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Learn About Gardening

Have you heard the saying “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!”? With all the concerns about lack of groceries in stores, a major interest in raising produce at home is blossoming across the United States in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is an opportunity for many citizens to learn how to garden or resume gardening after a number of years.

Nebraska Extension provides a wealth of information and programming to help gardeners, whether people are raising their first crops, or they are experienced gardeners with questions throughout the growing season. Our traditional teaching and outreach methods such as face-to-face programs and fields days cannot happen at this time. This is where the lemons and lemonade come into play.

Extension faculty across Nebraska are finding new and different ways to reach citizens to help answer questions and teach classes. One thing that Nebraska Extension prides itself on is the ability to keep teaching and provide quality information as always, especially during these uncertain times.

Through this transition, David Lott, District Horticulture Extension Educator in North Platte, offers some easy ways to reach him for gardening questions and programs.

Phone – Call the Extension Office in North Platte at (308) 532-2683, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., CDT.

Email – Questions may be sent via email to dlott2@unl.edu. If questions are relating to plant identification, diseases, or insects, please attach pictures related to the question to help identify problems or issues.

Facebook and Twitter – Both accounts are named Nebraska Gardener. Feel free to “like” the Facebook page, or “follow” the Twitter [@NEBRgardener](https://twitter.com/NEBRgardener) for new gardening suggestions coupled with pictures and corresponding Extension publications to download. Posts will be scheduled and published at 4:45 p.m., CDT. Anyone can request gardening information or topics to be posted or covered for everyone to see. Anyone can also ask questions or comment on posts as well.

Virtual Demonstrations – David will be scheduling virtual gardening demonstrations on seasonal and popular topics. These classes will be announced in the near future with instructions on how to participate virtually. Practical recommendations will be covered to help beginning and experienced gardeners to have success this growing year.

Nebraska Gardener Garden Blog – A new article will be sent to area newspapers each week to follow or look up online. Anyone is welcome to email dlott2@unl.edu to receive a direct email of each week’s article. Please share this opportunity with others who might be interested in receiving a weekly blog article directly too.

These unprecedented times are unsettling for so many people in our region and across the United States. One thing that is a constant for Nebraska citizens is Nebraska Extension, responding to changes that have been thrust upon us. We are excited to offer a variety of ways to reach out and provide ongoing valuable information for our counties.