# Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County

Master Gardener Volunteers

Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

### **July 2018**

Next Meeting: July 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - Summer Picnic at the home of Dick Deerhake, 125 W. Edgar, Findlay. Bring a dish and chair.

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# Coordinator's Corner

Many thanks to Betsy DeFrancesco for her excellent article in the Courier on June 23 on Dwarf Conifers. Our July article on July 21, will be from Linda Casey on how to best use Mulch.

Our annual picnic will be held on Thursday, July 12 at Dick Deerhake's and Lyn Maa's home located at 125 W. Edgar, Findlay. I hope to see you all there. Remember to bring a hot or cold dish and a chair. We will eat at 6:00 PM.

Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events included in this *Green Thumb Prints* and put on your personal calendar the events in which you can participate.

There will be a flower show at the Hancock County Fair this year where you can show your roses, dahlias, zinnias and daylilies. It would be great to have a Master Gardener take first place in these shows.

If you can spare an hour during July, it would be very helpful to work in the Community Garden by weeding in the rows to keep them looking good. If you want to know more of what is needed most, just contact John and Linda Leiendecker.

The Daylily Tour in Findlay will be held on July 6.7.8 and will be worth your time. Also, the Findlay Garden Club tour of gardens will be the next weekend.

Ed Lentz will be on vacation during the week of July 4. We can expect to receive more questions for our MGVs to answer during that week.

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

Bill

# HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

**MEETING MINUTES** 

#### June 2018

Bill Jones called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. following an informative brown bag presentation by Cassie Anderson, Extension Educator for 4-H youth development at the Ohio State University Extension office for Hancock County. She spoke on Child Abuse/Neglect – Recognition and Reporting. Twenty-one Master Gardeners were in attendance.

Bill mentioned that Jerry Bibler had made a request to be given Emeritus status on the Master Gardener roster. A motion was made by Noreen Walters and seconded by Rose Morrison with a unanimous vote of the members present to accept Jerry's request.

Bill also mentioned that Pat Flinn and Patty Woodard had requested leaves for the remainder of 2018 for personal reasons. Bill mentioned that when requesting a leave, the Master Gardener is required to obtain 10 education hours prior to returning to active status. In addition, John Leiendecker will be very limited the next few months as to the help he is able to give due to major surgery. He is doing well but doctors have limited his activities at this time.

Bill presented participation awards to Randy Greeno and Linda Laux who were unable to attend our 2018 Recognition Dinner in April.

There was discussion on MGV participation with the Hancock County 4-H youth garden judging for 2018. An informational meeting for participating judges will be at the extension office on Thursday, July 5 at 6:00 p.m. Visitation and judging of the 4-H gardens will occur on Monday, July 9.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Ann Woolum reviewed expenses and income for the month. Her report was accepted by the membership.

Administrative Coordinator Report: After receiving an inquiry from an MGV member earlier in the month Cheryl Miller asked for discussion related to the length and content of our Green Thumb Prints newsletter. General consensus by the members in attendance was the length, articles and calendar of events were good. One comment made related to information for the next monthly MGV meeting date and sponsors for refreshments was to place this information at the beginning of the newsletter so it is easy to find.

<u>Community Garden:</u> Linda Leiendecker mentioned that help in weeding is always appreciated at the community garden. If you are not familiar with the layout of the community garden but would like to help please contact Linda for additional information as to where she needs help.

Karl Farwig stated that he has also started a second community garden at the Tom Lawrence farm/homestead. If you would like to help Karl with that garden please contact him.

<u>Summer Picnic</u>: Dick Deerhake stated that he would appreciate a count as to how many were planning to attend our summer picnic on July 12. Please contact Dick if you are planning to attend. Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share.

<u>Library Programs:</u> Noreen Walters shared that the library has asked us to plan for a fall children's program to occur on a Saturday in October.

Brown Bag 2019: If you have ideas for brown bag training presentations in 2019 please contact Bob Campbell.

MGV Training Class: A Hancock County training class is planned for the Spring of 2019. Please spread the word to anyone you think may be interested in enrolling. Karl stated that he has collected about 12 names of individuals who might have an interest in the class. Bill stated that the monies donated as a memorial in memory of John Andrews will be used toward scholarships for participants.

Ask a Master Gardener: Karl stated that they are averaging 3 to 4 questions a week.

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### ips and Interesting Things –

Bob Campbell in an attempt to scare the birds away shared with us a motion activated "owl" with eyes that light up and hooting sounds that he purchased. Initially it seems to have helped but only time will tell if it helps long term.

Karl Farwig asked if anyone was planning to attend a Diagnostic Training workshop on July 9. If you are contact him if you would like to form a carpool.

Doris Salis shared that the Findlay Garden Club Tour would be July 14 and 15.

#### Next Meeting:

July 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - Summer Picnic at the home of Dick Deerhake, 125 W. Edgar, Findlay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

# Calendar of Events April 2018

					BRIEF	
DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
				Miami Co		
				Dispatch		
				Center 210		
Monday,	Diagnostic	9:00 -		Marybill	Diagnostic	937-440-3945
July 9	Workshop	4:00 -	\$35	Drive, Troy	Update	bennett709@osu.edu
July 2	vv or Kshop	4.00	ΨΟΟ	Direc, 110y	o puate	bennett/0/wosu.edu
				Lyn		
Thursday,		6:00		Maa/Dick		Lyn Maa/Dick
July 12	MGV Picnic	pm	N/A	Deerhake	Annual Picnic	Deerhake
v						
Wednesda	Diagnostic			Portage		
y, July 18	Workshop			County		Bill Jones
				Putman		
				County Ext.		
				Office		D 11 110 700 (001
T2 : 1	D: 4:	0.00		1206 E.	D: 4'	Beth 419-523-6294
Friday,	Diagnostic	9:00 - 4:00	g25	Second,	Diagnostic	scheckelhoff.11@osu.ed
July 20	Workshop	4:00	\$35	Ottawa	Update	u
Saturday,	Courier					
July 21	Article		N/A	The Courier	Mulch	Linda Casey
ouly 21			1 1/12	The Source	TVI WICH	Zinaa Casey
	Brown Bag is					
Thursday,	6 month			OSUE		
August 9	review	6:00	N/A	Office	Review	Everyone
					Ann Woolum &	
	Refreshment				the Leindeckers	
Thursday,	s for MGV			OSUE	will provide	
August 9	Meeting		N/A	Office	refreshments	Ann, John, Linda
	MGV	7.00		OCHE		D'II I / N/I 'I
Thursday,	Monthly Meeting	7:00p	NI/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Mosting	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
August 9	Meeting	m	N/A	Office	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	DeltZ
Saturday,	Courier					
August 25	Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Ann Woolum
riugust 23	1 II CICIC		1 1/17	The Courier	1 M CICIC	A AMAI TY OUTUIN
				1		

September	No MGV Meeting				No meeting due to fair	
Tuesday, September	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:30	N/A	Bluffton Library	Fall Garden Cleanup & Pruning	Need presenter
Monday, September 17	Library Presentation by Tim Brugeman	6:00	N/A	Hancock County Library	Seasonal Color Landscapes	Tim Brugeman
Saturday, September 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Cheryl Miller
September 28 - 29	2018 State MGV Conference	Fri & Sat		Hamilton County Cincinnati	Rooted in Ohio various topics	go.osu.edu/2018State MGV Conference
Tuesday, October 2	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:30	N/A	Bluffton Library	Fall Bulbs & Seasonal Color	Tim Brugeman
Thursday, October 11	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00	N/A	OSUE Office	Results of 2018 Phenology Garden	Bill Jones & Rose Morrison
Thursday, October 11	Refreshment s for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Barb Phillips, Barb Sherman, & Linda Laux will provide refreshments	Barb, Barb, Linda
Thurs, October 11	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00	N/A	OSUE Office	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
Saturday, October 20	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	TBD	Laurie Pressel
Monday, October 22	Library Presentation by Pat Flinn	6:30	N/A	Hancock County Library	To Be Determined	Pat Flinn
Thursday,	Brown Bag	6:00	N/A	OSUE	Flora of New	Doris Salis

November 8	Presentation			Office	Zealand	
Thursday, November 8	Refreshment s for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Karla Dennis & Lauri Pressel will provide refreshments	Karla, Lauri
Thursday, November 8	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00	N/A	OSUE Office	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
Wednesda y, November 14	Fostoria Garden Club	Noon	N/A	Kaubisch Library, Fostoria	Fall & Spring Seasonal Color	Tim Brugeman
Saturday, November 24	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Sunday, November 25	Wreath Class	2:00 - 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Monday, November 26	Wreath Class	6:30		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, November 27	Wreath Class	6:30		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Wed., November 28	Wreath Class	6:30		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Sunday, December 2	Wreath Class	2:00- 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, December 6	Wreath Class	6:30		Upper Church	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, December	Christmas Potluck	6:00	Bring a dish		MGV Christmas Party	Barb Sherman, Marge Miller, Marilynn Beltz

13						
Saturday,						
December	Courier					
22	Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Wed.,	Fostoria			Kaubisch		
March 13,	Garden Club			Library,	Spring Garden	Need Volunteer
2019	(Carol Kinn)	Noon	N/A	Fostoria	Makeovers	Contact Tim Brugeman

# **Use Caution With Spreading Plants**





Vinca minor is a plant with a high potential for an invasive habit. Do not plant! Photo provided by Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension.

People often select plants first for their beauty and second for their functionality in the garden. Frequently, we don't know or don't consider a plant's behavior when we're selecting them. Almost by definition, a species that is an effective ground cover will have a spreading habit. But does that make the species aggressive or invasive?

There can be much confusion about the meaning of the terms aggressive and invasive. Some plants, given their optimal habitat, can become quite prolific in the garden. A plant can be considered *aggressive* if it spreads and has the potential to take over a garden area. However, some planting sites may call for an aggressive habit.

A spreading plant can be considered *invasive* if it can also escape the garden setting and move into natural areas (prairies, wetlands, and so on) and displace native vegetation. Truly invasive plants have the potential to dominate natural vegetation.

Many useful plants get bad reputations for their spreading behavior when they may simply be in the wrong place or managed the wrong way. Some spreading ornamental plants have a high propensity for becoming invasive. You should always avoid using these plants in the landscape. The publication we link to below lists some of these plants to avoid.

As you consider what to plant, it may seem that more and more plants are classified as invasive — and you would be correct. There are more invasive plants for several reasons, including an increasingly unstable climate, more gardeners who unwittingly plant invasives, greater scrutiny of invasives, and changes in species (that is, individual species have adapted to cooler or warmer environments).



Vinca major is a plant with a high potential for an invasive habit. Do not plant!

Photo provided by Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension.

To help you make better informed plant selections, we recently revised our publication <u>Spreading</u> <u>Ornamental Plants: Virtues and Vices</u> (Purdue Extension publication HO-295-W, formerly HLA-1-W).

# **Scouting for Pests in the Garden**

**Leaf miners** tunnel between leaf layers in chard, spinach, lamb's quarters, and beet greens leaving a light green meandering trail behind. Often you don't notice them until you cook up the greens and find a lot of tiny worms. Yuck!

**Cutworms** are one of the many critters that do their dastardly deeds at night. In the morning you'll find plants chewed off at the soil line leaving only stubs behind.



Sometimes if you dig around the base of the plants you'll find a fat cutworm sleeping it off and you can remove him from the premises in any way you choose.

Another nighttime visitor is the **slug**. If large ragged holes are appearing in your hostas and petunia leaves, the slugs have been dining there. The only tip they leave are the silvery trails of dried mucus they slid out on.

We've all seen green **aphids** on plants in the springtime, but every summer we get a crop of red aphids on our heliopsis plants.



They are easy to dislodge with a strong spray of water and usually don't come back.

I love my swallowtail butterflies, but after hosting about 20 of their caterpillars, my dill patch is looking pretty ragged.



Hopefully, it will have time to spring back before the cukes are ready to pickle.

#### **BEETLEMANIA**

Sweet potatoes and morning glories share a pest, the **tortoise beetle**.



It has a hard shell and quietly rasps round holes in the leaves. Sometimes I find a few on the tomatoes and eggplants. In the past we have had the golden tortoise beetle which looks like it has been gilded with gold leaf—very shiny and too pretty to kill.

**Flea beetles** are tiny black hoppers that eat small holes in the leaves making them look like they have been hit with mini-buckshot. Their larvae, white grubs with brown heads, are 3/4 inch long - much larger than the adults. They live in the soil and eat plant roots.

If you grow asparagus don't ignore it over the summer. Make sure to check for **asparagus beetles**. There are two kinds. One is black and white and appears very early in the spring. The other one is bright orange and it is active right now (mid-summer), laying eggs on the fronds that hatch into fat slimy worms that hungrily defoliate the plants. Like many beetles they tend to drop when disturbed so stick a small container of soapy water under them and shake the frond a bit and they will fall right into it. The larvae cling on tighter and have to be squished.

Since we keep the young cucumber and squash plants covered with reemay to discourage the beetles from attacking the plants before they are strong enough to survive, the early **cucumber beetles** were at a loss.



I found them sitting on potatoes and tomatoes, not finding much to eat. This kept the population down a bit so when we finally uncovered the plants as they started to blossom they were not overwhelmed with bugs.

There are a few squash bugs starting to show up and lay eggs on the underside of the zucchini leaves.



We try to squish these eggs daily to keep future generations of bugs to a minimum.

**Mexican bean beetles** are something I have not had to contend with yet, which is a blessing. One female can lay over 500 eggs! If your bean leaves are being skeletonized check the underside for clusters of yellow eggs and crush them. Handpick the beetles or knock them into a bucket of soapy water and squish or drown the spiny yellow larvae.

Colorado potato beetles will not only eat potatoes but other nightshades as well including tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and petunias—that is most of my garden! Like the bean beetles they lay masses of yellow eggs on the undersides of the leaves. When the brick red larvae hatch they eat large amounts of foliage. By now you know the drill—handpick the adults and squish or drown them and their offspring.

### PLANT DISEASES

While you are scouting be sure to check for signs of plant diseases, too. Hot, humid weather is perfect for encouraging fungal and bacterial diseases, so watch those tomato leaves.



Powdery mildew will start showing up soon, too.

If your cukes suddenly wilt and no amount of water revives them, you probably have **cucumber wilt** caused by the cucumber beetle. Remove and destroy these plants and start some new ones in another spot. There is still time for you to harvest some cukes before fall. Cover the young plants with a lightweight row cover until they start to flower. Late plantings often are not as bothered by the beetles as the early cukes are.

Be vigilant; if you stay ahead of the bugs you will be able to keep them under control without resorting to using chemicals.

Robin Sweetser, The Old Farmer's Almanac and the All-Seasons Garden Guide

## Asiatic vs. Oriental Lilies... Same Plants or Different?

Erik Draper, OSU Extension



I marveled at the incredible display of blooms and colors on the patch of lilies that I could see as I looked out from the deck over the Drapescape. Because of the intense colors, I just had to go get my camera and take some pictures. As I started reflecting on the names of these plants, I realized that I had to label the pictures and two names started to flip back and forth in my mind; namely, Asiatic or Oriental or are these colloquial terms or are these actually one in the same for one plant or were the plants different? What scary thoughts for a woody plant Crabarian to have about perennial plants! Ding, ding, ding—time to move from guessing about plants to knowing!



Beautiful colors of Asiatic lilies

So here is what I have learned... Although the terms, Asiatic and Oriental lilies are often used interchangeably, they are definitely NOT the same plants! The Liliaceae family, to which these plants belong, is a huge, diverse and visually stunning group of related plants. The first and easiest way to distinguish between these two types of lilies is to ask when they produce flowers. The typical timing for bloom of Asiatic lilies is in late spring and early summer (June and July). On the other hand, Oriental lilies blooms come on in late summer (August and September).



Other differences involve the size of the flower, whether there is a fragrance or not and the actual colors of the flowers. Oriental lily flowers are highly fragrant, emitting a strong, spicy aroma and have petal colors that are mostly red, purple, pink, or white. The flowers themselves are quite large in diameter, ranging about 6-9" across and the petals have ruffled edges! Oriental lily plants can grow to heights of 5-6' and because of their taller size, they'll need to be staked upright so that they don't flop over from the size and weight of the blooms.



The stunning Oriental lily known as 'Stargazer'

In contrast, Asiatic lilies flowers have no fragrance or aroma; however, their petal colors are brilliant shades of gold, yellow, orange, rose, pink and white. Their flowers are not quite as large in diameter, only ranging 4-6" across and the petals have smooth edges. Asiatic lily plants are shorter than Oriental lilies, growing only to about 2-4' tall therefore, they may only need to be staked upright occasionally.



Alright big flower lovers, there you go, now you know how to identify the differences between the Oriental and Asiatic lilies, so get out there and enjoy correctly identifying those beautiful blooms!

# IT'S TIME TO.....

By: Rosie Lerner, Purdue University Extension Office

## **HOME** (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Closely watch houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place the cut end in rooting media (such as perlite, vermiculite, or peat moss soil mix). Enclose in plastic and keep out of direct sunlight.

## YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those fortunate growers who have a good crop this year, prop up fruit tree branches that are heavily loaded with fruit.
- Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- Many Indiana trees are plagued by "lawnmower blight." Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.
- When watering lawns, apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water in a single application per week. Frequent, light sprinklings will encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought.
- Bluegrass is a cool-season plant and is under great stress during hot, dry summers. If water is not applied, the bluegrass will become dormant and will turn brown, until more favorable conditions arrive in autumn. For extreme dry conditions, rescue watering is required to keep the plants alive, while still dormant. Apply one-half inch of water every 2-4 weeks.
- Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Do not mow when the lawn is under severe drought stress.
- Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

# **GARDEN** (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Supplement natural rainfall, if any, to supply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week in a single application.
- Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest. Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans, and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- Complete succession planting of bush beans and sweet corn.
- Harvest summer squash while small and tender for best quality.
- Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. Supersweet corn varieties maintain their peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- Mulch garden to control weeds and conserve soil moisture.

- Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders, and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent them from developing a green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- Allow blossoms on newly planted everbearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with 0.5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.
- Harvest raspberries when fully colored and easily separated from stem. After harvest is complete, prune out the fruiting canes to make room for new growth.
- Remove faded blossoms from annual and perennial flowers to prevent seeds from forming.
- Condition flowers cut from the garden for arranging by removing the lower leaves, placing cut stem ends in warm water, and storing them overnight in a cool location.
- The foliage of spring-flowering bulbs can be removed safely after it fades. This also is a good time to lift the bulbs for transplanting or propagation.

"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. Hancock County Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA. Dr. Cathann A. Kress serves as Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) at The Ohio State University since May 2017.

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."