

The Germinator



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

President's Message - May

Greetings to all.

We have certainly had many days of almost ideal gardening weather. I've heard of herbs and cole crops planted and growing already.

I've been filling my jugs of rain water just in case we have a dry spell. Anyone who would like to use rain water, it is a very easy project to do. You just need a clean drum, a spout and a few pieces of gutter. Keep it simple.

I believe we still need a speaker for our November General Meeting. If you have a candidate (including yourself), please advise Pat Cunning. You all have your own specialties, how about sharing with your club members.

Our Board Meeting change of venue has successfully completed its test with no problems at the Austintown Library. The meeting is open to our members. (The second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm)

We have had a lot of new members in the last couple months. SPONSORS, please encourage these new members to attend meetings and get them on committees so they don't lose interest.

We recently received a hand written invitation for the National Convention of the TGOA-MGCA. This year's convention is being held at the Tundra Lodge and Water Park in beautiful Green Bay, Wisconsin. July 13-15. Unique seminars and bus tours. Maybe we will see Bart Star! (but likely not)

The Canfield Fair will be here before you know it. Please be sure to involve our new members.

Happy Growing,

Dave

WANTED

Chairman of Youth Gardening Committee

Wanted:
Chairman of Winter Seminar Committee

Mill Creek MetroParks

MAY EVENTS

Health & wellness, golf, children's & family activities, nature hikes, horticulture shows & seminars, workshops, crafts & more:

May 6th.....10am - 6pm Spring Plant Sale Perennials (sun/shade), annuals, herbs

May 12th.....Children 3-6 will Buzz into May and learn about the bees. Story, crafts, activities. Call for times/fees/reservation.

May 19th.....1-2pm Age 3-9, plus adults will learn about the wonders of herbs. Call for reservation or fees.

For a complete schedule and details: www.millcreekmetroparks.com



May 5, 6, 7
from 9am-6pm
MASCO Greenhouse

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General Meeting
May 4th, 2016 - 7:00 pm

Board Meeting
May 11th, 2016 - 6:30 pm
Austintown Library
All members welcome

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

85 Members • 1 Associate

Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

New Members

Joe Consiglio - 578 Creed St., Struthers, OH, 44471, 330-207-6004, Madbull20@aol.com. Joe is married (Joan) and retired. His gardening interests include trees and vegetables. He also enjoys cars, racing and camping. Sponsored by Paul Shanabarger.

Doug Evans - 111 East Main St., #4, Canfield, OH, 330-533-0151, 330-533-1877, Doug3079@yahoo.com. His gardening interests include landscaping and shade gardening. Sponsored by Lynn Hoffman

Thomas E. Infante - 3515 Easy St., Canfield, OH, 330-533-2252, 330-503-2252, smokey3960@aol.com. Doug is a semi-retired attorney doing business at 1040 South Commons Place, Suite 200, Youngstown. He is married (Elizabeth). His gardening interests are wide and varied. Sponsored by Bob McGowan

Rex Luckage - 9969 Mahoning Ave., North Jackson, OH, 330-538-0520, 330-531-1247. He operates Rex's Lawn and Garden, PO Box 132, North Jackson and is married (Debbie). Propagation and vegetables are at the top of his gardening interests.

Plant Auction & Pot Luck Dinner

Now is the time to divide those overgrown perennials and plant a few flats of your favorite annuals so they'll be ready for our annual Plant Auction, June 1st, at Boardman Park. Make sure each plant is labeled especially if it's not in full bloom. Don't forget to bring a casserole, covered dish and/or desert item, and tableware.

This event makes socializing with other members easy and the most fun you can have while remaining vertical. If you search high and wide, you may be able to find the same plants at a greenhouse but we guarantee they will be much more expensive. There may even be some items left over from our Plant Sale.

If we twist his arm, Rodney Toth may be our auctioneer again this year. Among the many plants he brought last year were an assortment of his favorite dahlias that attendees foolishly neglected to bid on. If he brings them again this year, you can bet they won't go unsold.

We Need You At Our Plant Sale

Greenhouse and Plant Sale Committee members and volunteers, under the direction of John Schinker, have been putting in the hours to ensure our principle fund raising event is a success. Years in and out, we are always in awe of their efforts results. The MASCO greenhouse is now filled with beautiful and pampered annuals ready for new homes.

Now is the time for all MGCY members to show their appreciation and loyalty to our organization by helping with the sale. The sale runs Thursday, May 5th to Saturday, May 7th, from 9am til 6pm. Contact John at 330-518-4384 to see if your schedule will correspond with his manpower needs.

Encourage your friends and relatives to check out the array of annuals and baskets available. There will be varieties of tomatoes and peppers found nowhere else.

Scholarship Chair Filled

We would like to thank Bob Schulick for taking on the chairmanship of our Scholarship Committee. Club leadership roles are important to our club's viability and contributions to the community. Bob is recovering from shoulder surgery but we expect to see him in the lineup after the All-Star break.

A special thanks to life member Keith Kaiser who was so helpful in locating worthy horticulture students interested in taking advantage of our club's generosity. It is a job more difficult than one would expect. We'll miss Keith's efforts promoting our scholarship and his cooperation as Horticulture Director of Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Horticulture Show Not That Far Off

Our show is recognized as one of the finest over a wide area and it is the responsibility of our members to keep it that way. The first thing we can do is to start thinking about what plants to enter in the August 20th event. Be it roses or dahlias, tomatoes or beans, hanging arrangements or bonsai, fruit or gourds, annual or perennial flowers, there is a category(s) in which each of us can participate. See Rodney Toth for an old show schedule to learn the sections and requirements of each.

The next thing you can do is encourage non-members to enter the show. Sad to say, the number of entrants and entries have declined slightly in past years so let's do all we can to stem that trend. Don't forget there's a separate Youth competition so get the kids involved. *Do all we can to make this the best Horticulture Show yet.*

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More Club News

Home & Garden Show Info Booth

Thousands of people intent on welcoming Spring didn't let cold, blustery weather deter them from attending the Home and Garden Show at the Canfield Fair Grounds. Fair personnel provided large space heaters to compensate for the poorly insulated buildings and there were few complaints from patrons and exhibitors.



Many thanks to Bruce Brungard who supervised the display assembly and recruited the two member teams that provided information to interested attendees. We must also thank our photographer Bob Stas for the club activity photo montage and his handmade gardening quiz game that drew a lot of attention. Hundreds of Plant Sale flyers were handed out so we should see decent crowds at the MASCO greenhouse.

Spring Lawn Care Tips

When he heard we didn't have a speaker for our April membership meeting, Dennis Penner stepped up to the plate on very short notice. To ask if he was prepared to give a talk on lawn care is a silly question. He has been Fellows Riverside Gardens' Garden Supervisor for the past nine years and he spent the prior thirty years in golf course turf maintenance.

Dennis began with a series of lawn jokes which we can't recall, but this pic of American ingenuity might bring a chuckle. If one plans to start a new lawn, he says you can't go wrong with the new tall fescue varieties. They do well in clay soils, are low maintenance, hold up well in traffic, are insect and disease tolerant, and are draught resistant.



Fertilizers for established lawns (for example: 30-3-12) should be high in nitrogen for leaf growth, low or zero phosphorus which is mainly for flowering, and potash for roots at about half or a third of the nitrogen content. For newly seeded lawns, 12-24-14 is a good mix. While some water soluble nitrogen is needed, a majority of the nitrogen should be water insoluble for slow and longer release.

Areas attacked by snow mold should be raked out and may need reseeded. An alternative is to apply an anti-fungal spray. Shady areas that remain wet for long periods will tend to become mossy. Either treat with iron sulfate or let it grow as some people find moss attractive. White clover should left alone as it produces its own nitrogen. Maintain a height of 3 inches to deter and crowd out weeds.

We did some online research on applying crabgrass pre-emergent and found some interesting information that can be applied to many gardening situations. It turns out that crabgrass germinates when soil temperatures at two inches deep reach 50-55 degrees. The Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center Weather System website (oardc.osu.edu/newweather) provides soil temps at 2" and 4" every five minutes 24/7. Go to the OARDC website, click on the weather station closest to you. They suggest monitoring the 6am/2" temp and, when it reaches 50-55 degrees over several days, apply the pre-emergent. Gardeners can also use this website to determine when to sow or transplant what plants when.

Clear The Air With Clairy

A NASA study found that a select few breeds of house plants were effective at eliminating up to 93% of pollutants like benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from indoor air. These pollutants come from substances like paint, carpeting, plastic toys, cleaning agents and furniture. Some short term medical issues are irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, and aggravate the symptoms of diseases like asthma. Long and repeated exposure to these toxins can result in respiratory disease, heart disease and cancer.



The plant works best when grown in a ceramic pot with a built-in fan that can push and filter the air through the soil. For more info, go to www.techinsider.io/clairy.

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Queen Ann's Lace - Flower, Food or Weed?

This lacy flower often found in fallow fields, ditches and popping up unwanted in our gardens was, like the dandelion, imported by Europeans as a food source. Close observation shows the leaves look like those of a carrot, and they and roots smell like carrots. It is in fact a wild member of the carrot family once highly valued for its high sugar content.

Every part of this biennial is edible, particularly in its first year. Roots can be ingredients in soups, stews and teas; the leaves used in salads. Flower clusters can be French-fried or fresh flowers included as a salad ingredient. Like domestic carrots, the seeds were once used as seasoning for stews and soups. While the poisonous plants Poison Hemlock and Fool's Parsley appear similar, neither smells like a carrot.



Once Queen Ann's Lace invades your flower beds, it is hard to get rid of because it produces numerous seeds which can remain viable for many years. Like the dandelion, pulling the plant usually leaves part of the tap root still in the ground and a fresh plant may soon appear. The best way to get rid of it is to remove the flowers before they can go to seed.

America's Favorite Wildflower

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) start out as tight little purplish-green buds rising on soon to be 12-24 inch stems. These buds will then become pinkish-blue clusters that evolve into soft, pastel blue or less common white flowers. As they age, the blooms become a subtle shade of light pink.



Don't be fooled by the name. Virginia Bluebells are an early Spring wildflower that can be found in every state in the Eastern and Central time zones except Florida,

Louisiana and Texas, and range well North into Canada. Easy to grow because they readily overseed, bluebells are also deer resistant. The most common pollinators are butterflies because they can cling to the downward hanging flowers.

Companion Gardening

When you see two or more different plant species growing side by side in the wild, it is often because they have a mutually beneficial relationship. In the vegetable garden, there are plants that get along well together and those that don't. Here are some reasons why.

1. Plants that fix nitrogen like beans, peas and clover draw nitrogen from the atmosphere for themselves as well as their neighbors. Beans are often planted with other crops like corn to reduce the need for fertilizer.

2. Some plants will attract pests away from other nearby plants (trap gardening) either to distract them or poison them. A Chinese Southern giant mustard in border will divert flea beetles away from broccoli, cabbage and collard greens. Ornamental four o'clock (*Mirabilis*) will attract Japanese beetles, then poison them with a toxin in its foliage.

3. Some plants like marigolds release biochemical deterrents that help repel or suppress pests including unbeneficial nematodes. The active chemical, thiophene, is released in the soil from the marigold's roots. Also, basil planted with tomatoes will deter thrips.



4. Members of the gourd family (squash, cucumbers and pumpkins) are among low growing, spreading plants that suppress weeds by shading them out.

5. Salad plants like lettuce and spinach do best in cool partial shade which can be provided by sunflowers.

6. Some plants provide a desirable environment for beneficial (predatory, parasitic and pollinator) insects like ladybird beetles, lacewings, hover flies, mantises,



robber flies, wasps, bees and butterflies, as well as spiders and predatory mites.

The more diverse the plants, the more likely your garden will prosper. For example, alkaloids in tomato leaves are believed to deter black spot in roses. Large monoculture plantings can become havens for pests that specialize in those particular plants.

Information from www.learn2grow.com was the source of this article. To learn the best and worst companions for various vegetables, go to www.vegetablegardeninglife.com. Both sites have monthly newsletters dedicated to gardening that are easy to subscribed to.

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

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www.mgcy.org



Happy Mother's Day
May 8th, 2016

calendar of events

May 4.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
May 5, 6, 7.....	Spring Plant Sale.....	MASCO Greenhouse.....	9-6
May 11.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
June 1.....	General Mtg./Plant Auction.....	Bdmn Park.....	6:00 - 7:00 pm
June 8.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
July 6.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
July 13.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
July 13-15.....	National Convention.....	Green Bay, Wisconsin	
Fri/Sat.....	CGLG Summer Convention.....	Wooster, Ohio	
August 3.....	Steak Fry/General Meeting.....	Larry Duck's home.....	6 & 7 pm
August 10.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
August 11.....	Scrappers Ball Game.....	Eastwood Field, Niles OH.....	5:30 pm
August 19.....	Setup for Horticulture Show.....	FRG.....	12noon
August 20, 21.....	Horticulture Show.....	FRG.....	7:00 am
August 31.....	Canfield Fair starts.....	Canfield Fairgrounds.....	10 am - 10 pm
September 1-5.....	Canfield Fair.....	Canfield Fairgrounds.....	10 am - 10 pm
September 7.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
September 14.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
October 5.....	General meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
October 12.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm
October 15.....	Fall Breakfast.....	FRG.....	9:00 am
October 22.....	CGLG Meeting.....	Kingwood Gardens, Mansfield..	10:00 am
November 2.....	General Meeting.....	FRG.....	7:00 pm
November 9.....	Board Meeting.....	Austintown Library.....	6:30 pm

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