

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

October 2020

Officer Elections

will be held at our next
ZOOM meeting
on November 12th.

Community Gardens

3,489 pounds of produce
have been donated
as of September 30th.

The deadline for turning in
ALL produce donations to
Brint is October 15th.

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Bee Covered in Pollen on
Doris Salis' Deck Rail

Coordinator's Corner

Not much has changed other than it is officially fall as of September 22nd. The other change is there may be Big Ten football including my Ohio State Buckeyes. I am so much ready to watch this vs all of the virus and political news.

Please look for two emails coming from Pam Bennett. One will be the registration for the state conference to be held on October 22nd and 23rd. The second email will be a COVID survey she will ask you to complete.

Questions continue to come in for the local Ask-A-Gardener project. Thanks to all of the project team for addressing these in a timely manner.

Thanks also to the Community Garden project team for a job well done given the current circumstances. They have produced and donated over 3,000 pounds of food for local food banks.

Our current exemption for outside projects expires on November 1 so anyone working on outside projects must have these completed by November 1. Hancock County does not have any exemptions for face to face meetings or programming. I know you have heard this over and over, but there should be no work in these settings.

Our next MGV meeting will be a Zoom meeting and will cover the 2021 elections and budget approval. Please plan to attend this meeting.

Karl Farwig



Rambling Rose *October 2020*

October the time of change with falling leaves and garden clean- ups. Doesn't it seem like we just planted all these beautiful flowers and vegetables? Time flies! As the season of change is upon us, it seems like so many things have changed in 2020. The one thing that hasn't changed is our love of gardening and education!

Thank you to Bill Lanning for providing me with a fall surprise! My autumn crocus appeared and I didn't remember planting them! Thanks to the good memory of other MGVs, I was reminded of Bill's sharing last year of fall crocus bulbs! It was a positive inspiration to have this beautiful bloom come up when most other plants are ending the season!

Congratulations to Brint Simmons and the community garden team for a successful season. Doris Salis and her team of Ask a Master Gardener has had an active season and has made a positive impact in the community! The commitment of our many teams hasn't changed.

I'm pleased with the nomination of Rueben DeBolt for president! He will be a positive change and will be instrumental in the continued success and motivation for us all! Thank you to Ann Woolum for her willingness to continue as an outstanding treasurer. Thank you both for your leadership.

Thank you all for the support everyday of the year. You are all appreciated!

Happy Halloween!

Rose



Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020

President Rose Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom, with Karl Farwig coordinating, 17 in attendance at start, gradually increased to 28.

The meeting was recorded so that those unable to attend could still review the meeting.

Special Presentation – Brint Simmons Report on the Community Garden Program

- Donations to City Mission and CHOPIN Hall – more than 3,000 lbs so far, including some from personal gardens. Organizations are especially appreciative this year, as the lockdowns have caused an increase in need
- Start-up – a challenge, first because of uncertainty about United Way support, which did materialize. Then the OSU shutdown of group activities necessitated some creative means to start the garden. But all is going well now. Harvesting continues.
- Garden – tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, cabbages, zucchini, cucumbers, onions, carrots
 - Tomatoes and peppers have produced heavily, cabbage and zucchini and onions ok, potatoes very spotty germination so planted zucchini to fill some spaces, carrots failed to germinate twice. Potato harvest soon
 - At Tom Lawrence farm – squash, pumpkins, zucchini, sweet potatoes doing well
 - Challenges along the way – some critters ate all the initial pepper plants, so we had to re-plant. Ann Woolum provided some netting to use as fencing around the pepper patch.
 - Community Garden in general (not just our plot) looks much better than in prior years
- Team – Brint, Rose, Linda Finsel, Reuben at Community Garden, Lisa, Karl, Lynn at Lawrence Farm. The Leiendeckers were instrumental in the start-up phase. Bill Jones provided tomato, pepper and cabbage plants, Bill Lanning sweet potato starts.
- 2021 Proposed Plan
 - Vegetables to donate – still the #1 focus
 - Demonstration plots – demonstrate the effect of planting at different times, of using pesticides vs not, etc, as a learning/teaching tool for the community
- Publicity – Ann will have Betsy contact Sara Arthur at The Courier, where they are always looking for local stories of interest

Rose & members thanked Brint for his efforts and ongoing success

Minutes of the previous meeting – The minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2020 were approved on (thumbs up) vote after motion by Tim Brugeman, 2nd by Lisa McClain

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

There was no activity in August

Current total cash balance is \$7,193.29, including funds restricted for Community Garden. Unrestricted \$5978.92

Report approved on motion by Tim Brugeman, 2nd by Reuben DeBolt

President's Comments – Rose Morrison

- Dick Schweitzer – Dick Schweitzer, MGV Emeritus, recently passed away. We made a \$25 donation to the Alzheimer's Foundation (the family's choice) in his memory.
- Thanks – Thanks to everyone for support during this strange period, especially to Lisa for the Newsletter which at least keeps us all informed.

(CONTINUED)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020
(CONTINUED)

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Karl Farwig:

- State Conference – will be virtual, now scheduled for Oct 22-23. Everyone should receive an email from Pam Bennett with information on registration
- COVID Survey – everyone should also receive an email from Pam with a COVID survey
- Lunch & Learn – the state MGCV will again launch sessions, starting Thursday in January
- Outdoor activities – our exemption to conduct outdoor MGCV activities expires Nov 1

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

- We are encouraged to continue to do what we can to serve the community and get recognition
- Ed would like to see Hancock Co be rated “yellow” before we try to expand our activities

Old Business

- Election Nov 12 – Tim Brugeman reported that election of officers to fill expiring terms will be held at the Nov 12 meeting
 - President – Rose has decided to “retire”. Peggy Biolchini has nominated Reuben DeBolt
 - Treasurer – Ann Woolum has agreed to continue in office and Tim Brugeman has nominated her
- Phenology Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco reported that her committee will present a proposal to the Executive Committee by their next meeting so that it can be voted on Nov 12. The proposal is for a sensory garden, with pollinator attractions, to be a pleasant, place to visit.

New Business

- 2021 Budget – Ann will present proposed 2021 budget at the next Executive meeting so that it can be voted on at the Nov 12 meeting. It will be essentially the same as for 2020. If any committee needs funds for any new items, please contact Ann ASAP

Project Reports

- Ask a Master Gardener – Doris Salis
 - Requests for help – 18 in August from 15 different people, 69 YTD
 - 6 were about trees – including one about a clear “goo” on a new cypress tree. Even Bill Jones couldn’t identify the cause, so suggested the person go back to the nursery where they acquired the tree
 - 5 about vegetables and lawns – asparagus planting, identifying a volunteer melon
- Community Garden – Brint Simmons presented as a special report before the business meeting
- Extension Office Garden – Tim reported for Jerry Lenhart
 - No further activity. Will need to put together a plan for next year
- Phenology Garden – as noted in old business

Garden Comment Period

- Rose – surprised by massive underground nest of “ground bees” near juniper. Yellow jackets
- Rose – flowers recently appeared, no leaves, small stems. Fall crocus according to others at meeting

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned on motion by Doris Salis, 2nd by Tim Brugeman

Next Meeting: Nov 12, 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted: Reuben DeBolt, Secretary

Master Gardener Volunteer



In Memoriam

Richard (Dick) E. Schweitzer
1934-2020

*A special thank you to Bill Lanning and Bill Jones
 for sharing their special memories of Dick.*



On September 12, 2020, Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer, Dick Schweitzer passed away. Dick was a founding member of the Hancock County Master Gardeners Club and proudly became one of its first members. He, along with Gary Wilson and Dr. Leon Walker, began our Master Gardener organization in 1992. Bill Lanning first met Dick in 1972 when they both joined The Men's Garden Club of Findlay. Bill said although it was difficult to write about his good friend as it seems so final, he was happy to share his memories. Dick, who was very involved in many local Master Gardening activities, loved sharing his expertise. He was smart, fun loving, and a much-appreciated mentor as remembered by Bill Jones. He remained an active Master Gardener until his health began to fail. Dick Schweitzer was a true Master Gardener.

Dick was known for raising all types of crops. He was an annual presence at the Farmers' Market with his abundant produce. Many years ago, Dick raised some of the best sweet potatoes ever eaten. Bill Lanning propagated them each year and several present-day master gardeners still raise "Schweitzer's Heirloom" sweet potatoes. An additional passion that put him on the map was every year he raised specialty popcorn and pressed apple cider. Each fall people would travel to visit him for a glass of cider, a bowl of "Tom Thumb" popcorn and of course one of his many stories while sitting around the barn. He became known nationally as "The Popcorn Man". Bill Jones says Dick was one of the few people he knows who could consistently raise good blueberries in his garden.

Dick was recognized not only locally as a gardening expert, but also as an accredited horticultural judge. He was very competitive and entered many local and regional horticulture shows usually winning many blue ribbons. Using his expertise he went on to judge flowers, fruits and vegetables at horticulture shows and fairs around the Midwest. As part of the Findlay Men

(Continued)

Master Gardener Volunteer



In Memoriam

Richard (Dick) E. Schweitzer (Continued)

and Women's Garden Club, Bill Lanning and Dick judged many shows together. This is where Bill really got to know Dick and became good friends. Also judging at the shows were Anita Lanning, Bill Jones and Patrick Flinn.

Not only was Dick an expert gardener and horticultural judge, he believed in doing the right thing and returning a favor. Bill Jones recalls Dick teaching pruning and fruit growing to his MGCV class of 2001. Dick knew everything about the 42 trees in his orchard. One year while pruning in the spring Dick broke his ankle falling from his ladder. Bill organized a group of MGCVs and Garden Club members and learned how to prune apple, pear, and cherry trees by completing the job for Dick. Several years later when Bill was laid up from surgery, Dick returned the favor by spraying Bill's fruit trees during the growing season.

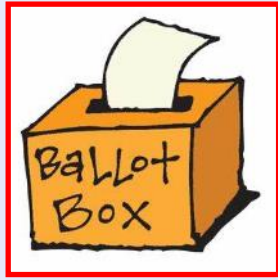
Both Bill Lanning and Bill Jones said Dick could tell stories that always kept them laughing. Lanning recalls when the Master Gardeners became regulars on the WFIN Phone Club and Dick was a regular guest. Kelly Greene, the host, told Dick how impressed she was with his knowledge. Dick told her that if he didn't know an answer, he would just reply with authority whether he was right or not. Bill said, "I thought Kelly was going to fall out of her chair! He was of course just kidding." Another story Bill Lanning remembers is being asked to be president of their local garden club for their 50th anniversary. At the time there were only 23 members and Bill told Dick he was going to get 50 members for their 50th!!! They ended up with 52 members that year and Dick said, "Lanning, I thought you were full of (plums) when you told me that and I still think you are full of (plums)." Bill Jones said, "We shared a lot of stories and Dick always had some gardening fact to share that was new and interesting along with a joke."

For those of us who never met Dick we can know he was truly an expert Master Gardener who loved sharing his knowledge with others. Bill Jones stated, "I am a better gardener today because of the love of gardening shared by Dick and many others of our early Master Gardeners." Bill Lanning said, "The Master Gardener Volunteer organization can be proud of Dick's legacy." Thanks Dick, for making us who we are today! You will be missed.

For Richard Schweitzer's Complete Obituary Visit: <https://thecourier.com/news/277479/richard-dick-e-schweitzer/>

Candidate Bios for Officer Elections

Please join our ZOOM meeting and vote on November 12th



*Nominations have been received in recent weeks and candidates for President and Treasurer have been accepted for election at our next MGV meeting.
Please participate to vote!*

Meet the candidates:

For **President, Rueben DeBolt**, nominated by Peggy Biolchini

While only a Master Gardener Volunteer for 2 years Rueben has become very active in our organization. He grew up in the country in Wyandot County with a large garden helping his family since a young boy. His chores were picking strawberries, corn and tomatoes which laid the foundation to serving this year on our Hancock County Community Garden team. He has had his own plot there for 3 years.

After retiring from Cooper Tire in 2018, he became a Master Gardener and was elected Board Secretary for 2020. He is active in United Way's grant evaluations team and mentors students with the University of Findlay and Children's Mentoring Connection. He continues an active home gardening program at his place near Van Buren. His hope for the MGV organization is to resume whatever MGV activities possible under the limitations of OSU. He also wants to emphasize education for our members and outreach to the community through whatever means open to us. Reuben would also encourage more members to take leadership roles.

For **Treasurer, Ann Woolum**, nominated by Tim Brugeman

A Master Gardener since 2010 Ann has served on various committees. She has been especially active on the field trip committee, the recent seminar on "Sustainable Landscaping" committee, wreath making classes and county fair booth. Ann has served the past 4 years as MGV Treasurer and is willing to continue. A long time Findlay resident, Ann has been active in the community in Kiwanis for 20+ years. She is currently a board member and serves on several committees. She has been very involved in the new Brucklacher Park playground project recently landscaped with volunteers at the Historical Museum's Little Red Schoolhouse. She currently serves the ADAMHS as Board Vice-Chair and is the past finance chair. Ann, who is semi-retired, is a partner/CPA of Knueven, Schroeder & Co. She enjoys tending her yard's flowers and vegetable garden with excess harvests shared with neighbors. As Treasurer she wants to keep the club informed of its finances, file required state and federal reports and insure the Hancock County MGV stays financially sound.

**VOTE November 12...support the candidates
who have volunteered to serve in these trying times.**

Ornamental Allium

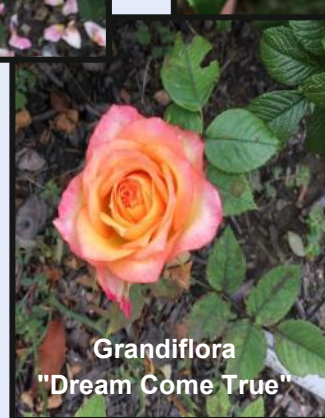
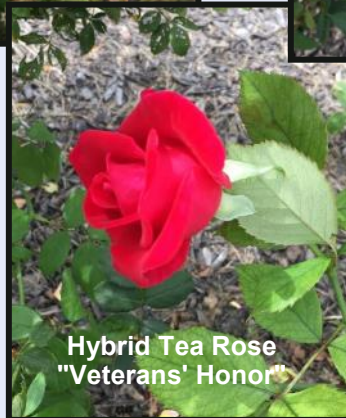
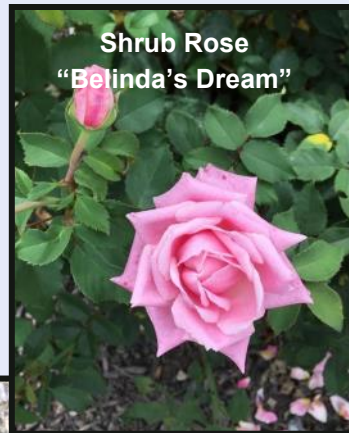
Cheryl Miller

"I have attached three pictures of some of my ornamental Allium. I had not grown Allium until about 3 or 4 years ago. Since then I have become a real fan. They are very showy in the garden as mine bloom in late Spring - after the initial traditional early Spring flowers (tulips/daffodils) and before the Peonies and roses. They vary in height and size of the flowering globes atop sturdy stems. I have never had one blow over during a storm. All of mine are varying degrees of purple in color although they do come in white, yellow and pink. They dry nicely on their own adding additional interest in the garden as the summer progresses. This year I saved some and have them in a Fall arrangement I have on my front porch. Also, maybe best of all no critters (rabbits/deer etc.) will touch them."



"In reference to the pictures, the dried Allium is the solitary purple flower in the second picture. It is about 7 inches wide. What fascinates me is the dried flower globe actually has a lacy look to it. . .dainty yet very sturdy and hardy."

Photos of Linda Finsel's Roses



What's the Buzz?

Linda Casey

My husband was recently stung, while peacefully sitting on our deck. The welt was nearly four inches long, despite putting on antihistamine cream and taking an antihistamine tablet. That was four days ago and it's still causing him discomfort. So what caused the sting?

The media was abuzz a few months ago with reports of Asian giant hornets found in N. America. It was one of those stories that captured people's interest immediately.

It was the hornet's huge size (reportedly in excess of 2 inches in length), robust bodies, menacing look, complete with aggressive reputation and sinister name that really made the story memorable.

Hornets, like honeybees and yellow jacket wasps, exhibit an advanced behavior called sociality. Social insect societies are almost exclusively female (a few reproductive queens and many non-reproductive females (workers), with a sprinkling of males. By working together or dividing the labor, social insects gain improved foraging, achieve higher reproduction rates and create more effective defenses.

Their stronger defense comes because the workers use their modified egg-laying organs as weapons called stingers. Arming all workers with a venom-laden stinger and a communication system to converge on a suspected danger is an extremely effective protection strategy. All workers in the colony stand ready to attack a would-be trespasser, en masse and all at once. Asian giant hornet colonies have this ability, and a quick temper back it up.

The news media made them out to be insane killing machines ready to take over our country. Even gave them a new name: Murder Hornets. The parts of the story that seem to have been forgotten are that the discovery of Asian giant hornets in North America was limited to a single find in British Columbia, Canada, and a second in Washington State. Hardly an invasion, and scientists assure us that it is quite unlikely that the Asian giant hornet is going to take over the country.

The Asian giant hornet is a potentially gruesome predator of honey bees, but contrary to the implications brought on by its recently acquired appellation, the murder hornet does not seek to murder or sting people. It defends its nest, as do all social insects. Defense does not equate to murder. If a nest is threatened or disturbed, these wasps do become aggressive. Data from Asia, where giant hornets are common, report only 40 deaths per year from hornet stings compared to more than 60 deaths in the U.S. due to bee or wasp stings. Interestingly, in both places a whopping 80% of the human victims happen to be male. Nevertheless, we have all been put on guard, and large wasps everywhere are now eyed with suspicion.

We also have several sizable wasps in America. European giant hornets (close cousins to the Asians) and more commonly, the cicada killer wasp both appear nearly as substantial, especially to lay people.

(Continued)



What's the Buzz?

(Continued)

Cicada killer wasp, Crabronidae: Sphecius speciosus

Cicada killer wasps evoke a good deal of fear among people due to their impressive size, somewhat aggressive behavior and rather ominous name. Cicada killer wasps, although large, differ by being beneficial solitary wasps, not social wasps, and as such are not likely to sting or harm people. They do not have a queen or a communal nest to defend.

Females each dig a burrow, usually in well drained, light textured soil, in full sunlight. The 1.5-inch diameter opening leads into an oblique tunnel that runs underground for 12-18 inches at a depth of 6-10 inches. Branching off of the main tunnel are small cells that she uses for nursery.

Then the female wasp goes on the hunt for its prey, a cicada. With pinpoint accuracy, it intercepts and administers a precise, paralyzing sting (all while in mid-flight) before dragging the cicada to its burrow. The unfortunate target is not yet dead, merely immobilized – sometimes continuing its incessant buzzing even while being dragged to the hole. The cicada killer wasp is astonishing, not only for being able to detect, catch and paralyze its prey while in flight, but also because of its ability to carry its prey, which is proportionally equal to or heavier than itself, to its burrow. Both amazing aeronautical feats.

Equally interesting is the reproductive behavior of the cicada killer. After stuffing one or more cicadas into each of the small nursery cells, the wasp lays eggs, then seals off the chambers. After 2-3 days, the newly hatched parasites each burrow into a cicada carcass and begin the slow process of devouring the immobilized, but still living, cicada. The larvae then pass the winter in their underground cells, to emerge the following summer as adult cicada killer wasps.

Male cicada killer wasps emerge first and mate shortly after emergence. They are territorial and so quickly check out anything moving in the area where they expect females to emerge – thus their apparent aggressive but innocuous behavior of buzzing and dive bombing. Males are quite harmless; they do not possess stingers, thus cannot sting.

As for Jerry, his sting was probably from a yellow jacket. They are particularly aggressive this time of year. They form larger nests with more individuals (hundreds to thousands) usually covered with a gray and black colored paper-like material. The nests are found inside places like attics, under porches and in dense bushes. Some common species prefer to nest in the ground.



Ask-A-Gardener Q&A

August Report

Submitted by Doris Salis

Identify Indoor Bugs-Identified as bread beetles (also called drugstore beetles). They come from pet food or products containing flour, such as, cereal or pancake mix. The eggs come in the flour product and then hatch in the house. The insects seek light and that is why Mr. Luth found them in the window sill. The best control is to clean up the source and sweep up any infestations found. Mr. Luth didn't have any pets so the source wasn't pet food. I suggested he go through his pantry and remove anything with tiny holes in the packaging.

Cucumber Vine Dying-Cucumber vine was one of three. Others were fine. Vine dried up because it was through bearing.

White Birch Dying Top Down -Tree shrub It's a non-native birch and is susceptible to bronze birch bore. Use Bayer Tree and Shrub at 1 ounce per inch of circumference.

Pin Oaks Yellowing-Test soil for pH no more than 5.5-6.. Lower pH by spraying with a chelated iron foliar spray at 5 lbs per 100 gallons of water. Or, can spread iron sulfate in the soil to lower pH.

New Hinoki Cypress Covered on Top Half by Clear Slime-After eliminating aphids, scale, honeylocust with webworms nearby, advised to take back to the nursery and ask for their help.

Tomatoes Full of Holes-Most likely caused by tomato fruit worm or less likely might be corn ear worm. Use liquid Sevin and/or pyrethins to control. Meanwhile, a recent good rain may have helped.

Use Hugelculture for Planting Asparagus? -New hugelculture mound not good for asparagus because decomposing creates open spaces in the mound. Plant in ground instead. Sent site with directions for growing asparagus

Issues With Two Trees. Dead Leaves on Maple; Cracks on Chinese Maple-Suggests Oystershell scale on maple; frost cracks on Chinese maple, though unusually large and deep. Client decided to call an arborist who confirmed scales had thoroughly infested the maple. Cracks in Japanese maple not a big problem.

Suggestions for Perennials and Planting Guidelines-Gave specific suggestions for perennials in red, yellow, white. Client should look up characteristics of ones he likes. Client very appreciative.

Identify Unusual Bee and Its Behavior-Suggested a bee expert for identification. Client reluctant to do this but called OSU Entomology Dept. Also suggested an internet search for a poster called The Bees in Your Backyard from a publication called Backyard Bees of N.America.

Identify Strange Melon-Sent pictures of Jade Dew Melon--a good match.

How to Cultivate Corn in Home Garden-Sent web sites with directions for planting and cultivating corn. One was from Garden Guides, not scholarly, but had very precise directions. The other was from OSU and thoroughly covered corn cultivation from the farmer's point of view.

Hornet Nest in Tree. Is it Dangerous (Not Much Activity)-Sent her pictures of nests and hornets that use them. She confirmed it was a hornet's nest with bald-faced hornets. Suggested she call an exterminator as hornets can be vicious when disturbed, stinging numerous times

Identify Flowering Bush -It is boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), a self-seeding perennial. Grown in pollinator gardens

Is it couch grass in their yard?-Yes. *Elymus repens* is also known as quick grass or quack grass. It is naturalized in Europe. Owners didn't want to use Round-up (glyphosate), the best solution, so they were advised to use boiling water or just pull up the clumps, getting as much of the root as possible. This is difficult because it spreads by rhizomes underneath the soil. But keep after it and eventually you will succeed in eliminating most of the pesky grass.



IT'S Time To.....October

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

Prepare storage areas for overwintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce.

Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom for the Thanksgiving 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 55F 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-sized hole, plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly. Mulching will help protect against large fluctuations in soil temperature and moisture. Be sure to stake or guy-wire tall plants to protect them from strong winds. Wrap tree trunks to protect against frost cracks or animal damage.

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 ever-bearing 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.

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

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 (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

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.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To (Continued).....October

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.

Linda Casey



Native Turtlehead

Doris Salis

Fall Garden Chores Can Help Weed Off April Headaches

The Courier Article-Laurie Pressel-September 19, 2020

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=df906ac8-fe5e-455d-bed1-f36ea288159e>



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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