

## Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter

**KEEP IT GROWING!**

March - April 2019

Volume 16, Issue 2

**Programs Attended...**

A big “thank-you” to those who attended MGV and Extension programming this winter! About 20 folks came to learn more about macro-photography with Danae Wolf and 23 people attended the first “Beat the Blahs” session, “What Birds Want.”

**More Programming Coming!****More “Beat the Blahs”**

What are the best practices for maintaining your lawn? The Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers invite you to bring your questions and join them for the second “Beat the Blahs” event, “**Home Lawn Care – How Grubby is Your Lawn**” on Wednesday evening, March 20, 2019, at Frontier Power Company, 770 South 2nd Street, Coshocton, Ohio from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. There is no fee for this session, but **reservations are requested** in order to have enough materials available. A flyer for this event can be found at:

[https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/ANR/BeattheBlah-LawnCareGrubWorkshopFlyer.pdf](https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program_Pages/ANR/BeattheBlah-LawnCareGrubWorkshopFlyer.pdf)

**Bug Identification**

OSU Extension in Coshocton County is offering “**Bug Detective - What is Bugging You**” on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at the Coshocton County Services Building - Room 145 located at 724 South 7th Street in Coshocton, Ohio from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The featured speaker will be Ashley Kulhanek, Entomologist and OSU Extension Educator from Medina County. During the workshop, participants will learn about commonly encountered insects; characteristics to look for to help identify insects; and resources for identifying insects.

There is no charge for this program (limited to 50 adults and youth), but reservations are being requested so that adequate program materials can be printed. As a special service, we will be selling pocket-sized

illuminated magnifiers at the workshop. Call the Coshocton County Extension office at (740) 622-2265 to register! Find a registration flyer at:

[https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/ANR/Bug%20Detectives-April11.pdf](https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program_Pages/ANR/Bug%20Detectives-April11.pdf)

**Earth Day Display**

MGVs will host a display at the **Earth Day Celebration** at Coshocton County Career Center on April 27, from noon to 4:00 pm. Stop by – we’d love to see you!

**Hydrangea School**

Join OSU Extension Educator Eric Barrett for **Hydrangea School** on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Room 145 of the Coshocton County Services Building located at 724 South 7th Street in Coshocton, Ohio.

A \$30 per person (limit 50 persons) **registration fee is required** which includes handouts, light refreshments and a hydrangea plant to take home for your landscape. Call the Coshocton County Extension office at 740-622-2265 for more information. A registration flyer can be found at:

[https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/ANR/HydrangeaSchoolCoshoctonCounty2019.pdf](https://coshocton.osu.edu/sites/coshocton/files/imce/Program_Pages/ANR/HydrangeaSchoolCoshoctonCounty2019.pdf)

**Create a Perennial Bed Series**

Watch for information regarding the “**Create a Perennial Bed**” series this spring. Contact Coshocton County - OSU Extension at (740) 622-2265 or e-mail [marrison.2@osu.edu](mailto:marrison.2@osu.edu) with any questions.

**MG Volunteers Set 2019 Theme**

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers will focus on native plants during 2019 in an effort to help the public understand the importance and benefits of using native plants in our landscapes. Watch for information at our displays throughout the year!

*“To find pleasure in life, make the most of the spring.” — Li Bai*

# Extension in Coshocton County: A Brief History

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

In 1914, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act which provided for Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics through land-grant universities, including what was then known as “Boys and Girls Agriculture Clubs” or “Boys and Girls Club Works.” In Ohio, those clubs were started in 1902 by A. B. Graham, Superintendent of Schools in Springfield, and were the precursors of 4-H clubs.

In 1917, Club work in Coshocton County began with the corn club and the calf club organized by L. C. Shaw, County Superintendent of Schools; he served as leader of the corn club and E. C. Darling assisted the calf club.

This year, 2019, OSU-Coshocton County Extension is one-hundred years old. In 1919, G. C. Musgrove was the Coshocton County Extension Agent. Under his supervision, the first local 4-H clubs were organized. Carl Wetherell followed Mr. Musgrove and in 1937 Harold Chambers became the Extension Agent. Miss Harriet Green was the first County Home Demonstration Agent, assuming responsibilities in April 1936. Miss Green held this position until her retirement in 1966. In 2001, the Master Gardener Volunteer program began in Coshocton County and continues today, providing intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents. Today we have three county Extension Educators: David Marrison in Agriculture and Natural Resources; Emily Marrison in Family and Consumer Sciences; and Jenny Strickler in 4-H Youth Development.

The main purpose of all these organizations is education. For assistance from any of them you may contact the Extension Office at 724 South 7th Street or telephone (740) 622-2265.

## Ohio Department of Agriculture Prohibits Invasive Plants

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, “In order to protect native plant species and thwart the growth of invasive plant species” in our state, has compiled a list of 38 regulated plants and some new rules regarding their distribution, effective as of January 7, 2018, unless otherwise noted. The rules state that “no person shall sell, offer for sale, propagate, distribute, import or intentionally cause the dissemination of any invasive plant”; invasive plants by definition are plants that are not native to Ohio that could do harm to human health, the economy or environment.

The regulated invasive plants are listed below by both the plant's botanical name and common name. The botanical name is the official designation for the plant.

*Ailanthus altissima*, tree-of-heaven  
*Alliaria petiolata*, garlic mustard  
*Berberis vulgaris*, common barberry  
*Butomus umbellatus*, flowering rush  
*Celastrus orbiculatus*, Oriental bittersweet  
*Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos*, spotted knapweed  
*Dipsacus fullonum*, common teasel  
*Dipsacus laciniatus*, cutleaf teasel  
*Egeria densa*, Brazilian elodea  
*Elaeagnus angustifolia*, Russian olive  
*Elaeagnus umbellata*, autumn olive  
*Epilobium hirsutum*; hairy willow herb  
*Frangula alnus*, glossy buckthorn  
*Heracleum mantegazzianum*, giant hogweed  
*Hesperis matronlis*, dame's rocket  
*Hydrilla verticillata*, hydrilla  
*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, European frog-bit  
*Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle  
*Lonicera maackii*, amur honeysuckle  
*Lonicera morrowii*, Morrow's honeysuckle  
*Lonicera tatarica*, tatarian honeysuckle

*Lythrum salicaria*, purple loosestrife  
*Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese stiltgrass  
*Myriophyllum aquaticum*, parrotfeather  
*Myriophyllum spicatum*, Eurasian water-milfoil  
*Nymphoides peltata*, yellow floating heart  
*Phragmites australis*, common reed  
*Potamogeton crispus*, curly-leaved pondweed  
*Pueraria montana var. lobate*, kudzu  
*Ranunculus ficaria*, fig buttercup, lesser celandine  
*Rhamnus cathartica*, European buckthorn  
*Rosa multiflora*; multiflora rose  
*Trapa natans*, water chestnut  
*Typha angustifolia*, narrow-leaved cattail  
*Typha x glauca*, hybrid cattail  
*Vincetoxicum nigrum*, black dog-strangling vine,  
black swallowwort  
*Lythrum virgatum*, European wand  
loosestrife (effective January 7, 2019)  
*Pyrus calleryana*, callery pear (effective January 7,  
2023)

More Information can be found at: [http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/pdfs/901/5/30/901\\$5-30-01\\_PH\\_FF\\_N\\_RU\\_20171228\\_1105.pdf](http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/pdfs/901/5/30/901$5-30-01_PH_FF_N_RU_20171228_1105.pdf) Contact the Plant Pest Control Program at (614) 728-6400 with questions regarding Ohio's Invasive Plant Regulations.

# My Renegade Strawberry Patch

By Verda McGraw, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

I write this article about our home strawberry patch to encourage all of you who would like to try raising your own strawberries, but are afraid if you don't do everything right, they will all be ruined. Strawberries for us have been very hardy and adaptable and have flourished even though we did not follow all the rules for success.

In 2016 my husband and I made two raised beds from cement blocks in our back meadow. Each one is about 40 feet long and 5 feet wide. Each bed was planted with 50 strawberry plants. Really, you can feed a family with just 25 plants, but we like a lot of strawberries for jam, for pies, and for the freezer. Frozen berries make great smoothies!

On March 15 and 16 of 2016 we planted 100 strawberry plants, 50 of June-bearing Honeoye, and 50 of an ever-bearing variety. The weather must have been warm that year! Our raised beds held a mixture of purchased top soil and a pickup truck load of well-composted horse manure. We used woven black plastic for mulch, cutting a hole in the plastic every 8 to 10 inches for the plants. Weeding was not much of a chore that first year, but still had to be done. We broke a rule of not eating from the first-year plants. All the directions we read said to pick off the flowers and don't let the plants produce fruit the first year. Well, that was like telling us to wait an hour before cutting fresh bread! The plants did well, and after producing began to send out runners with baby plants at the ends.

Not wanting to throw away good baby plants, we built a third raised bed the next year. We captured the baby plants in small black pots of potting soil, and then transplanted them after they developed roots.

That first year, we did not count the quarts of berries, but did not have a lot for the freezer. In 2017, we picked about 90 quarts. We sold some and gave some away. In 2018 we had over 100 quarts. We have also given away some of our baby strawberry plant starts to friends who want to try growing them.

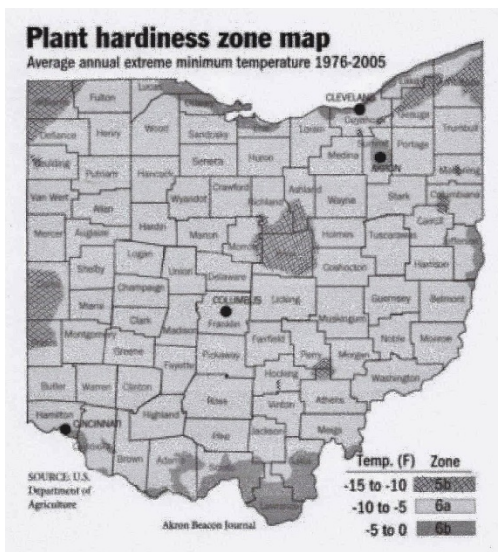
We did not renovate the bed until late summer of 2018, and we never have layered straw on for the winter. We do have to keep a high deer fence around our gardens.

So, if you want to grow your own strawberries, don't be afraid to try. If you obey at least some of the rules, you may just have some great crops of berries.

More information can be found online at: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-1424>

## Know Your Zone!

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer



When selecting plants and seeds for your gardens, it's smart to read the labels and plant descriptions – they contain a wealth of information to help your plantings be successful! That information can help you select the right plant for the right spot. For example: How much sunlight does the plant require? Will it thrive in moist or dry soils? How tall will it grow and how much space will it need? How much time is required for fruits or vegetables to mature? Some plants require a certain pH (acidity or alkalinity); a soil test will show the pH of your existing soil and any recommended amendments. The OSU-Coshocton County Extension office has the details of how to test your soil and how to interpret the findings.

One of the most important pieces of info for perennials, shrubs, and trees is the hardiness zone in which the plant will thrive. The lower the zone number, the lower the temperature the plant can tolerate in winter. In Ohio, we have 3 zones: 5b, 6a and 6b. The map on the left indicates that most of Coshocton County is rated at zone 6a; plants rated for our zone are expected to tolerate temperatures as low as 5 to 10 degrees below zero. The northwestern corner of our county is in zone 5b; temperatures there could reach minus 10 to minus 15 degrees. Keep in mind that individual micro-climates might vary slightly. It can be worthwhile to select plants that are rated for even colder temperatures.

Another important bit of info is the suggested planting time. If the recommendation is to plant after danger of frost is past, remember that the average "frost-free" date for our area is May 15 – but keep in mind that is not a guarantee and pay attention to the weather forecasts!

## March Garden Check List:

- ✓ Order seeds! Sow seeds indoors for annuals and warm-season vegetables.
- ✓ Prune shade trees.
- ✓ Wait for buds to break on roses before pruning. Cut out dead wood, trim to shape. For climbing types, only cut out dead wood.
- ✓ Don't be too hasty in removing winter protection.
- ✓ Cut back ornamental grasses and any dead tops of perennials and clean up beds.
- ✓ Apply a weed preventer as directed to prevent weeds in landscape beds.
- ✓ Trim or thin evergreen and deciduous shrubs toward the end of the month *except* spring-bloomers like lilac and forsythia.
- ✓ Plant bare root trees, shrubs and small fruits as soon as the ground is workable. March to early April planting will start the plants "rooting in" before bud break.
- ✓ Plant onion sets, peas, lettuce seed, asparagus and rhubarb as soon as the ground is workable.
- ✓ Soil test lawn and garden so that you may add amendments *before* the growing season.
- ✓ Apply crabgrass preventer & feed your lawn when the forsythia blooms.

## April Garden Check List:

- ✓ Pot new seedlings.
- ✓ Cut the lawn when the grass blades are at least 2 inches tall.
- ✓ Prune hydrangea, rose of Sharon, buddleia and abelia.
- ✓ Feed roses, check for aphids on them.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for tent caterpillars.
- ✓ Last call to start tomato seeds indoors.
- ✓ Finish any clean up, trimming, edging, fertilizing and apply weed preventer if desired.
- ✓ Apply a balanced fertilizer to spring flowering bulbs early to promote health and bloom.
- ✓ Apply dormant oils to trees and shrubs when temperatures are above freezing.
- ✓ Divide and transplant perennial flowers as new growth begins or just before.
- ✓ Plant cold weather flowers such as pansy, primrose and violas for some early spring color.
- ✓ Plant needle-leaved evergreens.
- ✓ Resume feeding indoor plants every two to three weeks with half-strength liquid fertilizer.



## Upcoming Events

March 8	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
March 10	Daylight Saving Time begins – spring forward!	2:00 am
March 20	Beat the Blahs – How Grubby Is Your Lawn	6:30 – 7:45 pm
April 11	“Bug Detective-What Is Bugging You”	6:30 – 8:30 pm
April 12	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
April 27	Earth Day Event at Coshocton Co. Career Center	Noon – 4:00 pm.
April 30	Hydrangea School	6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Watch for FREE copies of “Keep It Growing” bi-monthly at:** OSU Extension Office, Coshocton Public Library, West Lafayette Library, Sprout Garden Center (in season), Garden Patch Greenhouse (in season), Auer Ace Hardware, Clary Gardens, Buehler’s, and Warsaw ShopWise. Available FREE via e-mail or the OSU-Coshocton County Extension website <https://coshocton.osu.edu/> 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**

724 South 7th Street, Room 110, Coshocton, OH 43812

Phone: (740) 622-2265

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