

# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

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

November 2023

## Upcoming Events

**November 9**.....Monthly Meeting**November 15**...Courier Article Due**November 26,27,29,30**....Wreath  
Classes**December 2,3**.....Wreath Classes**December 5,6**.Rose's Mugs of Joy**December 14**...Christmas Gathering

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## November 9th Meeting

The Brown Bag for November will be at 6pm. Betsy DeFrancesco will be speaking about the wreath classes. The monthly meeting will follow.

November refreshments will be by Denise Smith and Randy Greeno.

## Hancock MGVs win Ohio Project of the Year

*Congratulations and thank you to the Hancock County Master Gardeners for their contribution to the 2022 Native Plant Sale.*

*We were selected as the overall winner of the Ohio MGV Project of the Year in the medium sized group.*

## Election of 2024-25 MGV Officers

All members are encouraged to attend the November meeting as we will vote for our 2024-25 vice-president and secretary.

Members who have accepted nominations at this point for the positions are as follows:

Vice-President-Patrick Flynn

Secretary-Linda Finsel

Nominations will be taken up until the time of the vote at our meeting.

If you are interested in serving for either position or would like to nominate someone, please contact Marilynn Beltz at 419-306-7470.



# President's Comments...

*By Lisa McClain*

**November 2023**

## ***Thank You!***

I'd like to start out this month with a special thank you and congratulations to John King who was elected as President at our last meeting. John has been very active in our organization this past year and will do an awesome job leading us forward in 2024. A special thank you also goes out to Rob Biolchini for volunteering to be our next Green Thumbs Print editor. He will be replacing Nick Moore who has served as our editor during 2023. Thanks to both of you.

Congratulations to everyone for their contribution to our 2022 Native Plant Event. As you know by now, Hancock County Master Gardeners were the overall winners of the state "MGV Project of the Year" for medium-sized groups. Also, congratulations to Emily Hinderliter, from our 2022 training class, for becoming a member at our October meeting. Emily has been the one responsible for all of our Facebook posts this year.

The Brown Bag at our November meeting will be conducted by Betsy DeFrancesco who will be showing us how we can help with our upcoming Wreath Classes. Betsy will have a sign-up sheet at our meeting for volunteers. If you cannot attend our meeting, please contact her at [betsmart\\_207@yahoo.com](mailto:betsmart_207@yahoo.com) or 908-910-5586. The dates for our classes are November 26, 27, 29, 30, December 2 and 3.

As we start looking forward to 2024, our committee chairs and executive committee have been busy putting together proposed goals and a budget for next year. These will be presented for consideration at our November meeting.

See you on the 9<sup>th</sup> for elections and wreath-making instructions!

Lisa

# MGV NEWS...

## MGV Public Program Schedule Announced

**March 13**, Fostoria Garden Club, *How to Start A Vegetable Garden*

12:00 noon,  
presenter: *Rob Biolchini*

**April 20**, Findlay-Hancock Public Library.  
*Children's program relating to Doug Tallamy's program.* *Linda Finsel.*

**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).**

## *Rose's Mugs of Joy planned for Dec. 5th, 6th*

We select senior care facilities where we provide Christmas mugs, greenery, and decorations for each resident. We help each resident fill and decorate the mug for their rooms and sing some Christmas carols with the group.

This year the event is scheduled for two senior care facilities, The Heritage and Taylor House. The events will take place at Taylor House on December 5 . and at The Heritage on December 6. Both events will be at 12:45 p.m.

We are Still looking for mugs and doodads for both events. There will be a sign up sheet at the November monthly meeting for anyone interested in participating and helping with this rewarding project.



**Ed Lentz presents an official MG nametag to Emily Hinderliter at the October 12 monthly meeting. Emily has completed her intern hours and is now officially a Master Gardener.**

## ***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.*

*. If you have attended workshops this year please remember to turn in your receipt.*



# MGV NEWS...

## *Final 2023 MGV Field Trip*

About a dozen Hancock Master Gardeners and guests were treated to a field trip Oct. 9 on the property of Tom and Karen Barnes, near Jenera.

The Master Gardeners got a tour of the property which includes about 15 acres of trees that Tom planted when he first acquired the property. The tour also included information about Tom's beekeeping operation.





## Hancock County Master Gardeners 2024 Committees

### Executive Committee

Extension Educator-Ed Lentz  
Coordinator-  
President – John King  
Vice-President-  
Treasurer-Karl Farwig  
Secretary-

### Administrative Committee Lynn Farwig-Chair

Newsletter-Rob Biolchini  
Social Media-Betsy DeFrancesco/Emily Hinderliter  
Apparel-Debra Evans  
Historian-Debra Evans

### Social Committee

Summer Gathering-Marlene Brunswick  
Christmas Celebration-Marilynn Beltz  
Refreshments-Linda Leienedecker  
Plant Exchange-John King  
Awards Program-Marilynn Beltz

### Service Committee

OSUE Entrance Gardens-Peggy Biolchini  
Community Garden-  
Rose's Mugs of Joy-Denise Smith/Margi Habegger  
Let's Go Gardening-Judy Clymer  
Wreath Classes-Betsy DeFrancesco

### Education/Teaching Committee Peggy Biolchini and Tim Brugeman (Co-Chairs)

Fair Booth-Linda Finsel  
Courier Articles-Laurie Pressel  
Public Programs-Linda Finsel /Tim Brugeman  
Native Plant Event/Sale-Nick Moore  
Ask-A-Gardener-Cheryl Everett  
Brown Bag-John King  
Seminars-Peggy Biolchini  
Field Trips-Ann Woolum  
Mentors-Tim Brugeman

### Coordinator

MGV Classes  
Membership

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2023**

Brown Bag talk began at 6:04 pm

Debra Evans gave a presentation on Growing Garlic.

Lisa McClain, Linda Finsel and Peggy Biolchini all brought various plants to share with the group.

Break for snacks and socializing.

Meeting began at 6:51 pm.

President Lisa McClain thanked Debra Evans and Margi Habagger for providing the snacks.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting: Peggy Biolchini, Second: Barbara Phillips. Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance \$7,109.32

Income \$1,953.00

Expenses \$1,575.36

Ending Balance \$7,486.96

There was one question about the expenses for the Native Plant Event, which was answered by Karl Farwig.

Motion to approve the financial report for September: Linda Leindecker, Second: Linda Finsel. Motion passed.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

- Emily Hinderliter has completed her volunteer hours as an Intern and is now officially a Master Gardener. Ed presented her MG nametag to her.
- Ed is asking for volunteers to help with planning of the upcoming Master Gardener class and with creating a poster to advertise it. The first class will be February 8<sup>th</sup> and will be on Thursdays during February and March with one make-up snow date in April. Currently there is a list of about 100 people interested in the class. Ed would like to have 20 to 25 participants. Ours will be the only class in northwest Ohio that will be held in person.
- State Master Gardener Meeting – Our county has been selected as best Environmental Quality Project as well as Best Overall Project, both for last year's Native Plant Event. Also, Peggy Biolchini is a finalist for Master Gardener of the year. That winner will be

*(Continued)*

## (Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page)

announced Saturday at the State meeting. Ed will write a press release for the Courier about our awards.

### President's Report: Lisa McClain

- The group has received several donations in memory of Susan Johnson.
- A Memory Tree with a plaque, in memory of deceased Hancock Co Master Gardeners, is being discussed. Ed will check with the County Commissioners about permission to plant a tree on County property.
- The Christmas Dinner will be on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, our regular meeting night, and will be catered this year. Members and spouses are welcome to attend.
- Requested people sign up to write Courier articles. Ed suggested that members can use a BYGL article as the starting point for an article, then give the reference to that article for more information. Anyone who is not receiving the BYGL emails should sign up for them.
- Pete Reynolds is speaking tonight at the Naturalists' meeting on Native Plants
- Tim Brugeman is looking for volunteers to help plant 200 bulbs at 50 north.

### Reports:

- **Native Plant Event** – Nick Moore - There were 245 trees/shrubs/perennials sold at the event. Gross income was \$1803, Expenses were \$1004. The net profit was split between Master Gardeners and Hancock Park District, each receiving \$399.50. Pete Reynolds' talk on Native Plants was attended by 31 people. Tim Brugeman did several one-on-one consultations on garden planning.
- **Field Trips** – Ann Woolum – The trip to Tom Barnes' farm was attended by 18 people. He discussed planting fall plants, bees and his purple martin houses.
- **Speaker's Bureau** – Linda Finsel – On Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, John King will present a talk about Trees and Fall Color at the Library.
- **Fall Wreath Classes** – Linda Finsel – the dates for the Wreath classes will be 11/26, 11/27, 11/29, 11/30, 12/2 and 12/3
- **Community Gardens** – Lisa McClain for Brint Simmons – The project is complete for this year. The total amount of produce was 1062#. Thanks to Brint Simmons for coordinating this project.

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## (Meeting Minutes Continued from previous page)

- Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini – The cleanup of the garden is nearly complete. Some of the coneflowers had yellow aster disease and had to be removed. They were replaced with some plants she got at the Native Plant Event.

### Unfinished Business

- A motion to approve the new committee structure, as proposed by the President, was made by Peggy Biolchini and seconded by Reuben DeBolt. The motion passed.
- Nominations have been made for Secretary and Vice President for 2 year terms beginning in January 2024. Nominated for Vice President is Patrick Flinn. For Secretary, Rob Biolchini was nominated from the floor. The vote for these offices will be held at the November meeting.

### New Business

- Doug Tallamy Seminar – Peggy Biolchini – Master Gardeners have been asked to provide a display table at the event with volunteers to sit at the table. Peggy is looking for a volunteer to coordinate what is needed for the table. Anyone volunteering will still need to register for the event. The event will be held from 9:00 am to Noon. Tallamy will be speaking at 10:00 am for 1 hour plus time for questions.
- 2024 Goals and Budget – these are being worked on by the committees.
- Election of a new President to fill out Lisa McClain's remaining term during calendar year 2024. - Ed Lentz asked for nominations from the floor. Elaine Reynolds was nominated, but she declined. Ed stated that John King has agreed to be nominated.
  - A motion to close the nominations was made by Reuben DeBolt, seconded by Patrick Flinn. The motion passed.
  - A motion to accept John King as the new President was made by Lynn Farwig, seconded by Elaine Reynolds. The motion passed.
- Karl Farwig announced that Bill Lanning, a MG Emeritus, will be turning 90 at the end of October, if anyone wishes to send him a birthday card.
  - A motion was made to send a \$50 gift card to Bill Lanning was made by Ann Woolum, seconded by Randy Greeno. Motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: Barbara Phillips; seconded by Peggy Biolchini. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds



# Houseplants for Healthier Indoor Air

**By Sandy Vanno, Warren CCE Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Ext.**

Houseplants have long been used as a way to bring some of the warmth and comforts of the outside, natural world indoors. But did you know that the plant on your desk may not just be brightening your day, it could also be helping to clean your air?

Thanks to some initial research by NASA scientists who were interested in the potential of plants to help clean the air, we now know that many popular houseplants are actually quite good at removing some of the toxins that are often found indoors. And, not just the plants! Microorganisms in the potting soil also do a fair job of cleaning the air!

Most people are aware that as plants photosynthesize they take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Studies show that plants are able to take in other gaseous pollutants as well.

Some of the toxins researchers found that plants remove from the air are formaldehyde, benzene, acetone, ammonia, trichloroethylene, and carbon monoxide. Of all these, formaldehyde is the most prevalent, found in virtually all indoor environments, coming from wood floorboard resins, pressed wood products, furniture, exhaust fumes, fabric treatments, water repellents, flame retardants, many paper products, natural gas, kerosene, and cigarette smoke.

Since many people spend a large amount of time indoors, especially during the winter months, it makes sense to minimize any negative health risks associated with indoor air quality. In recent decades, homes and office buildings were built to conserve energy through tighter construction methods and increased insulation. This keeps warm air from the furnace and cool air from the air conditioner inside but also blocks the escape of potentially harmful indoor air pollutants. Older, leaky buildings have fewer indoor air quality concerns. Also, many household items are the result of man-made processes.

Scientists at NASA were interested in the effects common houseplants had on indoor air quality because they were studying ways to purify the air in future space stations. They designed experiments to examine the impact common houseplants had on indoor air pollutants; the study found that houseplants can remove some of the pollutants but certain plants were more efficient at removing specific pollutants than others. They also discovered that a plant's roots and its potting soil were also important contributors to the plant's air purifying system. Data showed that when the same plants and potting soil were continuously exposed to air-containing pollutants like benzene, their capacity to clean the air improved over time. This suggests adaptive abilities on the part of soil microorganisms.

Healthy plants will do a better job purifying the air than those struggling to survive. Keep your plants thriving with proper light and watering, fertilizing, repotting, and pest control.

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# Houseplants... (Continued from previous page)

Since the plant's leaves play a major role in air purification, keep them clean by wiping with a damp cloth or occasionally spraying down the foliage in the sink or tub. Flowering plants produce pollen, so if you are sensitive to pollen, choose a foliage plant. NASA recommends one healthy plant in a 6 to 8-inch container for every 100 square feet of living space.

## **Houseplants that improve indoor air quality:**

- *Bamboo palm improves air quality*
- *Banana improves air quality*
- *Boston fern*
- *Bromeliads improves air quality emits oxygen at night*
- *Chinese evergreen improves air quality*
- *Christmas cactus emits oxygen at night*
- *Dracaena-cornstalk improves air quality*
- *Dracaena-Janet Craig improves air quality*
- *Dracaena-warneck improves air quality*
- *English ivy improves air quality*
- *Florist's daisy/mum improves air quality*
- *Gerbera daisy emits oxygen at night*
- *Golden pothos improves air quality*
- *Holy basil/Tulsi emits oxygen at night*
- *Mother-in-law's tongue, Snake plant Improves air quality emits oxygen at night*
- *Orchids emit oxygen at night*
- *Palms emit oxygen at night*
- *Peace Lily improves air quality*
- *Philodendron-Elephant Ear improves air quality*
- *Philodendron-Lacy tree improves air quality*
- *Spider plant improves air quality*
- *Weeping fig improves air quality*



**From the Courier Oct, 7 2023**

# The splendor of fall

**by Ann Woolum**

Every autumn, we may not enjoy raking leaves, but we certainly appreciate the beauty of the foliage. As days grow shorter and the air gets crisper, summer green gives way to a vivid autumn palette of reds, oranges, golds and browns. But why do leaves change color and fall off the tree? Why are the colors more brilliant some years than others? The answers give us a greater appreciation for nature and the complex processes that occur each autumn.

Leaf color comes from pigments that are natural substances produced by leaf cells. The three pigments that give leaves their color are: chlorophyll (green); carotenoids (yellow, orange, red, and brown) and anthocyanins (red, purple, blue). Chlorophyll, which gives leaves their basic green color, is necessary for photosynthesis, the chemical reaction that enables plants to use sunlight to manufacture sugars for their food. Trees in the temperate zones store these sugars for their winter dormant period. Carotenoids produce yellow, orange, red and brown colors in such things as corn, carrots and daffodils, as well as rutabagas, buttercups and bananas.

Anthocyanins give color to such familiar things as cranberries, red apples, concord grapes, blueberries, cherries, strawberries, and plums. They are water soluble and appear in the watery liquid of leaf cells. Chlorophyll and carotenoids are in leaf cells all the time during the growing season. The chlorophyll covers the carotenoid, so that is why summer leaves appear green, not yellow, red or orange. Most anthocyanins are produced in leaves only in autumn, and only under certain conditions. Not all trees can make anthocyanins.

As our part of the planet tilts away from the sun, our days become shorter, and the nights get longer. Trees respond to the decreasing amount of sunlight by producing less and less chlorophyll. Eventually, a tree stops producing chlorophyll altogether. When that happens, the carotenoids already in the leaves can finally show through. The leaves become a bright rainbow of glowing yellows, sparkling oranges, vibrant reds and warm browns. The amount and brilliance of the colors that develop in any particular autumn season are related to weather conditions that occur before and during the time the chlorophyll in the leaves is dwindling. Temperature and moisture are the main influences. It is a good year for reds when warm sunny autumn days are followed by cool but not freezing nights. In the daytime, the leaves can produce lots of sugar, but the cool night temperatures prevent the sugar sap from flowing through the leaf veins and down into the branches and trunk.

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# The splendor of fall (Continued from previous page)

Researchers have found out that anthocyanins are produced as a form of protection. They allow the plant to recover nutrients in the leaves before they fall off. This helps make sure that the tree will be ready for the next growing season. Anthocyanins give leaves their bright, brilliant shades of red, purple, and crimson. The yellow, gold and orange colors created by the carotenoids remain fairly constant from year to year. That is because carotenoids are always present in leaves and the amount does not change in response to weather.

The amount of moisture in the soil also affects autumn colors. Like the weather, soil moisture varies greatly from year to year. The countless combinations of these two highly variable factors ensure that no two autumns are exactly alike. A late spring or summer drought? Expect a few weeks delay in the onset of fall color. A warm fall? Expect less intense colors. What is the recipe for the most brilliant autumn colors? A warm wet spring, favorable summer weather, and warm sunny fall days with cool nights. As the fall colors appear, other changes are taking place in the tree to prepare it for winter. A tree's roots, branches and twigs can endure freezing temperatures, but most leaves are not so tough. On a broadleaf tree — say a maple or a birch — the tender thin leaves, made up of cells filled with water sap, will freeze in winter. Any plant tissue unable to live through the winter must be sealed off and shed to ensure the tree's survival. At the point where the stem of the leaf is attached to the tree, a special layer of cells develops and gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. At the same time, the tree seals the cut, so that when the leaf is finally blown off by the wind or falls from its own weight, it leaves behind a leaf scar. Oak leaves are the exception. The separation layer never fully detaches the dead oak leaves, and they remain on the tree through winter until the new leaves in the spring push off the old ones.



Since autumn color is not entirely predictable, half the fun in the fall is enjoying Mother Nature's surprise palette.

***Woolum is an Ohio State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer in Hancock County and a certified public accountant.***

# It's Time To...

## HOME (Indoor plants and 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.

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

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.

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.

### **GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)**

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.





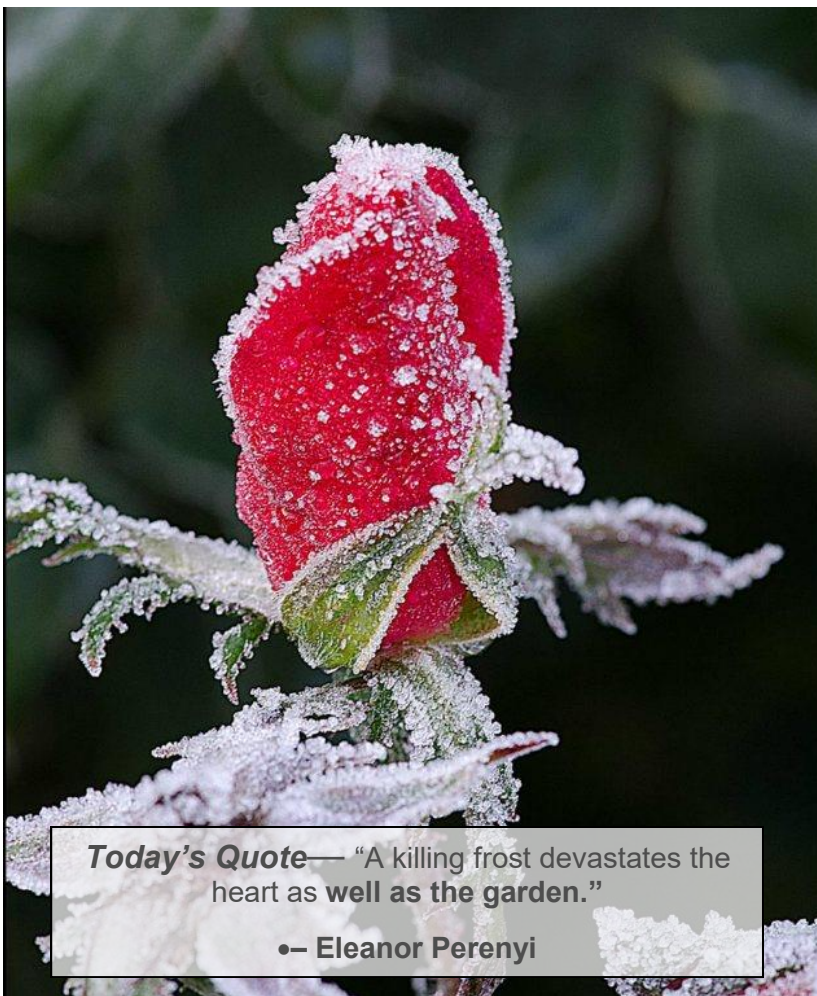


# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Today's Quote**— "A killing frost devastates the heart as well as the garden."

— Eleanor Perenyi

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

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