

BUDS & BUGS

Volume 5, Issue 8

Huron County Master Gardener Newsletter



Master Gardener Christmas Party December 9, 6:00 p.m.

This party will be potluck here at the MSUE office (conference room and garage). Casual attire. Guests are welcome. County Commissioners have been invited. Badges and certificates will be presented. Decorations committee involves Mary Falkenberg (lighted trees and angels). Anita Booms and Carol Holtrop will set up. Others are welcome to help! The MG program will provide paper plates, cups, napkins, silverware and table coverings.

There will be a \$5 gift exchange.

Jim would like MG's to bring in pictures (by November 30) of any MG projects so they can be used in a PowerPoint presentation that night...or you can email them to huron@msue.msu.edu.

Please RSVP to Carol at 269-9949.

Bulb Sale

We have cleared close to \$200 on this year's bulb sale. Our thanks go to everyone who worked and showed up to buy at the Bulb Sale at the EconoLodge Inn, Bad Axe, in September, and to Peggy Miller and Cheryl Plester who worked at the October 16 sale in Port Austin.

There are still bulbs left which will be donated to various community groups and MG supporters. We also have an inventory of large and small bulb planters. The gloves we sell are not figured in this total.

Master Gardener Series

The bad news is that we have canceled the November to February series due to low enrollment. The good news is that we have already scheduled the spring series (April 20-June 29, 2005) and are asking the current presenters if they are available to help us out with that one. This will give us more lead time and a definite product to offer to future MG's!

SafeHouse Landscaping Project

Jo Doyle reported that she spoke with Amy Kain in October regarding MG assistance in the landscaping. Amy stated that they are planning stockade fencing around the back perimeter for safety and privacy, a playscape area for children, and an area for parents to watch their children while relaxing (a patio/respice area). Jo is waiting for the dimensions before planning of the area can begin. All interested MG's are welcome to participate.

December 2004

MSU EXTENSION HURON COUNTY



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2005 Spring Into Gardening Conference

The SIG committee met and is working at lining up the remaining speakers. So far, we have Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses [1 or 2 classes on roses]; Janet Manconovich of the Detroit News and Free Press (keynote speaker); Dr. Duke Elsner (The Bug Guy) of MSU Extension – Grand Traverse [butterfly gardening]; Barb Fenningsdorf of Boon Dock Perennials and Waterplants [bog gardens]. Vendor letters should be going out soon. Bags have been ordered again. Price is the same as last year: \$30 for advance sales, \$40 at the door.



Orange Cauliflower

ALBANY, NY-June 14, 2004 - After nearly 30 years, it's finally coming to the U.S. market – orange cauliflower. The hybrid breed has found favor with restaurant chefs because of its attractive appearance. But it has some health benefits as well, having almost 25 times the vitamin-A as its pale cousin.



First discovered in a Canadian marsh in 1970, the brightly colored vegetable has done well in test marketing, and its developers expect it to be quite popular. "White cauliflower lacks the dark green pigments that give broccoli the nutritional advantage that health-conscious people are interested in," said Michael Dickson, Cornell University crucifer breeder.



Gardeners also like the new breed because it is easier to grow than the standard variety.

Homemade Deer Repellent

*Provided by
Arlene Heins, Master Gardener
Author unknown*



1 gallon of water
1½ tablespoons of cooking oil
2 to 6 drops of hot sauce
Stir to mix.



Add:
2½ tablespoons liquid dish soap
Slowly stir this mixture together.



For a vole or mole problem:
Add 2 tablespoons castor oil



Add mixture to a spray bottle that puts out a fine mist to cover plants. Must be repeated after a rain (at least until the deer get the message that this is an awful tasting plant).

Personal note from Arlene: "I don't know why the castor oil couldn't be used instead of the vegetable or olive oil in the first place?"

Perennial Plant Sale – May 14th, 2005

Set up for this sale will be on May 13 at the Huron Expo Center, fairgrounds, Bad Axe, 6:00 p.m. Call the office if you can help with this project and what plants you may bring. Look over your garden now. Paula Brunell and Evelyn Gainor are co-chairs of this project. Let them or the office know how many pots and what sizes you may need. Pots and soil will be available somewhere around March.

REMEMBER, plants need to be potted with clean, fresh potting medium instead of your garden soil.

New Resources for the MG Library

Three books have been purchased: "Annuals for Michigan", "Perennials for Michigan", and "Tree and Shrub Gardening for Michigan." "Vegetable Growers News" and "Growing News" are two magazines that regularly come to the office as well. Let Jim know if you know of other good resources that should be purchased.

Since our monthly meeting, we have had another resource arrive: "Michigan Forest Community – A Field Guide and Reference."

Stop by to look over these wonderful books for your own information and as a resource to answer homeowner calls.

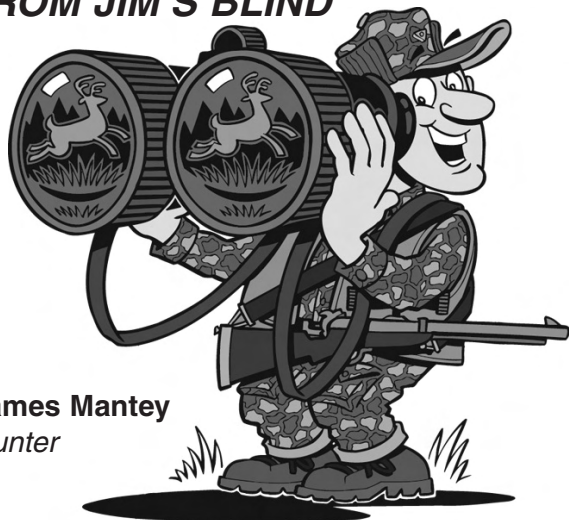
MGs Trained in Emerald Ash Borer Scouting

Mary Falkenberg shared the Emerald Ash Borer information she and Pat Goodnow received at the Novi training in October. This was a good meeting that allowed them to tour the infested area and actually harvest EAB larvae from a tree. Their samples were passed around for all to see.

Here is a wonderful site to help you identify ash trees (and similar trees that are not ash).
http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/ashtree_id.html



FROM JIM'S BLIND



James Mantey
Hunter

Take our 5-carrot quiz

Taken from USA Today

Provided by Jim Holtrop, MG Trainee

Questions:

1. Sales of baby carrots peak for which two holidays?
2. Which full-sized carrots are fresher: those with their green tops on or with the leafy tops cut off?
3. What does a real baby carrot taste like?
4. How long have people been eating carrots?
5. What did early carrots look like?

Answers below



Fall Garden Tips

*Fall is the best season to plant fruit trees such as apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, and apricots. Young trees should be staked to prevent roots from being pulled by fall and winter winds.

*As perennials fade away, mark their locations with small sticks. Some might not be apparent after the winter and could be disturbed by spring cultivatings.

*Some veggies can be sown in fall to overwinter, resulting in earlier crops the following year: peas, fava beans, hardy spinach, spring cabbage, calabrese, leaf beets, or Swiss chard.

*Dig up your rosemary, basil, tarragon, oregano, marjoram, thyme, parsley and chives to grow the inside as housplants. Keep them in a cool, sunny spot and allow the soil to dry out before watering. Snip off the leaves as needed in the kitchen, but do not strip them completely.



Here's a website with an interesting article on "Cold Acclimation: how plants stay warm in the winter".

www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/YGLNews/YGLNews.html#chill

- Answers:
1. Thanksgiving and Christmas.
 2. With the tops off. The leaves suck water and nutrients out of the carrot once it is pulled from the ground.
 3. Crunchy water. Immature carrots haven't had time to develop much of a taste at all.
 4. Evidence of carrot seeds in early human settlements in Germany and Switzerland dates back 5,000 years. The first known production of carrots as a root vegetable was in Afghanistan about 1,100 years ago.
 5. Early carrots were purple, yellow and white. Orange carrots didn't appear until 1600. They became the carrot of choice, in part because purple carrots turned cooking water a murky brown.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Call the numbers listed for times, fees and a more detailed description of the event

Dec. 1 **Wreath Making Workshop**, 2-4:00 p.m.

MSUE office, Bad Axe. Call 989-269-9949.

Dec. 9, Thursday, 6 p.m.

**Huron County Master Gardener Holiday
Dinner Party & Awards Presentation**
R.S.V.P. 989-269-9949

"Evergreen Extravaganza"

Create you own fresh wreath for outdoors.

Nov. 29, Dec. 7 & Dec. 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per person, limited to 20 participants.

This would count toward your EDUCATION hour.

Please call 517-546-3950 to register.

Livingston County - Howell, MI

Perennial Plant Sale – May 14th, 2005

Set up for this sale will be on the 13th at the Expo Center, fairgrounds, Bad Axe, 6:00 p.m..



Master Gardener Program
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