

Getting Started Growing Vegetable & Flower Gardens



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PLANNING THE GARDEN

FLOWER GARDENS

- Your goals
- Attract and support pollinators and songbirds
 - Nectar for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds
 - Food for caterpillars (host plant)
 - Seeds for birds
 - Cutting
- Multi-season interest
 - Flowers
 - Leaves
 - Fall color
 - Winter interest

DESIGN & MAINTENANCE PREFERENCE

- Maintenance throughout the year
 - Flower Care
 - Planting
 - Weeding and watering
 - Harvesting
 - Clean up
- Low maintenance- big impact
 - Low Maintenance Design Tips
 - Few species - more of each
 - ✦ Reduces maintenance
 - ✦ Greater impact
 - Low maintenance plants
 - ✦ Self-cleaning
 - ✦ Insect pest resistant
 - ✦ Disease resistant
 - ✦ Do not need staking
- Size
 - Manageable size and number of beds
 - ✦ Start small and increase with experience
 - ✦ Flowerbeds
 - At least 3' for impact - when possible
 - Flowers create the illusion of depth

- ✦ Tall plants next to short ones
- ✦ Fine textured plants in the back
- All parts of the garden are accessible
- Paths big enough for your feet and maneuvering

THE RIGHT PLANT FOR THE PLACE & PURPOSE

- Check plant tags and seed packets
 - Hardy to your region
 - Suited to the growing conditions
 - ✦ Sunlight (definitions vary - here's a start)
 - Monitor throughout the day and year
 - Full sun - 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight
 - Part sun - 3 to 6 hours of direct sunlight
 - Shade - 2 to 3 hours of direct sunlight or bright light throughout the day
 - ✦ Soil - more on this below
 - ✦ Moisture - how it impacts watering

FLOWERBED DESIGN TIPS

- Flower Garden Design
- Color
 - Flower Garden Design Basics
 - Warm colors
 - ✦ Red, orange, yellow
 - Create focal point - grab your attention
 - Warm and energizing
 - Make larger areas appear smaller
 - Cool colors
 - ✦ Blue, green, violet
 - Feels cooler
 - Peaceful and soothing
 - Makes smaller area feel larger
- Color echoing
 - ✦ Repetition of color
 - Provides unity and balance
- Complementary colors
 - ✦ Opposite each other on the color wheel
 - Combine nicely - like blue and yellow

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

When you visit Ebert's Greenhouse Village for the first time, you'll be charmed by our rustic ambiance and the beautiful surrounding countryside in Ixonia, Wisconsin. You'll meet our friendly and knowledgeable staff who share your passion for gardening and the rewarding, enjoyable life experience it provides!

Our selection of annual flowers and gorgeous hanging basket and container combinations are second to none - they are planted and cared for with your success and lasting enjoyment in mind. Our extensive collection of perennials, trees, shrubs and roses is one of the finest in Wisconsin, and our culinary herbs and vegetables can be planted with confidence! As our grounds continue to evolve, you'll see additions that will enhance your shopping experience with us. In our Gift Shoppe, we continue to build a delightful selection of indoor and outdoor home and landscape accents to inspire you to assemble an environment you will love spending time in all season long!

At Ebert's Greenhouse Village, "We Grow HAPPINESS!!"

Learn More



- ◊ Blending colors
 - ◊ Share the same base color
 - ◊ Unity and flow
- Texture
 - ◊ Bold
 - ◊ Large leaves and flowers
 - Creates focal point
 - Need few to create impact
 - ◊ Fine
 - ◊ Narrow leaves, small flowers
 - Need many to create impact
 - Place in back of garden for illusion of depth
- Equally assertive
- Combine flowers, trees and shrubs
- Combine flowers and edible plants
 - ◊ Make it attractive
 - ◊ Attractive vegetable cultivars
 - ◊ Edibles in Your Flower Garden
- Annual - from start to end of life cycle in one year
 - ◊ Some plants that are annual in cold climates are actually perennials in milder locations
 - ◊ Tender annual
 - ◊ Sensitive to frost, cold air and soil
 - ◊ Impatiens and Coleus are examples
 - ◊ Half-hardy annual
 - ◊ Can tolerate cool air and soil, but damaged by frost
 - ◊ Ageratum, Lobelia, Petunia
 - ◊ Hardy annual
 - ◊ Tolerates cold soil, cold air and frost
 - ◊ Alyssum and Pansies
- Biennial - from start to end of life cycle in two years
 - ◊ First year leaves
 - ◊ Overwinters
 - ◊ Second year plant grows more leaves and flowers, sets seeds and then dies
 - ◊ Hollyhocks and Foxgloves

- ◊ Some growers start biennials early so bloom and dies the first year in the garden
- Perennial - from seed may just grow leaves the first year, second and subsequent years they grow and flower
 - ◊ First year they sleep
 - ◊ Second year they creep
 - ◊ Third year they leap
- Self-cleaning - free flowering
 - ◊ No deadheading needed
- ◊ Annuals
 - ◊ Calibrachoa, Ageratum, Angelonia
- ◊ Perennials
 - ◊ Willow Amsonia, Bugbane, Turtlehead
 - ◊ *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

PLANNING THE GARDEN

VEGETABLE GARDENS

- Determine your goals
 - ◊ Produce you enjoy fresh - enough to preserve
- You and your family like to eat, serve and preserve
 - ◊ Grow Your Favorite Recipe
 - ◊ Economical to grow
 - ◊ Tomatoes and Peppers
 - Plants like corn need lots of space
 - * If space is limited, consider buying at the farmers' market
- Suited to the length of your growing season
 - ◊ Check tags and seed packets for days from planting to harvest
 - ◊ Are there enough frost-free days to grow them?
 - ◊ Short season vs. long season
 - ◊ Garden Planning: Frost Dates and Frost-Free Growing Days



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 40 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the recently revised *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, and Jackson and Perkins' *Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD/ Instant Video series, including the latest *Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, and writes 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

- Suited to the growing conditions
 - Sunlight
 - ✦ Tomatoes, Melons, Broccoli and other veggies you eat the flowers and fruit of need the most sunlight - 8 hours or more
 - ✦ Root crops, like Beets, Carrots and Radishes prefer full sun, but tolerate partial shade
 - ✦ Leafy vegetables, like Lettuce and Spinach are most shade tolerant - in fact, a bit of shade as temperatures rise helps extend the harvest season
 - Soil and air temperature
 - ✦ When to Plant Vegetable Seeds or Transplants
 - ✦ Time Vegetable Plantings for Greater Success
 - ✦ Warm season vegetables, like Tomatoes, Peppers and Melons need warm soil and air
 - Wait for danger of frost to pass and soil to warm before planting these
 - ✦ Cool season vegetables, like Broccoli, Radishes and Beets tolerate cool air and soil
 - Some, like Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts and their relatives tolerate light frost

VEGETABLE GARDEN DESIGN

- Start small and expand with time and experience
- Look for underutilized and non-traditional spaces
- Pre-planned gardens and garden planning tools available online
- Consider location
 - Convenient for planting, tending and harvesting
 - Or, out of sight
 - All plants accessible
- Orientating rows
 - Orientating the Rows in Your Veggie Garden
- Diversify plantings to reduce the risk of insect and disease issues
 - Don't plant related veggies, like Cabbage, Broccoli and Cauliflower together

- ✦ Instead, spread them out throughout the garden
- Companion Planting
- Rotate plantings to reduce the risk of insects and disease
 - Follow Tomatoes with something unrelated, like Onions, not with Peppers that are related and susceptible to many of the same insects and diseases
- Wide rows
 - Plant so there is just enough room for plants to reach full size
 - Make sure you can reach all the plants to weed, manage pests and harvest
- Go vertical
 - Vertical Gardening
 - Trellis vining plants to save space and reduce disease
 - ✦ Sling large, heavy fruit
 - ✦ Annual vines, like Pole Beans, Cucumbers...
- Interplanting
 - Plant short season vegetables in between long season vegetables
 - ✦ Radishes with Cabbage and Broccoli
 - ✦ Beets with Tomatoes and Peppers
- Succession (relay) planting
 - Replant the space once the vegetable is harvested
 - ✦ For example: Lettuce followed by Beans, followed by Radishes
 - ✦ You'll be able to grow two or three crops in one season in that same space
 - Still Time to Plant Vegetables - Late Additions to the Garden
 - Relay Planting for Bigger Harvest
 - Grow a Bountiful Harvest All Season Long
 - Webinar: Succession Planting and Crop Rotation
 - * Enter passcode: ^4rkL^%!
 - * Download handout
 - * Additional information

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WEBINAR?**

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CREATING A NEW GARDEN

• Converting Grass to Gardens

- Identify the area
- Call 811 before you start digging
- Use hose, ropes or other item to mark the bed
- Edge the bed and remove sod
 - ✦ Repurpose sod
 - Add to compost pile - green side down
 - Place near your home's foundation to fix grade issues
 - Create new raised garden beds
 - * Mark new garden location
 - * Place layers of sod - green side down - within the border
 - * Fertilize between layers
 - * Cover with plastic to kill grass and weeds
 - * Plant the following season

• Convert Lawn to Garden

- Edge bed
- Cut grass short
- Cover with cardboard or several layers of newspaper
- Add mulch
 - ✦ Cut through and plant
 - ✦ Or, wait for material to decompose, then plant

• Solarize

- Edge garden
- Cover with clear plastic
 - ✦ 6 to 8 weeks during the hottest part of the season best

BUILD A HEALTHY FOUNDATION TO REDUCE ONGOING MAINTENANCE

• How to Create Healthy Soil

- Most gardeners start with less-than-ideal soil
- Majority of plants thrive in moist, well-drained soil
- Start with a soil test
 - Improve Your Garden with Soil Testing
 - Results tell you what, if any, fertilizer and amendments are needed

◦ No test

- ✦ Incorporate low Nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer, like Milorganite when amending the soil or at planting and midseason, if needed
 - Midseason Fertilization for Vegetable Gardens
 - How to Fertilize Your Gardens with Milorganite
- Only work the soil when moist, not wet or very dry to avoid damage
- Amend or topdress existing soil
 - Spread several inches of compost over the soil surface
 - Or, incorporate at least several inches of compost into the top 8 to 12" of soil
- Other ways to build your soil
 - Lasagna garden
 - ✦ Build Great Garden Soil with Lasagna Gardening
 - ✦ Build raised bed from garden trimmings and compost
 - ✦ Create bed when materials available, plant the next growing season
 - Or, stockpile materials, create bed and plant right away
 - Hugelkultur
 - ✦ Hugelkultur, Hill or Mound Gardening
 - ✦ Use branches and twigs as base for decades of benefits
 - ✦ Lasagna garden on top of this layer
 - Greiten technique
 - ✦ Composting and Raised Bed Gardening Together in Any Space
 - ✦ Rake existing soil into 4' wide raised beds with 2 to 3' wide paths between
 - ✦ Compost garden trimmings in pathways
 - ✦ End of season, rake soil over path, creating next year's raised bed

ALTERNATIVES TO IN-GROUND PLANTINGS

- Raised Bed Gardening
 - Elevate garden for easy access
 - Fill with quality planting mix, or make your own (lasagna or Hugelkultur)
 - Better drainage - dries out more quickly
- Containers
 - Convenient for growing, tending, enjoying and using
 - Containers with drainage holes or self-watering pots
 - The larger the container, the more growing medium
 - ✦ Holds water and nutrients longer
 - Fill with a quality potting mix
 - ✦ What's the Difference Between Topsoil, Compost and Potting Mix?
 - ✦ Most are soilless
 - Must contain what it says on the label
 - ✦ Find one that matches your gardening style
 - Elevated gardens are just a container with legs
 - ✦ Vegtrug Patio Garden
 - ✦ Edible Ornamental Container Gardens
 - ✦ Expand Your Garden Space and Planting Options with Container Gardens
 - ✦ Water Saving Tips for Container Gardens
 - ✦ Plant-a-Bar and Salad Bar from Gardener's Supply Company
 - Fertilize containers and elevated gardens
 - ✦ At start of the season and midseason, if needed, with low Nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer
 - ✦ Per label directions for fast release formulations
- Straw bale garden
 - Creating a Straw Bale Garden
 - Raised bed and planting medium in one
 - ✦ Condition bale to create compost to grow plants
 - ✦ Water often

PLANTING VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS

- Seeds
 - Check label for time and planting instructions
 - Plants that need more days to grow than your season allows
 - ✦ Start seeds indoors
 - Starting Plants from Seeds
 - Plant (sow) seeds directly in the garden
 - ✦ Marigolds, Zinnias, Beets, Radishes...
 - Thinning
 - ✦ Give 'Em Room to Grow - Thinning Vegetables
 - ✦ Remove extra seedlings so plants are properly spaced and have room to reach mature size
 - Dealing with small seeds
 - ✦ Seed Tapes
 - Purchase
 - DIY
 - * Mix 1 cup of flour or corn starch with 1/4 cup of water to make glue
 - * Dab the "glue" at proper spacing on paper
 - * Then, add seed and allow to dry
 - ✦ Pelleted seeds - coated to make planting easier
- Transplants
 - Purchase healthy plants
 - ✦ Selecting Healthy Plants
 - Harden off, if needed
 - ✦ Hardening Off Transplants
 - Proper space
 - ✦ Check tag and provide space to reach mature size
 - ✦ Fill voids between perennials with annuals the first year or two
 - Remove flowers and fruit to encourage roots and more compact, sturdier growth
 - ✦ Just can't do it to your leggy blooming flowers?
 - Remove flowers on every-other plant or every-other row
 - In the following week, do the remaining
 - Pinch back leggy flowering plants to encourage fuller growth

- Tease - loosen circling, potbound roots
- Proper depth
 - ◊ Plant most at same depth as growing in the container
 - ◊ Tall, leggy tomatoes can be trenched in or planted deeper

WATERING

- New plantings often enough to keep soil moist
- Gradually extend the time between watering
- Once established, most plants need an inch of water per week - adjust for weather
 - Provide 1" (or what is needed) once a week in heavy soils
 - Provide 1/2" twice a week in fast draining soils
 - Consider soaker hoses or drip irrigation
 - ◊ Applies water directly to the soil, where it is needed
 - ◊ Easier for you - just water with a turn of the faucet
- Waterwise Vegetable Gardening
- Reduce container and elevated gardens watering
 - Irrigation system with timer
 - Incorporate organic and sustainable Wild Valley Wool Pellets
 - ◊ Reduces watering up to 25%
 - ◊ Adds air space, organic matter and nutrients
 - Plant Nanny or similar supplemental watering device

MULCHING

- Mulch the soil with organic matter, such as shredded leaves or evergreen needles
 - Conserves moisture, you'll water less
 - Suppresses weeds - less to pull
 - As mulch breaks down, it improves the soil
 - The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer needed
 - Don't pile mulch on plants
 - Mulching Made Easy
 - ◊ Cover plants with empty pots
 - ◊ Apply mulch
 - ◊ Lift pots and adjust mulch as needed

MANAGING WEEDS

- Start at the beginning of the season
 - Weeds are smaller and easier to remove
 - Continue weeding throughout the growing season
- Remove before seeds are set
 - You'll prevent hundreds of weeds in next year's garden

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.



UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

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

Webinar April 1st

Grow a Bountiful Harvest

Webinar April 9th

7 Steps to Managing Water on Your Property

April 11th

A Day in the Garden - Fond du Lac, WI

April 18th

Spring Rally - Oshkosh, WI

Ebert's Greenhouse Village April 19th

Deer Resistant Gardening

Iowa State University Lectures April 23rd

Gardening for Health & Wellbeing

Spring Seminar at Pasquesi April 25th

*Top 5 Favorite Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables &
Shrubs for the Landscape*

Ebert's Greenhouse Village April 26th

Common Tomato Problems & How to Solve Them

Ebert's Greenhouse Village May 2nd

Ask the Plant Doctor

Webinar May 6th

Adding Native Plants to Any Size Gardening Space

May 7th

Grow Your Best Tomato Harvest Yet - Wauwatosa, WI

Ebert's Greenhouse Village May 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th

Ask the Plant Doctor

Roots & Branches May 13th

Creating a Pollinator Paradise - West Bend, WI

Webinar May 21st

Planting & Care of Your Rain Garden

Webinar June 3rd

Managing Your Landscape with Pollinators in Mind



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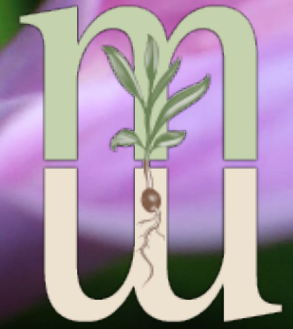
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BOOKS

Midwest Gardener's Handbook

Small Space Gardening

Midwest Lawn Guides

Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide

Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin

Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide

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