



MSU Tollgate Gardens

FARMHOUSE GARDEN



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.

The boxwood hedge *Buxus microphylla* 'Winter Gem' adds a formal edge to the garden. The boxwoods are pruned 2 times per year. The Meadowbrook hedges are connected by *Caryopteris x candonensis* 'Longwood Blue'.

In spring, Daffodil 'Thalia' and Muscari (Grape Hyacinth) line the brick walkway with accents of Tulipa 'Pink Impression' and bleeding heart. An



Spring Blooms and Peace Pole

Eastern Redbud and a Serviceberry tree add to the colorful spring display. The Allium 'Globemaster' follows to complete the spring display. A "Peace Pole", created by two Tollgate volunteers, decorates the landscape with illustrated flowers and visitors of the garden.



The Allium 'Globemaster' Flowers



The Allium Color is Extended with Spray Paint



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' and Berberis 'Gentry' (Barberry). Gaura adds wisps of color like butterflies in the foreground.



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



Hydrangea aborescens 'Annabelle' fill the north end of the farmhouse garden. The plants are cut back in the spring to 24 inches. The old canes support new growth. Growing behind the hydrangeas are young *Aesculus parviflora* 'Bottlebrush Buckeye' shrubs. In a few years, these new additions will add to the display.

Lynchnis (Rose Campion) edge this border. On the opposite side the brick path is bordered by Plumbago, *Napeta* 'Kit Kat' catmint and *Gaura*. These border perennials/annuals are deer resistant.



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



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



Ceramic pots placed near the benches add interest and additional color. Blues are used for contrast against the many pink flowers in the garden.



The south end of the Farmhouse garden was renovated in 2018 due to the removal of two diseased crabapple trees. A specimen tree, *Heptacodium miconioides* 'Seven-Son Flower' tree that is native to China is this garden's main feature. The tree will have white flowers in clusters of 7 (hence the common name Seven-Son Flower) in late summer to early fall. The flowers are followed by a purplish-red fruit crowned with rose calyces elongating and lasting into late fall. The tree is a good source of nectar for the butterflies in the fall. The bark provides winter interest. The tan bark exfoliates to expose a brown inner bark. Other perennials featured in this garden are *Nepeta x faassenii* 'Blue Wonder', *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Little Quick-Fire', *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Little Spire' and *Allium* 'Purple Sensation' to tie the area to the rest of the plant varieties in Farmhouse garden.



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