

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

September - October 2018

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CFAES Logo Explained

You may have noticed the red rectangle with “CFAES” and the gray line with “Ohio State University” that appear on our Extension publications these days. This branding makes our materials immediately recognizable as coming from OSU Extension, part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences of The Ohio State University.

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers, as a part of OSU Extension, will use this brand.

Thank You for Attending Our Programs!

Thanks to all who attended our programming this summer! Master Gardener Volunteers and Interns led five Lunch & Learn sessions at Clary Gardens on various topics; hosted pollinator walks; and explained the importance of solitary bees at First Farm Friday and other speaking engagements.

Check out our new “information station” at Lake Park for seasonal information or to pick up timely fact sheets. The structure was built and installed by the Coshocton County Career Center Construction Technologies class. MGVs funded the project with help from Friends of the Park and will post current information.

**“Gather Around the Garden”:
Ambition Through the Years”**

The OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Muskingum and Coshocton Counties and Ohio AgrAbility invite you to join us Thursday, September 6 at 6:00 PM at the John McIntire Public Library, 220 N 5th Street, Zanesville, OH 43701. Learn about gardening with visual, physical or health limitations with the Ohio AgrAbility program and how to plan and practice safe habits while managing limits and preventing injury. Learn tips and tricks to design your garden to work best for you while using adaptive tools to keep your outdoor endeavors enjoyable.

Ohio AgrAbility promotes success in gardening and agriculture for individuals and families coping with disability or long-term health conditions. Please RSVP to the John McIntire Public Library at 740-453-0391. For more information visit

<https://coshocton.osu.edu/news/gather-around-garden-ambition-through-years>

Create a Perennial Bed

This series of “starting from scratch” sessions kicked off in August with a demonstration on site selection and preparation. The second workshop, “Planting Cover Crops to Reduce Soil Compaction”, will be held Tuesday, September 18 at 6:00 pm. Master Gardener Volunteers will present cover crop options to improve the soil over winter months.

The final workshop, “Spring Steps for Planting”, will be offered in the spring; the date and time will be announced later. This program will cover spacing tips for plantings, season-long color, and weed prevention.

You are invited to attend one or both of these programs at Clary Gardens, 588 West Chestnut Street, Coshocton. For more information contact Coshocton County - OSU Extension at (740) 622-2265 or adams.661@osu.edu

Solitary Bees Featured in the MGV Booth at the Fair

It’s fair time again! The Coshocton County Fair will be in full swing Sept. 28 through Oct. 4. Stop by the Master Gardener Volunteer booth in the Youth Building to learn about solitary bees. Factsheets on how to help bees and attract them to your garden will be available along with other timely information!

Mushrooms!

Would you like to learn more about mushrooms? Join us on Thursday, October 11, at 6:30 pm in the community room at Frontier Power! Erika Lyon, Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Jefferson and Harrison Counties, will present a program on “Mushroom Madness”. Information will be posted at: <https://coshocton.osu.edu/>

Fall Foliage and Farm Tour

Coshocton Soil & Water Conservation District, Coshocton County - OSU Extension, and USDA Farm Service Agency will sponsor a drive-it-yourself Fall Foliage and Farm Tour again this fall. The tour will be held Saturday, October 20, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 21, from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. This year's tour will highlight the northeast section of Coshocton County and will feature a variety of agricultural enterprises along the tour route.

Tour maps, brochures, and registration will be at the first stop of the tour, The Animal Boutique & Villas, located at 23905 Airport Road (just off U.S. Route 36, three miles east of Coshocton across from Wal-Mart). Maps are available on Saturday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers will be there with a display on solitary bees – please stop by and ask questions!

Along with outstanding fall scenery, the tour will include a dairy farm, a goat farm, a brewery, a winery, an agricultural industry, a lunch stop and more. If you would like additional information regarding the tour, please contact Emily Adams, OSU Extension - Coshocton County at (740) 622-2265 or email: adams.661@osu.edu

Growing and Keeping Dahlias

By Bob Bigrigg, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Intern

Dahlias are one of the most beautiful and colorful flowers. There are many varieties which grow from very small blooms to large, heavy ones. Dahlias grow from tubers which can be kept from one year to the next.

The tubers should be planted after the risk of frost and through mid-June. Dahlias like slightly acidic, well-drained soil with minimum nitrogen fertilization; excess nitrogen promotes weak stems and huge green plants with small or no blooms. Herbicides will stunt or destroy the growth of dahlias, so hand-weeding is necessary. Varieties with tall growth and heavy blooms should be staked.

In Ohio, dahlia tubers need to be dug and stored during winter. Normally a good time to dig is the week of Thanksgiving, after the foliage has been frosted but before the ground freezes. Cut the stems to six inches to use as a handle and to allow for a space to place an identification tag. Tubers can be placed in a cardboard box with wood shavings and stored in a cool, dry place where they will not freeze. Dahlias can be divided when dug or in the spring in preparation for planting. Carefully divide them for years of enjoyment for all who appreciate their beauty!

More information about dahlias can be found at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/ccdms/yc/160803.html>

A Versatile Grain: Corn

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Picked at just the perfect time, dripping with butter and salt – it cannot get much better than eating corn on the cob! It tastes of perfection, making it difficult to believe sweet corn is only a minor crop when it comes to corn.

The many varieties of corn are grouped into six major kinds: dent, flint, flour, sweet, pod and popcorn. More than one-thousand named kinds, including hybrids, are found in the United States alone. Plants range in height from two to twenty feet and ear length can be from two inches to two feet. Corn also grows in many colors: kernels can be yellow, red, blue, pink, black and, in some cases spotted, striped or banded.

The cultivation of corn began in the Americas, most likely Mexico, and spread from there. Christopher Columbus and Magellan helped to spread corn around the globe. Worldwide, more than sixty percent of the corn harvest is used to feed livestock while just under twenty percent is for human consumption. The balance serves industry or is used for seed.

Corn has numerous uses; corn or its derivatives can be found in adhesives, mayonnaise, beer, paper diapers, cereals and even in the fuel industry as ethanol. In the fall, many of us decorate with ornamental corn. However, in the summer, most of us want it just with butter and salt, dripping off our chins!

Milkweed for Monarch Butterflies

By Verda McGraw, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Intern

Fall is the time of year when you start to see the floating, drifting, parachute seeds of milkweed in the air – that is if you live near where they have been allowed to grow. As the name suggests, milkweeds are considered to be weeds, and therefore are not always welcome; many have succumbed to herbicides. However, with the rise in interest in monarch butterflies, milkweed is finally getting to stage a comeback.

Milkweed is the exclusive food for the larvae of monarch butterflies; in order to see those gorgeous orange and black wings increasing in number, we need to learn more about growing milkweed and make more room for the plants. We have a number of plants growing naturally on our farm, but we have not seen many monarchs until this year. Fortunately,

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gardeners and farmers are starting to take an interest in growing food for these butterflies.

There are thirteen different milkweeds native to Ohio. Three of the most common types that grow locally are: swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) which has small flowers and will grow just about anywhere; common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) which is tall and showy with extremely fragrant blooms; and orange-blooming butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). All of these are easy to grow – they don't require rich soil, are winter hardy, and don't need fertilizer (in fact, applying fertilizer may harm them). If you want to try growing milkweed from seed, wait to collect the seeds until the pods turn brown and are ready to split. Seeds from a green pod are not viable. Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers are collecting seeds this fall and will make them available at the Extension office and MGV displays.

Another problem in the monarch life cycle is the loss of habitat in Mexico's rare oyamel fir forests, the prime area for the butterflies to over-winter. However, since monarch watching has become a lucrative tourism business, the host trees are now more protected. Hopefully the protection of monarch habitat and milkweed will help to increase the numbers of these beautiful butterflies.

Oak Wilt

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Although it has been around for a very long time and is probably a native fungus, many Ohioans have become more concerned with oak wilt in the last few years. Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees and is caused by a fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which grows in the sap wood and plugs the vessels of the tree, effectively cutting off water uptake. Furthermore, the tree can plug its own vessels as a defensive reaction, thus exacerbating the problem. Any type of oak tree can contract the fungus with red and black oaks being the most susceptible; white oaks seem to be more tolerant and may survive longer. This fungus has been detected in the Midwest, Texas, and many of our Ohio counties.

The fungus is spread in two ways. Most often, the disease is spread underground through the root systems to nearby trees, but it can also be spread by Nitidulid beetles which carry the fungus overland from infected trees to fresh wounds in nearby trees. Symptoms of oak wilt disease are:

- Flagging – branches in the canopy turn brown
- Leaves turn brown at the tips; the color then spreads backward through the leaf
- Early leaf drop
- Canopy declines quickly, seemingly “overnight”
- Sapwood streaking of the branches or fungal mats may be present on the trunk

These symptoms do not necessarily indicate oak wilt as there are other conditions that can produce the same symptoms. A sure diagnosis can only be made in a laboratory such as The Ohio State University C. Wayne Ellett Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic; information for submission of samples can be found at <https://ppdc.osu.edu/>

To prevent the disease from spreading overland, avoid any fresh wounds to oak trees between April 15 and July 1; some experts advocate extending that period to October 1. If pruning is necessary, dress the wound with latex paint. Deep trenching is the preferred method of controlling the disease underground; this action breaks the contact of the diseased root system with the roots of nearby trees.

More information on oak wilt and its control is available online at: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/plpath-tree-02> and https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/sites/woodlands/files/imce/pdf_newsletters/Spring_WWWnewsletter_05-25-18_WEB-LINKS.pdf

The Origin of “Jack O’Lantern”

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

According to History.com, the tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns for Halloween originated in Ireland hundreds of years ago. It all began with a folktale about Stingy Jack – a sinful man who traded favors with Satan himself.

As the story goes, Stingy Jack had a drink with Satan and tricked the devil into turning himself into a coin to pay for it. Jack then pocketed the coin, keeping it next to a cross and thereby forcing Satan to remain in coin-form. Jack eventually freed Satan with the condition that the devil leave him alone for a year and also would not claim Jack’s soul upon his death. Later, Jack tricked Satan into climbing a tree; he then carved a cross into the trunk so that the devil was trapped until he promised to leave Jack alone for ten years.

When Jack passed away, he was too sinful to be admitted to Heaven and Satan, as promised, could not claim his soul. The devil gave Jack a burning coal to light his way in the dark; Jack then carved out a turnip to carry the coal as he wandered the earth. People then referred to him as “Jack of the lantern”; that name morphed to “Jack O’Lantern”.

Folks in Ireland, Scotland, and England began to carve turnips, potatoes or beets into lanterns with scary faces and placed them by their doors and windows to keep away evil spirits. When some of those people immigrated to America, they began to carve pumpkins for the same purpose – and thus started our Halloween jack-o-lantern tradition.

September Garden Check List:

- Place orders and plant spring-blooming bulbs and add bulb fertilizer to soil when planting.
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only one and a half to two inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
- Do not prune roses now. Tall canes can be loosely tied to keep them from being damaged from winter wind.
- Divide daylilies and other spring-blooming perennials.
- Cut off and dispose of diseased foliage. Leave seed heads on your black-eyed Susans; they are a great food source for goldfinches. Keep some hollow stalks for insects to use for hibernation.
- Destroy all diseased leaves and plants to prevent spreading disease.
- Finish planting new lawns or reseed thin patches and apply fertilizer to lawns.

October Garden Check List:

- Sow seeds of perennials in cold frames now for next year's blooming plants.
- Rake leaves and add them to the compost pile.
- Keep cutting the lawn until it stops growing.
- Cut to the ground blackberry and raspberry canes that bore fruit this year.
- Divide overgrown clumps of rhubarb.
- Plant garlic bulbs for next year's crop.
- Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content of the soil, as fall is a good time for improving your garden soil.
- Mark your perennials with permanent tags, or create a map showing their locations so you'll know where and what they are when they die back at the end of the season. This will help you avoid digging up something you intended to keep when you plant bulbs and plants this fall and next spring.
- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter.

Upcoming Events

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| September 3 | Labor Day | |
| September 6 | Gather Around the Garden | 6:00 pm |
| September 14 | The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3 | 9:00 – 10:00 am |
| September 18 | Planting Cover Crops to Reduce Soil Compaction | 6:00 pm |
| Sept. 28 - Oct. 4 | Coshocton County Fair | |
| October 11 | Mushroom Madness | 6:30 pm |
| October 12 | The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3 | 9:00 – 10:00 am |
| October 20 & 21 | Fall Foliage and Farm Tour | |



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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