other groundbreaking projects show why he is the “Father of American Landscape Architecture.”

**Honeybee’s Knees (and Other Parts Too!)** informs about the insects that help to pollinate one-third of our food and give us honey. Our apiarist explains life in and out of the hive and shows some of her equipment.

**Identifying and Attracting Butterflies** addresses two common questions of gardeners: Which butterflies might visit my garden? How can I attract more of these beautiful creatures? Vivid local photographs illustrate the answers.

**Making More Plants.** Learn about starting your own seedlings, cloning cuttings, and utilizing the plantlets found within bulbs. Planting, pinching, transplanting, and hardening off are also discussed.

**Not Grandma’s Daffodils.** Deer do not eat daffodil bulbs or blooms, but old-fashioned yellow ones can get monotonous. See varied shapes and colors now available and receive buying and cultural tips.

**Public Gardens of New Jersey.** Visit a dozen public gardens through pictures. Hear a brief history of each and see highlights at each location. All featured gardens are located within a short drive.

**Sensory Gardens** give pleasure, create calming environments, stimulate activity, and serve educational and therapeutic needs. Discover easily-grown plants with intriguing sounds, interesting textures, varied scents, engaging sights, and savory flavors.

**Terrariums** starts with a historical note about gardens in glass and ends with a demonstration of planting a terrarium. Along the way, the speaker discusses containers, drainage, soil, and creating an “eco-system.”

**Wildflowers.** Discover the many fascinating ways that local plants reproduce and nourish themselves. The talk opens with skunk cabbage in early spring and concludes with fringed gentian at summer’s end.

**Winter Garden Features.** Garden elements can enliven gray winter days. The speaker discusses flowers that bloom before the crocus, sculptural shrubs, plants with colorful twigs or bright fruits, and trees with striking bark.

**Coming Soon:**

**Hydrangeas** puzzle many gardeners. They wonder: Will lacecaps, mopheads, PeeGees or oakleafs thrive in my garden? When and how should I prune them? Can I turn my pink blossoms blue? Or my blue ones pink? A collector of these intriguing plants shares her experiences.