

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

September 2020

Nominations for 2021

Nominations are being sought in September for the offices of President and Treasurer.

Please contact Tim Brugeman if interested in running for office. For more information see page 7.

Tentative dates for next ZOOM meetings:

September 23rd

November 12th

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**Sunflower Photos in This Issue
Taken By Karla Dennis at
Sunflower Field in the
Pemberville Area**

Coordinator's Corner

Well it is now time for fall and I normally get really excited for wrapping up the gardens after the harvest, cooler temperatures and Buckeye football. But there is nothing to look forward to on the football front. As I sit on the porch resting from my workday I have been watching leaves fall, squirrels eating nuts and hummingbirds eating much. There are also many more bees that seem to be around this year. Oh well, try to enjoy the fall even though there will not be any Buckeye football.

Thanks to all who continue to do things for the MGVS. Volunteers have been answering Ask-A-Gardener questions, writing Courier articles, posting to Facebook and working at our various gardening projects this summer. (community garden, extension garden, phenology garden and community service gardens) Brint tells me we have donated over 1600 pounds of produce to food banks. I see people lined up at Chopin Hall for the food giveaways several days a week and I am happy our group is helping with this need.

As I reported in the last monthly meeting, I do not see us getting together for any face to face meetings of any kind for the rest of the year. There was a possibility of this, but Ohio State's requirements to have planning meetings are so burdensome and restrictive that it is not worth it. It will be up to the Executive Committee to decide on how many more Zoom meetings will be held in 2020.

Everyone has been given 10 hours of education and 20 hours of service on VMS for the things you have been doing during COVID-19. Everyone has the hours to be certified into 2021 and we will just need to complete the legal paperwork to move forward.

I wish I could see everyone in the next month at a meeting, but instead keep trying to do something everyday in the garden. I asked everyone at the last meeting to provide me with ideas on how we can deliver services to Hancock County without face to face meetings. To date, I have not received any suggestions. I am open to hearing any that you might have.

That's all for now. Stay safe!

Karl Farwig



Rambling Rose *September 2020*

September is always Fair time. I certainly miss this MGVC Community Project! I'm keeping my chin up and thinking positive thoughts!

Thank you Betsy for keeping the Facebook posts during this time. I really appreciate seeing the posts and pictures.

We continue with our community projects of Ask-a-Master Gardener, Community Garden and maintaining the Phenology Garden and Front OSU Extension Garden. Thank you to all MGVC who have assisted in these projects.

Thank you to all who provide articles and updates for the newsletter. Please read all the articles to keep up to date!

Our next MGVC Zoom call will be a combined September/October meeting tentatively scheduled for September 23 at 7:00 pm. The November Zoom meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 12 at 7:00 pm. at which time election of President and Treasurer will occur. Nominations should be sent to Tim Brugeman. There will be no December Zoom meeting.

I have enjoyed my tenure as President of this great organization and appreciate all the support from each and every Master Gardener Volunteer. I have made the decision not to seek re-election. With so many active MGVC, I want everyone to have the opportunity to lead this organization. Fresh ideas, perspective and creative energy are needed to keep the organization progressing. Change is good!

Have a wonderful end of summer, Labor Day and the coming change of seasons.

Rose



Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2020

President Rose Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom, with Karl Farwig coordinating, 23 in attendance.

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

Minutes of the previous meeting – The minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2020 were approved on (thumbs up) vote after motion by Tim Brugeman, 2nd by Marlene Brunswick

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

The only activity in June – July was an expenditure of \$163.45 for the Community Garden

Current total cash balance is \$7,193.29

Report approved on motion by Lisa McClain, 2nd by Doris Salis

We have just received IRS approval as a 501C3 tax exempt organization. Last year was the first time that our revenues exceeded \$5,000, which made it necessary for us to get the 501C3 so that donors could claim deductions for any donations to the organization. Documents and tax number are on file. Contact Ann if you need to provide the number to a donor, and she can provide a copy of the IRS approval.

Thank you to Ann for processing all the paperwork and handling the application!!

President's Comments – Rose Morrison

- Annual picnic has been postponed

Volunteer Coordinator Report – Karl Farwig:

- John Leiendecker – received a text from Linda that John's surgery yesterday went well
- Service hours – because there seems to be little likelihood of opportunities to gain service hours, Karl has added 30h for every member – 20h Service, 10h Education – as "COVID-19 Project". Interns will be made active
- State Conference – will be virtual, the second week of September. Hope to hear details at next week's coordinators meeting. We have people nominated for State awards.
- The only active projects at this time are: Community Garden, Phenology Garden, Extension Office Garden, the Triangle, and Ask a Master Gardener (which cannot be in-person)
 - ◊ Restriction against in-person activities means cancellations: summer picnic, County fair, Christmas dinner, wreath class, MGv class in the spring
- Virtual Projects – Karl would like to have suggestions for virtual projects that would demonstrate support for Hancock County

Extension Report – Ed Lentz

- The Extension Office is now manned 5 days/week – but open by appointment only
- OSU Research facilities – have been allowed to expand from 25% staffing to 50%, and it is no longer necessary to get an exemption to visit the NW research facility
- Soil samples – the extension office is not in a position to forward soil samples for testing

Old Business

New Business

- Seeds from China – if anyone receives seeds from China, they should bring them to the Extension Office, with original packaging, so that they can be forwarded to the State. Do not open, do not plant!

(CONTINUED)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020
(CONTINUED)

- Elections – Tim Brugeman as VP is in charge of nominations for officers. Two terms expiring at the end of this year are President and Treasurer. No word on whether incumbents intend to run again. Please inform Tim before the next meeting if you are interested in running for one of the offices or would like to nominate someone. Elections will be held at the November meeting so that officers can take office Jan 1, 2021
- Next Meetings (Zoom) – the group was in favor of having online Brown Bag presentations at next meetings. Meeting schedule for September & October to be determined

Project Reports

- Ask-a-Master Gardener – Doris Salis
 - ◊ Requests for help – 19 in July, 51 YTD
 - ◊ Many about trees, especially conifers. Mostly due to dry conditions, some bagworms. Late frosts hit Japanese maples
 - ◊ Others – white mold on cherry, burning bushes losing leaves, tomato blight
- Community Garden – Brint Simmons
 - ◊ Team – Brint, Rose, Linda Finsel, Reuben
 - ◊ Donations to City Mission and Chopin Hall – 334 lbs so far, including some from personal gardens
 - ◊ Tom Lawrence Farm plot – Lisa, Karl, Lynn – mostly squash, zucchini, sweet potato
 - ◊ Karl commented that Chopin Hall really appreciated beans he dropped off as people were in line for food. Also took jalapenos and other veg to Main St Deli
- Extension Office Garden – Tim reported for Jerry Lenhart
 - ◊ Work day – good turnout of people, big improvement in garden appearance
 - ◊ Ongoing – cannot make changes this year, just maintain, but Commissioner Bechtol has expressed support for making improvements next year
- Phenology Garden – Rose
 - ◊ Team cleared out big weeds. Rose is going weekly to keep it clean
 - ◊ Future – OSU has stopped recording data, so the garden no longer serves its original purpose.
Several options:
 - *Maintain as-is
 - *Till it up, just keep large woody plants (Bill Jones recommendation)
 - *Convert to some other type of garden, e.g., a serenity garden
 - ◊ Decision – Betsy DeFrancesco volunteered to head a committee to discuss the future of the garden.
Anyone interested should contact Betsy

Garden Comment Period

- Rose – surprised by the small number of Japanese beetles this year. Others agreed
- Karl – he & Lynn discovered a BEAUTIFUL gladiolus in their glad patch. Original response from a glad expert was that it might be a new variety, but not so on further review. Farwigs will save the corms and cormels in order to reproduce it in any case.
- Reuben – lots of cucumber blossoms but very few cucumbers

Next Meeting TBD

Respectfully submitted: *Reuben DeBolt, Secretary*



Master Gardener Spotlight

Peggy Biolchini

1 Master Gardener Class: Class of 2017

2 Gardening Interests or Areas of Expertise: Peggy is interested in vegetable gardening and has been raising vegetables for 34 years, but says she is NOT an expert at it!! She loves trees and has learned a lot about them since joining the MGV program. Also, she has gained more knowledge about trees and their diseases/pests after being involved with the Ask-A-Master Gardener program. Over the last 5 years Peggy has become more interested in perennials due to her previous job as the horticulturist at Findlay Country Club. She has learned a lot about them by attending many conferences and seminars.

3 Hancock County Master Gardening Activities:

- *Community Garden (2018 and 2019)
- *Fair Booth (2017 and 2018)
- *Phenology Garden (2019)
- *Ask A Master Gardener Chair (2019)
- *Education Committee Chair (2019 and 2020)

4 Other Interests or Interesting Information:

Peggy and her husband love the outdoors. Almost every vacation they go to one (or several) national parks to go hiking, canoeing and sometimes cycling. She loves the mountains best. Last year they went to Italy to visit not only the major tourist cities, but to visit her husband's distant relatives who live in the mountains northwest of Florence. They also went further north and hiked in the Dolomite Mountains. "It is a beautiful area!" Peggy is also very interested in yoga and is a yoga instructor. She has been teaching at the YMCA and at Harmony Yoga studio since 2013. She enjoys long bike rides out along the county roads in the summer and spinning inside during the winter.

Peggy and her husband were born and raised in Illinois moving to Findlay 24 years ago. They have 3 adult children ages 32, 28 and 27 and one grandchild who is almost 2 years old. Peggy really enjoys her new job working at a local dental office as an administrative assistant. As mentioned before, Peggy was formerly the horticulturist at the Findlay Country Club for 4 years. It was that job that spurred her to become a MGV. She is very thankful for all the training that she received and for all the people involved in MGV. She has learned so much from being involved with MGV! Peggy now carries this knowledge with her wherever she goes as she is continually asked questions about landscaping and flower gardens.

MG Activities

Nominations for MGVP President and Treasurer

Nominations are being sought in September for MGVP *President* and *Treasurer* whose terms expire this year. Nominations are being gathered in September to give members advance notice of the slate of candidates. Elections will be held at our November meeting.

Rose Morrison now serves as President and Ann Woolum as Treasurer. While there are no term limits, we are always looking to involve new volunteers for the future. Leadership is vital to keep our little group planted well to bloom and grow.

Our Bylaws have the current Vice President serving as Nominations Chair. Members wishing to serve in either position or nominate another should contact Tim Brugeman.

tbrugeman@woh.rr.com (419) 672-8897

Plant Peonies in the Fall for Spring Splendor

The Courier Article-Marilynn Beltz-August 22, 2020

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=0d53328c-7102-470b-8fc7-3ac438b01e36>

Phenology Garden Committee

As we know, the Phenology Garden is no longer being used for research.

The question now is what to do with the garden.

A committee has been formed to create a plan to present to the members for consideration. The committee consists of Betsy DeFrancesco, Lynn Farwig, Tim Brugeman, Linda Finsel and Lisa McClain. If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions, please email Betsy at

betsmart_207@yahoo.com.

We are excited to have the opportunity to give this beautiful garden a new purpose.

Community Garden

While the MGVP garden at the Community Garden got off to a slow start due to COVID- 19 restrictions, a spell of very hot and dry weather and some damage from deer our garden has really taken off and we are reaping a bountiful harvest. We have had a bumper crop of tomatoes with many more to come. Cabbage has done reasonably well. Peppers are plentiful even though we had to replant about half of them. The deer seem to love pepper plants when they are young. We are currently harvesting zucchini and cucumbers. A late planting of zucchini should produce well. Potatoes probably will be ready to dig next month. We also grew a small quantity of radishes and onions,

We also have a garden at Tom Lawrence's farm on SR 568. Sweet potatoes, summer and winter squash, and pumpkins are planted there. Everything is growing well and producing a prolific harvest.

Our produce is donated to City Mission and CHOPIN hall for the benefit of those in need. To date, we have donated 1,634 pounds of produce from the two MGVP gardens and personal gardens of some MGVPs. Many thanks to John & Linda Leiendecker, Lisa McClain, Reuben DeBolt, Rose Morrison, Linda Finsel, Karl & Lynn Farwig, Bill Jones, Bill Lanning, and Ann Woolum for their invaluable help with the gardens.



Ask-A-Gardener Q&A

July Report

Submitted by Doris Salis

Identify Large Fly-Identified from picture as Western Horsefly (*Tabanus punctifer*). Confirmed by Curtis Young. It is out of its territory.

Identify a Weed-From photo, looked like perennial rye grass. Will look at in person if OSU allows.

Old Pines Are Dying--Can They Be Saved?-No evidence of insects or disease. Pines are dying from the bottom up which indicates the trees are just dying of old age.

4 Burning Bushes Losing Leaves-Gave reference from Ohio Farm Bureau. Probably yellow spotted mite. A good rinsing with rain or hose should help. <https://ofbf.org/2013/04/30/burning-bush/>

How Much Space Does a Newly Planted Maple Tree Need?-RD did some research and then consulted with T. Brugeman since the tree came from Feasels. Client talked with TB and decided on another variety of tree for the space he had.

Grubs Are Destroying Lawn Joe talked with Ed L. Doris sent reference from Penn State Extension with suggestions for controlling grubs. <https://extension.psu.edu/white-grubs-in-home-lawns>

Nine Year Old Maple Has Tips Turning Brown-Drought and heat may be the sources of the problem. Also, the late frosts in the spring. Water the tree with a slow trickle for about an hour. Continue weekly until we get rain.

Shriveled Leaves on Boxwoods-Something brown living on puffy leaves-Probably boxwood leaf miner, boxwood psyllid, and spider mites. Referred to Clemson U. website. Client reluctant to use chemicals. Option was pull off dead leaves and spray well with Bayer water for the mites. She then agreed to use a chemical spray with Imidacloprid (found in Bayer Tree and Shrub), a systemic that should show improvement in 2 weeks. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/boxwood-diseases-insect-pests/>

3 Fir Trees are Dying Out at the Top-Bagworms were evident. Tim recommended a spray. Doris sent some Iowa State references. <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2009/5-20/bagworm.html>

Dying Tomato Plants-Tomato blight. Not watering correctly, not mulching. Buy resistant plants and clean up plant debris in the fall. Could try to plant a tomato in a pot on his patio.

Bag Worms-Identified the problem and advised removing as many bags as possible. Too late to spray now (mid-July)

(Continued)



Ask-A-Gardener Q&A

July Report

(Continued)

Colorado Blue Spruce Removed for Needle Drop-What is fungus danger from using seedlings from the tree? -May have died from a root disease, not a fungus since tree was in full sun and isolated from other trees. Replace tree with a white spruce or a Norway spruce that are resistant to the fungus (*Rhizosphaera*)

Tomatoes With Leaves That Have Black Dots and Then Turn Yellow. Tomatoes Produced are Deformed.-Tomato blight. To avoid, after planting, water at root system as soil dries out. Mulch to keep disease spores down. Clean up plant debris in the fall. Always buy disease resistant tomatoes. Rotate planting site each spring. If you have no unused soil in which to plant your tomatoes, try to plant in pots. See OhioLine fact sheet. <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/hyg-3314>

Flowering Cherry (Kwanzan) Dried Up After Blooming and Now the Limbs and Trunk are Covered with White Stuff-Something weakened the tree, disease, or insects, or even the late frosts we had. Too late to see insects. White stuff is a fungus that has attacked a weakened tree. (See reference) You could try letting the tree overwinter and see if leaves appear. Then spray early with a fungicide. The white fungus by itself should not kill the tree. <https://forums.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/threads/white-stuff-on-cherry-tree-is-it-ok.72709/>

Scotch Pine and Blue Spruce are Drying Up-Pine probably has *Diplodia* tip blight and the blue spruce needle drop disease. Large trees are hard to cure of fungal diseases with fungicides. Prune out the damaged branches and if it looks unsightly, and then cut it down. A Norway spruce is recommended for a replacement.

Row of Burning Bushes Dying. Tried to Send Pictures But They Wouldn't Go-Burning bushes surround a seating area and are near some evergreens that have bagworms. Found one bagworm on a bush. Can see no insects or stippling on or under the leaves. Since the leaves are drying from the tips, probably not mites. No evidence of scale. Could have been affected by late spring frosts. Look better since recent rain. Advised to clean up the leaves carefully in the fall and let plants overwinter. Check them in the spring. Advised the burning bushes are now considered an invasive species in Ohio. <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/burning-bush-not-recommended>

Where Can I Recycle Clay Pots?-No places in the area that actually pulverize the pots and mix with new clay to form pots. A number of suggestions online for creative ways to use broken pots to make garden decorations. <https://www.topdreamer.com/how-to-reuse-broken-terracotta-pots-in-clever-ways/>

Unsolicited Seeds Can Cause Damage

Linda Casey

Those of you who were able to attend our last meeting, heard about these seeds. Here is more information about them.



The Ohio Department of Agriculture is warning Ohioans not to plant any seeds that come from unsolicited packages in the mail.

Officials have received reports that the seeds appear to have originated in China. They could be invasive species, contain noxious weeds, could introduce diseases to local plants or could be harmful to livestock. Invasive species and noxious weeds can displace native plants and increase the cost of food production.

All foreign seeds shipped to the United States should have a phytosanitary certificate that guarantees the seeds meet important requirements. Planting the seeds poses a potential for doing serious harm to everything from your backyard garden to the commodity and specialty crops that are such an important part of the agricultural economy. The last thing we want is to spread a weed, invasive species or disease, and that's a real risk if people plant these or throw them in the garbage.

Weed seeds, invasive species and disease pathogens can spread rapidly, costing millions of dollars annually for just a single plant or disease, and cause billions of dollars of impact overall each year. Once a new disease or invasive species is out there, it's a costly problem to eradicate it.

If you receive such a package, the Ohio Department of Agriculture asks that you do not plant the seeds or open the sealed package. Instead, report the seeds to agri.ohio.gov or contact the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Anti-smuggling Hotline by calling 800-877-3835 or by emailing SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture asks that you try to retain the original packaging, because the information may be useful to trade compliance officers during their investigation.

Thinking About Buying Fall Mums?

Linda Casey



Mums announce fall better than just about any other plant. You're sure to find massive numbers of colorful chrysanthemums (mums) at garden centers, home improvement centers, mass merchandisers, grocery stores, and other retailers. So, how do you know which plants to buy?

When to Buy?

Some folks like to get their mums right away at the start of fall (or even before). One thing to keep in mind is that warmer temperatures mean flowers fade faster. So if you buy mums when temperatures are still sweltering, the flowers will age more quickly than in cool, more autumnal weather.

Garden Mums vs. Florist Mums

Mums fall into two categories: garden and florist. Garden mums are hardy perennials, and may come back every year when planted in a sunny spot in the garden. They're typically sold outdoors. Florist mums are not hardy. These beautiful plants are best grown as annual flowers for fall decoration -- then composted. You typically find them for sale in pretty pots at the florist or the indoor-plant section of the garden center or grocery store.

What to Watch For

Mums can be brittle, especially if they're crammed tightly together on tables. Check for broken branches before making your purchase. Flower buds on these stems may not open. Avoid buying mums that are wilting and droopy or have yellow foliage; look

(Continued)

Thinking About Buying Fall Mums? (Continued)

for dark green, full, symmetrical plants. Wilting plants will recover (often quickly after a watering), but the flowers don't usually last as long. Watch out, too, for mums that have been overwatered and are sitting in wet, soggy potting mix. They won't be as healthy.

Bud or Bloom?

If you're looking for instant impact to dress up your outdoor spaces, go for a plant that has many flowers open. But, if you want the show to last its longest, select mums that still have lots of closed buds. The more flowers there are yet to bloom, the longer the color show will last. Choosing a plant that has more buds than blooms may extend bloom time by a couple of weeks or more. The fewer buds that are showing color, the better. But, you want enough buds to check the color you're buying.

New varieties are grown every year. It's fun coming up with a scheme, say orange mums and black pansies for Halloween. Because it's a temporary show, have a good time with color combinations. If it works, save the idea for future reference.

Caring for Mums

Mums can be planted in the ground, potted in a different pot or left in the nursery pot. Grow garden mums outdoors in a spot that sees full sun and has moist, but well-drained soil. If your soil has a high clay content (like most of Hancock County), add lots of organic matter, such as compost -- or grow your mums in raised beds -- to prevent root rot. Although they are sold as "hardy" or "garden" mums, and technically they are perennials that can live for several years, don't count on their surviving the winter. If they do, it's a gift! The cold is not generally the problem with winter survival. It is the roots that rot over the winter. Places in our area with heavy, poorly soil will rarely have a mum that makes it.

For best re-bloom every year, mums appreciate at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sun a day. Once established, garden mums are somewhat drought tolerant, but bloom more profusely if watered regularly during hot, dry weather. While garden mums look tidy in their grower's pots when you buy them, the plants do like to spread via creeping root systems. Don't be surprised if the mums you plant start to colonize a year or two after planting them.

Many people like to give their garden mums a trim in mid-to-late June. Doing so helps to encourage a fuller, bushier plant with more flowers. Don't cut mums back in the fall if you want them to survive. Most plants with silvery or fuzzy foliage -- lavender, sage, lamb's ears -- are best left alone to freeze and dry up; any cuts predispose them to rot. In the spring, they can be cut back as new growth emerges.

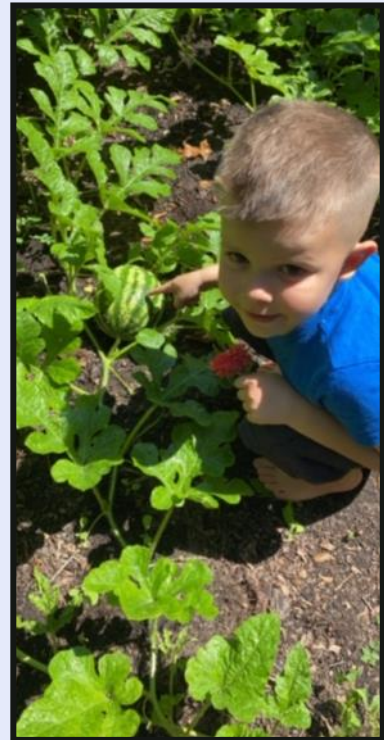
Pictures From Marlene Brunswick



My Granddaughter Bristol
With Our 8 1/2 pound
Zucchini



Volunteer Cinnamon Maple
From the Flower Bed
Transplanted and
Growing Well!



My Grandson Kasen With
My Watermelon



Marlene's Pumpkin



Pictures from Karla Dennis



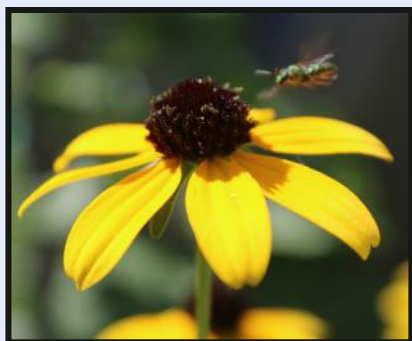
Orange Sulphur Butterfly
(*Colias eurytheme*)
on Anise Hyssop



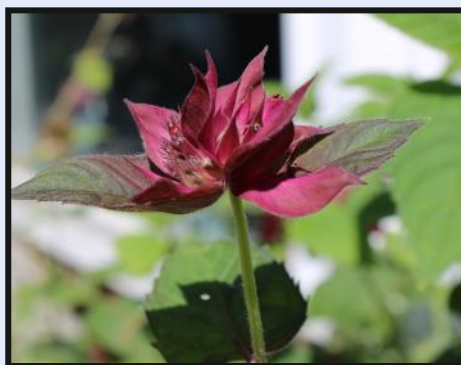
Robber Fly (Asilidae)



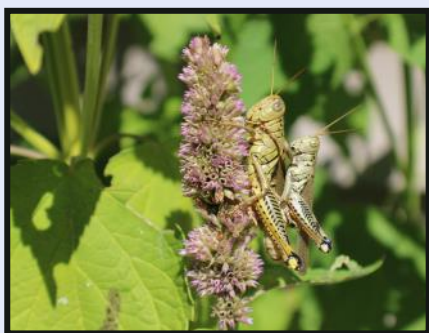
Tomato Hornworm
Covered in Parasitoid
Wasp Eggs



Green Bottle Fly
(*Lucilia sericata*)
Landing on Black Eyed Susan



Bee Balm Bud



Grasshoppers
(Possibly *Melanoplus differentialis*)
on Anise Hyssop



Chili Peppers



Crepe Myrtle



The Vegetable Garden



IT'S Time To.....September

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Take cuttings from plants such as impatiens, coleus, geraniums and wax begonias to over winter indoors. Root the cuttings in media such as moist vermiculite, perlite, peat moss or potting soil, rather than water.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Cut flowers from the garden to bring a little color indoors or dry for everlasting arrangements.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Check trees and shrubs that have been planted in recent years for girdling damage by guy wires, burlap or ropes.
- Don't fertilize woody plants now. It stimulates late growth that will not have time to harden off properly before winter.
- Hand-prune and destroy bagworms, fall webworms and tent caterpillars.
- Pears are best ripened off the tree, so do not wait for the fruit to turn yellowish on the tree. Harvest pears when color of fruit changes - usually from a dark green to a lighter green - and when the fruit is easily twisted and removed from the spur.
- Prune out and destroy the raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruits this year. They will not produce fruit again next year, but they may harbor insect and disease organisms.
- If weather turns dry, keep newly established plants well-watered. New plants should receive 1 to 1.5 inches of water every week to 10 days.
- Begin seeding new lawns or bare spots in established lawns in mid-August through mid- September.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

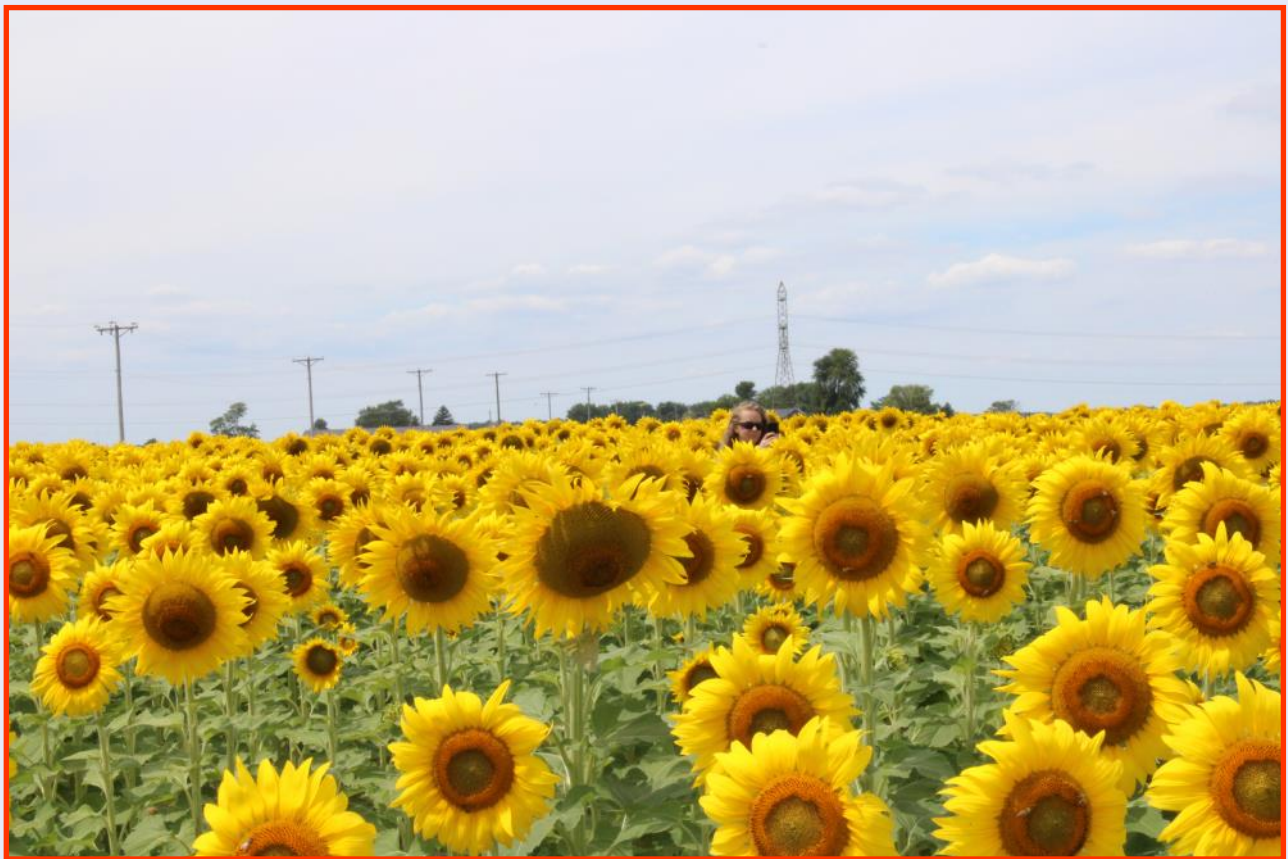
- Keep the garden well watered during dry weather and free of weeds, insects and disease.
- Complete fall garden planting by direct-seeding carrots, beets, kohlrabi, kale and snap beans early this month. Lettuce, spinach, radishes and green onions can be planted later in August and early September. Don't forget to thin seedlings to appropriate spacing as needed.
- Harvest onions after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area. The necks should be free of moisture when fully cured in about a week's time.
- Harvest potatoes after the tops yellow and die. Potatoes also need to be cured before storage.
- Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash often to encourage further production.
- Harvest watermelon when several factors indicate ripeness - the underside ground spot turns from whitish to creamy yellow; the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels; the rind loses its gloss and appears dull; and the melon produces a dull thud, rather than a ringing sound when thumped.
- Harvest sweet corn when kernels are plump and ooze a milky juice when punctured with your fingernail. If the liquid is watery, you're too early; if the kernels are doughy, you're too late.
- Keep faded flowers pinched-off bedding plants to promote further flowering and improve plant appearance.
- Spade or till soil for fall bulb planting, and add a moderate amount of fertilizer.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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