

Erie County Master Gardener News

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EXPERTS IDENTIFY GARDENING TRENDS FOR 2019

by Cheryl Krajna

Gardening in the United States started long before officials in the Jamestown colony passed a law in 1639 requiring all settlers owning more than 100 acres “to plant orchards and gardens and fence them in.” Native Americans were already growing corn, tobacco and other crops, eventually teaching the new arrivals how to grow them. Growing their own vegetables in



modest gardens was one of the only way slaves could do something other than their master’s bidding, allowing them to “nourish their own bodies, rather than crops their owners sold.”

In 1737, Robert Prince opened America’s first modern commercial nursery in Flushing, N.Y. Fast forward to World War II, when Americans grew veggies in Victory Gardens. When soldiers returned home after the War, married and moved to the suburbs, our obsession with lawns began. The first observance of Earth Day in 1970 renewed our interest in “edible gardening,” with designers “mingling vegetables and fruits in with ornamentals in formal designs.”

In 2019, raised beds, pollinator gardens and succulents are the trend. In Western New York we pioneered our own unique gardening styles as featured in summer

garden walks. (And soon to be the focus of our friend Sally Cunningham’s forthcoming book, *Buffalo-Style Gardens*, co-authored with Jim Charlier.)

Katie Dubow of Garden Media Group identified the buzzwords for 2019:

Plant Parents – Nearly everyone spends far too much time indoors. To make us feel better about that, and because we know they can help improve indoor air quality, we buy and dote on houseplants. We even share photos of them on social media!

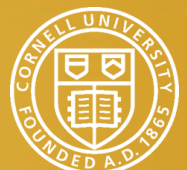
Root to Stem – Although not new, this concept of using all parts of a plant is gaining ground to combat global food waste. Leftover grain from beer brewing used to make bread, leftover

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FEBRUARY MASTER GARDENER MEETING

**Tuesday, February 5th,
Unity of Buffalo Church, 1243
Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY
6:30 PM**

Dorothy Weitz, Master Gardener, will provide an intro on the WNY CommuniTree Stewardship Program and the role of the Buffalo Green Fund in this project before delving into the NYS IPM “Don’t Get Ticked” Information.



NATIVES FOR THOSE WET PLACES by Lyn Chimera

So far this fall and winter have been wet and often muddy. (I'd personally rather have snow but realize I'm in the minority.) After this weather you are probably well aware of the wet areas of your landscape and might think there wouldn't be anything that would grow there. Not true, there are many natives that not only grow in damp to wet soil but thrive there. Just picture all the plants that grow in swamps, marshes and areas that are flooded seasonally.

In addition to having a lovely plant in a difficult area, their root systems help to absorb water from the soil, rather like nature's drainage tiles. The following are a few suggestions of native trees, shrubs and perennials that can be utilized in these difficult areas. There are many more possibilities than those listed here but these will give you some ideas. As with any new planting the site needs to match the plant's growing conditions. Be aware of the soil type, sun and wind exposure as well as the final size the plant will achieve.

Trees:

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*) Oaks are one of the best trees to plant for nature as they provide food for over 500 species. It is a huge tree, over 75 feet, sun to part sun.


Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) This willow grows much like the better known (nonnative) weeping willow except the branches don't have that weeping characteristic. It prefers full sun and will grow to 60 feet. This would not be a good choice near sewer or water pipes as their roots can penetrate pipes and cause problems.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) prefers sun to part shade and will grow to over 60 feet tall. It is the best native maple for a wide range of growing conditions. Beautiful fall color; red, yellow and orange is one of the good landscape features.

Shrubs:

Serviceberry/ Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) Light sun to shade, grows to 10 to 20 feet high. Blooms white in early spring followed by edible dark purple berries that birds (and people) love. There are other varieties including a tree form; **Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)**.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) This shrub gets its name from the round white flowers that look like little fireworks which show up in contrast to the dark green glossy leaves. It prefers growing in continually moist soil and can even take standing water in full sun. It will grow up to 9 feet high and wide.

Summersweet Clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*) Prefers moist to wet acidic soil in partial shade to sun. Will grow up to 8 feet high and gets elongated white sweet smelling flowers in mid-summer. This has become one of the bestselling shrubs for our region. 

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celery ends pressed into juice. Zero waste. Buffalo's booming beer brewing industry; could be a great opportunity!

Robo Gardening – Imagine not having to weed anymore! That's a job for *Tertill*, made by the man who invented the Roomba. Robots "are key to a new wave of local agriculture that aims to raise lettuce, basil and other produce in metropolitan areas while conserving water and sidestepping the high costs of human labor," reports the Associated Press.

In England, the Rich Brothers who won gold for their artisan garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, offer these predictions:

Smart lighting – point lights up against a tree; add colored lighting for extra oomph

Adult tree houses – we've seen them at *Plantasia* and honestly, who wouldn't want one?!

Rooms/zoning – creating different areas within your garden, e.g. by using recycled/reclaimed bricks and building materials for low walls.

I am no expert, but I would like to add:

Green architecture – The region has two golden opportunities to implement green roof/living building technology: First, the proposed new convention center. Developer Mark Croce wants "an elevated greenway that would create a public access point for the project, as well as additional green space on the roof". Secondly, our own new CCE building. Considering our role as environmental stewards and educators, our headquarters could be a shining example of a "living building" (like the Brock Environmental Center in Maryland) with a green roof! We don't have any green roofs here yet, but we do have several green walls/living walls, including one at Canisius College and one inside the world headquarters of the Delaware North Co. They're beautiful and inspiring!

Downsizing – Western New York's population is aging; more than 17 percent of Erie County residents are 65 and older. They cannot get around as well as they used to, and they don't want to spend as much time as they used to weeding and tending to all those pesky chores. We can help with educational programs about hardy perennials, easy care tips and more. 