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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

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Ramsey County Master Gardeners

Garden advice through the seasons - Spring 2022



In this newsletter

- 2022 plant sale
- Garden stories from Master Gardener volunteers
- Community gardener resources
- Compost bin sale for Ramsey County residents
- New food scraps location details

Minnesota Spring

March 1 - May 30		
	Average temperature	Daylight
Start of Spring	24° F	11 Hours 16 Minutes
End of Spring	67° F	15 Hours 23 Minutes
Change	43° F increase	4 hour 7 minute increase

Upcoming events and opportunities: March / April / May

Annual plant sale

The Master Gardener volunteer program [plant sale returns for in-person shopping](#) on May 21. Shop for native plants, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials. (Unlike in previous years, we will not be selling landscape plants or perennial plant divisions this year to avoid spreading jumping worm eggs.



Local garden classes

Come learn what you need to know about vegetable gardening (for both beginning and experienced growers), home composting, planting for pollinators, advice to help your garden spring into summer and more. These classes are taught by Master Gardener volunteers online this spring and summer. [Find a local class.](#)

The [University of Minnesota Extension](#), the [Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#), and the [Minnesota Horticultural Society](#) offer more classes on a range of topics. Check their websites for details about upcoming events!

Gardener stories

- [Coping with jumping worms](#)
- [Tips for taking good care of houseplants](#)
- [Starting native plants from seed](#)
- [Dividing African Violets](#)
- [Dwarf indeterminate tomatoes](#)



Volunteers in action

Master Gardener volunteers maintain a [series of display gardens](#) at the Extension office in Maplewood. You can see examples of a pollinator garden, rain garden, square-foot vegetable garden, and [Minnesota seed trials](#). Stop by anytime to get ideas or [contact us](#) for a tour.

Spring garden information

Letting the garden bed sleep in

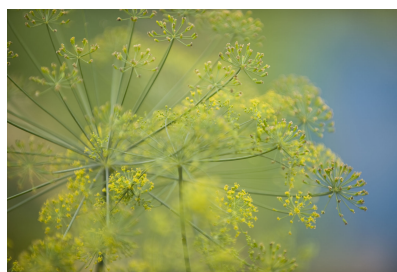
[Postpone your spring cleanup](#) until temperatures are consistently over 50 degrees overnight. This gives native bees, butterflies and beneficial insects time to emerge from their winter hibernation.

Planting the vegetable garden

[Planting a vegetable garden](#) is an enjoyable experience. With careful planning and preparation, you can have a good harvest.

2021 Minnesota winners (seed trial results)

In 2021, Master Gardener volunteers tested six varieties of each type of plant in the annual seed trial. Last year, we tested: delicata squash, dill, cayenne peppers, ground cherries, lacinato kale, onions, white cosmos and tall yellow marigolds. [Learn which ones performed best in Minnesota.](#)



Be drought smart - ground covers for gardens

Last year's summer drought was intense! You can conserve water and protect your gardens by [growing ground-covering plants](#), which reduce evaporation. You can also [consider using cover crops](#) to amend and improve your garden soil while protecting it.

Urban ag and community gardening resources

Community gardens promote healthy eating and active living, increase access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods and enhance community and environmental relationships. [Find resources for Ramsey County community gardeners.](#)

Support native pollinators with trees

Trees and shrubs provide early food for native pollinators. They also provide habitat and protection for our insect friends. Check out the new webpage from Extension: [Trees and shrubs for pollinators](#).

Gypsy moth renamed

As of July 2021, the Entomological Society of America discontinued the use of “gypsy moth” as a common name for *Lymantria dispar*. The new name—[spongy moth](#)—refers to the moth’s sponge-like egg mass, an important target for management efforts to slow the spread of the insect. This effort is part of the **Better Common Names Project**, which seeks community input on common insect names to develop and recommend new common names where needed.



Purchasing seeds? Read the label.

All seed sold in Minnesota [must be labeled](#) with some key pieces of information whether it comes in a bag, a tote or a packet. The process of labeling not only establishes what is in the container, but also what is not, such as prohibited noxious weed seeds like Palmer amaranth.



Compost bin and rain barrel sale

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is [selling compost bins again](#). Ramsey County residents can use promo code RAMSEY during checkout to receive \$20 off their compost bin order. Pick up on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Ramsey County Parks

and Recreation Department (2020 White Bear Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109.)

Stop the spread - jumping worms in Ramsey County

[Jumping worms](#) (*Amyntas spp.*) are an invasive species of worm recently discovered in Ramsey County. These worms can cause trouble for homeowners and gardeners by damaging soils. There are no tested methods to control this pest so we need YOU to help prevent the spread.

- Be cautious of buying or swapping landscape plants from neighbors and local organizations; ask about their control and prevention methods.
- Don’t share any plants that you suspect might be harboring jumping worms.
- Be on the lookout for jumping worms in soil, potted landscape plants, mulch or compost later in the summer.

- Report any suspected jumping worms to the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#).

New food scraps drop off site open in Highland Park

A [new collection site](#) in Highland Park will make it easier for Ramsey County residents to drop off food scraps. The new site is open 24 hours a day, year-round at 800 S. Snelling Ave., Saint Paul.

Minnesota lawn care calendar

[Lawn care season](#) is approaching fast and many homeowners are eager to get a head start on their lawns. Last year was tough on many plants, but none so visible as our lawns. Be ready to give your lawn the support it needs to recover.

Soil testing: a sure sign of spring

[Plan to get a soil test this spring](#) to make the most of this growing season for all your plants – vegetables, fruit, landscape plants, turf grass, trees and shrubs! As soon as your soil dries out – often later in April – you can collect soil samples from your yard and garden. Submit your sample to the University of Minnesota soil-testing lab, located on the St. Paul Campus.



Garden resources and services

- [Ramsey County Master Gardeners website](#)
- [Ramsey County Master Gardeners on Facebook](#)
- [Ramsey County yard waste](#) and [food scraps drop-off locations](#) (check for spring hours)
- [Ask Extension online and phone services](#)
- [Sign up for University of Minnesota yard and garden news](#)
- [University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum garden tours and classes](#)
- [Minnesota Water Stewards](#)
- [University of Minnesota Tree Care Advocates](#)
- [Ramsey County Green Ramsey](#)

This email was sent to all Ramsey County Master Gardener subscribers by Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, 3 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, MN, 55108, USA. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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