

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers
Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

June 2018

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Coordinator's Corner

Hopefully, you are finishing up your planting and beginning to feel a little less pressured to get all of the spring work done.

The Community Garden is taking shape and thanks to each of you who have helped John and Linda Leiendecker in getting the garden planted. We are competing again in the state-wide competition to see which MGV groups can provide the most produce to “Feed the Hungry” through “Grow Ohio”. You can obtain volunteer hours for recertification with your work in the Community Garden, as well as in the Phenology Garden and in other public gardens. I am willing to include volunteer hours worked in church gardens also this year.

Our next meeting is June 14 at the OSUE office. Barb Phillips will discuss when to pick veggies, and Cassie Anderson will provide our annual review on how to conduct ourselves around at-risk audiences for our Brown-bag training at 6:00 PM. Our regular meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

Look for Betsy DeFransesco's article in the Courier on June 23.

Remember to keep a daily record of the number of contacts you make with the public. We want to keep track of the number of questions we answer as Master Gardener Volunteers. Your monthly total should then be recorded on the clipboard at our regular meetings.

Bill

HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES

May 2018

No minutes for the plant exchange and ice cream social.

Calendar of Events

April 2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Friday, June 1	Bees in Your Backyard	9:30-3 PM	N/A	Northwest Library 2280 Harding Rd., Columbus	Workshop for OSU Phenology Cooperatives	OSU.edu (Phenology News)
Thursday, June 14	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	When to pick veggies	Barb Phillips / Cassie Anderson
Thursday, June 14	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Peggy Biolchini, Cheryl Miller, Marilynn Beltz will provide refreshments	Peggy, Cheryl, Marilynn
Thursday, June 14	MGV Monthly	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz

	Meeting					
Saturday, June 23	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Dwarf Conifers	Betsy Defrancesco
Monday, July 9	Diagnostic Workshop			Miami County		Bill Jones
Thursday, July 12	MGV Picnic	6:00 AM	N/A	Lyn Maa/Dick Deerhake	Annual Picnic	Lyn Maa/Dick Deerhake
Wednesday , July 18	Diagnostic Workshop			Portage County		Bill Jones
Friday, July 20	Diagnostic Workshop			Putman County		Bill Jones
Saturday, July 21	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	TBD	Linda Casey
Thursday, August 9	Brown Bag is 6 month review	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Review	Everyone
Thursday, August 9	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Ann Woolum & the Leindeckers will provide refreshments	Ann, John, Linda
Thursday, August 9	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
Saturday, August 25	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Ann Woolum
Sept.	No MGV Meeting				No meeting due to fair	
Tuesday, Sept. 4	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:00 PM?	N/A	Bluffton	Fall Garden Cleanup or Pruning	Marty Davis
Monday, Sept. 17	Library Presentation by Tim	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To Be Determined	Tim Brugeman

	Brugeman					
Saturday, Sept. 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Cheryl Miller
Sept. 28 - 29	2018 State MGV Conference	Fri & Sat		Hamilton County Cincinnati	Rooted in Ohio various topics	go.osu.edu/2018State MGVConference
Tuesday, Oct. 2	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:00 PM?	N/A	Bluffton	Fall Bulbs & Seasonal Color	Tim Brugeman
Thursday, Oct. 11	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Results of 2018 Phenology Garden	Bill Jones & Rose Morrison
Thursday, Oct. 11	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Barb Phillips, Barb Sherman, & Linda Laux will provide refreshments	Barb, Barb, Linda
Thurs, Oct. 11	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
Saturday, Oct. 20	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	TBD	Laurie Pressel
Monday, Oct. 22	Library Presentation by Pat Flinn	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To Be Determined	Pat Flinn
Thursday, Nov. 8	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Flora of New Zealand	Doris Salis
Thursday, Nov. 8	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Karla Dennis & Lauri Pressel will provide refreshments	Karla, Lauri
Thursday, Nov. 8	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz

Wednesday , Nov. 14	Fostoria Garden Club	Noon	N/A	Kaubisch Library, Fostoria	Fall & Spring Seasonal Color	Tim Brugeman
Saturday, Nov. 24	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Sunday, Nov. 25	Wreath Class	2:00 - 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Monday, Nov. 26	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, Nov. 27	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Wednesday , Nov. 28	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Sunday, Dec. 2	Wreath Class	2:00- 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, Dec. 6	Wreath Class	6:30 PM		Upper Church	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thursday, Dec. 13	Christmas Potluck	6:00 PM	Bring a dish		MGV Christmas Party	Barb Sherman, Marge Miller, Marilyn Beltz
Saturday, Dec. 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Wed., March 13, 2019	Fostoria Garden Club (Carol Kinn)	Noon lunch	N/A	Kaubisch Library, Fostoria	Spring Garden Makeovers	Need Volunteer Contact Tim Brugeman

Growing Asparagus in the Home Garden

B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service West Lafayette, IN

(This publication has been adapted from The Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet, HYG-160394, written by Carl J. Cantaluppi. The original OSU document can be found online at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ohioline/hyg-fact/1000/1603.html>)



Asparagus is a long-lived perennial vegetable crop that is enjoyed by many gardeners. It can be productive for 15 or more years if given proper care.

Soil requirements Asparagus grows in most any soil as long as it has good drainage. Waterlogged soils favor development of crown and root rot. Asparagus prefers a soil pH of 6.5-7.5, and will not do well if the pH is less than 6.0. Have the soil tested to determine phosphorus and potassium needs; or add 20 lbs. of a 10-20-10 or similar analysis fertilizer per 1,000 square feet, tilled to a 6-inch depth before planting. If natural fertilizer is preferred, you can use a combination of well-rotted livestock manure, blood meal, bone meal, and wood ash. For more information on natural sources of plant nutrients, see the following web sites.

<http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/manures.html>

<http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/orgfert.html>

<http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/soilmgt.html>

Cultivars

Select the new all-male hybrid asparagus cultivars such as Jersey Giant, Jersey King, Jersey Prince, and Jersey Knight. Seeds produced on female plants fall to the ground and become a seedling weed problem in the garden.

Female plants also have to expend more energy to produce the seeds, resulting in decreased yields of spears on female plants. The all male hybrids out-yeild the old Mary Washington cultivars by 3 to 1. To add a bit of color to your asparagus planting, try one of the cultivars such as 'Purple Passion', or 'Sweet Purple'. The purple color does wash away when fully cooked, but the spears are about the size of Jersey Knight. Purple Passion does have both male and female plants so yields will be less than with the all-male hybrids.

Many gardeners still have older cultivars such as Mary Washington and Martha Washington in their planting. Though not as productive as some of the newer cultivars, these old standbys can remain productive for many years.

Planting

Buy one-year-old, healthy, disease-free crowns from a reputable garden center or mail-order company. A crown is the compressed stem and attached root system of a young asparagus plant raised from hybrid seed. Each crown can produce 1/2 lb. of spears per year when fully established.

Gardeners can plant asparagus from seed. However, caring for the small seedlings until they become established can be time consuming. Also, because the seeds are spaced a few inches apart, the crowns will have to be dug and transplanted to their permanent, wider-spaced location in the garden after one year. Thus, one year of potential spear production is lost due to transplanting.

Asparagus can be planted throughout Indiana from early April to late May, after the soil has warmed up to about 50 degrees F. There is no advantage to planting the crowns in cold, wet soils. They will not grow until the soil warms and there is danger of the plants being more susceptible to Fusarium rot if crowns are exposed to cold, wet soils over a prolonged period. Plant the asparagus at either the west or north side of the garden so that it will not shade the other vegetables and will not be injured when the rest of the garden is tilled.

Dig a furrow no deeper than 5 to 6 inches. Research has shown that the deeper asparagus crowns are planted, the more the total yield is reduced. Apply about 1 lb. of 0-46-0 (triple superphosphate) or 2 lbs.

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Vegetables •

HO-96W of 0-20-0 (superphosphate), or 4 pounds of steamed bone meal per 50 feet of row in the bottom of the furrow before planting. This will make phosphorus immediately available to the crowns. Omitting this procedure will result in decreased yields and the spear production will not be as vigorous.

Place the crowns into the furrow 1-1/2 feet apart in the row. If more than one row is planted, space the rows five feet apart from center to center. Wide between-row spacing is necessary because the vigorously growing fern-like foliage will fill in the space quickly. Wide spacing also promotes rapid drying of the foliage to help prevent the onset of fungal diseases.

After planting, back fill the furrow to its original soil level. It isn't necessary to gradually cover the crowns with a few inches of soil until the furrow is filled in. However, do not compact the soil over the newly filled furrow or the emergence of the asparagus will be severely reduced. Spears should emerge within one week in moist soils.

Do not harvest the asparagus during the planting year. Spears will be produced from expanded buds on the crown. As the spears elongate and reach a height of about 8 to 9 inches, the tips will open. The spear will become woody to support the small branchlets of fern-like foliage. The foliage produces carbohydrates for the plant and sends it down to the crown for next year's spear production.

Asparagus is very drought tolerant once established and can usually grow without supplemental watering because it seeks moisture deep in the soil. However, newly-planted crowns will benefit from irrigation during dry spells. Otherwise the plants will become stressed and vigorous growth will be impeded.

Insects

Inspect the foliage throughout the season for insect feeding. Asparagus beetles chew on the foliage, causing the stem to turn brown and reducing the yield the next year. Spray the ferns with an approved insecticide when beetles are seen. If beetles are numerous, it might be wise to remove plant debris at the end of the growing season to reduce overwintering sites for the beetle.

See <<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/e-series/EseriesPDF/E-21.pdf>> E-21, Managing Insects in the Home Vegetable Garden for more information.

Disease Rust is the most common and troublesome asparagus disease. Rust can reduce next year's yields to a few weak spears. It also weakens crowns, leaving them open to attack by soil-borne fungi. The disease first appears in spring as small, oval, yellowish spots on the stems and branches of wild volunteer plants. The spots later are surrounded by tiny, yellowish-orange, cup-shaped structures. Small, round to oblong, reddish-brown, powdery masses develop on stalks and leaves of plants in producing beds. Later in the season, black masses replace the reddish-brown pustules.

Some of the newer hybrids such as 'Jersey Giant' as said to be "slow-rusting" because they have some resistance to the disease. Grow rust-resistant cultivars and remove volunteer seedlings in and around older plantings. If practical, spray the foliage after harvest has been discontinued with an approved fungicide according to label directions.

Fusarium crown and root rot causes yellowing and wilting of foliage. Plant only healthy crowns in areas that have not previously been infected. Also, provide good soil drainage and avoid wounding the plants during cultivation. Wounds offer an entranceway for pathogens.

Weed Control

Weed control can be accomplished by hand-pulling, hoeing, and cultivating during the first planting year. Labeled pre-emergence herbicides may be used during subsequent growing seasons according to label directions. In established plantings after the last harvest when no asparagus foliage is above ground, a home garden formulation of glyphosate non-selective herbicide can be sprayed to kill any existing weeds. Be sure to read and follow all label directions.

Do not use salt as a weed killer. It will not harm the asparagus, but it inhibits water penetration in the soil. Also, rains can leach the salt out of the asparagus bed and into the rest of the garden, injuring other vegetables that are less salt tolerant than asparagus.

For more information, see <<http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs/HO/HO217.pdf>>, HO-217 Weed Control for the Garden & Landscape.

Harvesting



Asparagus spears will start to emerge when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees F. After this, growth of asparagus is dependent on air temperature. Early in the season, 7 to 9 inch spears might be harvested every 2 to 4 days. As air temperatures increase, harvesting frequencies will increase to once or twice per day, harvesting 5 to 7 inch spears before the tips start to fern out and lose quality.

Harvest asparagus by snapping 7 to 9 inch spears with tight tips. There is no need to cut asparagus below the soil with a knife. This may injure other buds on the crown that will send up new spears. The small stub that is left in the soil after snapping dries up and disintegrates. A new spear does not come up at the same spot, but from another bud on the crown.

As the tips of the spears start to loosen (known as “ferning out”), fiber begins to develop at the base of the spears, causing them to become tough. The diameter of the spear has no bearing on its toughness. When harvesting, the asparagus patch should be picked clean never allowing any spears to fern out, as this gives asparagus beetles an excellent site to lay their eggs.

The year after planting, asparagus can be harvested several times throughout a three-week period, depending on air temperatures. Research shows there is no need to wait two years after planting before harvesting. In fact, harvesting the year after planting will stimulate more bud production on the crown and provide greater yields in future years, as compared with waiting two years before harvesting.

Two years after planting, the length of harvest can increase to about 4 to 6 weeks. The third year after planting and thereafter, harvesting can continue for 6 to 8 weeks. Since the length of harvest season will vary from year-to-year depending on air temperature, stop the harvest when the diameter of 3/4 of the spears becomes small (less than 3/8 inch). Experience gained by growing the crop will make it easier for the gardener to know when to discontinue the harvest.

For your last harvest, snap all the spears off at ground level. To encourage foliage growth for the rest of the growing season, apply 1/2 lb. of ammonium nitrate fertilizer per 50 feet of row or side-dress with fish emulsion or similar material. Now is the time to remove existing weeds, either by shallow cultivation, hand-pulling, or with herbicide according to label directions. New spears will then emerge, fern out, and provide a large canopy to cover the space between the rows. Once a dense fern canopy is formed, weed growth will be shaded out.

Storage

Asparagus is very perishable and should be harvested in the morning when air temperatures are cool. After picking, immerse the spears in ice-cold water to remove the heat; then drain the water and place the spears in plastic bags. Store in the refrigerator at 38 to 40 degrees F. Asparagus will keep for 1 to 2 weeks with little loss of quality.

For information about freezing asparagus, see: <http://www.msue.msu.edu/imp/mod01/01600513.html>
<http://www.foodsafety.ufl.edu/consumer/il/il032.htm>

Removal of Old Tops

The tops should be allowed to remain as long as they are green. This foliage is making the food reserves to store for next year's crop. If plants have been healthy throughout the growing season, it can be helpful to leave the dead tops in place for the winter. They will collect snow and insulate the crowns. However, if insects and/or disease have been a problem, it is best to remove the tops after they turn yellow or brown at the end of the

season. Remove the old tops by cutting or mowing as low as possible before the emergence of new spears in the spring.



Pests and diseases of berries in the home garden.

Bruce Bordelon, Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University

Strawberries are among the most popular fruit to grow in the home garden. They take up little space, produce fruit one year after planting, and provide a generous supply of tasty berries for a month or more.



Red raspberries are another popular home fruit. While they take a bit more space, they are easy to grow and provide plenty of fruit throughout the summer, and into fall if you have primocane fruiting types.



However, anyone who has tried to grow fruit at home knows that it is difficult to produce berries that are as perfect as we find in the grocery store. Some of the most common problems of locally grown berries are damaging pests and diseases. Of particular concern during harvest are slugs, sap beetles, and Botrytis gray mold.

Botrytis gray mold is a disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Botrytis cinerea*. Botrytis is a common saprophyte and pathogen of a number of fruit and ornamental crops. In strawberries and raspberries, the fungus invades during bloom and usually infects the dying petals or stamens. The fungus remains latent until the fruit begins to ripen then progresses into the ripening berry to cause a rot. In strawberries, you often find infections starting at the top of the berry near the cap, where the dying flower parts remain.



In raspberries, the disease can be particularly serious following a few days of rain, especially on fall bearing types



Sap beetles (*Stelidota geminata*), are a common pest, especially of strawberries. The adult beetles invade the plantings as the fruit ripens and feed on berries, leaving deep cavities and tunnels. This damage often leads to development of secondary rots.



The adult beetles are small, about 1/8 inch long, oval, and mottled brown in color (Picture 6). They are difficult to see because they usually drop to ground when disturbed. Growers are often surprised by the size of the cavities considering the small size of the beetles. We often hear complaints of bird pecking, but I suspect most of the damage we see is from sap beetles, not birds.

Picnic beetles (*Glischrochilus* species) are another potential pest of berries. They are more common on raspberries, but are opportunists and can be found feeding on strawberries as well. The adults are larger than sap beetles, about 1/4 inch long, dark in color, usually with four orange spots on the back. One distinguishing characteristic is that they have knobbed antennae .



They are quite common on red and yellow raspberries.



Slugs (*Deroceras* species) are molluscs, not insects. But they cause damage to strawberries that resembles damage from sap beetles. They chew deep holes in the surface of the berries, especially under the cap. Those found on strawberries are usually small, less than one inch long, though certain specimens can be much larger. Control: Sanitation is the key to managing pests and diseases in the home strawberry planting. Since beetles are attracted to overripe fruit, pick often and discard all damaged fruit away from the planting. Keep berries from direct contact with soil by maintaining a layer of straw mulch. One complication is that mulch also provides an ideal habitat for sap and picnic beetles and slugs. One way to help is to keep the strawberry rows narrow with some bare between. This will allow the surface to dry. Use of insecticides for sap beetles and slugs is not recommended due to the frequent harvests. Bait buckets containing overripe fruit and a bit of soapy water can be very effective at trapping beetles. For Botrytis, if fungicides are considered, they should be applied during bloom when infections are likely to occur. Application near harvest is not effective at controlling the disease.

Sanitation and vigor management is helpful for raspberries. Keep the rows relatively narrow at the base, control weeds to provide an open canopy environment, and do not apply more fertilizer than the plants need. As with strawberries, for Botrytis control, any applications of fungicide should be during bloom.

More information about strawberry pests can be found in ID-146 Managing Pests in the Home Fruit Planting.
https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=ID-146-W

The perennial popularity of peonies

By JAN BEGLINGER
GENESEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
PUBLISHED: TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018



Peonies are a popular perennial among gardeners.

A fragrant bouquet of white peonies takes me back in time. The house I grew up in had a clump of them by the porch steps, planted by an unknown gardener. A longtime favorite of gardeners, herbaceous peonies are starting to grace our gardens with color and fragrance. Peonies have remained popular through generations of gardeners. One reason is their beauty, another is that they are long lived and they are a relatively low maintenance perennial.

Herbaceous peonies (*Paeonia*) are those peonies whose stems die to the ground after a hard frost. They are considered hardy in zones 3 to 8. With proper care, an established peony plant will flower for many years, possibly outliving the gardener that planted them. Peonies do best in a site that has full sun (six hours or more of direct sun) and moist, well-drained soil. Peonies respond well to an annual side dressing of compost.

You can have peonies blooming four to six weeks by planting a variety of cultivars. Select early, mid-season and late blooming cultivars to extend the season. Garden peonies are classified into five types based on flower

form. They may be single, semi-double, double, Japanese or anemone. The three-to-6-inch diameter blooms come in shades of white, cream, lavender, pink, rose, red and even the much elusive rare yellow.

Unlike most other perennials, herbaceous peonies do not need regular dividing. If you need to move an established plant or want to share with a friend, the best time to do it is in the fall (late September to early October). New divisions should be planted at least six weeks before the ground freezes to allow the roots time to settle in. Cut stems to the ground. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system. Each new division should have at least three to five eyes (the pink or white buds at the top of the roots). Plant the roots with the eyes pointing up about two inches below the soil surface.

Sometimes peony plants fail to flower. There can be several reasons for this. If you moved, divided or disturbed the plant it may take a couple of years to start blooming again. Give it some time. Another cause for no blooms is that the plant was either planted too deep or too shallow. Too much shade will decrease blooms as will ground that is too dry in the spring. Flower buds can also be killed by a late frost. Occasionally buds can be killed by a fungal disease. Over fertilizing can also result in reduced bloom numbers.

While peonies are considered to be relatively pest free, they sometimes have problems. Two diseases to watch out for are botrytis blight and phytophthora blight. Botrytis blight is a fungal disease which may appear as a black or brownish rot or a grey mold. A fungicide can help treat botrytis blight. Phytophthora blight can cause the entire shoot to turn black. It does not form mold but it can invade the crown of the plant and kill it. Unfortunately the only remedy for phytophthora is to remove the plant and dispose of it.

Ants are frequently associated with peony plants. This is because the ants are attracted to the sticky sweet nectar produced by the buds and flowers. While a nuisance the ants are harmless. Just remember to shake the ants off before you bring the lovely flowers inside to enjoy.

In the garden, peonies can be grown in groups for a stunning seasonal display or as specimen plants intermingled in the perennial border. Peonies can be used as 2-to-3-foot tall herbaceous hedges along fences, walls, sidewalks and driveways. Since the foliage remains an attractive dark green throughout the growing season, it makes the perfect backdrop for other later blooming perennials.



Peony 'Festiva Maxima' has been around since 1851 and is still popular today. The huge, fragrant blooms are pure white with occasional splashes of crimson at the base of the center petals. Its mature size is 24 to 26 inches tall and wide.



'Coral Sunset' has large, semi-double, ruffled flowers that open coral with rose-pink highlights. Blooms mature to pale apricot with golden-yellow stamen centers. A vigorous grower, it is lightly fragrant.



‘Krinkled White’ has 6-inch, single white flowers on sturdy, straight stems that are highlighted by bright yellow stamens. A mid-season bloomer it grows to three feet tall.

‘Red Charm’ features huge deep red ruffled, double blooms early in the season. Considered to have a sweet-spicy fragrance, it will typically grow 36 inches tall by mid-spring.



‘Goldilocks’ is a hard to find yellow herbaceous peony. The fragrant bloom goes from anemone form to bomb-type double as the plant matures. Considered to be a midseason bloomer, it grows to 28 inches tall.



‘Lemon Chiffon’ is another wonderful yellow that is early blooming.



‘Elfin Beauty’ is a good choice for smaller gardens as it only reaches 16 inches tall. Rose pink blossoms have a center accent of bright golden yellow anthers.

One more reason to grow herbaceous peonies – they are considered to be deer-resistant perennials. A plus for anyone dealing with roaming deer.

Jan Beglinger is the agriculture outreach coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension.

IT'S TIME TO.....

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Indoor plants will require more frequent watering and fertilizing as they increase their summer growth.
- You can move houseplants outdoors to a shady location, but pay close attention to their watering needs.
- Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Recut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative, and change the solution frequently.
- Root cuttings of houseplants and garden plants to increase your collection or share with a friend.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.

- Apply fungicide to prevent and control black spot on roses.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs. Water deeply every seven to 10 days when rain is lacking.
- Propagate deciduous shrubs (such as forsythia, lilac, pyracantha, and weigela) by stem tip cuttings.
- Remove faded flowers and seed pods on lilac and other spring-flowering shrubs.
- Many fruit trees had few to no flowers this year thanks to the brutal winter, but some apples and pears may still have fruit set. If they have much of a crop, don't be alarmed by a June drop of some fruit. It is a natural thinning process for most trees to prevent excessive loads, although there might not be as much to thin this year. Thin the remaining fruit, if necessary, or prop up heavy branches to avoid breakage. Most fruit should be spaced 6 to 8 inches apart on a branch.
- Mow grass regularly but mow high to help protect plant crowns from heat stress.
- Unless excessive, leave lawn clippings on the lawn.
- To keep the lawn green and growing, water as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. If left unwatered, lawns will turn brown and become dormant during extended hot, dry spells, but will green up again when conditions are more favorable.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Discontinue harvesting asparagus and rhubarb around mid-June to allow foliage to develop and store food reserves for next year's harvest. Fertilize and water when dry to promote healthy growth.
- Mulch to control weeds and conserve soil moisture after soil has warmed. You can use many materials, including straw, chopped corncobs, bark chips, shredded paper, and grass clippings.
- Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.
- Control weeds. They're easier to pull when they are still young.
Start seeds of cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and cauliflower for fall garden transplants.
- Plan now for your Halloween pumpkin. Determine the days to harvest for the particular cultivar you want to plant (usually on the seed packet) and count backward to determine the proper planting date.
- Harvest spring plantings of broccoli, cabbage, and peas.
- Remove cool-season plants, such as radish, spinach, and lettuce, because they will bolt (that is, form seed stalks) during hot summer weather.
- Continue planting carrots, beans, and sweet corn for successive harvests.
- For staked tomatoes, remove suckers (branches that form where the leaf joins the stem) while they are 1 to 1.5 inches long to allow easier training.
- Remove the spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums, and other flowers.

- Pinch the shoot tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias, and coleus to promote bushier growth.
 - Remove the tops of spring-flowering bulbs only after they have yellowed and withered.
 - Continue planting gladiolus for a succession of bloom.
 - Pick strawberries from the garden or a U-pick operation.
 - Protect ripening strawberries from birds by covering with netting.
 - Supplement natural rainfall (as needed) to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week to the garden.
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“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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