

Garden Tales

Atlantic County Master Gardener
Association Newsletter



Coordinators Comments:

By Mona Bawgus

Hello Master Gardeners:

In our most recent book club selection about the correspondence of two gardeners there was a paragraph that seemed to accurately depict the feelings behind a true gardener. It is something that I see in many of my fellow MG as well as myself. I wonder if you'll agree.

"Because it is impossible to achieve the kind of perfection they dream of, they try to come to terms with their dreams by talking back and forth about their successes and failures. Sometimes they like to have visitors who can walk with them along the paths and admire their handiwork, but at other times they feel more confident if they keep visitors at a distance, No matter how lovely the garden looks, as soon as the gardener hears that someone is coming, she feels compelled to warn "Don't expect much, we haven't had rain".....it is the constant hope of the gardener that encircling this bed and planting that shrub will result in an aesthetic experience that lives up to the dream"

This is the time to dream. Curl up with all the beautiful catalogues that have begun to arrive and create that garden that we would love to have each other visit and spend hours wandering.

Happy planning.

~Mona



New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Important Dates

November

- 16 Beginning of 'black out dates' for nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on turf by homeowners
- 19 Propagation Talk – Little Gardens Garden Club
- 28 Office Closed - Thanksgiving
- 30 Helpline Roundtable 10-11:30

December

- 13 MGA Holiday Party 11:30-2:30
Mays Landing Country Club
- 25 Office Closed – Christmas

January

- 1 Office Closed – New Year's Day
- 7 First of 2014 RMG Classes – **Soils**
9AM - Noon



Inside This Issue

Helpline	2
Project Updates	3-4
Beetle Look-a-Like	5
Why Compost Leaves	5
November Gardening Chores	6
Garden Tales 'Classic'	6
Harvesting Fall Vegetables	7
Radish Salad Recipe	7
Metamorphosis	8
Calabaza	9
Birthday	10

Help-Line

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

- Trees/Shrubs
 - Fig Tree care
 - Pruning/how and when
 - Mites
- Erosion prevention plants
- Houseplants
- Digging up tender bulbs
- Cabbage Moths on ornamental cabbages
- **Soil Tests – Fall is the best time to make amendments!!**
 - Kits \$20
 - pH only - \$2 - done here at office. Customer must bring at least a cup of soil to complete test.
- 2014 RMG MG Program and when classes begin

“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:

Scoliid Wasp
Bamboo
Orange Striped Oakworm
Fall Webworm
Overwintering Herbs
Overwintering Geraniums
Japanese Maple Scale
Storing Squash
Geese Control
Fig Pruning

Reminder!!!

The MG Helpline is closed for the months of December and January. February 3, 2014 will be the first date to sign up.

Mentors will not be needed until the class of 2014 graduates.

Helpline Update – by Barb D’Augustine, Chairperson

As of November 6, 2013 we have had 361 inquiries to the helpline office. The helpline was open from 12-3 in the afternoon for the months of April – September in addition to our 9-12 hours. The PM sessions are now closed and our helpline will close entirely for the months of December and January.

The 2014 calendars are now available in the helpline office for the AM and PM sessions. Please remember to allow for 2 interns and 1 mentor per session. Non-mentor MG’s can sign up on any dates with no interns. A mentor list is currently being constructed.

Roundtable Update – Barb D’Augustine, Chairperson

The last 2013 meeting will be held on 11/22/13. Check your emails in the days following the meeting as I try to get out a monthly email to all master gardeners with a summary of meeting topics.

2014 Meeting Dates

Mark Your Calendars!!

Feb. 28
Mar. 28
Apr. 25
May 30
Jun. 27
Jul. 25
Aug. 29
Sep. 26
Oct. 24
Nov. 21
Dec. - no meeting

Spread the Word!!

The “black out” dates for nitrogen or phosphorus fertilization of turf by home owners begins November 16th and continues through February 28th 2014.

Plant Sale by Lynn Kell, Chairperson

Sue Scarlett (co-chairperson) and I got together after the round table meeting on October 25th to discuss the 2014 plant sale. After discussing with Mona, a date of May 17, 2014 was set for the plant sale. Sue and I looked over the file that was given to me by our predecessor Gail. Sue and I will be meeting again on November 6th to start going through the seed catalogs, and Sue will be reaching out to former sub-committee chairs to see who will be on board for 2014. We've also heard from Chris Clemenson advising us of a couple new plants that they will have for 2014 that we may be interested in and she will be providing us with an updated inventory shortly.



Demo Garden – by Ann Cinquina, Chairperson

The woodland garden is almost cleared and we will be planting daffodils and other woodland flowers in the near future. The volunteers have already planted daffodil bulbs in the perennial garden with thanks to Bob Varrelmann for his donations. Everything is looking beautiful. As you can see in the picture to the left, Bob Varrelmann, known as “The Bug Man”, has been promoted to lumber jack A.K.A Paul Bunyan and Glenn Pavlis is his assistant.

(Photo courtesy of Ann Cinquina)

Eagle Theatre – by Sandy Templeton, Chairperson

The Eagle Theatre Project has been moving forward, and the design teams of Jesse Connor, George Basset, and John Drexel have been busy designing the native plant demo garden for the front of the building. The theatre is located on Vine Street in Hammonton, and is open all year. This is going to be a highly-visible site that we can beautify and use to educate folks on the diverse native species that will thrive in our area, and the advantages of using these species in their home gardens. The actual installation of the garden will be in the spring, and will also involve several community groups such as the High School Garden Club and the Green Committee. The theatre volunteers are planning to add the garden information onto the theatre website, and we are thinking of hosting some kind of Master Gardener Reception in which we will be available to give talks about sustainable gardening and native plantings. We are also looking into hosting a movie that ties into this theme at the theatre. We have fall and winter to fine tune our plans, and are looking forward to these several exciting projects in the spring!

Edwin B Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge - by Bev Albertson, Chairperson

At Forsythe we are trying to make up for lost time due to the government shutdown of national parks, fully cognizant of the fact that our gardening endeavors are limited to only another few weeks. (We stop outdoor work by Thanksgiving.) We plan to spend the winter months developing a program presentation of the garden for use at the Refuge and for interested groups. The garden at the Visitors Center has improved greatly this year. Recent additions to the garden include monarda, lupine, holly, bear berry, amsonia and inkberry. We are working now on a fall cleanup ...mostly weeding...to enhance the beauty of the winter garden.

Note: Forsythe has been designated as one of the top twelve birding refuges in the U.S. We continue to have a myriad of visitors to the Refuge walking through our garden.

County Office Project - by Doug Groff, Chairperson

In September an Arrowhead Viburnum, Nine Bark, and a Yucca were planted. Also some Milkweed seeds were planted. On November 12th-weather permitting end of the season pruning, weeding (or as we like to call it--maintenance) and some final fall planting will take place. It would be great to have a couple of volunteers join me in preparing this area for the winter months. All in all I believe this project is progressing nicely. Looking forward to expanding this project in the Spring. Focal point for the Spring will be to build a raised bed under the county sign and fill it with a variety of seasonal plantings. Thanks are extended to those who have helped with this beautification project.

MGA Scholarship – by Barb D'Augustine

The brochure and application have been completed. January 1st opens the application period which will end on April 1, 2014. The application will be made available by email to all guidance supervisors, hardcopies to each school, and by posting to our www.rutgers-atlantic.org website.

Atlantic City Aquarium – by Bill Johnson, co-chair

During the summer a number of new projects were undertaken. Several large planters throughout the Basin were rehabbed with more appropriate and attractive plants. The triangle that contains a bell honoring sailors lost at sea was replanted with additional roses, a number of different annuals and a backdrop of tall grass with a solid row of portulaca in front. A generous donation of plants from Rainbow Farms allowed Master Gardeners volunteers to completely replant the New Hampshire Ave. entrance to the Basin, which had been built by CRDA, but not landscaped. CRDA also made a gift of 14 concrete planters to the Basin, 4 long boxes and 10 circular planters. These planters are currently being cleaned up and repainted. The annual shift from warm weather summer plants to the hardier Fall varieties took place in October. 15 MG volunteers replaced summer annuals with mums and ice pansy, giving the Basin an Autumn look. Tropical plants have been brought inside and will be tended to throughout the winter. A special note of thanks is due to the Master Gardener Class of 2013. The level of volunteer participation in both quantity and quality was outstanding.

Linwood Arboretum – by MaryLou Monihan, chairperson

In October, a new relationship was formed between the Rutgers Atlantic County Master Gardeners and the Linwood Arboretum. With the help of Allen Lacy, curator of the Linwood Arboretum and George Butrus, Vice President of the Arboretum, several volunteers are trying to meet, for the time being, on "most" Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings. A weekly email is being sent out to inform all interested parties about the specific dates and time for each week. If you have not been receiving an email, or, if you would like to be removed from the list, please let me know. Our first priority is re-checking all plant specimens for correct identification and mapping of this information. It is our hope and aspiration to use this information, in addition to the obvious necessity of record keeping, to help with a new docent program; and, extend this information into a reference manual that benefits both volunteers and visitors to the site. As the season of winter approaches, we are planning to assist other volunteers with dormancy pruning and transplantation of appropriate trees and shrubs. We will have a "continuing dialogue" with the curator and board of the arboretum on the best ways that we can provide some needed support in order to make this beautiful space thrive. There is always need for Master Gardeners to come and work alongside a small, but very dedicated group of volunteers who have done various tasks for a very long time. The motto of JC Ralston continues to be an inspiration: "Plant-----and plant for a better America." As the arboretum's brochure describes, "there is something in bloom or berry for 365 days of the year." I can testify to the truth of this statement. Please come out, contribute, and learn from the experience. You will not be disappointed. The rewards are great.

Hope Community Garden – by Sue Scarlett, chairperson

On September 16th Mona, George Bassett, Barb Kennedy and I weeded and planted the perennials. We were very excited when, before be completed, we already had a bee on our Asters. . Mona gave 22 weeding tools to the Hope Community participates in August & we asked them to clean and removed vegetables not doing well to make room for seeding winter crops, such as kale & collards. They were given the seeds to start planting in September. At the October 17th meeting Bill Johnson & I were happy to see some plants already growing. Bill & I also discussed making two compost bins for the group. Bill had the wood pallets to recycle and will measure & build them. I'm not very good at hammering, so I will carry & hold supplies. Bill will be the supervisor and I the helper. We will also recycle & plant hardy mums that John Collette will dig up and no longer needs from Gardeners Basin. Their community will meet again on November 21st and I will represent our Master Gardeners.

ALB and Composting Leaves



Beetle Look-a-Like by Kathy Nickolich [13]

Before becoming a Rutgers Master Gardener, when working at Atlantic Cape Community College in a building the woods, I arrived at about 7:30 a.m. to find this creature on the door. After carefully letting myself into the building, I took a picture of it with my cell phone and sent it to the rest of the building staff and asked if anyone knew what it was. An Asian Long horned Beetle. So I look this up on the internet, and there's a warning, Don't Delay! Report ALB Today! I called the NJ Department of Environmental Protection office as instructed on the site. The department has a sub-department in Rahway, NJ just for this beetle. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/forestry/community/ALB.html>. They asked me if I saved it, no, but I took a pic. I sent it to them. Turns out, it's not this beetle, which eats and destroys only hardwood trees including the Ash tree. This beetle, the one we found, is an ALB look-alike and it's native to the US, a Northeastern Sawyer which eats pine trees, which makes sense because that's all we have around us. There is also an action plan to rid the state of these. See the size of its antennae!

For more ALB look-a-likes check out this pdf:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/alb_look_alikes.pdf



Why Compost Leaves??

Rutgers Fact Sheet #117 – **Using Leaf Compost**

Using Leaf Compost - Roy Flannery & Frank Flower



If newly fallen leaves are spread on the garden and then tilled in next spring, the microbes that decompose the leaves compete with growing plants for soil nitrogen. The temporary nitrogen shortage caused by the microbes can reduce plant growth. To reduce or eliminate this problem, compost the leaves prior to adding them to the garden soil. Leaf compost can also be used as mulch on the surface of the soil. There are many benefits to doing this:

- reduced rainfall runoff
- Reduce alternate freezing and thawing of soils which can injure the fibrous roots of plants
- Increase biological activity of earthworms and other soil organisms
- Keep soil warmer in winter; and
- Help control weeds

For more information, access this factsheet at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=FS117>.

November Gardening Chores – Mary McDermott [05]

From the National Gardening Association, here are recommendations for what we should be doing right now in the Mid-Atlantic area:

- **Clean Out Pond**

Remove debris like leaves and twigs from your pond. If you shut down the pond for winter, remove the water pump and filter. Rinse dirt from pump parts and filter. Store all parts together (in the same box is good) so they'll be easy to find in spring. If you leave the pond running through winter, take a few minutes now to rinse summer's debris accumulation from pump and filter. Check hoses and electrical cords for wear. Replace parts as needed.

- **Drain and Store Irrigation Hoses**

Before the first hard freeze or frigid snow, turn off and drain watering and irrigation systems. Remove and drain hoses. Turn off indoor on/off levers to outside hose bibs. Open outdoor faucets so water drains out; otherwise water will freeze in the pipe and possibly cause pipe or faucet parts to crack. Also remove and store splitters and connectors for use next spring. You don't need to remove black, permeable soaker hoses; they can remain in shrub and perennial beds throughout the winter.

- **Continue Watering**

It may seem contradictory but new transplants still need water. Keep one hose or a large watering can handy to make it easy to continue watering newly planted shrubs, trees, and perennials. If there's no substantial rain, water deeply and long twice a month until a heavy snowfall or until the ground is frozen hard.

- **Dig and Store Summer Bulbs**

In cooler parts of zone 7 and colder zones, dig up canna rhizomes after frost wilts their foliage. Cut away dead foliage. Keep clumped soil around rhizomes and store them in peat moss at about 50 degrees. Nestle rhizomes in a cardboard box or shoebox until they start sprouting in spring. Bring potted cannas in before a hard freeze. Cut off dead foliage, then store plants (its okay to keep them in same pots) in a cool, dry spot. It's also fine to unpot, remove excess soil, then store the rhizomes as described above.

- **Wrap a Fig Tree**

In zones 6 and 7, growing the edible fig tree (*Ficus carica*) involves weather protection and good luck. The fig grows best in Mediterranean warm-to-temperate climates. Fully dormant trees are hardy to 12 to 15 degrees F. With extra care, figs will grow in wetter, cooler areas. For protection in colder climes, erect a frame over the plant, then cover and surround it with protective material, such as heavy carpet or heavy-weight landscape protection fabric (available from garden stores) overlaid with burlap. Then stuff the structure with straw, loose bark mulch, or leaves that won't mat down, like oak leaves.

Garden Tales Classics

From January, 2007



Re-Cyclamen

Cyclamen (*cyclamen persicum*) is a classic winter gift houseplant, but most folks discard it after the blooms fade. You can keep yours beautiful longer, and keep it for next year.

To prolong the blooms, keep Cyclamen cool (50 to 60 degrees in the day and even cooler at night); moist (a pebble tray works well); and well-lit with bright, indirect sun for 6 to 8 hours a day. You'll be rewarded with flowers for weeks, and even months. (Note: Cyclamen is sensitive to salt, so avoid water-softener-treated water.) Fertilize very two to three weeks during winter and early spring, at half the recommended strength.

The Cyclamen tuber becomes dormant in the summer, after the leaves turn yellow and fall off. Don't toss it in the compost heap yet! During this dead-looking phase, stop fertilizing and reduce watering to every two or three weeks. In the early fall, the plant will resume active growth. Once you see new growth emerging from the base of the tuber, begin to water more frequently and resume fertilizing.

Harvesting Fall Vegetables

By Mary Alice Hecht [12]

Beets

Whether you grew your own beets or purchased them from the store, they should be firm and smooth with a deep red color and fresh looking tops. Before storing remove the beet greens leaving ½ inch to 2 inch of stem. Store each separately in plastic perforated bags in the refrigerator. The greens should be eaten within a few days whereas the beets will keep up to three weeks.

Carrots

There is just something about a freshly harvested carrot. Carrots with their tops still attached sold in the grocery store indicate a fresher harvested carrot than ones without their tops. They should have a deep orange color with no splits and few side roots growing on the main carrot. To store twist the greens off and store in a perforated plastic bag for up to two weeks.

Leeks

Your leeks are ready for harvest when they are 1 inch in diameter. In most areas your leeks can be overwintered in the garden until ready for cooking. Once harvested, they can be stored in cold humid conditions to minimize moisture loss.

Radish

If you have sown a fall harvest the young leaves can be harvested and added fresh to a salad. If storing the tops should be removed and stored separately from the root. In the refrigerator the greens should be eaten within two days while the roots wrapped in perforated plastic bags should keep for a week.

For more detailed information on a variety of vegetables check <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/vegetables/storage.pdf>

If you find yourself with an overabundance of radishes you might want to try this delicious recipe:

Radish Salad

Grate 2 cups of radishes
Grate 1/3 cup carrots

Toss both in the following mixture.

2T rice or balsamic vinegar
1T Soy Sauce
1 tsp. sugar
2 tsp. sesame oil
2 cloves finely chopped garlic

Amaryllis Bulb Forcing

In the late fall, set a single amaryllis bulb in a pot, allowing one inch of space around the bulb. Use a mixture of 1 part top soil and 1 part peat moss. Set the bulb so 1/3 to 1/2 of the bulb shows above the soil level.

Water well and place in a sunny location at 60°F. Flowering should occur in 6-8 weeks after potting.

Other bulbs to think of forcing for the winter:

Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocus, dutch iris, and other hardy bulbs. Select bulbs that are heavy and blemish-free; large bulbs are easier to force and produce larger blooms than small bulbs. For best results, select bulbs that were produced for forcing purposes. Number one bulbs are usually the best quality and are recommended for forcing.

Calabaza - Ice Resistant Trees

Rutgers MG Grows Calabaza - by Anita Wagner [05]



I turned my head in the office to find MG George Bassett come walking through the door with this 23 pound squash that honestly looked much heavier than that.

Calabaza (*Cucurbita moschata*) is a winter squash that is grown in Latin America and throughout the tropics and subtropics. The fruit can be round or pear shape and has yellow to orange flesh that some of the best commercially canned “pumpkin” is made from. The flesh of these squash is much richer and more nutritious than that of pumpkin.

Grow calabaza as you would winter squash or pumpkin. (According to several factsheets, it is best to start from transplants than to direct seed in the Northeast). The mature fruit is harvested at 100 – 115 days from seeding. Fruits are harvested by cutting the stem with a knife and should be completed before the frost arrives. Calabaza can be stored for up to 2 weeks at a temperature range of 80 to 85 degrees and above 90% relative humidity and for 3 months at 50-55 degrees and relative humidity of 70-75%.

You can add calabaza to sauces as a thickener and as an ingredient to stews and soups. The texture and flavor is similar to the butternut squash. You can even find a calabaza pudding recipe on the World Crops website. This squash is a great source of beta carotene, riboflavin and thiamine.

Resources:

<http://www.worldcrops.org/crops/Calabaza.cfm>

<http://www.desu.edu/sites/default/files/Calabaza.pdf>

<http://extension.umass.edu/vegetable/ethnic-crops/calabaza-cucurbita-moschata-ayama>

Ice Resistant Trees – Source: The Shade Tree Bulletin, Volume 86 - Issue 9 & 10

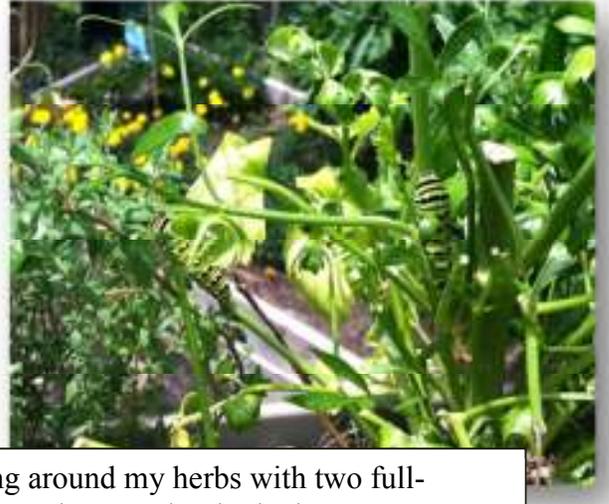
Shared by Anita Wagner [05]

Resistant	Susceptible	Intermediate Resistant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•American Sweetgum•Arborvitae•Black walnut•Blue beech•Catalpa•Eastern hemlock•Ginkgo•Ironwood•Kentucky coffee tree•Littleleaf linden•Norway maple•Silver linden•Swamp white oak•White oak	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•American elm•American linden•Black cherry•Black Locust•Bradford pear•Common hackberry•Green Ash•Honey locust•Pin oak•Siberian elm•Silver maple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Bur Oak•Eastern white pine•Northern red oak•Red Maple•Sugar maple•Sycamore•Tuliptree•White ash

Metamorphosis — by Kathy Nicholich [13]



1. I found this black swallowtail fluttering around my herbs with two full-grown caterpillars feasting on the parsley plant nearby, look close.



2. I took these two and uprooted the parsley, and all went into a giant snack jar and delivered to my granddaughters 5 and 2 ½. They were mesmerized with the two devouring the parsley.



3. In less than a week, they were able to see the first of the butterflies emerge from its chrysalis shell.



4. The first was a swallowtail male that my daughter and grandchildren took to the window boxes outside.



5. The second one to emerge was a female; the kids were able to see the different colors of the two.

**Atlantic County
Master Gardener Newsletter**

Published by:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-0056 ext. 6123
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Master Gardener Hours
Monday-Friday 9 AM - Noon



Mona Bawgus
Program Associate - Agriculture

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MASTER GARDENERS!!**



November

21st Barb Kennedy
24th Sue Scarlett
27th Anna Mae
Maslinski

December

25th Ann Cinquina
30th Pat Kennedy
30th Marie Frost

January

3rd Estelle Berkowitz
9th Evonne Kaminski
20th George Lonkart
26th Bessie McGowan
28th Lynn Kell

Please call Anita if you wish to be added to the birthday list!!!



Cooperative Extension
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
88 Lipman Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525

Official Mail



Atlantic County Master Gardener Program
Newsletter