



# MASTER GARDENER Communicator

June 2004

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KALAMAZOO  
COUNTY

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## Labels on Chemical Products Provide Information on Safe Use

That old joke about following directions when all else fails is not funny when the product in use is a pesticide. The label on a pesticide or other hazardous product is your guide to safe, effective use of the product. Failure to follow the directions on the label may mean the application won't be effective or some harm may occur to humans, wildlife, pets or the environment.

The first thing to remember is that pesticides are meant to kill living things. It may be insects, weeds, rodents, fungi or something else that people have decided is a pest. Very few pesticides are so specific — so targeted to just one organism or a limited number of organisms — that they are safe to use around any and all other organisms.

An important piece of information on the label is the relative toxicity of the product's active ingredient, which is revealed by the signal word on the label. The single words are:

**Danger — poison**, accompanied by a skull and crossbones symbol. Products with these on the label are highly toxic — only a few drops to a teaspoonful of the active ingredient can kill an average adult.

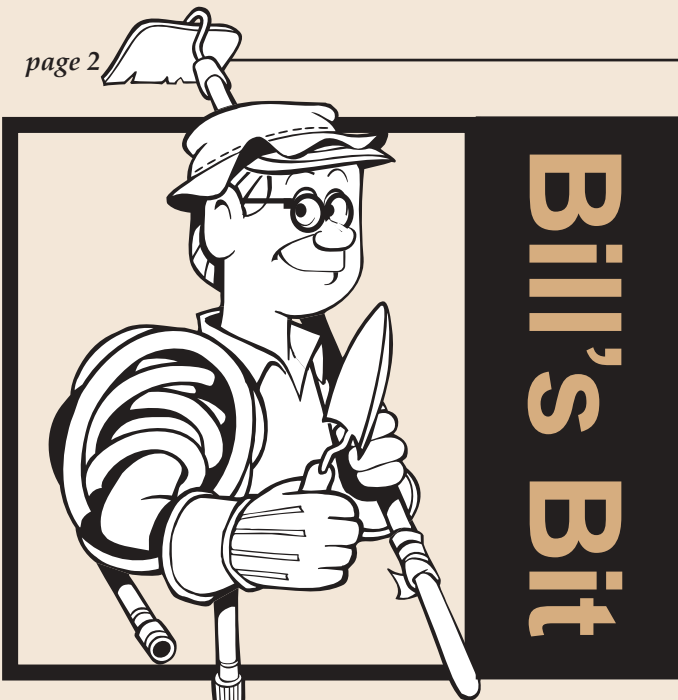
**Warning.** Products labeled with this signal word are moderately toxic — a lethal dose for an adult would range from 1 teaspoonful to 1 ounce.

**Caution.** Products with "Caution" on the label are slightly toxic — it would take more than an ounce of the active ingredient to kill an adult.

Products in all of these groups must carry precautionary statements on oral (by mouth), inhalation (breathing in) or dermal (through the skin) toxicity; effects on skin and eyes; need for protective clothing or equipment, and first aid treatment for accidental exposure.

This information tells you how to avoid any hazards the product poses and what to do in case of exposure to the product. The

Please see Labels on page 9



I think any good gardener would agree; it's all in the timing. Most of you know the average, last frost of Spring in this part of Michigan is May 10th. This is an important date to keep in mind. Even so, it wasn't too long ago a hard frost occurred in the first week of June. I think it was in 1996. And the following year, it happened even later, in some low-lying regions in the eastern part of Kalamazoo County, on June 13th.

When it comes to planting, I like to use the "Give and Take" system. It seems down right ridiculous to wait until the second week of June to plant my favorite vegetables. So I "give" it a shot and throw caution to the wind. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. This is where the "take" part comes in; take the time to develop a back up plan.

As you know, some vegetables are very resistant to cool, chilly mornings. Lettuce, peas, cabbage, greens, and onions come to mind. In most cases, frost is not the barrier to having a good crop — it's four-legged critters foraging for tasty goodies in the garden.

Other vegetables like snap beans, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers and melons just don't want to compromise when it comes to cool weather. As a matter of fact, unless the soil temperature is in the mid-60s, you are going to have a hard time getting any of these seeds to germinate.

Fortunately, the local green house industry has provided us with a quick solution for this problem. They start planting some of our favorite garden vegetables back in February and March. If a late frost hits, chances are pretty good a return trip to the garden center will get you back on track.

This seems reasonable to me if I need to replace half a dozen tomato plants, but what about three or four rows of snap beans? I have used two methods to get an early crop of beans going.

One way is to anchor a layer of black plastic

over the area where the beans are to be planted. This does two things — it warms up the soil to the desired 65° F and it eliminates weeds. When it's time to plant, just cut an "X" in the plastic and insert a seed.

The other way is the back up plan. If my first-planting of beans gets hit by a late frost, I germinate a second-planting indoors. I know you might be thinking to yourself, "Bill, how does germinating beans indoors, in the second or third week of June, end up being 'early'?"

Let me give you a few details. First of all, the seeds need to be germinated hydroponically or without soil. Make a "sandwich" out of two dinner plates and a layer of wet kitchen paper toweling. Place the seeds on the toweling, invert the top plate and place it on top. Keep the incubator in a warm place, like the top of the refrigerator, and check its progress every day. In a couple of days the beans will be sprouting.

Here's the "early" part. After the beans have sprouted there is 48 to 72 hours to get them into real soil. Looking at the seemingly fragile seedlings next to the survivors who toughed it out since mid-May one could easily think the beans will reach harvest at two different times. Not so!

These fragile seedlings are really tough. They will not be shocked by the transplanting process as long as it is done under the 72 hour limit. Also, since the germination took place under ideal conditions, these "Johnny-come-lately" seedlings will mature three weeks earlier than seeds germinated in the ground.

In one case, this method of germinating seeds indoors has become my primary practice when it comes to planting cantaloupes and cucumbers. Transplanting these as store-bought seedlings can be a very tricky proposition. Their root systems are easily shocked — except if it is done within 72 hours of sprouting. I place the seedlings in moist soil, cover it with a 20 ounce, clear plastic cup, and water the soil with a good amount of water. In about 10 days I remove the cup and place a metal collar around the seedling to continue protecting it from cutworms.

Even though my cantaloupe and cucumber seedlings were planted in soil in the third week of June, they behaved as if they were started at the beginning of the month. If any of you have tried starting melons in late May or early June, when the soil is still cool, you know this is a very difficult situation.

It is time to make a rare departure from my usual habit of completing this column by the bottom of page 2. Obviously all of the previous material was written at the beginning of May; the

Please see Bill's Bit on page 8

## FROM THE HOME OFFICE

### VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please remember to visit [www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo](http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo) for all the volunteer and education opportunities that have been posted with our office. Opportunities with \* next to them qualify in the "required" category. All others listed fall into the "personal choice" category. If you can't get to the internet, visit our office and look through the Volunteer Opportunities Notebook for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

You can also print Hours Report Forms from the above web address or call the office to have forms mailed to you.

### CHANGE IN MSU EXTENSION OFFICE HOURS

The MSU Extension office in Kalamazoo will be going to "summer hours" starting June 1. The office will be open 9:00 a.m. (instead of 8:00 a.m.) and close at 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may still call us at any time (Emelee 383-8815 or Karen 384-8197); leave voice mail if we are not available. Thank you!

### ANOTHER CHANGE . . .

This one is a good thing! If you are re-certifying, you now have until December 31 to complete your hours. MSU has changed the reporting year to extend to December 31 this year and your next reporting year will start January 1 – should make it a lot easier for everyone to keep track of when your hours need to be completed.

EXCEPT – If you are a graduate of the Fall 2003 class, you must have your 40 hours completed by November 21, 2004 and report them to the office. Also, if you are a graduate of the Winter 2004 class, you must have your 40 hours completed by April 27, 2005 and report them to the office.

### SIGN UP FOR THE HOTLINE NOW!

I know there are some of you out there who still haven't signed up to staff the Hotline, but have indicated that you wanted to. You can call the office and schedule staffing time on the Hotline – time slots are open from the end of June through October. Call Emelee (383-8815) or Karen (384-8197).

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROMOTE THE HOTLINE?

If you would like to promote the Master Gardener Hotline, the office has pads of hand-out sheets that list the Hotline schedule and phone number that you can take with you. Stop by or call the office to get a supply to carry with you!

### MASTER GARDENER CLASS FOR FALL 2004

If you know someone who has interest in attending the Fall Master Gardener class, please call the office and submit their name and address. Registration packets will be mailed mid-July, so let us know now and their names will be added to the mailing list.

Please see Home Office on page 8

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## Roses Popular But Demanding

Roses are red — also pink, peach, coral, yellow, white and even blue. And gardeners love them, even though they're among the most demanding garden flowers.

"Maybe the challenge of growing roses is part of their attraction," says Mary McLellan, Master Gardener coordinator at Michigan State University. "You won't succeed with roses if you merely plant them and forget them. Growing healthy, attractive roses is a gardening achievement."

Why? For starters, roses are on the menu for a number of destructive insect pests, and serious diseases may attack the plant from roots to flower buds. Roses require regular spraying or dusting to protect them against devastating foliage diseases and insect pests.

They also require at least six hours of sunlight per day; a full day's sun is even better. Morning sun is better than afternoon sun, McLellan notes — plants shaded in the morning remain wet with dew longer. And moisture on the leaves favors the development of several leaf diseases.

Roses do best in a well drained soil high in organic matter. The site should be spaded to a depth of twelve inches. Organic matter and a high-phosphorus fertilizer (3 pounds per 100 square feet) should be incorporated when the soil is prepared.

Rose cultivars should be selected for hardiness and specific use — climbing plants for trellises or arbors, bush roses for flowers for cutting, miniatures for borders or containers, etc.

"Packaged roses that are still dormant when you buy or receive them may be planted in April and early May," McLellan says. "Container-grown roses may be transplanted anytime during the growing season, though it's best to avoid the hottest part of the summer."

The planting hole should be large enough to hold the plant's root system without crowding it. Set each plant on top of a small, cone-shaped pile of soil in the center of the hole and spread the roots down the sides of the cone. Be sure the graft union — the place where the top part of the plant joins the root system — is about 2 inches below ground level.

Fill the hole, working soil around the roots carefully to avoid damaging them. Water to settle the soil, then finish filling it.

Roses need an inch of water weekly, either from rain or irrigation or a combination of the two, McLellan says. They require regular fertilization, too, from late spring through mid- to late July. Fertilization after August 1 in mid-Michigan may cause a flush of late growth that will be susceptible to winter damage. Mulch to control weeds and help retain soil moisture.

Pruning removes unhealthy wood, improves the



*Many rose fanciers find the allure of a "primitive" bloom charming.*

appearance of plants, and plays a part in determining the quantity and size of flowers produced. It also opens up the centers of plants to promote better coverage by pesticides. Roses that aren't pruned soon grow into a bramble patch that produces few flowers of small size and poor quality.

When and how much you prune depends partly on what type of rose plant you're dealing with and why you're pruning. Damaged canes can be removed at any time. Climbing roses are pruned just after they flower to stimulate new growth where next year's flowers will grow; bush roses are pruned in early spring just before growth begins to remove dead wood and weak growth and shape the plant.

Winter protection is necessary to help roses survive low winter temperatures and protect them against injury from fluctuating temperatures and winter wind.

"Getting roses through the winter in good shape begins with keeping roses healthy through the growing season," McLellan points out. "Well cared for roses are much more likely to come through winter in good shape than roses that go into winter weakened and stressed by pests, diseases and poor nutrition."

More information on growing roses is available from the Kalamazoo - MSU Extension office, phone (269) 383-8830. Ask for Extension bulletin NCR 252, "Roses for the Home."

If you would like to take advantage of ordering this bulletin through the internet, visit <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/>

Another method of ordering is through the MSU-Extension Bulletin office at (517) 355-0240 or fax, (517) 353-7168 — payable by credit card.

## Clean Up Iris Foliage

Iris borers — plump, pinkish caterpillars that feed on iris rhizomes — can be a major pest of irises. But they don't have to be. Something as simple as removing and destroying iris foliage in the fall can greatly reduce the chance of borer infestations next year.

The borer is the larva, or immature stage, of a medium-sized moth. The moth emerges in late summer or early fall, mates, and, flying only at night, looks for iris foliage to lay its eggs on.

The eggs hatch in early spring, when new iris leaves are 4 to 6 inches high. The tiny larvae crawl up onto the new leaves and make pinpoint holes through which they enter. At first they feed inside the foliage as leafminers, leaving water-soaked trails behind them. Eventually they work their way down into the rhizome, where they feed and grow to 1 1/2- to 2-inches long.

The fully grown caterpillars leave the rhizomes to pupate in the soil nearby. When they emerge as adults, they start the cycle all over again.

Gardeners can interrupt the cycle by removing and destroying iris foliage and stems and other nearby plant debris in late fall. This should remove most of the overwintering eggs. Another option is to spray or dust the new foliage in the spring. Weekly sprays — beginning when new growth begins and continuing until early June — with a pesticide labeled for iris borer control should control newly hatched larvae and prevent their entering the plants.

Another option is to observe plants closely and remove and crush any leaves that contain larvae in their water-soaked tunnels.

Still another chance to eliminate larvae occurs when you lift and divide iris rhizomes after flowering. Borer-infested rhizomes will often be soft, slimy and foul-smelling from a bacterial rot that follows feeding damage.

Discard and destroy infested rhizomes and watch for and destroy any pupae in the soil around the plants before replanting healthy rhizomes. Pupae are dark brown, spindle-shaped and legless, and between 1/2- and 3/4- inch long.

## Strawberry After-Harvest Care

The care you give your backyard strawberry patch after harvest this year is a key factor in a good crop next year.

The best time to fertilize strawberry plants is immediately after harvest. Fertilizing before harvest reduces yields by promoting lush vegetative

growth at the expense of flowers and fruits. The few berries that do form tend to be soft and poor quality. Fertilizing after harvest, on the other hand, promotes growth to support next year's fruit production.

A soil test is your best guide to crop nutrient needs, but in the absence of a soil test, apply 2 to 3 pounds of a fertilizer such as 12-12-12 per 100 feet of row. Be sure to keep the fertilizer off of plant tissue.

Weed control and watering are two other important after-harvest activities.

Hoe around plants as often as necessary to eliminate annual weed seedlings. Or cultivate right after harvest and then mulch with 2 to 3 inches of straw, compost, shredded newspaper or other organic mulch to discourage weeds. Hoe no deeper than 2 to 3 inches to avoid damaging shallow roots.

Strawberries need about an inch of water per week (more in sandy soils). Anytime rain doesn't provide that, plan to irrigate. Wet the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches each time you water. Avoid overwatering — if soil remains saturated for even a day or two, strawberry plants' roots will start to rot.

All of this advice on after-harvest care applies only to strawberry plantings with vigorous plants that are relatively free of weeds, diseases and insect problems. Beds that are getting less productive because of weeds, insects or diseases should be plowed under.

Ideally, you plant a new bed in the spring before you plow down an old one in midsummer, so that you can harvest berries next year without a break.

Avoid replanting strawberries in the same spot. Also avoid planting strawberries where you've grown raspberries, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant or potatoes. All these plants act as hosts for the soil-borne *Verticillium* fungus, which causes strawberry plants to wilt and die. It can build up in the soil if susceptible plants are grown in the same spot year after year.

Rotating the strawberry bed to new ground also helps reduce the buildup of many other disease problems and insects. In any new planting, it's critical to eliminate perennial weeds and grasses before planting. This will make weed control after strawberries are in place much easier.

## Reach for the Sky with Vertical Plants

Growing plants vertically makes good use of space in the smaller gardens people tend nowadays. Vertical plants also make harvesting easier—no stooping to cut the fruits from the vines. And the architectural interest that these plants add to the vegetable garden brings a design out of the ordinary and utilitarian into the sphere of the well-thought-out perennial border. Why shouldn't your edible garden be as attractive as the rest of your efforts?

### VERTICAL VEGGIES

Combining vining plants, such as beans and cucumbers or peas and gourds, on the same A-frame trellis gives you double the harvest for the space.

### BEANS

Pole beans will climb up just about anything, including other plants. Witness the traditional "Three Sisters" method employed by native Americans, who planted beans with corn and pumpkins. The corn stalks provide support for the beans to climb while the pumpkins (or other squash) sprawl on the ground beneath as a living mulch. Sow pole bean seeds around bamboo tepees, along a netted trellis, or on an arbor. For an old-fashioned change of pace, try scarlet runner bean, with its pretty red flowers, on a fence or arbor. In very small gardens, try spacing single poles in a row at the rear of the garden or even bordering a back walk. Pole beans produce longer than bush beans; they continue to grow, flower and fruit as long as you keep picking the pods.

### GOURDS & WINTER SQUASH

Members of the same family, these cousins form very long vines, as long as 25 to 30 feet in the case of gourds; winter squash is less overpowering, with vines up to 9 or 10 feet long. Both take a long growing season to mature. Gourds, in particular, look really attractive growing on a trellis, where the tendrils carry the vines up while the fruits hang down, showing off their interesting shapes. Support the heavy fruits of winter squash, such as butternut, with individual cloth slings tied to the trellis or fence.

### CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers, in containers or in the ground, produce straighter, cleaner fruit when you grow them vertically. Sow seeds along a cage, netted A-frame or flat trellis and guide the plants up onto

the netting in the beginning; the plants' tendrils will naturally curl around on their own when they get going.

### MELONS

Relatives of cucumbers, melons also climb by means of tendrils, but their heavier fruit requires some buttressing when you grow the plants vertically to prevent the weight from pulling the vines down. Use the same kind of slings you use for winter squash.

### PEAS

Although most shelling, or English, peas produce short vines, which need no support, many of the edible-podded and snow peas produce longer vines that readily climb string or netted trellises by means of tendrils. Training them vertically definitely makes harvesting easier. Because peas grow best in cool weather, combine them with later maturing vegetables, such as beans or cucumbers, or with a flowering vine to take their place during the hot, midsummer months; resow peas for a fall harvest, if you want.

### TOMATOES

Tomatoes that sprawl on the ground tend to range widely over a garden bed and the fruits get marred by dampness or insects. Trained on stakes, they bear cleaner fruit and, of course, take up much less space. Look for indeterminate varieties

**Please see Reach on page 7**

#### 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, 2004. 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 2004 newsletter.

Sincerely,

*Emelee Rajzer*

Emelee Rajzer  
Master Gardener Coordinator

*Ann Nieuwenhuis*

Ann Nieuwenhuis  
County Extension Director

## Reach

ies, those with stems that keep growing through the season and, therefore, produce a larger crop. (Seed packets and plant labels tell you whether a tomato is determinate or indeterminate.) You need to help tomato plants grow vertically; tie them at intervals to a support with soft ties. If you prefer more decorative supports than simple bamboo poles, check out the offerings at garden centers and mail-order companies for attractive alternatives. No matter what kind of fence encloses your garden, you can train tomato plants to grow up it by using hooks (for wooden fences) or ties (for wire fences). Staked tomatoes grow as well in a large container as they do in the ground.

### Placement and Planting Techniques

When you grow vegetables on trellises and other supports, set them on the north side of your plot and towards the back of a row or bed so they do not block the sun from other, low-growing plants. Most A-frame trellises take up a space about 5 feet in length and 3 feet wide; teepees require a 3- to 5-foot-diameter space; single stakes and cages need 2 to 3 feet.

Make your own trellises with bamboo poles and netting. Use 2 poles for each end, tilt them towards each other and tie together about 6 inches from the top; then lay a fifth pole across the top and tie it securely to the trellis legs with twine. Insert legs about 1 foot into the soil, separating them at an angle for stability. Drape netting over the top and tie it to the legs in a few places. Sow seeds of plants, such as cucumbers and pole beans, along the length of both sides of the trellis; guide stems up onto the netting as they begin to grow.

Create teepees by tying 5 bamboo poles together at the top with twine. Spread the legs out and set in the ground about 1 foot deep. Sow 3 to 5 seeds of pole beans around each leg.

In small, fenced gardens, sow seeds for vining crops, such as cucumbers, melons, and winter squash in rows near the fence, particularly if your fence is chicken wire or cyclone fencing. Guide the vines up onto the fence as they grow.

Cages are the easiest method to grow plants vertically. Place them around tomato plants soon after planting. Cages save time because you do not need to pinch off the tomato suckers that form on plants where the leaf stem joins the main stem. Suckers grow quickly into full-fledged flower- and fruit-producing stems, not a problem when a cage surrounds the plant, but a potential jungle if you stake plants.

If you choose to stake tomatoes do so when you plant them, so you avoid harming roots. Use two

stakes per plant, 1 to 2 feet apart. Leave the first (lowest) sucker that forms and remove all the rest as they appear during the season. Tie the main stem to one pole and the sucker (when it is large enough) to the other, using strips of soft cloth or coated wire. Use a figure-8 configuration and tie stems loosely to the poles so growth can proceed unrestricted. As the stems grow, continue tying at intervals.

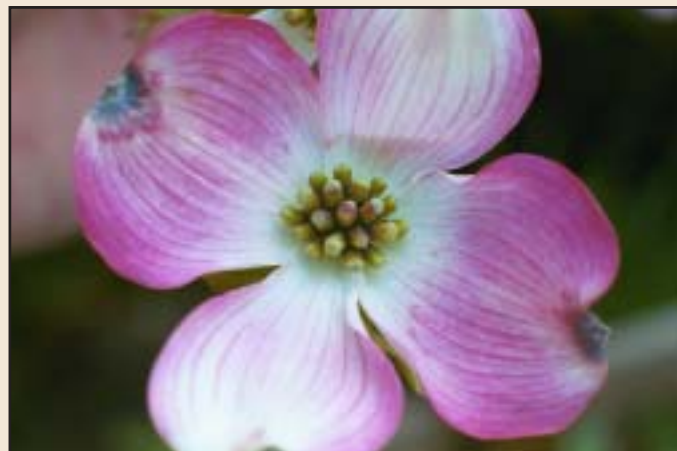
### FLOWERING PLANTS GROW UP FROM SEED

Enhance your vegetable garden with one or more flowering vines to scramble over fences or up arbors, alone or in combination with climbing vegetables.

The only caveat: never combine sweet peas with garden peas or beans; the pods look very similar. There is a potential toxicity if ornamental sweet pea seeds (in a pod) are accidentally eaten.

- Balloon vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*)
- Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia alata*)
- Climbing snapdragon (*Asarina antirrhinifolia*)
- Cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*)
- Cup-and-saucer vine (*Cobaea scandens*)
- Hyacinth bean (*Dolichos Lablab purpureus*)
- Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*)
- Morning glory (*Ipomoea tricolor*)
- Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*)
- Passion flower (*Passiflora caerulea*)

*The National Garden Bureau credits Eleanore Lewis as the author of this article.*



### What is it?

*The spray of spring blossoms featured in the banner photograph on page one of this issue of the Communicator are pink dogwood, 'Cornus florida f. rubra'*

## Home Office

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### PASSING OF A MASTER GARDENER

Most of you have been informed of the passing of Arlene Micalizzi. She passed away Sunday, May 2, 2004; the funeral was in Otsego. Arlene was an Advanced Master Gardener volunteer for over 10 years in Kalamazoo County donating more than 600 volunteer hours and helped over 8,000 individuals with their gardening questions. She also touched many of our Master Gardeners' lives with words of encouragement and mentoring.

Arlene also served on the Kalamazoo in Bloom (formerly Flowerfest) Board of Directors for many years and helped the organization with community beautification efforts. As many of our Master Gardeners told us, she was instrumental in starting the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Guild (now Association) as well as the Guild in Mattawan. Of course she was also known for her endless energy and willingness to help others with her work in the Humphrey Gardens and how it helped Loaves & Fishes.

Arlene was recognized with a 10 year recognition plaque this year for her service as an MSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer, as well as being honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Center of Kalamazoo in partnership with WKZO radio and Accent Engraving.

Her memory will carry on in your efforts and time as Master Gardener volunteers to the community.

### MSU MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER RECEIVES RECOGNITION

William (Bill) Squiers, Advanced Master Gardener, graduated on May 6 from the Community Builders class that was offered through Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services (KNHS). This was a 16 week course offering several workshops on developing volunteer leadership. Some of the topics that were covered included organizational development, application of grants, and public speaking. David Juarez, Commissioner for the City of Kalamazoo, gave the graduation keynote speech. Other dignitaries present were Mayor Jones of Kalamazoo, and Robert Barnard, Kalamazoo County Commissioner. By vote of his fellow class participants, Bill Squiers received the KNHS Spirit Award for 2004. Congratulations, Bill on a job well done!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR

The office is looking for Master Gardeners to help at the fair again this year. We will need 2 volunteers for each of the following shifts for the Master Gardener Booth:

Thursday, August 12  
12-5 p.m.  
5-9 p.m.

Friday, August 13  
2-6 p.m.  
6-9 p.m.

We will also be in need of volunteers to help plant a couple beds at the fair in the next couple months. Call Emelee (383-8815) or Karen (384-8197).

### EMELEE IS NOT IGNORING YOU

If you have not been getting any response from her old e-mail address, Emelee's new e-mail address is:

rajzere@msue.msu.edu

### Bill's Bit

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weather conditions in the past month have made a radical departure and we are experiencing a Spring like no other. I am going to take advantage of this extra space on page 8 to share something I just noticed today.

For the first time in my memory, my normal lawn and garden activities in the month of May have been under the total control of the rainy weather. I have watched my lawn grow as if it was on some kind of supercharged vitamins. I could have cut the lawn every four days — if the grass was dry — which it never was.

So what was different about today, June 3rd? Well, while I was planting some petunias in one of the flower beds in the back, I noticed how noisy it was in my neighborhood. I swear I am not making this up. My neighbor to the south was cutting her lawn, the fellow next to her was using a gas powered lawn trimmer, my neighbor on the other side was trimming her bushes with a hand clipper, and off in the distance I could hear a chainsaw buzzing. It was as if everybody knew it was going to rain tomorrow even though the weatherman is saying it will be sunny through Sunday.

Like I said; it's all in the timing. Have a great summer!

## Labels

label also tells whether the product poses any fire, explosive or chemical dangers, and what sorts of hazards it poses to domestic animals and the environment.

Directions for use tell you how to use the product properly to get the best results: what pests and crops or locations the product can be used on, in what form it should be applied, how much to use, where and when to apply it and how frequently, and how soon the crop or animal treated may be harvested, used or eaten after the product is applied.

Labels also remind users always to store pesticides out of the reach of children. The best storage area is separate from all food and feed; not subjected to high heat, freezing temperatures or moist conditions; and locked.

Always store hazardous chemicals in their

original containers so you have all the label information on hand whenever you use the product. Taking a few minutes to cover labels with clear package-wrapping tape to protect them is a good idea. This keeps the ink from being smeared by oils found in many pesticide solutions.

Toxic materials should never be transferred to containers that children might find attractive, such as soft drink bottles. To avoid storage and disposal problems with leftover solutions, make up only as much as you need for one application.

If an accidental poisoning occurs, follow the first aid directions on the label and call your physician or local poison control center. In southwest Michigan the toll-free phone number for the Regional Poison Center is 1-800-POISON-1 (1-800-764-7661). If you take the exposed subject for medical treatment, take the product label with you.

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## MSU-Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Continuing Education Quiz

This June 2004, Continuing Education Quiz is one of a series of CE quizzes presented by the *Communicator*. Each quiz, when completed and passed, will provide one hour of MSU-sponsored horticultural training credit. A passing grade is 80% correct. Please submit your quiz to: Attn: Master Gardener Program MSU Extension -Kalamazoo County, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Room 302 Kalamazoo, MI 49007. All Master Gardeners may take this CE quiz for education credit. The hour is education not volunteer, so it will not count towards your basic certification.

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. True or false- Fertilizing lawns in July is a recommended practice from MSU.

2. What are the three things to be done when dealing with pantry pests? (Hint: they all end in "ion.")  
Answer:

3. You have a 50-pound bag of fertilizer with analysis of 28-10-5. How many pounds of actual nitrogen would there be in the 50-pound bag?

4. A person calls the hotline. They have 1000s of ladybugs in their home. They are highly emotional and want to know what to do. What is your answer to them?

5. Fill in the blank. Crop \_\_\_\_\_ is important when dealing with vegetable gardens and disease management.

6. A person calls the hotline. He/she would like to use a granular pre-emergent herbicide. They would like to know if it is safe to use in their bulb garden. Without

discussing the product name or specifics, what should be your first recommendation to the caller?

Answer:

7. True or false- Tomatoes are considered part of the Solanaceae family.

8. What is the number one (cultural) thing that must be done to wisteria to get it to bloom?

- fertilize
- water more frequently
- prune
- glue pictures of blossoms on it

9. True or false- Ornamental grasses need to be divided on a regular basis, normally every couple of years.

10. Name 3 annuals in Michigan that can be overwintered.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_