



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Extending Knowledge Changing Lives

*Helping Others
Learn to Grow*

Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau Programs

General Gardening Topics

Body Smart Gardening

Gardening can be of the most rewarding activities with fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers and expanses of lawns dotted with trees. However, gardening can take a toll on the body, whether you are young or old. This program will give your group steps to make gardening more enjoyable. Topics will include the gardener's health, clothing, tools, and methods.

Herbs for the Garden and Kitchen

Herbs are a healthy way to introduce new flavors into your diet, new fragrances into your home and add texture to your garden. This class will discuss growing, collecting and preserving techniques for all kinds of herbs and offer suggestions for using herbs in cooking. This is one of our most popular, highly attended programs.

Planning and Planting a Vegetable Garden

Feed your whole family the fruits and vegetables they enjoy from your own garden. From site preparation (size, location and soil) through harvest, a Master Gardener will give your audience the tips and tricks for successful vegetable gardening.

Preparing Your Garden for Winter

End of season tasks prepare your garden for winter and make next season's garden more successful. Topics include fertilization, watering and weed control, care of perennials, planting spring bulbs and more.

Preparing Your Garden for Spring

Learn the seasonal chores that should be done in spring to get your garden off to a good start. Topics covered include planting seeds indoors and out, planting cool season flowers, seasonal lawn care as well as watering, fertilizing, dividing and pruning.

Seed Starting

Starting seeds indoors is a great way to head off cabin fever and get a significant jump start on your spring garden. A Master Gardener will discuss the timing, seed selection, germination and seedling growth and hardening off young plants before their permanent move outdoors.

Seed Saving

Saving your own seeds is and free. A University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener will discuss how to save seeds from your own garden. Find out which seeds are worth the effort and which are not along with methods of cleaning and storing your seeds.

Vermicomposting

Start making the richest soil around. Let worms recycle your kitchen waste and newspapers into something you can use. Vermicomposting is great learning experience for kids and adults. Learn how to keep happy and productive worms that will create rich castings to use as fertilizer in your houseplants and garden.

Environmental Topics

Creating Wildlife Habitats in Home Landscapes

No matter what size your yard is, you can create an environment that attracts and sustains beautiful and interesting wildlife. The sounds, activities and antics of wildlife are wonderful additions to the home landscape. Learn how to provide the proper food, water, cover and brooding sites to attract and maintain birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Prairiescapes—Grow Native!

Discover the advantages of using prairie plants in the home landscape. Learn how to incorporate prairie plants into an existing garden, the fundamentals of starting a new prairie bed, why prairie plants have survived for 8,500 years, and how to be a part of preserving Illinois' heritage.

Native Plant Selections for Rain Gardens

Rain gardens enhance the home landscape and protect our water quality. Discover just the right native plants to create a beautiful and resourceful rain garden in your home landscape.





Ornamental Topics

Summer Flowering Bulbs

Blooms from bulbs don't have to end with fading tulips. Explore the many bulbs that contribute dazzling flowers and foliage in the summer garden. Learn how to care for these bulb beauties and their perennial companions.

Shade Gardening

Discover the joys of shade gardening. This program will discuss the different types of shade and the special care needed when gardening in the shade. Plus how to select annuals, perennial bulbs, ground covers, and woody plants that will shine in the shade garden.

Landscaping for Dogs

Find out how your yard and dog can coexist. Hardscapes, fencing, proper plant placement and tough perennials to make the yard a playground for both humans and canines.

Attracting Butterflies to the Garden

Brightly colored butterflies are not only an attractive addition to your garden, they are useful pollinators. Learn about Illinois butterflies and how to design your garden to attract them.

Selecting Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs are the backbone of a well landscaped garden. Their shapes, colors, flowers and fruits change with the seasons providing beauty throughout the year. Learn how to select the proper trees and shrubs for specific sites. This class is very popular with new homeowners.

Edible Ornamentals

Carrots in the front yard? Enhance the bounty of your landscape by growing and eating ornamental flowers, herbs, vegetables and vines that look and taste terrific.

Be Happy and Healthy with Houseplants

Indoor plants can clean the air in the home and bring color and warmth to the décor. Discover which plants are the healthiest for you and how to select and care for the right plant for your space.



University of Illinois Extension
Kane County Master Gardener Program
535 S Randall Road
St. Charles, IL 60174
630-584-6166
uiemg-kane@illinois.edu

Scheduling a Master Gardener Speaker

University of Illinois Extension is pleased to present these horticultural programs to educate your group. To request a program for your Kane County organization, please contact:

Program Coordinator Sarah Fellerer
at fellerer@illinois.edu
or visit web.extension.illinois.edu/dkk

Requests should be made four weeks in advance in order to coordinate our volunteers' schedules. Due to reductions in government funding for University of Illinois Extension, a fee for our Speaker's Bureau programs is now necessary.

Groups of 25 or larger: \$100
Groups of less than 25: \$75
School presentations: \$15 per class

Young Audience Topics

Herman the Worm

Herman the Worm is a one-hour activity led by Master Gardeners and is designed to introduce K-5 students to worm anatomy, physiology, behavior, and basic composting. Students receive hands-on experience with living organisms by investigating a live worm with a magnifying glass, learn about worm anatomy with the help of an anatomical puppet, and discuss the role of worms in the environment.

From Seed to Pumpkin

This program, for grades K-2, and introduces the students to the life cycle of pumpkins. Using a felt board story, kids will sharpen observation and sequencing skills. We end with fun pumpkin facts.

Evergreens

The tree that stays green all year is the focus of this lesson for grades K-2. We compare and contrast leaves with evergreens, play a matching game of different evergreen samples, read a story about recycling a Christmas tree and make bird feeders out of pinecones.

Parts of the Plant We Eat

Did you know we eat tree bark? This lesson explores the different parts of plants and discovers where our food comes from. Includes reading a humorous story and a categorizing game. For kids K-2.

The Illinois Prairie

This lesson for K-2 is aimed at understanding native plants that once grew in abundance in Illinois. We discuss about the different types of prairies, their locations, and how rain affects the types. Kids will explore some individual plants that make up the prairie and learn how Native Americans used them. Each child receives a prairie plant seed to take home and grow.

Butterfly Gardens

This program is aimed at 1-4 grades. With a PowerPoint presentation, we watch the life cycle of a butterfly and explore flowers that are nectar and host plants. We read a book about the butterflies and plant seeds to start a butterfly garden at home.