



Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

FALL 2021

Mission: To make a difference in the community in which you live through gardening education and knowledge.

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Tapping Into Autumn's Most Abundant Crop

by Carrie Brown, Agriculture and Natural Resources OSU Extension Educator of Fairfield County



Like many of you, I have fond autumn recollections of raking fallen leaves into an enormous

pile....only to squash my hard work by plunging into them. My sister and I would repeat these efforts over and over until we were dog-tired, or until our dad declared playtime over. Nowadays, leaf-jumping has lost its allure; yet my trees continue to drop their leaves! Let's take a closer look at handling these autumn offerings.

Leave them!

Unquestionably the easiest route, this is an option if your yard is scattered with tree species that produce smaller leaves, such as locust or black cherry. If you're dealing with a larger canopy, however, mow-mulching may be necessary. Most lawnmowers have the ability to shred leaves into smaller pieces that will, over time, break down in your lawn. There are many benefits to leaving this mulchy layer:

- Provide habitat for wildlife and overwintering beneficial insects.
- Decomposing leaves add nutrients, increasing lawn fertility.

- Leaf bits fill in the spaces between individual grass plants, suppressing weeds.

Mulch, mulch, mulch!

When nature gives you leaves, make mulch! Vegetable plots and flowerbeds can both benefit from blankets of mulched leaves.

- Ensure leaves have been shredded, as whole leaves can impede drainage.
- Use shredded leaves to cover bare ground and insulate tender plants.
- If using around trees and shrubs, layer in a donut shape to ensure leaves are not touching stems or trunks.
- Do not use black walnut leaves, as they secrete a chemical that can hinder plant growth.

Compost

Excess leaves make great compost! During the composting process, microbes break down leaf litter into an organic matter called humus that provides a nutrient-boost to future plantings. Ensure piles are manageable in size (at least 3'x 3'x 3' is recommended) and have good air flow. Adding green material, such as garden leftovers or grass clippings, can expediate the composting process. Maintain your pile by keeping it moist and aerating it often by turning with a spading fork.



CONNIE'S CORNER

Dear Master Gardeners,

As I begin to write this latest Corner article, not much has changed. We are all still “hanging in the air” of what will happen next. Life seems to have returned to normal until you turn on the nightly news. So, in the world of MGV's this is what I know at the end of August 2021.

The Extension office in Lancaster is open to the public; masks are not required. Master Gardeners are still permitted to work on all their projects, and we are planning for a full fair in Fairfield County beginning October 10-16. Part of the building we used to be in is now being used for animal shows and I still do not know if we will have space for a Master Gardener Booth, but remain hopeful!!

The Sales Force system for recording hours is to be turned on for use by September 1. Yes, there will be training, lots of training to help you through the process. If you ordered T shirts, those are available at the office, Monday through Friday from 8 until 4. Please do see the calendar for all the upcoming meetings and events.

Master Gardener Training is going to begin after the first of the year ONLINE. If you know anyone who is interested, please have them contact me at Smith.3204@osu.edu. We have lots of interested participants but once training begins we always get several drop-outs. I really believe the on-line training process will allow more flexibility for our participants. In addition, we will still be having some face-to-face meetings with our interns in the spring of 2022.

Thanks for your dedication to the Master Gardener program and most of all for your patience in a sea of unknowns and “what ifs” and being ready to pivot our plans quickly.

Take care of yourself and each other,

Connie Smith
Master Gardener Coordinator

Learning from the Flowers

source: OSU Extension MGV Website, author unknown



As gardeners we should remember the lessons learned from flowers:

1. Follow the sunlight. Do what makes you feel happy and warm.
2. Take your time. Bloom when you're ready, no need to rush.
3. Be yourself. Wherever you are, bring your own spring with you.
4. Make friends. Surround yourself with those who care and support.
5. Smile bright. Spread your colors into the world.
6. Stand tall. Be proud of everything you do and achieve.
7. Stay grounded. Keep yourself connected – water your roots often.
8. Have faith. Know that the sun always emerges from the clouds.
9. Don't mind bees. Even the bees are your friends. Do your thing, and let busybodies play their part.
10. Feel the rain. Open your pores and drink in every season.

Fairfield County OSU Extension has a New Team Member

source: Carrie Brown, ANR Extension Coordinator for Fairfield County



Carrie Brown is thrilled to be the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator for Fairfield County. Carrie is a long-time Fairfield County resident and brings a myriad of skills and knowledge to the position.

With an undergraduate degree in education, Carrie spent six years as a math and science teacher within the county. She eventually pursued a graduate degree in

biology with a focus on participatory education, sustainability, conservation, and professional leadership within the community. After completing her master's program, she decided to explore opportunities outside of the classroom, spending several years working in habitat restoration, environmental education, plant propagation, and project management.

Most recently, Carrie was an Engineering Technician for Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. She focused mainly on collaborating with local producers and engineering practices that allowed them to conserve soil, protect water quality, and work with Mother Nature. While there, she became intimately familiar with common agricultural conservation practices seen throughout the county, as well as many other conservation practices offered within the various cost-share programs. She also had the chance to spend time getting to know local producers, and she takes the knowledge and relationships she built to her new position with OSU Extension.

Carrie brings specialized knowledge in topics such as soil health, plant propagation, citizen/community science, and weed management. She is passionate about community outreach and engagement and is delighted to have the opportunity to work with local producers to create more sustainable, profitable, and resilient operations. She is eager to provide agricultural and natural resource programming and educational resources to help fulfill the needs of all Fairfield County residents.

Fun, Funky New Proven Winners Introduction

**by Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator;
photo by Doug Parkinson, Account and Program Development, Four Star Sales/Proven Winners**



About this time of year, I always find myself getting “antsy” to think about fall decorations. I am a real sucker for Fall pumpkins and gourds and can spend way too long and way too much when selecting the perfect fall

pumpkins and gourds for decorating. Plus, when it is time for the Christmas decorations to come out, our cows love to munch on pumpkins, so I am truly justified in my pumpkin addiction and purchasing habit...eventually it becomes cow feed!!

As luck would have it, when I visited Lowes in Lancaster, they had just unloaded a new Proven Winners sedum introduction, Rock ‘N Round “Pure Joy,” so naturally I just had to bring a couple home to try. This new variety is only expected to reach 12 inches tall and will spread about 16-20 inches. I am hoping that it will create some nice, long lasting, pink blooms this fall and offer some winter interest in some of my pots. In addition, it is a perennial, so keeping my fingers crossed, it survives the Ohio winter. Check out the fun picture shared with me by our friend, Doug Parkinson from Proven Winners.

Catch the Wagnalls Fairy Gardens Before it's Too Late! (Fairy Gardens will be taken down in October)

by Pam Jarvis, Master Gardener, 2017



Nell LaRock is our fairy garden leader, beekeeper and master gardener creative spirit. Nell has written three children's books with Wagnalls Gardens as the setting.



Our Teen Garden club created fairy gardens under the guidance of Nell.

Recipes Made with Herbs

furnished by Louis Calandra, Master Gardener 2019



In June, the Civil War Herb Lady of Ohio was the guest speaker at the General William Tecumseh Sherman Memorial Civil War Roundtable, hosted by Sherman Gardens. Refreshments were served that featured herbs in their ingredients. Here are some of the recipes:

Madelene & Gwen's Festivi-Tea

One part each:

Peppermint leaves	Crushed organic rose hips
Chamomile flowers	Lemon verbena leaves
Linden blossoms	Lemon balm leaves
Spearmint leaves	

For hot tea: Pour boiling water over the herbs and steep 10-15 minutes in a covered pot.

For sun tea: Steep all day in the sun.

A Good Sage Tea

20 sage leaves
12 lemon balm or lemon verbena leaves
1 lemon slice or 2 TBL. lemon juice
½ c. white wine
Honey or sugar

Pour boiling water over sage, balm and lemon. Steep for 5 minutes. Strain and reheat until hot. Remove from heat, add wine and honey to sweeten.

Lemon Pesto

2 c. French sorrel (cleaned & veined)
¾ c. lemon balm
½ c. parsley
1 tsp. lemon thyme
2 cloves garlic
1 tsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice
½ c. toasted pignoli or slivered almonds
¼ - ½ c. olive oil
Pinch of Kosher salt

Place first six ingredients in a food processor or blender. Begin processing, slowly adding oil until a thick paste is formed. Pack into a small container. Cover tightly with a thin layer of olive oil and cap tightly. Will keep 3-4 weeks in refrigerator or freeze up to several months.

Lemon Basil Pesto

3 lg. cloves garlic, roasted & minced
Grated zest of 1 lg. lemon
2 c. fresh basil leaves, chopped
½ c. pine nuts, toasted
⅓ c. olive oil
½ c. freshly grated parmesan
½ tsp. salt or to taste
Fresh ground pepper to taste

Combine pine nuts, garlic, lemon zest and basil in a food processor. With machine running, add olive oil. Remove from processor. Stir in cheese, salt and pepper.

Cinnamon Basil Chicken and Nut Spread

¼ c. sweet butter softened (or margarine)
1 tsp. honey
1 c. very finely chopped, cooked chicken
3 tsp. washed, drained & finely chopped cinnamon basil leaves
½ c. almonds, chopped very fine
Salt to taste
Very thin slices of bread

Blend softened butter and honey until smooth. Stir in chicken, cinnamon, basil, almonds and salt to taste. Remove crusts from bread and cut into shapes, if desired. Spread with chicken mixture for open face sandwiches. (Sandie Wilson)

Cheese Balls

8 oz. cream cheese
1 c. finely chopped herbs: fresh chives, parsley, rosemary, sage & thyme

Shape the cheese into plum-sized balls and then roll them in the chopped herbs. Serve with salads, on hot vegetables or as a spread.

OR

Mix the herbs in the softened cream cheese. Form a ball and serve with crackers or cocktail bread. (Penny Hall)

Lavender Zucchini Bread

6 eggs	2 tsp. baking soda
3 ½ c. sugar	½ tsp. baking powder
1 ¾ c. vegetable oil	6 tsp. cinnamon
5 c. grated zucchini	1 TBL. dried lavender buds
6 c. flour	1 c. chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350. Spray pans with non-stick spray. Mix ingredients in order given. Pour into pans and bake one hour. Makes 8-10 mini-loaves or 4 regular loaves. Can be frozen or served warm with butter. (Jackie Goodman)

DESTINATIONS

A Walk in the Woods— Wahkeena

by Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013



Our area has many special places to visit and autumn is a beautiful time to explore. Wahkeena Nature Preserve is worth a stop on your list. In 1931, Dr. Frank Warner of Columbus gifted his bride Carmen with 94 acres of farmland in Fairfield County. She selected an Indian word meaning “most beautiful” as an appropriate name for the property. Mrs. Warner was an avid gardener and bird watcher. She oversaw the planting of 100,000 trees, building of terraces, planting of flowers and creation of a lake. Over the years they acquired more property to extend the holdings to 150 acres. Upon her death in 1956, she bequeathed Wahkeena to the Ohio Historical Society. In 2012, the Ohio Historical Society entered into a management agreement with the Fairfield County Parks for the day-to-day management and staffing of Wahkeena Nature Preserve. This agreement remains in place today.

Take some time to walk the trails with a map from the nature center. Spots of interest along the trails are well marked. Better yet, if one of the naturalists is available, they can point out the very small native orchids, the wooly aphids and discuss the beavers. This is indeed a natural area and native species are allowed to exist and reinhabit. In other words, beware of poison Ivy!!

The Nature Center itself is small but chock full of interesting exhibits, information, a snake and a window into the inner workings of a bee hive. One other unusual feature is a “hospital” area where they are caring for injured wild animals. If you get the chance to visit, I am sure you will find that Wahkeena has been well named.

2200 Pump Station Road
Sugar Grove, Ohio

Brookgreen Gardens

by Pam Jarvis, Master Gardener, 2017



Brookgreen Gardens, located south of Myrtle Beach, are unique gardens that combine art and nature. Beautiful statues are around every corner, special exhibits are top notch, and you can lose yourself in the many different themed gardens. One of our favorite tours was a boat tour of the rice

plantation. If you are interested in staying for a week close to Brookgreen Gardens for \$250 this fall or winter, please contact Pam Jarvis at 614-256-2314. We have stayed at Myrtle Beach Resort and highly recommend it.



DESTINATIONS

A Walk in the Woods— Pickerington Arboretum

by Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013



Even long time residents of the Pickerington community are unaware of the existence of their arboretum. Fall is a great time to visit there to observe the coloring of the various trees.

In Old Pickerington turn off of Lockville Road onto Covered Bridge Lane into Sycamore Creek Park. You will be in sight of the covered bridge. That bridge was built in 1906 and functioned as an ordinary route until it was moved to the park in 1986. After you park, walk over the the Zeller-Smith Covered Bridge into the arboretum.

Upon entering the park the commotion of the playground and playing fields fades away and the sounds of nature can be heard. There are sometimes photo sessions and dog walkers here but it is generally a quieter area. The trail that winds through the area is a flat natural one that goes to grass for a section. It is about a half mile in length. There is sun and shade along the trail. The path is studded with benches to relax and enjoy the natural views.

Many of the species of trees and shrubs are identified with a sign. The path begins and ends at the bridge where there is access to the stream. As you exit the bridge you will find yourself once again in the heart of family activities.



FEATURED BOOK

The Last Garden in England by Julia Kelly

reviewer: Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013



The tale of this novel is told in three timelines that revolve around the famous and fictional gardens at Highbury House. In the present day Emma has been hired to restore the gardens designed by her hero Venetia Smith. Venetia's timeline involves her desire to create a triumph in the gardens but the people she meets there promise to change her life forever. Between the two is the 1944 story of gardens. The house has been requisitioned as a convalescent hospital for soldiers. When the gardens are threatened, a land girl, the cook and mistress of the house draw together to save them.



Be sure to check out the Fairfield Extension You Tube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FairfieldCountyOH>



GARDEN MUSINGS

Fall Gardening for Old Folks

by Chuck Zurhorst, Master Gardener 2019



Gardeners are hard at work canning, freezing and preserving their late summer abundance of vegetables and fruits harvested from their gardens. Now is the time to plan your Fall gardening tasks:

In September, leaf lettuce, chard, spinach and radishes can still be planted for harvest this fall. Pumpkins, summer squashes and gourds to be stored should be harvested before the frost. Pumpkins that have begun showing color will continue to ripen even after harvest. Keep harvesting second plantings of the cool season vegetables including radishes, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, chard, spinach and broccoli. Some, such as parsnips, peas, Brussel sprouts and kale actually have enhanced flavor after a frost. Keep inspecting for pests, particularly bean beetles as they can make a strong showing this time of year. Houseplants that have been enjoying the backyard this summer should be brought in by mid-month. Give them a good blast of water all over before bringing them in to help remove freeloading insects.

In October, keep an eye on the weather and harvest any remaining summer produce like beans, eggplant, peppers and tomatoes before you get a hard frost. Cut and dry or freeze

remaining herbs. Plant garlic, shallots, perennial onions and spring flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, hyacinth and crocus. It's a good idea to place chicken wire over newly planted bulbs to prevent animals from digging them up. Drain hoses and empty bird baths before a hard frost. Collect soil samples now for testing to prepare for next springs fertilization of your vegetable garden and flower beds. Soil testing is available at the OSU Extension Office at the Ag Center.

In November, get your new spring flowering bulbs planted if you haven't already. Cold crops like Brussel sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale are made sweeter by frost so harvest them as late as possible. Instead of harvesting less hardy late season crops like carrots, beets, leeks rutabagas, turnips, winter radishes, chard, Chinese cabbage and leaf lettuce, leave them in the garden and surround them with a thick layer of straw. Wash the vegetables well after harvest to keep the straw out of your salad. Lots of busy work, but the results are well worth the effort.

Newsletter Deadlines

Do you have an article, garden musing, photo from an MGCV project, calendar event or other idea you'd like to submit for the MGCV newsletter? Articles and information are welcome at any time! Items not used in an upcoming newsletter can be saved and used in a future newsletter. Newsletters are published quarterly with the following submission deadlines:

Spring Newsletter—submit by **February 1**

Summer Newsletter—submit by **May 1**

Autumn Newsletter—submit by **August 1**

Winter Newsletter—submit by **November 1**

Please email articles and information to Lisa Stoklosa at lmstoklos@gmail.com.



In and Around the Garden—You Won't Want to Miss It!

Mark your calendars with these important dates and upcoming activities and events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Drive-It tour of MGV Lancaster Projects

August 31, 2021 at 6pm

Meet at the Ag Center.

We will tour the Ag center, Fairfield County Fairgrounds and finish at the Sherman House.

MG Tent at Honey Fest

September 11, 2021 from 12pm-4pm

Master Gardeners will have a tent to answer questions and meet the public.

Will take place in the Wagnall's front lawn area.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR 2-HOURS SHIFTS.

If you would like to work at the event, please contact Connie Smith at smith.3204@osu.edu or Pam Jarvis at pamelalynnjarvis@gmail.com. Help is also needed with setup Friday morning at 9:30am.

Informational Presentation on Hostas

September 23, 2021 at 6:30pm

Will take place in the dining hall at Wagnalls Library.

Fairfield County Fair

October 10-16

A Master Gardener Booth is tentatively planned, dependent on spacing.

Viewing Party—State Master Gardener Awards Presentation

October 14, 2021 at 6pm

Will take place in the Wagnall's Theatre.



Please Help Keep Information Current

If you have updates to your email or mailing address, please contact Lisa Stoklosa, lmstoklos@gmail.com.

Through the Vine is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension Office in Fairfield County

Lisa Stoklosa, Fairfield Master Gardener Volunteer Editor

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For the latest information and news about OSU Extension in Fairfield County, including the Master Gardeners of Fairfield County, visit <http://fairfield.osu.edu/>

Ohio Master Gardener Program Mission

We are Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.