

# CLINTON COUNTY COMPOST



**Mar.-April., 2014**

**Ohio State University  
Extension -  
Clinton County**

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**Next *COMPOST*  
Deadline:  
April 25**

**Please submit items in MS Word  
format to Judy Grosvenor at:  
[grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com](mailto:grosvenor.judy@hotmail.com)**



## **"Green Things Growing"**

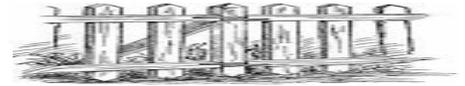
"O the green things growing,  
the green things growing,  
The faint sweet smell of the  
green things growing!  
I should like to live,  
whether I smile or grieve,  
Just to watch the happy life  
of my green things growing."

- Dinah Maria Mulock Craik -



**OVER THE GARDEN FENCE...**

**When March winds blow...**



As I stated my goals as President in the last newsletter, enriching our knowledge and enjoyment as MG's, educational information for our community and beautification of our environment, now I wish to raise your excitement level to choose your projects and volunteer.

As Master Gardeners, attending one of the many exciting and educational seminars that are available within our region, helps extend our knowledge and experience as MG's. That growing knowledge can then be passed on to fellow MG's via meetings, educational classes for MG's and for the general public, school projects, news articles and garden hotline. These are all areas we can explore and develop.

What's your passion, your hobby you go to relax and unwind? Do you love bugs like Bettyanne or greatly interested in bees like Beverly and Jeff Drapalik and Ray Koch? Or do you love landscape designing or park improvements like Dori? We all can develop these into projects for the community. That does not mean if you have an idea, you have to be chair on a project. We are a team and will work together on expanding ideas and developing projects.

So, I am looking for fellow enthusiastic, willing to help develop projects and put in some volunteer hours to make our community a better place to live.

Green thumbs to all,  
**Judy Grosvenor, CCMG President**

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**Minutes: Clinton County Master Gardener Association Feb. 27, 2014**

In attendance: Tony Nye, Judy Grosvenor, Mary Helen Mack, Juanita Tiger, Deb Geglain, Connie Hardy, Karen Kayser, Kelly Wilburn, Cindy Halye, Mary Harris, Dori Sabino

Meeting opened by President Judy Grosvenor at 7:00 pm.

**Extension Report:** Clinton County Commissioners have extended level funding for our office for the coming year. The office has once again employed Ann Foxworthy for fair coordinator starting Feb 28. Farmers Market management has now been turned over to Dessie, and first market is scheduled for March 1. Snap will once again be utilized. New State Naturalist training is now underway in Greene County. Small Farm Conference in Warren County has been concluded and there will one here at Wilmington College too.

**President's Report:** State dues are due now, we have paid ours as a group, all members should forward this year's dues to our treasurer now. This year we have 16 members and 5 interns. (Interns do not pay until volunteer hours are complete this year.) Please check out VMS website and make sure your hours are up to date, and continue throughout the year. You should have this year's recertification papers signed.

Remember, new standards will start in January. The Gold standard will require active members to have 20 volunteer hours along with 10 education hours for the year.

OSU will be changing their branding soon and we will need to update all our logos and name tags. Secrest Arboretum will be holding volunteer days May 22nd, 12-6pm, and 23rd 8am-3pm, bring work clothing, if you are interested in attending. March 6 is the Central Ohio Perennial School in Springfield. Anyone interested in carpooling may contact Cindy or Dori. Clermont County Perennial School will be held April 10. An OSU webinar on Raspberry culture was held in the community room on and was attended by Judy, Dori, Mary Harris, Beverly Drapalik and Susan Hunt and her husband, Harold.

**Vice President's Report:** Nothing for now.

**Secretary's Report:** Debbie Tong was out of town, Dori took minutes of meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Executive Board has met and has worked out a budget to be presented at next month's meeting. Please get your dues in soon.

### **Committee Reports:**

Our four OSUE State MGJ Project Initiatives are:

**Backyard and Local Foods:** (Grow food/Grow Hope, Farmers Market)

**Environmental Horticulture:** (Habitat for Humanity, Annual Spring Plant Sale and Educational Classes)

**Integrated Pest Management:**

**Invasive Species:**

These initiatives help with choosing and setting up our yearly projects. Note that several are listed above. If you have any ideas for projects, please bring them to the meeting. We should organize a public education presentation. GF/GH has already started their series of classes. Kelly will be helping with those. Home gardening can start in April.

**Spring Plant Sale:** Our sale is Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Extension Community Room. We will need volunteers to help Juanita get the seeds started, to set up the Friday before sale, to work the day of sale and to host/conduct classes for the plant sale. Mary Helen has volunteered to host something on herbs. Dori will do a topic to be disclosed and will still have rain barrels for a class.

**Farmers' Market:** Spring market will start back up on Saturdays, starting March 1<sup>st</sup>. No longer using board of directors, but set up Advisory Board. Dessie Buchanan will take over.

**Habitat for Humanity Homes:** Dori showed a power point presentation of the two Westboro Habitat Homes with their completed landscaping and is working on contacting previous Habitat owners and offer classes to help them keep the plantings healthy. We did our first Habitat home in 2010.

**Denver Park/Southeast Neighbor Park:** We will soon be working on projects at these locations.

**CommPost:** next deadline will be April 25<sup>th</sup> for the May/June newsletter.

**Education Segment:** Dori gave a brief report on the Annual Perennial Plant Seminar in Columbus attended by Cindy and herself on January 12th.

### **Old Business:**

We will be reviewing the 2014 budget and voting on approval and/or corrections.

### **New Business:**

Tony discussed initiating the 1st detector program. To be discussed more when he returns.

Meeting adjourned by Deb at 8:27pm. Respectfully submitted, Dori Sabino.



### **FROM TONY**

Greetings, Fellow Master Gardeners;

Spring is near and this the time of year we can get very busy with many of our own projects but at the same time have opportunity to do great things for our communities as Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Leadership of your organization has many ideas and projects in mind and I can think of a few that come to mind quickly. They are: Spring education classes for the public (either separate or in conjunction with the plant sale) the Plant Sale itself and the Habitat for Humanity project.

All of these projects as well as any you have in mind require extra leadership and help from each of you as part of the Clinton County Master Gardener organization. So when asked, I hope you can all see the importance of the projects and find the time to help provide the leadership necessary to make each event a grand success.

As we get closer specifically to the plant sale event there will be many things each of us can help with so that we are not leaning on only a few to make it all happen. In the meantime, if you have any ideas for projects we want to know about them. We do great things and are well respected by our community and I encourage each of you to think about projects or educational ideas (Subject matter) we can be looking into and planning as activities we can all get involved with.

Keep wishing for warm sunny days and keep the thumbs green!!

Until next time, *Tony*

# The Best New Plants for 2014

Here are a few of the best new annuals and perennials for 2014 from Better Homes & Gardens. Check your local nurseries for these plants. Annuals first.



## **Surdaisy Brachyscomb**

You'll swoon over the masses of happy pink flowers produced by 'Surdaisy' brachyscomb. These compact, mounding plants are ideal for baskets and urns and bloom in pink, yellow, and mauve. Each plant produces hundreds of self-cleaning flowers so the plants never look unkempt. **Name:** Brachyscomb 'Surdaisy' **Growing conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 4-8 inches tall, 6-12 inches wide. **Plant it with:** Euphorbia

## **Cha-Ching Cherry Petunia**

The bright star patterns of 'Cha-Ching Cherry' petunia makes this stunning annual a standout for containers on porches, patios, and in garden beds. It's a mounding variety that forms a tight clump of flowers so it won't overtake any companions planted in the same pot. This sun-lover is heat-resistant and blooms from spring until frost. **Name:** Petunia 'Cha-Ching Cherry'. **Growing conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 10-16 inches tall, 16-20 inches wide. **Plant it with:** Verbena

## **Hibis-Q Hibiscus**

An exciting new family of tropical hibiscus called 'Hibis-Q' will brighten your sunny porch. Rounded, compact plants are smothered in almost constant bloom through the summer. Because they are so compact, 'Hibis-Q's make terrific container plants by themselves or mixed with annual flowers. Place in a sunny spot and watch the magic happen. 'Hibis-Q' is available in yellow, orange, white, pink, and bicolors. **Name:** Hibiscus 'Hibis-Q'. **Growing conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 24-48 inches tall, 24-48 inches wide. **Plant it with:** Mandevilla

## **Zahara Sunburst Zinnia**

If you enjoy making fresh-cut bouquets, be sure to grow 'Zahara Sunburst' zinnia. This gorgeous new variety produces masses of cheerful yellow-and-orange blooms, each one slightly different from the next. The more you cut the flowers, the more they'll produce. And, this new zinnia is disease-resistant. **Name:** Zinnia 'Zahara Sunburst'. **Growing conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 12-18 inches tall, 12-18 inches wide. **Plant it with:** Other zinnias

## **Catalina Grape-O-Licious Torenia**

Brighten shady spots in your landscape with 'Grape-O-Licious' torenia. This little charmer sports pretty white tubular flowers with dark purple throats. It's deer- and drought-resistant and blooms nonstop right up until frost. 'Grape-O-Licious' torenia is also an excellent alternative for impatiens in regions where downy mildew is a problem. **Name:** Torenia Catalina 'Grape-O-Licious'. **Growing conditions:** Shade, Partial shade **Size:** 10-12 inches tall, 8-10 inches wide.

## **Supertunia Flamingo Petunia**

The newest member of the Supertunia family, 'Flamingo' petunia is prized for its bright pink flowers finely etched with dark pink. Like other Supertunias, 'Flamingo' will quickly carpet your garden with color. Each plant grows only 8 inches tall but will spread up to 36 inches wide.

**Name:** Petunia Supertunia 'Flamingo'. **Growing conditions:** Sun. **Size:** 8-16 inches tall, 24-36 inches wide. **Plant it with:** Ornamental sweet potato

## **Perennials:**

### **SuperBlue Lavender**

Cold winters are no match for 'SuperBlue' lavender. Unlike other lavenders, this new variety can tolerate temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero F. 'SuperBlue' blooms all summer long, producing dark blue, fragrant flowers and foliage. It grows 12 inches tall and does well in containers or gardens. **Plant Name:** *Lavandula angustifolia* 'SuperBlue'. **Growing Conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 10-12 inches tall and wide. **Zones:** 4-9. **Grow it with:** Dianthus. **Source:** Burpee

### **Siesta Helenium**

'Siesta' helenium is a compact variety that stays upright, growing just 18-20 inches tall. From June until September the plants produce masses of deep red flowers with pretty yellow centers. 'Siesta' helenium is also drought-resistant and attractive to butterflies. **Name:** *Helenium autumnale* Mariachi 'Siesta'. **Growing**

**Conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 18–20 inches tall, 24 inches wide. **Zones:** 3–9. **Grow it with:** Black-eyed Susan.  
**Source:** Plants Nouveau

### Fantasy Cinderella Anemone

This little charmer develops strong, wiry stems in late summer that are topped with bright pink flowers with yellow centers. The plants remain compact and will perform as well in containers as they do in the ground.

**Name:** Anemone Fantasy 'Cinderella'. **Growing Conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 12–18 inches tall, 18–24 inches wide. **Zones:** 5–8. **Source:** Plants Nouveau

### Supreme Elegance Coneflower

The big bold blooms of Supreme 'Elegance' coneflower are simply spectacular. Each fully double flower has deep red centers surrounded by a rim of mauve pink petals that deepen in color as the flower ages. 'Elegance' coneflowers grow 30 inches tall, so plant them in the middle of your flower border. Flowers appear midsummer and keep coming until fall. **Name:** Echinacea Supreme 'Elegance'. **Growing Conditions:** Sun. **Size:** 30 inches tall, 19 inches wide. **Zones:** 4–10. **Grow it with:** Nepeta. **Source:** Blooms of Bressingham/Terra Nova

### Beyond Blue Festuca

One of the bluest grasses you can grow, 'Beyond Blue' festuca has a richer, deeper color than the classic festuca grass, 'Elijah Blue'. It also maintains its color throughout the season, even during dry periods when other festuca grass will turn brown. The plants thrive in hot, dry locations with poor soil. 'Beyond Blue' also develops graceful flower stalks in early summer. Because of its short stature, it makes a great container plant.

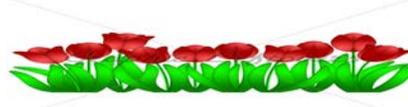
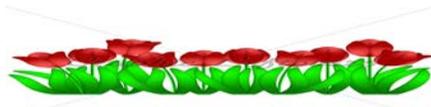
**Name:** Festuca 'Beyond Blue'. **Growing Conditions:** Sun, partial sun. **Size:** 4–8 inches tall, 8–12 inches wide. **Zones:** 4–8. **Grow it with:** Echeveria. **Source:** Skagit Gardens

### Black Truffle Lobelia

Even when not in bloom, 'Black Truffle' lobelia looks great in the garden. That's because it's the first lobelia of its kind with dark maroon foliage. But of course, this rugged perennial is even more stunning when in flower. Each plant shoots up spikes of cardinal-red flowers that perfectly complement the dark foliage. The bright blooms are prized by hummingbirds. 'Black Truffle' lobelia thrives in rich, slightly moist soil.

**Name:** *Lobelia cardinalis* 'Black Truffle'. **Growing Conditions:** Full sun. **Size:** 3–4 feet tall, 2–3 feet wide. **Zones:** 3–8. **Source:** Plants Nouveau

from: <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/flowers/>



## PLANT OF THE MONTH..

### 10 Tips on Dividing Perennial Plants

#### Divide to make healthier plants--and more of them

by Janet Macunovich

When dividing perennials, timing and technique are important. Perennial plants are healthiest and most productive when they are young and have room to spread. How wonderful that we can rejuvenate even the oldest residents of a garden by occasionally dividing them. Read on to learn how to divide plants.

#### 1. Divide when a plant looks good:

Don't wait until a plant has become decrepit or monstrous to divide it. My rule of thumb is when it looks its best; divide it at the end of that year. Watch for the early signs of trouble: when the center of the plant has smaller leaves, fewer flowers, and weaker blooming stalks than the outer edges like *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy', or when the plant runs out of growing room on its edges and has nowhere to go but into neighboring plants.

#### 2. Start at the drip line

To lift a perennial with minimal root damage, begin digging at its drip line. The roots will generally extend that far, so digging there lets you lift the plant with most of its roots intact. Dig a trench around the clump, cleanly severing any roots, then cut at an angle down and under the clump from various points around the outer edge until you can lever the plant out of the hole. For large, heavy plants, you may have to first dig the trench, then slice straight down through the center of the plant as if it was a pie, halving or quartering the clump before undercutting and lifting it. In early spring, I divide while the new growth is still low to the ground, so the handling



of stems is not usually an issue. In summer, I might tie stems together before lifting the plant to avoid damaging them during the digging. In fall, I usually cut plants back before digging them for division.

### **3. Divide in cool weather**

Perennials can be divided at any time of the year if you give the plant appropriate care afterward, and I do just that. But for the best return on my time and the quickest reestablishment of the perennials, I divide when the soil is warmer than the air for at least part of every 24-hour period. That's just before peak daffodil season in spring and in early fall right after the nights become cool. These conditions will allow the roots of the division to grow while the tops stay low, out of the sun and wind. I prefer to divide in the fall rather than in the spring because the plants have more time to set new roots before growing up into the heat. I will divide fall bloomers in September if it's expedient, but I usually leave them to bloom undisturbed and divide them in the spring.

### **4. Keep roots cool and moist**

Fifty percent humidity and 50°F are the ideal conditions for holding divisions until you can get them back into the ground. Put them into a bucket or box in a cool shaded place, such as a garage, and cover them with newspaper to retard moisture loss. Sprinkle water to dampen the newspaper if the roots seem to be drying during their "hold" time. If, despite your best efforts, the divisions dry out while on hold, don't despair. Soak them in a bucket of water for about an hour before replanting.

### **5. Replenish soil with organic matter**

If you remove a wheelbarrow full of perennials, then you should put a wheelbarrow full of compost back into that site before replanting to renew the soil, stay ahead of pest problems, and maintain fertility. Without additions, the plants will not have the advantage of renewed, fertile soil and the bed will settle after planting, putting the plants at a disadvantage in terms of drainage and air circulation.

### **6. Use vigorous sections first**

After dividing, replant pieces that are, at most, 20 to 25 percent of the original clump. Smaller sections grow more vigorously and tend to produce stronger, longer-lasting blooms. Dividing a hosta, for example, into pieces with about seven growing points will yield the best results. Perennials multiply exponentially—one stem is likely to triple or quadruple itself each year. So if all you do is halve an overgrown clump this year, it will more than double in a season and need dividing again the next year.

### **7. Take extra care when a plant's in bloom**

Although I have often read that I shouldn't, I sometimes divide plants when they're blooming. I understand, however, that plants in bloom may not be capable of growing as many new roots as quickly as nonblooming plants. I haven't lost any divisions yet. I have also divided late-spring and summer bloomers while they were flowering. Given the extra care that common sense dictates (such as more attentive watering or shade at midday), these plants will fare well, too.

### **8. Keep only the healthiest pieces**

If you wait until a perennial is declining, has a dead center, or has succumbed to pest problems because it has become crowded and weak, be sure to replant only the healthiest pieces. Usually these are the outside sections. Watch for discolored stems and eroded crowns and roots. The division from the center will grow but not as fast as the outer one. Look for signs of poor health. The cut peony stem shows a symptom of disease, and replanting as is will ensure that all new shoots and buds will be exposed to that infection.

### **9. Spread out your divisions**

Place a division into a hole that is at least as wide as its roots when spread out. Don't turn a root tip up rather than down or curl it back around on itself to fit it into an undersized hole because you'll defeat the plant's natural regrowth mechanisms. Root tip growth is regulated in part by chemicals flowing down from the tips of leafy stems to the roots. As in all flows, gravity is involved, so if you plant a root tip up when it was down, the normal flow is interrupted. At least temporarily, that root tip will not grow as vigorously as it could. Replant divisions in a wide hole and over a wide area. Spread out the roots wide and down over a mound of soil. In the next growing season, the top of the plant will be as wide as the roots are at the time of planting. Ensure that when you spread out the roots they don't overlap and compete with the other divisions.

### **10. Let the roots be your guide:**

When you dig up a perennial, you will see that it fits into one of five basic root types: roots that form clumps or offsets, surface roots, underground running roots, taproots, or woody roots. How you proceed depends on what root type your plant has.

from: <http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/dividing-perennials.aspx>





## 2014 WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, & SEMINARS:

**Saturday, March 22, 2014:** **Southwestern Ohio Beekeeper School**, 8 am to 4 pm. Location at the Oasis Conference Center, 902 Loveland Miamiville Road, Loveland, Ohio. For more info: <http://warren.osu.edu>. (Classes fill fast.)

**April 10, 2014:** **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial School**. From 8 am to 4 pm at Clermont Co. Fairgrounds, Owensville, Ohio. For info: <http://clermont.osu.edu>.

**April 17-20, 2014:** **Arc of Appalachia Wildflower Pilgrimage**. Hosted at the Highlands Nature Sanctuary, Bainbridge, Oh. Multiple registration packages available. For info: <http://www.arcofappalachia.org/events/wildflower.html>

**May 22 to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014:** **Secrest Arboretum MGV Spring Days**. Cost: **No charge** for this program. Food and lodging not included. Secrest Arboretum is located on The Ohio State University Wooster Campus, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center, OARDC Visit: [www.secrest.osu.edu](http://www.secrest.osu.edu) or email: [poast4@windstream.net](mailto:poast4@windstream.net) 937-473-3202 home, 937-286-1657 cell

**July 5 – 12, 2014 Clinton Co. Fair** at fairgrounds in Wilmington. For info: [www.clinton.osu.edu](http://www.clinton.osu.edu).

*If you have events you would like to add, please let editor know.*

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The Ohio Invasive Plants Council (OIPC) has posted on their website, [www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info), the new factsheets on some of the most problematic invasive plant species in Ohio. Check it out.

Ohio State MGV website: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>.

Ohio MG Volunteer system sign in: <https://ohio.volunteersystem.org>

<http://vegnet.osu.edu>; <http://ouohio.org/home-gardens/> ; [www.ohioline.osu.edu](http://www.ohioline.osu.edu);

<http://www.growingvegetablegardens.com/index.htm>

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>.



### **Clinton County MG 2014 Meeting Dates:**

**The Association** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. All regular meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

March 27	Regular Meeting 7 pm
April 24	Regular Meeting 7 pm
May 22	Regular Meeting 7 pm
June 26	Regular Meeting 7 pm



### **THOUGHTS...**

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." - Henry Van Dyke, "Fisherman's Luck".



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### **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.

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