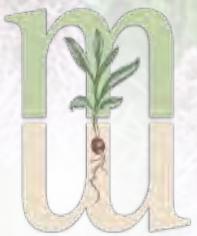


Be a Part of the Solution
**PLANT A LANDSCAPE THAT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**



melindamyers.com



CREATING AN ECO-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE IS ABOUT PROPERLY MANAGING SOIL, WATER, PLANTS AND PLANT DEBRIS TO BE AS ECO-FRIENDLY AS POSSIBLE.

- ▶ Your landscape is a habitat for you, pollinators, toads, frogs, hawks and others
- ▶ **Get the whole family involved**
 - **Build a Toad Abode**
 - **Create a Pollinator Paradise**
 - **Bug Hunt**
 - **Who's Living in Your Backyard and Neighborhood? A Young Gardener's Journal**
- ▶ Starts with a few changes in how you manage your gardens and landscapes
 - **SPRING CLEANUP**
 - Wait for temperatures to consistently hover at 50°F before cutting back perennials
 - ◆ This allows beneficial insects time to complete winter hibernation, exit and find summer homes
 - ◆ If you can't wait - cut and stack out of sight
 - Once beneficial insects have exited the plant debris
 - ◆ Chop and leave debris on soil surface to add organic matter and nutrients
 - ◆ Or shred and **add to compost pile** (see *Fall section for more details*)
 - Reuse tree and shrub trimmings
 - ◆ Use branches on bottom of compost pile for aeration
 - ◆ Create **wattle fences**
 - ◆ Create **Riggle fencing**
 - ◆ Create trellises, arbors, plant stands and more
 - **SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER**
 - **Call 811** or go online, **diggershotline.com**, at least 3 business days before digging
 - **Test your soil**
 - **Converting lawn to garden**
 - Soil preparation - a few options
 - ◆ Incorporating compost into top 8 to 12" of soil
 - ◆ **Lasagna Gardening**
 - ◆ **Hugelkultur Gardening**
 - ◆ **Greiten Technique**
 - **PLANT SELECTION**
 - Right size plant for the location
 - ◆ Less pruning for you to make it fit
 - ◆ Less waste generated

About ATC

ATC was formed in 2001, as the first multi-state, transmission-only utility in the United States. Unlike most other utilities, we have a single focus: transmission.

Our high-voltage transmission lines enable utilities to move power from a variety of different sources and locations to substations and lower-voltage lines that serve communities.

While we are required to keep trees and brush out of transmission rights-of-way, we do understand they are an important part of the landscape. Since 2013, we've donated over \$425,000 to support community planting projects and establish quality pollinator habitat within transmission rights of way.

Visit atcllc.com to learn more.



Helping to keep the lights on,
businesses running and communities strong®

- Right plant for the growing conditions
 - ◆ Fewer problems mean less work and less waste
 - ✿ Thrive in existing sunlight, soil and **hardy to the area**
- Pollinator Friendly Plants
 - ◆ **Grow Smart Pollinator Guide**
 - ◆ **Plant a Pollinator Garden**
 - ◆ **Create a Monarch Waystation**
 - ◆ **Native Bees**
 - ◆ **Help for Hummingbirds**
- Native plants when appropriate (suited to space and growing conditions)
 - ◆ **Grow Smart Planting Guide**
 - ◆ Mature size and spread will fit available space
 - ◆ Evolved with birds and insects
 - ◆ Deep roots help channel water
- Nativars
 - ◆ Cultivated varieties of native plants bred for certain characteristics
 - ✿ Smaller size
 - ✿ Variegated leaves
 - ✿ Different flower color...
 - ◆ Some interesting reading
 - ✿ **Native vs. "Nativar"**
 - ✿ **The Nativar Dilemma: The Case of My Purple Ninebark & The Leaf Beetle**
 - ✿ **Considering a Role for Native Plant Cultivars in Ecological Landscaping**

● HARVESTING RAINWATER

- Rain barrels
 - ◆ Start with one downspout and expand as you gain experience
 - ◆ **Selecting Rain Barrels**
 - ✿ Small opening for downspout or screen to keep out debris
 - ✿ Spigot low on barrel
 - ✿ Overflow +/- or downspout diverter to direct water away from house
 - ✿ Interlocking hardware to connect several barrels
 - ✿ Stand to elevate barrel for ease of use
 - ✿ **Mosquito Dunks**
 - ▶ Organic control of mosquito larvae

About Grow Smart®

ATC's Grow Smart® program encourages planting low-growing, native perennials within the transmission rights-of-way. This flowering vegetation can thrive within the rights-of-way, making utility corridors ideal for pollinators who benefit from the contiguous flight path.

Once established, the native vegetation beautifies the right-of-way and provides exceptional habitat for other species, while also maintaining the safety and reliability of the electric grid.

ATC is uniquely positioned to help establish habitat for pollinators because of the 9,921 miles of transmission line right-of-way we manage. Approximately 40% of our rights-of-way have been identified as having suitable pollinator habitat.

Visit atc-GrowSmart.com for low-growing, native plant suggestions.



◆ **Beautify Your Rain Barrel**

- ☼ Hide with plantings
- ☼ Rain barrel covers
- ☼ Paint
 - ▶ Clean
 - ▶ Roughen surface
 - ▶ Prime surface
 - ▶ Use plastic friendly exterior paint

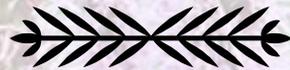
◆ **How to Install**

- ☼ Disconnecting from storm sewer
 - ▶ Get permission
 - ▶ Cover opening
- ☼ Set barrel in place
- ☼ Line up connectors
- ☼ Mark place to disconnect

- ☼ Use hacksaw to cut through downspout
- ☼ Attach flexible downspout elbow
- ☼ Direct water into rain barrel

◆ Using the water

- ☼ Lawns
 - ☼ Gardens
 - ☼ Wash cars
 - ☼ **Edibles**
- ### ◆ Winter care in cold regions
- ☼ Empty rain barrel
 - ☼ Clean with non-toxic solution
 - ☼ Check connections
 - ☼ Cover or overturn



RAIN GARDENS

▶ **Creating a Rain Garden webinar**

▶ What?

- A garden designed to capture runoff from roofs and hard surfaces that occurs after a rainstorm
- More than a group of native plants
- Soil preparation and garden design are also critical in the success

▶ **Why?**

- To counteract the effects of urban development by directing rainwater into the ground (recharging groundwater) instead of the storm sewers
- A properly designed and installed rain garden can collect 30% more runoff than a lawn

▶ How-to design your rain garden

- WI DNR **Rain Gardens a Guide for Homeowners and Landscapers**
- **How to Plan Your Rain Garden** webinar sponsored by MMSD and Fresh Coast Guardians and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library
 - **Handout**
- **Planting Your Rain Garden** webinar May 13, 6:30pm, sponsored by MMSD and Fresh Coast Guardians and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

● LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

- Call 811 or go online, diggershotline.com, at least 3 business days before digging
- Between 10 and no more than 30' away from house for capturing mainly roof runoff
 - ◆ The further from the house, the bigger the garden needed as it collects water from the lawn as well as the roof
- Do not place over water lateral (contact municipality)
- Do not place where water ponds
 - ◆ The goal is to get water to drain, not create a water feature
- Do not place over septic or under trees
- Avoid steep slopes (over 10%)
 - ◆ You'll need to dig deeper to accommodate the steep slope

● SIZE

- Any well-designed rain garden captures some runoff
- 100 to 300 ft² is easiest size to install while still having impact
- Determined by
 - ◆ Distance from house
 - ◆ Area being served
 - ◆ Soil type
- Consider several smaller (300 ft²) gardens, rather than one huge garden
- Longest side perpendicular to the slope and 2 times the short side

● DEPTH

- Level - 4 to 8", depending on slope
 - ◆ 4% slope - 3 to 5" depth
 - ◆ 5 to 7% - 6 to 7" depth
 - ◆ 8 to 12" slope - 8" depth
- More clay in soil, the deeper the garden
- Amend planting bed (compost)
 - ◆ Improves drainage and plant growth
- Berm the side away from the water source

● DIRECTING THE WATER

- Swales with sedges or stones
- Downspout extensions
- Underground
 - ◆ PVC pipe directed to garden

Green Bay Botanical Garden

First opened in 1996, Green Bay Botanical Garden in Green Bay, WI is celebrating 25 years of growth and success this year. The Garden started as a dream by a few passionate plant lovers in the 1970s. Today, it continues to flourish into the masterpiece they imagined as a leading horticultural, educational, recreational and social destination.

As a 100% community supported nonprofit, our mission is to connect people with plants by providing year-round educational and recreational experiences for everyone in an environment that engages, inspires and refreshes. Through the support of our community, we can continue to carry out this mission and positively impact our northeast Wisconsin community for the next 25 years and beyond.

This summer will feature the debut of Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea at the Garden and in Wisconsin. Guests of all ages will be enthralled by and get to interact with eight larger-than-life sculptures of animals made from trash and debris washed up from bodies of water. Discover the connections between plastic waste, the wellbeing of marine life (and us!) and learn everyday actions that we can all take to make a difference for the Great Lakes and beyond.

Learn more and plan your visit at GBBG.org

- **MAINTAINING YOUR RAIN GARDEN**

- **RAIN GARDEN PLANTS**

- Visit atc-growsmart.com for native plant information
- Tolerate wet and dry soil
- Provide seasonal interest
- Equally assertive or non aggressive
- Support birds and pollinators
- **How to Select Rain Garden Plants** webinar sponsored by MMSD and Fresh Coast Guardians and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library
 - ◆ **Handout**

- **PLANTING**

- Mass
 - ◆ Greater impact and eye appeal
- Label
 - ◆ Easier to find plants versus weeds when weeding in spring
- Water
 - ◆ As needed, especially important during establishment
- Mulch the soil
 - ◆ Suppresses weeds
 - ◆ Conserves moisture
 - ◆ Continues to improve the soil
- **Planting Your Rain Garden** webinar May 13, 6:30pm, sponsored by MMSD and Fresh Coast Guardians and hosted by Milwaukee Public Library

Sign up for my FREE Newsletter!
Get the chance to win a seasonal prize!

- **ECO-FRIENDLY PEST MANAGEMENT**

- Work with nature
- ***Only 3% of the insects in the world are harmful, the rest are:***
 - ◆ Pollinators
 - ◆ Decomposers
 - ◆ Pest managers...
- Tolerate some damage
 - ◆ Beneficial insects need food source
- **Grow Plants that Attract Beneficial Insects** that help manage problem insect pests
- Invite in the songbirds
 - ◆ Most feed on insects as well as seeds and berries

- o Use PHC to manage problem insects to limit damage to tolerable level
 - ◆ Plant Health Care
 - ⊗ Right plant for the location
 - ▶ Will thrive in growing conditions and space
 - ▶ Select most pest resistant plants when possible
 - ⊗ Provide proper care
 - ▶ Healthy plants are more resistant to insects and disease
 - ▶ Proper watering and mulching key to success
 - ▶ Fertilize according to soil test recommendations
 - ⊗ Monitor for problems
 - ▶ Easier to control a few insects than a thousand
 - ⊗ Identify the problem
 - ▶ Check reliable resources
 - ▶ Review recent weather patterns that impact insect and disease problems as well as environmental stresses
 - Cool, damp weather
 - Flooding
 - Drought
 - ▶ Evaluate impact of maintenance practices that might cause problems
 - ⊗ Determine if control is needed
 - ▶ Many problems are cosmetic, not life threatening and no need to treat
 - ▶ Make sure the pest is still present
 - ⊗ Look for the most eco-friendly way to manage the problem
 - ▶ Handpick
 - ▶ Traps
 - ▶ Barriers
 - ▶ Eco-friendly products
 - ▶ **Always read and follow all label directions when using any chemical - organic, natural or synthetic**
 - ⊗ Evaluate management strategies and adjust as needed
 - ⊗ Record
 - ▶ Mark your calendar for next year to watch for problem

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Check often as more information and webinars continue to be added.

April 27th

Well Loved Wisconsin Plants

May 5th

Tomatoes: Tips & Tricks

May 12th

Top Plants for Rain Gardens, Water Gardens, Shoreline Gardens & Those to Avoid

May 13th

Planting Your Rain Garden

May 16th

Perennials for Challenging Growing Conditions

June 3rd

Creative Container Gardening

June 9th

Sustainable Lawn and Landscape Care

June 10th

Gardening During the Summer Months

● LATE SUMMER / EARLY FALL

- Planting
 - ◆ Soil is warm, air is cool, making it easier on plants and gardeners

● FALL CLEAN UP

- Put fall leaves to work in your landscape
 - ◆ Leaves shredded and left on the lawn
 - ✿ Leaf pieces size of a quarter or smaller
 - ✿ As long as you can see the grass blades through the leaves, your lawn will be fine
 - ◆ Use leaves as mulch on soil surface
 - ◆ Dig shredded leaves into annual gardens in fall as soil amendment
 - ◆ **No black walnut leaves**
 - ✿ Once fully decomposed, they can be used

● START A COMPOST PILE

- **Benefits**
 - ◆ Provides a variety of essential plant nutrients over time
 - ◆ Suppresses disease and insect pests common in poor soils
 - ◆ Keeps plant based kitchen scraps and garden waste out of the landfills
 - ◆ Reduces rainwater and fertilizer runoff into our waterways
 - ◆ Keeps rainwater where it falls
 - ✿ You'll water less and conserve water
- Check with municipalities for any restrictions
 - ◆ Some may even offer rebates
- Make it easy and attractive
 - ◆ **Attractive and convenient ways to include in your landscape**
- **Composting Basics**

- It really is as easy as placing the right materials in a heap and letting it rot

- ◆ The more you do, the sooner you'll have compost

○ DO COMPOST THESE

- ◆ **Greens (nitrogen rich)**
 - ✿ Fruit and veggie kitchen scraps
 - ✿ Vegetable clippings
 - ✿ Herbicide-free grass clippings
 - ✿ Manure
 - ✿ Seaweed and kelp
- ◆ **Browns (carbon rich)**
 - ✿ Fall leaves
 - ✿ Evergreen needles
 - ✿ **Coffee grounds**
 - ✿ Non-glossy paper and cardboard
 - ▶ Some concern with these by some people
 - ✿ Cornstalks and corncobs
 - ✿ Straw and hay

○ DON'T COMPOST THESE

- ◆ Bones
- ◆ Meat
- ◆ Fish
- ◆ Dairy
- ◆ Fat
- ◆ Disease and insect infested plant material
- ◆ Perennial and invasive weeds
- ◆ Weeds gone to seed
- ◆ Charcoal ashes
- ◆ Grass clippings from lawn recently treated with chemicals
- ◆ Pet, bird and human waste

● BUILDING THE COMPOST PILE

- Build on twigs or pallet covered with hardware cloth if drainage is an issue
- 8-10" layers of green and brown debris
- Layer of compost (or potting mix from containers added to pile)
- Sprinkle 3 cups of Milorganite or other slow-release fertilizer over compost layer
- Repeat until pile is at least 3' tall and wide
- Moisten to consistency of damp sponge
- Turn to speed up decomposition
 - ◆ When temperatures in center of pile begin to drop
 - ◆ When you have time and the ambition
 - ◆ Move center of pile to outside and outside to the center where temperatures are higher to speed decomposition
- Harvest finished compost in about 6 to 12 months
- Using compost
 - ◆ Incorporate it into top 8 to 12" of garden soil
 - ◆ Spread a 1" layer over soil surface (topdress) in perennial beds
 - ☼ Lightly rake it into the soil surface
 - ☼ Ground beetles and organisms will help move it deeper into soil
 - ☼ Use auger bit on drill to aerate and move some compost into the plants' root zone - if needed

● FALL INTO WINTER

- Water plants thoroughly before ground freezes, if needed
 - ◆ Evergreens, moisture lovers, new plantings are priority
- Remove and dispose of disease or pest infested materials
- Leave healthy grasses and perennials stand for winter
 - ◆ Increase plant hardiness
 - ◆ Provides homes for many beneficial insects
 - ◆ Attracts and feeds many songbirds
 - ◆ Adds beauty to the winter landscape
- Create windbreaks, if needed
 - ◆ Prevents drying on susceptible plants from winter wind and sun
- Install fencing or cloth barriers to protect plants exposed to deicing salts
- Shovel your walks and drives first, then salt and only if needed
 - ◆ Use eco-friendly deicing salts, if needed

Contact Diggers Hotline or your local underground utility locating service BEFORE you start digging - It's a FREE service

In Wisconsin file online at diggershotline.com or anywhere in the U.S., including Wisconsin, call 811 at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground. Once your request is received, Diggers Hotline (or your local locating service) contacts all the appropriate underground utilities. The utility's locators will mark the location of the underground utilities in the work area. Avoid digging near the marks to reduce the risk of damage, personal injury or even death.



Miss a Webinar?
Melinda's Webinars are Available
On Demand!



WATCH NOW



HELP ME GROW ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GARDENERS



YOUNG GARDENER ACTIVITIES



*Thank You to American Transmission Co.
for Sponsoring this Webinar*

Visit atc-growsmart.com



Gertrude the Penguin



green bay
botanical
garden
growing together for 25 years



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Change

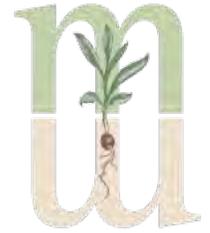
May 8–September 26

Visit GBBG.org/WashedAshore
to plan your visit!

GBBG.org/WashedAshore

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Melinda's Garden Moment nationally syndicated TV and Radio segments

[Birds & Blooms](#) magazine

Books

- [Midwest Gardener's Handbook](#)
- [Small Space Gardening](#)
- [Midwest Lawn Guides](#)
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