

July 2015

Green Thumb Prints



Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers

Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Maintaining your hanging baskets
- Growing roses in containers
- July flower of the month (Daylily) by Bill Jones
- Training info, Activity Photos, More

Dates to Remember!

Thursday, July 9: 6:00. MGVS Picnic at the Lannings, 515 Church Hill Dr.

Saturday, July 18: 2015 Annual Gardening Symposium, Simpson Garden, Bowling Green, See page 11.

Upcoming Events

August 3: Presentation on "Saving Seeds" by Bill Jones. 6:30 at the Hancock Co. Library.

August 28—29: State MGVS Conference. For information, go to page 13.

End of August: Hancock County Fair

September 14: Library presentation by Bill Lanning.

August 25: Tree Tour & Talk. See Page 12.

Coordinator's Corner

by Bill Jones

The planting is done and now it's time to enjoy the beauty and bounty of our efforts. Of course the weeds and insects want to enjoy our gardens also, so we can't become too complacent.

Thanks to all who attended the June Plant Exchange and Ice Cream Social. Thanks to Lyn Maa and Marty Davis for providing our ice cream and drinks. We had a good selection of plants and the weather was perfect for the event.

As of June 25, we have experienced 1092 growth-degree days as compared to 1059 in 2014, and 1118 (2013), 1389 (2012) and 1061 (2011). The heat experienced so far this year has been about average for the past 5 years.

Thanks to Patty Woodard for her article in the Courier in June on Gypsy Moth in Hancock County. I will have an article in the July 25 Courier discussing July gardening.

Our July meeting will be our annual picnic to be held on July 9, at the home of Bill and Anita Lanning, 515 Church Hill, Findlay at 6:00 PM. Everyone please bring a dish to share.

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Coordinator's Corner— continued

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We have had some questions regarding whether we should continue with the “Green Thumb Prints” since we now have the Facebook page. I would like to hear from you regarding your opinion on this. Do you regularly look at the Facebook page? What is the best way to keep you informed of educational opportunities and happenings for the MGVs?

There will be 3 judged flower shows at the Hancock County Fair this year along with 3 judged flower arrangement shows. It would be nice to have a lot of Master Gardener entries in these shows. The flower shows will include roses, dahlias, and daylilies. The flower arrangement shows will have the themes, “Fairy Gardens”, “Down on the Farm”, and “Sunny Daze.” Be sure to download the Fair Premium book or pick one up at the Fair Office to know the categories to be judged and how to make your entries.

Enjoy the summer and continue to help your friends and neighbors with their gardening questions.



Different Type of Water Feature

Love the idea of a stream meandering through your garden? Hate the idea of dealing with algae bloom, water-loving pests and finicky pumps? Here's a great alternative — use stones to put in a dry stream. Excavate the shape and length of your “stream,” line it with landscape fabric (to keep the weeds down later) and fill it with stones. Plant along its banks to blend it into the landscape, and you're all set.

Tip from gardengatenotes.com

Community Garden Update

Karl and Lynn Farwig and their many helpers are doing a fantastic job doing work at the Community Garden. Their dedication and hard work has resulted in food and education for many! Crops harvested on this 50' by 70' plot is for City Mission, Chopin Hall, and our own use. If you haven't done so yet, stop by and you will be amazed. Volunteers are always welcomed.



Maintaining Your Hanging Basket



Are your hanging baskets looking tired? Especially after all the rain we have been getting. The keys to maintaining healthy, nice looking baskets fall into three categories: water, fertilizer, and other maintenance.

Water

Watering is the hardest part of maintaining a hanging basket, or any container plant. You can't keep the soil too wet because it will result in root rot problems, while you can't keep it too dry or the plant wilts and dies. You want to hit the happy medium.

Here are the rules of thumb for watering hanging baskets:

1. Be sure your pot has drainage holes
2. Water only when the top of the soil is dry to the touch
3. Water until water comes out of the drainage holes
4. Don't allow your pot to sit in standing water

Here are a few more tips on watering hanging baskets. Early in spring when your plants are smaller and the temperatures are lower, you may only have to water every 3 or 4 days. As the plants get larger and the mercury creeps higher, be prepared to water every day. With small pots or water "pigs" you might even have to water twice a day. You will also need to water more quickly if it is a windy day. Wind will cause pots to dry out more quickly, especially hanging baskets. Larger pots will dry-out less quickly than small pots.

Fertilizer

Your container plants are only getting nutrition if you provide it to them. After watering, fertilizer is the most important thing to keep your plants thriving. Add a slow or controlled-release fertilizer to your hanging basket right after you buy or plant it. This will provide your basket with a good constant dose of fertilizer. Be sure to follow the directions on your fertilizer package to make sure you don't damage your plants.

By midsummer, use a water-soluble fertilizer once every one to two weeks. Again, follow the directions on your fertilizer package. Do this for two reasons -- by this time the plants are very large and to keep them going takes more fertilizer plus some of the controlled-release fertilizer has already been used by the plant. Use a dose of water-soluble fertilizer after a heavy rain. A lot of water going through your basket, like you get with a big rain storm, can wash out fertilizer. A dose of water-soluble fertilizer the next time you water is a good,

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Maintaining Your Hanging Basket—Continued

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quick way to give your plant some food.

Other Maintenance

There are two other things you may want to do to help maintain your basket for the long-haul. First, some plants may need deadheading. Maybe the plants you selected do not need deadheading for continuous bloom, but some plants may benefit from it.

The second thing you may want to do is a midsummer trim. Hanging baskets can become a bit stretched or open looking over time, even when you are doing everything right. If this happens, give your baskets a "haircut" in mid to late summer. This simply means to take a sharp pair of scissors or shears and trim a few inches off the entire basket, like when you get your hair trimmed. How much you cut off is up to you, a light trim of an inch or two is usually plenty, but there are times when a bigger trim might be good. If you have long trailing pieces that you don't like, feel free to cut them off.

Giving the basket a haircut will rob you of some flowers, but it will increase branching, tighten the habit, and help keep the basket looking good long-term. Your flowers should come back within a few days to a week or so and your plant, given enough fertilizer, is likely to start growing more strongly again.

With proper care, your hanging baskets and containers will look good all summer long.

Source: information and photo
from Proven Winners website

Walking Onions

While many gardeners plant onions every year, Egyptian onions (*Allium proliferum*) can plant themselves. Egyptian "walking" onions are also called winter onions, topsetting onions, top onions and tree onions.

Most onion types are really biennial plants that take two years to grow and set seed. However, Egyptian onions are perennial.

These hardy onions grow bulbils (bublets) that set at the top of their leaf stalks. These bulbils look just like tiny onions sitting on the top of tall, sturdy leaf stalks. When the tops get too heavy for the stalks to support them, they fall over and plant themselves wherever they land in the garden. Then they'll grow through the season, overwinter and start the process again the next season.

Because Egyptian onions can move easily through the vegetable garden, they're sometimes referred to as "walking" onions. The walking means they'll grow new leaves and topsets each year. They're a fine choice for gardeners who like to let their plants go walking. If you decide to plant Egyptian onions, be sure to place them in a part of the vegetable garden where they won't be in the way when they plant themselves. Planting them in a large container gives you more control on where they'll end up when the tops topple.

In case you can't find these perennial vegetables by their Egyptian onion name, ask for topsetting onions, tree onions, top onions or – because they can survive cold winters -- winter onions.



Source: vegetablegardener.com
Photo: vegetablegardener.com

Can you grow roses in containers?

Growing roses in containers is a lot like growing them in your garden bed. The same keys to healthy roses apply: sun, great soil, fertilization, ample air circulation and consistent watering.

Selecting Roses

Choose varieties that are more compact and disease resistant. Climbing roses and large shrub roses are better suited for the garden bed unless you have room for very large planters and trellises.

Why grow roses in containers?

Design flexibility.

Container grown roses are an easy addition to a patio or deck. When placed on casters, containers are easy to move.



Ease of Access

Place container roses by a door or open window to enjoy their fragrance.

Eliminates the need to bend and stoop in the garden to deadhead spent blooms, remove diseased foliage and keep the soil clear of debris.

Watering and Feeding

Growing roses in containers does require a bit more diligence when it comes to watering and fertilizing. Containers dry out more quickly than garden beds.

The smaller the container, the more quickly the soil will become dry.

Water container roses at least once a day (early morning and evening hours are best).

When the soil is dry just under the surface, your roses need more watering.

The extra watering container roses require leaches nutrients out of the soil more quickly than in a garden.

Container grown roses may need feeding every two weeks or weekly with a diluted solution of fertilizer.

Re-potting

As the roses grow, increase the size of the container, or simply cut back the plant and its roots to maintain a smaller size.

Refresh potting soil every few years.

Winter Protection

Where frost and freezing temperatures occur, protect container grown roses in the garden shed or basement.

If garden space allows, plant the roses, container and all, in the garden and top dress with mulch

Source: hortmag.com

Don't forget!! - MGV Picnic

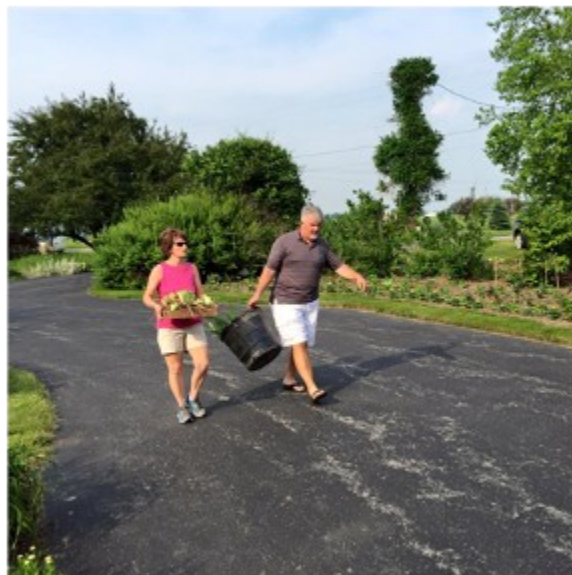
Thursday, July 10 at 6:00

Bring a dish to share

Hosted by: Bill & Anita Lanning

Location: 515 Church Hill Dr., Findlay

Thank you Bill Jones for hosting the MGV plant exchange. Many plants were brought and exchanged and the ice cream was delicious! Below are photos of the event.



Updated OSU Factsheets

New & Updated Entomology Fact Sheets

- Japanese Beetle, ENT-46-14 (pdf only) - Updated 01/21/15
- Stink Bugs on Soybeans and Other Field Crops, ENT-48-15 (pdf only) - Updated 01/21/15

New & Updated Horticulture and Crop Science Fact Sheet

- Floriculture Crop Seed Quality and Seed Handling, HYG-1261-15

Fresh Harvest Farm Advanced Training Presentation

On Saturday June 13th we visited Fresh Harvest Farm in Richwood Ohio. Doug and Jeni Blackburn established fresh Harvest Farms LLC in 2011 as an agricultural business dedicated to growing chemical free produce with aquaponics in a commercial size greenhouse. They also wanted to teach others how to grow food using this type of sustainable agriculture.

Aquaponics combines aquaculture (raising fish in a contained environment) and hydroponics (growing crops in a soilless, recirculating water system). Using gravity, water is drained from the fish tank into a media bed. Here, beneficial bacteria break down the toxic ammonia in fish waste to Nitrite and then to Nitrogen, which is then used by the plants. This now filtered water is pumped to the grow troughs, where a variety of plants are grown. The roots pick up the nutrients in the water then the water finally flows from the growing beds back into the tank of fish. In an aquaponic system, crops are noted to grow 2-3 times faster than traditional soil environments.

When using aquaponics in a controlled greenhouse environment, fish and organic produce can be grown year-round to provide a healthy food source to anyone, anywhere.

As a sustainable agriculture, aquaponics can grow fish and produce using less than 2% of the water, and 70-90% less energy than traditional farming, while producing eight times the vegetables in the same area in less time (excerpt taken from freshharvestfarmllc.com)

For this reason simple aquaponic systems can be adapted for use in countries where land and water is scarce.



July Flower of the Month-Daylily

By Bill Jones



Like the true lilies, the Daylily belongs to the Liliaceae family. However they fall into is the Hemerocallis genus and not the Liliaceae genus. The name Hemerocallis translates from Greek into *Hemera* meaning "a day" and *Kallos* meaning "beauty". So Hemerocallis means "*Beauty for a day*" and from there we get daylily since each individual flower lasts only for one day.

While Linneaus classified the Hemerocallis in 1753, the earliest known references to daylilies are from China around 2697 BC. Even though the plants have been known for a long time there is still great confusion as to the taxonomy of the 30 or so species within the genus. From these all the modern variations have been hybridized.

Unlike the lilies, daylilies do not have a true bulb. They instead have a crown, which is a junction point from where the root system, leaves, and flowers grow. The crown is very important to the plant and if it becomes damaged, parts or the entire plant will die. Also, unlike lilies which have their blooms at the top of the leafed stem, the daylilies have their bloom at the top of a leafless flower stalk or scape. The scape grows directly from the crown.

The hardiness of a daylily is often represented by what happens to the foliage during the wintertime. The foliage falls into one of three main classifications, these are Dormant, Semi-Evergreen and Evergreen.

Dormants are the most hardy. They are more northern growing plants. In the fall their leaves turn yellow/brown and die. They can be easily taken off the crown. The plants then stay dormant through-out the winter until spring.



Evergreens are the least hardy. Their leaves remain green all winter in the South, but usually turns brown in the North. These plants are sensitive to alternate freezing and thawing so it is a good idea to add mulch in areas this might be a problem. The mulch will also protect them from starting to sprout too early in the spring when chances of frost is still possible.



The **Semi-evergreens** are somewhere in-between.

For the most part the scapes are branchless except for the upper third. The number of branches varies from species or cultivar to cultivar. The branching can sub branch as well. Some of the new hybrids can branch 4-6 ways. This greatly increases the number of flower buds per scape, and extends the bloom time. Newly

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July Flower of the Month-Daylily —Continued

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planted or divided daylilies may have shorter scapes for a year or two. In the third season, the plant is usually sufficiently settled that the scapes grow to their proper height.



The bud count refers to the number of flower buds on each scape. There can be as few as 10 or over 50 buds per scape. Generally most daylilies have produced all their flower buds by the time the first flower is open. Recently a new development in daylilies is known as bud-builders. These varieties build new buds as the season progresses greatly extending the blooming season. Another important factor that makes a variety a marketable daylily is the number of scapes that are produced per clump. Some produce large numbers while other may have a spectacular flower and good branching only to produce just a few scapes in a season. The best results are with lots of flowers on lots of scapes.

Daylilies prefer at least six hours a day for the paler shades, less for the darker reds and purples. If flowers fade, wilt or burn in direct sun, move them to filtered shade.

Hybridizers have extended the genus' color range from the yellow, orange, and pale pink of the species, to vibrant reds, purples, lavenders, greenish tones, near-black, near-white, and more. However, hybridizers have not yet been able to produce a daylily with primarily blue flowers in forms of blue such as azure blue, cobalt blue, and sky blue. Flowers of some cultivars have small areas of cobalt blue.

Daylily gardens should be mulched well with peat or compost in spring. Do not over feed with nitrogen as this causes larger quantities of foliage and less flower (5-10-15 and 6-12-12 are good ratios of phosphorous and potash). If the foliage turns yellow, this can be an indication that too much (or too little) nitrogen has been applied. Waiting to fertilize until the plant is



established will encourage initial root growth. It is best to fertilize in the early spring just as new growth commences, and again in midsummer. Daylilies prefer a pH of neutral or slightly acidic (6.0 - 6.5). They should not be planted too close to the roots of broad-leaved or evergreen trees.

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July Flower of the Month-Daylily —Continued

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Daylilies look best if given some grooming through the year. Trim away any browned and dead portions during the growing season to improve the plants condition and appearance. Pruning will stimulate growth, so limit pruning within two months of the first frost. Remove spent blooms and seedpods after flowering to improve appearance and encourage re-bloom. When all the flowers on a scape are finished, cut off the scape close to ground level. During winter, collapsed and faded foliage act as a natural protection for the crown, but you should remove any rotted or damaged foliage.



Patented plants will have a patent number or indicator that a patent has been applied for. Patented plants may not be propagated without the owner's permission or until the patent term has expired.

Very few pests and diseases trouble *Hemerocallis*, slugs and snails being the major hazard. Sometimes aphids or thrips can cause failure of the flower buds to open and plants grown indoors can be affected by red spider. Daylilies are not troubled by lily beetle or any other problems of bulbous lilies. Root-knot nematodes may be a problem if your subdivision is on former cropland (especially soybean and tobacco land). Except for crown rot, diseases are not a daylily issue. Crown rot seldom occurs but it is frequently fatal. Having a well-drained soil and not transplanting daylilies during the summer heat reduces crown rot potential.

The Tawny Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*), and the sweet-scented Lemon-lily (*H. lilioasphodelus*) were early imports from England to 17th-century American gardens and soon escaped from those gardens. The introduced Tawny Daylily is now common in many natural areas, and some people think that it is a native wildflower. Its nonscientific names include Railroad Daylily and Roadside Daylily, Outhouse Lily, Tiger Lily, and Wash-house Lily.

The flowers of some species are edible and are used in Chinese cuisine.



The secret of beautiful daylily beds is having a lot of different ones. Some start blooming in June, most in July and August, but some continue on right up until the first hard frost, if they have sufficient water and fertilizer. While it is true that they are very easy to grow, providing a sunny spot, water, and fertilizer make them perform even better.” “Reblooming” is a desirable trait, which many hybridizers are trying to achieve. Look for early bloomers and late ones. When you have several of each, you will really have a great display.

Simpson Garden Park 2015 Annual Gardening Symposium

“In the Beginning...”

Saturday, July 18th

9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Simpson Garden Park, 1291 Conneaut Ave.,
Bowling Green

Please join the **Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department** at Simpson Garden Park for this first ever day - long symposium for skilled and beginner gardeners alike. Simpson Garden Park is an eleven acre garden in Bowling Green, Ohio, which showcases a nationally recognized Daylily collection a nationally recognized Hosta display garden, a “Wild Ones” state recognized native plants garden, and a variety of other gardens including those with Asian themes, Sensory Gardens, Healing Gardens, and hands-on gardens for children.

This year’s theme for the symposium is, *“In the Beginning...”*. The theme refers to developing your garden from the start, whether it is a first time try, or a revamp of an existing space. Gardeners of all skill levels will benefit from our speakers and their knowledge and experience and will take away ideas and enthusiasm for taking nothing and turning it into something!

This year’s speakers include:

Dr. Nathan Crook will share his knowledge of the history of this area, how it developed geologically and how people both native and immigrant impacted the landscape.

Dr. Laura Deeter will focus on designing a garden that moves away from the traditional and transforms it into a dynamic multi-dimensional space to be enjoyed by all members of the family.

Hal Mann’s presentation will focus on the identification of native plants, appropriate uses in home landscapes, and some common misconceptions regarding their use.

Dave Dannaher will discuss the use of conifers in landscape design and will cover their habits, color, and texture.

To register, complete the form at the right.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Dept 2015 Annual Gardening Symposium

“In the Beginning...”

Saturday, July 18th, 2015

Simpson Garden Park

1291 Conneaut Ave.

Bowling Green, Ohio

9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

\$25 per person, (includes symposium, box lunch and refreshments throughout the day)

Cash or check ONLY... please make checks payable to the:

**Bowling Green Parks and Recreation
Foundation, 1245 W. Newton Road, Bowling
Green, Ohio 43402.**

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

For questions, please call
Chris Gajewicz at 419.353.0301

Registration deadline
is August 1



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

MGV County _____

Lunch options:

Chicken Salad _____

Roast Beef Wrap _____

Vegetarian Wrap _____

Please make checks payable to:
OSU Extension

Send registrations to:

OSU Extension
Miami County
201 W Main Street
Troy, OH 45373

Questions? Contact: Deb Castle at
937-409-1582 or debcastle@live.com

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Tree Tour & Talk

August 25, 2015
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Join Master Gardener Volunteers from the tristate area for a tour of Miami County's "Barboretum." The day will include a two hour walking tour on the 27 acre estate filled with unique and hard to find deciduous trees and ornamental conifers, among others. Also, enjoy the following talks

- *Barboretum Development*
presented by Fred Hower
- *Urban Diversity*
presented by Bill Hendricks
- *Great Trees for the Landscape*
presented by Steve Foltz

Master Gardener Volunteers can earn
5 continuing education credits

Registration is \$60 per person
includes tour, talks, lunch and
handouts

2015 State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference



***August 28 and 29, 2015
Maumee Bay State Park
1750 Park Road Oregon, Ohio – Lucas County***

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- *Beautiful location on the water*
- *Friday – three terrific tour options*
- *Friday Dinner – MGV awards dinner*
- *Friday Night – bonfire by the bay*
- *Saturday – keynote address and concurrent sessions*
- *Vendors, silent auction items, networking, celebrating, and more!*

Lucas County Master Gardener Volunteers and the Lucas County Extension Office are hosting this year's State MGV Conference. The program and activities look to be thoroughly enjoyable. You may drive back and forth, stay in a guest room in the lodge, gather with a group in one of the many cabins, or rough it a bit in the campground. The weekend should be special. It is possible to bring your entire family and stay over on Sunday to really enjoy the entire weekend.

For more information, go to

<http://lucas.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers>

The Master Gardener *Green Thumb Print* is a publication of the Hancock County Extension Office, 7868 County Road 140, Findlay, OH, 45840, 419-422-3851. The Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator is Bill Jones.

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.

For deaf & hard of hearing, please contact Hancock County Extension using your preferred communication (email, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 am & 5 pm EST Monday-Friday. Inform the operator to dial 419-422-3851.