



melindamyers.com

*Jump Start*  
**YOUR SEASON**  
*and* **PROTECT**  
**YOUR PLANTS**





## Take Care of Your Investment

### Protect Early Purchases of Tender Plants

- Annuals and cold weather tolerance
  - Tender annual (warm season)
    - Sensitive to frost like
      - \* Impatiens
      - \* Coleus
  - Half-hardy
    - Can tolerate cool air and soil, but damaged by frost
      - \* Ageratum
      - \* Lobelia
      - \* Petunia
  - Hardy
    - Tolerate cold soil, cold air and frost
      - \* Alyssum
      - \* Pansies

### Frost and Freeze Warnings

#### Warm Season Vegetables

- Tomatoes even injured when temperatures in the 40's
  - See webinar recording and handout, Tips & Tricks to Maximize Your Harvest & Minimize Insect & Disease Problems
  - Speed Up the Tomato Harvest

#### Warm Season Annuals

- Impatiens are tender annuals
- Coleus are tender annuals
  - Frost protection at the end of the season

#### From Greenhouse to Garden

- Place in sunny window or under artificial lights until the weather is right for hardening off and moving into the garden

### Cold Frame

- Make your own or purchase one
- Place to maximize light and solar heat
- Monitor the temperature
  - Vent on hot and sunny days as needed
  - Insulate with old carpet or other material in extreme cold

### 3 Season Plant Protection

#### DIY Low Tunnel

- Allow you to plant earlier
- Protect plants from frost
- Monitor temperatures and vent as needed

#### Floating Row Covers

- Allow air, light and water through while trapping heat around plants
  - Protect plants from frost
  - Different weights of the fabric provide different levels of protection
  - I have used these fabrics to harden off plants

#### Harden Off

- Gradually introduce to the outdoor conditions
- Start with one hour direct sun, increasing the time by an hour everyday
- Stop fertilizing
- Allow soil to go a bit drier between waterings
- Ready for the garden in 1 to 2 weeks

#### Planting in the Garden

- Loosen the roots
- Dig a hole twice as wide as root ball
- Same depth as the plants were growing in the container

## 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





## While Acclimating Your Plants

- Prepare the soil
  - Soil test if needed
    - Report tells you what type of fertilizer needed for plants you are growing
- Only work soil when moist and not wet or overly dry
  - Working wet soil results in
    - Clods and cracks
    - Compaction
  - Working dry soil
    - Ruins soil structure

## Add Fertilizer and Amend as Needed Prior to Planting

- Low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizers provide weeks, even months, of nutrients
- Organic fertilizers or those that contain organic matter (Milorganite is 85% organic matter) feed the soil as well as your plants
- Let your soil test and plants be your guide when fertilizing

Always call **811** at least 3 business days before putting the first shovel in the ground.

In Wisconsin you can also file online at [DiggersHotline.com](http://DiggersHotline.com) or in any other state at [call811.com/811-In-Your-State](http://call811.com/811-In-Your-State)

## Planting Cool Season Flowers

### PANSY & VIOLA

- 2017 Year of the Pansy
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 4-8" x 9-12"
- Cool Wave and WonderFall trailing varieties
- Some varieties are fragrant
- Support early season pollinators

### TORENIA

- Part to full shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-12" x 6-9"
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Half-hardy, so provide frost protection as needed

### LOBELIA

- Full sun to part shade
- Cool, moist soil
- 4-8" x 6-16"
- Half-hardy, so provide frost protection as needed

### SWEET ALYSSUM

- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 4-12" x 10-15"
- Fragrant
- Supports pollinators

### STOCK

- Hardy Zones 7 to 10
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 12-36" x 8-15"
- Fragrant
- Supports early season pollinators



### 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 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 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](http://melindamyers.com)



## SNAPDRAGON

- Hardy annual, tender perennial
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-48" x 6-12"

## *Dianthus chinensis*

- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-12" x 12"
- Fragrant
- Supports pollinators
- Jolt
  - Heat tolerant
  - Long blooming
- AAS Winner Interspecific Supra Pink
  - Heat and drought tolerant
  - Reblooming without deadheading
  - Overwinters in Zone 5, maybe 4?

## DIASCIA

- Hardy Zones 8 to 11
- Half-hardy annual
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 8-12" x 12-15"
- Fragrant
- Minimal to no deadheading needed

## NEMESIA

- Hardy Zones 8 to 10
- Half-hardy annual
- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-12" tall and wide
- Some are fragrant

## OSTEOSPERMUM

- Hardy Zones 10 to 11
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-12" tall and wide
- Deadhead to prolong bloom
- More heat tolerant varieties like Voltage Yellow and White Lightning
- Attracts butterflies

## Heat Stall

- Annuals that prefer cool temperatures often stop flowering as temperatures rise
- Water only as needed
- Trim back if leggy
- Do not fertilize
- Wait for cool weather to return and many will begin flowering again
- Or, replace with plants that thrive in warmer temperatures

## DUSTY MILLER

- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- 6-15" x 8-11"
- May overwinter and flower second year

## FLOWERING CABBAGE & KALE

- Ornamental cabbage (capitata group)
- Ornamental kale (acephala group)
- Full sun
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 12-15" tall and wide

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## Spring Container Gardens

### Trailers

#### ENGLISH IVY

- Invasive in some areas, grow in pots
- Hardy Zones 5 to 9
- Full sun to shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Prune to manage size as needed

#### DEADNETTLE

- Invasive in some areas, grow in pots
- Hardy Zones 3 to 8
- Part to full shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- 6-12"

#### MONEYWORT

- Invasive in some areas, grow in pots
- Hardy Zones 3 to 8
- Sun to shade
- Moist soil
- 2-4" x 24"

## Planting Cool Season Vegetables & Herbs

### **ASPARAGUS** - *Asparagus officinalis*

- Perennial vegetable hardy in Zones 2 to 8
- Selection
  - Look for disease resistant and productive varieties
  - White, purple and green varieties
- Full sun to light shade, well-drained soil
- Plant
  - 6" deep and 12" apart in rows 36" apart
- Harvesting
  - Harvest for 1 month the following spring after planting 2 year old crowns

- Harvest for 6 to 8 weeks 3 year and older plants
  - Snap or cut 6-8" stems off just below the ground
- Allow ferny greens to grow and strand through winter
- Weeds biggest problem
  - Regular hand removal, mulching
- Asparagus beetle
  - Hand removal of beetles, larva and eggs early in the season
  - Control weeds
  - Fall cleanup
  - Remove ferny greens at the end of the season if beetles were a problem

### **RHUBARB** CROWNS - *Rheum rhubarbarum*

- Don't use frost damaged rhubarb
- Long lived perennial hardy in Zones 3 to 8
- Eat the leaf stem (petiole), not flat part (blade) that is toxic
- Start as plants or roots
  - Plant roots with crowns 1-2" below soil surface
- Harvest
  - 2 year old plants for 1-2 weeks
  - Older plants for 8-10 weeks
  - Pull or twist outer stalks when 10-15"
  - Limit harvest season for health of plant
- Remove flower stalk as soon as it appears
- Holes in rhubarb leaves

## UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

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

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*Organic Pest Management for Vegetable and Flower Gardens*

### **April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Connecting with Nature for Your Well-being

More Information

### **May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Cutting Gardens Thru the Seasons

More Information

### **May 4<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*Food Gardening in Containers*

### **May 12<sup>th</sup> Webinar**

*How to Plant a Rain Garden*

### **May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Food Gardening for Your Health and Well Being

More Information



## LETTUCE, SPINACH AND GREENS

- Plant early spring through late season for fall harvest, most thrive in cooler temperatures
- Harvest outer leaves of leafy crops when 4-6", head lettuce (loose and firm)
- A few to try:
  - Lettuce
    - Leaf types - Oak Leaf, Simpson, Salad Bowl, Galactic, Freckles
    - Butterhead - Bibb, Summer Bibb, Buttercrunch, Little Gem
    - Romaine - Red Romaine
  - Other greens
    - Cresses - Upland, Curly
    - Endive and escarole, chicories - Lorca, Ruffec, Salad King, Cos Batavian (AAS)
    - Chinese cabbage - Asian Delight (AAS, slow to bolt)
    - Mache or corn salad - fist size rosette of leaves
    - Radichio head-forming chicory - Chioggia (tangy to bitter flavor)
    - Mustard - Red Kingdom Mizuna (AAS)
    - Kale - Prizm (AAS), Lacinato (AAS), Redbor (AAS), Tuscan Baby Leaf
    - Spinach - America (AAS), Bloomsdale Long Standing, New Zealand (more heat tolerant)
    - Malabar Climbing Spinach - not a true spinach, more heat tolerant
    - Swiss Chard - Bright Lights (AAS), Peppermint

## CARROTS, BEETS, RADISHES

- Plant early to mid spring and throughout the season (planting and thinning tricks)
- Pelletized seeds and seed tapes make planting smaller seeds easier
- Grow in containers, raised beds, in ground
- Space 2-3"
- Harvest
  - Carrots - 60 to 70 days, roots are  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1" in diameter, dig - don't pull
  - Beets - 50 to 60 days, as greens 4-6", greens and beets 1-1.5" and roots only 1.5-3"
  - Salad Radishes - 25 to 30 days, when 1-1.5" in diameter
- A few to try:
  - Carrots - Shorts and Half Long, Purple Haze (AAS), Thumbelina (AAS)
  - Beets - Bull's Blood, Tall Top, Fresh Start, Candy Stripe, Golden, Avalanche (AAS, white)
  - Radishes - Watermelon, Easter Egg, Cherry Bell (AAS), French Breakfast, Sweet Baby (AAS)
- Interplant radishes with carrots
  - When radishes are ready to harvest, gives carrot room to mature
  - Overwinter fall carrot harvest in the garden
    - Mulch soil when crunchy
    - Harvest during winter thaw

## PEAS

- Plant early to mid spring and late summer for fall harvest (need cooler temps)
- Harvest in 60 to 70 days
  - Edible pod - swollen / no seeds showing
  - Peas - pod bright, swollen, peas full-size
- Garden Snow and Snap Peas
- A few to try:
  - Peas - Mr. Big (AAS), Green Arrow, First 13
  - Snow peas - Mammoth Melting, Oregon Giant
  - Edible podded - Sugar Snap (AAS), Sugar Daddy, Sugar Ann (AAS), Patio Pride (AAS container), Snak Hero (AAS)
- Powdery mildew usually only a problem as temperatures and humidity rise
  - Plant for early summer and fall harvests

## POTATO

- Plant seeds (tuber divisions) in early spring
- Grow in rows and hills in ground, raised beds or containers
  - Space 12" apart
- Harvest in 80 to 140 days - new potatoes any size, storing tuber full size, tops dry
- A few to try:
  - Clancy (AAS) - from seed, not tubers, red to rose blush tubers
  - Early types - Norgold Russet, Norland, Superior
  - Late - Katahdin, Kennebec



## ONION SETS

- Wait a few weeks to put onion plants in the garden
- Plant seeds indoors 8 weeks before planting in the garden
- Move transplants into the garden in mid spring
- Plant sets in early spring and transplants mid spring into summer
- Harvest sets for green onions when 6-8" tall
  - Storage onions best from plants, harvest when tops fall
- Long and day-neutral varieties suited to northern regions
- A few to try - Benny's, Southport Red, Yellow Spanish, White Sweet Spanish, Walla Walla Sweet, Super Star Sweet (AAS), Warrior (AAS, green or bunching)

## CABBAGE, BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER, BRUSSELS SPROUTS

- Plant mid spring, protect plants from frost and mid season for fall harvest
- Harvest
  - **Cabbage** - when head is full size and firm - cut, leaving lower leaves for additional heads
  - **Broccoli** - when flowerhead is full size, before buds open, leave stem for re-sprouting
  - **Cauliflower** - blanch when head is size of quarter - ready in 5 to 7 days
    - Blanching Cauliflower and Celery
  - **Brussels sprouts** - harvest when sprouts are firm and 1" in diameter

- A few to try:
  - Cabbage - AAS Winners - Katarina (container), Savoy Express, Savoy King, Red Ball
  - Broccoli - Crosier, Comet (AAS), Green Goliath, Artwork (AAS - stem type)
  - Cauliflower - Snow Crown (AAS), Snow King (AAS), Violet Queen, Green Goddess Hybrid
  - Brussels sprouts - Hestia (AAS), Redarling, Long Island
- **Eco-friendly Control of Cabbage Worms**
  - Cover with floating row cover to prevent egg laying
  - *Btk* organic insecticide that only kills true caterpillars

## Buttoning

- Young transplants subjected to frost will form small head that never fully develops

## CILANTRO

- Annual
- Sunny, cool location
  - Cool temperatures delay flowering
- Plant seeds directly in the garden
  - 1/2" deep and thin to 8"
- Sow seeds every 2 to 3 weeks until early summer
- Plant in late summer / early August for fall harvest
- **Remove flowers as they appear and harvest regularly**
- Flowers are edible with milder flavor than leaves

- Allow some seeds to form and use as coriander and others to reseed in the garden

- **Delfino** (AAS)
  - Finely dissected leaves
  - More heat tolerant
- Slo Bolt

## CHIVES

- Perennial Zones 4 to 8
- Leaves and flowers are edible
- Full to part sun
- Well-drained soil
- Plant seeds directly - 45 - 95°F
- Space plants 12 - 18"
- Remove flowers to eat and prevent reseeding
- Reseeds readily
- **Geisha Garlic Chives** (AAS)
  - Mild garlic flavor
- Overwinter potted chives in sunny window or unheated garage
- Harvest
  - Cut a few leaves back to 2" above the soil surface
  - Use to flavor baked potatoes, salads, butter and any dish where mild onion flavor desired



## **PARSLEY**

- Biennial
  - First year producing leaves
  - Second year flowers and seeds
    - Some gardeners find the leaves more bitter the second year
- Full to part sun
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks before last spring frost
  - Soak seeds overnight to speed germination
- Move transplants into the garden after last spring frost
- Harvest leaves and use
  - Garnish, breath freshener, cilantro substitute, pesto, stuffing, soups, salads and vegetable dishes

## **Planting Perennials**

### **From Greenhouse to Garden**

- Protect from cold until danger of frost has passed
- Harden off before planting in garden

### **From Field or Cold Frame to Garden**

- Ready to go in the garden

## **Bare Root Trees, Shrubs & Perennials**

- Dormant plants can be moved into the garden as soon as soil is workable
- Those that have sprouted:
  - Plant and grow inside
  - Harden off
  - Move to garden when danger of frost has passed

## **Planting Shrubs**

- Carefully remove from container
- Find crown
- Loosen any girdling roots
- Plant in hole as deep as distance from crown to bottom of root ball
- Planting hole 2 to 5 times wider than the root ball
- Roughen sides of planting hole
- Backfill with existing soil
- Water
- Mulch
  - Keep mulch off crowns of plants

## **Planting Trees**

- Locate root flare - place where roots curve away from trunk
- Dig saucer shaped hole
  - Center no deeper than distance from root flare to bottom of root ball
  - 3-5 times wider than root ball
- Move tree by root ball or pot, NOT tree trunk
- Cut away wire basket
- Cut away burlap
- Roughen sides of planting hole
- Backfill with existing soil
- **Mulch**
  - 2-3" layer of shredded bark or wood chips
  - Pull mulch away from tree trunk
  - Conserves moisture, suppresses weeds and improves soil
  - Do NOT use landscape fabric under organic mulches

- Weed seeds blow in and root through mulch and fabric
- Composted organic mulch never reaches soil and can block pores in fabric, preventing water and air from reaching soil below
- As plants grow, can girdle tree trunk causing death

## • **Water**

- Plants need 10 gallons of water for every inch diameter of trunk

## **Space Plants Properly**

- Check tag and provide space to reach mature size

## **Fill Voids Between Perennials with Annuals First Year or Two**

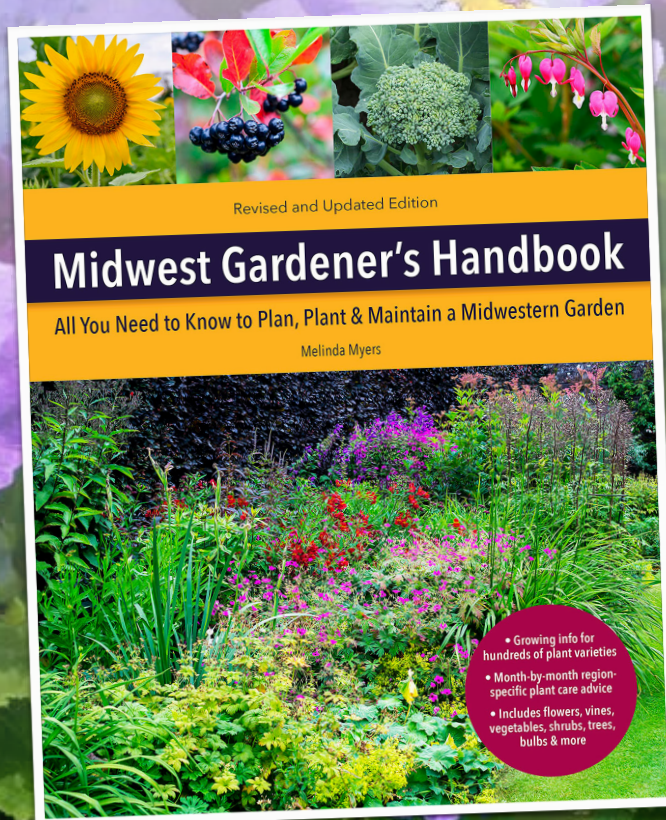
- Use annual and perennial flowers and vegetables to fill voids
  - Each year you'll need fewer annuals
  - Eventually move perennials to another bed
- Easier to move perennials than trees and shrubs

## **Jump Start the Season**

- Warm the soil prior to planting
  - Clear plastic for several weeks
- Weed seeds sprout
- Lightly cultivate
  - \* Do NOT dig deep as you bring up weed seeds
- Plant
- **Solarize soil in summer**



- Floating row covers
  - Different weights of the fabric provide different levels of protections
  - Use to warm soil
  - Plant and cover transplants and newly planted seeds
    - \* Protects plants and seeds from birds, critters and some insects
    - \* Warmer temperatures speed seed germination
    - \* Added warmth can reduce time to harvest
    - \* Insect protection
- Cloches
  - Bell jar with vent
  - Wall 'o Water
  - Plastic around tomato tower
  - Pop up accelerator
- Containers
  - Plant in containers
  - Move into protected location when frost is in the forecast



now available



# Join Me at Ebert's!

Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

## ***Cutting Gardens thru the Seasons***

Grow your own garden-fresh flowers to enjoy in your home or to share with others. Fresh flowers generate a smile in just seconds and the joy last for days. I will cover a variety of easy-care flowers that provide color and cut flowers from spring through fall. Plus, I'll share tips for including them in existing vegetable gardens, raised beds, or mixed borders.

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

## ***Rose Care 101***

Roses make great additions to the landscape. Selecting the right variety for your space and gardening style can ensure success with minimal care. I will cover hardy, easy-care roses sure to add colorful blooms and rose hips for you, pollinators, and birds to enjoy.

Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

## ***The Wonderful World of Hydrangeas***

So many choices and not enough space. Fortunately, there is a hydrangea for every garden and container. I will help you find the best hydrangea for your growing conditions, landscape design, and growing goals. Plus, I'll cover planting, ongoing care and pruning for each type of hydrangea.

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

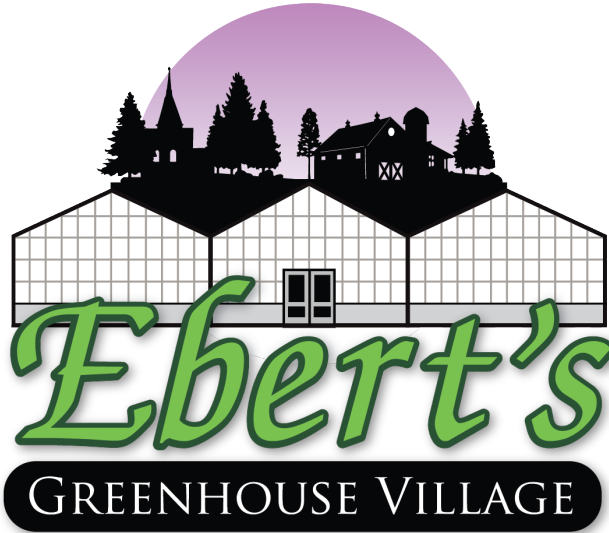
## ***Preparing Your Garden for Winter***

You worked hard planting and tending your landscape throughout the summer. Make sure your plants are ready for our challenging winter ahead and ready for an eye-catching spring display. I will discuss what plants to leave standing over winter for you, the pollinators, and birds to enjoy and those that need to be pruned now or next spring. I will share tips on mulching to increase winter survival and proper lawn fertilization as well.





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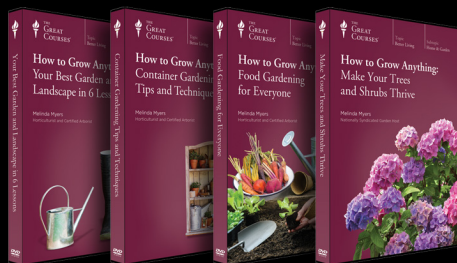
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