

Upcoming Programs

Winter 2023



 January 19 7:00-8:00pm	Green Thumbs: House Plants <i>Selden</i>
 March 2 1:00-4:00pm	Seed Sorting Party <i>Centereach</i>
 March 15 7:00-8:00pm	Backyard Berries <i>via Zoom</i>
 March 20 6:30-7:30pm	Local Eats: Precious Peas <i>Centerach</i>
 March 22 7:30-8:30pm	Seed Exchange & Celebration <i>Centerach</i>

MCPL SEED LIBRARY SEASONAL LEAFLET

Seed Exchange & Celebration

If you saved seeds from the Fall and would like to share them with other gardeners, we hope you will join us at our Annual Seed Exchange on March 22nd at 7pm in Centereach. Our Seed Exchange is an ideal time to learn about different plants and obtain new seeds for your garden. This year we will also be highlighting the importance of adding Milkweed to your garden in effort to help pollinators like the Monarch Butterfly. Participants will receive a Milkweed plug to take home. Everyone is welcome to this program even if you do not have seeds to share.



Visit our Seed Library webpage for more information.

<https://www.mcplibrary.org/adults/seed-library>



#MCPLSeedLibrary

Winter 2023



Issue 1

Hello GARDENERS



About the Seed Library

The MCPL Seed Library started in 2018. Since its inception the Seed Library has grown in popularity and size; we now offer over 50 varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers. We are always exploring new seeds to add to our collection. This year, we will be adding Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and other native flowers like Columbine, Tiger Paw Aster, and Northeast Native Wildflower Seed Mix. These seeds along with many others will be available by March just in time for the Spring!

Our New Newsletter

We are proud to bring you our first MCPL Seed Library Newsletter. The mission of the newsletter is to inform our patrons about the availability of seeds, gardening resources, informative gardening books, and upcoming gardening and nature programs. We would also love to hear from you! Our community has many avid gardeners and we invite you to share gardening tips and tricks as well as pictures from your garden. To participate, email Amber Gagliardi at gagliardiamber@mcplib.org. Submissions for our Spring Seed Library Newsletter are due March 1, 2023.

Winter Gardening

The winter is an ideal time to start dreaming and planning your garden. It's also an excellent time to stop into the library and browse our gardening section. We have so many wonderful books to get you inspired! You can also check out the Lady Bird Johnson website: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - The Botanic Garden of Texas. (www.wildflower.org) On this website, there is a notable database for Native Plants where you can find a list of native plants for each region. The database also has pictures of each variety, which is helpful for plant identification (and we all love looking at plants!). A fun website for creative gardening with lots of garden related crafts is Garden Therapy: Home - Garden Therapy Founder Stephanie Rose publishes a free newsletter that is filled with terrific resources and ideas. She has also written several books, which the library owns! (gardentherapy.ca)

The winter is also the perfect time to give your house plants some extra love! It's now a great time to repot your plants, propagate them or give them a new location! We've included some resources about houseplants and invite you to our Green Thumbs: House Plants program on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7pm in Selden.

HOUSEPLANT OF THE SEASON



Ivy (*Hedera Helix*), an often overlooked but easy to grow houseplant. With nine leaf forms, dozens of green varieties, as well as yellow, white and tri-color variegated varieties, your choices are endless.

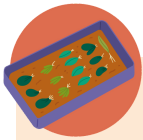


Ivies grow in a wide range of light conditions; medium or filtered light is best with variegated forms needing more light. Ivies prefer well-drained soil and don't like to be soggy, so be sure to let the soil dry out between watering. Feeding Ivies once a month during the warmer months with indoor houseplant fertilizer is best. Ivies are excellent in pots and hanging baskets, can complement any décor and be a lovely addition to your home.

Care:

LIGHT- Ivy can grow in a wide range of light conditions. Variegated forms will need more light than green forms. Medium or filtered light is best.
WATER - Keep your Ivies moist, but not wet and soggy. If you're not sure, it won't hurt to let them dry a little between watering. Ivies like humidity, so mist or stand them on pebble trays if possible.
FEEDING - Any houseplant fertilizer is fine, follow manufacturer's directions. Keep the food off the leaves as it can cause burning.

TYPES OF PROPAGATION



Leaf propagation

This method is when you remove a healthy leaf from a plant and use it to grow new plants. You can either cut or pluck the leaf off the mother plant and place it on the surface of potting soil or on a layer of sphagnum moss. If it works, the original leaf will shrivel up and the new offsets will grow.



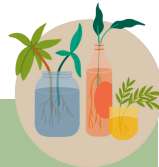
Air layering

This is when you wrap a medium, like moist sphagnum moss, around the node or knuckle of a plant. You then tape cling wrap around it to enclose the moss around the knuckle. After a few weeks, the knuckle will have sprouted roots, and then you can cut beneath the node and pot your newly rooted plant. Remember, you're not cutting anything off until those roots grow from the node. This way, you are taking advantage of that node, hoping for it to root while it's still attached to the mother plant.



Division from offsets or pups

This to one of the easiest ways to propagate. The primary, or mama plant, will produce little offsets (babies), which you can then separate at the root. The best way to take the cuttings is to unpot the plant, clear the soil off the base, and use a pair of clean shears or a knife to make a cut (horizontally, side to side) about 1 inch down the baby plant's main stem, allowing the pup to have some roots. You want to take as much plant from the mother as possible so your baby has a good chance of success. I also suggest waiting until the offset has grown 2 to 3 inches before removing it from its mama. Think of the offsets as still being attached to the mother's umbilical cord: You want to make sure the mother supplies it with enough nutrients for the baby plant to grow strong after you separate them. After you cut your pup, you can place it in the soil or in moist sphagnum moss, or use a water propagation method.



Cuttings

This propagation type is when you take clean shears and cut under a node or knuckle of a plant. From there, you can pop those cuttings into water, wrap them with sphagnum moss, or use a combination of water and HydroBalls, or water and perlite. When propagating with cuttings, you want to encourage new root growth. Once those new roots have grown 2 to 3 inches long, you can put the cuttings into soil. Keep the soil on the moist side for two weeks, then continue by meeting the plant's natural care needs.

Small Space, Big Impact- Clear Your Countertops

If space is tight, or you just want to add a bit of interest to your walls, here are two ways to elevate your potted plants. They will be heavy, especially after they've been watered, so make sure that whatever hanging style you select, you drill into a stud or use a wall anchor.

Wall Hook

This vintage "woven" metal cachepot is the perfect foil to the large, simple shapes of Hoya obovata planted in a simple terra-cotta pot. The pretty copper hook it's hanging from is from Terrain, but you could easily paint a generic hardware-store hook whatever tone you'd like. After installing your hook, measure the radius of the pot you'd like to hang (the length from the center to one of its edges) and compare that to the distance from the end of the hook to the wall to be sure there is enough clearance. Care tip: If you're often sautéing on your stovetop, your plants may soon bear a layer of kitchen grime. Keep them clean by gently wiping them occasionally with a damp, soft rag.



Loop Hanger

This iron loop hanger (readily available in garden sections of hardware stores) conjures up images of brightly colored pelargoniums hanging en masse on the side of an old French farmhouse. But who says it has to be used outside? To complete the rustic vibe, plant your specimen in a simple terra-cotta pot. Here the Swedish ivy (*Plectranthus ciliatus*) was kept in its original grow pot and placed into the terra-cotta container (which was itself lined in plastic) to prevent dirty water from dripping onto the counter after watering.

Featured Seed! Swamp Milkweed



#MCPLSeedLibrary

The large, rose-colored clusters of flowers, smelling fragrantly of vanilla, sit atop upright, branching stems. Although usually a swamp plant, this milkweed grows surprisingly well in medium, regular garden soil. It is a great addition to any perennial wildflower garden. The swamp milkweed serves as an excellent nectar source for visiting insects including butterflies, bees, wasps, ants, flies, moths, beetles and bugs.

These milkweed bloom in July-August. They should be directly sown in fall or early winter into a clean, prepared bed. Or, for spring sowing, sow in deep seed-starting pots about 1/4" deep, in rich, damp soil. Cover and refrigerate for 3 weeks. Afterwards, move to a 70-degree, well-lit spot for germination, which can take up to 14 days. Transplant outdoors after frost in a moist to average soil area that can remain a milkweed patch for years.

Source: Hudsonvalleyseed.com

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES RELY ON THIS PLANT AS A HOST FOR THEIR CATERpillARS.



Support butterflies with this summer-blooming beauty!

WE WILL BE HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDING MILKWEED TO YOUR GARDEN AT OUR SEED EXCHANGE & CELEBRATION ON MARCH 22ND IN EFFORT TO HELP POLLINATORS LIKE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY.

PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A MILKWEED PLUG TO TAKE HOME.



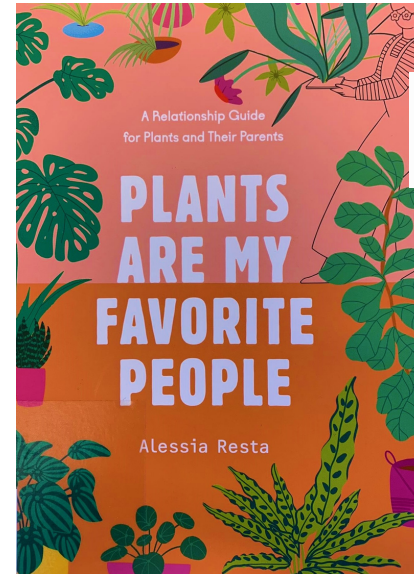
Check out these great reads!

DECORATING WITH PLANTS BY BAYLOR CHAPMAN

As we begin the New Year, many of us are looking to simplify and de-clutter. We recommend *Decorating with Plants* to give you clever design ideas and inspiration for adding plants to every room in your home, including adding interest to your walls and clearing your countertops.



Nonfiction
635.965 CHAPMAN



PLANTS ARE MY FAVORITE PEOPLE BY ALESSIA RESTA

Anyone can be a plant parent, no matter where you live, how small your space is, or how busy you are. With this book, you'll learn how to keep and grow a collection with your unique parenting style. During the winter, consider adding to your plant family with some great propagation ideas.

Nonfiction
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