

Climate Changing Gardens

WHAT TO EXPECT

Climate change in Minnesota will affect our temperatures and precipitation.

- Night time temperatures will raise
- Winter temperatures will raise
- Rain/snow will become less consistent, leading to both floods & drought
- Rain/snowfall amounts per event will increase

SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS

Be ready for sudden weather changes and protect your plants from dramatic temperature swings, heat waves, flood, drought, and severe weather.

- Keep plants healthy & well-watered
- Protect & cover the soil
- Invest in plant protectors & supports like low-tunnels, windbreaks, & stakes
- Monitor garden for rainfall and new pests

LONG-TERM GOALS

These changes will become our new normal in Minnesota.

- Identify at-risk microclimates & change landscape designs to support them
- Reduce pesticides and increase organic matter in your yard to build a healthy soil ecosystem
- Plan ways to keep & store water on your property
- Update your plant selection as needed

GET INVOLVED

Help contribute to the global efforts to reduce the impact of climate change.

- Grow more plants & more types of plants (Especially long-lived plants & native plants)
- Change to person-powered tools as much as possible
- Support local food & composting efforts
- Join a community group or local administrative efforts to spread the message

LEARN MORE WITH THESE RESOURCES

PRO-TIP: Google “site:edu Climate Change” (or site:gov) for research-based advice

- ❖ **University of MN Extension** <https://extension.umn.edu/climate-and-weather/understanding-earths-climate>
- ❖ **MN DNR State Climatology Office** https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/about_us.html
- ❖ **MN Phenology Network** <https://mnpn.usanpn.org/>
- ❖ **University of MN Soil Testing Lab.** <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/testing-services/lawn-garden>
- ❖ **Arrest the Pest** <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/arrest-pest>

CLASS NOTES

APPLYING THE KNOWLEDGE

What things about Minnesota are changing? Which have you seen?

How are these changes going to affect your garden?

What things can you try to prepare for those changes?