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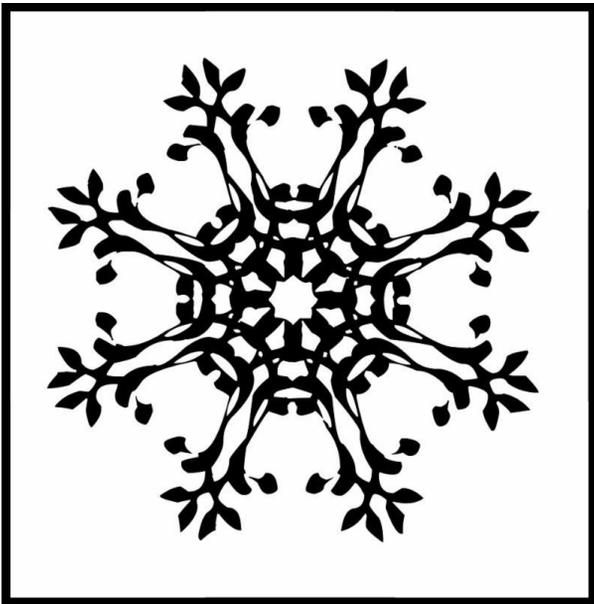
RAMSEY COUNTY

Master Gardener News

RCMG "Through the Seasons" Winter 2018

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Find us in the Community

Ramsey County Master Gardeners receive horticultural education from the University of Minnesota Extension and these active volunteers teach on a multitude of horticultural topics at public and private venues throughout the year.

Click on our calendar link at the end of this newsletter to find out where you'll be able to bring your horticultural questions to a Ramsey County Master Gardener near you. The calendar fills in as the season goes on, so bookmark it and check it frequently!

Does your organization want some educational Ramsey County Master Gardener assistance? Contact auss0004@umn.edu.



Ramsey County Master Gardener Diagnostic Clinic

For many years, residents from Ramsey and Washington Counties have come to depend on our Master Gardeners' sage advice and University resources to tackle plant and pest problems in their yards and gardens. **The Diagnostic Clinic, located at 2020 White Bear Ave. in Maplewood,** is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays from the beginning of May until the end of September.

In response to a growing membership and to encourage residents to use this resource even more, in 2018, we'll be offering extended clinic hours.

For the month of May: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm.

June, July and August: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm AND 6 pm to 8 pm.

Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm.

For the month of September: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm.

Closed: Wednesday July 4, 2018.

Please bring samples to the clinic to aid us in our diagnostic efforts. Call 651-704-2053 for questions about our clinic hours.



Flowers for Pollinators

Ramsey County Master Gardeners are trained by the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program to teach an innovative and thought-provoking class on Flowers for Pollinators. Many of our pollinators are in desperate need for flowers that are grown without neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids are a relatively new class of insecticides that affects the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death. Commonly referred to as "neonics", they are systemic, taken up by the plants and don't wash off, so all parts of the plant contain the poison, including the pollen and nectar.

We'll challenge you to find a spot in your yard or on your patio or deck to plant some healthy flowers for these important creatures.

Join these classes at the [Fairview Community Center](#) early this spring and in May for presentations that are open to the public. Check our calendar below for other opportunities to learn more on how you can help pollinators.

Visit [this link](#) to learn more from the University of Minnesota Extension website about flowers for pollinators.

Please inquire about bringing the presentation to your specific group: email auss0004@umn.edu.



Name this flower! **Click on the picture** to find out!

Veggie Basics, Grow Your Own Vegetables!

We're currently offering a 6-hour all day workshop or a 3 part series on Veggie Basics. This educational opportunity is geared for the beginner or advanced-beginner vegetable gardener. Please contact auss0004@umn.edu for information on how to set up a workshop or series in your neighborhood.

Click on the calendar at the bottom of this newsletter or click on the links to register for our next Veggie Basics classes and for details.

[Maplewood Nature Center](#), March 3. (fee for non-Maplewood residents)

[St. Paul Parks and Recreation](#), North Dale location, March 17. (free)

[St. Paul Parks and Recreation](#), Langford location, April 10, 17, 24. (free)

Plans are in the works for a Veggie Basics workshop at [Frogtown Farm](#) in April, stay tuned!



Pruning Trees and Shrubs

We are fast approaching the time of year when we need to consider if our trees and shrubs need pruning. Visit [this link](#) to read more on best practices and times for taking on this annual landscaping task. You'll find great information about what, when, why and how to prune.

Planting Seeds

Many gardeners spend cold winter days perusing seed catalogs and dreaming of a colorful and healthy garden. Here's [a great link](#) for reading about how to start seedlings indoors for your garden this spring. Timing is a critical factor in the success of your seedlings in the outdoor garden, so read the seed packet for information on when to plant.

Reducing Food Waste

Most of us are aware that the food waste we generate has a negative impact on our environment. Click on this [USDA link](#) to read more about this problem and to learn how to be an advocate for food waste reduction.

From the grocery store to the compost bin, there are simple steps we can take every day to lessen the amount of food we throw away. Check out this [article](#) for tips on how to reduce food waste.

Changing food waste into compost, what a great idea! Read the organic recycling section below!

Organic Recycling in Ramsey County

As gardeners and residents of the communities in which we live, we think about the future of our planet's health as well as our own well-being. Composting at home is one way to turn food waste into soil. But what if you live where composting isn't allowed or is extremely inconvenient? Organic recycling is the answer to that challenge and is a great

practice to reduce food waste. Ramsey County yard waste sites will take your organics and turn it into compost.

[Yard Waste](#) sites are conveniently located around the county and now ALL of them, including Arden Hills, are accepting food waste and other organic materials. [Visit this link](#) to learn more about organic recycling in Ramsey County. Not sure what to put into an organic recycling bin? Check out [this page](#) from Ramsey County Environmental Health.

Throughout the season, Ramsey County Master Gardeners answer questions about organic recycling and composting at the yard waste sites.

See you in the spring!



Save the Date, RCMG Annual Plant Sale!

Please mark your calendars for May 19, 2018 and plan to join us at our annual plant sale.

Location: 2020 White Bear Ave, Maplewood, MN at the historic Ramsey County Barn.

Time: 8 am to 2 pm.

We'll be featuring short presentations on Flowers for Pollinators throughout the sale.



2018 PLANT SALE

Hosted by Ramsey County Master Gardeners

Saturday May 19, 8 AM-2 PM at
"The Barn" 2020 White Bear Ave. Maplewood

Open to the Public

Hundreds of great plants, carefully tended by expert gardeners.

Natives and perennials for sun and
shade, tomatoes, herbs, hostas and more.

Sales support community programs that engage youth
in horticulture projects and University of Minnesota scholarships.



Become a Ramsey County Master Gardener!

Ramsey County Master Gardener volunteers educate residents on University research-based, eco-friendly gardening to improve our physical and environmental health.

Contact auss0004@umn.edu for more information on how to join the Ramsey County Master Gardener organization as a volunteer.

[Learn more](#) about the Extension Master Gardener Program.



Calendar

[View our full calendar.](#)

Find us on 

(Click on the text above to view our facebook page!)

University of Minnesota, U. of Minnesota Extension, 436 Coffey, 1420 Coffey Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108

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