

October 23, 2018

Good day!

Many areas of the county have had frost – several nights of it in fact! Some areas had actual freezes and we can say our growing season is officially over. This will be the last phenology report for 2018 as our last monitored plant, smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum leave*), is finished blooming and the pollinators are migrating or otherwise getting ready for winter. We hope to resume these reports in the spring.

There are no more phenological events listed on the Ohio Phenology Calendar. The last event occurred at 2195 GDDs, which was several weeks ago. Please feel free to visit and find past data at the OSU Phenology Calendar at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/gdd/CalendarView.asp>. Plug in your zip code (or the one closest to you if your code is not in the network) along with the date and you can see what potential events have occurred in your area for past dates. Events are listed in the order they generally appear; there are pictures of the plants and insects listed. Keep in mind that these are general values for each particular zip code and may vary a bit within that area.

Our high temperatures will be in the 40's and 50's this week with low temps in the 30's and 40's; the forecast also has some rain. The long-range forecast after this week has more of the same. We can hope for some Indian summer later on this fall! Most of us are now transitioning from active gardening and lawn care to cleaning up our gardens, winterizing our tools and property, and raking leaves; keep in mind that leaves can be recycled into mulch...

We still have coreopsis, iris, and butterfly bush (buddleia) blooming in the phenology garden, none of which are plants that we monitor for the phenology network – but we take delight in them! Yes, iris – it is evidently a cultivar that blooms twice in one year because it has bloomed in both the spring and fall for the last two years. It gets a lot of comments from folks who walk the path! A few large milkweed bugs (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*) are still hanging out on the common milkweed (*asclepias syriaca*) pods. The hornet's nest that has been in one of the trees all summer will soon be pecked apart by birds; we'll see it better as the leaves come off the tree.

We will continue to stock the information station with fact sheets. Currently the brochure boxes have info on brown marmorated stink bugs, Asian lady beetles, and ticks. Look for fact sheets on different timely topics soon. The extension office can also provide info on a variety of gardening topics plus many other subjects!

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) seeds and common milkweed (*Ascelpias syriaca*) seeds are available at the Extension office. Both types of seeds are on the list of required plants for monarch butterflies; the blooms attract many other pollinators as well. Both varieties should be sown this fall to germinate in the spring and it is a good idea to mark where the seeds are planted – they germinate later than many other plants and can be mistaken for weeds.

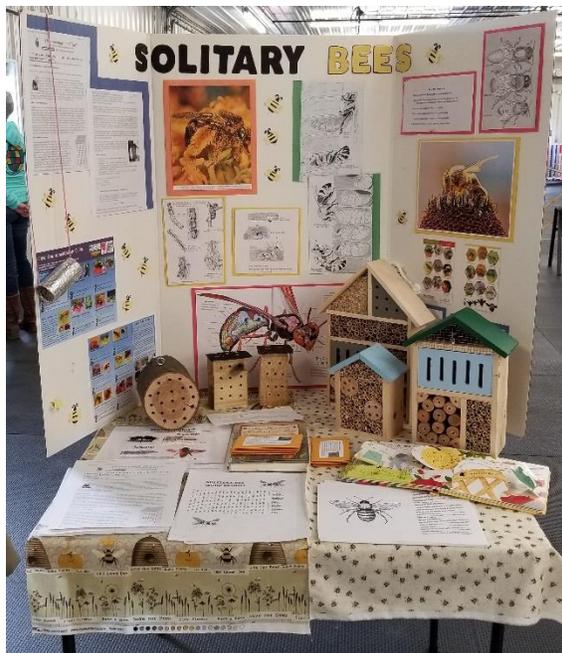
We hope you were able to check out the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour last weekend – the stops along the tour were all very interesting. The Master Gardener Volunteers had a great time interacting with the attendees at Dr. Darr's Animal Boutique & Villas! We hope everyone enjoyed our displays on trees and solitary bees - watch for other MGV displays and programs in the future!

See you next year!

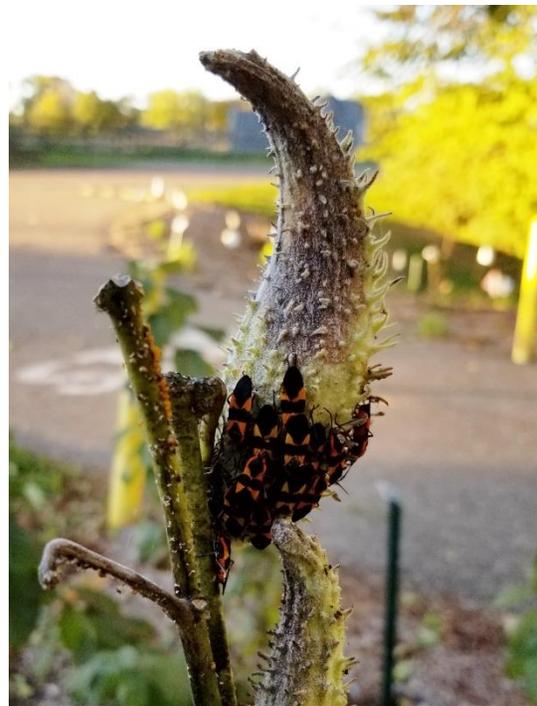
See next page for recent photos from MGV activities



Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers and Interns displayed examples of nuts and seed pods from several Ohio trees during the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour.



The MGJV theme this year was a focus on solitary bees. This information was on display at Dr. Darr's on the Fall Foliage and Farm Tour.



A cluster of large milkweed bugs (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*) still clings to a common milkweed pod (*Asclepias syriaca*), despite the frosts we have had. They often take shelter inside the pods if there is an opening.

