

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter**KEEP IT GROWING!**

May – June 2020

Volume 17, Issue 3

2020 Programming

We all know the saying about “the best laid plans of mice and men” – and 2020 has indeed reinforced the meaning! OSU Extension face-to-face programs including Master Gardener Volunteer events were cancelled in March; that policy continues as we move into May and probably into June. This includes the plant sale that MGVs normally hold in late May or early June; it remains to be seen if it can be held at a later date.

Although the Extension Office is closed for now, questions can still be answered! Please call (740) 622-2265 - the staff is working remotely and your call will be directed to the appropriate person. Soil testing arrangements can still be made. Thanks to technology, MGVs are still able to be guests on the WTNS (99.3 FM) Communication Line on the second Friday of each month.

Much information is available online: Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine has weekly alerts and horticultural information. Subscribe to BGYL here: <https://bygl.osu.edu/> Ohio State has another site for information at <https://ohioline.osu.edu/> Our local MGVs have a Facebook page, “Coshocton County

Master Gardener Volunteers”, where pertinent information is posted. Another way to find info is to use a search engine like Google, Bing, or others. Type a topic into the search bar and add the words “university extension”.

Please stay safe – we will all get through this! And please bear with us while we sort out our next steps! Our gardens may look a bit shaggy too – just like everyone else, our efforts are hampered by the social-distancing requirements.

If you have a suggestion for a program that could be held when life gets back to “normal”, please let us know at the Extension Office! Call (740) 622-2265 or e-mail David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu

Our Theme for 2020...

The Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers will still be following a **theme of “Good Bugs, Bad Bugs”** this year! We will present information on all kinds of bugs – both beneficial and nuisance – at many of our programs when we are able to resume our normal activities. (Speaking of bugs – some non-native beetles are named for other creatures like the rhinoceros, elephant, giraffe, and more – and are quite fascinating!)

Slug Control - Coming Soon to a Plant Near You

These soft-bodied critters are vulnerable to several methods of control. Simple ways to deter them include:

- Trapping – sink a shallow container of stale beer into the ground so that the lip is at ground level.
- Hand-picking – about 2 hours after dark, use a flashlight to find the slugs. Lift the slugs into a cup of soapy water or shake some salt onto slugs after placing them into an empty cup. **DO NOT** shake salt onto plants or soil.
- Diatomaceous earth can be sprinkled around young seedlings for slug control; the substance is very sharp and cuts into the skin of the slug, causing them to dehydrate. Re-apply after watering or rain.
- Use molluscicide baits only as a last resort; **ALWAYS** follow label recommendations!

For more information, go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/slugs_are_making_tracks_on_my_garden_favorites

**“Baby” Carrots Have Matured**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Frustrated over food waste, a California farmer changed the carrot industry in the late 1980s. Grocery stores were rejecting some of his carrots because they were not long and straight. He bought an industrial bean cutter and started to cut up broken and odd shaped carrots. The result was small uniform-sized produce which was then packaged as “baby” carrots. They are now popular with many people and sales have skyrocketed.

Hummingbirds Are Here!

By Reta Grewell and Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers

The ruby-throated hummingbirds are the only species we have the privilege to attract into our Ohio gardens. Once in a while another species of hummingbird flies through Ohio; however, the ruby-throated is the one most of us feed during the summer. Here are ten facts you may not know about these amazing birds:

1. There are at least 319 known species of hummingbirds in the world. Ten species occur in the U. S., but only the ruby-throated birds breed east of the Mississippi.
2. They prefer nectar, but also eat tree sap, pollen, spiders, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, aphids and gnats.
3. A hummingbird can fly at speeds of 25 - 60 miles per hour.
4. Hummingbirds' wings beat more than 3000 times per minute.
5. A hummingbird's heart beats 1,260 times a minute during exercise.
6. Each fall and spring they migrate approximately 500 miles.
7. Females build nests of moss, lichen and spider webs; they rear their young 20 - 40 days without male help.
8. Hummingbirds sit on their eggs for twelve to fourteen days, the shortest incubation time for any bird.
9. Adult ruby-throats weigh 3-4 grams, measure 3 to 4 inches long and live an average of three years.
10. In flight, hummingbirds burn 8 times the energy they use while at rest, feeding constantly during the day.



Although they will visit flowers of any color in their search for nectar and small insects, hummingbirds are attracted to the color red and to tubular-shaped flowers. Some suggested plants include: bee balm, coral bells, liatris, lilies, petunias, rhododendron, salvia, trumpet vine, and zinnias. Plant a banquet for hummingbirds by filling your garden with flowers that bloom from spring to late summer and early fall.

If you choose to feed them, you can make your own nectar: mix 4 parts of water to 1 part of sugar and bring to a boil. Let cool and pour it into a clean hummingbird feeder. Red dye is NOT necessary. **Never use honey or a sugar-substitute!** Make sure to clean the feeders often – every few days, especially if the nectar becomes cloudy.

Hummingbirds also appreciate a water source; a shallow bird bath or a misty spray of water will delight them. They also need shelter and usually nest 20 feet or more from the ground in nearby deciduous trees. Shrubs or perches provide a place for the birds to rest and conserve energy.

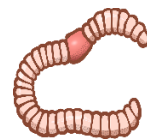
Find more info on attracting hummingbirds at: <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-249-W.pdf>

Info for attracting other pollinators can be found at: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ENT-47>

Do You Know: Worms

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

1. Earthworms improve the soil in which they live, making it more fertile. If you have earthworms in your soil, you are fortunate.
2. The earthworm is nature's plow. They digest dry matter and micro-organisms and leave casts/nutrients behind. In studying worms, Charles Darwin estimated that over the course of a year, a healthy earthworm population can move tons of soil per acre.
3. Earthworm burrows improve drainage and water-holding properties in the soil and allow for better root penetration.
4. Plants would have a difficult time growing without earthworms.
5. About ninety species of earthworms are found in North America.
6. An earthworm has no eyes. It breathes through its skin.
7. A night crawler is a large earthworm found on top of soil at night, especially in warm, rainy weather. They make great fish bait.
8. Roundworms can live in humans and animals.
9. Flatworms live in ponds and streams.
10. Leeches and earthworms are the most highly developed worms.
11. About ninety species of earthworms are found in North America.
12. Earthworm scientists are called oligochaeteologists.
13. Cabbage worms, bag worms, tomato worms and wire worms are not true worms; they are larvae. The true "worm" remains a worm all its life.
14. "The Earth Moved" by Amy Stewart is a fantastic book to read about worms and may be borrowed from the library.



More info may be found online at: <https://extension.psu.edu/earthworms>

***Ailanthus* – Tree of Heaven, Preferred Host of Spotted Lanternfly**

By Margaret Lowe and Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers

Tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, is an exotic deciduous tree that gives off an offensive scent and was brought to the United States from Asia in the late 1700s as a landscape tree; it is now found in most states. It was also used as a reclamation tree in coal strip-mine projects because it grows so rapidly. It forms dense thickets that displace native species and invade fields, meadows and forests. It was planted in all parts of Ohio and now is considered an invasive tree; it is included in Ohio's list of plants that are now illegal to sell or propagate as of 2018.

A rapidly growing tree that can reach eighty feet in height, ailanthus has large, long, alternate leaves that grow from twelve to twenty-four inches in length. Every part of this tree gives off an offensive smell and some say it is called the tree of heaven because it smells all the way to heaven. Flowering occurs in early summer. The fruit resembles that of a long flat seed pod and is produced on the female plants. The female tree can produce 300,000 seeds in one year; seeds can be spread by wind or water. Most people do not want this tree growing on their property.

Although it is designated as an invasive, tree of heaven is now taking on a new role in some states. As it turns out, ailanthus is the preferred host for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect found in recent years in some Atlantic states. This pest threatens to damage many plants including wild and domestic grapes, hops, fruit trees, willow, various hardwood trees, pines, shrubs, and vines. Spotted lanternfly eggs have been found in several counties in Pennsylvania, one of which is on the border with Ohio. Several areas of Ohio, especially counties where grapes are grown, are now identifying and monitoring ailanthus trees for evidence of egg masses and nymphs. Coshocton County MGVs plan to participate in this activity as well as to be vigilant of other surfaces where these pests might be. A free app for cell phones is available through Great Lakes Early Detection Network (may appear as "GLED"); this app can help to identify and monitor both of these invasives. If someone sees a lanternfly or egg mass, he or she should contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6201.

Some links which connect to good information for identifying and dealing with both ailanthus and spotted lanternfly are listed below:

Ailanthus - <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/f-65>

Spotted lanternfly - <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1056> and <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly>



Mow, Mow, Mow Your Lawn...

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Spring is here and the grass is growing – faster than we would like, it seems! Many folks have been out mowing, trying to keep up with the growth that the rains have precipitated (pun intended). Here are a few guidelines to follow as we care for our lawns this season.

- Mowing height: 3 inches is the optimum height for Ohio lawns, higher in summer heat. Taller grass will shade its roots and discourage weeds while promoting root growth.
- Frequency: Grass should be mowed when it is no higher than half-again its mowed height. It is best to cut off only one-third of the blades at one time; cutting more than that can stress the plants. Try to mow when the grass is not wet – sometimes a challenge in spring!
- Sharpen those mowing blades! Dull blades will result in ragged mowing; shredded grass can invite disease.
- Alternate your mowing pattern to avoid compacting the soil and to promote even growth.
- Above all, **practice SAFETY!** NO children and pets in the area; pick up any rocks, toys or other potential missiles; use hearing protection and wear sturdy shoes; take care on steep areas; and keep clippings off roadways.

Check here for much more lawn care information: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-4031>

***"THE GARDEN SUGGESTS THERE MIGHT BE A PLACE WHERE WE CAN MEET
NATURE HALFWAY." ~ MICHAEL POLLAN***



May Garden Check List:

- ✓ Set out seedlings of warm-season annuals.
- ✓ Visit a local garden center.
- ✓ Set out summer-flowering bulbs.
- ✓ Plant fall-blooming bulbs.
- ✓ Divide and replant crowded spring-blooming bulbs after leaves yellow.
- ✓ Avoid spraying fruit trees with insecticide until after the petals have dropped.
- ✓ Cut faded blooms from daffodils and tulips to prevent seed formation- leave the foliage until brown.
- ✓ Remove flowers from newly planted strawberry plants to encourage development of runners.
- ✓ Remove suckers from fruit trees, lilacs, maples and magnolias.
- ✓ Train your lawn to grow deep roots; mow often at a high setting.
- ✓ Pinch side buds for larger flowers on peonies.
- ✓ Keep up on pulling weeds!

June Garden Check List:

- ✓ Sow sweet alyssum where spent pansies have been.
- ✓ Finish pruning spring-blooming shrubs by the end of this month.
- ✓ Set tropical water lilies in garden pools and ponds.
- ✓ Prune suckers from tomato plants.
- ✓ Prune dogwoods this month as correct shaping now will encourage a nice display next spring.
- ✓ Remove top leaf buds from chrysanthemums to encourage bushy growth.
- ✓ Pinch bedding plants to encourage branching.
- ✓ Plant another row of lettuce before the summer heat arrives.
- ✓ Take some time to enjoy the beauty of your garden.



Upcoming Events

May 8	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
May 10	Mother's Day	
May 15	Frost-free date – NOT GUARANTEED!	
May 25	Memorial Day	
June 12	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
To be announced...	Diagnostic Clinic at the Extension Office – waiting for re-opening of office	

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, Auer Ace Hardware, Tractor Supply, 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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