



Ecological Approaches to weed management

James DeDecker is an Agriculture Educator with Michigan State University Extension, based in Presque Isle County and responsible for field crop outreach across eleven counties in Northeast Lower Michigan. Since 2012, he has drawn on his background in crop production, integrated pest management and the human dimensions of natural systems to serve Michigan growers and agribusiness through partnership building, on-farm research and educational programming. Restriction of synthetic herbicide use in ecological/organic agricultural systems increases the complexity of weed management, leading growers to cite weeds as the greatest barrier to organic production. To meet this challenge, most organic growers employ a wide range of tools in an integrated weed management system (IWM). Come and learn how to expand your IWM toolkit for successful organic weed management without synthetic herbicides



Composting For the Smart Gardener

Robert Bricault is an MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture educator. Bob has worked in Extension for 24 years providing education in commercial and consumer horticulture, natural resources and also worked as the education coordinator for MSU's Hidden Lake Gardens Arboretum. Bob graduated in 1982 from Michigan State University in Environmental Science with a dual degree in Urban Forestry. Since starting with Extension in 1991, Bob has held 32 Master Gardener programs and also held educational series on Tree Steward, Conservation Steward, Farming A Few Acres, and Home Garden to Market Garden.

Composting for the Smart Gardener-Where healthy gardens meets zero waste.

Don't let your green waste pile up! Smart Gardeners know that using compost in the home garden reaps benefits including healthy plants and increased harvest. The reward of knowing garden waste is being recycled is also a benefit. During this lively presentation with MSU Extension Horticulture Bob Bricault, participants will understand how the compost pile works, choosing the right design and equipment, and how to use the compost to foster healthy-living soils.



Ben Phillips is a vegetable extension educator servicing 11 counties around the Bay and Thumb of Michigan. He also conducts grower-cooperator research trials in the region. He has a bachelors degree in Fisheries & Wildlife Management at Michigan State University, and a Masters in Entomology at Ohio State University. He has been with MSU Extension since September 2013.

I will be building the lecture around the 5 smart vegetable gardening tip sheets. Going into more depth. There may be some overlap with the MG curriculum that I presented before.



Rebecca Finneran received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with emphasis in Landscape Design from Michigan State University in 1983. She has been the Kent MSU Extension horticulture educator since 1987 where she helps the green industry and consumers learn about horticulture, the environment and pesticide safety.

Finneran is the administrator of one of the state's largest MSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer programs, is seen frequently on television and writes a column for the Sunday Edition of the Grand Rapids Press.

Finneran serves on the Board of Directors for the Frederik Meijer Gardens and she is currently overseeing the development of an urban "idea garden" located at the MSU Extension office (775 Ball Ave. NE).



Dr. George Bird is a Professor at Michigan State University. Dr. Bird served as National Director of USDA/Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (1991-1993), is a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and a Fellow of the Society of Nematologists. He is in his 19th year as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rodale Institute. Among George's honors is the Michigan State University Distinguished Faculty Award. He is co-editor of the 2006 book entitled, *Developing and Extending Sustainable Agriculture: A New Social Contract*.

Dr. Bird has published 89 peer reviewed journal articles, edited three books, authored 25 book chapters, 16 review articles and an additional 171 Extension publications and research reports. He also produced four educational videos. George has given 159 invited lectures in addition to 106 research presentations at scientific meetings.