



THE “SHOW-ME” GARDENER

MAY 2025

Webster Groves Garden Club

www.mgcwg.org

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WEEDING WEDNESDAYS AT THE METRO GARDEN

The WGGC is pleased to announce a new Club activity, **Weeding Wednesdays**, to be held at the Metro Garden in Webster Groves at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood. This activity will be every week throughout the summer (weather permitting) on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9am. A Metro Garden "expert" will be on hand to provide direction.

It is hoped that this event will offer an opportunity, especially for newer gardeners, to socialize and to learn what is considered a weed and what is a desirable native plant. The Metro Garden has a large selection of native and ornamental plants in a garden with full sun and good drainage. Please feel free to attend with gardening gloves, long sleeves and your favorite weeding tools.

Or just come by to get a tour of the Metro Garden in Webster Groves.

EVENTS AROUND ST LOUIS

SAT MAY 10 • Sacred Grove Community Planting Day • 9am -12pm Help plant a forest. Join the students, faculty, and staff of Eden seminary, along with neighbors, friends, local organizations, and congregations for a community planting day. They will be using the Miyawaki method to create a tiny forest (you can Google it) and will be planting more than 1,000 plants in just 1/3 of an acre! You're welcome to come plant just one tree, or stay for an hour, or help all morning. More info here <https://www.eden.edu/events/sacred-grove-planting-day>

SAT MAY 10 • EcoTones Concerts • 10am – 2:30pm Little Creek Nature Area Florissant, MO. EcoTones Concerts are whimsical outdoor performances, braiding world-class musicians, audiences, and local public nature spaces to grow new audiences for live instrumental music and an ecosocial worldview of interrelatedness amongst humans, flora, and fauna. More info here: <https://cur8.com/25618/project/130312>

SAT MAY 17 • Plant America Garden Expo • 10am – 3pm Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center, St Charles, MO. Join us for a fun filled day. Shopping with plant experts and local vendors. Interactive booths featuring sustainable gardening and water conservation. Hands on demonstrations and giveaways. Fun and educational kids activities. Gardening and conservation speakers. Food trucks and attendance prizes. More info here: <https://www.upcomingevents.com/st-louis/events/weldon-spring-site-interpretive-center/plant-america-garden-expo2025-408152>

GARDENER'S CORNER – MAY 2025

(aka Carol's corner)

May is here—time to begin gardening in earnest. Given the amount of rain we had in April, our gardens should be beautiful. Although my perennials are growing well, the rain has also increased the weeds! There is so much to do before planting new flowers and vegetables.

There are many tasks and tips for this month from the Missouri Botanical Garden—here are just a few. If you grow spring bulbs, wait until the foliage has yellowed or is dead to move or divide them. Prematurely removing spring bulb foliage will cause next year's flower production to decline. Non-hardy bulbs including gladiolus, caladiums, dahlias, canna and elephant ears can be planted as soon as the ground warms and the temperature at night consistently reaches 50°F. Fertilize azaleas after they bloom.

Traditionally, Mother's Day is considered a safe time to plant warm season plants. If you have mums in the garden, now is the time to punch them back to promote bushy growth. Such plants as penstemon, monarda, and asters that are prone to drooping over before they bloom should be pruned. Warm-season crops like edamame, eggplant, okra, pepper, sweet corn, sweet potato, and tomato can be planted as the ground around mid-May when the ground is warmer. Also, warm season vegetables can be directly sown into the ground at this time. These include basil, cucumber, melon, pumpkin, summer squash, and winter squash. Once the nights remain above 50°F, houseplants can be taken outside where most prefer bright and indirect light, or direct morning sun.

And now a word about our helpful insects, particularly butterflies and bees. While this column can't delve into the subject in great detail, there are some articles which might give you some insight about pollinators and how to bring more into your garden. One basic article about butterflies as pollinators is entitled *Are Butterflies Pollinators? How They Help Your Yard*. It can be found at: <https://birdsandwild.com/are-butterflies-pollinators>. Another article, specifically on monarch butterflies, is from the University of Missouri Extension, <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/gardening-can-protect-monarch-butterflies>. Also, there are several interesting articles on plants that attract monarch butterflies at The Spruce, www.thespruce.com/search?q=monarch+butterflies. An article from the Washington State Department of Agriculture discusses protecting bees from pesticides: <https://agr.wa.gov/getmedia/6144c435-c1ad-4092-afe3-436bdd627e41/388-tenwaystoprotectbeesfrompesticides.pdf>. The Save the Bee

website has lots of information about bees, <https://savethebee.org/>. as does the Buzz About Bees website, <https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/10-Reasons-Why-Bees-Are-Important.html>. Finally, more scholarly publication, entitled Why bees are critical for achieving sustainable development was published by Ambio: A Journal of Environment and Society and is available from the National Institutes of Health, at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7708548/>.

Some virtual and in person programs of interest in May are the following:

The Smithsonian Gardens has A Natural History Approach to Protecting Pollinators video in its Let's Talk Garden Series. You can find it at:
<https://gardens.si.edu/learn/lets-talk-gardens-video-library/natural-history-approach-to-protecting-pollinators/>

Tuesday, May 20 • 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. The University of Illinois Extension's Four Season Gardening Webinar Series will present Managing Common Squash and Pumpkin Pests. You can register at: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-common-squash-and-pumpkin-pests-and-how-to-manage-them-may-20>