

[View this message on the web.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION
Driven to Discover®

Ramsey County Master Gardeners

Garden advice through the seasons - Winter 2021



In this newsletter - December/January/February

- Winter garden classes
- Watch for pests in holiday greens
- Use deicing salts with care
- Start growing with hydroponics

Minnesota Winter

December 1 - February 28		
	Average temperature	Daylight
Start of Winter	27° F	9 Hours 1 Minute
End of Winter	15° F	9 Hours 48 Minutes
Change	12° F decrease	47 minute increase

Volunteers in action

Upcoming Master Gardener classes

Come learn what you need to know about pruning trees and shrubs, growing microgreens, understanding climate change in Minnesota and more. Master Gardeners will



V2esk on Unsplash

teach all classes online this winter and spring. [Find a class](#).

Tulip Test Garden school project

Master Gardener [volunteers partnered](#) with St. Paul Public Schools this fall to help students learn about the changing of the seasons.



Support Minnesota's diverse areas

Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are areas that serve unique purposes in our communities. You can help

them when they [call for volunteers](#).

Now accepting garden questions

Have a question about houseplants, insects or your plans for a spring garden? [We can help!](#)

Upcoming events and opportunities

2022 Extension ProHort Core Course

Jan. 6-April 21

[ProHort](#) is for industry professionals, homeowners, educators and anyone looking for comprehensive horticulture foundation education from University of Minnesota Extension. This course consists of 14 modules that can be completed online, at-your-own-pace.

Beekeeping in northern climates

Jan. 15

Interested in becoming a [beekeeper](#)? Marla Spivak, Katie Lee and Gary Reuter from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab will help you get started in beekeeping. If you have had no prior experience keeping bees in our cold climate, beekeeping in northern climates will teach you everything you need to know.



Gardening for the Health of It

Feb. 15-March 24

Join the Olmsted County Extension Master Gardener volunteers, the Rochester Community and Technical College horticulture department, Shades of Green Hosta Society and the Rochester Garden and Flower Club for their [spring gardening seminar](#)!



Right plant, right place, right purpose

Feb. 17

Learn how to [effectively select plants](#) for your garden and what factors are crucial to consider with University of Minnesota Extension horticulturist, Julie Weisenhorn.

Building a resilient garden

Feb. 23

Gardens can be unpredictable places. By [building diversity in our gardens](#), we can reduce weak points and assure that even when some things go wrong, there are other things that succeed. Extension educators Troy Salzer and Robin Trott will discuss how soil health and plant selection can lessen the impact of a changing climate in your garden.



Winter garden information

Watch for pests in holiday greens

[Watch for insects](#) and diseases that hitchhike on trees and holiday greenery including elongate hemlock scale, boxwood blight, oriental bittersweet, Lymantria dispar (gypsy moth) and others.



Holiday shopping with Amazon Smile

If you shop for gifts using Amazon, consider making a free donation to the Ramsey County Master Gardener volunteer program. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1827521 to help support our programs to protect and enhance the environment, promote the therapeutic benefits of gardening, strengthen community pride by engaging in neighborhood gardens and promote good nutrition by teaching residents to grow fruits and vegetables.

Use deicing salts with care

[Deicing salts](#) used to prevent ice from forming can sometimes be applied improperly. Used incorrectly, these salts can pollute groundwater, burn plants, and raise salt levels in the soil.



Seed savvy

Last spring saw quite a few seed shortages. If you're planning to grow from seed in 2022, order your seeds sooner than later. Check out some of the [recommended varieties](#) for



Minnesota gardens courtesy of the Master Gardener seed trials.

Start growing with hydroponics

Hydroponics, or growing plants in water, is a great way to keep growing fresh greens all winter long indoors. You can build a hydroponics set-up for less than \$40, or with materials you may already have.



Pruning fruit trees and shrubs

Raspberries, grapes, blueberries, apples, pears, cherries and plums should be pruned in late winter. Mark your calendars and be ready when spring starts showing up next February.

How do insects spend the winter?

Our plants are all tucked in for the winter but where have all the bugs gone? Both our [insect friends and foes](#) have different strategies for surviving a Minnesota winter.



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 winter 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.

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