

Central Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter



The Latest Dirt

AUG 2025

Newsletter of the Central Missouri Master Gardeners

Vol. 180 No. 01

Note from the Chair AUG Newsletter

Hello fellow Master Gardeners, I hope your garden and flowers are making through this very hot spell. Mine are starting to stress and the harvest is starting to show it.

I have begun to plant for the fall season after Ted Fry's wonderful talk about fall gardens. I am going to try and plant more than just beans and turnips this year. I will be heading to the greenhouse to see what is available for the coming fall season.

We are continuing to recruit for new board members this August for two-year terms. I really encourage you to consider being on the board, even if you have done so in the past. You can be on the board even if you are a new member. The board is very important to our group's continued and future success, and the need is great for members to step up and become board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please get in touch with Gail Cummins at bcuz524@gmail.com or myself at ev1983kv@gmail.com. I am sure by now you have all read or have seen Gail's letter referencing the need for board members. Thank you, Gail.

This past board meeting one of the topics we discussed is a Central Missouri Masters Gardeners website. I am interested in getting your opinion to this matter. This could benefit our member base and be another way to promote the CMMG as a whole to the community. I would like to hear from you at my email ev1983kv@gmail.com or just talk to me about this whenever you see me. Please check out the Greene County Master Gardener website at <https://mggreene.org/>. Kathy and I had the opportunity to visit the Springfield Botanical Garden this year and met two of the Greene County master gardeners there. These members talked highly about their group's website and how it was important to their group and the community for information and recruitment. We are in need of having a broader social media presence so that we can recruit new and younger members for the future to continue all the good things we do. I am also looking for ideas to include in a website and if anyone has experience with website development and management.

I encourage everyone as members to stay involved with our core missions as we need your mentoring as we move forward as a whole. Volunteering in the garden projects and being proactive with new ideas to advance our mission should be priorities for all members.

The board is also interested in your ideas for topics and guests to bring in for our monthly education portion of our program. Bringing in interesting guest speakers helps to bring in more members and the public. This is a way we can get the public interested in the CMMG program and possibly join. Again, please feel free to contact me by email or next time you see me.

Please join us at the MRRL when our August speaker will be our Dhruva Dhakal PhD for his topic of the evening will be on composting.

Have a good August

CMMG Chair, Edward Vitela
2024-2026

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Plant Sale Meeting

Plant Sale committee chairs met to discuss how to improve the annual plant sale. We also discussed this at our monthly meeting. We did fine this year, but our profits and attendance are not what they have been in the past. Issues seem to be that we are competing with other sellers (our prices have had to rise, and we are not necessarily the bargain we used to be) and spring planting comes earlier in the year, so people aren't necessarily waiting for our sale to buy plants. And we don't always have the plants people are looking for.

We discussed whether we needed to move the sale to an earlier date. That would mean starting in the greenhouse earlier (and incurring additional costs) and competing with the Versailles MG plant sale. We discussed whether we need to go back to a two-day sale - shorter Saturday hours and Sunday afternoon hours. That is actually the idea I like the best if we do decide to change our times. Our crowds were fairly good at opening and through the morning but fell off sharply in the afternoon.

The other thing we discussed was what we have for sale and do we need to modify our offerings to make our sale more attractive. The ideas we came up with would involve participation from members and a dedication to prepare for the sale long before the spring before. Here are some suggestions:

Save seeds from natives and high interest plants: We can grow gathered seeds in the greenhouse. However, we need to know exactly what the seeds are for. It can't just be labeled as a generic coneflower. But if you know exactly what you have and you gather and save seeds, we can grow them (maybe - some are very picky!). We had several members at the meeting express interest in this but were not sure exactly what was needed for seed gathering. Maybe we need an education session?

Projects save plants as they are working at project sites. We have beautiful gardens at our projects with a nice variety of plants. As work parties are removing plants from projects can they be potted up and saved for the sale? This would require members to overwinter them.

Overwintering plants - we have had educational presentations on overwintering plants, and we have several members who do this. Can more members overwinter plants or can members who overwinter add plants from other members? Many natives need a couple of years before they are big enough to sell

-would members be willing to overwinter plants and baby them along for a year or so before bringing them to the sale?
Work parties at members' homes - We have had members in the past offer up their gardens to other members who may not have plants to donate to the sale. It is a bit awkward to just go to someone's house and dig up their plants. Could we have planned work parties at member homes to dig up plants for the sale? These could be in the fall for overwintering or in the spring before the sale. Would members be willing to offer their gardens?

We need more trees, shrubs and edibles - these sell really well at the plant sale. Would anyone be willing to get donated trees from conservation or Arbor Day Foundation and plant them for the sale? Would have to know what they are. How do we get more of these donations?

We need more unusual or high demand items to sell at the sale - either grown in the greenhouse or donated. Members need to be thinking about plants to donate in the fall not just in the month before the sale. Growing them in the greenhouse is possible but those plants generally cost more, and we would have to charge more.

Advertising - we need an outreach committee or an advertising volunteer. Advertising needs to start in the fall. It can be done by someone who wants to get hours from home. We have a list of places to advertise but could really expand it if someone would work on it. The advertising person would not necessarily have to be the one doing interviews, but, if they could set them up, myself, Deb or other members could go on the radio or tv or be interviewed by the newspaper.

Co-Chair for the plant sale - I would love to have a co-chair willing to take on some plant sale responsibilities. I have been the chair for 5 years and would love to have more help in the lead up to the sale.

We need ideas and we need volunteers. Send me any ideas or comments on the suggestions above. If you would like to volunteer for any of these please let me know.

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Volunteers needed:

Advertising chair/committee

Overwintering location

Yard for work party

Collection of seeds - education of members on seed collection - willingness to plant seeds with Dottie and Deb

Saving plants from project locations

Getting donated trees and shrubs to pot

Plant sale co-chair

So, send me your ideas. Comment on these ideas. Volunteer your time and skills!

Angie Bayne

CMMG Plant Sale Chair

angie.bayne@gmail.com

***NEW**

History Corner

***NEW**

MG officers from 1999

Co-Presidents: Dick Crader and Peggy Davis

Treasurer: Judy Rizner

Secretary: Brenda Kennedy

Co-Presidents appointed and they listed all mg projects for the year. Two main projects were the Demo Gardens and Extension Center. Also featured a program at the "open gardens" this was at the old Demo Gardens. A call in committee took care of the Hot Line and Speakers Bureau or informed mg's about work parties at: Heisinger, Special Learning Center, Thomas Jefferson Middle School (with students), Villa Marie, helped with Blueberry Research. Plants were donated mainly by mg's or grown in Ray and Carole Evans greenhouse. The feature item that year was exotic plants. The sale took place on April 24 at the Extension Center.

First Plant Sale

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Monarda punctata *Monarda punctata* L.

Spotted Beebalm, Spotted Horsemint, Horsemint

[Lamiaceae](#) (Mint Family)



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Benefit: Use Ornamental: Wildflower meadow, Pocket prairie

Use Wildlife: Insect pollinated.

Use Medicinal: Fresh leaves crushed and steeped in cold water drunk to ease backache; used for fever, inflammation and chills. (Weiner)

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Attracts: Butterflies; and Bees

Nectar Source: yes

Stachys monieri 'Hummelo'

Lamb's ears or alpine betony

Excellent for flowers and foliage, S. 'Hummelo' hosts a lovely display of lavender-purple flowers atop tall, leafless stems while the stoloniferous nature creates small mounding clumps. Selected for strong flower production, plant health, habit quality and winter hardiness. A true garden delight!



USDA Hardiness Zone 4-8 Bloom Color: Lavender

Key Characteristics and Attributes



Deer Resistant



Full Sun



Part Sun



Summer



Average



Cut Flower



Groundcover

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db_beyer/iStockphoto

Purple Coneflower Care and Growing Tips



By [Kaitlin Stainbrook](#); Reviewed by [Melinda Myers](#); Fact-checked by [Kirsten Schrader](#)
[Birds & Blooms Editorial Policies](#)

Published on May 28, 2025

Learn how to grow purple coneflower. Adding these flowers to your yard is easy — and they're one of the best garden and prairie plants.

How to Grow Purple Coneflower

Common name: Purple coneflower; **Scientific name:** *Echinacea purpurea*;

Hardiness zones: 3 to 9; **Attracts:** Birds, bees, and butterflies; **Size:** 2 to 5 feet tall, 1 to 2 feet wide

Grown for: A long bloom season that starts in mid-summer and goes through frost

These beloved perennials thrive in garden borders and beds, although they're a welcome addition to cutting gardens, too. Beloved for their vibrant purple petals and their [long-blooming flowers](#), purple coneflower plants have become a staple of backyard gardens and natural landscapes around the country.

Many gardeners especially enjoy their fuss-free nature. Growing best in full sun, [coneflowers](#) tolerate drought well (although should be watered weekly during their first growing season) and can reach heights of up to 5 feet.

When Do Purple Coneflowers Bloom?



Courtesy Jaide RyksA bee visiting a purple coneflower.

A long blooming season ensures flowers remain from early summer through mid-fall. Coneflowers are low-maintenance and a great choice for everyone from first-time gardeners through experts. To keep their blooms going, it's best to remove spent blooms during the summer months.

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Benefits of Growing Purple Coneflower



Courtesy William Palmer American goldfinch feeds on a purple coneflower

Continuous [purple blooms](#), minimal maintenance, and drought resistance make purple coneflower a true backyard rockstar. It brings in birds, bees and butterflies. On the other hand, deer typically leave it alone.

While deadheading is a great option during the summer, it's best to let spent blooms remain in fall so [birds can snack on the seeds](#).

Many species of butterflies visit purple coneflower during the summer, including monarchs, swallowtails, and painted ladies.

Purple Coneflower Diseases and Pests



Courtesy Jan Halgrim Japanese beetles on a coneflower

Advertisement

While purple coneflower is known for its unfussy nature and ease of growing, gardeners should look out for a few possible issues. They can be susceptible to [aster yellows](#), as well as [powdery mildew](#): two common garden problems. Deer generally avoid established coneflower plants, but fresh plantings might be browsed upon, and rabbits especially seem to enjoy them. Japanese beetles can also irritate gardeners growing purple coneflower.

RELATED:

- [The Top 10 Coneflower Varieties to Grow](#)
- [Keep Your Perennial Coneflowers Coming Back Each Year](#)
- [How to Grow Coneflowers From Seeds](#)

20 books. She is the instructor for The Great Courses How to Grow Anything DVD and Instant Video series and host of the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moments TV and Radio segments. With a master's degree in

Top 10 Long Blooming Perennials and Shrubs

- Susan Martin May 1, 2024

You asked, we listened! One of the most common questions we receive from customers is which of the [perennials](#) and shrubs we offer bloom the longest. Thankfully, there are many options – more than ever before. We're sharing ten of our favorites with you here, plus lists of even more varieties so you can explore further. Let's see which stand out as the very best in their class.

By nature, perennials and shrubs bloom cyclically. We look forward to lilacs blooming in the springtime and roses in the summer, for instance. In the not-too-distant past, reblooming or long blooming cultivars of these and many other common plants we grow today did not yet exist. Thanks to

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the hard work of plant breeders around the world, we can now take it for granted that coneflowers will bloom all summer in multiple colors, and that hydrangeas will rebloom even if you accidentally prune them at the wrong time of year. It has made planning a garden where something is always in bloom much easier, even for beginner gardeners.

Among all the reblooming and long blooming perennial and shrubs, a number of cultivars stand out as the very best in class. We'll share ten of them with you below, along with a short list of even more to explore further.

5 LONG BLOOMING PERENNIALS

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache*)



If you garden where summers are warm and have well-drained soil, anise hyssop may be the perfect fit for you. Look for the longest blooming cultivars including the [Meant to Bee® series](#), 'Rosie Posie' and 'Mango Tango' which flower from midsummer through early fall. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds all love this perennial, but its fragrant foliage typically keeps deer away. These plants need full sun to grow well and can withstand a bit of drought once established. Size varies by cultivar, but all are hardy in zones 5-9.

Peruvian Lilies (*Alstroemeria*)



You might recognize these pretty blossoms from a bouquet you've received. Peruvian lilies are some of the most popular and longest lasting cut flowers available, but did you know you can also grow them in your own garden? [Inca® varieties](#) bloom all season until frost, so you can harvest as many as you'd like. Try this tip: instead of using clippers to cut the stem, grasp it at the base and gently pull the entire stem out of the ground. Doing so will encourage a new shoot to take its place, a shoot that will be topped with more blooms. Size and hardiness vary by cultivar. Where they are not hardy, Inca Peruvian lilies can be grown as annuals.

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Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)



Advancements in breeding have brought us many new cultivars of long-blooming tickseed including those in the [Designer Threads™](#) and [UpTick™ series](#). These colorful perennials bloom non-stop from early summer through late summer or early fall without deadheading. However, to keep plants looking their best, you might trim them back a bit around midsummer to remove any spent flower stems and encourage a fresh flush of foliage and blossoms. These heat tolerant perennials can withstand short periods without rain and are generally very easy to grow. They prefer to grow in full sun in zones 5-9.

Coneflowers (*Echinacea*)



Every sunny garden needs at least a few coneflowers, all of which are long-blooming. These vibrant perennials bloom from summer into early fall in shades of pink, magenta, red, orange, yellow and white. Bright yellow goldfinches are frequent visitors, there to pick the seeds from the flowers' spiky cones, accompanied by many different kinds of pollinators. The cheerful, fragrant blossoms are long-lasting in fresh bouquets and clipping them will have the added benefit of encouraging more to form. Grow them in a sunny spot in zones 4-8.

Catmint (*Nepeta*)



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Here's a perennial that is a strong rebloomer, meaning it will flower repeatedly if cut back after each cycle of bloom. Catmint starts the season off strong with a flurry of periwinkle blue flowers which are a magnet for pollinating bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Once those blooms are spent, use a pair of scissors or clippers to cut the whole plant back by about one third to one half. Doing so will encourage fresh foliage and flowers to form quickly, providing long-lasting color and a food source for pollinators throughout much of the season. Thanks to fragrant foliage, deer and rabbits tend to ignore catmint. Plant it in full sun and well-drained soil in zones 3-8.

Five more long-blooming perennials to explore:

1. ['Pink Diamonds' alpine bleeding heart](#)
2. ['Bowles Me Away' wallflower](#)
3. ['Rozanne' cranesbill](#)
4. [Festival Star® baby's breath](#)
5. [Sweet Romance® lavender](#)

5 LONGEST BLOOMING SHRUBS

[Firecracker Bush \(*Bouvardia*\)](#)



If you live in zones 8-10 where this shrub is hardy, you might recognize it as one of the longest blooming plants for landscapes. Where it grows wild in the arid mountains of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, it thrives in high heat, pumping out blooms all season. Where it is not cold hardy, it's grown as an annual or houseplant. Firecracker bush blossoms are long-lasting in bouquets, so much so that this shrub is commonly grown for the cut flower market. We love the [Estrellita™ series](#) for its extra-brilliant blossoms and compact habit which makes them easy to fit into both landscapes and patio pots. Grow them in full sun and well-drained, acidic soil for best results.

[Butterfly Bush \(*Buddleia*\)](#)



You might know that butterfly bush is one of the best shrubs for drawing in butterflies, but did you realize that it's also very long-blooming? Here in Michigan, these colorful shrubs begin to flower around midsummer and continue well into fall. If you live someplace warmer, they'll start even earlier in the season, providing plenty of fragrant flower panicles for butterflies, bees and hummingbirds to enjoy. Thankfully, deer typically leave butterfly bush alone. All are long-blooming, so choose yours

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based on the mature plant size to fit your space. [Lo & Behold®](#) and [Pugster®](#) varieties form a low, wide cushion while [“Miss” varieties](#) are more narrowly upright. Plant them all in full sun in zones 5-9

Reblooming Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea*)



What garden would be complete without at least a few hydrangeas? Reblooming cultivars offer two rounds of blooms per season: the first on old wood (last year's stems) and a second on the new growth. Altogether, that adds up to months of gorgeous blossoms in shades of pink, lavender, blue or white. Check out our favorite rebloomers:

- [Let's Dance ¡Arriba!® reblooming big leaf hydrangea](#)
- [Let's Dance Can Do® reblooming big leaf hydrangea](#)
- [Let's Dance Lovable® reblooming big leaf hydrangea](#)
- [Invincibelle® Spirit II reblooming smooth hydrangea](#)
- [Tuff Stuff Top Fun® reblooming mountain hydrangea](#)

Have questions about your hydrangeas? Check out our [complete hydrangea guide](#) which covers everything from how to identify which kind you have, when to prune, how to turn the flowers blue and much more

[Bush Cinquefoil \(*Potentilla*\)](#)



If you face gardening challenges like high pH soil, extreme winter cold or deer pressure, consider growing this easy care shrub. This native shrug off heat, drought, animal browsing and less than ideal soil conditions where it is hardy in zones 2-7. The [Happy Face® series](#) contains some of the longest blooming shrubs we offer, flowering from early summer to frost in shades of yellow, white, pink or orange. The blossoms are attractive to pollinating bees and butterflies but do not draw the attention of deer. Forming a rounded mound of healthy, mildew-resistant foliage, it's easy to tuck them in amongst perennials in flower beds or to use as a short hedge.

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Landscape Roses (*Rosa*)



Did you know that roses can be as easy to grow as any average shrub in your landscape? There is nothing average about the [Oso Easy® series](#) of landscape roses. They bloom longer, resist powdery mildew and black spot better, and are available in a broad range of colors compared to traditional roses. Though they were bred to bloom without deadheading, clipping some blooms to keep your vases filled all summer will encourage even more to form. Be sure to grow them in full sun and provide ample elbow room around the plants since roses don't like to be crowded in the landscape. Note the hardiness zone before you buy, as it differs between cultivars in the series.

Five more long-blooming shrubs to explore:

1. [Perfecto Mundo® reblooming azaleas](#)
2. [Bloomerang® reblooming lilacs](#)
3. [Austin Pretty Limits® oleander](#)
4. [Double Play Doozie® spirea](#)
5. [Sonic Bloom® reblooming weigela](#)



Don's Harvest 2025

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RECIPE TIME



Apple Rhubarb Crisp
Recipe by Rockabillytim

Ingredients:

Prep Time: 20 mins; Cook Time: 45 mins; Additional Time: 10 mins; Total Time: 1 hr 15 mins

Ingredients:

- 6 large apples, cored and diced
- 1 cup diced rhubarb (I would add another cup)
- 1 cup white sugar (Optional) Depending on the apples used I would adjust the sugar
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon; divided (Optional) some saved for topping. I would use all in mixture
- 1 3/4 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chilled butter, cut into pieces
- 2 tablespoons white sugar, or to taste (Optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish.
2. Mix apples, rhubarb, 1 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup flour, and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl until thoroughly combined.
3. Spread fruit mixture into the bottom of the prepared baking dish.
4. Mix oats, remaining 1 1/2 cups flour, and brown sugar in a separate bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Spread evenly over fruit mixture.
5. Mix 2 tablespoons white sugar with the remaining 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon in a small bowl or if all used in mixture mix some cinnamon in your sugar to taste; sprinkle over oat topping.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until fruit is bubbling and thick and topping is golden brown, about 45 minutes.
7. Let cool for 10 to 15 minutes, then serve. Dip of ice cream on top sounds good

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY August



August- Gladiolus

The gladiolus is a beautiful flower that represents August, and it is known for its striking beauty and tall stature.

These blooms grow on long, slender stems and can reach up to four feet in height, making them a popular choice for floral arrangements and garden displays.

The gladiolus symbolizes strength, honor, and moral integrity, which are all qualities that are associated with the month of August. These flowers come in a wide range of colors, including pink, white, red, yellow, and purple, making them a versatile choice for any occasion.

In addition to their aesthetic appeal, gladiolus flowers have practical uses as well. They are often used as cut flowers for bouquets and floral arrangements, and their stems are commonly used to support other flowers in arrangements.

Overall, the gladiolus is a stunning flower that represents the strong and honorable qualities of the August month. Whether you are looking to add a pop of color to your garden or need a bouquet for a special occasion, the gladiolus is a great choice.

In May, Deb Rademan was with the Kindergarten class at Trinity. Possibly some future Master Gardeners



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Meetings are held at the Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St, Jefferson City, MO
Unless informed otherwise! We hope to see you there!

Online Reporting Site: Hours must be entered at https://vms.momg.org/sec_Login/ please remember you need to enter hours on a computer, not a tablet or a phone. Again, all hours must be entered on line.

Enter your hours again starting in January.

Any emails that need to be distributed to ALL MG's should be sent to [CMMG Cole County Master Gardener <cmmg@missouri.edu>](mailto:CMMG_Cole_County_Master_Gardener@cmmg@missouri.edu)— please don't call in messages

CMMG Official WEBSITE--<http://extension.missouri.edu/cole/cmmg.aspx>

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Editor- Mary J Williams- tmaryso43@mchsi.com