



Garden Thyme

September 2020

<https://extension.purdue.edu/porter>

Volume 6, Issue 5



Notes from Nikky

By Nicole "Nikky" Witkowski

Purdue Extension Educator, Agriculture & Natural Resources

These are *still* interesting times. After the summer we have had with COVID and heat, this year's gardening season produced major ups and downs. We have been able to be more attentive to our gardens, but we have also had trouble getting new plants. We've had large rains, but now it is hot and dry. With your gardens, make sure plants are well watered, but not too wet at the same time. There is still time to plant as long as you get them in before too late in September so they can root. Otherwise, make sure that you provide them with a thick mulch layer to protect them over winter.

This year's Master Gardener Program is a *virtual series class* from August through December. Extension Specialists at Purdue University and across Indiana will teach the classes for many areas of the state. In addition, there will be a one-hour weekly online meeting with local participants in order to learn how the topic of the week applies to differing plant zones and allow for local connection. This kind of a class was seen as the

best option for now, but, I hope 2021 can be live and in-person.

I will be sending out letters updating everyone on their volunteer and education hours. Keep in mind: a letter does NOT mean your status is in jeopardy. It is meant to update you yearly on the status of your hours. It can serve as a caution in some situations and also alert some of missing information. Feel free to contact me if you do have any questions.



work is the sweetest.

Deepika Padukone

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Tips for Travel to a Foreign Country: How to prepare for an Amazing Adventure

By Susan Silverstein , PCMG Class 2019

My husband and I love to travel and experience new cultures. Now that we are retired, we are planning many trips that are on our bucket list.

One way we choose where to visit is by asking our friends. Some go on planned tours, and others go on their own or with friends. We have done both and find the tours good for more information about the sites and the country. Library books/videos also provide another good resource. We discovered an App called Visit a City, <https://www.visitacity.com/>. The App shows you tours and highlights on what to see and the cost.

Our last vacation was five weeks visiting Australia, New Zealand and a Safari in South Africa.

Here are a few tips when planning an overseas vacation.

1. What is on your bucket list?
2. Check the seasons of that country.
3. What is their primary language?
4. Vaccines required and malaria medication recommended? Check CDC Website or a travel clinic and your doctor.
5. Check the countries web site for required Visas.
6. Make a list of must see that you wish to visit. We also asked the locals when we arrived.
7. Travel is challenging unless on a tour. We used public transportation, buses, trains, and sometimes Uber.
8. Journal and take pictures. This really helped when I was going through my photos to identify a specific place.

Have fun, be flexible,
make the trip your own.
You will have a vacation
of a lifetime!



Floral Clock in Tasmanian Botanical Gardens



302' Lisbon Falls in South Africa



Rose garden in Christchurch, New Zealand



Kruger National Park in South Africa- home of the Big 5: lions, leopards, rhinos, buffalos, and elephants!



The Royal Botanical Garden at Sydney, Australia (carnivorous plant exhibit)



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Harvesting Hard Work

By Ron Hermance
PCMG Class of 2019

Editor's note: We touched base with Ron to see how his new and old fruit trees and garden had faired that we featured in the May edition.

Ron wrote: *"I have started pruning ten fruit trees in my backyard orchard on the Northwest side of the property: five apple trees, two peach trees and two pear trees. Five more fruit trees have been ordered to increase my orchard: two Honey Crisps, Golden Delicious, Early McIntosh, and Granny Smith."*

In the original orchard, the apple trees are on biennial fruiting, meaning no fruit will appear until next year. For the cherry tree, unfortunately, the birds ate the cherries. I did get some peach blossoms, and an education on a bad flying pest. The peaches became infected with Codling Moth which left worms in the peaches. My early peaches were devastated. I am getting some later peaches without damage. Not sure, how much damage from the late frost we had this year.

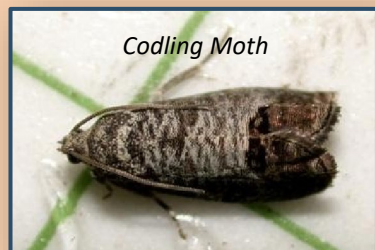
My Golden Delicious tree and the Granny Smith tree are doing well. I had to keep shortening the Early MacIntosh to encourage growth by pruning. I had to move it several times to get it to start growing. There was some new growth on the Honey Crisp trees but they were not successful. I will not buy or replant that variety again.

I have redone my old garden this year, recovering most of the surface with topsoil. The neighboring farmer's field tile flooded my garden earlier this spring, and that is why I raised my garden. I planted tomatoes, green beans, and hot peppers. They are starting to yield.

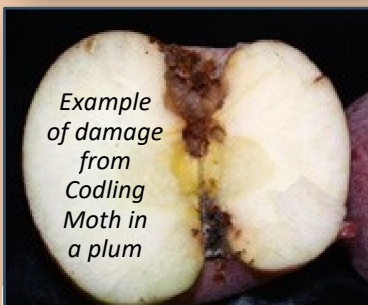
The good news is that I will be harvesting about one bushel of Red Haven Peaches this weekend (Aug. 15).

Editor's note: *Looks like he got three!*

Five more fruit trees have been ordered to increase my orchard: two Honey Crisps, Golden Delicious, Early McIntosh, and Granny Smith."



Codling Moth



Example of damage from Codling Moth in a plum

Adult Codling Moths emerge in late spring and lay eggs on fruit, nuts, leaves, and spurs. The eggs hatch within two weeks, and the larvae tunnel to the core of the fruit and feed inside the fruit of their host tree.



Photo © Ron Hermance



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Designing a garden with an intersecting sidewalk was our first challenge.

Using cushioned floor mats, we cut a road to span both gardens.



Outdoor "putting green" carpet is perfect for clean and comfortable kneeling.



Play scenes along the edges of the garden include: Construction Site with pea gravel, sand and "logs", Super Wings Airport, Great Grandpa John's Farm with pasture and radish field, African Veldt and Jungle, Fairyland, Bluebird Haven, and Dolphin's Lagoon.



GRAND

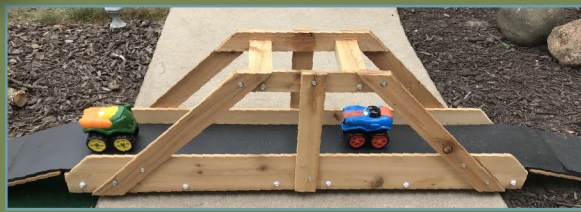
By Wilma Willard, PCMG Class of 2011

For two years it sat barren—rather embarrassing when that drab garden is next to the arbor where we entertain. But *what to do* when you can't quite put your vision into reality? It's not that I didn't try. It helped to ask ideas of fellow gardeners, browse in garden centers and research online (even Pinterest). However, these did not produce the *just right* design to meet our unique vision and requirements.

The vision? A fun garden for our young grandchildren to play in.

Requirements? Age appropriate—ages 0-6. Adaptable—for changing interests and material improvement. Safe—no sharp edges and easy on the knees. Attractive—where kids' imaginations can run wild and at the same time, G-mama and G-papa can enjoy.

Although it is still a work in progress, I'm happy to report that the "Grand Garden" is a hit with all four of our young grandchildren. I guess two years was worth the wait to get it *just right*.



Our Grands are currently ages 4, 3, 2, and 8 months old—perfect for this garden.



With close supervision, each Grand added their handprint to the sign. Notice there is room for more at the end. *hint hint*



Our latest upgrade is replacing the cardboard boxes holding the pea gravel and sand, with wooden ones.

Oh, and they love the new bridge over the sidewalk!



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“Queen of Autumn”

By Suzanna Tudor, PCMG Class 2002

By Martha “Marty” Seroczynski, CMG Class of 2000

Fall is quickly approaching and with it the classic autumn flower “The Chrysanthemum”. *Dendranthema x grandiflora*

Mums come in a variety of colors and grow in different forms: anemone, spider, quill, pompon, single, decorative, spoon, and cushion.

Some of the hardier mums are Clara Curtis, Mary Stoker, Princess Margaret and one of my favorites, Sheffield Mum. It’s one of my favorites because it always comes back. These can usually be found in catalogs.

There is a series of mums grown in Minnesota called Mammoth that are hardy. Mums are shallow rooted plants, and the best times to plant them is in Spring or early summer, so they can establish their roots. They like sun, consistent watering and a layer of mulch in the fall. Typically mums aren’t bothered by disease or insects.

Fertilizing should be done from May to late June or early July. Mums can also be pinched back to make them bushier and put their energy to roots and branching out. Stop pinching back after July fourth.

There can be early blooming mums, as well as, mid and late season, blooming varieties. You could have color for 4-10 weeks. How long do garden mums last; will they come back next spring? The answer is one we as gardeners have heard before “that depends.” Were they planted in the spring? Are they cold hardy? Do you just want them for containers and enjoy them for a few weeks? Do we want them to Check out Purdue’s mum info:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-77.pdf>

“Mums” the Word

On the contrary, we aren’t keeping quiet about this “Queen of Autumn” herbaceous perennial. We’re telling all. According to Purdue Dept of Horticulture HO-77:

- *Dendranthema x grandiflora* was cultivated in China over 2000 years ago
- National flower of Japan for several hundred years
- Classified according to shape and place of petals:

Anemone - Flowers like single mums, but with a rounded crest of deeper colored petals; most cultivars hardy.

Spider - Petals long and tubular with hooked ends; few hardy cultivars.

Quill - Petals straight, long, and tubular; few hardy cultivars.

Pompon - Small, stiff, almost globular flowers; some hardy cultivars.

Single - Daisy-like flowers with one to five rows of long petals radiating from a flat, central “eye”; nearly all cultivars are hardy.

Decorative - Flowers “incurved” (close, regular petals curving toward flower center), “incurving” (loose, irregular petals curving toward flower center) or “reflexed” (all petals curving away from flower center); many hardy cultivars.

Spoon - The ray florets are like spoons at the tips; some hardy cultivars.

Cushion - Often called “azalea” mums; early flowering; grow on low, bushy plants; most cultivars are hardy.

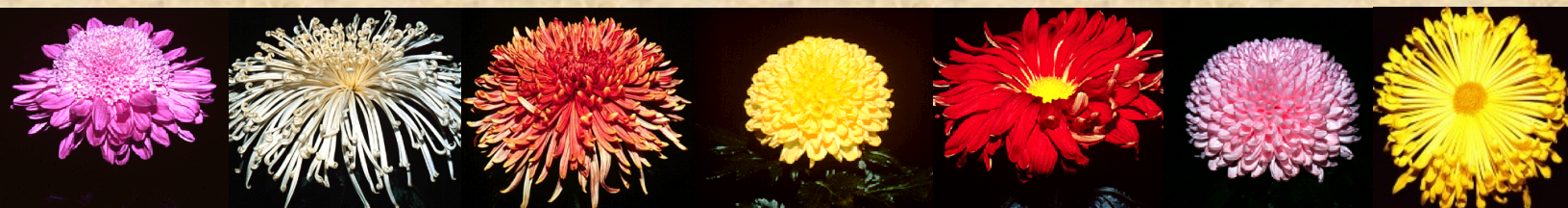


Photo credit @ National Chrysanthemum Society

<http://www.mums.org/chrysanthemu>

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classes/



Garden Rhyme

Anemone Spider Quill Pompom Single Decorative
Spoon



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Annuals Assessment 2020



By Guest Writer Ken Cote
Nursery Inspector & Compliance Officer, KCote@dnr.IN.gov
(Article shared from the Indiana DNR "Entomology and Plant Pathology Weekly Review")



Sutera cordata, Bacopa Plant,
photo from Plant Care Today

I would like to share with you some of my experiences with the annuals on my property this year.

The container-grown geraniums in my yard stopped blooming during July. Once temperatures dropped below 90, they started blooming again.

I also planted Black and Blue Salvia this year. The plants had good growth and are really a nice addition to a container planting. However, they are very brittle and have often suffered wind damage.

I cannot say enough about Angelonia. This annual just keeps blooming and does not seem to require pinching or dead heading.

The same was true about the Bacopa I have in the same container.

Marigolds did okay on my property but suffered a great deal of slug damage during the last two weeks, leaving some with only the flowers present.

Ageratum and Salvia splendens got completely destroyed by rabbits this year. Unfortunately they did not last a week.

Last but not least, Dragon Begonias are a wonderful annual. I cannot believe how much growth occurs during a season, and how they just continue to bloom. The only drawback is that they can become pot bound in smaller containers. Give them room. I do see some Botrytis on them, but other than that it is a great plant.



Angelonia, photo from
Better Homes and Gardens



'Black and Blue' salvia,
photo from Walters Gardens



Salvia Splendens, photo from
Bloom-Masters



Dragon Wings Begonia
from guide-to-
houseplants.com



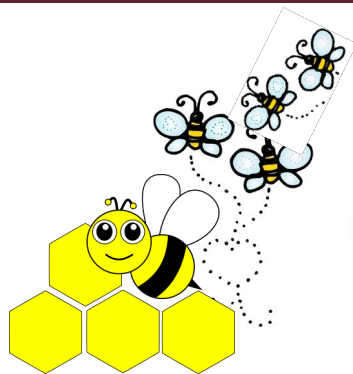
Ageratum 'Blue Hawaii',
photo from Flickr



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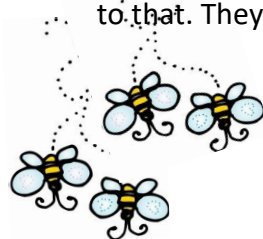
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This wonderful recipe comes from a Google search I did for a blueberry scone recipe. I landed on Sally's Baking Addiction website, and boy am I glad I did. Aptly named by Sally as her "Favorite Blueberry Scones," I could only say ditto to that. They are now my favorite!

To get all her tips and tricks, go to this link:

<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/my-favorite-blueberry-scones/>, but I'll share the basics with you here.



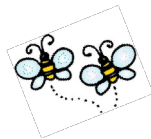
My Favorite Blueberry Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups (250g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled), plus more for hands and work surface
- 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 2 and 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick; 115g) unsalted butter, frozen
- 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream (plus 2 Tbsp for brushing)
- 1 large egg
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 heaping cup (180g) fresh or frozen blueberries (do not thaw)

Topping: coarse sugar and vanilla icing

By Nancy Rosene
Garden Thyme Sept. 2020



Instructions

1. Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt together in a large bowl. Grate the frozen butter using a box grater. Add it to the flour mixture and combine with a pastry cutter, two forks, or your fingers until the mixture comes together in pea-sized crumbs. See video above for a closer look at the texture. Place in the refrigerator or freezer as you mix the wet ingredients together.
2. Whisk 1/2 cup heavy cream, the egg, and vanilla extract together in a small bowl. Drizzle over the flour mixture, add the blueberries, then mix together until everything appears moistened.
3. Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt together in a large bowl. Grate the frozen butter using a box grater. Add it to the flour mixture and combine with a pastry cutter, two forks, or your fingers until the mixture comes together in pea-sized crumbs. See video above for a closer look at the texture. Place in the refrigerator or freezer as you mix the wet ingredients together.
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Nancy sharing her blueberry scones in Marcia Carson's garden on a recent social distancing visit with Marcia and Suzanna Tudor.





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By Nancy Rosene
PCMG Class of 2012

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continued from page 7... **My Favorite Blueberry Scones**



1. Pour onto the counter and, with floured hands, work dough into a ball as best you can. Dough will be sticky. If it's too sticky, add a little more flour. If it seems too dry, add 1-2 more Tablespoons heavy cream. Press into an 8-inch disc and, with a sharp knife or bench scraper, cut into 8 wedges.
2. Brush scones with remaining heavy cream and for extra crunch, sprinkle with coarse sugar. (You can do this before or after refrigerating in the next step.)
3. Place scones on a plate or lined baking sheet (if your fridge has space!) and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400°F (204°C).
5. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or silicone baking mat. After refrigerating, arrange scones 2-3 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet(s).
6. Bake for 22-25 minutes or until golden brown around the edges and lightly browned on top. Remove from the oven and cool for a few minutes before topping with vanilla icing.
7. Leftover iced or un-iced scones keep well at room temperature for 2 days or in the refrigerator for 5 days.



*Candy?
No thanks,
but do
you have
any seed
packets?*

Crafty Creations



New ways to decorate this fall: 1. Painted canning lids 2. Mini pumpkin and leaves 3. Painted owl pumpkin 4. Drilled pumpkin with lights

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Newsletter Team

Marcia Carson, Coordinator
Suzanna Tudor, Editor
Wilma Willard, Designer

Earn volunteer credit for contributing to the newsletter;
contact the Extension Office for more information.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Purdue website has added a link to numerous on-line education opportunities:

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/education-hours-opportunities/>

Monthly PCMGA meetings typically held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, often include an educational topic after the business meeting. These can be logged as educational hours, as well as, educational videos of former Garden Show seminars found at pcgarden.info on the Member Pages.

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Gardening Myths

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