

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

July 2021

## Summer Picnic

July 15th at 5:30 PM  
See page 5 for details.

At the home of Marlene Brunswick  
23740 Township Road 181, Forest

Please call, text or email  
Marlene if attending.

[rpbmdb@gmail.com](mailto:rpbmdb@gmail.com)

419-310-0882



## Calendar of Events

July 15.....Summer Picnic  
August 12.....Monthly Meeting  
Sept 1-6.....Hancock Co. Fair  
Sept 9.....Monthly Meeting  
Sept 30 .....Seminar  
Oct 14.....Monthly Meeting

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## ***Reuben's Ruminations***

### ***July 2021***

Summer Picnic – Summer Picnic July 15 at the Brunswick home. Be sure to contact Marlene, if you haven't already, to let her know you plan to attend.

I think everyone who went on the field trip to the Stearns family gardens thoroughly enjoyed seeing all that they had done, and maybe came away with some ideas. Thanks to Sharon Milligan and Ann Woolum for organizing.

Garden Projects – brief summaries

- \*Entrance to Ag Center – By the time you see this, the entrance to the Ag Center will have been transformed (and still changing). Peggy Biolchini and her team have invested an incredible amount of gardening skill and sweat to make this happen. We have just signed paperwork required by the County to allow us to carry this to completion.
- \*Habitat for Humanity Build – Tim Brugeman and his team designed the landscaping and then guided planting by Habitat volunteer groups on June 15. Official dedication of houses is June 26. Next steps will be to instruct the new homeowners on the care of their plants
- \*Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his team have fenced, planted and strawed our (large) plot at the Community Garden, and everything seems to be growing well.
- \*Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco and her team are currently in a maintenance mode
- \*Volunteers – all of these projects could use more volunteers to spread the workload. For sure the Community Garden project will need ongoing attention throughout the summer until harvest is complete. Please contact the project leaders to offer your services – and get some hours.

Thanks to Betsy DeFrancesco for the latest Courier article on Gardening for the Senses, which she also posted on our Facebook page and to Laurie Pressel for coordinating and editing.

“What is a MASTER Gardener?” “I was asked by a volunteer at the Habitat build. Well, we're state-trained and certified and continually learning, and we use our knowledge to educate and help the people of Hancock County.

For months our Courier articles and postings on Facebook have been our only consistent educational outreach to the community at large. And the Ask-a Master Gardener program has served individuals to address very specific situations one-by-one as did our one-day Let's Go Gardening event.

We have the County Fair coming up, probably quicker than most realize. And we have the seminar to prepare for shortly after that. Let's all contribute to the success of these great opportunities to reach the public. Meanwhile, who are the educators among us who will step up and conduct a brown bag presentation (or identify a speaker to come in)? Or make a presentation to groups at the library or 50 North where we have standing invitations?

Happy gardening!

***Reuben***

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2021**

At 6:00 pm Peggy Biolchini introduced the Brown Bag speakers from Hancock Park District, Chad Carroll, Natural Resources Manager and Jack Kessler, Natural Resources Intern. They spoke about managing invasive species in the parks. If anyone wants to volunteer with the Park District, there is a form on their website, <https://hancockparks.com> , or contact Chad at [ccarroll@hancockparks.com](mailto:ccarroll@hancockparks.com) .

After a break for refreshments, President Reuben DeBolt called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm

President's Comments

- \*Barb Sherman has been granted emeritus status. A volunteer is needed to fill her role as Refreshments Coordinator.
- \*Thank you to all who participated in the Let's Go Gardening event on Mother's Day.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the May 13, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Marlene Brunswick; second: Lisa McClain.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

- \*\$725.00 has been spent so far this year. \$6432.68 in checking account, of which \$780.79 is restricted for the Community Garden, leaving \$5651.89 unrestricted.
- \*Report approved; motion: Lynn Farwig; second: Patrick Flinn.

Volunteer Coordinator – Karl Farwig

- \*MG meetings and events will be following the Hancock County Covid-19 guidelines. Hancock County is now #88 in the state, meaning the least number of cases in the state. Meetings can now be held in person and carpools are allowed. For anyone not vaccinated, a mask is recommended. For the July picnic, buffets and potluck meals are allowed.
- \*The Hancock County Fair will be held this year so planning should begin. MG's will be in the Grange Building. There will be no overall Fair theme.
- \*Ed Lentz has presented the proposal for the Ag Center garden to the County Commissioners and received provisional approval, pending final paperwork, for money to pay for the work.
- \*The VMS replacement system is not yet ready to roll out. All MG Members should continue to keep their volunteer and educational hours on paper.

Committees

- \*Administrative – Lynn Farwig – MG Apparel order forms are on the back table or email Lynn by the 29th.

**(Continued)**

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2021**  
**(Continued)**

Committees-(Continued)

- \*Social and Fundraising – Carolyn Lavender – Introduced herself as the new chair of this committee. Requested people sign up for meeting refreshments for 2021. Marlene Brunswick discussed the July picnic to be held at her house and gave directions, which will also be provided in the newsletter. The picnic will be July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. (UPDATE: Start time changed to 5:30 pm) This is a change from the regular meeting night to avoid conflicts with Fourth of July plans. MG will provide the meat, please sign up for what food you are bringing.
- \*Service –
  - Community Garden – The straw mulch has been placed on the garden.
  - Habitat for Humanity – Judi Clymer – Landscaping will begin June 15<sup>th</sup>. Marilynn Beltz is preparing porch planters for each house. Dedication will be June 26, 2021, at 9 am.
  - Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – Work is moving slowly while waiting for final approval from the County Commissioners. Volunteers are needed for the work to be done over the next 4 weeks. Planned work times will be Mon, Wed & Fri, 9 to noon and Tues & Thurs 10 to noon. Contact Peggy to volunteer. E Lentz is coordinating with the new 4H Coordinator to see if some of their participants can volunteer to help with the work since this is their home too.
  - Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco – Still working on weeding.
- \*Teaching – Judi Clymer
  - Still need volunteers for 50 North and Library presentations. Contact Linda Finsel to volunteer. Also need Courier articles for November and December. K Farwig suggested that next year the Courier articles could focus on one invasive plant per month.
- \*Education – Peggy Biolchini
  - Peggy Biolchini and Karla Dennis will co-chair the Brown Bag position.
  - Thank you to Sharon Milligan for organizing the field trip for June 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ask A Master Gardener – Doris Salis – Very few requests so far this year. Only 17 so far.
  - County Fair – Doris Salis – Looking for ideas for posters or games or giveaways for the Fair booth. Email Doris if you have any suggestions.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Sharon Hammer-Baker has sent an item for the newsletter about an open house at her studio & garden on the First and Third Sundays from 1-6 pm.

Motion to Adjourn: Peggy Biolchini; second: Linda Finsel. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

**Next Meeting: Picnic, July 15, 2021. Note different week!**

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary

## Summer Picnic-July 15th

Marlene Brunswick

Welcome to the Brunswick home for the 2021 Master Gardener Summer Picnic on July 15th. Master Gardeners and guest are welcome to bring a dish to share at 5:30 pm and meal will begin promptly at 6 pm. Meat, bottled water, soft drinks, and table service will be provided. BYOB if you prefer other beverages.

Tables and chairs will be set up but feel free to bring lawn chair if you wish. Our address is 23740 Township Road 181, Forest OHIO 45843 and my cell number if needed is 419-310-0882.

Quick directions heading south from Findlay, State Route 68 South to State Route 30. (You will go through Arlington and Williamstown then intersects with Route 30). Head East 1 mile to Township Road 177 and turn right or South. Take immediate left East on Twp Road 146 (runs along side Rt 30). This will intersect with Township Road 181 in 1 mile and you will need to turn Right or South. We are the only house South of 30 on 181 and will live in a gray ranch in a woods. If you reach the Hardin County line, you have gone too far.

Feel free to call for specific directions from your home if you have any trouble finding us. Hope to see you on July 15th. Please remember to RSVP by text, email or call, so we can complete the picnic planning.

[rpbmdb@gmail.com](mailto:rpbmdb@gmail.com)

419-310-0882





## OSUE Garden Progress

Peggy Biolchini



Before Work Began  
May 25, 2021



The "after" pictures of the center and north garden beds  
June 24, 2021

The garden is finally ready for planting! It has taken a small army that worked very hard to make this all happen. I'd like to thank Tim Brugeman, Judi Clymer, Reuben DeBolt, Betsy DeFrancesco, Karla Dennis, Linda Finsel, Lisa McClain, Elaine and Pete Reynolds, Brint Simmons, Jeri Wenger, Jerry Williamson and Ann Woolum for their hard work and enthusiasm to get the job done. We have weeded and transplanted many, many plants, removed the dying Spirea, separated stones from the soil, turned over compacted soil, created fresh edges along the garden bed, trimmed bushes, rototilled, amended the soil with Sulphur and fertilizer and finally spread compost over the entire garden area.



Brint just finished hand shoveling the entire area behind where he and Betsy are standing, and he is all smiles!



After Judi Clymer and Brint Simmons did a day of hand shoveling hard packed soil, Ann came through with her 45 year old tiller and worked it up even better.



Tim is doing the last bit of rototilling needed to prepare the soil for planting. I followed up with raking the soil smooth. We will be putting in a stepping stone path to the water spigot. You can catch a glimpse of it behind Tim.



Linda Finsel, Judi Clymer and I dug out all the daylilies and replanted many into pots and others were stored behind the Taxus bushes. It was a lot of work as the daylilies were huge!

I have gone up to North Branch Nursery and checked their stock for the plants we need to make this garden come to life. They don't have several of the dwarf arborvitae that I selected, but they might have them ready by this fall or, at the latest, spring 2022. Cross your fingers that they will be ready for this fall so we can get them in before the seminar. I hope to purchase the plants the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>. This will happen as long as all the paperwork to get the final resolution for funds is done from the county. Ed Lentz and Karl Farwig are working together to make sure this process goes smoothly.

# ***MG Happenings***

## **Social/Fundraiser Committee Update** **Carolyn Lavender**

As the head of the Social/Fundraiser Committee, I would like to invite you to participate in the yummy part of our get togethers. At our last meeting, I had a sign-up sheet asking for members to volunteer to bring refreshments to our gatherings through 2022. I'm sure we all wish to thank the following ladies for offering to bring refreshments for the months of: August - Judi C., Rose M., and Linda L.; September - Linda F., and Sharon M.; and October - Lynn F. Their generosity is appreciated!

As you can see, there are still many opportunities for you to give back to the group. I, personally, think having refreshments during the break is a valuable part of our meetings as it helps strengthen our camaraderie. I hope you enjoy it, too! I will have the Refreshment sign-up sheet at the August meeting for those of you who didn't get a chance to participate. Thank you!

Also, you may have noticed, I did not mention the July meeting. That is because we will be having a **Summer Potluck on Thursday, July 15, at 5:30 PM** instead of our regular meeting. Please see Marlene's details about this event in this newsletter.

Thank you! I look forward to seeing you all on July 15!

## **Brown Bag-June 10th Meeting**

Chad Carrol-Hancock Park District Natural Resource Manager  
Managing Invasives in the Parks

The Brown Bag Program for our June 10th meeting was presented by Hancock Park District Natural Resources Manager, Chad Carroll, and Jack Kessler, Natural Resources Intern. They spoke about managing invasive species in the parks. If anyone wants to volunteer with the Park District, there is a form on their website, <https://hancockparks.com> , or contact Chad at [ccarroll@hancockparks.com](mailto:ccarroll@hancockparks.com) .

***Continued***

# ***MG Happenings***

***Continued***

## **Community Gardens**

**Brint Simmons**

Our community garden project is progressing well.

Everything is planted and mulched or cultivated.

We've had good rainfall and the vegetables are growing.

Hopefully we will have a bountiful harvest to share with City Mission and CHOPIN Hall.

Since our last report those volunteering at the garden include Peggy Biolchini, Lisa McClain, Reuben DeBolt, Judy Clymer, Ann Woolum, Linda Finsel, and Karl Farwig.

Many thanks to them for their help.

Weeding, cultivation, tying up tomatoes, and watering as needed are ongoing tasks that need volunteers. If you would like to help, contact Brint Simmons at

[brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brintsimmons@sbcglobal.net) or 419.306.5446.

## **Hancock County Fair - Sept 1-6**

**Doris Salis**

Please contact me by email [salis@findlay.edu](mailto:salis@findlay.edu) if you are willing to help with our fair booth this year. Some chores needed:

1. MG banner for the booth (we have money for a new one). I believe Bill Jones has done the banner in the past.
2. Poster display
3. Interactive educational games
4. Plants for display
5. Give-away goodies



There may be other things we'd like to do. For example, is there a theme we'd like to follow. We can get together at the end of July so we can coordinate our activities. Meanwhile please email me if you have an interest in any of the above or if you have a new idea for the booth. Thanks! Doris

***Continued***



# ***MG Happenings***

## ***Continued***

### **Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Project Feedback**

Tim Brugeman

Here is some feedback from Habitat For Humanity to our Master Gardeners for landscaping help with the two new West Park homes. They were very pleased and proud of the final look and hope for continued help in the future with colorful, low maintenance, high impact plantings. All was finished on June 15th with 2 shifts of volunteers guided by Reuben and Tim. MG planning was done by Marilyn Beltz, Jeri Wenger and Judi Clymer. New owners will receive watering and care instructions after the ribbon cutting June 26.

Here also are some compliments received over the phone from Wendy McCormick, Executive Director Habitat For Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity volunteers indicated they had a great time, all went well, and they love the new look and landscaping. Thanks to Reuben for guiding the last shift, finishing before dark. The home owner families and neighbors viewed the project and said they never imagined it would be so nice. Wendy sends her thanks on behalf of the Board and Staff to the Master Gardeners for the nice job planning and guidance of the landscaping. First time doing it this way and it made a big difference. Hint: she hopes we will help again; new chairperson opportunity!

Marilyn Beltz's 2 flower/porch pots will be set in place for the ribbon cutting Saturday June 26 at 9 am. Thank you Marilyn. We will talk to new owners after dedication day about watering and care of the plants.



***Continued***

# ***MG Happenings***

***Continued***

## **Stearns Garden Field Trip**

Sharon Milligan

Over 20 Master Gardener Volunteers and their guests took advantage of perfect June 12, 2021 weather to visit the five acre Stearns Gardens in Fostoria. Although we missed the full bloom of their two Peony Gardens by one week, their spectacular Rose Garden did not disappoint! Most however agreed that their favorite area was the tranquil Japanese Garden with its bubbling Koi pond and shaded sitting area where we lingered in the shade before passing through the Red Tori Gate to enjoy cookies provided by our hosts.

If you missed this opportunity to visit the Stearns Gardens, they and several other families will welcome visitors during the Fostoria Garden Club tour on July 11 from 12 noon – 5 p.m.



## Blossom-End Rot Linda Casey

Eager tomato growers, having lovingly nurtured their plants, anxiously await their ripe gems. But then, a black, leathery spot appears at the base of the fruit.



*Variable symptoms of blossom-end rot on tomato*  
Credit: Tom Creswell, Purdue Extension

Blossom-end rot is not an infectious disease, but rather a frustrating disorder of the fruit. The black scar tissue is thought to be caused by a deficiency of calcium in the developing fruit. In most cases, blossom-end rot is brought on by extreme fluctuations in soil moisture. And this year we sure had extremes of rainfall, so blossom-end rot is likely to be prevalent.

The black or brown spot develops on the blossom-end of the fruit opposite the point of stem attachment, thus the name blossom-end rot. The scar is usually firm and leathery, although secondary rot organisms may enter through the damaged tissue, causing a soft rot to develop. Often it's the early forming fruit that are affected, but it can happen anytime.



*Blossom-end rot on pepper fruit*  
Credit: Wenjing Guan, Purdue Extension

Tomatoes aren't the only species affected by blossom-end rot; peppers, summer squash, and other cucurbit plants can also be afflicted.

There is no spray that will control blossom-end rot, except maybe from the irrigation hose. Although some recommend spraying the plants with calcium, but by the time you see the scar on the fruit, it is too late. Watering during dry spells and mulching to conserve soil moisture will help reduce the fluctuations in soil moisture and thus encourage steady growth and calcium supply in the fruits.

Although the fruits that have already developed the scar cannot be helped, the new developing fruits can be. You can cut away the affected portion of the fruit and use the rest, but avoid using any damaged fruits for canning.



## Open Studio and Garden

**First and Third Sundays\***  
**June, July, August & September**

**1:00 pm-6:00 pm**

**\*or by appointment**



**You are welcome to stop by to see  
what's new in the studio and growing  
in the garden this year.**

### **STUDIO FEATURES**

miniature paintings

acrylics and watercolors

pastels

### **GARDEN FEATURES**

herbs and edibles

daylilies and perennials

wildlife habitat

***Sharon requests that you please wear a mask***

**Sharon Hammer Baker  
314 Greenlawn Avenue  
Findlay, Ohio**

**[bakerartstudio@gmail.com](mailto:bakerartstudio@gmail.com)**

**Please contact Sharon for questions  
or an appointment.**



# **IT'S Time To.....July**

**Linda Casey**

## **HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)**

- Closely watch houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place the cut end in rooting media (such as perlite, vermiculite, or peat moss soil mix). Enclose in plastic and keep out of direct sunlight.

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

- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those fortunate fruit tree growers who have a good crop this year, prop up tree branches that are heavily loaded with fruit.
- Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- Many Ohio trees are plagued by "lawnmower blight." Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.
- When watering lawns, apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water in a single application per week. Frequent, light sprinklings will encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought.
- Bluegrass is a cool-season plant and is under great stress during hot, dry summers. If water is not applied, the bluegrass will become dormant and will turn brown, until more favorable conditions arrive in autumn. For extreme dry conditions, rescue watering is required to keep the plants alive, while still dormant. Apply one-half inch of water every 2-4 weeks.
- Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Do not mow when the lawn is under severe drought stress.
- No need to remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

**(Continued)**





## IT'S Time To.....July

(Continued)

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

- Supplement natural rainfall, if any, to supply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week in a single application.
- Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans, and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- Complete succession planting of bush beans and sweet corn.
- Harvest summer squash while small and tender for best quality.
- Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. Supersweet corn varieties maintain their peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- Mulch garden to control weeds and conserve soil moisture.
- Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders, and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent them from developing a green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- Allow blossoms on newly planted ever-bearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with 0.5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.
- Harvest raspberries when fully colored and easily separated from stem. After harvest is complete, prune out the fruiting canes to make room for new growth.
- Remove faded blossoms from annual and perennial flowers to prevent seeds from forming.
- Condition flowers cut from the garden for arranging by removing the lower leaves, placing cut stem ends in warm water, and storing them overnight in a cool location.
- The foliage of spring-flowering bulbs can be removed safely after it fades. This also is a good time to lift the bulbs for transplanting or propagation.

### Gardening for the Senses

Betsy DeFrancesco

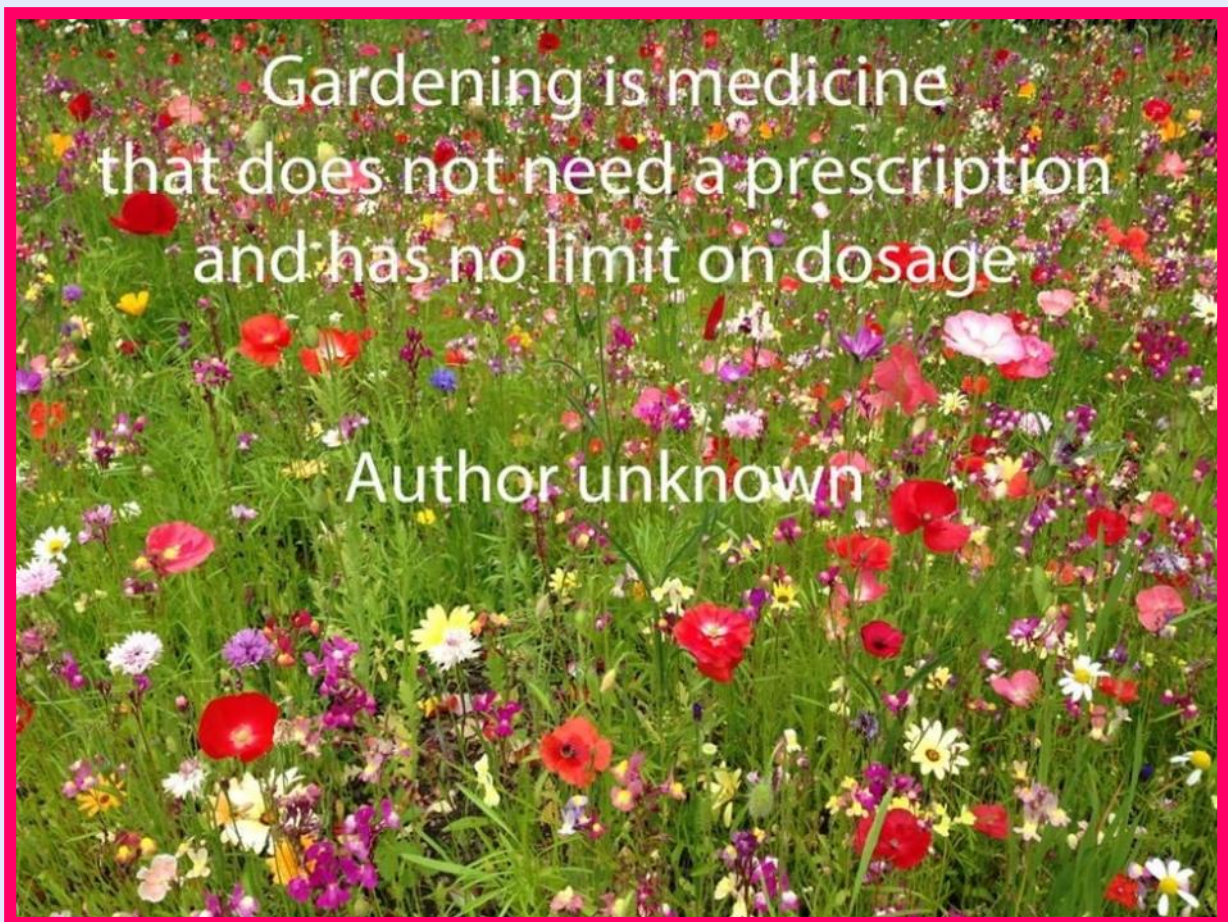
The Courier-June 5, 2021



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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