



MASTER GARDENER Communicator

September 2005

Season of Change

The gardening season of 2005 will be most remembered as being hot, and for the most part, dry. As gardeners, we have seen our fair share of challenges, trying to keep our plants alive as well as looking great.

As we enter into fall, the MSU Extension office will be also experiencing a season of change. In mid to late fall the Kalamazoo county MSU Extension office will be moving to the Human Services Building, located on Gull Rd. The office will occupy part of the 4th floor. We are looking forward to the move, as there will be ample parking and it will be much easier for Master Gardeners and others to "visit" our office. No more parking gate card or meters!

More information about the move and potential changes in contact information will be shared with you at a later date in time.

On a different note, for those who have begun entering hours on-line, thank you! Please consider entering hours on-line, as it saves time!

In July, you were mailed your login, password and instructions for inputting your own hours on-line. I urge you to consider reporting hours on-line if you have Internet access. Be sure to fill in all the "fields," as error messages are sent back when they are left blank.

If you have misplaced your login and password, please call or email me to receive this information. Instructions for the database can also be found on-line.

As always, for those that do not have Internet access, we will still be able to input hours and send confirmations.

Hours must be submitted to the office, whether online or in paper form, by December 31, 2005. I urge you to try to compile your volunteer and education information and turn it into the office by this deadline.

FROM THE HOME OFFICE

The end is near!

Summer is almost over. Children are back in school, mums will be blooming soon and a hint of apple cider and donuts will be in the air.

The gardening season of 2005 has been full of ups and downs. The weather has been anything but normal compared to past years. Rainfall has been spotty in the areas with some receiving inches of rainfall in short amounts of time while others have been without significant rainfall.

Then we saw high temperatures of 90 degrees and above. For many this meant more watering and more problems with plants. One particular plant affected is the tomato. For some gardeners' tomatoes there are tons of leaves but no fruit. The high temperatures have hindered fruit set.

Maple trees in urban areas are showing signs of leaf scorch. This is due to high temperatures and the trees inability to take up enough water to replace the large amount of water that is lost naturally.

I have even heard some gardeners comment on how they cannot wait for frost to come so they can

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clean up their gardens and hopes of a better growing season next year.

On a positive note, plant catalogs for fall planting and bulbs have been arriving the past few weeks.

Wasps

The number one call coming in right now is the high numbers of wasps. One wasp in particular is the German yellow jacket wasp.

With most social wasps, their populations are highest during the later part of summer. Yellow jackets, in particular, develop a sweet tooth this time of year. They can especially be problematic if you have hummingbird feeders, fruiting trees such as apple and crabapple, or have compost piles.

In the warm temperatures, they also tend to be more aggressive.

When determining whether or not to treat for wasps, keep the following things in mind:

1. Wasps are an important part of the ecosystem in your yard. They are predators and feed on other smaller insects.
2. If they are not causing you harm, ignore them as they will be gone once the temperatures grow cooler.
3. Keep fallen fruit picked up off the ground, garbage covered and other food sources away from them.
4. If you must treat the nest, mark the nest during the day and treat the nest with the appropriate insecticide at night.

With most wasp species, it is only the fertilized females that are able to over winter. In the spring, the wasps you see flying about, are the wasps that are looking for vacancy signs in your landscape.

Attention All Master Gardeners!

The Kalamazoo Master Gardener Association is looking for you. As we are now enjoying the fruits (and vegetables and flowers) of our labors in this busy time for harvesting, we can look ahead to the return of the regular meetings of the Association. We would like to invite you to attend an Association meeting at the Trinity Reformed Church to

see if the Association is right for you. Our Annual Potluck and Plant Exchange is on September 19 at 6:00pm. Jonathon Hoffman will be speaking at our October 17 meeting at 7:00pm on Landscape Design.

The Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Association is a membership organization, affiliated with the MSU/MSUE Master Gardener Program, whose mission is to provide:

- ongoing networking and horticultural education for our members; and
- horticultural education to the greater community through member volunteer activities and outreach.

Of the 500+ active Master Gardeners in the Kalamazoo County area, over 100 have chosen to join the KCMGA and continue a special association with other Master Gardeners—continuing their education, sharing expertise, and providing community service.

Membership is open to certified Master Gardeners and Master Gardener trainees; dues are \$15 per year (\$20 for a family); guests may attend one meeting before becoming a member.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of September, October, November (Annual Meeting), January, March, and May at Trinity Reformed Church on Cork Street, Kalamazoo, from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Meetings include a knowledgeable speaker (1 ed. hr.), brief business meeting, and networking opportunities. Members are welcome to share a brown bag supper with other members starting at 6 pm.

Summer Garden Walks to private homes and public gardens and other activities enhance programming throughout the year. Many members of KCMGA also provide leadership and support for other local gardening initiatives whose missions range from community beautification to gardening with/for people with disabilities to feeding the hungry.

For more information about the Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Association, contact Renee Healy, 2005 president, at wrenhealy@sbcglobal.net. Or visit our website www.web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/kalamazoo/association/index.htm.

MSU-Kalamazoo County Master Gardener Continuing Education Quiz

This September 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.

The **NEW** Emerald Ash Borer chapter for the Master Gardener core manual is available in the office — while supplies last. One free copy per MGer. **Please pick up in office only**, M-F, 8:00 to 5:00. Show MGer name badge to receive yours.

Your name: _____

1. True or False. Master Gardener Volunteers are not to give out specific recommendations for use of fertilizers and pesticides. MG volunteer must encourage others to follow label recommendations included with all products.

2. What is the plant hormone that is responsible for stem elongation, seed germination and stimulation of flowering on long day plants and biennials?

- a. Auxins
- b. Ethylene
- c. Abscissic acid
- d. None of the above

3. A person calls the hotline and states that their pepper plants have no peppers on them. It is August 26. They state that they have been watering their garden every other day and during late morning. They applied fertilizer prior to planting and did another side-dressing application in early July. What could be the possible reasons for the failure of fruiting?

4. The most common mite found in the landscape is the two spotted mite. The most severe injury by mites in plants in the landscape are those plants that are in hot dry locations. True or false

5. Hotline call- A person calls on September 1st and states that their lawn has a disease problem. While mowing their Kentucky bluegrass/perennial ryegrass lawn, there was an orange powdery substance on the deck of the lawn mower after mowing the yard. What is the disease and what would you recommend the caller to do?

6. True of false. Corn is unique among vegetable crops because the pollen source has an effect on the characteristics of the current year's crop. Field corn pollen will make sweet corn starchy.

7. Please draw and describe the disease triangle.

8. When moving tropical plants in for the winter, it is important to do this first:

- a. Water them well
- b. Fertilize
- c. acclimatize them
- d. prune heavily

9-10 Please either draw or describe how to rejuvenate (prune) a severely overgrown forsythia.