

2024 MG Symposium Registration Form

Participant Name (as will appear on name tag): _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Montana Master Gardener (any level): Yes ___ No ___ If Yes, what County: _____

Gold Country Master Gardener Member: Yes ___ No ___ If MG from Another State, what State? _____

Please select the presentations you will be attending by marking an X in the presentation of your choice for each session:

2024 MASTER GARDENER SYMPOSIUM EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS						
	First Session			Second Session		
	1A	Inspecting Landscape for Vertebrate Pest Damage		2A	Control Pesty Pests: Intro to Integrated Pest Management	
	1B	Prepping for a Healthy Backyard Tree Fruit Harvest		2B	Edible Perennials for Montana's Gardens	
	1C	All About Tomatoes		2C	Greenhouse Gardening and Season Extension	
	1D	Introduction to Permaculture		2D	The Trick to Green Manure (Cover Crops)	
—			—			
	Third Session			Fourth Session		
—	3A	What [Garden Crop] Grows Here?	—	4A	Backyard Composting: As Easy as Following a Recipe	
—	3B	Wild Seed Collection, Low Tech Processing and Storage	—	4B	Botany 101: Roots & Shoots	
	3C	Growing Berries and Small Fruit in Central Montana		4C	Planting and Maintaining Apple and Other Tree Fruit in Montana	
	3D	Plants in Distress: Intro to Plant Disease Diagnostics		4D	Grasshoppers A to Z	

Lunch choice (select one) – all lunch choices include fresh fruit, choice of chips, choice of cookie, and iced tea/water:

Sandwich: ___ Turkey, cheddar on wheat berry bread ___ Ham, smoked gouda on sourdough

Wrap: ___ Vegetarian with hummus, zucchini, roasted red pepper, spinach in tomato tortilla

Salad: ___ Chicken Caesar ___ Greek chicken ___ Mandarin orange spinach

You will receive an email registration confirmation once your registration is received.

Full payment of \$55 must accompany registration. No refunds will be given after Sunday, March 24, 2024.

For questions, call or text Dawn Reynolds at (406) 266-1045 or email goldcountrymastergardener@gmail.com.

TWO EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Register and pay by debit/credit card on our website: www.goldcountrymg.org/2024-symposium

- Pay by check: Make check payable to "GCCMGA", mail payment & registration form by **MARCH 22, 2024** to:

Gold Country MT Master Gardeners Assn.

c/o Dawn Reynolds

5 Cold Creek Ranch Rd.

Winston MT 59647

~7th Annual ~
Gold Country Montana
Master Gardener Symposium
Saturday, March 30, 2024

Carroll College Campus Center
1290 N. Park Avenue, Helena



Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration

8:30 am – 3:45 pm – Ongoing Seed Swap *Please feel free to bring seeds to share!!*

9:00 am - 10:15 am - First breakout session - 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D

10:30 am – 11:45 pm - Second breakout session - 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D

11:45 pm - 1:00 pm – Lunch (included in registration fee) and Roundtables

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm - Third breakout session - 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm - Fourth breakout session - 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D

There are four presentations scheduled for each breakout session. A description of each presentation follows on the next page. Please place an X on your Registration Form next to the presentation you will be attending so we can plan seating.

	Session Title	Session Description	Speaker
1A	Inspecting Landscapes for Vertebrate (Voles, Ground Squirrels, etc.) Pest Damage	Proper identification of vertebrate pests is essential for effective control. Montana Department of Agriculture's Vertebrate Pest Specialist, Stephen M. Vantassel, will be speaking on the principles and tactics of inspecting for vertebrate pest damage in lawns and gardens. The training will emphasize inspection principles, procedures, and diagnostic signs of common vertebrate pest damage in Montana.	Stephen Vantassel, Montana Department of Agriculture
1B	Prepping for a Healthy Backyard Tree Fruit Harvest	Pruning trees, applying dormant sprays – these are not the only tasks for your backyard fruit trees in spring. Get a leg up on what you might need to do now and for an entire season of pest management for tree fruits, from pre-bloom to fall. Whether you grow fruits conventionally or organic, or if you have one tree or twenty, this presentation is for you.	Mair Murray, IPM Specialist, Utah State University Extension
1C	All About Tomatoes	This presentation will take you "from seed to sauce" and provide all of the information you need to know about growing tomatoes. I will present information about selecting tomato varieties, seed starting suggestions, planting tips & tricks, fertilizer suggestions and end-use inspiration.	Alexis Clingingsmith, Co-Owner, Green Thumb Garden Supply
1D	Introduction to Permaculture	If you've been curious about permaculture and want a better understanding of what it's all about, join this workshop! Kareen Erbe from Broken Ground will demystify the term, take you through permaculture ethics and principles and share examples of how permaculture can be applied to your yard and garden. Learn how to design an edible, highly productive, resilient and regenerative landscape!	Kareen Erbe, Owner, Broken Ground Permaculture
2A	Control Those Pesty Pests: Introduction to IPM	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a pest management strategy that uses a wide range of pest control methods instead of focusing solely on chemical control options. It uses knowledge of life cycles and interaction with the environment to develop the best pest management approach. This workshop will provide an overview of IPM, pest identification and control methods. The session will also briefly discuss the science behind homemade pesticides. The workshop will feature hands-on activities to allow participants to explore pest identification and control.	Allison Kosto, MSU Extension Agent, Broadwater County

2B	Edible Perennials for Montana's Gardens	PLANT ONCE, HARVEST FOR YEARS! This presentation will introduce many tasty, productive and beautiful perennial vegetables that have been proven to thrive in Montana. Topics include species profiles, growing techniques and culinary uses. Unlike many perennial foods, which are interesting but have very limited use, the species being presented are useful as kitchen staples. This informationally dense presentation is packed with 10+ years of first-hand experiences that can empower you to produce food in a whole new way. Live plant materials will be displayed.	Michael Billington, The Native Seed Foundation
2C	Greenhouse Gardening and Season Extension Basics	Are you interested in greenhouse gardening but don't know where to begin? This class will cover the basics of greenhouse gardening, including types of greenhouses and growing structures for extending the season, equipment needs and materials, troubleshooting pest issues, and what it takes to get started!	Abiya "Abi" Saeed, MSU Extension Specialist
2D	The Trick to Green Manure (Cover Crops)	Do you have poor organic matter in your soil? Are you looking for an easy way to fix your compaction issues and feed your soil? Green "manure" may be the answer you're looking for. We'll review how cover crops are used to develop organic matter in the soil and how to create green manure in the garden. Specifically, we will overview guidelines for termination, species selection, planting and tillage.	Mat Walter, MSU Extension Agent, Lewis & Clark County
3A	What (Garden Crops) Grow Here?	I was once told, "It's not even worth starting a garden in Montana. It's too cold and the season is too short." This presentation will completely debunk that statement! I will walk through many of the wonderful garden crops that can be grown in Montana. Once we have a feel for the crops that can be grown, I will walk the audience through the process of picking varieties for their gardens based on the availability of their space, their end-use goal and more!	Alexis Clingingsmith, Co-Owner, Green Thumb Garden Supply
3B	Wild Seed Collection, Low Tech Processing and Seed Storage	Managing seeds is the cornerstone of civilization, restoration and gardening. Being able to gather, clean and store seeds is the difference between being a plant producer and a plant consumer. This class applies to gardeners, wild plant enthusiasts or people seeking employment in the world of native seeds. This presentation offers rare insight and hard-earned knowledge in hopes of empowering participants. Learn highly practical low-tech skills. We will discuss the business world of native seeds, timing seed harvests, barriers to successful collections, harvesting tools and techniques, principles/practices of cleaning seed and the proper storage of seeds. Includes demonstrations of field-tested tools.	Michael Billington, The Native Seed Foundation
3C	Growing Berries and Small Fruit in Central Montana	Berries offer great tastes in a small and easily managed planting, but you need to start with types and varieties that can withstand Montana climates, and you should know how to manage these plantings for a bountiful harvest. This presentation will cover the species and varieties of berries that do well in Montana, including traditional (strawberries and raspberries) and novel (Haskap/honeyberries, dwarf sour cherries, serviceberries, elderberries and currants). We'll also discuss how to manage the plantings from basic pruning, irrigation, fertilization, and pest management.	Zach Miller, Superintendent, MSU Western Ag Research Center
3D	Plants in Distress – Introduction to Plant Disease Diagnostics	The correct and timely identification of plant diseases is the key for implementing successful management strategies. In this presentation, we will focus on identifying symptoms and signs of plant diseases common in Montana. We will guide participants through the primary diagnostic process step-by-step and we will discuss concepts of integrated pest management. This presentation will include interactive components like the handling of actual samples, review activities, and magnifying signs of plant diseases with a microscope.	Eva Grimme, Plant Diagnostician, MSU Schutter Lab

4A	Backyard Composting: As Easy as Following a Recipe	Join us as we learn how to build and maintain a backyard composting operation. We'll discuss essential components to consider and examples of materials to add to your pile as well as items to leave out. Do you have questions about how much time and labor this will require? Can you use existing materials around the house to build one? Are all forms of manure acceptable? How do I know when the compost is finished? We'll walk through a few compost troubleshooting scenarios as we build a compost bin together during the workshop.	Kaleena Miller, MSU Extension Agent, Madison/Jefferson County
4B	Botany 101: Roots & Shoots	How do plants know what to do? What features are plants equipped with that enable them to survive and reproduce? This presentation covers the concepts that deal with how plants mature: cells and seeds along with root and stem growth. If you are a plant geek, this talk is for you. The presentation is based on the book <i>Botany for Gardeners</i> by Brian Capon.	Sarah Eilers, Montana Master Gardener Coordinator
4C	Planting and Maintaining Apple and Other Tree Fruit in Montana	This presentation will include what varieties of tree fruit (apple, pear, and others) can thrive in Montana, basic planting considerations, and how to manage the trees. We'll cover basic pruning and pest management practices.	Zach Miller, Superintendent, MSU Western Ag Research Center
4D	Grasshoppers A to Z	Grasshoppers are always a nuisance but in the last several years, they have invaded backyard gardens and small farms in very large numbers. Learn about which species of grasshoppers are typically found in these settings, and when they start appearing—which is different for each species. This presentation will cover grasshopper identification, life cycles, outbreak trends, and conventional and organic management tactics.	Mair Murray, IPM Specialist, Utah State University Extension

