

WEED 'EM AND REAP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION | OCTOBER 2020

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QUESTIONS?

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NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

To submit an article for the upcoming newsletter or to report an error in the publication, please email kdkoger@gmail.com

Upcoming Meetings

Join us for our next Extension Master Gardener meeting on **Wednesday, October 28** at 7:00 pm. Special guest Mikkal Hodges, President of the Indiana Pumpkin Growers Association and owner of Hodges Farm (Alexandria, IN), will have a fun and enlightening presentation on pumpkins. The DCMGA annual business meeting will follow. We will vote on two At-large board positions as well as reflect on the 2020 garden season. The meeting will be conducted virtually:

<https://bsu.zoom.us/j/98873770434>

Meeting ID: 988 7377 0434

Contact Mary Ippel for assistance accessing the meeting.

Kids Gardening Youth Garden Grant

Since 1982, the Youth Garden Grant has supported school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States or US Territories planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. The selection of winners is based on demonstrated program impact and sustainability. A total of 30 programs will be awarded. The top 5 programs will receive award packages valued at \$1,700. Twenty-five programs will receive award packages valued at \$700.

To learn more and begin the submission process, visit:

kidsgardening.org/2021-youth-garden-grant/

Submissions are due **Friday, December 18, 2020**. Winners will be announced and contacted by email on January 29, 2021.



Stay connected with the DCMGA by visiting delcomastergardener.org to learn more about upcoming activities, view photos from recent events, and read the latest edition of the newsletter.

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regards to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

Monthly Gardener Checklist

November 2020

– written by Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
- If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-fourth inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.
- Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees such as maples and many fruit trees are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.
- Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.
- Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.
- If you are planning to order a “live” Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area such as a garage or basement.
- Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.
- A November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, per 1,000 square feet of lawn. See “Turfgrass Management: Fertilizing Established Cool-Season Lawns” for more information on lawn fertilization.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- If frost hasn’t taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
- Harvest mature green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 degrees F. The warmer the temperature, the faster they ripen.
- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 degrees F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.
- Remove crop and weed plant debris from the garden and add to the compost pile. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year’s garden.
- Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring. This allows crops to be planted earlier.
- Dig and store tender flowering bulbs, and keep in a protected location.

Treasurer's Report

Kate Bell, Treasurer



Date of Report: 10/13/2020		1/31/2020	2/29/2020	3/31/2020	4/30/2020	5/31/2020	6/30/2020	7/31/2020	8/31/2020	9/30/2020	10/31/2020	Total
Balance Brought Forward		\$13,391.17	\$13,319.84	\$13,263.35	\$13,216.99	\$13,206.54	\$13,228.05	\$13,065.41	\$12,965.96	\$12,966.34	\$12,913.61	
Income		\$20.57	\$0.51	\$175.81	\$0.55	\$21.51	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$266.27	\$10.00	\$496.69
Expenses		\$91.90	\$57.00	\$222.17	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$163.18	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$319.00	\$319.20	\$1,283.45
Balance On Hand		\$13,319.84	\$13,263.35	\$13,216.99	\$13,206.54	\$13,228.05	\$13,065.41	\$12,965.96	\$12,966.34	\$12,913.61	\$12,604.41	
Income Goals												
Annual Master Gardener Dues	\$800.00	\$10.00									\$10.00	\$20.00
Garden Walk	\$400.00			\$35.06								\$35.06
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00											\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$300.00											\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$300.00											\$0.00
Plant Sale	\$2,500.00									\$240.00		\$240.00
Walmart Volunteer Grant	\$1,000.00											\$0.00
Bank Interest		\$0.57	\$0.51	\$0.58	\$0.55	\$0.56	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$0.11		\$4.35
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct		\$10.00		\$140.17		\$20.95				\$26.16		\$197.28
Total	\$6,300.00	\$20.57	\$0.51	\$175.81	\$0.55	\$21.51	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$266.27	\$10.00	\$496.69
Expenses Budget												
30th Anniversary Committee	\$200.00											\$0.00
Childrens Museum	\$200.00											\$0.00
Farm Fest	\$300.00		\$57.00				\$73.24					\$130.24
Farmers Market	\$200.00											\$0.00
Garden Fair	\$100.00											\$0.00
Garden Walk	\$300.00											\$0.00
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00			\$17.40								\$17.40
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$650.00			\$2.10			\$44.97				\$2.10	\$49.17
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$650.00			\$2.10			\$44.97				\$2.10	\$49.17
Plant Sale	\$500.00										\$50.00	\$50.00
Scholarship ~ MG Training	\$300.00											\$0.00
Scholarship ~ State Conference	\$390.00											\$0.00
State Conference Booth	\$100.00											\$0.00
Tree Planting Event	\$500.00			\$140.17								\$140.17
Washington Street Festival	\$100.00											\$0.00
New Events	\$0.00											\$0.00
Association Expenses												
Banquet	\$500.00											\$0.00
Board Expenses	\$100.00											\$0.00
Booklets	\$150.00	\$91.90										\$91.90
Donations & Sponsorships	\$350.00				\$11.00			\$100.00				\$111.00
Fall Potluck	\$150.00											\$0.00
Hospitality	\$100.00											\$0.00
Insurance	\$350.00									\$319.00		\$319.00
Marketing & Event Supplies	\$500.00											\$0.00
Meeting Facilities & Speakers	\$200.00											\$0.00
Postage	\$50.00											\$0.00
Printing & Copies	\$50.00			\$0.90								\$0.90
Purdue Extension Expenses	\$150.00			\$59.50								\$59.50
Website Hosting & Maintenance	\$250.00										\$265.00	\$265.00
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct	\$0.00											\$0.00
Total	\$8,390.00	\$91.90	\$57.00	\$222.17	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$163.18	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$319.00	\$319.20	\$1,283.45

March Deposit: Cancelled \$35.06 July 2019 Check #1074 from Nancy Miller for 2019 Garden Walk
 March Misc. & Clearing Income: \$140.17 Cancelled Check for Trees Purchased from State Nursery
 May Misc. & Clearing Income: \$20.95 Amazon Smile Deposit
 July Donation & Sponsorship: \$100 Pat Brown Memorial Contribution
 September Income: \$240 Donation from Mary Ippel Plant Sale and \$26.16 from Apron Reimbursement

Remember to report your volunteer
and educational hours at
www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener

Election of Officers

Elections for the two open board positions will take place at the October meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to voting. Due to the virtual format, Extension Master Gardeners will have 24 hours after the meeting to send votes to Nomination Committee chairperson, Deanna Hines. An email with additional voting instructions will be sent to all members after the meeting. Please contact Sarah Kreps with questions on these procedures.

EMG Hour Reminders

As a reminder, Extension Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 6 educational hours for 2020. However, Extension Master Gardeners may report less than the 12 volunteer hours due to many garden events being cancelled this year because of COVID-19. Please contact Extension Educator, Laurynn Thieme at ljthieme@purdue.edu if you have any questions about recording your hours.

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020

The September Extension Master Gardener meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Thirty Master Gardeners and guests virtually attended the meeting. Vice President, Mary Ippel announced the evening's educational presentation, *Wild and Beautiful: Why Birds Matter*.

The even presentation was given by Mary Annette Rose, current president of the local Robert Copper Audubon Society. Annette is an Associate Professor of Educational Studies at Ball State University. Her homestead is on 13 acres near Prairie Creek Reservoir and features a large solar array.



Clark's Nutcracker

Mary began the presentation by introducing the audience to the characteristics of a bird. Birds can vary in size from the large American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) to the small bee hummingbird (*Mellisuga helenae*).

There are 2,059 bird species in North America. 350 of those species are trinational and transverse the borders of Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico. Birders and scientists study the flyways – including the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic – to observe bird migratory patterns. Many citizen science projects allow backyard birders to record and collect data on migratory patterns.

Annette went on to discuss the importance of birds. According to Annette, birds provide many "ecosystem services". Ecosystem services are defined as the benefits people can obtain from nature. The ecosystem services birds provide can be broken down into four primary categories: Provisional Services, Regulating Services, Supporting Services, and Cultural Services.

Provisioning services are those byproducts obtained from the ecosystem. Annette gave examples of feathers, hides, and food that can be obtained from birds. Ostrich hides are used to make boots. Goose downs are used to fabricate pillows.

Unfortunately, the consumption and extraction of some provisional services has taken several bird species to near extinction. Annette told of the heath hen – which is like a prairie chicken. The heath hen was the "poor man's food" in the late 18th century due to its abundance. The hen was hunted to extinction. The first federal attempt to save the bird species occurred in 1908. However, the effort was too late. The heath hen became extinct in 1932 due to a combination of disease and overhunting.

Regulating Services include the benefits obtained from controlling the ecosystem. Hawks and owls control small rodent populations in barns and agriculture fields. Agriculture productivity would be lost without this system of small mammal population check-and-balance in many rural areas. Barn swallows eat and control insect populations. Scavenger-type birds such as the turkey vulture clean our roadways of decaying carrion.

Annette mentioned the black-throated Blue Warbler. The warbler migrates through Indiana but does not mate in the region. Wintering black-throated Blue Warblers are often found on coffee plantations in Central America. They feed on the coffee berry borer. Without the warbler as its prey, the coffee berry borer would destroy many acres of crops on the plantations.



black-throated Blue Warbler

The third type of ecosystem services that birds provide is supporting services. These types of services support all other ecosystem services and have an indirect benefit to humans. Annette told of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo that eats leaf-damaging insects, defecates waste, and re-nourishes nutrients within the soil. The Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) disperse seeds of native plants when it excretes fecal waste. Several types of birds, including hummingbirds, provide ornithophily (bird pollination) of many colorful plants.

The final type of ecosystem service is cultural services. These types of ecosystem services have no material benefits. Rather, they provide inspiration, aesthetic enjoyment, and physical, mental health, and spiritual experiences. Birds have been used as inspiration for corporate logos and mascots. Examples include the NBC peacock, the Twitter bird, and Ball State's Charlie Cardinal mascot. Several products were designed by mimicking the form of birds and their habitats. Birds also provide a source of eco-tourism through birdwatching and recreational hunting. According to Annette, it is estimated that bird eco-tourism provides \$7.9 billion annually to the United States economy.

Annette transitioned her presentation to discuss how birds are essential indicators of our environment's health. She discussed the phrase 'canary in a coal mine' as an early indicator of dangerous gasses accumulating in the mine. Annette cited Rachel Carson's acclaimed 1962 novel *Silent Spring* as a pivotal book that brought awareness the health of bird populations and the ecosystem. The novel described how toxic pesticides move up the food chain. Today, the use of systemic neonicotinoids on plants has caused concern. The neonicotinoids have been shown to stay around in the environment for a very long time.



white pelican

In 2020 there has been unprecedented migratory bird die-off in southwest U.S. during the months of August and September. Scientists are uncertain to the cause of this catastrophe. Some have speculated that drought and low moisture in the atmosphere resulted in fewer insect populations. The lower number of insects restricted bird diets. Others speculate that unusually early and cold weather last year brought heavy snow, wind, and low temperatures. Several species of birds might not have been well prepared for the winter months. Others hypothesize that the wildfires along the Pacific Flyway caused bird populations to take unfamiliar fly paths and migrate earlier.

The National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently issued a report that indicated 289 bird species in North America are vulnerable to extinction from climate change.

To combat these challenges, Annette suggested citizens and gardeners build bird-friendly communities. She listed several strategies. First, limit or avoid the use of pesticides on plants that are used by birds. Insects provide vital protein to bird's diet. Secondly, plant native plants. Plants and birds have evolved together over thousands of years to develop an mutually beneficial relationship.

The National Audubon Society's Native Plant Database, www.audubon.org/native-plants, provides a list of recommended plants that are beneficial to birds based on zip code. Third, gardeners should provide shrubs and trees for nesting. Next, keep cats indoors or on a leash. According to the American Bird Conservancy, "feral and domestic cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds each year in the United States, making



cat predation the largest source of direct, human, caused mortality to birds. Finally, citizens should advocate for laws that protect birds and their environments. Several bills have been passed in Indiana to protect the federally endangered Whooping Crane.

Annette concluded her presentation by discussing the Robert Cooper Audubon Society.

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society offers special programs on the second Wednesday of the month each month, from October through June. The club typically meets at the Muncie Public Library's Kennedy Branch. However, due to COVID, the October 14th meeting will occur at the BSU Alumni Center. The program will be presented by Terri Gorney about the nationally known ornithologist Charles Stockbridge.

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society frequently offers bird walks on the last Saturday of the month at Mounds State Park. These tours are open to the public. The Society will meet on September 26th at Mounds State Park. The Society will also meet on October 4th at Summit Lake State Park. The Robert Cooper Audubon Society constructed and installed nesting platforms for osprey at Summit Lake in 2007. Annette said it took nearly a decade for the platform to be used by an osprey.

Upon completion of her slides, Annette willfully answered questioned from Extension Master Gardeners posted during the virtual presentation. Vickie Seymour asked if birds migrate across the Gulf of Mexico or do they follow the coastal land mass? Annette said that bird migration has many variables including season, bird species, and other factors.

CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Kreps welcomed attendees and called the business meeting to order at 7:49 pm. Several Extension Master Gardeners greeted one another over the video conference. Sherri Riffin noted that she was currently at Wilma Robinson's house. Special recognition was given to Wilma since she had not been able to attend meetings in awhile.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August meeting minutes were approved as written in the current newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kate Bell announced that the organization's current account balance was \$13,232.50. A comprehensive treasurer's report was provided in the newsletter. Kate recognized Mary Ippel for selling plant starts from her collection and donating \$240 from her sales to the DCMGA. Having no objections, the treasurer's report was approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee

Vice President Mary Ippel discussed planning efforts for DCMGA meetings in 2021. Due to current circumstances and complications from COVID, DCMGA meetings will continue to be hosted over Zoom during the beginning of 2021. Mary indicated that most Extension Master Gardeners have adapted well to the new format. Additionally, many guest speakers are still not comfortable with participating in in-person meetings. Mary also noted that virtual meetings allow her to contact guest speakers who live farther away and who normally would not travel long distances for a presentation. Mary announced that 'Pumpkin Mike' from Hodgins Pumpkin Farm in Alexandria will be the guest speaker during the October meeting.

Nomination Committee

Open at-large positions on the DCMGA Executive Board will be voted upon at the October meeting. The slate of candidates were listed in the August newsletter. Voting will be open 24 hours after the October meeting to allow everyone the opportunity to vote. Secretary and Nomination Committee chairperson Deanna Hines said that the group would discuss final voting procedures at the next Executive Board meeting.

EXTENSION REPORT

Extension Educator Laurynn Thieme was not present during the meeting. Sarah Kreps spoke of the on-going Fall 2020 Virtual Basic Training Course. There are ten new participants registered for the East Central Indiana region. Classes are

held each Tuesday night through December 15. A thirty-minute 'County Connections' period occurs both before and after each virtual training class. Laurynn would like 1-2 current Extension Master Gardeners to virtually attend the County Connections periods. Master Gardeners would be asked to introduce themselves, discuss their involvement in the Extension Master Gardener program, and answer questions. Please contact Laurynn Thieme to volunteer.

NEW BUSINESS

It was announced that Nancy Reynolds has picked more than 130 pawpaw fruits. She is giving them away. She will be placing them at the end of her driveway for anyone to pick-up.

Sarah Kreps announced that 40 to 50 white 5-gallon buckets were dropped off at her home for a Master Gardener project that was cancelled due to COVID. She has no room to store them. Sarah is looking for a place to store the containers. The containers are empty icing buckets that were donated by Concannon's Bakery for the garden project.

Sarah reminded Extension Master Gardeners that they need to complete the annual Purdue Extension Master Gardener agreement form. Reporting of volunteer hours for 2020 has been waived due to COVID-19. Master Gardeners are still expected to report education hour for 2020. Extension Master Gardeners may look at the Purdue Master Gardener website, the DCMGA newsletter, the Illinois Extension website, and Ohio State Extension website for virtual education opportunities.

September birthdays were recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

Mary Ippel moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kathy Hutson. Have no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Hines
Secretary

Purdue University's Beekeeping Webinar Video Series

Did you miss Purdue University's 'Winter Cluster' webinar series on beekeeping? Well, you are in luck! All four presentations are recorded and available for on-demand viewing at the links provided below.

These webinars are an opportunity for you to learn from other beekeepers and bee enthusiasts and hear from experts in the field about various beekeeping topics.

Beginning Beekeepers | 58 min.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NxS-7_ZyNE

Gardening with Pollinators | 51 min.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YrpvR_inCI

Honey Production, Extraction, & Processing | 70 min.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7qrMeDoEul

Winterizing Hives | 41 min.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FI9T1gVgwAs



Indiana Native Plant Society's Virtual Annual Conference Saturday, November 14, 2020

Due to the pandemic, the Indiana Native Plant Society's (INPS) Annual Conference has been shortened and made virtual this year. Join other native plant enthusiast as INPS highlights 2020 activities and discuss plans for 2021. INPS president, Ellen Jacquart, will celebrate the best places to see native plants in Indiana during her keynote presentation. Attendees will have the opportunity to answer plant trivia questions for a chance to win native plant seeds.

Register in advance at this link:
us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEsc-yhqDkjHtccOwVWCw0KYxyJgE65Y13hyhqDkjHtccOwVWCw0KYxyJgE65Y13h

Purdue Extension - Forestry & Natural Resources'

Tree Identification Videos

now available for on-demand viewing



Join Purdue Extension Forester, Lenny Farlee, as he describes the native trees often found in our backyards, parks, and woodlots. These brief videos help viewers learn to distinguish trees by their leaf, bark, fruit, and form.

You can view the entire Tree ID video series here:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgoGnq-fak7V9w3jf2Sj_6-pNaw4sX4Ga

Or watch videos of individual species here:

American Sycamore	www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRhtblhTDq0
American Elm	www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzOrziSBLak
American Beech	www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhIT7CwL7pU
American Basswood	www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMOpIPaj6UA
Bald Cypress	www.youtube.com/watch?v=GISGCK1sgA0
Black Maple	www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YQ7dPC7A00
Black Walnut	www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz-YpXGP9D4
Devil's Walking Stick	www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dAATkj0aL0
Eastern Red Cedar	www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX1PLx0LfA
Eastern Redbud	www.youtube.com/watch?v=129ICwsx0J4
Eastern Hemlock	www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z0ur06Cfqo
Eastern White Pine	www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7mczVnREok
Eastern Wahoo	www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yreXKBjuxM
Flowering Dogwood	www.youtube.com/watch?v=fsDwQB-AEfg
Hackberry	www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsAWM0oF5eQ
Large Tooth Aspen	www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNMIsTfwnfs
Northern White Cedar	www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNvXfqbU_Y
Northern Pecan	www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ_q49Lk6tM
Quaking Aspen	www.youtube.com/watch?v=HudV-6tgsG8
Red/Slippery Elm	www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5OoV-NU6IY
Red Maple	www.youtube.com/watch?v=6g_Lj22EUos
Sassafras	www.youtube.com/watch?v=EU2VXKxJ4Bc
Silver Maple	www.youtube.com/watch?v=luX6-e6iREg
Sugar Maple	www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQUAabljAx8
Tulip Tree	www.youtube.com/watch?v=872N4oky4d4
Umbrella Magnolia	www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrB2FLXYHRU
White Oak	www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-jD6YpJ5jc

Remember to Sign Your Annual Volunteer Agreement

Please make sure to log on to the Purdue Master Gardener website and sign the annual Extension Master Gardener Agreement Form. Please complete this by the **end of October**. The form can be accessed by logging in to the MG Manager (www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/). Please contact Extension Educator Laurynn Thieme (lthieme@purdue.edu) for assistance or questions about this requirement.



Tips for First Time Gardeners



Join Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Rosie Lerner, in this series of online videos that introduces new gardeners to some of the best practices they can implement in the home vegetable garden.

Fall Planting Tips

www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbmoDDXJ81k

Harvesting Winter Squash & Pumpkins

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMrbrEgls4A

Check the playlist often for new & informative videos by the Purdue Extension staff:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtXSf1tu3Jd-cVDnaBYrWjy2ADWM2m34A



Follow us on Facebook!
@DelcoMGAssociation

Storing Leftover Garden Seed

By: Rosie Lerner | Yard & Garden News

If you didn't use up all the garden seed you bought this year, much of it can be stored for use in next year's garden – depending on the plant species. Seeds of some plants, such as corn, parsley, onion, viola (pansies), verbena, phlox, and salvia, are not very long lived, lasting only 1 or 2 years at best. Other seeds, including beans, carrots, lettuce, peas, radishes, snapdragon, cosmos, sweet William, and zinnia, will remain viable (capable of germinating) for 3-5 years.



Carrot seed, photo provided by Rosie Lerner

Seeds need to be kept cool, dark, and dry so that they retain stored carbohydrates and minimize fungal infection. You can keep the seeds in their original packets to preserve their labeling information. If you transfer the seeds to another container, be sure to label them with at least the plant name and the year the seed was purchased. Either way, be sure the seed is as dry as possible before placing in storage.

One of the more practical methods for storing small quantities is to place leftover seed in sealable jars or other airtight containers and store in a cool, dark area, such as the refrigerator (not the freezer). A layer of powdered milk or uncooked rice at the bottom of the container will

absorb excess moisture. Use a paper towel to separate the seed from the absorptive material.

When it's time to plant next season, you can do a germination test on a few seeds to see if they sprout before you plant the rest. But these days, many seed packets have only a few seeds to begin with, so the germination test may be a moot point! On the other hand, saving even a few seeds can make a big impact on next year's gardening budget.

The following chart listing storage life for common garden species will help you decide which seeds are worth the bother. However, the conditions the seeds are stored in dramatically affects how well they will germinate next year, as much or more so than their species. ~

Expected Seed Storage Life

<u>Vegetable</u>	<u>Time (Years)</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Time (Years)</u>
bean	3	ageratum	4
beet	4	alyssum	4
carrot	3	aster	1
chard, Swiss	4	calendula	5
corn, sweet	2	coleus	1
cucumber	5	cosmos	3
kohlrabi	3	dahlia	2
lettuce	6	dianthus	4
muskmelon	5	geranium	1
okra	2	hibiscus	3
onion	1	hollyhock	2
parsnip	1	impatiens	2
pea	3	lobelia	3
pepper	2	marigold	2
pumpkin	4	nasturtium	5
radish	5	pansy	1
spinach	3	petunia	2
squash	3	phlox	1
tomato	4	poppy	4
turnip	4	salvia	1
watermelon	4	verbena	1
		vinca	1
		zinnia	5

2021 Delaware County Extension Master Gardener Membership Form

**** Due to COVID-19, 2021 DCMGA membership dues and volunteer requirements have been waived for active members. Active members do not need to complete this form and submit payment. Extension Master Gardeners are still required to record 6 educational hours by December 31, 2020. ****

Purdue Master Gardeners must satisfy specific requirements each year to maintain the Purdue Master Gardener title and remain eligible to volunteer and participate in official Purdue Master Gardener activities and events. To remain active each year, a Purdue Master Gardener must:

1. Volunteer for a minimum of **12 hours** each year and report that activity to the Purdue Extension – Delaware County Extension Master Gardener coordinator.
2. Complete and report a minimum of **6 hours** of educational training approved by the Purdue Extension – Delaware County Extension Master Gardener coordinator.
3. Submit an updated and signed electronic copy of the Purdue Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Application and Agreement to the Purdue Extension - Delaware County office.

To be considered a Delaware County Extension Master Gardener in good standing, please record your volunteer and educational hours by **December 11, 2020**. Click on www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php to report hours online.

In addition, Delaware County Master Gardeners must pay the annual membership due no later than **December 31, 2020**. Dues are \$10 per person. Payments and membership forms can be mailed to:

Kate Bell, Treasurer
1738 East C.R. 300 N
New Castle, Indiana 47362

Please make checks payable to *Delaware County Master Gardener Association, Inc.*
Questions can be directed to Kate Bell at k8bell1@gmail.com or by calling 765-256-1518.

It is crucial that you complete these requirements by the deadline in order to have your name listed in the 2021 Master Gardener membership booklet. Thank you!

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

Optional, check appropriate:

Please do not include my ____ address ____ phone number ____ email in the membership booklet.

Please indicate areas of special interest to you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Seed collection & storage	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn care
<input type="checkbox"/> Soils & plant nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Herb gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect control	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor & houseplants
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees & shrubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Native plants
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant diseases & prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees & bushes	<input type="checkbox"/> Composting	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape design/maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Patio gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Attracting wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Water gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> Home greenhouse gardening	Other (specify): _____		

Official use only: Received _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

2021 Project Proposal Form



Name of Project: _____

Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons: _____

Vice-Chairperson: _____

Chairperson(s) Contact Information: _____

Provide a Brief Project Description

Why is the project being undertaken? How does this project align with the mission of the Purdue Master Gardener Program, "to provide information and technical assistance about gardening and home horticulture through trained and certified volunteers" (MG-5-W)? If needed, please use an additional sheet of paper to respond.

Project location: _____

Anticipated start/end date of project: _____

Will this project re-occur annually? Yes No

Anticipated annual project budget: \$ _____

Number of volunteers needed: _____

Number of people reached by this program: _____

List community partners and describe their involvement: _____

Are there any additional materials or resources that will be required to for this project? If so, please describe.

Purdue Extension will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Purdue's Equal Opportunity, Equal Access and Affirmative Action policy.

It is the policy of Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action Institution.

I agree that I have read and understand Purdue University's [Equal Opportunity, Equal Access, and Affirmative Action policy](#), and that this project will conform to those requirements.

Chairperson(s) Signature

Date

DCMGA Board Approval

Extension Educator

Date