

A newsletter for McHenry County community gardeners.

# THE HUNGRY GARDENER



VOLUME 3.1

JUNE 2020

## Welcome!

In **Dig Deeper**, it's time to plant the warm season crops! Try the versatile **Recipe of the Month** - Baked Asparagus.

Check out **Upcoming Events**. The McHenry County Farmstroll is in September! In the **Scouting Report** we'll get back to basics on HOW to be a scout. Join the **Kaffeeklatsch!** Do you have questions? *The Hungry Gardener* has answers! Are there topics you'd like covered? Let *The Hungry Gardener* know! Submit questions and interests to Brenda Dahlfors at [dahlfors@illinois.edu](mailto:dahlfors@illinois.edu) and make sure to put *The Hungry Gardener* in the subject heading.

## DIG DEEPER: WARM SEASON CROPS

Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, tomatillos, potatoes, ground cherries are all part of the family Solanaceae - the night-shade family. These crops are warm season crops, meaning they need warm soil and ambient heat to thrive. Plant transplants versus seeds in soil that is nutrient rich - using lots of compost - as the plants are heavy feeders. Spacing for crop health and yield is important. Too close together and plants will not reach optimal size, may develop disease and have a pest overload. All will limit yield. Proper spacing will also allow sunlight to reach all parts of a plant - warm season crops love that! Check out this link for more information <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/vegguide/step02.cfm>.



## SCOUTING REPORT: HOW TO SCOUT

Scouting your garden means checking daily for pests and diseases that will affect yield. Get down among the plants. Look at the bottom of leaves, check the stems. Be sure to look at the soil around the base of your plants. Note any insect activity and fungal problems. When you look over the garden in general, are there any that don't seem to be thriving - stunted or off-color plants? Have you weeded lately? Insect activity may look like a mass of small black or pale dots on the underside of leaves - these are eggs of pests. Some pests chew holes and the edges of leaves or through the stem. Check for slugs' slimy trail. Fungal problems will present as wilting leaves, scabs, mold coatings. Try keeping a log or take photos with your phone. Weather, poor soil and plant placement are just some additional elements that will affect your yield. Illinois Master Gardeners are here to answer your questions, identify and solve problems.

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## Upcoming Events

♦ 7/11 Gardenwalk  
**CANCELLED**

♦ Sundays in the  
Garden 2020

1:00 pm at MCC Demo Garden

8/16 Bugs: Good and Bad

9/20 Seed Gathering

♦ 9/27 McHenry Co.  
Farmstroll

♦ For more info:

[https://  
web.extension.illinois.edu/  
lm/events](https://web.extension.illinois.edu/lm/events)



**Baked Asparagus***Serves 6*

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound fresh asparagus
- 2 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice 1 carrot (medium, shredded)
- 2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Pinch of black pepper

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Wash hands with soap and water.
3. Gently rub asparagus under running water and trim off hard ends.
4. Lay asparagus in shallow, flat pan (9" x 13" pan).
5. Dribble asparagus with vegetable oil.
6. Sprinkle with lemon juice, parlic powder and black pepper.
7. Bake for 12 - 15 minutes.

Note: rotate asparagus half way through for even heating.

**Kaffeeklatsch*****Let's chat in the garden***

Have you noticed the fuzzy hairs on the stems of tomato plants? Each of those hairs can become a root when buried in soil. These trichomes or adventitious roots allow deeper planting on those leggy plants. A deeper root system will save water and fertilizer. Plants will be healthier and have higher yields.

What tips or questions do you have?

Contact Brenda Dahlfors at dahlfors@illinois.edu and put

***The Hungry Gardener*** in the subject heading.

**Stay safe. Stay strong.  
Use your cookie voice.**



**"How Safe is My Food in a  
COVID-19 World"**

[https://  
extension.illinois.edu/  
sites/default/files/  
food\\_and\\_covid.pdf](https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/food_and_covid.pdf)

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For more veg info: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/veggies/>

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