

# The Germinator



PUBLISHED BY THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO  
92 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MAHONING VALLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Greetings

April is upon us and with it, time to start many of our garden plants indoors from seed: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants etc. I recently purchased a small (10"x20") heat mat to ensure optimal germination and growth. You can get them at either Petitti Garden Center or Garden Indoor in Boardman. The latter, a little known, but fascinating garden supply store located just a quarter mile south of Western Reserve Rd on east side of Market St.

We can also plant some seeds directly in the garden. I have already planted my sugar snap peas. Other cold weather vegetables that can be planted outside in April are: Kale, Spinach, Lettuce, Carrots, etc.

We voted on our new name at the March membership meeting: The Gardeners of Greater Youngstown. After some official paperwork, we will be able to publicize our new name, and most importantly the fact that we are now a co-ed organization.

We will soon begin our collaboration with Flying High, a vocational rehabilitation agency that operates the GROW Urban Farm. GROW supplies produce to pop-up markets in areas of the city characterized as "food deserts". Our role is to be an educational and advisory resource to the staff and clients who will be doing the physical part of planting and maintaining the gardens. Toward this end we will need to be on site to do our part. So far about a dozen members have volunteered, but we will need more. Please contact me if you wish to be a part of this very important civic activity. We will also have access to a greenhouse at the GROW site and may be able to have a scaled down version of our Mother's Day sale.

The next membership meeting is 4-7 at 7pm at the Austintown Township Park. Feel free to bring a favorite garden tool or houseplant to display and talk about. Our speaker for the meeting is Dr. Chris Carlson, Professor Emeritus at KSU who, will talk about soil and proper root development.

See you soon,

**Tom Atkins**



## APRIL MEETING

7pm, Wed., April 7th  
Austintown Twp. Park

**Speaker: Prof. Chris Carlson**

Taught horticulture, forestry & soil science for 40 yrs including 30 years at Kent State. He is currently a landscape consultant.

**His subject:**

*The Power of Testing the Physical, Chemical and Biological Properties of Soil.*

*Let's Have A Good Turnout  
Guests Welcome*

## BOARD MEETING

7pm, Wed., April 14th  
Austintown Twp. Park  
All Members Welcome

*See the land, her Easter keeping,  
Rises as her Maker rose.  
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,  
Burst at last from winter snows.*

- Charles Kinsley

*He takes men out of time and  
makes them feel eternity.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Our Lord has written the promise  
of the resurrection, not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in springtime.*

- Martin Luther



*'Relax. It's just a Climate Change April Fool's Stunt'*

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## Club News

55 Members

**Kathy Voland**, 3247 S. Bailey Rd., North Jackson, OH., 44451, [voskater@aol.com](mailto:voskater@aol.com), 330-538-0341(h), 330-506-2968(c). Her gardening interests include vegetables and the family has lots of animals. She is married to Terry Voland, our new Treasurer, and they have raised wonderfully smart, talented children including Robert, also a club member. She was sponsored by Terry.

**Diana Palmer**, 5028 St. Rte. 46, Cortland, OH., 44410, [dianapalmercpa@gmail.com](mailto:dianapalmercpa@gmail.com), 330-638-1041(business), 330-980-6491(c), Diana is an accountant/financial planner doing business as Diana L. Palmer, CPA, Inc./Family Financial Planning, LLC, P.O. Box 501, Cortland, OH, 44410. Her gardening interests include the challenge of growing organic. She is also into ceramics, golf, welding and travel.  
Sponsor: Dave Causer

**Joshua Kaglic**, 2300 Inwood Dr., Austintown, OH., 44515, 330-272-7026, [jcarelly@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarelly@yahoo.com), Joshua is a U.S. Postal Employee. His gardening interests include vegetables, flowers and fruits. He also enjoys wood-working and building.  
Sponsor: Terry Voland

**Joshua Shoaff**, 3705 Loveland Ave., Youngstown, OH, 44502, 330-233-5095, [shoaffjoshua@gmail.com](mailto:shoaffjoshua@gmail.com). Joshua is an electronic technician and his main gardening interest is trees.  
Sponsor: Terry Voland

*Welcome Aboard*

### Future Plant Sale Greenhouse

Flying High, Inc is a non-profit organization dedicated to training and transitioning deserving individuals into the local workforce. Services include the Professional Development Center vocational school, job



### Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

readiness and placement assistance, GED tutoring, GROW Urban Farm and other services for individuals overcoming from personal setbacks. The organization has succeeded in finding employment for 125 alumni in jobs including Home Goods, Inc. in North Jackson.

Our organization has agreed to help guide some clients working at the Urban Farm in the planting of and tending to the thirty five 4x16 ft. raised beds that will



grow a wide variety of vegetables. Surface beds are also ready for other plants like tomatoes and peppers.

In exchange, our club will have access to a hoop greenhouse where we will grow vegetables and flower starts and hanging baskets for our annual Spring Plant Sale in time for Mothers' Day. Member Dennis Penner has agreed chair the Plant Sale Committee ably assisted by long-time chair John Schinker.

Looking back on our organization's Greenhouse and Plant Sale history, many of us remember a slightly larger hoop house in Boardman near St. Elizabeth Hospital. Then we were so fortunate to have use of the Mahoning County Developmental Disabilities greenhouse on South Ave. which was not only larger and more modern, but came with the added advantages of a cooperative maintenance staff and a large customer base. Our one year at the Mahoning County Career Development School greenhouse was a bit of a letdown. Now we begin a new Plant Sale chapter and are hoping for the best.

# The Germinator

April  
2021

## Earth Day 2021

Dave Campana

Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, is a perfect time to reflect upon the state and future of our planet. Earth was formed roughly 4.5 billion years ago. Evidence of first life, fossilized bacteria, dates back 3.5 to 4 billion years. Mammals appeared about 160 million years ago, hominids date back 2 million years and anatomically modern humanoids emerged about 250,000 years ago.

In our relatively short existence, humans have gone from a primarily hunter/gatherer existence, to living in organized societies when animals and plants were domesticated, to ever increasing agriculture, urbanization, industrialization, and international trade altering the surface and ecology of the planet. While a stable, predictable climate has allowed us to thrive, we have negatively impacted Earth in many ways. The most significant threat is climate change due to our burning fossil fuels. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a French scientist demonstrated the heat-trapping nature of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other gases including methane.

In the last 650,000 years, there have been seven cycles of glacier advance (ice ages) and retreat. During this period, CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations fluctuated between 200 and 300 parts per million (ppm) due mainly due to small fluctuations in Earth's orbit. The 1950s were the last time CO<sub>2</sub> reached 300 ppm and that level has since climbed steadily to 420 ppm today. Orbiting satellites and other technological advances enable scientists to collect many types of information revealing a changing climate. Even if greenhouse gas emissions drop to zero, weather extremes will worsen because existing CO<sub>2</sub> levels will remain in the atmosphere for millennia.

A growing world population (currently 7.5 billion), and a rising standard of living in nations like China and India, will result in energy demands continuing to increase worldwide. While great strides have been made in renewable energy production and conservation, it's doubtful these technologies alone will solve the problem.

The planet's surface temperature has risen 2+ degrees, most in the past 40 years. The Antarctic and Greenland icepacks, as well as mountain glaciers, are rapidly melting revealing bare soil that absorbs solar energy where ice once reflected it back into space.

Ocean temps are also rising, albeit more slowly, because the seas store 90% of the excess solar energy. With this rise comes expansion further raising sea levels and displacing or threatening coastal communities where a significant percentage of the world's population, industry and commerce are located. Hurricanes become stronger more rapidly as they pass over warmer water.



Ocean vegetation absorbs vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> converting most into oxygen. With excess CO<sub>2</sub> now in the atmosphere, the seas are becoming increasingly acidic harming fish populations. Acidity and extreme periods of heat are killing coral reefs, an incubator for many fish species. The Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia has declined 50% in the past 30 years.

Human activity has altered the planet's ecology. Forests are being destroyed in favor of agriculture, industry and urbanization. Not only is the planet deprived of the oxygen producing, CO<sub>2</sub> absorbing trees, but many beneficial chemicals and organisms may remain undiscovered. Wetlands, another carbon sink that filter flowing water, are in decline.

Air, water and soil pollutions have led to intensified health risks. Waste going into waterways and potable water sources result in disease and premature deaths (16% worldwide) greatly outpacing Malaria, AIDS, TB and war combined. As areas become increasingly unlivable, mass migration and conflict are inevitable.

International trade continues to bring invasive species that supplant natives. When native plants and animals, from the smallest pollinators to apex predators, are removed or become extinct (which becoming increasingly common), an imbalance occurs disrupting the ecosystem. And what is the Covid19 virus but an invasive organism making its way around the world? For years, scientists have predicted worldwide pandemics due to human encroachment on wildlife, living in dense populations and the ease of international travel.

Solutions to these problems will require a trifecta of scientific innovation, international cooperation and human compliance. Until then, world population growth must be stabilized, and developed nations must prepare their infrastructure for damaging storms and tides while learning to live more simply. If not, these concessions will be harshly forced upon our descendants.

We would do well to study these issues and lobby our representatives to take action. A good start would be reading *Under A White Sky* and *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Hope is offered with an example of the world's nations coming together and solving a problem threatening mankind. The ozone layer helps keep Earth habitable by reflecting away the worst of the sun's most damaging ultraviolet radiation. In 1976, growing holes in this layer were discovered, caused by chloro-fluorocarbons (CFCs) used in refrigeration and aerosol sprays. If left unchecked, the expanding holes would kill millions per year from skin cancer as well as harm plants and animals. Similar to the fossil fuel situation of today, there was industry and political resistance. Fortunately, the 1987 Montreal Protocol signed by nearly 200 nations phased out CFCs and the ozone layer is now recovering.



## Soil Temperature For Garden Crops

Vegetable seed and seedlings require minimum soil temperatures to germinate and grow, and optimal temps to thrive. Temperature not only influences germination, but affects soil chemistry including the release of nutrients in moist soil. For most vegetables, an optimal soil temperature for planting and growing is 65-75 degrees.

For serious gardeners, a soil temperature gauge is essential. For sowing seeds, the temp is taken at 1"-3" while the transplanting depth should be 4"-6". The reading should be taken in the early morning when the soil is coolest, and with a three day average for accuracy. In cooler areas such as ours, optimal temps may not be practical because of the shorter growing season. In that case, a 70% germination rate is realistic.



### Minimum soil temps for sowing & germination:

35 degrees: lettuce, onion, parsnip, spinach.

40 degrees: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Asian greens, kale, kohlrabi, arugula, radish, Swiss chard, turnip, peas, radish.

50 degrees: asparagus, celery, corn, tomato

60 degrees: beans, cucumber eggplant, muskmelon, pepper, pumpkin, squash, watermelon.

Pushing the limit on cold soil sowing will mean a lower germination percentage. To do so necessitates sowing more seeds per area.

### Soil temp needed for 70% germination

45 degrees: beets, lettuce, parsley, spinach.

50 degrees: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, Asian greens, Chinese cabbage, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, arugula, radish, Swiss chard, turnip, peas, radish, rutabaga.

55 degrees: cabbage, corn, Swiss chard, tomatoes.

65 degrees: cucumbers, peppers.

70 degrees: beans, cantaloupe, melons, squash.

75 degrees: eggplant, okra, pumpkins.

Beside temperature, it's important that the soil be "workable". Squeeze a handful of soil in your hand. If the soil remains in a damp clump, it's unworkable. It's workable if it crumbles from your hand when touched.

Source: [www.harvesttotable.com](http://www.harvesttotable.com)

The percentage of viable seeds stored from previous crops is very important to germination and [gardenmyths.com](http://gardenmyths.com) looked into whether seeds in a glass of water floated, rather than sank, were duds. As a general rule, that test is not accurate. A better test is to place the seeds in a damp paper towel and check them every few days to see what percentage sprouts.

## Ohio State Univ. Monitoring Soil Temps

OSU's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) monitors the daily weather conditions at numerous locations around the state. The most relevant to our area is probably located at the OSU campus in Wooster, the new home of The Gardeners of America. Wooster is about 80 miles WSW of Youngstown at close to same latitude as Columbiana.

In addition to daily precipitation levels, air temp, humidity, and wind direction, soil temperatures are recorded at depths of 2 and 5 inches. While a soil temperature gauge is probably best for knowing when to sow, the emerging temp patterns can be monitored from your computer. In addition, that knowledge is useful in knowing when to apply soil additives like crabgrass pre-emergent. [oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/stationinfo](http://oardc.ohio-state.edu/weather1/stationinfo)

## April Foolishness

*Believe nothing, and trust no one this April Fool's Day – So it's just like any other day.*

*April Fool's Day is like a huge open mic night at a comedy club – Millions of people go out of their way to demonstrate how unfunny they are.*

*A couple of pranksters broke into the local police station and stole all the bathroom equipment – A police spokesman was quoted as saying, "We have absolutely nothing to go on".*

We probably shouldn't share these pranks with you but they're just too tempting:

*Cut out the shape of a large insect from black paper and tape it to the inside of a lamp shade.*

*Make caramel or candied apples but use onions instead.*

*Freeze Mentos in ice cube trays and ask guests if they'd like ice in their soda.*

*Hide a rubber snake among the produce at the super market.*

*Paint bath soap with clear nail polish.*

*Remove the shower head, fill the pipe with food coloring and replace the head.*

### Media Pranks

*On April 1, 1980, at the end of the 6 o'clock news, a Boston TV station aired a fake news bulletin that Great Blue Hill in Milton, MA was erupting. In the ensuing panic, some terrified residents fled their homes. The executive producer was subsequently fired for, "failure to exercise good news judgment".*

*In 1976, a British astronomer told BBC radio listeners that a unique alignment of two planets would result in an upward gravitational pull making people much lighter at exactly 9:47am, and listeners should jump in the air to experience a "strange floating sensation". Dozens of listeners phoned in to say the experiment worked.*

*In 1996, Taco Bell took out full-page ads in 7 major newspapers announcing they had purchased the Liberty Bell to "reduce the national debt" and renamed it the "Taco Liberty Bell".*

# The Germinator

April  
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Thank you to the MGCY Friends for their Civic Fund donations.  
Members are urged to give them a visit.

#### **Ace Hardware Canfield**

413 E. Main St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7464

#### **Amish Market**

6121 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-248-7034  
www.theamishmarket.net

#### **Baird Brothers**

7060 Crory Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-3122  
info@bairdbrothers.com

#### **Bernard Daniels Lumber**

260 Railroad St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2211  
www.bdlumber.com

#### **Blooming Crazy**

8277 Market St.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512  
330-758-8131  
www.bloomingcrazyflowers.com

#### **Bluestone Perennials**

7211 Middle Ridge Rd.  
Madison, Ohio 44057  
www.bluestoneperennials.com

#### **Bread Chef**

800 E Western Reserve Rd  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-729-990

#### **Bruce Brungard**

MGCY Member

#### **Buckeye Therapeutic Massage**

Debbie Gonda  
545 N. Broad St.  
Canfield, Ohio  
330-402-7303  
buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

#### **Charly's Restaurant**

4455 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-5569

#### **Colonial Gardens**

1419 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd.  
Vienna, Ohio  
330-539-5500  
www.colonialgardensohio.com

#### **Crouse True Value Hardware**

1178 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-549-2144  
www.truevaluetrains.com

#### **Davidson's Restaurant**

3636 Canfield Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-793-0030

#### **Delaquadri Lawn Maintenance**

1270 Trumbull Ave.  
Girard, Ohio 44420  
330-759-3121  
www.delaquadrilandscape.com

#### **Delanni Imports**

2770 Hilltop Dr.  
Napa, California 94558  
www.gardenclogs.com

#### **DJ's Greenhouse**

1004 East Lake Rd.  
Transfer, Pennsylvania 16154  
724-962-1230  
www.djsgreenhouse.com

#### **Elliot's Garden Center**

1283 W. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
330-758-8889

#### **Garden Artisans**

451 Defense Highway, Ste. A  
Annapolis, Md. 21401  
www.gardenartisans.com

#### **Greenstar Cooperative**

12093 Lisbon Rd.  
Greenford, Ohio 44422  
800-423-3609

#### **Green Team**

345 Oakhill Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44502  
330-740-2060

#### **Gardening-Indoor**

9215 Market St.  
North Lima, Ohio 44452  
330-758-0272  
www.gardening-indoors.com

#### **Handel's Ice Cream**

3830 Starr Centre Dr.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-702-8270  
www.handelsicecream.com

#### **Handyman Hardware & Supply**

4351 Kirk Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44511  
330-793-1268  
www.handymanaustintown.com

#### **Hartford Orchards**

6953 OH-305  
Hartford, Ohio 44424  
330-772-2100

#### **Heritage Country Store**

364 Lisbon St.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-5551  
www.heritagecountrystore.com

#### **Home Again Consignment Furniture**

7689 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512

#### **Home Depot**

7001 Southern Blvd.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-965-4790

#### **Hot Pepper Wax**

305 Third St.  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125  
800-627-6840  
sales@hotpepperwax.com

#### **Jack's Custom Landscape**

Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-953-7737

#### **Jimmy's Italian Specialties**

3230 Belmont Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
www.jimmysitalianspecialties.com

#### **Kravitz Delicatessen**

3135 Belmont  
Youngstown, Ohio 44505  
330-759-7889  
www.kravitzdeli.com

#### **Kridler Gardens**

4809 Homeworth Rd.  
Homeworth, Ohio 44634  
330-525-7914  
www.kridler-gardens.com

#### **Kushner's Garden & Patio**

2421 E. Western Reserve Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44514  
www.kushners.com

#### **Lou's Beer & Wine Cellar**

2975 Canfield-Niles Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
330-799-2059

#### **Men's Garden Club of Youngstown**

123 McKinley Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44509  
www.mgcy.org

#### **Nick's Wine Cellar**

105 S. Meridian Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

#### **Outdoor Recreation Equipment, 5316**

Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio  
330-782-2004

#### **Parks Garden Center**

9010 Youngstown-Salem Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-7278  
parksgardencenter@aol.com

#### **Paw Paw Everlast Label Co.**

P.O. Box 93-C  
Paw Paw, Michigan 49079  
www.everlastlabel.com

#### **Petitti Garden Center**

5509 South Ave.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
330-788-0733  
www.petittigardencenter.com

#### **Robert McGowan, LPL Financial**

MGCY Member  
3736 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-2320

#### **Stone Fruit Coffee Co.**

8414 Market St.  
Boardman, Ohio 44512  
www.StoneFruitCoffee.com

#### **Richard States**

MGCY Member

#### **Dennis Toth**

MGCY Member

#### **Tractor Supply**

6225 Mahoning Ave.  
Austintown, Ohio 44515  
330-792-8235

#### **Vernon's Café**

720 Youngstown-Warren Rd.  
Niles, Ohio 44406  
330-652-1381  
www.vernonscafe.com

#### **Wally Gro LLC**

Kansas City, MO 64116  
1.877.796.6559  
hello@wallygro.com

#### **Whitehouse Fruit Farms**

9249 Youngstown-Salem Rd.  
Canfield, Ohio 44406  
330-533-4161  
www.whitehousefruitfarm.com

#### **Wild Birds Unlimited**

90 Boardman-Canfield Rd.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44512  
330-629-2473  
www.wbu.com

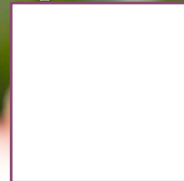
#### **Youngstown Cityscape**

15 Central Square, 2nd Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-742-4040



# The Germinator

April 2021



Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio  
c/o Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451

[www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)



## calendar of events



Apr. 7 ..... Membership Meeting .... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park

Apr. 14 ..... Board Meeting ..... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park

May. 5 ..... Membership Meeting .... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park

May. 12 ..... Board Meeting ..... 7PM ..... Austintown Township Park

## Please Join Us!

The purpose of The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is to create a better understanding of gardening and to encourage and promote the beautification of our community. In order to meet this endeavor, several civic projects are completed each year.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the D. D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Garden. Members receive a monthly newsletter, "The Germinator," which has timely gardening hints, club news and other local and regional horticultural events. Members also become members of The National Men's Garden Club of America.

Membership is open to residents of the Mahoning Valley and surrounding communities with an interest in gardening.

To join, contact us at: **Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Ohio**



% Membership Committee  
P.O. Box 612  
North Jackson, OH 44451



or on our website at [www.mgcy.org](http://www.mgcy.org)

## THE MGCY 2021 OFFICERS

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