

## You're Ready to Garden, but Where to Start?

by Shawn Tubridy

SCHUYLER COUNTY, NY - Gardening time is almost here. If you are a beginner gardener, starting can be overwhelming. The best way to begin most things is with a plan. When starting a new garden, you should begin with the basics: location, zone, and knowing your plant's needs.

**First, focus on location.** Ask yourself:

- Does my space offer enough sun or shade (depending on your plant's needs)?
- Is the plot located in an area convenient for you to watch and tend?
- Is the garden in an area safe from deer and other wild grazers?
- Does this location have non-compacted fertile soil?
- Is there easy access to water?

**Next, look at zone.** Growing zones tell you which plants are most likely to thrive where you live based on your average winter temps. As a result of Global Climate Change, some of the local growing zones have shifted. Certain plants are now able to grow in areas that used to be too cold for them. You can look up your zone by visiting USDA's Zone Website:

[planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov)

**Things to note once you've found your garden's zone:**

- How long is your growing season?
- What are the dates of the last frost in spring and the first frost in fall?
- What plants can you grow within that time?
- Which plants need to be started indoors or bought from a greenhouse in order to grow in your zone?

**Finally, different plants have different needs.** Some plants can be sown as soon as the soil is defrosted. Others need to be started indoors and hardened before planting in late spring. Some grow well with companions, others cannot be grown near one another.

**To tackle this, try the following:**

- Create a map of what you want to plant, and where and when to plant it.
- Determine if you will be planting new plants after harvesting old ones.
- Learn what plants and methods can help with weed suppression, pest control, and/or pollination.

Gardening doesn't need to be scary, use these tips to build your confidence and don't be afraid to ask our Master Gardeners for advice!



## Gardening Questions?

Join us for one of our Seed to Supper programs. Choose from two locations and multiple dates:

**Hector:** March 19<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 07<sup>th</sup>

**Odessa:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 9<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>

from 6:00-7:30pm to learn how to get your garden off to a good start!

For more information contact Shawn Tubridy at [slt22@cornell.edu](mailto:slt22@cornell.edu) or (607) 535-7161 ext.3226 or go to [cceschuyler.org/events](http://cceschuyler.org/events)



## Are You Already an Experienced Gardener? Is Your Garden Spring Ready?

It's go time in the garden! Springtime is for adding fertility where it's needed, and getting ready for planting! As the aboveground parts of the natural world awaken, there are many things you can do to turn your garden landscape into a resilient and productive environment. These steps will keep your garden healthy and thriving for the rest of the growing season.

- Use rainwater catchment and drip irrigation (1)
- Implement no-till and low-till techniques (2)
- Add plants or diversity of bloom times (3)
- Mow selectively and practice sustainable lawn care. (4)
- Cut down and turn in winter cover crops (5)

**Questions?** Visit Cornell CALS Garden Guidance page: [gardening.cals.cornell.edu/garden-guidance](http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/garden-guidance) or contact CCE Schuyler Garden & Horticulture Coordinator, Shawn Tubridy at 607-535-7161 x 3226.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Seed To Supper - Odessa & Hector

**Hector: April 2, April 16, & April 30, 2026 - Elizabeth B. Pert Library - Hector, NY - 6-7:30pm**  
**Odessa: April 9, April 23, 2026 - Odessa Community Room - Odessa, NY - 6-7:30pm**

Join Garden and Horticulture Coordinator Shawn Tubridy for "Seed to Supper," a 5-session gardening class focused on practical, low-cost techniques for beginners. Attendees will learn about garden planning, composting & healthy soil, how to plant your garden, how to care for your garden, harvesting and using your bounty. There is no charge to attend this series. **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### 4-H Stir it Up: Seeds and Grains

**April 4, 2026 - Elizabeth B. Pert Library - Hector, NY - 11:00am-12:00pm**

Come learn the difference between whole grains and refined grains, discover how seeds and grains provide energy, fiber, and key nutrients; and learn simple ways to include more whole grains and seeds in everyday meals and snacks at our 4-H Stir it Up: Seeds and Grains event. Improve your child's basic cooking, measuring, and food safety skills while having fun! **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention

**April 4, 2026 - Elizabeth B. Pert - Hector, NY - 10:00am-11:00am**

CCE Schuyler 4-H will be hosting a pinwheel making event for Child Abuse Prevention. These pinwheels will be placed around the library and firehouse to support National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Participating youth will also be able to take home a pinwheel. Pre-registration is preferred by April 4th. Walk-ins are welcome. For more info contact Kim Seaman at: [kns57@cornell.edu](mailto:kns57@cornell.edu) or call (607)535-7161 x3218. This is a FREE event. **Reserve your Pinwheel, register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### Utility Bill Workshop

**April 11, 2026 - Montour Falls Memorial Library - Montour Falls, NY - 1:00pm-3:00pm**

Join CCE Schuyler's Community Energy Advisor, Carrienne Tribe-Filhart for an online and in person presentation that will demystify the charges on your electricity bill and share ways to reduce your energy costs. This hybrid event will be held both online and in person. **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### Gardening for the Bees and Butterflies

**April 13, 2026 - Silver Spoon Cafe - Montour Falls, NY - 6:00pm-7:30pm**

CCE Schuyler Master Gardeners will be holding a FREE workshop about native plants that benefit the pollinators and beautify your garden at the Silver Spoon Cafe.

**For more information contact Garden and Horticulture Coordinator, Shawn Tubridy at [slt22@cornell.edu](mailto:slt22@cornell.edu) or call 607-535-7161 x3226.**

### 4-H Fiber Arts Club

**April 18, 2026 - The Human Services Complex - Montour Falls, NY - 10:00am-12:00am**

The 4-H Fiber Arts Club's journey into crocheting continues! This FREE event is open to youth ages 8 - 16. All skill levels welcome. **Please Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events). For more info contact Sue Neal at [srn25@cornell.edu](mailto:srn25@cornell.edu).**

### 4-H Sparks Club Paper Quilling

**April 18, 2026 - The Human Services Complex - Montour Falls, NY - 1:00pm-3:00pm**

Learn about the fun art of curling and shaping paper into beautiful designs! Quilling sparks creativity and self expression, boosts patience and focus, and sharpens fine motor skills, all while having a great time. This FREE activity is open to all youth ages 8-16. Attendees are kindly asked to pre-register by April 17th. Walk ins are welcome, but registrations are preferred to ensure all attendees have access to crafting materials. **Visit [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events) or call Kim Seaman at 607-535-7161 ext. 3218 to save your space.**

### Herbs for Spring Health

**April 21, 2026 - Human Services Complex, Montour Falls, NY - 6:00-7:30pm**

Join Community Herbalist Andrea & Matthias Reisen of Healing Spirits Herb Farm & Education Center to learn how to support your health in the spring. In addition to their decades of experience growing, working, and healing with a plethora of medicinal herbs, they are also students of numerous healing modalities. They have found that combining herbs and bodywork are a natural fit that the body knows and responds to in a very healing way. **Register for this event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events). Cost is \$15.**

Save the Date!  
**April 18<sup>th</sup>**

With so many events under one roof, there's bound to be an event perfect for you and your family!

**Super Saturday!  
Events**

Human Services Complex, 323 Owego Street, Montour Falls, NY 14865

Super Saturday Events will be announced on our Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ccesc/](http://www.facebook.com/ccesc/) and our website: [cceschuyler.org/events](http://cceschuyler.org/events).

**STAY IN THE KNOW,  
SIGN-UP FOR THE SCNY  
NEWSLETTER TODAY!**

**SCNY Ag News**

**Events Newsletter:**

Find out about upcoming events in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Horticulture in the Southern Tier through the SCNY Ag News.



**SCAN HERE**

## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHT:



### Temperate Silvopasture Symposium

**May 27-29, 2026 - Rodale Institute  
Kutztown, PA**

Don't miss out on three intensive days of silvopasture sharing featuring over 30 leading practitioners and professionals from across the silvopasture universe!

**Cost: \$195. Space is limited - Register Today!**

**Register for this event at <https://pasa.tfaforms.net/1692>**