

National gardening statistics reveal that nearly 70 percent of adults participate in some form of gardening. Lawns and vegetable, fruit and flower gardens dot the landscape of residents young and old. Michigan gardeners work to create diverse, lush landscapes while employing the environmentally savvy skills that they learn through MSU Extension consumer horticulture programs and services such as the Master Gardener program.

MSU Extension educators and specialists also work with individuals and community leaders to provide customized programming and educational opportunities based on the latest evidence-based research and county-specific needs. We encourage you to contact your local MSU Extension office about crafting programming that is right for you, your family and your community.

Garden Hotline

Each year, thousands of Michigan gardeners use the MSU Extension Garden Hotline, 888-MSUE-4MI (888-678-3464), to help them make wise decisions about their garden, lawn and landscape problems. The toll-free number directs callers to a specialized team of Advanced Master Gardeners who can answer questions, identify plants and pest problems, and help callers understand their pest control options.

MSU Extension Master Gardener Program

The MSU Extension Master Gardener program is a horticulture education and volunteer leader training program that connects gardeners across the state to MSU's faculty and resources. Participants have access to information generated at one of the nation's top plant science teaching and research universities, and as part of the program, can use this knowledge to improve their communities and enrich their lives.

- **Master Gardener Volunteer Training.** MSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers start by completing a practical, 13-session curriculum grounded in university research. The training consists of about 45 hours of classes on plant science, soil science, integrated pest management, plant diagnostics, annuals and perennials, woody ornamentals, lawns, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits, household and nuisance pests, and gardening practices to protect water quality.
- **An Opportunity to Help Others.** After completing the training, Master Gardener trainees must complete at least 40 hours of volunteer, horticulture-related community service within one year to earn their MSU Extension Master Gardener certification. Their volunteer service could include activities such as drawing on what they learned in class to teach other gardeners; planning, planting and maintaining the gardens at a Michigan freeway rest stop; working with a 4-H club or group on gardening projects; or managing the activities at a community garden.





© iStockphoto.com/burwellphotography

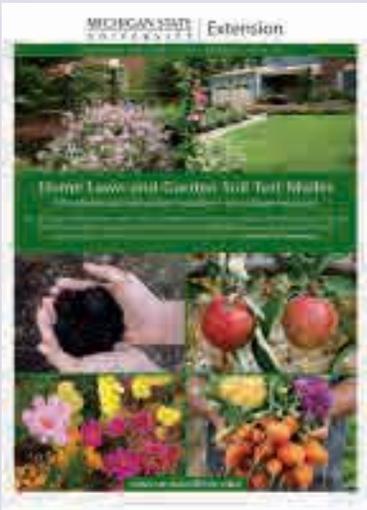
Smart Gardening

Many people tend gardens and care for their lawns, but not everyone knows how to approach these tasks in an environmentally friendly fashion that saves time and money. The MSU Extension Smart Gardening initiative connects people to simple messages that focus on these objectives. Smart Gardening resources include the tip sheets and videos available online at www.migarden.msu.edu, public outreach events, and daylong conferences on current gardening topics that are research-based, simple and earth-friendly.

Soil Testing

By having your soil tested through MSU's Soil and Plant Nutrient Lab, you can learn which nutrients are present at adequate levels for the plants you want to grow and which nutrients you'll need to add. MSU Extension's *Soil Test Kit Self-Mailer* and soil test interpretation website make it easy for you to be a great gardener while being environmentally responsible.

MSUE PUBLICATIONS



Soil Test Kit Self-Mailer

Soil testing is a recommended practice to avoid over-fertilizing plants. Applying the correct amount of fertilizer can save consumers money and protect Michigan's water resources. This kit comes complete with everything you'll need to submit a soil sample for testing by the MSU Soils Laboratory. Simply follow the instructions, put the completed form and soil sample in the postage-paid envelope and your results will be sent to you by email.

bookstore.msue.msu.edu



Photo courtesy of MSU Communications and Brand Strategy

Turf

MSU Extension performs applied research and develops educational programs and resources to address the needs of turfgrass professionals and homeowners. Michigan has a diverse turfgrass industry that includes golf courses, athletic fields, sod farms, residential lawns, commercial landscapes and school grounds. MSU Extension works seamlessly with several allied industry partners, including the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF), to deliver educational programs to turfgrass professionals.

Michigan Turfgrass Conference

The Michigan Turfgrass Conference, held annually in cooperation with the MTF, offers more than 20 hours of educational programming directed at golf course superintendents, professional lawn care operators, athletic field managers, sod growers and grounds managers.

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day

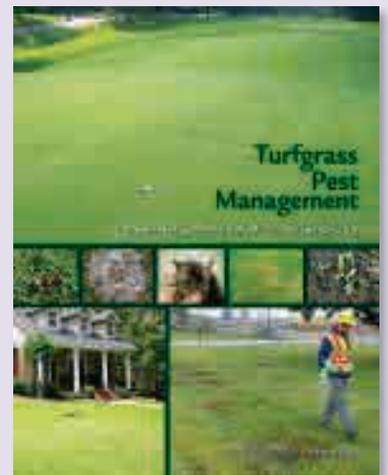
This event is held in cooperation with the MTF and the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center on the MSU campus. The one-day program held each August highlights ongoing turfgrass research projects being conducted by the turfgrass faculty at MSU and includes hands-on pest identification.

Turf School

Turf School is a four-day basic course for people who are new to the turfgrass industry. Turf School educates attendees on turfgrass selection, soils, nutrition, fertilizers, and pest identification and management. Turf School is held every other year.



MSUE PUBLICATIONS



Turfgrass Pest Management for Commercial Applicators in Category 3A

This 144-page book contains basic scientific information and practical solutions to pest control problems. It provides the information readers need to become Michigan certified commercial applicators in Category 3A, Turfgrass Pests. It's also useful to homeowners and others who are interested in learning more about managing turfgrass pests.

bookstore.msue.msu.edu