

Beautification Commission 2025 Social Media Post Planning

Notes:

1-2-24: The current list is an initial draft, not yet reviewed by Commissioners or Community Relations team.

1-6-24: January “event” has been posted by Community Relations team without specific branding to this series, it is planned to repeat weekly throughout January and later editions can be branded as needed.

Q1

January

Happy New Year from the City of Novi Beautification Commission! Welcome to our new monthly “??? Commission Corner? Garden Gazette? Beautification bite???” series. Throughout the year we’ll be offering suggestions and inspiration for your yards, big or small. Some features will be Good Plants to incorporate in your gardens (as well as a few Bad Plants to look out for), beautification tips and facts, as well as upcoming events around the City of Novi that might be of interest to those interested in Beautification related topics.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- [Eastern Hemlock Trees](#) (*Tsuga canadensis*)
A lovely native conifer, commonly used in parks and residential areas for their ornamental beauty. If healthy, they can live up to 400 years, providing food and shelter to local wildlife.

Beautification Tip/Fact

- [Non-native? Invasive?](#) Native? Establish basis for good plant/bad plant
- If you have an [Eastern Hemlock Tree check them for signs of infestation by the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid this winter](#). If you find signs takes steps to protect your tree(s) and report the infestation so it can be tracked. An untreated infestation can kill the normally long-lived tree in just 4 – 10 years.

Featured Events?

-Deadline for the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program:

2025 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program Deadline Approaching

Has your subdivision signage seen better days? Are your plantings in need of sprucing? Lighting looking for a refresh? Homeowners Associations (HOAs) planning on beautifying their neighborhood entrances can apply for a matching grant of up to \$5,000.00 from the City of Novi. Applications are due by **January 31, 2025 at 5:00pm**.

Application and further information can be found online [Here](#).

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Contact Katherine Oppermann at 248-347-0478 or koppermann@cityofnovi.org should you have any questions.

1-6-24 POSTED version

Is your subdivision signage looking a bit tired? Do your plantings need a little love? How about a lighting update? If your Homeowners Association (HOA) is thinking about sprucing up your neighborhood entrances, you can apply for a matching grant of up to \$5,000 from the City of Novi! Just remember, applications are due by January 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm. You can find the application and more info online here>> cityofnovi.org/hoa. Email Kate if you have any questions: koppermann@cityofnovi.org

- "Nature Study: Noticing Nature Through Photography", a month-long exhibit in the Civic Center Atrium featuring the photographs of Novi-based photographer & Novi Photography Club member Sara Srinivasan.
 - [Art Gallery Opening & Reception January 8th 6-8pm](#)

February

Happy February, the month of Love. Even though the ground is still frozen it's a good time to think about love we can show to our yards and pollinator friends come Spring.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

- Beebalm/Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Beautification Tip/Fact

- [Not all pollinators sting](#)
Pollinators investigating flowering plants in your lawn are not likely to sting you. They are only interested in the food and habitat in your lawn and garden, and not interested in bothering you. As you look to make your yard more friendly for pollinators, remember to reduce the amount of chemicals you use in your gardens, never spray any flowering plants in bloom or bare soil, and always read and follow label directions. Reimagine (bee-imagine) your idea of a perfect lawn. Does it need to be a picture-perfect turf landscape, or a perfect paradise for you *and* pollinators?
- Be part of a pollinator corridor! If you have a full yard to dedicate to gardens, great! But even those with just a small patio or balcony can contribute with potted plants (also consider speaking to your association or management office about adding pollinator habitat to your grounds)

Featured Events?

March

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Happy March! With the snow and slush melting away it will soon be time again to turn our eyes to our yards and gardens.

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- [Sugar Maple \(*Acer saccharum*\)](#)
- **Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)** – excellent to incorporate as part of groundcover in lawns

Beautification Tip/Fact

- Whether you mow your own lawn or hire a service to assist you can consider [pollinator aware lawn care](#) principals:
 - o Mow less often, and/or cut higher
 - o Reduce or ideally stop chemical applications to your lawn, particularly any kind of use neonicotinoid insecticides.
 - o Use electric, rather than gas-powered, lawn care equipment to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - o Let dandelions and clover bloom! OR better yet, consider a pollinator lawn – incorporate native pollinator-friendly plants like wild strawberry, lanceleaf coreopsis, selfheal (*prunella vulgaris*).
 - o Reduce your turf lawn/mowable area, extend existing or create new garden beds or rain gardens where appropriate. If you select native plants then, once established, you will likely have fewer yard chores to attend year-over-year

Featured Events?

- Honeybee Hive Preparation
Hive boxes for our pilot program will need to be prepared including sanding (if necessary), priming, and painting. This opportunity can be kept within the Commission/City staff or can be opened to the public if we wish. (as we are starting with 2 hives we can expect 8 – 14 boxes, confirm with M. Theisen)
- [Tollgate Farm Maplefest 2025!](#)

Q2

April

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Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

GOOD PLANT

- Milkweed Varieties
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), for well drained, sandy soil
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*), for rich, wetter soils.

The beloved Monarch butterfly spends late spring through early fall here in Michigan; so, it is important to provide a variety of plants that bloom May through September as consistent food sources. One of the most important plants to Monarchs is milkweed! They are essential host plants for monarch caterpillars and their nectar supports adult monarch. Consider adding one of the varieties above to your garden. The Monarch as well as many other pollinators will thank you!

BAD PLANT [Garlic Mustard \(*Alliaria petiolata*\)](#)

- best removed in early Spring before it goes to seed

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

- Bee Installation! We'll be welcoming our new honeybees this month
- Pollinator Aware Lawn Care?

May

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

June

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

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Featured Events?

Q3

July

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Outdoor Lighting (from A2gov.org)

- Pollination happens at night as well as during the daytime. You can help nocturnal pollinators (such as moths) and improve bird safety by reducing your light pollution.
- Turn off exterior lights when possible, and shade windows in lighted rooms at night. If you must use outdoor lights, use dim, shielded, downward pointing, motion activated lights, with a warm yellow-red color temperature. All of these options reduce light-induced distraction of night time insects, birds, and other animals.
- All exterior lighting must adhere to Ann Arbor's Unified Development Code, [Chapter 55, Section 5:25](#). Learn more about the City's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance [here](#). (pull the equivalent from current Novi code)

Featured Events?

August

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

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Featured Events?

World bee day is August 15, Related Event?

[San Diego recommended children's books](#)

September

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

Featured Events?

Q4

October

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

- Leave the Leaves! (and other plant materials)
- Autumn mulching (environmentally safe varieties?)
- bulb planting reminder

Featured Events?

November

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tips/Fact

- Holiday Shopping/Decorating? (Michigan EGLE suggestions)
- Use [gift wrap, boxes and other materials](#) that are recyclable.

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Shop with [reusable bags](#) instead of using plastic bags.

Featured Events?

December

Good Plant/Bad Plant of the Month

Beautification Tip/Fact

-what happens to live Xmas trees collected by Priority Waste?

-[Michigan EGLE Suggest Christmas Tree Uses](#) (Dec 2024 Article)

Suggested Christmas tree uses

OK, so what is the best use for that Christmas tree? Here are some options to consider:

- *Create a brush pile on your property with the tree to provide habitat; wildlife may use it for nesting or as a food resource. Just make sure that the tree is pesticide free and that you've removed all of the ornaments and other decorations.*
Ordinance Issue?
- *Cut the tree into small pieces or mulch it to use in garden pots or landscaping, which will return nutrients to the soil. Depending on the type of gardening you're doing and the type of tree you have, you may need to confirm that the tree is pesticide free and that it won't negatively affect soil composition for whatever you're growing.*
- *Give the tree to a friend with chickens or goats. Chickens can roost on them through the winter and goats love to chew on them. Again, make sure the tree is pesticide free before allowing animals to use it.*
- *Recycle your tree through your municipality. Many cities and towns collect trees or have designated drop off locations; these trees are usually turned into mulch. ???*

Featured Events?