

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

September - October 2022

Volume 19, Issue 5

**First Farm Friday Was Fun!!**

Four Master Gardener Volunteers were on hand at First Farm Friday on August 5 to encourage children and adults to be aware of pollinators. Thank you to all who stopped by our display – we enjoyed meeting you!! Another big thank you to all the folks who made the event possible!

**See You at the Fair**

MGVs will once again have a display in the Youth Building at the Coshocton County Fair, Sept. 30 through Oct. 6. Stop by to learn about pollinators that are so important to our gardens!

**Fall Foliage and Farm Tour**

MGVs look forward to hosting a display at one of the stops along the Coshocton County Fall Foliage and Farm Tour! The tour this year will feature the southwestern part of the county – join us on October 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Check local media for more information.

**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 9 and October 14. 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 at 724 South 7th Street, Room 110, 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>

**Invasive Insect Update**

The watch is ongoing for invasive insects, two in particular at this time. Monitoring for spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) continues – more information on this pest that poses a threat to many plants and crops can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqU30tXGWGQ&t=518s>

Another invasive insect has been spotted in Ohio - recently as close as Morgan County. The Asian long-horned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) is one which can pose a health threat to livestock. More information can be found in this fact sheet from Ohio State: <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/vme-1035>

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

**To Blanch or Not to Blanch...**

By Brenda Junkin, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

When harvesting my vegetable garden, I often think about Thanksgiving and what I want to serve my family and friends: fresh green beans, corn souffle and more - and yes, I want to brag about my fresh-frozen garden vegetables on the table! I don't can my vegetable harvest; I blanch and freeze it to fill my freezer with flat freezer bags full of my garden vegetables.

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Blanching is the process of scalding fresh, clean, young, and tender vegetables in boiling water or steaming them (in a wire basket) for a short period of time, followed by an ice bath for a rapid cool. Blanching and freezing slows down spoilage; it stops enzyme actions which can cause loss of flavor, color, and texture of a vegetable. Blanching is a must for most every vegetable before it's to be frozen, and there are recommended times of blanching for different kinds of vegetables.

For the best results, harvest the vegetables in the coolness of the morning or evening, out of the sun. The sooner you blanch after the harvest, the better the result. Make sure you squeeze the air from the freezer bags before you seal them; excess air can lead to flavor loss. Then simply label, date and stack them flat in your freezer. Once frozen, many vegetables can last up to a year.

You don't have to grow your own vegetables - you can buy fresh local produce to blanch and freeze. Feel free to ask when the vegetables have been harvested; the folks at the market will totally understand.

Some high-water content vegetables like cucumbers, cabbage and mushrooms will be waterlogged after freezing. So, place those frozen cucumber slices on your eyes to hydrate and soothe your skin and use the mushrooms and cabbage for soup.

For more information on blanching vegetables, read the OSU Extension "Food Preservation: Freezing Vegetables" fact sheet at <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-5333> Contact Emily Marrison, OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator, at 740-622-2265 or [marrison.12@osu.edu](mailto:marrison.12@osu.edu) with any food preservation questions.

## **Hippocrates and His Medicine Chest - Elderberries**

By Margaret Lowe, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Hippocrates is known as the "Father of Medicine." Born about 460 BC, his principles of medical science were laid down four hundred years before the birth of Christ His favorite medicine was honey, sometimes mixed with water or even with vinegar, but Hippocrates also called the elderberry plant (*Sambucus spp.*) his "medicine chest" because of its many healing properties.

Elder is a small tree or shrub that is classified in the honeysuckle family. There are several attractive elderberry cultivars with creamy white or pink flowers and variegated purple leaves, but the best part of the plant is the fruit. The deep purple, small berries are used to make jellies, pies, sauces, syrups and even wine. Do not eat uncooked berries (or the leaves, twigs or stems of the plant) as they do contain some toxins which are destroyed by cooking. It is also not advisable to process underripe berries.

Years ago, a lot of young individuals in this county gathered elderberries and Smuckers of Orville would pick them up at various places. It was a way to earn a little money for many. Elder shoots contain pith which can be removed; children often hollow them to make whistles. The ancient Greeks made a musical instrument called a "sambuke" from the elder stem.

Most of us think of elderberries as wild plants because we have found them growing wild. However, there are several elderberry cultivars available if anyone wants to grow them. If elderberry is one of your favorites, you may want to experiment by growing a few of them.

For more info: <https://extension.psu.edu/elderberry-in-the-garden-and-the-kitchen?fbclid=IwAR2XX6kx9wnOTssQQh3-v4ZA2iLksZTpiRoNqWudAVYTX51-bHv9kzllz4>

## **Fall Is a Good Time to Add Color to Your Landscape**

By Brenda Junkin, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

September is often mild, so it's a great time to freshen up your landscape with a little color. Potted mums make an instant impact of color, cascading down your front steps or in containers on the porch. Look for hardy mums with lots of buds so you can enjoy the beauty longer. And of course, it's time to dry some of your yarrow and stonecrop plants for fall bouquets and wreaths. Simply cut the flowers with lots of stem, then bind them and hang them upside down in a dry, cool, shady area for a couple of weeks. Once dry, you can spray paint them different colors if you wish and then have some fun with the family making beautiful arrangements!

Early fall is also a great time to add flowering trees and shrubs to your landscape. Always consider the mature size of the tree or shrub when choosing where to plant it and don't plant it (think root system) too close to your house or other buildings. Make sure you consistently water it for a good month so it can take hold and make it through the winter. Talk to your garden center specialist for tips about the tree you choose.

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Planting spring-flowering bulbs like daffodils, crocus, tulips, and alliums now will welcome in the spring season like nothing else! Look at the package description to make sure you're planting deep enough and that your location will have enough sunlight. A good rule of thumb is to plant the bulbs about 3 to 4 times as deep as the bulb is tall. For instance, daffodil bulbs need at least 6 inches of depth to secure a strong plant. For a natural look, I like to plant the bulbs in a zig-zag pattern.

For more information on planting bulbs, go to: <https://u.osu.edu/bennett.709/2018/09/14/plant-bulbs-now-for-spring/>

## **"Dead Rack" Society**

By Brenda Junkin, Coshocton County Master Gardener Volunteer

Yep, if you're anything like me, you can't wait until late summer/early fall, for the "dead rack" plant sale. Visit any big box store (or small for that matter) at the end of the season and you'll find "dead" or dying perennials in the back of the stores on racks, each rack often defined by price point...\$5, \$4, \$3 and less! It's a great time to expand your garden and save a little money! Those little orphans may look sad, but as long as there is still a little life in them, you can plant them in your garden this fall and have them pop up next spring. I always bring them home and give them a few good soakings before planting. If I haven't decided where to put them in the garden, and it's getting cold, I set them in the ground in their pots for the winter; then I dig them up in the spring and place them where I want them.

Now before you go crazy and buy too many plants, I have a few tips.

First, look at your existing flower beds. How much space do you have to add plants? Are the phlox in your garden right now so big you'll need to separate them this fall or early spring? That will take up space. How much sun is available - full-sun or part-sun? Do you want to attract butterflies or hummingbirds? Do you need something tall for the back of the garden, or short for the front? Are you willing to expand your existing garden beds or will that push you over your limit to maintain?

While determining the space you have for planting, remember to consider each plant's mature size. Make sure they are perennials, which return every year; annuals are just that and they will not come back the next year. If the plant is known for aggressive growing, I often leave it in a pot to try to control its spread.

I also suggest having a budget before you go shopping, or you may get carried away and buy too many plants. Been there, done that!

More info can be found at: <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/589>

## **My Favorite Tree**

Our local MGVs listed their favorite trees and the reason why

1. Crabapple and maple - crabapple for color and maple for climbing
2. Buckeye - I recall picking up buckeyes in the cow pasture as a child. To propagate those trees, I now have ten starts in my woodland.
3. River birch and seven-son trees - I love trees with peeling bark
4. Butternuts - I raised several from nuts and have shared trees and nuts with many people
5. Ginkgo - beautiful in summer and fall and insect and disease resistant
6. Maple - love the rich colors in the fall
7. Dogwood - find them interesting; love when they flower.
8. Kwanzan cherry - beautiful pink blooms in spring
9. Sugar maple - we had many and always had a good supply of maple syrup and sugar
10. Swamp white oak - was my dad's favorite and our home farm has them
11. Weeping willow - sound of the breeze through the branches

## **Coshocton Tree Quiz**

1. Name three streets that are names of fruit trees.
2. Name three streets that are names of nut trees.
3. Name ten streets that have had the names of trees.

Answers:  
1. Orange, Mulberry, Plum, Cherry  
2. Chestnut, Walnut, Beech, Hickory  
3. Cedar, Elm, Elder, Ash, Locust, Sycamore, Maple, Pine, Oak, Poplar, Linden, Willow, Fir, Birch

## 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 5	Labor Day (Extension Office closed)	
September 9	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
Sept. 30 – Oct. 6	Coshocton County Fair	
October 14	The Real Dirt on WTNS 99.3	9:00 – 10:00 am
October 22 – 23	Fall Foliage and Farm Tour	

***"The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools." ~ Henry Beston***

**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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