



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Spring Gardening Extravaganza Highlights Gardening in a Straw Bale

Limited yard space, poor soil conditions, lack of time – all are reasons for green thumb enthusiasts to take up container gardening. The latest trend in this type of gardening involves a unique container: a bale of straw. St. Louis County Extension will highlight straw bale gardening and other ways to grow fruits and vegetables in a limited space at its Spring Gardening Extravaganza on Saturday, April 20. Two similar sessions are scheduled: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hermantown High School, and 1-5 p.m. at the Clinton Community Center in Iron.

The keynote speaker is Joel Karsten, a Minnesota native and nationally recognized author of *Straw Bale Gardening*. The technique works well because as the straw inside the bale decays, it serves as compost for the plants being grown.

Additional workshops in the Spring Gardening Extravaganza will focus on other techniques for small space gardening such as the layered approach known as lasagna gardening, plus using containers and raised beds. Bob Olen, St. Louis County horticulturist and educator will present materials on growing specialty crops such as asparagus and squash, along with a gardening season outlook. University of Minnesota Master Gardeners from St. Louis County will offer displays and presentations at the Hermantown seminar on amazing succulents, bee-friendly lawns and landscapes.

Advance registration is recommended due to limited space. Tickets are \$30, which includes program fee, reference materials for all sessions, coffee and refreshments.

The Spring Gardening Extravaganza was developed in partnership with St. Louis County Extension, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners of St. Louis County and Hermantown/Proctor Community Education. This program is part of St. Louis County's Healthy Foods Initiative.

For more information or to request a registration brochure, call St. Louis County Extension in Duluth at (218) 733-2870 or Virginia at (218) 749-7120; or visit www.stlouiscountymn.gov/ext and click the Garden and Lawn link.

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