

# 'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

March + April 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: April 17, 2020

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

### **MARK YOU CALENDAR:**

#### **February 27, 2020 Thursday:**

MG Meeting, Ext Office 6:30pm

#### **March 19, 2020 Thursday:**

MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm  
Edible Landscape Talk 6-7:30pm  
In Xenia

#### **April 16, 2020 Thursday:**

MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

#### **May 21, 2020 Thursday:**

MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

## Master Gardener Program

### OSU Extension

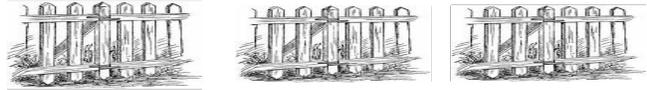
#### Mission:

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.



## **OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...**



### ***Letter from the President: Jeff Drapalik***

I walk our dog each morning. The walk is a time for my dog and me to contemplate the start of a new day. While we are walking our dog enjoys the various smells along the road. I enjoy the walk and listen to podcasts.

I am amazed at the variety of subject's podcasts cover and discuss. Recently I have been listening to PolliNation from Oregon State University, the western OSU. The podcast discusses pollinator's biology and their impact from and to the environment. The topics are related to the western area of the country. Their discussions and information can apply to all areas.

Enjoy podcasts. Share them with others. There is a wealth of information available to help you with your gardening or improving your general knowledge.

Jeff Drapalik

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

Greeting Master Gardeners:

The Groundhog says spring is coming early this year and so it is time to really start getting your garden spirits headed in the right direction. I have been very thankful for a mild winter but what does that mean for us in the gardening world?

First, let's hope it is not going to be a real wet spring like we had last year in 2019.

Second, there is a major concern brewing relative to the very mild winter we have had thus far. (Columbus – 12<sup>th</sup> warmest January on record) Very few really cold days - our coldest temperatures have really only gotten a couple of degrees below 20. When we have gotten that cold, these days have been short lived.

What does this mean to plants for this year?? It means that many diseases have survived this winter due to the fact they have not been winter killed and we may need to be selecting our seeds and plants with more disease resistance or tolerance.

I am most concerned with fruit trees and shrubs. A good disease spray program may be necessary to protect this summer's fruit harvest.

Our garden areas may also need to be managed more diligently making sure the garden areas were cleared of left-over plant material that could be harboring the disease organisms that will bother us in 2020. Things like plant rotation will be necessary to minimize early onset of disease, especially if we noted some late season disease in our gardens on such things as tomatoes, cucurbits, etc...

Remember we have some good books in the Extension office in the Master Gardener library on such things as disease and disease management that can be very helpful for our vegetable and fruit gardens.

Keep up the good work and thanks for all you do.

**From Judy Grosvenor:**

**THIS IS THE YEAR TO PLANT TREES!**

Clinton Soil and Water Conservation is taking orders for 2020 Seedling Tree Sale Orders. Deadline Order date is: March 20th, questions: 937-382-2461. Great listing of the following: Two Native Conifers; Eight native broad-leaf small trees and shrubs; Eleven native broad-leaf large trees. Variety of packs in 5, 25 and 100. Go in with a friend or neighbor and plant some trees. Call number above or stop in and pick up an order form.

Judy

**\*\*\* Please recertify on the VMS for 2020 @ <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org/>**

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**Minutes: *Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. January 30, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 7:31pm***

**In Attendance:** Judy Grosvenor, Connie Hardie, Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Nicole Alexander, Ann Kuehn and Scilla Wahrhaftig

**President Report (Jeff Drapalik):**

- We rebalanced the 2020 budget
- Met with Stacy Wilt owner of Patchwork Gardens. They went over plant sale options
- Patchwork is willing to donate any leftover plants from the plant sale to any of our current projects as long as we report what it is for.
- Sign for Nike Center will be \$10 square foot. A 4'x4' sign would be \$160 for one side. We will discuss later the format and image on the sign.
- We will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month starting March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Coordinator Report (Judy Grosvenor):**

- Attended the Coordinator workday at Ohio State. She is starting recertification for everyone
- We had 740 Volunteer Hours and 142 Continuing Education hours from our group
- Everyone needs to recertify online
- There is a Seeds 101 class at the library on February 6 at 7pm. Presented by Cassi DeHart, community garden manager
- Discussed whether to have a booth at the Farmers Market or a booth at the fair. Will discuss further next meeting

**Treasurer's Report (Beverly Drapalik):**

- Has contacted Chef Jamie. She will participate in our plant sale
- Dues are \$10 each. Bring next time if not paid tonight.
- The Christmas dinner was \$283 with \$75 for gifts.
- We donated \$50 in memory of Lois Hackney, The library sent us a thank you card
- Expressed an idea to allow people to plant a cherry tomato plant in a pot for \$5 at the Farmers Market. This would be interactive with the public, educational and we can use leftover tomato plants from the sale

Meeting adjourn, next meeting February 27, 2020. Respectfully submitted: Nicole Alexander.

# the Biggest little Farm:

I encourage anyone who hasn't already seen it to watch *The Biggest little Farm*.

This documentary follows John and Molly Chester and their dog on an odyssey to bring harmony to both their lives and the land. The couple leave their tiny LA apartment, and make a choice that takes them out of the city and onto 200 acres in the foothills of Ventura County, naively endeavoring to build one of the most diverse farms of its kind in complete coexistence with nature.

The film chronicles eight years of daunting work and outsize idealism as they attempt to create the utopia they seek, planting 10,000 orchard trees and over 200 different crops, and bringing in animals of every kind- including an unforgettable pig named Emma and her best friend, Greasy the rooster.



Plant of the Month:

# TULIPS

## 1. When to plant tulip bulbs?

In general, the best time to plant tulip bulbs is in the fall around the months of October to November in the Northern Hemisphere. If you live in a mild winter area, you could even wait until December.

## 2. Why are there no flowers on my bulbs, just green leaves?

**Lack of Nutrients:** Tulips need phosphorus to form flower buds. Conduct a soil test to verify that your soil is phosphorus deficient. Consider fertilizing your tulip bulbs annually with a phosphorus rich fertilizer to provide a much needed boost.

**Inadequate Growing Conditions:** Were the tulips planted in a location that receives full sun? Is the soil well draining? Were the tulips planted at the right depth (tulips should be planted three times deeper than they are tall)?

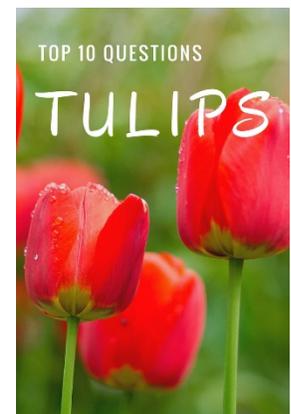
**Energy-Deprived Bulbs:** Resist the urge to mow down the foliage after the tulip flowers are spent. Prematurely cutting down the foliage prevents the leaves from storing enough energy to form the flower bulb. Let the foliage die back naturally instead and snip off any spent tulip blossoms so that energy isn't diverted to a tulip's seed producing efforts.

**Bad Bulbs:** Sometimes the bulbs that we purchase are not healthy. Inspect your bulbs before buying and planting. Were the bulbs you acquired plump and firm? It is recommended when buying a load of bulbs to slice one open and take a peek to see if the flower bud in the center is brown and dried up.

## 3. Can you replant tulips that have already bloomed?

Assuming you are talking about replanting bulbs that have been forced indoors over the winter, yes, you can – however, you may or may not get another bloom off them because tulips don't rebound very well after being forced. But, to give yourself the best chance for tulip reblooming success, allow the foliage to die back naturally and store the container in a cool, dry location until spring. When planting, apply some bulb boosting fertilizer to the top of the soil where you planted your bulb.

## 4. How to take care of potted tulips?



If growing the potted tulips for indoor enjoyment, they will need to be forced in order to receive the cold dormant period they require. Simply water the tulips when the soil is dry to the touch and keep the plant out of direct light and drafts. Tulip bulbs planted in containers that are destined for placement outdoors are planted at the same depth as their in-ground outdoor counterparts. Consider layering your bulbs, with 3-4 inches of potting soil between each layer, to create visually dynamic arrangements based on tulip height and color. Those in zones 6 or below can store the pot in a cool sheltered area such as a garage or basement. Water the container about once a month and bring it back outside, with a dose of fertilizer, in early spring.

#### **5. When should you dig up and divide tulips?**

Tulips should only be dug up and divided after their foliage has completely died back, which would make your target any time from mid-summer to mid-fall.

#### **6. How can I store my tulip bulbs until planting?**

When digging up tulip bulbs for storage, brush any excess dirt off of the bulbs. Obtain a cardboard box and newspaper. Layer the bulbs in the cardboard box with newspaper sandwiched in between each layer, taking care that the bulbs in each layer do not touch. Store the box in a cool, dry place such as a basement or garage. Inspect the bulbs periodically and toss any that become mushy.

#### **7. How do I keep animal pests from eating my tulips?**

Tulip bulbs can be ransacked from below ground by voles or above ground by squirrels, or even deer. While there are many methods proposed for combatting these pests, here are a few tips on protecting your bulbs from rodents:

Laying and staking down chicken wire over the planting area can be an effective deterrent for our squirrely friends.

As for voles, you can try constructing and embedding a makeshift cage into the ground using mesh with half inch holes. Plant your bulbs inside these cages – the bulb's roots will still have free reign to penetrate through the mesh. You can also try lining your bulb holes with sharp textured gravel, which voles do not like burrowing through.

#### **8. How can I force tulip bulbs?**

Buy spring tulip bulbs in the fall for the express purposing of forcing. Store them 12-16 weeks in a cool dark place that is 35-45 F. After this chilling period, procure a container with good drainage. Fill it with good quality potting soil 3-4 inches shy of the container's top rim. When planting tulip bulbs in containers, the flat side of the bulb should face toward the outside of the pot with the pointy end of the bulb facing up. Bulbs should be spaced at least one inch apart. Fill the container with soil, leaving the very tip of the tulip protruding through the top of the soil. Place the pot in a cool, dark place and water lightly once a week. Once foliage emerges, place the pot in bright indirect light and you should be rewarded with blooms in 2-3 weeks. Tulips can also be forced in water.

#### **9. Do blooming tulips need protection in winter?**

Tulips and other bulbs in bloom are more sensitive to frosts and freezes than they are when their buds are in a closed state. And this is really more of a concern for periods of prolonged cold, lasting several days. However, to err on the side of caution, a bed sheet hovered over the plants, supported by stakes, is an ideal way to protect your plants.

#### **10. How and when to fertilize tulip plants?**

Fertilize tulips once a year in the fall using a slow release tulip bulb fertilizer with a nutrient ratio of 9-9-6. If you do not want to use or seek out pre-packaged fertilizer, you can concoct your own mix using equal parts blood meal, green sand and bone meal. Article blog from: [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com)

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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
- ✓ 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:**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020, 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.**

### **Edible Landscape Talk:**

Fruits, vegetables and edible flowers can all be incorporated into the home landscape. Fruit trees can be trained into an espalier. Grapevines can be trained into an arbor. Blackberry bushes can be planted as a hedge. Strawberry plants can be used a groundcover. Many vegetables have attractive colors. Numerous herbs look and smell great! Some of the flowers had edible parts. Edible landscaping is a way to tie them all together.

Please join Dr. Gary Gao for an informative presentation how to add fruits, vegetables, culinary herbs and edible flowers into your home landscape so you can get your steps in and enjoy your wholesome harvest!

Location: OSU Extension, Greene County, 100 Fairground Rd, Xenia OH 45385

Cost: Master Gardener - \$16.00; General Public - \$20.00. Includes educational materials + cold meal.

Contact information: Trevor Corboy at [corboy.3@osu.edu](mailto:corboy.3@osu.edu) or Kim Hupman at [hupman.5@osu.edu](mailto:hupman.5@osu.edu)

Register at: [go.osu.edu/ediblelandscape](http://go.osu.edu/ediblelandscape)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020**

## Tomato Workshop @ Logan County MGV

Learn everything you ever wanted to know about tomatoes with Logan County MGVs. Workshop includes: the history of the tomato, different types of tomatoes, how to grow tomatoes in the garden and in containers, and how to identify and handle the diseases and insects of tomatoes. Taste foods made with tomatoes offered by the Logan County Master Gardener Volunteers. Popular and unusual recipes for tomatoes will be provided to each participant. Plant your very own tomato and learn how to save seeds from year to year. 4.0 CEU's for Master Gardener Volunteers.

Diane Oliver Logan County MGV President

### **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 19, 2020 Thursday

April 16, 2020 Thursday

May 21, 2020 Thursday

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**

[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](http://xerces.org)

The Ohio State University Bee Lab: [beelab.osu.edu](http://beelab.osu.edu)