

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

June 2023

## Green Thumb Prints newsletter Observes 30th Anniversary

### Green Thumb Prints

*A Monthly Newsletter of the  
Hancock County Master Gardeners*

Vol. 1, No. 1

June, 1993

Welcome to the premier issue of the Hancock County Master Gardener's monthly newsletter, "Green Thumb" Prints - and thanks to Leon for inspiring the name!

It is our hope to bring you useful and pertinent information on a monthly basis concerning our activities and we can only succeed if all master gardeners will help by providing materials to be shared. You can mail your contributions to the extension office, leave it in the Newsletter basket in the workstation, or call me at 423-0896. The deadline will be the 20th of each month for the following issue.

We welcome any and all suggestions, observations, recommendations and submissions.

Sharon Hammer Baker, Editor



The first issue of the Hancock MGV newsletter was published June 1993, making this month its 30th anniversary. MGV Historian Debra Evans reflects on the history of the newsletter and our organization, beginning on page 7.

## MGV Monthly Meeting Set for June 8

Our monthly meeting will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. A brown bag will be presented by Ed Lentz entitled, "Glyphosate: Friend or Foe?" Refreshments will be provided by Debra Evans and Margi Habegger.

## Upcoming Events

June 8.....Monthly Meeting

June 13.....50N Square Foot  
Gardening

June 15.....Courier Article  
Due-Marilynn Beltz

June 23.....Field Trip - Luckey  
Road Lavender Farm

July 13.....Summer Picnic

July 14.....Diagnostic Clinic

July 24.....Seminar: Keep Your  
Vegetables HEALTHY

Oct. 10.....50N, Succulents Success

Mar. 13....Fostoria Garden Club How  
to Start A Vegetable Garden

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# President's Comments...

*By Lisa McClain*

June 2023

## Planting Days at Last!

Planting days at last! With the soil temperatures warm enough for planting Brint Simmons and his crew have been busy finishing up the planting at our garden. Last Friday, Master Gardeners planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash. With our garden in transition this year I encourage all of you to help out in some way if possible. Tom Lawrence is allowing us to garden at his place this year and we want to keep it as well taken care of as possible. Brint will notify us when work needs to be done, but always feel free to contact him if you have a few extra hours to spend in the garden.

Something I would like to mention this month is 30 years of the Green Thumbs Print. The Hancock Country Master Gardeners was formed in 1992 with the first publication of the Green Thumbs Print being one year later in June of 1993. Thanks to Debra Evans, our historian, for providing this information. Thanks as well to Nick Moore, our current newsletter editor, who does a terrific job of putting all of our information together.

May has been a busy month to say the least. Ann Woolum has been busy planning a field trip to the Luckey Road Lavendar Farm on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hancock County has been selected to host a State Diagnostic Clinic on Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> and we will be hosting a seminar designed for the public on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> titled "Keep Your Vegetables Healthy." Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff from Putnam County will be our guest speaker for the evening. More information will follow on all of these events.

Lastly, I would like to thank Cheryl Everett and members of our Ask-A-Master Gardener Committee. As people are starting to get outside and into their yards, questions have really picked up. Thanks again committee members for the quick response you are providing to our community.

Happy gardening!!!

*Lisa McClain*

# MGV NEWS...

## Summer Seminar Set

# Keep Your Vegetables Healthy

By Peggy Biolchini

The summer seminar, Keep Your Vegetables Healthy will be held on Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff, an OSUE Educator, will be speaking on diseases and pests of common garden vegetables. The seminar will be held at the Hancock County Extension office conference room and is *free* and open to the public. To register, call the Hancock Extension Office at 419-422-3851.

Registration is important so we know how many are coming. After Beth's presentation, we will have a question-and-answer breakout session with Beth and 2 other MGV, Bill Jones and Patrick Flinn. Please invite your friends, tell your neighbors, and sign up to attend this educational seminar. Deadline to register is Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

I need 2 volunteers to bake 2 dozen cookies that are wrapped, or bagged, that will be served at the seminar. Please contact me, Peggy, at [pgbiolchini@gmail.com](mailto:pgbiolchini@gmail.com) and let me know if you will make cookies.

## May Busy Month for Ask-A-Master Gardener Program

May has been a busy month for the Ask-A-Master Gardener Program. As of May 23, we have received 11 questions. Questions received were on apple trees, bindweed ID, carpenter bee problems, soil test results, plant ID, how to prune fruit trees, best lawn grass seed and types of trees for clay soil, how to select a tree and questions on asparagus growing. Quite a variety of questions this month!



COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## Keep Your Vegetables HEALTHY!

*Vegetable Growers Diagnostic Seminar*  
**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**



**Speaker: Dr. Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension Educator**  
**Sponsored by Hancock County Master Gardeners**

**Monday, July 24, 2023**

**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Hancock Agriculture & Service Center  
7868 CR 140, Suite B, Findlay, OH**



**To register call the extension  
office at 419-422-3851**  
Registration deadline is  
Friday, July 21

### **DOOR PRIZES!**

Bring your questions  
and/or plant sample for  
on-the-spot diagnostics.



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# MGV NEWS...

## MGV Field Trips Set for Pemberville, Toledo, Jenera

**June 23**, Friday at 5 pm. 30 to 40 minute tour. Pick your own bundle of Lavender for \$10 cash, \$11 credit card. Luckey Road Lavender Farm, 19587 Luckey Rd, Pemberville, OH 43450. Beeker's General Store in Pemberville is a neat place to go and has ice cream. It closes at 5:30 so we would need to go there before the Lavender Farm if there is interest.

**August 25**, Friday at 10 am Toledo Botanical Gardens 5403 Elmer Dr., Toledo, OH 43615. Tour of the grounds by Amy Stone. We will plan to eat lunch at a nearby restaurant. No fee.

**October 9**, Monday at 2 pm, Tom Barnes, 8055 Township Road 32. Jenera, Ohio 45841. Tom owns 15 acres with lots of trees, views of fall color. No fee.

—Ann Woolum

## Public Programs

I want to express a sincere thank you to our master gardeners who volunteered to do speaking programs these last months: John King, Barb Phillips, Sharon Miligan, Marilyn Beltz, Peggy Biolchini, and Rob Biolchini.

—Linda Fensel

A Container Gardening program was presented by John King at 50N on May 9 with 31 registered for the workshop. Door prizes were awarded. Well done John! Thanks to all.

—Tim Brugeman

MGVs are always welcome to attend programs at 50 North or the Library for service hours if helping, or participating for education hours. Always wear name badges. Other programs for groups as part of their meetings are closed and only the speaker handles the presentation (with helpers as arranged).

## Scheduled Programs:

**June 13** 50 North, *Square Foot Gardening* 10:30 am John King

**August 8** 50 North, *Arranging Cut Flowers from the Garden* 10:30 am Linda Fensel along with Jeff Hingson, Floral Dept. Manager at Krogers, (flowers provided by Krogers)

**October 10** 50N, *Succulents Success* 10:30 am, Margi Habegger,

**October 12** Oakwoods DC *NW Ohio Native Plants* Pete Reynolds

**March 13**, Fostoria Garden Club, *How to Start A Vegetable Garden* 12:00 noon Rob Biolchini



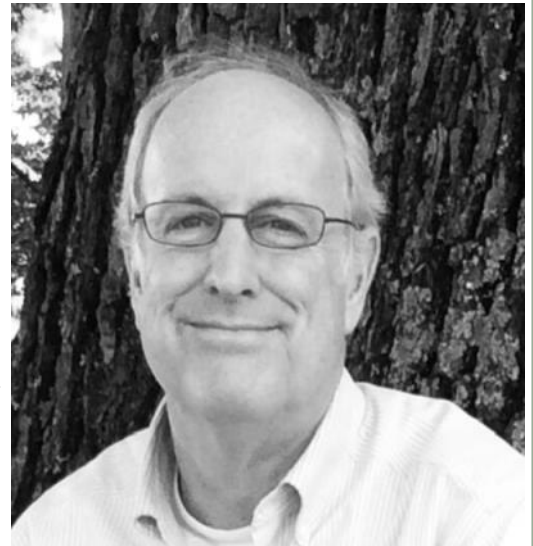
## Plans Announced to Bring Doug Tallamy to Findlay

Plans have been announced to bring nationally-known author Doug Tallamy to Findlay as a speaker for a community-wide Earth Day / Arbor Day / Environmental Event at the University of Findlay on April 27, 2024.

Tallamy, an entomologist, ecologist and conservationist is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He advocates for home gardens and landscaping that bridge the gaps between parks and preserves in providing habitat for native species.

Hancock OSU Extension MGVs will be part of a team with other NW Ohio conservation organizations assisting with the event.

Tallamy has been on many OSU Extension Master Gardeners educational webinars and his books "Nature's Best Hope", "Bringing Nature Home" and "The Nature of OAKS" are trail-blazing works inspiring new generations that each of us need to start at home in saving nature by growing a greener world.



*Douglas W. Tallamy*

## MGV Education Funds Still Available

*Remember you have up to \$50.00 per year for seminars, courses, and programs that are at least 3-hour credits.*

*The paid receipt for the course must be submitted to Karl for reimbursement.*

*As of March 31 there was \$1,720 left in the budget for this expense.*

*We encourage you to use this money to further your education.*

## Thought for the Day...

The best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow.

*Author unknown*

## Native Plant Event and Sale

This year's Native Plants Event & Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, September 16 at Oakwoods Nature Preserve in Findlay .

The event will start at 9 am this year, earlier than last year's sale.

Dave McPherson of Star Farms in Kenton is on board to provide native plants for the sale.



The Hancock Park District will provide facilities.

We are looking for volunteers to work at the event and also for ideas to increase the educational value of the morning's activities.



# MGV NEWS...

## Vegetable Garden Project Doing Very Well

Our vegetable garden project is doing very well. Potatoes and onions are up and growing. The cabbage is looking very good. We planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash on May 26.

The gardening tasks from this point on, until it's time to harvest, will include weeding and watering as needed. Watch your email for dates when we will be working. Everyone is welcome to share in this project which will provide fresh produce for City Mission and CHOPIN Hall.

—Brint Simmons



## OSUE Gardens in Third Year and 'Look Great'!

The gardens are in their third year and are doing well! I did a little transplanting/rearranging earlier this spring and have added 3 new perennials. New to the gardens this year are Ohio Spiderwort, Little Blue Stem and Veronica Blue/Speedwell. Last year I added Oxeye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) which is returning very nicely. Although the Oxeye Sunflower is very prone to red aphids (which I have already found and sprayed) so we will have to keep an eye on this Oxeye for these little pests.



The mugo pine bushes have pine needle scale and according to the GDD calendar the crawler stage has occurred. The mugo pine bushes were sprayed on May 18<sup>th</sup> to stop the spread

of the scale.

On Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> a group of MGV spread mulch over the gardens. I would like to thank Ann Woolum and her nephew Leyton, Brint Simmons, Linda Finsel, and Rob Biolchini for helping me spread all the mulch.

As a sidenote, there was a duck or goose nest at the south side entrance but after checking the eggs and finding them stone cold I felt that the nest had been abandoned. The eggs were moved, and we completed spreading mulch in that area. The gardens look great! Thanks to everyone!

—Peggy Biolchini





# MGV Newsletter Observes 30th Anniversary

By Hancock MGV Historian Debra Evans



From the Demonstration Garden  
by Bill Lanning

As of May 16, 1993, the demonstration garden was about 2/3 complete. Several people helped plant both seeds and plants. After a rain, the rest of the plot will be planted. Kern Ackerman has compost demonstration piles next to the garden.

This first year is a "get started" time and plans for future plantings are being discussed. Some plants will be mulched, some staked and some given compost dressing. Results will be compared to show different ways of gardening. Lack of a close water source has been a problem and shows how important this can be for the home gardener.

Any suggestions for this garden plot will be welcome. Any volunteers to weed, cultivate and care for the garden can be used all summer. It was enjoyable working with the people who planted, so let's try to work as a group instead of alone. It can be a lot of fun!



The Hancock Country Master Gardeners was formed in 1992 this is our 31st year. The first publication of the Green Thumb Prints, our monthly newsletter was in June 1993 This was the time when paper newsletters were mailed (and the color was green) not emailed. This organization relied on the newsletter for information about upcoming events, gardening tips, social activities and a section for giveaways, trade, barter or sell section

The first editor was Sharon Hammer Baker who was meticulous in her record keeping. These past newsletters give us a glimpse of the early years of this organization. The newsletters are located in the office and available to read however, please do not remove the binders from the office. A note of gratitude to her and all those who have taken on the responsibility to continue our newsletter - for this is truly our history!

**Here are some interesting facts about 1993.**

William (Bill) Jefferson Clinton became the 42nd President of the United States. The first bombing of the New York City World Trade Center by Islamic extremist happened. Killing six and injuring thousands. The siege at Waco, Texas ended horribly after fifty-one days.. Sears eliminated its 97 years old catalog. Construction began on the Rock and Roll Hall of fame

*Jurassic Park* was the top grossing film. *The Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waler was the best selling fiction book. *Unforgiven* won an Oscar for best picture. *Seinfeld* won an Emmy for best comedy. Whitney Houston's hit song "I Will Always Love You" was playing on the radio. The Tony for Broadway's best show went to *Kiss of the Spider Women - The Musical*. Beanie Babies were born!

**(Continued on following page)**

## MASTER GARDENER PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Janet T. Reese

I was raised on a farm outside of Rawson and have always loved growing, cutting and arranging flowers.

After graduating from OSU in Home Economics Education, I was married to Dave Reese and taught school for six years. When our first son, Matt, was born, I stopped teaching to be a mom. I did, however, continue teaching stitchery classes with Creative Circle - a direct sales company.

Then Aaron was born, and four years later Jeff and Jay arrived. The household became very busy. But at this time, a friend gave me a start of "Silver King" and I realized how much I had been missing "digging in the dirt" and growing flowers.

When the twins were about three years old we planted about an acre of herbs and flowers - the year of the drought! Most of the everlastings loved the sun and the heat, and because we had irrigation, we had a remarkable harvest.

Since then we have tried lots of different kinds of flowers and herbs, and lots of marketing ideas, and slowly we are making a business. It has taken much time and work, but we tell the boys that patience builds character!

We have been planting Christmas trees for nine years and for the last two years have had the KALEIDOSCOPE "Choose and Cut" CHRISTMAS TREE BARN. We grow a few Shiitake mushrooms in the woods, and have a small flock of sheep and angora goats. The whole family is very active in our church and I direct the choir there. When I find the time I love making wreaths and filling baskets with herbs. I also give "Pampered Chef" parties when I can squeeze them in.

*(Each month we will feature a Master Gardener's own story from a gardening perspective - a great way for all of us to get to know one another better. Be ready to take your turn - or volunteer!)*

## Newsletter Observes 30th Anniversary (Continued from previous page)



### CONGRATULATIONS !!!

... to Harry Voxtheimer on his new position as Head Grounds Keeper and Outdoor Maintenance Director at Blanchard Valley Hospital!

... to Marsha Smith for over 100 volunteer hours for Master Gardening!

... to Deb Curlis and the staff at Katie's Kitchen for a great banquet!

... to Lois Comer, Marsha Smith, Bob Deter, Dick Schweitzer, Lorie Sutter, Nancy Borkosky, and Maureen Lupton for achieving full MASTER GARDENER status!

... to Lorie Sutter and committee for an excellent recognition banquet!



The first Master Gardener Recognition Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 18 at Katie's Kitchen in Vanlue. Gary Wilson and Marsha Smith shared Master of Ceremonies duties, and Lorie Sutter conducted the evening's activities. Certificates of Recognition were given to Master Gardener interns and 7 people were awarded Master Gardener status. Announcements concerning all the current activities were made, and everyone enjoyed the delicious buffet and social time.

On March 12th 1993 the "Storm of the Century" formed in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm brought heavy deep snow, winds and storm surges. Areas affected: Eastern United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, The Bahamas and Bermuda. Over 120 million people - 40% of the population was effected.

The Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl, The Toronto blue Jays won the World Series, the Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup. Michael Jordan walked away from basketball.

One US Dollar in 1993 is equal to \$2.05 today. Gas was \$1.11 per gallon. Eggs were 87 cents a dozen. A loaf of white bread was 79 cents. A pound of bacon was \$1.19 per pound. Minute Maid juice 89 cents for 64 oz. A pound of coffee was \$2.47. A gallon of milk \$1.13. Hellman's mayonnaise was 99 cents a quart. Steak was \$1.64 per pound and ground beef \$1.48 per pound. Sun dried tomatoes was the latest

food trend and thrown on everything!

The Governor of Ohio was the Honorable George Voinovich. Notable in the State of Ohio. On April 11th 1993, Easter Sunday, a prison riot at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio started. This is still the longest prison riot in US History ending after 11 days.

One guard and nine inmates died.

Findlay and Hancock County news of importance Kohl's announced they would build a distribution center on CR 140 and the Health and Family Services opened their new building on CR 140. The "Ski Mask Robber" robbed a Bluffton bank getting away with \$7,000.00 dollars. He was thought to be connected to eight other bank jobs. Phillip J. Terry, 22 was caught in Washington State and confessed to only two of the eight robberies. On January 8th the Post Office started to sell Elvis Presley stamps and people flocked to the Post Office, they sold over 20,000 stamps at 29 cents apiece - that is \$5,800 dollars. The weather was too dry for soybeans and too wet for wheat - a year that farmer's rather forget!

Where were you in 1993? I hope the year has fond memories for you. Now you are part of an organization that has shared interests and as our motto states "Gardening is our Passion.....Education is our Purpose" we have a common bond "rooted" in gardening!!

### GARDENING SPEECHES GIVEN BY THE 1993 MASTER GARDENER CLASS THRU APRIL & MAY

Speaker	Date	Topic	Organization
Kern Ackezman	Apr 8	Gourds	Country Gathering Herb Society
Bill Lanning	March 9	Starting annuals & perennials	Ada Women's Garden Club
Jack McBride	Apr 5	Variety of garden topics	A-H Club Leaders
Bill Lanning	Apr 8	Cold Frames/Hot Frames	Town & Country Garden Club
Sharon Baker	Apr 27	Spring gardening	Women's Heritage, Div. of C of C
Jack McBride	May 4	Spring gardening tips	Findlay Exchange Club
Sharon Baker	May 17	Gardening tips on herbs & perennials	Newcomer's Club
Harry Voxtheimer	May 15	Landscaping with flowers	Findlay Library

Speeches have been requested for June 22, July 17, and August 2, 1993. A speaker has accepted for the August 2 presentation. Please let Ken Buchenroth know of your interest in giving speeches and the preferred topics. (422-0807)



### In the Workstation by Lois Comer

With the onset of spring and planting time upon us, the number of calls at the work station is increasing. Questions vary from the care of grapevines to peach tree problems, as well as the more customary queries about tomato plant diseases, plant pests, insecticides, etc.

New books and videos have arrived and all Master Gardeners should drop in at the Extension Office to become familiar with the resources available to us as we try to further the knowledge and expertise of the community in these areas.

Response has been good for volunteers to man the work station and the continued cooperation of all is appreciated.



# Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer

## Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023

Meeting began at 6:00 pm.

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 4/13/2023 meeting were approved; motion: Linda Finsel; second: John King.

### Treasurer's Report:

Total cash assets as of 4/30/23 were \$7786. Since that time Memorial donations have been received. The Treasurer's Report was approved; motion: Barbara Phillips; second: Patrick Flinn.

### OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- The obituary for Jack Kelby listed Master Gardeners to receive donations in his memory. The family wants to be notified of who made donations; we will send thank you notes to donors.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> the NW Ohio Diagnostic Clinic for Master Gardeners will be held at the Ag Center.
- There have been changes in the Extension Office staff. Please be patient with them when interacting with them during this transition time. Nicole Hoffman is no longer part of the office. A new MG contact person has not been named yet. Send all questions directly to Ed.
- There is no information available yet about the Green Industry event.
- Cheryl Everett was presented her official MG nametag.

### President's Report: Lisa McClain

- Several members have been giving presentations to the community: John King presented to 50 North about planting pots; Marilyn Beltz to the Retired Teacher's Association; Rob Biolchini presented about Victory Gardens
- Ed Lentz gave some background on the Victory Garden project that the OH Dept of Ag is promoting. Hancock County is not participating.
- Thank you to John King for coordinating tonight's plant exchange and to Linda and Mark Finsel for providing the trailer for it.
- Lisa McClain & Elaine Reynolds sorted through the MG office library and will be preparing a list of the books that members can check out. Question was asked if there was an old list of the books. There used to be one, but no one was aware of where to find it.
- Ed Lentz will be forwarding any emails he receives about upcoming gardening events.

*(Minutes Continued on Page 10)*

*(Minutes Continued from Page 9)*

- President McClain wishes to begin including short presentations on Current Topics at meetings. Pete Reynolds gave a brief synopsis of a recent Ask-A-Master-Gardener topic concerning disease issues with holly bushes.

Committee Reports:

- Administrative – Lynn Farwig
  - Nothing to report.
- Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini
  - Seminars – The committee is planning a summer seminar on diagnostic issues, tentatively scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> in the evening. It will be open to the public.
  - Field Trips – Ann Woolum has provided a survey form about potential Field Trip locations. Please fill it out and return it to Ann.
- Service
  - Community Garden – The fence was put up two weeks ago. The next round of planting will be some time around Memorial Day. Watch for emails from Brint.
  - Ag Center Front Garden – Peggy Biolchini – They are working on weeding the garden. Plan to mulch next Friday 5/19. She has volunteers for watering this summer.
- Social & Fundraising – Lisa McClain
  - Marlene Brunswick has volunteered to host the Summer Picnic at her house again this year. It will be in place of the July membership meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - There is a signup sheet for refreshments for meetings.
- Teaching
  - Courier Articles are going well.
  - The Fair committee has decided there will only be 1 or 2 presentations this year since they were not very well attended last year.
  - Let's Go Gardening – July Clymer – Most of the slots have been filled but there are still a few open.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Lisa McClain

- Native Plant Sale – The Teaching Committee is interested in hosting a Native Plant Sale again this year. Nick Moore is willing to coordinate the sale if the group decides to move forward. It would be in September at Oakwoods. A motion was made and passed to host a Native Plant Sale this Year. Motion: Pete Reynolds; Second: Patrick Flinn.
- The University of Findlay will be hosting speaker Doug Tallamy on April 27, 2024. They would like volunteers to help on the day of the event to answer questions. Other area

*(Minutes Continued on Page 11)*



groups participating will be Owens Community College, Hancock Naturalists, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, and Hal Mann. A motion was made and passed to participate and send a letter of support to the University. Motion: Judy Clymer; Second: Peggy Biolchini.

- Volunteers are still needed to give Brown Bag presentations. Contact John King.

Motion to Adjourn: Marilyn Beltz; second Linda Leinendecker. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned to the parking lot for the Plant Exchange at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

## Smart Shopping: Dodging Disease When Purchasing Plants

**By Brian Hudelson**, Director, UW-Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

May is a prime time to visit your local greenhouse, nursery or garden center to buy annuals, perennials and vegetables for your home garden. Unfortunately, these plants can be carriers of plant disease-causing organisms. Here are some pointers on what to look for when buying plants.

- Select plants that are vigorously growing, but aren't overly leggy. Stunted plants often have diseases (e.g., root rots or viral diseases). Leggy plants may be healthy, but often have growth that is wimpy and easily injured. Injured tissue can provide entry points for plant pathogens.
- Avoid plants with brown leaf spots. Dead spots on leaves can indicate fungal or bacterial infections. The pathogens involved continue to reproduce in these areas and can spread on the plant, and potentially to other plants.
- Avoid plants with odd leaf coloring. Some plants have variegated foliage. That's normal. However, if you see plants with unexpected blotchy light and dark-colored leaves, yellow lines or yellow ring patterns, avoid these. They may be infected with a virus.

Avoid plants with fuzzy growth on the leaves. Such growth typically indicates a fungal or water mold infection. For example, white growth on upper and lower leaf surfaces can indicate a powdery mildew problem; white, gray or purplish growth on the undersides of leaves is typical of a [downy mildew](#) disease.

- Choose plants with healthy, white roots. Examine plant roots whenever possible. If roots are brown or otherwise discolored, root rots or some sort of physical root injury (e.g., heat injury) may be an issue.

With just a little care, you can buy healthy, pathogen-free plants that will provide months, if not years, of gardening enjoyment.

**From The Courier, May 6, 2023**

## **Bees: Friend or enemy?**

***By Linda Leiendecker, Master Gardener Volunteer***

Many people, including some gardeners, think of bees as the enemy. While it is true that bees can sting and some people are allergic, we must make friends with bees if we want to have food that is pollinated by bees. Scientists indicate that pollinators are responsible for one of every three bites of food we eat. Without bees, our diet would be severely limited.

Honeybees are the most commonly known pollinator and the only bee species that lives in hives. However, there are approximately 500 bee species in Ohio alone, and they all play an important role in our ecosystem.

**Here are some common bees that can be found in your backyard:**

### **Traits of all bees**

All bees have three body segments: head, thorax, and abdomen. The head segment contains the eyes, long slender antennae and cutting mouth parts. The thorax is the middle segment where wings and legs are attached. The abdomen, for female bees, ends with the stinger. Male bees do not sting., such as iron and copper, are all required but in lesser quantity and are called micronutrients.

**Leaf cutting bees:** These bees have hairy black bodies and heads that are as wide as the thorax with large mouth parts used to cut leaves. Cutting bees nest in above ground, pre-existing holes, and they cut circular pieces in leaves which they use to line their nests.

**Bumblebees:** These bees have black bodies with black and yellow hairs, robust bodies, and long faces. They nest underground and pollinate in cool, cloudy weather. Bumblebees use their smelly foot-prints to distinguish between their own scent, the scent of a relative or scent of a stranger. This enables them to successfully find food by avoiding flowers that have already been visited.

**Sweat bees:** There are two kinds of sweat bees; one is a bright metallic green and the other is black/brown with a light band of hair on the abdomen. They both have slender bodies, nest in the soil, and are attracted to the salt in your sweat.

**Large carpenter bees:** The bodies of these bees lack hair. They have a similar body shape to a bumblebee but have a shiny abdomen with few hairs. They nest in wood and often in roof eaves, and they fly fast and erratically like a hummingbird.

**Mason bees:** These bees have either a black body or dull, metallic greenish-blue body. They nest above ground in pre-existing holes and collect mud to line their nest.

**Squash bees:** These bees have brown bodies covered in dense, light hair on the thorax and in bands on the abdomen. They have a long antenna and appear to have a protruding nose. They nest in the ground near squash and pumpkin plants.

**(Continued on page 14)**



# It's Time To...

## ***JUNE 5***

- All vegetable crops should be in the ground by now.
- Remove yellowed foliage of spring-flowering bulbs.
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds.
- Apply mulches around woody plants, including roses.
- Remove spent blossoms from roses and perennials.
- Pull soil up against potato plants when they are 8 to 12 inches tall.
- Suppress weeds in lawns by mowing at a height of 3 inches.
- Thin apples, pears and peaches for larger fruit.
- Weed the garden regularly.

## ***JUNE 12***

- Thin fruit on fruit trees to get larger fruit
- Deadhead perennials as the flowers fade.
- Sow more carrots and beets for continuous harvest.
- Remove blossoms from newly established strawberry plants.
- Fertilize perennial flowers using a 5-10-10 formulation.
- Water lawns and gardens during the morning if possible.
- Sidedress asparagus and rhubarb with aged manure or a 10-10-10 fertilizer
- Shave off weeds in the garden using a sharp hoe.
- Share your vegetable harvest with a hunger center.

## ***JUNE 19***

- Fertilize perennial flowers with a 5-10-10 fertilizer
- Prune older canes from climbing roses after roses have bloomed.
- Remove radish, spinach, and lettuce plants when they send up seed stalks.
- Store unused seeds in a cold, dry location.
- Fertilize hybrid tea, floribunda, and grandiflora roses as the blossoms fade.
- Never leave pesticides sitting unattended for even a few minutes.

**(Continued on the following page)**

# It's Time To... (continued from previous page)

## JUNE 19

- Take softwood cuttings of shrubs.
- Pull weeds before they go to seed

## JUNE 26

- Loosely tie grape vines to the trellis using soft twine or plastic ties
- Protect ripening fruit from animals.
- Plant buckwheat in vacant areas of the garden to retard weeds.
- Fertilize roses after their initial flush of flowers fade.
- Prune hedges so that the bottom is wider than the top.
- Divide and replant iris.
- Bt will control cabbage worms.
- Share your harvest with a hunger center.

## Bees: Friend or Enemy? (continued from page 12)

**Small carpenter bees:** They have dark blue-green and shiny, almost hairless, bodies. They are slender with pale yellow marks on their face, and they nest in twigs and stems.

**Mining bee:** These bees have slender black bodies with pollen-carrying hairs on their rear legs and the side of their thorax. They have shallow depressions between their eyes and antennae hold short velvety hairs. They dig ground nests, preferably in sand or soil.

### Is it a bee, yes or no?

Some insects that you see visiting flowers are bee mimics. While they are not bees, they do resemble them. Common bee mimics are flies and wasp bit flies. Flies, however, have two wings while bees have four wings. Fly antennas are also short and stubby while bee antennas are long and slender. A wasp does have four wings; however, wasps are smooth and almost hairless. Wasps tend to have slender waists, and they do not have pollen-carrying hairs. And if you see an insect eating another insect, it is not a bee. Bees are vegetarians and only eat pollen and nectar from flowers.

### How can we protect the bees?

To help protect our native pollinators, consider creating a garden that is pollinator friendly. You can invite bees to your garden by planting a wide variety of flowers, vegetables, and trees. Learn about native plants and try to include as many in your landscape as possible. Also, reduce your use of pesticides on your lawn and garden. If you feel you must use chemicals, first be sure you have correctly identified the problem, and then use the least toxic solution available. Apply before dawn or after sunset when bees are not as active.

This summer, when you are sitting in your yard listening to the bees buzzing and pollinating your native plants and flowers, feel good about the fact that you are doing your part to help our food ecosystem.





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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
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**Today's Quote—** “Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them. ”  
— A.A. Milne

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