



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Otsego County

NEWS RELEASE

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Memorial Perennial Garden Redesigned

Otsego County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Volunteers have redesigned the William Gengenbach Memorial Garden located at the Extension office, 123 Lake Street, Cooperstown.

Several years ago when Otsego County Cooperative Extension agricultural agent Bill Gengenbach passed away, a perennial garden was planted in his memory. Over the years, the perennial plants grew bigger, as perennials will do, the ornamental grasses grew taller and the deer often feasted upon many of the plants growing there. Feeling the garden was not as attractive as it once was, Master Gardeners undertook the redesign and revitalize of the Memorial Garden.

Since the presence of deer are a constant challenge to gardeners in the village of Cooperstown, and other areas of Otsego County, Master Gardeners chose deer resistant plants such as Wormwood (Artemisia), Feverfew, Black Eyed Susan, Yarrow, Purple coneflower, Clematis, and Lady's mantle to place in the garden. Deer resistant shrubs of spirea and dwarf barberry were also used.

The stone identifying the Memorial Garden has been moved to a more prominent position in the front of the garden. Additions to the perennial garden are a hypertufa birdbath and a pair of rustic trellises. These were crafted by Master Gardener Volunteers. In previous years, Master Gardeners first learned the necessary techniques and then taught workshops on making hypertufa garden pieces and rustic trellises. Hypertufa is a type of pottery material developed by English gardeners. It is usually made of a mixture of cement, sand and peat moss which can be molded into planters, birdbaths and other types of garden pottery. Rustic trellises are made of small saplings and tree branches. Perennial plants will be trained to grow up these trellises adding height to the garden. Work on the garden will continue during the current growing season.

To view the deer resistant perennial garden with the hypertufa birdbath and rustic trellises stop by the Extension Office. To find out more about deer resistant perennial gardening, hypertufa and home made rustic trellises you can contact the Master Gardener Office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday through Friday, by calling 607/547-2536 x 228, or emailing: mastergardener-otsego@cornell.edu.