



The Michiana Broadcaster

“Helping Each Other Grow!”

MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

SEPT - NOV 2005

Summer's End Signals Bulb Planting Time Purdue Extension Offices

If thinking about the end of summer is getting you down, start planning your spring flowering bulb show. Autumn is the time to plant crocus, daffodils, tulips and many other spring bloomers.

Spring flowering bulbs are planted in fall to allow them to establish roots before top growth begins in spring. Planting too early may cause the bulbs to sprout this fall, only to be killed back by winter weather. Planting too late may not give the bulbs adequate time to root before winter. Bulbs should be planted in late September through mid October in the Lafayette area. Plant a couple of weeks earlier in northern Indiana and likewise, later in southern Indiana.

Start your bulb garden out on the right path by planting only quality bulbs, which are available from local garden centers or reputable mail order sources. It's best to shop early to ensure the best selection of variety and quality. Select large, firm bulbs, and avoid those that are sprouting or molding.

While many bulbs can adapt to a wide range of soil types, none can tolerate poorly drained soil. Prepare the planting bed by adding organic matter, such as peat moss, well-rotted manure or compost. Adequate fertility can be achieved by adding a low-analysis, balanced fertilizer, such as 5-10-5 or 6-10-4, at the rate of 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet of bed. Mix all amendments thoroughly with the soil in the bed, before you plant the bulbs.

The size of the bulb and the species will dictate the proper planting depth and spacing. The bulbs should come with planting instructions specific to that particular flower.

Features This Issue!

Day Minder Nov/Dec	2
New Ag/NR Educator	2
Inside the Ext. Office-September	3
Inside the Ext. Office-October	4
Biography of Larry Drudge	5
Fall Leaves/Litter or Loam	6
Volunteer Hours are Due	7
Miscellaneous Notes	8
Tree Sale Order Form	9

For more information on the many types of bulbs that can be grown in Indiana, you can download a copy of HO-86 "Flowering Bulbs" from:

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-86.pdf>





Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!



November 2005

21	Mon	MMGA Board Meeting – Extension Office	Noon
29	Tues	MMGA Monthly Membership Meeting – Ag Hall	7:00 pm

December 2005

		No December Board Meeting	
		No December Monthly Membership Meeting	
25		MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!	

Many of you have been asking if we have a new Ag Educator yet. The answer is YES! Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing has accepted the offer to become Elkhart County's next Extension Educator – AgNR.

She has a very interesting background. Loretta has a BS in agronomy, MS in Forestry and PhD in Plant Pathology, all from the University of Illinois. She has experience in vegetable and turf grass pathology, and field crop pest management. She has worked with Amish vegetable growers and Master Gardeners in previous positions. All in all, a great background for this job.

Her first day on the job will be Monday, October 17.

(As excerpted from an email from Jeff Burbrink, dated 8/22/05)

Look for more information on Loretta in a future issue of the Broadcaster from Mary Davis in our Biography feature.

Cares melt when you kneel
in the garden
-anonymous

Wish List Items for Garden Tour 2006

Silk and dried flowers, ribbon, scrap material, garden stencils, canning jars and lids, small garden tools, old metal buckets, watering cans, Fieldstones, rocks (app. size of cantaloupe), bikes, trikes, wagons, old chairs, benches, old window frames, scrap wood (for signs, etc.), steppingstone molds, dried herbs (lavender, chamomile, rose petals, lemon verbena, lemon balm, scented geraniums), grapevine, clay pots, vases, baskets, wire, wooden spoons, old mailboxes, corn husks, wheat sheaves, picture frames, empty seed packets, white polymer clay.

Membership Update:
Rombke, Norma (Jean)
27599 CR 36
Goshen, IN 46526-7144
Phone: 574-862-4169

Come visit our website at
<http://www.michianamastergardeners.com>



INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE FOR SEPTEMBER 2005

Submitted by: Kathy Rink



Well, it's September and our growing days are numbered. That realization was ever present yesterday as I relentlessly deadheaded for 4 hours. The fact remains that in a few more weeks all the flowers will be frosted and dead. I am going to hang on as long as I can to keep them looking their best until the time comes that the cold weather wins. Are you like that? You've planned, planted, pruned, pinched, perspired, pitched, pained, picked and preserved all season long and just hate to see your efforts cease. It's all part of it though and as hard as it is to give it up in the fall, it gives us something to look forward to in the spring.

A homeowner called in concerned about huge red ants outside his building. He had sprayed for black ants last year, but was worried that these were fire ants. Fire ants are known for the large dirt mounds that they create and also their painful sting. They feed on insects and even baby birds. They are of some benefit due to the fact that they eat insects, but their presence can greatly limit the home gardener because of their stings. Research showed that fire ants are not present in our area. They find their home in the South. We can be glad of that! A sample of the ant was requested for identification and further instruction.

One poor lady actually stepped into a ground nest of yellow jackets. She was stung over 2 dozen times. Ouch! Her husband had to spray her with Raid to get the yellow jackets off her. He promptly transported her to the hospital. She wanted the nest GONE!!! The MG recommended that an exterminator take care of the problem. Several publications on yellow jackets were sent.

The following day, another call came in regarding yellow jackets swarming around an opening in the ground. An effective way to get rid of them without being stung, if you would rather not call a professional, is wait until evening. They are less active at that time. Delivery of a healthy dose of carbaryl dust or Sevin directly into the hole has been known to be successful. Remember to wear protective clothing in the event that they are more active than anticipated.

Very large, gray, moths appearing in the morning and in the evening had one lady quite disturbed. How can she kill them, she wondered. Without a specimen to ID, the description sounded like a Sphinx Moth. They are harmless and beneficial but just big and ugly. They are also called hawk moths because of their large, long proboscis. If you have an aversion to insects anyway, as it sounded like this woman did, it's hard to convince her that it was going to be okay. They would not harm her, her dog or her plants as she had feared. Gentle persuasion was out of the question. So flying insect spray was recommended.

Another lady found a large brown spider in her home and wondered if it could be a brown recluse spider. This spider has a bad reputation for its poisonous bites. They like to hide in loose wood and are easily identified by a dark violin pattern on its orange-yellow thorax.

One homeowner wanted to know if the fruit produced from passion vine is edible. The fruit of *Passiflora Edulis* vine is edible only when it is completely ripe. Unlike other fruit, it will not continue to ripen after picked. Therefore, it must be allowed to fully ripen and fall from the vine before eating. Some cultivars have been developed for their flowers and may not develop fruit or their fruit may be bitter, similar to crab apples in the apple tree family. Passion fruit is round in shape 1-1/2 to 3" wide, has a tough rind that is smooth and waxy, ranging in color from dark purple with faint, fine white specks, to light yellow or pumpkin color.

Tree problems included a white birch tree that was dying at its crown. A bronze birch borer was its attacker. A decision to either treat chemically or eradicate would be made upon being sent information from the forestry department.

A gentleman wanted to report an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The tree did not have typical signs of EAB nor was he in the targeted area for EAB. Something else caused his tree to die, but he felt he did the responsible thing by trying to report it.

One lady wanted to know how to preserve the ornamental gourds that are used for fall decorating. Only the birdhouse and swan gourds are preservable. The attractive, colorful ones do not keep. They are not preservable and will eventually rot.



**INSIDE THE EXTENSION OFFICE FOR
OCTOBER 2005**

Submitted By: Kathy Rink

Our hotline volunteers were busy again this month answering the many questions that came to our office. It seems that bugs bothering bewildered bodies were at the top of the list of concerns. We are so lucky to have the resources to help. It would be interesting to keep track of how many Purdue publications are sent out each month to inform people how to take care of their bug problems, their tree problems, etc.

Spider mites are clearly annoying many people with their habitat. Death of foliage, small, silky webs, and general ill health of the plant is evidence enough that you need to put malathion or an insecticidal soap to good use.

A hornet's nest had a homeowner a little nervous. The goal was to eradicate swiftly and efficiently without being attacked. Our MG advised to wait until after dark when the insects are somewhat inactive. Taking matters into your own hands, a preventative step would be to wear protective clothing in the event of an attack. Obviously, this would help to avoid the risk of being stung. Using a wasp/hornet spray directly stuns and paralyzes. Of course, calling a professional takes away all YOUR risk. Mission accomplished!

Aphids appeared on a maple tree, millions of them. This master gardener can testify to that. A branch had been broken off and brought in for identification. It lay on the desk for observation and a response. A portion was examined under the microscope only to confirm it was thick with the little piercing, sucking insects. By the end of checkout time, I felt like I was infested with aphids. Thankfully, the tree was sprayed, the branch was disposed of and I went home to wash up!

Meal moths, a pantry pest, better known as the Mediterranean Flour Moth or Angoumois Grain Moth was the next insect tackled. They usually appear in the evening hours. They look like a small moth but when they land on the wall, they have no wingspan and appear cylindrical and are about a half-inch long. It's disheartening to have BUGS in your house. This homeowner was frustrated and didn't know how to rid his premises of this moth. Publication E-37 advised to clean thoroughly, especially in cracks and crevices where larvae can hide. Storing grains and flour products in the freezer may be helpful. A garden center can advise the current product being used for these pantry pests.

Webworms also go by the name of ugly nest caterpillars. These are those silken nests that appear on the ends of tree branches. The little green worms with their shiny black heads feed on ornamental trees and shrubs. Fortunately, they do little harm to the trees because they are not numerous enough to defoliate. The tree just looks bad. So, just prune the infested branch and burn it. You can also use a systemic insect killer, penetrating the web aggressively enough to kill the worms.

An interesting specimen of gall was brought into the office. If you get a chance to stop by the office to take a look, it is worth seeing just because it is quite unusual looking. It is called spindle gall. It appeared on some maple leaves. They are long, thin projections popping out from the leaf. The homeowner thought the tree was in dire need of water and the projections on the leaves were "reaching" for water. We won't go there. It won't actually hurt the tree but makes for a neat show and tell.

Can you feed green bean plants to steers? We get all kinds of questions! A lady wanted to pull up her green bean plants and throw them over the fence to the steers. She just wasn't sure if it would be safe for them to eat. She was advised to feed the steer only in small portions at a time. Any change in feeding should be done on a gradual basis for a ruminant animal.

Look for the Broadcaster on our website:
www.michianamastergardener.com

Bio of Larry Drudge '97
Treasurer of MMGA

Submitted by: Mary Davis



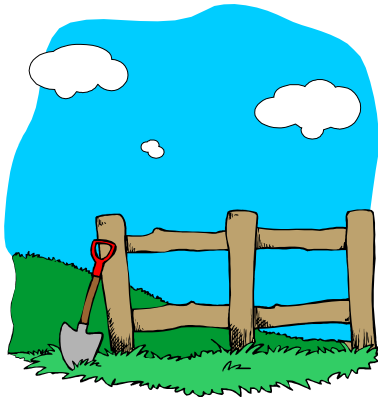
"It's the best thing I ever did," said Larry Drudge when I asked him what he thought about Master Gardener training. There was only the slightest pause before he quickly added, "Outside of getting married, that is." Larry took the second class of training back in 1997. He has been married to wife, Neva, considerably longer. They have 2 boys: Bruce has four children: 2 Penn football players, 1 Penn cheerleader and 1 Penn senior, getting ready to go to college. His other son Dennis, still lives with Larry and his wife. They live on a farm, although it is now tenant farmed. Larry worked for 30 years in the RV industry, then took H.R. Block courses and did tax preparations for several years before officially retiring. During that time, he also farmed. Larry says he started working in gardens when he was 10, working for a truck farmer and has been at it ever since, which was why he wanted to take the Master Gardener training.

When asked what his favorite area of gardening is, he said he told Jeff if you couldn't eat it, he didn't grow it. However, he admits now, as he and his wife don't have a family at home and don't can as much, they have added flowers "almost everywhere." He bragged about one hanging basket with 46 blooms, so it sounds like he has taken to flowers too.

Larry was born in Kosciusko County and has lived in Indiana all his life. Five or six years ago, Faye Lutz called and asked if they could put his name up for Treasurer. He told her they could and asked how many others were nominated. Faye told him she wasn't sure. When he arrived at the meeting, he found out he was the only one and duly elected! The Board has made the position of Treasurer ex officio, so there are no term limits. Looks like Larry may be treasurer for life!

You probably all know him, because he stands up at each meeting and tells us how much money we have in the bank, and he sells the raffle tickets whenever they are offered. Larry does prepare a detailed treasurer's report at the end of each year and if anyone wants a copy, they only need to ask. They are also available at the Extension Office.

Larry said besides gardening, he and his wife like to travel, although she has some health problems that interfere. They did attend Medieval Times in Illinois recently, with Bruce's family to celebrate Bruce and his wife's 22nd anniversary and had a great time. He said he also fiddles with his investments, mostly trying to pay for supplemental insurance. (A friend recently told me your retirement years are your golden years - you give all your gold to the doctors - Larry readily agreed). Larry said he loves Master Gardeners and especially enjoys the fellowship with all the other great members!



Fall Leaves: Litter or Loam

Taken from Yard & Garden News
September 15, 2005

The hot dry weather experienced throughout much of Indiana is bringing an early leaf drop to many landscape plants. While there is potential for a rainbow of colors, the stressful conditions may make for a less-than-awesome display. For some homeowners, the annual show is overshadowed by chores of leaf raking and disposal.

What's needed here is an attitude adjustment! Autumn leaves don't have to become trash. On the contrary, they easily can be turned into valuable soil-enhancing organic matter that helps turn poor soil into loam.

Green-thumbed gardeners have long known the value of recycling plant material. Dry leaves can be plowed or tilled under in the vegetable or annual flowerbed to provide a source of organic matter. Shredding the leaves first will speed the breakdown so that the leaves will not be visible by spring. Be sure to mix the leaves into the soil, rather than leaving them on top through the winter. This helps prevent the soil from being too cold and wet to work in the spring.

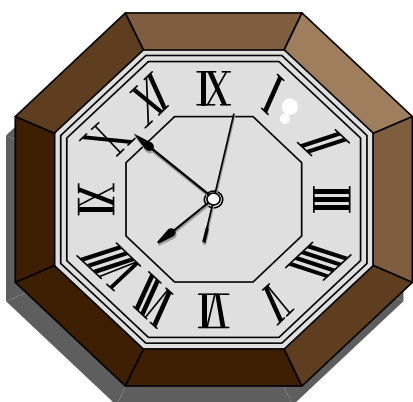
Tree leaves can be recycled directly on the lawn. Use your power mower or shredder/vacuum to break dry leaves up into smaller pieces. A mulching blade on the mower will speed this process, but even a standard blade will do an adequate job.

For large leaves like maple and sycamore, it may take several passes to get a finely shredded product. Once the leaves are pulverized, they will break down quickly. A fall application of nitrogen fertilizer (about 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet) will help speed decomposition of the leaves and also will benefit the grass plants.

Fall leaves also make great composting ingredients, especially when mixed with green trimmings and grass clippings. Again, the smaller the pieces, the faster they'll break down, so shred or chop dry leaves before adding them to the compost pile. If you don't have green trimmings or grass clippings, add a source of nitrogen to dry leaves, such as commercial fertilizer or composted cow, horse, sheep, or poultry manure. Microorganisms need nitrogen as they break down the carbon in plant materials. Add a sprinkling of soil or finished compost to introduce a source of the microorganisms, and water just enough to moisten. The compost will heat up in the center as it breaks down. Stir the contents occasionally to add air and allow for uniform heating. Generally, the more often you turn the pile, the faster you'll get a finished product. Compost is ready to add back into the garden when it looks uniformly dark and crumbly.

Last, but not least, shredded leaves can be used as winter mulch to protect tender perennials through the coming harsh weather. Shredding the leaves will help prevent them from packing down as they get wet and smothering the plants that they are supposed to protect. To provide winter protection, apply a 3-6 inch layer of shredded leaves over the top of tender perennials after several hard freezes. The goal of winter mulch is to keep plants dormant through the winter, so it must be applied after the ground is cold and plants are fully dormant. The timing of application will vary from year to year with the weather, but generally will be appropriate sometime between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

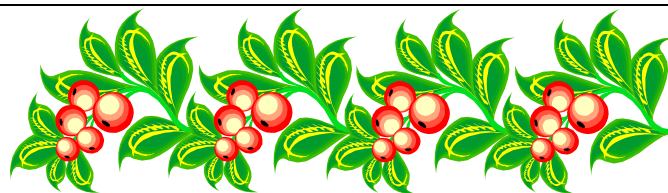
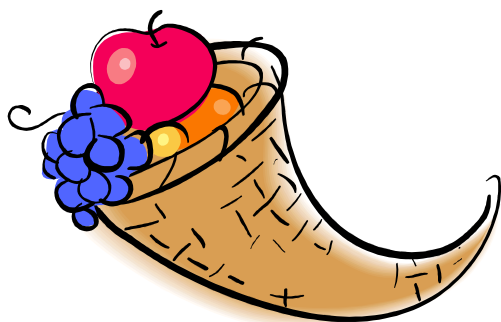
Time to Turn in Hours



Just a friendly reminder to start bringing out the calendar or your date books and checking your volunteer and educational hours for 2005. We will eventually need the "pink sheets" for your hours. You can fax, email, or mail me your hours. What ever works for you. Thanks, Teresa



***Pinks are available on the website:
www.michianamastergardeners.com***



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 28TH MMGA MEETING

- Marianne Hollopeter needs volunteers for the speaker's bureau. If she cannot fill the requests for speakers as they come in, we will have to consider disbanding the bureau. This is an easy way to earn volunteer hours. Please consider volunteering next time there is a request. Marianne will assist you in getting together any handouts you might need. If you do not have a subject or presentation on hand, there are presentations available in the library that can be used. You can reach her at 5673@ligtel.com.
- Anybody interested in working the community gardens next year (2006), please contact Suzanne (Pedler) Jabs @ sppekhardt@aol.com. As of July 31, we have donated over 800 pounds of produce from our garden to various charitable organizations.
- Mary Davis passed out biography forms for her biographies in the Broadcaster. Please fill out the information and return the form to Mary. If you did not attend the meeting, look for the form to be included in our next edition of the Broadcaster.
- This was Jeff's last meeting as our fearless leader and grand "poobah". We will miss him.

- If you are visiting the MMGA website, please let Dara Revelli know. She has not updated recently as there was very little activity. Also, contact her with information you would like to see on the site or links you would like to have. You can find our website address on the Dayminder page of the Broadcaster.



***** Don't forget our carry-in and meeting, Tuesday, November 29th. This will be our last get together for 2005. Good food and good friends!******



WILDLIFE UPDATE

Submitted by: *Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing*

During the first week of November, I attended a training program for Educators put on by Purdue University. One speaker was Dr. Judy Loven wildlife State Director. I would like to relay some tips she had for Master Gardeners. Judy updated us on some of the tactics for control of wildlife like deer and raccoons.

As a Master Gardener, one role we have is to educate the public on the ramifications of wildlife attracted to or in landscape plantings. When looking at feeding damage on plants, be sure to bring a magnifying glass to see if you can see small teeth marks or scrapings on defoliated branches. Deer do not have upper front teeth so they cannot leave teeth marks. Deer feeding on leaves will be jagged and will not be a clean tear. Typically, deer will leave droppings or tracks.

Raccoons are becoming the most common species of wildlife in cities and are responsible for the most complaints. Raccoons are very strong, vicious animals. We should always encourage people to treat all animals as wild or as potentially having or carrying a disease. Children should be taught to respect wildlife from a distance.

From a Master Gardener standpoint, please be aware that raccoons carry disease, one being rabies, and others being distemper, mange, and roundworms. The roundworms remain in raccoon feces and can end up in soil. As a precaution, Master Gardeners should always wear gloves when working in soil or volunteering in gardens. In addition, it is a good common sense procedure to always wash your hands before eating, smoking, etc. after working out in garden. More information can be located at the wildlife website at <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/wild.htm>.

Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing



This is how I feel since I have raked up most of my leaves! – Teresa

Terms and Conditions

1. Orders of 500—999 trees per species receive a 20% discount. Orders of 1000 trees per species receive a 30% discount. (Call for pricing information.)
2. Orders must be postmarked no later than: March 1, 2006
3. Trees are available to anyone and may be planted without restriction.
4. We reserve the right to make alterations if necessary.
5. We **DO NOT** furnish replacements.
6. Sizes may vary due to weather conditions beyond our control.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

(office use only)
Order #: 2006 -

Enter Quantity of Packs and Total Dollar Amount Below
******All Prices Include Sales Tax******

Species	Pack of 5	Pack of 10	Pack of 25	Total \$\$
American Arborvitae 14-26"	X \$9.00	X \$16.50	X \$36.50	
Blue Spruce 12-22"	X \$8.00	X \$15.00	X \$32.50	
White Pine 22-36"	X \$11.50	X \$20.50	X \$45.00	
Red Maple 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Red Oak 24-38"	X \$6.50	X \$11.50	X \$25.00	
River Birch 18-28"	X \$7.50	X \$13.50	X \$30.00	
Tulip Poplar 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Common Lilac 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Kousa Dogwood 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Magenta Crabapple 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Ninebark 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Redbud 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Serviceberry 18-24"	X \$5.00	X \$9.00	X \$20.00	
Viburnum 12-18"	X \$4.50	X \$8.00	X \$17.50	

(office use only)
 CK# _____ DATE _____ BY _____

Total Order \$ _____

Make all checks payable to: Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District
 17746-B County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528
 Phone: 574-533-3630 ext. 3