



The Queen of Vines "Clematis"
- by Paul Barrett, LaSalle County
Master Gardener Coordinator

Barbara Jackman

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Clematis (KLEM-a-tis) is a member of the Ranunculaceae (buttercup) family. The word clematis is a Greek word that means "vine" In this genus there are approximately 300 species and numerous hybrids.

There is great variety in flower form, color, bloom season, foliage effect and plant height. Leaves are opposite on the stem and mostly compound with three to five leaflets.

Flowers are showy and have four, five or eight petal-like sepals (not true petals) in numerous colors and shades. There are three general flower forms: small white flowers in panicles or loose and irregular spreading clusters, bell or urn-shaped flowers and flat open flowers. The fruit is often showy as well, being a ball-shaped "feathered" structure.

Clematis vines are very easy to care for and produce absolutely amazing varied flowers. Some clematis are hardy to USDA zone 3 and can survive for 25 years or more. Large Flowered hybrids may have blooms ranging from four to ten inches in diameter.

Clematis plants require full sun (6+ hours of direct sun per day). Some flowers of red and blue, large-flowered hybrids and bicolor fade badly if they get too much sun (such as 'Nelly Moser,' 'Hagley Hybrid' and 'Hybrida Sieboldiana') they should

be planted in an eastern exposures or partial shade. The site should be open to allow air movement around plants. Soil should be rich and well-drained with a pH closed to neutral (7.0). The plant stems and foliage should be in full sun, but the roots like a cool, moist environment.

Clematis do not compete well with tree roots except *Montana* 'Ruben'. It was collected around 1884 by Dr Heney in central China. It will grow in full sun or partial shade under and up trees. It is a fast growing 21 to 30 feet at maturity. The Ruben has a strong fragrance similar to vanilla.

There are several "Montana" cultivars:

'Elizabeth', a soft pink two-three inch flower.

'Grandiflora', a small white flower.

'Mayleen', a small pink flower with bronze foliage.

Varieties of Ruben have pink flowers with new stem growth of a purplish green.

Varieties of Wilsonii, also a 'Montana' cultivar, have large white flowers.

Most clematis needs staking or a fence or trellis to climb up. They climb by twining petioles. Petioles do not grasp thick branches well. You can use galvanized or plastic

coated wire added to your trellis.

A soil test is a good start to determine if the soil pH or phosphorus level needs correction. Clematis prefer slightly acidic soil around 5.8 to 6.5 pH. Make the correction before you plant. Soil should be prepared to a depth of 18 to 24 inches in an area approximately two to three feet wide. It is best to incorporate one-third by volume, some compost or decomposed manure, to help improve aeration and drainage.

Plants are readily available in garden center and through seed catalogs for spring planting. Clematis are most often sold in containers making it easier to transplant as they do not tolerate root disturbance. Prune the new plant back to about 12 inches and cut just above a pair of strong buds. Obtain plants in early spring and plant while still dormant.

Dig a hole in a prepared bed to accommodate the root system. Plant up to the first two sets of leaves or leaf nodes from the crown. Remove any leaves you put below ground. The reason for this method is due to **Clematis wilt** caused by a fungus called **Phoma clematidina**, a big problem until the 1900s when new breeding from China developed. Planting two sets of

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leaf nodes underground will help to prevent this wilt from killing your plant. If you get wilt on your clematis, cut the plant down to ground level. Clean up and destroy all debris. Clematis wilt looks like a wilted plant with leaves that have a sooty black on them. The clematis should come back within a year.

After planting your clematis, mulch with 3-4 inches of wood chips, bark or other mulch. Keep the mulch 3 inches back from the stem. In addition to mulching, you can plant partial shade loving, low growing perennial ground cover such as Ajuga, Bugleweed, Periwinkle, Vinca minor, Golden sedum, Sedum spurium, Pachyandra, Japanese Spurge, or Wild Ginger.

Clematis needs one inch of water per week and to be fertilized with 10-10-10 when you first plant them, and once per year in the spring.

Pruning can be confusing but should not be if you remember these basic facts. Clematis can survive with no pruning

but in time the flowers will get small. Look at the tag on your new purchase. It should tell you what group of clematis you have. If not, observe your clematis vine for one year to learn what group it belongs to.

Take note of when the vine blooms. Does it bloom on last year's woody stems, on the new growth from this year, or does it bloom on both?

There are three basic pruning groups: “Group A” flowers are on last year's old wood. Do a light pruning of dead stems on Group A in the spring. Then in late spring or early summer, prune again to shape and thin. The new growth now becomes next year's flowering stems.

“Group B” flowers are on old **and** new vines. Prune lightly in the spring removing dead and weak stems. The largest flowers will be on the old wood or stems. You will get smaller flowers on

new growth. If you need to rejuvenate (to make it more vigorous), do your major pruning after the first bloom. There will still be time for blooming on the new growth.

“Group C” is the easiest one to deal with. It blooms on new wood only. Most of this type of clematis die back to the ground or have flowers on top with a lot of bare stems. This cultivar blooms in the spring or summer as well as the fall. To keep this group flowering, cut to about eight to ten inches leaving two to four food buds on each stem. Many people hesitate to cut their clematis back this way but it is the best way to keep it full, lush and flowering for most of the season.

If you have questions call me at the LaSalle County Extension office 815-433-0707 or plb2@extension.uiuc.edu.

Victory on the Home Front

By Joe Temple, LaSalle County Master Gardener

America was at war; all resources were put forth to aid the effort. Gasoline was twelve cents a gallon, a loaf of bread cost 8 cents, and a new car \$850 dollars. Suddenly gasoline became scarce, natural rubber for a tire was unavailable, sugar was scarce, steel was all diverted to the war effort, and rationing was put into effect.

Digging through our old file cabinet we came across ration books issued in 1943 entitling the owner to buy 15 pounds of sugar. Other coupons in other booklets were for limited quantities of coffee and sugar. On the back of the booklet were these words, “If you don't need it, don't buy it.” Also this advice: “When you have used your ration, salvage the tin cans and waste fats. They are needed to make munitions for our fighting men.” Other foods rationed included dairy products, meat and canned goods.

With shortages of almost everything a civilian might need, all effort was put forth to make the best of the situation with what was available.

To boost national morale, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt planted a Victory Garden at the White House, making headlines and setting an example for the nation's citizenry. Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call, planting gardens in backyards, empty lots, 6' x 8' city spaces, and urban rooftops. Neighbors pooled their resources, planted and cared for, and harvested, all in the name of patriotism. Farm families had been planting and preserving produce for generations, now their urban cousins were involved in Victory Gardens to aid the war effort. It worked and was successful through 1945, but once the war ended, some of the enthusiasm wore off and not everyone kept up the effort, resulting in some shortages until such time as supply and demand equalized.

It is interesting to note that in 1940, the average American farmer produced enough food to feed 19 people, while today he produces enough food to feed 143 people.

Today the country is not at war to the extent it was the early 40's, but First Lady Michelle Obama, with the help of local elementary students, broke ground for a 5,500 square foot vegetable and fruit garden on the south lawn of the White House the first day of spring. Now she can go out the back door and pull a few green onions for lunch without taking her husband away from his work. It will help to fortify and amplify the nutritional needs of our nation. Besides that, the big iron fence around the White House grounds will keep the deer out of the garden. That's more than the rest of us can brag about.

Sweet Corn—Fresh is Best

By Nancy Jasiek, LaSalle County Master Gardener

Growing sweet corn in your home garden, picking it, dropping it into a pot of boiling water and enjoying the marvelous flavor is the ultimate summer gardeners' reward. Healthful and nutritious cooked sweet corn has significant antioxidant activity and releases increased levels of furelic acid, which also provides health benefits.

Plant your seeds after the average frost free date and when the soil temperature is above 55 degrees F. or 65 degrees F. for some extra-sweet varieties. If you have room, a second planting can be started when the first corn plants have 3-5 leaves, usually in 2-3 weeks. Be sure to check the maturity dates on the packages and make successive plantings until the first week in July for a continuous supply throughout the summer.

Seeds or kernels should be planted in full sun in well-worked soil that has been fertilized (10-10-10). Plant the kernels 1/2 inch deep in cool, moist soil and 1 1/2 inches deep in warm, dry soils. Space the plants 9-12 inches apart and plant 2 or more rows 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart. Multiple shorter rows are better for pollination and ear development than

one or two long rows. Protect your sweet corn from possible cross-pollination by other varieties or types of corn by garden arrangement and planting schedule.

Watering sweet corn is important, especially during emergence of the silk and maturation of the ears and kernels. Hoe or till shallowly to control weeds without hurting the roots. When your plants are about 12-18 inches tall, side-dress with fertilizer again.

Sweet corn varieties include 3 distinct genetic types—normal sugary, sugary extender and supersweet. Supersweet corn, with higher than normal levels of sugar, was developed by Professor John Laughnan at the University of Illinois in the 1950's. Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc. was the first seed company to release a supersweet corn., *Illini Xtra Sweet*, which became popular in the 1980's because of its long shelf life and greater sugar content.

The most common insect pest is corn earworm but cutworms, beetles, rootworms, aphids, and borers can be problems. Diseases include crazy top, Gray leaf spot, Stewart's bacterial wilt, viral diseases and, of course, smut.

Treatment is not recommended unless a very significant problem occurs.

Harvesting your corn at the proper time is important. About three weeks after the silk appears on the ear it becomes dark brown, the kernels on the ear tips should be plump and milky and your harvest begins. The juice from the kernels should be milky white and soft not watery. It is overripe when the kernels get large and chewy and starchy. The quality changes fast so watch it carefully and enjoy your reward.



Garlic Mustard Is A Serious Problem

By Paul Barrett, LaSalle County Master Gardener Coordinator

Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* is latin for "garlic". Garlic mustard is a very invasive species. It was introduced from Europe to New York in 1868 for use by the early colonist as foodstuff as it was used in their native countries and is currently found in most states coast to coast.

Garlic mustard grows to be 2-3 feet tall. It has many white flowers of four petals on the end of 1-2 flowering stems. The leaves are alternate, triangular shaped, coarsely toothed, and 2-3 inches across. Garlic mustard has a two year life cycle. It spends its first year as a green rosette two to four inches off the ground. It will remain green through the winter under the snow. The second year it starts to flower. Once dead, it can be

identified by the dry stalks and brown seed pods that may hold viable seed throughout the summer.

Garlic mustard is successful as an invasive species because it has no natural enemies in North America, its ability to self fertilize, high production of 15,000 seeds annually, rapid growth the second year, and the release of phytotoxins from its root tissue. These seeds remain viable for up to five years. These phytotoxins inhibit the growth of other plants and allows the garlic mustard to grow unchecked. It has an autogamous (self-pollination) breeding system also.

To control garlic mustard, pull by hand. The whole root system

pulled or new plants will grow. You can cut the flower stalk once flowering begins but be sure to burn the flower stalks. *Glyphosate* can be used in late fall or early spring so you won't harm native plants.



A Hose Is A Hose

By Darlene Ray, LaSalle County Master Gardener

I don't know about all gardeners out there but hoses drive me nuts. If they aren't tangled, they are kinked, or leaking, split, caught on something, or knocking important things over like all the little seedling you just planted that are now snapped off at their necks because the hose dragged across them and took off their heads like Attila the Hun during a barbaric battle.

This is what happened the other day at my two acre "Garden of Weeden". It's a true story. My dog Sasha can verify it, she still has the scars.

We have four dogs...two yellow labs, a three-legged black lab and one very mischievous Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog. Yes it is a real breed. They are the official Louisiana state dog. Go online and look up "Catahoula" and see for yourself. Well, catahoulas are not your usual calm, easygoing, loveable labs. They are a busy breed like aussies. Let's just say my Sasha is "different". Always sticking her nose into everyone's business and wanting to be the center of attention...and on this day she was all of the above.

It started out to be a promising and fruitful day in the garden. I didn't have to work, it wasn't raining (for a change), not windy (for a change) and the black flies weren't awake yet—thanks be to the gardening gods!!!

I reluctantly dragged myself over to the pile of hoses that my husband brought over from the far garage where they were stored for the winter. And of course, again last fall we did not wind them into neat spirals and secure them with those handy plastic straps advertised on TV. No, they were just a big tangled mess. I proceeded to untangle them and hang them each on their own nifty "hose bars" behind the well that I built last summer in an attempt to bring some organization to my nemesis, "the hose". I felt proud that I managed to untangle them and hang them securely onto their individual hooks without using any bad words. I then took out the new fangled "coiled type" hoses that I bought last fall at an "end-of-summer garden supply bargain sale".

I headed to the patio, hooked up the new curly hose to the water spigot to try it out on my newly filled containers when who should come galloping over to see what's going on, you guessed it—Sasha. All "you-know-what" broke loose. She charged up to the hose, got her head coiled around inside it and in an attempt to back her way out she plunked her butt into the folding lawn chair which proceeded to fold her up into it as she stuck her big paw through the plastic laced straps. In a frenzy to get free she knocked over a plate glass café table top and catapulted it into the water pond. The good news is that the glass table top did not break however it did splash enough water up into the containers that I set out to water just seconds ago. I know the three Stooges and Marley were applauding her from above. I immediately untangled Sasha from the hose and lawn chair and off she went as if nothing had happened. The three labs were on their backs, legs (all eleven of them) flaying in the air, laughing hysterically at their sister, as usual. I then hung up the coiled new fangled hose into its very own **new** storage place...the trash can. Who needs hoses, I've got Sasha!!!



Earthworms: Interesting Facts

By Melinda Stephenson, LaSalle County Master

What has no arms, legs, or eyes but can still sense light, eat, reproduce and move earth? The common earthworm!!

There are 200 identified kinds in North America of which 1/3 or more are introduced species.

They can sense light at their front end and are paralyzed if exposed to light for approximately an hour.

They are cold-blooded; they live in soil temperatures from above freezing to 70 degrees F. To keep them active in the hot summer, put 2-3 inches of mulch on your garden to cool the soil.

If their skin dries out, they die; so they must be kept moist. They will move elsewhere if soil is dry but also will leave water-logged soil because it does not have enough oxygen.

The size of a well-fed adult worm will depend on what kind of worm it is, how many segments, and how old it is. They can range from 3" to 8" in our area.

They have the ability to replace or replicate lost segments. This ability varies depending on species, amount of damage, and where the damage is located. It is much easier to replace lost tail segments but very hard if not impossible to replace the front (head) end.

They are hemophrodites; having both male and female organs. They mate by joining the swollen area near the head and exchanging sperm. The egg sack then forms in this swollen area. Babies hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.

Once acre of land can have as many as a million earthworms.

Earthworm secretions, or slime, contains Nitrogen and holds clusters of soil particles together in formations called aggregates.

There are shallow-dwelling or deep-burrowing earthworms. Shallow dwelling live in the upper foot of soil and make no permanent burrows but move about in the soil. Peak activity is spring and fall. Red-worms, grayworms, and fishworms are a few in this category and range from 3 to 5 inches in length when mature. Deep burrowing worms create a vertical system of burrows which can be 5 to 6 feet in depth. This is a more or less permanent system. These pipes help rainwater filter into the soil. The familiar nightcrawler; which we see on sidewalks after a heavy rain, can range from 4 to 8 inches and is part of this category.

Now that we know about their living situations we can understand how they bring subsoil to the surface to mix with topsoil and increase the nutrients in the soil. Worm castings may be bought commercially as a fertilizer. If there were only 500,000 worms in an acre of land, they would produce 50 tons of castings, which would fill 100,000 1# coffee cans. They would add 2# nitrate nitrogen, 15# phosphorous, 36# potash, 45# of magnesium, and 250# of calcium EACH YEAR!

Earthworms are an indicator of healthy soil so how can we encourage them to live in our gardens? Use little or no pesticides. Till only when necessary. Use compost or shredded leaf litter when planting.

In the fall, use shredded leaf litter on your garden or flowerbed and mulch mow your leaves and leave on top of turfgrass.

Earthworms hibernate during the hot summer and the winter by moving deeper into the soil and encasing themselves in mucous secretions.

If you want to make your own worm casting, look into worm composting. It's easy, and great for all that compostable waste, especially during the winter. A common worm used for fish bait, the red wiggler is used for composting.

Last interesting fact! The largest earthworm ever found was in South Africa and was 22 feet from nose to tip of tail. How would you like to take that one fishing?



Care and TLC of Container Plants for the Summer

By Vicki Stacy, LaSalle County Master Gardener

Container gardening is a great way to dress up your home or make the most of a small yard, and with a little extra care will give you a great deal of pleasure all summer long and well into the fall.

Always have drainage holes or at the very least, a 1-2 inch layer of gravel at the bottom of the container. If you are using a decorative pot without draining holes, consider planting in a plastic pot with holes that is one size smaller than the decorative pot and using the plastic pot as an insert. If there is excessive rain, you can remove the pot and empty the water from the decorative pot. There are also a wide variety of self watering pots that help maintain the moisture level of the soil.

Use a good potting soil mix, not garden soil. A mix with peat, perlite or vermiculite will return moisture longer and yet be well draining. It is also lighter and won't compact as the season goes on. Using a chunky-style potting mix in container of 5 or more gallons will help the soil mix remain loose even longer, not to mention being a little easier on your back if you want to move the pots around.

In a garden bed, you can select which plants need water and which to pass over, but this is not the case with a container garden. Select plants that will be happy with the same amounts of water, sun, heat and food, water one you water them all. Avoid aggressive spreaders that will compete with neighboring plants.

Most container gardens are going to require daily watering in hot weather and there will be times when your potted plants are going to be baking in the sun. Give your container a fighting chance by favoring plants that can handle the intensified heat and dry soil of a container garden.

Try not to site containers in full mid-day sun. You may have chosen plants that say they require full sun, but container gardens heat up much more quickly and intensely than in the ground gardens. Take into consideration that not only are the plants getting sun but the pot itself is also baking in the sun. Most plants will welcome relief from mid-day sun. On the other hand, when you must position a container in the shade, you might put it by a wall that can reflect some light back. The plants won't suffer from the extreme heat, but they will benefit from indirect light.

Don't be afraid to switch out plant material for the change of season. No plant can go on blooming forever. When one plant starts to fade, look for another to take its place. With container gardens, sequence of bloom is entirely within the gardener's control.

When you purchase plants they usually come labeled with exposure requirements. Measuring sun exposure for plants is not an exact science. There will always be variables such as cloudy days and places where it gets to be 100 degrees in the shade. Here are the general standards for determining the exposure in the garden.

Full Sun: At least 6 full hours of direct sunlight. Many sun lovers enjoy more than 6 hours per day, but need regular water to endure the heat.

Partial Sun/Partial Shade: These 2 terms are often used interchangeably to mean 3-6 hours of sun each day, preferably in the morning and early afternoon.

- If a plant is listed as Partial Sun, greater emphasis is put on its receiving the minimal sun requirements.
- If a plant is listed as Partial Shade, the plant will need some relief from the intense late afternoon sun, either from shade provided by a nearby tree or planting it on the east side of a building.

Dappled Sun: Dappled sunlight is similar to partial shade. It is the sun that makes its way through the branches of a deciduous tree. Woodland plants and under planting prefers this type of sunlight over even the limited direct exposure they would get from partial shade.

Full Shade: Less than 3 hours of direct sunlight each day, with filtered sunlight during the rest of the day. Full shade does not mean no sun. There aren't many plants, except mushrooms, that can thrive in the dark.

Most commercial fertilizers have 3 numbers on the front label, separated by dashes. For example: 5-10-5.

1st Number = Nitrogen. The first number gives the concentration of nitrogen in the product. Nitrogen encourages foliage growth, among other benefits.

2nd Number = Phosphorous. The middle number refers to the concentration of phosphorous. Phosphorous contributes to many fundamental plant processes such as rooting and setting flower buds.

Container and TLC of Container Plants—continued ***By Vicki Stacy, LaSalle County Master Gardener***

3rd Number: Potassium. The final number states the concentration of potassium. Potassium contributes to the overall health and vigor of plants.

Complete fertilizers: These fertilizers contain all three major nutrients. There are also specialized fertilizers that are called incomplete because they lack one or more major nutrients such as a fertilizer labeled 0-20-20.

Fertilizer Ratio (An easier comparison): An easier way to compare

the numbers is to break them down to the fertilizer ratio or the amounts of the 3 major nutrients in relation to each other. This becomes important when looking for a fertilizer for a specific need. A 1-2-1 ratio is often recommended for vegetables, which need plenty of phosphorous to set fruit. 1-2-1 could be 5-10-5, 10-20-10 or any similar extrapolation.

Organic fertilizers: Organic fertilizers must specify which

nutrient(s) is organic and it must be identified as either synthetic and/or natural, by percentage. For example: 20% of Nitrogen organic (6% synthetic, 14% organic). When a fertilizer is labeled “organic”, it simply means it contains carbon atoms. It can be naturally produced from plant or animal tissue or synthetically manufactured.

Get creative, and have a fun time container gardening!

A Rose Is A Rose...Or Is It A Rugosa? ***By Darlene Ray, LaSalle County Master Gardener***

Growing roses in Illinois can be a challenge. The Midwest can have snow in the morning, then sunshine and 60 degrees Fahrenheit by the afternoon. Winters can be brutal with too much or too little moisture, desiccating (drying) winds, and frigid temperatures that fluctuate rapidly, daily, and sometimes hourly.

Hybrid teas, Floribundas and Grandifloras can do well but take some TLC. The best tip for a successful rose garden in Illinois is choosing the right rose for the right area. Roses that are beautiful, hardy, disease resistant with little maintenance, and salt damage tolerant, is my choice, the shrub roses or commonly known as landscape roses. I especially recommend Rosa rugosa. Rugosas perform best in USDA Zone 3 through 7, have good foliage, color, health, form, fragrance and are not prone to black spot or other fungal disease. Japanese beetles like rugosa blossoms but rugosas are vigorous, withstanding severe attacks and can survive gloriously, almost miraculously, at least in my vulnerable garden.

Care and Feeding: Give roses rich garden soil, organic fertilizers (they tend to prefer organic or synthetic), good drainage and don't let roots sit in wet, soggy soil as roots need air circulation to thrive. Bottom watering or irrigation in the morning is best and doesn't let water drops sit on leaves overnight. They need little or no insect or disease sprays. If troubled with spider mites use a little insecticidal soap initially and regularly, or a strong blast of water to knock them dead.

As for fertilization, stick to organic.



Start with good rich soil when planting, then every spring and mid-summer (after blooming), side dress with a bucket full of aged compost, manures and

in addition to this, add a cupful of seaweed meal (kelpmeal), bonemeal and alfalfa pellets scratched into the soil.

Good air circulation and full sun (at least 6 hours per day) will discourage fungal diseases. Give plants room to spread, as they can and will get large.

Try planting rugosas with perennials such as hardy geraniums, salvia, veronica, catmint, delphiniums, and lavender for lovely companions and complementary bedfellows.

Shrub roses are the backbone of a beautiful garden that will give you the most beautiful and carefree rose garden in the Midwest. My garden is full of them. I was told when I moved here 12 years ago that roses won't do well in this area but mine flourish on this wide-open rural property. I can't get enough of these magnificent, beautiful and easy care shrubs. Grow these and believe me, you won't be sorry!

Xeriscaping

By Darlene Ray, LaSalle County Master Gardener

Xeriscaping From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Xeriscaping and xerogardening refers to landscaping and gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation. It is promoted in areas that do not have easily accessible supplies of fresh water, and is gaining acceptance in other areas as climate patterns shift.

The word **xeriscaping** is a portmanteau of *xeros* (Greek for “dry”) and *landscape*. Plants whose natural requirements are appropriate to the local climate are emphasized, and care is taken to avoid losing water to evaporation and run-off. While many Denver Water employees helped coin the term xeriscape, Xeriscape and the xeriscape logo are not registered trademarks of Denver Water, the water department of Denver, Colorado.¹ They were created by the Front Range Xeriscape Task Force of Denver Department in 1978.¹ The specific plants used in xeriscaping depend upon the climate. Some common plants used in Western xeriscaping are agave, cactus, lavendar, juniper, sedum and thyme. In some areas, terms such as water-conserving landscapes, *drought-tolerant landscaping*, *zeroscaping*, and *smart scaping* are used instead.

So how does this relate to Illinois gardening? With the increased rain levels holding up tilling and planting of grain crops in Illinois this spring you're prone to think that Illinois is **not** dry. I beg to differ! Although I have not found official statistics to back up my opinion. I'd say between the wind and summer droughts, Illinois prairies get mighty dry.

Thus, Xeriscaping might sound like a wise practice to consider. Here are seven ways to conserve water, the once thought of **renewal resource**.

1. Create one or more rain gardens. See article in the MG LaSalle County Extension Spring 2009 newsletter, “From the Garden”.
2. Choose plants for your garden that, once established (usually after its second year) are drought tolerant or adapts well to arid conditions.
3. Water gardens and lawns at the proper time of the day. Example: early morning to avoid the hot midday sun that can dry up recently watered landscapes more quickly.
4. *Mulch, Mulch, Mulch* your garden beds to conserve moisture, keep plant roots cooler during hot spells and reduce weed growth that will compete with other plants for needed moisture.
5. Set up rain barrels in and around the home and outbuildings.
6. Use a blower to clean off walkways, driveways and patios instead of a water hose.
7. Set up timers for your water sprinklers or drip off irrigation systems.

Waste not, Want not!!! Conserve our water whenever you can, Please!!!!

University of Illinois Extension "From the Garden" Newsletter

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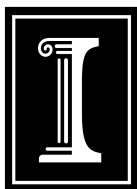
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Through local partnerships and connections to the vast resources of the University of Illinois, U of I Extension helps people and communities meet their most pressing needs. Extension programs begin with local volunteers who make up Extension Councils that serve one or more counties. Council members are continually monitoring community needs and looking for ways the University might be able to help communities just like yours—and people just like you—address complex local issues.

Extension educational programs are offered in four broad areas: 4-H youth development; nutrition, family and consumer sciences; community and economic development; and agricultural and natural resources. The programs are as diverse as the people of Illinois.

From the Garden—Published by University of Illinois Master Gardener Volunteers

2009 Four Seasons Gardening Telenet Series

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
6/16/09	1:00 p.m.	Turfgrass Diseases
6/18/09	7:00 p.m.	Turfgrass Diseases
6/30/09	1:00 p.m.	Don't Blame the Plant
7/2/09	7:00 p.m.	Don't Blame the Plant
7/14/09	1:00 p.m.	Landscaping on the Wild Side
7/16/09	7:00 p.m.	Landscaping on the Wild Side
9/15/09	1:00 p.m.	Tree Maintenance
9/17/09	7:00 p.m.	Tree Maintenance
9/29/09	1:00 p.m.	Poisonous Plants
10/1/09	7:00 p.m.	Poisonous Plants
10/13/09	1:00 p.m.	Bonsai
10/15/09	7:00 p.m.	Bonsai

Garden Festival & Walk—Saturday, June 27, 2009

On Saturday, June 27, Redbud Creek Farm will host a **Garden Festival** at their beautiful setting in the woods, with tables and booths that will feature garden crafts, garden antiques, artists, demonstrations of garden skills, music, and picnic food. Time frame is 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The **Garden Walk**, sponsored by Friends of Robert W. Rowe Library in Sheridan, will be a part of this day. Ticket sales for the Garden Walk will benefit the Friends of the Robert W. Rowe Library in Sheridan, specifically to construct an outdoor reading area that will incorporate a comfortable bench and landscaping in front of the library.