

Marshall County, The Garden Gate

Published by: Marshall County Extension Staff,
Ag & Natural Resources Educator

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Marshall County Master Gardeners
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Find our Website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/Marshall>



Extension - Marshall County

PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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Extension - Marshall County



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Marshall County
112 W. Jefferson St. Rm. 304
Plymouth, IN 46563
Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture

Address Service Requested

Marshall County Master Gardener August Update

The group had a wonderful turn out at the visit to Spencer Family Farm on August 14th for the Board, Monthly Meeting, and farm tour. Members included: Krystyna H., Ken W., Becky H., Donna N., Barb W., Tamara L., Caitlin S., Roy and Amy H., Janet M., Liz B., Roy D., Pat P., Pat and Dave K., Marion E., Ebony and Ivory N., Tom E., Brianna S., Harold D.

The Board Meeting discussed several topics. The group went over the 4-H Fair booth and the visit to Jim and Shirley Wallace's high tunnel. Upcoming events were discussed for the Sept. Plant Swap, October Cranberry Farm tour, the November Harvest Dinner and Extension Board Dinner, and finally the December Breakfast. There will be a Flower and Plant Photo Contest during the December Breakfast. Members are asked to print a 8x10 photo of something they grew in their garden or home that is plant related. A minor prize will be given to the winner.

Changes for next years 4-H booth included having short educational sessions lead by Master Gardeners during Fair Week. Additionally, their will be a visit to the S. Bend Unity Gardens for members to take a tour and see how we can improve our local Unity Garden. Roy Danforth has a contact at our local Unity Garden.

The group also discussed member tee shirts. The official shirt for Master Gardener and Interns can be ordered through Purdue. The group will have a "Fun Shirt" for all members. Members that pay their yearly Dues will be able to get a free shirt and pick out a decal to be added on to their group shirt. The shirt will be a dark green shirt with "Marshall County Master Gardeners" on the front and their chosen decal on the back.

The group voted on renting a van from Enterprise for the October trip. The Association will pay for the transportation cost. Roy is working to see if another bus could be made available for the group instead of the rental van. Those interested in carpooling need to RSVP by Sept 29th to the Extension Office.

A HUGE thank you to Caitlin Spencer for hosting the August meeting on her farm! We appreciate your hospitality, refreshments, and tour of your flower farm business!



September

4– Office Closed

12– Monthly Meeting and Plant Swap (New Date)

October

12– DeGrandchamps Cranberry Harvest Tour in MI.

November

4 / 18—TBD Harvest Dinner

9—Purdue Extension Annual Meeting

23-24 Office Closed

December

2—Holiday Breakfast

22—25 Office Closed

Submit your Volunteer and Educational Hours!

In order to stay an active member you will need 12 hours of volunteer time, 6 hours of educational hours, and you will need to fill out the Annual Agreement each year!

<https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer/login.php>



If you would like to turn in or call in your hours in to our office to be recorded you send them to:

**Marshall Co. Extension
Office**

574-935-8545



www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners



www.facebook.com/marshallanr



[smore https://www.smore.com/u/purdueboilmaker](https://www.smore.com/u/purdueboilmaker)



Extension <https://extension.purdue.edu/Marshall>



2023 Master Gardener Officers

President: Harold Diedrich 574-936-4546
Vice President: Barbara White, 574-936-6725
Secretary: Krystyna Hyczyk 574-806-0848
Treasurer: Carol Nelson, 574-315-5577

Board Members

Amy Heinke
Ken Waite
Deborah Howard
Lynn Fitzpatrick

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Master Gardener Meeting

September 12, 2023

Plant and Tool Swap 6:30PM

Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM

Puerto Vallarta on the Lake
10055 Pretty Lake Trail, Plymouth, IN 46563

Join us for our annual plant and tool swap and monthly meeting. Directions and more information can be found on page 12-13 of this newsletter. Please RSVP if you are able to attend 574-935-8545 by September 8th.



Don't Forget!

Master Gardener Volunteer
and Educational Hours are due
by September 29th to be
recognized at the November
Harvest Dinner

Turn your hours in online, call or email the
Extension Office
brianna@purdue.edu 574-935-8545




Unity Gardens

Natural Fruit Tree Spray Program

When and how to spray fruit
trees naturally

Free Class
Thursday, October 12th, 5:30 PM to 6:30 pm
At the Unity Gardens Welcome Center
3701 Prast Blvd
www.theunitygardens.org



Meeting at Spencer Family Farm, Bremen, IN



MAKER SPACE

Workshop:

Tues, Sept 12
4:30-6:30 pm
 Meeting Rooms A & B
 All Ages Welcome!

Led by Ebony Nava

This workshop will cover how and when to harvest seeds as well as Best Seed Storage Practices. This workshop will cover why saving your own seeds is beneficial for your local community. You will learn the important differences between annual and biennial produce crops and work with some common veggie garden seeds and self-pollinating fruit trees during hands-on. You will also learn some of the history of small cultivation, and that people have preserved seed varieties in the US and elsewhere - past and present.

All ages are welcome. All materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a VERY RIPE fruit vegetable. (Fruit Vegetables are those that produce seeds inside the parts that you eat.)

Please call the library to register at 574-223-2713



Harvesting & Storing Seeds



October Trip to DeGrandchamp Farm

Address: 76241 14th Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

All members are invited to a Cranberry Farm Tour this coming October! The trip is schedule for Thursday, October 12th. We will have a car pool option available for anyone that is interested.

To carpool: **Please RSVP by September 29th** to khyrczyk@purdue.edu or call 5574-935-8545. The carpool will leave from the Marshall County Extension office 112 W Jefferson St, Plymouth, IN 46563 promptly at 11:30am.

You can also drive yourself and meet the group at the farm. Our tour is scheduled at 1pm.

You are welcome to bring your family and friends for the tour. Plan on wearing durable boots for this event.



Cranberry Dream Bars

Crust:
2 cups flour
¾ cup powdered sugar
1 cup butter

Filling:
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
½ cup flour
½ tsp salt
4 cups cranberries, chopped
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Crust: Combine flour and sugar. Cut in butter until crumbs form. Press onto bottom of 15 x 10 x 1 inch jelly roll pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Filling: Blend eggs, sugar, flour and salt until smooth. Fold in cranberries and nuts, spread over hot crust. Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees until filling is lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars.

Blueberry Fun Facts!

By Brianna Slonaker, ANR Educator

Being from Marshall County, we all know the Blueberry Festival Happens every Labor Day weekend in Centennial Park in Plymouth for the past 57 years! To Celebrate one of Indiana's Largest Festivals here are a few Fun Facts from BC Blueberry Council:

1. One large handful (1/2 a cup) of juicy blueberries contains just 44 calories but has 2 grams of dietary fiber and 10% of your daily recommended vitamin C content.
2. Blueberries ranked number one in antioxidant health benefits in a comparison with more than 40 fresh fruits and vegetables.
3. The blueberry is one of the only foods that is truly naturally blue in color. The pigment that gives blueberries their distinctive color—called anthocyanin—is the same compound that provides the blueberry's amazing health benefits.
4. People have been eating blueberries for more than 13,000 years.
5. The blueberry (genus Vaccinium) is one of the only commercially-available fruits that is native to North America.
6. A single blueberry bush can produce as many as 6,000 blueberries per year.

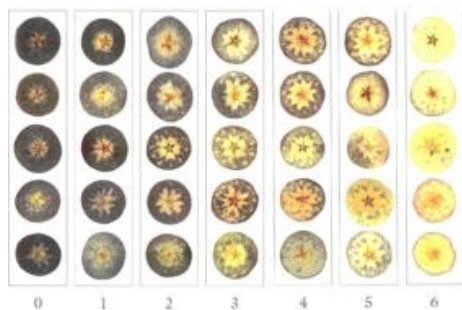


Determining Apple Maturity

By: Peter M Hirst

Making the decision on when to harvest can be a very tricky and complicated issue. The longer you intend to store the fruit, the more precise your timing needs to be. For summer apples, most growers only intend to store fruit until their higher quality fall apples come on stream, so storage times beyond a week or two are not that common. For example, very early season apples such as Lodi and Pristine should only be stored for a few weeks until Gala harvest begins. Even for fall apples, many Indiana growers aim to sell the majority of their crop immediately to the consumer, and try to be done by mid November or so. Since storage times are relatively short, harvest maturity is less important than for longer term storage. This being the case, apples should be harvested when they are fully ripe. This will maximize their flavor, and although it reduces their storage potential, this is not too important for many direct market growers. There are various tests for measuring fruit maturity and degree of ripeness, but taking a bite out of a few apples will give a good enough indication for fruit being stored for short periods where flavor is important but storage life is not. Obviously, this also applies to apples intended for U-pick.

Bear in mind that even in cold storage, fruit continue to ripen, just at a slower rate. Therefore, fruit intended for longer term storage should be harvested when they are less ripe. There is no single test that will give you the precise answer but factors such as calendar date, heat unit accumulation, fruit firmness, soluble solids concentration, starch content and ethylene evolution all give answers to a piece of the puzzle. As you can see, this gets complicated real fast. In fact, states with large apple industries have labs dedicated to performing these tests and measurements are fed into complex mathematical models to determine the optimum harvest time for fruit for long-term storage.



Beyond the taste test, if you are going to perform one test I suggest looking at starch index. As fruit ripen, enzymes convert starch in the fruit to soluble sugars, which explains why fruit become sweeter as they ripen. This test provides an estimate of how much of the starch in the apple has been converted to sugar. So, in Figure 1, the fruit with a rating of 0 (completely black) are full of starch and not ready to be harvested. The fruit with a rating of 6 have almost complete conversion of starch to sugar and are ready for immediate consumption. For short-term storage or immediate sale, harvest fruit when they have a starch index of 4-6. This test is quick, easy, and doesn't require expensive equipment.

SHARING A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

By Roy Danforth (MG intern)

This vegetable harvest has been the best I have ever done! Because the only place available in our back yard for a large veggie garden happens to be between two large walnut trees, I decided to overhaul it. In the spring, I dug 2 feet deep and pulled out all the walnut roots, added sheep manure, then mixed it all in. I also applied new techniques in caring for a veggie garden that I learned from



the Master Gardener classes such watering less often, but deep or weeding when the weeds are still small. I ended up planting just about everything under the sun, but a lot of the beds were dedicated to lettuce, mostly Romaine, and cookable leafy plants such as spinach and chard. It all grew extremely well and the bounty was huge! However, my son's family that lives next door to us, spent almost two months in Spain, so they were not around to eat of this bounty nor can any of it. So, this caused me to share it all with friends and neighbors. We put a box out by the road and gave away zucchini and straight-neck squash, we invited families with kids to come and pick their own buckets of strawberries, and when I went to play pickleball or go to church, we took bags and bags of lettuce, spinach, and green beans. The recipients were excited to receive free fruit and veggies and after they ate what they had gotten, the reports back were always positive and they were thankful I shared. For almost a month, I am sure I must've given out at least 75 heads of lettuce! But you know, the amazing thing was, giving away veggies and fruit like that is a joy, but even more satisfying is it created an opportunity to talk about what I did to my garden to be able to produce such amounts of good quality produce, a conversation starter! I talked about everything from preparing the beds to proper thinning to timely watering. During my stint as an agricultural missionary in Central Africa, I used this methodology of having village farmers taste samples of different fruits we were introducing then do a seminar on how to raise tropical fruit trees. I think I must've talked about gardening with at least 8 pickleballers and 5 churchgoers over that span. Some of those had gardens and as we exchanged ideas, I benefitted from the discussions too! So, this has not only been an opportunity to share in God's bounty, but it ended up being a time to share and learn from each other which is what the Mater Gardener program is all about!

8 Volunteer Opportunity! National FFA is in need of your help!

What: National FFA Floriculture CDE

When: Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm - lunch is provided to judges

Where: Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN

Event Information: The National FFA Floriculture Career Development Event is designed to promote the study of and interest in the production and retailing of flowers, plants, and foliage through the agricultural education curriculum. The Floriculture CDE is composed of 4 students on a team, and one team is allowed to represent each state on the national level. What will I be judging? We have several different events—
Morning: All 32 judges will start the morning with team activity.

Team Activity- (32 judges needed) - students will work as a team of 4 to complete the task assigned to them; there will be a group presentation for judges at the end of the working period.

Afternoon, we need 16 judges to judge Growing procedures and 8 judges for the floral arrangement.

Growing Procedures - (16 judges) Students will be using the given plant material and will either be transplanting young plants into larger pots or taking cuttings to then plant into a new pot or will be pinching the plant back to promote new growth- judges will critique their skills when working with the plants and if they propagation methods used

Floral Arrangement - (6 judges for design and 2 judges for price sheet) - students will create 1 arrangement based on the given scenario, and judges will critique the designs based on proper design principles.

Judges Orientation: Judges' Orientation will take place virtually prior to the event. Once judging categories have been assigned, each event will hold its own orientation in October before we arrive in Indy. More information will be sent later once we have finalized our judges.

If you are interested in serving as a judge, please click on the link or copy <https://forms.gle/EGowVGS6GYqXYtkX8>

Cost: There is ZERO cost to serve as a judge; this is a volunteer event. However, travel will be on your own to and from the event.

Thank you!
Melissa Riley
National FFA Floriculture CDE Committee Member



PRIVATE PAGE just for our Master Gardeners

www.facebook.com/groups/217503359656977

PUBLIC PAGE for our community

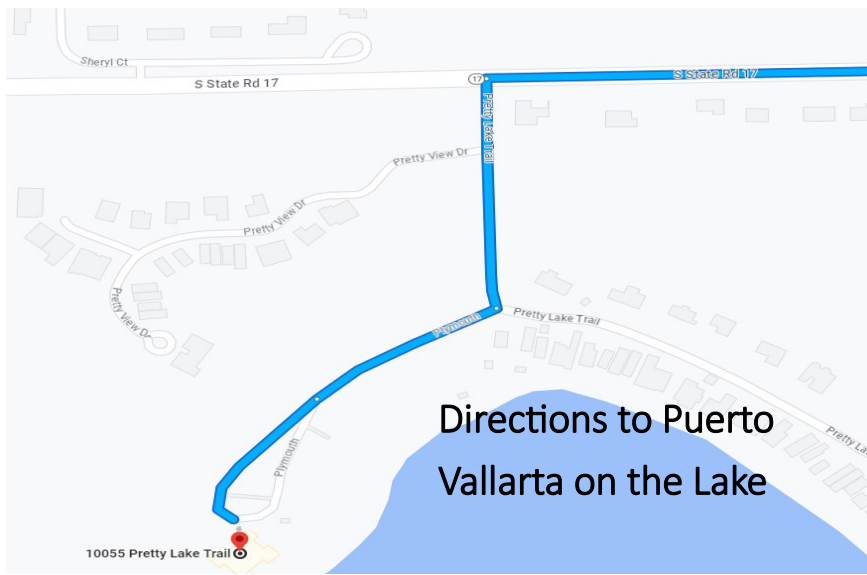
www.facebook.com/marshallcountymastergardeners

Marshall Co. Association
Annual

PLANT AND TOOL SWAP

TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 • TBD
PUERTO VALLARTA ON THE LAKE
10055 PRETTY LAKE TRAIL
PLYMOUTH, IN 46563

Marshall County Master Gardener Association
Members are invited to the annual plant and tool swap. Bring house plants, perennials, bulbs, and any garden tools to swap with other members.
Our plant swap will be 30 minutes before our Monthly Meeting in September. More information to follow.



From Plymouth:

Take Oak Road South toward Hwy 17th. Continue on Hwy 17th past the St. Joseph Hospital. Turn left onto Pretty Lake Trail to head south. You will take the 2nd right at the fork.

From Bourbon:

Take Lincoln Hwy west toward Plymouth. Turn left onto Jefferson St. Take Jefferson to Oak Road. Turn left onto Oak Road to head south. Follow above instructions from Plymouth.

From Argos:

Take Hwy 31 north toward Plymouth. Take a left onto Michigan Road. Take Michigan Road to Oakhill Ave. Turn west onto Oakhill Ave. Follow until you reach Hwy 17. Turn left to head west on 17. Take 17 to Pretty Lake Trail. Turn left onto Pretty Lake Trail to head south. You will take the 2nd right at the fork.

From Culver:

Take Hwy 17 north toward Burr Oak. Follow 17 until you pass Pretty Lake Trinity United Methodist Church. Shortly after that you will take a right onto Pretty Lake Trail to head south. You will take the 2nd right at the fork.

Another Case of Mortality from Planting Trees Too Deep

By: Kyle Daniel

The most common reason for the slow decline of trees in the landscape is due to the depth of planting and girdling roots. Deep planting can cause a number of deleterious problems, including an increase in circling/girdling roots restricting vascular tissue and decay of protective bark (Fig. 1). The vascular tissue in the bark is located on the outer portions of the trunk, while the anatomy of roots contains the vascular tissue in the center. This is why roots can graft with roots and stems can graft with stems, but also why roots can girdle the stems of trees (Fig. 2)



Excessive mounding of mulch (aka volcano mulch) (Fig. 3) can contribute to tree decline, very similar to a tree planted too deep. It's important to remember that keeping mulch several inches away from the trunk is imperative in tree health.

If a newly transplanted tree is planted significantly too deep, a faster decline can occur, especially in plants that can't tolerate 'wet feet' (aka too much soil moisture) (Fig.4). In heavy-clay soils, the negative effects on tree health increase by creating a bath-tub situation by water not draining expeditiously after a rainfall or irrigation event.

The root flare should be visible when transplanting trees into the landscape (Fig. 5). If no root flare is present, which is often on many conifers and smaller deciduous trees, the top most root should be considered at grade, or top of the root ball.



Always make sure to plant at grade, though there are a few minor exceptions, and never plant below grade (Fig. 6). Planting correctly is vitally important to the long-term viability of trees.



2023 PURDUE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE

Back Together Again

October 6-7, 2023

PURDUE CAMPUS • West Lafayette, Indiana



More information at
<https://bit.ly/2023EMGStateConf>

An Equal Access/Equal Opportunity University



We're pleased to announce that the 2023 Purdue EMG State Conference Registration is now OPEN!

Please visit the link below to register online for the reception on October 6, 5:30 – 8:30 pm (ET) and/or the conference on October 7, 9:30 a.m. (check-in) and 10 a.m. – 4:30 pm (ET) educational sessions.

- Reception, October 6th - \$30.00/person (separate fee from conference day)
- Conference Day, October 7th - \$90.00/person (includes conference t-shirt)
- Registration is open to Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, EMG Interns, EMG Alumni, and EMG Coordinators.

Register here: <https://cvent.me/3A9oe7>

Registration deadline is September 22, 2023, 11:59 pm (ET).

Blocks of rooms are reserved at Hampton Inn, Lafayette, IN and Homewood Suites, Lafayette, IN. A special rate will apply for Purdue EMG State Conference attendees. **Rooms will be available until September 15, 2023.**

Please visit the 2023 Purdue EMG State Conference webpage for more information, <https://bit.ly/2023EMGStateConf>

Master Gardener 2023 Calendar

Calendar Designed by Barb White

January 9 th – Board Meeting 6PM 9 th – Monthly Meeting with Roy Danforth Speaker	July 8– Lakeside Lavender Trip @10 AM CT / 11 AM ET 10 th – Meeting and 4H Fair Prep 15-20 th 4H Fair. Sign up for booth! 14–Open Class Project drop off 9AM to 12PM 14– Closed Judging @12:30p 15– Open Class Building Open to the Public @ 5PM
February 13 th – Monthly Meeting. Bob Yoder Speaker “Climate Changes”	August 14 th – Board Meeting 14 th – Monthly meeting. Local Trip to Caitlin Spencer Cut Flower Farm
March 13 th – Monthly Meeting. Plan for Home show. Get supplies for displays. Garden of Florida Presentation– Harold 31– Set up for Plymouth Home Show 3PM drop off items	September 12 th – Monthly Meeting and Plant Swap NEW DATE on TUESDAY.
April 1-2- Plymouth Home and Outdoor Show 24 th - Perennial’s Galore Trip	October 12– DeGrandchamps Cranberry Harvest Tour in MI.
May 8 th - Board Meeting and Monthly Meeting. Prep Farmers Market. Speaker. 20 and 27- Farmer’s Market Plant Sale 24– Garden Tour @ Chet & Janes Hall Property	November 9– Annual Extension Board Dinner 4/18– Harvest Dinner at Ext. Office TBD
June 12 th – Monthly Meeting.	December 2– Annual MG Breakfast