Garden Courses
By Sue Reinardy

(The dates are when classes have been presented at WITC, Libraries,
Master Gardener groups, Senior Centers, Community Education Programs, or Garden Clubs.)

9/09, 9/10 **Bulbs and Bushes**
Fall is the time to plant bulbs for a beautiful show next spring and summer. It is just one of several fall activities that will help your garden return strong, vibrant and colorful in the spring. It is also the time to prune and care for your bushes so that they return in their full glory. Attend this short class taught by an experienced gardener to learn about the proper planting, care and maintenance of your bulbs and bushes. We'll also discuss the many types of bulbs that do well in this climate in time for ordering and fall planting.

9/12 **Bulbs, Tubers and Roots** (removed the bushes from the above program.)

10/13 – **Bulbs and Forcing** A variation on the above program. A hands-on program and also focusing on forcing preparations and other plants to consider for forcing.

4/10, 4/13, 4/16 – **Gardening in the North/Zone 3** – Not all plants like it "Up North", but there are still plenty of perennials that will do well in your garden. You will learn how to determine your yard's micro-climate and what plants are suited for our harsh conditions. Tips on planting and maintaining your perennials will be included. This course will also offer you many plant selections to make your gardens as deer resistant as possible. You'll then be ready with plant lists in time for the opening of the garden centers.

4/10, 4/13, 9/14 - **Shade Gardening** – Got shade in your garden? Is it full, partial, or dappled shade? This class will help you classify your shade and pick the right plants that do well without much sun. Learn how to create a colorful shade garden and maintain its good looks from spring through fall.

5/10, 5/14 - **Sun Gardening** – Sunny, hot, dry locations present just the right conditions for many plants. There is a wide selection of plants, many native to Wisconsin, that thrive in these conditions. In this class you will learn how to select and care for annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees for sunny locations with a focus on the use of native plants.

6/10, 5/12, 5/13, 4/19, 3/23 **Grasses and Ground Covers** They grow naturally in the wild and should have a place in your garden as well. These are easy plants to grow and maintain. Learn about how to put the right plant in the right place and keep them looking good to add personality and a longer season of interest in your garden. You will learn the difference between cool and warm species of grasses, clump vs. spreading and the main choices for our Zone 3 northern climate.

9/10 **Create your Own Garden Notebook** Do you have in various locations, pictures of your gardens, tags from the plants you bought this year, seed packets, catalog order sheets, garden layouts and to-do lists? And when you want to find something the search takes a while? Well, gather all that stuff together this fall and come to this class to organize it all. You will create a garden notebook that will serve you well for many years to come. Bring your own three-ring notebook (get a big one), index or pocket divider tabs, sheet protectors (with the 3 holes already in them). If you can find the time now – take pictures of your garden areas. This workshop will give you ideas for organizing and scheduling your garden tasks and information.

4/11, 5/12, 5/15, 4/20 **Going Native** A natural garden isn't complete without native plants. Native trees provide important shelter and food for birds. Native shrubs can attract wildlife and provide several seasons of interest. In this course you will learn what, when and where to cultivate native plants that provide food for butterflies, song birds, hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Also learn about phenology: the study of the

development of plants and animals as affected by our climate and weather. By using your observations you can know the best time for planting, the blooming cycles of plants, and the emergence of insect pests. All will help you become a more natural gardener.

4/12, 5/17, 3/21 **Ornamental Edibles**
Yes, you can have a good looking landscape and eat it too! Many plants have berries, foliage, or flowers that are good looking and tasty. This course will identify the many ornamental edible plants for our area and how you can grow them in containers or add to a perennial garden. We'll even identify some weeds that are edible providing you with even more motivation for weeding.

5/11, 5/12, 4/13, 4/17, 3/18 **Herbs**
Herbs include many easy care perennials, self-seeders and a few thugs. This course will cover the gardening basics for most common and some uncommon herbs. Discover the herbs that make good companion plants for vegetables you grow. Have you ever tried garlic fudge? How about lemon balm tea? Or make rosemary flavored vinegar? You will learn the many culinary and medicinal uses for herbs as well as harvest and storage tips.

9/11 , 4/16, 9/18, 10/18 **Gardening: Low Maintenance Strategies** -- Fall is the perfect time to assess the workload in your garden. This class will explore strategies to reduce the time spent to keep your garden looking its best. Often things you do this fall, will yield great results next spring. Strategies such as planting lower maintenance plants, creating new beds so you have room to place plants where they do better, and suppressing weeds will reduce the onerous chores so you can enjoy your garden more next season.

4/12, 4/13 **Debunking the Myths** This course will give you plenty of information on what to believe and what to discard. Myths, old-wives-tales, and advice are often passed on from
gardener to gardener. Some of it is true and based on science, some not. Find out whether the advice on such subjects as when to plant, using organic substances as a fertilizer, and how to plant and maintain your flowers are based on fact or fiction. Bring your own tales and we'll uncover the truth.

9/12 Wisconsin Master Gardener Association, State Conference presentation **No Fear-Share Your Knowledge – 10 Steps for Stress Free Gardening Presentation** This talk covers how to select appropriate topics, research them, preparing an outline, putting it all together and much, much more. Also 4/28/16 to North Country Master Gardener Volunteers

9/12 **Fall Garden Planner** This presentation gives a checklist of fall gardening activities, what must be done, what doesn't.

4/12 – **Tips and Tricks** Tips organized by season, some tested, some not. There is plenty of opportunity to share your own experiences and help debunk others.

4/13, 5/13, 4/15, 5/18, 2/21, 4/22, 4/24 – **Gardening in Small Spaces** – This course highlights a variety of methods, some old and some new, to garden in small spaces. New Trends in vertical landscaping include the use of trellises, raised beds, or even walls to grow both ornamental plants and vegetables. Lasagna and square foot gardening are becoming more popular and allow intensive gardening in a small area. You will get in-depth information on both time-tested methods and the new techniques in this class.

4/14, 5/15, 4/18, 9/19 – **Summer Bulbs** – Add something exotic to your gardens this year with summer bulbs. This course will focus in detail on the many bulbs that grow well in our gardens such as Allium, Caladium, Calla Lily, Canna, Crocus, Dahlia, Elephant Ear, Gladiolus, Iris, Lily and Tuberous Begonia. Many are tubers, corms, and rhizomes. They are all classified as geophytes, but grouping them as bulbs is a habit for most

gardeners. Learn when to plant, how to grow and maintain, and for those tender ones how to over-winter successfully. Many of these plants will provide color late into the summer and early fall that compliments your other perennials.

4/14, 5/14, 5/19—**Vegetable Garden** – Grow with confidence the vegetables you and your family like. Planting, growing, and harvesting the most popular vegetables will be discussed in detail. This class will cover the basics such as seed starting, soil preparation, transplants, crop selection, rotation, site selection, pests, diseases, fertilizing and watering. Even if you are an experienced gardener there will be science-based information that may debunk some of your long-held practices. In addition we will briefly discuss new methods for intensive gardening for smaller spaces.

Numerous dates – **Adaptive Gardening** – Learn some new tricks for gardeners who may need some assistance to help them garden comfortably. There are many tools and techniques can reduce the strain or help avoid an injury while still enjoying the many benefits of gardening.

4/15, 5/17, 5/18 **Crops in Pots**: Presentation on container vegetable gardening. Learn how to grow vegetables in containers and which types are best. Containers are a must for small spaces and also can be used when you have less than ideal soil conditions.

5/15 **Timing Peak Performance** - Select and cultivate plants so you can enjoy them in the right season, time of day, or to find some that will fill in when your garden is in a lull. Plant lists will be provided for early, mid, and late blooms. There will be tips on extending the season, ideas to solve common garden problems, and how to add plants that will help your garden have interest during each season.

2/16, 2/19, 2/24 **Seed Starting and Early Spring** - Early spring is the time to check out catalogs, place seed orders and start seeds. Learn about several seed starting techniques, how to decipher catalog and seed package jargon, and proper planting conditions.

5/16, 4/19, 5/20 **Container Gardening** – With the right soil, light, and nutrients almost anything can grow in almost any container. Learn how to grow perennials, annuals, and vegetables in containers and which types are best. Containers are a must for small spaces and also can be used when you have less than ideal soil conditions. This course will identify the advantages of various types of containers, the plat varieties that do best, and maintenance to get the best results.

3/**17 Italian Gardens and their Histories** - a tour through Tuscan gardens and their intriguing histories based on 2016 tour of gardens in Tuscany along with the interesting stories and horticultural practices of these gardens.

4/17 **Focus on Perennial Gardens** Perennial gardens have many advantages including lower maintenance, good food sources for pollinators and other animals and a wide variety of plants. This program will identify perennial plants and their care that will do well in sunny locations and include many native plants. There will also be a segment on woodland gardens that provide habitat and can be colorful as well in the shade. There are many new varieties now available; so this class will help you select something that may be a bit different that you can add to your own garden.

6/17, 3/22, 3/22, 6/23 **Helpful Insects and Pollinators** Bring on the bees, butterflies and other pollinators!! There are many plants for your garden that are not only beautiful but also provide food for wildlife and insects. This program will focus on native plants along with other annuals and perennials that support pollinators. Native trees provide important shelter and food for birds and pollinators. Native shrubs can attract wildlife and provide several seasons of interest. You will learn what, when, and where to cultivate native plants that provide food for butterflies, songbirds, hummingbirds, and beneficial insects.

5/17 **Natives for Sunny Spots** This is a short program (about 20 minutes) that provides information on creating native sun gardens that will attract pollinators and other wildlife while being beneficial to the environment.

5/17 **Woodland Gardens** This short program (20 minutes) describes techniques to mimic nature in the garden and embrace shade while also making it attractive.

4/18, 5/20 **Woodland Gardens** (longer version) One of the current trends in gardening is to mimic nature. The trend has been coined "extreme naturalism". Here in northern gardens this translates easily into our woodland gardens. Concrete is out, in are natural elements like rocks, boulders, and untrimmed hedges. This course will show how to go natural without going wild. The program will give tips on using natural materials and native plants to create show-stopping gardens that are easy to maintain.

3/18 **Cutting Flower Garden** – This program focuses on plants that do well in floral bouquets. The focus will be on annuals that create lots of flowers. Many of these can be grown from seed so you will have time to get those before planting season begins. There will also be many perennials and shrubs discussed that will add interest to your arrangements.

9/18 **Garden Fall into Spring** This program focuses on fall tasks and planting spring blooming bulbs and roots. The presentation provides checklists of fall gardening activities; what must be done, what doesn't. Fall clean-up can be greatly reduced with a few exceptions and the focus can be on the next season to come. There will be tips on extending the season and ideas to solve common garden problems that you may have experienced during the last growing season. We'll discuss the many types of bulbs that are appropriate for this climate in time for ordering and fall planting. Also, there are many bulbs that will do well for forcing to add some color to our long winter indoors.

1/20 **How to Read Garden Catalogs** Garden catalogs are chock-full of information, whether you love looking at the printed ones arriving in your mailbox or pursuing online versions. This program provides tips on how to narrow down your choices by understanding the catalog descriptions and terminology. Suggestions will be provided for plants that grow well in our zone 3 gardens.

5/20, 4/21 **Create a Potager Garden** Potager is a French term for a kitchen garden. These gardens can include not only vegetables but herbs, fruit, berries and cutting flowers. Learn where to site your potager, plants to include and how to maintain it through the growing season. These gardens can be an attractive addition to your yard and provide your family with food and flowers throughout the growing season.

3/21 **Gardening – Mixing It Up** This class will describe how to mix up borders with a variety of plant materials. No longer are gardeners restricted to only one type per plant bed or keeping the beds tiered with small in front and tall in back. Mixed borders combine annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and hardscape. Learn a few tricks from a UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer on sizing, designing, and planning four seasons for your garden. A full list of plants and how to grow them will be included.

3/22, 3/24 **Gardening with Shrubs** - Shrubs can provide a low-maintenance alternative in a garden that can rival perennials and annuals. Identify shrubs that provide multi-season interest and are appropriate to our northern climate. They can be used in place of ground covers or as small trees in addition to providing a dramatic backdrop for other plants. Learn the basics for selection, pruning, rejuvenation, and maintenance for most shrubs.

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Updated: October 10, 2024