

About Us

Master Gardeners improve the quality of life of others by helping them find sound management practices for home and urban natural resources and contributing to a safe, abundant food supply through home fruit and vegetable production. Master Gardeners are a dedicated group of individuals who generously give their time and expertise to their community.

Get In Touch!

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@ColesCountyMasterGardeners



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Master Gardener



SPEAKERS BUREAU

Speakers Bureau

Our Speakers Bureau provides engaging horticultural presentations to adult audiences free of charge (except when workshop materials are needed). All speakers are Master Gardener volunteers who have completed over 60 hours of training from University of Illinois Extension, plus years of personal gardening experience.

Presentations are a minimum of 30 minutes and can be modified to fill more time. Speakers may accept mileage reimbursement, or donations may be made to Coles County Extension.

Master Gardeners are happy to present the topics listed. If you have a need for a specific topic that is not listed, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your request.

Our Topics

Fruits and Vegetables

- Cool Season Crops
- Fruit Tree Grafting
- Grow Your Own Backyard Tree Fruit
- Herb Gardening
- Hydroponics for Food Production
- Tomato Troubles
- Indoor Edible Gardens
- Vegetable Gardening in Raised Beds and Containers

General Gardening

- Bargain Gardens
- Container Gardening
- Fall Garden Cleanup
- The Meaning of Flowers
- Naughty, Nice, & Simply Annoying Plants
- Seasonal Care for the Home
- Landscape
- Seed Saving

Insects

- Beneficial Insects: Garden Warriors
- Living with Japanese Beetles
- Native Pollinators
- Swallowtails of Illinois (butterflies)

Landscaping

- Creating a Shady Garden Respite
- Designing a Flower Bed
- Energy-Efficient Landscaping
- Tea Gardens
- Easy Care Native Plants

Ornamental

- Bulbs: Basics, Myths, and Truths
- Growing Cacti & Succulents
- How to Have Healthy Houseplants
- Late Summer & Fall Colors in the Garden

Trees

- All Walks of Leaf (Tree ID)
- How to Kill Your Tree: A guide of what NOT to do
- Tree Health Assessment