



Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

SPRING 2022

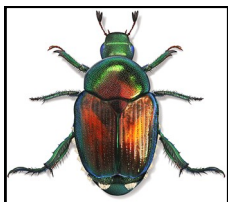
Mission: To make a difference in the community in which you live through gardening education and knowledge.

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Does Cold Weather Kill Japanese Beetles?

by Marissa Schuh, horticulture IPM, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota



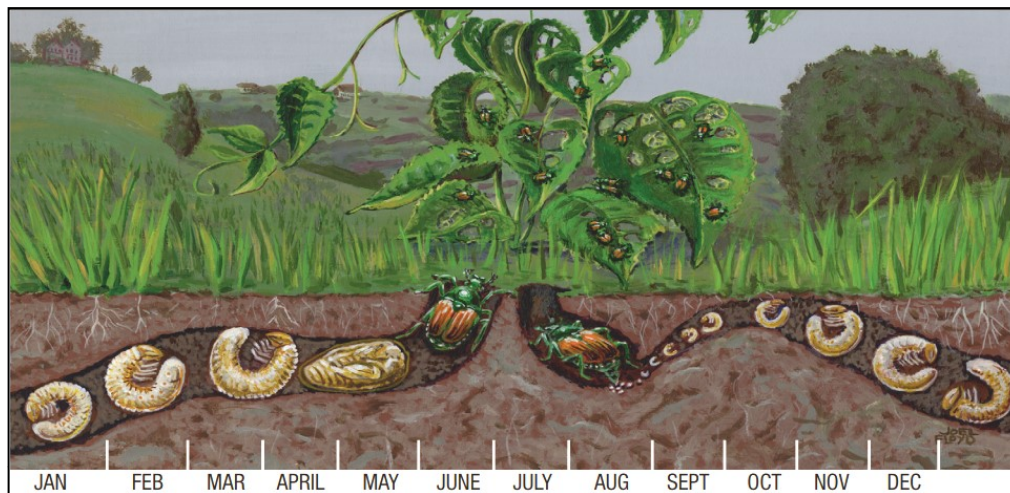
While people may choose to start their year out with all kinds of new year's resolutions, insects only have one resolution: live long enough to reproduce. Winter survival is one hurdle in a bug reaching its goal.

Many people assume, after months of dangerous wind chills and arctic air masses, that insects have been killed off, but it is rarely that simple. Let's check in on one of our least favorite garden pests, the Japanese beetle, and see how they likely fared after a cold start to 2022.

Japanese Beetles spend the winter as immature grubs. This is the white grub life stage that is responsible for damage to lawns. As temperatures cool off in the fall, grubs burrow into the soil. They can dig down to a depth of two to six inches. They will tunnel even deeper if the soil gets too cold during the winter.

So, did the Japanese beetle grubs die? Unfortunately, the answer is "probably not." The grubs are a few inches down in the soil, which itself is underneath a few inches of snow. All of this acts as layers of insulation. We know from studies that Japanese beetle grubs can survive down to around 9°F.

What is it like temperature-wise down there? Soil temperatures hover anywhere from 20 to 30 degrees, while the air temperature is much colder and fluctuates widely. Based on what we know about Japanese beetles and soil temperatures, many grubs likely got through January just fine, and many will hang on long enough to emerge as adults next summer.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



CONNIE'S CORNER

Welcome to Spring Fairfield County Master Gardeners!!

We have lots of exciting things happening within the Fairfield County Master Gardener program!! We are training 28 new interns using the Scarlet Canvas on-line program and it is all going well. We meet virtually every Thursday evening for a couple of hours and discuss what they are learning and usually have a speaker related to their study chapter.

SAVE THE DATE...April 30 will be our first attempt at a face-to-face program in over two years!! Dig into Gardening will return but only as a one half day morning program from 9 am until 12 noon at Christ United Methodist Church in Baltimore. We will then provide our guests with a road map and encourage our visitors to take a tour of local greenhouses and garden centers throughout the Fairfield County area. More information, including costs and ways to make your reservations will follow. Featured speaker for this year's event will be the State Master Gardener Coordinator, Pam Bennett focusing on New Perennials to look out for...some tried and true annuals, too!! Plus, Tim McDermott will return with an update on Ticks and Carrie Brown will bring us up-to-date on the Spotted Lantern Fly and what we need to look for in the coming months!!

Looking forward to warm, spring days ahead!!

Connie Smith
Master Gardener Coordinator
smith.3204@osu.edu



Hands On Connect Volunteer Management Program

by **Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator**

If you have not yet set up your account in Hands On Connect and want to continue as a Master Gardener Volunteer in Fairfield County, it is not too late!! Simply stop by the office at your convenience, Monday-Friday from 7:30 am until 4:00 pm, and someone will help you get started. There are still over 1,300 Master Gardener volunteers across the State who have not yet set up their account in the new system, you are not the only one!!

I realize this has been a tremendous frustration for many of you and I am truly sorry. Statewide, there has also been lots of frustration. Thank you for your patience and for staying with us. I **ABSOLUTELY** do not want the new computer record keeping program to be the reason you do not continue as a Master Gardener. We will figure out a way to set up your account and input your hours even if you just want to keep them in a notebook monthly and we input them at the end of the year.

Newsletter Deadlines

Do you have an article, garden musing, photo from an MGV project, calendar event or other idea you'd like to submit for the MGV newsletter? Articles and information are welcome at any time! Material not used in the current newsletter will be saved for a later edition. 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.

Giving Ugly Food a Chance

Source: CFAES News Team, cfaesnews@osu.edu



Explaining the value of misshapen vegetables—that they are as healthful as their picture-perfect counterparts and buying them helps reduce food waste—could help improve sales of “ugly” produce, new research suggests.

The study measured consumers’ responses to hypothetical shopping scenarios for carrots. Participants were most open to buying bunches containing imperfect carrots after being presented with both of those marketing messages promoting ugly carrots’ personal and societal benefits. Either message alone was not effective at convincing consumers to buy misfit carrots.

Findings also showed that respondents were willing to pay, with a small discount, for some level of mixed bunches containing both ugly and standard carrots, maxing out at 40% of misshapen carrots—a sign to regulators who set the tolerance level for cosmetic standards that such a practice could be profitable.

“Any time you codify that cosmetically imperfect produce is somehow lesser, you’re stuck selling it for less and therefore you undermine the entire value chain,” said senior study author Brian Roe.

“We see that once you promote it as being more natural and as reducing wasted food, the discount is less than it otherwise would be—but there is also a cluster of folks who are actually willing to pay as much or more because they value reducing food waste and they value the fact that it’s got just as much nutrition as standard produce.”

The researchers surveyed 1,300 U.S. residents who shopped and cooked for their households. Participants in the online survey were randomly assigned to receive one or a combination of two marketing messages: Ugly carrots’ nutritional quality equals that of blemish-free produce, and there are social costs linked to throwing away food with cosmetic flaws.

Participants also selected from images of their preferred 2-pound carrot bunches and price points, with six bunches—either with or without their greenery attached—containing 0% to 100% ugly carrots and prices ranging from \$2.18 to \$1.39 per pound. In another choice test, consumers could select from just two options—a bunch of all standard carrots or all imperfect carrots with or without green leaves attached—in a hypothetical purchase from either a farmers market or a conventional grocery store.

Participants consistently disliked bunches that included any ugly carrots at all, and the amount they were willing to pay for any number of imperfect carrots was always lower than what they’d pay for 100% standard carrots.

But a top contender in terms of profitability for farmers did emerge from the analysis of participant responses: Bunches containing 40% ugly carrots and 60% standard carrots with green leaves attached sold at farmers markets where consumers are exposed to the combined marketing messages.

“If you’re at a farmers market, you’re thinking more holistically. You’re not thinking about cosmetic perfection. You expect things to be more ‘real,’” Roe said. “So, I think then people realize this is what we might expect if we’re getting produce directly from a farmer. There’s more room for imperfection because it’s probably not interpreted as imperfection. It’s interpreted as naturalness.”

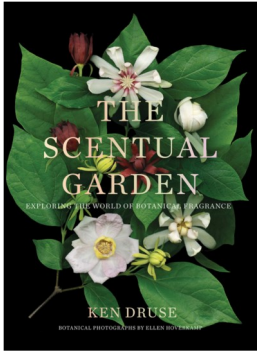
The research team analyzed the tipping point in consumer willingness to pay that could make harvesting ugly carrots profitable—an important calculation for farmers who need a positive return on their investment into planting, picking, and shipping their crops. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) also has a say in the percentage of nonstandard produce that can be sent to market—a limit that may need to be revisited, Roe said.

“We hope these findings will change the viewpoint of the industry. If you want to move into the ugly produce space, you probably need to rebrand it rather than locking in a discount and saying, ‘This is ugly food that should be worth less, so let’s just lock it in as being an inferior good from the get-go,’” he said. “There hasn’t been a lot of rethinking of standards in light of food waste, so that would be one policy lever that could be re-examined to deal with food waste in the modern era.”

FEATURED BOOK

The Scentual Garden by Ken Druse

reviewer: Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013



At its epitome a garden should appeal to all senses. Perhaps the most elusive of these is scent. When I first began my gardening life with my own abode and grounds, a veteran gardener told me to always have a scented plant of some kind beside the door. Whenever possible I have tried to follow this advice.

When we lived in the Deep South next to the door was a Sweet Olive. This rather insignificant shrub has tiny blossoms with a deep and heavenly fragrance. Unfortunately, Ohio is not in the growing zone of this plant so here I had a wonderful scented viburnum with a spicy aroma. That plant lived it's life and has been replaced by the floral scent of a Miss Kim Lilac.

When describing plants most tags and catalogs simply say "fragrant." This does not happen in *The Scentual Garden* by Ken Druse. The author divides botanical fragrances into twelve categories and offers ways to incorporate the world of scent into a garden. He arranges both familiar and unusual perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees into these categories. Also provided are examples of designs for harmonious placement. Botanical images and photographs create a book as beautiful to look at as it is informative.

Did You Know?

source: *Garden-pedia* by Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini

Leader

The main, center branch of a tree; the trunk, which gradually narrows as you go higher into the tree.



All other side branches are attached to and grow outward from the central leader. Well, maybe not all the time, but at least this is what we shoot for when pruning landscape trees. Sometimes, a tree will have a couple of branches that compete for that main central leader spot. If one is not pruned out when the plant is young, then neither branch wins and the tree ends up with no true central leader—or what is called a double leader in the tree head.



A central leader is a sign of plant quality. It is most desirable to purchase a tree with a straight central leader, as it will have a nicer shape as it grows and matures. More importantly, it will have a better chance of handling snow and ice loads without breakage.



Understandably, the less expensive plant with two leaders may be more appealing in the short term, but when it splits during a storm, landing on your house or across your car, you'll be wishing you'd have invested a few extra dollars on a quality plant with a strong central leader.





Be sure to check out the Fairfield Extension YouTube Channel

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

GARDEN DESTINATIONS

Kingwood

by *Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013*



Have you been to, heard of, or are you just discovering Kingwood Hall and Gardens? This spring it is worth a first time or revisit to this French Provincial manor house. The 47 acre estate was built by Charles Kelley King. King, who was born in 1867, was educated as an electrical engineer and eventually came to work at Ohio Brass in Mansfield, Ohio. A perfectionist with high standards, King worked constantly, leading Ohio Brass into new markets. As the company expanded, he worked his way right up to the top, becoming its secretary in 1896, vice president in 1906, president in 1928 and CEO. He made his fortune traveling the world for his company. In 1926 he purchased property in Mansfield and hired a Cleveland architect to build a new home with 21 rooms and 12 fireplaces. A landscape designer and his own interest in gardening shaped the outdoor areas.

King provided a trust that after his death established the property as a public garden. These institutions have evolved over the years. The staff and board have wisely utilized recent downtime to use creative thinking to revamp and improve. They have found new sources of funding and integrated improved interpretive endeavors. There is now a visitor's center with a cafe and a gallery displaying historical exhibits, and a shop selling garden themed gifts and plants from their greenhouse.

The new Parking Garden has shade trees that complement bioretention islands planted with shrubs, grasses and perennials like Cardinal Flower, Winterberry and Golden Leaved Sweet Flag that can

tolerate being occasionally inundated with rainwater as it rushes to nearby Touby's Run. Stormwater runoff in this area is also managed through three new rain gardens and an enlarged pond, restocked with fish, whose banks are planted with a mix of pollinator-friendly plants and no-mow grasses.

Thousands of new trees, shrubs and plants have been planted throughout Kingwood's gardens to ensure that they are memorable in all seasons. A new meadow garden area introduces a new style of naturalistic gardening. Tightly packed, sweeping beds of perennials and grasses chosen for their structure and color not only attract pollinators and birds, but also suppress weeds.

Kingwood is justifiably proud to grow beauty for all seasons but it is at its most spectacular in the Spring. The time to view this is early April to mid-May with the peak being late April, early May. A tour of the grand house is a bonus!

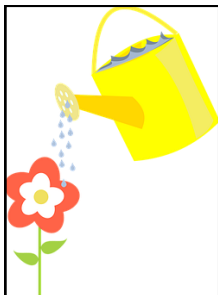


Spring is Around the Corner!

GARDEN MUSINGS

Spring Gardening for Old Folks

by Chuck Zurhorst, Master Gardener 2019



The temperatures are warming, there's no snow in the garden and it's time to think about preparing the garden for spring planting. If you want to water most efficiently, you may want to consider laying your hose on the ground near the plant so that the water goes right to the roots or, even invest in a drip

irrigation system to make the task of watering less time consuming. Both options are best for the plants in that the roots are being watered and you are avoiding soaking the plant itself, which can have negative effects on the health of the plant by causing diseases.

Plants do best when watered about three times a week, factoring in any rain that occurs. Garden plants need about one inch of water per week. If the plants are seedlings, it's best to water twice a day until they are established. Don't just water without thinking, feel your soil! When the soil sticks in your hand and you can form it into a ball, it's moist enough. See if the soil is dry an inch below the surface, if it is, that means the soil needs water. A rain gauge would be a good investment. You can find them at most garden stores and at hardware stores, too.

If you don't water by drip irrigation, it's best to water early in the day while the dew is still on the leaves so that the foliage dries off by evening. If you can't water in the morning, watering in the evening is fine, too. Just avoid watering during the middle of the day to avoid water loss due to evaporation.

Believe it or not, sometimes the best time to water is during or immediately after a rainfall, especially if the rain shower amounts to only a small amount of water. The reason for this is that

you want to add sufficient water at the same time to ensure penetration down to five or six inches. Light rain showers do not build up adequate water in the soil.

Temporary wilting of plants during the heat of midday does not mean that it's time to water. Some plants go through a midday slump, especially on very hot days, which is an indication of the plants natural adaptation to its environment. Visit your garden again in the early evening and see if your plants have regained their luster. If they look perkier, you don't need to water. Just enjoy their beauty.

Now, enjoy your abundant crop, beautiful flower arrangements and your family's favorite recipes.

Local Foods Tours Input Needed

source: Carrie Brown, OSU Extension Educator-Fairfield County

We are currently planning this year's Local Foods Farm Tours, and we need your help! Since 2015, this series has provided on-farm educational programming that highlights local producers in Fairfield County. What would YOU like to see in 2022? Is there a particular past farm tour that resonated with you that you'd like to return to for a second visit? Or is there are particular type of production you'd like to learn more about?

Email ANR Extension Educator, Carrie Brown, with your requests and ideas at brown.2766@osu.edu.

Contact us

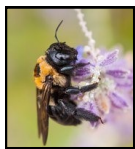


Please Help Keep Information Current

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

SAVE THE DATE

Bumble Bee Short Course for Community Scientists



Six free, Friday webinars will focus on bumble bee biodiversity, ecology and conservation.

To register: <http://go.osu.edu/bumble>

Bumble Bee Biology, Part 1

March 18, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Jamie Strange: The Ohio State University

Bumble Bee Biology, Part 2, & A Brief Overview of Federally Endangered Bumble Bees

March 25, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Jamie Strange: The Ohio State University

Tamara Smith: U.S. Fish and Wildlife service

Identification of Bumble Bees from Eastern North America

April 1, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Karen Goodell: The Ohio State University

Identification of Bumble Bees from Western North America

April 1, 3 pm-4:30 pm

Lincoln Best: Oregon State University

Bumble Bee Botany

April 8, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Randy Mitchell: The University of Akron

Threats and Opportunities for Conservation

April 15, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Hollis Woodard: University of California, Riverside

You Can Make a Difference for Bumble Bees: Programs to Document Bumble Bees in Yards, Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas AND What Plants They Use

April 22, 1 pm-2:30 pm

Sam Droege: Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab, USGS

Jenan El-Hifnawi: USGS Bumble Bee Survey Coordinator

March Lunch & Learn/ Happy Hour Webinar Series

(Must Register ahead)

The Basics of Growing Herbs

March 9 (Wednesday), 12 pm-1 pm

Susan Liechty



Growing and Maintaining Lilacs

March 17 (Thursday), 4 pm-5 pm

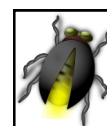
Dr. Mark Debard



Fluctuations in Firefly Populations

March 23 (Wednesday) 12 pm-1 pm

Dr. Sara Lewis



Combatting Slugs in the Garden

March 31 (Thursday), 4 pm-5 pm

Dr. Rory McDonnell



Free Hands-On Fruit Tree Workshop Offered

Join The Ohio State University Extension - Fairfield County for a hands-on fruit tree pruning workshop with Ralph Hugus at Hugus Fruit Farm in Rushville, Ohio on Saturday, March 19th from 10 am-12 pm. The workshop will involve walking through the orchard and discussing growing and pruning techniques for apple and peach trees. Pruning shears will be provided for demonstration use. Participants will be able to learn pruning techniques and get all their questions related to fruit tree growing and pruning answered. Most of the workshop will be held outdoors; please dress for the weather conditions. To reserve your spot call (740) 653-5419 or go to:

www.go.osu.edu/fcpruning by March 15, 2022.

For more information, please contact Carrie Brown at (740) 277-4630 or email brown.2766@osu.edu.

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

Hands-On Fruit Tree Workshop

March 26 (Saturday), 10 am-12 pm

Hugus Fruit Farm

1960 Old Rushville Rd. NE, Rushville, OH 43150

Cost: Free

To register: call (740) 653-5419 or go to:

www.go.osu.edu/fcpruning

Please see page 7 for more information

Nuisance Wildlife Workshop

March 19 (Saturday), 10 am-12 pm

424 Zion Road SW

Lancaster, OH 43130

Cost: Free

To register:

<https://fairfield.osu.edu/events/nuisance-wildlife-workshop>

March Lunch & Learn/Happy Hour Webinar Series

March 9, 17, 23, 31

Must register ahead

Please see complete listing on page 7

Bumble Bee Short Course

March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22

To register: <http://go.osu.edu/bumble>

Please see complete listing on page 7

DIG into Gardening

April 30 (Saturday), 9 am-12 pm

Christ United Methodist Church

700 South Mainstreet, Baltimore, OH 43105

Garden Conversation & Coffee with Pam Bennett (New Perennials), Tim McDermott (Ticks) and Carrie Brown (Spotted Lantern Fly) followed by a local Greenhouse Drive it Tour

June—August Project Tours

Dates to be determined

Day of Action United Way/Nationwide Children's

June 17 (Friday)

Downtown Lancaster

Fairfield County Fair

October 9-15, Fairfield County Fair grounds

MGV Holiday Gathering (AG Center)

December 12 (Monday), 10 am-2 pm

MONDAY MGV MEETINGS (AG CENTER)

March 14, 3 pm-5 pm

April 11, 10 am-12 pm

May 9, 3 pm-5 pm

Sept. 12, 3 pm-5 pm

Nov. 14, 10 am-12 pm – Year end

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

Lisa Stoklosa, Fairfield Master Gardener Volunteer Editor

For more information contact:

Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator and OSU Extension ANR Program Assistant

smith.3204@osu.edu — 740.652.7267

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.