

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

July - August 2021

Volume 18, Issue 4

2021 Programming Is Coming Back!

West Lafayette Library will host an exhibit of photographs from Master Gardener Volunteers in July. See the article below for more information.

MGVs will have a display at the First Farm Friday event on August 6 in downtown Coshocton from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. The focus will be on bugs – both good and bad. We hope to see you – bring your questions and say hello!

We invite you to view some educational sessions online. <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/lnlhh> lists some scheduled and recorded sessions while other previously recorded events can be found at:

<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/SpringWebinarSeries>

Watch our Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer page on Facebook for timely notices.

If you have a suggestion for a programming topic, please let us know at the Extension Office! Call the office at (740) 622-2265 or e-mail David Marrison at marrison.2@osu.edu

Hear MGVs on WTNS

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers continue to present “The Real Dirt” on WTNS radio (FM 99.3) and <https://mywtnsradio.com/> on the second Friday of the month at 9:00 am! Tune in to hear gardening tips and discussions on July 9 and August 13. A huge “thank you” to WTNS!

Extension Office Hours

The Coshocton County-OSU Extension Office is now open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please note that the office is closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 each day. Please call the office at 740-622-2265 for more information. In addition, e-mail addresses for each staff member can be found on the OSU-Coshocton County website at: <https://coshocton.osu.edu/about/staff>

**MGV Art Exhibit**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Early In 2005, the Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers submitted more than two hundred photographs to be considered for an exhibit at the Pomerene Center for the Arts in Coshocton. Twenty-five fantastic photographs were chosen, enlarged and framed by volunteers. They were hung at the Pomerene Center for viewing during June and July 2005. Also on display was a garden installation which was created by two Ohio State University graduate art students from garden tools, plants, pots, gloves and more that were brought in by the Master Gardener volunteers.

The MGV art exhibit was later nominated as 2005 Project of the Year for the Master Gardener State Conference which was held in Lima OH. Coshocton County MGVs were delighted when the exhibit was named the Southeast Ohio Project winner for Master Gardener Project of the Year.

The photographs have been stored for years but are now being brought out and dusted off to be exhibited again. During the entire month of July 2021, the photographs and other garden objects will be on display at the West Lafayette Branch Library.

We invite the public to visit the West Lafayette Branch Library at 601 East Main Street, West Lafayette, OH to view the exhibit. We would welcome comments. Hours at the branch are as follows: Monday-Wednesday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; Thursday-Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; and Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Call the library at (740) 545-6672 for more information.

"Grass is the cheapest plant to install and the most expensive to maintain." ~ Pat Howell

Vegetable Genealogy

By Margaret Lowe and Gail Piper, Coshocton Co. MGVs

Of course, we are using the term “genealogy” loosely, but did you know that there really are families of vegetables? Plant families are part of scientific classification and a method of grouping plants with similar characteristics.

The importance of knowing these relationships is this: since they are genetically related, vegetables in the same family can be affected by similar diseases or pests. They also may attract similar pollinators.

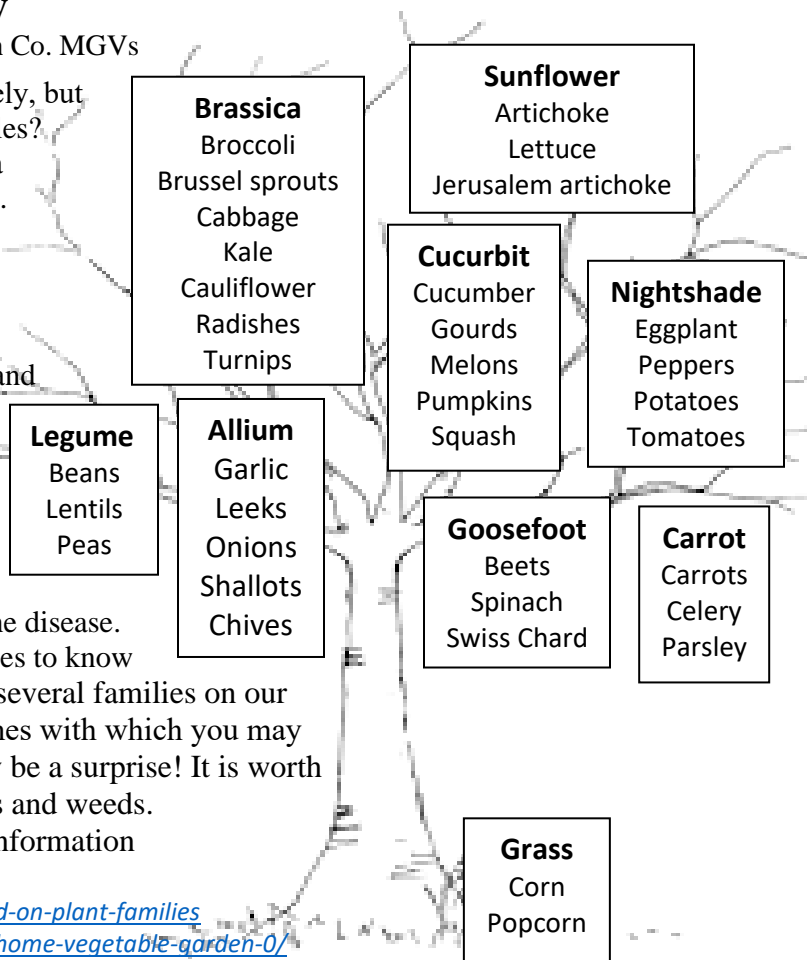
What does this mean to the home gardener? Pests and diseases can build up if the same family of plants is replanted year after year in the same spot; therefore, it is good practice to rotate families in the garden every few years. As an example, the nightshade family is susceptible to a fungal disease called verticillium wilt; planting peppers in the same place that tomatoes grew in previous years can encourage the disease.

It's a good idea to research the various plant families to know the possible issues of each group. We have included several families on our “family tree” on the right, using some common names with which you may be familiar. Some “members” of these families may be a surprise! It is worth noting that some families also contain some flowers and weeds.

We have included some links to more in-depth information here:

<https://extension.psu.edu/plant-rotation-in-the-garden-based-on-plant-families>

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/using-crop-rotation-home-vegetable-garden-0/>



Bird Alert

You may have seen news lately regarding sick and dying birds. Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky are now affected but there have been reports from Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia since May.

Blue jays, grackles, robins, sparrows, and starlings are impacted, but there may be more species infected. The symptoms include swollen or crusty eyes and neurological signs such as disorientation or inability to hold up the head. The cause is unknown at this time; samples are being analyzed.

If you encounter a bird that is presenting any of these issues, please contact a wildlife rehabilitator and report the finding to: <https://apps.ohiodnr.gov/wildlife/speciessighting/> It is recommended that bird feeders and bird baths be taken down for at least 7 to 10 days. Clean them outdoors with a 10% bleach solution and wear disposable gloves when handling those items or any sick or dead birds.

More complete information can be found here: <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1808>

Harvestmen – NOT Spiders

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Large numbers of these creatures are often seen clustered together at harvest time in late summer and fall - they are named accordingly. They are commonly confused with spiders due to their appearance and eight legs. Although they are arachnids, they are not spiders; they are daddy long legs, belonging to the order Opiliones.

Daddy long legs have eight, very long, slender legs and an oval, compact body. They are usually inactive and hidden during the day. At sunset they begin to search for food and feed on live insects, especially aphids.

Daddy long legs do not bite humans nor are they harmful to humans; they are not poisonous. They also do not spin webs. Once in a while you may see one moving very slowly during the day; however, they go on their way seemingly doing nothing. We should do the same and feel very fortunate to have seen one.

Read more about harvestmen here: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-68>

Do You Know: Grass

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

1. Grass is one of the largest and most varied families of the plant kingdom; it is most useful and important.
2. Most of the sugar we eat comes from a grass plant, sugar cane.
3. Paper can be made from grasses.
4. Grasses are classified in six main groups: ornamental grasses, turf grasses, grazing and forage grasses, sugar cane, cereal grasses, and woody grasses.
5. Cereal grass is one of man's most important food crops.
6. Bamboo is a woody grass and may grow as high as one hundred twenty feet. It can be used for water pipes, fishing poles and much more.
7. When grass cover is destroyed, erosion usually follows.
8. Grass is an adaptable plant with "survival" properties. It can renew itself, grows rapidly, scatters its seeds and resists drought, goes dormant, and grows again.
9. Wheat is a cereal grass. Durum wheat is sometimes called "macaroni wheat" because it makes good macaroni, spaghetti, and other pastas.
10. The United States has over one thousand species of grass.

Toad Abode

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Every evening a toad will eat hundreds of slugs, flies, grubs, cutworms, mosquitoes and grasshoppers; that fact makes them a desirable addition to our property! Attract toads to your garden by providing an inviting habitat. As long as a toad has proper shelter, water, and food it will stay around your flower bed or garden.

It is easy to provide a home for toads. Most of us have terracotta pots that have chips, cracks or chunks out of them. (If you do not have terracotta pot a plastic one will also work.) Carefully chip or cut away enough from the rim of the pot to make an opening at least two inches wide and two inches high. Place the pot rim-side-down on the ground in a shady spot. Place pebbles or stones around the pot to help hold in place. You could also place a couple of stones inside the pot if it is large enough. If water is not near the new home, place a flowerpot saucer close by. Soil should be scratched up enough to set the saucer down into the ground a little – it needs to be low enough for toads to get into the water. You could paint the pot or decorate it in some way; the toad will not care but you may feel better.

It may take a while for toads to find the new habitat. Remember to avoid using chemicals, dusts or any sprays in the area. Toads are very sensitive to pesticides and other chemicals and could become sick or even die. Besides, if you are killing the pests there is no need for a toad and they will not come.

For more info on helpful critters in the garden, go to: <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/critters-in-the-garden/>

Websites That Will Help You Enjoy Nature!

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Many of us carry field guides or books with us when we are out enjoying nature. Did you know that some of those informative resources are now available to download to your tablet, laptop, or cell phone?

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has several field guides that cover a range of nature topics including amphibians, bees, butterflies, owls, reptiles, stream fishes, trees, warblers, wildflowers, and more. The list of field guides available to download can be found at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife/documents-publications/backyard-wildlife-documents>

Another handy site to aid in identifying and sharing observations of plants, insects, and more is "iNaturalist" which can be found at <https://www.inaturalist.org/> Photos can be uploaded in the field by phone or computer.

A good site for seasonal information is Buckeye Yard and Garden online (BYGL) at <https://bygl.osu.edu/> More sites can be found by searching online; keep in mind that some are more accurate than others. Reliable info can be found by typing your topic or subject plus the words "university extension" into the search bar. If it's too warm or rainy to be outside, a wide range of garden-related topics that were recorded for educational purposes are now available to view at <https://mastergardener.osu.edu/lnlhh>



July Garden Check List:

- Start dividing tall bearded iris.
- Shear evergreen shrubs now.
- Raise the lawnmower to at least 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 when needed!
- 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 plus vegetable and flower gardens.
- Take advantage of perennials on sale at your local nursery!

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

Month of July	MGV Photography Display at West Lafayette Library	
July 4	Independence Day	
July 9	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
August 6	First Farm Friday, Main St. in Coshocton	5:00 – 7:30 pm
August 13	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am



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

Like **Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteers** on Facebook

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity



Learn more at
coshocton.osu.edu
or use this code



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES