



Starting Your Vegetable Garden from Seed

By Lora Honer

Nothing makes it feel like it is springtime then starting my vegetable gardens seeds. I figured I would share a few of the advantages to starting your own vegetables from seeds and some basic instructions.

One of the advantages of starting your plants from seeds is the sheer number of choices you have. You can select a vegetable, for example, tomato, based on the growing season you want, what you want to use the tomatoes for (meaty tomatoes ideal for slicing and juicy tomatoes perfect for sauces) and hybrid options are available that are hard to find anyway else. I really enjoy picking out the vegetable seeds that I am going to plant and planning my garden. It's easy. Just make a list of all the vegetables that you want in your garden.

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Next, you need to get the supplies that are necessary. You will want some potting soil, pots, gardening gloves (if you like) and your seeds. And let the fun begin.

You will want to start your seeds 4-6 weeks before you plan on planting outdoors. Pick a location that gets plenty of sunlight. You can also get led grow light bulbs if you do not have a sunny location. Each spring my sun porch becomes a temporary greenhouse to hold all of my peat pots. I use peat pots because you can plant them right in the ground and your vegetable roots do not get damaged. Then just follow the instructions on each package for the depth and time to seed before placing your plants outdoors. I am sure you will love the delicious vegetables your garden produces and each year you can try some new vegetables. Let your imagination run wild. I have planted rainbow colored carrots, blue and orange potatoes and some jumbo Jalapeno peppers.



MCBS Gift to the Gardens

The Greenhouse Shade System was replaced February 2020 using a generous donation from MCBS to help fund the project. Greenhouse shades need to be replaced every 7-10 years due to the sun rays beating down on them. The shades act as a barrier to sunlight and cool the greenhouse on hot days and on cold days acts as a energy saver in the form of heat retention.





Music in the Gardens



The public success of these professional concerts has been gratifying, and the series continues to showcase high quality local talent. All concerts are held on alternating Sundays at 3:00 p.m. near the Gazebo in Munsinger Gardens on the banks of the Mississippi River. All concerts are free and the Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society will again sell those fabulous \$1 root beer floats.

As the Covid-19 outbreak and Shelter-in-Place order is still unfolding, this is the tentative schedule. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for additional information.

2020 • 21st Season

- June 14 . . . Random Road
- June 28 . . . Harper's Chord
- July 12. . . . The Half Steps
- July 26. . . . Dennis Warner and the D's –
"Memorial Release of the Butterflies"
event, see below for more details.

- August 9. . . Monday Night Jazz
 - August 23. . Ring of Kerry
- Program schedule may be subject to change.

2020 Photo of the Month - Facebook

We have started something new this year. We are selecting one photo every month from all the entries of the 2019 Photography in the Gardens contest. Each month we will post one photo, the title given by the photography and the photographer that took the photo. Be sure to like us on Facebook and see all of the wonderful photos that have been taken of the Munsinger and Clemens Gardens.



Art Fair in the Gardens

Each summer, Munsinger and Clemens Gardens hosts an art fair featuring artists from all around the state. Visitors are encouraged to browse and purchase some wonderful pieces of artwork from 45-plus artists. Also enjoy the music provided in different areas among the flowers along with food and beverages.

Thirteenth Annual Art Fair in the Gardens will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC at Riverside Drive SE, St Cloud Minnesota

For more information about Exhibiting in this juried event Send Photos of your art work to the art fair committee at eventinquiries@munsingerclemens.com.





The New Spring Season Begins in the Gardens

By Lora Honer

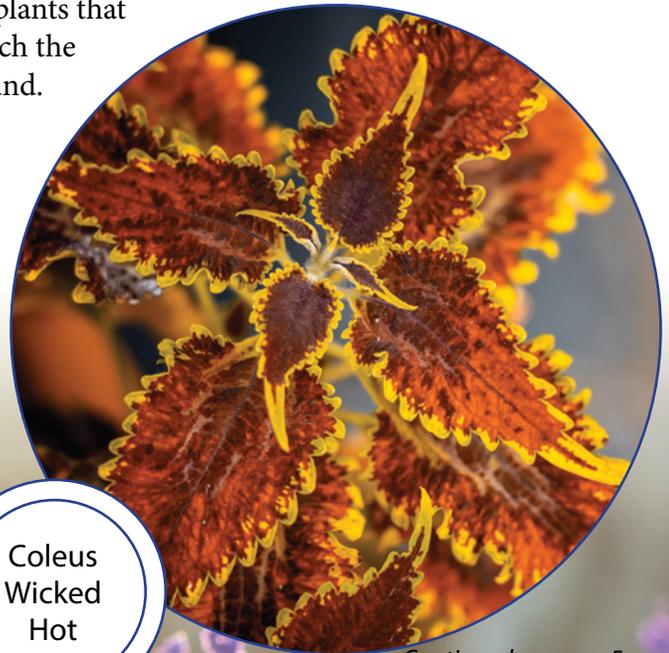
Peony
Rubra
Plena



As I write this, the Shelter-in-Place order has been given for our state and we are all adjusting to the “new normal”. This does present us with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. The birds have returned for the spring and summer months and watching them can be a wonderful distraction for everything that is going on in the world today. Not to mention, Munsinger and Clemens Gardens are open for you to enjoy walking around. You can see all of the flowers and plants that are starting to grow and watch the birds as they hustle and fly around.

Taking a walk along the river, no matter the season, can be truly relaxing.

Spring time is always a busy time of year and this year is no different. There are so many things that need to be done to make the gardens beautiful for everyone to enjoy. The year round staff has been working hard in the greenhouse



Coleus
Wicked
Hot

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Salvia
Sallyfun
Deep
Ocean



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transplanting plugs. The plugs begin arriving in the Greenhouse in late March through early April and take approximately 6 weeks to transplant them all indoors. Just think about it, they have used over 5.5 tons (11,000 pounds) of potting soil already this spring. Now that is a lot of potting soil. It's so amazing to think of all the work that goes on in the background to keep the gardens looking beautiful.

The gardens will look great again this summer thanks to the gardens staff's hard work. They started planting for this spring already last fall when they planted 5000 tulips. Nothing says spring like getting to see the first tulips coming up through the soil. Flowers are already starting to emerge out of the soil reminding us that there are warmer days just around the corner. Soon the garden staff will be uncovering the roses.

Each year thousands of flowers and plants are ordered for the Munsinger and Clemens Gardens. Actually, they have ordered 82,000 annuals, perennials, tropicals, shrubs and other plants. Not to mention another 500 roses. I am so excited to see all that the gardens have to offer this year. I hope you make walking through the gardens part of your daily routine.



Astilbe
Heavy
Metal



Veronica
Sunny
Border
Blue





Here is a list of exciting plants getting added to the gardens this year.



Plectranthus Velvet Idol

Cuphea Maria

Ficinia Ice Crystals

Lantana Bandolero Pineapple

Salvia Sallyfun Deep Ocean

Coleus Wicked Hot

Lantana Luscious Bananarama

Petunia Supertunia Mini Vista Sangria

Petunia Vista Snowdrift

Salvia Rockin' Blue Suede Shoes

Astilbe Heavy Metal

Lysimachia Fancifillers

Helianthus Suncredible Yellow

Festuca Buddy Blue

Succulent, Mangave
(we have 4 different varieties coming)

Echinacea Sombrero Sangrita

Gaura Cool Breeze

Kniphofia Papaya Popsicle and Pineapple Popsicle

Plectranthus Velvet Idol and Velvet Lady

Vinca Tattoo Tangerine

Coleus Main Street Beale Street

Calistemon Little John

Colocasia Pharoah's Mask

Penstemon Prairie Snow

Cosmos Chocamocha

Manetta Candy Corn Vine

Portulaca Colorblast Double Series
(we have a few different colors coming)

Argyranthemum Comet red

Begonia Maculata Angel Wing

Canna Stuttgart

Dicentra Gold Heart

Miscanthus Silberfeeder

Peony Rubra Plena

Succulent, Gnome Domes

Veronica Sunny Border Blue

Tithonia Goldfinger

New Guinea Impatien Helios Magenta Borealis

Petunia Potunia Blueberry Muffin

Plectranthus Guacomole



Coleus Main Street Beale Street



**Looking For
Volunteers To Help
Plan Our Events And
Join Our Board:**

**Music in the
Gardens,
Photography in
the Gardens &
Art Fair in the
Gardens.**

Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society is a non-profit that plans events in the gardens as well as raising money to help support the gardens. You would not be gardening at Munsinger or Clemens Gardens but helping with events. Please contact us if you would like additional information.

2020 Photo Contest

You can enter your photos online now for the 2020 Photography in the Gardens contest. You can submit and pay for your entries completely through the online process. This will provide visitors of the gardens who do not live close to the St. Cloud area the opportunity to enter their photos. ALL entries must be entered online to be eligible. All Juniors (18 and under) can enter their first photo free of charge.

This year's contest runs until November 1st, when entries will be due, and a contest reception will be held on November 21. If you want to submit photos this year, check out the rules and entry details on our website: www.munsingerclemens.com.



2019 winning photos will be on display at the following places:

2020 Locations:

April & May – Whitney Senior Center

June & July – St Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

August & September – Waite Park Library

October – Quiet Oaks Hospice House

November & December – St Cloud Library

Start taking your photos now. The gardens are beautiful year round.



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Taking some trips in warmer weather? Maybe you're going to one of 320 gardens through North America where your MCBs membership card entitles you to special admission or discount. Check it out at www.ahsgardening.org/rap.

RAP

Membership Application and Renewal

\$ _____ \$50-\$99 (Basic Membership)

\$ _____ \$100-\$249

\$ _____ \$250-\$500

\$ _____ Other

Gifts over the Basic Membership may be designated to:

_____ Music in the Gardens _____ Art Fair in the Gardens

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



Check payable to Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society
 Mail to MCBS, PO Box 7594, St Cloud, MN 56302

Or visit our website to give at www.munsingerclermens.com