

From the Ground Up

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April Garden Calendar



		1 Prune deciduous trees while dormant	2 Clear yard debris if ground is stable	3 Start exercising to be garden-ready	4 Service lawnmower	5 Start annual and vegetable seeds for transplanting
6 Prune summer-flowering shrubs	7 Clean garden tools	8 Test your garden soil	9 Map out your garden	10 Turn compost pile	11 Clean out birdfeeders and birdbath	12 Cut back ornamental grasses
13 Prepare for deterring deer and rabbits	14 Remove dead foliage and stems	15 Begin fruit tree pest control program	16 Divide perennials	17 Start fertilizing indoor plants	18 Harden off cool-weather transplants	19 Top off garden soil by adding compost
20 Leave tulip and daffodil foliage alone until yellow	21 Plant gladioli	22 Celebrate Earth Day	23 Plant asparagus, rhubarb, and raspberries	24 Repair lawn bare spots	25 Look for and remove eastern tent caterpillar eggs—dump into pail of detergent and water	26 Remove winter mulch from perennials if new growth appears. Apply pre-emergent crabgrass killer
27 Plant cabbage	28 Plant peas	29 Plant strawberries	30 Celebrate Arbor Day. Plant a tree.			

Sale! Sale! Plants for Sale!



May 10 is the date! The annual Minnehaha County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 10, from 9 to 11 a.m.** at the Domestic Arts Building at the Sioux Falls W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds.

Available for sale is a wide variety of plants grown and donated by the Minnehaha County Master Gardeners. Plant categories include annuals, perennials for sun and shade, fruit and vegetable plants. There be cookies and coffee to take off the morning chill, and many Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions.

There will be no early sales. Because the best and most desirable plants are snapped up quickly, be there promptly at 9 a.m. for great buys.

WHAT 'S IN A NAME?

By Cleone Thompson, Master Gardener



When spring comes and we rush to nurseries to find new plants, check out the nametags with your new purchases. Common plant names can refer to many different species and if you are looking for something specific, it is worth the time to become familiar with proper plant names.

Modern plant classification, or taxonomy, is based on a system developed by the Swedish physician, Carl von Linne. Each plant is given a genus and species name. The combination of the genus and species names is called the botanical or Latin name.

Genus names are typically capitalized with the species name's being a descriptive word. Both are italicized or underlined in print.



Genus names come from a place or from the name of the botanist who discovered the plant. Some even come from mythical figures such as *Achillea* for Achilles and *Artemisia* for Artemis. The genus *Salvia* includes the sage you use in turkey dressing (*Salvia officinalis*), the popular annual bedding plant *Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria Blue', and one of my favorite perennials, *Salvia nemorosa* 'May Night'.

The species name can give a little more information than the genus such as color, where the plant originated, or what its habit might be. An example would be *purpureus* for purple, *canadensis* for coming from Canada, or *contorta* meaning twisted.

The "variety" or "cultivar" is the third name enclosed in single quotes after the species name. Cultivar names are often in English as they are given to a plant by the hybridizer when it proves to be significantly different than the normal species. If you are shopping for a superior variety of red maple or *Acer rubrum*, you might look for *Acer rubrum* 'Autumn Spire' which is known for its attractive, columnar shape.



LATIN AND GREEK WORDS COMMONLY

USED IN PLANT NAMES:

Alba—white, Globosa—rounded, Poly—many, Aurea — chartreuse, Lacteus—milky, Prostrata—creeping, Azur—blue, Luteus—yellow, Purpureus—purple, Coccineus—scarlet, Macro—large, Reptans—creeping, Dentate—toothed, Mono—single, Rosea—rose, Flava—yellow, Nana—warf, Rubra—red, Flora—flower, Pendula—weeping, Virens—green.

References: Northern Gardener magazine, January, 2004

THE ABC'S OF GARDENING.

By Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener



A...Annual—An annual is a plant that germinates, grows to full size, flowers, sets seed and dies within one year or single growing season. Despite their short lives, annuals bloom profusely and may do so for weeks at a time.

With a variety of colors, shapes and sizes, annuals can bring joy and interest to any garden spot, walkway or container. Familiar annuals include: alyssum, begonias, coleus, marigolds, petunias, salvia, and zinnias. Annuals may be sown from seed in the desired location or may be started indoors and transplanted as seedlings.

B...Bulb—A bulb is an underground food storage organ from which leaves, flowers and roots emerge. It is composed of overlapping, fleshy scales such as those seen in a sliced onion. Plants called bulbs can be divided into five broad categories: true bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots and rhizomes. A true bulb (such as a tulip or daffodil) contains an embryo of the plant to come that is surrounded by layers of tissue that store food.



A corm is a mass of storage tissue with a basal plate below and eyes on top (examples: crocus and gladiolus). Tubers have a mass of storage tissue with eyes, but no basal plate (such as a caladium). A tuberous root plant has swollen food-storing roots with eyes located at the base of the stem (dahlias belong to this category). A rhizome (such as a canna) is a thickened underground stem that grows horizontally and has eyes on top and roots below. Bulbs can be grown indoors, outdoors and in a variety of containers. Depending on their specific blooming season, bulbs may provide beauty in spring, summer or fall. Be certain to choose healthy bulbs and provide them with the sun, soil and moisture they require.

C...Cotyledon—The first leaves to appear on a seedling after it germinates. Cotyledons contain enough nutrients to feed the seed for a short period. They are not true leaves.

D...Division—Division, or the dividing of established plants, is a common method of plant propagation. It is generally used to multiply bulbs, perennials and shrubs. The plants are dug up and separated. Each divided section will have its own root system and one or more buds giving gardeners multiple plants. It usually should be done to mature perennials every 3 to 4 years. This promotes vigorous plants and abundant blooms.



Resources for Gardeners.....

For your information, see the garden links and books listed below:

Wonderful Websites...

<http://hortmg.sdstate.edu/hortlinks.htm>

<http://www.gardenweb.com/>

<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/>

From the Ground Up

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Forsythia

IT'S SPRING, THINK YELLOW

By Cleone Thompson, Master Gardener

When I think of spring I envision my favorite early flowering bush, Forsythia. Since moving to South Dakota I've been pleased with the 3 years of growth on a 'Northern Gold' Forsythia bush sometimes with snow on the ground. The bright yellow, bell-shaped flowers are a welcome change from winter. At our last home near Willmar, MN, I planted a 'Northern Sun' Forsythia close to a wetlands with great results. It tolerated wet "feet" very well. Of course a Primrose Lilac's yellow buds and creamy white single flowers add to the spring's yellow palette. An ornamental *Caragana arborescens* 'Walker' shrub's spring of multiple pea-like blooms cascading to the ground helps soothe spring fever!

Why limit ourselves to thoughts of spring yellows when we can enjoy its splash of color throughout our gardens all four seasons? Some of the other yellow perennials incorporated in my South Dakota rural gardens are:

Achillea 'Moon Shine' (Yarrow)

Rudbeckia, several varieties

'Golden Stargazer' Oriental Lily

Euphorbia polychroma (Cushion Spurge)

Heliopsis 'Lorraine Sunshine' (False Sunflower)

Coreopsis

Goldenrod 'Baby Gold'

Oenothera 'Evening Primrose'

Clematis 'Tangutica'

Ligularia 'Desdemoa' (Golden Groundsel)

Echinacea Big Sky 'Harvest Moon' (Coneflower)

Heuchera 'Lime Rickey' (Coral Bells)

Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle)

Lysimachia 'Alexander' (Variegated Yellow Loosestrife)

Artemisia 'Oriental Limelight'

Potentilla shrubs offer a variety of summer yellows. I like the 'Dakota Sunspot' and 'Mango Tango'.

Edible 'Bright Light' Swiss chard has in its multi-colored stalks a deep golden color that will enhance any garden and can be seeded into the warm spring soil. Other easy yellow annuals include Moss rose, Meadow foam, Zinnia, Cockscomb, Marigold, Snapdragon, Calliopsis, Cosmos, Hollyhock, and Sunflowers.

I would like to mention the Yellow Twig Dogwood *Corneus sericea* 'Flaviramea' for some golden winter color interest to round out your gardening year of yellows.



Golden Stargazer



Goldenrod



Lysimachia



Oenothera



Catchall



Master Gardener training for 2008 in Sioux Falls will take place on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 16 through July 18. Registration is required through a form available at the Minnehaha County Extension Office at 220 West Sixth Street. The class cost is \$160.

The information you need is at the County Extension Office. There is a wide range of informational publications and Extension Extras which provide easy-to-follow answers to many lawn and garden questions. Best of all, they are FREE OF CHARGE to the public. Drop by the Minnehaha Extension Office at 220 West Sixth Street and request the FREE "Vegetable Gardening" EC668 publication or view the PDF document on line at <http://agbiopubs.sdstate.edu/process.cfm?Dept=hflp>.



The Mayor's Garden Party



Dress in your gardening duds, dust off your garden trowel and flex your kneeling pad because it is time for the Mayor's Annual Garden Party scheduled for Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers from the Sioux Falls area will help plant flowers at the Sherman Park battleship memorial, Terrace Park, McKennan Park and Tuthill Park. Both city park employees AND Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and supervise activities. Regardless of age or experience, everyone can volunteer for planting, having fun and helping to make our city parks beautiful.

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