


1  **2008 SPECIALIZED
MASTER GARDENER TRAINING
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2  **HERBACEOUS GARDEN MAINTENANCE**

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- ◆ Garden time does not end after planting annuals
- ◆ Perennials are not “no maintenance”

The gardening season officially begins January 1st and ends on December 31st
Marie Huston

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- ◆ Do not need to work ourselves to the bone

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- ◆ Maintenance practices
 - What
 - When
 - How
- How to minimize

6  **Maintenance Philosophies**

- ◆ Proactive
 - Think first
 - Choose plants that will adhere to your philosophy
- ◆ Reactive
 - Pick plants on impulse
 - Make them work
- ◆
- ◆

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Best Approach

- ◆ Right plant for the site
 - Different plants have different requirements
 - Work *with your site*, not against it
 -
- ◆ Soil Preparation
- ◆ Right Plant in right place
- ◆ Low maintenance plants

9  **Maintenance by the Seasons**

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- ◆ Weeding
- ◆ Dividing and Transplanting
- ◆ Pruning
- ◆ Mulching
- ◆ New Bed Preparation
- ◆ Plant Bulbs
- ◆ Garden Clean Up

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- ◆ Proactive
 - Begin beds weed free
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- ◆ Weeds continue to grow
 - Renovate?

12  **Dividing**

- ◆ Divide and transplant
 - Japanese Iris
 - Peonies
- ◆ Keep watering your plants

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14  **Pruning**

- ◆ Plants continue to photosynthesize as long as they are green
- ◆ Deadhead late summer bloomers
 - To lateral flower, bud or leaf
 - To ground or basal foliage

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- ◆ Cut back faded perennials
 - Late summer, Early fall

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- ◆ Cut back "soft" plant material
 - Reduce risk of fungal diseases

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17  **Cutting Back**

- ◆ Cut back perennials that you don't want standing
- ◆ Deadhead heavy seeders, but feed the birds

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Preparing New Beds






















- ◆ Eliminate weeds
- ◆ Outline shape
- ◆ Soil test - pH
- ◆ Till
- ◆ Add Organic Matter
- ◆ Fertilizer if needed

















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Bulbs







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- 21  **Mulching**
- 22  **Best Practices**
- ◆ Turn off water systems
 - drain your hoses
 - ◆ Clean and oil tools
 - ◆ Recycle or return pots
- 23 
- 24  **Ending the Growing Year**
- ◆ Rake Leaves
 - ◆ Make notes for next year
- 25 
- ◆ Dream and Plan
- 26  **Put your feet up**
- 27  **Enjoy Winter in the Garden**
- 28  **Play Games**
- ◆ Gardenopoloy
 - ◆ Plant Tycoon
- 29  **Dream**
- 30  **Travel**
- 31  **Plan**
- ◆ Seed Catalogs
 - ◆ The Web
 - Websites
 - Blogs
- 32  **As the days warm. . . .**
- ◆ Monitor
 - ◆ Press back frost heaved plants
 - ◆ Top dress beds in late March into April
- 33  **EARLY**
- ◆
 - ◆ Watch the earth awaken
 - ◆ Monitor Mulch
 - ◆ Remember the birds
 - ◆ Post Winter Clean-up
- 34 
- 35 
- 36 
- ◆ Remove evergreen boughs and other winter mulch if the weather is moderate
 - But leave it handy
- 37  **Fill birdfeeders**
- 38 
- 39  **Mid to Late**
- ◆ Prepare beds for planting
 - ◆ Remove all winter mulch by end of the month
 - ◆ Divide and transplant
 - ◆ Weed Control
 - Mulch
 - Hand weeding
 - ◆ Fertilize , Top Dress, Mulch
 - ◆
- 40 
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- ◆ Divide and transplant perennials
- ◆
- 42 
- 43 
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- 45  **Late Spring**
 - ◆ Plant Annuals
 - ◆ Pinch late bloomers
 - ◆ Stake as needed
 - ◆ Weed
 - ◆ Monitor for Insects and Diseases
 - ◆ Make notes
- 46  **Hummingbirds**
 - ◆ Mother's Day
- 47  **Planting Annuals**
 - ◆ Frost
 - ◆ Suitable for site and maintenance level
 - ◆ Diversify your plantings
 - ◆ Good Maintenance
 - Spacing
 - Watering
 - Pinching
 - Deadheading
- 48  **Plant Tags**
- 49  **Websites**
 - ◆ Where this is from
- 50 
- 51  **Suitable for Site**
 - ◆ Ageratum 'Artist Blue'
 - ◆ Iberis sempervirens 'White Lace'
 - ◆ Impatiens hawkeri 'Infinity Blushing Lilac'
 - ◆ Impatiens hawkeri 'Infinity Orange'
 - ◆ Lobelia 'Laguna Sky Blue'
 - ◆ Supertunia 'Vista Bubblegum'
- 52 
 - ◆ Spacing
 - ◆ Mulch
- 53  **Maintenance**
 - ◆ Fertilizer
 - ◆ Staking
 - ◆ Pinching
 - ◆ Deadheading
- 54  **Staking**
- 55  **Staking**
 - ◆ Peak staking
 - ◆ Thin Bamboo
 - ◆ Twine and stakes
 - ◆ Peony rings
 - ◆ Delphinium elatum 'Guardian Blue'
 - ◆ Digitalis purpurea 'Camelot Rose'
- 56  **Insects and Diseases**
- 57 

- 58  **Aphids**
- ◆ Found on shoots, flower buds and leaf undersides
 - ◆ Suck out plant juices
 - ◆ Honey-dew
 - ◆ Wash off with strong spray of water
 - ◆ Insecticidal soap
 - ◆ Lady beetles are predators
- 59  **Spider Mites**
- ◆ Suck juices from undersides of foliage
 - ◆ Leaves yellow with speckled look
 - ◆ Webs on back of leaves
 - ◆ Many natural predators
 - ◆ Spray with strong stream of water
 - ◆ Insecticidal soap
- 60  **Slugs**
- ◆ Slimy trails
 - ◆ Holes in leaves
 - ◆ Handpick
 - ◆ Slug traps
 - ◆ Egg Shells
- 61  **Thrips**
- ◆ Flecked or silver-white streaking on leaves
 - ◆ Hose them off
- 62  **Botrytis (Gray mold)**
- ◆ Fungus
 - ◆ Overwinters on plant parts
 - ◆ Good sanitation
 - ◆ Remove and destroy plant parts as soon as noticed
 - ◆ Avoid
 - overhead watering
 - over fertilizing
 - overcrowding
- 63  **Powdery Mildew**
- ◆ Fungus
 - ◆ Lower leaves and stems turn gray and look wilted
 - ◆ Good cultural practices
 - ◆
- 64  **Water**
- ◆ Deep
 - ◆ Less Frequent
- 65  **Pruning**
- ◆ Pruning, staking, general maintenance
 - ◆ Weeding
 - ◆ Watering
 - ◆ Take notes on changes you wish to do
 - ◆
- 66  **Pruning**
- ◆ Deadhead
 - ◆ Pinch
 - ◆ Shear
 - ◆ Disbudding

- ◆ Thinning
- ◆
- ◆
- 67 **Prolong flowering**
- 68
- 69 **Pinch**
- 70 **Annuals to Pinch**
- 71 **Shear**
- 72 **Thinning**
- 73 **Cut back to shape**
- 74 **Rejuvenate**
- 75 **Aesthetics**
- 76 **Bring flowers inside**
- 77
- ◆ Weed
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Top dress heavy feeders
 - Stop feeding by August
- ◆ Complete pinching of autumn blooming plants
- ◆ Cut back insect damaged foliage
- ◆
- 78 **August**
 - ◆ Divide
 - ◆ bearded iris
 - ◆ peonies
 - ◆
- 79 **Bearded Iris**
- 80 **Peonies**
- 81 **Early**
 - ◆ Pull out annuals as they fade
 - ◆ Plant fall ornamentals
 - ◆ After hard frost dig up tuberous tender plants such as begonias
 - ◆ Plant bulbs
 - ◆
- 82 **Modifying Maintenance**
- 83 **Modifying Maintenance**
 - ◆ Amount of maintenance required depends on how area was designed or planted
 - Site
 - Size
 - Shape
 - Plant Selection
 - Spacing
 - ◆ There are plants for almost any site
- 84 **There are some things you can't do anything about**
 - ◆
 - ◆ Our zone (high and low temperatures)
 - ◆ Our rainfall
 - ◆ Your basic soil type
 -
 - ◆ But, there are modifications you can make
 - ◆

- 85  **Site**
- ◆ Soil conditions
 - Wet or dry
 - Clay or sand
 - Most plants want well drained soil
 - ◆ Light exposure
 - Full sun, Heavy shade
 - Sunlight at different times of the day is different
 - ◆ Moisture
- 86  **Modifying your Environment - Soil**
- ◆ Why soil type makes a difference
 - It will affect your choice of plant material
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 - ◆ Soil types
 - Sandy
 - Larger particles
 - Dries faster
 - Loam
 - Ideal
 - Clay
 - Smaller particles
 - Stays wet and cool
 - ◆
 -
- 87  **Soil Fertility**
- ◆ Soil pH and Fertility
 - pH
 - Acid
 - Neutral
 - Alkaline
 - Nutrients
 - Nitrogen
 - Phosphorus
 - Potassium
 - ◆
 - ◆
- 88  **Proactive
Improving your Soil**
- ◆ Organic matter
 - Improves physical condition
 - Increases moisture holding capacity of sandy soils
 - Increases pore-space of clay soils and aides in drying
 - Increases soil fertility
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- 89  **Organic Matter**
- ◆ Increases the ability of soil to release nutrient chemicals
 - ◆ Improves conditions for beneficial soil micro-organisms
 - ◆ Increases spring soil warming
 - ◆ Enhances root development in warm, porous soil
- 90  **Exposure -Light**

- ◆ Why type of light makes a difference
 - Can affect your choice of plant materials
- ◆ Types of Light
 - Full Sun
 - Morning Sun
 - Afternoon Sun
 - Partial Sun/Shade
 - Full Shade


91  **Exposure – Air flow**

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Microclimates

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A local zone where the climate differs from the surrounding area

93  **Optimize the Site to the best of your ability to maximize your garden's potential and minimize later maintenance needs**

If your desires don't exactly match your site

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Don't Despair - Just Prepare

94  **Low Maintenance Plants**

- ◆ Life span of 5+
- ◆ Cold hardy
- ◆ Heat, humidity, moisture tolerant
- ◆ Do not require frequent division
- ◆ Do not require daily deadheading
- ◆ Do not require staking
- ◆ Insect and disease tolerant
- ◆ Not invasive
- ◆ Do not require heavy feeding

95  **The Site***

- ◆ Best time for initial preparation
 - Summer or fall before
- ◆ Steps
 - Weed removal
 - Tilling
 - Amending with organic matter

96  **Planting**

- ◆ Hole large enough to accept root system comfortably
- ◆ Keep block of soil surrounding the root
- ◆ Set in hole and backfill with crown at ground level
- ◆ Irrigate with starter solution

- ◆ Allow plenty of space between plants



97  **Fertilizer and Water**

- ◆ Small rings around plants in early spring
- ◆ Repeat at 6 and 12 weeks for heavy feeders
- ◆ Water well

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"When I go into my garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
from *Man the Reformer*

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