

ST. LOUIS URBAN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017, 9 AM-12 PM



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

Good Soil: The Key to a Thriving Garden – Creating a healthy garden or lawn requires healthy soil. Different plants prefer different soil conditions and knowing the nutrient content, physical properties, pH and contaminants present in your soil are important for the health of your plants. Sounds daunting, but Nathan makes it easier to understand.

Designing a Garden for Sun or Shade – Whether your garden will be basking in the sun or chilling in the shade, discover which flowers will keep your garden blooming from spring through fall. Scott will cover tips and tricks to create your desired garden design. Plus you can learn about common garden design mistakes and how to avoid them when dealing with sun and shade.

Native Annuals, Perennials & Grasses – Learn how and why native plants are more beneficial to your landscape than exotic species. Also, learn how to enrich diversity in your garden, select plants for four seasons of color and interest, plus offer food and shelter for wildlife.

Neighbors Naturescaping Program Review – Find out how Brightside’s Neighbors Naturescaping program enables groups to apply for up to \$1,500 in native plant material and tools to establish or enhance a community garden in St. Louis city public or nonprofit spaces. Find out strategies from planning to volunteer recruitment and gaining community support. For more information about Neighbors Naturescaping, visit <http://www.brightsidestl.org/what-we-do/neighbors-naturescaping/>.

Aliens in the Garden – Plants that grow and reproduce quickly or spread aggressively with the potential to cause harm to the ecosystem are called invasive species, or “aliens in the garden.” Learn about the worst species invading our area, why they are a problem and the best native alternatives to replace them.

Plant Healthcare Philosophy – Weeds, pests and disease can wreak havoc on a garden. Discover the best management practices for keeping your plants healthy and your garden looking its best. Learn to identify common problems and culprits and how to minimize damage to your plants.

Composting – Creating a composting system is a great way to recycle your food and yard waste into valuable materials for your garden. Compost provides benefits such as valuable soil nutrients, moisture retention, weed suppression, prevents soil erosion, and loosens clay or compacted soils for better drainage. Learn about different methods of composting that you can use in your own garden.

Rain Gardening & Storm Water Management – Installing a rain garden is an effective way to manage storm water while also providing food and shelter beneficial to wildlife. Learn which native plants are best suited for rain gardens. Have a low spot in your yard? Don't change the landscape; select the right plants for the right place.

Gardening for Pollinators – Beneficial insects help bring balance to a garden's ecosystem, leading to healthier and more productive plants. Learn about these amazing creatures and how you can create native habitats that will attract them to your garden.

Gardening for Butterflies – Did you know most butterfly species co-evolved with one specific plant that they rely on for food? Find out which native trees, shrubs and perennials are hosts to which butterflies and how you can incorporate them into your garden.

Gardening for Birds – Birds are beautiful and fun to watch. Find out which trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses our winged friends prefer for food and shelter and see what these plants look like growing in our Demonstration Garden.

Gardening in the Summer Heat – The St. Louis heat can make it difficult for plants to survive all summer. Learn tips and tricks to keep your native and produce gardens healthy and thriving throughout the summer months.

Native Shrubs & Small Trees – This workshop will look at the best shrubs and small native trees for our local environment, both in terms of beauty and the positive impact they have on our ecosystem. Learn how to choose the right tree or shrub for your planting location as well as their overall size, fall color, spring blooms and wildlife value.

Care & Maintenance for Woody Plants – Learn how to properly monitor and care for trees and shrubs. Some of the topics that will be discussed include mulching, watering and corrective actions for basic tree health issues.

Proper Planting – Successful plantings start at the very beginning. Learn how site preparation and planting make a significant difference to the success of your garden and add value for many years to come.

Pruning Woody Plants – Discover pruning tools and techniques to help your trees and shrubs grow strong and healthy. Learn the best time to prune and how your plants benefit from regular pruning yet can suffer from bad pruning practices.