



2026 Escanaba Kiwanis Spring Expo

“Free” Smart Gardening Presentation Schedule

Saturday, April 11, 2026

- 10:15 – 11 a.m.** **Landscaping with (mostly) Natives-** *Jackie Manchester, MSU Extension Advanced Master Gardener.*
‘How I used Smart Gardening principles to rework an inadequately planted site using native plants, sedums, and grasses—with pollinators in mind.’
- 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.** **Beekeeping Basics -** *Bernie Driggs, Beekeeper for over 40 years, 2019 Beekeeper of the Year Award for Michigan Beekeeper’s Association.*
‘Learn all about what is involved in keeping honeybees successfully in the Upper Peninsula.’
If weather cooperates, Bernie will be bringing a live demo hive.
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.** **Pruning 101? -** *Miranda Fletcher, MSU Horticulture Science Major, Mackinac County 4-H Program Coordinator.*
‘Pruning 101. What is pruning? Why do we do it? When and how should we do it?’
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.** **Family-friendly workshop – ‘Start your Tomatoes and Pumpkins’ –** *Extension Master Gardener Volunteers*
Are you interested in having your own tomato and/or pumpkin plant? Stop by during this time to start your tomato and/or pumpkins with seed. Learn how to keep them alive and well until you can plant them outside.

Sunday, April 12, 2026

- 11:30 – 12:15 p.m.** **Extend your growing season –** *Rebecca Krans, MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator.*
Do you want to have a garden earlier or longer? Discover some quick tips and some tools to help you get started. Participants can win some season extension giveaways to use in their garden.

Please note:

- Session participants will be entered to win various local door prizes.
- Along with these Smart Gardening presentations, we will have over 35 free smart gardening tip sheets and bookmarks. Extension Master Gardener Smart Gardening Volunteers will assist showgoers with these gardening resources.
- Join Extension Master Gardeners for a free family-friendly, children’s seed starting activity.
- Learn more about the Extension Master Gardener program and their volunteer projects across the Upper Peninsula.