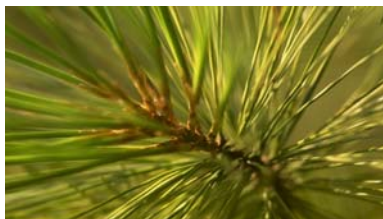


The Native Plant Garden was designed and planted by the Master Gardener Class of 1999. Native plants are those that evolved naturally in a particular area before man introduced others from distant areas. They evolved and adjusted to local weather conditions over thousands of years. Native plants require less water, no fertilization, are resistant to most pest and diseases, and are low maintenance. Their benefits to the environment are numerous. Shrubs, groundcovers, and tree roots provide a fibrous web that stabilizes and anchors the soil, preventing erosion.



The Cutting Garden – New in 2007 Containing both annuals and perennials, flowers from this garden will be cut weekly throughout the growing season, arranged into bouquets and donated to cancer patients and their families at local facilities.

The Herb Garden - New in 2007 A series of small themed gardens including: a sensory garden, a culinary herb garden and a potpourri garden.

The Ground Cover Bed contains low spreading plants that can be used effectively as ornamentals or to control weeds, stormwater runoff, and erosion.

The Conifer Shrub and Evergreen Tree Beds illustrate the beauty of using trees and shrubs as excellent ornamentals in the landscape.

The Perennial Bed contains plants that will return year after year, creating a lasting foundation for our flower gardens. Plant selection is based on form, color, season of bloom, flowers and foliage that is beautiful even after they bloom.

The Entry Bed, named for its location within the Demonstration Gardens, combines trees, groundcovers, and perennials to create a garden design and color scheme for season-long interest.



Demonstration Gardens Map

- 1 - Shrub Bed
- 2 - Shade Garden
- 3 - Friendship Garden
- 4 - Cold-Hardy Tropical Bed
- 5 - Daylily Bed
- 6 - Integrated Pest Management Garden
- 7 - Freedom Garden
- 8 - Drought Tolerant Garden
- 9 - Native Plant Garden
- 10 - Sharing Garden
- 11- Workers Garden
- 12 - Berry Patch
- 13 - Cutting Garden
- 14 - Herb Garden
- 15 - Ground Cover Bed
- 16 - Conifer Shrub and Evergreen Tree Beds
- 17 - Perennial Bed
- 18 - Entry Bed
- A - Winter Over Bed

B -

Master Gardeners of Union County

Phone: 908-654-9854
Helpline: 908-654-9852



DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

AT WATCHUNG RESERVATION, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ

Master
Gardeners
of
Union
County



DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Union County Master Gardeners have maintained Demonstration Gardens on a one-acre site at Trail-side in the Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ since 1999. These gardens are run entirely by the volunteer Master Gardeners of Union County, Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

During the first years of the gardens' origin, each Master Gardener class designed and planted a themed garden. Since 2004, maintaining these gardens has become a project for each current class. In addition, many of these gardens have been "adopted" by volunteer Master Gardeners who care for them on an on-going basis.

The Demonstration Gardens currently feature: three fruit or vegetable gardens, sixteen themed gardens, a greenhouse and several compost bins.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

The Sharing Garden, in operation since 2002, grows fresh produce for donation to low-income Union County families. Since sprouting, the Sharing Garden has produced nearly 6000 pounds of hearty vegetables. In 2006, 1610 pounds of produce were donated to 20 community food banks and churches.

Some of the vegetables are grown in raised beds. A raised bed is a frame placed on the ground and filled with rich garden soil. The soil in the bed is higher than the surrounding ground, resulting in better drainage. The soil is not compacted by foot traffic so it stays fluffy and yields more. The elevated plants are also at a convenient working level making it easier to care for them. There are currently plans for additional raised beds.

The crops are seasonally rotated so that pests and diseases cannot find their preferred food. Our most prolific summer crop is, of course, tomatoes; some other crops include lettuce, cabbage, green beans, zucchini, Swiss chard, cucumbers, eggplant, and peppers. In the fall we grow broccoli, cauliflower, Savoy cabbage, collards, kohlrabi, and winter lettuce.



The Workers Garden, started in the summer of 2004, is a plot that is currently in transition to an organic garden.

The Berry Patch was started in late September 2006 in an unused hooped garden. During September and October, 12 blueberry bushes, 12 raspberries and 12 blackberries were planted. Also planted were a fig tree and a Juneberry bush. In the spring of 2007, strawberries, lingonberry and two dwarf cherry trees will be planted. To protect the crops, bird netting will be placed over the hoops.

THEMED GARDENS

The Shrub Bed is a holding bed for shrubs that will be integrated into our other gardens. Shrubs add height, texture, and winter structure to gardens.

The Shade Garden is being maintained by the Class of 2007. It contains many plants that are appropriate for shade, from woody plants to bulbs, annuals, and perennials. If properly selected, these plants can ensure blooms throughout the season and offer a variety of foliage textures and colors.

The Friendship Garden was designed and planted by the Master Gardener Class of 2003. The plants in this garden are those that can be shared with your friends by various methods of propagation: digging up and dividing the crowns, clumps, or rhizomes, and then replanting; lifting bulbs and separating the small offsets and then replanting; or collecting seeds to plant.

The Cold-Hardy Tropical Bed demonstrates a sampling of the many exotic and unusual plants that, despite their appearance or origin, can survive winters in NJ. While the term *cold-hardy tropical* may sound like an oxymoron, the fact is that many plants of at least subtropical and warmer-climate origin are more tolerant of cold than was previously thought. This is because some of these plants naturally originate in climates that actually are fairly cold in winter, and also because most plants have evolved strategies for coping with natural periods of climatic cooling.

The Daylily Bed is filled with the flower that is the delight of experienced gardeners and the answer to a beginner's prayer. They are easy to grow and very



prolific. Their Latin name *Hemerocallis* means "beautiful for a day".

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Garden was designed and planted by the Master Gardener Class of 2001. IPM is an approach that focuses on preventing problems first, by providing the best possible growing conditions and selecting pest and disease resistant plants. Once an area is planted, any problems that occur with weeds or pests are first treated using the method with the least impact on the environment.

The Freedom Garden was designed and originally planted by the Master Gardener Class of 2002. The original garden featured perennial florals in a red, white and blue color theme. Planted before the installation of the current irrigation system and during the drought of 2002, the garden soon required refurbishing. The Class of 2004 redesigned and planted this bed with shrubs, perennials and annuals that can thrive in the mostly shaded woodland environment of the garden. The hope for the garden is to inspire patriotism, honor for our American flag, and memorial thoughts for all those affected by the events of 9/11/2001.



The Drought Tolerant Garden was designed and planted by the Master Gardener Class of 2000. Once established, these plants do not require frequent watering. With unique forms, foliage, and flowers these plants are low maintenance, beautiful, and rewarding.