



## **DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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### ***News***

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2010

For more information call: 651-480-7777

### **Blue Thumb workshops in Dakota County start in February**

When the snow blower is broken and the plow dumps a foot of snow on the end of your driveway, wouldn't it be nice to skip winter and plan for spring—you can!

Blue Thumb © workshops will begin in February and will teach residents how to create their own rain garden, native plant garden or a garden to stabilize shoreland. Last year, 332 residents attended Blue Thumb workshops. Register for a workshop and you can have plans for your spring project before the snow melts.

Introductory workshops are free. Garden design courses, which will be offered two to three weeks after the initial workshop, cost \$25. Preregistration is required. The design course helps you create a garden that's perfect for your yard. The program will even provide assistance to install the garden, and if funds are available, may even help with the cost.

The free *Introduction to Planting for Clean Water* workshop will be hosted at the following locations on the listed dates from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hastings..... February 25  
Burnsville.....March 3  
Eagan.....March 4  
Lakeville.....March 10  
West St. Paul.....March 25  
Farmington.....March 30  
Apple Valley.....April 6

For additional information or to register, visit [www.dakotacountyswcd.org](http://www.dakotacountyswcd.org) or call 651-480-7777.  
Find more information about Blue Thumb at [www.bluethumb.org](http://www.bluethumb.org).

Blue Thumb © was named last year's Program of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, was a finalist for the Minnesota Environmental Initiative Award, and received the 2008 Governor's MnGREAT award—recognizing environmental achievement by government employees.