

# MASTER GARDENER Communicator

June 2005

2

From the Home Office

3

Highlights of the 2005  
Master Gardener Banquet

4

Rounding up non-selective  
herbicides

5

Ask a Master Gardener  
Program

Renovating home lawns  
damaged by snow mold or  
grubs

Introduction to Garden  
Design a Success!

6

Galls caused by insects and  
mites

7

Continuing Education

## Spring Garden Chores ~

- \* Clean, sharpen, and oil your gardening tools
- \* Prune back perennials that may need it
- \* Rake your lawn
- \* When soil permits, till the garden
- \* Start propagating houseplants
- \* Gradually pull back winter mulch and remove debris from roses
- \* Turn your compost pile and sift decomposed material through a screen
- \* Amend your flower bed soil with compost and organic matter
- \* Start a garden journal for 2005

For a more detailed list of spring gardening chores, check the MSU Extension "Green Tips" on the web at [www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/MG-Green-Tips.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/MG-Green-Tips.html) ("Green Tips" is also available in the Master Gardener office - for in-office use only.)

## Giant escargot threatens garden plants

*Rebecca Finneran, MSU Extension, Kent County, Michigan*

With global trade escalating there are bound to be continued threats to American agriculture as well as our native environment from foreign pests. It's too bad that some of these may actually be smuggled in as pets before they become pests. "Giant African snail" is a term that commonly groups several foreign snail species that could become serious pests in the United States.

*Achatina fulica* is considered by scientists to be one of the most damaging land snails in the world says Gerry Wheeler, a Grand Rapids-based, senior Plant Protection and Quarantine officer with the United States Department of Agriculture. This snail is known to eat at least 500 different types of plants including peanuts, beans, peas, cucumbers and melons. When fruits and vegetables are not available, the snail will proceed to consume a wide variety of landscape plants, tree bark and even paint and stucco on houses.



Arriving in ports as hitchhikers, this African snail and others have already established themselves throughout the Pacific basin, the Hawaiian Islands and several islands in the Caribbean. In 1966, a curious boy smuggled three giant African snails into his Florida home as pets after returning from a trip to Hawaii. His grandmother eventually released the critters into her garden. (Remember Mork and Mindy – “Fly, be free!”) Seven years later, more than 18,000 adult snails were found along with thousands of eggs. The Florida state eradication program took ten years to complete the clean up and it cost the state one million dollars.

That, according to Wheeler, is the crux of the problem. This snail can proliferate itself at an alarming rate. A curiosity of nature, it is referred to as hermaphroditic or having both male and female parts in the same animal. One snail can produce between 100-500 eggs in a clutch and continue producing this many every two to three months.

Wheeler has made a number of visits to sites where the mollusks have been illegally imported as pets, classroom exhibits or food. Persons gravitating to novelty or “exotic” pets may have obtained a snail that is seemingly harmless – even cute as he pokes his slimy head out of the nearly six-inch, cone-shaped shell. Don’t be fooled. Earlier this year, Wheeler seized an aquarium full of snails that someone had reported. It was nicely feeding on lettuce while I was trying to get a picture of it but quickly moved on to eat the paper plate and napkin too.

Wheeler says that the other threat giant African snails pose is that they are known to carry organisms that can cause disease in humans. These organisms are transferred by ingesting improperly cooked snail meat or by handling snails and allowing their mucus to contact the eyes, nose or mouth.

The question is, can a tropical snail survive a Michigan winter? Wheeler says, probably not in the open but these critters may find places to hide that don’t freeze. Think about how a slug will burrow down under a board or side of a building where it is protected. Many homeowners have microclimates in their landscapes that the mollusk could overwinter without a problem, not to mention the eggs.

Needless-to-say the snails pose a serious threat and are illegal to have in the United States. If you have one or know of one, please contact your local USDA office. If you don’t know how to contact your local state Department of Agriculture, or for more information and photos, please visit the APHIS website at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/ga\\_snail/ga\\_snail.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/ga_snail/ga_snail.html)

## **FROM THE HOME OFFICE**

### **Master Gardener Hotline**

We conducted 4 trainings and they were well attended. We invite all Master Gardeners who are interested to call the office (384-8197 or 383-8815) to sign up for a shift to answer consumer calls on the Hotline. This is a great service to the community and MSU Extension is very excited to be able to offer gardening assistance to callers. We’ve been told it’s also fun to be able to meet and visit other Master Gardeners in the program and share ideas with each other about gardening experiences and problems solved. There are still a lot of openings available – call today!

### **How do I find out what Volunteer Opportunities are available?**

Besides the many opportunities our Master Gardeners hear about in the community, the MSU Extension office is often called requesting help at various local locations. A complete listing of these volunteer opportunities is available for your review in a notebook in the Hotline office as well as on the web: [www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo](http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo)

Please note: volunteer opportunities that count in the “required” category will have an \* next to them. All others will count in the “personal choice” category. Have a great season!

### **On-line reporting of hours!**

Many of you have been patiently waiting for this announcement to come. If you are interested in submitting hours on-line, please call the office. We can mail you your login name and password. Some of you received this information at the Banquet, along with a hand-out that briefly described the process of entering your volunteer and education hours on-line.

A training will occur this summer for those interested in getting more information on how to submit hours on-line. Please call the office at 384-8197 to sign up.

### **Local Emerald Ash Borer Update**

During the first part of May, MDA crews were in every township in Kalamazoo County setting traps on Ash Trees to detect if the Emerald Ash Borer was in this area. Vehicle magnets have been designed by the Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project and made available for anyone who would like to put them on their vehicles while traveling this summer. The quote is: "Don't move firewood, it BUGS me!" Call Emelee at 383-8815 if you would like one of these vehicle magnets. For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer Project, visit the following web site: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

## Highlights of the 2005 Master Gardener Banquet

On May 12, 150 Master Gardeners gathered at the Indian Run Golf Course Banquet Facilities for an evening of camaraderie, good food and cheers for the year's accomplishments. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

All the Kalamazoo County Master Gardeners deserve special recognition for your hard work and donation of time and expertise to the community -- we applaud all of you! Thank you for a great year and look forward to hearing your stories and accomplishments from this season.

Following are names of Master Gardeners who reached a special milestone this year in the Master Gardener program:



### Basic Certification list

Robert Baxter	John Nigg
Irene Belden	Martha Nuyen
Renee Betsche	Donna Oberhill
Onalee Boettcher	Linda Page
Sally Boothby	Patricia Patterson
Arlene Brislen	Rebecca Patterson
Tracy Byler	Lori Perkins
Ruth Caputo	Joy Phillips
Teri Caswell	Connie Plochocki
Allyson Claeys	Elizabeth Potter
Robert Claeys	Jan Prange
Paula Clare	Laura Pyle
Janice Clevenger	Julie Risch
Peg Corbin	Sherie Ritchie
Mary Ann Correa	Jan Sager
JoAnne Davies	Rachelle Secson
Robert Diemer	Mary Lou Sedlock
Meg Dupuis	Linda Seeger
Susan Eckert	Julie Simonds
Jeanne Fielder	Helen Smith
Paula Fisher	Nancy Smoker
Nabil Ghazal	Monti Snyder
Valerie Groszmann	Barbara Speranza
Cheryl Hatfield	Mary Ann Stiemsmar
Jennifer Hauschild	Cheryl Stoltzner
Colleen Holloway	Cheryl Sweet
Ron Hough	Jody Thompson
Laura Jaeger	Randy VanGiessen
Laura Jenkins	Sonia Voss
Carla Joyner	Nancy Watson
Kathryn Kawecki	Debora Weller
Lorna Kierepka	Karen Wilgenhof
Tara Kirschensteiner	Jackie Williams
Barry Knobloch	Yvonne Wordell
Ruth Lee	Beverly Zimmerman
Linda Leep	
Judy Long	Advanced Certification list
Melinda MacInnis	Carol Beckius
Gail Lee Mack	Nancy Christensen
Jenny Mahieu	Dave Cooper
Edwin Mancuso	Martha Daufenbach
Tamara March	Patricia Davis
Charles Maxwell	Irene Day
Nancy Marttila	Kathy Diamond
Deb Moormann	Patricia Gaston
Patricia Nadelin	

Pat Glass	- 1,000 hr. pin
Sandra Glista	
Joyce Glomski	Jim Clarey
Pat Hillmann	
Beverly Jean Houseman	- 10 year Awards
Laurie Johnson	
Anne Klimek	Bill Fritsch
Daphne Jewell Kreuzer	Marlene Hansen
Sarah Matyczyn	Jonathan Hoffman
Michael McDonnell	Kathleen Huston
Catherine Niessink	Barbara Krueger
Jennifer Payton	Rose Kupiecki
Patricia Pittman	Barb Lemense
Sheryl Pursel	Sara Robertson
Laura Randall	Laurie Russell
Florence Roe	Louise Russell
LaRue Russell	Nancy Simpson
Laurie Russell	William Squiers
Nancy Shirah	Laura Woodruff
Bonnie Sleeman	
Monti Snyder	- 20 year Award
Sarah Stewart	
Amy Tanis	Mike Blakley
Elizabeth Taube	
Sandy Terry-Morrison	MSU Extension - Area of Specialization Award: "Gardening with Children"
Gail Walter	
Nancy Watson	
Special Awards	Jill Ongley
- 250 hr. pins	Master Gardener Class Assistants:
Marilyn Daleiden	David Hough
Renee Healy	Judi Roberts
David Hough	Nancy Shirah
Sandy Peterson-Smott	Laura Randall
Patricia Pittman	
Judi Roberts	Assistant Master Gardener Hotline Trainer:
Luba Schram	Laura Randall
- 500 hr. pins	
Marianne Denny	
Don Weaver	



Master Gardeners receive 10 year service recognition; from left to right, Rose Kupiecki, Bill Fritsch, Marlene Hansen, Laura Woodruff, Barbara Krueger, William Squires, Louise Russell.

## Rounding up non-selective herbicides: Can 'em and Confuse 'em

*Ronald Calhoun, MSU, Crop & Soil Sciences*

Glyphosate, best known as Roundup®, has been a very successful postemergence herbicide for two and a half decades. It is the only herbicide that uses the same name in the consumer and professional markets. In some circles you could make the case that the word Roundup® has become to non-selective herbicides what Kleenex® is to facial tissue. If you have ever used an herbicide to kill some unwanted weeds along your fence, you have probably used Roundup®.

In order to capitalize on their great name recognition the manufacturers of Roundup® have created a line of products that all bear the Roundup® moniker. During my recent rounds of the local box stores and garden centers I counted no less than six different formulations sold as Roundup® and several other brands of non-selective herbicides. The following is my attempt to sort through the shelf confusion.

### Product name

#### Active ingredient(s)

Roundup® RTU™  
2.0% glyphosate

Comments: Standard Roundup® formulation in ready-to-use spray bottle. Extra labeling mentions foaming action.

Roundup® RTU Plus™  
2.0% glyphosate + 2.0% pelargonic acid

Comments: Very difficult to distinguish the container from the Roundup® RTU™. The store I visited had both pallets labeled as the same product. Look for the 'Plus' in the name to identify that this product includes

pelargonic acid (the active in Scythe®) in addition to the 2.0% glyphosate. It's all about the speed of kill. Product label includes 'Improved Faster Formula.' The addition of pelargonic acid does not increase spectrum of control but will result in faster burndown of vegetation.

Roundup® Super Concentrate™  
50.2% glyphosate

Comments: I guess bigger numbers are always better. The typical concentrated Roundup® is 40% glyphosate. Label states that this is the most concentrated formula available. True enough.

Roundup® Concentrate Plus™  
18.0% glyphosate + 0.73% diquat dibromide

Comments: Again, speed of symptoms sells product. The addition of diquat dibromide is intended to produce faster results. This product is very similar to QuickPro®.

Roundup® RTU Extended Control™  
1.00% glyphosate + 0.03% dithiopyr

Comments: This is the product that everyone is calling about. Roundup® XC™ commercials ran constantly during the NCAA basketball tournament. Dithiopyr is the active ingredient in Dimension® (primarily used for crabgrass) and many store brand preemergence products. Residual activity from dithiopyr could last for the season. Label states "3 months control."

Roundup® Extended Control Concentrate™  
18.0% glyphosate + 0.73% diquat dibromide + 0.30% imazapic

Comments: As with some of the other products on the shelves, the RTU and concentrate formulations have different active ingredients. Are you confused yet? The concentrate formulation is the same as Roundup® Concentrate Plus™ with the addition of imazapic for residual preemergence activity. Label states "4 months control."

## Ask a Master Gardener Program

Once again "Ask a Master Gardener" was held each Saturday in May. After reviewing the evaluations that you turned in last year, many of you had requested holding this event an additional Saturday, so it was extended to the first Saturday in June also. After visiting a couple of sites, it seemed everyone was enjoying the chance to help customers with their gardening and plant selection questions.

Evaluations will be mailed to each participant to fill out and return to the office. This helps the office get a better idea of your experience at "Ask a Master Gardener" and ideas for bettering the program. Thanks to all of you who donated your Saturday to this great event!



MG Volunteer helps with information at Country View Showplace.

## Renovating home lawns damaged by snow mold or grubs

*Kevin Frank, MSU, Crop & Soil Sciences*

Many home lawns have been damaged by snow mold, and grub damage is starting to show up due to the dry spring. In most cases, the turf will recover from the snow mold damage quickly. To facilitate recovery, rake the turf to remove the dead tissue and just give the turf time – it will revive. In some isolated cases, damage may be severe enough that reseeding is necessary.

Turf damaged from grub damage is starting to appear. Before attempting any reseeding efforts make sure to kill the grubs first, and then wait about two weeks after an insecticide application before reseeding.

Regardless if you're re-seeding from snow mold or grub damage, at the time of seeding, apply a starter fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. to



The MG Volunteer Crew at Riverstreet Flowerland.

help those young seedlings get established. Make sure to keep the seeded area moist throughout establishment. In many cases this may require watering several times a day. A good mulch cover will help the area stay moist so the site may be watered less frequently. Water lightly when irrigating, there is no need to see water puddling or running off the site.

To be safe, avoid applying all herbicides this spring, i.e. no fertilizer and crabgrass preventer or weed and feed products. Young seedlings don't tolerate herbicides very well and the guideline is usually to wait three "real" mowings before applying any herbicides or in some cases at least 60 days. By "real" mowings, I mean you're actually cutting significant grass, not just running over the area to trim down any weeds.

## Introduction to Garden Design a Success!

Landscape Design has always been a large interest area of both gardeners and Master Gardener Volunteers.

Based on last year's survey results, you asked for an in-depth garden design class, and we delivered - twice!

Lynn Wiese, the designer that has been featured elsewhere in the state, joined us both on April 16th and May 14th.

Over 160 individuals went through the program this spring. On June 11, 2005 we will be offering the second part of the series, Advanced Garden Design I. The pre-requisite will be to have taken the Introduction to Garden Design class.

Those that have attended the Introduction to Garden Design class offered through the Kalamazoo Extension office, will be receiving the registration flyer

Continued on page 6

for the Advanced I class. If you have attended the Introduction to Garden Design class elsewhere in the state and would like to attend the Advanced I class offered in Kalamazoo on June 11, please call the office at 383-8815 or 384-8197.



Introduction to Garden Design program held at M-Tec on May 14

## Galls caused by insects and mites

*Diane Brown-Rytlewski, MSU IPM Program Nursery & Landscape ICM Integrator*

This time of year, a number of leaf and stem galls caused by insects or mites begin to appear. Cynipid wasps, eriophyid mites, flies, psyllids, aphids and adelgids are among the most common gall producers. Many galls don't cause any lasting harm to plants, although they sometimes generate a lot of notice because of their often-bizarre appearance. Whether you regard them as "insect art," an interesting curiosity or just one more pest you have to deal with probably depends on the nature of your role in caring for their hosts. In particular, some of the galls produced on oaks are architectural marvels and can be appreciated as examples of art in nature.

Oak trees are a particularly abundant host for galls created by cynipid wasps. The galls may be marble, bullet or flask-shaped and may have elaborate spines or dense hairs. Some particularly large ones derived from leaf tissue are called oak apples with a papery exterior and a spongy or fibrous center. The larvae of the tiny wasps that create these galls can be found in small cells within the developing galls. One interesting gallmaker, the jumping oak gall wasp, produces small disc-like galls that drop from the leaf in autumn. The developing wasps inside cause the galls to jump (think of Mexican jumping beans) until they land in a protected place for the winter. Galls that develop on twigs, such as horned oak gall or gouty oak gall (hosts in red oak family) may be of more concern, as they are capable of causing dieback of twigs or severe injury to their hosts.

Feeding by some genera of eriophyid mites can produce dense patches of hairy or beadlike growth on leaves while feeding by others produces galls. The dense patches of hair or bead-like growth (erinea) are produced on leaves of maples, beech, walnut, birch and other trees and often turn bright red or pink. Examples of galls include those produced by pearleaf blister mite, which creates pimple-like swellings on apple, pear and sometimes amelanchier, mountainash, cotoneaster or hawthorn leaves; ash flower gall; various spindle galls on maple, elm, cherry, plum and linden; and maple bladder gall. While injury from spindle and bladder galls is largely cosmetic, severe infestations of pearleaf blister mites can kill overwintering buds.

Galls produced by flies often appear as pouches or thickenings along leaf margins. Honeylocust podgall midges overwinter as adults and lay eggs on developing leaf tissue. The pod-shaped galls develop as the larvae feed inside the curling leaves. Another gall you may have seen on the tips of willow twigs is the willow cone gall, which very much resembles its name. The strange-looking gall in the photo, boxelder leaf gall, is caused by the feeding of a midge. Tiny, white maggots can be found inside the rolled swellings of the leaves.

Hackberry nipplegall is caused by a psyllid. These galls are produced by the feeding of psyllid nymphs on developing leaves. They continue to feed and live inside the galls until late summer when they emerge as adults. Damage is largely cosmetic, and the psyllids inside the galls are reported to be a major food source for birds and squirrels. Boxwood psyllids cause the new leaves of boxwoods to cup. They are actively feeding on new foliage now.

Galls induced by aphids can be found on leaves, petioles and stems. Witch hazel is host to an aphid that produces pale green cone-shaped galls on the upper surface of leaves. Birch is an alternate host for this aphid, where it feeds on foliage. This week, colonies of another genus of aphids were found on European birch, causing a corrugated appearance to the upper surface of the leaves. The nymphs were dark gray and produced white wax. Adults were greenish yellow. Howard Russell from Diagnostic Services identified it as *Euceraaphis betulae*.

Many of you are familiar with Cooley and eastern spruce gall, which are both caused by adelgids. Cooley spruce gall adelgids form cone-like galls at the tips of new growth. These adelgids may alternate between Douglas fir (where no galls are formed) and Colorado spruce, or they may develop continuously on either host. Eastern spruce gall adelgid forms pineapple-shaped galls at the base of new growth on Norway and occasionally white and Colorado spruce. Eastern spruce gall adelgid does not have an alternate host. Spruce bud caps are splitting now, signaling a developmental period where this insect is invulnerable to treatment.

For more CAT Alert articles on current turfgrass and landscape issues, visit [www.ipm.msu.edu/aboutcat.htm](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/aboutcat.htm)

## MSU-Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Continuing Education Quiz

This June 2005, 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. Dahlia plants have a root modification called a tuberous root.
2. How and when should one divide bearded iris?
3. Someone calls the hotline. The individual would like to plant blueberries. His/her question is: "What soil pH do blueberries do best in?"
4. What is the formula for determining degree day accumulations?
5. What is *Trichogramma minutum*?
  - a. Hardy orchid (zone 6)
  - b. Herbicide
  - c. natural insect enemy
  - d. Human cold virus
6. Hotline call- "I planted a Douglas fir tree and something ate or snapped off the very top of the tree. A neighbor of mine said there might be a way to make it so that it will look normal again some day soon. How do I recover the growing point, so that my tree will look normal?" Please provide your recommendation along with a drawing if it helps.
7. Regarding American bittersweet, does one need to plant more than one plant in order to have fruit? If so, why?
8. True or false. There are only 10 mosquito species in Michigan.
9. To what growing zone is Shasta Doublefile Viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Shasta') hardy to?
10. Describe self pollination. Please draw a diagram to show what is meant by self pollination.