

The Germinator



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone.

I hope all of you had a happy and healthy holiday season. We are entering the time of year when gardeners begin to dream and plan for the growing season to come. We have a stack of seed and plant catalogs that fuel our imagination. We gaze at our barren and frosty yards and see all the possibilities that are yet to be realized. But we must be patient and content in our musings. Some of us who have grown can plant seeds or take cuttings from our indoor plants for use in baskets or pots. In any case it's never too early to dream.



We have scheduled a half-day seminar on Saturday, 3-5-22 at the Davis Center. We will have two speakers, Laura Deeter from OSU, and Anne Rzedka-Budziak from the Holden Arboretum. See our website for more details and registration form. We are still planning to hold our annual plant sale. If all goes as planned we will have two greenhouses to work out of: Leonard Kirtz School in Austintown and MASCO on South Ave in Boardman. We would like to hold the sale at the latter site a few days before Mother's Day and possibly a few days after. Stay tuned for more details/changes.

Members have an opportunity to order polo shirts and hats with our new logo printed on them. Like our previous shirts, new ones will be a 50/50 blend, pocketed, and similar green color. Please submit your order soon so that those of us participating in upcoming events such as the plant sale and seminar can be identified as GOGY members.

By the way, don't forget to pay your membership dues. Send \$25 to our treasurer, Terry Voland at the PO Box listed in the newsletter.

Hope to see you soon.

Tom Arens

GOGY Annual Winter Seminar

**8am, Saturday March 5th (half-day) Sign-in begins 7:30am
Davis Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens**

Featured Speakers:

Laura Deeter is Professor and Coordinator of Landscape Horticulture and Horticulture Science at the OSU Agriculture Technical Institute. Her knowledge is imparted with high energy and humor.

Anne Rzedka-Budziak started as a volunteer at the Holden Arboretum 25 yrs. ago and is now the Director of Arboretum Gardens. Her passion for horticulture and sustainability is contagious.

Enjoy the well-appointed continental breakfast table

Our organization will need members to step up and participate. A registration form has been emailed so fill it out and send the \$30 fee to P.O. Box 612, North Jackson, OH. Deadline is March 1st. Ask Tom Arens how you can participate. Fly our club flag by wearing new club jerseys.

Meeting Schedule

Fellows' Riverside Gardens

Board Meeting

5:30pm, Wednesday, Feb. 2nd

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting

7pm, Wednesday, Feb. 2nd

Speaker: Angie Bowman

Parks Garden Center

will discuss Sustainable Gardens

Guests Welcome

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"It's Presidents' Day. I think that means that today we can do something really stupid and get away with it."



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CLUB NEWS

Scholarship Winner's Presentation

Taylor DeLand, our 2021 scholarship winner, is in her second semester at Ohio State University's Agriculture Technical Institute in Wooster majoring in greenhouse management. Her resume and interview provided ample evidence as to why she was the most worthy applicant.



A straight 'A', National Honor Society, student in high school majoring in Landscape and Environmental Design, she was active in Future Farmers of America, Rough Riders 4-H Club, and on the varsity softball team. She enjoyed showing her pygmy goats at the Columbiana County Fair and Canfield Fair. She also found time to work at Dillon's Fruit Farm and Diamond Cut Nursery where she continued working this past summer. Her teachers and employers attest to her work ethic and leadership skills.

During the week, she lives on the Wooster while working at a local restaurant coming home on weekends when she can. She is a member of the Green Health Club and plays intramural volleyball. Taylor has been accredited through the Ohio Nursery Assn. as a Certified Nursery Technician and plans to apply for the GOGY 2022 Scholarship.

Love Lies Bleeding

The subject of Taylor's presentation was 'Love Lies Bleeding' (*Amaranthus caudatus*). These old fashioned, cottage garden flowers have long, wine-red tassels that bloom summer through fall. The dangling ropes of tiny burgundy blossoms have a wonderful texture, like soft chenille. These easy to grow, big-framed plants thrive even in poor soil and hot conditions and reach 3-4 feet tall, adding rich color and drama to the garden. Branches of their colorful tassels make riveting and decorative vase flowers.

Sow seeds in full sun in ordinary well-worked garden soil when weather is warm and settled and all danger of frost is past. Space tiny seeds 3 to 4 inches apart or as thinly as possible. Cover lightly and keep moist until seedlings emerge in 7 to 10 days.

A more practical method is to start the tiny seeds several weeks before last frost date. Sow seeds 1 inch

apart in containers or individual pots of well-drained seed starting mix, cover lightly and keep moist. Provide a strong light source until seedlings are ready to plant outside when weather is warm and settled and before seedlings get too crowded. Thin or transplant seedlings 18 to 24 inches apart when seedlings are large enough to handle so the large plants will have room to grow.

This dramatic annual is easy to grow, sun loving and drought-tolerant. The large plants make striking garden companions to taller flowers like Sunflowers or Tithonia. Love Lies Bleeding's draping blossoms with their rich color and unusual touchable texture are long-lasting focal points for large arrangements. Let some flowers set seeds in the garden to self sow.

It's not surprising that the catchy name of this plant was also the title of a melancholy song by Elton John about lost love; '*And love lies bleeding in my hand, It kills me to think of you with another man*'. Not a happy Valentine's Day for him.

Central Great Lakes Region

In addition to being elected to serve as Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's president for a third term, Tom Arens has been elected the region's president for 2022. Other members of our organization who have also held that office are John Schinker and Rodney Toth.

Member Tom Liggett, editor of *Tom's Garden Blog*, will become editor of *The Johnny Appleseed Journal*, the regions newsletter. Joe Alessi also served as region editor for several years.

Spring Plant Sale Greenhouses

After losing access to Mahoning County's Developmental Disabilities Workshop greenhouse on Bev Rd. several years ago, our organization was hard put to find a suitable replacement. It is now our good fortune to have access to two facilities to grow annuals for the sale, both of which will be up and running in early March.

FlyingHigh Rehabilitation Services will take charge of the Bev Rd. facility and has given us access. Linda Biggs will coordinate activities there. Email her at libbiggsy@gmail.com if you want to help out. Bruce Brungard will be in charge of the MCDDD Leonard Kirtz School greenhouse where Plant Sale annuals will also be grown. If you want to help there, email him at bgbhhi@live.com.

GOGY Jerseys Available

While attending our Winter Seminar or other club activities, members will want to sport shirts with our new logo. Order yours at the February membership meeting.



The Germinator

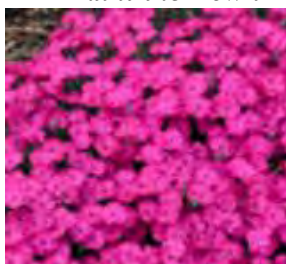


What's New For Two-Oh-Two-Two

For those of us who start our vegetable and annual plants indoors, we look forward to seed and plant catalogs filling our snail and email boxes. We are also searching online for available heirloom and cultivar seeds and plants that might be worth the cost and effort.

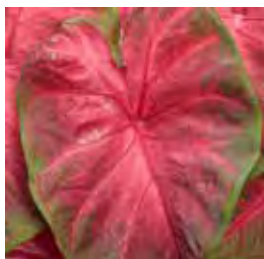
In deference to our friend Dennis James, owner and operator of DJ's Greenhouse in Transfer, PA, we begin with Proven Winners. As we write this, many of these plants are marked 'coming soon' or 'temporarily unavailable' but that may be because nurseries like BJ's have already ordered them.

Little Lime Punch Hydrangea – Blooms emerge lime green and progressively become an array of white, light pink and Hawaiian Punch red. Reblooms throughout summer. Compact habit and strong stems. 3.5 x 3.5 ft. Four + sun.



Paint the Town Magenta Dianthus – 'Perennial of the Year'. Glaucous blue foliage. Blooms continuous summer thru fall. Pollinator magnet; draught & heat tolerant; deer resistant; North American native. 6+ hrs. full sun. 6-8 in. tall x 12-14 in. wide. Ships dormant.

Heart to Heart 'Hot Flash' Caladium – Annual 15-20 in. tall x 8-10 in. wide, sun or shade. Heat tolerant but needs moist soil. Plant when temps reach 60 degree average. Fertilize ¼ - ½ weekly throughout season. Adaptable as houseplant in bright or sunny window. Caladiums are toxic to animals if consumed.



Johnny's Select Seed

Enroza organic tomato – Strong, high-yield, 6-8 oz. pink beefsteak with excellent, flavor, aroma & texture. Tidy clusters set fruit consistently up vine for sustained, high yield potential. High resistance to Fusarium wilt, crown & root rot; tomato apex necrosis virus & mosaic; Verticillium wilt and intermediate resistance to gray leaf spot.



Yellow Moon carrot – Lighter-toned with vigorous tops in early growth and remain strong, upright and healthy for more efficient bunching. 6-7 in. roots, 70 days to harvest.



Red Amber organic watermelon – Blocky oval, seedless watermelon with crisp, bright red fresh running to the rind. Can weigh 14-20 lbs. depending on spacing and weather. 87 days to maturity.

Ball Seeds

Cannova 'Red Golden Flame' canna – Full sun, 30-48 in. tall, 14-20 in. wide. 7-10 in. spacing. Heavy water needs. Fertilize every 2 weeks. Blooms late spring to late summer. Bulbs hardy to 10 degrees so mulch if not dug up. Strong colors for landscaping beds or as container features. Other colors: Bronze peach & scarlet.



Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Buratino or Pinocchio tomato – Russian heirloom with perfectly balanced flavor and texture. Multi-purposed for sauce, slicing or snacking. Fruit is larger than Roma averaging 5-7 oz. with a small seed cavity. Meaty texture with citrusy, fruity yellow tomato taste. 70 days.

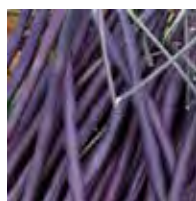


Ping Tung eggplant – This import from Taiwan offers purple fruit up to 18 in. long and 2 in. in diameter. It is very sweet, tender and delicious. It is best grown in full sun and 75 – 90 degree temps. Germination indoors can take 2 weeks, 70 days to maturity.



Harris Seed

Carminat bean – Deep purple pods set in vines tinged in purple. Slender 3 sieve pods have a rich, sweet flavor suited for fresh use and cooking, although color will fade when heated. Pods are 8-9 in. Matures in 62 days. High resistance to BCMV.



Space limitations prevent us from offering more companies and varieties. If last year was any indication, it might be necessary to order as soon as possible due to shortages, demand, staffing levels and delivery problems.

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How and When to Repot Orchids

If past history is any indicator, the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown's Winter Seminar on March 5th should be accompanied by orchids decorating the D.D. Davis Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. The Old Farmer's Almanac published an extensive article on these exotic plants that we have condensed.

While commonly considered rare, the orchid family is one of the largest in the realm of flowering plants with over 25,000 species growing naturally on every continent except Antarctica. Most are found in the tropical regions of Asia, and Central and South America.

Every flower has a characteristic, highly evolved lip, or petal that protrudes in a blossom of 3 petals and 3 sepals, some fused together. All have evolved to attract a particular pollinator which has led to the enormous variety in appearance. Orchids are either epiphytic (air-growing) or terrestrial (earth-growing).

Provided they are healthy, inexpensive orchids sold in supermarkets and big box stores are not less likely to thrive than rare, expensive varieties. Most, however, are packaged in cheap plastic pots stuffed with soaked sphagnum moss which can lead to root rot. Since orchid roots need exposure to air, repotting might be an immediate necessity.

Repotting is also necessary when the plant spills out of its pot, the roots trail down the sides of the pot, the growing medium turns to crumbs and, normally, at the beginning of the growth cycle, usually Spring. Repotting should be done only after the flowers are spent.

Repotting

Ideally, an orchid should snug in its pot so it may be necessary to cut away its thin plastic container. Dispose of the old medium if it appears to be breaking down or rotting. Inspect the roots cutting off any that are blackened, hollow, spongy or otherwise damaged. Healthy roots look white or green.

Consider using a terracotta pot that would enhance root aeration. There are also pots designed specifically for orchids. Hold the plant erect and gently fill and tamp down the new medium within an inch of the pot top. Never use standard potting soil. A good orchid medium will have fine to coarse bark chunks usually combined with perlite, peat or sphagnum moss and horticultural charcoal.

Water the plant well to settle the medium around the roots adding more medium if necessary but being careful not to pack too heavily. If the plant wants to tip over, stake it with bamboo or curly willow until the roots grow enough to support the plant.

For more info on orchid care, diseases and recommended varieties, go to almanac.com/plants/orchids

Will You Be Mine, Valentine?

As love grows older, our hearts mature and become as coals – deep burning and unquenchable. Bruce Lee
There is no remedy for love but to love more. Thoreau



Two T.V. antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony was nothing special but the reception was excellent.

To my dear husband: You are my pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. And you don't disappear when I get close.

Love is like peeing your pants. Everyone can see it but only you can feel it.

For the last twenty years I've received a Valentine's card from the same 'secret admirer', so I was really upset when one didn't come this year. First my granny dies, and now this.

This year I got my wife a Valentine's gift that will take her breath away. A treadmill.

I never question my wife's choices, because I was one of them.

Hail To The Chief

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts about today.

Theodore Roosevelt

The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph.

George Washington

Whenever you do a thing, act as if the world is watching.

Thomas Jefferson

It is hard to fail, but even worse never to have tried to succeed.

Martin Van Buren

Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time.

Barack Obama

Posterity – You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you make good use of it.

John Quincy Adams

The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.

John F. Kennedy

By leadership we mean the art of getting someone else to do something that you want done because he wants to do it, not because of your position of power.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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

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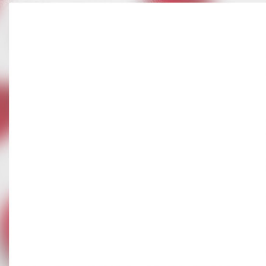
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15 Central Square, 2nd Floor
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
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February 2022

The Germinator



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calendar of events



Feb 2	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
Feb 2	Membership Meeting	7:00PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
March 2	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
March 2	Membership Meeting	7:00PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
March 5	Winter Seminar	8:00AM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
		7:30AM -	Registration/Continental Breakfast
April 6	Board Meeting	5:30PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens
April 6	Membership Meeting	7:00PM	Fellows' Riverside Gardens

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.

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



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