

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

No-Weed/Fertile-Soil Workshop: Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Spring is the time to set yourself up for a low maintenance and productive gardening experience. This year spend your time tending to vegetables rather than tending the weeds! And don't let the weeds steal your plants' water and nutrients.

Mark Johnson will cover a collection of complementary gardening techniques that will increase your gardening enjoyment and productivity throughout the season. With these techniques you will build soil fertility and water holding capacity, as well as protect the natural soil organisms, discourage weed growth, and set up your garden to start weed-free in the spring.

Specifically, you will learn how to design the beds and pathways to use the No-Till method, you will learn how to structure your garden to protect it from weeds, and you will find out how you can use organic mulching of pathways/beds to suppress weeds and improve the soil. And you will discover a method for fall bed preparation to reduce soil compaction, leaching of nutrients, and spring weed growth. You will be ready to plant again next spring with no tilling or spring prep!

For this workshop, we will meet at the Dowling Community Garden tool shed. No need to bring anything (except a mask and possibly a folding chair). Please RSVP by April 20 if interested at markustschonson@gmail.com.

Mark Johnson has been learning to garden at Dowling for 14 years and credits practical experience in the garden, independent research, and the continuing wisdom shared by his fellow-gardeners for his successes over the years.

Growing Strawberries: Saturday, May 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Online)

Are you considering growing strawberries, or are you already growing them but want a better yield? In this class we'll cover selection of cultivars, planting, fertilizing, renovation and winter protection. We'll also talk a bit about pests. Join us and learn some simple tasks to increase your berry size and yield! After the session, there will be time for questions/answers.

This workshop will be held online via Zoom at <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/98234486315>

Meeting ID: 982 3448 6315

Passcode: 529358

Please contact Anna at annam2323@gmail.com if you have any trouble accessing the workshop via Zoom.

Deb Reiersen has been gardening at Dowling for 5 years. She has been growing vegetables and fruit for over 35 years. In her fruit line-up are strawberries, sour cherries, red currants, rhubarb, and apricots. She lives in the Longfellow neighborhood and is a Hennepin County Master Gardener.

Pruning Tomatoes: Saturday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pruning tomato plants is so important, but it's a task that most of us put off until it's too late. Pruning helps keep your plants healthy and increases yield. Join us to learn how to prune tomato plants, when to prune, and what to do with those diseased leaves. After the session, there will be time for questions/answers.

This workshop will be held in the Dowling Community Garden, plot #100. No need to bring anything (except a mask and possibly a folding chair). If you can't make it to the workshop but would like resources, feel free to reach out to Deb at reierson.deb@gmail.com.

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