

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

November 2021

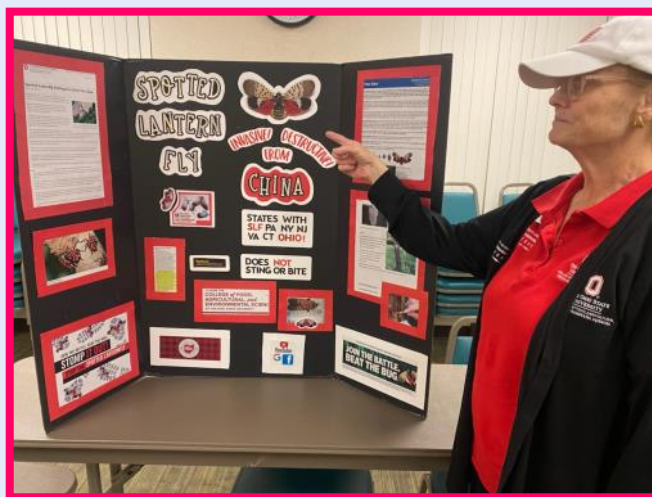
November 11th Next Monthly Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend as we will hold our **Election of Officers.**

Karla Dennis and Peggy Biolchini will be presenting the Brown Bag on identifying Tree of Heaven.

Members are asked to bring any coffee mug(s) to this meeting that they would like to donate for **Mugs of Joy**.

(Christmas preferred, but others will be accepted)



Debra Evans presenting the October Brown Bag on the Spotted Lanternfly.



Upcoming Events

Nov. 11.....November Meeting
Nov. 28-Dec 5.....Wreath Classes
Dec. 9.....Christmas Potluck

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Reuben's Ruminations

November 2021

President's Notes for November, 2021

It looks and feels like Fall all of a sudden. I hope everyone is doing well on their fall garden tasks. Time for me to move my fencing from deer defense duty around my vegetables to leaf prevention around the pond. By the way, Linda Finsel's husband fabricated a terrific fence post puller that we put to good use at the Community Garden.

A big "Thank You" to Debra Evans for getting us back on pace by making a Brown Bag presentation as a lead-in to our October meeting. I hope that she has the opportunity to share it at the library and/or 50 North soon.

This was especially timely as Ed reported – and showed us – that the Spotted Lanternfly has been detected in Hancock County. He encouraged everyone to adopt a Tree of Heaven to monitor for the insect pest in 2022. Karl has since sent out info on Spotted Lanternfly Mgt Workshops to be conducted by OSU.

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.

Garden Projects

- Community Garden – Brint and team closed up the Community Garden plot and stowed fencing for the winter. As reported at the October meeting, after donating 5868 pounds of produce from our garden plus those of some members this year, we intend to scale back this program in 2022 – and look for ways to make it more educational for the community.

Thanks to Lisa McClain for all she did to make the Fall Seminar a success.

Thanks to Betsy DeFrancesco for the latest Courier article (also posted on our Facebook page) promoting our upcoming wreath classes.

We'll be having elections at the November meeting, so be sure to attend. And be thinking how you could fill one of the open committee spots – or who would be a good candidate to do so.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting.

Reuben DeBolt

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2021

NOTE: The September, 2021 meeting was cancelled due to the number of other projects taking place in that time frame.

At 6:06 pm the meeting was called to order for a Brown Bag presentation by Debra Evans, about the Spotted Lanternfly. Its favorite food is the Tree of Heaven, but it will drink the sap of many other plants, including grape vines, damaging their vitality. If you find one, or an egg pouch, DESTROY IT. The eggs are being laid now through November and they will lay on any smooth surface, so check your car if you have been out of the area.

Ed Lentz commented that ONE Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Hancock County and he passed it around. It may not be a reproducing colony, but rather could be an individual that has been transported in. He suggested that each Master Gardener Volunteer should adopt a Tree of Heaven tree for this next year and watch it to see if there are any Spotted Lanternflies.

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the August 12, 2021 membership meeting were approved; motion: Ann Woolum; second: Rose Morrison.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Woolum

- \$5192.85 in checking account, of which \$750.91 is restricted for the Community Garden and \$4441.94 is unrestricted.
- \$20.00 income from seminar book sales; \$149.94 seminar expenses
- Report approved; motion: Karla Dennis; second: Barbara Sherman.

President's Comments – Reuben DeBolt

- A new list of committee chairpersons has been sent out to the group. There are still several chairperson spots to be filled.
- Linda Casey is now on Inactive status since she has moved out of the area; Bob Campbell has requested Emeritus status.

Volunteer Coordinator's Comments – Karl Farwig

- The new brochures are available for members to pick up and pass out
- Twelve people attending the Fall Seminar expressed interest in attending the upcoming Master Gardener classes
- The Master Gardener classes will be in February/March, on Wednesdays, during the day. Ed Lentz is lining up the educators. We will need to make a big push for attendees in mid-December through January. Cost will likely be \$150 to \$175, plus the cost of a background check (approximately \$37).

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

(Continued)

Volunteer Coordinator's Comments (Continued)

- The new computer system is difficult to use, therefore we will not begin using it until after January 1st. Karl will work individually with members to help them learn the system.
At the end of this year, all members should provide a list of their education and service hours and number of questions answered to Karl. This should be a total for the year and should include the hours that were recorded in VMS in January and February. For 2021, all members will receive a baseline of 30 hours, so no one drops out of the group because of COVID restrictions on participating in service or educational events.
- Last month's newsletter was sent out using the new computer system and many people had difficulty opening it.
- He received an email from Chamberlin Hill School requesting help cleaning up their education garden that has become overgrown. This is a separate project from the one at Bigelow Hill School that Betsy DeFrancesco is working on.

Committees

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig
 - The member contact info needs to be updated manually until the new computer system is in use. Email Lynn if you have any changes to your contact information. Karl Farwig will mail out a copy of the old list for members to review.
- Social and Fundraising – Betsy DeFrancesco
 - Wreath Making Workshop. December 4th date is already sold out. Sixty-one participants signed up so far. There is a sign-up sheet for workers being passed around, or contact Betsy to volunteer.
 - Three dates are scheduled to cut greens – the Friday & Saturday after Thanksgiving and Friday, December 3rd, if needed. If you have evergreen trees to be trimmed, let Betsy know.
 - The Findlay High School String Quartet will perform at 2 of the Wreath sessions.
 - Karl Farwig pointed out that the Extension Office staff needs to be notified of the schedule for events being held in the building.
 - Refreshments – There is a sign-up sheet for providing refreshments at upcoming meetings being passed around.
 - Christmas Potluck – Marilyn Beltz will provide the meat and everyone else should bring a dish to share. It will be during the regular December meeting time on December 9th.
- Service – Tim Brugeman
 - Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – The garden needs some weeding
 - Sensory Garden – Betsy DeFrancesco – She has been doing weeding and is planning to build some raised planter beds over the winter. She will update the garden plan and provide to Ed Lentz to see if it needs approval from the County, since it is at their building
 - Community Garden – Brint Simmons – The garden has been put to bed for the winter. The total harvest (including donations from other members) was 5868 pounds of food. Next year the garden size will be smaller, at 3500 sq ft, compared to 5600 sq ft this year. The focus will be shifted away from producing food for the needy, toward educating the public about gardening.

(Continued)

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

(Continued)

- Committees-Service – (Continued)
 - Mugs of Joy – Rose Morrison and Linda Laux are just beginning planning for this event.
 - Habitat – They did not give us enough warning for when they wanted help with the landscaping for the two newest houses. Reuben DeBolt showed up and made some corrections to the landscape layout.
- Teaching – Judi Clymer
 - Still looking for speakers to present at 50 North and the Library. There is a sign-up list for Courier articles for 2022.
 - County Fair – Doris Salis – The posters blew over in the wind, but people really like viewing the posters and they prompted people to ask questions.
- Education – Peggy Biolchini
 - Ask a Master Gardener - Doris Salis - There have been a total of 62 contacts this year, as of the end of September. Last year there had been 89 at the end of September and 98 by the end of November. The most number of questions so far have come in September (19) and July (15). Anyone who wants to volunteer for Ask A Master Gardener please contact Doris.
 - Fall Seminar – The seminar was excellent, and Lisa McClain did a great job organizing it. The ratings from attendees were high and there were no negative responses. Master Gardeners made up a little less than half of the attendees.
 - Brown Bag – Karla Dennis – A speaker is still needed for November. A suggestion was made that someone could talk about the Tree of Heaven, as a follow-up to tonight's talk about the Spotted Lanternfly.
 - Field Trips – possible ideas for 2022 being considered are Star Nursery and Arlington Cut Your Own Flowers

Old Business – None.

New Business—Elections – Tim Brugeman

- The proposed nomination for Secretary is Elaine Reynolds and for Vice President is Lisa McClain. There were no nominations from the floor. Elections will be at the November meeting.

Further Comments from the President – Reuben DeBolt

- How can we revive our commitment to teaching? Suggestions from the floor included:
 - Working with Bigelow Hill and Chamberlin Hill schools
 - Debra Evans could present her Spotted Lanternfly talk at the library and 50 North.
 - Develop a YouTube channel for the group
 - Doing a project with 50 North if they still have their raised bed gardens
 - Trendy topics such as marijuana, succulents, or mushrooms (cultivating them not picking wild).

Motion to Adjourn: Peggy Biolchini; second: Linda Finsel. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting: November 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted: Elaine P Reynolds, Secretary

A Touch of Nature for Your Decorations

The Courier-October 9th

Betsy DeFrancesco

Get ready to make a one-of-a-kind Christmas wreath using fresh greenery.

The Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers will be hosting our popular Wreath Workshops the week after Thanksgiving. Gather your friends and relatives and choose your date and time. Our classes fill up fast, so be sure to sign up early. We missed out last year, so let's make this year's workshops the best ever!

When are the workshops?

- 6-8 p.m. Nov. 28.
- 6-8 p.m. Nov. 29.
- 6-8 p.m. Dec. 1.
- 2-4 p.m. Dec. 4.
- 2-4 p.m. Dec. 5.
- 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5.

Where will the workshops be held?

The workshops will be held in the conference room at the Hancock County Agricultural Services Center, 7868 County Road 140.

What is the cost?

The cost is only \$20 per wreath, which is due upon registration and is nonrefundable. Everything you need to create a beautiful original wreath is included in this cost.

Is everything included?

This includes the wreath frame and floral wire; a large selection of fresh evergreens; an assortment of festive bows, ornaments, buckeye picks, teasels, dried grasses, pinecones and cinnamon sticks; and pine resin preservative. Participants may want to bring garden gloves for dealing with the fresh evergreens, especially blue spruce.

I'm not crafty. Can I still create something special?

Absolutely. Master Gardener Volunteers will be available for instructions and assistance. You will amaze yourself! The instructions are actually very easy.

How do I sign up?

Don't wait! You can sign up now on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) with a credit card or pay by check or cash at the OSU Extension Office, located in the agricultural services building.

What about COVID-19 restrictions?

We will be following the current recommendations of Hancock Public Health.

I still have questions. Who can I call? Please call Betsy DeFrancesco at 908-910-5586 for more information and any questions.

MG Happenings

Christmas Potluck

Thursday, December 9th.

Members and spouses are invited to attend our annual Christmas potluck.

Meat will be provided and you are asked to bring a dish to share.

Please RSVP to Marilyn if attending at mbeltz@woh.rr.com

Help with set up will be needed that evening at 4:00 PM.

Community Garden

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the Community Garden and especially to Brint Simmons for his commitment to the 2021 garden.

The 2021 grand total is 5868 pounds!!!!



Continued

MG Happenings

Continued



Spotted Lanternfly

Debra Evans did an awesome job presenting the Brown Bag for our October 14th monthly meeting on the Spotted Lanternfly. We will be getting this information out to the public to better educate on The Spotted Lanternfly which has been located in Hancock County. Ed Lentz showed a baggie with one that was found north of Findlay.

For more information please visit the sites below:

<https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1874>

[**All About the Spotted Lanternfly & How to Get Rid of Them! - YouTube**](#)

Hal's Resource Books for Planting Natives in Your Garden

Pollinators of Native Plants - Heather Holm

Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide - Heather Holm


Farming with Beneficial Insects - Xerces Society










Attracting Native Pollinators - Xerces Society

For those of you who may have missed it Denise Grant, from The Courier, covered Hal Mann's presentation and printed a great article and photo in the Saturday, October 2nd Edition.
































<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=56974899-8481-416a-a763-f3204aec1644>

BENEFICIAL INSECTS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

Enhancing habitat that adjoins fields with native flowering plants will attract beneficial insects that provide two critical ecosystem services: pest insect population control and pollination. The following chart and photos provide information on common beneficial insects and their predator/prey relationships.  Visits Flowers

BENEFICIAL INSECT	PREY OR HOSTS OF NOTE / COMMENTS	aphids	beetle larvae	caterpillars	earthworms	earwigs	eggs of pest insects	flies	grasshoppers	leafhoppers	lygus bugs	mealybugs	mites	psyllid	sawflies	slugs	snails	soft scale	thrips	whiteflies
Green Lacewings (family Chrysopidae) 	Eggs laid on long stalks attached to plants	X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Brown Lacewings (family Hemerobiidae)	Eggs laid singly on buds, leaves, or sheltered location	X	X	X			X						X							
Ladybird Beetles (Ladybugs)	Both adults and larvae are predators on soft-bodied insects	X					X					X	X					X		X
Syrphid Flies (Flower/Hover Flies) 	Subfamily Syrphinae only; adults consume flower nectar and pollen	X																		
Long-legged Flies, <i>Condylostylus</i>	Mites, thrips	X	X							X			X						X	
Tachinid Flies 	Parasitic, females lay eggs on or in host		X	X		X			X						X					
Soldier Beetles, <i>Chauliognathus</i> 	Larvae search for prey in leaf litter, on plants, and in the soil	X	X	X			X									X	X		X	
Ground Beetles, <i>Harpalus</i> , <i>Poecilus</i>	Eggs laid in soil, both adults and larvae are nocturnal predators	X	X		X			X	X							X	X			
Plant Bugs, <i>Plagiognathus</i> 	Eggs laid in new growth of shrubs, nymphs and adults predatory	X											X							
Assassin Bugs, <i>Zelus</i>	Both adults and nymphs are predatory	X		X				X		X			X							
Damsel Bugs, <i>Nabis</i>	Colorado potato beetle larvae	X	X	X				X		X			X						X	
Spined Soldier Bug, <i>Podisus</i>	European corn borer, fall armyworm, beet armyworm, cabbage looper, corn earworm, Colorado potato beetle, Mexican bean beetle		X	X																
Braconid Wasps	European corn borer, armyworms, hornworms, corn rootworm	X	X	X																
Potter and Mason Wasps 	Most nest in cavities aboveground and hunt a variety of caterpillars		X	X																
Yellowjackets, <i>Vespula</i> , <i>Dolichovespula</i> 	Pear psylla, fall webworm		X	X				X		X				X						
Paper Wasps, <i>Polistes</i> 	Cabbage looper, hornworms, fall armyworm		X	X																
Scoliid and Thynnid Wasps 	White grubs (scarab beetle larvae)		X																	
Jumping, Wolf, Orbweaver Spiders	Cucumber beetles, flea beetles	X	X	X			X			X										

Hal's Handouts 2 of 4

Green Lacewings Family Chrysopidae	 Adult  Egg	Brown Lacewings Family Hemerobiidae	 Larva	Ladybird Beetles (Ladybugs)	 Adult  Larva	Syrphid Flies (Flower Flies)	 Adult  Larva	Long-legged Flies <i>Condylostylus</i>	 Adult	Tachinid Flies	 Adult  Adult
Soldier Beetles <i>Chauliognathus</i>	 Adult  Larva	Ground Beetles <i>Harpalus</i> , <i>Poecilus</i>	 Harpalus  Poecilus	Plant Bugs, <i>Plagiognathus</i>	 Adult	Assassin Bugs, <i>Zelus</i>	 Eggs  Adult	Damsel Bugs, <i>Nabis</i>	 Adult	Spined Soldier Bug, <i>Podisus</i>	 Adult  Adult
Braconid Wasps	 Adult  Parasitized 'Mummy' Aphids	Potter and Mason Wasps Subfamily Eumeninae	 Adult  Adult	Yellowjackets <i>Vespula</i> , <i>Dolichovespula</i>	 Adult  Adult	Paper Wasps, <i>Polistes</i>	 Adult	Thynnid and Scoliid Wasps	 Thynnid Wasp  Scoliid Wasp	Jumping, Wolf, and Orbweaver Spiders	 Jumping Spider  Wolf Spider

BENEFICIAL INSECTS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS

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Hal's Handouts 3 of 4

PLANTING FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS A Guide for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Enhancing habitat that adjoins fields with native flowering plants will attract beneficial insects that provide two critical ecosystem services: pest insect population control and pollination. This guide provides information on native plants that attract beneficial insects.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME		lacewings	syphid flies	tachinid flies	soldier beetles	scoliid and thynnid wasps	potter and mason wasps	yellowjackets	paper wasps	bumble bees	long-horned bees	leafcutter bees	mining bees	sweat bees
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	☼ P, N	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Arnoglossum atriplicifolium</i>	Pale Indian Plantain	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	☼ N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	☼ N			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	☼ P, N		X	X		X	X		X	X			X	X
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Plains Coreopsis	☼ P, N		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	☼ P, N		X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Flat-topped Aster	☼ P, N		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Daisy Fleabane	☼ P, N	X	X	X	X		X		X			X	X	X
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X		X			X		X
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved Goldenrod	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	☼ P, N		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower or Smooth Oxeye	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	☼ P, N		X		X		X		X	X	X	X		X
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild Quinine	☼ P, N		X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Slender Mountain Mint	☼ N		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint	☼ N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow or Gray-headed Coneflower	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Sweet Black-eyed Susan	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Stiff Goldenrod	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Symphyotrichum lanceolatum</i>	Panicked Aster	☼ P, N	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	Calico Aster	☼ P, N	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	☼ P, N		X							X	X	X	X	X
<i>Tradescantia ohimensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort	☼ P		X		X					X		X	X	X
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	☼ P, N		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	Wingstem	☼ P, N		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	Tall Ironweed	☼ P, N									X	X	X		X
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	☼ P, N		X	X	X					X	X	X		X
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	☼ P, N		X				X		X	X		X	X	X

Floral resource collected/consumed ☼ P = Pollen N = Nectar

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PLANTING FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS: A Guide for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

 <i>Achillea millefolium</i> Common Yarrow	 <i>Amorcanthum atriplicifolium</i> Pale Indian Plantain	 <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> Common Milkweed	 <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed	 <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> New Jersey Tea	 <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> Plains Coreopsis	 <i>Dalea purpurea</i> Purple Prairie Clover	 <i>Doellingeria umbellata</i> Flat-topped Aster
 <i>Erigeron strigosus</i> Daisy Fleabane	 <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> Rattlesnake Master	 <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> Common Boneset	 <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> Flowering Spurge	 <i>Euthamia graminifolia</i> Grass-leaved Goldenrod	 <i>Helenium autumnale</i> Sheepweed	 <i>Helianthus scaberrimus</i> False Sunflower	 <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Wild Bergamot
 <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> Wild Quinine	 <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> Slender Mountain Mint	 <i>Pycnanthemum virginicum</i> Virginia Mountain Mint	 <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> Yellow Coneflower	 <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed Susan	 <i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i> Sweet Black-eyed Susan	 <i>Solidago rigida</i> Stiff Goldenrod	 <i>Symphoricarpos lanceolatus</i> Panicled Aster
 <i>Symphoricarpos latifolius</i> Calico Aster	 <i>Sym. novae-angliae</i> New England Aster	 <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i> Ohio Spiderwort	 <i>Verbena hastata</i> Blue Vervain	 <i>Verbena alternifolia</i> Wingstem	 <i>Veronica gigantea</i> Tail Ironweed	 <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> Culver's Root	 <i>Zizia aurea</i> Golden Alexanders

Full sun, dry soil Full sun, medium soil Full sun, moist soil

Storing Root Vegetables

Beth Waitrovich, Michigan State University Extension

Temperature is key to preventing stored root vegetables from rotting.

Root crops include vegetables such as carrots, rutabagas, turnips, potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, onions, etc. Root crops can be preserved by traditional methods such as freezing, canning and dehydrating. But if you have a root cellar or other type of cool, dry storage you may be able to keep these vegetables edible without canning or freezing them.

The first step is to harvest your vegetables and clean them by removing the soil from the vegetables. Use cold running water to clean the vegetables. Then dry them well to prevent rotting. You can let the water evaporate off of the vegetables outside in the sun. Cut the top of root vegetables off by about a half-inch from the crown of the vegetables. It is not recommended to wax rutabagas or other root vegetables for storing them.

Finding a good place to store your root vegetables can be the most difficult part of the process. The temperature is a vital part of successful storage and should be between 32 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit. It should also be moderately dry. It is possible to make a storage room in your basement. The [National Center for Home Food Preservation](#) has plans for building a vegetable storage room. A vegetable storage room can also be used to store canned foods.

Root vegetables will shrivel unless they are stored in a moist environment. To prevent shriveling, one technique is to bed the roots in sphagnum moss which is kept slightly moist or by placing them in plastic bags with several holes in them to prevent them from accumulating too much moisture.

Pumpkins and squash should be cured before storing. Leave a part of the stem on each pumpkin or squash. To cure, place them in a warm, well ventilated location for 10 days before placing them in storage. They should be stored dry (no moss or plastic bags).

Onions should be pulled when the tops fall over and begin to dry. After pulling them from the ground, allow the tops to completely dry and then cut the tops off, one inch from the bulb. Onions also need to be cured; place them in a dry, well-ventilated location before placing in storage when they are also stored dry in mesh bags or slatted crates.

Potatoes need to be kept out of any light to prevent them from turning green. Store them in covered bins, boxes, or other containers with a few openings for ventilation.



IT'S Time To.....November

Rosie Lerner-Purdue University Extension

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
- If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west and south facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-fourth inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.
- Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south and southwest facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees such as maples and many fruit trees are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.
- Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.
- Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.
- If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area such as a garage or basement.
- Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To.....October

(Continued)

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

- A November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, per 1,000 square feet of lawn. See **"Turfgrass Management: Fertilizing Established Cool-Season Lawns"** for more information on lawn fertilization.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits, and flowers)

- If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
- Harvest mature green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 degrees F. The warmer the temperature, the faster they ripen.
- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 degrees F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.
- Remove crop and weed plant debris from the garden and add to the compost pile. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.
- Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring. This allows crops to be planted earlier.
- Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 degrees F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon the plant's crown can rot.
- Dig and store tender flowering bulbs, and keep in a protected location.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.





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