CFAES
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter

KEEP IT GROWING!

May - June 2019 **Volume 16, Issue 3**

MGV Annual Plant Sale – June 1st!

The annual Master Gardener Volunteers Plant Sale, the group's major fund raiser, will be held June 1, 2019, in the Rotary Pavilion at the Coshocton County Fairgrounds. Demonstrations will start at 8:30 am and the sale will run from 9:00 am until noon or the plants are gone, whichever comes first. It is a good idea to arrive early for the best selection as the plants sell quickly. There are **NO EARLY SALES** of plants before 9 am.

The plant sale will offer some of the nicest plants from the gardens of the MGVs and their friends. You may find assorted tree seedlings, vegetable plants, annuals, many perennials, herbs, house plants and garden related accessories. The plants are reasonably-priced and many are ready to plant directly into your garden. All plants are labeled with their common and proper names, growing conditions, and size.

Please bring your gardening questions and ask any of the Master Gardener Volunteers…. we LOVE to talk about plants, bugs and anything garden related!

Programs Attended

A big "thank-you" to those who attended MGV and Extension programming! Beat the Blahs; Bug ID; Hydrangea School; Coshocton County Career Center Open House; Earth Day Celebration; Create a Perennial Bed workshop; and the Spring Wildflower Walk were well-attended – more programs will be coming!

Watch for more information on the "Create A Perennial Bed" workshop series!

The Importance of Native Plants

By Verda McGraw, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

A native plant, as defined in Garden-pedia by Pam Bennett and Maria Zampini, is: "A plant that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem or habitat without human intervention. The generally accepted time frame for plants to be considered native is that the plants were present at the time Europeans arrived in North America."

Native plants, as a part of the great web of biodiversity around us, are important and beneficial in many ways. They support native pollinators, which are vital to growing food. They support birds and other wildlife; clean the air and water; and are a source of natural beauty. As population increases and open space decreases, it is important to promote native biodiversity in our own landscapes. There are many reasons to include native plants in a home landscape: they are usually low maintenance, they support native wildlife, they are beautiful, and they can be deer resistant. They have proven themselves by continuing to live in the Ohio environment. They are able to tolerate diseases and pests that live here and they are often important in providing food and shelter for our native animals.

We are all connected. A small example of the web of biodiversity can be found in the tiny insects that pollinate native wild flowers. The wild flowers provide food for the early spring insects, which are a food source for native song birds. The birds spread plant seeds in their droppings; and so the cycle of life goes on. If any part of the cycle is lost, there will be a consequence for all. Native plants and native wildlife need and support each other. For instance, monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on milkweed; no milkweed, no monarchs.

Although native plants can be found in fields, woods, and swamplands, do NOT transplant them! Removing a plant from its habitat can cause a serious disruption, especially if that plant is rare. The native plant may not survive the move and taking it out will leave a missing link. Also, some are protected by law. They only exception to this rule is if the area is going to be bulldozed for a construction project.

Garden centers and nurseries have selections of native plants for their area. Always ask if the plants have been treated with any kind of chemicals. Remember, just because a plant is native to the area, it does not mean that plant will survive anywhere. Take into account the light, moisture, and temperature requirements. For example, plants from a wetland will do best in a wet area.

(Continued next page)

A bulletin, "Native Plants of Ohio", is available for sale through the Extension office. Below is a partial list of some native wild flowers; an extensive list can be found at: http://ohiodnr.gov/gonative

Aquilegia canadensis – wild columbine
Arisaema triphyllum – jack-in-the-pulpit
Asarum canadense – wild ginger
Asclepias incarnate – swamp milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa – butterfly weed
Aster novae-angliae – New England aster
Chasmanthium latifolium – Northern sea oats
Chelone lyonii – pink turtlehead
Dodecatheon maedia – shooting star
Eupatorium maculatum – spotted Joe-Pye weed
Hibiscus coccineus – scarlet rose mallow
Lobelia cardinalis – cardinal flower
Lobelia siphilitica – great blue lobelia
Mertensia virginica – Virginia bluebells
Podophyllum peltatum - mayapple
Silphium perfoliatum – cup plant
Solidago sp. – goldenrods
Trillium grandiflorum – large-flowered trillium
Uvularia perfoliata – wood merrybells

Wilbur Scoville

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

While working as a chemist for the Parke Davis Pharmaceutical Company, Wilbur Scoville (1865-1942) was asked to develop a way of measuring heat in chili peppers. The company wanted this for the use of capsaicin in making salves for sore muscles. Capsaicin is the compound that makes a hot pepper hot.

Scoville developed a test which measured the amount of dilution required for each pepper to lose its hot taste. Using this test and a panel of five individuals as tasters, Scoville developed the Scoville Chili Heat Chart; a partial list of peppers and their derivatives is shown here.

Scoville won many awards and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Columbia University. Today his chart is used by gardeners to grow hot, hot peppers and cooks to create hot, hot dishes.

TYPE OF PEPPER	SCOVILLE HEAT UNITS (SHU)
Pure Capsaicin	15,000,000
Carolina Reaper	2,200,000
Pepper Spray	2,000,000 - 5,300,000
Naga Pepper	1,359,000
Bhut Jolokia	1,000,000
Red Savina	577,000
Habanero	200,000 - 350,000
Chiltepin	100,000 - 250,000
Cayenne	30,000 - 50,000
Arbol	15,000 - 30,000
Manzano	12,000 - 30,000
Serrano	8,000 - 23,000
Yellow Hot	5,000 - 8,000
Jalepeno	3,500 - 8,000
Guajillo	2,500 - 4,000
Chilaca	1,500 - 2,500
Pasilla	1,000 - 2,500
Pablano	1,000 - 2,000
Anaheim	500 - 2,000
Chile Verde	500 - 1,500
Yellow Genetics	500 - 1,000
Red Chile	500 - 1,000
Banana pepper	100 - 1,000
Sweet Bell	0

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

-Gertrude Jekyll

Pests in the Garden: Integrated Pest Management

By Gail Piper, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

We've all been there – there is a problem in our garden! It may be something eating our favorite plant; perhaps there is a spot on a leaf; or a weed is threatening to invade our lawn or garden. What to do? Don't automatically grab a pesticide to deal with it! Take a deep breath, investigate the problem, and plan the needed action. Master Gardener Volunteers advocate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which incorporates several methods of managing pests. Any gardening

problem should be considered on its own unique characteristics. What is the pest? What is the affected plant or condition? How large is the problem? Can it be managed by cultural, mechanical, or biological control or does it warrant a chemical application? Is the plant important enough to warrant action? What are the side effects of any prescribed control? Regardless of the temptation to spray our problems away, they can often be eliminated or reduced by other means!

Start by using the best gardening practices possible to promote healthy plants; healthy plants are more resistant to pests and disease. Cultural practices help to control the environment of plants in order to maintain their health. Using pest- and disease-resistant plants; selecting a site with proper drainage, light and space; and other cultural practices including irrigation, mulching, tilling, crop rotation, and sanitation will help those plants stay healthy. A soil test will indicate whether amendments are needed.

Once the plants are in place, observe them and their surroundings on a regular basis so that problems can be detected before they get out of hand. Check the entire plant, including the undersides of leaves. Is there one small hole on a leaf or has half of it been eaten? How many leaves are involved? Has the plant wilted or changed color? Are there spots on the plant? If so, what color and size? Is one plant affected or several? Is the soil too wet? Too dry?

If pests are found, they must be identified in order to know the best method of control. There are many good reference books available and the Extension office is a great resource. It is important to know the stage of development of the pest – adult insects and larvae often require different actions. Once a pest is identified, research specific means of control Remember that many insects are beneficial and SHOULD NOT be removed!.

Mechanical practices come into play when pests are discovered. Some insects such as aphids can be washed off a plant with a stream of water. Other insects can be picked off by hand or shaken into a container of soapy water. Barriers such as screens or mesh can be used to keep birds and rabbits away, but care must be taken so that pollination is not interrupted. Sticky traps can be effective to control some small flying insects. Weeds can be pulled and controlled with mulch.

Biological controls include natural predators. Birds, bats and beneficial insects can help control a pest insect population. There are also some microbial insecticides available such as Bt – it is important to identify the pest to know which strain of microbe to use.

Chemical pesticides are another option and may be needed when dealing with an infestation or when other practices are not getting the desired results. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS to make sure the chemical will not harm the plant(s) you wish to protect and will be effective on the specific pest! Using a pesticide on the wrong insect or weed or at the wrong time is a waste of time and money and may cause harm to the environment. Be sure to wear proper clothing or safety items and keep people and pets away from the area. Do not treat the blooms of plants to avoid harming pollinators and be aware of weather situations – does the treatment need a dry period or rain to work well? A fact sheet on selecting pesticides can be found at: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-67

MGVs will address more on IPM in future issues of "Keep It Growing". Questions can be addressed to the OSU-Coshocton County Extension Office at (740) 622-2265.

Ecotherapy

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Most of us garden because we like to dig in the soil, enjoy seeing the beauty in plants, want the produce the garden provides, like being outside, and many more reasons. Not only is gardening productive and self-satisfying, but studies show it contributes to good mental health as well. Gardening can provide many ways to manage one's emotions. Yanking weeds from the soil or chopping them with a hoe can release some frustrations. Breathing in the sweet smell of flowers or the smell of freshly turned soil can be soothing. Listening to bees or birds or watching a butterfly flit from one flower to another can decrease stress. Mowing that last swath of grass in the lawn makes for pleasure. In the spring I really enjoy the smell of dandelions and even wild onions just because it is spring.

Sometimes I take my shoes off and walk in the grass; once in a while I lie down on the grass and just look at the sky, trying to find clouds that form figures. I do not do this often as I believe the neighbors would think something is the matter with me. Most often I sit on the deck and watch clouds. Seeing figures in the clouds is called nephelococcygia - what a great word!

Gardening also provides concentration and problem-solving exercise! Planning a garden; deciding what kinds of vegetables to plant; eradicating a disease, pests or problems - many more decisions must be made.

I find planting a tiny little seed and watching it grow into a beautiful flower or a healthy plant of peas or carrots to be fascinating – and it is so satisfying! I often feel the need to examine something like zinnias or nasturtiums for a long, long time; I compare colors, or remember one from last year that looks exactly the same as this year. I often wonder at the idea that any of this can really happen.

Gardening gives one a sense of responsibility to care for what you have planted and a feeling of confidence as you see the progress. When you think of gardening, remember one of the most rewarding gifts of gardening is hope.

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.

Attend the MGV plant sale - June 1!

Upcoming Events

May 10	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
May 15	Frost-free date for our area – NOT guaranteed!!!	
June 1	MGV Plant Sale, Cosh. Co. Fairgrounds, Rotary Pav.	8:30 am
Month of June ONLY	Schnormeier Gardens	Thurs. – Sun. 10am – 4:00 pm
June 14	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
April – October	Diagnostic Clinics	Tu. 9 am – noon; Th. 1 to 4pm

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, 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.

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