



Through the Vine

A Quarterly Newsletter of the OSU Extension Fairfield County Master Gardeners

Spring 2023

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

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2023 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR® ANNOUNCED

source: Perennial Plant Association; submitted by Kay Sargent, Master Gardener 2022



Photographic Credit: Intrinsic Perennial Gardens

The Perennial Plant Association is pleased to promote Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush' as the 2023 Perennial Plant of the Year®. 'American Gold Rush' is a stunning addition to any garden. At the height of summer, it turns up the volume for a long season of dazzling color right up to autumnal frosts. The bright golden-yellow flowers feature arching rays and a reddish halo surrounding dark chocolate cones. Three-inch flowers blanket the compact plant, which is only 22-27 inches tall with a broader width to 40 inches if given room to grow.

The green leaves and stems are covered in hairs, which gives them a silvery cast—on sunny days, peeking through the blooms to the leaves is a luminous silver-and-gold treat.

More than just boosting the ornamental show, the hairy foliage is resistant to Septoria leaf spot—a debilitating fungal disease that causes unsightly black spotting and premature seasonal decline on some Black-eyed Susans. 'American Gold Rush' is a reliable hardy perennial and a great substitute for popular, brassier 'Goldsturm,' which is highly susceptible to leaf spotting.

'American Gold Rush' is a stunning focal point in perennial borders and meadows and is brilliant when massed in public or corporate landscapes. Butterflies caper over the blooms and songbirds feast on the plentiful seed long after the flowers have passed—the seedheads also provide winter interest. Garden companions are many, including alliums, asters, sages, and native grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

The Perennial Plant of the Year® program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors. Perennials chosen for this honor are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free. Learn more about the 2023 Perennial Plant of the Year® at <https://perennialplant.org/page/2023PPOY>.



CONNIE'S CORNER

Dear Master Gardeners,

This year, please make plans to add the educational meeting portion we will be having as a part of the monthly Master Gardener Meetings. Our Master Gardener Meetings will be held at the Fairfield County Ag Center on Thursdays beginning at 1:00 p.m. Our educational topic will begin at approximately 2 p.m. Please note you can claim 1 hours of "give back" service for attending the Master Gardener Meetings PLUS 1 hour of Continuing Education for the Educational meetings. Meetings scheduled include: March 9-Seed Starting with Keith Eichhorn; April 13-Critter Control in Your Garden-Fairfield SWCD's Tommy Springer and Spotted Lantern Fly Update with Carrie Brown; May 16-Recycling your Yard Waste and more with Keri Murphy of Lancaster Fairfield Community Action-Litter and Recycling. We are also going to be working on a brief Master Gardener Safety Lesson with Kay Sargent at our meetings in the hopes of developing a lesson plan for State Master Gardeners Volunteers to eventually utilize.

Also, if you want to continue to build your continuing education hours remember to check out the Ohio Master Gardener Weekly Horticulture Webinars. The sign- up link can be found at <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL22-23>.

In addition, you can look back and view past recordings that might be of interest to you as well as any handout materials you wish to print off or save. One hour of continuing education credit will be given for each webinar viewed.

GIVING BACK TO OTHERS with the Easter Basket challenge at the March 9 meeting!! Fairfield 211 is looking for Easter Basket Donations. It can be for any age child or anything you would like to put in an Easter Basket, even toothbrushes, personal hygiene items and even

crazy socks!! If you want to make an Easter Basket and bring your completed Easter Basket to the March 9 meeting we will have a People's Choice Award contest. The winning "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" basket will receive a Soil Thermometer. The baskets will be donated to the Easter Basket collection with Fairfield 211 and Maywood Mission. If you don't want to make a basket but just want to bring in donations, anything will be welcomed and appreciated! **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THIS...** this is just for fun!! But, I will give you 1 service hour for Easter basket creation!! If you have questions, please send Connie an email at smith.3204@osu.edu.

Thanks for all you do to help the Fairfield County Master Gardener program grow!!

Connie Smith
Program Assistant, Ag and Natural Resources
Master Gardener Coordinator
Smith.3204@osu.edu

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Give Back Hours Recap—2022

Points of Light Volunteer Management
estimates the value of volunteer give back
= \$29.50 per hour

Fairfield County "Give Back"

2,801 Total Hours X 29.50 = \$82,630

Continuing Education Hours 2,900

State-wide Give Back Hours for 2022 = 157,425

Continuing Education hours = 45,890

(note: increase of 25% statewide)

#mgvproud



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

MASTER GARDENER NEWS

Upcoming Events

by **Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator**

Virtual Spring Wildflower Hike webinar (through OSU Woodland Stewards) – 3/10

Spring is a special time of the year to be in the woods! Many of its early occupants such as our state wildflower, White Trillium, are ephemeral in nature and won't be here long! Join OSU Extension ANR Educator, Carrie Brown, as we embark on a virtual spring wildflower hike.
When: Fri., March 10, 2023, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Zoom
Registration: COMING SOON

Seed Starting Meeting – 3/16

Seed Starting on the Cheap with Keith Eichhorn, Master Gardener Volunteer
When: Thurs., March 16, 2023, 2 p.m.
Location: Fairfield County Ag Center
For details, Connie Smith smith.3204@osu.edu.

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop at Hugus Fruit Farm – 3/25

Join OSU Extension in Fairfield County for a hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop with Ralph Hugus. 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 of their questions related to fruit tree growing and pruning answered. The majority of the workshop will be held outdoors; please dress for the weather conditions.
When: Sat., March 25, 2023, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Hugus Fruit Farm, 1960 Old Rushville Rd NE, Rushville, OH 43150
RSVP: 740.653.5419
or <https://go.osu.edu/fcpruning> by March 23

Spring Pond Management Clinic – 3/28

Join OSU Extension and Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District for an in-field discussion on managing your backyard pond, both in the spring, as well as throughout the year. Featured speaker, Eugene Braig, Aquatic Ecosystems Program Director for OSU Extension and School of

Environment and Natural Resources, will provide an overview of common pond management concerns and answer the questions you've been "pond"ering. Come curious! Cost FREE!!

When: Tues., March 28, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Longhaven Retreat, Lancaster

Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/fcpond>

Tomato Planting Clinic with Dr. Tim McDermott - 3/31

Do you often have a crop failure with your Tomatoes? Do you know when the best time to plant Tomatoes is? Do you rotate your tomatoes to a different location in the garden each year? Do you know when the best time of day is to water your tomatoes? Ever thought about starting your own tomato plants? If some of these questions have you thinking twice about your tomato planting and care techniques be sure to join us to get answers to your questions.

When: Friday, March 31, 2023, 2 p.m.

Location: Fairfield County Ag Center

Registration Fee is \$10.00 which includes a Soil Thermometer to take home. Register early; seating is limited. Registration: 740-653-5419.

Winter Tree ID Workshop – 4/7

Can you identify trees with leaves? What about without leaves? Identifying trees in winter can be a real challenge. This one-day workshop is designed to give participants in-depth training and practice on identifying trees without the leaves. The class begins indoors with some introductory identification clues and samples. A guide for identifying trees by fruit and twigs will be utilized for a major portion of the class. The afternoon portion may be outside—weather and time depending.

When: Fri., April 7, 2023 (Time TBA)

Location: Fairfield County Ag Center

Registration: COMING SOON

Critter Control and More... – 4/13

Critter Control in Your Garden with Tommy Springer, Soil and Water Conservation Wildlife Specialist Plus Spotted Lantern Awareness with Carrie Brown, Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources

When: Thurs., April 13, 2023, 2 p.m.

Where: Fairfield County Ag Center

For details, Connie Smith smith.3204@osu.edu.

MASTER GARDENER NEWS

Updates: February 2023

by **Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator**

Check out the Flower Power Exhibit at the Decorative Arts Center



Photo source: Visit Fairfield County

The reviews are in... Flower Power: Flora in Fashion is a hit! The newest Decorative Arts Center of Ohio exhibit explores the relationship humankind has with

its natural environment – specifically, how we adorn our bodies with botanical elements from head to toe.

Check out this FREE exhibit Wednesday-Friday, 11-4 p.m., or Saturday-Sunday, 1-4 p.m. until April 23rd! Flower Power is presented in partnership with the Historic Costume & Textiles Collection at The Ohio State University with support from the Fox Foundation, Inc. The Decorative Arts Center is located at 145 E. Main Street in Lancaster, Ohio. For more information, go to <https://loom.ly/t96HWjM>.

Maybe we should even make this a Master Gardener “FUN” Day out to go to lunch and visit this exhibit? Anyone interested? Send Connie a quick email at smith.3204@osu.edu.

Looking for Fun Things to do in Fairfield County?

Don't forget to check out Visit Fairfield County if you are looking for some fun things to visit in Fairfield County. As shared at our February Meeting by Executive Director, Jonette Hauberfield, Visit Fairfield County has created 24 Trails of fun activities throughout the County. For more details and information about upcoming events check out their website at <https://visitfairfieldcounty.org/>.

Victory Garden Seeds Coming to Fairfield County

Once again, OSU Extension in Fairfield County will have Victory Garden seeds available to distribute. The Victory Gardens program is a collaboration

between the Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio State University that provides free garden seed sample packets to Ohioans to inspire them to raise their own vegetables. In 2023, each of the 50 participating counties will receive 300 seed sample envelopes containing carrot, cucumber, lettuce and sunflower seeds to plant in a few rows.

Earth Day Activity Planned

Please mark your calendars now to make plans to assist with the Earth Day Activity on April 22 at Rising Park. Much like last year we will have Victory Gardener Seeds to distribute and will have an activity for the children. We will have a Master Gardener/Spotted Lantern Fly display at the event which will run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Master Gardener Volunteer Team Opportunities

One of the comments I heard at a Master Gardener Meeting was, “I did not know we did that and how do we get involved?” We have developed a program guide that has lots of information about the Fairfield County Master Gardener Program and I will have those available for you at each meeting. Listed below are all of our Team Leaders and their emails at the project sites that need volunteers. Please reach out to each of the team leaders for more detailed project information.

Ag Center Project—

Nancy Weidman: nlweidman@gmail.com

Fairgrounds Broad Street Entrance—

Louise Smith: louisesmith2007@hotmail.com

Green Machine at Learning Never Ends—

Jane Eberly: eberly1117@gmail.com

Patty Turner: pturner001@columbus.rr.com

Mary Kessler: gardengirl4095@gmail.com

Through the Vine Newsletter—

Lisa Stoklosa: lmstoklos@gmail.com

Wagnalls Garden—

Pam Jarvis: pamelalynnjarvis@gmail.com

MASTER GARDENER NEWS

Fairfield Cnty MGV Efforts at the Wagnall's Memorial Garden

by **Connie Smith, Master Garden Coordinator**

PAST

In May 2017, The Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteers became involved in the Wagnall's Memorial Gardens. The Fairfield County Master Gardeners began to take a more active role in the organization of the volunteers and adoption of neglected garden beds, ***giving back 415 hours of volunteer service***. As the gardens began to take shape again more ideas began to form about how the Master Gardeners could teach in the gardens.



Our first teaching collaboration was a 2018 summer program with 24 home school students teaching them about growing corn, the many uses of corn and all the things we eat that have corn in them. MGV's even planned a hands-on activity of making corn husk dolls. We had a team of seven MGV's who planned and created the lesson content and hands-on activities for the group. The outdoor amphitheater made a perfect setting for outdoor teaching.

A brochure was started to highlight the gardens and provide a self-guided educational walking tour of the expansive gardens. In 2018, Fairfield County Master Gardeners Volunteers ***gave back 630 hours of volunteer service*** to the Wagnall's Memorial Gardens.

Twenty-two Master Gardeners donated over ***770 hours in 2019*** to the efforts at the Wagnall's Learning Garden. An educational pollinator Display was constructed, and pollinator seeds and 200 Wagnall's Garden Learning brochures were distributed. The lessons with the Home School classes were so successful a Holiday Activity was planned utilizing evergreens from the Wagnall's Garden for 22 children.

Once permitted back in the gardens after the OSU COVID Break, garden clean up and workdays began to include Scout Troops and other Student

organizations from the local high school, including the High School Football Team. A Monthly Teen Garden Club was formed in September 2020. In October 2020, one program was offered with 17 individuals in attendance including five adult leaders/learners. In November 12 teen gardeners attended the program with two adult leaders/learners.

PRESENT

Moving forward an Adult Garden Club was formed in 2021 for sharing educational information and resources as well as fun!! Work continued in the gardens and the Master Gardeners spent hours in the garden including returning to HONEYFEST with an educational booth engaging with over 30 individuals about lawn and garden questions.

In 2022, the Fairfield County Master Gardener Program Volunteers have "given back" 773 hours of volunteer service to the Wagnall's Memorial Library Gardens. Those 773 are assigned a value of \$29.50 per hour by the Points of Light Volunteer Management system resulting in \$22,803 dollars donated to the Wagnall's Master Gardener Program. In addition, Thrivent Grants were obtained and utilized for plants, mulch, mums, pumpkins, stalks, straw and the volunteer recognition dinner. It is imperative to note that Master Gardeners do not only give back time in the garden, but also donate needed materials for the gardens and their educational efforts.

FUTURE

In 2023, the first educational program was held with Master Gardener Volunteers Kay Sargent and Dana Raines offering ideas for Gardening for Beauty, Bees and Butterflies on January 24 with 26 participants with a large group of Master Gardener Volunteers attending. The presentation with the youth garden club was on Saturday, January 28 with six in attendance and two Master Gardeners from Hocking County attending.

The Mission Statement of the Fairfield County Master Gardeners is to create a community of lifelong learners and make a difference in the community through research-based information and educational outreach.

MASTER GARDENER NEWS

2023 All America Selection Flower Winners

by Sarah Browning, University of Nebraska Extension Educator; submitted by Kay Sargent, Master Gardener 2022

All-America Selections (AAS) announces four national flower award winners this year. National awards are given to plants with consistently great performance across the United States. To see pictures of these and other great plants visit <https://all-americaselections.org/winners/>.

Coleus 'Coral Candy' is a new release from PanAmerican Seed's Premium Sun coleus series and the first seed-propagated coleus to become an AAS winner. The leaves are narrow and serrated, displaying multicolors of pink, burgundy and green.



Plants have a mounded growth habit, reaching 10-16 inches in height. Its compact size makes 'Coral Candy' a good choice for hanging baskets, containers and in the front of a garden bed. It can be grown in full sun or full shade. Plants tolerate heat, rain and wind, holding up well throughout the summer and still attractive in fall.

Colocasia 'Royal Hawaiian Waikiki' is another first – the first elephant ears or taro plant to be an AAS winner! This tropical plant is grown from a large bulb, but grows quickly to form a 36-inch tall clump of brightly colored foliage featuring large glossy dark green leaves with creamy white centers and vivid pink veins. Works great in containers or ground



beds. Grows best in full to partial sun; plants are heat tolerant, but require consistent soil moisture.

Salvia 'Blue by You' blooms up to two weeks earlier than other salvias on the market. Brightly colored flowers are eye-catching in the garden and a favorite of pollinators.



Locate plants in a sunny garden with room to grow. Deadhead flowers as they fade to encourage additional flower development. Plants begin blooming in late spring on 20 to 22-inch tall plants.

Plants have excellent winter hardiness and are heat, rain and wind resistant. 'Blue by You' will be a great addition to the perennial, cutting, pollinator or container garden. Salvias are usually left alone by rabbits and deer, and 'Blue to You' is highly resistant to powdery mildew. Winter hardy to Zone 4b.

Snapdragon 'DoubleShot Orange Bicolor' is the newest in the intermediate-height DoubleShot snapdragon series, featuring open-faced double flowers in warm shades of orange and orange-red. AAS judges were impressed by its strong stems and greater branching resulting in more flowers. Plants are also wind resistant, suffering less branch breakage in strong winds.



'Orange Bicolor' grows best in full to partial sun. The upright plants reach 18 to 20-inches in height, with each flower one to two-inches across. They have excellent frost and light freeze resistance, making 'Orange Bicolor' a good season extender along with pansies or viola. Makes a great addition to a pollinator or cutting garden.

MASTER GARDNER NEWS

LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS PLANNED IN PICKERINGTON

source: Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator

Join Shannon Carter, Extension Educator and Sandy Bohl, Trained Instructor, with Ohio State University Extension Fairfield County, to learn more about slow cookers and pressure cookers.

Dates: April 13 & April 27

Cost: FREE

Location: Sycamore Plaza Library, 7861 Refugee Rd, Pickerington, OH

For more information contact Shannon Carter at carter.413@osu.edu or call OSU Extension at 740-653-5419

Slow Cooker Lunch and Learn

April 13 (Thurs.), 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Registration: <https://pickeringtonlibrary.libnet.info/event/8058897> or call 614-837-4383

Learn about:

- Basics of using a slow cooker
- Meal planning tips
- How to save money and time
- Sample recipes to try

Pressure Cooker Lunch and Learn

April 27 (Thurs.), 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Registration: <https://pickeringtonlibrary.libnet.info/event/8058901> or call 614-837-4383

Learn the basics of electric pressure cooking. Includes meal planning tips, how to save money and time as well as recipes to try.

Learn about...

- Parts of the cooker
- Settings and what they mean
- Safety and Cleaning

DID YOU KNOW?

Angiosperm & Gymnosperm

Source: Garden-pedia by Pamela Bennett and Maria Zampini

Angiosperm: A flowering plant whose seeds are housed within an ovary.

Not a word you are likely to see on a plant tag or in a beginner's gardening book, huh? Angiosperms run the full gamut of garden plants, from trees and shrubs to annuals and perennials, even grasses. Gardeners do not say, "I am off to find angiosperms for the garden!" Rather, the term is most helpful when reading advanced garden books or keying out plants.



Asimina triloba (Pawpaw)

In contrast to angiosperm is gymnosperm, a plant whose seeds are not protected in an ovary.

Examples of gymnosperm plants include conifers such as pine, spruce, hemlock and Ginkgo.



Conium maculatum (Poison Hemlock)

GARDEN MUSINGS

A Tomato Tale

by **Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013**



We had decided for a variety of reasons not to plant tomatoes even though they are Rich's absolute summer Favorite. Our choice of and easy access to farmer's markets had made supporting them an easy decision. Then I went to an master

gardener meeting and Lise Ricketts had showed up with a give away table full of the healthy plants she had started. After the meeting the table was surrounded by folks making decisions. The temptation was just too much and I reached in and took the one my hand fell on.

When I got my prize home and looked at the label it had the very curious name of "Mortgage Lifter." First, I had to investigate that! I found that it is an indeterminate heirloom cultivar bred in 1930's West Virginia by Marshall Cletis Byles, an amateur tomato enthusiast. He was known locally as "Radiator Charlie" Byles since he worked as an auto mechanic in a shop at the base of a mountain road where truck radiators tended to blow while trying to go up the big hill.

With absolutely no experience of breeding or growing tomatoes, Mr. Byles had a goal of developing the largest, most delicious tomato possible. Once he was happy with the results he sold the plants for a dollar each. He paid off his \$6,000 mortgage in six years. People came from hundreds of miles to purchase the plants as news of their excellence spread. So that's how the name evolved.

We decided to plant ours in a barrel planter on the patio for optimal sun and to water by hand. Because critters have free access, Rich built a tomato cage around the planter in his own style- chicken wire supported by golf club shafts! It grew beautifully right over the cage and one morning the top was gone, obviously a deer's breakfast. More wire was added and that plant came right back from the assault and just kept on going. Finally buds appeared then green and finally red tomatoes!

The Mortgage Lifter has a delicious, mild, sweet taste. They are not intensely flavored, lack bitterness and are not overly sweet - wonderful for eating fresh. They are very large beefsteak type tomatoes that can routinely reach 2-3 pounds. The peel is a red color with a hint of pink. Best of all they are delicious. I have to thank Lise for her research, knowledge and most of all her generosity that made this possible!

PLANT AUCTION



*Good quality plants at reasonable prices
from the flower beds of experienced gardeners of the*

BASIL GARDEN CLUB

Live Auction at 6:30 pm

*Raffle & Garden She Shed Sale
Complimentary Light Refreshments*

May 15, Monday, open at 6:00 pm

Baltimore V.F.W.

2155 Baltimore-Reynoldsburg



Be sure to check out the Fairfield Extension You Tube Channel
<https://www.youtube/user/Fair>

PLANTING WHEN THE SOIL TEMPERATURES ARE RIGHT!!

by **Connie Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator**



This past weekend no doubt brought lots of gardeners out into the sunshine. The calendar tells us we could be planting early spring crops in the garden but what does the soil thermometer tell us? If you have never thought about the use of the soil thermometer you should! Have you ever had crops that you planted in your garden that just “set” there and did not take off? Perhaps you planted them in wet soils and perhaps you planted them when the soils were just too cold.

Soil temperature plays an important role in seed germination. Adequate soil temperatures for germination range widely for different crops. For example, spinach needs a soil temperature of at least 38 degrees to germinate while lettuces, onions and peas like a 42 to 43-degree soil temperature. Potatoes do best at 45 degrees, even though legend suggests St. Patrick’s Day is the perfect day for planting potatoes. And those tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins prefer soil temperatures in the 58 to 60-degree soil temperature range.

So how can you learn about the soil temperature in your garden? You could purchase a soil thermometer. Many garden centers, on-line catalogs and even E-bay has them for sale. Or you could take a minute and check out the CFAES

Weather System: <https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/>. If you scroll down the left column of the page you will see precipitation and soil temperature totals, click on the link and for most of us Columbus will be the site you will use. You will then see the charts populate with precipitation and soil temperature data thru April 10, 2020.

Maybe you even want to check out the OSU CORN newsletter: <https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2020-09/cfaes-ag-weather-system-near-surface-air-and-soil>. In this week’s edition it was reported that soil temperatures warm as the air temperature continues to warm and a more typical April weather pattern begins to surface.

These handy tools are just one click away. Start your growing season off right. Check soil temperatures before opening your first packet of seeds to plant in your garden. Happy Gardening!!!



Spring Cleaning: Garden Pesticides and Fertilizers

by Kay Sargent, Master Gardener 2022



Early spring is a good time to put on your nitrile gloves and go through fertilizers, weed killers and other pesticides. In doing so, ask yourself what

do you have, what will you need, and how can you improve your chemical management?

Inventory and Cleaning Out

Knowing what you already have on hand, and how old it is, can prevent waste and save money. Pesticides are best used within two or three years. It is a good idea to date them at time of purchase. Pesticides that have been frozen or got too hot may no longer be effective. Fertilizers can absorb moisture, get clumpy and then be hard to spread. Identify what to keep and what to get rid of.

Keeping chemicals that you won't use increases the possibility of deteriorating packaging and spills. Waste pesticides and fertilizers are considered Household Hazardous Waste and cannot go into the regular trash. SWACO's contracts with Environmental Enterprises Inc. or EEI, Inc., to collect Household Hazardous Waste, including fertilizers and pesticides, for both Fairfield and Franklin Counties. You can call them at 614-294-1300 with disposal questions. Their Collection Center is just south of the Ohio State Fairgrounds at 645 E. 8th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

Planning

Plan on using the chemicals you have on hand first, then only buy additional products as you need them. Past observations and records can help you make decisions on what you need.

Minimize the number of pesticides you purchase by selecting products that can be used on a variety of plants. For example, you may buy one

insecticide for roses, one for tomatoes and another for other vegetables. Instead, look for one product that is labeled for all of them.

Base your garden's fertilizer needs on soil tests, which OSU recommends doing every two to three years. Only buy and apply what you need.

Storage

Keep pesticides and fertilizers where you can clean up spills easily. Don't store them directly on wood shelving as liquids can soak into the wood. Use plastic trays or tubs that will catch any spills. While it is recommended that you keep dry products above liquids, sometimes you may want to keep them lower on the shelves. In that case it is especially important to have liquid containers in a catch basin.

If at all possible keep pesticides locked up and out of the reach of children. Keep pesticides and fertilizers in their original containers. If you do need to repackage them, label and date them correctly. Take a photo of the front label and save the attached booklet. That way you will still have application and safety information. Remember: you are required by law to follow all pesticide label directions.

Never, ever, ever store chemicals in food

containers! Accidental pesticide poisonings most often happen because they were put into a used water or soda bottle. Even when labeled, food containers look like the contents are edible. Also keep food and drink away from all chemicals to minimize cross contamination.

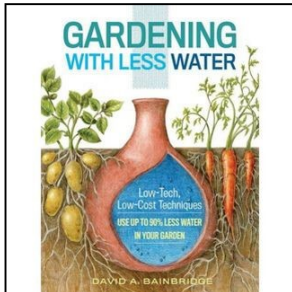
Store spray equipment and chemical-designated measuring cups with your garden chemicals. Keep sprayers clean and empty, paying special attention to nozzles and screens. Empty triple-rinsed pesticide containers can go into the regular trash.

Going into the spring with your garden chemicals organized and in good order will make it easier for you during the busy growing season. Happy and safe gardening!

FEATURED BOOK

Gardening with Less Water by David A. Bainbridge

Reviewer: Barbara Kochick, Master Gardener 2013

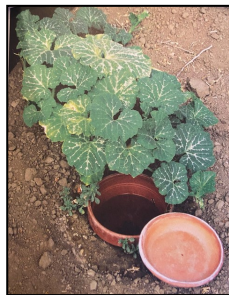


We are running out of water in many parts of the world including our own. I have family in Colorado where the summers are almost rainless. My son-in-law searched for a method to alleviate nightly watering of his raised

beds. Not only was it time and water consuming but the constant wet and wilt cycle was hard on the plants.

He discovered this book that touts several ancient super-efficient irrigation methods. The author conducted his research at the Dry Lands Research Institute at the University of California Riverside. These methods address the three most critical problems that gardeners, homeowners and small land-holders face: water, weeds and time. The systems are: buried clay pots, porous capsules, deep pipes, wicks, porous hose, buried clay pipe and tree shelters.

My son-in-law decided on the Buried Clay Pots. He used ordinary eight to ten inch unglazed pots with a drain and a Saucer. The entire surface was roughed up with sandpaper. A planting hole was dug in the beds three times as wide and twice as deep as the pot. The pot was set in place with the saucer as a lid and filled in around it. Pots may be placed 24" to 36" apart in most soils. The pot should be refilled as needed during the season.



This gardener found that he could fill his pots once or twice a week although they were also fine if the water level dropped to the bottom of the

pots. He grew tomatoes, zucchini, beets and various greens successfully with amazingly healthier plants and less weeds, less of his time devoted to holding the hose, and less precious water used!

Plant Damage in March

Source: Christine Gelley, Noble County Extension Educator

Don't let Mother Nature fool you!! More damage is done to all plants during March than at any other time of the year. Plants that have been protected all winter are not able to stand severe changes and they will surely suffer from the late frosts if uncovered too early.

The average frost-free date for most of Fairfield County is May 20, although some micro-climates may fall into the range of May 11-May 20. If you are in the mood to start seeds indoors to get a jump start on the season, resist the temptation to start too early! Warm-season plants like tomatoes and peppers do best when started six weeks ahead of transplanting. When you count back from the frost-free date, that puts us at around St. Patrick's Day for starting seeds indoors.

There are some vegetables that are resistant to frost and prefer cooler growing temperatures. March is the ideal time to give cool loving plants head starts inside. Cold crops like broccoli and cabbage thrive in the cool temperatures of early spring, but do not direct sow well. These plants do best started from seed indoors and planted four weeks later into the garden. Peas are an option for direct sowing in March. As soon as the ground can be worked and is not saturated, peas can be directly sown at depths of two inches. Potatoes can also be planted in mid-March in our area.

Now is the perfect time to draw up plans for your garden including the types of plants you want to grow, the amount of seed you need to meet the demands of your family, and the space required for success. A soil test is always a good place to start. OSU Extension has all the details on Soil Testing. Give us a call today at 740.653-5419.

Palace of Gold Roses Cure Winter Blues

by Melinda Lee Adkins, Master Gardener 2015



Are you sick of winter yet? As gardeners we just can't wait to get outside and get our hands dirty with planting flowers and vegetables. We miss the color and fragrance of the flowers and of course, the taste of those home

grown vegetables. Oh, the winter blues. You have looked through every seed catalog and gardening magazine you can get your hands on. You have made your gardening wish list and planned your garden to the very last detail. Oh, what else can you do? Take up a new hobby. No!! I created this colorful video to give your blues the old boot.

With limited time I am always on the hunt for day trip or weekend trip destinations. I begin with a google search of gardens, arboretums, parks, or historical attractions within a few hours of my home. I compile a list and browse the website of the potential destinations. I have a list of requirements the destinations must fulfill. One of them being a beautiful garden. Then, I complete a map quest search and make a decision. My summer trip selection was the Palace Of Gold rose garden.

From Central Ohio the Palace of Gold is approximately a 2 ½ drive. I do suggest using caution while driving up the mountain. If you choose the Big Wheeling Creek Road it has at least three very sharp turns, is narrow in spots with wildlife crossing. As we rounded a curve a mother deer and fawn were standing in the road. Once you arrive you may park across the street from the Palace of Gold entrance or park at the Temple a short distance away. Wear good walking shoes and dress according to current weather conditions. Hike one of the trails, join a guided foraging walk, or just wander the grounds and enjoy the scenery. You may pack a picnic or dine at Govinda's Vegetarian Restaurant. There are picnic tables near the Temple and pond to rest and enjoy your packed meal.

The Palace is nestled above the valley with a stunning view. The rose garden site is along the Palace walkways. Within the grounds there are over 3,000 bushes, 150 rose varieties and over 100 water

fountains. The fountains are tucked among flower beds and built into the Palace walls. Butterflies, birds, and various insects fly within the garden and palace grounds. Rose lovers will be delighted with a colorful array of roses. Rose variety labels are displayed. The palace gardeners suggest that you plan your visit. To ensure optimal rose viewing "the rose garden has three different blooms, starting in early June to mid-July, followed by a second bloom late July to early August, and the third bloom in late September." Check website for updates.

After viewing the rose garden, stroll down the Palace steps to the Lotus pond. There frogs croak, turtles sun bathe, and dragonflies' jet above. It is a peaceful place to sit and relax on one of the many benches. A short walk from the pond is the cow barn and pastures. Stop by the barn during the 7 a.m. or 6 p.m. milking. Also, Peacocks roam about the grounds and it is easy to snap a few pictures of them. For those interested in practicing yoga and meditation, inquire at the guest services office. The yoga studio overlooks the pond. Throughout the year there are many festivals, events and retreats, so call well in advance for a cabin or room reservation.

History

In 1965, Srila Prabhupada, an elderly monk, came to the United States to spread the Hara Krishna message. He had a vision to create a New Vrindahan, named after the Holy Land. In 1968, Srila Prabhupada found 133 acres of land in West Virginia. And, in 1973 his followers began building a home on that land for him. Once you see the Palace you will be astonished that the followers who built it were not architects or craftsmen. They had no construction experience. In fact, the building plans were roughly drawn on a scrap piece of paper. How did they complete such a magnificent building? Some claim that it was God's plan and their labor of love. Their devotion and hard work was a gift to Srila Prabhupada and for all the visitors who enjoy this wonderful place.

Palace of Gold
3759 McCrearys Ridge Road Moundsville, WV 26041
(304) 312-8704

To view Melinda's video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrhQFTRR-g8&authuser=0>

To learn more visit:
<https://www.palaceofgold.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 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Master Gardener Meeting (Ag Center)
Seed Starting on the Cheap
with Keith Eichhorn
March 9 (Thurs.), 1p.m.-3 p.m.

Virtual Spring Wildflower Hike webinar (Zoom)
March 10 (Fri.), 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Registration: Coming soon

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop at Hugus Fruit Farm
March 25 (Sat.), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
RSVP: 740.653.5419
or <https://go.osu.edu/fcpruning> by March 23

Spring Pond Management Clinic at Longhaven
Retreat, Lancaster
March 28 (Tues.), 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Registration: <https://go.osu.edu/fcpond>

Tomato Planting Clinic with Dr. Tim McDermott (Ag Center)
March 31 (Fri.), 2 p.m.
Registration Fee is \$10 which includes a soil thermometer to take home. Register early; seating is limited. Registration: 740-653-5419

Winter Tree ID Workshop (Ag Center)
April 7 (Fri.), Time TBA

Master Gardener Meeting (Ag Center)
Critter Control and More ...
with Tom Springer & Carrie Brown
April 13 (Thurs.), 1p.m.-3 p.m.

Earth Day Activity at Rising Park
April 22 (Sat.), 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Master Gardener Meeting (Ag Center)
Recycling Yard Waste and More
with Keri Murphy
May 18 (Thurs.), 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Bus Trip Being Planned
June TBD

Master Gardener Meeting (Ag Center)
The Needs of Food Banks in Fairfield County
with Jeannette Curtis
July 13 (Thurs.), 1p.m.-3 p.m.

Tomato Tasting
August TBD, evening



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

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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.