



What's Growing On.....

in the world of the Marais des Cygne Extension Master Gardeners

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www.maraisdescygn.es.ksu.edu

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ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman - Janette Everhart
Vice Chair - Audrey Gabel
Secretary - Natalie Hartig
Treasurer - Lynn Campbell

Members at Large:
Krystal Barr, Susan Rodgers
Rena Tedrow

WORK DAYS

As soon as workdays begin for each garden, notice will be posted here for the location and the specific workday.

2026 Garden Symposium Recap

Matt Fineout

The MdC Garden Design Symposium for 2026 is a wrap! Thanks to the committee members and supporting teams: Patty, Stacy, and Krystal with artwork; Rena with set-up and table decor; Carol V. with door prizes; Helen with attendee packets; Betsy, Jan, and Lynn with food and refreshments; and Lenora and Scott with marketing. The thanks extend as well to the many volunteers who gave up their day to make the symposium a success. And it was! Survey says, "Yes, indeed."



A Trip to Planter's Seeds In KCMO

Natalie Hartig

If you've never been to the Planters Seed Company in downtown Kansas City, you are missing out on a unique and special experience.

Planters Seed Co. moved into its current building in 1928. It has expanded to a total of five buildings along the city block. When you walk in, you take a walk back in time. You see the long general store countertop with the small drawers behind the register containing many goodies. And.....all of these goodies are SEEDS! Names and pictures list the seeds contained in each drawer. When you tell the clerk how much seed you want (i.e. 1/2 pound), he or she will open the drawer and either pinch or scoop your seeds into an old-time scale that uses counterweights to weigh out your chosen amount.



As you wander through the five buildings, you will find many things you may need and many, many more you will want! One building contains many types of soil amendments, fertilizers, and planting adjuncts. The next building houses pots of every shape, size, and color imaginable. There are also kitchen items that make nice gifts, yard art, and garden gadgets.

A survey was provided to attendees in their packet of materials, and we got back about 70% response rate. These survey results reinforce just how well the symposium was received.

Symposium – Continued on page 3

Planters - Continued on page 2

Committees**Courthouse Garden**

Phyllis Benedict

Kitchen (Trial) GardenDennise Fink-Morse,
Chet McLaughlin, Shirley New,**KSU Extension Office Garden**

Deb Kitchell

Linn County Courthouse Garden

Monica Chapman-Pickett

Advanced Training

Audrey Gabel, Stephanie Myers

Awards BanquetDonna Cook, Betsy Hasselquist
Susan Thompson**Symposium - 2026**

Janette Everhart, Matt Fineout

Plant Sale, 2026Lenora Larson, Lynn Campbell,
Audrey Gabel, Krystal Barr, Terri
Seyl**Garden Tour (2027)**

TBD

Seeds for KidsBetsy Hasselquist, Natalie Hartig
Helen Kloepper**Miami County Fair**Dennise Fink-Morse, Hort. Supt.
Betsy Hasselquist, Seeds4Kids
Supt.
Bill Vandenberg, Flori. Supt.**Recruitment/Mentors**

Rena Tedrow

Other**Publicity**Lenora Larson
Scott Schappell**Newspaper Articles**

Katelyn Barthol, Extension Agt.

Social Media/newsletters

Rena Tedrow, Editor

Additional:**Bylaws** - A copy of the bylaws can
be found online.Articles, photos, etc. to be included in
the monthly EMG Newsletter should be
sent to Rena at mire1108@yahoo.com
by noon on the second Thurs. of each
month.**Notes from the Editor...**

Time to keep things interesting. In this month's newsletter, you will see a layout change and find an article included for 'knowledge.' I've changed page titles, and the font was reverted back to the original. *Please send me an email or FB msg and let me know what you think.*

This new page is added: 'Bug-o-the-Month.' For a few months, you will be introduced to a different insect, which as we all know is one of Lenora's favorite topics. This month's EMG article is from Audrey--she introduces us to Mindy's new high-tunnel.

Do you have a topic that you think our EMG would find interesting? How about your favorite flower--why? What are its benefits, etc.? Visited a new garden? What's on your mind? Send me a msg if you'd like to contribute.

Although you will continue to see a '6-week' AT calendar in the newsletters, a new benefit to you is a QR code (shown below).



This will take you to the full AT calendar as it is updated.

The QR code will be in each newsletter going forward, but I suggest printing the page or screenshot it to save for future use.

Now, go enjoy your day...

Rena Tedrow, Editor

Planters- cont. from page 1

The main building entrance houses the wall of seeds, bulk spices and bulk and packaged candy. If you are looking for candy from back in the day, this place might have it. There are also kitchen items for sale, flower bulbs and other prepackaged seeds galore.

The final two buildings house garden tools and items used in the yard and home. You can purchase irrigation repair parts, tools, and gloves. This selection is not as wide and varied, but has the nice "what I need to get the job done" type of tools. The final building is a smaller version of a hardware store with items needed to repair things within the home.

A small group of our MDCMG group ventured out to check out this building and purchase seeds for the Seeds for Kids programs. After expressing our wonder and excitement from exploring the buildings, we purchased seeds and made our way over to Harry's Country Club for a great lunch! It was such a cool experience to step back in time for a bit and enjoy the wonders of this place!



Symposium cont. from page 1

Given our key objective as extension master gardeners to grow knowledge of gardening in our community, we asked attendees for responses on their learning for the day as a whole, with truly exceptional results:

- 99.2% survey respondents either “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that they had gained new knowledge from the symposium
- 93.3% further indicated they “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that they planned to make changes to their own gardening practices
- 93.6% felt the information received from the symposium was Valuable” or “Very Valuable”

With regard to the individual sessions, attendees were asked to rate their knowledge of each topic before and then after the session. (More learning!) Survey respondents indicated increased topic knowledge in all the sessions:

- 86.3% Soil
- 81.3% Water
- 69.8% Garden Design
- 79.1% Plant Selection

Attendees were asked to assess the effectiveness of individual symposium presenters. An extraordinary 100% of respondents indicated they “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that both Lenora Larson and Anne Wildeboer were effective. Respondents “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” with the effectiveness of the other presenters, Kristopher Dabner and Jonathan Aguilar, at 81.3% and 71.5%, respectively.

Survey respondents were invited to list the most important things they had learned during the day. While the most common replies stated simply the attendees’ overall satisfaction with individual sessions or the day as a whole, other notable items included appreciation of the science of soil and water, and enjoying the inspirations in design and plant selection.

In the final question, an open request for comments, the most common repeating items applauded the excellent coordination of the day and appreciation for a well-done event.



Additional notes remarked on the beauty of the table centerpieces, the diversity of the speakers, and enjoying the sessions with photographs of inspirational examples.

Suggestions included requests more time for question and answer in the individual sessions, and more informational resources and take-aways. Some other comments included kudos on the venue, with concerns over parking and restroom availability not mentioned at all. Attendees applauded the lunch and the generosity of homemade treats.

We should celebrate this job extraordinarily well done by many, many dedicated volunteers! Cheers to all!

Well Done!



Mindy McGinnis' High Tunnel

Mindy has been dreaming of a high tunnel for years, and last year her dream came true. She completed the application process through the USDA NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) program and built the high tunnel in just five days!



Mindy's plans are to grow vegetables, herbs, along with flowers. She's looking forward to hosting workshops on flower varieties, providing growing tips, seed saving, and bouquet making. Her aim is to create a welcoming space where people can relax, enjoy nature, and learn to grow their own flowers and produce.

Her new space is truly a tranquil place to sit and enjoy nature. There are even chandeliers hanging in place. What a lovely touch!

Congratulations, Mindy... We look forward to visiting your peaceful retreat very soon!



2026 MdC EMG Scholarship

Each year a scholarship is awarded to a 4-H recipient. This year, the scholarship goes to Avarielle Hightower.

Avarielle Hightower is a 12-year 4-H member of the Mound City Builders 4-H Club. She is active in many projects and groups, including the Miami County 4-H Leadership Team and the Miami County 4-H Council.

One of Avarielle's favorite projects is the Horticulture Project. She enjoys picking out flowers and designing pots, especially fairy gardens. She gets her love of gardening from her grandmother who had owned and operated a greenhouse near LaCygne. Avarie worked alongside her family in the greenhouse at a young age, planting flowers and vegetables and helping design hanging baskets and pots.

Avarielle plans to go to Fort Scott Community College and then K-State to major in Agricultural Education. Her career plans include being an Ag Instructor or an Extension Agent.



March News

- **Clothing & nametags** have been ordered and should be arriving in the next couple of weeks.
- **A new office professional**, SuDawn Bradley, will be starting on Monday, March 16th. SuDawn is taking Tracy's position in. She will work with the EMGs related to scheduling, receipts, etc. When/if emailing SuDawn for her assistance, be sure to CC Katelyn (for a time) to ensure all things are covered until she is familiar with her role.
- **Thanks to a grant** that K-State applied for, each MG group in Kansas received \$500 to purchase supplies. From the approved list, Katelyn purchased items that would benefit the MG group. This includes a cart, soil temp/pH tester, hand tools, metal plant markers, and a blue tooth speaker.
- **Please sign up for committees** even if you are a chairperson or are on a committee. : Katelyn has sent out the list for committee signups. Please sign up if you have not yet done so. Much committee work is starting! Here is your [link](#).
- **Miami County Fair:** The fair board has also decided not have trophies at the fair this year. This year's plan is to purchase small banners instead. EMGs currently sponsor trophies for Seeds for Kids, Horticulture, Agriculture and Floriculture.
- **Trial/Kitchen Garden:** We are proceeding as the Kitchen garden again. Seeds for starting plants (tomatoes, peppers, etc.) are available in the Volunteer Room at the Extension Office, If you want to help grow plants for this year, come by and take some seeds to start. The materials for assembling the raised beds are on site. Garden will be cleaned and prepped as soon as weather allows. The Rookie group will be assigned to this garden again this year.
- There are many **Short-Term Community Projects** underway and planned. Please contact Carol Vandenberg if you would like to volunteer to help.
- The **Paola Courthouse Garden** will be planted with red, white, and blue flowers from seeds in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States. Seed starting will take place during the 'Seed Starting' class. Courthouse workdays will be Wednesdays from 9-11, with a rain date on Thursdays from 9-11. Volunteers unable to work on scheduled days are welcome to work on another day. Please follow up with Susan to inquire about weekly priorities if planning to work outside of planned workday.
- **Symposium 2026** was a big success! We were under budget; waiting to hear from the Chamber of Commerce regarding a \$1,000 grant. There is a Symposium Committee Meeting on Monday, 3/16, at 10:00 at the extension office. We will review survey results in more detail and prioritize any changes for the next one. For more info, read the article on page(s) 1 and 3.
- There is so much going on with **Advanced Training!** The current month's info is in the newsletter, but you now have a QR code to view the entire schedule. (See page 2)
- **Seeds for Kids** will have a meeting and seed packet assembly day on 3/18 at 9:00 at the extension office. Seed packaging will start at 11:00 after the meeting. There will be a potluck lunch. We need at least one person on the committee that will be working with kids to have a 4H background check. If you are interested in completing this, please contact Katelyn.
- **Plant Sale storage needed.** We need someone that has space who is willing to store all items used for the plant sale for multiple years. It is preferred everything is stored at one location moving forward. Contact Lenora Larson or Krystal Barr, if you think you can help. The next meeting is March 20 at 10:00 at the Extension office.
- The **Hot Line** Starts in April. Look for an Email from Katelyn that will have a link for signup via Sign-up Genius. As a reminder, there is also document scanning yet to complete so you can keep occupied.

➤ **On a side note**, Harley Davidson is shutting down his garden. He has cages, tie downs, raised beds and other gardening materials if anyone is interested. He said he will help disassemble the raised beds for moving. Please contact him if you are interested.

➤ **Fall 2027 Garden Tour**: Talk to your EMG buddies to see if they'd want to co-chair the next Garden Tour with you!

Calendar:

➤ **Symposium [recap] meeting**: March 16, at 10:00 a.m. at the extension office. Symposium Meeting

➤ **Seeds for Kids meeting & seed packaging**: March 18, 9:00 a.m. at the extension office. Seed packaging begins at 11:00. Potluck lunch will include Sloppy Joes and Chicken Enchilada Casserole.

➤ **Final Rookie/Mentor Lunch**: March 24th, 11:30 at BB's Grill in Springhill. Note: To the Rookie class and mentors - hope you can make it. This is Plan B to take photos of our Rookie class so 'kids', please bring your certificate. Also, I'd like to take a photo of each class member with their mentor. All who volunteered to be mentors for the '26 class are also welcome to attend...as well as other EMGs. Please let me know if you plan on being there so I can add you to the distribution list AND contact BB's for a reservation. (Thanks, Rena)

➤ **Plant Sale meeting**: March 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the extension office.

➤ **Board Meeting**: April 14th at 4-5:30 at the Extension office

➤ **2Q General Membership Meeting**: April 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension office. Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. and will include Brisket as the meat.

➤ Julie Ramsey's retirement: See insert above right



MdC EMG Vision Statement

We are recognized as a welcoming, knowledgeable, focused gardening volunteer team. We grow, communicate with, and educate our community and ourselves. We build lasting connections and friendships.

Insects are a part of every gardener's life. Each month you'll learn about a common garden insect with advice: should you should eradicate, tolerate or embrace this six-legged visitor? March's Wheel Bug was requested by Janette Everhart, who shares my respect for its fearsome bite. Please let me know if you are interested in any insect, including the best methods for eradication (if necessary).

March, 2026: The Mighty Wheel Bug

A true bug and a member of the Assassin Bug family, Wheel Bugs are formidable predators against other insects and considered "beneficial" even though honey bees, lady bugs and butterfly caterpillars are on their menu. One of the largest true bugs, the adult females grow up to 1.5" long. When mating, the relatively puny male must bribe her with an insect "gift" to avoid being eaten.

Wheel Bugs live by "incomplete metamorphosis" like Dragonflies, Grasshoppers and Crickets, and other true bugs like Stink Bugs and Squash Bugs. The children, called nymphs, resemble their parents and share the same habitat and diet. Just hatched Wheel Bug nymphs look like ants with a projected red butt and an aggressive attitude. Only the adults have wings, genitalia, and the 8 to 12 toothed thoracic crest that resembles a cogwheel.

Wheel Bugs are active during the day, so they are frequently seen in insecticide-free gardens stalking their victims. They have only one generation/year and overwinter as an egg. It takes approximately 3 months for them to mature and begin focusing on reproductive

activities. You'll see the first freshly-hatched nymphs in May. They molt five times (five instars); a freshly molted Wheel Bug is bright pink and vulnerable to other predators.

Their saliva contains a toxic paralytic substance that kills within 15 seconds. Both nymphs and adults bite and inject their saliva, which also contains digestive enzymes to quickly dissolve their prey. They then slurp the resulting smoothie, leaving a black empty shell, which is heart-breaking when it was a Monarch caterpillar. Speaking from experience, if you are bitten, the initial pain almost knocks you to the ground; it is far worse than any bee or wasp sting. My hand swelled to the size of a catcher's mitt and continued red, swollen and very painful for two weeks. Then I endured a week of intense itching. But it was my fault for accidentally grabbing a Wheel Bug while deadheading the Columbines, so I still love them. The Internet claims that a Wheel Bug can be tamed as a pet because they quickly learn to accept living insects from their keeper, but that is more risk than even I would take.

I usually just stand back in admiration when encountering a Wheel Bug in my garden. However, a quick snip with my trusty kitchen shears dispatches any that I find on a Milkweed or other butterfly host plant. The adults are powerful fliers so relocation doesn't work, they will quickly return. Mother Nature makes no moral distinctions, but my human value system favors Monarchs over Wheel Bugs.

Lenora Larson



MdC EMG PLANT SALE - UPDATE

Committee: Lenora Larson, Lynn Campbell, Audrey Gabel, Krystal Barr, Terri Seyl

Reminders:

Location: Building #2, MICO Fairgrounds

Set-up day: Wednesday, April 22, 8:30 am to ~4 pm, includes beginning inventory

Sale days: Thursday, 9a to 6p; Friday, 9a to 5p; Saturday, 9a to 1p
(10% discount on all MdC EMG purchases from 10am to 1 pm on Saturday only)

Break-down & clean-up: Sat 1 pm to ~3 pm, includes final inventory

Preparations are in full swing with the Plant Sale only 6 weeks away. YIKES! So much to do, but not to panic because you have always eagerly responded to our needs for help. Plus it is so much fun talking about plants with other plant lovers. I always worry, "What if nobody comes?," but we have so many long-time buyers eagerly awaiting our sale and the exceptional plants grown by VVN that there are long lines of customers, especially on Thursday.

Marketing

Kansas City Gardener published our ad and article in their March issue and has received the April article. *Gardeners Connect* published our notice in their winter and spring newsletters and will include our flier in their "goody bag" at their March 21 Symposium. Katelyn has emailed our flier to the Kansas EMG Extension Agents. Scott and Lenora will contact the organizations on their 'Marketing Contacts' list. Rena has posted on Facebook; Katelyn recently created an 'event' that Vinland Valley can coordinate as a co-host with their social media page. As Internal marketing (we are our best customers!), Audrey is writing plant descriptions for our EMG Newsletters. Soon we'll organize volunteers to drop off fliers to MiCo and LinCo businesses.

Table Layout

Based on last year's sale, we've made a few changes to the plant groups and inventory. Consequently, Rena had to go back to the drawing board, literally with her little slips of paper laid out on a piece of plexiglass! See the layout on page 14. Everyone assisting at the sale should familiarize themselves with this table layout. Contact Rena for a full page. We also plan to print and laminate a few copies to assist shoppers

in finding their wish-list plants. VVN also uses this layout to organize the plants in "our" greenhouse. For now, we are using the final 2025 plant list to plan the layout, but as soon as VVN knows what plants they can supply, Celie will send an initial 2026 PDF to Audrey for her Plant Ambassadors to study. (Even VVN has occasional germination failures!)

Signage

Terri has arranged for VVN to print 18 new Pot/Price signs, which will be on posts throughout the building. (All other pots larger than 1 quart has its own price sticker.) Terri is working with our long-time sign vendor, Pat's Signs in Osawatomie, to print 2 new plastic banners and replace a few missing indoor signs. Most of our signage is reuseable and stored at the Extension Office, including the directional road signs.

Food

(Lunches and Snacks) Terri's other important job? Our Lunch Lady! She is planning our menus and securing vendors. She will also be calling for volunteers to bring morning snacks and desserts. All Plant Sale volunteers will be served lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Since we close at 1 pm on Saturday, we won't serve lunch but there will be snacks.

Tables, Racks, Shelves

The folding tables are a mix of fairground-owned, Shirley New's and our own, which are currently stored at two locations. The Plant Sale is the only time we use them, so no need to purchase more of our own. These tables are of 4 different sizes (4', 5', 6' and 8') and some are drilled with holes to hold our beautiful Plant Group signs. This lack of

Continued on next page.

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homogeneity is a HUGE challenge for designing the layout. Currently, Chet McLaughlin is storing the wooden plant rack. Harley Davidson is currently storing the large metal hanging basket racks and Rena has the metal tree racks. Harley made these for us about 5 years ago. Sadly, he will be retiring this year, so it will be necessary to find another space to store them.

NOTE: The topic of a storage solution for all items used for the plant sale was discussed at the board meeting on 3/9. The square footage needed to store all items will be calculated to know how much space is needed. It is preferred that all items be stored at one location going forward. If anyone has room in their barn or outbuilding, please let Lenora or Krystal know if you can help.

Staffing

Please plan to sign-up and join us! Bring your own shopping list!

The committee has last year's staffing plan and is updating it so Katelyn can post on Sign-up-Genius by April 1st. Everyone will need to register, including the Plant Ambassadors and the individuals assisting with checkout. We also need "floaters" to assist customers, clean/move tables, and to set up food. To our surprise, even though we were indoors, the plants needed frequent watering and grooming. This is a fun way to get your volunteer hours. Many of us work all 4 days, about 28 hours! Saturday is especially popular because from 10 am to 1 pm our EMGs receive a 10% discount. (No storing or hiding plants before Sat.!)

Training

On February 18, Audrey arranged for a tour of VVN and an in-service by Amy, explaining how to provide assistance to our customers. On April 16, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. a general Plant Sale training is scheduled. Lynn will address cashier issues and Natalie will explain how to download the final PDF Plant List to smart phones.

Note: the final plant list will not be available until Tuesday, April 21 because the final decisions are made during loading at VVN. Amy doesn't send any ugly plants!

Books

Bring any unwanted slightly used gardening books for our popular FREE book exchange. Last year, even gardening magazines were recycled to happy homes! Please check and prune your bookshelves.

Amy and Lenora released their book, '*Gardening for Insects*'. Over 50 copies were sold at the Symposium, so we'll offer at the Plant Sale. All profits will be added to our Plant Sale revenue.

Rena posts on the [MdC EMG Facebook page](#). PLEASE, follow us!

AND PLEASE SHARE EACH TIME RENA POSTS!



VVN Plant Manager, Celie Davidson, is in charge of selecting and growing the plants for our sale. All of the plants are grown organically with love.

PLANT AMBASSADORS/PLANT SALE HOTTIES

Audrey Gabel

Welcome to this month's Plant Sale Hotties. In this edition, we'll explore Tropicals, Vegetables, and Woodies in more detail.

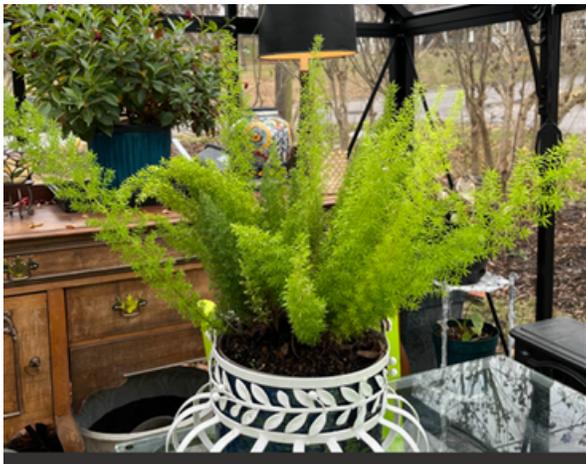
Plant Sale Hotties:

Each month through April, you'll find informative articles about the plant categories available for sale to enhance your understanding. For additional insights and photos, Google the plant or visit the 'Plants' section on the [Vinland Valley Nursery website](#).

Group 5: Tropicals & Succulents

Plant Ambassador: Matt Fineout

One of Matt's favorites is the Swiss cheese plant, *Monstera deliciosa*, a large indoor plant. Matt recently acquired a variegated one that's 14 inches tall, and he has two older plants from 2019 that have grown up to 40 inches with leaves over 14 inches wide. Interestingly, the plant's smaller leaves stay small, while the larger ones that develop later are destined to be large from the start. The holes in the leaves, which give it the Swiss cheese nickname, allow light to reach the lower leaves—an elegant adaptation.



Matt also enjoys the playful Foxtail fern, *Sprenger's Asparagus*, which makes a lively addition to container gardens. Although it's called a fern, it's actually related to asparagus and prefers shaded areas during the summer months. He has successfully overwintered one in his greenhouse, where it endured temperatures ranging from 45°F to 90°F. Its soft, fuzzy appearance adds a charming touch to containers, and its firm stalks are strong enough to support cut floral arrangements. The new lime-green growth gradually matures into a deep green, sometimes with a bluish tint.

Group 7 Woodies

Plant Ambassador: Betsy Hasselquist

The **Steeplebush Spirea**, *Spirea tomentosa*, is a lovely native shrub belonging to the rose family. Betsy loves this woody as it thrives in full sun and moist soil, making it an excellent choice for a rain garden. Its tall, pyramid-shaped pink flowers bloom from summer through early fall, adding cheerful color to your garden. In autumn, its leaves turn a beautiful yellow. There are many spirea varieties to choose from, offering a wide range of bloom colors and times. You can also grow spirea in partial shade and most soil types. With colors ranging from pure white to red, purple, and yellow, these flowers bring lively hues throughout the season, complemented by stunning fall foliage.



Plant Sale Hotties - continued

Group 7 Woodies

Plant Ambassador: Betsy Hasselquist

Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*, is a friendly and versatile native shrub that's appreciated for its charming, shaggy bark. Betsy enjoys this shrub as it's easy to care for and can flourish in full sun or partial shade, adapting well to various soil types. From late spring through mid-summer, it produces delightful small, umbrella-shaped clusters of white flowers that brighten up any garden. Its rounded, three-lobed leaves are also admired for their vibrant colors. Additionally, Ninebark is a wonderful addition to your outdoor space, providing food and shelter for pollinators and birds, and serving as a host for many moths and butterflies, making it a valuable habitat for local wildlife.



Group 10 Veggies

Plant Ambassador: Chet McLaughlin & Dennise Fink-Morse

Anaheim peppers, *Pepper ancho*, are a versatile and popular ingredient in many dishes such as salsas, stews, and stuffed peppers. Chet prefers this variety because you can enjoy them roasted, grilled, or raw, and they provide a gentle heat with a hint of sweetness when cooked. Being larger than many other chili peppers, they are perfect for stuffing with cheeses, meats, or grains. Overall, Anaheim peppers are a delicious and easy-to-find addition that can brighten up a variety of meals without making them too spicy.

These peppers are usually mild on the heat scale, making them an excellent choice for those who prefer milder spice. They are long and slender, with smooth, shiny skin that is green when unripe and turns red as they ripen.



The **Beefsteak tomato** is probably one of the most popular and beloved types of tomatoes. Grown on the plant *Solanum lycopersicum*, it's also one of the largest varieties, often reaching about 20 cm (7.9 inches) across and weighing around 450 grams (1 pound) or more. Most beefsteak tomatoes are pink or red and feature many small seed compartments, called locules, spread throughout the fruit. These tomatoes come from an indeterminate tomato plant, which means the vine keeps growing and producing. To grow such large, delicious tomatoes, the plant needs plenty of stems, leafy foliage to capture sunlight and turn it into sugars, and a strong root system.

For the best results, plant your beefsteak tomatoes in full sun. They thrive when they get lots of sunlight — at least six to eight hours a day — which helps them produce abundant, big, tasty tomatoes.

ADVANCED TRAINING SCHEDULE

2026 Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardener Advanced Training Calendar

Note: Additional trainings will be added throughout the year as they are scheduled

MO	DAY	TIME	# HOURS	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION & NOTES
Mar	21	9a-3:15p	4.5	Big Ideas-Smaller Spaces: Containers That Create Spaces, Noteworthy Plants from Chanticleer, What's That Doing In a Rose Garden? Elements of Cool & Desirable Gardens	3 speakers	Rockhurst Campus, Science Center 115, 54 th & Troost Entrance Kansas City MO Tickets: \$99 thru Feb 28 th and \$125 beginning Mar 1 st . Lunch & snacks. Register here.
Mar	24th	6:30-7:30p	1	Vermiculture/Vermicomposting - Key aspects	Helen Kloepper, MdC EMG	Paola Extension office 913 N. Pearl, Paola KS Register here to attend. There is a \$28 fee if you'd like to construct your own worm bed. No cost for attending only but <u>registration is still required.</u>
April	7	6:00-7:00p	1	Backyard Prairie Series Part 2 of a 4-part series on installing a native garden or prairie stand	Patti Ragsdale, president of the Kansas Native Plant Society, Extension Master Naturalist, and Executive Director of the non-profit, Botanical Belonging	Virtual via Zoom Register at this link: https://tinyurl.com/3jeha4xz
April	18	9:30-10:30a	1	Gardener's Connect Planting with Purpose: An Intentional Approach to Plant Selection	Zachary Calloway After the Harvest then formed KC Native Landscapes in 2023	Merriam Community Center 6040 Slater Merriam, KS 66202
April	28	6:30 - 7:30 PM	1	Irrigation: Setting up challenging watering systems	Nancy Kalman, MdC EMT	Paola Extension Office 913 N. Pearl Street, Paola, KS 66071
MdC Training Hours			Other training hours		Red text denotes new training added or updated info.	

Ideas for Advanced Training (AT) classes?

Contact Stephanie Myers or Audrey Gabel with your suggestions!!!



The [K-State Garden Hour](#) is held at 12:00 PM on the 1st Wed. of each month. **You must register if this will be your first time joining the webinar.**

Once registered you will continue to receive emails regarding the sessions until you unsubscribe.

Mar 4th ~ Naturalistic Garden Design and Flexible Approaches for Every Garden

Apr 5th - April Showers, Rain Garden Flowers



The [Deep Roots Native Plant Webinars](#) (Lunch and Learn) is at 12p - every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. You can register for both the webinars and tours at deeprroots.org. As above, once you register, you will receive emails regarding upcoming sessions until you unsubscribe.

Click the following link to view the January session: [Integrated Pest Management in the Garden](#)

Upcoming:

Feb 19th ~ Prairie Birthday Farm: An Edible Native Landscape

Mar 5th - The Micro World Living in Your Garden: Why Insects are the Most Interesting Neighbors You Have

Mar 19th - Better Together: Mixing Natives into the Vegetable Patch

Past recordings for both the K-State Gardener Hour & Deep Roots are available online.



Paola Plant Sale

April 23rd, 24th & 25th - 2026

Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

!! Indoor shopping !!

Miami County Fairgrounds Building #2

401Wallace ParkDr.

Paola, KS 66071

Pesticide-free and Locally Grown

Butterflyhost plants

Native plants ~ Pollinator flowers ~ Annuals

Herbs ~ Perennials ~ Hanging baskets ~ Veggies & berries

Tropicals & Succulents

Cash, Credit Cards and Checks accepted

For additional information call 913-294-4306 or visit

www.maraisdescyignes.ksu.edu

or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdcemg

Scan for driving
directions



to the plant sale

Sponsored by:

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Master Gardeners
Marais des Cygnes District

2026 Plant sale layout - this for plant grouping reference only (NOT TO SCALE)

