

Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County
Master Gardener Volunteers

Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose

September 2018

Next Meeting: October 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

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Coordinator's Corner

Well, the Hancock County Fair is now over and we again had the great opportunity to meet many people and talk to them about their lawn and garden problems. Thanks especially to Marilyn Beltz for designing our 2018 Fair Booth and to everyone who contributed plants, flowers, posters, and who helped to staff the booth and to set it up and to take it down.

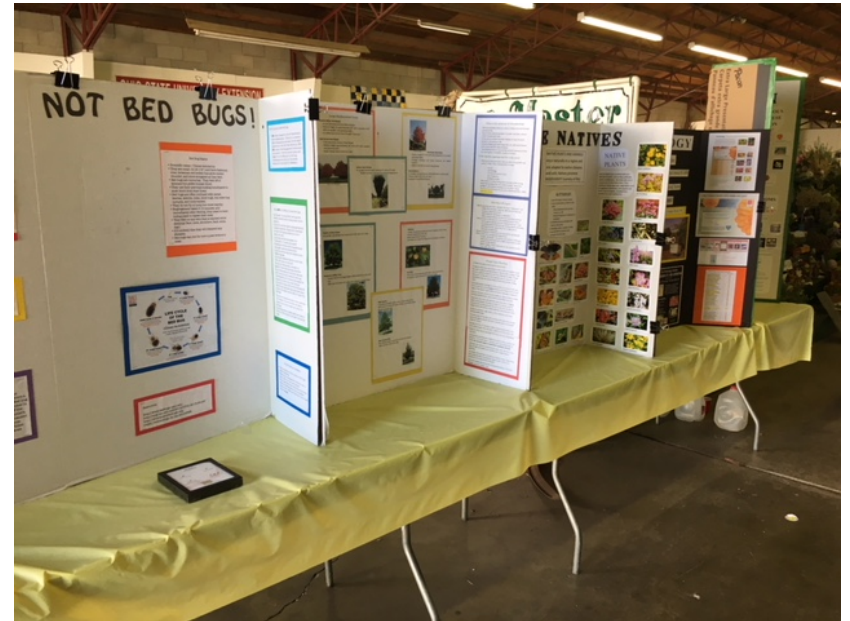
I observed and heard several comments on the fair booth that were encouraging. My own observation was that the posters were a real hit. All during the fair, there were people stopping to read the posters and I had several people tell me how informative they were. The "What's Bugging You" board created many opportunities to talk to people and in the process to get many other questions that were on the people's mind. I think that we should have more posters next year so that people will come into the booth to read posters as well as on the outside. I also observed that when we had more than two people at the booth, people tended not to come into the booth. Next year we should plan on have no more than 2 people on each shift.

The most interesting question I received while working in the booth was to identify a bunch of white, egg-like balls found in the soil by two different people. After sending a picture of the balls to Joe Boggs, OSU entomologist, we discovered that the balls were actually turtle eggs.

Thanks to Ann Woolum for her excellent article in the Courier on growing mums. Our September article will be provided by Cheryl Miller and will appear in the Courier on September 22.

There will be no meeting in September. Our next regular meeting will be on October 11. Our Brown Bag training will take place at 6:00 PM with a presentations from Barbara Phillips on Harvesting the Garden Produce and also, Rose Morrison will discuss the results from the Phenology Garden this year. Our regular meeting will follow at 7:00 PM.

Bill





HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

MEETING MINUTES

August 2018

Bill Jones called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. following a brown bag session on the review of our new leadership structure. Eighteen Master Gardeners were in attendance. Bill circulated a thank you card from Sharon Hammer Baker related to the memorial gift the Master Gardeners sent in memory of her late husband. Bill stated that during the past month eight Master Gardeners had attended the Owens Community College Green Workshop in Toledo. Thirteen Master Gardeners participated in the day trip to the Toledo Botanical Garden and the Toledo Museum of Art.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Woolum reviewed income and expenses for the month. She stated that she would like to develop a budget which reflects the different activities in our group and expenditures related to each.

Administrative Committee: Cheryl Miller mentioned several older pamphlets that had been found in the MGV office. They were on display in the back of the room and were available for any MGV to take if they had an interest in any of the topic areas represented. Lynn Farwig reviewed the Hancock County Master Gardeners Volunteer Hours Policy sheet. She discussed how Master Gardeners may accumulate volunteer hours.

Community Garden: John & Linda Leiendecker mentioned that 823 pounds of produce had been harvested and donated to local groups in need from our Community Garden.

Mugs of Joy: Linda Laux reported that she had enough holiday mugs for this years project.

Fair Booth: Marilyn Beltz mentioned there was a need for MGV fair workers. A signup sheet was available in the back of the room. The theme for our booth is "The Good Old Days".

MGV Training Class: Karl Farwig reported that a new Master Gardener training class is scheduled to start Wednesday, February 6, 2019. There will be 8 class sessions running from 9 to 4. The class should be completed by April. Cost is \$150 which includes the text. There will be an orientation class for prospective members in January.

Library Programs: Noreen Walters shared that a fall children's gardening program will occur on Saturday, October 20 from 9:30 to 12:30. If interested in helping please contact Noreen.

Next Meeting: October 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. There will be no September meeting due to our many Hancock County Fair activities.

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

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller Next Meeting:

August 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events

September 2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
August 28 - September 4	Hancock County Fair	Various	N/A	Fairgrounds	Fair Booth	Karl Farwig
September	No MGV Meeting				No meeting due to fair	
Tuesday, September 4	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:30 PM	N/A	Bluffton Library	Fall Garden Cleanup & Pruning	Volunteer Needed
Monday, September 17	Library Presentation by Tim Brugeman	6:00 PM	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	\$129	Hamilton County Cincinnati	Rooted in Ohio various topics	go.osu.edu/2018State MGVConference
Tuesday, October 2	Greater Bluffton Garden Club	6:30 PM	N/A	Bluffton Library	Fall Bulbs & Seasonal Color	Tim Brugeman
Thursday, October 11	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Results of 2018 Phenology Garden	Bill Jones & Rose Morrison

Thursday, October 11	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Harvesting Garden Produce	Barb Phillips
Thursday, October 11	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Barb Phillips, Barb Sherman, & Linda Laux will provide refreshments	Barb, Barb, Linda
Thursday, October 11	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilyn Beltz
Saturday, October 20	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	TBD	Laurie Pressel
Saturday, October 20	Library Presentation	9:30 - 12:30	N/A	Hancock County Library	Library Program	NEED VOLUNTEERS Contact Noreen @ 419-424-3218
Saturday, October 20	Fall in love with gardening	9:30 - 2: 00	\$40	1st Church of Nazarene 807 Coshocton Ave. Mt. Vernon	Garlic, succulents, hypertufa, edible natives	740-397-0401 knox.osu.edu
Monday, October 22	Library Presentation by Pat Flinn	6:30 PM	N/A	Hancock County Library	Preserving the Harvest	Pat Flinn
Thursday, November 8	Brown Bag Presentation	6:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Flora of New Zealand	Doris Salis

Thursday, November 8	Refreshments for MGV Meeting		N/A	OSUE Office	Karla Dennis, Randy Greeno & Lauri Pressel will provide refreshments	Karla, Lauri
Thursday, November 8	MGV Monthly Meeting	7:00 PM	N/A	OSUE Office	Monthly Meeting	Bill Jones / Marilyn Beltz
Wednesday, 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 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Tuesday, November 27	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		Hancock County Library	Wreath making class	Marilynn Beltz
Wednesday, November 28	Wreath Class	6:30 AM		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,	Wreath Class	6:30 PM		Upper Church	Wreath making	Marilynn Beltz

December 6					class	
Thursday, December 13	Christmas Potluck	6:00 PM	Bring a dish		MGV Christmas Party	Barb Sherman, Marge Miller, Marilyn Beltz
Saturday, December 22	Courier Article		N/A	The Courier	Article	Writer Needed!
February 1 - 9, 2019	Tandada Foundation special volunteer vacation for OSU Ext MGVs & Friends	9 days	\$1,400 +	Highland Ecuador	Work on various horticultural projects	Denis Johnson johnson.2924@osu.edu 614-292-6089
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Fostoria Garden Club (Carol Kinn)	Noon	N/A	Kaubisch Library, Fostoria	Spring Garden Makeovers	Need Volunteer Contact Tim Brugeman

Oedema Is a Corky Quirk

By: Rosie Lerner

Plants that experience extremes in soil moisture may develop spots on their leaves, called “oedema” (also spelled “edema”). The spots may first appear as a blister or raised spot, particularly on the undersides of leaves, but may occur on the top side as well as on the stems. Eventually, the blister develops a rust-colored, cork-like scab.



Oedema on ivy geranium leaf.



Oedema on variegated jade plant leaf.

Photos by Rosie Lerner.

Oedema is most commonly seen in the greenhouse on ivy-leaf geraniums, but also on pansies, jade, and other thick-leaved plants. When plants have been subjected to overly dry conditions, followed by abundant moisture, the plant cells take on too much water too rapidly, causing them to burst.

Oedema can also occur on outdoor plants. The blisters appear when soils are abundantly moist, coupled with cloudy, humid weather.

Oedema spots do not spread, but the scab will remain unsightly. The dead tissue may dry and fall away on thin-leaved plants, leaving a “shot-hole” appearance.

To prevent oedema from occurring, avoid extremes in watering practices. Feel the soil of houseplants before you water to be sure the soil needs additional moisture. Mulching outdoor plants will help avoid extremes in the soil moisture supply.

Preparing Your Garden this Fall for Next Year's Bounty

Fall tips to make your spring and summer vegetable and herb gardening easier and more fruitful.

August 30, 2018 - Author: [Dixie Sandborn](#)



Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons

It is hard to believe it is time to start putting our gardens, lawns and flowers to rest for the winter. [Michigan State University Extension](#) offers these tips to make next year's spring and summer vegetable and herb gardening easier and more fruitful.

As you pick and preserve your garden's current crops, take time to prepare your soil for next year's growing season. Remove all non-bearing, dead and diseased plants as you harvest your current crops. After frost has blackened the leaves on the remaining plants, pull them up and compost them. If they are diseased, take care not to add them to your compost pile, as many pests are able to overwinter and come back with a vengeance next spring.

Easy-to-do fall gardening chores for your vegetables

- Remove all weeds and debris. This reduces overwintering insects and diseases.
- Till the soil. Fall is a great time to oxygenate the soil.
 - Tilling should be done once in both directions—a rough till is fine in the fall.
 - Tilling in the fall reduces the need for tilling wet, spring soil. Tilling wet soil is never recommended. Soil can be too sticky in early spring.
- Add organic matter.
 - Adding organic matter, humus and manure in the fall allows time for it to become married to the soil. Organic matter is not immediately available for plants, so giving it time will have your plants functioning at peak performance earlier next spring.
 - Microorganisms are not as active in early spring; feeding them in the fall gives your garden a head start in the spring.
 - You may also choose to till in the organic matter.
- A cover crop can be planted as an option to help improve your soil.
 - Winter wheat and cereal rye are good options for a Michigan garden cover crop.
- If you have a very unruly area that has just gone to the weedy side, cover it with black plastic or cardboard and leave it until it's time to plant in the spring to kill all sprouting seeds.

Easy-to-do fall gardening chores for your perennial herbs

- Keeping your herb healthy during the growing season with well-drained soil, regular watering, fertilization and pruning is key to their winter survival.
- Most herbs will also benefit from a good 2-to-4-inch mulch cover. Do not mulch heavily until after the first heavy frost—doing so before can actually weaken plants. Winter mulches help maintain soil temperatures and reduce frequent freezing and thawing.
- It is a good time to cut dead wood from sage, oregano and thyme. Trim off dead flower heads.
- Windbreaks or a covering of evergreen branches may also aid in the survival of many herbs, protecting them from harsh winds that tend to dry out less cold-tolerant herbs.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#)

Understanding and managing invasive plant species

Invasive plants are a major threat to our yards, communities and ecosystems. With characteristics such as rapid growth and abundant seed production, unchecked invasive plants can outcompete the natural landscape. Over time, landscapes shift from a diversity of plants and animals to one with a dominant plant that is unable to support many organisms, including beneficial insects and pollinators.

Smart gardeners can reduce the impacts of invasive plants by:

- Understanding what makes a plant invasive.
- Recognizing which plants in a local area are invasive.
- Properly managing and disposing of invasive plant species from gardens or yards.



Photo by Rob Routledge, Sault College

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) releases a chemical through its roots that is toxic to other plants, allowing it to be a widespread invasive problem.

What is an invasive plant?

The federal government defines these plants as a non-native organism within a particular ecosystem whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human, animal or plant health. Non-native plants—those reproducing outside of their natural ranges—are only invasive if they cause harm as described in the previous definition.

For example, oriental bittersweet, or *Celastrus orbiculatus*, is an invasive vine confirmed to be established in Michigan. It climbs and overtakes native trees and shrubs, including girdling trunks and branches. The dense vines weigh down tree canopies, causing limbs to break. The berries are pretty and this tempts people to grow and gather them despite their invasiveness.

Oriental bittersweet is similar to the native American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), which is a protected species in Michigan. American bittersweet is rare and people are not likely to see it. It has elliptical leaves and its fruits and flowers clump together at the end of a branch. In contrast, oriental bittersweet's leaves are rounded with fruits and flowers spreading out along the stem. Oriental bittersweet berries are attractive, but this invasive vine climbs native trees and shrubs, girdling trunks and branches.



Photos by Rebecca Finneran MSU Extension

Invasive plant behavior

Invasive plants have growth and reproductive habits along with dispersal mechanisms that allow them to travel and take over new environments where they displace native and other less-aggressive plants. Factors of concern include:

- *Rapid vegetative growth.* Invasive plants grow significantly faster than their similar counterparts.
- *High reproductive capacity.* Invasive plants have abundant seed production and reproduction via fragments of roots or underground stems that quickly spread.
- *Toxic chemical production.* Invasive plants can leach compounds into the soil that harm desired plants or harm microbes that help other plants grow.
- *Lack of natural predators.* Many invasive species are thriving outside the range of natural predators that would normally control them.

Recognizing invasive plant species

See our resource list and do your own research into specific plants you are considering. Check the plant's behavior for the concerns listed above, which could threaten nearby ecosystems. Armed with knowledge, you can AVOID obtaining and spreading invasive plant species.

Resources for dealing with invasive plants

- The State of Michigan has [lists of invasive plants](#) that are already established in Michigan or are on the watch list for being introduced and spreading in Michigan.
- [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network](#) (MISIN) for reporting infestations and training in identification. They have [invasive species training modules](#) that provide names and distinguishing characteristics of invasive plants.
- [Michigan Natural Features Inventory](#) (MNFI) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) [Best Control Practice Guides](#).
- Smart Gardening tip sheets on [native plants](#) and [mulch](#).



The invasive wetland plant purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) produces many seeds and its stems and roots break off easily to form new plants

In contrast, the non-invasive cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) has very small seeds, tender seedlings and a short life.



Photos by Linda Wilson University of Idaho

Managing invasive plants

Check the [Best Control Practice Guides](#) for species-specific steps to remove invasive plants. If complete removal is not possible, still do something! Small steps can *reduce* the spread of an invasive plant, even if complete removal is delayed or not possible.

General guidelines for managing invasive plants

- Remove flowers and seed heads before invasive plant seeds mature.
- Research the specific plant species to determine whether pruning or mowing will help control or spread it.

Sanitize tools and vehicles

- Carefully remove plant debris from recreational and other vehicles, such as lawn mowers and tractors.
- Remove plant debris from clothing, footwear and yard tools (rakes, forks, etc.) and properly dispose it.

Use proper disposal methods

Seeds and reproductive roots and stems from invasive plants can grow and spread from within waste piles.

- **Do not** add invasive plant remains to compost bins, scrap piles or natural areas.
- Where permitted, consider burning invasive plant parts. Note: Do not burn the toxic plant poison ivy with other plant waste, as some people will get an allergic reaction if they inhale the smoke or fumes.
- Double-bag invasive plant material in plastic bags and dispose in a certified landfill.



Invasive autumn olive
Invasive autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.) in flower.

Photo by Rebecca Finneran, MSU Extension

Stop plants from invading

Replant disturbed or open areas quickly because invasive plants will move into open ground. Cover crops or mulch can be a good temporary solution.

Build variety into the landscape. A greater diversity of plants and microhabitats in the landscape means a greater chance desired plants will outcompete potential invaders, and a lesser chance that a large area of your yard is perfect for invasive plant growth. Consider including native plants to further increase diversity.

Act quickly. It is much easier to remove a small patch of invasive plant than a large one. Continue monitoring the area once it is removed. In many cases, conducting multiple control measures at the same time is effective.

Gardening as a Reflection of History and Culture

Author: Heidi Wollaeger

Throughout the world and over time, gardens have served from simple sustenance to a display of power.



Photo 1. The Château (Palace) of Versailles in Paris, France. All photos by Heidi Lindberg, MSU Extension.

According to “[The Development of Agriculture](#)” in National Geographic, the “Neolithic Revolution” occurred approximately 12,000 years ago when humans started cultivating their food; thus, agriculture was born. From cultivating cereals thousands of years ago to the elaborate ornamental and edible gardens of today, the nature of gardens has changed with numerous cultural and historic events over time. Gardens provide the onlooker a peek into history with their purpose and design.

Recently, a group of 32 Michigan Master Gardeners and Michigan State University employees toured some of the most famous gardens in the countries of France and Malta on a horticulture study trip. During this educational tour, participants observed for themselves the evolution of gardening over time and how culture and historical events shaped garden design.

For example, the purpose of the garden at the *Château* (Palace; Photo 1) of Versailles in Paris, France, was primarily to demonstrate the wealth and prowess of the monarchy at the time as well as technological innovation. The *Château* was first built just as a hunting lodge by Louis XIII in 1623. However, Louis XIV expanded Versailles to create a royal residence where the royal court could gather during the mid-1600s. The gardens were designed by the famous landscape architect, André Le Nôtre, during 1660 to 1680. They were designed to invoke a long perspective view of the kingdom: first with the “Royal Avenue,” a long lawn, and secondly with the “Grand Canal,” which is a long, east-west pond (Photo 2).



Photo 2. The garden at the Palace of Versailles, designed by André Le Nôtre, includes the “Royal Avenue,” a lawn that leads to the “Grand Canal.”

The garden contains tall, immaculately-trimmed hedges, numerous formal groves containing fountains and sculpture of Apollonian mythology (Photo 3). These gardens were designed to exude opulence and demonstrate the power of the monarchy of France.



Photo 3. The Enceladus Grove in the Gardens of Versailles unites art and gardens.

Now, let's be transported 43 miles north-west of Versailles and move forward 200 years into the future. Giverny, a small village only 75 miles from the northwest coast of France on the English Channel, was a haven for impressionist artists during the late 1800s. It was removed from the hustle and bustle of the city of Paris and was most notably home to Claude Monet and his garden.

An artist who painted in the impressionist style, one that favors colors and conveying atmosphere over pictorial accuracy, Monet developed the gardens over the course of his career to be his outdoor studio. For him, his garden was a passion and the romantic landscape was one to be painted over and over from a new perspective or with different lighting. It was here that he painted some of his most famous works, including his water lily series. His pond (Photo 4) and garden (Photo 5) were an explosion of color, home to numerous species of plants, including iris, wisteria, rhododendron phlox, foxglove and allium.

Photo 4. The waterlily pond of famous impressionist painter, Claude Monet, in Giverny, France.





Photo 5. The gardens at the residence of Claude Monet.

What other purposes have gardens served during the past? During WWI and WWII, people in the United States and around the world planted “Victory Gardens.” These vegetable, fruit and herb gardens provided private citizens with nourishment during times of war and helped free up additional resources for the soldiers. These gardens demonstrated patriotism and provided the owners with a sense of fulfillment in uncertain times. In England, “allotment gardens,” akin to the U.S.’s version of a community garden, still thrive across the continent.

Throughout time, gardens have been planted for cultivating food, display of wealth and power, as a muse for artists and a sign of patriotism. Gardens not only reflect the individual owner or creator, but are also a snapshot of the historical events and culture of the time. What will your garden say about you?

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension

IT'S TIME TO.....

By: Rosie Lerner, Purdue University Extension Office

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Prepare storage areas for overwintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce.
- Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom for the holidays. Provide 15 hours of complete darkness each day — for instance, from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., for approximately eight weeks. Keep temperature at about 60-65 degrees F. Temperatures of 55°F will cause flower buds to set without dark treatment.
- Dig and repot herbs, or take cuttings, for growing indoors over winter.
- Store leftover garden seed in a cool, dry place. A sealable jar with a layer of silica gel or powdered milk in the bottom works well.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55F. Gradually decrease light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Check and control insects and diseases before putting these plants near other houseplants.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec. 10.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Fall is a good time to plant many container-grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Prepare a good-size hole, plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly.
- Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, but not all at once as deciduous plants do
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries. For most fruits, flavor is the best indicator of ripeness, although color change also can be a good indicator. However, pears are best ripened off the tree, and grapes change color long before they are fully flavored, so sample the fruit to be sure.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.

- Clean up fallen fruits, twigs and leaves around apple (including crabapple) and other fruit trees to reduce disease and insect carryover.
- To promote the lawn's recovery from summer stress, apply high-nitrogen fertilizer at the rate of 0.5 to 1 pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. More information on lawn fertilization is available at https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=AY-22-W
- Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture. Seeding in late summer allows the turf to maximize its establishment and rooting prior to the next summer's heat and drought. For more information, see <http://purdueturftips.blogspot.com/2014/08/start-seeding-cool-season-turf-now.html>
- September and October are good months to apply broadleaf weed killers. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.
- Thin fall crops such as lettuce and carrots that were planted earlier.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.
- Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location, about 55-60F.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox.
- Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.
- Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can

cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.

- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.
- Cut flowers, such as strawflower, statice, baby's breath and celosia, for drying and hang upside down in a dry, well-ventilated area.