

WEED 'EM AND REAP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION | NOVEMBER 2020

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QUESTIONS?

Contact the helpful staff of the Delaware Co. Extension Office Room 202, 100 W. Main Street Muncie, IN 47305-2879 Phone: 765.747.7732

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

To submit an article for the upcoming newsletter or to report an error in the publication, please email kdkoger@gmail.com

Upcoming Meetings

Join us for our next Extension Master Gardener meeting on **Wednesday, January 27th, 2021** at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be conducted virtually. Check your email for additional information.

Contact Mary Ippel for assistance accessing the meeting.

DCMGA Election Results

The results are in... Congratulations to Extension Master Gardeners Martha McClurg and Linda Osborn for being elected to the Delaware County Master Gardener Association's Executive Board. Martha and Linda will serve as At-large members beginning in January 2021. Thank you to the Nomination Committee consisting of Deanna Hines, Virgil Ford, and Karen Ford, to all candidate, and to all those who submitted votes. We look forward to having Martha and Linda help guide the organization next year.

Adventures in Gardening Seminar

The Hendricks County Master Gardener Association's annual 'Adventures in Gardening' conference was held virtually on Saturday, October 10th to a limited audience due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters included Scott Lawrence (preventing gardener injury), Colletta Kosiba (bulbs, corms, and rhizomes), Amy McKamey (backyard poultry), and Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp (perennials for containers). Presentation recordings can be viewed for a limited time on the HCMGA's YouTube page, youtu.be/iqqh2O6N3RI.



Follow us on Facebook!
[@DelcoMGAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/DelcoMGAssociation)

Remember to report your volunteer and educational hours at www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener



Stay connected with the DCMGA by visiting delcomastergardener.org to learn more about upcoming activities, view photos from recent events, and read the latest edition of the newsletter.

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 regards 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.

Monthly Gardener Checklist

December 2020

– written by Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges, which indicates too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- Extend the lives of holiday plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus by placing them in a cool, brightly lit area that is free from warm or cold drafts.
- Houseplants may not receive adequate light because days are short and gloomy. Move plants closer to windows, but avoid placing foliage against cold glass panes. Artificial lighting may be helpful.
- Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water & little, if any, fertilizer.
- If you are forcing bulbs for the holidays, bring them into warmer temperatures after they have been sufficiently precooled. Bulbs require a chilling period of about 10 to 12 weeks at 40 degrees F to initiate flower buds and establish root growth. Precooled bulbs are available from many garden suppliers, if you did not get yours cooled in time. Then provide two to four weeks of warm temperature (60 F), bright light and moderately moist soil to bring on flowers.
- When shopping for a Christmas tree, check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk base – both indicators of freshness. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- Evergreens, except pines and spruce, can be trimmed now for a fresh supply of holiday greenery.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prevent bark splitting of young and thin-barked trees, such as fruit and maple trees. Wrap trunks with tree wrap, or paint them with white latex (not oil-based) paint, particularly on the south- and southwest-facing sides.
- Protect shrubs such as junipers and arborvitae from extensive snow loads by tying their stems together with twine. Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage.
- Protect broadleaves, evergreens or other tender landscape plants from excessive drying (desiccation) by winter sun and wind. Canvas, burlap or polyethylene plastic screens to the south and west protect the plants. Similarly, shield plants from salt spray on the street side.
- Provide winter protection for roses by mounding soil approximately 12 inches high to insulate the graft union after plants are dormant and temperatures are cold. Additional organic mulch such as straw compost or chopped leaves can be placed on top.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- To protect newly planted or tender perennials and bulbs, mulch with straw, chopped leaves or other organic material after plants become dormant.
- Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.
- Once the plants are completely dormant and temperatures are consistently below freezing, apply winter mulch to protect strawberries and other tender perennials. In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of organic material such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips will provide adequate protection.
- Check produce and tender bulbs in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.
- Clean up dead plant materials, synthetic mulch and other debris in the vegetable garden, as well as in the flower beds, rose beds and orchards.
- Make notes for next year's garden.

Treasurer's Report

Kate Bell, Treasurer



Date of Report: 11/20/2020	1/31/2020	2/29/2020	3/31/2020	4/30/2020	5/31/2020	6/30/2020	7/31/2020	8/31/2020	9/30/2020	10/31/2020	Total
Balance Brought Forward	\$13,391.17	\$13,319.84	\$13,263.35	\$13,216.99	\$13,206.54	\$13,228.05	\$13,065.41	\$12,965.96	\$12,966.34	\$12,913.61	
Income	\$20.57	\$0.51	\$175.81	\$0.55	\$21.51	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$266.27	\$10.11	\$496.80
Expenses	\$91.90	\$57.00	\$222.17	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$163.18	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$319.00	\$319.20	\$1,283.45
Balance On Hand	\$13,319.84	\$13,263.35	\$13,216.99	\$13,206.54	\$13,228.05	\$13,065.41	\$12,965.96	\$12,966.34	\$12,913.61	\$12,604.52	
Income											
Goals											
Annual Master Gardener Dues	\$800.00									\$10.00	\$20.00
Garden Walk	\$400.00		\$35.06								\$35.06
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00										\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$300.00										\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$300.00										\$0.00
Plant Sale	\$2,500.00								\$240.00		\$240.00
Walmart Volunteer Grant	\$1,000.00										\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$0.57	\$0.51	\$0.58	\$0.55	\$0.56	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$4.46
Expenses											
Budget	\$6,300.00	\$0.51	\$175.81	\$0.55	\$21.51	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.38	\$266.27	\$10.11	\$496.80
30th Anniversary Committee	\$200.00										\$0.00
Childrens Museum	\$200.00										\$0.00
Farm Fest	\$300.00	\$57.00				\$73.24					\$130.24
Farmers Market	\$200.00										\$0.00
Garden Fair	\$100.00										\$0.00
Garden Walk	\$300.00										\$0.00
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00		\$17.40								\$17.40
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$650.00		\$2.10			\$44.97				\$2.10	\$49.17
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$650.00		\$2.10			\$44.97				\$2.10	\$49.17
Plant Sale	\$500.00									\$50.00	\$50.00
Scholarship ~ MG Training	\$300.00										\$0.00
Scholarship ~ State Conference	\$390.00										\$0.00
State Conference Booth	\$100.00										\$0.00
Tree Planting Event	\$500.00		\$140.17								\$140.17
Washington Street Festival	\$100.00										\$0.00
New Events	\$0.00										\$0.00
Association Expenses											
Banquet	\$500.00										\$0.00
Board Expenses	\$100.00										\$0.00
Booklets	\$150.00	\$91.90									\$91.90
Donations & Sponsorships	\$350.00			\$11.00			\$100.00				\$111.00
Fall Potluck	\$150.00										\$0.00
Hospitality	\$100.00										\$0.00
Insurance	\$350.00								\$319.00		\$319.00
Marketing & Event Supplies	\$500.00										\$0.00
Meeting Facilities & Speakers	\$200.00										\$0.00
Postage	\$50.00										\$0.00
Printing & Copies	\$50.00		\$0.90								\$0.90
Purdue Extension Expenses	\$150.00		\$59.50								\$59.50
Website Hosting & Maintenance	\$250.00									\$265.00	\$265.00
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct	\$0.00										\$0.00
Total	\$8,390.00	\$91.90	\$222.17	\$11.00	\$0.00	\$163.18	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$319.00	\$319.20	\$1,283.45
March Deposit: Cancelled \$35.06 July 2019 Check #1074 from Nancy Miller for 2019 Garden Walk											
March Misc. & Clearing Income: \$140.17 Cancelled Check for Trees Purchased from State Nursery											
May Misc. & Clearing Income: \$20.95 Amazon Smile Deposit											
July Donation & Sponsorship: \$100 Pat Brown Memorial Contribution											
September Income: \$240 Donation from Mary Ippel Plant Sale and \$26.16 from Apron Reimbursement											

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2020



Thirty-three Master Gardeners and guests virtually participated in the October Extension Master Gardener meeting.

Vice President Mary Ippel introduced guest speaker Mikkal Hodge. Mikkal has been the active President of the Indiana Pumpkin Growers Association since 2015. At age 17, Mikkal passed the Extension Master Basic Training Course to become the youngest Master Gardener in Shelby County, Indiana. Mikkal went on to graduate from Vincennes University with a degree in horticulture. From there, Mikkal earned a bachelor's degree in Fruit and Vegetable Product from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a master's degree in Agronomy from Iowa State University.



Mikkal -along with his wife, Jennifer and four children, Maverick, Wyatt, Lily and Rhett- own Hodge Family Farm (Mikkal's oldest son, Maverick, briefly joined the group on the virtual meeting). Mikkal grows several varieties of vegetables and leafy greens on the farm in Alexandria, Indiana for sale at local markets. The farm also features several high tunnels, 400 apple trees, and 5 acres of pumpkins. Hodge Family Farm will be selling live Christmas trees this year from tree nurseries located in Northern Indiana.

Mikkal's presentation was titled 'Growing a 1,500 Pound Pumpkin' and described Mikkal's personal endeavor to grow a giant pumpkin larger than 1,500 pounds. Mikkal's personal best was a 1,449-pound pumpkin grown in 2019.

Mikkal stated that he started to grow giant pumpkins as a hobby in 1999. He was 12 years old at the time and lived in Acton, Indiana – a rural

community on the southeast side of Indianapolis. His first pumpkin weighed 36 pounds. Mikkal has continued to grow giant pumpkins over the last 21 years.

Mikkal described 8 fundamental considerations to consider when planning to grow giant pumpkins. Those include patch selection, soil, water supply, time, in-season, fertilization, weed management, and pest management.

Patch Selection

The area chosen to grow a giant pumpkin needs at least 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. Pumpkins prefer to grow in medium, well-drained soils. Mikkal stated that gardeners should avoid windy sites because the large leaves that span a pumpkin vine may act as sails. The leaves and vine may become damaged in windy conditions. Mikkal stated that he once recorded a leaf on one of his vines that spanned 40-inches in width. Additionally, Mikkal recommends allocating a 30x30' (900 sq ft) to 35x35' (1,225 sq ft) plot of land for every 1 pumpkin plant.

Soil

Mikkal stressed that soil quality should be the number one priority when attempting to grow giant pumpkins. The soil should contain 3-6% organic matter. Mikkal indicated that gardeners should take a soil sample to determine the existing soil characteristics. Fertilizers should be added based on the recommendations of the soil report. Mikkal also suggested that compost or manure can be added to existing soil to increase the organic content.



Mikkal stands by his 1,209 lb pumpkin during the weigh-off.



Water Supply

Pumpkins should receive regular amounts of water throughout the growing season. Mikkal said that natural rainfall is the best source of irrigation for pumpkins because well water is typically high in iron. Additional nutrients and chemicals may be added to municipal drinking water that is unfavorable to pumpkins.

Time

It takes a pumpkin about 100 days to mature from germination. Day 40 to 42 is halfway through the growing season. Gardeners should allocate 1 to 3 hours of labor each week during the peak growing period to care for each pumpkin plant.

Tasks include pinching buds, providing supplemental water, mulching, and weeding. In addition, additional time should be allocated for preparing a pumpkin patch in the spring and cleaning up the area in the fall. Mikkal also said that time should be allocated for traveling to pumpkin weigh-off contests on the weekend during the fall. These contests occur across the state.

In-season Care

Mikkal continued his presentation by describing several other various tasks that must occur during the growing season to produce giant pumpkins. Mikkal starts pumpkin vines by placing them in a greenhouse during the spring. Once the weather is favorable, he transplants them into his designated pumpkin patch in late spring. After the vine begins to grow in the soil, Mikkal buries a portion of the lateral stems to promote supplemental roots along the vine. Fungicides and pesticides may need to be applied throughout the year.

Mikkal suggested that gardeners should provide 100 to 150 gallons of water per plant per day during the peak growing period.

Mikkal indicated that it is wise to observe the plant and re-position the pumpkin once the blossom has been pollinated and starts to form a fruit. This eliminates stem stress. Gardeners should also shade the adolescent fruit from the sun. The immature exterior skin can get burnt.

Mikkal also recommended to place a large fan near the pumpkin to allow for constant air movement. The continuous flow of air reduces airborne bacterial issues.

Mikkal places a Styrofoam cooler over the pumpkin blossom once it has been pollinated in order to control cross pollination.

Fertilization

Mikkal suggested the use of a cover crop to control unwanted weed growth and provide nutrients through biomass. He recommended the use of cereal rye, but said that other cover crops may work as well. The soil should have a balance of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, and sulfur. Potassium and phosphorous are important for seed development. Nitrogen is most important for overall plant growth.

Mikkal said that he applies nitrogen and other nutrients into a two application periods - one summer and one fall application. This allows the nutrients to be evenly distributed through the plant during the entire growing season.



ABOVE: Mikkal Hodge receiving his honorary 4000 Jacket for growing 4 pumpkins that total 4,000 lbs or more.

Weed Management

There are many methods to manage weeds in the pumpkin patch including chemical applications (herbicide), mechanical applications (weeding with a garden tool), biological control (planting of a cover crop or other ground cover), and hand pulling. Mikkal warns that pumpkins will absorb and metabolize herbicide chemicals. The intake of the herbicide may not kill the pumpkin plant, but it may stunt its growth.

Pest Management

Similar to weed management, Mikkal indicated that insects and pests can be controlled with chemicals, mechanical tools, and biological control (beneficial insects).

Mikkal concluded his presentation by highlighting his past giant pumpkin records:

- In 2020, Mikkal grew three pumpkins weighing 1,240, 1,209, and 824 pounds
- In 2019, Mikkal grew three pumpkins weighing 1,449, 1,336, and 1216.5 pounds
- In 2018, Mikkal grew two pumpkins weighing 1,188 and 1,159 pounds
- In 2017, Mikkal grew three pumpkins weighing 1,247, 1,097.5, and 1,129 pounds
- In 2016, Mikkal grew three pumpkins weighing 1,418.5, 1,366, and 1,129 pounds
- In 2015, Mikkal grew three pumpkins weighing 1,124.5, 1,017, and 1,017 pounds

Several participants asked questions to Mikkal about growing pumpkins:

Q: Are pumpkins sensitive to walnut trees?

A: Yes

Q: Do you use straw to control weeds in the patch?

A: No. Mikkal has concerns with using straw because rodents may choose to live within the straw mulch.

Q: Why do you bury the vines?

A: The leaf nodes on all cucurbit plants will grow new tap roots. Multiple tap roots on a pumpkin vine increases root mass and increase the uptake of water and nutrients from the soil. Mikkal also warned that burying the vine may also increase the change of root rot on the plant.

Q: How are giant pumpkins weighed?

A: Mikkal uses a tractor to lift the pumpkin into the bed of his truck. The pumpkins are transported to the contest. A forklift with a hook and straps picks up the pumpkin. The forklift places the pumpkin on a 5'x5' scale. The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) sets the official rules and regulations for weighing giant pumpkins.

Q: What happens to the pumpkins after the competition?

A: Mikkal sells the giant pumpkins. The pumpkins may be used for displays or decorations.

Q: What is the lifespan of the pumpkin once it is picked from the vine?

A: It varies from pumpkin-to-pumpkin. Seasonal weather influences the pumpkin lifespan. Mikkal has had some pumpkins last as short as 2 weeks and other last as long as several months.

Q: How many pumpkins do you harvest from your patch each year?

A: Four

Q: Do you save seed from the giant pumpkins?

A: Yes.

Q: How do you weigh the pumpkins on the farm?

A: The pumpkins are not weighed prior to the competition. Mikkal measures the pumpkin's width, height, and length and uses a chart to estimate the overall size.

Q: Can you roast or eat the giant pumpkin seeds?

A: Mikkal does not save the seed for consumption, but he did indicate that some might be good to eat. Mikkal estimated that a gardener could harvest approximately 100 to 1700 seeds from a single pumpkin.

Q: Can you eat the flesh of the pumpkin?

A: Yes, but giant pumpkins aren't bred for flavor unlike pie pumpkins. The giant pumpkin flesh might be a bit tough.

Q: Where do you purchase giant pumpkin seeds?

A: Most of Mikkal's seeds come from the Indiana Pumpkin Growers Association (IPGA) or through a mail-order catalog.

Q: Do you turn and rotate the pumpkin during the growing season?

A: No. Mikkal prefers a flat bottom on one side of the pumpkin. The flat bottom makes it easier to transport.

The presentation concluded at 7:59 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Kreps called the business meeting to order directly after the presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September meeting minutes were approved as written in the current newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kate Bell presented the October treasurer's report. Kate noted that there were 3 expenditures during the month of October. They included printing copies for the Mini and Future Master Gardener camps, a service fee for hosting the DCMGA website, and payment to renew the DCMGA nursery dealer license. The current association balance was reported in the September newsletter. The Treasurer's Report was approved as noted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee

Vice President Mary Ippel stated that the lineup of guest speakers and presentations for 2021 is complete. All 2021 monthly meetings will continue to be hosted either digitally on Zoom or pre-recorded. The Extension Master Gardener group is still not allowed to host group meetings at Minnetrista due to COVID restrictions. The Executive Board will be looking into setting up a "hosting site" for those extension master gardeners who don't have access to a computer. The hosting site will have a projector to screen the presentation and meeting.

Budget Committee

Treasurer Kate Bell indicated that the 2021 Budget will remain the same as the 2020 budget. The Executive Board voted upon and approved adding an additional project to the budget. This includes the 5-gallon bucket garden project that encourages Master Gardeners to grow vegetables

in a 5-gallon bucket to provide food for the less fortunate. An additional \$200 will be allocated towards a rainy-day fund. Having no further discussion, Andrea Long motioned to approve the 2021 Budget; seconded by Mary Ippel. The budget was approved.

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee recommended Martha McClurg, Linda Osborn, Laura Shadoin, Joyce Baker, and Paula Sampson as candidates for the two open at-large positions. Chairperson Deanna Hines opened the floor to nominations. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Members should select 2 of the 5 candidates and send their votes in an email to Deanna and Karen and Virgil Ford by 8:00 PM on October 29th. The votes will be tallied and results will be announced soon.

Sarah Kreps thanked outgoing At-large members Barry and Judy Turner for their service on the Executive Board.

EXTENSION REPORT

Extension Educator Laurynn Thieme announced that she will continue to work remotely from her home. Master Gardeners who need assistance from Laurynn should send her an email. She is currently able to meet in-person by appointment (but is subject to change).

Laurynn announced that, beginning December 1, her role will be changing. She will be serving as an Agriculture & Natural Resource (ANR) Educator for multiple counties.

Laurynn reminded Master Gardeners to submit their volunteer and educational hours prior to the end of the year to the online Master Gardener Manager. The annual volunteer hour requirement for 2020 has been waived. Master Gardeners are still required to record 6 educational training hours for this year. Master Gardeners should submit questions about these requirements to Laurynn.

Laurynn reminded Master Gardeners that there are still four opportunities to volunteer and participate in the 30-minute County Connection sessions prior to each Master Gardener Basic Training course. Those dates are November 3, 10, 17, and

December 1. Volunteers are asked to introduce themselves, discuss the Master Gardener program, and help answer any questions that new Master Gardener interns may have. Contact Laurynn if you would like to volunteer.

Laurynn reminded Master Gardeners to sign and submit the Purdue Master Gardener Annual Agreement form as soon as possible. The form can be accessed by logging onto the online Master Gardener Manager platform.

Karen Ford asked Laurynn if any storage was available at the Delaware County Extension office for six large boxes containing material from the former Garden Fair events. Laurynn said that there is limited space in the office for Master Gardener storage. Mary Ippel said that she could store the items in her basement. Karen will contact Mary to coordinate delivery.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Sarah Kreps announced that the August and September Zoom meetings have been recorded. The videos can be downloaded for future viewing from the following Google Drive location:

drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yikmnil7bl0G_07vwYqFALLnCcTr42FK?usp=sharing

You can email Sarah at sjkreps14@gmail.com if you need assistance accessing the recordings.

October birthdays were recognized.

Mark Kreps recommended a group gathering and eating opportunity.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to discuss, Mary Ippel motioned to close the meeting; seconded by Karen Ford. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Hines
Secretary

INPS Conference Recap: the best places to see native plants

The Indiana Native Plant Society's (INPS) Annual Conference was held virtually on Saturday, November 14 to the delight of more than 130 participants.



INPS President, Ellen Jacquart, concluded the conference with an informative presentation that highlighted the best locations to view native wildflowers throughout the state in all seasons. Ellen's recorded presentation can be seen at the link below:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jTJpgV-jOO



Introduction to Phenology & Climate Change Thursday, December 3 | Online

Attendees will learn about phenology and the critical use of phenological data while examining how the climate is expected to change and the impacts of these shifts on human life.

Participants will examine the dependent relationship of phenological trends and changes in the climate. Participants will also discover how they can contribute to scientific reports through weekly phenological data collection.

Please email info@indianaphenology.org to register for this event.

Good Growing Webinar Series

Now thru January 6, 2021 | 4 PM

From selecting and caring for a Christmas tree to creating a winter haven for birds, the University of Illinois Extension Good Growing Winter Webinar series has tips and tricks to keep you informed from the comfort of home this winter.

Extension educators will lead a series of five live sessions with follow-along activities. Webinars are free and will begin 4 p.m. (EST) Wednesdays from Nov. 25 to Dec. 16 and return on Jan. 6, 2021. Sign up for one or all of the sessions. Advance registration is required for each session.

Christmas Tree Types & Care, Nov. 25

Different types of Christmas trees offer different colors, strength of fragrance, needle retention, branch sturdiness and other attributes. Join local foods and small farms educator Katie Parker to learn about the different types of trees and how to care for live trees.

Illinois Extension educators will demonstrate how to create nature-themed ornaments, in this kid-friendly hands-on activity.

Sign up at go.illinois.edu/GGChristmasTrees.



image: click2houston.com

image: iStock.com

Fun with Evergreen Foliage, Dec. 2

Craft some holiday elegance with evergreen foliage for your home. Learn how to craft your favorite holiday decor and how to source suitable materials in your home landscape. Extension educator Andrew Holsinger will demonstrate how to make a wreath and follow along at home with hands-on activities for mistletoe balls, outdoor holiday planters or evergreen gnomes.

Sign up at go.illinois.edu/GGEvergreenFoliage.

Popular Holiday Plant Care, Dec. 9

Educators will discuss popular holiday plants -including poinsettia, amaryllis, holiday cactus and Norfolk Island pine- and their care.

Sign up at go.illinois.edu/GGHolidayPlantCare.

Holiday Spices, Dec. 16

Ever wonder about where those holiday spices you're using come from, or if you could grow them? Educators Ken Johnson and Chris Enroth will cover the origins and how to grow popular holiday spices such as nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, allspice, peppermint, citrus and ginger.

Sign up at go.illinois.edu/GGHolidaySpices.



image: Getty Images

Create a Winter Bird Haven, Jan. 6

Gardens are a haven for birds year-round. Lots of wildlife use yards for overwintering. Attracting birds to the winter landscape can be incredibly rewarding for all ages. Horticulture educator Chris Enroth will describe the species of birds in Illinois during the winter and how to make habitat so they stick around all year. Others will demonstrate creative ways to feed the birds with logs, toilet paper rolls, grapefruit & popcorn garland.

Sign up at go.illinois.edu/GGWinterBirds.

More Online Learning Opportunities

The University of Illinois Extension has a collection of several pre-recorded and informative gardening presentation posted to their YouTube channel. Master Gardeners are encouraged to watch a few of these videos to obtain educational hours.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEYBGqFXZS6Sn37n1mVcY1g/videos>



Winter Wonderland at the Garfield Park Conservatory Nov. 27 - Dec. 31 | Indianapolis



Break away from the winter blues by visiting the Garfield Park Conservatory in Indianapolis to view a spectacular exhibition of poinsettias, tropical plants, and miniature lights on display for the holiday season.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all guests are required to pre-purchase timed tickets in advance of their visit. Additionally, guests are required to wear a face covering. Tickets can be purchased by visiting garfieldgardenconservatory.org or by calling 317-327-7183. Tickets are \$4 per person. Children, ages 2 and younger are free.

The Garfield Park Conservatory is located at 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis. The conservatory is opened 10 am - 5 pm, Monday through Saturday and 1 pm - 5 pm, Sundays.

University of Illinois'

A Very Berry Christmas: winter garden with various berry shrubs Wednesday, Dec. 4 | 11 AM

Join Whiteside County Master Gardeners in a webinar program, A Very Berry Christmas to be presented via zoom on Wednesday, December 9 at 11:00 am (EST). University of Illinois Whiteside County Master Gardener, Judy Holesinger, will explore possibilities to enhance your winter garden landscape with various berry bush shrubs to add color and texture to bleak winter scenes. Ideas can also provide wildlife with a variety of natural delicacies to supplement their diet. Look for other potential benefits from a few additions to your lawn or garden. The PowerPoint slide show program includes photos and identification of recommendation plantings. Start planning now as to how you can enrich your next year's winter scenery and attract wildlife to your garden for viewing. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Registration is required. Visit web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22763.

For reasonable accommodation to participate in this webinar, contact Mary Nelson at mnelsn25@illinois.edu



The Ohio State University's Horticulture Lunch and Happy Hour Webinar Series fall 2020 /winter 2021 schedule

Thursday, Dec. 3 | Noon

Poinsettias: History and Production

by Peg McMahon, Associate Professor Emeritus, Horticulture and Crop Sciences, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, Dec. 9 | 4 PM

Christmas Trees: From the Ground to the Living Room

by Roger Koch, owner Koch Christmas Trees & Matt Mongin, owner, Spring Valley Tree Farm

(continued on next page)

Thursday, Dec. 17 | Noon

Common Turfgrass Diseases

by Todd Hicks, Program Coordinator, Turfgrass Pathology Program, The Ohio State University

Thursday, January 21 | Noon

Plant Cannibals: From Mistletoe to Dodder

Jim Chatfield, Associate Professor, Horticulture and Crop Sciences & Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University

Wednesday, January 27 | 4 PM

Therapeutic Horticulture

by Rieppe Hendrick, Extension Master Gardener, Wake County, North Carolina State University

To participate in one of these virtual presentations, visit mastergardener.osu.edu/lnlhh to register.



UF/IFAS Extension Orange County

Children in the Vegetable Garden

Saturday, Dec. 12 | 10 AM

Gardening with children is a hands-on learning experience for both youngsters and adults. Don't get too excited if the rows aren't straight or if a few seedlings disappear once in awhile. Enjoy the experience of gardening with children as you build an understanding of and respect for nature and the outdoors. When children participate in growing edible plants, they are more motivated to taste, eat, and enjoy fruits and vegetables. Learn how to grow vegetable with children.

This program is free, but registration is required. Upon registering, participants will be emailed a link to the Zoom presentation as well as digital copies of the "Grow to Learn" and "Gardening for Grades" publications.

Classes are subject to cancellation if less than 10 attendees have made reservations. You will be notified by e-mail should this Zoom presentation be cancelled.

Register for this class at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/children-in-the-vegetable-garden-virtual-presentation-tickets-121037621785?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch

UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

The Edible Garden Webinar Series

Wednesday, Dec. 4 | 11 AM

Join Agriculture Extension Agent Sarah Bostick and Chemicals in the Environment Agent Carol Wyatt-Evens for our lunchtime series on edible gardening! Join the group for as many or as few sessions as you would like. Each session will start with a 10-minute deep dive into a single topic and then open up for participants to ask gardening questions.

Schedule of topics:

The initial offerings in this series occurred from October through December 2020. If you missed any of these classes and would like to view the information, you can find the recordings on the UF/IFAS YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkaYUPVpk0P7xnDkvNIQS2fqK1WFj8Hjk

January through March 2021:

- Jan 11: Winter greens: choosing the best greens for winter growing in Florida
- Jan 25: Starting your own seedlings at home
- Feb 01: Growing plants in your lanai: special considerations for pests and pollinators
- Feb 08: Tomatoes 101: tips for choosing the right varieties and trellises
- Feb 22: Insect of the week: Silverleaf whitefly
- Mar 01: Growing in pots and other containers
- Mar 08: Insect of the week: Aphids
- Mar 15: Herbs for Florida
- Mar 22: Insect of the week: Caterpillars
- Mar 29: Hot season veggies: choosing the right varieties for an April through July garden

You may visit www.eventbrite.com/e/edible-gardening-series-starting-seedlings-topic-12-of-20-webinar-registration-126311668601?aff=erelpanelorg to register for viewing the live sessions.

Please contact sarahbostick@ufl.edu or call 941-861-9810 if you have any questions.

Classes & events may be canceled at any time due to low registration or other circumstances. Similar classes or events often are offered on future dates.