

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

September - October 2021

Volume 18, Issue 5

Thank Goodness, It's Fair Time!

The 170th Coshocton County Fair is scheduled for October 1-7, 2021. Many of us are looking forward to fair food, rides, exhibits, grandstand events, and more! The Master Gardener Volunteers again will have a booth in the Youth Building. We will share information regarding our theme for the year, *Good Bug, Bad Bug*. Stop by and learn about many insects that live among us. After all, we need insects to provide ecosystem services; they are pollinators, pest controllers, soil engineers, and decomposers - but you will also discover that insects are disappearing at alarming rates.

As always, there will be information and facts sheets for individuals to take home. Please visit our booth!

2021 Fall Foliage and Farm Tour

The 50th drive-it-yourself Fall Foliage and Farm Tour is planned for October 16 & 17 this year! The tour will start at the Coshocton County fairgrounds where maps will be handed out and will cover the southeast part of the county. Tour hours will be Saturday, 10:00 to 5:00 and Sunday, noon until 5:00.

MGVs will have a multi-topic display at the Wills Creek Dam stop – please come check it out!

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 September 10 and October 8. A huge “thank you” to WTNS!

Bird Alert Status

Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources issued an alert early this summer regarding sick and dying birds. The cause of the illness has not yet been determined. At the time of this newsletter publication, ODNR is still promoting caution (no seed feeders or bird baths) and will re-evaluate the situation early in September. An update can be found at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/home/additional-resources/division-of-wildlife/bird-disease-reporting>

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>

Thank You and Congratulations to West Lafayette Library

The Master Gardener Volunteers would like to thank the staff at the West Lafayette Branch Library for displaying our photography exhibit at the library during the month of July.

We would also like to say congratulations to the West Lafayette Branch Library on its eighty-fifth anniversary. The branch began in one room, in the schoolhouse, in 1936 and now is located at 601 East Main Street, West Lafayette. The WL Branch Library will celebrate the anniversary on September 22nd.

First Farm Friday was FUN!!

A HUGE thank you to all who organized and those who attended First Farm Friday on August 6 – our volunteers had a great time greeting everyone and helping the youngsters learn more about insects!

Gourd-geous!!

By Gail Piper, Coshocton
County Master Gardener
Volunteer

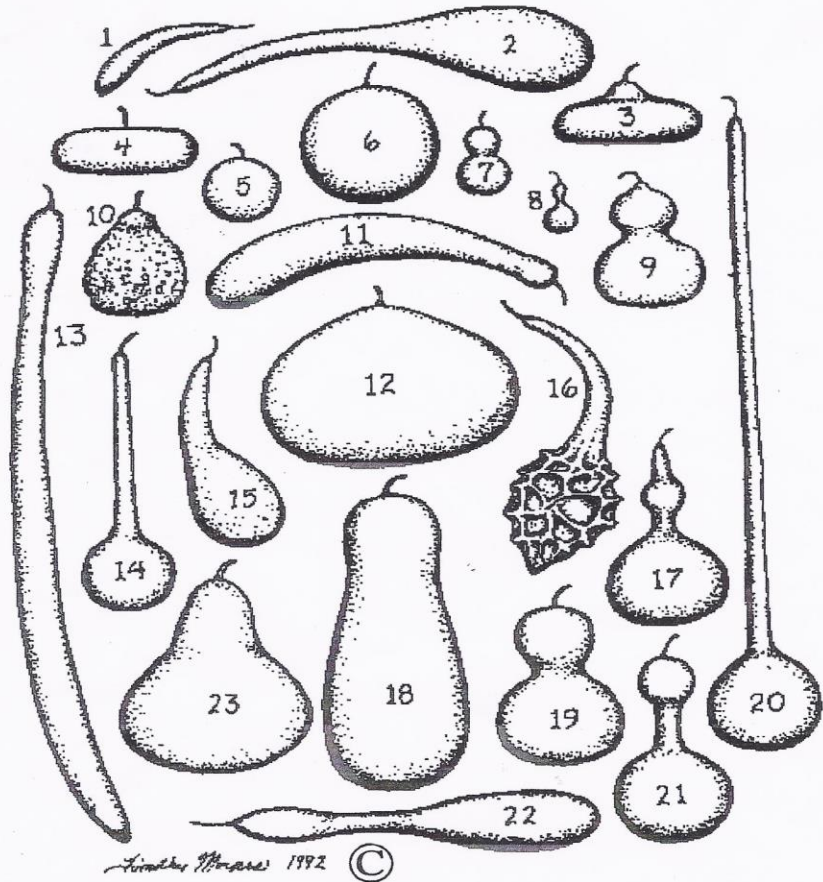
Have you ever grown gourds? Displayed them in a fall centerpiece? Or checked out all the wonderful items crafted from gourds in the art hall at the county fair? Perhaps you have even exhibited some – by the way, it's time to make those fair entries.

People grow gourds for many reasons; our ancestors used them for storage, utensils, and more. These days we see them used to make birdhouses, home décor or even jewelry. A visit to the agricultural hall will find displays of many varieties of gourds and other members of the cucurbit family. A visit to the art hall at the fair will show how they can be fashioned into artwork; dried gourds may be carved, etched, or painted to create all sorts of beautiful pieces.

Check out the link below for information about drying gourds for artistic use.

The insert here shows several types of gourds... how many have you seen?

GOURD IDENTIFICATION CHART



1. Banana 2. Club, cave-man's club 3. Tobacco Box, sugar bowl 4. Canteen, sugar bowl 5. Cannon ball 6. Basketball 7. Mini-bottle 8. Sennari 9. Mexican bottle 10. Hardshell wartie 11. Hercules Club 12. Bushel basket 13. Baton, snake, longissima 14. Shorthandle dipper 15. Powder horn, penguin 16. French dolphin, maranka monkey 17. Lump-in-neck bottle 18. Zucca 19. Chinese bottle, dumb-bell 20. Long handle dipper 21. Indonesian bottle, Costa Rican Bottle 22. Japanese bottle siphon 23. Kettle

More info on gourds can be found here: <https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/pubs/HO/HO-135.pdf>

Tin Can Luminary

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Items needed: 1 tin can, hammer, a nail or awl

Here's a way to make a jack-o-lantern this fall without a pumpkin - make your own tin can luminary! Decide on a decorative outline – it could be a Halloween or fall pattern, or another seasonal design such as a flower, bug, butterfly, name, etc. Use a felt-tip marker to draw dots on a can to form the design.

Fill the can with water and freeze it. When frozen solid, use a hammer and nail or awl to punch holes in the can, following the pattern of dots. (I place newspapers on a table along with folded bath towel on top to hold the can in place and catch any ice chips.) The ice in the can allows the holes to be made without denting the can.

Begin on a small can first to learn the technique. Paint the can if desired. Place a tea light in the can and you have made your luminary. Various sizes of cans make a nice display of lighting; for example, large tomato juice cans can be used to line a sidewalk, driveway, or planting bed. I like to use battery tea lights in one to light a room on a winter evening – that way there is no fear of accidental fire.

Clamping – A Way to Store Root Vegetables

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Surplus vegetables can be stored during winter months in various ways, allowing them to be enjoyed long after harvesting. Freezing is an excellent way to store a variety of foods; blanching vegetables, placing them in bags or boxes and storing in the freezer is fairly easy and quick. Another technique is to pickle vegetables or use them in chutneys or preserves. One of the easiest ways to preserve cabbage is to make a simplified sauerkraut. Beets are another good vegetable to pickle. There are still some of us who like our green beans canned in mason jars. This process takes more time; however, many still prefer it.

Then there is clamping; this is a term we do not hear or use very often. It reminds me of Grandmother's root cellar which was a large, enclosed storage room along the kitchen of the house where carrots were stored in sand bins along the wall. That root cellar was a fantastic place because so many different vegetables were stored there. (Grandmother did not have a freezer and still cooked on a coal stove.)

Clamping is a process for preserving fresh root vegetables like carrots, potatoes or turnips using sand and straw. If you have never used this process, try it in a small way the first time to see if it is what you want and if it is a success. Choose a patch of well-drained soil that will not be needed over the winter. Clean it off and cover it with a layer of several inches of sand. Trim any leaf or stem growth from your vegetables; then build a pyramid with the vegetable on the sand. Cover the pyramid with eight inches of straw, then a layer of soil about six inches, leaving one side of the straw exposed so you can reach the vegetables. Too much work? Perhaps, but isn't it interesting to try something new and have it work? What satisfaction!!!!

You may even want to try preserving those carrots or potatoes in a large bucket of sand, placing the bucket in the garage during the winter. Yes, I know, going to the store and buying a bag of carrots is much easier but not nearly as gratifying. For those of you with a computer and internet service you may want to review this process of clamping a little more before venturing into the unknown.

For more info, try these websites: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/storage-of-home-grown-vegetables-7-601/> and <https://blog.mr-fothergills.co.uk/potato-clamps-storing-potatoes-vegetables-using-clamp/>

**“Fair orchard trees wave their fruit-laden arms,
And nature smiles in her Autumnal charms.” ~John Askham**

Tree Quiz

1. What tree remains after a fire?
2. What tree do we put away in summer?
3. Under what tree would you seek shelter from the rain?
4. What tree gave a nickname to an American General?
5. What trees are always sad?
6. What tree is a good church man?
7. What tree do you have in your hand?
8. Which tree is the Garden of Eden tree?
9. What trees stick together?
10. What trees go hopping about?
11. What trees are always well dressed?
12. What tree do we like stuffed?
13. Which tree is a hero's tree?
14. What tree is a body of water?
15. What tree is part of a dress and a door?

Answers: 1-ash; 2-fir; 3-umbrella; 4-hickory; 5-weeping willow; 6-elder; 7-palm; 8-apple; 9-gum; 10-locust; 11-spruce; 12-date or olive; 13-laurel; 14-bay; 15-hemlock

September Garden Check List:

- Place orders and plant spring-blooming bulbs; 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 and coneflowers; 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

September 10	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
October 1 – 7	Coshocton County Fair	
October 8	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
October 16 & 17	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, 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

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