



RAMSEY COUNTY

Master Gardener News

RCMG "Through the Seasons" Spring 2018

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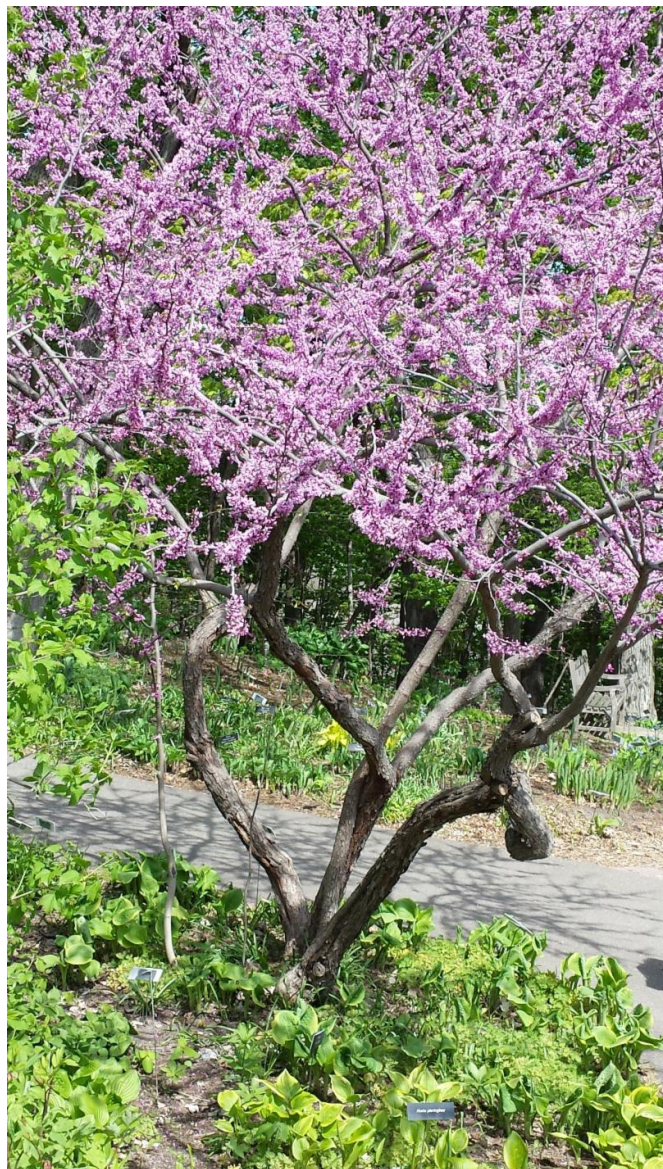
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Is it SPRING YET?

Read about [record snow falls](#) all around the state! Spring is on it's way!

We all want to get growing, here's a few tips before you begin:

Vincent A. Fritz, in [Planting your Vegetable Garden](#), suggests, "Soils should not be prepared for planting when too wet or too dry. If soil sticks to your shoes or shovel, it is too wet. Press a small amount of soil in your hand. When the moisture is right, the soil crumbles and breaks into small clumps. If it is too wet, it stays molded in a ball."

Beware of compacting your soil by walking on wet areas that are soggy from snow melt and eventually rain.

Use a thermometer (a plain kitchen one used for cooking will do) to determine your soil temperature before you plant seeds or seedlings.

"Beet, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, lettuce, pea, and radish seeds will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 40°F. Although they will germinate, this isn't the optimal temperature. When the optimal temperatures are reached which are typically above 60°F, plants emerge out of the soil in a much shorter period as their growth after germination is more vigorous." Extension Educator, Beth Berlin. [Is it too Early to Start Planting Your Vegetable Garden?](#)

For more spring planting tips, check out [this article](#) to learn how to select healthy plants at your garden center by Extension Educator, Michelle Grabowski.

Yard and Garden Help All Season

Visit the University of Minnesota Extension [Yard and Garden](#) web page often to find out important horticultural information ranging from pest identification to the best time to plant seedlings. Subscribe to the [Yard and Garden Newsletter](#)- you'll get seasonal tips in your inbox!

Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Distribution

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is hosting a distribution of compost bins and rain barrels in Ramsey County to Ramsey County residents. The cost is \$64.00 for the compost bin and \$79.00 for the rain barrel + tax on both of these items.



Compost Bin & Rain Barrel SALE!

Quality compost bins and rain barrels are now available for purchase!

To order online go to RecycleMinnesota.org
Pick up your order in Maplewood on April 28th from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. or St. Paul on June 2nd from 9 a.m. - Noon

\$20 off compost bins for Ramsey County Residents!
*Proof of residency required
Use code "ramsey" at check out

For more information and to order visit:
RecycleMinnesota.org

For questions, call (651) 641-4589

To find out more, please click below and order your bins and barrels online. Pick up locations and dates and times are listed.

[READ MORE AND ORDER HERE.](#)

Take Action to Help Pollinators

Spring is just around the corner and most gardeners are thinking about their landscapes and what to plant in the coming season. What will the gardens look like this year? What annual flowers can I plant to add color and interest? What perennial should I place in that corner in the backyard?

Consider how your current landscape measures up for providing food for pollinators. We depend deeply on pollinators for our survival, but they're in trouble for a variety of reasons.

[READ MORE.](#)



Spring Garden Design on your Mind?

This is the time to think through your garden plans before you start to dig or plant. Consideration of pollinator food is one item on your spring list, but here's an article by Julie Weisenhorn, University of Minnesota Extension Educator in Horticulture, where you'll find many useful tips in your design planning this spring.

[READ THE ARTICLE.](#)

St. Paul Food and Nutrition Commission

Learn about food security and food justice issues in Ramsey County. Attend a meeting of the St. Paul Food and Nutrition Commission, share your ideas and ask questions.

"The Saint Paul - Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission (FNC) is a public forum (open to everyone) to share information, assess local food systems, suggest policies, and develop plans to increase access to safe, affordable and nutritious foods. The Commission makes recommendations, creates plans, and conducts activities to achieve a comprehensive vision of expanded access to healthier foods and sustainable local food systems."

[LEARN MORE.](#)

**Ramsey County Master Gardener Diagnostic Clinic Opens
May 2, 2018!**

Have a garden question? Need to identify a plant or house pest? **The Diagnostic Clinic, located at 2020 White Bear Ave. in Maplewood**, is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays from the beginning of May until the end of September.

Clinic Hours:

For the month of May: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm.

June, July and August: Wednesdays, 11 am to 1 pm AND 6 pm to 8 pm.

June and July: Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm. August: 11 am to 1 pm.

For the month of September: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm.

Closed: Wednesday July 4, 2018.

Please bring samples or good quality photos to the clinic to aid us in our diagnostic efforts.

Call 651-704-2053.

Organic Recycling in Ramsey County

When you can't compost your own organic waste, organic recycling is the answer to that challenge. Ramsey County yard waste sites will take your organics and turn it into compost.

[Yard Waste](#) sites are conveniently located around the county. [Visit this link](#) to learn more about organic recycling in Ramsey County. Not sure what to put into an organic recycling bin? Check out [this page](#) from Ramsey County Environmental Health. Throughout the season, Ramsey County Master Gardeners answer questions about organic recycling and composting at the yard waste sites.



Save the Date, RCMG Annual Plant Sale!

Please mark your calendars for May 19, 2018 and plan to join us at our annual plant sale. Location: 2020 White Bear Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109 at the historic Ramsey County Barn.

Time: 8 am to 2 pm.

We'll be featuring short presentations on Plants for Pollinators throughout the morning of the sale, even before the sale starts at 7:30 am! Early birds come and find out the best plants for pollinators, then shop the sale!





2018 PLANT SALE
Hosted by Ramsey County Master Gardeners
Saturday May 19, 8 AM-2 PM at
"The Barn" 2020 White Bear Ave. Maplewood
Open to the Public

Hundreds of great plants, carefully tended by expert gardeners.

Natives and perennials for sun and shade, tomatoes, herbs, hostas and more.

Sales support community programs that engage youth in horticulture projects and University of Minnesota scholarships.



Become a Ramsey County Master Gardener!

Ramsey County Master Gardener volunteers educate residents on University research-based, eco-friendly gardening to improve our physical and environmental health.

Contact auss0004@umn.edu for more information on how to join the Ramsey County Master Gardener organization as a volunteer.

[Learn more](#) about the Extension Master Gardener Program.





Calendar: Community Events, Information Booths and more!

[View our full calendar.](#)

Find us on 

(Click on the text above to view our facebook page!)

University of Minnesota, U. of Minnesota Extension, 436 Coffey, 1420 Coffey Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108

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