



Sprigs N Sprouts

The Gardeners of Lima

December 2019

Lima, Ohio

Valet Parking

A special feature of this year's Christmas Banquet is valet parking. The Brown Brothers, Ray and Joe, are making this service available to all who attend the Banquet.

Just drive up near the Clubhouse. Ray and/or Joe will help you with anything you have to carry inside. Then they will see that your car is parked. After the party they will bring your car back to the front door.

Members and guests will appreciate this generous service in any case, but especially so if there is bad weather.

Dues & Dinner

Treasurer Rex Maurer has asked that members bring their payment for 2020 dues along with their payment for the Banquet meal.

Cost for the meal is \$10.00 per person.

Dues is \$16.00 for a single membership .

Dues for a couple is \$25.00.

Normally, these matters would have been cared for in November, but the November meeting was canceled due to weather and dangerous roads.

Sprigs N Sprouts

The Gardeners of Lima, Lima, OH
Frank Cooley, Editor
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Christmas Banquet

The Faurot Park Clubhouse will be full of Christmas sparkle for the 2019 Banquet of The Gardeners of Lima on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Social time begins at 5:30, with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The meal is being catered by Bev and Ed Morrison. Members are also contributing appetizers, salads and desserts.

Club officers for 2020 will be installed during the meeting.

Decorating for the event will be done by volunteers on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Put it on your Calendar

- Dec. 8 Decorate Clubhouse 1 - 3 p,m,
- Dec. 10 Christmas Banquet and installation of officers, Clubhouse at 5:30



Steve Maki, President
The Gardeners of Lima

From the President

President Steve Maki provided the material on this and the next two pages for the enjoyment and enlightenment of readers of *Sprigs N Sprouts*.



Is the tomato a vegetable or a fruit?

In the 19th century, the U.S. Supreme Court faced this question: Are tomatoes fruits or vegetables?

At the time the Port Authority of New York classified tomatoes as vegetables, which were subject to a 10 percent import tax. A fruit importer argued that tomatoes were fruits, which were not taxed.

The high court issued this 1893 tomato ruling in a case brought by members of the Nix family against Edward Hedden, collector at the Port of New York, to recover the fees they spent transporting tomatoes. The Nixes sued under the Tariff of 1883, which required import taxes on vegetables — but not fruit.

Botanically, any seed-bearing structure formed from an angiosperm's (a flowering plant's) ovary is a fruit. Since a tomato protects and contains the seeds of its host plant, the juicy sphere is technically a fruit. Some might be shocked to learn a zucchini is a fruit, too.

In the case, witnesses read from dictionaries, and definitions for "fruit", "vegetable", "tomato," "pea," "eggplant," "cucumber," "squash" and "pepper."

In the Supreme Court decision, the justices distinguished between science and everyday life. The justices admitted that botanically speaking, tomatoes were technically fruits. But in everyday life, vegetables were things "usually served at dinner in, with, or after the soup, fish, or meats ... and not, like fruits generally, as dessert." General or culinary classifications, however, tend to differ from the botanical one. Most people would consider a tomato a vegetable. And the court essentially gave that reasoning in *Nix v. Hedden*: A tomato is a vegetable because people think it is— and the importer had to keep paying the tariff.

Jokes, and Stories

A Riddle:

There was a green house.

Inside the green house there was a white house.

Inside the white house there was a red house.

Inside the red house there were lots of babies.

What am I?

Answer: A Watermelon

What do you call a stolen yam?

A hot potato

What do you call it when worms take over the world?

Global Worming

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

Pumpkin pi



The Potato Story

Girl Potato and Boy Potato had eyes for each other, and finally they got married and had a little sweet potato, which they called 'Yam.' Of course, they wanted the best for Yam.

When it was time, they told her about the facts of life. They warned her about going out and getting half-baked, so she wouldn't get accidentally mashed, and get a bad name for herself like 'Hot Potato,' and end up with a bunch of Tater Tots. Yam said not to worry, no Spud would get her into the sack and make a rotten potato out of her! But on the other hand she wouldn't stay home and become a Couch Potato either. She would get plenty of exercise so as not to be skinny like her Shoestring cousins.

When she went off to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Potato told Yam to watch out for the hard-boiled guys from Ireland, and the greasy guys from France called the French Fries. Yam said she would stay on the straight and narrow and wouldn't associate with those high class Yukon Golds, or the ones from the other side of the tracks who advertise their trade on all the trucks that say, 'Frito Lay.'

Mr. and Mrs. Potato sent Yam to Idaho P.U. (that's Potato University) so that when she graduated she'd really be in the Chips. Yet, in spite of all they did for her, one-day Yam came home and announced she was going to marry Tom Brokaw. Tom Brokaw! Mr. and Mrs. Potato were very upset. They told Yam she couldn't possibly marry Tom Brokaw because he's just a commentator.

Winter Activities in the Garden

It's important to pay attention to the weather as well as to how the season in general is progressing and the conditions of your specific site. Timing can be tricky. Weather can make it difficult to do things at the ideal time. We may get a lot of rain or none. Killing frosts can occur in late September one year but not until November in the next. The following is a general guide to various tasks in the winter garden.

General Activities

- Clean, repair, oil, and store tools and garden hoses.
- Store fertilizers and pesticides securely. Keep liquids from freezing and protect powders from moisture.
- Periodically check on stored produce for decay. Maintain adequate moisture in stored potted bulbs being forced.
- Feed the birds. Keep feeders full, hang suet blocks
- Check what's on sale. Make a list of what you need for the new season and pickup gardening supplies at a discount. It's off season so many of last season's tools and equipment can be found for a great price.
- Decide what you will be planting next season.
- Plan next year's garden out completely. Keep in mind crop rotation, plant spacing, succession planting and companion planting. Make a map and play with your placement.
- Order catalogs and seeds

Flowers

- Whether or not to cut back perennials in fall or wait until spring is often a personal choice. In general, there is no harm in leaving them until spring. You might want to cut back extremely tall plants somewhat to prevent wind damage. There are many advantages to leaving the plants – they provide winter interest and food for birds, help hold mulch in place, and some perennials such as mums and salvia over-winter better if not cut back.

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune Japanese maple trees, weeping cherry trees and fruit trees (except stone fruits)

Vegetables and Fruits

- Prune grapevines, but no later than January or the cut end will bleed sap.

Miscellaneous

One of the easier and essential tasks in winter for your garden is to start seeds in a greenhouse or indoors. You can do this with indoor grow lights.

If you just started growing your own food and you're not stopping, then it's important you start a garden journal as well. You'll find this very helpful in the long run.

Protect the root crown of perennial bushes like roses and hydrangea by applying a thick layer of mulch or covering the plant with a burlap sack or row covers.

I like this quote by Teresa Watkins: "Every garden is unique with a multitude of choices in soils, plants and themes. Finding your garden theme is as easy as seeing what brings a smile to your face."



Poinsettia Pick-up Day

Some of the plants ready to be delivered



Ray Brown assembling orders

Persetta Bowsher who organized the annual Poinsettia Sale writes: "A big Thank You to the poinsettia Elves who made the day a big success. Steve, Ray, Joe, Ed, Rita, and Toni unloading and delivering some 213 plants. A great day. Thanks to all who submitted orders. Takes a village."

And our thanks to Persetta, as well.

We are now on
Facebook



Pictures of club events have been posted on our Facebook page.



Persetta Bowsher keeping everyone on schedule

THE GARDENERS OF LIMA

President	Steven Maki
1 st V.P.	Ray Brown
2 nd V.P.	Donna Maki
Secretary	Becky Wendroth
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National Director	Steven Maki
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