



the Germinator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy November! Because the Stacey Pavilion is a voting location for Austintown township, our meeting is moved to Thursday, November 6th, still in the Stacey Pavilion. It's also voting night for GoGY. The current slate is President: Pat Murphy, 1st VP: Lisa Nicklash, 2nd VP: Birt Underwood, Treasurer: Terry Voland, Recording Secretary: Terri Hendricks and Corresponding Secretary: Michael Banks. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor that night for any others interested in holding office.

Remember, dues are due, also!

Finally, as noted below, our annual President's Reception/Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 2nd. A little early this year to start the Holidays! Entrees include Stuffed Chicken Breast, Baked Salmon and Vegetarian Lasagna. Entertainment by Davis & Penner cost is \$24 per person, BYOB.

Hope to see you there!

President's Reception/Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 2nd, 5:30pm

Ala Carte Catering

**Delicious Meal, Entertainment, Club Awards,
Poinsettias for the Ladies, and Tons of Fun**

Menu, Price & Details TBA via email

All of us together would be super, so don't be a party pooper.

Please come and bring your own liquid refreshments.



Meetings Schedule

Note Change

**Thursday, November 6th
Austintown Township Park**

Stacy Pavillion

Board Meeting 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting 7pm

James Matilik

Permaculture

Guests Welcome

In This issue

President's Message	1
Club News	2
Rotational Grazing	
Crows Begone	
Seminar Baskets	
Member Pics	
Dues Are Due	
Hydrangea Mistakes	3
Attracting Birds to Yards	3
Mum Alternatives	4
Day to Live Year-round	4
Our Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Club Officers	6





The Germinator



CLUB NEWS

Rotational Grazing for Sustainability

Eva Miller is a two-time GoGY scholarship recipient. After a year at the OSU Agriculture Institute, the sophomore transferred to Mount Union majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Sustainability. In addition to her other classes and activities, she is a member of the Green Raiders, a campus organization dedicated to preserving the environment. Its activities include recycling, trash pickup, and educating other students and the community about preserving the environment. They also plan to carry their message to our nation's capital in the near future.

Her presentation at our October meeting involved preserving pasture lands through rotational grazing. A rancher's grazing land is divided into several smaller paddocks, and cows and sheep are rotated between them at a regular basis giving the forage plants time to naturally recover.

Advantages include: Improved soil health by increasing organic matter; enhanced pasture growth allowing forage plants to recover; better nutrition from fresh forage increasing yields of meat, milk and wool; ability to farm more animals; and associated environmental concerns like erosion.

Disadvantages include: Increased labor intensity such as moving fencing; cost of fencing and related equipment; water and shade availability at each paddock; parasite risk in irrigated pastures; and soil compaction and degraded water quality if animals are not moved regularly.

Chickens can be included by loading coops onto trailers and moving them to new areas where they can forage on seeds and insects. Portable fencing is essential to the practice. Pigs can also be moved between wooded areas.

Bob Schulick, seen here with Eva, has long served as our organization's Scholarship chairman. The process of recruiting and vetting applicants is rigorous, and Bob's dedication to the process is evident with the quality of recipients during his watch. He is stepping down from that position and we hope his replacement will continue making our organization proud. *Thanks, Bob.*



Crows Begone!

Our organization took part in the Mill Creek MetroParks scarecrow decorating at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Our Board of Gardeners approved the \$50 expenditure for the wire frame, and Heather Randall hit the thrift stores to round up suitable clothing. Then she, Clare Neff and Bruce Brungard dressed our representative. You can view their efforts along with the other bird shoos until Halloween. See ours and other contributions on page 1.

Member Garden Pics

From time to time during membership meetings, nature images taken by members and sent to Clare Neff are shown. Bruce Brungard offered several including zinnias that could easily win the largest zinnia contest at our Horticulture Show. Lisa Nicklash photographed a landscape arrangement of several, beautiful flower species in full bloom. Tom Arens showed a lush beautyberry cutting from a bush 8 ft. wide. He also had a pic of a black, brown and caterpillar with stinging



white hairs. We think it was a milkweed tussock moth.

Yes, It's That Time of Year Again

No, it's not pumpkin spice. 2026 dues are now being collected. Please bring a \$25 check to the November membership meeting or mail it to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's mailbox on page 6 of the *Germinator*.

There is no other area gardening organization that compares to our signature events including our Winter Seminar, Spring Plant Sale, Plant Auction and Horticulture Show. We need your participation, and that begins with annual dues. Please be prompt in paying.

Winter Seminar Auction Baskets

The raffle basket donations go a long way toward paying for our annual Winter Seminar. Begin thinking about businesses you feel will help support our efforts. The donations can be in any form including items, gift certificates or entire baskets. If you intend to approach a possible donor, let Pat Murphy know so there is no duplication. Last year's raffle was very successful and we would like for you to help us do at least as well.



Mistakes That Can Ruin 2026 Hydrangeas

While these beautiful shrubs are relatively easy to grow, there are a few hydrangea care mistakes that can ruin next year's blooms.

Proper pruning is the first step toward fantastic landscapes. Mopheads and Oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood. This means they set buds in the preceding fall. If you improperly prune them, you risk cutting off next year's flowers. Instead of cutting them back, give them a light trim immediately after they finish blooming but before they set buds.

Usually the best time to prune old hardwood bloomers is late summer or early fall. By late October and November, the window is pretty much closed. Another mistake applies to more than just hydrangeas. Sharp and sterilized tools prevent damaging plants and spreading common diseases.

Not providing winter protection is another common mistake. While unusual for our area, if winter temperatures drop below zero, more vulnerable species will need some extra protection. Most panicle and smooth hydrangeas will tolerate this level of cold. Bigleaf (mopheads and lacecaps) are at risk of flower buds being destroyed and frost blankets like burlap may be called for during extreme cold.

Keep watering hydrangeas as usual until the ground freezes. It's also beneficial to mulch around them to retain moisture. Use bark, pine straw or other organic material that will help improve soil.

This year's draught saw many hydrangea blooms turning brown. Too much sun or watering mistakes can cause blooms to brown up quickly. Mophead varieties with heavy flower heads don't like baking in the sun, while oakleaf species dislike overly wet roots.



Hydrangea leaves crisping up with brown edges or flowers are drooping often means under watering. Mopheads and panicle varieties have shallow roots and are first to suffer. Aim at 1-2 inches per week, more in scorching heat. Newly planted shrubs should be watered 2-3 times a week with mulch added to hold moisture. Brown, mushy leaves can mean over watering. Bigleaf and smooth varieties are first to suffer. Only water when the top inch feels dry.

Too much sun can cause scorched, brown edges on leaves and flowers. Mopheads and lacecaps are most vulnerable. Consider a shade cloth under these conditions and increase watering.

Attracting Birds to Landscapes

Our feathered friends can add color, song and variety to our yards. By selecting the right trees and shrubs for their showy blossoms, fall color or attractive form, you can invite an abundance of birds which seek their shelter, nesting sites and food.

After flowering, native plants create seeds and fruit, and migrating and overwintering birds depend on seeds and fruit so don't prune them until spring. The following are North American birds and their favorite food sources. To be more specific, consult a regional bird book or wildlife agency.

Cedar waxwings and cardinals eat a wide variety of berries; finches enjoy eating meadow flower seeds like daisy, thistle and dandelion; blue jays love sunflower seeds; warblers find berries their preferred food source; mockingbirds prefer insects, seeds and fruits; chickadees have similar diets; tufted titmouses feed upside down eating insects under leaves as well as berries; woodpeckers go for red berries; towhees desire acorns and berries; bluebird's diet includes insects, spiders and berries; swallows, including purple martins, like bayberries and insects; and sparrows and robins prefer insects, berries and seeds.



Native trees that provide food, shelter and nesting sites include: Birch provide cone-like fruit in the fall as well as shed bark for nesting; evergreens provide year-round shelter and protection, as well as cedar and juniper berries for a wide variety of birds; common hackberry (also called sugarberry because of its purplish fruit) attracts game birds, finches, thrushes and woodpeckers; flowering dogwood produces red berries attracting songbirds; American beech produces nuts for many birds common to our area; American holly (female) produces attractive berries; crabapples are a favorite of waxwings and finches; tupelo gums produce a dark blue fruit; cherry is a favorite of a large variety of birds; and oaks produce acorns on the diet of many larger birds and deer.

The following native shrubs are not only attractive in spring but attract birds: Serviceberry adds white blooms followed by dark berries; holly (winterberry and inkberry) produce berries for many bird species; bayberry produces hard, waxy berries for many species; rose hips attract songbirds; and viburnum, in addition to its attractive form, foliage and blooms, provides berries for many common area birds.



The Germinator



Fall Perennial Alternatives to Mums

Mums are a common purchase in fall. While they provide a burst of vibrant, daisy-like flowers, they are short lived in containers or landscapes. Cold weather will quickly damage them, and they cannot be effectively planted as perennials. They might survive winter but don't flower well in subsequent years.

Similar in shape and form to garden mums, many flowering aromatic asters reach 18" tall and wide are covered completely with lavender-blue quarter sized flowers with yellow centers. Two to note are



'Raydon's Favorite' and 'October Skies'. They also provide nectar and pollen for wildlife. A little taller with an upright stance are smooth aster varieties like 'Bluebird' and 'Purple Dome'.

Hardy begonias, *Begonia grandis*, is a late flowering perennial with broad leaves with a reddish cast on the underside. In September, wiry stems rise above the foliage and pink flowers emerge. For good or ill, they overseed prolifically. There is also a white form called 'Alba'. 'Bells and Whistles' is a new introduction with pink flowers and leaves with silver markings.



Fall blooming anemones, also known as Japanese anemone or windflower, have basal foliage and tall wire stems rising to 3-4ft. 'Honorine Jobert' has single white flowers with a yellow center. 'September Charm' has pink petals with white tips and a yellow center. 'Pamina' has a bright pink flower. They quickly spread into wide swaths of color.



Fall blooming perennials can be planted from spring thru fall. After flowering, the plants can be left through fall and winter, then cut back in spring. If they need to be cut back earlier for aesthetic reasons, then stack the stems in arranged piles. This allows insects in hollow stems to overwinter and emerge in spring.

A Day to Live Year-round



Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of Thanksgiving.

W.T. Purkiser

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision of tomorrow.

Melody Beattie

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.

Theodore Roosevelt

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

Charles Dickens

I suppose I will die never knowing what pumpkin pie tastes like when I have room for it.

Robert Brault



Thanksgiving is the day we forget about all the fighting and division in the world and just focus on all the fighting and division in our families.

Jimmy Fallon



in Germinator



**Thank you to the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Friends for their Civic Fund donations.
Members are urged to give them a visit.**

Agnew Lawn & Garden
7700 Market St Boardman, Ohio 44512 330.758-1114 www.agnewfarm.com

Amish Market
6121 South Ave. Boardman, Ohio 44512 330.248.7034 www.theamish-market.net

Baird Brothers
7060 Crory Rd. Canfield, Ohio 44406 330.533.3122 info@bairdbrothers.com

Blooming Crazy
8277 Market St. Youngstown, Ohio 44512 330-758-8131 www.bloomingcrazy-flowers.com

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

Bread Chef
800 E Western Reserve Rd Youngstown, Ohio 44514 330-729-9900

Buckeye Therapeutic Massage
545 N. Broad Street Canfield, OH, 44406 330.402.7303 www.buckeyetherapeuticmassage.net

Burton Floral & Garden
13020 Kinsman R., Burton, OH, 44021 www.burtonfloralandgarden.net

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

Marketplace at Creekside Gardens
3680 N River Rd NE Warren, Ohio 44484 330.856.1641 <https://www.creekside-gardens.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

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

Edward Jones Salem, John
Wise 2380 Southeast Blvd. Suite B Salem, Ohio 44460 877.335.9521

Elliot's Garden Center
1283 W. Western Reserve Rd. Youngstown, Ohio 44514 330-758-8889 www.elliottsgardencenter.com

Frame Depot Gallery
1043 Youngstown Warren Rd Niles, Ohio 44446 330.652.7865 theframedepotgallery.godaddysites.com/

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

Gilmore's Greenhouse
2774 Virginia Ave SE Warren, Ohio 44484 330.369.4515 www.gilmoresgreenhouse.com

Handel's Homemade Ice Cream Niles
5140 Youngstown Warren Rd Niles, Ohio 44446 330.505.0865 <https://handelsicecream.com/>

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

L & M Greenhouse
43091 Columbiana-Waterford Rd, Columbiana, Ohio 44408 330.482.3209 www.lmgreenhouse.com

Lowe's Home Improvement 940 Niles Cortland Rd SE, Warren, Ohio 44484 330.609.8000

L'Uva Bella Winery 6597 Center Rd Lowellville, Ohio 44436 330.536.6450 <https://luvabella.com>

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

Piccadilly Parlour
114 S Broad St, Canfield, Ohio 44406 330.533.4749 <https://piccadillytearoom.com>

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

Dennis Toth

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

Southside Community Garden
Lois Martin-Uscianowski Member 330.727.8340

Village Ace Hardware
10395 Main St, New Middletown, Ohio 44443 330.542.2802

Village Quilts 17 W. Main Street Canfield, Ohio 44406 330-533-0545 www.villagequiltscanfield.com

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

Windy Knoll Greenhouse
3005 S Range Rd Columbiana, Ohio 44408 www.windyknollgreenhouse.com

Youngstown Cityscape
250 E Federal St Suite 432 Youngstown, Ohio 44503 330-742-4040 <https://youngstowncityscape.org>



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November 2025



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Editor P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451

[www. GG-YO.org](http://www.GG-YO.org)



Calendar of Events



Nov. 6, 2025	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Nov. 6, 2025	Membership Mtg	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Dec. 2, 2025	Christmas Party	5:30PM	A La Carte Catering, Canfield
Jan. 6, 2026	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Jan. 6, 2026	Membership Mtg	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Feb. 3, 2026	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Feb 3, 2026	Membership Mtg	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
March 3, 2026	Board Mtg	5:30PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
March 3, 2026	Membership Mtg	7:00PM	Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park

Please Join Us!

The purpose of the Gardeners of Greater 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.

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 Gardeners of America.

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

To join, contact us at: Gardeners of Greater Youngstown

% Membership Committee P.O. Box 612

North Jackson, OH 44451

or on our website at www.gg-yo.org



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