'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Sept + Oct 2019

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Next *COMMPOST*
Deadline: October 15

Please submit items in MS Word Format to Nicole Alexander at:
nicolejanealexander@gmail.com

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

Aug. 29, 2019 Thursday:
MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

Sept 8, 2019 Sunday:
Picnic at Cape May 3:30 – 6pm
Bring a cov'd dish to share

Sept. 26, 2019 Thursday:
MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

Oct. 24, 2019 Thursday:
MG Meeting, Ext. Office 6:30pm

Faye Mahaffey, the Brown County MGV Coordinator, announced that she will be having open heart surgery. I know all of us at Brown County and Clinton County MGV wish Faye a speedy recovery. We love you Faye!

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...

Letter from the President: Jeff Drapalik

The summer is coming to an end. It has been challenging for all gardeners. The rains gave way to hot dry weather. Plants struggled and the weeds thrived. The bountiful harvests of past years are a distant memory.

These conditions make us better gardeners. We assess what happened and look forward to next year, developing new plans for our gardens and new plants. We know that next year will be better. Challenges give us opportunities.

As you look back at this summer, remember: some plants thrived and others struggled. Look forward to next year. Optimism is growing.

Words from Tony Nye

Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, County Chair

Greetings Master Gardeners:

I hope your summer has been a good one. The weather has continued to be a problem for many folks both farmer and gardener. First, all the rain then the heat and little rain until Tuesday August 13th.
I have not had lots of disease calls for gardens however I have received several calls for trees and shrubs.
There seems to be a problem with many, and I believe much of the issue has been brewing for a couple of years with most of the trees I have looked at. If we have a tough winter this year, we could possibly see more issues increase next spring and summer.
Most of the issue has been decline of trees, not so much a problem of insects. In some cases, I believe it is prolonged 'wet feet' creating root damage, but needle cast in spruce has been on the rise as well. Some of our winter with sudden Polar Vortex events have also created some damage to trees as well. I have also seen an increase in canker related disease in trees and shrubs as well.
We might want to consider doing a program related to preparing our landscape for the winter. Just a thought we can discuss.
That is all I have for this time. As usual, thanks for all you do and happy gardening.

Tony Nye

PLANT OF THE MONTH

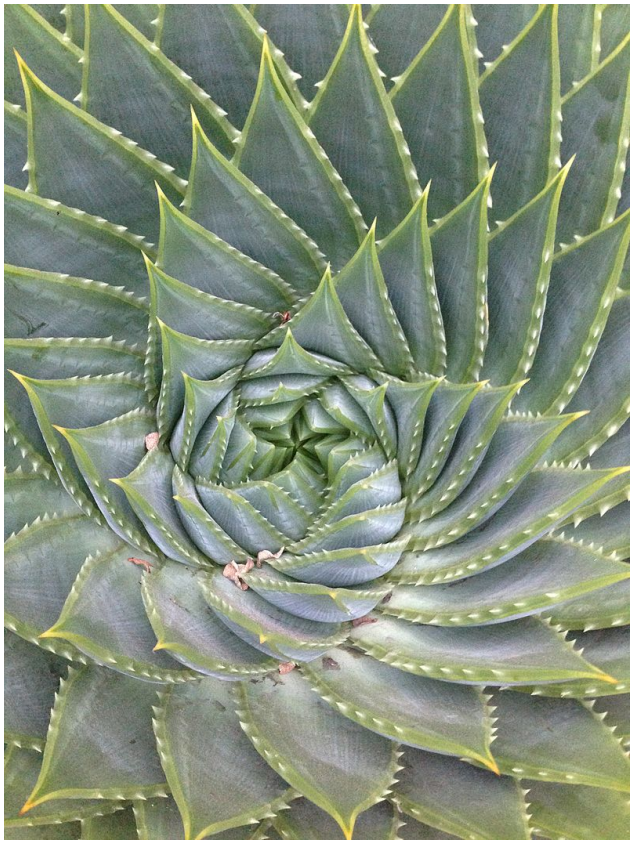
Succulent plant

Not to be confused with **cactus***; nearly all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti.*

In botany, **succulent plants**, also known as **succulents**, are plants that have some parts that are more than normally thickened and fleshy, usually to retain water in arid climates or soil conditions. The word "succulent" comes from the Latin word *sucus*, meaning juice, or sap. Succulent plants may store water in various structures, such as leaves and stems. In horticultural use, the term "succulent" is sometimes used in a way which excludes plants that botanists would regard as succulents, such as cacti. Succulents are often grown as ornamental plants because of their striking and unusual appearance.

The habitats of these water preserving plants are often in areas with high temperatures and low rainfall. Succulents can thrive on limited water sources, such as mist and dew, which makes them equipped to survive in an ecosystem which contains scarce water sources.

Succulents are drought resistant plants in which the leaves, stem or roots have become more than usually fleshy by the development of water-storing tissue. Other sources exclude roots as in the definition "a plant with thick, fleshy and swollen stems and/or leaves, adapted to dry environments." This difference affects the relationship between succulents and "geophytes" – plants that survive unfavorable seasons as a resting bud on an underground organ. These underground organs, such as bulbs, corms and tubers, are often fleshy with water-storing tissues. Thus, if roots are included in the definition, many geophytes would be classed as succulents. Plants adapted to living in dry environments such as succulents are termed *xerophytes*. However, not all xerophytes are succulents, since there are other ways of adapting to a shortage of water, e.g., by developing small leaves which may roll up or having leathery rather than succulent leaves.



Those who grow succulents as a hobby use the term in a different way to botanists. In horticultural use, the term *succulent* regularly excludes cacti. For example, Jacobsen's three volume *Handbook of Succulent Plants* does not cover cacti, and "cacti and succulents" is the title or part of the title of many books covering the cultivation of these plants. However, in botanical terminology, cacti are succulents. A practical, but

unscientific, horticultural definition is "a succulent plant is any desert plant that a succulent plant collector wishes to grow." Such plants less often include geophytes (in which the swollen storage organ is wholly underground) but do include plants with a caudex, which is a swollen above-ground organ at soil level, formed from a stem, a root or both.

Other than Antarctica, succulents can be found within each continent. While it is often thought that most succulents come from dry areas such as steppes, semi-desert, and desert, the world's driest areas do not make for proper succulent habitats. Australia, the world's driest continent, hosts very few native succulents due to the frequent and prolonged droughts. Even Africa, the continent with the most native succulents, does not host many of the plants in its most dry regions. While succulents are unable to grow in these harshest of conditions, they can grow in conditions that are uninhabitable by other plants. In fact, many succulents can thrive in dry conditions, and some can last up to two years without water depending on their surroundings and adaptations. Succulents may also occasionally occur as epiphytes, growing on other plants with limited or no contact with the ground, and are dependent on their ability to store water and gain nutrients by other means; this niche is seen in *Tillandsia*. Succulents also occur as inhabitants of sea coasts and dry lakes, which are exposed to high levels of dissolved minerals that are deadly to many other plant species.

The storage of water often gives succulent plants a more swollen or fleshy appearance than other plants, a characteristic known as succulence.

LIGHT

In general, succulents that have bright colors (such as reds, purples and oranges) don't do well indoors. They require some direct sun and more light than is generally available indoors. A great place to start is with succulents that are naturally green.

Potted succulents can grow in most indoor environments with minimal care.

When succulents are indoors it's often hard for them to get enough sunlight. Outdoors they generally need about 6 hours of bright, indirect sunlight each day. However, indoors, you'll want to place your succulents near a window that gets light all day. If this isn't an option, place your succulents near the brightest window or brightest area of your home or office.

WATER

Succulents need a surprising amount of water to thrive. However, they don't like to be watered as frequently as most indoor plants. They like to have their roots soaked with water but then dry out quickly. Then, watered again after the soil has been dry for a few days. Lightly spraying succulents with water can help them survive for a period of time, but if you really want to thrive, they need to follow the "soak and dry" method. Don't water indoor succulents daily. That's the quickest way to kill them.

Wikipedia.com
succulentsandsunshine.com

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Minutes: ***Clinton County Master Gardeners Association. June 27, 2019***
In Attendance: Judy Grosvenor, Coordinator, Connie Hardie, Debbie Tong, Jeff Drapalik, Beverly Drapalik, Lynn Musser

President's Report: Work is being done at Wilmington College at the garden plots with Chad Mason on Fridays from 9 – 10:30am. Nike Center report: May have to reseed in the fall. The sign is priced at $13 / sq foot. The sign is to be 4'x4'. Discussed the Wilmington Library Historical Marker planting, Connie and Ann are on this project.

Coordinator Reports: Teaching a monthly class for Habitat for Humanity on July 11th at 6:30pm. Clinton Massie Elementary Sensory Garden is to be 50' of raised beds, a greenhouse and benches. We will provide the plans. Lynn and Beverly are on this project.
Ann's class on Pollinators for the children at the Wilmington Library went well.

Annual MG Picnic will be on September 8, 2019 from 3:30 – 6:00pm at the Wilmington Cape May location. Please bring a covered dish to share.

One Day MG State Conference @ OSU 4-H Building this fall, November 8, 2019. The International Conference will be in Pennsylvania this year.

The Farm Science review is September 17-19th at Molly Caren Ag Center, 135 OH-38, London, OH 43140

Meeting adjourn, next meeting August 22, 2019. Respectfully submitted: Lynn Musser.

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Clinton County 2019 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.

*Pollinator Acre at Nike Center Area. Contact: Jeff
* Elementary School Sensory Garden. Contact: Beverly
*Community Pollinator Educational program.
*WIC garden at extension office. Contact Jeff
*Area Community Garden. Youth garden at Wilmington College with Eric. Contact: Jeff.
*Backyard Food Demo Garden @ Denver Park, by walk path. Contact: Debbie or Judy.

*Planting two urns @ Denver Park entrance. Seasonal 4 times year. Contact: Judy.
*Habitat for Humanity: Work with H/H and new homeowners, Design Front Landscapes & install them. **We need a leader** on this, but all volunteers to work. Contact: Judy or Nicole.
*Work in office: as asked by Tony/ and hotline questions from public.
*Master Gardener booth, once or twice a month table at the Farmer's Market, to meet public/answer questions. Contact: Judy.

Clinton County MG 2019 Meeting Dates:

The Association meets on the fourth Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. All regular meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

August 22	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
September 26	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
October 24	Regular Meeting 6:30 pm
November	

Hours Needed for Interns: 50 Hours total 1st 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 Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC)	www.oipc.info
Ohio State MGV website:	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

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**

MMMM

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County
111 South Nelson Ave., Suite 2

Master Gardener Program - Ohio State University Extension Our 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.