



The Growing Place in Naperville and Aurora

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thegrowingplace.com

Presentations and Workshops Available to your Garden Club or Group

Annuals

- **Adding Annuals for Color Punch** – A presentation on how to incorporate annuals in front yards, back yards and transitional spaces for season-long splashes of color.

Bulbs

- **Spring Bulbs** - Learn about the different type of bulbs, the best planting techniques, animal resistance and how to determine the right bulbs for your conditions.

Container Gardening

- **Container Design** A colorful presentation of design principles for containers along with plant suggestions including edibles, annuals, herbs and perennials.
- **Container Gardening Demonstration** – Watch as a designer takes you through the steps to creating a lush container for sun and shade.
- **Holiday Container, Wreath, Swag or Centerpiece Demonstration** – Watch a designer create a beautiful arrangement of natural materials inspired by the holidays. Please specify which option your group prefers.
- **Vegetables & Herbs in Containers** – Learn how you can grow vegetables and herbs in containers where you can maximize your sunny spots.

Design

- **Art in the Garden** - Add personality to your garden, set up focal points and accents, enhance your views, and create pleasing vignettes.
- **Backyard Design** - Backyards can be very personal spaces with a large variety of needs from entertaining to serene respite. We'll discuss design strategies to incorporate all those varied requirements. Photos of members' yards may be submitted to be used in the presentation.
- **Color in Your Garden** - Whether you're looking for hot and bright or cool and crisp, we'll examine how to design beyond blooms with foliage, texture and forms to create a high impact landscape.
- **Curb Appeal** - How do you make your front yard show your personal style? We will show you some design principles to create a welcoming entry area. Photos of members' yards may be submitted to be used in the presentation.

- **Dramatic Fall Color** - Enjoy the fiery colors of fall with selections in perennials, shrubs and trees that light up the landscape.
- **Four Season Interest** - Evergreens that are blue or gold; shrubs with red, burgundy or lime stems; tawny grasses, bark, berries, and leaves! Learn about plants that extend your gardens interest year around.
- **Entertaining Spaces/ Garden Rooms** - Expand your deck, patio, and entertaining areas by adding screening, fragrance and ambiance! Create special spaces to experience outdoor living to the fullest! We'll discuss setting walls, ceilings, transition areas and more.
- **Gardening in Tough Sites** We each have an area where plants seem to struggle. Find out about the right plants for places that experience periodic flooding, are too hot and dry or have challenging soils.
- **Improving Your Existing Landscape** - How do you work with a mature landscape? Gather tips on how to decide what to keep, what to remove, what to trim and how to replace. Find out how to integrate your new plants into your existing landscape.
- **Landscape Design Basics** – Learn the basic elements involved in building a pleasing landscape design including combinations, angles, views, bed lines and more.
- **Paths & Walkways** - It's not just the destination - enjoy the journey! We'll discuss how to direct your path, evaluate material choices, how to use plants, add focal points and garden art.
- **Vertical Gardening** - Add drama to your garden by using those empty vertical spaces. Flowering and woody vines, climbing roses, arbors and trellises and upright shrubs work to draw your eye upward in your garden design.

Natives & Eco-Friendly

- **Adding Natives to Your Landscape** – Learn how to complement a traditional landscape or garden with native plants while maintaining a well designed appearance.
- **Bird & Butterfly Gardens** - Bring the joy of birds and butterflies to your environment.
- **The Dry Garden** - From mature trees to hot sun to sharply drained areas, discover hardy plants and design tips to create a beautiful garden in these challenging conditions.

- **Native Perennials, Trees & Shrubs** - We'll discuss the beautiful palette of native perennials, trees and shrubs and their cultivars, as well as their benefits to the environment.
- **Rain Gardens** - Learn how to create an ecosystem filled with flowers that will promote water conservation, flood and pollution control and bring the birds and butterflies to your home!
- **Right Plant + Right Place = Low Maintenance** - Reduce your maintenance and increase your successes by learning how to evaluate your site to choose the right plant to work within your garden conditions. We'll introduce you to Growing Place Choice plants that have proven to be lower maintenance when planted in the right place.
- **Sustainable & Easy Care Plant Recommendations** - Go green in your garden with plants that are long-lived and low maintenance. We'll especially discuss Growing Place Choice plants have been selected to meet that criteria as well as staying attractive.
- **Flowering Trees for the Home Landscape** - From large shade trees to small understory specimens, there's a way to add a blooming beauty to your garden.
- **Trees to Replace Ashes** - More and more of us are losing ash trees. We'll review a broad variety of shade trees that grow quickly plus are pest & disease resistant.
- **Trees & Shrubs for Small Areas** - Find out about new dwarf varieties to fit smaller spaces with slower growth, less maintenance, but also pretty flowers or textural interest.
- **Tree & Shrubs for the Birds** - Plant selections for bird habitats and other wildlife.
- **Trees & Shrubs for Shade** - Discover how to layer a shade garden in this difficult site with small understory trees to shade-loving shrubs and ground covering perennials.

Perennials

- **Easy Care Perennials** - Plants that are tried and true and easy on you!
- **Ornamental Grasses** - Embrace the exuberance of ornamental grasses and learn how to design with and care for these graceful perennials.
- **Shade Perennials** - Go beyond hostas with a broad palette of shade tolerant plants for a variety of conditions.

Roses

- **Roses, Grand and Glorious** - The only shrub to bloom all season in your garden - really! Includes care, maintenance and selections.

Tips & Tricks

- **Gardening 101** - What's the difference between an annual, perennial, tree or shrub? What are some general site conditions where they thrive? How does soil type impact how things grow? A great talk for beginners.

Trees & Shrubs

- **Dwarf Conifers for Home Gardens** - Evergreens offer year-round interest and color. Find out how to add a splash of color and texture to your garden beds.
- **Easy to Grow Trees & Shrubs** - Plant selections for the low maintenance garden including care and planting instructions.
- **Pruning** - We'll make sense of a confusing garden chore including timing, controlling size, shaping and tools of the trade.
- **Flowering Shrubs for the Home Landscape** - Give your garden beds good bones with a structure of shrubs. Discover how to choose shrubs for season-long color.

Gardening

- **250 Days of Flowers** - Fast forward through the growing season with a kaleidoscope of plants that will provide a succession of bloom from early March through mid November! Combination of staging ideas will help to maximize the color in your own garden.
- **Cutting Gardens** - Why pay for flowers when you can pick your own from the garden? We'll discuss annuals, perennials, shrubs & trees that make beautiful bouquets.
- **Growing & Using Herbs** - How to plant and maintain herbs for use in the kitchen and to beautify your garden. We'll also look at weaving them into existing garden beds to add flowers and fragrance.
- **Grow Your Own Edibles in Small Spaces** - There is nothing better than a tomato picked fresh from the garden. Gather tips on which plants to grow from seed, how to select plants, stagger plantings, when to harvest and make the most of your space.
- **Beautiful Edibles** - Explore the delight of using lovely herbs, vegetables and flowers in garden beds. We'll discuss how to incorporate them to please the eye and the palate.
- **New and Noteworthy** - Add interest to your garden with plants that are sure to create a stir with your garden friends. The Growing Place will introduce you to a wide variety of must-have plants for the garden enthusiast. We'll take a look at some new introductions, trends and unique and out-of-the-ordinary plants.
- **Petite Plants for a Plethora of Places** - Add interest to any small space, personalize a container with a fairy or gnome garden, embellish a walkway or create a rock garden. Become inspired to add variety and richness to small areas using perennials, annuals, shrubs and conifers.
- **No Fuss Vegetable Gardening** - Appreciate the best flavor and freshness at your dinner table by growing your own vegetables. We will show you how to plant and maintain your veggies for the most abundant yields.

Workshops

Take a finished product home! The following workshops meet at The Growing Place, minimum of 10 people required. All materials provided.

- **Build A Fairy or Gnome House** - A workshop for parent and child or adults. Create your own fairy or gnome house with logs, twigs, stones and a variety of other materials. Once you build the house, design a landscape around it!
- **Holiday Wreath, Swag, Centerpiece or Container** - Your group may select one of the above options. A designer will help in the design and creation process.
- **Make a Miniature Garden** - Make a miniature garden vignette with a variety of miniature plants and accessories like arbors, fences, and other tiny treasures.
- **Make a Stepping Stone** - Make a concrete stepping stone impressed with seasonal plants.
- **Make a Trough** - Make a rustic, stone-like, lightweight container made of hypertufa concrete (approx. 15" x 20") that when planted will allow hardy plants to over winter. Succulents, perennials and miniature conifers are perfect choices for planting.
- **Plant a Container for Spring, Summer or Fall** - Your group may select one of the above options. A designer will help you in the design and creation process.
- **Plant a Container of Bulbs for Forcing** – Work with a designer to create a container of bulbs to force for early spring blossoms.
- **Vegetable & Herb Container** – Plant up a delicious container of vegetables and/or herbs that you and your family can enjoy.
- **Childrens' Groups** – Provide a wonderful learning experience for your children. Enjoy a garden tour, a little talk about the parts of a plant, and a hands-on nature activity. Fees apply. Other seasonal activities include painting a flower pot or pumpkin crafts.

Multi-Speaker Presentations

Multi-speaker presentations feature at least two speakers.

- **Ask the Experts** – Expert staff from The Growing Place will answer garden questions from your group on a wide range of topics. This talk can be tailored to your particular needs and wants. Questions should be submitted in advance of the presentation.

Group Tours

Our staff is available to guide you through our greenhouses in April and our beautiful gardens throughout the season. Be inspired by seeing thousands of plants in pleasing combinations. We welcome group tours throughout the growing season, except the month of May. Attendees will receive a \$5.00 coupon useable the day of the tour. Box lunches may be available on request.

Fees

Please call Michelle at 630-355-4000 for rates and availability.