

MASTER GARDENER Communicator

June 2003

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION
KALAMAZOO
COUNTY

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2003 Already a Busy Year for Master Gardeners

— *Emelee Reifschneider, Master Gardener Coordinator*

Spring is finally here and many of you will soon be out in your gardens, if you haven't done so already. Area garden centers seemed to be buzzing last weekend, when I visited the Let's Go Gardening sites. This year we were blessed to have five locations. Because of the great volunteer turn out we had the right number of shifts and Master Gardeners for each site. The ideal was three people per shift, which allowed for great Master Gardener interaction as well as more help for retailer's customers.

Our biggest event this spring was the Spring into Gardening Conference, held on April 26, with over 100 people in attendance. Thanks to all the Master Gardener Volunteers who helped that day. Thanks especially to Judi Roberts who was the Volunteer Coordinator for the day.

Several Master Gardeners did excellent presentations. I heard quite a bit of positive feedback on Becky Yaple and Jonathan Richardson's presentation on container gardening. It was amazing to watch these two team-teach. Even more amazing was the fact that I helped pair the two together. Both approached me individually to teach container gardening.

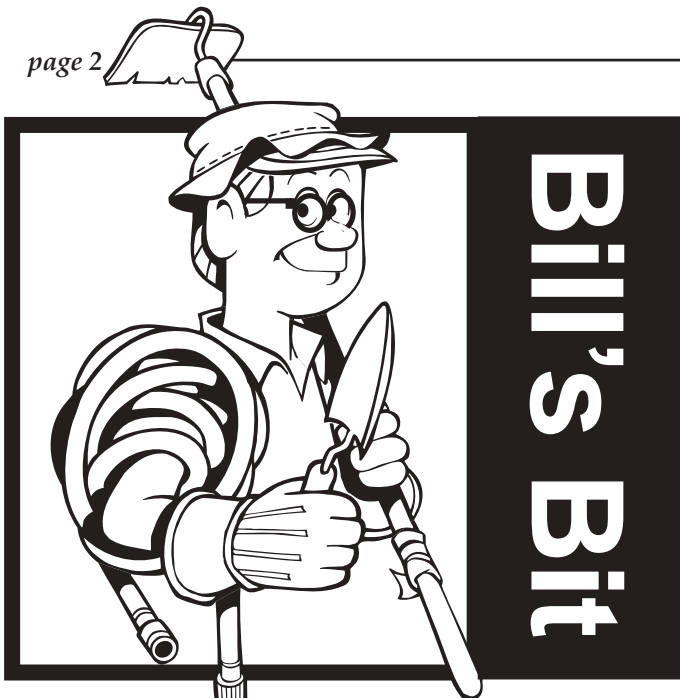
We are starting to book speakers for next year's conference. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, please let me know.

A tentative date of April 3, 2004, has been selected for the next conference. Next year we will be adding vendors to the "attractions" at the confer-



Please see Busy Year on page 7

Judi Sabo (left) and Janet Raklovits greet a '2003 Spring into Gardening' participant at the check-in table.



There have been times in my life when I've woken up in the morning and there was an extra blanket on me that wasn't there when I went to bed the night before. I'm pretty sure the same thing has happened to you too. I can't tell you when it occurred last or if it was my mom or my wife, or maybe even my kid, who did it. It falls into that category of events I have come to think of as "Things I Almost Didn't Notice."

This spring season seems to fit nicely into that bracket. I don't know if I will be able to convey to you with any success what I almost didn't notice this spring. It has been hard enough trying to put my finger on it. It might be even more difficult to describe. But I will give it a shot and we'll see how it turns out.

First of all, it is obvious the days are starting earlier now. My morning commute now requires sunglasses. In a couple more weeks the morning sun will be higher in the sky at drive time and the car roof will provide shade. But for now the other people I share the drive with take a dim view of my efforts to shield the view of the sun, and oncoming traffic, with my hand. (Was the light at the last intersection really red?)

In the spring I plan my attire for the forecasted high of the day, not what it is right now. It's a good thing the interior of my car acts like a solar oven these sunny mornings. If it were 39 degrees in the middle of January and I went out of the house without a jacket on, I think my head would need to be examined. But now that it's May, I shrug off the temporary inconvenience and fortify my thoughts with the nice afternoon drive home I will have with the window rolled down.

These observations are pretty regular for me. Sure, other people might not notice the blinding, low angle of the sun from mid-April to mid-May. They may be driving westbound every morning. What is unusual for me is when one of my under-used senses starts paying attention to the change from winter to spring. That would be the sense of smell.

Before I go into any detail about these spring smells

I have come across, I must tell you a little bit about my neighborhood. I live about half a mile away from a spice extraction company. They take raw spice and turn it into a concentrate for commercial food processors. It is not uncommon, on a slightly breezy day, to detect the smell of any number of spices. At the top of my list of aromas is cinnamon; at the bottom is cayenne pepper. None of these scents are overpowering but with a nice, long, slow inhalation my nose can pretty much tell what they are making.

One of the strongest springs smells out there is the first — hyacinth. Floral shops and department stores take advantage of the signature aroma of this early spring bulb for guaranteed sales as early as March and sometimes February. Between you and me, I can't stand hyacinth when it's inside a room. It just overwhelms my nose. I have caught its scent outdoors occasionally because the flowers last only about three to five days. It's kind of fun to track them down though. I can be ten yards away and smell them as if I was holding the flowers right under my nose.

The next easiest sign of spring are the flowering ornamental apple and cherry trees. Their fragrance has a kind of a delayed release effect. When I am right next to them, they are hardly noticeable. But when I am downwind from a crabapple tree on a windy day, I feel like I am in a perfume shop.

For these next two smells you will have to do a little bit of exploration and experimentation on your own. Most people think tulips and irises are for looking at. In most cases this is true but there are two exceptions that come to mind and fortunately I have both growing in my flower bed.



The first one is called a 'Gudoshnik' tulip. It doesn't look any different than a regular tulip but it has a surprising fragrance. I originally chose 'Gudoshnik' because its color ranges from solid red to solid yellow and every variation of red-yellow stripe in-between. I figured it would be like getting three different tulips for the price of one.

The second is an unnamed, deep purple iris. I found

Please see Bill's Bit on page 9

FROM THE HOME OFFICE

MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE NEEDS YOU!

If you haven't signed up to staff the Master Gardener Hotline, please call the office at 383-8830 and sign up or stop in to look over the schedule to find the date that's right for you! The Hotline started on April 28 and the volunteers who have staffed it already have had a few calls to keep them busy. Thanks!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many new volunteer opportunities coming into the office and we're listing them on our County web site

(www.kalcounty.com/msue/homehortindex.htm),

but we also have them available for your review in the Volunteer Opportunities Notebook here in the office. Stop by anytime and check it out!

**** IMPORTANT ****

RECERTIFICATION RULES CHANGE

Notification from MSU was sent to all Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinators that, effective October 1, 2003 (this would be the next reporting year, not the current reporting year), Master Gardeners who are recertifying would follow the guidelines listed below:

To recertify: complete a minimum of 15 volunteer hours and 5 educational credits

Currently, as you know, the guidelines are to complete a minimum of 10 volunteer hours and 3 educational credits to become recertified.

I wanted to give all of you advance notice so there are no misunderstandings next year for completion of your recertification. If you have

questions, you may contact Emelee at 383-8815.

COMING SOON - EXCITING NEWS!!!

MSU's Master Gardener Volunteer Program has developed a new program for Master Gardeners. It is called "Master Gardener Volunteer Area of Specialization". They have one area of specialization designed thus far entitled, "Gardening with Children".

Each area of specialization will have its own curriculum, and a minimum of 15 hours of education will be required to certify in each area of specialization. This new program is being developed and sponsored by MSU and MSU Extension horticulturists and others designated by the State Master Gardener Advisory Committee.

Recordkeeping - It will be the responsibility of the individual to keep track of the specialized training and volunteer hours they perform. Records should include: title of each training program, name of instructor, date of activity, total number of training hours involved, activity where volunteer service was offered and number of volunteer hours for each activity.

To retain your Area of Specialization designation, the individual must remain an active Master Gardener volunteer.

For more information about this program, contact Emelee at the MSU Extension office, 383-8815.

YOU CAN EXHIBIT AT THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR

You have already received this information by mail, but wanted to present it to you again to make sure everyone has the opportunity to participate.

To obtain an entry form and detailed entry guidelines, please contact the MSU Extension office prior to entry deadline of July 1.

Please see Home Office on page 8

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Looking For A New Potted Plant? Orchids May Be Appealing Option

Are you attracted and intrigued by the beauty of orchids but afraid to try growing one at home? Thanks to researchers at Michigan State University, the challenge associated with growing orchids may become a thing of the past.

The orchid family is the largest family of flowering plants. It includes an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 species and hundreds of thousands of varieties. Each variety can have distinct growing and flowering requirements.

Supported by Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Environmental and Economic Needs), scientists are developing production guidelines for orchids. Two genera in particular, *Miltoniopsis* and *Zygopetalum*, may be appealing to consumers and greenhouse operators alike.

Miltoniopsis flowers resemble large pansy flowers. They come in various shades of red and white and have a sweet fragrance similar to that of sweet peas. These plants are grown by some smaller greenhouse companies in limited quantities for sale primarily to orchid hobbyists. *Zygopetalum* orchids have exotic-looking dark maroon and lime-green flowers and a bold, spicy aroma.

Miltoniopsis and *Zygopetalum* orchids are produced and sold by the hundreds of thousands in Europe, particularly in the Netherlands and Germany. They are not commonly grown in the United States, but this may change as researchers develop a better understanding of their growing requirements and flowering cycle.

Miltoniopsis and *Zygopetalum* are considered cool-season orchids because they grow best at relatively cool temperatures (55 to 70 degrees F).

“Because these two genera of orchids grow best at lower temperatures, growers can maintain cooler greenhouse temperatures, which is of increasing interest as the prices of natural gas and fuel oil continue to rise,” says Erik Runkle, assistant professor of horticulture and Extension floriculture specialist in the MSU Department of Horticulture.

Preliminary research by Runkle and Royal Heins, MSU professor of horticulture, indicates that *Miltoniopsis* and *Zygopetalum* orchids also appear to flourish under the low light intensities common during Michigan winters.

Perhaps more importantly, plants are stimulated to flower following exposure to a period of



Zygopetalum orchid, New Era 'Chestnut.'

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cool temperatures — eight weeks at 55 degrees F, for example. Short day lengths before the cooling period also appear to influence flowering.

Michigan's climate could give the state's greenhouse growers a marketing advantage. Growing orchids in state could help to reduce wholesale and retail costs because of shorter transportation distances to point-of-sale markets, and increasing production could result in a profitable enterprise for the state's economy.

Orchids are one of the most rapidly expanding segments of the world floriculture market. The wholesale value of potted orchid plants has steadily increased in the United States in recent years. It topped \$100 million in 2000.

Project GREEN is the state's plant agriculture initiative at Michigan State University. It is a cooperative effort between plant-based commodities and businesses together with the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture to advance Michigan's economy through its plant-based agriculture. Its mission is to develop research and educational programs in response to industry needs, ensure and improve food safety, and protect and preserve the quality of the environment.

Veggies in Containers

Eleanore Lewis, National Garden Bureau

A Crop of Containers

Gardening in a container is much like gardening in the ground; think of it as simply using a smaller “plot.” No need for a large yard to enjoy your own garden of edible delights. Use space on your deck, patio, or windowsill to display post, hanging baskets and window boxes of vegetables and herbs. Start a garden in a pot anytime during the gardening season from early spring (for cool weather crops, such as peas and lettuce) to late spring (for warm-weather vegetables and herbs, such as beans, tomatoes and basil) through midsummer (resowing peas and lettuce for fall harvests). Planting and care require a minimum of time and effort.

Follow these guidelines to help you select the best pots and plants for your needs, whether you are a first-time gardener or an experienced pro.

From the Bottom Up

Drainage is essential when you garden in containers. Few conditions will harm plants faster than soggy soil. Select pots with holes in the bottom or sides, so excess water can escape. If a pot lacks holes, drill three or four in the bottom. Raise containers without saucers off the surface of a deck or patio by placing them on decorative “feet” or pieces of wood. If you place saucers under containers be sure to empty water from them.

Choose large pots, such as half-barrels and 12- to 24-inch diameter planters, and deep window boxes to provide sufficient space for plants’ roots and to cut down on your watering chores. The soil in large planters dries more slowly in hot weather than soil in small containers. The latter can lose moisture so quickly in the heat of midsummer, you need to water daily, sometimes twice a day. Opt for plastic or composition planters instead of clay; even though terra cotta pots look very decorative, their porous nature allows water to evaporate from the soil fast.

Use a potting mix that drains well, such as a soilless medium. Soilless mediums are lightweight, an important consideration if you want to move your containers around after planting. To help the mix retain moisture you may want to add water holding polymer crystals to the soil before planting. That may sound contradictory, but it is not. The polymers absorb moisture and release it as the soil dries; they do not waterlog the soil. Add a time-release fertilizer, which will feed plants throughout the growing season.

Planting Time

Many vegetables and some herbs grow best when you start them from seeds you sow directly in the container such as beans, carrots, peas, radishes, turnips, cilantro, and dill. Warm-season plants, such as peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, and basil, get a head start

if you sow them indoors and transplant the seedlings into a larger container after 6 to 8 weeks. Of course, you can purchase bedding plants at a garden center. Still others thrive with either method: spinach, lettuce, cucumber, and basil for example.

When you combine bedding plants and seeds, set the plants in the container first; then sow seeds around the edge or in empty spaces among the plants. Seed packets tell you the correct spacing and whether or not you need to cover the seeds with soil. (Some seeds need light to germinate.) With the exception of tomatoes, set plants in the container at the same depth or just slightly deeper than they were growing in their pots. You can bury tomato plants up to the top two or three pairs of leaves; roots will form along the entire length of the buried stem.

Provide support for vining plants, such as tomatoes, pole beans, cucumbers. Stake or cage tomatoes when you put them in the container. For pole beans and cucumbers, erect wooden trellises, trellises covered with netting, or build tepees with 3 to 4 bamboo poles tied together at the top.

Water the containers thoroughly when you finish planting. Keep the soil where you sowed seeds evenly moist until seeds germinate. Thin seedlings if necessary to the correct spacing for mature plants by cutting off the weakest looking ones at the soil surface.

Spread a 2-inch-deep layer of mulch over the soil surface, after germination if you start with seeds. Mulch, which provides a decorative, finished appearance to any planting, helps the soil conserve moisture and prevents rain or hose water from splashing soil up onto the plants’ leaves. Choose any mulch that is readily available or that looks particularly attractive with your container such as shredded bark.

Container Garden Care

- Water planters as needed, which may mean daily in midsummer. To test soil for dryness, poke your finger into the soil; if it feels dry to a depth of two inches, water. Save time and effort by hooking up a drip irrigation system designed for containers; most garden centers carry them.
- Fertilize every two to three weeks, unless you added a time-release plant food to the soil. Food is especially important when plants such as tomatoes and peppers begin to flower.
- Harvest ripe fruits promptly so plants continue to produce new growth.
- Near the end of the season, protect your contained crops from sudden frosty nights by covering them with burlap or light blankets. If you tend only a few pots, bring them indoors when low night temperatures are forecast. Most vegetables slow their growth and fruit production as the heat and duration of sunlight subside going into fall; many herbs, however grow well and continue to form new leaves on a very sunny windowsill indoors.

GIRDLING KILLS LANDSCAPE PLANTS

Woody ornamentals — especially trees — are often so long-lived and seem such permanent fixtures in the landscape that we may forget just how many ways there are to kill them. Many of those involve girdling — either removing or killing a collar of bark all around the main stem or allowing something to interrupt the tree's normal circulation from roots to crown.

Causes of girdling range from gnawing rodents in winter to wire or nylon nooses, roots growing around the base of the stem and "lawn mower blight." Prevention is often easy — easier than trying to save damaged trees, anyway.

Homeowners often discover that mice or rabbits have been gnawing tree bark when the snow melts in early spring. Crabapples and other fruit trees tend to be special favorites, but a wide variety of plants may be damaged. If a complete circle of bark has been removed, the plant will not survive without heroic measures. A technique known as bridge grafting uses small twigs to bridge the gap in the living tissue just below the bark. Even when done by an expert, this technique doesn't always work but it's the only hope for a valuable landscape tree that's been girdled.

Removing the bark kills the plant because it interrupts the tree's normal circulation — food manufactured in the leaves can't reach the roots, and water taken up by the roots can't reach the crown. Wire or nylon cord left around the stem as it grows will eventually have the same effect. So will girdling roots, roots that grow around the stem instead of away from it. Over time, as root and stem increase in size, the root can tighten like a noose.

To prevent girdling or injuries to bark, be sure to remove any wire or nylon cord from the root ball or stem at planting time. If you must use guy wires to stabilize a newly planted tree, enclose the loop of wire that encircles the trunk in a piece of old garden hose to pad it, check it occasionally to make sure it's not too tight, and leave it in place no longer than necessary. Otherwise, avoid putting wire, nylon or plastic cord, metal chain or any other long-lasting material around the trunk. Left there, it can easily become a strangling noose.

Girdling roots are common in plants that spent time growing in containers before being planted in the landscape. When planting such plants, look for roots that have started to grow around the inside of the container and remove them or redirect them at planting time.

If you notice a landscape tree mysteriously

declining, walk around it and study the trunk at the soil line. If the trunk goes straight into the soil like a telephone pole rather than flaring out normally, the problem is likely a girdling root. Digging into the soil and cutting off the root may save the tree.

Another common cause of girdling is damage from lawn mowers, string trimmers and other lawn and landscape equipment. A good way to prevent this is to plant trees in beds — or build beds around established trees — and mulch around the plants so grass doesn't grow there and mowers and trimmers don't have to come close. Because mulches can conceal gnawing rodents in winter, rake mulches away from tree trunks in the fall.

CLIMBING PLANTS DON'T NEED A LADDER

Climbing plants want to get up in the world, and they use a variety of ways to do it. Morning glories, poison ivy and grapes are all climbing plants, and each has evolved a different mechanism for climbing.

Morning glories climb by twining. Twiners are the largest group of climbing plants. It includes pole beans, clematis, American bittersweet and wisteria. Twining plants climb by twisting their stems around a support. They have no special adaptations for climbing.

One of these adaptations is adventitious roots, roots that form along the stems and work their

Attention, Master Gardeners!

We're always looking for interesting items for the *COMMUNICATOR*, so let us know what you're up to.

The copy deadline for the next issue is August 15, 2003. Call or stop in the office by that date with news of interest to your fellow gardeners that you'd like to see included in the September newsletter.

Sincerely,

Emelee Reifschneider

Emelee Reifschneider
Master Gardener Coordinator

Ann Nieuwenhuis

Ann Nieuwenhuis
County Extension Director

way into cracks and crevices in the supporting surface. Poison ivy and trumpetvine, English ivy and wintercreeper are among the plants that climb this way.

Tendrils are another special adaptation. These specialized plant parts coil around whatever they come in contact with to support the plant's climbing habit. Tendrils without anything to coil around often look like partially relaxed coiled springs. Plants that climb by means of tendrils include grapevines, edible peas and sweet peas, as well as plants in the cucurbit family — melons, cucumbers and gourds.

In some plants, tendrils develop small projections at their tips that enlarge into little disks and secrete an adhesive that glues the tendril to its support. Then the tendril coils to pull the stem closer to the support. Virginia creeper is a common example.

Knowing how a plant climbs is important if you're selecting a vine to plant or providing support for a plant you've already chosen. Vines that climb by means of aerial rootlets or holdfast tendrils can be used on masonry walls but should not be used on wood surfaces. These vines cling so tightly that moisture tends to collect under them that could cause the wood to rot.

As an alternative to allowing vines to climb directly on a wall, try building a trellis or some other support a few inches away from the wall and planting vines that use tendrils or twining to climb on it. A section of sturdy woven wire fencing or a support made of metal tubing will do nicely. Remember to focus on the word "sturdy"— you don't want the support to collapse under the weight of the vine a few years down the road.

Putting Houseplants Outdoors Has More Risks Than Benefits

Most houseplants could go outdoors for the summer. But before you subject your indoor plants to outdoor conditions, you might want to ask yourself what you hope to accomplish. Then you can weigh that against the risks inherent in setting plants outside.

Increased growth is a common result of houseplants spending the summer outdoors. Plants that have been idling along on low light conditions indoors may double in size by fall in the brighter light outdoors.

That's fine if you want larger plants, but if indoor space is limited or you simply don't want to invest time and effort in repotting, this much vigorous growth may not be desirable.

If your plants are healthy and making some growth indoors, you might just want to leave them

there. Indoors, they are not subject to damage by weather, insects, animals and vandals as they are outside.

Placing plants in a sheltered, shaded location on the north or east side of a building or other structure and sinking their pots into the soil to the rim can limit the potential for sunburn, slow moisture loss from the soil in pots and protect containers from blowing over in the wind. Plants may still need frequent — maybe even daily — watering, especially in warm, windy weather, and

Please see Housplants on page 8

Busy Year

ence. I hope that by adding vendors, we will decrease the cost of register for the conference and add some "lunch-time interest."

The volunteer recognition banquet in March went great. The Birches did a wonderful job again this year. Thanks to all who attended. Those in attendance received a free Kalamazoo County Master Gardener T-shirt. I hope to see many of you wearing them proudly at volunteer activities and events. Another order for the T-shirts will be put together in the next couple months.

Keep up the great work with volunteering. Remember, it is best to reach me through e-mail at reifsche@msue.msu.edu during the summer months. I will be in neighboring county Extension offices on a regular basis.

Our office will be switching to a phone tree structure soon. To reach me directly, please use my direct phone number at 383-8815. Have a great summer and may you have great gardening weather, "good bugs" on your plants, dirt under your fingernails, great blooms on your plants and a great looking lawn!



Emelee Reifschneider (right) joins the 500 hour Volunteer Award winners at the 2003 Recognition Banquet. Left to right: Bobbe Luce, Connie Sargent, and Bill Squires.

Home Office

There will be three categories for you to enter your prized flowers at the 2003 Kalamazoo County Fair (August 4 - 10, 2003).

Department 7 - FLORICULTURE - Superintendent, Dayla Mackinder

The Categories are:

- CUT FLOWERS
- CONTAINER GARDENING
- WREATHS

1. OPEN TO ALL AMATEURS. No commercial exhibits allowed except for educational displays which must be approved by the Superintendent prior to the Show.

2. Entries must be submitted by July 1 to the Fair Office.

3. All entries must be the work of the exhibitor.

4. Arrangements should be made at home and ready for show.

5. Exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired, but only one entry may be made in any one class.

6. Check with the MSU Extension office for complete rules regarding exhibit entries.

Your entries will be judged and premiums will be awarded much like the young 4-H'ers and it will give you the opportunity to shine. I can't wait to see how many Master Gardeners take home First Place from the Kalamazoo County Fair. Best of Luck!!

Houseplants

they can still be broken by wind, rain or hail.

Wild or domestic animals and vandals may damage or destroy plants or, in the case of human pests, steal them. Insects and diseases may injure plants and hitchhike indoors in the fall, where they may proliferate and overrun plants stressed by the sudden change in growing conditions and spread to plants that stayed indoors all summer.

If you decide to put houseplants outside, follow these tips:

- Repot or cut the plant back somewhat before you set it out.

- Make sure it's in a pot with drainage holes so excess rain water can drain out.

- Make the switch outdoors gradually. Put it out for only a couple of hours for the first few days so it can adjust to outdoor conditions.

- Bury pots to the rim or be prepared to take them indoors or set them in the garage when severe weather threatens or you'll be away from home.

- Check plants frequently for dry soil and signs of insect or disease problems. Water and fertilize regularly and control problems as soon as you spot them.

- Put plants out only after the local frost-free date and bring them back inside when night temperatures start dropping into the 50s.

- Isolate plants that have been outdoors and watch them for pests and diseases. Keep them away from strictly indoor plants until you're sure they're problem-free. Be ready to discard severely infested plants.

- Be aware that plants coming indoors may respond to the drastic change in growing conditions by dropping large quantities of foliage.

If you're thinking about putting your houseplants outside in the summer, make sure you realize the risks. You may decide that the risks outweigh the potential benefits.

What is it?

The foliage pictured in this month's banner of the Master Gardener Communicator is from the 'Escargot' begonia.

A Gardener's Pace...



**... includes taking some breaks!
Enjoy the summer season!**

Bill's Bit

it growing at the first house Nancy and I bought here in Kalamazoo back in 1985. Again, it is not much to look at but when my nose gets close to its bearded petals I relive the experience of chewing grape bubble gum — both the smell and the taste!

The smell I almost didn't notice is one anybody can experience, if the conditions are just right. Unfortunately, you will have to wait until next spring — but it will be something your nose will never forget.

Everybody around these parts knows when sugar bush time is. That's when maple trees are tapped for their sap. The sap is then taken to the sugar house where it is boiled down into maple syrup or maple sugar. We are lucky here in Kalamazoo because the Nature Center has continued the tradition of sugar bush time for many years.

Here's the connection. The next time you take a walk, locate a stand of maple trees. Next April, on a

warm evening when there is no breeze, find those trees when they're in bloom and stand underneath one. If you take in a long, slow, deep breath you will be rewarded with the aroma of maple syrup. In my book, spring aromas don't get any better than that.



This June 2003, Continuing Education Test is one of a series of CE tests presented by the *Communicator*. Each test, when completed and passed, will provide one hour of MSU-sponsored horticultural training credit. A passing grade is 80% correct. Please submit your test to: Attn: Master Gardener Program MSU Extension -Kalamazoo County, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Room 302 Kalamazoo, MI 49007. This quiz can be used by Master Gardeners who took the Master Gardener Class before 2002.

1. Fill in the blank: Calcium carbonate (lime) has a neutralizing value of _____
2. What is one common name of the following botanical name? *Lonicera sempervirens*
 - a. Clematis
 - b. Trumpet Honeysuckle
 - c. Ivy
 - d. Silverlace Vine
3. What are two disadvantages of sodding turfgrass areas?
 - a. Grub problems and difficult to establish
 - b. Higher cost and grub problems
 - c. Higher cost and limited cultivars available
 - d. Grub problems and difficult to establish
4. How many days does it take for sweet corn to reach maturity?
 - a. 100
 - b. 50 to 60
 - c. 65 to 95
 - d. 80 to 90
5. How do you know when it is time to pick grapes?
 - a. Change in color
 - b. Leaves start to turn purple/tan
 - c. Stem of grape cluster turns tan and wrinkles
 - d. Birds start eating them
6. Master Gardener Hotline question: "My wisteria has never bloomed. What am I doing wrong, or what can I do to make it bloom? It just keeps growing larger and larger, with no blooms."

Answer:

 7. Another hotline question: "My red maple has yellow leaves but the veins are green. I have had my soil tested with you folks and it was 7.2." What deficiency is the maple exhibiting?
 - a. Iron
 - b. Magnesium
 - c. Manganese
 - d. Nitrogen
 8. How many hours of volunteer time and education does it take to achieve Advanced Master Gardener certification?

Volunteer hours _____ Education hours _____
 9. What is Juneberry also known as?
 - a. Strawberry
 - b. Mulberry
 - c. Springberry
 - d. Serviceberry
 10. Of the following houseplants, what is the best to grow in low light conditions?
 - a. Velvet plant
 - b. Chinese evergreen
 - c. Rubber Plant
 - d. Foxtail Fern