

# Garden Thyme

November 2020

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

Volume 6, Issue 6

AsManyMinds.com

<b><i>Fixed Mindset</i></b>	<b><i>Growth Mindset</i></b>
Thinks intelligence and talents are fixed	Believes in brains' ability to rewire and learn
Avoids challenges	Loves to take up a challenging work
Thinks effort is for those who are not good at something	Believes that persistent efforts lead to mastery
Brands themselves as failure	Learns from mistakes and failures
Doesn't share knowledge much	Shares knowledge to learn better
Takes feedback as personal criticism	Loves feedback, asks for it and learns from it
Too focused on the outcome	Focused on the process
Resistant to exploring and adopting new strategies	Open to learning strategies and alternate options
Feels threatened by other's success	Gets inspired by other's success

## Growth Mindset for Gardeners

By Wilma Willard, PCMG Class of 2011

Have you heard others say, "I'm just no good at gardening," or "I have a black thumb," when they just don't think they have the smarts or the talent to grow plants? Maybe you've said it yourself! This is a Fixed Mindset. But intelligence and talents are not fixed. You can rewire your brain and learn!

When I think of Master Gardeners, I think of learners who grow from their horticultural failures, accept their mistakes, receive feedback, and persist with new strategies, all the while loving the journey and sharing their joy with others. This is a Growth Mindset!

And how great for us to take the next step and apply it to our "garden of life." Can we apply the Growth Mindset to more than our experience with plants?

### IN THIS ISSUE

Growth Mindset for Gardeners	1
Volunteer Plug—Team Thyme	2
Recibeas—Green Tomato Casserole	3
Hotline Hotspot—2020 Hotline Recap	4
My Plant; My Project—Meet Polly	5
You Win Some; You Lose Some	6-9



# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



*Jim and Marcia Carson on new adventures!*



*The Carson's new Wolf Pup travel trailer.*

## Stepping Down and Stepping Up

By Marcia Carson  
PCMG Class of 2012

Fall is here; winter is on its way. The evolution of the seasons changes our lives in many ways, but the year 2020 has certainly brought about many changes that most of us would never have imagined.

In February, I entered a new decade and reflected on life in my 60's: I retired from teaching, trained as a Master Gardener and an Indiana Master Naturalist, became involved in bridge groups, book clubs, symphony, theater and arts groups. My life has been full of activities I love, and I've become friends with some amazing people.

Life continues to evolve, and 2020 has brought about unexpected change! My husband and I have purchased a puppy (Wolf Pup camper!) and have made more plans to travel and enjoy grandchildren on both coasts. I've spent more time in my art studio and joined the local outdoor painting group Duneland Plein Air Painters.

Suzanna Tudor and I are the only original members of the seven-year-old Garden Thyme newsletter members, "Team Thyme," and I've decided it's time for me to step down. The job includes participating in planning with Wilma Willard and Suzanna, and contacting members to write, by email, text or phone calls. Suzanna does most of the editing, and Wilma does the newsletter design. You receive volunteer hours for your work, usually anywhere from 4-6 hours per issue. It's been a wonderful experience, and I hope others step up to help the present team keep the newsletter going!

## Join Team Thyme

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Marcia for her assistance and "Team Thyme" camaraderie in getting these issues created and published. We will definitely miss her.

Now, who would like to step up? We especially need another set of "eyes" to catch mistakes—I even missed a main ingredient, cinnamon, in my **own** apple pie recipe in a GT issue a few years ago! —Suzanna). If you might want to join our fun and help plan the issues, solicit articles from people, research, write, edit, or design, please contact Suzanna, zanna1@comcast.net or Wilma at wilmawillard@gmail.com.

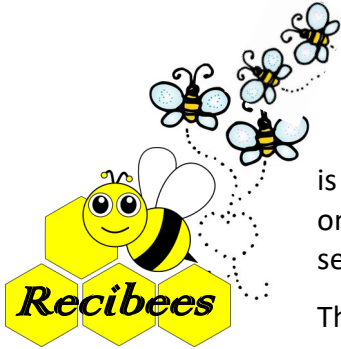




# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



By Suzanna Tudor  
PCMG Class of 2002

Are you wondering what to do with all the green tomatoes, besides wrapping in newspaper and waiting for them to ripen? Well, here is a tasty dish (and maybe not as heart healthy as one would like, but you only live once) AND resembles fried green tomatoes without the frying.

This recipe was clipped from the newspaper many moons ago and is said to be taken from the cookbook by Justin Wilson on Cajun cooking.



## Green Tomato Casserole

### Ingredients:

- 6 green tomatoes, sliced 1/4 inch
- 1-2 medium onions, enough to cover tomatoes, sliced thin
- Seasoned salt
- Parmesan-Romano grated cheese
- Bacon, thick-sliced
- Seasoned bread crumbs

### Instructions:

Place a small amount of olive oil in the bottom of a casserole dish and add tomatoes, then onions. Sprinkle layer with seasoned salt and Parmesan-Romano cheese. Repeat layer of tomatoes, onions, seasoned salt, and cheese. Top with bread crumbs and sliced bacon. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees or until tender.

By Suzanna Tudor  
Garden Thyme Nov. 2020





# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



## 2020 Hotline Recap

By John Nash

This year the Porter County Master Gardener Hotline logged three hundred calls and emails and one hundred and twenty site visitations. As these requests for assistance were received, a number of recurring problems were noted. Listed below are the problems with recommended corrective actions:

- 1. Winter Die-Back Damage** – On May 18, 2020 the area experienced a severe freeze damaging many plants. To minimize future winter damage:
  - A. Purchase plants for our climate zone – Zone 5.
  - B. Protect plants with mulch or screening.
  - C. Monitor long range weather forecasts and do not remove protective materials too early.
- 2. Transplant Shock** – Newly planted trees and shrubs are transplanted and watered for a few weeks and then forgotten, resulting in transplant shock or death to the plant.
  - A. Make sure transplanted trees and shrubs receive at least 1” of water per week during the growing season.
- 3. Needle Cast Disease** – Homeowners continue to plant Colorado blue spruce despite the fact that the tree will develop needle cast disease.
  - A. DO NOT PLANT COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE
- 4. Magnolia Scale** – Magnolia continue to be infected with magnolia scale.
  - A. Inspect magnolias periodically for signs of magnolia scale. These signs include a black sticky substance (honeydew) coating the leaves and stems. Barnacle-like tan or whitish growths are on the stems. Plant appears to be sickly and losing leaves.
  - B. Treat plants with a drench insecticide containing imidacloprid and an insecticidal soap or horticultural oil on stems and leaves.



*Above: Affects of a plant suffering from transplant shock.*

*Below: Colorado Blue Spruce with needle cast disease*



2016 article on Blue Spruce decline in Valparaiso: <https://extension.purdue.edu/porter/article/17881>



# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



## Meet Polly

By Carol A Prybell, PCMG Class of 2005

Polly Mantis that is! But I'll get back to her in a little bit. This was originally going to be about "You Win Some; You Lose Some," but along the way, I learned things I'd like to share.

Selection was dismal during spring annual purchase. This forced me to step out of my comfort zone of colorful annuals and switch to a monochromatic color scheme. I learned monochromatic can be GOOD! This arrangement proved to be resilient, tireless and carefree. And above all: environmentally friendly—hence the praying mantis who took up residence. Whenever I watered, she would crawl up to the top of the 'Kimberly Queen' fronds and watch, following along as I moved from side to side. She posed for photos, came out when hearing voices, and stayed through the summer, leaving the end of August.

The biggest problem creating Miss Polly's "home" was planting the 'Kimberly Queen' fern with its aggressive root system. I decided to dig a hole in the potting soil to fit the fern's pot. Taking this one step further, I left the pot in the plastic bag and planted it all: fern, pot and plastic bag. The remaining annuals were planted, hoping for the best. I was not disappointed! The plastic bag held enough water to keep the fern happy and Polly. The other annuals thrived.

So this was a win—win—win for me: Monochromatic ... good!  
Fern in plastic bag in its pot ... good!  
Praying Mantis ... happy!

*"So this was a win-win-win-for me."*



Editor's note:  
For further info regarding 'Kimberly Queen' ferns: <https://www.calloways.com/plants-flowers-texas/all-about-kimberly-queen-ferns/>





# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6

Just because we are Master Gardeners doesn't mean we never make mistakes. As Janet K. Phillips said, "There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments!" Here are our experiments: some we celebrate; some we just learn from.

Butterflies loved Ann's butterfly weed.



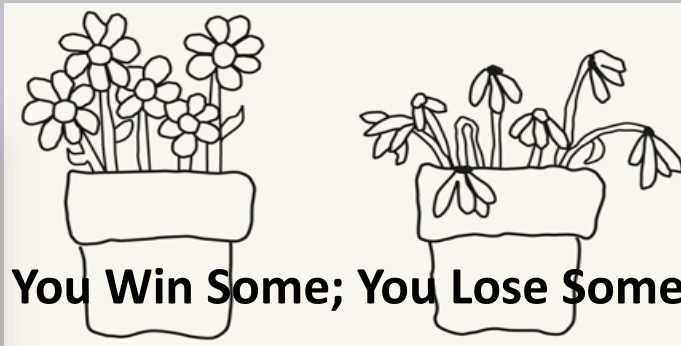
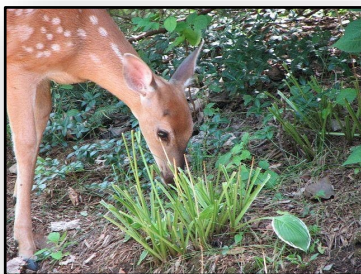
## Ann Gwin, PCMG Class of 2019



**Win:** The butterfly weed took hold, and I did have Monarchs and swallowtails visit quite frequently. My Zinnia's grew large with many blooms.

**Lose:** My coneflowers did have deer pressure and newly emerging foliage was eaten. They are still alive but quite small. I will have to get serious about deer repellent until they get larger.

Unwelcome guests graze in MG gardens.



You Win Some; You Lose Some

Featuring fellow gardeners!

Bill poses by prize fig tree.



## Bill Storey, PCMG Class of 2014

**Win:** 1) Tomato seeds from 2014 still viable and productive. 'Delicious' variety of tomatoes—over a pound each! Canned 19 pints of salsa and 23 qts. of tomatoes. Saving seeds for next year: 'San Marzano gigante' and 'Delicious' and wife Brenda saving marigolds, zinnias and sunflowers. 2) New raised beds created; eggplant and green beans loaded. 2) Four-year-old fig tree bore over 30 figs. 3) Sunflowers reached 11 ft.! 4) An amazing surprise: night-blooming Orchid Cactus 'Epiphyllum oxypetalum', aka Queen of the Night, bloomed Oct. 18.

**Lose:** 1) Dead apple tree fell across tomatoes when a bad storm went through but luckily cages were tied together with cable so no damage. 2) Chipmunks and squirrels keep planting sunflower seeds, and Japanese beetles bad for one week.

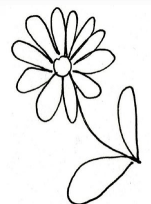
Brenda stands by 11' sunflower.



Storey's tomatoes escape disaster when tree falls on garden.



New raised beds make garden work easier.





# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



Aphids won at Susan's.

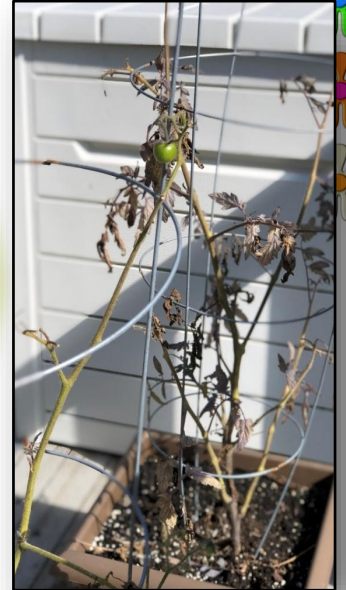
## Susan Silverstein, PCMG Class of 2019

**Win:** The bulbs did well, except for the ones the squirrels ate. Tomatoes were good.

**Lose:** Aphids developed on tomatoes and tried a home remedy of soap and vinegar. The aphids won, and I tore out my tomatoes.



Sad patio tomatoes languish in Nelson garden.



## Beverly Thevinin, PCMG Class of 2006

**Win:** 1) Straightened the hill somewhat. 2) Removed some non-performing plants which is hard for me: Invincibelle Spirit, stems too weak and Astilbe chinensis 'Maggie Daley,' always looked like it had a virus. The eternal optimist in me says it will do better next year, but they don't. 3) Planted a hosta that had been sitting in a plastic bag for two months and dug up a rosemary plant.

... Still wondering what to do with the 'Endless Summer' hydrangea? According to my research, if I give it winter protection, it might bloom next year. So I'll give it a try. But do I leave it if it doesn't bloom because it is large, has great foliage and would leave a giant hole? My hellebores are an older variety and the flowers nod, but the plants are very large and look very nice. But do I replace them with a newer variety where the flowers face up, and I can enjoy them more? So many decisions.

**Lose:** 1) Deer won over hostas. 2) Floppy Invincibelles are in the town's compost.

Bev's no-flower 'Endless Summer' hydrangea



Close up of 'Invincible Spirit' bloom



New pattern for fog-free mask



## Shirley Nelson, Guest Submission

(Sister of Suzanna Tudor)

**Win:** Many masks sewn for family and friends.

**Lose:** Patio tomatoes never developed.

Likes to sew and crochet rather than garden--different strokes for different folks.

## Lynne Sundwall, PCMG Class of 2016

**Win:** The best performers were the tomatoes that went in as plants.

**Lose:** Squash from seeds didn't do well at all, but I really didn't take good care of my garden this summer. It was TOO HOT!



Lots of tomatoes for Lynne

Bill Storey had a good crop too, like this 'Delicious' variety, over a pound each.



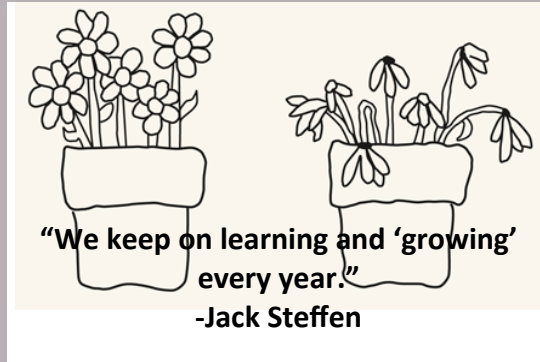


# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6

*Black-eyed Susans thrive in sunny locations.*



*Nikky finds clue to possible tomato plant problems.*

**Jack Steffen  
PCMG Class of  
2017**

**Win:** 1)The Black-eyed Susans thrived in their new sunny location, will transplant more to our pollinator garden. 2)The Canna bulbs thrived. 3)Mulch did a good job of reducing weeds in the vegetable garden (need to get an earlier start on this next year).



*Canna bulbs should pop with color.*

**Lose:** 1)Apple tree must be either too old to produce ... OR ... (I think) there was a killing frost\* while apple blossoms were out. Also, our cedar tree developed 'cedar-apple rust' in the early spring. My research revealed it transfers to nearby apple trees resulting in stunted yield. That too might be a reason for poor apple yield. Worst year in terms of apple production. 2)Japanese Maple due to "cluster" branching that occurred on previous pruning so did not prune, will try again in March 2021. 3)Canna bulb plants thrived, but only ONE bloomed. Need to read more about best practices for these potential beauties. 4)Peas ('Chinese pea pods' from 2019 seed exchange), were so-so. Peas were good in stir-fry dishes, but disappointing yield, only two handfuls, from entire seed packet. Provided a new trellis for the vines to climb, which they liked, however, will try a different variety in future years. "We keep on learning and 'growing' every year."  
\*Yes, according to John Nash, a frost occurred May 18

**Nikky Witkowski, Purdue Extension Educator**

**Win:** I still got a good harvest of tomatoes even after getting my tomatoes in REALLY late. My biggest laugh was actually seeing a problem with tomato hornworms. We found a comatose one on the driveway one day when it was really chilly!  
**Lose:** Very delayed planting.



**Maureen Phillips, PCMG Class of 2003**

**Win:** My Super Marconi Pole (Roma) beans were awesome. I had waaaay more than I could use, gave them to neighbors, also to friends and friends' neighbors ... . Check them out on <https://www.growitalian.com/bean-super-marconi-57-30/>. Also grew my favorite "baseball" zucchini which is crisp and delicious. <https://www.growitalian.com/zucchini-tondo-nizza/>  
**Lose:** I had trouble starting veggies from seed, heat mat the culprit, and had to buy tomato plants, first time in YEARS! Crop was better, due to patch receiving more sun from tree removal.



*Super Marconi pole beans*



*Maureen's favorite "baseball" zucchini*



# Garden Thyme

November 2020

Volume 6, Issue 6



*Suzanna's hydrangea tree—summer and fall.*



*Spring cover-up at the Tudor's.*



*Poinsettias, handy, spring fillers.*

## Suzanna Tudor, PCMG Class of 2002

**Win:** 1) Creating a hydrangea tree—beautiful spring to fall. 2) Annual vincas planted as borders, robust and colorful through drought or flood, still blooming in October. 3) Unexpected win was planting poinsettias to fill in bare spots. Marvelous performers with no pest or disease problems—sporting unique-colored green leaves showing off red veins, petioles and midribs! (look up for some review : ). 3) Cosmos and bachelor button seeds provided striking colors, great cut-flower selections. 4) Hibiscus seed start provided different color

from parent plant. 5) Tomato plants from fellow MG Bill Storey, provided 40 quarts tomatoes, plus plenty for eating, and activity for sister-in-law, our garden plot host. 6) Star performers: Supertunias.

**Lose:** 1) Planted vincas too early and had to cover three times, an aching-back job of placing and weighing down Styrofoam cups over 100 tender plants. 2) Cosmos and bachelor buttons both floppy, required staking (cosmos became small trees, reaching heights of 7 ft.) and possible invasion from re-seeding.



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

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

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

View the video lecture series the Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners have put together. The videos can be found on the Purdue Extension – Orange County YouTube channel and can count as education hours. [bit.ly/nhmlecture](http://bit.ly/nhmlecture)

Purdue Extension Master Gardener Training this fall was virtual and you can view the lectures. Use this link and the password EMGvol2020 to see the videos for education hours.

<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/statewide-virtual-purdue-emg-basic-training-recordings/>

**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 can educational videos of former Garden Show seminars at [pcgarden.info](http://pcgarden.info) on the Member Pages.

## Garden Thyme

is a publication of the Indiana  
Porter County Master Gardeners Association  
[www.pcgarden.info](http://www.pcgarden.info)

### 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.

**Equal Opportunity Statement** It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.