

# Green Thumb Prints

Newsletter of the Hancock County  
Master Gardener Volunteers

*Gardening is our Passion . . . Education is our Purpose*

**January 2019**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:00 PM

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## Coordinator's Corner

Happy New Year and the planning for another successful gardening season for you and the Master Gardeners of Hancock County.

I want to thank Bill Jones and Marilyn Beltz for their service and leadership over the past years. Their dedication to the Hancock County Master Gardeners was exceptional and we all can try to strive to serve Hancock County in similar ways.

I am humbled to be named the Volunteer Coordinator for Hancock County. I look to serve in an advisory role to the Executive Committee, as well as helping anyone with questions and issues. My major role will be to work with Ed Lentz and the State Coordinator to ensure things are communicated to the Executive Board and ultimately to each of you. I look forward to serving in the New Year.

We will be holding a January meeting Thursday, January 10 at 6 pm at the Extension Office. Please plan to attend. The Executive Committee is meeting on January 3 to plan the agenda for this meeting, but it will be a planning meeting and organization meeting for the upcoming class. Tim Brugeman will be doing a presentation on mentoring and how we want to move forward with assigning mentors for the next class and what is expected of a mentor. Your participation in this will be appreciated.

As of Friday, December 21, there were 10 enrolled in our 2019 class. We are working to get more enrolled. If you know of anyone you think wants to be a Master Gardener, please encourage them to contact the Extension Office to get enrolled. The orientation meeting for the applicants will be Wednesday, January 16, at 4 p.m. at the Extension Office. Classes begin Wednesday, February 6, at 9 a.m. If you need to get Education hours for the upcoming year, it would be a great opportunity for you to attend and learn from the presenters each week.

Laurie Pressel had a great article about the Master Gardener class and quotes of experiences from some of our Master Gardeners. Thank you to all who helped in presenting this to the community.

Lynn and I will be taking a trip January 12 through February 2. We will have some access to email; however, there could be delays in responding because we will be out of the country. Tim Brugeman and Ed Lentz will be making the final preparations for the class, so everything should continue on during my absence.

I hope January brings some time to rest and plan for the upcoming year for each of you.

## **HANCOCK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS**

### MEETING MINUTES

December 2018

Because we held our Christmas potluck dinner, there are no December meeting minutes.  
Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Miller

## Calendar of Events

### January 2019

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	LOCATI ON	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
<b>Saturday, January 5</b>	<b>Courier Article - draft due</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in Jan. 19 newspaper</b>	<b>Laurie Pressel</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 9</b>	<b>Young Tree Structural Pruning</b>	<b>9:00-2:30</b>	<b>Donation for lunch</b>	<b>Donnell Lodge, Camp Berry 11716 CR 40, Findlay</b>	<b>Tree maintenance</b>	<b>stephanie.miller@ dnr.state.oh.us</b>

<b>Thursday, January 10</b>	<b>MGV Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly MGV Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 16</b>	<b>MGV class orientation meeting</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>\$150 for new members or \$260 couples</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Planning class orientation</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Thursday, January 25</b>	<b>Go / No Go decision</b>				<b>Decision on holding class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>February 1 - 9</b>	<b>Tandada Foundation special volunteer vacation for OSU Ext MGVs &amp; Friends</b>	<b>9 days</b>	<b>\$1,400 +</b>	<b>Highlan d Ecuado r</b>	<b>Work on various horticultural projects</b>	<b>Denise Johnson johnson.2924@osu.edu 614-292-6089</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 5</b>	<b>Courier Article - draft due</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in February 23 newspaper</b>	<b>Ann Woolum</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 6</b>	<b>First MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>1st Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 13</b>	<b>Second MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>2nd Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Thursday, February 14</b>	<b>Brown Bag Presentation</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, February 14</b>	<b>Refreshments for MGV Meeting</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Provide Refreshments</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>

<b>Thursday, February 14</b>	<b>MGV Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 20</b>	<b>Third MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>3rd Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Saturday, February 23</b>	<b>Gardening at your doorstep</b>	<b>10:00 - 2:00</b>	<b>\$45 / \$55</b>	<b>Medina MGVs</b>	<b>Discovering smaller gardens</b>	<b>go.osu.edu/mgvregister 330-725-4911</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 27</b>	<b>Fourth MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>4th Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in March 23 newspaper "Beneficial Insects"</b>	<b>Bob Campbell</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 6</b>	<b>Fifth MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>5th Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 13</b>	<b>Fostoria Garden Club (Carol Kinn/ Judi Clymer)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Kaubisch Library, Fostoria</b>	<b>Spring Garden Makeovers</b>	<b>Tim Brugeman tentative pending another speaker</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 13</b>	<b>Sixth MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>6th Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Thursday, March 14</b>	<b>Brown Bag Presentation</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

<b>Thursday, March 14</b>	<b>Refreshments for MGV Meeting</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Provide Refreshments</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, March 14</b>	<b>MGV Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 20</b>	<b>Seventh MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>7th Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 27</b>	<b>Van Buren Lions Club</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Kathy's Corner, Arcadia</b>	<b>Spring Garden Makeovers</b>	<b>Linda Brinkman (419-299-3710)Tim Brugeman tentative pending another speaker</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 27</b>	<b>Final MGV class</b>	<b>9:00 - 4:00</b>		<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Final Class for new MGVs</b>	<b>Karl Farwig</b>
<b>Friday, April 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in April 20 newspaper</b>	<b>Karla Dennis</b>
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>	<b>Brown Bag Presentation</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>	<b>Refreshments for MGV Meeting</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Provide Refreshments</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>	<b>MGV Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>

<b>Thursday, April 25</b>	<b>2019 Garden Centers Bus Tour</b>	<b>Entire Day</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Pick up at Walmar t</b>	<b>Visit Wolf's Bloom &amp; Berries, 4 greenhouses, classes, presentations</b>	<b>Clip e-mail coupon or contact by calling 419-352- 3755</b>
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>			<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in May 25 newspaper</b>	<b>Doris Salis</b>
<b>Thursday, May 9</b>	<b>Brown Bag Presentation</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, May 9</b>	<b>Refreshments for MGV Meeting</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Provide Refreshments</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, May 9</b>	<b>MGV Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>			<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in June 22 newspaper</b>	<b>Betsy DeFrancesco</b>
<b>Thursday, June 13</b>	<b>Brown Bag Presentation</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, June 13</b>	<b>Refreshments for MGV Meeting</b>		<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Provide Refreshments</b>	<b>Volunteers Needed</b>
<b>Thursday, June 13</b>	<b>MGV Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>OSUE Office</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Rose Morrison</b>
<b>Friday, July 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>			<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in July 27 newspaper</b>	<b>Linda Casey</b>

<b>Monday, August 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>			<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in August 24 newspaper</b>	<b>Karla Davis</b>
<b>Thursday, September 5</b>	<b>Courier Article</b>			<b>The Courier</b>	<b>Article in September 28 newspaper</b>	<b>Cheryl Miller</b>

## Pollinators are abuzz for the 2019 Perennial of the Year

B. Rosie Lerner  
December 20, 2018



By selecting *Stachys officinalis* 'Hummelo' as its 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year, the Perennial Plant Association once again continued its focus on pollinator-friendly plants.

‘Hummelo’ is a compact, clump-forming perennial, reaching 1.5 to 2 feet tall and wide. Over time, the plants will form a dense mat, spreading slowly from creeping underground stems. Showy magenta flower spikes rise well above the foliage in midsummer and are quite attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. Plants are hardy in USDA Hardiness zones 4-8 and appear to be trouble-free. Plants perform best in full sun and well-drained soil. ‘Hummelo’ was the highest rated *Stachys* in the Chicago Botanic Garden Evaluation Trials for its strong flower production, vigor, habit, quality and winter hardiness.

The Perennial Plant Association selects a different perennial plant each year to promote throughout the nursery and gardening industry. PPA members nominate plants based on several criteria, including low maintenance needs, adaptability to a wide range of climates, pest and disease resistance, wide availability, multiple seasons of interest, and ease of propagation. A selection committee narrows the field to three or four choices, and then members cast votes.

For more information about the Perennial of the Year program, see [www.perennialplant.org](http://www.perennialplant.org).

Previous PPA Perennial Plant of the Year winners:

- 2018 *Allium* ‘Millenium’ (ornamental onion)
- 2017 *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed)
- 2016 *Anemone x hybrida* ‘Honorine Jobert’ (windflower)
- 2015 *Geranium* ‘Biokova’ (dwarf cranesbill, hardy geranium)
- 2014 *Panicum virgatum* ‘Northwind’ (tall switch grass)
- 2013 *Polygonatum odoratum* var. *variegatum* (Solomon’s seal)
- 2012 *Brunnera macrophylla* ‘Jack Frost’ (Siberian bugloss)
- 2011 *Amsonia hubrichtii* (blue star)
- 2010 *Baptisia australis* (blue false indigo)
- 2009 *Hakonechloa macra*, ‘Aureola’ (Japanese forest grass)
- 2008 *Geranium* ‘Rozanne’ (cranesbill, hardy geranium)
- 2007 *Nepeta racemosa* ‘Walker’s Low’ (catmint)
- 2006 *Dianthus* ‘Feuerhexe’ (aka ‘Firewitch’) (cheddar pink)
- 2005 *Helleborus x hybridus* (hellebore, Lenten rose)
- 2004 *Athyrium niponicum* var. *pictum* (Japanese painted fern)

- 2003 *Leucanthemum x superbum* 'Becky' (shasta daisy)
- 2002 *Phlox paniculata* 'David' (garden phlox)
- 2001 *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (feather reed grass)
- 2000 *Scabiosa* 'Butterfly Blue' (pincushion flower)
- 1999 *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' (black-eyed Susan)
- 1998 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus' (purple coneflower)
- 1997 *Salvia x sylvestris* 'Mainacht' (aka 'May Night') (wood sage)
- 1996 *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red' (beardtongue)
- 1995 *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian sage)
- 1994 *Astilbe* 'Sprite' (dwarf astilbe)
- 1993 *Veronica* 'Sunny Border Blue' (speedwell)
- 1992 *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' (threadleaf coreopsis)
- 1991 *Heuchera micrantha* var. *diversifolia* 'Palace Purple' (coral bells)
- 1990 *Phlox stolonifera* (creeping phlox)

## ASIAN LONHORN TICK-What you need to know



### What we know about Asian longhorned ticks

- Not normally found in the Western Hemisphere, these ticks were reported for the first time in the United States in 2017.
- Asian longhorned ticks have been found on pets, livestock, wildlife, and people.
- The female ticks can lay eggs and reproduce without mating.
- Up to thousands of ticks may be found at a time, or on an animal.
- In other countries, bites from these ticks can make people and animals seriously ill.
- As of Oct. 2, 2018, no harmful germs have been found in the ticks collected in the United States. Research is ongoing.
- Researchers are looking for these ticks to find out where they live. •  
**As of Oct. 2, 2018, Asian longhorned ticks have been found in Ark., Conn., Md., N.C., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Va., and W.Va.**
- Protect yourself, your pets, and your livestock. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-1,8-diol, or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions.
- Wear permethrin-treated clothing.
- Shower as soon as possible after spending time outdoors.
- Check for ticks daily. Ticks can hide under the armpits, behind the knees, in the hair, and in the groin.
- Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors. If the clothes are damp, additional time may be needed.
- Treat pets and livestock for ticks with veterinarian-approved products.

What to do if you think you have found an Asian longhorned tick:

- Remove ticks from people and animals as quickly as possible.
- Save the ticks in rubbing alcohol in a jar or a ziplock bag, then:
  - Contact your health department about steps you can take to prevent tick bites and tickborne diseases.
  - Contact a veterinarian for information about how to protect pets from ticks and tick bites.
  - Contact your state agriculture department or local agricultural extension office about ticks on livestock or for tick identification.

For more information, see: [www.cdc.gov/Ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/Ticks)

[www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/fs-longhorned-tick.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-longhorned-tick.pdf)

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## Plan to Run from Killer Bees

Timothy J Gibb  
December 7, 2018



This spring, for the second time since 2005, A.J. Foyt was attacked by Africanized, killer bees. Known to millions of fans simply as A.J., the American race car driving legend won a staggering number of races in several types of cars. He is one of three (Rick Mears and Al Unser) drivers to win the Indianapolis 500 four times.

Over the years Foyt survived three major crashes at speeds slightly less than 200 mph. And now he can add to that, surviving two attacks by Africanized killer bees while he was travelling at speeds slightly less than 8 mph.

According to news releases, both attacks occurred while Foyt was on his bulldozer at his Texas ranch when he accidentally disturbed an unseen bee hive. Foyt is quoted as suddenly seeing “a big cloud of them, like you see in the movies,” rise up and come after him. After being repeatedly stung, Foyt jumped from the bulldozer and began to run toward a swamp on his property. He fell down, and the bees continued to sting. He ran again, but the bees put him back on the ground.

Foyt thought he would die. “I don’t know what gave me the willpower to get up, but I made it to the swamp, fell into the mud and just laid there with my head in the mud until they went away.” He called the experience the “spookiest thing I’ve ever been in. ... I don’t ever want to go through it again.” A.J. Foyt knows a close call when he sees one.

Yet as fate would have it, he did go through it again this spring. The same bulldozer was involved and again, paramedics were called. Foyt thought he got off lucky even though 161 bee stingers were pulled from his face and lips alone. “I look like I have had a fight with Mike Tyson and lost,” he quipped.

The story generated quite a buzz (pardon the pun) on social media, resulting in plenty of debate, speculation and even some valuable questions and answers that I have included below.

The questions that fans ask:

**What was the outcome?** Paramedics gave him a shot of Dramamine, but he refused to go to the hospital, at least not until the bees were dealt with. “I got 15 gallons of diesel fuel and dropped it and set those &&%\$#@s on fire,” he said. “I felt a lot better after that.” Caution: While we are relieved that A.J. feels better, be it from drugs or revenge, we do not recommend controlling bees in this manner. Professional pest managers should be summoned.

**Can a person really outrun a swarm of bees?** In theory, yes. However, it is really hard to set up an experiment to prove it. The difficulty is finding volunteers willing to poke a stick in a hive, then wait until someone with a stopwatch says “Go!”

**How fast can bees fly and humans run?** Bees are not as fast as you might guess. A bee’s top flight speed is about 12 to 15 miles per hour. They seem faster because they are very acrobatic fliers and can accelerate quickly. The fastest human sprinter recorded is Usain Bolt, at 27.8 mph. Foyt is fast in a car but let’s face it, he is not Usain Bolt on foot. At 83 years of age and being a bit on the heavy side – his eating habits are legendary, too – he is not in his prime. Even with a swarm of bees coming after him, I doubt he could achieve 12 mph.

**Should Foyt have just stayed on his bulldozer?** Outrace them? ’Dozers are powerful but even with a hall of fame, race car driver at the controls, top speed is probably only about 8 mph. *But I know what you are thinking, and you have a good point. If his bulldozer had an airtight, sealed cab then, yes, by all means he should have stayed there and waited until the bees gave up – usually about 20 minutes. Same is true for retreating to a car or even a house. Shelter is your first option.*

**So if I find myself exposed to a swarm of angry bees, running away is your best advice?** Yes, the best defense is to run. If you are by yourself, run as fast as you can. If you happen to be with another person, try to run a bit faster than them. I know, that is an old joke, but it is true that the bees will identify the first moving target, and that is primarily who they will attack. Don’t be him. Get out of there as fast you can.

**If they attack a moving person, shouldn’t I just freeze?** Interesting thought, but I suspect that every thought, just before death, is probably interesting. By the time you see the swarm coming, they have already identified you and will attack. Their mission is to get you out of their area ASAP, and they will continue to sting as long as you remain. So don’t freeze, just run. Note: if you are with another, potentially faster, runner, you might try yelling “freeze” as loud as you can ... and then keep running. (That is a new joke.)

**What are killer bees and where are they found?** European honeybee strains were crossbred with more aggressive African honeybees in an effort to increase honey production. In 1957, these “Africanized bees” escaped quarantine in Brazil and slowly began spreading. By 1985 they were in Mexico, penetrating the southern border of the United States. Presently, they are in 12 southwestern states. How far north they will be able to spread is unknown.

**Why are they called killer bees and are they really more dangerous?** Killer bee is a colloquial name given to the hybrid or Africanized cross strain. The name elicits fear beyond that which is justified. In fact, few people can tell the difference between the two just by looking at them. The consequential difference is behavior. Africanized honeybees react to a nest disturbance faster and more aggressively. They sting more readily and pursue much farther – even up to a quarter-mile. They definitely have attitude, and that makes them more dangerous.

**Is killer bee venom more potent than regular honeybee venom?** No, venom does not differ much, but killer bee attacks often result in 10 times as many stings.

**What happens if bees sting you?** Bee stings hurt, there is no denying that. Multiple bee stings hurt even more. But an online medical website written by medical doctors states that most people can survive about 10 bee stings per pound of body weight — or more than 1,500 stings per adult. (Again, I don't know how these data are acquired. Perhaps statistics are revised each time A.J. Foyt suffers a bee attack and we are relying on him for all of our killer bee sting research). In any case, records indicate only about 50 deaths per year. In most cases, those victims were hyperallergic to bee venom, or for whatever reason couldn't get away from the swarm.

**Foyt said he buried himself in a muddy swamp. Would that really help?** Nope, it would probably not help. You can't fool an angry bee. Remember, they defend their hives against bears on a regular basis. A muddy face is not going to deter them. Even completely submerging in water will only delay the outcome because bees are known to hover and wait for their victim to come up. Maybe swimming underwater for a long distance would throw them off. Again, I really don't know. Other than A.J., it is so hard to find volunteers for such a study. Maybe I'll ask him to provide some aquatic data next time.

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## Invasive Plants of Concern in Ohio

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Tree-of-heaven is a fast-growing tree that was introduced for ornamental purposes. It is often found in disturbed woodlands, fencerows, old fields, pastures, utility right-of-ways, as well as in unmanaged green spaces in urban areas. Tree-of-heaven often forms thickets and sprouts prolifically from the roots and from cut stumps. Tree-of-heaven is characterized by very stout twigs which are distinctive against the winter sky. When in leaf, the tree has a palm-like appearance. It has long compound leaves with 11 to 41 leaflets along the petiole. Each leaflet has one or more thumbs, or lobes, at the base. Small glandular teeth are present at the tip of each lobe on the underside of the leaflet. The bark is smooth and gray with vertical fissures that become smoother with age. In late summer female trees produce winged seeds which turn yellow-orange to brown in the fall. All parts of tree-of-heaven emit a distinctive odor when crushed, which has been likened to cat urine or rancid peanuts.

Bush Honeysuckles: Amur, tatarian, and morrow honeysuckle (Lonicera species)



There are several species of closely related bush honeysuckles that were introduced for ornamental use, wildlife habitat, and erosion control. These deciduous shrubs are invasive in woodlands, reverting old fields, fencerows, utility right-of-ways, along highway corridors, river corridors, and in unmanaged green spaces. Amur, tatarian, and morrow honeysuckle are all similar in appearance. They all have long arching branches, with bark that appears striped. Dark green leaves are arranged oppositely along the stem. The leaves of amur honeysuckle are larger than the other two species and have an abruptly long pointed tip. The leaves of tatarian and morrow honeysuckle are smaller and more oval or egg-shaped. All of these shrubs have fragrant tubular flowers in the spring. Amur and morrow honeysuckle have white and yellow flowers; tatarian has pink or crimson flowers. Clusters of small round berries are produced in the mid summer and persist through the fall. Berry color is commonly red, occasionally orange or yellow.

Chinese and European Privet (*Ligustrum sinense* and *L. vulgare*)



Privet is a semi-evergreen, deciduous, thicket forming shrub. It has multiple stems and can reach up to 30 feet in height. Chinese and European privet are nearly identical, but can be distinguished from one another at flowering. Privet is often found in forests, along fencerows, and in right-of-ways. It was introduced in the United States for ornamental use because its highly branched, dense form makes a nice hedge or living screen for the home landscape. This plant is spread by bird-dispersed fruits. Privet has long leaning to arching stems that are highly branched at nearly right angles. Twigs often have many short spur-like branches. The bark is brownish gray to gray. Small oval leaves have smooth margins (not toothed) and are arranged oppositely along the stem. Clusters of small white flowers appear in April to June along the terminal and upper axillary branches. Green fruits develop in late summer, ripen to blue-black berries in the fall, and may persist through the winter and into spring.

Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Autumn olive is a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 20 feet tall. Leaves are untoothed, oval, with slightly wavy edges and are arranged alternately along the stem. Autumn olive was introduced for reclamation of disturbed areas, planted in windbreaks, and for use as an ornamental plant. This shrub is often found in forest edges, in fencerows, along highway corridors, and in reverting old fields. Autumn olive is easily identified by the silvery scales on the underside of the leaves. New twigs, berries, and flowers also have silvery scales. Strongly fragrant light yellow flowers appear in the spring after the shrub has leafed out. Red berries are produced in the late summer and fall and are spread by birds and other wildlife. Stout thorns are sometimes present on the twigs. The bark of autumn olive is smooth and light grayish brown to bronze in color.

### Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Japanese honeysuckle is a semi-evergreen, woody vine that climbs trees or trails along the ground. It was introduced to the United States for ornamental use and for erosion control. It is often found on woodland edges, in the interior of disturbed woods, along

roadsides, in fencerows, in bottomlands, or any other disturbed area where there is at least partial sunlight. Japanese honeysuckle has small oblong leaves that are arranged oppositely along the stem. Young stems are hairy and light reddish brown. Fragrant white or yellow flowers are present in late May to early June. Berries develop in late summer and ripen to blue-black glossy fruits in September through October. Seeds are eaten and dispersed by a variety of wildlife species.

### Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)



Multiflora rose is a perennial, deciduous shrub with long, slender, thorny, arching branches. It was introduced to the United States for erosion control and promoted as a “living fence”. This shrub is intolerant of shade and is often found in reverting old fields, along forest edges, in disturbed forests, along fencerows, and in other disturbed areas. Multiflora rose has compound leaves, each bearing 5-11 small, finely-toothed leaflets. The base of each petiole (leaf stem) is finely fringed. Clusters of white or slightly pink flowers are present in May to June. Small, red, egg-shaped fruits develop in the fall and often persist into winter.

### Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



Garlic mustard is a biennial herbaceous plant that is very shade tolerant. This fragrant plant likely escaped into natural areas from home gardens where it was cultivated for medicinal use and for human consumption. Garlic mustard can form dense colonies in woodlands, especially along streambanks as the seeds are often transported by water. First year garlic mustard plants are low-growing with kidney-shaped, scalloped leaves that appear wrinkled. These plants will stay green throughout the winter months and continue to photosynthesize whenever the temperatures are above freezing. In the spring of the second year, garlic mustard produces tall stalks that are 2 to 4 feet in height. The leaves are triangular to heart-shaped with wavy-toothed margins. Clusters of tiny white four-petaled flowers appear in mid to late spring. Long slender seed pods develop by early to mid-summer, each containing a row of tiny black seeds.

### Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)



Japanese stiltgrass is an annual grass that is native to Asia. It was likely introduced accidentally as packing material in shipments of goods from its native range. Japanese stiltgrass is common along forest edges, roadsides, trailsides, along ditches, in damp fields, in floodplains, and along stream sides. Seeds are dispersed by water, equipment, shoes, and clothing. Japanese stiltgrass can grow up to 4 feet tall. The short flat leaf blades are arranged alternately along the stem and project outward from it. Leaves are sparsely hairy on both sides and along the margins with a whitish midvein that is off center. Flowers are thin and spike-like and appear in late summer to fall. Flowering plants turn reddish in the fall and then turn brown towards winter.

### Kudzu (*Peuraria montana*)



Kudzu is a fast-growing, climbing, perennial vine that was introduced in the southern United States as forage for livestock and as an ornamental plant. It spread quickly and became so common throughout much of the southern U. S. that it is often described as “the vine that ate the South”. Kudzu tolerates a wide variety of habitats and is often found on disturbed areas, old fields, roadsides, forest

edges, vacant lots, and abandoned yards. The compound deciduous leaves of kudzu are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is composed of three broad leaflets which may be simple (without lobes) or deeply three-lobed. Leaflets are hairy along the margin. Upright purple flowers appear in the summer and are strongly grape scented. Hairy, flattened, bean-like pods develop in the fall and contain 3 to 10 hard seeds.

### Common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*)



Buckthorns are tall shrubs or small trees that grow up to 20 feet tall. Both were introduced to the United States for ornamental use. Common buckthorn is adapted to a wide range of habitats including open oak woods, woodland edges, prairies, reverting old fields, and fencerows. It can tolerate both moist and well-drained soils. Glossy buckthorn occurs in wetlands, along forest edges, riverbanks, lakesides, marshy land, and also on drier sites. Both buckthorns have gray to brown bark that is roughly textured. The inner bark of common buckthorn is yellow and the heartwood is pink to orange. The leaves of both species are arranged alternately along the stem and have several pairs of distinct veins that are curved toward the leaf tip. Common buckthorn has finely toothed dull green leaves. Glossy buckthorn has shiny leaves that are without teeth. In the spring, common buckthorn has clusters of 2 to 6 yellow-green 4-petaled flowers; glossy buckthorn has pale yellow 5-petaled flowers that grow solitarily or in clusters of 2 to 8. Pea-sized fruits develop in fall and are black on common buckthorn and red to dark purple on glossy buckthorn. The twigs of common buckthorn are often tipped with a small spine; while those of glossy buckthorn are not.

### Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Japanese barberry is a deciduous shrub that was introduced for ornamental use and is still commercially available for use in landscaping. This shrub is very adaptable and can grow in well-drained soils or in low, wet areas. It is tolerant of shade and is often found in closed canopy forests as well as in open woodlands, wetlands, pastures, fencerows, utility corridors, and roadsides. Japanese barberry has small, un-toothed, spoon-shaped leaves that can be green, bluish-green, or dark reddish purple. The branches are brown, grooved, and have a slight zigzag form. Very sharp, tiny spines are present along the branches between each cluster of leaves. In the spring, small yellow flowers hang down from the branches in groups of 2 to 4. Egg-shaped to oblong, red fruits mature in late summer and persist on the shrub through fall and winter. Japanese barberry can grow to a height of 6 to 8 feet.

### Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)



Callery pear is a deciduous tree that is widely planted in the urban landscape. Different cultivated varieties of pear that are sold for landscaping purposes are self-sterile; meaning that they cannot pollinate themselves to produce viable fruit. However, different cultivars of pear can cross-pollinate with each other when they are planted in close proximity in the landscape. This results in the production of viable fruits which are dispersed by fruit-eating birds such as European starlings. Callery pear grows well in full sun to partial shade. It tolerates a variety of soil types and can withstand occasionally wet or droughty soils. Wild pear often escapes into disturbed areas, meadows, roadsides, and open woods. Callery pear can reach a height of 45 feet. The bark is smooth with horizontal lenticels when young and later develops vertical fissures. Leaves are oval, glossy, leathery and have round-toothed margins. Abundant white flowers develop in early spring before the leaves expand and this is when escaped wild pears become most noticeable in the landscape. Fruits are approximately ½ inch in diameter and brownish with white specks. They ripen in early to mid fall.

#### Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Oriental bittersweet is a deciduous vine that was introduced in the United States as an ornamental plant. This plant is adaptable and can cling to trees and other vertical structures, or it can trail along the ground and grow into a shrub-like form. It is still cultivated for ornamental use and maintained as an ornamental vine, which contributes to its ability to spread. Oriental bittersweet is commonly found on forest edges, forest openings, fencerows, fields, and roadsides. A heavy infestation of this vine can smother the host tree or cause increased risk of breakage especially during high winds or when there is heavy accumulation of snow and ice. Oriental bittersweet can reach a height of 60 feet when it climbs into trees. The woody stem is olive-gray with raised whitish corky dots and can reach a diameter of up to 4 inches. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Leaf shape is variable from round to long and tapering. The leaf margins are bluntly toothed. Inconspicuous, five-petaled, spring flowers are clustered along the upper portions of the branches in the leaf axils. These develop into round dangling fruit capsules which start out green, turn yellow orange, then tan. In the winter months the capsules split open to reveal a red, sectioned fruit. Invasive oriental bittersweet can be confused with the closely related native American bittersweet. The main difference between the two species is that the fruit and flowers of the American bittersweet are present only at the terminal tips of the stems, instead of along the stem at the leaf axils.

Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, and bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*, *P. sachalinense*, and *P. x bohemicum*)



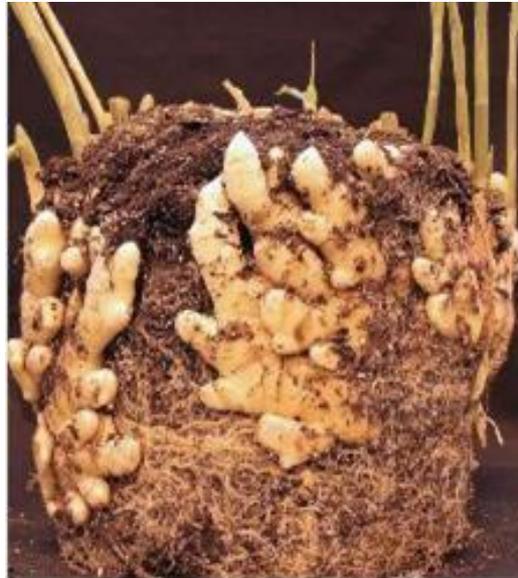
Japanese knotweed, giant knotweed, and bohemian knotweed (a hybrid of the first two) are all fast-growing, herbaceous, perennial, bamboo-like plants that form dense thickets reaching 4 to 16 feet in height. Spread is primarily through creeping underground stems or rhizomes. Japanese and giant knotweeds are native to Asia and were introduced to the United States in the late nineteenth century for ornamental use, erosion control, and fodder. All three knotweeds are capable of re-sprouting from both above-ground and belowground pieces that are broken off the main plant. This ability allows knotweeds to spread through the movement of yard waste, roadside mowing, and other disturbances that move plant parts. Knotweeds are commonly found invading riparian areas and river bluffs, woodland edges, reverting fields, roadsides, and abandoned agricultural fields. Japanese, giant, and bohemian knotweeds are

all very similar in appearance with subtle differences in some structures. Bohemian knotweed has characteristics that are intermediate between the two parent species. Stems are stout, hollow, bamboo-like, and light green. Japanese knotweed is profusely branched and giant knotweed is sparingly branched. Leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Japanese knotweed leaves are 4 to 6 inches in length and are broadly egg-shaped with a flattened or truncated base. Giant knotweed leaves are 6 to 16 inches long with a deeply heart-shaped base and a blunt leaf tip. Bohemian knotweed leaves are 7 to 9 inches long with a shape that varies from an elongate triangle, to spade-shaped, to heart-shaped. Flowers are small, white to whitish-green, and arranged in plume-like clusters along the leaf axils. Japanese knotweed has elongated flower clusters and giant knotweed has shorter flower clusters. Small, winged, three-sided, papery fruits dangle from the leaf axils and contain tiny, three-sided, shiny, black seeds.

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## Spice Up Your Holidays

B. Rosie Lerner  
November 21, 2018



Some of the most popular spices used this time of year are harvested from various parts of exotic tropical plants, lending a special flavor to holiday recipes.

Ginger is harvested from the rhizomes (underground stems) of a tropical/sub-tropical herbaceous plant, *Zingiber officinale*. Ginger is native to tropical Asia and is grown commercially in Hawaii and many other countries, including China, India, Thailand and Brazil. The rhizomes are harvested after the first year of the plant's growth. The rhizomes can be washed and used fresh, dried whole or ground, pickled, crystallized or boiled and stored in syrup.

It is possible to grow ginger as a houseplant, though a typical home is not the best environment to keep this plant happy, especially in winter. The plant thrives in warm, humid air and well-drained moist soil. Select healthy fresh rhizomes from the market, and look for the small "eyes" or buds to plant eyes facing upward, about 2-3 inches deep. Once the leaves emerge, set the plant near a bright window where it will get at least a half day of direct sun.

The popular spice of cinnamon is derived from several closely related species. Ceylon cinnamon comes from the bark of the semi-tropical evergreen tree *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, native to Ceylon and southwest India and hardy in the U.S. Gulf states. For the best quality cinnamon, the bark is cut in strips from two-year-old branches, just as the new foliage leafs out and the bark slips easily from the wood. The bark is then dried and either ground or sold in the curled strips called "quills." The quills of Ceylon cinnamon are light brown, and their interior consists of several thin layers.

The cinnamon found in most grocery stores is more likely to be the cassia cinnamon, harvested from the related *Cinnamomum aromaticum*. This type of cinnamon has a darker, thicker bark, and its quills are hollow. This form is less expensive, so it is more commonly found and is stronger in flavor than the true cinnamon.

Cloves are native to the Moluccas (Spice Islands) and are the dried, unopened flowers of the tropical evergreen tree *Syzygium aromaticum*. The name clove is derived from the Latin *clavus*, meaning "nail," as the dried flowers do rather resemble their namesake.

Nutmeg and mace are both harvested from the fruits of yet another tropical evergreen tree, *Myristica fragrans*, also native to the Moluccas. These fruits have a fleshy outer husk that splits upon ripening to reveal the seed with a red, leathery covering. Nutmeg is made from the ground seed kernel, while mace is made from the leathery seed cover.

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# IT'S TIME TO.....

## Home (indoor plants and activities)

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

## Yard (lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep road and sidewalk salt away from plants. Construct a screen of burlap, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- “Leaf” through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

## Garden (flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper, including what to grow, spacing, arrangement and number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

