

## Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter

**KEEP IT GROWING!**

July - August 2018

Volume 15, Issue 4

**THANK YOU for Supporting the MGV Plant Sale!**

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers would like to thank everyone who patronized our plant sale on June 2! We also extend a big thank you to everyone who donated plants or gardening items or otherwise helped to make the sale a success. Earnings from the sale will be used to support MGV projects and educational endeavors and are very much appreciated!

**Programming for July and August**

- Master Gardener Volunteers are again hosting their Lunch & Learn series at Clary Gardens this summer. The July and August sessions will be: July 3 - Fruit Trees, Pruning and Diseases; July 17 - Propagating Houseplants; July 31 - Backyard Grape Care; and August 14 - Keeping and Propagating Dahlias. Bring your lunch to the tan house at Clary's at 12:15 on the scheduled days and learn something new!
- MGVs will also lead two pollinator walks this summer: join us at the Lake Park office at 9:30 am on Saturday, July 21 or at 6:30 pm on Thursday July 26 to look for pollinators and some plants they like to visit. We hope to see monarch caterpillars, hummingbird moths, bees and other critters – you may want to bring a camera!
- First Farm Friday will be held on Main Street in Coshocton on Friday, August 3 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. MGVs will be there to present information about solitary bees. Stop by and visit with us!
- Check out our new “information station” at Lake Park for seasonal info or to pick up timely fact sheets.

**Common Tomato Problems**

By Reta Grewell, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

**Blossom-end rot** occurs on tomatoes, peppers, squash, and watermelon from a lack of calcium in the developing fruits. A round, sunken, water-soaked spot develops on the blossom end (opposite the stem end) of the fruit. The spot enlarges, turns brown-to-black in color and feels leathery. Mold may grow on the rotted surface. This condition is a result of root damage caused by any of several factors:

1. Extreme fluctuation in soil moisture, either from drought or excessive rain that smothers root hairs.
2. Rapid early-season plant growth.
3. Excess soil salts
4. Cultivating too close to the plant.

To prevent blossom-end rot, follow these guidelines:

1. Plant in well-drained soil; maintain uniform soil moisture by mulching and proper watering.
2. Avoid using high-nitrogen fertilizers, or large quantities of fresh manure.
3. Do a soil test and follow the recommendations.
4. Do not cultivate deeper than an inch within one foot of plants.

Find more info here: <https://extension.tennessee.edu/Monroe/ContentSliderPictures/Blossom-End%20Rot.pdf>

**Verticillium wilt** may be the culprit when the leaves of tomato plants turn yellow and then brown and dry. During hot weather, the leaves may wilt and new leaves may be stunted and yellowish. The infected stem may die slowly, or the whole plant may die within a few months. Verticillium wilt is a soil-inhabiting fungus that will persist for years in the ground. It is spread by contaminated seeds, plants, soil, equipment, and ground water. Tomatoes and other nightshade plants should not be planted in the same location from year to year; rotate those plants with other types of plants annually. No chemical control is available. *Some disease-resistant varieties are listed in this link:*

[http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/factsheets/Tomato\\_Verticillium.htm](http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/factsheets/Tomato_Verticillium.htm)

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Although **anthracnose** may affect the foliage, stems and roots of tomato plants, it mainly appears on the fruit. Small sunken, circular spots that appear to be water-logged are present on ripening tomatoes and can develop into large rotting areas.

Solution – Plant tomatoes only in well-drained soil and rotate the planting area annually. Staking the plants to keep the fruit off the ground and mulching may help keep the fungus from splashing onto the plants. Remove and destroy old leaves and plant debris. Copper-based fungicides may help; follow label directions. *Find more information at:* <https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/tomato-anthracnose/>

A fat, green worm, up to five inches long, with white diagonal stripes and a red or black “horn” projecting from one end, chews on the leaves of your nightshade plants. Black droppings soil the leaves. What is it? You undoubtedly have discovered a **tomato hornworm** or a **tobacco hornworm**. Hornworms feed on tomato, pepper, or eggplant foliage and fruits; each worm can consume large quantities and cause extensive damage.

The adult hornworm moth is a large brown sphinx moth with yellow and white markings. It emerges from hibernation in late spring and drinks nectar from petunias and other flowers. The worms hatch from eggs laid on the undersides of the leaves. The young feed for three to four weeks, then crawl into the soil to pupate and later emerge as adults to repeat the cycle. There is one generation a year in the North, and two or three in the South.

You may see hornworms with little sacs that look like puffed rice on their bodies. These sacs are the cocoons of parasitic wasps that feed on and eventually kill the hornworms. If the moths are not killed off by the wasps, try hand-picking them from your plants. As a last resort, treat plants with an insecticide containing carbaryl (Sevin) or synthetic pyrethroids; always follow the label directions.

*More info can be found at:* [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/the\\_tomato\\_hornworm\\_and\\_the\\_tobacco\\_hornworm](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/the_tomato_hornworm_and_the_tobacco_hornworm)

## **Growing Tree Seeds: Buckeyes, Butternut, Chestnut**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Collecting tree seeds and nuts for planting is easy - some are easier to find than others. I have planted buckeyes, butternuts, pecans and even osage-orange. Although George Washington planted six buckeyes that he had brought home and soaked for twenty-four hours in water because they were dry, the buckeye you have carried around in your pocket for years for good luck is probably not be one to plant with success.

Potting soil can be used. Plenty of seeds should be planted because many may not germinate. I usually plant two buckeyes in each pot and place them along my shop for the winter, hoping to see sprouts in the spring. If I see buckeyes or butternuts on the ground I run over them with the lawn mower tires to push them into the soil. I first got my butternuts from one of my students and planted them in a flower bed. I now have trees over fifty feet high that have an abundance of nuts. I pick the butternuts up in the fall because if I hit them with the lawn mower it makes an awful bang. In the spring I am surprised to see sprouts growing where I missed a few. By the way, trees take from four to ten years to produce, depending on the type.

I like trying to grow different kinds of trees. I grew osage-orange by taking one fruit apart, finding hundreds of tiny seeds. I planted many in a circle in a pot and put them along the shop. I forgot about them, but I found them growing in the spring and transplanted each into a small pot.

Why would anyone go to all the bother to grow a buckeye or butternut tree? For me it is the satisfaction of just being able to do it; I can say “That fifty-foot butternut tree was raised from a nut that I planted”. I have also given nuts to others to grow, including the ODNR forestry nursery that used to be in Zanesville; eventually they had seedlings to sell. I also have a Chinese chestnut tree in my yard. The deer come down and eat the nuts which is alright with me – those burrs are awful to rake. I’ve not planted more chestnuts; one is enough to clean up after.

## **Moon Trees**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

On January 31, 1971, Apollo 14 was launched to complete the United States’ third lunar landing. One of the astronauts aboard that mission was Stuart Roosa, known as “Smokey” from summers of working as a firefighter with the US Forest Service. Roosa was contacted by Director Ed Cliff of the Forest Service who asked if he would take some tree seeds with him as he circled the moon and then bring them back to plant as “moon trees”. Several packets of seeds from pine, sycamore, sweetgum, redwood and Douglas fir trees made their way around the moon.

After returning to earth, everything aboard the spacecraft went through decontamination. Many doubted that the seeds would sprout, but they did. In 1975, a moon sycamore seedling was planted in front of the Forestry Science Building at Mississippi State University. Many of the moon trees were planted during the United States bicentennial.

# Planting and Caring for Fruit Trees

By Cari Weaver, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Intern

Fruit trees can be ideal on your property for landscape interest, food consumption, pollinators and wildlife. However, fruit tree care is time-consuming and requires continual care and awareness, starting in February and often extending into late fall.

Before purchasing fruit trees, do some research. Test your soil and learn what kind of trees would do best with your soil type. Learn which cultivars are more resistant or more susceptible to disease. Check the pollination requirements – is the tree self-pollinating or does it need another nearby? It is also important to know the planting site recommendations, maturity factors, and pest management options before purchasing.

Pruning promotes the tree's health and fruit production. In February look for broken or crossing limbs and branches that grow straight down. Try to visualize what the tree will look like with leaves on it. Another important part of pruning is to disinfect tools after working on each tree (and sometimes after each branch) to prevent spreading disease. Disinfect tools by dipping or wiping them with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) and change the solution as needed. Infected plant tissue should be placed in the trash or burned.

If your pest threshold is high enough that you must use pesticide, follow the label and safety precautions. To avoid harming pollinators or other beneficial insects, do not spray trees when flowers are open.

When buying and planting fruit trees, it's a good idea to make a "fruit tree map" for future reference. Mark the location of the tree, noting the cultivar and the year planted.

Fruit tree care is a process and an experience but can be worth the time, effort and cost. There are useful resources available through the OSU Extension Office, including the "Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide: Cultural Practices and Pest Management, Bulletin 940".

## Useful Bulletins and Brochures on Trees

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Although Ohio Trees (Bulletin 700) is labeled a bulletin, it is a hard-bound book with two hundred and twelve pages. Copyrighted in 2000 by Ohio State University Extension (although there were earlier editions), it can be purchased at the Coshocton County – OSU Extension Office at 724 South 7th Street for \$17.00.

This book is for anyone who does not know that sugar, striped, mountain, planetree, silver, red, hedge, ash-leaf, Norway, and black are all types of maple trees that grow in Ohio or that Kentucky coffeetrees and Chinese ginkgo trees also grow in our state. The diagrams of the trees in this book have descriptions as well as pictures of the bark, twig, leaf, flower and fruit. Photos of the trees are in color. The book includes a glossary with good definitions and an index. This is a fantastic book of Ohio trees and well worth the cost.

I have found the following brochures useful over the years for those who want a quick guide to trees:

- What Tree Is That? "A guide to the more common trees found in the Eastern and Central U.S.", this pocket field guide by the Arbor Day Foundation <https://shop.arborday.org/product.aspx?zpid=670> is available for \$5.00 This seventy-page brochure has a good glossary, an index, and a key with an explanation on how to use it. The illustrations show the leaves, flower, fruit and seed pod.
- The Tree Book is another publication from the Arbor Day Foundation and is available when one becomes a member: <https://www.arborday.org/shopping/trees/thetreebook.cfm> It is a catalogue with which to buy trees from the foundation, but it contains information of great value. Each picture is in color and has a description. There are trees for wildlife, flowering trees, shade and ornamental trees, evergreens, fruit trees, nut trees, hedges and shrubs. It also discusses how to prune trees, how to save energy with trees, planning a home orchard, how to care for hedges, and how to plant.
- Leaf Identification Key to Eighty-Eight Ohio Trees, Bulletin 899 by Ohio State University Extension contains a glossary, a leaf identification key, and a listing of scientific and common names. Find it online at: <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/sites/woodlands/files/d6/files/pubfiles/b899-leaf%20key.pdf>
- Ohio's trees & Shrubs: Project Learning Tree-Ohio has been valuable to me over time, but it may no longer be available.

**Did you know that the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) planted over 3 billion trees in its existence from 1933 to 1942? The CCC was nicknamed "Roosevelt's Tree Army".**

## July Garden Check List:

- ✓ Start dividing tall bearded iris.
- ✓ Shear evergreen shrubs now.
- ✓ Raise the lawnmower to three inches during hot weather.
- ✓ Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to continue their length of bloom.
- ✓ Fertilize annuals with an all-purpose fertilizer to help them bloom.
- ✓ Water, water, water (...if it ever dries out!)
- ✓ Move the hammock under the shade tree...
- ✓ Pinch terminal shoots on mums to encourage branching.
- ✓ Harvest vegetables when ripe; rotting attracts insects.
- ✓ Harvest lavender stems for use in bath sachets or drying.
- ✓ Sprinkle compost starter to speed up composting for fall soil building.

## August Garden Check List:

- ✓ Take time to enjoy the beauty of your garden.
- ✓ Sow seeds of fall vegetables and annuals.
- ✓ Prune summer-blooming shrubs after flowers finish.
- ✓ Start planning and ordering spring-blooming bulbs.
- ✓ Plant garlic now for spring harvests.
- ✓ Sow leaf lettuce, spinach, peas and radishes for a late crop.
- ✓ Consider getting your soil tested in lawns, vegetable and flower gardens.
- ✓ Take advantage of perennials on sale at your local nursery!

It's wonderful to have fresh, seasonal produce! Whether harvesting from your own garden or buying produce at your local grocer, take care to wash veggies and fruit to remove residual pesticides or animal contamination before consuming.

## Upcoming Events

July 3	Lunch & Learn - Fruit Tree Pruning & Diseases	12:15 – 12:45 pm
July 13	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
July 17	Lunch & Learn - Propagating Houseplants	12:15 – 12:45 pm
July 21	Summer Pollinator Walk at Lake Park	9:30 am
July 26	Summer Pollinator Walk at Lake Park	6:30 pm
July 31	Lunch & Learn - Backyard Grape Care	12:15 – 12:45 pm
August 3	First Farm Friday, on Main Street in Coshocton	5:00 – 7:30 pm
August 10	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
August 14	Lunch & Learn – Keeping & Propagating Dahlias	12:15 – 12:45 pm



**Watch for FREE copies of “Keep It Growing” bi-monthly at:** OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Sprout Garden Center, Garden Patch Greenhouse, Clary Gardens, Baker’s IGA, Buehler’s, and Warsaw ShopWise. Available FREE via e-mail or the OSU Extension website. Subscribe for home delivery via USPS for \$5.00 per year.

Have a suggestion or question for “Keep It Growing”? Contact Margaret Lowe and Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers, in care of the Coshocton County Extension Office.

### **Coshocton County Extension**

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