

Tangletown Gardens and Wise Acre Eatery

Minneapolis, Minnesota

GARDEN CENTER

Tangletown Garden Center is an urban oasis offering an absolute garden experience with a commitment to creative design and sustainable practices. They grow a plethora of high-quality annuals, perennials and houseplants at their 140-acre farm located just outside the metro area in Plato, MN.

Highlights of the garden center include:

- The most diverse collection of unusual and hard-to-find herbaceous and woody plants in the Upper Midwest*
- Landscape and container design services fueled by cutting-edge design and horticultural expertise.*
- An eclectic, carefully-curated selection of art, decor, gifts and trendsetting items for home and garden with a focus on providing quality items that suit a range of personalities and price-points.*

RESTAURANT & MARKET

Sister restaurant Wise Acre Eatery is located just across the street. A true farm-to-table dining experience, market and deli, Wise Acre offers a seasonal menu with food produced almost entirely at the Tangletown Gardens farm.

Wise Acre Eatery highlights include:

- Abundantly landscaped grounds demonstrating signature design-forward gardens and containers by Tangletown Gardens.*
- Chemical-free produce and humanely-raised meat and eggs.*
- Constantly-evolving menu rooted in local ingredients and demonstrating innovative preservation and agricultural practices.*
- CSA program offering member shares of seasonal produce throughout the year.*
- Farm direct program and on-site market and deli with seasonal produce, meat and eggs, house-brand and local artisan food products.*

HISTORY

Tangletown Garden Center was started 20 years ago by Scott Endres and Dean Engemann, two farm boys who met as horticulture students at the University of

Minnesota. They purchased a former Pure Oil Station in south Minneapolis to launch a garden experience that went beyond the ordinary.

At the same time, they started cultivation and regenerative agricultural practices on the family farm where Dean grew up. The mission of caring for the land, growing food you can trust, and being passionately committed to beauty has led to ongoing evolution of the garden center and expansion of the farm as well as the addition of Wise Acre Eatery in 2012.



Lakeside Perennials & Prairie Garden

Deephaven, Minnesota

In grand fashion, a giant pergola highlights an extensive collection of perennials in this two-acre garden on the shores of Lake Minnetonka.

The property also features the following:

- ❖ Vegetable garden
- ❖ Rain garden
- ❖ Shade garden
- ❖ Hillside prairie garden.



Photos courtesy: Gail Hudson, Gail Hudson Media

History

Starting in 2008, retired landscape architect Barbara Burgum tapped several friends, who happen to be pre-eminent Twin Cities landscape designers to create the clean lines of the garden. They've continually helped add/subtract to the plant list as the garden has developed!

In 2018, the garden was painstakingly documented by Barbara's garden club for the Garden Club of America archives at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The landscape surrounds an historic Arts and Crafts house built in 1905 for James Flett Cargill, who was brother to the founder of the Cargill family grain storage business.

On the lakeside, the garden slants dramatically down to the water. Prairie Restorations converted the lawn to a garden of drought-tolerant, deep-rooted prairie plants to fill the area and enhance the view from the wrap-around porch.

Special plants and features to look for

- ❖ Barbara's favorite plant combination: Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*) with lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*).
- ❖ Clematis vines on the wooden posts of the pergola
- ❖ Water retention areas built around the house
- ❖ Prairie dropseed grasses (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and tall pollinator-friendly plants that camouflage a swale alongside the asphalt driveway
- ❖ The front of the house is actually around the back—facing the lake, since many people arrived by boat at the turn of the century.

- ❖ Barbara's "Fat Boys" – upright stones marking the entrance to the brick path meandering through the perennials. "They're so eccentric and charming," she says.



Unusual Perennials Garden

Waconia, Minnesota

Two near Civil War era oak trees anchor this relatively new garden of both well-known and unusual plants, featuring both sunny and shady environs.

The property features:

- ❖ 1,000 plus taxa of bulbs, grasses, perennials and woody plants
- ❖ Ericaceous (acid-loving) garden
- ❖ Rain garden
- ❖ Rock garden
- ❖ 150+ containers filled with bulbs, annuals, tender plants



Photos courtesy: Mike & Jean Heger

History

In 2013, Mike and Jean Heger retired from the nursery business, demolished their home, then built a new one and finally began to install new plantings in 2014-2015. They also began renovating older portions of their original garden. They admit they are collectors to a certain degree, and have integrated numerous rare/unusual shade perennials and woody plants that they feel deserve to be more widely grown.

Mike is a horticultural consultant and expert. He is co-author of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates*, a highly-regarded, go-to book for professionals and gardeners.

Special plants and features to look for:

- ❖ Integration of art in the landscape – a dry-stacked stone cairn serves as a focal point in a recently renovated section.
- ❖ Turf areas transitioned to low-mow fescues that require far less inputs.
- ❖ Rain garden collects runoff from the roof and driveway.





Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Chaska, Minnesota

This public garden draws more than 500,000 paid visitors a year with 28 specialty gardens, 44 plant collections, natural areas and more than 150 permanent works of art, cared for by 200 staff and nearly 1,000 volunteers.

Special features to look for include:

- ❖ **Annual Garden:** This spectacular display (pictured) showcases the colorful power of annuals, primarily grown from seeds and plugs in Arboretum greenhouses and planted immediately after a display of 40,000 tulips fades by June 1.
- ❖ **Japanese Garden:** The “Seisui Tei” or Garden of Pure Water reflects a style of the Edo Period (1603-1869). Designed by landscape architect Koichi Kawana in 1985, it includes granite snow lanterns, a garden house, a water basin, entry gates and more than 50 different trees, shrubs and groundcovers.
- ❖ **Sensory Garden:** This model display, designed for the Nature-Based Therapeutics program at the Arboretum, shows accessible containers and designs suitable for a variety of gardening styles and abilities.
- ❖ **Home Demonstration Gardens:** Explore a variety of small-space gardens that can easily be replicated by the backyard gardener, including herb gardens, patio pots, vegetable plantings, fruit displays (including espaliers), cutting gardens with flowers, rock gardens and even a weed-identification exhibit.

History

Founded in 1958, the Arboretum is part of the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota, the Arboretum is world-renowned for woody plant and fruit-breeding research programs, including the commercial introduction of the Honeycrisp apple and more than 160 cold-hardy plant varieties developed at the Arboretum’s Horticultural Research Center.

Other attractions:

- ❖ The Arb’s Oswald Visitor Center and attached Snyder Building include the Eatery at the Arboretum, a Gift & Garden Store, three art galleries, a Conservatory and a horticultural library with rare books.
- ❖ The Farm at the Arb, which sits on a high hill on the grounds, is home to a restored Big Red Barn, a Bee Center and a new adult Education Center, which serves as the

statewide headquarters of the University of Minnesota Extension's Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

- ❖ Photos with credits are [here](#).











Sustainable Permaculture Garden

Plymouth, Minnesota

Tasty edibles, pollinator-friendly “nativars” (native cultivars) and triple-duty shrubs intermingle in this 1-acre waterfront garden with an emphasis on sustainability and permaculture for the home gardener. A charming eco-friendly home anchors the site, which leads down to a small lake.

The property also features:

- ❖ Bee lawns, created by overseeding with white clover, purslane, thyme and various fescues, using a University of Minnesota bee lawn recipe;
- ❖ Permeable paver driveway and a rainchain drainage system;
- ❖ Heritage and ornamental plant interplanted throughout landscape with enough bounty for humans as well as critters, who need their “fair share;”
- ❖ Nativars such as ‘Blue Heaven’ little bluestem from Minnesota grass expert Dr. Mary Meyer with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- ❖ Creative and colorful plant combinations in containers and in the landscape that include a mix of traditional showstoppers and native favorites.

History

After moving to her property in 1998, Heidi Heiland began transforming the home landscape, starting slowly with perennials and transplants from her previous garden, all with an eye toward eco-conscious gardening and sustainable plantings to stabilize the shoreline. Major changes occurred in 2006, when the property lost 15 oaks due to deadly wilt, and again in 2008 with the build of a new home on the property for her and her husband, Dan. In 2012, Heidi was awarded the Residential Landscape Design Award from the Perennial Plant Association for her success in transitioning the landscape back into a state of health by utilizing native species and conscious design. Heidi owns and operates Heidi's GrowHaus & Lifestyle Gardens in nearby Corcoran.

Special plants and features to look for

- ❖ Check out strawberries used as groundcovers and blueberries used as hedges;

- ❖ Serviceberry with white flowers in spring, berries in June for birds, color in fall and structure in winter as well as being a drought-tolerant native;
- ❖ Edibles that line the driveway, including 'Prescott Fond Blanc' melon and 'Yellow Baby' watermelon;
- ❖ Strategically maintained, low-growing weeds next to the roadway to slow down runoff and to absorb water in the garden;
- ❖ Self-seeding annuals such as dill, but also self-seeding biennials such as *Rudbeckia hirta*
- ❖ Chop-and-drop composting right inside the garden beds.

Zone-pushing Succession Garden

Orono, Minnesota

Get ready to immerse yourself in a beautifully designed and planted food garden with angles everywhere you look. Working with the site, the unique layout highlights the enchanting red barn from every angle. Each plant is grown from seed—easily over 200 varieties of food and flowers are carefully selected and cultivated for a variety of purposes, including fresh eating, long-term storage, and processing.

The property also features the following:

- ❖ Custom-designed / built on-site cedar and weather steel raised beds
- ❖ Multiple garden patios for gathering harvests and humans
- ❖ Auxiliary native prairies that serve as insectaries
- ❖ A modern root cellar in the garage, commensurate with a garden of this size



History

A wildly prolific and full-time food gardener, Meg Cowden and husband John relish the challenge of gardening in a cold climate. In fact, they're on a mission to help other northern gardeners extend the growing season and increase garden yields. From tomatoes to potatoes and everything in between (including a grove of espalier apple trees!), they know a thing or two (bazillion) about growing fruits, vegetables and herbs

Up North because they're doing just that in their own backyard.

"For the past five years, I've applied our decades of growing experience to a large-scale home garden, producing the vast majority of vegetables we consume year-round," says

Meg. “Indoor seed starting is my jam, crucial to maximizing the short Minnesota growing season with intensive succession planting.”

They’re cultivating more than just an endless supply of fresh, homegrown food for family, friends and local pollinators. Meg has also grown a robust online gardening community (@seedtofork and seedtofork.com). “Since 2017, I’ve inspired tens of thousands on Instagram to grow more food for longer, and I’m convinced I can help you grow more, too.”

Meg is also the author of *Plant Grow Harvest Repeat* (Timber Press, 2022).

Special plants and features to look for:

- ❖ Grove of espaliered fruit: apple, plum, apricot, and pear trees
- ❖ Sesame
- ❖ Peanuts
- ❖ Cucamelons
- ❖ Borlotti (speckled cranberry) beans
- ❖ And, if all goes well, their first-ever artichokes