

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

July 2022

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers

Celebrating 30 Years of Community Service, Education and Friendship 1992-2022

Summer Picnic

July 14th**We will eat promptly at 6:00 PM**

Please RSVP to Marlene Brunswick
at rpbmdb@gmail.com or 419-310-0882
by July 5th if you are attending so we can
complete the picnic planning.

See page 6 for details.

Hancock County Fair

If you are willing to help with the
Hancock County Fair please contact
Rose Morrison at 419-889-3931 or
rmorrison@woh.rr.com.

Upcoming Events

July 12....Garden Maintenance and Harvesting
(Community Garden—9:30 AM)

July.12.....Bees, Butterflies and Blooms
(50N—10:30 AM)

July 14.....Summer Picnic

August 11.....Monthly Meeting

August 31-September 5.....Hancock Co. Fair

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Reuben's Ruminations

July 2022

President's Notes for July, 2022

When you're hot, you're hot! A couple of weeks ago, I would have said when you're wet, you're wet. I had some areas of grass that were too wet and soft to mow for 2 weeks, but are dry as can be today. I heard a weather forecaster today starting to make comparisons to 1988. Let's hope this summer doesn't begin to approach that!

PICNIC! – July 14, 6:00pm at Marlene and Rick Brunswick's home 23740 Twp Rd 181, Forest

No regular meeting in July, but the picnic would be a great time to discuss upcoming opportunities – like volunteering for the fair booth, or helping with the Community Garden, or

Along those lines, thank you to Rose for stepping up to lead our Fair Booth team. Doris says she will be glad to be a resource, but just didn't feel up to leading it this year. She seems to be plenty busy with Ask-a-Master Gardener questions from the public.

Thanks to everyone who got us into the public eye with educational materials

- Linda Finsel, after her library program and *Courier* article on roses, presented to a rapt audience at 50 North, and then as a brown bag for us. This was a great example of how to get the most out of a presentation by adapting it for multiple audiences.
- Brint and I discussed pest control with a few people at the Community Garden. It's important to note that those few people who showed up were there because they saw a notice in that morning's *Courier*. We need to be sure we use *The Courier* as much as possible to get the word out on public events.
- The next two presentations at 50 North have been announced in their newsletter. Thanks to Tim for organizing monthly Gardening in Your Golden Years presentations.
- Betsy for Facebook updates

I hope everyone who wanted MGv apparel or gear got their orders in. Thanks to Debra for coordinating.

Another opportunity for volunteer hours is to help maintain the "Triangle Garden" on Tiffin Avenue at the corners of U.S. 12 and 224 with Bill Jones and Marilyn Beltz every Thursday at 8:00 AM.

Let's all be sure to record our Volunteer and Education Hours in HOC. Don't forget that Nicole in the Extension office can help if necessary. For interns who are not yet on the system, be sure to keep track of your hours – paper, or Excel, or whatever suits you. And send those hours to Ed monthly! Attendance at meetings (including transportation time) counts as Volunteer hours; Brown Bag counts as Education.

Stay cool, keep your plants watered, and ...

Happy Gardening,

Reuben DeBolt

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by President Reuben DeBolt 6:03 PM

Brown Bag: Linda Finsel gave a presentation on Growing Roses.

Break for snacks at 6:45

The formal meeting began at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 5/12/2022 meeting were approved; motion: Rose Morrison; second: Barbara Phillips.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Woolum

Unrestricted cash \$4,383.48

Community Garden Cash \$489.07

Total Cash \$4871.55

Expenses this month were \$496.18 unrestricted and \$261.84 community garden funds. Income received was a \$50 donation from Garden Central for the groups participation in Let's Go Gardening on Mother's Day.

Motion to approve: Rose Morrison; Second: Lisa McClain. Motion passed.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- MGVs need to become comfortable entering their volunteer and educational hours in Hands On Connect (HOC). He distributed copies of the instructions on how to use HOC.
- Nicole Hoffman in the Extension Office can help HOC users if necessary.
- Interns will not be in the system until they get their hours and become MGVs. They should keep their hours on paper and send to Ed Lentz once a month. Ed will send them all an email about this next week.

President's Report: Reuben DeBolt

- Apparel orders are due to Debra Evans today.
- The MGV summer picnic will be July 14th. A Sign-up sheet is in the back of the room or contact Marlene Brunswick to RSVP.
- Rose Morrison has volunteered to be the new Fair Booth Coordinator now that Doris Salis has stepped down.
- Community Garden educational sessions have been ongoing. Tim Brugeman has been doing a good job getting the information in the newspaper. Only 3 people showed up at the last one and all said they had seen the notice in the paper.

(Continued)

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022
(Continued)**

Committee Reports:

- Administration-Lynn Farwig
 - Apparel – Debra Evans – The prices on the order sheet include sales tax. She will allow a few more days to order, so all orders must be to her by Tuesday 6/14/22. When the apparel order comes in, she will set up times to be in the MGV office for people to come pick them up. She expects them to arrive about 1 month after the order goes in.
 - Historian – Debra Evans – This year is the 30th anniversary of the group, so she would like to suggest we have a banner at the Fair announcing that.
- Social-Rose Morrison
 - Summer Picnic – will be at Marlene Brunswick's home on July 14th at 6:00 pm. Bring a covered dish to share. The meat, drinks and table service will be provided. Let Marlene know your head count. 23740 Township Rd 181, Forest OH.
 - Refreshments – There are still some spots to be filled. REMINDER – If you are bringing the refreshments, be sure to take any left-overs home with you.
- Service Committee-Tim Brugeman
 - Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – The garden has been mulched and weeding is being done. A volunteer is needed to cover watering and weeding for the month of September. She received a request to clean up the garden on the south side of the Ag Center building, near the employee entrance. A volunteer is needed to do this. After discussion it was pointed out that this garden has traditionally been the responsibility of Master Gardeners.
 - Community Garden – Brint Simmons – There have been lots of volunteers working in the garden but he could always use more. The plants are looking good. Please respond to Brint's emails if you plan to volunteer so he has an idea of how many to expect.
 - 50 North Presentation – Tim Brugeman – The talk on Low Maintenance Vegetable Gardening was postponed due to weather. It has been rescheduled for 5/19 at 6:30 pm.
- Teaching-Judi Clymer
 - Fair Booth – Rose Morrison will be coordinating this. Contact Rose if you wish to volunteer.
 - Speakers – Linda Finsel gave a presentation on Roses at 50 North with 18 in attendance.
 - On July 5th from 4-6 pm, Jennifer Little the Extension Family Consumer Science Coordinator will present a program on canning vegetables and would like to borrow any of our posters relevant to growing vegetables, and would also like to have a MGV present to answer any questions. Lisa McClain will look at our posters to find any relevant ones. Linda Finsel and Peggy Biolchini volunteered to attend and answer questions.

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**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022
(Continued)**

Committee Reports: Continued

- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
 - Ask A Master Gardener – Peggy Biolchini – They have received lots of questions, many of them about oak shot-hole leaf miners.
 - Seminars – Peggy Biolchini - One will be planned for next March.
 - Field Trips – Ann Woolum – A Tree ID walk is in the plans for late July

Old Business:

- No old business that hasn't been already covered

New Business:

- Upcoming Events – The summer picnic will be 7/14/22 and the County Fair will be 8/31/22 – 9/5/22.
- The group Monarch Watch has sent us 3 flats of milkweed plants, one flat each of 3 types: swamp milkweed, whorled milkweed and butterfly milkweed. They are in the back of the room and are free for the taking.
- Ed Lentz discussed how to remove poison hemlock: use PPE of mask, eye protection, gloves and long sleeves and pants, but it is ok to then pull it out. It can also be controlled with herbicide. It is poisonous, but only if you ingest the sap
- Ed Lentz also discussed that if you have plant damage that you think may have been caused by agricultural herbicide spraying, you should contact the Ohio Dept of Agriculture to file a report.

Motion to Adjourn: Linda Finsel; second Patrick Flinn. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next Meeting: July 14th, 2022 – Summer picnic at Marlene Brunswick's home, 23740 Township Rd 181, Forest OH.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

Summer Picnic-July 14th

Rose Morrison

Mark your calendars for our Summer Picnic on July 14th!!!

This annual event will be held at Marlene Brunswick's home.

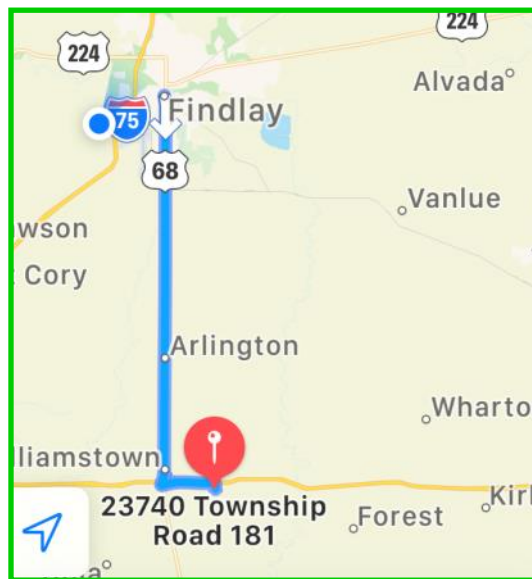
23740 Township Road 181, Forest OH 45843

Master Gardeners and a guest are welcome. Please bring a dish to share at 5:30 pm. 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 a lawn chair if you wish.

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 live in a gray ranch in a woods. If you reach the Hardin County line, you have gone too far.

Feel free to call Marlene for specific directions if you have any trouble finding her house at 419-310-0882. Hope to see you on July 14th.

23740 Township Road 181, Forest OH 45843



Please remember to RSVP to Marlene
at 419-310-0882 or rpbmdb@gmail.com
by July 5th so we can complete the picnic planning.

If you signed up at the June meeting, Marlene will have your name.

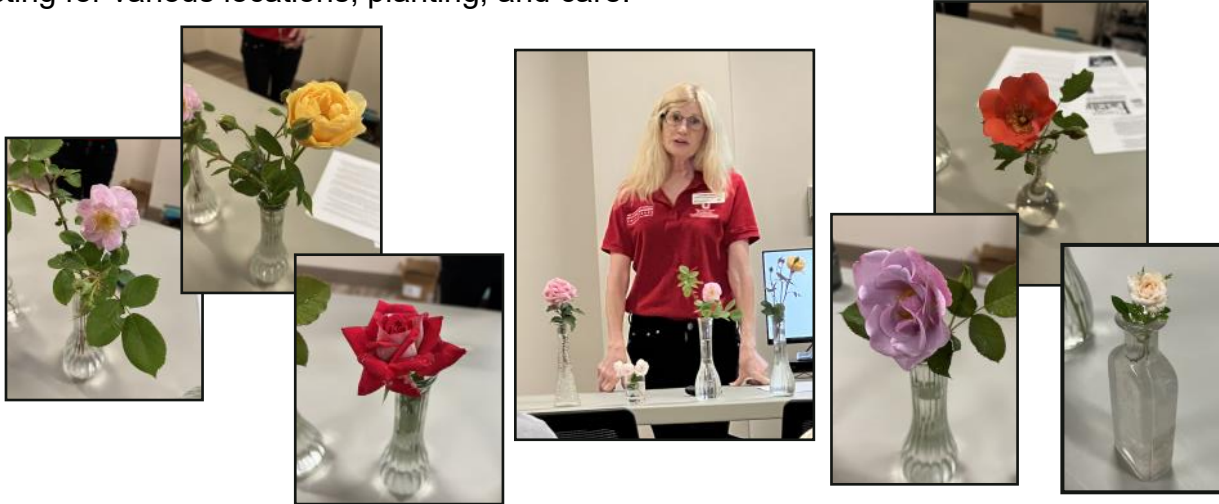
Thanks Marlene for your graciousness!

MG Happenings

"Gardening in Our Golden Years"

Tim Brugeman

On June 7th Linda Finsel and Tim Brugeman presented "Everything's Coming Up Roses" at 50North. The program was about the beauty and smells of summer gardens, kinds of roses, selecting for various locations, planting, and care.



July 12-(10:30 AM) - "Bees, Butterflies and Blooms"-Learn about how native plants help make healthy gardens for pollinators with bees and butterflies, plus why they are so important to everything you eat. Presented by Master Gardener Volunteers Jeri Wenger, Hancock County's "Bee Lady", and Tim Brugeman.

August 2-(10:30 AM) - "Cut Flower Arranging From the Garden"- Make it, take it home, using cut blooms from your summer garden to brighten your home. Learn what flowers are best, how to help them live longer and make creative arrangements. Presented by Master Gardeners Paige Badertscher and Linda Finsel.

**50 North has asked if we will have programs this fall.
We can if we get speakers.**

They suggested topics like:

Attracting Wildlife to Backyards (feeding the birds going into winter etc.)

Adding Dooryard Gardens

Decorating the Front Door

Adding Fall Color Indoors from the Garden

Interesting and Unusual Trees of Hancock County (anything about trees),

Maybe for November-Making a Natural Wreath for the Holidays (make it, take it).

Attention interns...team up with your mentor to do a program. Other topics welcome.

Contact Linda Finsel at 419-424-3213 or lindamf@earthlink.net or Tim Brugeman at 419-672-8897 or tbrugeman@woh.rr.com if interested in speaking for our "Gardening in Our Golden Years" program.

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MG Happenings

(Continued)

Community Garden

Brint Simmons

Boy, what a difference in rainfall a couple weeks make! In May and early June rain was abundant, but the latter half of June has been very dry. Consequently, we have had to water the garden a few times. Some potatoes are blooming. Cabbage and tomatoes are doing well. The peppers are slow to develop; hopefully, watering will help them to catch up. We have planted squash, zucchini and cucumbers which should be up soon. At this point, our tasks will be watering and weeding while we wait for the harvest to begin. Many thanks to those who have helped so far. Watch your email for appeals for help.



On June 7th Reuben DeBolt presented the 2nd educational presentation at the Community Garden. The following educational sessions will be held at The Community Garden at 9:30 AM:

July 12th.....Garden Maintenance and Harvesting.....Brint Simmons
September 13th..... Garden Clean Up

Make Your Own Potpourri Mix

The Courier-June 11, 2022

Marilyn Beltz

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=c24c7a7e-7c05-4f09-9662-fe1909a64e0c>

Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables

DIANE DIFFENDERFER

Master Gardener Coordinator-Penn State Extension

You can extend the vegetable gardening season with low tunnels, cold frames, hot beds, and cloches. Learn how to use these tools and about types of vegetables that can be harvested in fall and winter.



Photo credit: Diane Diffenderfer

While fall can signal the beginning of the end of the gardening year, it doesn't have to. Home gardeners have several options when it comes to extending the vegetable gardening season and growing fall (cool season) vegetables.

As a reminder, fall is the preferred time to test your garden soil. By testing in the fall, you will have the analysis/recommendations necessary to amend your soil, as needed, prior to winter. By applying soil amendments in the fall, your garden will be ready to go in the spring.

Knowing your frost/freeze dates is the first step in planning your Fall gardening activities. Your frost/freeze dates can be easily found using your zip code. To access an online tool, go to [Lookup your first and last freeze/frost dates by zip code \(davesgarden.com\)](http://davesgarden.com) and enter your zip code for your frost/freeze free dates. For instance, the zip code is 16802 (Penn State's main campus at University Park, PA) and the frost/freeze dates are October 12 - May 10. This equates to a growing season of about 155 days. This information is helpful when selecting your cool season crops.

In this article we'll look at two fall gardening topics: season extenders and growing fall vegetable crops.

Season Extenders

As the name implies, season extenders allow gardeners to continue growing vegetables well past (or before) the frost/freeze dates. Growing vegetables during these off-season times is frequently referred to as growing on the "shoulders" of the season. Factors a gardener should consider when deciding what type(s) of season extenders to use include a realistic determination of the amount of time, money and effort that can be allocated to setting up and using the extenders.

An unrealistic estimate of any one or more of these factors could lead to dissatisfaction with trying to grow on the shoulders of the season and leave the home gardener feeling deflated. So, if you are going to consider obtaining and setting up season extenders, plan ahead for your material needs as well as the crops you intend to grow. Cool season crop selection will be addressed later in this article.

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Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables

(Continued)

Examples of season extenders include low tunnels, cold frames and hot beds, and cloches.

Low Tunnels

Low tunnels offer home gardeners a fast, easy, and effective way to create a season extender. The hoops create a structure that will protect the plants from insects, physical damage, as well as low temperatures.

Low tunnels consist of three parts: the material to create the tunnel (fabric or plastic), the galvanized 10-gauge steel wires used to support fabric or plastic covering (PVC and bamboo may also be used to create these support pieces), and a sandbag or similar weighted object, required to keep the covering snug and in place. The life expectancy of the hoop will be partially determined by the base material, weather, and usage.

Hoop sizes vary depending upon how much room is required by the mature vegetables. Commercially available hoops are available in a variety of sizes (lengths). Depending upon the crops grown, gardeners may have different sized hoops and may also create their own heights and widths to match their garden plan.

The hoops should be placed over the center of the crop row about 3 to 4 feet apart, secured in the soil. The fabric or poly may be secured by sandbags (one placed by the side of each hoop). Alternatively, the edge of the hoop covering may be buried a few inches in the soil.

In the fall and spring, the tunnels may be covered with a fabric row covering. As the temperature drops, the fabric covering may be replaced with a 4mm to 6mm poly. When the low tunnels are not in use, remove them from the garden, along with the coverings. The hoops should be cleaned and stored until need again. Inspect the fabric and poly row coverings for damage and replace as needed. Holes in either covering may result in loss of heat within the tunnel and an opportunity for insects to settle into tunnel so, it's best replace the coverings when the fabric or plastic develops holes or openings.



Winter Kale in low tunnel. Photo credit: Diane Diffenderfer

(Continued)

Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables

(Continued)

Cold frames and hot beds

Cold frames and hot beds can be used to effectively grow cool season crops in the fall and in the spring. In the fall, crops may be directly seeded into either bed or grown in containers or flats in the beds. The primary difference between a cold frame and hot bed is that a cold frame uses only sunlight to moderate the interior temperature, while the hot bed uses either an electric heat mat or other outside heat source. In some cases, manure may be used as a heat source.

Cold frames and hot beds can be either made at home or purchased as a kit or a completed unit. The diversity of options is great for the home gardener as some of us are "handy," other of us, not so much. The good news is there is a cold frame and/or hot bed for each of us.

Regardless of the type of season extender selected, the overarching goal is to create a sheltered place for cool season plants to grow and/or overwinter. Cold frames and hot beds collect heat as the sun's rays shine through the primary bed covering and heat the interior of the bed. The bed covering may be made of glass (old windows work great), plastic (as with the low tunnels), fiberglass or similar products. In some designs, the bed covering will be installed on angle to capture as much sunlight as possible. This angular design is not necessary but helpful in capturing the sun's heat.

Take care when setting up the frame or bed. The ideal location is on a slight slope, to assist with drainage, with a southern or southeastern exposure. This allows for maximum sun absorption. The back of the box should be next to either a wall or hedge to protect the plants from cold winds and winter precipitation. Again, while this is not a "must," protection from cold winds, ice and snow will help retain heat captured within the bed.

The beds may be used in the spring to start seeds as well as harden off maturing seedlings. Depending upon winter temperatures, certain flowers and herbs may be overwintered in the beds. Adding straw around the overwintering plants will help to insulate the roots against freezing temperatures.

Cloches

Traditionally, cloches were glass, bell-shaped coverings placed over individual plants.

Over the course of time, the term "cloche" has been expanded to include individual coverings made from plastic. In addition, the term cloche also now includes movable, multi-plant coverings. These movable, multi-plant coverings may be constructed of wood, fabric, or other material. Regardless of the material used, the goal is the same, to create a space that will protect the tender plants from cold temperatures, brisk and/or drying winds and damaging insects.

Growing Fall Vegetables

Warm-season and cool-season vegetables defined.

Before plunging into the topic of growing fall vegetables, there are two important and relevant horticultural terms we should define: warm-season and cool-season vegetables. A warm-season vegetable completes its life cycle in one growing season. Warm-season vegetables are often transplanted when the soil has warmed, and in some cases, may also be directly seeded into the soil. Examples of warm-season vegetables include tomatoes, eggplants, beans, cucumbers, peppers, sweet potatoes, watermelon, and summer squash.

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Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables

(Continued)

A cool-season vegetable needs the cooler temperatures to germinate and set seed. Cool-season vegetables may also be referred to as fall or shoulder vegetables because not only are they some first to be planted in the spring but may also be planted later into the season. These fall crops are excellent candidates for use with season extenders and tend to be leafy greens and root crops. Common cool-season vegetables include Asian greens, asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, chives, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss chard, kale, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnips, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Cool-season crops may grow in warmer temperatures, but the quality of the produce may suffer from the higher temperatures. A good example of this is the radish left in the soil too long. The radish will become fibrous, spicy and will also bolt. Bolting or "going to seed" is caused by a change in temperature and/or day length.

Winter Sweetening

You may have heard people say certain vegetables taste sweeter following a light frost. According to the link below, *winter sweetening* is a phenomenon you often see in vegetables that grow naturally in cold weather. While the first frost of fall will kill lots of plants, there are many varieties, root crops in particular, that will survive these much colder temperatures. This is due, in part, to their ability to convert starch into sugar. Over the course of the growing season, these vegetables store up energy in the form of starches. When temperatures start to drop, they convert these starches into sugars, which act as an anti-freezing agent for their cells. This change doesn't happen overnight, but as long as you pick your root vegetables sometime after the first frost of autumn, chances are good that they'll taste a lot sweeter than if you'd picked them in the summer.

Carrots, turnips, rutabagas, and beets are all roots that get sweet with frost. Some other vegetables that get sweet in winter are cole crops such as, brussels sprouts, broccoli, and kale, and most leafy greens.



Purple haze carrot. Photo credit: Diane Diffenderfer

For additional information on winter sweetening, refer to this link: [Why Do Root Vegetables Get Sweeter With Cold - Learn About Winter Sweetening Of Root Crops \(gardeningknowhow.com\)](http://gardeningknowhow.com/Why-Do-Root-Vegetables-Get-Sweeter-With-Cold-Learn-About-Winter-Sweetening-Of-Root-Crops)

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Season Extenders and Growing Fall Vegetables (Continued)

Root Crops

Planting Times

Calculating planting times is crucial for fall vegetables when transplants are used. Note that Days To Maturity (DTM) found on seed packets begins on the date the plant is transplanted outdoors, not the date it is seeded indoors. By way of example, here are a few sample seed starting and planting dates:

Brussels sprouts - start indoors 5 to 6 weeks before planting outdoors

- Plant outdoors 5 weeks after last frost
- DTM 90 - 120

Head lettuce - indoor growing time – 5 to 7 weeks

- Transplant outdoors 1 to 2 weeks before the last frost date
- DTM - 40 to 90 days

Onions - indoor growing time prior to transplanting - 9 to 11 weeks

- When to plant outdoors - 4 weeks before last frost
- DTM - 60 to 110 days

Source: [Cornell Cooperative Extension | Last Planting Dates](#)

Exploring different types of season extenders and becoming more familiar with cool-season vegetables will add a new and challenging aspect to mastering the art and skill of backyard gardening. Good luck; and if you have questions, contact your local Extension office.



Tatsoi is a great winter green whose taste some prefer to spinach.

Photo credit: Diane Diffenderfer



IT'S Time To.....July

Ohio State University Extension

JULY 4

- Remove spent annual blossoms daily for continued blooming.
- You can still sow beets, beans and carrots.
- Hanging plants often need daily watering.
- Water deeply when needed. Avoid light sprinkling.
- Lightly fertilize onions, tomatoes, peppers and other long-season plants.
- Remove faded flowers and over-ripe fruit that attract Japanese beetles.
- Prop branches of heavily loaded fruit trees.
- Stir mulch to improve aeration and water movement.

JULY 11

- Keep weeds out of the garden.
- Renovate overcrowded strawberry beds.
- Plant late-season cabbage transplants in the garden.
- Sow another row of bush snap beans.
- Put a net over blueberry plants to keep birds from beating you to the harvest.
- Cut lavender for drying just as the flowers begin to open.
- Never apply pesticides to stressed plants.
- Pinch mums for the final time of the season.

JULY 18

- Plant rutabagas for harvest in early autumn.
- Cut back vigorous shoots of wisteria to check their growth.
- Sharpen mower blades if lawn appears brown after mowing.
- Examine trees after severe thunderstorms for damaged limbs.
- Sow parsley, dill and basil in pots for use indoors during winter.
- Allow broccoli to develop side shoots after central head has been harvested.
- Pinch mint, oregano, and savory to promote bushy growth.

JULY 25

- Keep annuals blooming by removing spent blossoms.
- Prune suckers and water sprouts from apple trees.
- Plant Chinese cabbage, endive, snap beans, kohlrabi, lettuce and radish for fall harvest.
- Cut back mints, oregano, and savory to promote bushy growth.
- Harvest summer squash when they are young and tender.
- Blanch celery a week before harvesting by wrapping stalks with paper.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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