

(cover story continued)

preferred and used this information to help plan their cropping schedule. Moving forward, CHEP staff and askiy interns plan to continue working in collaboration with several local restaurants in order to grow selected crops. Early this past season, interns also expressed a desire to provide more fresh produce to the community members who live in the area surrounding the farm. To address this, the interns planned two “Pick Your Own Produce” events where community members were toured through the farm



site on 20th Street West. Interested parties were provided with information on what types of crops were being grown, techniques utilized to maximize yield, and were also given assistance with the hand harvesting of fresh produce. What made these events even more impactful was the “pay

what you can” purchasing structure which directly contributed to the ability of some to access fresh, healthy produce. These events, entirely conceived by the youth interns, directly connected many Saskatoon residents to their food, giving individuals the chance to gain a new perspective of our food system, all the way from farm to fork. CHEP Good Food is currently developing a sustainability plan for the askiy project and looks forward to an even more productive growing season in 2017.



To find out more about the askiy project, including how to become involved as a volunteer or 2017 askiy intern, please email backyardgardens@chep.org or visit us online at www.chep.org/en/programs/urbanag

HORT BOOK CLUB

Our little book club is growing! Book club meets every 6-8 weeks at a member’s home, with the host choosing the upcoming book. If you’re interested in joining us for nature and garden related conversation, eat good food, and share interesting stories, please email gardening@usask.ca to join. Upcoming books include “Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes” by West and Rainer and “The Discovery of Jeanne Baret” by Glynis Ridley.

VOLUNTEER

If you’d like to make a difference in your community through gardening, please see our website at gardening.usask.ca/volunteer for opportunities with local people and charitable organizations who need your help!



For program questions please contact us at gardening@usask.ca or by phone at 306.966.5546



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NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2017

GARDENING AT THE U OF S

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THE ASKÎY PROJECT

GROW WHERE YOU’VE NEVER GROWN BEFORE

CHEP Good Food is a Saskatoon based not-for-profit, charitable organization that works with children, families and communities to improve access to good food and promote food security. Programming related to urban agriculture has long been a part of CHEP’s focus, with 46 community gardens and 20 Backyard Garden sharing plots currently being supported across Saskatoon. More recently, CHEP Good Food began to focus some of its attention on the importance of providing new opportunities for youth to learn more about urban food production.

Developed in 2014, the askiy project (*askiy* is a Cree term that translates to “earth” or “land”) is an urban agriculture internship that, to date, has seen 13 young people complete its curriculum. Situated on a one-third acre “brownfield” (potentially contaminated) site in the heart of Saskatoon, this past year 4 new interns and 1 returning from last season worked together to learn the basics of planning and operating an urban container farm. While the project’s purpose is to demonstrate the possibilities of urban agriculture by educating and empowering



Saskatoon youth with the knowledge and skills needed to create a self-sustainable food economy. Marketing strategies, public relations, team work, Cree language teachings, community outreach, autonomy, money management, partnership development, cultural integration, life skills, and many other learning outcomes were exemplified throughout the internship.

In the first two seasons interns predominantly sold their produce at the Saskatoon Farmers’ Market and at a number of pop-up fresh food markets in Station 20 West. New this season, interns were able to sit down with local chefs to determine which crops would be most

(story continued on back cover)

SPRING RENEWAL



**SATURDAY MARCH 4,
9:00 am–4:00 pm**

**\$85.00 plus GST for all day Saturday
including lunch**

**\$50.00 plus GST for either
morning or afternoon session,
no lunch provided**

Welcome a new gardening year with updates from Dutch Growers, Early’s Farm & Garden, and the U of S on what is new in the garden industry.

For our keynote presentation, Sara Williams introduces us to the plants and gardens she visited while in Iceland. More than “Fire and Ice” (happy horses and hidden people), Iceland is a land where lupins, ladies mantle and larch colonize recent lava flows; where sidewalks, homes and greenhouses are heated geothermally; where permaculture and reforestation are widely practiced; and gardeners struggle (and succeed) with a growing season as short as that of the Canadian Prairies.

For the afternoon, choose one of the below:

Heritage Plants and Prairie Horticultural Pioneers

Sara Williams; Author and Retired Horticulturist, U of S

Saturday, March 4, 1:00–4:00 pm

If you’ve ever wondered what plants would have been available to Prairie gardeners prior to World War I, or if you’re thinking of creating a “heritage garden”, here are some of the answers. And where would we be without the breeding work of such pioneers as Frank Skinner, Henry Marshall, Cecil Patterson, Bert Porter, Les Kerr and Percy Wright? Discover their introductions (‘Thunderchild’ flowering crabapple, ‘Scarlet Trumpet’ Honeysuckle, ‘Adelaide Hoodless’ rose and many more) and their stories.

Indoor Gardening: Growing Vegetables, Microgreens and Sprouts in Your Home

Jackie Bantle; Horticulturist, U of S

Saturday, March 4, 1:00–4:00 pm

Do you have an interest in eating fresh lettuce, herbs and other veggies grown right in your own home year round? Whether it is sprouting seeds, producing microgreens or growing full size lettuce, kale or spinach, this class will discuss everything about indoor food gardening from seeding to harvest.

UPCOMING CLASSES

MGCC denotes Master Gardener Core Course.

Note: Lunch is not available in the Ag Building on weekends, either plan to bring lunch or to leave campus. Parking is available in the Ag Building underground parkade at \$4/exit on weekends.

Backyard Vegetable Gardening

Jackie Bantle; Horticulturist, U of S

Thursday, April 6, 7:00–9:30 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

How do you get the best harvest in our limited growing season? Designed for beginning and intermediate gardeners, this class will teach the basics of vegetable gardening from planning and planting to harvest along with suggestions for timelines and long term storage.

Garden Fundamentals (MGCC)

Vanessa Young; U of S Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Saturday, April 22 & Sunday, April 23, 9:00 am–4:00 pm,

\$150.00 plus GST (Includes materials)

Understanding basic horticulture will help you solve many common problems as you grow your gardening experience. This two-day workshop is packed with practical hands-on activities. Learn the basics of soils, climate, plant nutrition, botany, mulches and watering. This is a great class for new gardeners and gardeners new to Saskatchewan.

Register online at gardening.usask.ca or call us at **306.966.5539**
For more information, please email gardening@usask.ca

Common Plant Diseases (MGCC)

Jill Thomson; Horticulturist, U of S

Thursday, April 27, 6:30–9:30 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

Learn how to identify common diseases found in the landscape. Disease life cycles, prevention and control will be discussed. *(Please note adjusted class time.)*

Garden Design: Two-Day Intensive

Natalie Walliser; Planner and Landscape Architect, U of S

Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30, 9:00 am–4:00 pm,

\$150.00 plus GST (Includes materials)

Are you wondering how to create the yard of your dreams? Whether you’re just starting out or looking to refresh a much-loved garden, this two day course will explore the design tools you need to create a beautiful and functional space.

Deciduous and Coniferous Trees for your Landscape

Linda Matthews; Retired Horticulturist, U of S

Friday, May 5, 7:00–9:30 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

This course is designed to assist you with choosing woody plants for the landscape. Plant characteristics such as size, form, branching habit, density and texture, seasonal foliage colour and fruit and flower characteristics will be discussed.

Safe Use of Pesticides and Alternatives (MGCC)

Ellen Misfeldt; Horticulturist, U of S

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 am–noon, \$50.00 plus GST

We believe that all gardeners should avoid using pesticides whenever possible, regardless if they are organic or synthetic in origin. However as a Master Gardener, you still need to understand how to use all pesticides intelligently to minimize harm to you and the environment. This half-day course covers pesticide formulations, toxicity, persistence, and labeling and safety practices. Prevention is always the best defense so alternatives to pesticide use are briefly discussed. **NOTE:** It is recommended to have taken Garden Fundamentals prior to taking this course.

Botanical Latin (MGCC)

Vanessa Young; U of S Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Saturday, May 6, 1:00–4:00 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

Botanical Latin was developed for the naming and describing plants. This entertaining workshop is designed for those who have no knowledge of classical Latin. Understanding how our plant naming system works will assist you when selecting plants. **NOTE:** This course is a prerequisite for other core courses.

Communications (MGCC)

Vanessa Young; U of S Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Sunday, May 7, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, \$75.00 plus GST

As Master Gardeners, we’re often visible in the community sharing our horticultural knowledge with other gardening enthusiasts. This course will give you the tools to hone your verbal and written communication skills to ensure a successful volunteer experience.

Australia & New Zealand Plants for Canadian Gardeners

Lyndon Penner; Author

Friday, May 12, 7:00–9:30 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

From a botanical perspective, Australia and New Zealand are both outstanding destinations. Strange flowers pollinated by birds and possums, unusual trees adapted to dealing with fire, and some of the largest ferns in the world call these two nations home. What can Canadian gardeners do with plants from so far away? The truth is that many plants from these countries can be used here as excellent annuals, container specimens, and seasonal accents. Some also make for good houseplants. If you’ve always wanted to do a botanical tour of the South Pacific, this is the next best thing!

Container Plants: The Big Six

Lyndon Penner; Author

Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am–noon, \$50.00 plus GST

The most used container plants on the Canadian prairies are petunias, geraniums, marigolds, alyssum, lobelia, and the dracaena spike. Many gardeners (including Lyndon) are bored to death with this arrangement, but some have been using these six for literally decades! Is it time to take a fresh look at these often overused and uninspiring plants? We think so! Lyndon is going to explore in depth these common flowers and see if we can’t find new ways to use them or new varieties of them to try!

Land of the Rising Sun: Botanical Treasures of Japan

Lyndon Penner; Author

Saturday, May 13, 1:00–4:00 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

Blessed with a great diversity of landscapes and climates, Japan is home to a great many conifers, grasses, evergreen shrubs, and bamboos. Japanese gardens are popular throughout the world and have a distinct feel; due in large part to the plant choices and how and where they are used. This class will focus on a great many of the trees and foliage plants that are native to Japan- some of which are hardy, some of which are not- but all of which are beautiful and worth getting to know. Which Japanese plants are suitable for prairie gardens as well as some alternatives for those which are not will be discussed. If you’ve ever found yourself curious about the plants of Asia, this is a class just for you.

Iris

Lyndon Penner; Author

Sunday, May 14, 9:00 am–noon, \$50.00 plus GST

It’s been more than a decade since we’ve had a class on iris so we’ve decided it’s time to revisit them! This will be a celebration of all things iris-bearded irises, Siberians, bulbous irises, aquatic irises, and more! Lyndon will take you on a journey through their history and significance, as well as their care and maintenance requirements. Whether you are new to growing irises or have been enjoying them for years, this will be an excellent class that you’ll want to attend!

Orange, Orange, ORANGE!

Lyndon Penner; Author

Sunday, May 14, 1:00–4:00 pm, \$50.00 plus GST

Orange has to be the least used and the most badly used colour available to us. Many gardeners have a certain disdain for this cheery hue, most often because they have seen it used badly. The goal with this class is to help you widen your acceptance of this bold and stimulating colour, and to help you choose plants that offer this glorious shade in all its various nuances. Apricot, copper, bronze, pumpkin, and tangerine are all tones of this many splendored and versatile colour, and we’d like to help you use it in your garden!

Low Water Gardening

Sara Williams; Author and Retired Horticulturist, U of S

Thursday, May 25, 7:00–9:30 pm, FREE

This presentation will cover the principals of xeriscape (design ideas that conserve water, soil improvement, efficient irrigation, reducing conventional lawn areas, and mulching) as well as some of the hundreds of hardy and drought tolerant trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and bulbs available tor prairie gardens.

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Insects in Your Yard and Garden (MGCC)

Cedric Gillott; Professor Emeritus, U of S

Saturday, May 27, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, \$75.00 plus GST

The morning will be spent identifying various species of insects based on their characteristic traits. The afternoon features a guided campus walkabout where you will inspect insects and their damage. **NOTE:** Botanical Latin is recommended as a prerequisite.

Tree and Shrub Identification (MGCC)

Ellen Misfeldt; Horticulturist, U of S

Sunday, May 28, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, \$85.00 plus GST (Includes text)

Study the trees and shrubs most commonly used in landscape designs. The on-campus tour will allow you to observe and identify trees and shrubs planted in a landscape. **NOTE:** Garden Fundamentals and Botanical Latin are prerequisites.

