



Rutgers Master Gardeners of Somerset County Speakers Bureau Current Presentation Offerings

Container Gardening – No space for an in-ground garden? Have clay, rocky, or contaminated soil in your yard? Don't like tilling and weeding? Or maybe you have limited mobility or trouble bending? Perhaps Container Gardening is for you! Container Gardening is a guide to homegrown vegetables and colorful flowers without expensive tools and back breaking labor. Make gardening fun again with the use of containers!

Herb Garden Basics – Herb Garden Basics will get you started on planning, locating and filling your herb garden, and successfully maintaining it for years of enjoyment. There are also plenty of tips on storing and using your herbal bounty, plus a close-up look at some of the most popular herbs.

Plant It and They Will Come – Butterflies and their caterpillars, like humans, have particular preferences for the food they will eat. If you plant what a critter likes, it will be delighted to find its favorite food in your garden. This beautiful presentation is a guide to attracting butterflies to your garden and keeping them there.

The Life and Times of the Monarch – Have you noticed a decrease in monarch butterflies? Well, you're right! In this wonderfully presented program from experienced monarch "propagators" you will learn the reason why this is happening. You will also learn about the life history and habitat of this majestic insect and what you can do to help this cause.

Garden Favorites that Deer (almost) Never Eat – Is your landscape a deer buffet? Are you tired of seeing stumps where you lovingly planted expensive plants? This program gives some strategies to make your yard less attractive to the herd and highlights some rarely nibbled specimens that will send them next door instead.

Knowing and Growing Chrysanthemums – A slide presentation illustrating the history of the premier fall flower, the chrysanthemum and its many varieties, and detailing its culture. See photos of the magnificent 1,000 bloom plants and other very special mums. Care and handling of garden mums and exhibition varieties, especially disbuds, will be explained and illustrated.

House Plant Basics – There are many reasons to grow plants in our home. They beautify your home, reduce stress and can reduce indoor pollutants. Indoor plants, like outdoor plants, require the appropriate amount of light, temperature range, humidity, water and nutrition. Some plants need lots of light, others not so much. In this program you will learn about a light test, watering frequency, humidity and other factors to improve success.

Your First Orchid... Now What? – Presented by a certified American Orchid Society judge. Interesting facts about orchids, pollination and the breadth of orchid varieties. Stunning photos of over 30 different orchids followed by practical information on how to take care of your new orchid, which includes potting with proper soil, watering, fertilization, and the best place for it in your home.

Roses – Learn important facts about roses, including rose varieties and selection as well as planting and caring for your new rosebush. Also discussed are proper soil mixture, watering, and fertilization. You will learn how to properly prune roses for maximum growth and flowers in addition to preparing plants for winter. There is extensive discussion about identifying pests and diseases and how to best deal with them.

The Plight of the Monarch – Did you know that the Monarch butterfly is the only butterfly that migrates from as far north in Canada to Central Mexico to find high altitude oyamel fir trees essential for their survival in the winter. They have never been there. Their great- great-great- grandparents were there, yet this generation finds it unerringly. And that is just one fun fact about this amazing butterfly.

The Tick Talk – This presentation from the Rutgers Center for Vector Biology will boost your confidence when dealing with ticks! Learn about tickborne disease risks, tick bite prevention, and tick identification. We'll also show you how to participate in the NJ Ticks 4 Science citizen science project which can ID your tick and test it for diseases for free.

Vermicomposting 101 - Vermicomposting, or using worms to make compost, is a fun and easy way improve the soil for your garden or houseplants and reduce food waste! This presentation will review how worms do this and how to create and maintain a simple worm bin

Coming soon... Shade Gardening