Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Rockland County

School Garden Network

Cultivate Socially, Physically and Emotionally Healthy Children & Youth through the Garden Experience

10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980 • Phone: (845) 429-7085 • Fax: (845) 429-8667 • Web: www.rocklandcce.org

May/June 2010

What Is a Rain Garden and What Does it Do?

A rain garden looks like an ornamental perennial garden, but contains a shallow depression that is designed to collect and filter stormwater that runs off nearby hard surfaces, such as roofs, driveways or walkways. Rain gardens have a ponding depth of only a few inches, and are expected to hold water for just a day or so. The water leaving the garden may enter a storm drain system, or seep into the ground, where it can help to renew our groundwater – especially important in Rockland County, where we depend primarily on wells for our water. The ornamental plants in the rain garden slow the rate of stormwater runoff and help to reduce flooding and erosion. In addition, the vegetation may remove pollutants that could enter our waterways. A properly constructed rain garden will hold and filter approximately 30 percent more rainfall than the same area covered by a lawn.

The optimal site for a rain garden is in full sun. Because the garden is a valuable ornamental feature, place it where it will best fit into your existing landscape and where you will enjoy the view. Many people place their gardens near their homes to catch runoff from the roof.

A rain garden should trap water from an average rainfall. Take note of the direction of flow and destination of runoff leaving your roof, driveway or other hard surface during a moderate to heavy shower. The rain garden should be positioned on a gentle slope in the path of runoff between the source and destination. The site should be at least ten feet away from the foundation of a house or outbuilding, and at least 25 feet from a well head or septic system. It is best if the runoff passes through a grassy area before entering the garden; this will remove some sediment that could impede the rate that water drains from the garden. You will need to make sure that any overflow from the garden is directed to an appropriate place, across vegetated areas, following natural drainage patterns, or to a storm drain, where it will not impact neighboring properties. Before you get started, call Dig Safe NY at 1-800-962-7962 to locate and protect any underground utilities.

As the slope of the land increases, so does the depth of a rain garden. The bottom of the garden should be flat. A rain garden on a steep slope would require special engineering and may not be practical. Rain gardens are designed so that one side is longer than the other; the garden stretches across the slope (or path of runoff) to catch the maximum volume of water possible. Since the purpose of a rain garden is to filter stormwater, the soil underneath the garden should drain easily, preferably within a day or so. If you have standing water or a very high water table, the site is a candidate for a wetland garden instead of a rain garden (contact Cooperative Extension for assistance). You can conduct a simple percolation test for drainage by digging a hole roughly a foot in depth when the soil surface is somewhat dry. If the hole fills with water, stop and locate your rain garden elsewhere. If the hole remains dry, rough up the sides and fill it with water. Wait 12 to 24 hours; if the water has drained away, the site should be suitable.

Donna Alese Cooke, Community Horticulture Educator, teaching about starting seeds.

As long as size of the area that serves as the source of runoff from a given site is taken into account, the size and depth of a rain garden are flexible. A typical rain garden covers 100 to 300 square feet. A shallow garden will need to be wider than a deeper, narrower site to trap the same amount of water. If your yard will not accommodate a large garden, consider using two or more small sites, or simply the largest area that is reasonable. Contact the CCE Rockland diagnostic lab for garden dimensions, and for more information on designing your garden.

Plant Selection:

The plants in a rain garden must be able to withstand periods of wet and dry soil, as well as occasional flooding. Many of our attractive native plants will handle these conditions. Natives often require less maintenance than exotic ornamentals; these tough plants generally do not require fertilizer or pesticide applications; some are deer resistant. Native plants are also less likely to take over the garden than non-natives.

A mixture of species with varying forms, heights and bloom times will add diversity and interest to your rain garden. As in a traditional perennial garden, repeating blocks or drifts of plants (mostly in odd-number groupings) will have a pleasing effect.

Contact the Horticulture Lab at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland for a perennials chart, (845) 429-7085, option 3.

Master Gardeners teaching students at Upper Nyack Elementary School about vegetables in their "Seed to Salad" program.

Planting the Garden:
Other than excavation to create the depression that holds stormwater and the construction of the berm, preparing a rain garden is similar to that of other perennial borders. Most of the plants will benefit from an addition of an inch or so of compost incorporated into the soil. This will improve drainage and supply organic matter that holds moisture during a dry spell, and is especially helpful during establishment.

If possible, set your plants out in early spring so they may begin to develop a good root system before the stress of summer heat. Start out with plants that have well established root systems – these will be able to withstand a flood without washing away, and will fill in more quickly than plants started from small plugs or seed. Set the plants at the recommended spacing for the species. If you use containerized plants, you can move them around in their pots to try different patterns and combinations before you settle on a permanent design.

Dig planting holes deep enough to accommodate plants' root balls. Make sure that the crowns of the plants will be set in the garden at the same level that they had grown in their containers; or in the case of transplants, in the original landscape. Dig and loosen the soil of an area at least twice as wide as the root ball, then set the plant in, firm the soil gently to remove air pockets, and water well. Finally, spread two inches of mulch to cover the garden soil. Use a heavy mulch, such as hardwood, that will not float away in a heavy rain. Do not pile mulch around the plants' crowns or stems.

Maintenance

Your newly planted garden will require regular watering for the first season, or until the plants are established. Unless drought restrictions are in effect, supplemental water should be applied whenever there has not been an inch of rainfall in the previous week, and a soaking rain is not predicted. Once the garden is established, it will not require additional water unless there is a long, dry spell (where any wilted plants do not perk up after dark).

As in any other perennial garden, weeds must be kept to a minimum, especially during establishment. Inspect the garden regularly and remove any unwanted vegetation before it takes hold. The mulch layer will naturally suppress many weeds. Renew the mulch at least once a year, or as it decomposes. The composted mulch will supply adequate nutrients for the native plants in your garden – you will not need to add additional fertilizer.

Check the water inflow and overflow areas occasionally; clear them out as necessary. To prevent a layer of debris from filling the ponding area of the garden, remove dead stems and leaves as they accumulate. Prune and thin woody plants as necessary. Cut herbaceous perennials and grasses back to four or six inches each spring, before new growth emerges. Over time, you may also need to remove layers of silt or sediment that accumulate in the depression, to maintain the depth of the ponding area and the rate that water filters through the garden. At this point, you may want to divide plants that are crowded or fill gaps left by plants that have failed to thrive.

-Adapted from a fact sheet prepared by
Chris Shankar, Rockland County Master Gardener

Join the Junior Master Gardener program this summer!

4-H, Community Horticulture and the Master Gardeners are offering two week-long sessions for children in grades 4 and 5 (August 2-6) and in grades 2 and 3 (August 9-13).
The program will meet each morning from 9:30AM-12:00PM at the Extension Education Center in Stony Point.

The Junior Master Gardener program is a 4-H Youth Development program developed by Texas A&M and is modeled after the highly popular Master Gardener program. Children will participate in "hands-on" learning experiences in horticulture and environmental science education.

Program fee is $75.00 per child and includes all program materials and a nutritious morning snack.

Please contact Pat Hubbard at 845-429-7085, ext. 103 or Donna Alese Cooke at 845-429-7085, ext. 108 for more information and to register.

Junior MG is seeking Pilot schools for a new fundraiser project

Growums garden kits teach children how to easily grow and care for a garden of their very own – whether in the back yard or in containers on the patio or balcony. Each kit features a specific type of garden containing a unique cast of "characters." Children have their choice of five types: Pizza, Taco, Ratatouille, Salad and Herb. Kids growing the Taco Garden, for example, will learn how to grow, care for and harvest Cecil Cilantro, Hal E. Peño, Ice Berg the lettuce and Tomas the tomato.
If you'd like to be a pilot school, contact Randy Seagrave at the JMG Program office via email to **programinfo@jmgkids.us**.

Here's a link for more info: **http://67.59.137.247/index.cfm?did=16123&sectionID=16122**

Grant Opportunity for School Districts

Funding now available!
School districts are invited to partner with Action for Healthy Kids and Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund to create healthy school environments where students can learn, grow and achieve. Apply today to enhance and expand your school breakfast program during the 2010-2011 school year. **http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/school-breakfast-to-school.html**

Message from the Editor

If you or your students would like to grow a garden but don't have the land, then consider starting a plot at one of the many community gardens in Rockland. It's a great way to meet other gardeners while growing healthy vegetables. For more information on a community garden near you, contact me at CCE.

Have an enjoyable, restful summer -- See you in September!

~ Donna Alese Cooke,
Community Horticulture Educator

Gardening in Raised Beds

by Vivienne Dieckmann, Sloatsburg Master Gardener

Raised vegetable gardens are a great way to get delicious home-grown veggies without the worries of seasonal flooding, of poor soil and drainage, and even of damage from those cute little gophers with voracious appetites. These gardens can take advantage of the most favorable location, and unwanted pests will have difficulty penetrating through the chicken coop wire on the base of the planter. Finally, with a cap seat around the perimeter of the raised garden, aches and back pain will be a thing of the past.

The best material to use is natural wood not pressured treated varieties. Treated lumber is chemically preserved to prevent it from rotting; yet those chemicals can leach into the soil posing an unhealthy situation for the gardener. Rather, use redwood, cedar or Douglas fir to create the raised beds. If redwood is too pricy, cedar is more affordable. It is rot-resistant for at least ten years even with direct contact on the ground. In time the wood will age and take on a silvery gray sheen.

You can purchase PVC raised bed kits which are moisture and temperature resistant. This light weight material is quite strong and will last many years. But a cheaper method of planting with plastic materials is creating a container garden using those detergent buckets, plastic cat litter containers, or even the discarded black planting pots in which trees and shrubs grow. Wash thoroughly all the containers and make holes in the bottom of the buckets for drainage. If aesthetics are an issue, build wood frames to surround groups of these containers. Not only will these plastic containers function as raised vegetable gardens, but also will aid recycling efforts while delivering bountiful yields.

Choosing Drought Tolerant Garden Plants this Year to Conserve Water

By Margaret Hersch, Spring Valley Master Gardener

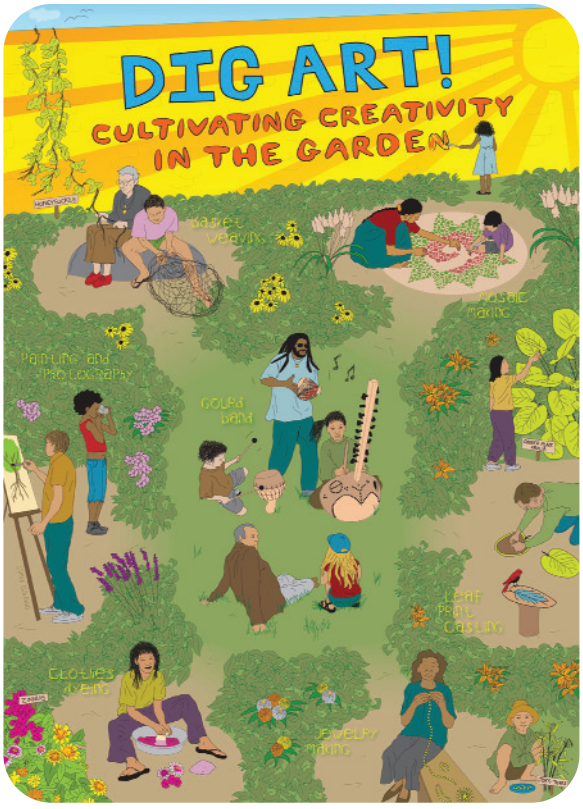
Water conservation begins with selecting plants that are drought tolerant, especially on dry slopes and open sunny areas. Group plants that require more water together near your house and water source, and limit their use unless you have a wetland or boggy area.

Organic-based mulches such as wood chips, grass clippings, and pine needles help conserve moisture and suppress weeds that compete for water and nutrients. Shrubs, trees, flower and vegetable gardens benefit from mulching approximately two inches deep. Also, you can improve the soil's ability to hold water by working in abundant compost and organic matter. Even lawns can benefit from an application of 1/8 to 1/4 inch of compost to improve water absorption.

Since lawns require more water than most other plants, limit the lawn size to needed, functionally beneficial areas (i.e., play areas), use grass mixes that are drought tolerant (fescues), adjust your mowing height to three inches and leave grass clippings on the lawn. Consider replacing existing lawn areas with ground covers, mulches or perennials. Use a rain gauge or container to measure rainfall and supplement as needed to reach one inch per week. The best time for all watering is between 4:00 and 8:00 am. Early in the morning evaporation is low, more water is absorbed and leaves have time to dry, thus lessening the risk of plant diseases. Water roots, not leaves; apply water slowly, deeply and only when needed.

Soaker hoses slowly ooze water and when covered with mulch use 50% less water than conventional sprinklers. Tighten faucets and replace gaskets to irrigation equipment to stop leaks and check placement to make sure you're not watering sidewalks, driveways or streets. Programmable timers are available for outdoor faucets. Finally, harvest rainwater from your roof with rain barrels: this practice will save water and help you with your water bill.

Cornell University's Garden Based Learning Signature Projects



Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden is a new project guide for youth that integrates gardening with the arts. The arts activities in this guide will help to teach ecological literacy and inspire new enthusiasm for garden-based learning. *Dig Art!* activities support youth to creatively express themselves and their garden experiences through gourd art, printmaking, time-lapse photography, and other creative projects.

For many young people, creating art is a natural form of self-expression and is a central source of fulfillment, relaxation, and creativity in their lives. That is why encouraging children and youth to integrate endeavors in the arts with the outdoors is the central aim of *Dig Art!*

Dig Art! activities are diverse and adaptable and thus can take place over a time-span of one hour, one week, or one month. There are short, small-scale activities and bigger, long-term projects.

Dig Art! activities can take place indoors and outdoors, anywhere and everywhere! They can take place in a schoolyard or school garden, in a community garden, in a backyard garden, in a tiny flower patch, in the classroom, at day camps, summer camps, after-school programs, 4-H programs and more.

One Seed at a Time: Alleviating Climate Change through Youth Community Action in the Garden

What?

One Seed at a Time is a model project for how teams of children, youth and adults working in partnership can make a difference in their communities through sustainable gardening practices.

Why?

Climate change is considered to be one of the primary daunting issues in the lives of young people. Feelings of fear and complacency are becoming a part of the human landscape. It is critical that youth do not feel overwhelmed by this issue, and imperative that they readily have the resources and tools needed to understand, cope with, and actively challenge this widespread phenomenon. We believe that small cumulative changes in homes, gardens and communities are the most essential and effective ways to make significant change to our climate and environment.

Who?

Teams of children, youth and adults dedicated to making a difference in their communities!

How?

(1)Understand: Youth learn about the causes and impacts of climate change both on the broader global environment and on local gardens specifically.

(2) Monitor: Youth become citizen scientists and monitor the climate-induced changes in their garden and natural landscape.

(3) Adapt: Youth try out different approaches to adapting a garden to a changing climate.

(4) Mitigate: Youth create "greener" gardens and adopt other sustainable lifestyle practices that are part of the climate change solution.

Where?

In your community gardens, parks, schools, community centers, afterschool programs, summer camps, backyards, town halls… anywhere and everywhere!

What for?

At the end of a "One Seed at a Time" project, youth will have a better understanding of how climate change affects their local natural environment, and will have gained the tools and resources needed to monitor, adapt, and mitigate these changes in a garden setting. They will also have learned how to successfully partner with adults in a garden-based youth community action project!

http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/

4-H Youth Development School Enrichment Programs

The programs listed below incorporate the foundations of the 4-H program and are based upon the principles of youth development. They are derived from exciting and innovative curricula in the areas of agriculture, environmental studies, science and life skills that have been developed by Cornell University researchers, faculty and Extension educators. Rockland 4-H educators use these resources to create educational experiences for Rockland County youth that meet the requirements of many of the New York State Learning Standards. All of our programs are 45 minutes to 1-hour in length. The program fee is $75.00 per program, plus a materials fee, if applicable. Maximum number of students in a class is 40. We remain committed to continuing to develop our educational partnership and look forward to your participation in our programs.

Beautiful Bees – K-6 grades

Not only are honeybees the sole producers of honey, they also play an integral role in a healthy environment and in agriculture. Through literature, an art activity and the chance to taste honey, students will learn both the physical and behavioral characteristics of honeybees, their roles in a colony, and most importantly how critical they are in nature. A beekeeper can participate in the program for an additional fee.

Appealing Apple – K-6 grades

The apple is New York State's leading fruit crop. New York State ranks #2 in apple production nationally, behind Washington State. Though literature, a game and song, students will trace the journey of the apple from the seed to their table.

From Sap to Syrup – 3-6 grades

Students will explore the history of maple sugaring and how it evolved into a major New York State industry. They will be introduced to the maple sugaring process through literature and demonstration. They will also have the opportunity to taste New York State maple syrup.

Going Geospacial – 5-6 grades

Students will explore the world of geospacial science, using handheld GPS units. A scavenger hunt will encourage students to use teamwork and their new skills.

The Great Grains Obstacle Course – 4-6 grades

Through a six station obstacle course, students will identify a variety of foods made from grains, be physically active using a food theme and learn how grains provide energy to fuel activity. They will use a 4-H Choose Health passport to answer important questions about health and personal safety. Students who successfully complete the course are rewarded with a sample of hot air popped popcorn.

Wind Power and Tetrahedron Kites – 4-6 grades

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, supposedly built the first tetrahedron kite. The tetrahedron kite challenges its builders to learn mathematics, physics, to develop artistic and creative ideas of shape and color and work cooperatively with others.

Goods from the Woods – K-6 grades

Through literature and "hands-on" activities, students will learn how trees can be used in may different ways and how tree farmers must care for their trees just as other farmers care for their livestock and crops.

Please contact Patricia Hubbard, 4-H Youth Development Program Director at 845-429-7085 ext 103 to schedule these programs in your school, after school program, library, youth group meeting or camp.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels collect rainwater from roofs. One inch of rain falling on a 1000 square foot roof over a 24-hour period produces 600 gallons of rainwater. The average U.S. household uses 146,000 gallons of water per year; up to half of this is used on landscapes in the summer. Harvesting rainwater saves water, energy and money. It also helps to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff. This protects water quality and aquatic habitats.

Setting up a Rain Barrel System

There are two basic options:
(1) purchase pre-made rain barrels at a garden center or garden supply company, or (2) construct your own for approximately $30 to $50. There are many design options for any building style.

Read the instructions completely.
Practice safety while using tools.

Supplies:

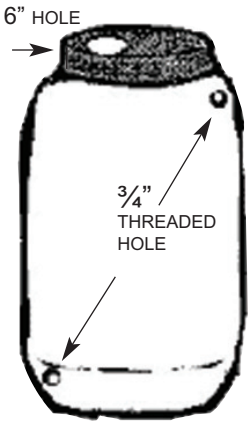
55 gallon food grade plastic drum
¾" Hose adapter
¾" Brass faucet
Teflon tape and waterproof sealant
Mesh or louvered screen
Plumber's pipe strap and deck screws
Downspout vinyl or flex elbow
3 ½' vinyl hose
2 to 4 Concrete Blocks
Krylon fusion paint (optional)
Diverter kit (optional)*
Mosquito brick
(BTI *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelenses)*

*Diverters and linking kits may be purchased from online garden supply companies. Contact the CCE Diagnostic lab for a Rain Barrel Sources List.

Tools:

Saw (router, jig saw or coping)
Drill and 29/32" Drill bit
¾" Pipe tap
Measuring tape

Create Your Own Rain Barrel



Step 1 Use a 6" hole saw, saber saw, keyhole saw or drywall saw to cut a perfectly round six inch hole on the top of your trash can lid or top of barrel (clean the barrel thoroughly if it was previously used for a food product).

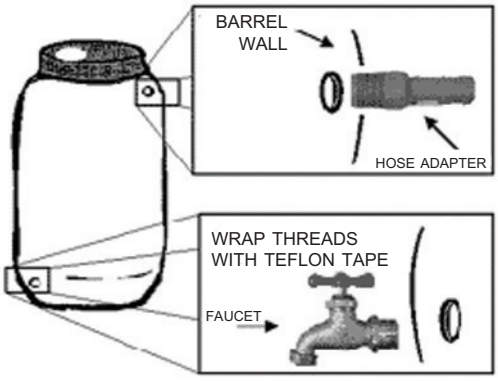
Drill 2 holes in the side of the barrel with a 29/32" drill bit, one near the top for an overflow and near the bottom for the faucet.

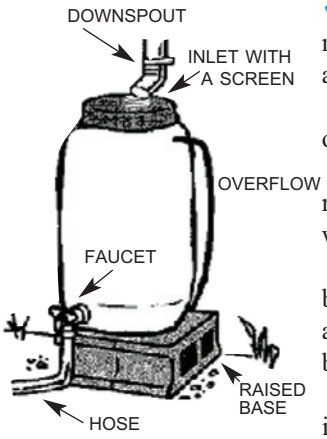
Use a ¾" NPT pipe tap and twist it into the upper 29/32" hole, then untwist the tap and back it out of the hole; repeat for the lower 29/32" hole.

Step 2 Twist the threaded side of a hose adapter into the ¾" threaded hole at the top of barrel.

Prepare threaded side of brass faucet; wrap tightly with Teflon tape, make four to five rotations until all threads are covered or apply a think ribbon of caulk or similar sealant.

Twist the threaded, prepared end of the faucet into the ¾" threaded hole at bottom of barrel.





Step 3 Cover the top of the six inch hole by placing the 6" mesh or louvered screen onto the barrel with louvered side up and screen side down.

Slide a hose onto the hose adapter at top of barrel to direct overflow water away from your structure.

Place two concrete blocks under a selected downspout as a raised base. The barrel is raised so that you can put a bucket or watering can under the faucet.

Cut the downspout about four inches above the top of the barrel, add an elbow, and make final adjustments to the base and barrel. Test by spraying water on the roof to make sure the barrel and opening are aligned.

Add a hose to the faucet or keep it available to fill a watering can. Secure your rain barrel to the house with aluminum banding and screws.

Step 4 Optional: paint your rain barrel with Krylon Fusion paint (available at hardware or home improvement stores).

Safety Tips

- Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking or bathing.
- Keep the lid secure so children and animals cannot fall in.
- Disconnect and empty the barrel in the fall before freezing weather and reattach it in spring.
- If a moss killer has been used on the roof, wait a couple of rainfall events before collecting runoff.
- The screened louver vent prevents mosquitoes from breeding in your rain barrel. Check occasionally to make sure there are no gaps; seal if necessary. As a precaution, add a mosquito brick (BTI).
- Consider joining multiple barrels for additional capacity! Use a linking kit.

Reprinted with permission: City of Bremerton Public Works Resources Department, WA
http://www.cityofbremerton.com/content/sw_makeyourownrainbarrel.htm

Demonstration Gardens are open all year!

Master Gardener

2010 FREE GARDEN TOUR

Take a guided tour the last Sunday of each month from April through October or explore the gardens anytime at your own pace. Each Sunday tour is approximately an hour long and starts at 1PM.

May 30 • June 27
July 25 • August 29
September 26 • October 31

Learn about the ever-changing display of plants native to our region; perennials, ornamental grasses, annuals, herbs, ferns, and more.

Children will enjoy activities hosted by our Master Gardeners.

Directions:
East off Exit 14 on Palisades Parkway to the first traffic light. Turn left on Patriot Hills Drive.

Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County plan and maintain the Demonstration Gardens, trying out new and different plants to determine their suitability for our area. Some of the plants are selected for drought tolerance or deer resistance. Others for size, blooming time, or winter interest. Maintenance follows Cornell's Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This approach encourages the minimal use of toxic pesticides.

Plant a Row for the Hungry℠

Garden Writers Association Foundation
www.gardenwriters.org
Call Toll Free: (877) 492-2727

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY, whose mission is to connect growers with local food banks and organizations in need of fresh produce, has launched its second season here in Rockland through Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program.

Locally, there are 30 Rockland County agencies serving over 5,000 needy in the county, and are most eager to accept donations. The need is greater than the supply of fresh produce. This season's goal will be to increase donations, and we invite the school gardens in the SCHOOL GARDEN NETWORKS to participate.

"With so many school gardens now, and with a little help from Mother Nature, we're confident our young student gardeners will want to plant a little more this spring and share their bounty with the less fortunate," added Donna Alese Cooke, Community Horticulture Educator of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County.

To learn more about the PLANT A ROW program, visit:
www.rocklandcce.org
or email the Master Gardeners at
Rocklandpar@yahoo.com

Join the School Garden Network for 2010-2011

For a yearly enrollment fee (per school), you will receive:

- **NEW** for 2010-2011: Each sponsoring school can choose from an onsite evaluation of a new or existing school garden –or- one teacher professional development program at their school.
- Ongoing gardening advice from extension educators and CCE Master "School" Gardeners.
- Three educational workshops for professional development, featuring prominent leaders in the field of garden-based learning. Workshops are free for teachers, staff, parents and volunteers from each registered school, and include NYS Learning Standards-based lessons and classroom activities.
- Bimonthly e-newsletters with the latest gardening information and resources, garden-based learning updates from Cornell University and other land-grant institutions, with links to school garden grants and more.
- Information for teachers to transform their garden and classroom into living laboratories of learning.

To enroll, or for more information please contact:

Donna Cooke, Community Horticulture Educator
at CCE Rockland
(845)429-7085 ext 108 or dmc72@cornell.edu

Upcoming SGN Workshops for 2010-11 School Year

Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland

Workshop 1: Gardening for Health and Wellness: Great Programs You Can Do at Your School
6:30 - 9:30 PM, Thursday, October 7, 2010

Workshop 2: Get Your School Garden Growing: Indoor and Outdoor Classroom Gardens
6:30 - 9:00 PM, Thursday, February 3, 2011

Workshop 3: The Learning Garden: Tour the Demonstration Gardens of Cornell Cooperative Extension & Ask a Master Gardener School Gardening Clinic
1:00 - 3:00 PM, Sunday, April 24, 2011

Free to register for any of these programs, please call
Caryn Singer at (845)429-7085, ext. 117.
For more information, contact
Donna Alese Cooke at (845) 429-7085 ext 108, or dmc72@cornell.edu.

More Great Resources from Cornell

www.gardening.cornell.edu

Visit the Cornell Garden-Based Learning website for these classroom activities and more at:
http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/activities/

Keep Your Garden Blooming All Season Long

By Sheryl LeRoy, Upper Nyack Master Gardener

You can assure staggered blooming in your perennial garden with careful selection of trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials that vary in their bloom times. Plan your perennial garden keeping in mind that spring-flowering bulbs are good for early color while herbaceous perennials have specific blooming times during the growing season and tend to bloom between 1-6 weeks, depending on the species. Carefully map out the plantings that you want to include in your garden, including expected bloom times on your plan, to ensure color throughout the growing season.

The following perennial suggestions can help in ensuring color throughout the growing season:

Early spring:
- Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*),
- Crocus (*Crocus sp.*),
- Spring Snowflake (*Leucojum vernum*),
- Windflower (*Anemone blanda*);

Mid/Late Spring:
- Tulips (*Tulipa sp.*),
- Daffodils (*Narcissus sp.*),
- Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*);

Late Spring-Early Summer:
- Peonies (*Paeonia sp.*),
- Irises (*Iris sp.*),
- Perennial geraniums (*Geranium sp.*),
- Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*);

Summer:
- Daylilies (*Hemerocallis sp.),*
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia sp.),*
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*),
- Blazing Star (*Liatris sp.),*
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*),
- Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*);

Late Summer-Fall:
- Mums *(Chrysanthemum sp.)*,
- Asters (Aster sp.),
- Stonecrop (*Sedum telephium* 'Autumn joy')

Many perennials have attractive foliage that can add color or texture interest even when they are not blooming. Trees and shrubs also offer blooms during the growing cycle, as well as winter interest, and grasses also provide interesting color and texture.

Careful pruning, pinching and deadheading can also be used effectively to prolong the bloom cycle of many plants. Removing dead flowers before they go to seed (deadheading) can extend bloom period or promote repeat blooms in certain species. By pinching or cutting back perennials, you may delay flowering on some stems and thus stagger the bloom time.

If you have a question for our Master Gardener Volunteers,
please call or email
Donna Alese Cooke at (845)429-7085, ext. 108
or dmc72@cornell.edu.

Programs at CCE in Stony Point

May 20,10:30 AM: Building a Rain Garden - $35pp

June 10,7:30PM : Grow Anything in Containers - $35pp

How does your community garden grow?
Join the Master Gardener Volunteers and learn how to make the most of your community garden plot. Classes are free, and are held rain or shine.
1-2PM
Meet in the CCE Demonstration Gardens (in front of our office)

Thursday, June 17: Who's eating my garden?
Pest management, disease control and best practices

Thursday, July 22: Pick it & enjoy it! Harvesting your crop & how you can join the Plant a Row for the Hungry campaign

Thursday, October 7:
Putting the garden to bed for next year: Winter cover crops, cleaning tools and planning for next year