



**Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County**  
**SPEAKERS' BUREAU PRESENTATION TOPICS- 2025**  
**Descriptions of Horticultural Presentations**

## **ANNUALS & PERENNIALS**

### ANNUALS: Putting the "WOW" Factor in Your Garden

There are many beautiful annuals from which to choose. This presentation will include: how to use old favorites and add new flowers to make your garden a neighborhood showplace, and ideas on how to extend the flower season in your garden.

### Pretty Perfect Perennials

There are many beautiful perennials that will grow well in Ocean County if you place them in a favorable location according to their needs. This presentation will show you season by season what plants will bloom best in your garden.

### Shade Gardens: Plants for Sun Starved Gardens

Want a beautiful garden but only have shade? This presentation will offer many suggestions and ideas for annuals and perennials that prefer and thrive in the shade.

## **SHRUBS**

### Hydrangeas- When, Why and How?

Did you know there are over 500 varieties of hydrangeas on the market? Some varieties prefer shade, others prefer sun, and a few varieties prefer partial sun/shade. Tips on purchasing, planting and caring for these beautiful summer staples in your garden will be presented.

### Shrubs for Ocean County

Learn about which shrubs will thrive in the specific environment of Ocean County. Information regarding the care and maintenance of these shrubs will be discussed.

## **INDOOR & HOUSEPLANTS**

### The Dirt on Houseplants

Plants are not only for the outside. Three different types of houseplants and their care and maintenance will be presented.

### Plant-astic Succulents & Cacti

Looking for plants that require little care? Then Succulents and Cacti are for you. Learn about the many types of succulents and how to care for them.

### Outrageous Orchids

You would like to purchase an orchid but are not sure how to take care of them. This presentation will include tips on how to care for orchids including watering, fertilizing, and repotting.



## **NATIVE PLANTS**

### Gardening Down the Shore

This presentation speaks to the shore issues of sand, wind, and salt explaining ways they affect the possible plants that can be grown successfully. It also addresses soil improvements, mulching, and choosing the correct plants for the site.

### Native Plants of Ocean County

This presentation explains the importance of planting native plants. Native plants: perennials, trees, shrubs and grasses are most suited to Ocean County's soil and growing conditions and will flourish with the proper care.

### Native Plants: Environmental Impact

Incorporating native plants into your garden will have an immediate impact on the environment. Eliminating invasive plants and attracting pollinators to your garden will have positive effects on the environment. The status of NJ native plant legislation will be presented.

## **VEGETABLE GARDENING**

### Pest Management (IPM) for Vegetable Gardens

There are good pests and bad pests. Learn how some insects will protect your growing vegetables from an infestation of bad bugs that can destroy your plants.

### Starting a Vegetable Garden: Let's Proceed

Learn how to start a vegetable garden by identifying optimal plant placement and how to choose, care for, and harvest your crops.

### Starting a Raised-Bed Vegetable Garden: Let's Pro-Seed

Learn how to start a vegetable garden from identifying the perfect plant placement to harvesting your crops using a raised bed for plantings.

## **CONTAINER GARDENING**

### Container Gardening- Flowers or Vegetables

Don't have a lot of space to plant a garden? Think container gardens for your patio and deck. Pot size, soil requirements, watering and plant selection will be discussed.

### Thyme to Learn about Herbs

This program will include information on how to grow Herbs indoors and outdoors. Tips on preserving, growing, drying and freezing Herbs will be presented.

### Terrariums

This presentation will provide instruction on how to build a Terrarium. The best soil, plants and fertilizing techniques will be discussed.

## **INSECTS & DISEASE**

### Love that Bug

This presentation includes a discussion about beneficial insects in the garden. Participants will learn how to identify the important roles these insects play in eliminating non-beneficial insects.

### Tick Talk: Time to Learn about Ticks

Ticks are everywhere. Learn about the different types of ticks. Learn how to protect yourself from tick bites and what to do if you think you were bitten by a tick.



## **GARDEN TOPICS**

### Butterflies and Hummingbirds in your Garden

This presentation will discuss the environmental importance of these pollinators in your garden. Essential host and nectar plants will be discussed.

### Deer Resistant Plants

Deer are everywhere and in increasing numbers. We need to coexist with the deer, but we still want beautiful gardens. Annuals, perennials and shrubs will be discussed that are not so appetizing to deer. Tips to prevent deer from eating your plants will be discussed.

### The “Dirty” Secrets of Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are overgrowing our native plants. A few of our favorite plants are now considered invasive. This presentation will provide information on alternative plants. Current NJ legislation will be presented.

### Early Spring Pruning

Winter is over and now you need to get your gardens ready for Spring plantings. Tips on which plants need to be pruned and how to best accomplish this task.

### Edible Flowers: Color, Flavor and Fun

There are many edible flowers that can be used in breads, cookies, jams, and teas. This presentation will discuss the various edible flowers and their many uses. Recipes will be provided.

### Fall: Putting your Garden to Bed

This presentation will discuss ways to clean out your garden beds; protect trees, shrubs and tender plants; eliminate sources of disease and insect infestation; and prepare tools for winter storage. Cleaning up your garden in the Fall will make your Spring planting easier.

### Planting Garlic (Fall Topic)

A presentation of the various types of alliums and garlic along with their care will be presented. A demonstration of planting and harvesting technique will be included.

### Landscaping with Ornamental Grasses

Looking for easy care plants that have year-round interest? Think ornamental grasses. There are many varieties with interesting colors and foliage to brighten your garden.

### Landscaping for Winter Interest

This presentation will provide information regarding flowers and shrubs that have winter appeal. Plants that have changing leaf color, changing stem color, long bloom periods, attraction to birds that can brighten up your garden will be discussed. Winter gardens do not have to be boring and dreary!

### Long Seasons of Color in Your Garden

This presentation reviews a sampling of colorful plants and flowers including both annuals and perennials that will bring an ever-changing rainbow of color to your garden throughout all four seasons of the year.

### Planting Bulbs for All Seasons

Oh, so many bulbs to choose from! Bulbs that bloom in the Spring, Summer or Fall will be discussed. Tips on when and how to plant bulbs and how to design a garden with bulbs, including daffodils, alliums and snowdrops will be discussed. *This presentation can be a lecture or a demonstration.*



## **GARDEN TOPICS (continued)**

### Spring Has Sprung: Get your Garden Growing

This presentation will discuss tips for preparing the garden bed and planting seeds or transplants for spring and summer flowers.

### Thyme to Learn about Herbs

This program will include information on how to grow Herbs indoors and outdoors. Tips on preserving, growing, drying and freezing Herbs will be presented.

### Winter Seed-Sowing

Thinking about your garden on those cold winter days? Your green thumb is itchy. Think winter seed-sowing. Start sowing the seeds in January for great spring and summer flowers and vegetables.

## **YOUTH / ADULT PROGRAMS**

### All About Sunflowers

Come hear their fascinating history and discover the different varieties and cultivars. Learn how to grow them in your own garden and plant a seed in a pot to take home with you. Sample treats made with sunflower seeds.

### Seeds: Sow What?

Planting seeds can help you to jump start your gardens. This presentation will explain the proper techniques for sowing seeds and provide suggestions for selecting the best seeds to grow in Ocean County.

### Worms and Other Decomposers

Millipedes, earthworms, and night crawlers! Oh my! Learn how these 'bugs' help breakdown and decompose leaves to become a great fertilizer.

### Pass The Plants, Please- Parts of Plants We Eat

Leaves, flowers, roots, and sprouts are edible parts of plants. This presentation will provide information related to growing and harvesting edible plants.

### Where does Candy Come From?

This presentation will discuss what plants are used to make candy.