

# Media Advisory

Macomb County Executive  
Mark A. Hackel



---

Michigan State University - Extension

## *For Immediate Release*

Media Contact: Mary Gerstenberger (586) 469-6085

Date: August 24, 2017

### **Experts to speak at MSUE smart gardening conference**

MSU Extension and the Macomb County Master Gardener Association are hosting the second annual Smart Gardening Conference “Growing for the Future” – Veggies and Soil and Bugs, Oh My! This one-day conference is for those who grow vegetables, are interested in improving soil, want to learn about insects or simply have a love for gardening.

Topics include:

- “Understanding Your Soil” by Dr. Dean Baas. Baas is an Extension educator in sustainable agriculture for Michigan State. He is involved in cover crops, soil health, and organic agriculture research and education.
- “Container Gardening with Vegetables” by Stacy Hirvela. Hirvela attended the New York Botanical Garden School of Professional Horticulture, served as horticulturist at the former Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park, and wrote for “Martha Stewart Living” magazine.
- “IPM in the Vegetable Garden” by Abi Saeed. Saeed completed her master’s degree in entomology from the University of Kentucky and is actively involved in local and statewide teaching and training workshops on pollinators, horticulture and entomology.
- “Extending the Growing Season” by Rebecca Krans. Krans is an Extension educator in the Upper Peninsula. She has worked in the green industry as a perennial grower, greenhouse manager and grounds manager.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Macomb Intermediate School District located at 44001 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township, 48038. Doors open at 8 a.m. The cost of the conference is \$75 and includes lunch, snacks, speaker fees and handouts. There will be no walk-in registrations, and seating is limited.

Please call Mary Gerstenberger at (586) 469-6440 or email [mary.gerstenberger@macombgov.org](mailto:mary.gerstenberger@macombgov.org) for a registration form or if additional information is needed.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) brings educational programs to residents, empowering them to improve their lives and community. County-based MSUE staff, in concert with on-campus faculty members, serve residents with programming focused on agriculture, natural resources, children, youth, families, community and economic development.

###