

The Germinator



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

President's Message

As we celebrate President's Day this month, I would with apologies to John F. Kennedy like to paraphrase one of his most famous quotes: "Ask not what your club can do for you; ask what you can do for your club". While President Kennedy's intended audience was much larger and his message vastly more important, there is some similarity to current club issues that need to be addressed.

Dedication to our organization has steadily diminished over recent years. Dues-paying membership has fallen to half of what it was last year. While members volunteered for our annual Spring Plant Sale in significant numbers, participation in our Horticulture Show, Christmas Party and Breakfasts has steadily declined. I would also like to see better attendance, including guests, at our monthly meetings.

We will need more members to act as Table Captains at our upcoming Winter Seminar. Contact Seminar Chairman Tom Arens, 330-286-3577 or at mansell713@sbcglobal.net to sign up. We will also need help setting up the Davis Center the day before.

Phil Steiner, host of a weekly radio gardening show on AM 570, will be our speaker at the Feb. membership meeting. Please try to attend and bring guests. We would like a good turnout for this event.

During its 90 years in existence, our club has grown to be the premier organization of its kind over a wide area. This was accomplished by hard work and dedication of men who valued not only horticulture, but the learning opportunities and relationships developed through interaction with other members. These opportunities still exist. Please take advantage of them.

When I inherited the presidency following after the tragic passing of Paul Shanabarger, the prospect of becoming the club scold never crossed my mind. However, it's my job to try of solve serious issues. There are some important changes being contemplated and we will need every member's input.

Sincerely; *Bruce Brungard*, President

MGCY Annual Winter Seminar

9am, Saturday, February 16th

Fellows Riverside Gardens

5 Horticulture Presentations by 3 Outstanding Speakers

Chinese Auction, Great Food, Door Prizes & More

Contact Bob McGowan, 330-518-6397, ASAP to sign up

Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Feb. 6th

Fellows Riverside Gardens

Speaker: Phil Steiner

Gardening & Landscaping

Mistakes plus Q & A

Guests Welcome

Board Meeting

6:30pm, Wed., Feb. 13th

Austintown Library.

All Members Welcome

MetroParks In Feb.

Nature Photography Exhibit	1-28
Winter Jewels (Orchids)	1-28
Chat w/ Naturalist	2,9,16,23
Dance Classes	5,12,19,26
Owl Prowl	8
Herbal Basket	9
Photo Clique Walk	9
Lily Pond in Winter	9
Walk-in Orchid Clinic	9,19
Hikes	13,16
Scavenger Hunt	16,17
Henning Memorial Hike	17
Hunger Moon	19
Photo Clique Gathering	21
Biological Mornings	22
Wildflower in Bloom	24

www.millcreekmetroparks.org

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Club News

WWW.MGCY.ORG

85 Members • 2 Associates

Grafting Fruit Trees

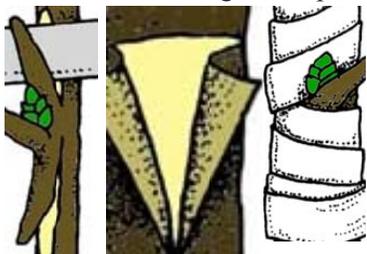
A visitor to Terry Voland's orchards has to be in awe of his skill growing scores of fruit trees and bushes. He is even better at mentoring his gifted children in horticulture. They include son and fellow MGCY member, Robert, who has won many best-in-section awards at our annual Horticulture Show, and tech-savvy daughter, Tiffany, who ably assisted Terry in his January membership meeting grafting presentation.

When buying fruit trees, roses and many other hard wood species, chances are they result from grafting to a hardy root stock. For amateur gardeners, successful grafting can result in multiple varieties on the same plant. And while it can take 6 or more years to get a respectable harvest when growing from seed, grafting can ensure the desired variety(s) and shorten that time to 2 years.



Consult with Terry or search the internet for details on the 3 grafting techniques below. T-bud grafts should be done in August, the others in March.

T-Bud – Using a sharp knife, cut bud stick cultivar from healthy growing branch 1/2 - 3/4 inches above and below bud. Cut and peel away root stock bark exposing cambium layer. Secure bud using wax and string or budding tape.



V-Graft – Using same size root stock and cultivar limbs, cut as shown with sharp knife or grafting cutter and secure with budding tape or wax and string.



Top Graft – Split large root stock limb with heavy cutting tool and insert cultivar branches trimmed to fit as illustrated being sure to meet cambium layers. Secure as with other techniques and cover exposed areas with latex paint.



Two developments, multi-bit grafting cutters and expandable budding tape, have made the job much easier. Exposure to the sun will degrade budding tane after one year.



Helping our Valley to Grow Since 1930

Membership Awards

Recognition of their service to our organization was presented to members by Awards Committee Chair Rodney Toth at our January meeting. Their dedication is an inspiration to us all, and should encourage members to take a more active role in club activities.



Heritage Award recipient Larry Tooker served as our president in the 1975-76 terms, received the 2017 Bill Carney Memorial Bronze Award, recruits Winter Seminar speakers, and has been a member since Hector was a pup. He earned the Heritage Award with his long series of contributions to MGCY.

Our most prestigious recognition, the Bill Carney Memorial Bronze Award, was presented to Dennis Zap. He served as president during in 2013-14, and again in 2017 when no one else was willing to accept the responsibility. In addition to ably serving as our Refreshment Committee Chair for many years, he is willing to roll up his sleeves when a job needs done.



Outstanding Service Awards were presented to long-time members John Fox and Charlie Grounds. They too are willing to pitch in when needed. John's serving as our Membership Committee Chair, and Charlie as our head barbeque chef only begins to detail their contributions.



Appreciation Certificates went to Mike Banks and Tom Liggett. Although relatively new members, they have made their presence known in all phases of club endeavors. Mike also subs for Recording Secretary Joe Fagnano when college classes conflict with his duties.

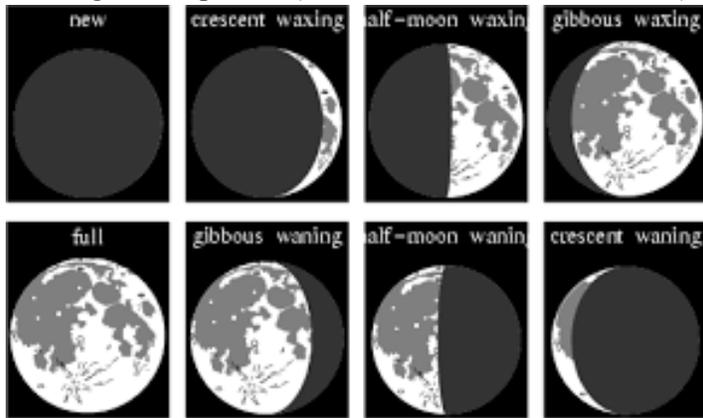


Farmer's Almanac Planting Calendar

We don't know how long the iconic magazine has had a web page but getting on their email newsletter list is a must for those interested horticulture, weather, astronomy, food and health. A recent article gave advice on when to plant.

Most of us follow the popular 'Frost Dates' guides as to when to sow seeds (indoors and out), and when to plant outdoors, while the almanac prefers 'Planting by the Moon'.

The moon method advises planting annual flowers and vegetables with above ground crops during the waxing moon period (from new moon to full moon).



Flowering bulbs, biennial and perennial flowers, and below ground veggie crops are planted during the waning period (from full to just before the new moon),

Our relatively short growing season dictates that best results happen when starting plants indoors 6-8 weeks before the last spring frost date. If Mother Nature extends the last frost date, transplant larger seedlings to bigger containers. Begin hardening-off plants one week before last frost date. Cold frames are any excellent and safe way to do so.

Example Chart

Crop	#Frost Dates		*Moon Phases	
	Start Seeds Indoors	Transplant Seedlings	Start Seeds Indoors	Start Seeds Outdoors
Beans				#5/22-6/12 *6/3-12
Beets				#5/1-12 *5/1-3,5/19-22
Broccoli	#4/3-17 *4/5-17	#4/24,5/15 *5/4-15		
Brussels Sprouts	#4/3-17 *4/5-17	#4/17-5/8 *4/17-19,5/4-8		

The above chart closely resembles the last frost date for our area, Zone 6a. Go to almanac.com to tour their web site and sign up for email updates.

Be Mine, Valentine

Your flaws are perfect for the heart that's meant to love you.

Trent Shelton

You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.

Dr. Seuss

Where there is love, there is life.

Mahatma Ghandi

Grow old with me, the best is yet to be.

Robert Browning

All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

Charles Schulz

Love planted a rose, and the world turned sweet.

Katharine Lee Bates

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

Franklin Jones



"O.K., first things first—did everyone sign the card?"

Love is the greatest refreshment in life

Pablo Picasso

Money can't buy love, but improves your bargaining position.

Christopher Marlow

Nobody will ever win the battle of the sexes. There is too much fraternizing with the enemy.

Henry Kissinger

If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with.

Stephen Stills

What's New For 2019

If you're anything like Ed Crankshaft, the namesake of a daily cartoon in the *Vindicator*, you're eagerly awaiting delivery of 2019 seed and plant catalogs. We perused the new offerings of 5 major seed vendors to see which might inspire the flow of Ed's gardening juices.



Burpee.com

Among its many new species, Burpee seems to be most proud of the following: In vegetables, their 'Honeycomb' hybrid cherry tomato is described as having 6-7 ft. sinuous vines garlanded with 12-15 in. trusses holding clusters of 1/2 oz. golden-orange tomatoes with a hint of honey and rich in flavor.



Among annual flowers, their 'Spellbound' dark purple hybrid petunia sports 4-6 in. whirling, dense, purple blooms with dark centers and frilly edges.

'Georgia Peach Pie' dianthus is their outstanding new perennial offering fragrant 2 1/2 in. pink flowers with coral-peach centers. Said to bloom summer to fall.



In fruits, their 'Eversweet' strawberry (heat tolerant, disease resistant) plants produce tasty, bright-red, cone-shaped fruit that can be frozen or enjoyed fresh.

Gurneys.com

Giving off a sweet citrus fragrance, Gurneys' 'Angel Face' floribunda rose has ruffled lavender blooms. This shrub grows low and bushy with flower clusters on each branch.

Among annual flowers, the company's 'Moulin Rouge' sunflower produces deep burgundy-red, 4-5 in. blooms on plants that grow to 5-6 ft. Making a great border or cut flower, this is a branching variety with pollen-free flowers.

Their new herb, 'Greek' basil, has been used for cooking and fragrances in Southeast Asia for centuries. Imported to Southern Europe in the early 20th century, the dome-shaped 8 in. tall plant has tiny leaves ideal for planters. The flavor goes great with tomatoes, salads and sauces.



In the vegetable category, their 'Red Titan' hybrid beets offer sweet flavor, high yields and disease resistance. The fruit is very uniform, and is ideal for roasting, pickling or eating fresh.

The bright white blooms of 'North Hills' creeping phlox with cobalt blue eyes is a great ground cover growing to 4-6 in. It does best in full sun to partial shade, and will tolerate poor soil.

Harrisseed.com

'Purple Comet F1' eggplant has strong, upright plants producing big yields of long, Asian-type fruit. They reach up to 18 in. and 1 1/2-2 in. in diameter. The interior has firm, bitter free, white flesh. Seed development is slow.



'Blueray' blueberry produces tight clusters of large (up to 1 in. in diameter), medium blue fruit with soft, firm skin resistant to cracking. This fast growing bush reaches 4-6 ft. with an upright habit. Mid-season harvest.



'Reach-Out-Red' Geraniums have a compact, trailing habit reaching 6-8 in. Perfect for containers and baskets, the small, waxy leaves nicely cover the plant.

Harris' Agave varieties are a must see. Included are: Desert Diamond, Frostbite and Sunspot.

Johnnyseeds.com

'San Marzano II' organic seed produce old-world taste in 4-6 oz. fruit. This dense, easy to peel tomato strain was selected from the USDA gene bank. It cooks down quickly.



Nassau frying peppers are a Cubanelle growing to 7-8 x 2 1/2 ins. Popular in Caribbean cooking, they are usually fried green but also used red.



'Copper Red' strawflowers produce tall (36-40 in.) plants with vibrant copper, double blooms 2-2 1/2 in. across.

German Extra Hardy organic garlic bulbs are super reliable and exceptionally cold-hardy. This hardneck variety produces large heads with 4-7 cloves each.



Parkseed.com

'Caranza' peppers are a Poblano variety yielding large fruit particularly good for drying. Turning red upon maturity, it is relatively mild, scoring 1-2000 on the Scoville scale.



'Zinderella Lilac' zinnia is a hybrid of 'Z Peach' which won Europe's Fleuroselect Novelty Award for its unique color and unusual flower form. The blooms (2-3 in. wide) sometimes shift from single at night to double during hot days. Open-pollinated, seeds may be saved or left to self-sow. Also available is 'Z Purple'.



Most of the named vendors offer numerous new vegetable, fruit, flower, perennial, and herb varieties. Go to their web sites to order or download a catalog.

The Germinator

February 2019

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

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**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

calendar of events



- February 6.....General Meeting.....FRG 7:00 pm
- February 13Board MeetingAPL 6:30 pm
- February 16 Winter SeminarFRG 9:00 am
- March 6.....General Meeting.....FRG 7:00 pm
- March 13.....Board MeetingAPL 6:30 pm
- March 16.....Spring BreakfastFRG 9:00 am

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
123 McKinley Way
Youngstown, OH 44509



or on our website at www.mgcy.org

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