

Across Prairies & Pines

South Dakota Master Gardener Newsletter Spring 2009

<http://hortmg.sdstate.edu>



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Greetings from SDSU Extension:

Summer is here - finally bringing warmth after a chilly spring. Depending on where you live, you may have seen chill damage this year on cold-sensitive crops. Chill damage occurs when warm-season crops such as melons, tomatoes, peppers, etc. are exposed to temperatures below 50 degrees F for a prolonged period. If it warms up during the day, much of the damage from a cool night will be repaired, but if it stays cool, the damage will accumulate over time. I've seen numerous tomato and melon samples this year from plants put out in early to mid-May (after that one very warm spell) that were subsequently damaged either directly by chill damage, or by pathogens that took advantage of a suffering plant. Symptoms can include anything from marginal leaf desiccation (brown or black) to general chlorosis to lack of growth (or "sulking" in non-scientific terms!). The good news is that if they make it through without major damage, they will generally recover eventually with warmer weather. However, seeds or transplants planted at the proper time will almost always overtake or at least equal growth of chill-damaged plants, so unless you like to gamble a bit, patience will usually pay off!

Master Gardener training is already finished in Brookings and Sioux Falls, and Wagner, Hot Springs and Selby will be finished by mid-July, with 110 new Master Gardener trainees! Please welcome these new volunteers and help them make good use of their skills. We will be contacting those of you from previous years who still need to get your fifty hours service. Now is a good time to get those hours in, so contact your local office or one of the horticulture educators, or me, if you're having trouble finding volunteer opportunities, and I'm sure we can find something!

One of the best parts of my job is hearing all the wonderful ways in which so many of you are volunteering as Master Gardeners. I'm very proud of the work that you all do! I'm awed when I hear the stories of how you've worked to introduce the next generation to the wonders of growing their own food, or helped establish community gardens, or educated others on what they can grow and how they can help plants flourish, or many, many more projects. Keep up the good work!

Beginning July 20, I will be working out of the West River Ag Center in Rapid City, and my mailing address will become: SDSU West River Agricultural Center, 1905 Plaza Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57702-9302, phone 605-394-2236. My email address will remain rhoda.burrows@sdstate.edu. I will maintain my current job title and responsibilities - so I'll still be seeing all you East River MG's - hopefully at the Sioux Falls Update in September, if not before.

Dr Rhoda Burrows

Greetings from the President:

Hi Gardeners,

Here we are in the new season, and I hope you are enjoying it. The lilacs were glorious in our yard and the downy paintbrush are covering some of the pasture hill tops. The smell of both are so good, I think.

Good luck with all your club and individual projects this summer. We've had two interesting sessions in our arboretum series in Mobridge. Jeanne Weigum was here working on the arboretum, and we're cleaning the pond and mending the leak (not in the ponds themselves). Wish it had been warmer.

Remember Elaine Ebbert, the speaker from Rapid City who spoke at our last update about mushrooms in our area? I convinced my husband to try looking for morel mushrooms with me. We found one right along the path. I think it was waving at us till we noticed. Anyway we took this bit of goodness home, sautéed it in butter, and enjoyed it along with a glass of wine.

See you this fall.

Shirley Masteller

South Dakota Master Gardener Endowment Awards Eleven Grants

Congratulations to the eleven recipients of SDMG grants this year! The Endowment Board awarded a total of \$1450.

Marla Huse is continuing her Garden Bugs Project at a local day care. At the beginning of the program, children plant a variety of seeds in pots and examine them throughout the summer.

The program includes nature crafts and healthy snacks.

Mary Tarter and the Harding County Master Gardeners are working in Buffalo to build a walk way with a seating area next to the Senior Center. Funds will be used for plants and mulch.

Tom Allen and local middle school students are starting and transplanting native grasses and flowers at Mary Hall Park in Rapid City. Tom and the Kiwanis have been restoring the park for several years.

Louise Engelstad, Dian Iverson, and MaryLou Paulson along with Eagle Scout candidates Tim Heard and Andy Hanson continued work on the grounds at Rapid City Regional Hospice House. The projects included erosion control on 10,000 square feet: spreading compost, seeding with native grasses and flowers, and placing erosion blanket. Tim's crew built a planter box around the entrance sign and did the erosion work, and Andy's crew planted sixty sumac bushes and cleared river rock out of flower beds at the building entrance. Grant funds paid for the planter box and the plants for it and the front beds. (Pictures on the web site)

The Rapid City Garden Club is building an Educational Garden and Nature Walk as a sixtieth anniversary project. The project will include many themed gardens, an observation deck, and a teaching structure. It is projected to cost approximately \$80,000. The Club is currently working on Phase One which will include a Black Hills Prairie Garden, a Black Hills Forest Garden, and a Children's Garden. The garden will be included in the Rapid City Garden Walk on June 12.

Perkins County Master Gardeners are working on a pumpkin patch and festival.

Liz Runquist is working on landscaping for the Teton Coalition in Rapid City.

Glenda Heckenlaible and Deborah Johnson received professional development grants to attend the International Master Gardener conference.

Congratulations to all! We look forward to hearing about your projects at the Update in September.

**Master Gardener Update Notes
Great Bear Recreation Park
5901 Rice Street, Sioux Falls, SD
Update Schedule**

September 25

Afternoon Do It Yourself" tour guide
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Registration, light meal
and social hour

September 26

8:00-8:30 am Registration
8:30-8:45 am Great Hall Gathering
8:45-9:45 am Speaker David Ode, SD
Botanist
9:45-10:00 am Break
10:00-11:30 am Speaker
11:30-12:15 Business meeting
12:15-1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 -2:00 pm Speaker
2:00-2:15 pm Break
2:15-3:45 pm Breakout sessions
3:45-6:00 pm Silent auction
6:00-7:00 pm Social hour
7:00 pm.... Silent auction closes, banquet
begins, Update ends
Watch for updated program information on the
website after July 1.

Custer County News

In February Custer County Master Gardeners started thinking about the upcoming garden season when they met at the McGranahan residence for a presentation by Richard Wells of Homestead Nursery in Belle Fourche. Richard gave an excellent presentation on planting bare root nursery stock and year around interest in the garden.

Our spring meeting was held on March 18, 2009. Four new members joined our group. We welcome to Marilyn Lucero, Mary Hoover, Tom Thorson, and Rob Simon. We're glad to have them! At the meeting, we discussed our activities for this year and assigned committees. Some of our planned activities this year include the May gardening display at the Custer County Library, gardening articles for the Custer Chronicle, a tour of Homestead Nursery in Belle

Fourche, flower bed maintenance at the Courthouse Museum, Gold Discovery Days parade entry, plant swap at Custer County Fair, the Avis Hespen Memorial fair category (red geranium in a red pot), and teaching gardening classes at the STAR Academy.

To date two of those activities have already been completed. The display at the Custer Library featuring "Growing Natives in the Garden" has been up since May 2. The display features twelve native plants that can be grown in the garden, shows what the seed of each plant looks like, and tells the difference between a "wildflower" and "native plant." We are also offering free seed, grown in our own gardens, for library patrons to take home and plant. The display has been well received by the public and library staff. (Pictures on the website)

Our other project that's well underway is the "From the Garden" column in the Custer County Chronicle. All of the articles for the upcoming gardening season have been written, submitted, and so far two articles have been published. The Chronicle also had a picture of our library display in the paper few weeks ago.

Our other activities are in the planning process, so we'll let everyone know how they went in the fall Prairies and Pines.

Helen McGranahan

Fall River News

Fall River Master Gardeners continue to be busy following hosting the State Convention last fall. We held two classes for the public this spring; Garden Design taught by Hermosa Master Gardener Doug Hesnard and Pruning taught by Hot Springs Master Gardener Jesse Harris. Over thirty people enjoyed these classes. Students were impressed with the amount they learned and the excellent teaching. Judging by the number of horticulture questions coming in to the Extension Office this year, we'll have plenty to keep busy.

Karen Meston

Huron Area - Beadle County News

The master gardeners are ready to get started on their projects and gardens. Glenda Oakley and Lorraine Moen helped Kent Van Houten dig

up garden and landscaping plants which were sold and \$154 donated to the Huron Area Master Gardener plant sale fund.

On July 17 a judging class was held at the Beadle County Extension office for folks who would like to judge vegetables at the State Fair. Jerry Mills, the horticulturist specialist from Brown County Extension taught the class for twelve participants.

Diane Gropper, the new Horticulture Building superintendent, has done an outstanding job setting things up with many interesting programs for the 2009 State Fair Horticulture Building. Any Master Gardener in the State can volunteer to help in the booth by calling the Beadle County Extension office (353-8436) or contacting Lori at 350-6339 or hootfarms@gmail.com.

In October Doris Dahl presented a program on America's favorite fruit, the apple, and its origin. Do you know Johnny Appleseed's real name? It is Jonathan Chapman.

Doris Dahl, Dick Fadgen, and Donna Steele are on the Huron Area Master Gardener Scholarship committee and will be deciding which new Master Gardener will receive the scholarship.

Twyla Folk has done presentations on edamame to the Huron Garden Club, her Sorority, the Huron Area Master Gardeners, and at the 2008 State Fair.

Vicky Aughenbaugh reported 85 people attended the American Hermerocallis Region 1 Summer Tour. Participants came from Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Part of the activities included touring four gardens: Alexis McEnelly, Abby Scheibe, Donna Steele, and Vicky's. The speaker for the banquet was John Shooter from Marietta Garden in South Carolina.

Many new projects have been proposed. The Center for Independence received a grant to have a garden for their clients to grow and share vegetables with others in the community who are low income.

The Master Gardeners were asked to help with the thirty foot by thirty foot plot in the organic section of the Friendship Community Garden in Huron.

The Huron Community Campus asked for "Mini Programs" to be held on campus for the public, Glenda Oakley, Lorraine Moen, Twyla Folk, Abby Schiebe, and Marsha Hanson volunteered to do programs on Edamame, Starting Flowers Seeds, Grasses, and Vegetable Gardening Nutrition.

Shelly Wilson and Alexis McEnelly helped Diane Gropper by updating the premium booklet for State Fair, and Dick Fadgen has lined up a speaker for our April Master Gardener meeting. Tou Lee is Hmong (Laotian) and immigrated to America when very young. Tou Lee is an avid gardener and rents many plots at the Huron Community Friendship Gardens.

Another group who moved into the Huron area for Dakota Provisions employment is the Korean people, and they have been requesting educational handouts for plants and times to plant. Other projects coming up are planting the flower beds at Madison Elementary with the school children and helping the YWCA refurbish their patio area.

On May 30, the Master Gardeners planted flowers at various sites around the State Fairgrounds in exchange for a booth at the Horticulture Building during the 2009 State Fair. Hope to see you at the 2009 South Dakota State Fair!

Marsha Hanson



Minnehaha County News

As all we gardeners know, 2009 has been a busy year whether the garden is dormant or active. We kicked off 2009 by continuing to plan for the September 2009 Master Gardeners State Update in Sioux Falls (more about that in this newsletter). Chris Zdorovtsov, horticulture educator, and Bonnie Lynch, Minnehaha County MG president, teamed up to start a 'Gardening with the Masters' set of sessions in

which MGs presented basic gardening techniques for the public. Due to public demand, we scheduled both afternoon and evening sessions for the February and April presentations.

Our participation in the Sioux Falls 2009 Lawn and Garden Show on March 20-22 kicked off the spring season. We manned a booth and assisted on the demonstration stage and speakers' room. Just catching her breath was Water Festival committee chair, May Schaefer, who sprinted on to the Sioux Empire Water Festival on March 24-25 where the Master Gardeners were part of an educational event in which approximately 6000 fourth graders learned about water use and preservation.

Michelle Erpenbach, chair of the Community Gardens committee, has been coaching, coaxing and coordinating the seven Sioux Falls community gardens with the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation Department. All gardens have waiting lists for people anxious to garden and enjoy 'the fruits of their labor.' Another exciting startup is the Urban Agriculture project in which Chris Zdorovtsov and MG members have been part of a Task Force spearheaded by Sioux Falls Seminary. The mission is to inspire Pettigrew eight's area gardening and backyard food production at Lowell School Elementary and the neighborhood.

In preparation for the May 9 Plant Sale, Sue Beck, committee chair, coached us as we cleaned up and divided plants at the Extension Flowerbed and divided plants at Tuthill and McKennan Parks. Chair Gail Deibert guided her Zoo Garden Project team in viewing and working the three xeriscape demonstration gardens at the Great Plains Zoo.

As a final thought and tribute to the man, we continue to miss long-time member, Harry Kittams, who died in the latter part of 2008.
Karin Woltjer

Mobridge Area News

In Mobridge we have started our arboretum series. The first was presented by a young man who graduated from SDSU in landscaping and worked in landscaping in Pierre for ten years before moving to Mobridge. He presented us

with his list of favorite shrubs and trees that grow well in our area. He divided each group into small, medium, and large so it was most helpful. Hopefully we will use this along with Dr John Ball's books on trees and shrubs when we purchase plants and not waste so much money on things that won't grow here.

The next in the series will be a bird identification tour, and everyone is asked to bring binoculars.

Wanda Jundt from Eureka used Jerry Mills' DVDs and information about square foot gardening to present that new idea. The garden gets divided up into four foot by four foot or four foot by eight foot areas and then divided into one foot squares. Into each square is planted one extra big plant like cabbage or four large plants like leaf lettuce or nine medium plants like beans or sixteen really small plants like radishes. Mass planting rather than rows uses less garden space.

After a struggle, enough people were found to make the master gardener classes in Selby go. We are happy about that.
Shirley Masteller

Pennington County

The Youth and Family Services Kids Fair, an annual event promoting learning, interactive experiences and entertainment for children of all ages was held April 17, 18 and 19 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Arena. Twenty-four Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns from the Pennington County Master Gardeners participated. We provided children the opportunity to plant and grow their own seed, hopefully to fruition. Many have reminded us that they were successful in previous years. The master gardeners were able to support this project with generous donations from Hardware Hank and the Knecht's Home Center with the needed seeds, peat pots, and potting soil. We filled peat pots with potting soil, and the child choose the seed they would like to grow. We provided verbal and take-home instructions on basic care and nurturing for plant growth. Pumpkin, watermelon, cantaloupe, sunflower, bachelor buttons, zinnia, and marigolds were popular seeds. Approximately 1200 children of

all ages participated in the project. We can only grow by nurturing our children with hands-on learning.

In March and April, Master Gardeners taught the annual Growing with the Masters classes: Fruit Trees/ small fruit -- Joe Hillberry, Vegetables -- Mel Glover, Roses -- Tim Forster, Perennials -- Tom Allen, Native Plants -- Louise Engelstad, Iris -- Amy Lewis, Herbs -- Mary Lou Paulson, and Vines -- Darrol Birk

Following Bill Keck's retirement, we selected officers for the coming year: Darrol Birk, president; Karen Paugh, vice-president; Linda Jaspring, secretary; Teresa Treinen, treasurer; and Mary Bodensteiner, membership coordinator.

"Ten years of gardeners sharing their plants, experience and enthusiasm." This is how founder Cathie Draine described the 10th annual "almost free" Plant Share held at the Pennington County 4-H Building on May 23, 2009. Monthly planning meetings at Bully Blends Coffee and Tea Shop made the increasingly popular event run smoothly.

The 218 gardeners who brought plants received a blue ticket to select four new plants, and 216 people paid a dollar for a yellow ticket, also good for four plants. Most of the plants were propagated, divided, and culled from overflowing local gardens. "We know that these plants will grow well in our area," said one gardener, "unlike some store-bought plants that aren't as good a local fit."

An army of volunteers wore bright lime-green t-shirts with "Ask Me" on the front a plug for composting on the back. Many of the volunteers helped unload donated plants, identified them, and supplied name tags. For the second year, the shirts were donated by Jerry Wright, who's in charge of producing compost at the city landfill. Piles of compost were made available free to gardeners.

The "free" section continues to grow each year, with gardeners bringing baked goods and coffee, seeds, gardening books and magazines, tools, pots, and a hodge-podge of cast off gardening items.

Donations added another \$58.40, bringing the total to \$274.40. This was split evenly

between the Rapid City Garden Club and the Pennington County Master Gardeners, providing enough money for prizes at the children's gardening event.

The Rapid City Garden Walk, sponsored by the Rapid City Garden Club and the Pennington County MGs, will feature two gardens tended by MGs Mel and Tammy Glover and Pat Handel. Shelley DeBord and Helen Magnussen are co-chairing the event which will be held on July 12.

LeAnn Feuillerat, Brad Morgan

Prairie Partners Master Gardeners News

We are happy to welcome an enthusiastic group of interns, some of whom have already earned their pins, to our group. They are willing workers and have new ideas for ways we can use our Master Gardener training to help fellow/beginning gardeners and better our community.

In addition to our on-going projects, this year we are introducing a "Gardening with the Masters" program.

Our first presentation was "Gardening 101," and the goal was to help beginning gardeners in particular with basic garden information. A number of our members gave short talks on the various aspects of gardening, such as site choice, soil preparation, planting, watering, mulching, etc.

Plans are to offer summer and fall programs and either a winter program or perhaps one on starting seeds.

Along with our usual fairgrounds project we are assuming the planting and care of the decorative barrels that are placed all over the fairgrounds during the County Fair. This was one of Candis Kub's projects.

Some of our members are working on a main street Beautification project.

Every Friday afternoon two Master Gardeners come to the Extension Office to man a "Hot Line." They take calls and take care of leftover questions from Garden Line and Extension Office call slips.

One of our newly trained Master Gardeners from the Ipswich area is taking over the Tiger Post project Candis was doing in Ipswich. This

is an Elementary School Age After School program.

The New Beginnings Center garden project continues. A mini grant they received has made the purchase of hardware cloth possible to discourage gophers and other small bandits.

Youth Gardening is one of the Plan of Work projects for the Extension Horticulture Program.
Irene Plummer

Prairie Potters News/Hughes and Stanley Counties News

The 2009 garden season got off to a great start with two educational programs in Pierre sponsored by the Hughes/Stanley County Extension and the Prairie Potters MGs. On March 17, Dr John Ball presented "How to have an attractive and energy efficient landscape." Then on April 7, the local Master Gardeners presented "Vegetable Gardening 101." Lectures on site preparation, reading seed packets, and planting as well as skills tables were available for attendees. Both programs were open to the public and well received.

Three events have occurred at the Pierre Native Plant Arboretum this year. A special pruning workshop was held in March. Attendees learned the basics of tree pruning and practiced pruning using different equipment under the watchful eyes of Arbor Board members and Prairie Potters. The annual Spring Clean-Up took place in April with assistance from Boy Scout Troop 173. (Pictures on the website) Tree protectors were removed for the growing season. Garbage and dead branches were hauled to the path. We continued our work to remove tree fabric and to mulch with wood chips.

We are excited to have the Missouri Breaks Audubon Society join our efforts in improving the Arboretum. With their financial assistance and labor, the split rail fence was repaired and moved to create more parking for the developing Bird Feeder Project. The 2009 City of Pierre Arbor Day planting was the first phase of the Bird Feeder Project. Plums, cedars, dogwood and shrub roses were planted around the bird feeder site.

The Bell Tower Garden cleanup and spruce up is in progress. Removal of old fencing and

painting of the remaining picket fence has been completed. The daffodils that were donated by the American Cancer Society put on a grand show this spring and were a wonderful addition to the garden. We also added some new perennials and found homes for excess volunteer plants. War on rogue daisies continues.

Penny Bower continues to direct the wine barrel flower project in Vivian. She coordinates this community service project with local youth for Join Hands Day sponsored by Thrivent.

Geraldine Ray and Rita Linn along with youth from the city recreation group will plant the entrance area to Steamboat Park in Pierre again this year.

Our members have provided local groups with many informational programs. Donna Lee, Cindy Jungman and LuAnn Noeske presented a container planting session to the State Hospital Auxiliary meeting in Pierre in April. Donna also gave this presentation to the RSVP chapter and the Zonta club.

Tracy LaQua provided a fun and interesting breakout session for a Celebration of Life honoring cancer survivors. She did a four season wreath presentation that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Cindy Jungman gave a container presentation for teachers during Teacher Appreciation week. Cindy and Tracy also provided a vegetable gardening seminar for the Mothers of Preschoolers group. Tracy and Extension educator, Jane Stewart gave several 4H programs on water conservation and understanding seed packets.

May 21 was the fifth annual Plants Plus! Plant sale which is held in conjunction with the Conservation District's surplus tree sale. Members sold home grown peppers, tomatoes, vine crops, herbs and perennials from their gardens. This year we offered vegetable varieties which are specifically for container gardeners. The proceeds are used to support gardening projects in Pierre and the surrounding area.

With a little luck and some help from Mother Nature we are looking forward to a great growing season. Enjoy the summer!
Elaine Konechne

Welcome to Pennington County

Master Gardeners welcome Rick Abrahamson, the new Pennington County extension educator in horticulture. Rick was a county extension educator in Clay County, Minnesota, and director of education at the Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska. He has a B.S. degree in horticulture and an M.S. in soil science, both from North Dakota State University. Welcome to South Dakota!

Tribute to Candis Kub

It is with great sadness I inform you that Candis Kub, a dedicated Master Gardener, all around gardening enthusiast, and dear friend, has passed away.

Candis was always willing to share her gardening knowledge and experience with others whether it was through writing for newsletters -- especially the local Yard and Garden Newsletter, doing programs or taking on special projects. She was especially interested in working with young people and awakening their interest in gardening.

Candis had a deep interest in growing plants of all kinds, a desire to learn all she could about everything green and growing, and the desire to share that knowledge.

Candis was a dedicated Master Gardener and was instrumental in the organization of Prairie Partners Master Gardeners of Aberdeen. She also served as President of the South Dakota Master Gardeners in 2005.

Everyone who met and worked with Candis came to know her gentle smile, quick wit and passion for all living things. She is missed.

Irene Plummer

Tribute to Elaine Ebbert

Master Gardeners lost a great friend when Elaine Ebbert succumbed to cancer on February 22, 2009. Elaine, a trained botanist, volunteered

for the Nature Conservancy, completing plant inventories of the Black Hills. She co-authored a book on fungi of the Black Hills, and was working on a similar study of slimes and molds. An active member of the Norbeck Society, Elaine worked tirelessly to protect unique plants and ecological areas in the Black Hills such as Botany Canyon.
Louise Engelstad

From the Editors

We've been bringing you the newsletter for five years and are proud to have shepherded it into the electronic age. Now we're ready to pass the torch, and this will be the last issue that we, Tammy and Louise, do. We hope that by the September Update, some of you will step forward and take over. We'll give you all the help you ask for to make the transition. Thanks for all your support and encouragement!
Louise and Tammy





Can you dig it? Tools for the Future.

Master Gardener Update Registration

September 25 and 26, 2009

at Great Bear Recreation Park, Sioux Falls, SD
hosted by Minnehaha County Master Gardeners

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Day _____ Evening _____
Email _____

General Registration is \$60.00 **\$60.00**

Saturday banquet, Saturday 26, for spouse or guest @ \$20.00 _____

Late fee after August 26 \$10.00 _____

Total enclosed _____

Please make check payable to: Minnehaha Master Gardeners

Mail this registration form and payment to:

Anne Erickson
6608 West Larkspur Circle
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Phone# 605.361.7544 Email anniesdak@sio.midco.net

Will you be contributing an item for the Silent Auction?

Yes _____ No _____ My item is _____

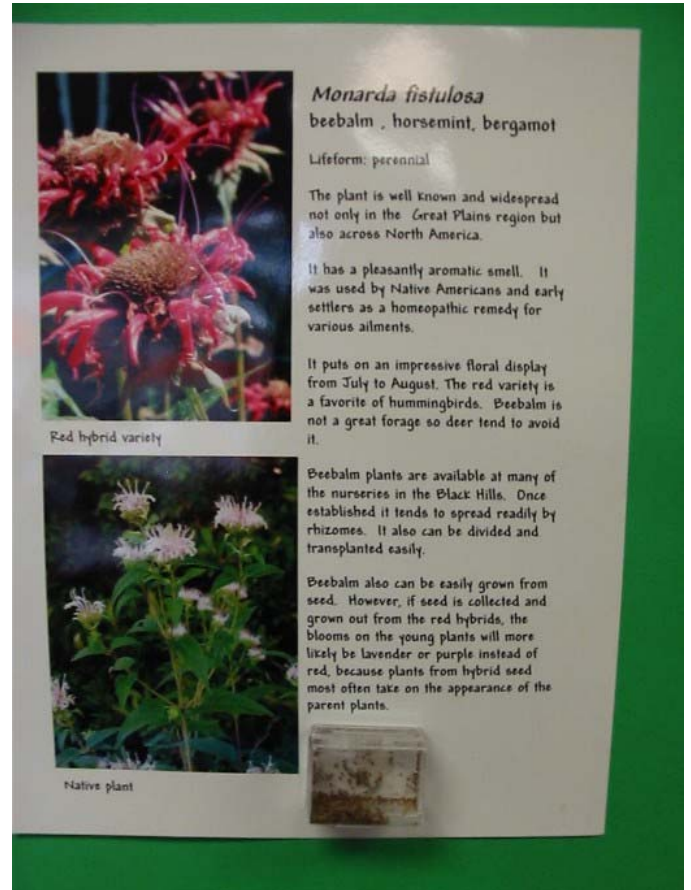
More information will be available after July 1 on the website

<http://sdces.sdstate.edu/SOUTH1/horticulture/masterGardner.htm>



Rapid City Regional Hospital Hospice House Project: top left – Eagle scouts and their parents put down erosion blanket. Top right – MG MaryLou Paulson helps remove river rock from the entry flower beds. Below – planting box constructed by Eagle Scouts.





Custer Master Gardeners library project. Above – overall display. Right – plant information complete with seed packets.



Arboretum Cleanup in Pierre



Planting day in Vivian