

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

January 2021

## 2021 Officers

President-Reuben DeBolt

Vice President-Tim Brugeman

Treasurer-Ann Woolum

Secretary-Elaine Reynolds



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**Please join our next  
ZOOM meeting on  
Thursday, January 14th.**

## Coordinator's Corner

Happy New Year to each of you! I look forward to working with each of you to complete volunteer service to Hancock County residents this year though it continues to be virtual for a few months. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee as we plan our activities and project work for 2021.

First, I want to thank Rose Morrison for her dedicated effort as the President of our organization. I really enjoyed working with her and she did a fantastic job guiding the group for the past 2 years. Thanks, Rose, for the countless hours you put in and for your leadership.

Second, thanks to those who have entered hours and contacts for 2020 and for those who signed the policies to recertify into 2021. I am hopeful we will have 100% of you sign the compliance policies. I really appreciate everyone's attention to this matter.

The state has waived the support fees for 2021 so we will not have to pay approximately \$400 from our checking account this year.

As I reported in the last meeting, the VMS will be discontinued sometime in 2021. Currently, we need you to continue to enter contacts and hours into VMS and I ask you to remain current in entering these hours. I am hearing we may be using this system into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 and then the data will be converted to a new system which we will all get to learn together. I will keep you all updated on the timing of this migration and training sessions.

I will be setting up the VMS calendar event for the newsletter articles on VMS. We really need you to help write articles for 2021. Please go to VMS and volunteer for this. As you will read on page 6 the MGV articles will be published on the first Saturday of the month starting with the February article.

As this month starts, begin looking over your seed catalogs and order seeds for the upcoming season. It will be here soon. Also, start thinking about and planning for the community garden in order to continue to provide food for the food deprived in the county.

Stay safe and best wishes to the Ohio State football team in the playoff game as well as for a great basketball season. Go Buckeyes!

*Karl Farwig*



# President's Notes

## January 2021

I hope that you have all had a festive Christmas holiday season with loved ones and are ready to welcome in the New Year.

I'm not sure what I have got myself in to, but thanks for trusting me to lead this group and for all the support I have already received. Many thanks to Rose for all that she has done to bring us to this point.

As we say farewell to a messy year, I want to thank all of you who served in whatever capacity in 2020. Thanks not only to those who chaired committees or led projects, but also to everyone who contributed in any manner to those successes we had in a year when we were severely constrained: the Seminar, Community Gardens, Ask-a-Master Gardener, cleaning up and planning gardens at or near the office, Newsletter, Facebook page, Courier articles. Significant accomplishments in a year where it often felt as if we weren't doing much!

I look forward to working with you all in 2021, and I want to thank everyone who has agreed to continue in key roles they held last year as well as those who have volunteered to fill positions that opened up. First, of all, thanks to Elaine Reynolds for taking on the Secretary's role for the remainder of the term. Then to Tim Brugeman for volunteering to be chairman of the Service Committee in addition to everything else he does. And the following new Project Leads: OSU Extension Office Gardens – Peggy Biolchini, Phenology (Sensory) Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco, Mugs of Joy – Rose to assist Linda Laux, Seminars – Lisa McClain.

We still have an opening for someone to lead the Brown Bag program, which will look different than in the past, at least for a while. Anyone who is interested please contact me or Peggy Biolchini who chairs the Education Committee, as we would like to fill this as soon as possible.

My goal for 2021 is to return to something as close to "normal" as possible, with monthly meetings and Brown Bag sessions, even if by Zoom for a while still. To that end, who among you has a topic you'd like to share? Please let me know ASAP! If you need help putting it into Power Point or some comparable medium, I'll be glad to help. Educating ourselves will help us to better serve the community, which is our main purpose. And in that regard, we can still write articles for *The Courier*, regardless of the state of restrictions. Please contact Laurie Pressel to volunteer timely articles for a given month.

Let's each consider what we can do, even with restrictions, to make Hancock County Master Gardeners a visible source of gardening knowledge and encouragement for county residents.

One last request: help me find a good title for my monthly notes. I'm open to suggestions and I have no delusions of coming up with anything as catchy or as appropriate as Rose's "Rambling Rose".

Looking forward to a productive year in 2021!

*Reuben*

## 2021 Hancock County Master Gardener Treasurer Elaine Reynolds BIO



Elaine Reynolds is one of the newer members of the Hancock County Master Gardeners. She was part of the fall 2019 class – just before everything shut down for the pandemic. She is somewhat disappointed that she hasn't had the opportunity to meet more of the members since there has been so little for in person participation this year, but that will change eventually. Elaine has a BS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and an MA in Geography and GIS from the University of Toledo. Over the years she worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Air Force, as a civilian, and part time for Ashland Petroleum and Marathon Petroleum while her children (2 daughters) were young. She and her husband, Pete, are currently adjusting to his new status as a retiree and figuring out what is next in life. Elaine is currently the Treasurer for Crochet Now of NW Ohio and was a former Board Member and President of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership.

Elaine's gardening experience has been limited to playing in her own yard but she has an intense curiosity and wants to learn all she can about gardening. She prefers flower gardening rather than vegetable gardening because she doesn't like to cook. Lately she's been trying to learn more about gardening with native plants and has reserved a patch of ground at the back of her yard for wildflowers and grasses.

***Welcome Elaine!***

## 2021 Committee Chairs and Project Leads

### **Administrative**

Newsletter

Media

Membership

Apparel

Historian

Lynn Farwig

Lisa McClain

Betsy DeFrancesco

Lynn Farwig

Kay Sidaway

Open

### **Social & Fundraiser**

Fundraising

Summer Picnic

Christmas Potluck

Refreshments

Plant Exchange

Kay Sidaway

Betsy DeFrancesco

Marlene Brunswick

Lyn Ma & Barb Sherman

Barb Sherman

Karla Dennis

### **Service**

OSUE Office Garden

Phenology Garden

Community Garden

Mugs of Joy

Tim Brugeman

Peggy Biolchini

Betsy DeFrancesco

Brint Simmons

Linda Laux and Rose Morrison

### **Teaching**

Courier Articles

Speakers Bureau &

Library

Mothers' Day

Fair Booth

Judi Clymer

Laurie Pressel

Linda Finsel

Judi Clymer

Doris Salis

### **Education**

Brown Bag

MGV Training Class

Seminars

Ask-A-Master Gardener

Field Trips

Mentors

Peggy Biolchini

Open

Karl Farwig

Lisa McClain

Doris Salis

Ann Woolum

Tim Brugeman

***Please consider volunteering to help with our various programs.***

# The Write Stuff

Laurie Pressel

Share your gardening expertise with the public, all while working from the comfort and safety of home. We need MGVs to write gardening articles for *The Courier* in 2021.

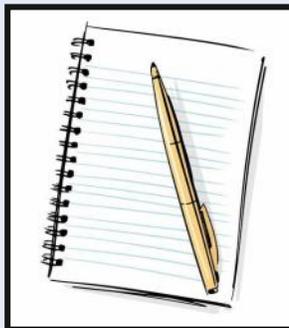
Beginning in February, MGV articles will appear in the first Saturday issue every month. This means the deadline to submit articles to Laurie Pressel ([lauriepressel3@gmail.com](mailto:lauriepressel3@gmail.com)) has changed to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before. For example, if you sign up for the April article, it will be due on March 15.

You can sign up at [ohio.volunteersystem.org](http://ohio.volunteersystem.org). We currently need volunteers for: April, May, July, August, September, October, November and December. Here are a few writing tips:

- \*Keep the word count to 500-750 words.
- \*Remember your reader is most likely an amateur gardener or average homeowner, so avoid using language/concepts that may be too technical.
- \*Make sure your reader walks away with knowledge and information that will be useful to him/her.
- \*Try to focus in on a few key points. Don't provide an exhaustive account of the subject because you will bog down the reader.
- \*Keep your language conversational in style.
- \*Make sure you use legitimate sources (i.e. Web sites that end in .edu) when sourcing your article

Some topic ideas for 2021:

- \*Herbs
- \*Houseplants
- \*Succulents
- \*Sustainability
- \*Rain barrels



Also, if you don't want to write an article from scratch, but are willing to take an article from two or three years ago and "refresh" it with new information or details, that would be helpful as well.

Direct questions, comments, ideas to Laurie ([lauriepressel3@gmail.com](mailto:lauriepressel3@gmail.com)).

## Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series Winter 2021

Thursday, January 7 (12 -1 PM)

*“Bees, Pesticides and Politics: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Urban Landscapes”-Dan Potter*, Professor, Urban Landscape Entomology, University of Kentucky

Wednesday, January 13 (4-5 PM)

*“Addressing Controversial Issues: GMO's, Pesticides and Climate Change”-Thomas Blaine*, Associate Professor, Community Development, The Ohio State University

Thursday, January 21 (12 -1 PM)

*“Plant Cannibals: From Mistletoe to Dodder”-Jim Chatfield*, Associate Professor, Horticulture and Crop Sciences and Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, January 27 (4-5 PM)

*“Therapeutic Horticulture”-Rieppe Hendrick*, Extension Master Gardener, Wake County, North Carolina State University

Webinars are Scheduled Through April 1, 2021  
Register Here:

[Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series | Master Gardener Volunteers \(osu.edu\)](#)



Deck the Halls with Poinsettias

The Courier-December 22nd

By Laurie Pressel

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=b92397cc-47b6-4273-90e1-90d6630828ba>

# It's a Salamander.... Or is it a Lizard?

Linda Casey

Salamanders are often mistaken for lizards, but the two groups are different. Though they both have similar body shapes, lizards are reptiles (along with turtles, snakes, crocodiles, dinosaurs and, yes, birds) while salamanders are amphibians (along with toads, frogs, and a weird and rarely seen group called caecilians). This means lizards have dry scaly skin, while salamanders have moist, porous skin. Lizards all must breathe with lungs, just as humans do. Salamanders, on the other hand, can breathe through their skin, via gills, via lungs, or in some cases via their skin and lungs!

Another major difference between lizards and salamanders is their reproduction. Lizards have leathery, partly calcified (shelled) eggs that are typically buried in sand or dirt, but in a few species are hatched while still inside the mother before birth. Salamanders, as amphibians, mostly lay their eggs in water where the larvae hatch and after some time usually metamorphose and return to land. Lizards can be found most anywhere on land, while salamanders must stay where they won't dry out: under logs or leaves, underground, or directly in water.

## Salamanders

There are 24 different species of Ohio salamanders, some in brilliant colors of red and orange, some with yellow, white or blue spots, some with stripes. Salamanders are silent and spend most of their lives hidden, so people rarely see them. They're there and often quite abundant.



The state's common salamander species include the spotted salamander, redback salamander, northern dusky salamander and red-spotted newt. Interestingly, the red-spotted newt has both a red-colored, land-dwelling juvenile phase called an eft and a greenish adult phase that spends most of its time in the water. Far rarer are the green salamander, cave salamander, eastern hellbender and blue-spotted salamander, which are endangered, and the midland mud salamander, which is threatened, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Some species, such as the red-spotted newt, secrete chemicals that can irritate your skin.

Salamanders often hold clues to a place's ecology due to the permeability of their skin and eggs. Water and air pass easily from the environment through their skin. This makes them particularly susceptible to toxins or changes in their environment. Disease, pollution, habitat loss and introduced species are salamanders' biggest threats. So limiting pollutants, providing habitat and controlling non-native invasive species are ways to lend salamanders a hand.

Like chasing frogs or crayfish in a stream or pond (who hasn't done that?), searching for salamanders under rocks along a stream or under logs in a forest is just as fun. Be gentle if you do it. Put rocks or logs back as you found them. And fight the urge to pick up and hold what you find. Why? Certain chemicals on your skin can hurt salamanders due to the sensitivity of their skin. **Handling any of Ohio's endangered salamander species is prohibited by law in order to keep them safe.**

Getting to Know Salamanders (22 pages, \$7.50) written by Marne Titchenell (OSU CFAES), gives details on Ohio's common species, how to see them, where to see them and how to take care of the places they live. It's published by Ohio State University Extension and can be bought through the organization's county offices or its online eStore, <http://go.osu.edu/salamander>.

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# It's a Salamander.... Or is it a Lizard?

(CONTINUED)

## Lizards

Ohio is home to only 5 lizards. There are reports of lizards giving a nip if captured. They are wild and protecting themselves, so expect some form of retaliation by the reptile if you corner it. The good news is that while a bite from a lizard may be scary, there is no risk of any serious health issues as a result. The lizards you find in your yard or around your home are not poisonous, but they are fantastic in managing insect populations.

**The Common Five-lined Skink** is the only lizard in Ohio that is found statewide. As a hatchling these lizards are vividly colored. The body is black with five bright yellow stripes running from the head to the electric blue tail. As this lizard ages the black is slowly replaced by brown and the stripes lose their intensity, fading to a yellow-brown. The tail also fades to gray, but some blue is retained in all but the very largest individuals. A large, old male may be completely tan or brown. During the breeding season the head of the males become red. The lizard is about 7 inches long. Most sources state that this species is typically found in damp environments from wet forests, wet meadows, around rock and wood piles, to building foundations. In many instances the habitat is near water. However, they also have been found along dry railroad beds, in dry fields, under rocks on hillsides, and in close association with Eastern Fence Lizards.



**Broad-headed Skinks** are the largest lizard in Ohio and are found only in southern Ohio. This species mirrors the Common Five-lined Skink in color. As a hatchling the body is black with five bright yellow stripes running from the head to the electric blue tail. As this lizard ages the black is slowly replaced by brown and the stripes lose their intensity, fading to a yellow-brown. The tail also fades to gray, but some blue is retained in all but the very largest individuals. A large, old male may be completely tan or brown, and they have massive swollen jowls. During the breeding season the head of the males become red. This is a species of forests and forests edges. They are commonly found on dead logs, or climbing high in trees.



(Continued)

# It's a Salamander.... Or is it a Lizard?

(CONTINUED)

**Northern Coal Skink** are uncommon or likely extirpated. This species has a spotted distribution in the eastern United States, but was recorded from Vinton County. It is 6 inches long, brown with four stripes along its back and sides. Unlike the Common Five-lined and Broad-headed Skinks, this species does not have the vertebral stripe. Its habitat is damp woodlands and it eats small invertebrates. It was reported on the basis of one individual captured at Lake Hope State Park in Vinton County in 1970. The specimen may have been a released captive or part of a disjunct population. If part of a population it is likely extirpated from Ohio, but any suspected Coal Skink in the state should be well photographed if possible. A credible source claims to have captured one in Scioto County, but was unable to get pictures or the specimen.



**The Little Brown Skink** is found in a few southern Ohio counties. It is slender, tiny (4.5 inches) and essentially brown. The sides have two darker dorsolateral stripes with lighter brown underneath. It lives in woods and at woodland edges. Little Brown Skinks usually forage in the leaf litter and eat small invertebrates. This is a very rare species in Ohio, though one of the most common skink species in the southeastern United States. This species is sometimes referred to as a Ground Skink or Brown Skink.



**Eastern Fence Lizard** is the only introduced species in the state. It is mostly found in unglaciated regions, but was also found in a few other glaciated localities in southern Ohio. It is 6 inches long and the only lizard in Ohio that has rough, pointed scales, which is why it also is called spiny lizards. Eastern Fence Lizards are various shades of brown with gray, darker brown, and black markings. Females are typically more heavily patterned on the back, but males have bright blue belly and throat patches. It lives in rocky areas, along train tracks, around building foundations, and in open woods. Small arthropods form the basis of their diet. The species used to be much more common before the blizzards of the late 1970s. In areas where the lizards are found, they are the most conspicuous of Ohio's lizards, even finding them as far north as Muskingum County. In some counties, such as Scioto and Adams Counties, these are a common lizard.



# Indoor Plant Care

*University of Maryland Extension*



**Light**-Light is probably the most essential factor for indoor plant growth. The energy derived from photosynthesis, and plant growth and health, all depend on the amount of intercepted light. Indoor plants can be classified according to their light needs — high, medium, or low light requirements. The three important aspects of indoor light are intensity, duration, and quality. Each one has a different impact on the plant.

**Watering and Soluble Salts**-A common question home gardeners ask is, “How often should I water my plants?” The plant itself will tell you. When it’s too dry, a plant wilts and turns gray-green; when too wet, it drops leaves or turns yellow. Avoid both extremes. Plants should not be watered on a schedule, but watered when they need it. Factors that influence plant watering include differences in potting media, humidity, and temperature.

**Temperature and Humidity**-Excessively low or high temperatures may stop growth or cause a spindly appearance, foliage damage, leaf drop, or plant failure. However, most indoor plants tolerate normal temperature fluctuations.

- In general, foliage indoor plants grow best between 70° and 80°F during the day and from 60° to 68°F at night;
- Most flowering indoor plants prefer the same daytime range but grow best at nighttime temperatures of 55° to 60°F;
- A good rule of thumb is to keep the night temperature 10 to 15°F lower than the day temperature to induce physiological recovery from moisture loss, intensify flower color, and prolong flower life; and
- Indoor plants, especially flowering varieties, are sensitive to drafts or heat from registers. Protect them from sudden, brief changes in temperature. Do not locate your indoor plants near heat or air conditioning sources.

## **Humidity-**

- Most indoor environments lack sufficient humidity for healthy indoor plants, particularly in the winter.
- With the exception of the cacti and succulents, all indoor plants benefit from treatments to raise the humidity in their vicinity.
- It is questionable whether misting plants really increases humidity. If you decide to do so use tepid water and do not mist the leaves of plants with fuzzy leaves like African violets. Mist early in the day so the leaves dry before evening.
- An alternative is to place pots on a tray filled with pebbles and water to increase humidity in the area around the plants.
- If you group plants together in a room, they will collectively raise the humidity in their area. An automatic humidifier can provide extra humidity for plants and people in the home.

**Fertilizer**-The goal of fertilizing indoor plants is to add just enough nutrients so that the new growth compensates for leaf loss. The purpose should not be to encourage quick growth of a large plant. Large amounts of fertilizer are therefore unnecessary for most indoor plants.

- Fertilizers come in many different forms; liquid, granular or tablet.
- Slow-release pellets which release over a period of 3-4 months are also available. They can be incorporated into the potting soil when planting or applied to the surface.
- Commercially available fertilizers labeled for indoor plants or houseplants are fine, mix according to label directions. Many will give you a choice of concentrations depending on whether you prefer to fertilize once a month or at each watering.

**(Continued)**

# Indoor Plant Care

## (Continued)

Remember the following points when trying to balance your indoor plant's nutrients:

- Micronutrients are deficient in many indoor plants, so replace them once a year. Fertilizing with a commercial fertilizer labeled for indoor plants which contain micronutrients or adding a small amount of well-composted, screened leaf mold or other compost will fill this need;
- Because magnesium leaches from the soil at each watering, replace it with a solution of one teaspoon Epsom salts per gallon of water. Water two times each year or use the solution as a leaf spray;
- During the winter months, indoor plants don't need fertilizer because reduced light and temperature result in reduced growth. Fertilizing at this time could harm some plants. Fertilize from March through September;
- Monthly applications of a diluted liquid fertilizer in the summer months will keep most plants healthy; earthworm castings are an excellent houseplant fertilizer; and
- Excessive fertilizer results in the buildup of salts and excessive, leggy growth.

**Potting/Repotting** Although plants can grow in a surprisingly small soil volume if they receive adequate nutrients and water, healthy indoor plants will grow better and benefit from being repotted occasionally. It's time to repot if you see the roots of a foliage plant growing out of the drain hole. Late winter and spring is the best time to repot plants.

- Prepare your supplies before repotting. Choose a pot that has drainage holes in the bottom.
- The diameter of the new pot should be only two inches larger than the current pot.
- Moving a plant to a larger pot with an excessively large volume of soil can lead to water logging of the roots because the plant can't use the available water.
- If you're recycling a used pot, scrub soluble salts off with water and a brush. Then wash disease-causing organisms from the pot in a solution of one-part liquid bleach to nine parts water. Allow the pot to dry thoroughly before placing the plant into it
- Purchase a sterile potting medium and moisten the necessary amount ahead of time. The day before you plan to repot a plant, be sure to water it well to reduce possible shock to the root system.

## Grooming

- Pinching removes one inch or less of new stem and leaf growth to just above the node, stimulating new lateral growth to make a well filled-out houseplant.
- Pruning an indoor plant removes an entire branch or section of a plant for the sake of appearance.
- Using sharp scissors, neatly trim off leaf tips if they are dry or brown.
- Keep leaves dust-free by washing with warm water.
- Remove all spent flowers, dying or yellowing leaves, and dead branches-Keep your plants clean and neat; not only are they more attractive, but this practice reduces insect and disease problems.
- Disbudding means removing certain flower buds to obtain larger blooms from a few choice buds. It also eliminates flowering in a young plant or recently rooted cutting that should not bear the physical strain of flowering early.

## Moving Indoor Plants Outdoors and Back Indoors

- Put your plants out only after night temperatures remain above 60°F. (usually mid-May or early June).
- Acclimate plants to increased light by placing them in a shady area outdoors. Slowly introduce indoor plants that like sun into a sunnier location over a period of two weeks.
- Fertilize and water your indoor plants outdoors more often than when they are indoors, because of increased photo synthesis and growth.
- Move plants back as night temperatures begin to drop below 60°F. (usually mid September)
- Before moving plants back indoors check thoroughly for insects. Populations of common plants pest such as aphids, spider mites, and scale insects are kept in check outdoors by predators and parasitoids (beneficial insects). To prevent an indoor infestation treat your plants before you bring them in with a labeled insecticidal soap or horticultural oil.



## **Ask-A-Gardener Q&A**

### **Oct/Nov Report**

**Submitted by Doris Salis**

**Moving and Would Like to Take Perennials. How Do I Do It?** *Pot the flowers and keep in a cold garage, watering when dry. Or put the pot in the ground even with soil level and cover with mulch. Take pots to the new location and plant in spring.* <http://purdue.edu/hla/sites/cea/perennial-production-guidesheets/>

**Maple Leaves with Black Spots** *Tar spot will not kill the tree but leaves should be carefully cleaned up in the fall. Do not use in compost.*

**Fruit Trees: Soil Test and Planting Directions** *Plant but only trim crossed or broken branches for 2 years, Mix top soil with native soil; soak roots for 12 hours; hole 2X size of root ball; urea fertilizer in spring; water 1" per week.*

**Red Potatoes with Rotten Parts and Scabby Skins** *Caused by solanine in green area, eyes, rotten parts. Throw away if rot is extensive. Scabby skin happens on some varieties; also, alkaline soils, dry soils, low organic matter. Peel before eating.*

**Black Walnut Tree Dangerous to Nearby Pines?** *Juglone chemical in walnut tree causes yellowing, wilting, death of maples. Pines could have died from something else. After cutting down, wait 6 months before planting another tree. Don't use any composted chips for 6 months*

**Black Spots on Silver Maple?** *Tar spot fungus. Dispose of all leaves or burn them. Fungus will not harm to tree.* [www.canr.msu.edu](http://www.canr.msu.edu)

**Black Biting Bugs on Window** *No internet so could not see bugs. Client a little unclear about size, wings. She couldn't see the source. Now using bug spray and it seemed to be helping. Best guess is that they were a type of hornet.*

**Black Spots on Maple Leaves** *Not harmful but unsightly. Fungus might be blown in on wind, or by rain splashing the soil below. Clean up leaves thoroughly and dispose of safely. Do not put in compost.*

**Canker on Golden Curls Willow-Also Slits in Trunk.** *Spray with Mancozeb in autumn after leaves fall, and again in spring before budding. Cause of slits probably periodical cicada eggs or tree hopper unknown.* [www.PlantClinic.Cornell.edu](http://www.PlantClinic.Cornell.edu)

**Redbud is Touching House. How prune?** *Prune any time of year. Prune branches touching house. Always remove dead branches.*

**Douglas Fir with Browning Needles** *After ruling out other problems through questioning, it's possible the tree has Swiss Needle cast disease, but could be something else.*

**How to Do a Soil Test?** *45x100 PLOT. Take ten samples from various places in plot without grass or other growths. Dig down 10 inches and remove handful of soil from bottom. Mix all soil samples together in a bucket. Put 4 cups in a bag and deliver sample to Ed Lentz. I will help with interpretation of results.*



## IT'S Time To.....January

### **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 in door blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

### **GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)**

- 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.



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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The Master Gardener “Green Thumb Prints” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-3851.

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