



Media Alert

For Immediate Release

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Learn How to Create a Resilient Yard

2018 Blue Thumb workshops hosted by Metro Blooms

What?	<p>Unseasonably warm weather, long periods of drought, and flooding rains are the new normal in Minnesota. Metro Blooms is offering two types of resilient yard presentations this year: <i>Resilient Yard Workshops</i> and <i>Turf Alternative workshops</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resilient Yard Workshops (2.5 hours)</i>: Provide a framework to understand the importance of resilience and how it can be fostered in your yard through a variety of practices, including how to install your own raingarden. Following presentation, attendees receive one-on-one design assistance from Blue Thumb Landscape Designers, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, and Master Water Stewards to create a plan for your own yard. • <i>Turf Alternative Workshops (1.5 hours)</i>: Your guide to a low-maintenance lawn. This 1-hour presentation overviews the benefits and options before providing step-by-step instructions to establishing water- and pollinator-friendly perennial ground covers. Suggested turf alternatives minimize the need for irrigation and chemical inputs while maintaining a useable lawn. The presentation is followed by a group discussion to identify and overcome common obstacles faced by homeowners. <p>All workshops attendees receive information about installation cost share programs and Blue Thumb resources to help get a project in the ground.</p>
When?	March-June 2018
Where?	11 Twin Cities metro locations + 1 workshop in Prescott, Wisconsin
How to Register?	<p>Visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426 Cost: \$15 per household unless otherwise noted. Register soon, some locations fill up fast. You can also mail your registration to Workshop Registration, P.O. Box 17099, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Enclose a check payable to Metro Blooms, and include the workshop location, your name, address, phone number and email address.</p>
Why?	<p>Increasingly severe changes in Minnesota's weather patterns are impacting all of us, but these changes are felt most strongly in our cities. Impermeable surfaces (roads, roofs, parking lots, and unhealthy compacted soils) excel at soaking up and retaining heat from the sun, and also contribute to huge amounts of runoff, carrying pollution into our waters. Resilient yards do the opposite: shed and shade the sun's heat, but soak up and infiltrate stormwater, cleaning and using it to help cool the surrounding landscape. A resilient yard not only survives extreme weather—it also helps us thrive in spite of it.</p>
	<p>Workshops presented by Metro Blooms, sponsored by the Cities of Minneapolis, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, New Hope, St. Louis Park, and Edina, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission, Rice Creek Watershed District, Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and Friends of Freedom Park.</p> <p>Metro Blooms, a local non-profit organization, works to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally-sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment. Metro Blooms coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership – a network of public and private partners working towards planting for clean water.</p>

Register now. Some locations fill up fast. The \$15 workshops are offered March - June: