



MSU Tollgate Gardens

FARMHOUSE GARDEN Plants of Interest



The Tollgate Farmhouse Garden landscape was completed in 2003. The original design has been altered over the years to accommodate the growth and hardiness of the plant material.

In spring, Daffodil 'Thalia' and Grape Hyacinths (Muscari) line the brick walkway with accents of Tulipa 'Pink Impression'. Eastern Redbud, Serviceberry and Flowering Crabapple add to the colorful display. The Allium 'Globemaster' follows to complete the spring display.



The boxwood hedge *Buxus microphylla* 'Winter Gem' adds a formal edge to the garden. The boxwood are pruned 3 times per year. The Meadowbrook hedges are connected by *Caryopteris x candonensis* 'Longwood Blue'.



In late June, red daylilies stand tall behind the boxwoods. In late July, Hibiscus 'Sultry Kiss' explodes into large bright pink blossoms up into the farmhouse windows. This hardy hibiscus is cut back to the ground each fall. You must be patient in the spring for it to send up new shoots. Echinacea Big Sky™ Series



'Summer Sky' adds height amongst the Hameln grass, Sedum 'Autumn Joy', Barberry, 'Berberis Gentry'. Gaura 'Cherry Brandy' adds wisps of color like butterflies in the foreground.



Spiraea 'Anthony Waterer' adds bright pink in early summer. The Sedum 'Autumn Joy' will take over the color in late summer.



Hydrangea aborescens Bella Anna® of the Endless Summer Collection was added in 2012. These plants will continue to bloom throughout the summer.



Hydrangea aborescens 'Annabelle' fill the north end of the farmhouse garden. These hardy hydrangeas require no staking in this area. The plants are cut back in the spring to 24 inches. The old canes will help support new growth.



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Plumbago), a prolific ground cover with bright blue flowers borders the brick pathway in the summer with reddish foliage in fall.

The plant is late to show in the spring after dying back in winter.

Ceramic pots flank the center bench to add interest and additional color. Blues are used for contrast against the many pink colored flowers in the garden. This year's pots include 'Black and Blue' Salvia for the thriller. Filler plants include Coleus, Lisianthus, Lobelia, Cereus, 'Beth's Blue' Isotoma, *Juncus inflexus* 'Blue Arrows' and 'Icicles' Licorice Plant. The spiller plant is 'Silver Falls' Dicondra.



Hosta 'Frances Williams' has settled in under the flowering crabapple tree on the south end of the garden. The plants are fine specimens of this classic hosta.

Below the hosta is a shade companion plant Astilbe 'Visions'. This grouping of astilbe adds a flush of color to this section of garden against its rich green serrated foliage.



MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
www.tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251