



August 2025



The Germinator

A Message from Our Horticulture Show Committee

Our 60th Annual Horticulture Show is Saturday & Sunday, August 23rd & 24th at Fellows Riverside Garden Davis Center. The show is free and open to the public. Entries are accepted from 7:30am-10:30am on August 23rd in a variety of categories: See details below. Judging starts at 11am. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded for every category. Come share your joy of growing with other gardeners from our club and other exhibitors. Download the schedule at gg-yo.org to become familiar with the rules covering each entry. Schedules will also be available at the August 5th GOGY meeting and at the Show on August 23rd. The awards ceremony will be Sunday at 4pm. Adult and Youth (17 and under) categories will be judged separately by non-GOGY certified judges. Sweepstakes winners will be determined by most points from best in sections: blue and red ribbons. The Best-In-Show winner will be judged from Best-In-Sections winners. \$25 prizes will be awarded for the heaviest tomato, the largest zinnia and to the youth sweepstakes winner. GOGY will also award a complimentary ticket for the 2026 Winter Seminar in February and two GOGY Gift Certificates to lucky Hort Show participants (names drawn randomly). Whether you come to participate or simply to admire, you'll be surrounded by color, inspiration and FUN!!

60th Annual Horticulture Show

Open to the Public

Saturday & Sunday, August 23 & 24

Fellows' Riverside Gardens' Davis Center

Saturday: 7:30am – 10:30am, Registration & Entry Setup

10:30am: Judges begin judging

Sunday: Public viewing & awards ceremony

All members entering exhibits have a chance to win a 2026 Winter Seminar Pass; or \$30, or \$15 Plant Sale Credit.

Sections: Vegetables, Ornamentals, Fruits, Annuals, Bienials & Perennials, Roses, Dahlias, Bulbs & Tubers, Potted Plants & (New) Floral Design. A show schedule will be emailed, and available at our website gg-yo.org.

\$25 cash prizes: Larry Whetson Memorial Heaviest Tomato, Bo Korody Memorial Largest Zinnia & Dr. Robert Voland Youth (17+) Sweepstakes.

Look over your gardens and landscapes for promising exhibits you would like to enter, attend meeting tutorial, and recruit fellow gardeners including youths. Most of all, let's have greater participation by our members.

Meeting Schedule

Austintown Township Park,
Stacy Pavillion, August 5th

Board Meeting, 5:30pm

All Members Welcome

Membership Meeting, 7pm

McKensie Kelso

2025 Scholarship Recipient

Lisa Nicklash & Birt Underwood

Horticulture Show Tutorial

Guests Welcome

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Club News	2
Editor's Message	
How & When to Water	3
Don't Deadhead These Flowers	3
Changing Hydrangea Color	3
Gardening Product No-No's	4
Summer's Day in the Garden	4
Bee Festival	4
Independence Proclaimed	4
Our Sponsors	5
Calendar of Events	6
Club Officers	6



"WE USED TO TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS ... NOW WE JUST WADDLE THROUGH THE WEEDS!"



The Germinator



CLUB NEWS

With July meetings canceled and little club activity to report, I'm going to do some editorializing. Actually, the Horticulture Committee led by Lisa Nicklash and Birt Underwood is hard at work preparing for the show and we'll hear from them at our August meeting during their tutorial on show exhibit presentation.. We hope everyone reading this will not only attend the meeting, Aug. 5th but also enter the show on the 23rd.

Which takes us to one reason for this blurb. Frankly, last year's Horticulture Show was a dull shadow of what it once was. The preparation and organization were spot on, and Lisa and Birt are to be commended. But lack of member participation tanked one of our organization's signature events, the 60th of which will occur this month. Despite being one of the least talented gardeners in our club, I've always seen it as my duty to enter exhibits for no other reason than to give the judges and public more to look at. Last year, the certified judges who had to traveled at least an hour, and visitors to the Davis Center might have wondered why we bothered to put it on.

It is well known that in clubs like ours, 10% of the membership provides 90% of the work and leadership. But in this organization, there are long-standing events that require a wider effort. Going down the calendar are the Winter Seminar, Spring Plant Sale, War Memorial Planting, Plant Auction, and Horticulture Show. There are also civic projects that require attention.

I've long been in awe of how the Spring Plant Sale leadership of John Schinker and Bruce Brungard and their predecessors made putting together a profitable sale. Fact is, it involves a lot of hard work and adapting to sudden glitches. It was the same with past Horticulture Show Chairman Rodney Toth and now Lisa and Birt. How do we keep traditions alive if we refuse to honor them and disrespect our leaders.

Another example is our recent War Memorial, Austintown Township Park and Gabba Camp plantings documented by photos in our July issue. Mostly all the same, few members led by Mike Banks. It's a slippery slope when member participation wanes, and then so does leadership. Apathy is the reason so many former The Gardeners of America clubs no longer exist.

Except for those examples, our member participation is about what can be expected: The Winter Seminar was saved by the heroic efforts of Clare Neff, but she had sufficient help; the Plant Sale assistance seemed to help make it profitable; the Plant Auction/Pot Luck Dinner was a

success; and we've had decent attendance at meetings, with no small help from the delicious baked goods. The bottom line is this is a top-notch organization with a long history. It has a lot to offer those who want to be involved. Why else would anyone join.

We have been fortunate to have so many new members willing to not only participate but volunteer for leadership positions. Although he had long been a relatively inactive member, Tom Arens' presidency was marked by the serious issues of admitting women as members, and the COVID pandemic which both tested his mettle. He was ably followed by Clare Neff who, with so many balls in the air, always came through as she did by saving our last Winter Seminar.

After writing for and editing for years, and wanting to turn the newsletter over to capable members for some time, and I've decided that the January, 2026, issue will be my last contribution. I've enjoyed keeping members informed about club activities and horticulture issues, and hope GoGY members can continue. I believe the necessary talent exists. There are only four pages each month that require writing and/or reporting. Members covering a page each should not present a hardship.

Joe Alessi was club president as well as *Germinator* editor when I joined. He needed help and I volunteered. He revamped the newsletter by, among other things, making it computer generated. At that time, it consisted of eight pages and over one hundred hard copies mailed. Except for reducing total pages to six and eliminating almost all snail mailings, the newsletter format remains as Joe left it. He was one of the most proactive and dedicated members I have ever known.

If you go the Historical Society archives, you'll see old newsletter issues where several members typed, drew illustrations and mimeographed monthly issues. Not only were club activities discussed but comprehend-sive articles on gardening with hand-drawn illustrations included. It was a huge amount of year asround work and a testament to the staff's dedication.

To me, the newsletter is not only a report on club activities and gardening information, but a historical record of our contributions to the community, new member recruitment tool, and head cheerleader. I did a quick survey of TGOA club websites and could find only one – Akron – that publishes a monthly newsletter. Some have gone to internet blogs or stopped altogether.

We have to decide if we want to continue with the newsletter in its present form, make changes or go to another form of informing members and other readers about our activities. I am willing to tutor any member(s) willing to contribute to the *Germinator*, but that has to begin ASAP. They will soon enjoy this method of contributing to our organization as much as I have.

Dave Campana, Editor



The Germinator



When and How to Water

We've all heard the old saw about watering your plants an inch a week. Any gardener with an ounce of experience knows this, like most generalizations, is false. First of all, there is no such thing as a perfect schedule. Second, of the several factors of when and how much to water, evaporation is the key.



The evaporation rate depends upon temperature, type of soil, size and type of container, humidity, mulch and wind. Some rates change throughout the growing season, sometimes day to day. Dormant plants need little water. In contrast, hot, dry summer days when plants are large and growing may require daily hydration. Plants grown close together require more water than those sparsely planted.

Most plants, especially annuals and newly installed perennials, don't take kindly to dry roots. As a general rule, treat them all the same – when the soil starts to dry, water. One generalization is true; when a finger is stuck a few inches into soil and comes out dry, it's time to water. Newly installed trees should be watered consistently and deeply at least through the first year.

Water until moisture reaches 6" into the soil, or runs out the bottom of the container. It is better to water deep than often, longer for deeply rooted plants as opposed to young, small-rooted ones.

Vegetables usually grow quickly and require regular watering or fruit production will suffer. Newly planted items don't necessarily need watered every day as roots may rot from lack of air. Watering during hot, sunny days will not burn leaves but it is best to water at the base of the plant to avoid ground diseases from splashing on leaves. Just because a plant is 'draught tolerant' doesn't mean it will thrive in very dry soil.

Sign up at gardenmyths.com for regular posts.

Don't Deadhead These Flowers

Deadheading, the removal of spent or faded flowers, can be beneficial to help boost reblooming and preventing the production of seeds. It can also aid in overall plant health and the development of a robust root system. Deadheading is especially useful to better establish perennial plants and shrubs, or preventing reseeding.

Plants don't need deadheading if collecting seeds or overseeding is desired. Birds and other wildlife will benefit. Some biennials or those that bloom atop tall, floriferous spikes are best left alone.



Examples are:

Forget-me-nots – They open in succession forming sprays. Clip when succession is over and they fade.

Foxglove – Their flowers continue to open over time. As flowers fade, new buds above them start to open. This will allow for a prolonged bloom period.

Hollyhock – This biennial's tall flowering stalks grow and extend themselves through summer with buds developing along a central stalk.

Impatiens – They are considered self-cleaning. Faded blooms fall off naturally allowing for continued bud setting throughout the growing season, and requiring little or no care from growers.

Lobelia – Also known as cardinal flowers, are also self-cleaning.

Sunflowers – While branching types may benefit from deadheading, single stem varieties often fail to rebloom.

Viburnum – Many species produce especially attractive fruits and seed pods, like viburnum, with the plant's beauty persisting through fall.

Go to gardening.com for periodic posts.

Changing Hydrangea Color

Some gardeners believe that adding baking soda or coffee grounds to soil will turn bigleaf hydrangeas (*H. macrophylla*) from pink to blue/purple. Wrong!



Since hydrangeas require acidic soil, baking soda is a bad idea because it is alkaline and will raise pH. Coffee grounds are another poor choice. They are pH neutral and better used in compost piles. Never add unused coffee grounds as an amendment as they will burn plants. Other homemade amendments are also ineffective in changing hydrangea color. Products advertised as accomplishing this task are more effective when used long-term and as directed.

In order to change hydrangea color, only 3 varieties (big leaf, mountain or Fairytrail Fresco Cascade) are capable of change, and they must be of the pink/purple/blue variety. White and green species will not change color. It is best to get a soil test where acidic soil and aluminum are present. Clay soils are usually most likely to contain aluminum.

Sign up for periodic posts from the National Garden Bureau.



The 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-.114
www.agnewfarm.com

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

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
330-729-9900

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.burtonflorallandgarden.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>

Petititi Garden Center
5509 South Ave.
Boardman, Ohio 44512
330-788-0733
www.petitigardencenter.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.villagequiltsanfield.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>



August 2025

The Germinator



Gardeners of Greater Youngstown
c/o Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 612 • North Jackson, OH 44451

www.GG-YO.org



Calendar of Events



No July Meeting!

August 5, 2025 Board Meeting 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
August 5, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
August 23-24, 2025 .. Horticultural Show Fellows Riverside Gardens
Sept. 2, 2025 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Sept. 2, 2025 Membership Mtg 7:00PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Oct. 7, 2025 Board Mtg 5:30PM Stacey Pavilion, Austintown Park
Oct. 7, 2025 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



THE GOGY 2025 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Clare Neff

clare.neff1@gmail.com • 330.503.6988

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Murphy

pjmurphy0900@aol.com • 330.635.8180

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Nicklash

lisanicklash@yahoo.com • 412.500.1981

TREASURER

Terry Voland

voskater@aol.com • 330.881.8467

RECORDING SECRETARY

Ron Fasano

ronf10@msn.com • 330.502.9989

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Michael Banks

330.707.9089 (H) • 330.565.0592 (C)

mcbankspaint@yahoo.com

GERMINATOR STAFF

David Campana, Editor

mgygerminator@gmail.com

Clare Neff, layout