

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

December 2021

MGV Christmas Gathering

December 9th at 5:45 pm

Please RSVP to Marilyn Beltz no later than Sunday, December 5th if attending at [419-306-7470](tel:419-306-7470) or mbeltz@woh.rr.com

See page 5 for details.



Mugs of Joy

December 8th at 2:00 pm and
December 10th at 1:00pm

If you can help or have questions call or text Linda Laux at [419-788-9478](tel:419-788-9478).

We are also still in need of a piano player.

Please see Page 5 for details.

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Upcoming Events

- Dec.1-2-4-5Wreath Classes
- Dec. 8.....Mugs of Joy
- Dec. 9.....Christmas Potluck
- Dec. 10.....Mugs of Joy
- Jan 13.....Monthly Meeting

Reuben's Ruminations
December 2021

President's Notes for December 2021

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

It's just Thanksgiving Eve as I write, and I just came in from doing some pruning which generated 6 bags of greens for the wreath classes next week. It sounds as if Betsy has things well organized for all the classes, but I'm sure she will need plenty of volunteer help before, during and after the classes.

Now we are looking forward to Christmas and our annual MGV Christmas dinner – complete with live music by the Findlay String Factor, thanks to Laurie Pressel's husband Ken! Be sure to let Marilyn Beltz know if you plan to attend. Thank you for handling this, Marilyn.

Congratulations to Lisa McClain and Elaine Reynolds on their election to serve as Vice-President and Secretary, respectively.

"Thank you" to Peggy Biolchini and Karla Dennis for the Brown Bag presentation on tree of heaven, a great follow-on to the spotted lantern fly presentation in October.

Thanks to everyone who contributed ideas at the October meeting during our discussion on how we could improve our reach to educate the gardening public. We'll be following up with more discussion. The Executive Committee has considered these as they drafted goals for 2022, which will be discussed at our January meeting. The January meeting will be a planning meeting for all of the committees to decide on programs and propose budgets for the year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas dinner.

Reuben DeBolt

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021

At 6:05 pm the meeting was called to order for a Brown Bag presentation by Peggy Biolchini and Karla Dennis on the topic of Tree of Heaven which is a favorite host for the Spotted Lanternfly.

After a break for refreshments, President Rueben DeBolt called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Karl Farwig introduced Cheryl Everett who is training in another county and when finished will become a Hancock Co. Master Gardener Volunteer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the October 14, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Peggy Biolchini; second: Marilyn Beltz

Treasurer's Report--Ann Woolum

- \$1,001.23 deposit from wreath classes
- \$107.81 expense for Fair Booth
- \$750.91 restricted for Community Garden
- \$6,086.27 ending balance

Volunteer Coordinator's Report-Karl Farwig

- Dawn Feller from the OSUE Office will be retiring at the end of the month
- Karl will be sending out forms for end of the year information-You will need to report your total hours. Once again, due to COVID the executive committee has decided to allow everyone to remain active even if not achieving hours. 2022 will be back to the normal way of achieving active status.

Committees-An overview of each of the committees was given to bring Cheryl Everett up to date.

- Service-Reuben DeBolt gave overview
 - ◊ Linda Laux reported that Mugs of Joy will be held on December 10th at the BVRSA Day Care. For more information contact Linda Laux or Rose Morrison.
- Administrative-Karl Farwig gave overview for Lynn Farwig
 - ◊ Betsy DeFrancesco commented that our Facebook page has been getting a lot of interest on the posts she posts.
- Social/Fundraising-Betsy DeFrancesco gave overview
 - ◊ Betsy DeFrancesco reported that she has been advertising for the wreath classes and they are starting to fill up. If you can help with the classes or help cut greens, please contact her.

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021
(Continued)

- Social/Fundraising-Betsy DeFrancesco gave overview (Continued)
 - ◊ Christmas Potluck-Our Christmas Potluck will be held on December 9th. Meat will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. You are asked to arrive at 5:45 and the meal will start promptly at 6:00. We will have entertainment this year which will begin at 7:00 pm. Please contact Marilyn Beltz if you plan on attending.

- Teaching-Judi Clymer gave overview
 - ◊ People are needed to write Courier Articles for December, January and February. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
 - ◊ 50N has not responded to queries about making presentations there.
 - ◊ Library Speakers-At this point we have 2 presentations scheduled:
 - April 20th-Debra Evans-The Spotted Lanternfly
 - May 18th-Linda Finsel-Roses

- Education-Peggy Biolchini gave overview
 - ◊ We need a volunteer to mentor Cheryl Everett

Old Business

The executive committee is looking at how to revitalize our educational programs. Reuben will be emailing a survey out to everyone. Please complete and return as all input is helpful.

New Business:

Elections for the 2022 calendar year were held. Elaine Reynolds will serve as secretary and Lisa McClain as Vice-President. motion: Karla Dennis; second: Barb Phillips

Motion to Adjourn:

Rose Morrison; second: Barb Phillip

Next Meeting:

Christmas Potluck- December 9, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted: Lisa McClain

MG Happenings

MGV Christmas Gathering

The MGV Christmas gathering will be Thursday, December 9 starting at 6 pm in the OSU Extension conference room. You are asked to be there by 5:45 pm so that we can promptly begin dinner at 6:00 pm.

The entree being provided is 8 oz of roast beef from Millers Meat Market. You are asked to bring a dish of your choice to share.
Drinks and table service will be provided.

You and your spouse/significant other are invited to attend.
Please no children for this event.

We will have entertainment by the Findlay String Factor.
They are a string quintet composed of top players from the FCS orchestra program.

Please RSVP to Marilyn Beltz no later than Sunday, December 5th
so she has a count for Miller Meats.

Those already signed up on the signup sheet from our last meeting should already be in the count.

All others should either email or call Marilyn Beltz at 419-306-7470 or mbeltz@woh.rr.com.

Mugs of Joy

Linda Laux

Wednesday, December 8th at 2:00 pm at The Heritage-Legacy Assisted Living with Memory Care Unit (2820 Greenacre Drive). You must stop at The Heritage entrance before entering Legacy for your temperature and a mask.

Friday, December 10th at 1:00 pm at BVRSI
behind Burger King on Tiffin Ave.

Needed: Pianist to play Christmas carols at both venues.
Bring your voices and smiles and come join us!!!

If you are able to help or if you have questions please call or text
Linda Laux at 419-788-9478.

(Continued)

MG Happenings

Continued

2021 MG V WREATH WORKSHOPS

Our 2021 wreath workshops are underway!!!
Betsy and her crew have done a great job as usual.



Please Return Information to Karl and Reuben

Please remember to return your Gardening Interests Survey to Reuben DeBolt and total 2021 hours to Karl Farwig so that we can get ourselves organized and off to a good start in 2022.

Get Growing Indoors

Marilyn Beltz
The Courier-November 6, 2021

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=630810e0-6fff-498c-9515-f72fb581efa4>

MG Happenings

Continued

Tree of Heaven Brown Bag

Ailanthus altissima



Peggy Biolchini and Karla Dennis presented a very informative Brown Bag on Tree of Heaven at our November Monthly Meeting

Tree of Heaven was introduced into the U.S. from China in the late 1700's. It was initially valued as a unique, fast-growing ornamental shade tree which tolerates poor soil and air quality. It is often times confused with Staghorn sumac, Black Walnut and Hickory. Due to its extensive root system and resprouting ability, tree of heaven has become difficult to control.

Three methods of control were discussed:

Foliar Herbicide Spray

Basal Bark Applications

Hack and Squirt Herbicide Applications

For more information on the type of herbicides and timing of application visit:

<http://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>

Ask-A-Gardener

Doris Salis

This year we had 70 ASK requests compared to 107 in 2020, a drop of 35%. Trees and shrubs, including fruit trees, were involved in 53% of the 2020 requests and 34% of the 2021 requests. Other popular questions were on insects and diseases.

These questions were expertly answered by a diligent committee: Peggy Biolchini, Tim Brugeman, Linda Casey, Reuben DeBolt, Linda Finsel, Bill Jones, Barb Phillips, and Jerry Williamson. My sincere thanks to all of these dependable people!

Unfortunately, we are losing two from the committee. Linda Casey, as you may know, has moved out of town, and Jerry Williamson really is retiring. Anybody who enjoys learning and teaching is welcome to join us for 2022. You needn't be an expert but should be willing to do research if necessary, using scholarly references. You will garner much new gardening information along the way.

Please email Doris Salis at salis@findlay.edu if you're interested in joining us!



Ask A Gardener
May-November 2021
Submitted by Doris Salis

May-November 2021

Inoculating Great Northern beans? *Unless a new site, don't need inoculate. If you want it, Legacy is the place to get it.*

Bugs/Growths on Elm Tree? *You have aphids and black spots are a fungal disease, probably European Elm Scale. Best to call for professional treatment*

Dead Grass Circling Oak Tree? *Looks like Necrotic Ring Spot, a fungal infection. Treat with sulfur. University of Colorado has a good Fact Sheet*

How to Prevent Mushroom Growth? *Caused by humid weather and a lot of shade trees. Get maximum sun where you can and dethatch regularly. Try this before chemicals.*

Plan for New Garden at Church? *Tim met them at the church and discussed plant options. Tim also agreed to sketch plan for the church people.*

Blue Spruce Dying? *Has bagworms and Rhizosphaera fungus. Needs arborist to treat. Gave names of some tree companies.*

Maple and 2 Oaks Dying and Blue Spruce Trees Losing Leaves. *Move the red maple out of full sun into a less dry location. Water in dry weather. The two pin oaks have chlorosis caused by alkaline soil and lack of iron. Use Ironite poured into shovel cuts around the trees. Avoid getting iron on the grass because it will make it grow fast and very green. The spruce trees have Rhizosphaera needlecast. Remove the dead branches as long as the trees look okay. When they don't it's time to remove them.*

Removed Ash Tree Which is Coming Back as a Bush? *It is not likely to grow into a tree again. Just take it out.*

Infested with Japanese beetles? *Client won't use pesticide and believes a trap would just attract more, so she should just regularly pick them off and destroy*

Tomato Blight? *Septoria Leaf spot due to wet and warm weather. Used a bio-fungicide but couldn't keep up with the rain. Referred to a Cornell site.*

Blue Spruce Dying? *Has Rhizosphaera needle cast disease. This fungal infection is killing spruces across Ohio. Smaller trees can be controlled by a Daconil fungicide sprayed twice per year. With large trees like hers this is not practical. Remove bare branches as they die. When too bare, cut it down and replace with a Norway Spruce or deciduous tree.*

Damaged, Dying Plum Tree? *Purple Plum Tree has significant damage to the trunk and may also have borers. These trees have short life spans and his might have a few more years if severely pruned. Best to replace it with a weeping redbud, serviceberry, or Japanrrdr tree Lilac.*

Browning Leaves on Pear Tree? *Pear tree has fire blight. Neighbor also sprayed their lawn and owners believe it killed their grass and pear tree. Suggested they wait for next spring and see if the tree produces leaves. If not, they can cut the tree down.*

Disease or Fungus on a Number of Trees in the Yard? *Damage from water dumping into yard--New storm sewers being installed and should help. Root rot and black spot on a plum are typical for these conditions. No great threat as 90% of the tree looks fine. Large silver maple has tar spot in shaded part of canopy. Branches knocked down by storm not due to bad tree health. Trees are not dying so no treatment necessary as they are old trees.*



Ask A Gardener May-November 2021

Continued

Webs and Brownd Branches on Locust Tree? Identified as Mimosa Webworm nests. Too late to treat the tree. Insecticide can be injected into the trunk before the worms hatch. Call a certified arborist to apply the insecticide

How to Get Racoons Out of the Sweet Corn? Use a live trap to catch and release elsewhere.

Variety of Trees Dying? There is some damage to the tree trunks and some trees get standing sewer water after a storm. Some trees look good--spruce and pine.

Mold on Pumpkins? After a telephone call, DS determined that it was not mold but spider mites. Gave natural control methods such as spraying water on the undersides of the leaves.

Beech with Dead Spots? Early fall webworm is at work and needs to be sprayed. Suggested options, how to get the right chemical. Tree was sprayed by professional.

Rust on Grass? There seem to be three types of fungi at work, but rust is the most prominent. Gave short table of fungicides and their uses

Identity of "Volunteer" Bush? This is a honeysuckle bush (Amur) which is invasive. Owner will remove in fall

Rot Inside Sweet Onions? You can't fix this kind of rot. Pull the other onions and lay on newspaper to dry, if necessary.

Bagworms on Spruces? Too late to spray. Handpick. Larvae hatch in May so spray next year in June to early July.

Sulfur Water Okay for Watering? The water has a "rotten egg" smell due to hydrogen sulfide gas. This gas is common in area wells. It doesn't harm plants and may be beneficial by reducing the alkalinity of clay soil. It is a toxic gas and should not be inhaled from a closed space.

Army Worms at Work? Referred to a Courier article by Lou Wilin who quotes Ed Lentz who says: be sure they are army worms. If you see four worms per square foot then you can spray a liquid insecticide approved for use on grass. Otherwise, if the lawn has brown patches, the worms have moved on after eating the grass leaves, and with some rain the grass will return to green

Identify Weeds and Tell How to Kill Them? This is a common crabgrass. Spoke by phone re treatment: legal preemergent chemical spray such as Bayer or, if area is large, call a professional lawn company.

Dying Arborvitae? One arborvitae out of a row was brown. It was very dry around the plant. No sign of fungus, bugs, worms. It was sitting on top of a sewer tile that had been leaking and affected the soil near the tree. Suggested heavy watering and fertilizer to see if that helped. If not, replace it in the spring.

How to Get Rid of Wolf Spiders? Needs to get rid of wood pile in the basement. Reluctant to do this. Suggested tringy granular insecticide outside of house and let us know if it doesn't work.

Soil in Lawn has Blackened Patches? Dogs are responsible for some spots in the yard but not all. Client talked to a lab about a soil test. BJ offered to help with interpretation if she wished. Also hired a landscaping company to reseed her shady lawn area.

(Continued)



Ask A Gardener May-November 2021

Continued

Silver and Red Maple Trees Ailing? Diagnosed Oystershell Scale on Silver Maple and sent a fact sheet to review and get back to MG with any questions. Also has lichens on the tree and Tar Spot on maple leaves but these will not cause any tree problems. A red maple has frost cracking and this has caused a weak canopy on the SW side and the dying of some branches. Do not paint or cover the crack but let the tree compartmentalize it. In the future a decision might have to be made about taking the tree out.

Hydrangea is in Partial Sun and Partial Shade and Seems to be Dying with Spots on Leaves? Plant should recover after treatment. Stop watering on top of the leaves as this can cause a fungus such as Cercospora Leaf Spot or Anthracnose. Leaf samples indicate Cercospora. Should use a fungicide that contains Chlorothalonil, or get a copper fungicide. These will not kill the fungus but will protect the other leaves.

Witches Broom Rose Cane? This is caused by Rose Rosette virus which is caused by a mite brought by the wind. There is no cure for the infection and plant should be removed by the root ball.

ID Bugs? The nest is probably in the ground under the bush or nearby and these are probably yellow jackets. They will be going away in the fall, but if you can't avoid the bush, call an exterminator.

Ailing Oak? Red Oak Tree has Leaf Spot fungal disease which is not fatal. Leaves seem yellowish indicating a nutrient deficiency. Owner did a lab soil test and it showed a high pH. That blocks uptake of iron and manganese. Apply elemental sulphur to your lawn in fall. Carefully rake up and dispose of the leaves with leaf spot. Do not mulch the leaves or put them in the compost pile.

Bagworms? It is too late to spray insecticide now since the males have left and the females are secure in tied-off bags until next year. Can pick off the bags he can reach, Female bags have the female and eggs in them. Next year, about the time the Japanese Lilac trees bloom, spray Malathion, Sevin, or Pyrethroids, and then again 2 weeks later. Trees were probably infected by trees southwest of him. The larvae "balloon" on the wind. If he can identify those trees and treat them, it will avoid the bagworm problem

What are Wheel Bugs? The wheel bug is very beneficial and should not be killed by pesticides or other means.

How Get Rid of Grubs in the Lawn? Keeping thatch down helps as grubs feed on it. Plant flowers that attract grub feeders, such as parasitoid wasps. Chemical control is possible but the window for applying it is short. See article for other chemical suggestions and more discussion.

Get Rid of Bald-Faced Hornets' Nest in Tree? Nest is high in tree and unless disturbed there is no worry about stinging.

How to Graft Apples? Here are web sites to help. Also, Jane and Gene Geckle used to do extensive grafting. They are at 8729 TR 258, Alvada OH. When you start grafting, remember that it is a learning process and not every attempt will work out, especially in the beginning.

Get Rid of Yellow Jackets Flying Around Shrubs? Check shrubs for nest (from a distance--a nest will be large enough to see. Also check the ground under the shrubs for holes, as yellow jackets also nest underground. You can buy insecticides to spray on the nest (should be done in the evening when they are quiet or call an exterminator. Otherwise, they are just about done with nesting, so you can bide your time.

(Continued)



Ask A Gardener May-November 2021

Continued

Maple Dropping Leaves and Dying? *The problem is probably chlorosis. Passed on articles from the University of Wisconsin, one on chlorosis and the other on lowering soil Ph. Will look at the tree in a few days.*

Can Wild Asparagus be Eaten? Transplanted? *Yes, and it is similar to our cultivated variety. See two attached articles for more info.*

Identify a Plant? *Native Ohio honeysuckle of the genus Lonicera. Attracts bees and hummingbirds in spring but can be invasive*

Identify Drying Grass in Lawn? *This is annual bluegrass. Nasty stuff to try to control, and articles were not overly encouraging. Client wants to do further research. RD suggested he only use university sites and suggested OSU BYGL, turf grass times. He asked whether to consider a lawn service, and RD told him he had no idea who might be able to treat this.*

I.D. Mushrooms (Toad Stools)? *Do not assume they are edible. They are probably poisonous toadstools.*

Plant Identification? *Plants are Beggar's Ticks and Honeysuckle. Both are weeds and should be removed. Honeysuckle berries are NOT edible by humans. Birds eat them and are the main dispenser of their seeds.*

Army Worms Attacking Yard? *Sent web site. <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1859>*

Rose Care in the Fall? *Visited Taylor Place and instructed them on rose winter care. Cover the crown with soil, several inches deep. Then pack mulch around the base about 6 inches deep. Other perennials do not need to be cut back until the birds have had a chance to feed from them. Residents also wanted a tree identified. It is a Callery Pear. Other Q&A followed.*

Grubs? *Reviewed his chemicals and what Legacy had told him. Discussed grub life cycle. He will work with a neighbor and their lawn care company for treatment early next spring.*

Identify Plant? *Advised to look up Cornflower, Knapflower, or Centaurea on Google. These are in the Asteracea family and the leaves and blue bloom common with them. None are toxic to cats or dogs*

2021-2022 Hort Happy Hour and Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Good Opportunities for Advance Training Hours

[2021-2022 Hort Happy Hour and Lunch & Learn Webinar Series | Master Gardener Volunteers \(osu.edu\)](https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1859)

Insects on Indoor Plants

University of Minnesota Extension

Quick Facts

- Choose healthy plants with growing requirements that match the indoor environment.
- Proper plant care can minimize pest issues, reducing the need for chemicals.
- Examine plants regularly for insects.
- If pests are detected, isolate the plant from others.

Healthy Plants Have Fewer Pest Problems

- Sufficient light is important for healthy plants
- Prevent, or at least minimize, pest issues on indoor plants by choosing the right plants and providing good overall plant care. Learn about basic care and growing needs for your plant.

Grow Plants in the Best Possible Conditions

- Select plants with growing requirements that match the indoor environment (humidity, light, temperature).
- Plants cannot fight off pests when they are struggling to grow in too little light, overly wet or dry soil, too hot or too cold air temperatures, etc.

Water Plants Properly

- Know how much water your plant needs.
- Water the soil at the base of the plant, not the leaves.
- Be sure the plant's pot drains well.
 - ⇒ Avoid letting plants stand in water.
 - ⇒ Over-watering and poor drainage can cause root rot and encourage fungus gnats as well as other pest issues.

Understand Your Plant's Nutritional Needs

- Apply fertilizer at half the recommended strength.
- Fertilize when the plant is actively growing.

Keep Plants Clean

- Keep soil surface free of dead leaves, stems and flowers.
- Wash plant leaves with a damp cloth as dust and grime can reduce plant health. Never use leaf shine products or milk.
- Prune out dead branches and stems.

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Insects on Indoor Plants

Continued

Use New, Sterile Potting Soil When Potting Plants

- Never pot indoor plants using soil from the garden.
- Avoid using soil from open bags of potting soil that have sat outside for potting indoor plants. Save it for your outside pots.
- Plant in clean pots and wash soil off of plant roots.

Early Detection is Key to Managing Pests

Finding pests before they become a problem is the best way to keep insects at bay.

- Thoroughly examine all plant parts and containers before bringing them home from the store or indoors for the winter.
 - ⇒ You may need to use a magnifying lens as some pests are very small.
- Inspect tops and undersides of leaves for insects, webbing, holes and eggs.
 - ⇒ Examine leaves that are discolored as this may be evidence of a pest problem.
 - *A ten-power hand magnifying lens is helpful when looking for pests. There are also magnifier apps for smartphones.
- Watch for honeydew, a shiny, sticky substance made by aphids, mealybugs and scale insects found on the upper surface of leaves as well as on tabletops and other items around and under the plant.
- Check plant containers for signs of pests along edges, rims, the bottom of pots, saucers, crevices. Remove if found.
- Isolate newly acquired plants for one to two weeks to allow any possible pest problems to become visible.
- Check for pests when you water, fertilize or clean plants. Yellow sticky card trapping flies
 - ⇒ Some insects like springtails and fungus gnats will move due to the water, making it easier to detect them.
- Use yellow or blue sticky traps to detect flying insects like whiteflies, fungus gnats, winged aphids and thrips.



Check Underside of Leaves



Honeydew of Hoya



Yellow Sticky Card Trapping Flies



IT'S Time To.....December

Rosie Lerner-Purdue University Extension

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges, which indicates too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- Extend the lives of holiday plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus by placing them in a cool, brightly lit area that is free from warm or cold drafts.
- Houseplants may not receive adequate light because days are short and gloomy. Move plants closer to windows, but avoid placing foliage against cold glass panes. Artificial lighting may be helpful.
- Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water and little, if any, fertilizer.
- If you are forcing bulbs for the holidays, bring them into warmer temperatures after they have been sufficiently precooled. Bulbs require a chilling period of about 10 to 12 weeks at 40 degrees F to initiate flower buds and establish root growth. Precooled bulbs are available from many garden suppliers, if you did not get yours cooled in time. Then provide two to four weeks of warm temperature (60 degrees F), bright light and moderately moist soil to bring on flowers.
- When shopping for a Christmas tree, check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk base – both indicators of freshness. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- Evergreens, except pines and spruce, can be trimmed now for a fresh supply of holiday greenery.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Prevent bark splitting of young and thin-barked trees, such as fruit and maple trees. Wrap trunks with tree wrap, or paint them with white latex (not oil-based) paint, particularly on the south- and southwest-facing sides. Remember to remove trunk wrap at the end of winter.
- Protect shrubs such as junipers and arborvitae from extensive snow loads by tying their stems together with twine. Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage.

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IT'S Time To.....December

(Continued)

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits) *Continued*

- Protect broadleaves, evergreens or other tender landscape plants from excessive drying (desiccation) by winter sun and wind. Canvas, burlap or polyethylene plastic screens to the south and west protect the plants. Similarly, shield plants from salt spray on the street side.
- Provide winter protection for roses by mounding soil approximately 12 inches high to insulate the graft union after plants are dormant and temperatures are cold. Additional organic mulch such as straw compost or chopped leaves can be placed on top.
- To protect newly planted or tender perennials and bulbs, mulch with straw, chopped leaves or other organic material after plants become dormant.
- Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- Once the plants are completely dormant and temperatures are consistently below freezing, apply winter mulch to protect strawberries and other tender perennials. In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of organic material such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips will provide adequate protection.
- Check produce and tender bulbs in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.
- Clean up dead plant materials, synthetic mulch and other debris in the vegetable garden, as well as in the flowerbeds, rose beds and orchards.
- Make notes for next year's garden.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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