

Branching Out in Your Garden



The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener
Association's
SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM
March 22, 2025

8:45 am to noon • Frontier Regional High School
South Deerfield, MA

*Doors Open at 8:00 am for Registration
and Refreshments*

8:45-10:00 am SESSION 1 TOPICS (choose one)

- **Small Plants for Small Spaces**
- **Sustainable Gardening: Decarbonizing Strategies**
- **Pollinator Powerhouse Plants**
- **Cyanotypes: Camera-less Photography**
- **Garden Tool Sharpening and Maintenance**

10:45 am-noon SESSION 2 TOPICS (choose one)

- **A DIY Approach to Managing Problem Stormwater with Gardens**
- **Help for Non-bee and Specialized Pollinators**
- **Dahlias 101: Essential Insights on Growing, Harvesting, and Storing**
- **The Fall Clean-up- Less is More**
- **Dried Flower Swag Workshop**



For more information, go to wmmga.org
or contact Lucy Alman at
gardensymposium123@gmail.com or
(413) 665-2181.

BETWEEN SESSIONS!

* **Soil Testing**

Plants grow best when soil pH is optimum. Bring 1/2 to 1 cup of soil from 8-12 spots 6-8" deep taken randomly around the garden and mixed together. Take separate samples for different growing areas. Testing is for pH only. Limit of 3 samples per person.

* **Marketplace**

Vendors will be there with locally produced offerings.

* **Used Gardening Books Table**

Bring a gently used gardening book or two for the swap table or find a new book to take home!

* **Refreshments** – Complimentary morning coffee and goodies.

* **Parking** – Please car pool if at all possible; parking may be tight!

Full descriptions of topics on the back.

Pre-registration required by March 21st as seating is limited.

In case of impending bad weather,
call 413-665-2181 the night before for a recorded message regarding possible rescheduling.

8:45 - 10:00 am (choose one)

(A) Small Plants for Small Spaces

Dan Ziomek, Sugarloaf Gardens, Sunderland

As yards and landscapes become smaller, the need for dwarf and miniature woody plants continues to grow. Dan will discuss how nurseries are adapting to this downsizing and bring many examples of these petite plants.

(B) Sustainable Gardening: Decarbonizing Strategies

Robert Graham, New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, Boylston

The NE Botanic Garden's strategic plan sets lofty goals for improving sustainability. Learn about the changes we've implemented in the last five years, as well as how we garden with climate change in mind, and learn how you can use some of these strategies in your own yard.

(C) Pollinator Powerhouse Plants

Heidi Dollard, Master Gardener

Learn about keystone plant species and why incorporating them in your garden supports an array of pollinators.

(D) Camera-less Photography: Cyanotype Photograms Using Plant Materials

Jennifer Ablard, Northampton

Cyanotypes are an alternative photographic process that uses sunlight, pre-treated paper and water. Learn hands-on the basics of making cyanotypes by placing objects directly on the paper and exposing them to sunlight. The bright blue images can be enhanced with watercolor paints, colored pencils or other materials. Participants paying the additional materials fee will make and bring home several prints. Space is limited. **Materials Fee: \$15**

(E) Garden Tool Sharpening and Maintenance

Paul Green, Master Gardener

Learn how to sharpen your garden tools, from pruners to trowels to shovels; various sharpening devices; how to remove rust; and rehabilitate and refinish wooden handles. Bring a tool or two to work on, plus your sharpeners (if you have some). Tools and sharpeners (files, stones and diamond plate) will be available for practice. Hands-on, space is limited.

10:45 am - noon (choose one)

(F) A DIY Approach to Managing Stormwater with Gardens - Courteny Morehouse, Berkshire Reg'l Planning Commission

This talk presents a DIY approach to where to best place, then design and build, a rain garden and other solutions in order to manage excess stormwater on your property in a changing climate.

(G) It's Not Just About Bees! Help for Non-Bee and Other Specialized Pollinators

Nicole Bell, UMass Extension Pollinator Specialist

Honeybees and bumblebees get most of the media attention—but did you know there are hundreds of thousands of other pollinator species out there? Learn some basic ecology on pollinator diets, nesting habits, body size, and more to help understand how to support abundant and biodiverse pollinator communities right in our backyards, community gardens, city parks, and beyond!

(H) Dahlias 101: Essential Insights on Growing, Harvesting, and Storing - Rebecca Maillet, Many Graces Farm & Design, Northampton

Join Rebecca for this session dedicated to dahlia growing essentials - everyone's favorite cut-flower!

(I) The Fall Clean-up: Less is More

Heidi Dollard, Master Gardener

How you clean up your yard in the fall has a great environmental impact! By doing less, you can do more to help the biodiversity crisis, reduce global warming, and save work and money while still maintaining an attractive landscape.

(J) Dried Flower Swag Workshop

Rachel Gonzalez, Rachel's Everlastings, Orange

In this hands-on workshop, make a beautiful, fragrant, dried flower and herb swag for a delightful addition to your home. Participants paying the additional materials fee will make and bring home their own completed swag. Space is limited. **Materials Fee: \$20**

Registration form: **Cost is \$35/pp** – includes choice of two topics and refreshments. Register online (extra service fee applies) at WMMGA.ORG or by mail using this form. Send mailed registrations to: Lucy Alman, 27 Park Rd, Sunderland, MA 01375. Please make checks payable to WMMGA. **registration(s) @ \$35 + Materials Fee** (\$15 for Cyanotypes / \$20 for Dried Flower Swag - optional, no additional fee if listening only) = **Total Enclosed**

Name _____ **Session 1** (1st choice)____ (2nd choice)____ | **Session 2** (1st choice ____ (2nd choice)____

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Name _____ **Session 1** (1st choice)____ (2nd choice)____ | **Session 2** (1st choice ____ (2nd choice)____

Address _____ Town _____ State ____ Zip _____

Evening phone _____ Email _____