

Create Your Own Outdoor Paradise

Gardening Programs and Activities
with Melinda Myers



Create Your Own Paradise – 2025 Library Program

with garden expert and author Melinda Myers

for

Wisconsin Public Libraries

This partnership aims to provide **free and accessible** information focused on practical, budget-wise gardening strategies anyone can employ. Teaming with the **Wisconsin Public Libraries**, gardening expert and author Melinda Myers with sponsor, We Energies, will provide **free 3 gardening webinars and 3 activities** that the Wisconsin Public Libraries can use in their 2025 programming **April - June**. Library patrons will learn how spending time in nature and gardens helps reduce stress, improves mental and physical health, and elevates mood. Whether living in an apartment, condo, or house with a small or large lot, anyone can create an outdoor paradise. The **2025 Create Your Own Outdoor Paradise Program** will also provide affordable ways people can boost the beauty and enjoyment of time spent outdoors from spring through fall. Affordable, sustainable, and beautiful gardening strategies for creating an outdoor paradise will be covered.

We hope you can use these FREE Gardening Webinars and Activities at your Library this Year!

3 WEBINARS with gardening expert & author Melinda Myers – The live webinars will be on the dates below and the recordings will be available for on-demand viewing the following day. Your Library can host a watch party on the dates below or schedule it after the live webinar date and play the recording. If you host a live watch party on the dates below, your patrons will be able to submit questions live and get them answered by Melinda Myers at the end of each webinar. You can also let your patrons know they can individually register for the webinars if they'd prefer to watch them at home. The webinar registration links and Facebook event links to share on your library's Facebook page are below and the graphics are attached.

- **April 2, 2025, 6:30 p.m. CT - Webinar: Container Gardens for Sun and Shade**
Container gardens add color and seasonal interest to balconies, patios, decks, and even your front entrance. No matter where they're placed, matching the plants to the available sunlight will help boost success. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share container plant combinations for both sun-filled and shady locations. Plus, she'll provide tips on the proper care to keep them looking good all season long.
Register for this free webinar at
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QINKSZqxRbSKsDABXwbwPg
4/2/25 Facebook event to share on your Library's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1484809739100916>
- **May 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m. CT – Webinar: Vertical Gardening**
Save space, screen bad views, and create privacy by growing vertically. We'll discuss fun, affordable, and attractive ways to use this gardening technique to incorporate flowers and edibles into your landscape and container gardens. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share ways vertical gardening can help reduce energy use by shading air conditioners, walls, and outdoor seating.
Register for this free webinar at
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BqvB89cfRpuU47ouKBilRQ
5/7/25 Facebook event to share on your Library's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1798082864279258>

- **June 4, 2025, 6:30 p.m. CT – Webinar: Attracting Hummingbirds**

Invite these beautiful pollinators to your landscape by growing a few of their favorite flowers. Add one or more feeders and don't forget the water. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will cover a variety of hummingbird-favorite shrubs and flowers to include in your gardens and containers. Plus, we'll discuss tips for filling, cleaning, and placing feeders in the landscape to support and keep them safe.

Register for this free webinar at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RAZpnCt6Qsm4zgXOp_f7VA

6/4/25 Facebook event to share on your Library's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/208275965527746>

3 GARDENING ACTIVITIES with gardening expert & author Melinda Myers

Melinda Myers will provide a video and activity guide for each activity to libraries wanting to incorporate them into their 2025 programming. Consider hosting groups at your library to do these activities together. Your library can also use these activities for your summer reading programs (ie: activity guides can go in summer reading take-and-make kits, etc.) or your library can link to these activities where patrons can download the activity guides to do at home. [The program web page](#) will house the videos and the activity guides which can be downloaded and printed or shared digitally. The videos and activity guides will be added to the [program web page](#) before the Create Your Own Paradise Program starts on April 1st.

***April Activity: From Seed to Your Container or Garden**

Starting plants from seeds indoors allows you to jump-start the season, save money, and grow varieties unavailable from the garden center. You can start the garden season now with a few containers, new or made from repurposed items, seed starting mix, and seeds. The video and activity guide will cover the following:

- Ways to spend less and benefit more when starting seeds indoors
- Tips to boost success from planting the seeds to tending the young seedlings
- Tackling any problems that may arise

***May Activity: Create a Vertical Garden from Repurposed Items**

Planters mounted to walls, fences, or other vertical structures add color and growing space where needed. Create your own from old pallets, used pots, discarded blue jeans, and more. The video and activity guide will cover the following:

- Directions for creating a small pallet with containers garden and a second one from old jeans
- Tips for selecting plants suited to these types of planters
- How to care for these and any similar type of vertical garden

***June Activity: Inviting Nature's Insect Managers into the Garden**

Hummingbirds not only help pollinate our plants but like most birds supplement their plant-based diet with insects. Keep them and beneficial insects safe by working with nature to manage insects in the garden. The video and activity guide will cover the following:

- Identifying a few of the good, bad, and ugly insects you may find in the garden
- Tips for deciding when to leave them be or help nature manage the problem
- Eco-friendly methods for managing problems when intervention is needed

Libraries can utilize the free Webinars and Activities in the following ways:

- Your Library can host a webinar watch party on the live webinar dates or schedule it after the live webinar date and play the recording. If you host a live watch party, your patrons will be able to submit questions live and get them answered by Melinda at the end of each webinar. You can also let your patrons know they can individually register for the webinars if they'd prefer to watch them at home.
- Melinda Myers will provide both a video and activity guide for each of the gardening activities in April, May, and June. Libraries can host groups at the library to do these activities together.
- Libraries can use the activities for summer reading programs (ie: activity sheets can go in summer reading take-and-make kits, etc.) or your library can link to these activities where patrons can download the activity guides to do at home. A [program web page](#) will house all the videos and activity guides which can be downloaded and printed or shared digitally.
- Offer program-themed story times at libraries and distribute related materials.
- Create book lists related to program topics.
- Incorporate the 3 garden activities into summer reading programs (and other library programs) and have books related to the program topics count toward earning incentives/prizes.
- Let patrons know where they can download the activity guides and watch the videos so they can do them at home.
- Set up displays that include program-related books, book lists, educational materials, and the program sign with QR code for patrons to register for free webinars and access the Videos and Activities.
- Create take-and-make kits related to the 3 Gardening Activities (copies of the 3 activity guides can be included).
- Include a link from the library website to the [program web page](#) where all program content is housed (how-to videos, downloadable DIY activity materials, webinar registration links and webinar recordings).
- Promote webinars and activities to patrons on the library's website, social media platforms, and traditional media leading up to and throughout the campaign.
- Use the program hashtag **#OutdoorParadise** on social media platforms to create a thread so people can share ideas and photos across the libraries.
- Encourage patrons to share photos of their finished projects using the program hashtag **#OutdoorParadise** to inspire others and encourage their participation.

Promotional Materials that will be provided to Libraries

- ✓ Website icon and banner ads that can be added to your library's website and [linked to the content](#)
- ✓ A hashtag **#OutdoorParadise** for the program so all participants can share ideas and inspiration
- ✓ Social media posts and images for the libraries to share
- ✓ Facebook event links to promote the webinars – links provided to libraries to share on libraries' Facebook pages
- ✓ Press release templates – each library can customize and send to media outlets in their community

A special thanks to our sponsor for making this program possible!



About Melinda Myers

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including the [Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition](#) and [Small Space Gardening](#). She hosts the nationally syndicated “[Melinda's Garden Moment](#)” radio program and The Great Courses “[How to Grow Anything](#)” DVD and instant video series. Myers is a garden columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* and writes a nationally syndicated newspaper column. Before her current media work, Melinda hosted “The Plant Doctor” radio show on WTMJ 620 AM for over 20 years as well as seven seasons of “Great Lakes Gardener” on PBS. She has a master's degree in horticulture and was a horticulture instructor with tenure. She was also recently inducted into the National Association for Garden Communicators Hall of Fame. Melinda's website, www.MelindaMyers.com, has gardening videos, podcasts, gardening tips, monthly garden checklists, and more.

