

MSU IN BLOOM

MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Poinsettia Sale (virtual)

November 30-December 23

Spring Plant Sale (virtual)

May 2021

(shopping and pickup dates
yet to be determined)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

As we near Thanksgiving, we at the MSU Horticulture Gardens are thankful for our supporters and friends. Despite our COVID-19 struggles this year, including limited student labor and loss of most of our normal revenue, our wonderful Gardens' staff and volunteers really worked hard to keep the Gardens looking great in 2020. And that is why I love gardening and gardeners alike – they are hopeful activities and hopeful people. As we all readied our gardens for winter, we remember that in a few short months there will be green and blooms again. Some of us planted bulbs this fall in the hopes of beautiful early spring flowers. And we all hope that in the midst of this pandemic that life will return to 'normal' again soon.

COVID-19 CHALLENGES

Until then, we make the best of it. We could focus on the bad. Like how we had to cancel all our programming this year (our Spring Make & Take, Spring Plant Sale, and Garden Day) including those in the autumn and holiday seasons (Curious Gardener, our Family Holiday Open House, and other holiday events we host). We could focus on how we were not able to rent our venue for any summer weddings this past year and how it is highly unlikely we will be able to have any indoor events in our Conservatory for the remainder of this year or early next year. We could focus on how our membership numbers are down 29% (down 21% in revenue) as well. We could focus on how, because of the items above, we had to furlough our two full-time horticultural staff for November and December of this year.

NOT ALL IS DOOM AND GLOOM

But, as I strolled through our Gardens last week, I reflected on how resilient plants are (roses in glorious bloom in early November?!). And we will be resilient too. We will focus on the good and be hopeful. For instance, we were able to have a few very small outdoor weddings in the autumn with social distancing. Through your generous support we were able to keep our staff and students working throughout the growing season! We were able to host our first ever virtual plant sale this fall: our Fifth Annual Houseplant and Succulent Sale. We took online orders the first two weeks of October and customers scheduled pickup times during the third week of October. We learned a lot about this type of sale and plan to offer our Spring Plant Sale in a similar manner, but hopefully with a different online shopping system for a better customer experience.



A rose in full bloom on 9 November 2020 in our Rose Garden

We also can focus on other progress we made. For instance, this year we worked with MSU and they agreed to fix our brick walkway in the Judith A. DeLapa Perennial Garden. The outer bricks were 'rolling' into the lawn, posing a serious tripping hazard. The repair consists of installing concrete curbs to prevent the outer bricks from moving. Work began in October and will be finished this month.



In the Judith A. Delapa Perennial Gardens, outer bricks 'rolling', causing a significant trip hazard (left) are being repaired with concrete curbs that will prevent the outer bricks from moving (right).

CARE TO BE HOPEFUL WITH US?

Our Gardens are entirely funded on soft money (endowments, generous gifts, and our own fundraising activities like plant sales, programs, and venue rentals (weddings)). One way to support the MSU Horticulture Gardens is to purchase a yearly membership. Our 2021 memberships are now available. Remember the primary benefit of a membership at our Gardens is to receive reciprocal admission to hundreds of American Horticulture Reciprocal Gardens across the U.S. Most of these reciprocal gardens were open this past summer and we anticipate the same will be true for 2021. We fully expect to host our 2021 Spring Plant Sale, albeit in a virtual format, where members will receive a 10% discount, get to purchase earlier than the public, and have first dibs at pickup times. An additional benefit this year is that all memberships will receive a 20% off coupon to White Flower Farms! For more information, and to purchase a membership, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/garden_memberships. For other ways to help, visit our Garden Giving Page at https://www.canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens/Donate-to-the-Gardens/.



2021 GARDEN MEMBERSHIP

BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING & EVENT COORDINATOR

It's that time of year again! Garden Memberships are currently available for January 1-December 31, 2021. A special benefit of the Garden Membership program is the FREE admission and discounts to the American Horticulture Society Reciprocal Gardens. Take your membership card with you when traveling to enjoy over 330 Gardens participating in this program. As an added benefit for 2021, all members will receive 20% off one order at White Flower Farm (simply return the postcard included in your member packet). While our in-person programming is on-hold, we continue to maintain the Gardens for your enjoyment and hope you see the value in supporting our efforts. A portion of your membership fee is tax deductible! Become a member at www.hrt.msu.edu/join. If you prefer a hard copy of the brochure, you can download it here or email hgardens@msu.edu and we would be happy to mail you one.

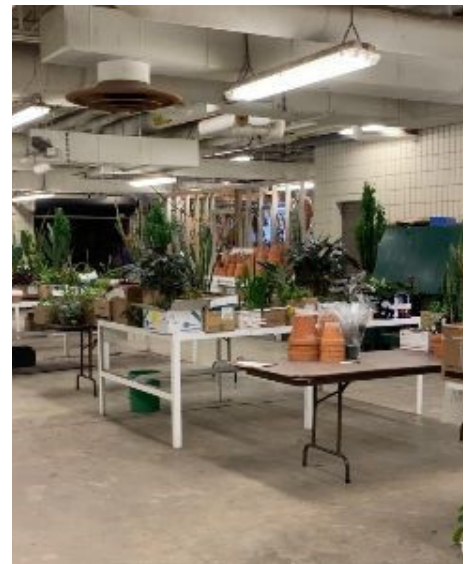


2020 HOUSEPLANT & SUCCULENT SALE

BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING & EVENT COORDINATOR

While we were unable to see you in person at our 5th Annual Houseplant & Succulent Sale, we were able to offer 300+ varieties of houseplants, succulents and cacti for purchase online. There were several members waiting online when the sale began and their orders flooded in! We appreciate your support!

This sale normally provides roughly 8% of our annual funding. Amidst the craziness surrounding us lately, we received 500 orders and roughly 5% of our annual funding. Despite this being our first virtual sale, it was a success! We learned a few lessons that will greatly increase our procedures and efficiency for future virtual sales.



2020 MSU HORTICULTURE
GARDEN

Poinsettia Sale

HOSTED BY THE MSU SURPLUS STORE



ORDER AT:

[HTTPS://MSUSURPLUSSTORE.COM/COLLECTIONS/ALL/POINSETTIA](https://msusurplusstore.com/collections/all/poinsettia)

SCHEDULE PICK UP UNTIL DECEMBER 23
CHOOSE FROM 3 COLORS \$6-7 EACH

**Poinsettias go on sale November 30th*

SUPPORT THE MSU GARDENS



<https://msusurplusstore.com/collections/all/poinsettia>



2021 SPRING PLANT SALE

BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING & EVENT COORDINATOR

The Annual Spring Plant Sale has been a Garden tradition for the past 25+ years and we normally see 2000 plant lovers from around the area. In recent years, we have offered 500+ varieties of annuals, perennials and vegetables. In 2020, we were forced to cancel the Spring Plant Sale due to COVID-19. Following the success of the Fall Houseplant & Succulent Sale, we are confident we can continue to provide a unique experience for our plant sale customers, whether in-person or online. Following the success of the Fall Houseplant & Succulent Sale, the Gardens Staff are preparing the Annual Spring Plant Sale as an online event. Watch our Plant Sale webpage or follow us on Facebook to keep up to date on the details of the sale.



CHRISTMAS TREE CLASSROOM-VIRTUAL EDITION

Every November staff and volunteers prepare to visit dozens of local classrooms for our Christmas Tree Classroom program. This year we have had to adapt to the program to accommodate local school changes due to Covid-19. So, Christmas Tree Classroom has gone virtual. For our virtual edition we will meet with students via zoom for a personal reading of a garden-based book and they will then create a unique virtual ornament. A second option is for students to watch our video recording of the book and then create a unique ornament. The student's ornaments will then be displayed on our website on virtual Christmas trees. We are excited about this virtual version of our program and are happy that we can continue to offer quality programming for teachers and students in these challenging times. Visit our website (4hgarden.msu.edu) to see the trees, after December 18.

