

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

March - April 2022

Volume 19, Issue 2

**MGVs on WTNS, FM 99.3**

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 March 11 and April 8. Miss the show? Check the website above for a recording!

A huge “thank you” to WTNS!

**Extension Office Hours**

The Coshocton County-OSU Extension Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 pm. 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>

***Interested in becoming a Master Gardener Volunteer?  
Contact the Extension Office at 740 622-2265!***

**Planting Seeds Indoors**

By Brenda Junkin, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Start with good seeds from a reputable vendor - the better the seed, the better the germination rate. Choose a variety of seeds, some that mature early and some later, so your garden produces all summer. Read the seed packages to determine when to sow the seeds. I don't start my plants in the house until early March; you don't want the plants to get so big that they are root-bound when you plant them.

Use organic potting mix, or a starter mix if you wish. Potting mix is a little cheaper but may contain sticks. If so, use a frame and hardware cloth to sift out the sticks and save them for mulch. Find some info about soil for starting seeds at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/potting\\_soils\\_and\\_seed\\_starting\\_mixes\\_for\\_your\\_garden](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/potting_soils_and_seed_starting_mixes_for_your_garden)

Once your soil is ready, moisten it. It should not be weeping wet - when you squeeze it in your hands, it should hold its shape and not drip. If it weeps, wait a while and let it dry out a bit. The soil needs oxygen to help the plant grow and too much water will inhibit the oxygen level in your soil. Gently push the soil into the containers or cells but do not compact it – again, the soil needs oxygen. Check the seed packet for the recommended depth for planting the seeds. I typically put 3 seeds in each cell and plan to thin them out after germination, keeping the strongest plant. Place the containers on a tray to catch any drainage.

When watering the plants, lift the cell up from the tray and put water into the tray. Do not water from above; or if you do, use a spray bottle to mist. Cover the tray with plastic wrap or a clear tray lid. Keep the trays in indirect light until they sprout; do not put the tray in intense light. If you wish you can put them on a heating pad to encourage growth, a bit like creating a hot house. You may see condensation on the lid, and that's okay.

Once the seedlings have sprouted 2 leaves, remove the lid or plastic wrap and put them under your grow lights. The plants should stay around 2 inches from the light source. If they are too far from the light source they will stretch to the light, resulting in weak and spindly stems.

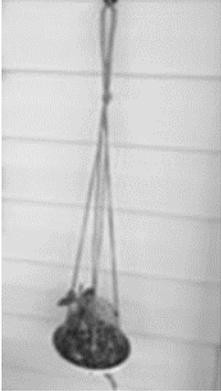
Start “hardening off” the plants about 2 weeks before time to plant them outside. When it becomes warm outside, place the plants outside for a few hours a day so they get used to the weather. After 4 or 5 days of staying out during the day, plan to leave them out overnight if the weather is warm. Once we're past the last frost (USUALLY around May 15<sup>th</sup> in our area), plant your garden!

***“A good gardener always plants 3 seeds -one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for himself.” – Leo Aikman***

## Creating Uses for Grocery Plastics

By Teresa Donley, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

A recent TV announcement noted that while watching that ad, the world would create 720,000 pounds of plastic and only 9% would be re-cycled. Since “reuse” is a form of recycling, we have a suggestion to reduce plastic waste while preparing for the gardening season – and it may save you some money too!



Plastic produce containers from the grocery store can be utilized as mini-greenhouses and can be ideal for starting seeds indoors. They often have holes in the bottom portion to provide good drainage; if not, punch some holes in the bottom. Those with clear lids will help keep moisture from evaporating too quickly while still allowing light to enter. Usable plastic containers include the ones that contain produce, roasted chicken, take-out food, and bakery items. For another fun way to eliminate waste - the cherry tomato containers that have an opening in the lid are ideal for starting cuttings from houseplants and vining plants. Allow the cuttings to develop some roots in a glass of water and plant them in the container.

Start by disinfecting the containers with a 10% bleach solution; rinse them well and let them dry. Place a coffee filter or paper towel in the bottom to allow water to drain without losing the soil. Add some moistened seed starting mix/soil to the container and plant the seeds according to the directions on the seed packet.



For info on cuttings: <https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pub/pdf/agguides/hort/g06560.pdf>

## Earth Day 2022 - “Invest in Our Planet”

Information collected by Brenda Junkin, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement. It’s a great day for all of us to take a moment and be grateful for this amazing planet we live on. We need to take a hard look on how we are contributing to the sustainability of earth. Sustainability is not a fad, it’s a reality, it’s our future... because there is no planet B.

Every action makes a difference. As individuals we can affect change by investing in our planet. We can take active steps to protect our environment through best practices and climate friendly investments.

### Five ways to Invest in Our Planet:

1. Support our pollinators by pledging to reduce or stop using pesticides and chemicals in the garden.  
\*Some pesticide alternatives include neem oil; horticultural oil; and citrus oil or cayenne pepper to get rid of ants. Remember that not all bugs are bad – things that kill unwanted bugs will also kill beneficial insects.  
\*Instead of chemicals, try natural fertilizers such as compost; horse or cow manure; and bone meal.  
\*Try pulling weeds instead of tilling them into the soil, which basically reseeds the weeds. Some weeds in the driveway may be controlled by pouring vinegar on them on a hot day.
2. Plant wildflowers and native plants that will support our pollinators. Some examples are black-eyed Susans; butterfly weed; purple coneflowers; and cardinal flowers. Find a more extensive list here:  
[https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/17-047\\_03\\_XercesSoc\\_Pollinator-Plants\\_Great-Lakes-Region\\_web-4page.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/17-047_03_XercesSoc_Pollinator-Plants_Great-Lakes-Region_web-4page.pdf)
3. Fight food waste by composting. Once you start, you’ll realize how easy composting really is!
4. Use reusable containers to serve/drink water.
5. Pick up trash as you walk or jog around your neighborhood

## Arbor Day – April 29, 2022

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Arbor Day is a day set apart for planting trees. Most states celebrate the day; in some it is a legal holiday. Arbor Day began in Nebraska; Julius Morton, a newspaper publisher (and father of Joy Morton, the founder of the Morton Salt Company), realized that trees enrich the soil and conserve moisture. April 10, 1872 was set aside as Nebraska’s first Arbor Day. The people of Nebraska planted over a million trees as a result of that first event. After Morton died, the Nebraska legislature changed the date to his birthday, April 22, and made it a legal holiday; the day achieved national recognition starting in 1970. Nationally, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday of April. Ohio observes the same date

*(continued next page)*

which is on April 29<sup>th</sup> this year; however, some states observe a different date. Julius Morton was also Secretary of Agriculture from 1893 to 1897 in President Grover Cleveland's Cabinet. Nebraska placed a statue of Morton in the United States Capitol in 1937.

Bearing the family name and continuing the interest in trees, the Morton Arboretum near Chicago was founded by Joy Morton in 1922. An arboretum is an outdoor lab area where trees, shrubs and other woody plants are grown under natural conditions. Most arboretums are open to the public and there are many in Ohio including Chadwick Arboretum in Columbus; Holden Arboretum in Kirtland; Secret Arboretum in Wooster; and, closest to Coshocton, Dawes Arboretum in Newark.

Information about Dawes Arboretum can be found at: <https://dawesarb.org/> - Visit Arbor Day Foundation at: <https://www.arborday.org/>

***As we observe Arbor Day, MGV Margaret Lowe shares these related articles:***

### **Three Billion Trees by the CCC**

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt formed the Civilian Conservation Corps program to put unemployed men between the ages of 17 and 22 to work. The number of men enrolled from April 5, 1933 to June 30, 1942 was 3,463,786. They were nicknamed "Roosevelt's Tree Army", "Tree Troopers", and "Soil Soldiers".

These young men were working hard, eating heartily and gaining weight while they improved millions of acres of federal and state lands and parks. New roads were built, telephone lines were strung, and trees were planted. More than half the forest planting in the history of the United States was done by the CCC. Sources say they planted over three billion trees.

Coshocton County had a CCC camp at the USDA Soil Conservation Service's North Appalachian Experimental Watershed near Fresno, established June 21, 1937. Men from this camp planted all the trees around Mohawk Dam when it was constructed; the dam was dedicated on September 24, 1937.

#### **Stumps**

I hope that I shall never see,  
A stump outside the C.C.C.  
A stump whose wiry roots are found  
Deep in the earth's tenacious ground  
A stump at which I slave away,  
All during a torrid summer day,  
Stumps are dug by guys like me  
And others in the C.C.C.

~ D.E.M

*Arcadia, Rhode Island*

### **Napoleon's Willow Tree**

In 1815, Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena Island, a British possession in the South Atlantic Ocean. For six years, he daily sat under a giant willow tree. After his death, cuttings were taken from the tree and planted around his grave. The British government forbid taking souvenirs from Napoleon's grave or cuttings from the famous tree. However, they did give an Englishman, Henry Powell, permission to bring a cutting to England.

Powell's son Thomas came to the United States in 1835 and brought a cutting. He planted it on the banks of the Tuscarawas River near Orange. A cutting was taken from this tree and planted on Cambridge Road.

Shortly before his death the Cambridge Road owner revealed the tree story to nurseryman James Lear, asking him to remove the sapling from his property and give it to a friend who would then care for it. This story was printed in the local newspaper October 23, 1949, along with a photo of a beautiful mature tree.

### **Planting Trees in Wales**

Wales is getting its citizens involved with fighting climate change. The United Kingdom country announced in December that the government would be giving every household a free tree to plant. The recipients have their choice of planting it in their gardens

or allowing their allotted tree to be planted in the woods. A total of 1.3 million trees will be added, thanks to the program, which will start distributing the trees in March 2022.

### **Pioneer Nurseryman**

Johnny Appleseed was a name given to John Chapman, a pioneer born in Massachusetts in 1774, who spent much of his life in Ohio. He was a combination of nurseryman, herb doctor, military hero, and religious enthusiast. He received his nickname because of the way he distributed apple seeds and sprouts. He gathered apple seeds from cider presses of Western Pennsylvania.

Newcastle Township in Coshocton County has a monument (on US Route 36, near the church and restaurant) in Newcastle dedicated to John Chapman; he had a nursery and a blockhouse located in the township. These are some of the words engraved on the monument: "Several of his nurseries were located near here. From these nurseries came seedlings that gave rise to the first apple orchards over a wide area of Ohio". Mr. Chapman died in 1845 and is buried in Fort Wayne Indiana.

More info on John Chapman can be found at:

<http://genealogytrails.com/ind/allen/biographies/bio-chapmanJohn.html>

## 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, rhododendron, forsythia etc.
- ✓ 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 11	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
March 13	Daylight Saving Time begins – spring forward!	
April 8	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
April 22	Earth Day	
April 29	National Arbor Day (last Friday in April)	

*It's time for the annual Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District tree seedling sale. Online orders can be submitted through Monday, March 21. For more information, call 740-622-8087, ext. 4 or email [samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net](mailto:samanthadaugherty@coshoctoncounty.net).*

**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/>

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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