

# *'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER*

## CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

July + August 2020

### **Ohio State University Extension - Clinton County**

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OSU Extension Educator  
Agriculture/Natural Resources  
[www.clinton.osu.edu](http://www.clinton.osu.edu)

### **Next *COMMPOST***

Deadline: August 22, 2020

Please submit items in MS Word  
Format to Nicole Alexander at:  
[nicolejanealexander@gmail.com](mailto:nicolejanealexander@gmail.com)

### **MARK YOU CALENDAR:**

#### **July 16, 2020 Thursday:**

TBA

#### **August 20, 2020 Thursday:**

TBA

#### **September 17, 2020 Thursday:**

TBA

#### **October 15, 2020 Thursday:**

TBA

### **Master Gardener Program OSU Extension**

#### **Mission:**

The Ohio State University Extension  
Master Gardener Program provides  
knowledge to and develops the  
leadership abilities of volunteers who, in  
turn, enable others to improve the  
quality of their lives by enhancing their  
home and community environments  
through horticultural education and  
activities.

All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University  
Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory  
basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual  
orientation, national origin, gender, age, and disability or  
Vietnam- era veteran statue.



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## **Words from Tony Nye, OSU Extension Educator**

Dear Master Gardeners,

I wanted to update you with the status of our office. Starting Tuesday June 16, 2020, we are reopening the office on a limited basis. This is not a return to business as usual. Based on OSU requirements and local guidelines the following plan is in place for the next few weeks.

1. To better serve our clientele, volunteers, and families, the OSU Extension, Clinton County staff will be available by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursday between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Appointments can be made by calling 937-382-0901. Face coverings are required for OSU staff and clientele. Due to specific requirements we must follow according to The Ohio State University administration we cannot allow walk-ins at this time.
2. There will be a table outside the Clinton County Extension office front door for forms and other items that need to be turned into our office. Any plant and insect specimens for identification and management recommendations can be left on the table as well.

This situation is and will be evolving each week as we go forward so keep in touch.

On another note I wanted to update each of you on what has been happening in our landscapes and gardens. I have been getting several calls in regard to many tree issues, problem with roses, vegetable garden issues and soil testing.

Some of the specifics have dealt with Calico Scale, Yellow belly sap sucker damage, Maple trees declining that had significant borer damage that we actually had it investigated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the dreaded Asian Longhorn Beetle and I am happy to say it was negative and most of the borer damage I believe to be due to the dying trees so they are a secondary issue.

It looks like this is also going to be the year of the unusual such as Slime Mold better known as 'Dog Vomit mold' Unique insects like the Emerald Six Spotted Tiger Beetle. Finally, some weather models are suggesting a very dry summer which may intensify specifically tree issues we have been seeing the past couple of years.

Finally, as we move forward, I hope to get an okay from Ohio State University so that we can all get together and have some great fellowship, maybe some good food and start to make some future plans for projects and educational programs. Until then, please be safe and healthy and keep gardening!!

Take care  
Tony



***From Jeff Drapalik***

Last week two fawns and a doe walked out of the woods into our wildflower area. They ran through the grass. They quickly ran back into the woods. Later I walked into the woods. Peaceful time enjoying the trees, the smells, and the sounds. As I walked over a downed tree, I startled the two fawns. They ran deeper into the woods.

This year we have noticed more birds around our house. We have bluebird houses. Two of the houses have nesting pairs of bluebirds. The others have wrens. The bluebirds are fun to watch as they find insects to bring back to their young. We also have a wren that is raising about four chicks in the greenhouse. The hummingbirds have returned and are visiting our flowers and feeders. They are amazing to watch as they dart, hover, and disappear into the woods.

I wonder if there is more wildlife or I am noticing it more. Maybe they know I need them now. Waiting to be seen and enjoyed. They give me peace.

During these times I believe nature knows they are helping me.

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***From Judy Grosvenor***

Hi, MG's, hope you are doing well. Ohio now has a new bee website: see detailed below

**NEW OHIO BEE GUIDE**

<http://go.osu.edu/ohiobees>

Bee safe, Judy



**What are you all growing this summer ???**

## ***From Lynn Musser***

We have been working on two projects that MGs might find interesting.

1. Planting sidewalk rectangles in downtown Hillsboro where trees have died.
2. Since we have moved into a downtown 2nd and 3rd floor apartment, we are trying straw bale gardening.

Would like to send more recent pictures but won't be home for 10 days.



Planted straw bale tomato garden. Row closest to sign planted directly into bale - no potting soil added.

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### **Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardeners Association.***

**In Attendance:** No new minutes to report. Meetings cancelled due to COVID-19

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### **Clinton County 2020 MG Projects:**

We have a list of current Master Gardener Projects that we participate in every year. Some of the projects we carry from year to year. Some are one and done, as in being a speaker for a group or presenting an community educational program. In establishing projects, we view:

Goals - what are we hoping to accomplish.

Objective - precise outcomes that can be measured to support the goals  
(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)

Description - establish need and benefits, being realistic, clearly identify the focus and evaluation.



**We plan our projects to educate, benefit and enhance the community. Please view the list of projects and choose several that interest you or will help you grow as a Master Gardener. We welcome new ideas. Many hands and good companionship will accomplish much.**

### **Annual Plant Sale + Educational Classes**

- ✓ Fund Raiser
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of May each year 5-9-2020 (Cancelled this year)
- ✓ Set up + sale of vegetable and flowers to the public
- ✓ Present one-hour educational programs for the public

### **Pollinator Acre**

- ✓ New 2020 project – headed by Jeff Drapalik
- ✓ Acreage tilled, planted and maintained

### **Community Pollinator Educational Program**

- ✓ Pollinator week: June 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Usually children oriented
- ✓ Educational to raise awareness of need of pollinators

### **Backyard Food Demo Garden** @ Denver Park, by walk path. Contact: Debbie or Judy

- ✓ Permanent food demo site at park
- ✓ Show what perennial food can be grown in home backyards
- ✓ Set up educational programming

### **WIC garden** at extension office. Contact Jeff

- ✓ Work with the WIC office program
- ✓ Education of growing food for families

### **Master Gardener booth** Contact Judy

- ✓ Once or twice a month table at the Farmers Market, to meet public/answer questions.
- ✓ Project to make public aware of MG

### **Chad Mason's Youth Summer Program and Gardens:**

- ✓ Chad Mason's Juvenile Youth Program
- ✓ Cover 6 weeks of 1-hour programs on food and gardening

### **Habitat for Humanity:** Contact Judy or Nicole

- ✓ Project we have supported for 11 plus years with Habitat
- ✓ Design Front Landscapes, purchase plants and set workday to install them.
- ✓ Present educational on home care of landscape

### **Planting two urns** @ Denver Park entrance. Contact: Judy

- ✓ Seasonal 4 times year
- ✓ We purchased and donated the urns, keep them planted, seasonal

### **Elementary School Sensory Garden** Contact: Beverly

**Work in office:** as asked by Tony/ and hotline questions from public.



**CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

# **MGV's Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Happy Hour Info**

Below is the link for the Lunch and Learn webinars:

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/mgvs-horticulture-lunch-and-learn-and-happy-hour-information-and-registration>

## **Clinton County MG 2020 Meeting Dates:**

**Starting in March 2020 we will begin meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.** All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

March, April, May and June meetings, 2020 (All Cancelled due to COVID-19)  
July 20, 2020 Thursday TBA

Hours Needed for Interns:	50 Hours total 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Hours needed for established MGV:	20 Volunteer Hours per year
Continuing Education Hours:	10 Continuing Education Hours per year

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## **Interesting State MG websites:**

**The Farm Science Review Sept 22-24, 2020**

[fsr.osu.edu/home](http://fsr.osu.edu/home)

<https://www.facebook.com/FarmScienceReview/>

**The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC)**

[www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)

**Ohio State MGV website:**

[mastergardener.osu.edu/home](http://mastergardener.osu.edu/home)

**Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in:**

<https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>

**OSUE's 'Buckeye Yard and Garden on Line**

<http://bygl.osu.edu/> and <http://vegnet.osu.edu>

**Join us at **

<https://www.facebook.com/clintoncountymastergardeners>

**Fayette Co. MGV 2020 Sponsor a Pot Program**

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/fayette%E2%80%99s-mgv-sponsor-pot-program-grew-2019>

To learn more about pollinators and pollinator plants, consult these resources:

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: **xerces.org**

The Ohio State University Bee Lab: **beelab.osu.edu**

# Native Ohio Summer Wildflowers

## Common Milkweed

Very aromatic and sweetly scented, this milkweed species is the one seen most often in Ohio. It can be an aggressive grower which might be why some think of it as a weed. This species is an important part of the monarch butterfly life cycle, though. Monarch butterflies deposit their eggs on the plants. The eggs then transform into brightly colored caterpillars with white, yellow and black stripes. The caterpillars can only get the nutrients they need from milkweed plants. Bloom Time: June through August



## American Water Lotus

This native lotus is the largest wildflower in Ohio. The fragrant flowers can grow up to 10” across and the perfectly round leaves can reach up to 3’ in diameter. They provide important habitat for young fish to hide from predators (and provide predators a place to search). Cone shaped seed heads provide food for ducks and other waterfowl and migratory birds. Plants are rooted into the ground and spread by rhizomes rather than floating on the water like some other aquatic plants. Beaver and muskrats use the rhizomes for a food source. You’ll find these in shallow inlets of ponds and lakes across Ohio. Bloom Time: July to September



## Butterflyweed



Bright orange eye-catching flowers are the signature feature of this milkweed plant. Milkweeds attract an assortment of pollinators – not only Monarch butterflies. This species attracts fewer monarchs than some of the other native milkweeds. Numerous butterflies and other insects feed exclusively on milkweed.

Bloom Time: May through early September



## Eastern Prickly Pear

**Ohio's only native cactus!** It is state listed as potentially threatened because of irresponsible collection from preserves. It can be found in responsible garden centers, so there is no need to dig and collect these from the wild. Each individual flower is short-lived, only blooming a day, but luckily, these form in colonies, so multiples will bloom at the same time and in succession. The blooms are little bursts of sunshine. Pollinators (mostly bees and other insects) love this plant. It likes more sandy soils that can be found in the globally unique habitats of the Oak Openings region and our [Kitty Todd Preserve](#) in northwest Ohio. Bloom Time: June to July



## Lizard's Tail

You'll find these quirky plants in abundance along parts of the Grand River in northeast Ohio. A native species that can be found from New England all the way into the southern U.S., it likes moist soils and shallow waters. When in bloom, the slender stalks are covered with clusters of tiny white flowers that make the stalk droop over and nod about. This feature gives it the name 'Lizard Tail'. These plants are important for attracting birds, waterfowl, pollinators and beneficial insects. Wildlife find this spreading groundcover helpful for providing cover. Bloom time: June to August



## Gray-Headed Coneflower



This is what you might think of when you imagine a prairie plant. These tall, slender plants grow up to 6 feet tall when in flower. Their deep roots allow them to thrive in dry conditions. Bright yellow blooms with dark brown cones are important for pollinators like birds, bees and butterflies. When the flowers are done blooming, the dried cones hold seeds that are a great food source for birds late into the fall and winter. Bloom time: July to September

\*\*More information about native Ohio wildflowers can be found at: [Nature.org](http://Nature.org)