

News Column, June 28, 2011
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Annual Tour of Gardens

We know what you have been thinking. 'Tis the season to be curious about how your neighbor's garden grows. You have been wondering if the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, if the flowers are brighter, or the cabbage is bigger. Good news, it is time again for University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener's of Douglas County Annual Tour of Gardens! For \$5.00 you can peek to your heart's content! On July 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. you will have the great opportunity to view six amazing gardens in the Douglas County area.

1. View the Kahler garden with its gorgeous Cyprus roots. With paths leading to and around a marsh visit this garden for a great selection of hostas, flowers, and water features.
2. Don and Rolene Clarquist's love of gardening is apparent on this beautiful stop. This garden is complete with rock gardens, potted plants, and a vine garden, along with many interesting and unusual features.
3. Cedar Rose Wild Vineyard is a must stop on this year's tour. This 95 acre vineyard will have tours every half hour for those interested in Minnesota grapes. Following the tour you can walk the trails to view wildflowers and native grasses.
4. The Trisco garden is a one of a kind. With a small flowing creek with bridge included on the three acre hillside, this garden is a picturesque stop on the tour. The garden is accented with hostas, perennials and a two-room handcrafted garden shed. Be on the look-out for the Inukshuk.
5. Al and Diann Guenther show their patriotism in the beauty of their garden. The front yard grows red, white, and blue annuals. From the top of the hill view a great panoramic scene complete with woods, marsh, and honeysuckle vines.
6. The Johnson garden is another must see on this year's tour. Look for Patt's distinctive garden art among their beautiful display of hostas, potted plants, and a wooden bridge over a dry creek bed.

The tour is an informal event. Choose which gardens you would like to see and attend them in any order you wish. You can spend as long as you wish at each stop. Pay \$5.00 at your first stop and receive your badge that will get you into the rest of the gardens. The money raised will fund future Douglas County Master Gardener projects. This is a great way to relax and enjoy a lovely stroll through the garden on your Sunday afternoon.

The full brochure with map can be obtained on the homepage at www.extension.umn.edu/county/douglas under hot topics or by calling the University of Minnesota Extension Office of Douglas County at (320) 762-3890 or stop in and see us in the Douglas County Service Center Building at 720 Fillmore Street in Alexandria.

Distant fields always look greener, but opportunity lies right where you are.
Robert Collier