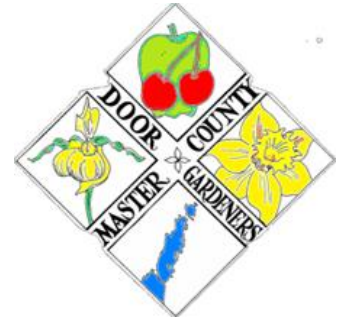




Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.



A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service

THE GARDEN DOOR Cactus Garden

Cold hardy cacti are beautiful flowering plants, showing off flowers in colors of red, yellow, caramel, white, and many others. When not flowering, the cacti offer unusual shaped pads, stems, and perfectly arranged spines, which can be soft or brutally sharp and non-releasing.

Most of the cacti come from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming, growing at elevations of 7,200 feet and higher which allows them to grow here in Wisconsin. Three cacti that are native to Wisconsin are in this garden – Opuntia “Humifusa”, Opuntia fragilis “Wisconsin”, and Opuntia macrorhiza “Englem”.



Cacti require a fast draining soil which means no sod, clay, added compost, or potting soil. Our cactus garden had the sod and top soil removed to 12 to 18 inches deep. Larger gravel or smaller stone was placed, then covered with the coarsest sand available and topped off with a mulch of pea gravel about 2 inches deep. Our garden is approx. 7 feet by 9 feet.