

## GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN COLUMBUS

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We may not be able to do yard and garden work now, but we can attend classes for personal learning, to ask questions, and to hear about resources from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to help address questions or plant issues that come up during the growing season.

The mission of Nebraska Extension is to extend science-based information. One of the ways we do this is by offering in-person and virtual workshops and classes. Following are dates, topics, and speakers for upcoming horticulture classes in Columbus or webinars to watch from home.

Edible Landscaping will be taught by Pam Bergstrom with the Nebraska Forest Service on February 9, 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Platte County Extension office. The address is 2715 13<sup>th</sup> street in downtown Columbus. Edible plants to select from and creative ways to mix them into landscapes will be covered.

On February 23 at 9:00 am, Wayne Ohnesorg will be talking about Butterflies of Nebraska and Creating Butterfly Habitats at the Platte County Extension office. Wayne is an entomologist with Nebraska Extension. He can answer just about any insect question you might have.

I will be teaching Common Bugs, Rots, Spots and More in the Landscape and tips for management on March 1 at 9:00 am. Integrated pest management practices with a focus on prevention and environmentally responsible practices will be a focus. This class is also at the Platte Extension office.

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will be teaching classes at our new community building in Columbus. On February 18, Katie Liebig will share about Seed Starting and Growing Transplants. On March 17, Marilyn Schmidt will cover Growing Vegetables in Containers. Join us on April 14 for an informal Ask a Master Gardener opportunity to ask any garden or landscape questions you have.

These local Get Your Green Thumb Growing sessions will be held in the creativity corner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Columbus library at 2:00 pm. Each program will be one hour long. There will be handouts and opportunities to ask questions.

GRO Big Red is a virtual learning garden and landscape series you can watch from the comfort of your home using Zoom. Each session is recorded and can be watched at a later date if the live session time of 12:00 noon does not work for you. Or if you wish to review a session during the growing season.

GRO Big Red classes are taught by Extension Horticulture Educators. Coming up this spring are Starting Plants for Your Garden on February 14 with Nicole Stoner and Maximizing Garden Potential by David Lott on March 13. I will be teaching Rain: Use it or Lose it on April 10 and Elizabeth Exstrom will teach about Simple Landscape Design on May 8.

To register for the GRO Big Red classes, go to <https://hles.unl.edu/grobigrd>. You can select which class you plan to attend and also see other upcoming classes for the summer and fall. Once registered, the zoom link and password to use for the classes will be e-mailed to you.

As you can see, there are a number of garden and landscape learning opportunities coming up in the next few months. For information or to let us know you plan to attend one of the in-person sessions, please contact me at 402-563-4901 or e-mail [kfeehan2@unl.edu](mailto:kfeehan2@unl.edu).