



## **Ian Peterson**

Assistant Extension Educator

### **Horticulture, Landscape, & Environmental Systems**

Serving Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon,  
Dodge, Stanton, Saunders, Thurston,  
Washington, and Wayne Counties

I am new to university and Extension, so it will take me a little bit to get used to how everything works, but I look forward to eventually meeting and working with everyone in the various counties that are relying on me for breaking and up-to-date news on the plant world.

A little bit about me –

I have been an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher for the past 7 years, so have been developing my patience and, most importantly, my science communication skills to help as many people as possible understand what might at first seem like a way-too-complicated topic. Before that I worked at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha as a senior gardener planning, planting and organizing different themed areas of plants.

I live in Omaha with my wife and our two children – our son will be 6 in just a couple of weeks and our daughter is 3 in September (she is our “pandemic princess”). Over the past few years in a new house we have transformed our yard as much as we can manage each year into more and more food garden space and especially native perennials. I am passionate about the far-reaching benefits of even small native habitats and, in addition to food access, am looking forward to helping with the already-rich ecology of northeastern Nebraska.

Like I said, I am new to Extension (and the Master Gardener program), so please let me know if there is ever anything you think you need or want from me regarding... anything. Also if there are ideas that you have or that your residents have that you think might fall under my purview, reach out! I am always thinking of new ways to engage and benefit the community, but the first step is knowing what the community wants.

I’m happy to be part of the team, and I hope to hear from you.