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New and Unusual Varieties in the 2016 Trial Gardens

Daedre McGrath – Annual Trial Garden Manager

We evaluate close to 600 new varieties each summer! Here are a few intriguing entries for the upcoming trial season. We look forward to seeing how they perform in our Michigan growing conditions. Come check out their progress this summer!



- **Marigold 'Strawberry Blonde'**
This new French marigold from PanAmerican Seed Company features multicolored blooms all on the same plant. This breeding breakthrough brings pink and russet tones to the marigold color palette for the first time.

- **Petunia 'Night Sky'**
This new variety from Selecta will make your petunia display out of this world! Flowers sport white speckles on a deep blue background, a color pattern never before seen in petunia. This variety has received tons of media attention and is already available for purchase. Look for it for sale at your favorite garden center this year.



- **Chocolate Cosmos, *Cosmos atrosanguineus***
We are very excited to be trialing the first ever seed-propagated chocolate cosmos this summer. Deep reddish-brown blooms add drama to any garden and release a chocolate scent due to the production of vanillin.

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MSU Horticulture Garden's Spring Program

Saturday, April 9, 2016

We have a lively program scheduled for our Spring Program, including two members of the "Garden Professors", a blog site that offers science-based information on a wide range of horticultural topics. They will be joined by Adam Montri, an expert in organic farming and protected environments. An hour will be set aside for questions and answers from the experts!

• **Garden Zombies: Horticultural Myths that Refuse to Die**

No matter how much scientific evidence to the contrary, there are certain "garden miracles" that just won't go away. **Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott**, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Washington State University, will discuss some of those infamous products and practices, and suggest evidence-based alternatives to use in your own gardens and landscapes.

• **Are Natives the Answer?**

The debate over the use of native versus exotic plants in landscapes often generates more heat than light. Some native plant advocates claim that exotics are water-hogging, nutrient-hungry pest magnets that contribute little in the way of ecosystem services; while some ecologists argue that we should judge species based on their utility and not by their origins. In this presentation **Dr. Bert Cregg**, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Michigan State University will provide an overview of some of the key scientific and philosophical questions related to the native debate.

• **Tips and Tricks for Successful Organic Vegetable Gardens**

Many homeowners are interested in growing their vegetable gardens organically. Join **Adam Montri**, an outreach specialist in MSU's Department of Horticulture and co-owner of Ten Hens Farm in Bath, MI, to talk about some tips for successful organic vegetable production and some tricks for extending your season earlier in the spring and later into the fall.

Space is still available – sign up now! Please visit our website at <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/spring-program/>

Jennifer Sweet – Program Coordinator
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Spring 2016 Curious Gardener

For more information and to register, go to
<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/curious-gardener/>

❖ Succulent Living Wreath

Daedre McGrath, Annual Plant Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens and Jessica Wright, Youth Education Coordinator

Tuesday, March 8th from 3 to 5 PM

\$35 for Garden Members; \$40 for Non-members

Start your garden season by creating a stunning succulent living wreath to hang on a door, fence, or set on a table. Succulents can thrive where little else will grow! Jessica and Daedre will take you step-by-step through the process of creating your own uniquely ornamental wreath. Each participant will be provided with all plants and materials needed to make a living wreath to take home. Class limit 25.

❖ Growing and Crafting with Hard-shelled Gourds

Daedre McGrath, Annual Plant Manager, MSU Horticulture Gardens

Tuesday, April 12th from 3 to 5 PM

\$30 for Garden Members; \$35 for Non-members

Daedre will show you how to grow gourds from seed in your vegetable garden, how to dry and prep them for crafting, and inspire you to create both decorative and functional items for indoor and outdoor use. Each participant will be provided with a packet of gourd seeds, a dried gourd, and all the materials to create and decorate a gourd birdhouse to take home. Class Limit: 20

❖ Building Bamboo Trellises

Dr. Art Cameron, Director, MSU Horticulture Gardens

Tuesday April 26th from 6 to 8 PM

\$15 for Garden Members; \$20 for Non-members

Take your garden vertical using bamboo trellises! Beautiful, easy to make, and extremely versatile in the garden, bamboo trellises are great for annual climbing vines and can be adapted to get tomatoes, beans and peas up off the ground. In this workshop, Art will focus on construction of a simple and effective trellis. He'll demonstrate a few variations so you will feel confident in creating your own trellises that will be the envy of your gardening friends! We will discuss how to select and purchase the bamboo. Materials are not included in the price.

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2016 Plant Sale

Friday	May 20	4–7 PM	VIP MSU Garden Members only
Saturday	May 21	7 AM–4 PM	Public Sale

Mark your calendars! Our annual plant sale will be May 20 (Members only) and May 21 (General Public). We will again attempt to bring you rare, unusual and common plants to make your gardens special places! Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date.



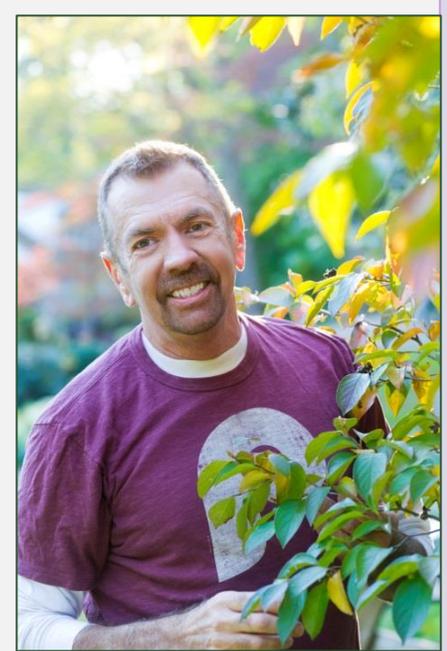
2016 Garden Day

Saturday August 6

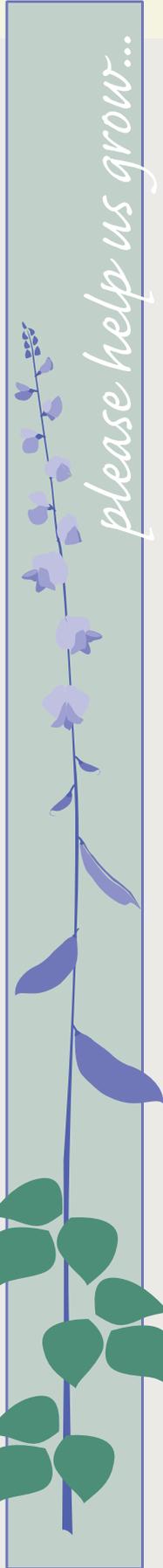
We are very excited that our 2016 Keynote Speaker for Garden Day will be David Culp, author of the book **The Layered Garden** published by Timber Press. This informative and well-illustrated book was awarded the coveted [Best Overall Book](#) by the *Garden Writers Association*.

David has been lecturing about gardens nationwide for more than 15 years. His articles have appeared in *Martha Stewart Living*, *Country Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Green Scene*, and many other publications. He is a former contributing editor to *Horticulture* magazine and served as chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society. David teaches herbaceous perennials at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

As always, we will have a wealth of Garden Day workshops and you will be able to select your two favorites. The complete program will be available soon!



David Culp



Follow us on Facebook

If you are a Facebook person, we have two separate pages. You “like” us to learn more about our [Programs](#) and our [Weddings and Events](#). We try to post fun facts, cool photos, and other programmatic information about our gardens!

Support our MSU Horticulture Garden Endowments

Our MSU Horticulture Gardens are largely self-funded and we generate over half of our yearly budget by MSU Horticulture Garden Memberships, spring plant sales and events and weddings, educational programs and workshops, and fees from our Annual Plant Trials. The remainder of our budget comes from endowments, which are critical since they help support staff and summer student salaries. Your gifts to our endowments helps us improve visual, educational and inspirational experiences for all our visitors!



To contribute directly to our endowment, consider sponsoring a brick, bench, lamp or garden bed. Tributes can be made to honor special person(s) or occasion(s) in your life. For more information, visit our [website](#)

Contact: Art Cameron, MSU Horticulture Gardens Director, cameron@msu.edu
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