



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Driven to Discover®

Ramsey County Master Gardeners

## Garden advice through the seasons - Spring 2023



### In this newsletter

- 2023 plant sale
- Compost bin and rain barrel sale
- Pollinator-friendly garden cleanup
- New food scrap pickup program in Ramsey County
- Top performing vegetables
- Be a stormwater hero
- Stop crabgrass before it starts

### Minnesota Spring

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

### Upcoming events and opportunities:

March/April/May

**Annual plant sale**

The [Master Gardener volunteer program plant sale](#) returns for in-person shopping on May 20. Shop for native plants, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials plants and more!



### **Local garden classes**

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

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!

### **Get garden help**

[Let us help with your garden questions](#). An Extension Master Gardener volunteer will reply by email within 48 hours. Please provide as much relevant detail as possible, including images if possible.

### **Master Gardener stories**

Read about [raising air plants](#), [pollinator-friendly garden cleanup](#), choosing [wildflower seed mixes](#) with care, deciding [what to grow in your vegetable garden](#) and [which varieties do the best in Minnesota](#), and Master Gardeners' thoughts about the book, [How We Eat](#).



---

## **Spring garden information**

### **NEW food scraps pickup service**

Ramsey and Washington county residents will have a new way to recycle food scraps from home in 2023, whether they live in an apartment, condo or house. [Learn how the program works](#) and when it will be available in your community.

### **Compost bin and rain barrrel sale**

The Recycling Association of Minnesota partners with local governments, soil and watershed districts, nonprofits and other organizations to provide

quality rain barrels and compost bins made from 100 % recycled materials at low cost to Minnesota residents. [Ramsey County residents get \\$20 off a compost bin order with promo code!](#)



## Starting a garden from seed

[Avoid some of the common problems](#) affecting seedlings as you get ready to garden this spring.

## 2022 top performing vegetables

In 2022, Master Gardener volunteers tested varieties of Brandywine tomatoes, okra, burpless cucumbers, daikon radishes, Chinese cabbage, large purple eggplant, annual asters and dwarf sunflowers. [Learn which ones performed best in Minnesota.](#)

## Stop crabgrass before it starts

Crabgrass germination is driven by soil temperatures and our long winter is giving Ramsey County residents the opportunity to get ahead of [this lawn nuisance.](#)

## Look for cutworms in your garden

Cutworms get their name from an annoying habit of feeding on young plants right at the soil line, making small plants appear to be "cut" at the base. So, [what's a gardener to do?](#)



## Eat more vegetables this summer

Plan ahead for a summer filled with fresh fruits and vegetables by [signing up for a CSA](#) (community supported agriculture) share. Eat well and support your local farmer!

## Be a stormwater hero!

Snowmelt and seasonal weather changes are sending more intense rainfall and water events our way, which may not absorb into the ground, cause flooding, increase erosion and carry pollution to our lakes and wetlands. You can be the key to stop runoff and increase infiltration on your property with [easy and economical techniques.](#)

## Yard waste sites in full swing

Ramsey County's yard waste collection sites opened for the summer season hours on Saturday, April 1 with extended days and hours. [Find a location near you](#) to use these great resources.

## 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 a garden and helpful resources](#) for Ramsey County community gardeners.



---

## Garden resources and services

### Answers for your garden questions

Get answers to your garden questions [using this online form](#).

### Information about your garden

[Extension's yard and garden news](#) offers timely garden advice from University of Minnesota researchers and educators. The [yard and garden resource website](#) provides in-depth information to identify insects, plants, and diseases and to find tips on growing healthy vegetables.

- [Ramsey County Master Gardener volunteer program website, Facebook and Instagram](#)
- [Ask a Master Gardener online and phone services](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension yard and garden news](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension yard and garden resources](#)
- [University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum garden tours and classes](#)
- [Minnesota Water Stewards](#)
- [University of Minnesota Tree Care Advocates](#)
- [Ramsey County yard waste and food scraps drop-off locations](#)
- [Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Program](#)
- [Ramsey County Green Ramsey](#)
- [Ramsey County Urban Ag and Community Gardening](#)

[unsubscribe \*\*brianna.gohde@gmail.com\*\* from RCMG newsletter](#) | [mass email privacy statement](#)