



Garden Tales

Atlantic County Master Gardener
Association Newsletter



Coordinators Comments:

By Mona Bawgus

Hello Master Gardeners:

I think this year it is more important than ever to be an attentive gardener. The insects are thriving and when not discovered early, are having devastating effects on many vegetables and flowers in our gardens. Many of you have brought in some interesting examples of pests found in your garden.

Our demo garden has not been spared from pest attacks. The asparagus bed has been overtaken by a very prolific and voracious asparagus beetle. Anita has written an interesting article on page seven on these pests with some wonderful photos. Early in spring Glenn brought in a monarda sample that was found to have a stem borer, a plant that usually doesn't have many pest problems. Also, vegetable gardeners have more than their share of problems with their kale and broccoli being devastated by the diamondback moth and the cabbage butterfly. Community gardens have seen the Colorado potato beetle on tomatoes a month earlier than normal.

Someone once told me a good garden takes a walk through the garden twice a day, once in the morning and once at night. During these walks a careful inspection of all plants should be taken. Caught at an early stage most problems will be minor, but if left unattended a full infestation can wipe out all your hard work for that growing season.

So for now, keep a watchful eye, come share your interesting findings at the helpline round table and then use your expertise to help others on the helpline. The helpline is still the best way to keep your gardening knowledge growing.

~Mona

Important Dates



July

- 4 Office Closed
- 13 MGA Meeting at Janet Osborne's home – 12:00 PM
- 14 Ventnor Beautification Tour 10-4 @ Ventnor Library
- 15 Little Gardens Tour 9-3
- 21 Pests and Disease talk at Galloway Community Garden at 10AM
- 25 6:30 PM - Night Blooming Plants – talk at Galloway Library
- 25 Woody Plant Conference
- 27 Helpline Roundtable 10 AM

August

- 9, 10, 11 Atlantic County 4-H Fair
- 16 MGA Meeting at Gail Fisher's home
- 23 Tomato Tasting at Margate Farmer's Market 9-1
- 24 Helpline Roundtable 10 AM
- 30th Pest and Diseases talk at Hope Community Garden – 5 PM

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Experiment Station



Mark Your Calendars

The Following dates have been set up for the Helpline Roundtable meetings for the rest of the year. Please note: We will not meet in December or January as the helpline is closed.

July 27th
August 24th
September 28th
October 26th
November 30th

Thank You!

Pat Kennedy for chairing our
Master Gardener Helpline for the past two years!!

Welcome

Please welcome Barbara D'Augustine as our
new Master Gardener Helpline chairperson!!

Topics to look forward to when working the Help-Line:

- Trees/Shrubs
 - Dutch Elm Disease
 - Anthracnose
- Lawns
 - Anthracnose
 - Dollar Spot
 - Copper Spot
 - Fairy Ring
- Scale
 - Cottony Cushion
 - Cottony Azalea
 - Maskell
- Slime Mold
- Ticks and Their Control/ID
- Soil Tests
 - Kits \$20
 - pH only - \$2 - done here at office. Customer must bring at least a cup of soil to complete test.

“Green Thumb” Articles

Use the following Green Thumb articles as resources for clients while volunteering for the help-line. The articles are located in the “Green Thumbs” binder on the bookshelf in the help-line office:

Asparagus
Greenbrier
Squirrels
Cabbageworm Control
Cannas
Cutworms
Cedar Apple Rust
Aphids
Red Thread
Manure
Colorado Potato Beetle

New or Updated Factsheets:

FS1181 – Carpet Beetles

FS1137 – Clothes Moths

Publications available at:

<http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>

Local farm markets where you will find Master Gardeners:

Ventnor Farmer’s Market – Wednesdays from 3-7
St. James Parking Lot on Newport Avenue

Margate Farmer’s Market - Thursdays 9-1
Steve & Cookies Parking Lot



Rutgers NJAES Turf Blog

James A. Murphy, Ph.D., Turf Management

A new blog has been created to post brief updates on matters related to turf which includes home lawns. Visit the blog at: <http://turblog.rutgers.edu>.

The blog is new and does not contain a lot of information yet, but recent posting include anthracnose basal rot, seedling crabgrass and red thread.

2012 Plant Sale

By: Gail Fisher [10]



Last July 11th, Paula Demarest and I sat down with Grace Wagner, last year's president, to discuss for the first time the plans for the 2012 plant sale. Over the summer Paula and I researched and visited local growers, developed a committee framework and sorted through tons of plant lists. By fall the growers had been chosen, plant lists had been determined, and a powerpoint preliminary report was presented at the November meeting. During the winter the chairpersons were selected, seeds were ordered and the advertising posters were approved. Paula and I decided to divide the committees in half so that it would be easier to keep track of who was doing what. When March arrived, all the committee chairpersons got right to work, and as the plant sale date approached everything seemed to be running quite smoothly.

Then the thrips arrived in the greenhouse and proceeded to munch on the veggies. There were issues with watering and mice. Thanks to Bob Varrelmann's eagle eyes, most of the plants were saved.



On set up day, I delivered my tables and tent and chairs and other stuff, but I had to leave early due to medical issues (a molar extraction developed a dry socket). I knew everyone knew what to do, but I was distressed not to be able to be in the midst of it all, after a full year of planning.

On the day of the sale, the only way my husband could get me to calm down was to drive me to the sale so I could at least see how it all turned out. When we pulled into the parking lot, I was absolutely amazed! The grassy side lawn of the library had been transformed into a lively, colorful sea of tents, umbrellas and lovely native plants. There were posters and banners and displays and carefully labeled plants. There were tables overflowing with awesome baked goods, and garden treasures and healthy flowering plants. There were enthusiastic Master Gardeners, and tables full of helpful information and delicious vegetable plants. There was sunshine, a light breeze, and a cloudless blue sky.....and PLANTS! After a brief twenty minute visit, Jim herded me away to the truck as promised. "You can relax now", he said.

Because we left two days after the sale on a month long camping trip, I haven't gotten to tell you all..... Thank you! To all you growers, callers, creators, builders, arrangers, haulers, gatherers, pricers, taggers, bakers, propagators, planners, buyers, sellers.... many, many thanks! To Paula, you're the best!



Project Updates

Demo Garden –

The Demo Garden is looking well thanks to all the wonderful volunteers. We have planted peas, kale, tomatoes, lettuce (which is now being cleaned out) and squash. Our asparagus has been attacked by the asparagus beetle (see article on page 2) but will survive. Our strawberries have been harvested and the herb garden is productive also. The flower beds have been cleaned, trimmed and the salt hay has been spread in the vegetable beds and whatever was left was started in the flower beds. John Collette was kind enough to cut down a small tree and Bob Varrelmann trimmed out a couple of dead limbs that were in the garden.

We are now waiting for our mulch to be delivered which will be spread at the far end of the garden (flower bed section.) Will be planting some annuals just to give us some color in between the perennials flowering time.

Come and enjoy the garden anytime. It is truly our personal pride and joy.

Forsythe Gardens –

The last Thursday to volunteer will be July 5th from 10-Noon. The group volunteering is racing to get gardens cleaned up by then. Volunteers report that the garden that was started 3 years ago with grant funds looks wonderful.

Galloway Library Butterfly Garden –

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Hope Community Garden – Atlantic City

Residents continue to love being in their gardens and will continue to contact the master gardeners if they should have any questions/concerns. Open house went well on June 14th.

South Main Street School – Pleasantville

This project was ended for the school year with a wonderful luncheon provided for students/staff and mg volunteers using vegetables harvested from the gardens that hands have tended to all season long outside of this school.

Atlantic City Aquarium –

Master gardeners continue to volunteer throughout the week to maintain the gardens at the aquarium. Graduation and Master Gardener Day were both a success. The lifeguard boat has been placed and plants flourish from within it.

Master Gardener Calendar –

Master gardeners are hard at work compiling, editing and consolidating information received on plants and historical places that are relevant to 16 cities in Atlantic County that featured in this calendar. This is a huge project and if any master gardeners are looking to help, Nancy Jansen could use a hand with the layout.

Garden in Front of County Building –

Inkberry, Golden Spirea, and Pink Spirea have been planted out in front of the building along new sidewalk. Contact Doug Groff if you are looking to give a helping hand with plantings in the future.

***Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,
but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson***

What Was I Thinking...

By: Annette DiPietrae Girard [12]



Chameleon Houttuynia Surrounding Birdbath

How often have we used the term “*what was I thinking*”? When a gardener utters those four words, it usually means more work!

As an avid gardener, I love experimenting with new plants. You know, the unusual showy ones with vibrant colors and luscious flowers that shout “take me home”. So it made perfect sense that when I came across a Chameleon Houttuynia three years ago, I would take the plunge and purchase not one, but five (always the odd number in gardening). They took their place perfectly around my birdbath and filled in within a year. Their lime green and white leaves with red

tinged tips stood 18 inches high. White delicate flowers emerged early spring thru summer and, in the fall; the leaves turned a brilliant bright red. Marvelous! I had purchased the perfect plant! Did I mention this was a GROUND COVER?

When my Chameleon Houttuynia reached its third year, it spanned 6 feet in all directions. Pretty as it was, it was now annoying. Circling its roots through my China Boy Holly and Mahonia Leatherleaf, I felt it was strangling plants ten times its height. It was time to take action. In the Fall, I ripped out as much as I could which required going a depth of 8 inches in the soil to retrieve the root system. All the soil had to be replaced. Not easy. Come Spring, strong survivors will again emerge and I’ll have to repeat the process. In the midst of all this work, I kept repeating “*what was I thinking*”!

Ground covers serve a purpose. They link together ornamental plants, prevent soil erosion and serve as a design element – but beware! All ground cover plantings require maintenance, some more than others. Evergreen ground covers, such as creeping juniper, require little care. Ground covers that develop flowers and fruit often require more maintenance to keep them attractive. Even though I trimmed and thought I was containing my Chameleon Houttuynia, I just could not keep up with its vigorous growth. The plant was healthy and showed me just how much by wanting to expand its reach to cover the entire garden.

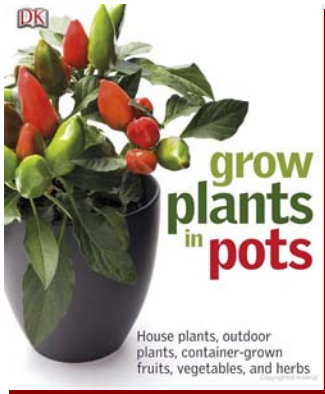
So how do we know what ground cover to plant? No one species works for every landscape situation. Consider the following: select lower-growing ground covers for small areas; know your sun vs. shade exposure and winds; improve soil with organic matter; weed out unwanted growth; and never purchase a plant without knowing its full potential.

Fast growing, aggressive ground covers include euonymus, English Ivy, honeysuckle vine, vinca vine, trumpet vine, creeping jenny, Mexican evening primrose, Adriatic bluebells, coral bells, creeping flox and, of course, the Chameleon Houttuynia! Less aggressive ground covers include: Hen and chicks, lamb’s ear, creeping thyme, dwarf coreopsis, sedum, cotoneaster, common juniper, catmint, Lily-of-the-valley, hosta, Irish moss, and tufted pansy. There are just too many to mention!

Now I have replaced “*what was I thinking*”, with “*what am I thinking*”. I’ve given it a lot of thought and I’ve got my eye on a creeping Oregon grapeholly for Spring – a slow grower with lustrous blue green leaves turning a rich purple in winter. Its deep yellow flowers are borne in April-May with edible blue-black grape-like fruit maturing in August-September – a natural for birds. It will spread 10 inches (assuming I only buy one) and, because it is a broad-leaved evergreen, it will provide garden interest through the winter. How perfect!

Favorite Container Gardening Books

By: Melody Moser [12]



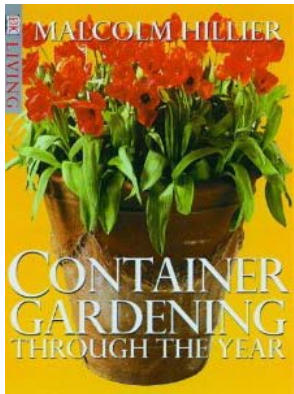
Grow Plants in Pots - Martyn Cox

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Dorling Kindersley (April, 2011)

ISBN: 978-0-7566-8250-7

Whether you want to create an edible garden, an urban sanctuary, or a balcony abloom with pink Rhododendrons, *Grow Plants in Pots* offers container design ideas that will help you add life and beauty to your home and garden. Along with gorgeous photos, cultivation advice, and creative planting ideas for all types of plants, author Martyn Cox offers suggestions on choosing and designing with containers as well as comprehensive information on foliage, flowers, fruit and vegetables. Boxed tips throughout the book give advice on propagation, pruning and plant care.



Container Gardening through the Year - Malcolm Hillier

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Dorling Kindersley (March 15, 1998)

ISBN: 0-7894-3296-X

ISBN: 1-56458-869-6

In *Container Gardening through the Year*, acclaimed garden designer Malcolm Hillier presents more than 60 original container projects organized by the season and planted by color, theme or fragrance. Each project is illustrated with stunning color photographs and includes advice on how to grow the featured plants successfully. Also included is information on how to choose, prepare, plant and maintain containers. Hillier's suggestions on where to place containers in the garden, home and conservatory are so appealing, even gardeners with only a few feet of patio space will be excited by the possibilities.

A peek at the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan—
By Gail Fisher [10]



These pink Lady Slipper Orchids, *Cypripedium acaule*, were carpeting the rocky woodland path on a ledge overlooking a beautiful water fall.

Here's looking at you, kid! It's a roll of white paper birch bark lying on the sandy beach, and yes, I found it just this way.



Beetle/Open House

Asparagus Beetle, *Crioceris asparagi*

By Anita Wagner



While working in the demo garden it was discovered that the Asparagus beetle, *Crioceris asparagi*, has reared its ugly head in the asparagus bed.

Asparagus beetles are ¼" long with a metallic blue head, a reddish thorax, bluish-black wing covers with three, yellowish squares on each wing cover and a red outer margin. The larvae are dark gray and slug-like.

Asparagus beetle adults will feed on young shoots during the season, chew holes in the shoots, and lay small, dark brown eggs standing on end on the spears. Shoots will develop a shepherd's hook due to beetle feeding. Larvae appear in spring and fall, gnaw and feed on the young tips and on foliage. Plant growth is reduced and proper root development is prevented, causing a decrease in the size and quality of the crop.

Management of the pest includes: hand-picking and destroying, cultivating and fertilizing properly to encourage rapid spring growth (leaves less time for beetles to damage shoots), cutting the shoots very clean and just below ground level every day or tow during the cutting season, and apply insecticides only when needed. If pesticides are used, please read the label and follow all directions, restrictions, and precautionary statements.

Hope Community Garden Open House



The enthusiasm at the Hope Community Garden continues to grow along with their plants. On June 14

AtlantiCare, the Atlantic City Housing Authority, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners enjoyed a beautiful day celebrating the one year anniversary of the opening of the garden. The plot owners are continuing to expand their garden knowledge and have formed a camaraderie with each other. Multi-generations are sharing the experiences that will have a lasting effect.

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Master Gardener Newsletter**

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Monday-Friday 9 AM - Noon

Edited by:



Mona Bawgus
Program Associate - Agriculture



Happy Birthday Master Gardeners!!

July

7 th	Nancy Short
25 th	John Marositz
31 st	Camille Griffin

August

2 nd	Thornton Hole
13 th	Glenn Pavlis
19 th	Barb D'Augustine

September

2 nd	Gerel Pereborow
26 th	Mary Stecher
30 th	Rachel Bogatin

Call Anita to be added to the birthday list!!!
We are missing many of you!!



**Want to contribute to
*Garden Tales?***

Send topic ideas, photos, or
material to Anita at
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