

'THE COMMPOST' NEWSLETTER

CLINTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Sept + Oct 2020

Ohio State University Extension -

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Agriculture/Natural Resources

www.clinton.osu.edu

Next *COMMPOST*

Deadline: October 22, 2020

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

MARK YOU CALENDAR:

September 17, 2020 Thursday:

TBA

October 15, 2020 Thursday:

TBA

October 22-23, 2020

MGV State Conference, online

November 19, 2020 Thursday

TBA

(Haiku)

**THE AUTUMN ARRIVES
PROMISING NEW LIFE, AMIDST
THE DRAMA OF DEATH**

BY JEAN AKED



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 status.



Tony Nye, OSU Extension Educator

Greetings Master Gardeners,

I hope you are all surviving yet another month or so with the Coronavirus. As we move forward I wanted you to know that I think about all of you regularly and that it would be good for us to get together in the near future keeping social distancing in mind. With that in mind, would you as group be willing to meet in a park or the fairgrounds under a shelter where we can spread out but yet visit and share great gardening conversation.

We could also utilize the time to start making plans for the coming year. Although not clear yet, I think it is important to get a plan of action in place so if we can start moving to some kind of normality we have some ideas already in place.

Let me know how you feel about this and I will start making plans for a get together in the very near future. Give me a call 740-606-0031 or email me nye.1@osu.edu.

Also I wanted to share with each of you the fact that there has been some really great information on BYGL – Buckeye Yard and Garden Line. Why just recently there has been information regarding many insects (good and bad), plant and tree disease, and on and on. One disease in discussion recently has been Oak Wilt, the fact we are seeing Fall Webworm everywhere this year in our trees, and updates on the dreaded Lantern Fly, another invasive species we will need to be on the lookout probably in the next year or two in our part of Ohio.

Also, how many of you are finding it difficult to can because you can't find canning lids. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones that has lids. OSU has some great fact sheets on canning and freezing for food preservation, <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-5338> this fact sheet is on canning basics, and the following is on freezing vegetables, <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-5341>. And another fact sheet on freezing fruit, <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-5349>

The Nye family had only one peach tree out of three bear fruit but it was absolutely loaded. We made 27 pints of Jam and 3 gallons of Brandy that will be ready for the holiday season. As well we froze some peaches since we ran out of lids.

Until the next time – happy gardening!!

Tony

From Jeff Drapalik, President

I went walking in the woods a couple of weeks ago. I started looking at the trees. Trees obviously never move. They start as a seed, put down their roots and grow in the same place. Everything comes to a tree: Wind, rain, snow, and sunshine. The tree gets enough from the nature to grow and develop. They live in their environment.

Insects, birds, deer, and other animals pass by the tree. Some use it as a home to raise their young, while others may eat the seeds and rest in the shade.

As I walk by the trees, I wonder what the tree has seen and experienced. Some of the trees in the woods are probably seventy-five years old. What could they tell us?

During the pandemic we are staying around the house. Not going out much. We are experiencing the world around us

The Mystery Seeds

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is asking Ohioans to please send in unsolicited seeds. Earlier today the ODA distributed the release that is included in this BYGL Alert.

After increasing reports of Ohio citizens receiving packages of unsolicited seeds in the mail, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is again urging the public to report and submit any unsolicited seed packets to ODA. In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine Office, ODA is working to investigate the number of seed packets sent to Ohio, what type of seeds they are, and where they were mailed from.

The USDA-APHIS and ODA are asking Ohioans who have received these unsolicited packages not to open, plant, or throw them away. Instead, citizens should report receiving seeds [here](#) and then submit the packages to USDA using one of the following methods:

If possible, place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and **mail them to USDA-APHIS** at the following address:

Attn: USDA -SITC
8995 East Main Street, Building 23
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

-or-

Place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and **drop them off at your county's OSU Extension Office** during business hours. You can find the nearest extension office here: <https://extension.osu.edu/lao>. ***Please note that extension facilities may have COVID-19 specific signage detailing procedures such as wearing a facial covering that must be followed. Additionally, some offices are open at a reduced schedule, or by appointment only. Please reach out to your local office by phone or email prior to driving out so that you are aware of any office specific information that is important before your visit.***

Unsolicited seeds could be invasive species, contain noxious weeds, could introduce diseases to local plants, or could be harmful to livestock. Invasive species and noxious weeds can displace native plants and increase costs of food production. All foreign seeds shipped to the United States should have a phytosanitary certificate which guarantees the seeds meet important requirements.

ODA will have the latest information regarding this investigation [on their website](#).

Article found at: <https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/1658>



August Blooms and Giant Caterpillars

The bloom that always catches my eye this time of the year is the purple of the Tall Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*). According to the **Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide**, Tall Ironweed is in the Sunflower Family (*Asteraceae*), and is a native of North America. Its present range is generally confined to the eastern half of the U.S. and includes all of Ohio. The plant prefers to grow in areas such as meadows and pastures where the soil is fertile and conditions are moderately damp.

Tall Ironweed is an upright perennial with a highly visible dark red stem that grows over 7 feet tall and is widely branched at the top. At the ends of branches in loose clusters are saucer-shaped, ¼-inch-wide flower heads consisting of 30 or fewer purple disk flowers. Attached to the stem are 10-inch-long, lance-shaped, pointed leaves that have short downy hairs on the lower surface. Reproduction is primarily by way of seeds, but new shoots sometimes arise from the large root crown. Tall Ironweed attracts Bees, Birds and butterflies, and is a prized plant in my Perennial bed. It stands back from the edge of the bed and is protected from the wrath of the mower and string-trimmer (so far).

You might have noticed that all my information came from the **Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide** (www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide), but in my book, I count this plant on my Wildflower list!

Robert Henn's wildflower list for the months of August, September and October includes: Asters, Fringed Gentian, Goldenrod, Tall Ironweed, Jerusalem Artichoke, Prairie-dock, Common Ragweed, Tickseed Sunflower, and Wingstem.

During mid-to late summer and early autumn, large unusually shaped, colorful caterpillars are often seen. According to Factsheet HYG-2015-11, *Giant Caterpillars*, these caterpillars, larvae of moths and butterflies, feed on leaves of various trees, shrubs, and other plants. The exact host plant or plants vary with each species of caterpillar. Most giant caterpillars are discovered when wandering across lawns, driveways, etc. These caterpillars are fully grown, and they are on their way to pupation (transformation into adults) sites. They have finished eating and will cause little or no further plant damage. Therefore, controls are generally not recommended.

Moths and butterflies develop by complete metamorphosis characterized by four distinct growth stages. The egg hatches into a larva (caterpillar) which grows and molts (sheds its skin) several times before transforming into a pupal form from which a winged adult emerges later.

The tobacco hornworm, also known as the Carolina Sphinx Moth larva, has seven diagonal white stripes on each side of the body and a curved red horn at the rear. The tomato hornworm, also known as the Five Spotted Hawk Moth larva, has eight curved white stripes on each side of the body and a straight black horn at the rear. Both caterpillars are green, occasionally with a brown or black tinge, and will reach a length of four inches. Food plants of both larvae include tobacco, tomato, eggplant, pepper, potato, and related weeds. The larval period ranges from 28 to 36 days, after which the larva burrows into the soil three to four inches deep to pupate and overwinter.

In May or June, the adult emerges. These sphinx moths are powerful fliers and are sometimes called hawk moths or hummingbird moths because they hover while feeding on flowers.

Interesting State MG websites:

The Farm Science Review Sept 22-24, 2020

fsr.osu.edu/home

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

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 "BYGL"'

<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

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
- ✓ 2nd 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 14th – 19th (Cancelled this year)
- ✓ 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.



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.