



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

September 2020 Next Meeting

September 9 (6:30 p.m.)

Topic: *Ver Perpetuum*
("Perpetual Spring")

Speaker: Carol Michel,
May Dreams Gardens

**Virtual Meeting Only:
No In-Person Meeting**

October 14 (6:30 p.m.)

Topic: TBD

Speaker: Irvin Etienne,
Horticultural Display
Coordinator, Newfields

**Virtual Meeting Only:
No In-Person Meeting**

*Programs are being planned
on a month-to-month basis
according to Purdue University
Extension Office Guidelines*

*Meetings occur the
second Wednesday of
each month at 6:30 p.m.*

Future Meetings

Nov. 18 (Third Wednesday)

Dec. 9

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www.IndyGPMGA.com

www.IndyMG.org

www.IndyHorticulture.org

President's Letter

Recently, I have seen a couple posts on social media regarding scale on magnolia and tulip trees, one on a gardening Facebook page and one on a tree FB page. I did some brief research to see how you treat it based upon someone else's recommendation and just filed that info away, thinking it wasn't relevant to me at the time.

But, as I read more, I realized the black stuff on some of my hostas and ground cover under my oldest magnolia by the driveway wasn't something from a vehicle exhaust or an oil leak. I went back out and, instead of looking down, I looked up. OH NO! My magnolia's got the scale! I've seen this scale before, not sure where, but it looks like I've got a fairly heavy infestation. Comments on social media from the Indiana DNR confirmed that this is a bad year (for us and the trees; a good year for the scale). It affects magnolia and tulip trees and their related hybrids. The oldest in my garden is a saucer magnolia that is 30+ years old and was here when I moved in. I also have two star magnolias that I planted in the past 15-20 years.

Neolecanium cornuparvum is the largest of the scale insects. I can tell as this is easily seen at a 1/4 to a 1/2 of an inch long. It is a soft scale insect, which is the kind that excrete a sticky substance called honeydew (another name for "poop"). This is what I'm seeing on the plants below the infested part of my tree. The honeydew is a prime growth spot for a black fungus called sooty mold, and attracts ants, flies and wasps.

Those insects were clearly present.



How did I get this scale? I'm not sure, but the nymphs overwinter on the newest growth. In early June, mating occurs and the males die. The female turns a white to a brownish-purple color as she incubates the eggs and increases in size. The hatchlings are called "crawlers" and usually emerge late August/early September. They are very temperature-driven (but this is the general time frame) and it is the best time to treat with a topical insecticidal spray. The female dies after reproducing but can remain on the branches for some time, making the infestation appear worse than it really is. Maybe that's partially what I'm seeing. The crawlers move along the branch until they find a suitable place to stay and engage their sucking mouth parts. (Remember this from MG class?) A healthy tree can usually survive a minor infestation but an older or already stressed tree could succumb and die.

Treatment at the crawler stage is the best time—and that is now. The adults form a waxy coating that makes treatment ineffective on them. Use a product containing bifenthrin, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, malathion or permethrin. It is recommended to spray in late August, and again in two weeks, to ensure the maximum amount of crawlers are eliminated. There is also a soil drench of imidacloprid or dinotefuran. I have read this is best to do in May so that the plant has

(continued on Page 2)

President's Letter (continued from Page 1)

time to uptake the chemical, but it also could be done now. I am thinking of doing both the spray and soil drench.

I also have checked my other two magnolias. The one closest to the infested plant doesn't appear to have any scale, and the one at the opposite end of the garden has a very mild infestation. I might be able to remove these by hand and only use chemicals where I absolutely need to. I will have to be sure and check the cucumber magnolia tree at the American Legion Mall too.

So go out now and check your magnolias, tulip trees and any related hybrids for scale insects, and make appropriate treatment ASAP. Remember to read label directions and use any product only as directed.

—Lane Judkins, President, GPMGA



Next GPMGA Meeting: September 9

At the next GPMGA virtual meeting on September 9, speaker Carol Michel will teach us how to have "ver perpetuum" (perpetual spring) in our gardens by planting flowers that bloom in late fall, winter and early spring, a time when it can be difficult to find plants blooming outdoors in Indiana.

Carol will present a litany of plants that bloom in her garden from September through March and that most gardeners can easily grow. She will give you other ideas about how to have blooms year-round.



Carol is the award-winning author of several books including: *Potted & Pruned: Living a Gardening Life*; *Homegrown and Handpicked: A Year in a Gardening Life*; *Seeded and Sodded: Thoughts from a Gardening Life*; and *The Christmas Cottontail: A Story for Gardeners of All Ages*.

In addition, Carol has written for several gardening magazines and regularly writes for her award-winning garden blog, www.maydreamsgardens.com. She also shares about gardening on a weekly podcast, *The Gardenangelists: Flowers, Veggies and All the Best Dirt*, available on Apple Podcasts and other podcast streaming services.

Carol is a lifelong gardener with a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Purdue University and is an avid collector of old gardening books. She claims to have the largest hoe collection in the world. Carol's books and presentations are entertaining expressions of her unique perspective.

For more information, please visit her website: www.caroljmichel.com.



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Please contact the officers and chairs of the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association if you have any questions or suggestions.

Zoom Guidelines for GPMGA Meeting

The link below will allow you to join the GPMGA's virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9. Carol Michel of May Dreams Gardens will be the presenter. (Please see the article on Page 2 for details.)

It is very easy to join virtually either via your home computer, Apple device or non-Apple device. Just copy the link below into your search engine or click on the link provided in the Purdue University— Extension Office's meeting notification. Either way, Zoom will start up and, if you have never done a Zoom meeting previously, it will install a small amount of software on your device so that, next time, it is much easier to join. Then, when prompted to "Open Zoom", do so and enter the password. You then will join our meeting.



Link Needed to Join the Zoom Meeting by Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83914216015?pwd=cUNNcGh2UytiNTVpWktveWlhQVVmQT09>

Meeting ID: 839 1421 6015
Passcode: 319163

You also may join by telephone. You may dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) or you may find your local number at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kuwkvauP>.

You also may join by one tap mobile. Enter +19292056099,,83914216015#,,,,,0#,,319163# US (New York) OR +13017158592,,83914216015#,,,,,0#,,319163# US (Germantown)

Practice Session Available

To see how to join a Zoom meeting (if you have never done so before), the following link takes you to a quick video explaining how to join a Zoom meeting: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>. Please enter this link in your search engine to watch.

During the Zoom Meeting

Zoom allows for video display and audio, thus the meeting has been setup for both. If you do not have video on your computer, tablet or phone OR do not want to be shown on video, that is OK. You may be as comfortable as you like when joining our meeting.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a short business meeting. This approach will allow people to join if running late. You will be able to talk to people and can even "text chat" to the whole group or to a single person.

When Carol begins her presentation, all members will be muted to allow Carol to present and talk. The chat at this time will be limited to chat with the host only. If you have a question during the presentation, you will be able to ask our host, Kay Martin-Pence, and she will let Carol know there is a question. This way, Carol can address any questions as they come up. There also will be a Q&A session with Carol at the end of the presentation.

After the presentation, the meeting will be opened up again to complete the remainder of the business meeting and to chat with each other.

If you have never used Zoom before, this is a chance to try something new and to see how the world is getting along with everyone staying home—yet still being able to work together and talk to each other. We hope that you will join us!

If you have questions about the Zoom meeting, please contact Kay Martin-Pence at quitargirl929@gmail.com.

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

in association with



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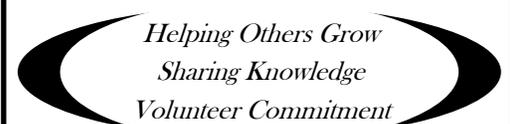
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Questions: Contact Steve Mayer at mayersl@purdue.edu or Debbie Schelske at dschelsk@purdue.edu.

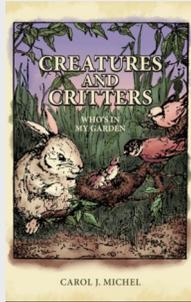


From the Bookshelf . . .

Creatures and Critters: Who's in My Garden

By Carol J. Michel

Turns out, one's never really alone in a garden and, in *Creatures and Critters*, the fifth book from author Carol J. Michel, she explains why that's a good thing. Usually. It depends on the critter. And, the circumstance.



A perfect book for first-time gardeners and children hesitant about wild-life and insects, Carol reminisces about the ups and downs, benefits and hitches of gardening with nature. Helpfully, Carol gives tips for which animals to welcome with an open gate and which ones might be relocated elsewhere (such as the neighbor's yard).

How does Carol think a gardener should welcome or ward off those creatures and critters? Well, with plants, of course! In this book, gardeners will learn how hosta "Empress Wu" protects her subjects (chipmunks) and what to grow to entice rabbits to eat in the lawn, not the vegetable patch. Gardeners also will learn about the "magical powers" of when a common columbine grows in a mixed border.

Charming and delightful, the book contains three chapters featuring garden fairies. At the other end of the spectrum, the volume advises on what to do about the "elephant in the garden" and why every garden (particularly a children's garden) should have a dinosaur. Along the way, Carol slips in practical and learned-from-experience advice.

Strolling through *Creatures and Critters* is like walking through May Dreams Garden with Carol herself, conversing about the flora, fauna and fairies, who reside within her garden boundaries. One thing's certain: after reading *Creatures and Critters*, you'll never experience your garden in the same way again because, suddenly, you'll know it isn't just a garden. It's an entire universe waiting to be discovered.

GPMGA Meeting Minutes: August 12

Steve Mayer, local Purdue Extension horticulture educator, conducted two tours of the Purdue Extension-Marion County (PE-MC) Demonstration Garden at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during the GPMGA field trip on August 12.

The PE-MC Demonstration Garden is an official All-America Selections (AAS) Flower and Vegetable Display Garden (since 2013). It is the only AAS Display Garden in Indianapolis and one of less than a half-dozen in Indiana.

An AAS Display Garden provides the public an opportunity to view the newest AAS winners in an attractive well-maintained setting.



Garfield Park Conservatory Online Tour

People wanting to explore the Garfield Park Conservatory now may experience the conservatory's self-guided tour online instead of visiting the conservatory in person.

The online self-guided tour allows visitors to progress through the conservatory as they learn about more than 20 plants typically featured during an in-person tour. When one clicks on the plant's name, the online visitor may view some information about the selected plant as well as enjoy some fun facts.

One may access the tour at www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org. The list of the plants currently on the tour include:

Cacao Tree
Lignum Vitae
Staghorn Fern
Rosita de Cacao
Ponytail Palm
Vanilla Orchid
Banyan Tree
Ice Cream Bean Tree
Chicle-Sapodilla Tree
Fiddle Leaf Fig
Autograph Tree
Powderpuff Tree
Allspice Tree
Bromeliad
Orchids
Pitcher Plant
Neem Tree
Tropical Fruit
Australian Tree Fern
Jade Tree
Shaving Brush Tree
Cinnamon Tree
Mahogany Tree
Coffee Tree

One still may visit the Garfield Park Conservatory in person—with the provision that visitors must purchase time-specific tickets to enter.

People may visit the conservatory only during the time slot purchased. No walk-in admissions are allowed. No public restroom facilities are available.

In addition, the conservatory paths are marked for one-way traffic and divided into zones. Visitors are asked to keep the number of people in each zone to six people as they progress through the conservatory.

To purchase an admission, visit www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org. Click on "Admission \$", then select the day one wishes to visit. The site redirects one to an ActiveNet page that lists all of that day's available admission time slots. Click on the desired time slot to verify availability and complete the purchase. Visitors also may purchase tickets by phone at 317-327-7183.

GPMGA Plant Sale Committee Chair Needed

Kay Martin-Pence, GPMGA Plant Sale Committee Chair, recently indicated that this year marks her last year in that position. She will continue to serve on the committee. However, she will no longer plan or manage the sale.

Anyone interested in serving as the Chair of the GPMGA Plant Sale Committee should contact Kay Martin-Pence at guitargirl929@gmail.com or Lane Judkins at APJ44@sbcglobal.net



1 CACAO TREE

Theobroma cacao



Beans must be fermented, dried, and processed before they are used to make the delicious treat we enjoy.

Notice the football shaped fruits growing on the branches and trunk of this tree. Each of these pods contains 20-40 cocoa beans that can be used to make chocolate.




Common Sneezeweed

Common sneezeweed is a perennial plant in the daisy or aster family (Asteraceae). Its abundant yellow blooms occur in late summer to fall, often attracting bees and butterflies.

Common sneezeweed can be found in much of the United States, in moist to wet openings, edges, shores and thickets. Sneezeweed can be cultivated in average to rich soils, needing moist to wet conditions and full sun.

The plants often become so tall they need staking or other support. Alternatively, they can be cut back in late June or early July to force shorter, more-branched flowering heads. Flowering clumps can be divided every few years to maintain vigor and provide new plant starts.

Common sneezeweed is also known as Helen's flower, bitterweed, autumn sneezeweed and false sunflower. The genus name, *Helenium*, refers to the famous Helen of Troy. There is a legend that these flowers sprang from the ground where Helen's tears fell.

With its large showy flowers, insects pollinate common sneezeweed, not wind. Therefore, it does not have small pollen grains (like ragweed) which cause sneezing and other hay fever symptoms. The common English name is based on the historic use of the crushed dried leaves and heads to make a form of snuff that caused sneezing. In certain cultures and times, sneezing was regarded as a desirable way to rid the body of evil spirits or to loosen up a head cold.

Common sneezeweed leaves, flowers and seeds are poisonous to humans, if eaten in large quantities, causing gastric and intestinal irritation, which can become fatal. The plants also contain sesquiterpene lactones, which may cause a skin rash. Sesquiterpene lactone chemicals are common in Aster family of plants, and may help protect the plants from pathogens and herbivores.



EXTENSION HORTICULTURE HINTS—SEPTEMBER 2020

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, Purdue Extension-Marion County

Extension Horticulture Hints for September 2020 by Steve Mayer

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture, for Purdue Extension-Marion County, serves as coordinator and instructor for the Purdue Master Gardener program in Marion County.

Purdue Extension Update for Master Gardeners

The following is now in effect, as of September 1, 2020 (guidelines may be subject to change):

OFFICE: No date is set to open the Purdue Extension-Marion County office. Although some staff are using their work spaces at times, all meeting spaces and classrooms in our building will remain closed to public access until further notice. Staff will continue to work remotely at this time.

MG CLASS: The 2020 Purdue Extension Master Gardener classes began August 25. All sessions will be conducted virtually (no face to face meetings).

MG REFRESHER CLASS: It looks like recordings of the statewide 2-hour Master Gardener basic training classes will be available for viewing for active Master Gardeners (those with an up-to-date volunteer agreement) wishing to take some classes as a “refresher.” Advanced training hours will be available this year for as many classes as you like. Watch your e-mail for this opportunity.

COVID-19 RESOURCES: Purdue Extension resources for COVID-19 are available online here: <https://extension.purdue.edu/label/44>.

September Garden Calendar Tips

Note: Letters & numbers following the tip refer to Purdue publications; other reference links may also be supplied.

First Week: To reduce nuisance wildlife problems, seal off places wildlife can enter like chimneys and under porches (PPP-56). <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/PPP/PPP-56.pdf>>

Second Week: September is the best time to fertilize cool season lawns like Kentucky bluegrass. Use a high nitrogen & zero/low phosphorus fertilizer on established lawns unless a soil test says otherwise (AY-22). <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-22-W.pdf>>

Third Week: Finish planting or reseeding lawns by

mid-September (AY-3). <<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-3-W.pdf>>

Fourth Week: Don't let all those leaves go to waste this fall. Make plans to build a compost pile.

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/compost/>

Follow me on Twitter @purduehortindy (or view at: <http://twitter.com/purduehortindy>) for more tips. You can also see my tweets on each Master Gardener association website: <http://indymcmga.org/> and <http://indygpmga.com/>.



This is how the demonstration garden looked on September 2, 2020 (Steve Mayer, 9/2/2020).

Demonstration Garden Update

It is not too late to visit the demonstration garden on your own. The plant list and map are available at the top of our demo garden web page:

<https://extension.purdue.edu/marion/article/4498>. Keep the gates open, minimize touching any surfaces, wear a face covering, and use hand sanitizer before and after your visit. The garden is open daily during daylight hours. Remember it is next to the DNR Amphitheater. Fairgrounds map:

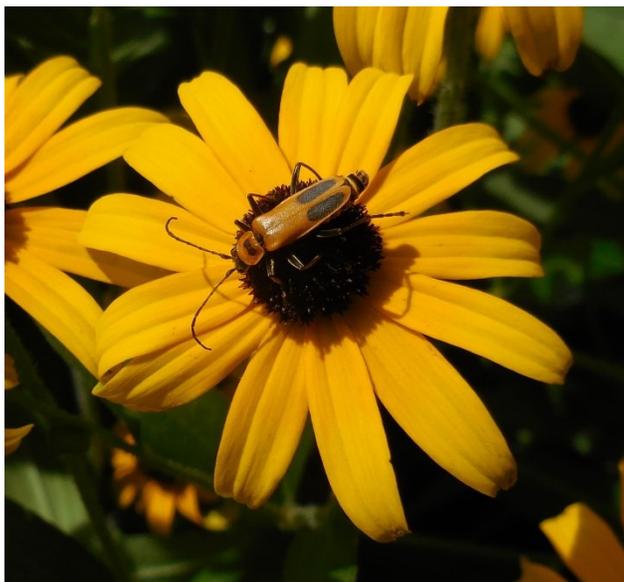
<https://www.indianastatefair.com/p/visit/parking>.

Master Gardeners are still busy watering and harvesting. As of the end of August, they harvested and donated 536 pounds of produce for the food pantry.

We are again submitting an application for the AAS landscape design challenge. The entry is due September 15, and the results will likely be available by the end of October.

The Question Box September 2020

Steve Mayer, Extension Educator-Horticulture
Purdue Extension-Marion County



This beetle was found on Rudbeckia American Gold Rush in our demonstration garden (Steve Mayer, 9/4/2020).

Q. This insect looks somewhat like a lightning beetle. What is it, and is it harmful?

A. Do NOT smash, squish, or spray. This is a good guy. The insect is a soldier beetle. Some species are also called leatherwings because the normal hardened wing covers are much softer than those of most other beetles. They do not harm plants, and both the adults and larvae (in the soil) are predators of soft-bodied insect pests. They will also feed on the pollen of flowering plants. Check the links below for more information.

<<http://www.uky.edu/Aq/CritterFiles/casefile/insects/beetles/soldier/soldier.htm>>

<<https://wimastergardener.org/article/goldenrod-soldier-beetle/>>

Q. I do some lawn mowing for customers and want to make a little extra money this fall by fertilizing lawns for other people for pay. Do I need a license for that, and does it require pesticide certification? I will not be applying any herbicides or other pesticides, including weed and feed – just fertilizer alone.

A. The answer to this question might not be what some of you would think.

First, the Office of the Indiana State Chemist (responsible for regulating feed, seed, fertilizer and pes-

ticides in Indiana) states that “Indiana law requires any person who applies pesticides or fertilizers (or even advertises that they apply pesticides or fertilizers) to the property of another for money to obtain a business license from the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC).” So, yes, just applying fertilizer for compensation requires a license.

Second, to obtain a business license a firm must: 1) Employ at least one certified and licensed applicator, 2) Submit a certificate of insurance to OISC, 3) Submit a completed application form to OISC, and 4) Submit the licensing fee to OISC. Therefore, the owner of a one-person business is also required to be a certified and licensed pesticide applicator in the appropriate categories. For lawn care, that is Category 3b. Yes, pesticide certification and licensing are required.

For more information on this topic in the area of lawn care, consult this OISC publication on their website: <https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/pdf/lawn_care_licensing_brochure.pdf>.

Additional information for people starting a new lawn care business is on the OISC website: <https://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/3b.html>.

Q. I noticed in early September that my honeylocust tree is starting to look bad. I don't see any insects but the tree has brown leaves and webbing. What is it and what should I do?

A. Although there are other insects that can cause webbing and/or brown leaves like fall webworm, brown leaves with webs on honeylocust often means a caterpillar called mimosa webworm. To confirm, compare what you have with the publication link below. It also provides control information.

<<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-11.pdf>>

It is a little late to prevent injury to the tree now for aesthetic control, and because many insects and birds feed on the caterpillars, it is unlikely that any permanent harm to the tree's health will occur if no treatment is made late in the season. For more info and photos, go to: <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1664>.

American Home Gardening: A Brief History

Home gardens reflect the lives and times of the gardeners who tend them. The following glimpse into home gardening history reveals how home gardens have evolved—from the small-space agriculture of Early America to the small-space edibles of today.

1700s: American colonists relied on productive home gardens for survival. Small, enclosed dooryard gardens, located right outside the front door, were dedicated to essential edibles, and culinary and medicinal herbs.

Early 1800s: As settlers moved west, practical, no-nonsense gardens stayed close to the door, making it easy to protect, maintain and harvest plants. Focused on sustenance, not beauty, "kitchen gardens" as they were called, with fruit trees, vegetables and herbs, prevailed. Flowers took a back seat to food and medicinal plants.

Mid-1800s: Home gardening became a leisure activity as villages grew and produce markets opened. Edible gardens fell out of favor and ornamental gardens took center stage. U.S. plant breeders focused on new garden varieties and U.S. researchers became known for their work on plant diseases and pests.

Late 1860s: Mass-produced push mowers and gardening tools, new pest-fighting products and widespread distribution of mail-order seed catalogs helped overcome gardening challenges. Dried, crumbled chrysanthemum flower heads, known as pyrethrum, were introduced—imported for botanical protection against pests.

Late 1800s: Home gardens moved from just outside the front door to side- and backyards. Dooryard gardens were replaced by stylish, maintained grasses known as "lawns". Victorians cut tapestry-like, "carpet bed" designs into lawns and filled them with exotic flowers. Professional garden designers came on the scene. Home gardens—once designed for public viewing—began to include distinct private areas, protected from the public.

Early 1900s: Interest in edible gardening dropped as manufacturing jobs drew Americans to urban areas. Home gardens became more natural looking, with softened lines and landscapes that 'connected' home landscapes. Trend-setting American garden designers started using native plants previously considered too weed-like, instead of new, nursery-cultivated varieties.



1910-1930: New garden styles from England influenced U.S. home gardens. Large, billowing beds of perennials came into vogue, along with "outdoor living rooms". Lawns grew larger, framed by boundaries of massed shrubs, and "foundation plantings" close to the house grew in popularity.

1940s: World War II brought U.S. home gardeners back to the vegetable patch, reviving an interest in the "war gardens" of an earlier generation. During WWII, urban community gardens took on new life. President Franklin D. Roosevelt urged every American household to fight food shortages with a home garden. By 1943, 20 million "victory gardens" supplied more than 40 percent of all American produce grown that year. However, the interest in vegetable gardens and orchards waned with the war's conclusion.

1950s and Early 1960s: Innovations in post-war technology simplified home gardening and improved home gardeners' success. New gardening product introductions, such as insecticides and fungicides, gave home gardeners the "upper hand" against pests and diseases.

1970s: The creation of Earth Day in 1970 renewed interest in growing produce at home and raised questions about the pesticides and insecticides used by an earlier generation. Garden designers started mingling vegetables and fruits in with ornamentals in formal designs, and "edible landscaping" started to take hold. Urban community gardens became more widespread, as did an interest in organic gardening.

1980s: Gardens became extensions of the home instead of separate areas, and "outdoor rooms" came back in style. In 1981, the term "xeriscape" was coined for landscapes containing water-wise plants in dry climates. Low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, native plants became more prominent in home gardens.

1990s: Interest in small-space gardening soared as urban populations grew at the fastest rate in history. Containers, trellises and permanent planters built into hardscapes became the new home garden for Americans with small, private urban spaces.

Early 2000s: Edible gardens came back to the forefront — and the front yard — as Americans became more health-conscious and the desire for fresh, locally-grown food grew. By 2013, one-third of all American households reported growing food.

Much like the dooryard gardens of Early America, today's home gardens brim with edibles and herbs, but flowers and native plants add interest to utility in distinctly American ways.