

# Germinator



Vol. 29, No. 7 Editors: Julie Stark/Lisa Slattery

July 2019

## **LINN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EVENTS**

### ***Steering Committee Meeting***

Extension Office  
July 9 • 6:30 pm

### ***Extension Council Meeting***

No July Meeting

### ***Executive Committee Meeting***

July 22 • 3:00 pm

### ***Master Gardener Garden Walk***

July 13 • 10:00 am– 4:00 pm

Dusil: 2812 Chester Court  
Nilsson: 3601 Terrace Hill Dr., NE  
Pearson: 5420 Plainview Dr., NW  
Hansen: 401 Cottage Grove Ave., SE  
Pohl: 1101 25th St., SE  
Chadima: 1816 Washington Ave., SE

## **2019 Garden Walk Plans are Finalizing**

*By: Rose Blank, Committee Member*

In a few days we will have the opportunity to walk the beautiful grounds of several area gardens during this year's Garden Walk. Having just returned from a trip to Scotland and northern England, I had the opportunity to see some lovely gardens. I experienced how each garden invited me to see its own unique and individual beauty. And now, after much waiting, preparing and planning, we have the same opportunity to see the unique beauty of gardens here in our own area. Get your walking shoes on, bring

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your water bottle and be prepared to be amazed!

This year's walk is Saturday, July 13 from 10 AM to 4 PM and is free to the public. You may begin the walk at any of the gardens and as you visit each garden you can enter the drawing for prizes at each garden. If you visit all the gardens, and register your attendance, you have the chance to win a beautiful colorful garden post.

The **Dusil Garden** at 2812 Chester Court, Cedar Rapids: Here you will find a variety of gardening techniques at this property. The vegetable garden has raised beds and a straw bale cucumber patch. There is a variety of beds including perennials, annuals, hanging plants, climbing plants, shade loving and sun loving plants. You will see hostas, daylilies, coral belles and grasses as well as numerous trees and shrubs. It is obvious that this garden is a fun relaxing place to spend some time playing bocce ball and bag games, putting on the green or gathering with friends and family around the fire pit.

The **Nilsson Garden** at 3601 Terrace Hill Drive NE, Cedar Rapids: This one-third acre uses terracing on the sloped backyard. Areas of sunshine peeking from between the mature trees offer spaces of habitat with a variety of milkweeds for bees and butterflies. The gardens include a variety of hostas, mosses, ferns, a Chinese mayapple called Spotty Dotty, and Solomon Seals. Check out the dragon-themed flower bed!

The **Pearson Garden** at 5420 Plainview Drive NW, Cedar Rapids: There are gardens tucked throughout the property that make the most of the sun and the shade. They have included numerous materials to create a bird sanctuary, a water feature and a lot of interesting whimsical pieces.

The **Chadima Garden** at 1816 Washington Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids: This compact city garden highlights ways in which to incorporate sunshine where possible among the 100-year-old trees. Flower beds that surround the house are planted with perennial favorites such as coneflower, salvia, daylilies, tiger lilies, roses, cleome, bee balm and butterfly bush. The backyard includes a koi pond and peonies passed down from Austin's great-great grandmother's era. A small vegetable garden has been established near the garage in the alley.

Come see this "Friend of Master Gardener" garden that is a favorite for the pollinators.

The **Hansen Garden** at 401 Cottage Grove Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids: This garden includes a variety of design including formal and informal gardens and unique garden art. You will see what can be done with a 2-year-old garden as well as learn how form and foliage come alive when enhanced with flowers.

The **Pohl Garden** at 1101 25<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Cedar Rapids: Come and discover this urban farm oasis. It includes herb and vegetable gardens which are decorated with brightly colored rain barrels that lead to a drip irrigation system. There are potato tires and other unique planting forms. You might even get a chance to see the chickens that inhabit the backyard!

A huge Thank You to all the hosts, leads and volunteers who make this event possible. Come and enjoy the beauty of these wonderful garden spaces.

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## **Sign Up Now For a Fun and Educational Bus Trip!**

*By Linda Hinzman*

The Pollinator project is sponsoring a bus trip to central Iowa on Friday, August 9! Registration is open by calling the extension office (319-377-9839) or e-mailing Janice at [jsavel@iastate.edu](mailto:jsavel@iastate.edu). The cost is \$25, which covers the bus transportation, lunch, and admissions and must be paid by August 1. Because of insurance restrictions, only Master Gardeners, interns, and extension employees can participate in this trip.

We will leave from the extension office at 7:00 a.m. and return approximately 8 p.m. Along the way, we will stop at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge where there are pollinator display gardens, short trails through prairies, a visitors center with a short movie, and exhibits. We will also take a drive through the refuge where we can view the prairie in bloom and wildlife from the bus. Next we will have lunch at Jethro's in Altoona - the menu will be pulled pork and/or chicken sandwiches, salad, cole slaw, baked beans, cookies, and water/iced tea. Following that we will have a guided tour of the recently installed outdoor gardens at the Des Moines Botanical Center, as well as the opportunity to visit their conservatory and gift shop.

Finally, we will visit Blooming Prairie Nursery in Carlisle, Iowa. They are excited to have us visit and show us their prairie, native plant nursery, and worm casting operation. This nursery provides the native plants sold in the spring as a fundraiser for the Linn County Soil and Water Conservation District. On the way home, we will stop at Culver's in Newton for dinner, a snack or an ice cream at your own expense.

Only 50 seats are available on the bus, so please register early (through the extension office as noted above). If there are particular questions, please e-mail Linda Hinzman at [linnieza@aol.com](mailto:linnieza@aol.com).

# Master Gardener International Conference

By Linda Hinzman

Linn County Master Gardeners were well represented at the International Conference June 17-21 in Philadelphia (technically Valley Forge). There were over 1000 eager and friendly MGs in attendance. From beginning to end, we all agreed the conference was outstanding.

Some of us arrived early to take advantage of pre-conference tours, which included many of the 30+ public gardens in the area, as well as historic Philadelphia.

Several MGs participated in field studies at various gardens and arboretums in the area. Becki Lynch's participated in advanced certification for flowering tree field study on two days at two different arboretums.

Each day featured a keynote speaker in the morning, followed by a variety of breakout sessions on most any gardening topic imaginable. Noted speaker Doug Tallamy presented two sessions on his "bringing nature home" theme. Our MGs took full advantage of the wide variety of topics offered.

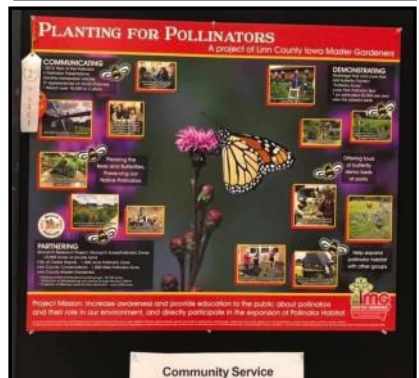
We were honored to receive the third place award in the Search for Excellence community service category for our Planting for Pollinators project (award right).

A special and emotional presentation came from David Gibby, who founded the Master Gardener program in 1972, "to address the needs of backyard gardeners for urban horticulture and gardening advice" through his position as Area Extension Agent at Washington State University.

Plan now to attend the 2021 conference in Norfolk, Virginia.



Linn County Master Gardeners (left to right): Wil Carew, Kathy Carew, Lisa Hinzman Howard, Linda Hinzman, Karla McGrail, Jean Wilson, Diane Stevens and Becki Lynch, with Master Gardener Program founder, David Gibby.



## School Gardens 101

*By Sam Krumbholz*

The School Gardens 101 class was held at the Extension Office June 12-14. We had 12 enthusiastic participants! The class covers composting, soil, seeds, garden planning and harvesting. The teachers made a mini compost bin (complete with red worms) planted seeds, transplanted plants, sampled fresh produce, and took two field trips. Phil Pfister and Randy Dusil gave us a tour of the greenhouse, and informed the group about compost, raised beds, and soil composition. Cindy Fagan was our instructor at the Hiawatha School Gardens. She gave the teachers wonderful information on how to



start, support, and keep a school garden thriving. The teachers will take the knowledge learned from this class to their respective new gardens (St. Joseph's School, Lisbon, Cedar Rapids, and Home School Gardens). In addition, teachers earned 1 hour of recertification credit. We are excited to offer this class again next summer. Spread the word!

Master Gardener instructors included Deanna Thursby, Sam Krumbholz, Heather Robinson, and Ann Tiedt.

## Junior Gardener Classes

*By Beula Dvorak*

Junior Gardener classes have begun at Old MacDonalds Farm gardens at Bever Park and at Tanager Place Cottage gardens. Classes are held weekly, use the Jr. Master Gardener Curriculum and help students better understand many elements related to gardening ---- plants, soil, fruits, vegetables, composting, insects, diseases and more --- and provide opportunity for students to see what is growing in the gardens and help maintain these gardens. Classes will continue at Bever Park thru August 12 and at Tanager probably into October when the gardens are put to bed for the winter.

Any MG/Intern interested in assisting with these classes please contact Beula Dvorak ([bdvorak4@aol.com](mailto:bdvorak4@aol.com)/ 319-895-8206) and you will be connected!



*Beula Dvorak with a group of Junior Gardeners from Tanager Place.*

## The Harvest Has Begun!

By Beula Dvorak

In spite of the cool wet spring, our Community Gardens are planted and looking GREAT for the most part. And the harvest has begun with the following reports so far:

**Olivet:** 4 lb. table onions

**Department of Corrections:** 9.41 lb. including spinach, lettuce, basil, radishes, and garlic scapes

**Catherine McAuley:** 3 lb. lettuce

**Horizons:** 3 lb. radishes

**SE Linn Community Center:** 23.6 lb. kale, spinach, lettuce, kohlrabi

**Wellington Heights Neighborhood:** 23.44 lb. mustard greens, radish, peas, lettuce, kale, arugula, strawberries

**Marion Uptown Gardens:** 11 lb. including radish, lettuce, broccoli

There is still time for YOU to get involved in our CONNECT, GROW, SHARE A ROW project. Contact Janice at the Extension Office and get your donor ID#. Any time you donate produce to HACAP, or Olivet Mission, Catherine McAuley, Catholic Charities, or Marion Food Pantries, use this ID# to help track the kind and amount of produce donated. If many MGs/interns participate, every bit of produce donated helps to fight food insecurity in our community.

If you have specific questions about the program, please contact Beula Dvorak at [bdvorak4@aol.com](mailto:bdvorak4@aol.com) or 895-8206.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



*Department of Corrections*



*Horizons*



*Wellington Heights*

# Community Gardens Outreach Project

By Beula Dvorak

This month we highlight two more of our community garden partners. As always, we invite you to join our project and get involved with one or more of the gardens we work with. There are lots of opportunities to provide support to these gardens and their communities of folks. Contact Beula Dvorak at [bdvorak4@aol.com](mailto:bdvorak4@aol.com) to see how you can become involved.

## Hiawatha Elementary School Learning Gardens

A teacher started the learning gardens at Hiawatha Elementary School in 2010 with a grant received. The grant covered the raised bed kits. Phil Phister was her MG contact, Cindy Fagan was an intern. Cindy Fagan, the School Nurse at Hiawatha Elementary School (along with other CR schools) has been working with the gardens ever since. Each school year multiple grades including well over 100 students have opportunity to learn from and participate in the planting, maintaining, and harvesting of the garden. Typically parent volunteers or individual families help maintain the gardens during summer break. Produce is either used by the families involved in the gardening or donated to HACAP for distribution to the food insecure through a local food pantry.



This year, after an extremely slow start, the gardens are starting to thrive!!! The rain and cold meant that students were not able to get into the gardens until almost the middle of May. Happily, with the help of students, staff and volunteers, the beds are all planted! Students were able to choose what they wanted to plant and carrots, green beans and kale were huge favorites. Some of the seeds were planted using Square Foot Gardening techniques. The students were able to see great growth in their plantings before leaving for Summer Vacation on June 6th.

Although the extreme cold of this winter caused loss of some of the perennials in the pollinator garden, some have been replanted and they are doing well. Many will remember seeing the gigantic 12' sunflower plants of past years. After quite a few years of having a small crop of milk weed and butterfly weed, this year there is a bumper crop in the pollinator garden! The monarch butterfly caterpillars have found them, and on June 10th, over a dozen caterpillars were seen enjoying them.



Parent volunteers are assisting with the care of the beds and harvesting of produce to donate throughout the summer.

## Tanager Place Cottage Gardens

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Tanager Place has a mission to support children whose well-being is disrupted by mental health challenges by providing children with the tools and supports they need to face these challenges with confidence. One of the ways Tanager Place supports these children is through residential mental health treatment for children. To support the children's emotional wellbeing and social and intellectual development, Tanager Place hosts a garden on its residential campus. This garden was built in 2017 with the help of volunteers from businesses in the community. Volunteers built 6 raised beds where the kids grow vegetables. The wonderful ladies who run the kitchen use the produce grown by the kids in as many meals as possible.

In 2018, Tanager Place became a Master Gardener Community Garden Partner. In addition to assisting with the vegetable gardens, a pollinator garden was begun with help from the Linn County Master Gardeners. One of the kid's favorite activities is to raise monarch caterpillars. The kids at Tanager Place love releasing the newly hatched butterflies into their pollinator garden. Another favorite part of the garden is the sensory garden. The sensory garden is a raised bed with plants that can be enjoyed with the five senses including plants such as herbs and sedums.

The children have been actively engaged in selecting what vegetables to grow in their garden as well as the planting, maintaining and harvesting of the produce. This year Master Gardeners are leading weekly, hands-on educational sessions in the garden using portions of the Junior Master Gardener Curriculum. Chelsea DeLarm and Beula Dvorak are leading those sessions with assistance from several other MGs.

### **Tree Identification Workshop Held**

On Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30, Mike Anderson, a Master Gardener for 13 years, asked and answered many questions from a group of 14 eager tree ID detectives. Armed with a "Finding Trees" book, the group leisurely strolled through Noelride Park keenly observing a variety of tremendous trees.

Plant a Tree Today for a Better Tomorrow!



# Gardening at the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy

By Linda Hofmeister

Are you or have you been a caregiver for a significant other, a family member or a friend? Do you have a friend who is a caregiver? Those of us who have served in that role know how important it is to provide activities and/or respite opportunities for both caregivers and care receivers.

Rosalynn Carter stated: "There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who currently are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers."

As background, there are 42.5 million family caregivers in the U.S. There are 52,000 family caregivers in east central Iowa. The Family Caregivers Center of Mercy has provided emotional support, access to resources, coaching and caregiver specific follow-up with 990 caregivers throughout the Cedar Rapids community.

A group of LCMGs is partnering with the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy to provide educational and experiential opportunities for both caregivers and care receivers. The MG Team members are: Diane Wiesenfeld (Chair), Vicki Keegan (Co-Chair), Cindy Fagan, Brenda Havlik, Linda Hofmeister and Iris Muchmore. The Family Caregivers Center members are: Kathy Good (Director of the Center), Janice Charles and Abby Martin.

A survey was sent to 760 caregivers to determine the areas of highest interest as planning proceeds. The summary of responses showed that caregivers are most interested in:

- Education sessions and hands-on activities (where they may take something home), flower arranging, and touring area gardens.
- Education sessions offered between 10-3 during the week or Saturday morning.
- Gardening opportunities for both them and their care receivers to participate.

As a result of this survey, the initial goals of the project are:

- Educational sessions or events offered monthly—Ideas from caregivers include: what grows in Iowa, what grows in sun versus shade, preserving, flower arranging, herbs, container gardening for flowers and veggies, home orchards, plant/herb folklore, vertical gardening, touring area gardens, plant life cycles
- Garden space in front of the Center for caregivers/care receivers to enjoy and maintain
- Raised bed on the patio to use in caregiver education sessions

There have been three events held to-date.

Wednesday, May 1: "Benefits of Gardening"

Presented by Diane Wiesenfeld with support from Janice Charles, Kathy Good, Vicki Keegan, Brenda Havlik, Linda Hofmeister, Abby Martin and Iris Muchmore. There were 4 participants; all 4 were caregivers. Participants planted a small pot to take home.

Wednesday, May 22: Planting Day at the Center

The Nasturtium flower is the symbol of the Family Caregivers Center; therefore, it is a central theme of the newly created beds. The Orange

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Nasturtium stands for victory in struggle. Orange is the color of joy and creativity, promoting a sense of wellness and emotional energy that should be shared through compassion, passion and warmth.

The coordination of this event was a team effort. Linda Hofmeister coordinated the bed preparation and amendments with the Facility Director of Mercy. Diane Wiesenfeld, Cindy Fagan and Iris Muchmore planned the garden design and arranged for purchase of the plants. Vicki Keegan prepared the labels for the plants.

Wednesday, June 12: "Container Gardening"

Presented by Cindy Fagan with support from Abby Martin, Linda



*The planting team (left to right): Dr. Martin Wiesenfeld (husband of Diane Wiesenfeld), Mark Ogden (Husband of Iris Muchmore), Janice Charles, Diane Wiesenfeld, Cindy Fagan, Brenda Havlik, Vicki Keegan and Linda Hofmeister.*



*Master Gardener, Cindy Fagan*

Hofmeister and Iris Muchmore. There were 14 participants: 10 caregivers (2 men), 2 care receivers, and 2 caregiver's children. Participants planted a container to take home to maintain and enjoy

Future events include:

Monthly educational/experiential events

Caregivers will be invited to the Master Gardeners Garden Tour in July. Kathy and Abby will pass out flyers at the Center.

Vicki, Brenda and Diane offered to have caregivers tour their gardens this summer, if desired.

Design and build of raised beds on the patio in partnership with Rinderknecht.

## “Evening with Master Gardeners” Event

*By Bev Whitmore*

Didn't get signed up for the second “Evening with Master Gardeners” with creating cement “folded hands” planters at Lowe Park Greenhouse on June 18? Well, you missed out on fun and learning “All you need to know about succulents!” Six ladies attended this creative and educational event...they were able to take home a “one of a kind” cement planter in which quick set cement was placed inside rubber gloves. They went home with this unique “hand” planter as well as soil and succulents so they can finish the project on their own time. Information about succulents was provided to them as well as a question and answer session while waiting for the cement to cure. A special “Thanks!” to Jan Knott and Phil Pfister for “giving a hand” in helping out!



## Doris McElmeel Memorial

*By Phil Pfister*

Doris McElmeel was a Master Gardener who loved hostas and enjoyed the gardens at Lowe Park. After her passing, the family wanted to establish a memorial at the park that included hostas. There isn't a lot of shade in this area of the park, so it was suggested that we build a pergola to provide the shade for the hosta bed. The site selected is on the north-east end of the greenhouse. Mike Anderson, designed the pergola and did all the prep work. Devon Diefz, Randy Dusil, and Phil Pfister helped assemble the structure and Mike finished the rest of the construction. The hostas that will be planted were selected from some of the best plants donated by the Master Gardeners for the Charlene Woeste Plant Sale. Our thanks to the Doris McElmeel family for their generous donation and memorial to Doris.



## Coordinator Comments

By: Jean Wilson



Hello, MGs –

It looks like we might really have a summer this year (I hope)! All of the garden activities are in full swing. I've been keeping you posted on a lot of events going on this month. I'm sure more will be cropping up in July as well.

Of course, one big event is our Garden Walk on July 13 this year. We have 6 gardens being highlighted and there are many volunteer opportunities for you to participate if you'd like. It's a free event this year, so we expect a high turnout for those folks looking for gardening inspiration.

By the time you read this, I will have attended the International Master Gardener Conference in Pennsylvania. I plan to attend several workshops that center around the MG volunteer experience, so I hope to glean some information I can use to make your volunteering more fun and rewarding. There's one afternoon devoted just to coordinators from around the country, so I'll have the chance to talk to others and see what works for them and what doesn't. I used to live in Pennsylvania so this gives me a chance to visit family and friends while I'm there, too – always fun!

We wrapped up our application process for MG training this fall. This year we used a different approach. I had interested folks submit an application that our Interview Committee helped design. Our committee reviewed the applications and we invited the candidates to attend an Open House where we could talk with everyone in an informal setting. The applicants had a chance to review the training materials, the schedule, and I gave them a very detailed overview of the program and how the training will progress. The Interview Committee members attended the Open House and were there to help answer questions and socialize with folks as well. We have a good slate of candidates this year – 18 in total. This process worked very well. I want to make a few refinements next year, but overall – I think it was a success.

Training will begin on August 13 (starting early so we can take advantage of warmer weather and longer days). We have a Training Committee which has helped recruit the speakers and locations. I'll be asking all MGs to step up in the next month or two as either a mentor or to assist at training. I'd like our new trainees to get a chance to interact with a real cross-section of our group. Stay tuned for that.

I hope to see many of you at the Garden Walk. And if I don't see you there, I'll probably run into you out and about. Let's enjoy the warmer weather while we can!

## June 4, 2019 – Steering Committee Minutes—DRAFT

The meeting was called to order and roll called.

**Present:** Diane Brooks, Lynn Brokaw, Randy Dusil, Julie Clemens, Linda Hofmeister, Cindy Lehman, Sam Krumbholz, Jan Knott, Jackie Maclaren, Kay McWhinney, Deb Walser, Bev Whitmore, Diane Wiesenfeld (via remote feed). **Absent but excused:** Kathy Carew. **Also Attending:** Jean Wilson

Approval of previous month's Minutes: The minutes for the May 7, 2019 meeting were distributed and approved.

The April Financial Report and Transaction Report were distributed and reviewed.

### Coordinator Report:

The plant sale generated \$9,462 gross revenue from approximately 523 sale transactions and \$85 from book sales.

The Linn County "Procedure Guide for Master Gardeners" has been updated and will be submitted to the Extension Council for approval.

The policy for food related activities has been relaxed somewhat from that which was previously communicated. Prior to any food related event the ISU Human Science Specialist must be contacted to discuss and review specifics of the event. He or She will determine if a representative needs to be in attendance. Contact the Master Gardener Coordinator for that person's contact information. Minor events such as tastings that have been done in the past likely will not require their attendance as long as safe food practice is being followed. Master Gardeners still cannot prepare food off-site to be served to the public at the event.

The Pollinator group will have a poster at the International Conference. The cost of \$500 for design and publishing was allocated from the general fund.

A conceptual Design Contract with an Architect has been received for A Head House at the Lowe Park Greenhouse. This will generate a conceptual design, feasibility and likely magnitude of construction cost. The time frame to develop is about a month which will be followed up over another month or so with discussions including stakeholders as well as Marion Parks Department. The cost of \$2,900 for this initial phase was approved by the Spend Down Committee and would apply toward full design cost should the project move forward contingent on approval by the Executive Council.

18 individuals have signed up for the fall MG training with one additional person considering ability to commit. This is from a field of 24 some of which had to drop due to the time commitment involved. The Interview Committee has reviewed applications and will be meeting applicants over the next week or so. Background checks will occur in early July for a mid-August training start.

### Old Business:

Memorials – The funds were paid out for the plaque at Noelridge gardens in memory of Phyllis Olson. The footings are in and the erection takes place soon for the pergola adjacent to Lowe Greenhouse in memory of Doris McElmeel.

Availability of reserve monies spend down will be evaluated once Head House probable cost and feasibility, as discussed above, is known. A

report will be issued at the end of the fiscal year which is the end of June. Use of these funds will be on a separate line item for the next budget generated. A process and dollar cap need to be determined to meet minor time sensitive items as they come up to avoid delays.

New Business:

New prototype projects will be reported on more frequently than quarterly to monitor success.

The Family Caregivers Project has had a seed starting and planting class and a planting day for containers is coming up. Overall planning for the outdoor space is ongoing.

Hands-on Holidays has a November date set with 4 activities planned.

School Gardens 101 has 9 registrations.

The Wellington Heights gardening activities were moved to the Association house for access to water that was difficult at the corner lot.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday July 9, 2019, 6:30 PM - Small Conference Room

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Monday June 17, 3:00 PM - Small Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted,  
Randy Dusil

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Extension and Outreach

Linn County Extension **Master Gardeners**  
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[www.extension.iastate.edu/linn](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn)



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