

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers

Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

April 2018

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Coordinator's Corner

The garden and landscape questions are beginning to come in. Hopefully, each of you are finding opportunities to share your gardening knowledge with those around you.

Doris Salis has written our article for the Courier this month. Be sure to look for it on Saturday, April 21, in the Weekend section. She will be describing some of the important trees of our area and just in time for Arbor Day.

Now is the time to begin the outdoor work. We can be pruning our fruit trees, grapes and brambles. Remember to apply dormant oil to your fruit trees as soon as the temperature remains above 40 degrees for 24 hours. Remember to apply your lawn pre-emergent crabgrass herbicide after the forsythia blooms but before the lilac. This is also the time to make the first application of fertilizer to your lawn to keep it dense, green, and weed free.

Kay Sidaway, kaysidaway@thewavz.com, is providing us with an event calendar for each month. When we become aware of an educational opportunity or another event which may be of interest to all of us, please let Kay know so she can put it in our calendar. It is important to put these events on your personal calendar so we support as many activities as possible.

Hopefully, each of us is considering something new in our landscape and gardens this year. This helps us to keep learning and an opportunity to share our experiences with each other. Sometimes the experiences are good and sometimes not so much.

The “Let’s Go Gardening” radio program is on hold for this year due to a lack of sponsors. Vaun is working on a contingency plan for a shorter season of the show.

Our annual Recognition Banquet is being held on April 12 at the OSUE office. We will have a catered meal to thank each of us for our service to the Hancock County Master Gardeners in 2017. We, also, will be recognizing some special MGVs who have given an extra measure of service to our organization in 2017. Please plan to attend and let Marilyn Beltz know of your plans.

Bill

HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES

March 2018 minutes

An informative and enjoyable brown bag presentation related to “Gourds” was presented at 6:00 p.m. by Bill Lanning. Following the educational presentation Bill Jones began the business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Jones reviewed the 2017 MGVS summary sheet of volunteer activity. He asked each volunteer to review their individual information for accuracy. He also stressed that as we move forward in 2018 it is important for each of us to record our monthly community contacts related to providing gardening information to the general public. The total number of individual contacts may be recorded on the tally sheet that is available at each monthly meeting.

Bill presented Peggy Biolchini with her official MGVS badge. Our newest member has completed all her internship requirements. . .congratulations Peggy.

Recognition Banquet: Marilyn Beltz asked everyone to remember to check the signup sheet for our April 12 Recognition Banquet. This count is needed for the purpose of ordering the evening dinners.

Treasurer’s Report: Ann Woolum gave the treasurer’s report. Ann stated that an updated MGVS training manual has been published and is available at a cost of \$35. If you are interested in receiving a copy contact Ann as she plans to place an order for our group in the near future.

Communication/Administrative Committees: Linda Casey gave an overview of the Beech Leaf Disease which can affect all varieties of the Beech tree. Karl Farwig stated that they were attempting to give everyone on the Facebook committee rights to the site for updating purposes. Lynn Farwig mentioned that if she had not talked

with a member related to updating our membership directory they should see her to verify the accuracy of the information she currently has on each member.

Service/Social Committees: Lynn Farwig mentioned the possibility of a day trip to the Ohio Herb Education Center in Gahanna, Ohio. Ann mentioned the possibility of a day trip to the Botanical Garden in Toledo.

Teaching/Education Committees: Noreen Walters mentioned our Gardening How-to's for Children presentation on Saturday, March 31 at the Hancock County Public Library. Karl stated that a new MGCV training class is scheduled for February/March of 2019.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2018. . .our annual Recognition Banquet starting at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

Calendar of Events

April 2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Tues., April 3	Weed Control Presentation	6:30 PM	N/A	Bluffton Library	Weed control	Bill Jones
Sat., April 7	Am. Chestnut Growers Workshop & Tour	11:00 AM	N/A	Trumbull Co. Ed. Services, Cortland	How to bring back the chestnut tree	Greg 330-984- teamchopko@aol.com7578
Thurs., April 12	Recognition Banquet	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Banquet	Bill Jones / Marilynn Beltz
Sat., April 14	Phenology Cleanup	9:30 AM	N/A	Phenology Garden	Cleanup	Bill Jones/Rose Morrison
Mon., April 16	Library Presentation by Cheryl Miller	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To be Determined	Cheryl Miller
Mon., April 16	Library Presentation by Cheryl Miller	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To be Determined	Cheryl Miller

Sat., April 21	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Doris Salis
Tues., April 24	Presentation	11:30	N/A	Dakota Grill	Homemakers monthly meeting	Bob Campbell; Tim Brugeman
Fri., April 27	The Good, the Bad, Hungry, Managing Wildlife	9:00- 3:00	\$35	OSU Mansfield	Wildlife Management	614-688-3421 Ohiowoods@osu.edu
Mon., May 7	Library Presentation by Doris Salis	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	Poisonous Plants	Doris Salis
Tues., May 8	Phenology Update	9:00 AM	N/A	OARDC, Wooster	Phenology Update	Bill Jones
Thurs., May 10	Plant Exchange	6:00 PM	N/A	Bill Jones home	Bring plants to exchange	Bill to provide ice cream Rose M to bring cake
Fri., May 18	Woodland Pollinators	9:00- 3:00	\$35	OSU Mansfield	Pollinator Habitat	614-688-3421 Ohiowoods@osu.edu
Sat., May 19	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Marilynn Beltz
Thurs., May 31	Diagnostic workshop			Morgan County		Bill Jones
Thurs., June 14	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	When to pick veggies	Barb Phillips / Cassie Anderson
Thurs. June 14	Refreshments for MGVS Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Peggy Biolchini, Cheryl Miller, Marilynn Beltz will provide refreshments	Peggy, Cheryl, Marilynn

Thurs, June 14	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilyn Beltz
Sat., June 23	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Mon., July 9	Diagnostic workshop			Miami County		Bill Jones
Thurs., July 12	MGV Picnic	6:00 AM	N/A	Lyn Maa/Dick Deerhake	Annual Picnic	Lyn Maa/Dick Deerhake
Wed., July 18	Diagnostic workshop			Midland County		Bill Jones
Fri., July 20	Diagnostic workshop			Putnam County		Bill Jones
Sat., July 21	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Thurs., Aug. 9	Brown Bag is 6 month review	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Review	Everyone
Thurs., Aug. 9	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Ann Woolum & the Leindeckers will provide refreshments	Ann, John, Linda
Thurs., Aug. 9	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilyn Beltz
Sat., Aug. 25	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Ann Woolum
Sept.	No MGV Meeting				No meeting due to fair	
Tues., Sept. 4	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	?	N/A	?	Fall Garden Cleanup or Pruning	Patrick Flinn
Mon., Sept. 17	Library Presentation by Tim	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To Be Determined	Tim Brugeman

	Brugeman					
Sat., Sept. 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Tues., Oct. 2	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	?	N/A	?	To Be Determined	Tim Brugeman
Thurs., Oct. 11	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Results of 2018 Phenology Garden	Bill Jones & Rose Morrison
Thurs., Oct. 11	Refreshments for MG 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 / Marilyn Beltz
Sat., Oct. 20	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Mon., Oct. 22	Library Presentation by Pat Flinn	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	To Be Determined	Pat Flinn
Thurs., Nov. 8	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Flora of New Zealand	Doris Salis
Thurs., Nov. 8	Refreshments for MG Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Karla Dennis & Lauri Pressel will provide refreshments	Karla, Lauri
Thurs., Nov. 8	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilyn Beltz

Wed., Nov. 14	Fostoria Garden Club	?	N/A	Fostoria	To Be Determined	Tim Brugeman
Sat., Nov. 24	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Sun., Nov. 25	Wreath Class	2:00 - 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Mon., Nov. 26	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Tues., Nov. 27	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Wed., Nov.28	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Sun., Dec. 2	Wreath Class	2:00- 4:00		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thurs., Dec.6	Wreath Class	6:30 PM		Upper Church	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Thurs, Dec.13	Christmas Potluck	6:00 PM	Bring a dish		MGV Christmas Party	Barb Sherman, Marge Miller, Marilyn Beltz
Sat., Dec. 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
Wed., March 13, 2019	Fostoria Garden Club (Carol Kinn)	Noon luncheon	?	Fostoria	Requested presentation on Historic or native gardens	Need Volunteer +A2:G121 Contact Tim Brugeman

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?



Brown center of forsythia bud indicating cold injury

Winter 2017-18 was pretty harsh compared to most years. Much of central and northern Indiana experienced 13 or more days well below zero, while southern Indiana had four to five days just a few degrees below zero. In addition, gusty winds further injured plants by desiccating buds and twigs.

The consequences remain to be seen. While some spring flowering trees and shrubs may perform admirably this season, some species will have few or no blooms at all, particularly in the northern half of the state. In addition, some plants may be late to leaf out, leaving us concerned that they died overwinter.

Some shrubs (such as forsythia) may flower only on the lower branches, where snow cover and leaf litter insulated them well. But for many specimens, there may be no flowers at all. A recent check of buds on forsythia plants on the Purdue West Lafayette campus revealed significant flower bud damage, evidenced by a brown center in the bud.

Many roses have experienced considerable dieback - some nearly to the ground. Some of these roses will still be able to bloom on new twigs that develop later this spring.

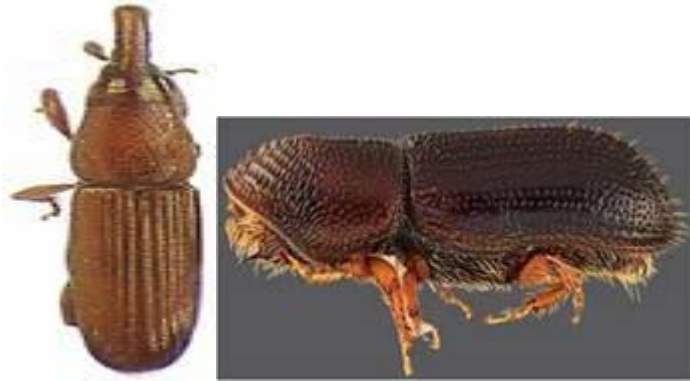
For plants such as magnolia and lilac, our bud checks look pretty good, but there's still more weather to get through before we know for sure.

While it is still possible that these plants may continue to show effects from the harsh winter, most should recover and return to normal blooming next year - assuming reasonable weather.

We recommend conservative pruning to remove only dead branches and to conserve as much foliage as possible, so that plants can maximize leaf area for photosynthesis to aid recovery.

By B. Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Thousand Canker Disease



The weevil species *Stenomimus pallidus* (B oheman)

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) is caused by a fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*) that is vectored by a bark beetle, the walnut twig beetle (WTB), *Pityophthorus juglandis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae). The disease was first recognized in 2008 and has caused the widespread death of walnut trees (*Juglans* sp.) throughout eight western states.

As the beetle bores into a walnut tree to feed and reproduce, it infects the bark tissue with the fungal pathogen. *G. morbida* is considered a weak plant pathogen and requires a vector to become established. It appears that only mass attack by the beetle is sufficient to introduce enough pathogen to kill a tree. In the early stages of TCD, small cankers develop around the galleries of colonizing beetles.



As the disease progresses, cankers become more diffuse and coalesce, interrupting the nutrient-conducting tissues of the tree and eventually killing the inner bark of affected branches and stems. In fact, trees often succumb to the disease only after thousands of beetles have colonized them.

Trees infected with TCD show signs of general decline including yellowing, wilted or tufted leaves and crown dieback as a result of the slow starvation effect of the fungus. Affected trees typically die within three years after visual symptoms of the disease first appear in the tree crown.

In August 2010, TCD was found in Knoxville, Tennessee – the first discovery of the disease within the native range of black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). Since that time, the pest complex has been confirmed in Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland and **Butler Co., Ohio**.

Detection efforts for TCD in the eastern U.S. primarily rely on visual surveys of symptomatic trees and trapping for WTB using a commercially available pheromone lure. In 2011, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with scientists from the University of Missouri and Purdue University, conducted a trap tree survey in Missouri and Indiana. The lower main stems of four black walnuts at 15 sites throughout Indiana were girdled in late May or early June. After three months, the trees were felled and insects were reared from portions of the main stem and branches of the crown.

After identifying all bark and ambrosia beetles and weevils reared from these tree sections, subsets of individuals from each of six predominant insect taxa were assayed for *G. morbida*. No WTB were recovered from Indiana. However, 435 adults of the weevil *Stenomimus pallidus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Cossoninae;) were obtained from main stem samples from 12 sites in Indiana.

The causal agent of TCD, *G. morbida*, was recovered from three individual *S. pallidus* that emerged from two trees growing in a black walnut plantation in the Yellowwood State Forest in Brown Co., Indiana. The fungus was not detected on any other wood-boring beetles reared from this site or on any beetles from other sites in Indiana. This is the first report of *G. morbida* from Indiana, and the first report of the fungus from an insect other than *P. juglandis*.

Nevertheless, the low frequency of occurrence of *G. morbida* on *S. pallidus* suggests at least a very casual relationship between the fungus and this beetle. Moreover, the Thousand Cankers Disease - HN-89-W 2 low population density of *S. pallidus* suggests that it may not be capable of vectoring enough of the pathogen to adversely affect tree health.

In response to this find, the DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology, DNR Division of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service and Purdue University are conducting additional studies in the plantation to better understand the disease and potential insect vectors.

Surveillance for WTB and *G. morbida* has also intensified in Brown Co. and in counties bordering Butler Co., Ohio, where TCD has been recently detected. Also, forest landowners should not harvest their black walnut trees as a result of this detection. Rather, if you notice a suspicious decline in black walnut trees or otherwise suspect an infestation of TCD, call the DNR toll-free at 1-866-NO EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684).

If approached by someone offering to remove black walnut trees because of the disease, notify a DNR district forester or consulting forester to have the tree evaluated.

Beech leaf disease

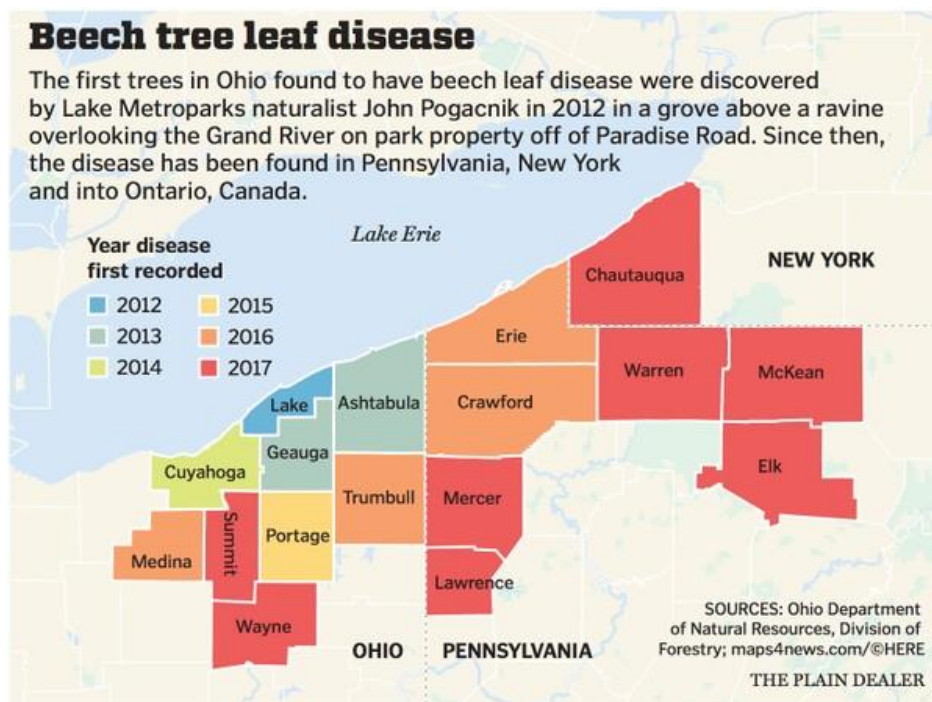


early leaf striping symptoms of BLD



later stages of BLD resulting in leathery, curled leaves

Hosts and Distribution Beech leaf disease (BLD) affects American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and possibly European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and no causal agent has yet been identified. BLD was discovered in Lake County, Ohio in 2012. It seems to have spread quickly, especially to the east, and has been documented in the northeastern Ohio counties of Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Portage, and Trumbull as well as Crawford County Pennsylvania. BLD has also been reported from other areas of Ohio, NW Pennsylvania, and SW New York. Symptoms Symptoms of BLD have only been noted on leaves and buds.





advanced stages of BLD showing deformed leaves



loss of leaves and lack of bud production



branch dieback resulting in a more open understory

Striping or banding on several leaves on an otherwise healthy-appearing tree is the first noticeable symptom. The striping is formed by a darkening between leaf veins giving the leaf a distinctive striped appearance. This striping is often most apparent when viewing from below, looking upwards into the canopy. The darkened leaf area is raised and slightly thicker than the rest of the leaf tissue.

Eventually, lighter, chlorotic striping may also occur. This striping is present upon leaf-out in the spring. Most leaves will remain on the tree until autumn. Very little premature leaf drop occurs.

Later stages result in heavily shriveled, discolored, deformed leaves clustered near the branch tips as well as reduced leaf and bud production. Buds that are produced are small and weakly attached to the twig. Mortality has been noted, mainly in saplings. Disease progression varies with tree size.

In sapling-sized trees, the progression from a few striped leaves to severe decline is rapid and may only take one to two years. In larger over-story trees, disease progression has been slower, usually moving from lower branches upwards. Some foliage and branches that appear to be unaffected may persist on an otherwise heavily affected tree.

Biology and Spread BLD appears to spread rapidly. Incidence of BLD does not appear to be influenced by slope, aspect, or soil conditions. In established areas, the proportion of American beech showing symptoms has been nearly 100%. Symptomatic trees may show a wide variety of other insects and pathogens, including beech blight aphid (*Grylloprociphilus imbricator*), European beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*), erineum patches produced by eriophyid mites (*Acalitus fagerinea*), and leaf fungi such as anthracnose (*Discula umbrinella*). All appear to be independent of BLD.

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jpogacnik@lakemetroparks.com Tom Macy, Forest Health Program Administrator Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry 2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. H-1 Columbus, OH 43229 (614) 265-6705 thomas.macy@dnr.state.oh.us

IT'S TIME TO.....

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.

Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors - gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.

Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.

Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Plant a tree in celebration of Arbor Day, April 27. You should plant bare-root stock before new top growth begins. You can plant balled and-burlapped and containerized stock later in spring. Complete pruning chores - remove dead and injured branches first. Apply a pre-bloom, multipurpose orchard spray to fruit trees.

Remove winter coverings from roses, but keep mulch nearby to protect them from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.

Apply pre-emergent herbicide to control crabgrass in lawns. Approximate application dates are late March to mid-April in southern Indiana and mid-April to early May in northern Indiana. Exact timing varies each year with weather conditions. For more precise application timing based on Growing Degree Days (GDD), visit Michigan State University's [GDD Tracker](#). Enter your zip code and select "Crabgrass Pre." The target GDD window for crabgrass prevention is 250-500.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Start seeds of warm-season plants (including tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, marigolds, zinnias, and petunias) indoors for transplanting later to the garden.

Harden off transplants started earlier in spring before planting outdoors - gradually expose the young plants to outdoor conditions of wind, brighter sunlight, and lower moisture.

Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.

Keep Easter lily in a bright, cool location, out of direct sunlight. Water as soil begins to dry. You can remove the yellow, pollen-bearing anthers inside the flower by pinching to prevent staining the petals.

Plant:

- Seeds of cool-season crops directly in the garden as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. When squeezed, soil should crumble instead of forming a ball. Cool-season crops that can be direct-seeded include peas, lettuce, spinach, carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips and Swiss chard.
- Transplants of cool-season crops, such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and onions.
- Or transplant asparagus and rhubarb crowns. For best plant establishment, do not harvest until the third year after planting.
- Sections of certified, disease-free potato "seed" tubers.

Allow the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to remain in place after blooms fade. Leaves manufacture the food reserves, which are then stored in the bulb for a repeat showing next year. Plant hardy perennials, such as daylilies and delphiniums. Start tuberous begonias and caladiums indoors for transplanting to garden later.

Remove winter mulch from strawberries, but keep mulch handy in case late frosts are predicted and

to help keep weeds under control. Plant or transplant strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruit.

Prune grape vines to remove dead or weakened limbs and to thin as needed.

Repair support trellises as needed.

By B. Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist