

WEED 'EM AND REAP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION | JANUARY 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 Meeting

Join the Delaware County Master Gardener Association for the January monthly meeting on **Wednesday, January 22, 2020**. Social time and refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM followed by the evening presentation at 7:00 PM. A brief business meeting will follow. All are welcome to attend!

Speaker Monica Guillaud will present, Backyard Beekeeping Basics. Attendees will be able to learn the basics of beekeeping as well as view the set-up of a Langstroth hive.

Monica is a Indianapolis-based landscape architect who promotes stewardship of the land and its users. As a Master Gardener, apiarist (beekeeper), and volunteer for various community organizations, she believes in enhancing community through education. Monica is a graduate of both Yorktown High School and Ball State University.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will also be available at the meeting. Contact Mary Ippel with questions.

Executive Board Meetings

DCMGA Executive Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the home of Mary Ippel, 5680 W Cornbread Road, Yorktown. All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend.



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 regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Kate Bell, Treasurer

Date of Report: 1/8/2020		1/31/2020	Total
Balance Brought Forward		\$13,391.17	
Income		\$10.00	\$10.00
Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance On Hand		\$13,401.17	
Income Goals			
Annual Master Gardener Dues	\$800.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Banquet			\$0.00
Garden Walk	\$400.00		\$0.00
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		\$0.00
Walmart Volunteer Grant	\$1,000.00		\$0.00
Bank Interest			\$0.00
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct			\$0.00
Total	\$6,300.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Expenses Budget			
30th Anniversary Committee	\$200.00		\$0.00
Childrens Museum	\$200.00		\$0.00
Farm Fest	\$300.00		\$0.00
Farmers Market	\$200.00		\$0.00
Garden Fair			\$0.00
Garden Walk	\$300.00		\$0.00
Growing Through Gardening	\$1,000.00		\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Future MG	\$650.00		\$0.00
Kids Camp ~ Mini MG	\$650.00		\$0.00
Plant Sale	\$500.00		\$0.00
Scholarship ~ MG Training	\$300.00		\$0.00
State Conference Booth	\$100.00		\$0.00
Tree Committee	\$500.00		\$0.00
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		\$0.00
Donations & Sponsorships	\$200.00		\$0.00
Fall Potluck	\$150.00		\$0.00
Hospitality	\$100.00		\$0.00
Insurance	\$350.00		\$0.00
Marketing & Event Supplies	\$250.00		\$0.00
Meeting Facilities & Speakers	\$200.00		\$0.00
Postage	\$50.00		\$0.00
Printing & Copies	\$50.00		\$0.00
Purdue Extension Epenses	\$150.00		\$0.00
Website Hosting & Maintenance	\$250.00		\$0.00
Miscellaneous & Clearing Acct	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and great start to the new year. 2020 is an exciting year for the Delaware County Master Gardener Association as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. A special committee has been hard at work planning special events, speakers and projects that will happen throughout the year. Make sure to read the newsletters, view the DCMGA Facebook page, and come to the monthly meetings so you don't miss out on all of the anniversary fun!

I look forward to serving as your president for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or ideas.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kreps

Sarah Kreps, DCMGA President

2020 Midwest Women in Agriculture Conference

February 19-20, 2020
Muncie, Indiana



Learn more at:
ag.purdue.edu/extension/WIA/Pages/default.aspx

A NEW YEAR, A NEW GARDEN



Happy New Year! As a new year emerges, so do the thoughts of a new growing season in the garden. The winter months provide an opportune time to review last year's gardening failures and successes, order plants and seeds, and plan for the upcoming gardening season.

At the beginning of each year, several well-recognized horticulture organizations and companies announce the winners of the annual 'Year of' awards. These plant winners often exhibit exceptional resistance to disease, provide outstanding color and performance, and are generally easy to find in your local nursery or garden center. Below is a compiled list of some of these newly announced winners for 2020. I hope you will find a few new plants from these lists to add to your garden this year.

Pantone's Color of the Year

The Pantone Color Institute has announced **Classic Blue** (19-4052) as the **2020 Color of the Year**. Since its inception in 1963 Pantone's proprietary Pantone Matching System has helped various industries, including printing, graphic design, industrial design, entertainment, and fashion to match and manage colors. In 1999, Pantone launched the Color of the Year campaign to recognize an iconic color that would influence upcoming trends in these lifestyle and design sectors.

According to Laurie Pressman, the vice president of the Pantone Color Institute, the 2020 Color of the Year evokes feelings of "**calm, confidence, and connection**" in an era of fast-pace, high-stress situations and global uncertainty. Classic Blue was chosen as a color to reflect the sky at dusk, "**elementary in its simplicity**" and "peaceful".

For gardeners who want to add a hue of Classic Blue to their landscapes, consider planting the perennial 'Storm Cloud' Blue Star. A cultivar of the native *Amsonia tabernaemontana*, Storm Cloud features periwinkle blue star-like flowers atop near black stems that bloom late spring into early summer. The plant's willow-shape olive green leaves turn an attractive shade of yellow in the fall. Blue Star grows best in medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade environments.

Blueberry 'Glaze' (*Vaccinium x 'ZF08-095'*) is an excellent choice for the edible garden. Featuring a compact form (2-3 feet tall) and fast growth rate, Blueberry 'Glaze' is perfect when planted in a container on the patio or grown as a small hedge. White, bell-shaped flowers appear in spring, leading to ripe berries that change color from yellow, to red, and blue. This cultivar is best grown in slightly acidic soil in full sun. The plant is hardy to USDA zone 5.

Summer Cloud Larkspur (*Delphinium grandiflorum*) brings a splash of blue to the border garden. The plant features gentian blue flowers with white centers that bloom on short 12" stems from early summer to late summer. Summer Cloud Larkspur offers superior heat tolerance compared to many other hybrid Delphinium plants. The plant attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and other beneficial pollinators. Best planted in moist, well-drained soil in full sun.



'Storm Cloud' Blue Star



'Summer Cloud' Larkspur



'Glaze' Blueberry

(continued on next page)

image: Native Plant Trust



SMA's Tree of the Year

The Society of Municipal Arborists' (SMA) has announced hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) as the 2020 Urban Tree of the Year. Common hackberry is a large deciduous shade tree that has a wide native habitat distribution. Common hackberry is recognized for its ease of establishment, tolerance of urban conditions, good drought tolerance, and adaptability to a wide range of soil types. Hackberry grows well in rocky, alkaline soils often found in urban environments. It is hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 2. Hackberry can also be successfully transplanted as a balled-and-burlapped or bareroot tree in both the fall and spring. The corky-like bark provides year-round interest, while the berry-like drupes of fruit that are high in protein are a popular food for songbirds and small mammals. The tree has minimal insect and disease issues. The leaves support the life cycle of various gall-producing insects. This, along with witches' broom, produces slightly cosmetic issues on the tree. However, they do not adversely affect the long-term health of the tree. Noteworthy cultivars include the narrow and columnar 'Prairie Sentinel' and the large specimen 'Magnifica'.

image: Russell Wholesale



AHGA Hosta of the Year

The America Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) has named 'Dancing Queen' as the 2020 Hosta of the Year. 'Dancing Queen' is a medium-to-large size hosta growing 18" high by 30 inches wide. Leaves are yellow to pale yellow and feature ripples along the margin. Pale lavender flowers emerge on 36" tall stems.

Hosta of the Year recipients are selected by members of the AHGA. Winners must exhibit vigorous growth throughout all regions of North America and are widely available in local garden centers.

image: Trevor White Roses



RHS Rose of the Year

Sweet Honey Kromecaso has been announced as the 2020 Rose of the Year at the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival. Sweet Honey is known for its profuse cluster of 12 to 15 creamy apricot blooms and glossy, dark green foliage. The blooms have a modest fruity fragrance. Classified as a floribunda rose, Sweet Honey's bushy, upright habit is slightly shorter than the Hybrid Tea roses. Sweet Honey has good disease resistance. It is an excellent addition to the border garden, pot, or planted as a low hedge.

image: NGB



'Year Of' Winners

Each year the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects one annual, one perennial, one bulb crop, and one edible as our "Year of the" crops. Plants are selected on criteria such as consumer popularity, easy-to-grow, widely adaptable, genetically diverse, and versatile. The NGB has named 2020 the year of **Iris** (bulb), **lantana** (annual), **corn** (edible), **lavender** (perennial), and **hydrangea** (shrub).



Perennial Plant of the Year (PPoY)

The Perennial Plant of the Year award recognizes an outstanding perennial that stands out among the many flowering competitors found in local garden centers and nurseries. Since 1990, the Perennial Plant Association has recognized many noteworthy perennials, including Butterfly Weed (2017), Northwind Switchgrass (2014), and Mangus Purple Coneflower (1998). Selection for this accolade is based on a six-tier criteria of low maintenance, resistance to pests and diseases, adaptability to a wide variety of conditions, availability in nurseries, multi-season interest, and ease of propagation.

The Perennial Plant Association announced the 2020 PPoY recipient to be *Aralia cordata*, 'Sun King' Japanese Spikenard. 'Sun King' is known for its yellow-gold leaves on contrasting reddish-brown stems. Tiny white racemes of flowers produced from mid- to late summer attract honeybees and other pollinators. Inedible black berries are visible in the fall. 'Sun King' is a fast growing, compact deciduous shrub that grows to 3 feet tall and wide. It is hardy to USDA zone 3. For best performance and leaf color, plant in a well drained, filtered shade location.

Proven Winner's National Plants of the Year

Each year the national garden plant grower Proven Winners recognizes some of their top performers in the nursery industry. Plants must meet 5 specific criteria: ease of care, iconic appearance, readily available at local garden centers or online, ideal for containers, and outstanding landscape performance.



image: Proven Winners

Annual of the Year: Diamond Collection Euphorbia

The Proven Winners® Diamond Collection features 'Diamond Snow', 'Diamond Mountain', and 'Diamond Frost' Euphorbia. The Diamond series of hybrid euphorbias feature dainty white flowers on wispy green stems. Euphorbia makes an excellent filler to in a container or massed with other flowering annuals in a flower bed. This long-blooming annual tolerates heat, drought, and a wide range of sun conditions (full sun to part shade). No deadheading needed.

Hosta of the Year: Shadowland 'Coast to Coast' Hosta

This large clump-forming hosta features golden-green leaves that can reach 36" wide x 30" tall. Pale violet flowers attract hummingbirds. Best planted in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in part shade to shade conditions.



image: Proven Winners

Perennial of the Year: 'Denim 'n Lace' Russian Sage

The upright habit of Russian sage makes this perennial an excellent selection for the border garden, pollinator garden, or patio container. Attractive sky blue flowers on strong grey-blue stems attract bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. This long blooming plant performs well in hot, dry locations. 'Denim 'n Lace' can grow to be 2.5 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

Shrub of the Year: 'Gem Box' Inkberry

This dwarf evergreen is an excellent substitution for the non-native boxwood. Gem Box inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) grows to 2-3 feet tall and wide and

image: Proven Winners



can be formed into small hedges or planted in a container. This dioecious evergreen (separate male and female flowers) features jet-black berries on male specimens and inconspicuous flowers on the female plant. Round, dark green disease resistant leaves look similar to those of boxwood. Best planted in medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade.

Rose of the Year: Osa Easy Double Red Rose

Watch out Knock Out Roses, there is a new rose in the town. This continuous blooming rose has great disease resistance and features lush, deep red flowers. Osa Easy Double Red is a medium-size rose shrub that can grow to be 3-4' tall and wide in sunny landscapes.

image: Proven Winners



Hydrangea of the Year: Invincibelle Ruby Hydrangea

The dark burgundy red flower buds of Invincibelle Ruby open to a two-toned combination of bright ruby red and silvery pink. Flowers rebloom throughout the summer on rigid stems surrounded by dark green leaves. Invincibelle Ruby grows 3-4' tall and 3' wide. It prefers moist, slightly acidic soils in full sun to part shade. It will sure to be a showstopper in your garden when planted in masses, in the cut garden, or as a formal hedge.

All-American Selections

All-America Selections (AAS) is a non-profit organization that releases several trialed plants each year as AAS Winners. All-America Selections tests new varieties every year at their 80 private and public trial sites located around the United States and Canada.

image: All-American Selections



Independent judges, who are professional horticulturists in geographically diverse areas, evaluate trial entries against comparison plants. The results and observations are compiled and winners are chosen.

Six 2020 AAS Winners have been announced, which include four vegetables and two flowers. They are:

- **Cucumber, Green Light F1:** produces 3.5-inch sweet & crisp fruits per plant.
- **Tomato, Celano F1:** a patio-type grape tomato with a bushy habit, producing uniform oblong sweet fruits; excellent late-blight tolerance
- **Tomato, Early Resilience F1:** a uniform Roma tomato; very resistant to blossom-end rot and other diseases
- **Watermelon, Mambo F1:** a round, dark green rinded watermelon averaging 11 lbs per fruit; high seed germination rates & healthy vines
- **Echinacea, Sombrero® Baja Burgundy:** a violet-red coneflower noted for its hardiness, sturdy branching, and beautiful habit; great as a cut flower
- **Rudbeckia, American Gold Rush:** a compact, dome-shaped black-eyed Susan with narrow 2-inch hairy foliage; resistance to Septoria leaf spot

image: Burpee



Save the Date!

2020 State Conference September 10-12, 2020

What better way to spend a weekend than with a group of fellow Master Gardeners. Hosted by the Hamilton County Master Gardener Association, the bi-annual State Conference offers many fun presentations, tours, activities, and special events for Master Gardeners.

The 2020 State Conference will be held at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville.

Registration will be available during the Spring of 2020. Visit hcmga.org/2020sc to learn more.



Delaware Co. Master Gardener Association Children Camps April 18 & 25 | Mansfield Park

Preparation is now underway for the DCMGA annual children camps. The children camps are one of the largest educational outreaches sponsored by the Delaware County Master Gardener Association each year.

Planning meetings for both camps will be held at the Maring Hunt Library on Saturday, January 18, February 15, and March 14. The Mini Master Gardener Camp committee will meet from 9 am to 10 am. The Future Gardener Camp will meet directly afterwards, beginning at 10 am.

The children camps will be hosted at the Mansfield Park Lodge in Muncie. The Mini Master Gardener camp is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9 am to 2 pm. The Future Gardener Camp will be occur on Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Each committee is looking for interested volunteers who would be willing to help plan and volunteer for the two events. Contact Dottie Kreps, at dkreps1918@gmail.com or 765-289-0542 with questions, or to register as a volunteer at either one of the events.

Hamilton Co. Master Gardener Assoc.'s 3rd Annual Central Indiana Seed Swap Saturday, January 25, 2020



image: file photo

Join the Hamilton County Master Gardener Association for a free seed swap on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Gardeners will be able to buy/sell/trade seeds from other attendees and vendors. Attendees need not bring seeds to participate. Food will be available for purchase. Special garden presentations will be given throughout the day.

The event will be held at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville.



Central Indiana Orchid Society's Spring Orchid Show April 18-19 | Indianapolis

Mark you calendar now! You won't want to miss the annual orchid show at Garfield Park Conservatory. There will be hundreds of blooming orchids on display and tons for sale!



Upcoming Meeting Dates Indianapolis Bonsai Club February 5, March 4, April 1, & May 6

The Indianapolis Bonsai Club (IBC) meets the first Wednesday of the month at Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis, from 7pm - 9pm. Annual membership is \$25. All are welcome to participate!

Minnetrissa's
National Seed Swap Day
Saturday, January 25 | 10 AM

Come join Minnetrista for National Seed Swap Day on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 am to 1 pm. Gardeners will have the opportunity to exchange seeds from their favorite flowers, vegetable, and herbs. No seeds? No problem! Seeds not needed to participate. This is a great way for the beginner gardener to start his/her own seed collection.

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Herb Society of Central Indiana
Spring Greens All Dressed Up
Saturday, March 7 | Indianapolis



When the sky is gray and it's still cold outside, gardeners may start to think of the warmth of spring and lots of fresh food to eat. There's nothing quite like the taste of fresh-picked greens straight from the garden. Learn how to grow those greens so you can prepare your own fresh salads. This workshop has a bonus lesson too! Learn how to liven up those homegrown or grocery salads with easy and delicious herbal dressings. We'll make 3 dressings using fresh herbs for you to take home. Please bring a sharp 5-6" blade knife to chop herbs with and a small cutting board.

The workshop is located at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis. The class begins at 10:00 AM and will last for approximately 1.5 hours.

A \$5 program fee is due the day of the workshop. Registration required. Guest may register online at <https://bit.ly/36xWB2y> or by contacting the Conservatory staff at 317-327-7183.

Central Indiana Orchid Society's
Growing Indoor Orchids
Sunday, January 19 | Indianapolis



Join the Central Indiana Orchid Society for their monthly meeting and presentation.

Beginning at 1 pm, Russ Vernon, commercial orchid grower from Yorktown, IN, will present "Easy to Grow Orchids For the Home" at Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis.

Mr. Vernon will illustrate how you can successfully grow popular orchids. Presentation topics will include light requirements, watering procedures, and fertilizing schedules. There will also be a Q & A as well as plants for sale.

A \$2 admission is required for entry into the Conservatory. Please confirm attendance on the Facebook event page [here](#), as space is limited.

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Purdue Extension Education Store
New Publication:
Surface Root Syndrome



Trees in the landscape are highly prized and provide many benefits to you and your home. However, those shallow roots that appear on the surface of our lawns can create real headaches, especially when trying to grow lush turfgrass. Learn what surface roots are, common approaches to address the problem, and best practices to management.

Download a digital PDF version of the publication at www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-585-W.pdf

Indy Parks & Recreation's
Maple Syrup Program
February 29 | Indianapolis

Come visit Southeastway Park, 5624 S Carroll Rd, Indianapolis, and experience the exciting process of making maple syrup from sap. During this naturalist-led program, participants will work with real tools used in the sap collecting process, observe sap transformed into syrup, and taste the delicious results. In addition, the program will discuss the basic components of a tree and the historical aspects of maple syrup production.

Program cost is \$6 per participant, ages 3 and up. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Please go to indy-parks.org to register.

The event will begin at 1 pm and last approximately 2 hours. Meet at the Activity Center and dress to be outside.

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Indiana Maple Syrup Weekend
March 14 & 15, 2020

Indiana's annual Maple Weekend will open sugar camps around the state so guests can see how trees are tapped, how sap gets to the sugar house, and how it becomes maple syrup and other maple products.

Visit www.indianamaplesyrup.org/MapleWeekend for more information.

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Friends of the Mounds State Park
Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 9 | Anderson

Save the date for Friends of the Mounds State Park's annual plant sale. This event offers a lot of great native perennials, grasses, and spring wildflowers for your landscape. All proceeds help fund trail maintenance, conservation, and educational efforts at Mounds State Park.

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's
Maple Madness
February 29 | 10am - 3pm



Cool nights and warm days are arriving, which gets the sap a'flowing. Join the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department at the Bray Family Homestead Park, 4528 IN-38, Noblesville, for free maple syrup tours and demonstrations on Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Staff will be demonstrating the maple syrup process and continue the Bray Family tradition, which began more than 150 years ago. Traditional and modern equipment will be used to make syrup as well as information regarding the folklore, history, and science about maple trees.

Hour-long tours will be offered. Visitors will leisurely rotate through the Maple Grove, History Hut, Sugar Shack, and Sugar Shop. Local vendors will be on-site selling their locally-produced maple products and fun treats.

Enter the park from Hinkle Road parking lot. Groups will be picked up by wagons and transported to the first station. Wagon picks up approximately every twenty minutes. Dress for the weather.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call 317-774-2500.

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Mark Your Calendars!
Delaware County Farm Festival
March 17-18, 2020
Delaware Co. Fairgrounds

Midwest Native Plant Society's

12th Annual Conference + Native Plant & Artisan Sale July 17-19 | Bergamo Center, Dayton, OH



Join the Midwest Native Plant Society for this three-day conference, which offers keynote speakers, breakout sessions, daily field trips and the chance to network with other nature lovers. The 2020 speaker line-up includes Doug Tallamy, Matt Benzie, Sam Droege, Wil Hershberger, and Dan Rice. The 2020 conference's native plants are Fragrant Sumac and Culver's Root.

The Annual Native Plant & Artisan Sale is open to the public on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of native plants, trees, shrubs and exquisite works by local artisans such as paintings, books, clothes, photos, and jewelry – all with a nature theme. No Admission fee is required for the Artisan Sale.

Visit www.midwestnativeplants.org to learn more. Attendee registration opens Spring 2020.



Rutherford Sugar Camp **Sugar Camp Tours** March 14 & 15 | 10 am - 4 pm 6025 CRD 100 E, New Castle, Ind.

During Maple Weekend, guests will visit a 3,000-tap operation that has been in the family since 1910 and through five generations. Weather permitting, visitors will observe the complete maple process, from collecting sap to bottling.

Samples of pure maple products will be available for tasting, and a walk to the 1840's log cabin will conclude the visit and allow guests to purchase pure maple products. Along with maple syrup in all sizes of containers, guests may purchase maple sugar, maple candy and maple cream.

Indiana Organic Gardeners Association's **January Meeting** Saturday, January 19 | 11 AM

Carol Michel, lifelong gardener, author, and owner of the world's largest hoe collection, will present Gardening Tools Beyond the Hoe. The presentation will focus on a wide variety of gardening tools.

A pitch-in lunch will begin at 11:00 AM, business meeting at 12:45 PM, with the presentation following at 1:10 PM. Guests are asked to bring a favorite dish (homemade or organic is appreciated) to share and a plate, fork, and drink. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The January meeting will be held at the Franklin Road Branch Library, 5550 South Franklin Road, Indianapolis. Questions should be directed to Margaret Smith at 317-698-0526.



Whitley Co. Master Gardeners' **Garden Symposium** February 15 | Columbia City

Please join the Whitley County Master Gardeners for the 7th Annual 'Gardening Thyme' Symposium on Saturday, February 15th, 2020. The public is invited to this educational presentation that will feature lectures, local area garden vendors, and free handouts. The theme for this year's symposium will be "It's A Party" and feature discussions on how to create outdoor room for entertaining and how to grow food for serving your guests. Up to 6 educational hours will be available to Master Gardeners.

The symposium will be held at the Indian Springs Middle School, 1692 S State Road 9, Columbia City. Registration is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Registration is due by February 3, 2020.

Visit www.extension.purdue.edu/whitley/article/1926 to download a registration form and to learn more about this event.

2020 Midwest Perennial Plant Association Symposium: Garden Companions

Course Description

The Perennial Plant Association and The Morton Arboretum are teaming up to offer a day-long symposium entitled, 'Garden Companions.' Some of the best writers and most knowledgeable experts in the business will be here, and you're invited to listen, learn, and ask questions. Horticulture professionals and garden enthusiasts can meet well-known authors, discover great plants, and get ideas and inspiration for the 2020 growing season.

Schedule of Programs

8:00 a.m.	Coffee and Registration
8:30 a.m.	Welcome
8:45 a.m.	Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden Jessica Walliser, author and radio co-host, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
9:45 a.m.	Break
10:05 a.m.	Native Plant Selections + Hybrids from the Midwest Brent Horvath, Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Hebron, Illinois
11:05 a.m.	Break
11:20 a.m.	Gardening for the Sake of Gardens Chris Fehlhaber, Chanticleer Garden, Wayne, Pennsylvania
12:20 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Lighting the Way: Bright Selections for the Shade Garden Paul Zammit, Director of Horticulture, Toronto Botanical Garden
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Perennials Under a Woody Framework Mark Dwyer, Landscape Prescriptions by MD, Janesville, Wisconsin
3:45 p.m.	Concluding remarks and raffles

Fees & Registration

Admission is \$106.00 for members of the Arboretum or the Perennial Plant Association (PPA), or \$125.00 for non-members. Fee includes admission to the Arboretum all day, light morning refreshments, a buffet lunch, and all program materials. Members of the PPA should call the Arboretum Registrar's Office at 630-719-2468 to receive the member rate.

Register online, or by phone at 630-719-2468 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Learn more by visiting www.mortonarb.org.



Cope Environmental Center's **Family Maple Hike** February 29 | Centerville

Visit the Sugar Bush and learn the history of making maple syrup. The hike will conclude in the sap house where participants will get to sample CEC's freshly made maple syrup. Cost to participate is \$3 per person. Meet at the Shoemaker Road entrance beginning at 10am for the hike. Attendees are encouraged to stay afterwards and enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast to support CEC! Cope Environmental Center is 1730 Airport Road in Centerville.

Hancock Co. Master Gardener Association's **2020 Monthly Programs** Dates Vary | Greenfield

Join the Hancock County Master Gardeners Association every 4th Thursday of the month for Community Educational Programs that discuss fun, interesting, and unique gardening-related topics. The programs are held at the Hancock County 4-H Extension office in Greenfield. Programs begin at 6:30, followed by the HCMGA business meeting.

JAN. 23: LEAVE IT TO BEAVERS

The fascinating story of beavers in North America and their impact in transforming and reviving our landscape.

FEB. 27: TERRARIUMS & MINI GARDENING

Darlene Trusty will demonstrate how to make terrariums and miniature gardens.

MARCH 26: GROWING HOPS IN INDIANA

Ryan Hammer, owner of Crazy Horse Hops, will discuss hop cultivation and production.

APRIL 23: MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Biology teacher Kristen Carlsen will discuss the butterfly's life cycle, their importance, and how to protect these vital creatures.

MAY 28: CREATING A HABITAT

Master Gardener Mary Ann Whietbrock will talk about building mini ecosystems.



Beekeepers of Indiana's **Indiana Bee School XVIII** February 29 | Indianapolis

The Beekeepers of Indiana (TBoI) invite beginner beekeepers, novice apiarists, and curious gardeners to join them at the 18th Annual Indiana Bee School on Saturday, February 29, 2020. The seminar, hosted at Decatur Central High School, 5251 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, will feature vendors, guest speakers, and an introductory course for beginner beekeepers. The keynote speaker is Marla Spivak, a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Registration begins at 7:00 AM with the school concluding at 5:00 PM.

Reserve your spot now. The Beginner Beekeeping course is limited to 200 individuals and sells out quickly. Registration will close when the school is full or at the end of the day on February 9, 2020.

Cost to participate in the Beginner Class is \$40 for TBoI members; \$50 for non-members. Admission for the advance school lectures is \$35 for TBoI members; \$45 for non-members. Lunch is included with all registration fees. Complete the registration process by signing up online or by mail in the downloadable form at indianabeekeeper.com.



Indianapolis Garden Club's **25th Annual Garden Walk** Wednesday, June 3 | Indianapolis

Since 1996, the Indianapolis Garden Club has showcased beautiful, private gardens across the city each summer. 2020 marks the 25th anniversary for this event with 5 spectacular gardens. We continue "The Fine Art of Gardening" by highlighting local artists working en plein air within each garden with opportunities to purchase art. IGC proudly directs all proceeds from our Garden Walk back into the Indianapolis area.

Garden addresses available after ticket purchase. Visit indianapolisgardenclub.org/garden-walk/ to learn more.

Indiana Native Plant Society
Proper Tree Planting & Maintenance Techniques
Sunday, February 23 | Indianapolis

Planting and caring for a tree is not simple if you want it to survive and thrive into maturity.

Join the Indiana Native Plant Society for an informative discussion on tree planting and care.

The focus will be on different types of planting stock, choosing good stock at the nursery, and then describe or demonstrate how to dig the hole and then plant the three primary types: stock balled and burlapped, containerized, and bare root trees. Participants will also learn how much water it takes for a new tree, types of mulch, how to mulch, fertilization do's and don'ts, and even a bit about post planting care. Participants will know how to plan for planting and the right way to plant at the end of this lecture.

The lecture is free and open to all. The presentation will begin at 2:00 pm at the Pike Branch Library, 6525 Zionsville Rd., Indianapolis.

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MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis®

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab
Native Plant Sale

This is a great change to order from over 30 species of native plants for your backyard. All plants for sale come from Spence Restoration Nursery in Muncie.

New for 2020, the entire plant sale will be online! Orders can be placed beginning April 1 through April 31. Plant pick-up will begin on May 3 at the Marian University Campus.

Plant sale proceeds help support education efforts at the college's Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, a 55-acre nature area and outdoor classroom.

Learn more and order plants at www.marian.edu/about-marian/nina-mason-pulliam-ecolab.

stix2*brix

Maple Syrup Festival
Saturday, March 14 | 10 am - 4 pm



stix2°brix is a 80-acre, family-owned farm in Madison County between Anderson and Lapel. While the farm has been in the family for over five generations, the 700-tap maple syrup production began in 2017. A rustic shed once used as a chicken house has been converted into a sugar house.

The farm's name signifies the process for making maple syrup. Degrees Brix (°Bx) is a measurement of the sugar content of a liquid. Sap from a maple tree is 2 degrees Brix (2°Bx). The sap is boiled until the density is 66 degrees Brix (66°Bx), resulting in pure maple syrup.

Maple syrup is produced on a high-efficiency woodfired evaporator. Guests will have the opportunity to observe the entire syrup-making process from sap collection to syrup bottling as well as the spinning fresh, warm maple cotton candy. Various products, including maple syrup, bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup, maple cotton candy, maple cream, maple-covered nuts, and fresh maple-flavored baked goods will be available for sampling and purchase. Enjoy complimentary hot and cold beverages as well.

The farm is located at 3381 S CR 500 W, Anderson.

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Garden Trend for 2020:
Selecting Plants that Perform Double Duty

According to Garden Design Magazine, more gardeners are expected to use plants in 2020 that provide multiple levels interest rather than just for their beauty. Choose plants that adds a bit of fragrance, provides habitat, can be used for culinary recipes, or provides much needed shade in a sunny backyard.

Announcing...

FLORATHON 2020

How Many Native Plant Species Will You Find in Bloom?



Indiana Native
Plant Society

Florathon 2019 is a team competition benefitting Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund, a project of Indiana Native Plant Society, that supports trips for school and youth groups to experience nature in an educational context.

WHAT'S A FLORATHON?

Teams of two to six people-traveling together as a group-visit natural areas in Indiana during a 24-hour period of their choosing between Saturday, April 18, and Sunday, May 31, 2020. The object is to identify as many native plant species in flower as they can.

Team members enlist sponsors (family, friends, co-workers, church groups, whomever) who honor the team's efforts by making a donation to the Indiana Native Plant Society. Sponsors who donate \$35 or more are eligible for a one-year complimentary INPS membership (pertains to first-time members only).

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

1. Form your team and give yourselves a name.
2. Fill out the Team Roster sheet to facilitate contacting your team members.
3. Enlist the support of sponsors using the Sponsor Pledge form.
4. Keep track of their commitments and payments on the Sponsor Pledge form.
5. Pick your natural areas to survey and choose the time you will visit.
Visit as many as you want within the 24-hour plant-hunting period.
6. On site, record all the native species in flower using the Species Sightings form.
7. Send in the completed Team Roster, Sponsor Summary, and Species Sightings forms and checks to Florathon Chair Barbara Homoya, 529 Hornaday Rd, Brownsburg, IN 46112. The deadline is May 31, 2020.

WILL THERE BE PRIZES?

Yes, team awards will be announced at the INPS Annual Meeting. They will include:

- Most native species recorded
- Most money raised
- Best team name
- Most unusual native plant recorded
- Most counties visited

COMPETITION RULES

The aim of the Florathon is for you to enjoy the outdoors, participate in citizen science, and have fun with your team while raising funds for a good cause. Just a few rules need to be observed:

- Team should consist of two to six persons. No need to register your team in advance.
- Team must travel and walk together as a group to find the native plants.
- Team may record only the native species viewed within its chosen 24-hour survey period between April 18 and May 31, 2020. The county in which the species is observed should be recorded as well.
- Only plant species in bloom (including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants) may be recorded. The exception is ferns, which may be recorded based on foliage alone.
- Team will make a good faith effort to identify plants correctly.
- Team will record only plants actually seen. The honor system applies.

WILL THE COLLECTED DATA BE USED?

Records of which species bloom where and when are useful for tracking the health of our native plants and their response to climate patterns. Data will be shared with biologists and ecologists who can analyze our findings and plug them into their studies.

Visit the Florathon webpage, indiananativeplants.org/gatherings/florathon/, to find the necessary registration forms and to learn more about this exciting event.



A new year is here and the Indianapolis Rose Society (IRS) is gearing up for another colorful rose sale.

Twenty different types of roses will be available. Roses will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Pre-orders are strongly encouraged. Contact Linda Kimmel at lovroses@comcast.net to place your order.

Pre-order payments are due at the March IRS meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 6:00 – 6:30 pm at the Sullivan Munce Cultural Center, 225 W. Hawthorne Street, Zionsville.

Rose orders may be picked up at the April IRS meeting on Tuesday, April 7, from 6 – 6:30 pm. Roses must be picked-up on April 7. Due to limited space, the IRS will not be able to hold the roses for you.

Available roses include 'Above All' climber rose, 'Burst of Joy' grandiflora, 'Bright and Shiny' Knock Out, 'Crimson Bouquet' grandiflora, 'Francis Meilland', 'Frida Kahlo', 'Julie Andrews', 'Love at First Sight', 'Life's Little Pleasures', 'Moonlight in Paris', 'Moonstone', 'Oso Easy Peasy', 'Pinerbelle', 'Pretty Polly', 'Purple Pavement', 'Ring of Fire', 'Scentuous English', 'Shirley's Bouquet', and 'The McCartney Rose'.

David Austin roses may be purchased for \$35. All other roses are \$30. Our prices are intentionally priced lower than usually found, as a service to our members and friends.

Visit indianapolisrosesociety.com to learn more.

Garden Club of Indiana
Spring Flower Show
 April 17 -19 | Newfields



Garden Club of America Flower shows combine artistic vision, horticultural mastery, engineering, and sophisticated craftsmanship to create a brief but brilliant display of beauty in time. All shows are open to the public.

More information will be announced in Spring 2020.



Upcoming
Home & Garden Shows

Check out these expositions for the latest tips, tricks, and gardening trends!



January 17-26, 2020

Indiana State Fairgrounds

indianapolishomeshow.com



February 27- March 1, 2020

Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum

home-gardenshow.com



March 14-22, 2020

Indiana State Fairgrounds

indianaflowerandpatioshow.com



The Carton 2 Garden Contest, sponsored by Evergreen Packaging, is open to public and private schools. Contest winners will be selected based on their implementation of an innovative garden creation featuring creative and sustainable uses for repurposed milk and juice cartons. Your school can get started by collecting at least 100 empty cartons from your home, community, or cafeteria.

Fifteen (15) entries will be selected to receive award packages for their efforts. One (1) grand prize winner will be selected to receive a prize valued at \$5,000.

Applications are due in **March 2020**.

Visit kidsgardening.org/2018-2019-carton-2-garden-contest/ to learn more about the grant.



Garden Tool Winterization Tips contributed by Mary Ippel

- Drain garden hoses thoroughly, coil, & store flat.
- Clean metal hand tools with soap and water. Use a wire brush or steel wool to removing any dirt clods. Apply a layer of spray lubricant, such as WD-40 to any metal surface to prevent rusting.
- Sharpen pruners, loppers and shears with a whetstone. Oil with a lubricant to prevent rusting.
- For two-cycle power tools, such as leaf blowers and weed trimmers, run the engine until it is out of gas or add gasoline stabilizer to the tank. Remove and clean the air filter.
- Drain and clean sprayers and spreaders. Oil metal parts to prevent rusting. Residual from synthetic fertilizers, which contains calcium nitrate or ammonium nitrate, can absorb water and increase the spread of rust.
- Sharpen mower blades.

The 2020 Gro More Good Grassroots Grant presented by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States.



Awards provide funding for the development of new and expansion of existing youth garden programs and greenspaces serving 15 or more youth. Winners will be selected based on their commitment to the maintenance and sustainability of their garden program including plans for growth and future fiscal stability.

The Gro More Good Grassroots Grant is open to all nonprofit and tax exempt organizations in the United States and US Territories. Organizations must have obtained their 501(c)(3) status or qualify as tax-exempt within the meaning of the IRS code.

This year, 175 grants worth a collective total of \$100,000 will be awarded. 150 grant recipients will be awarded a check for \$500 to support their initiatives. The top 25 programs will receive a check for \$1,000.

Applications must be received by **Friday, February 14, 2020** at 11:59 PST.

Visit kidsgardening.org/2020-gromoregood-grassroots-grant/ to download the application.

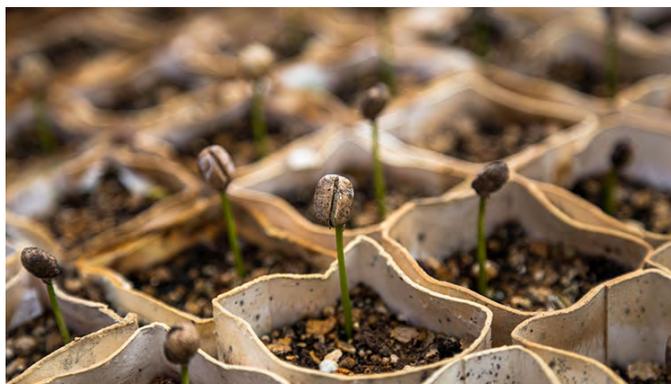


Indiana Daylily-Iris Society March 2020 Meeting Tuesday, March 3 | Indianapolis

You are invited to join the Indiana Daylily-Iris Society (IDIS), which meets once a month from March to September at First Friends Church, 3030 Kessler Blvd, East Drive in Indianapolis, Indiana. Monthly meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome.

The next IDIS meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

Illinois Extension
**Four Season Gardening
Winter Webinar Series**



Each season, the Illinois Extension Horticulture Team hosts three live webinars delivered via Zoom. All are welcome to participate, but pre-registration is required. The winter schedule is listed below.

Planning your Garden for Seed Saving
January 14th, 2020 1:30 PM (CST)

Join Illinois Extension, Horticulture Educator, Gemini Bhalsod in a webinar to learn important concepts and techniques for seed saving such as open pollination and variety isolation to get the best quality seeds for your garden! Attendees will also learn about harvesting and seed storage techniques.

Winter Sowing of Seeds
January 28th, 2020 1:30 PM (CST)

Join Illinois Extension, Horticulture Educator, Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle in a webinar to learn important concepts and techniques for winter sowing seeds outdoors as a cost-effective way of growing your own seedlings for your garden.

Colorful Conifers
February 25th, 2020 1:30 PM (CST)

Get ready to add “shock & awe” to your landscape all season long with colorful conifers of all sizes. Martha Smith, Horticulture Educator will show you how to re-think your landscape to bring out the best foliage display!

Register online at extension.illinois.edu/global/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-series.

Penn State Extension
Spring-Blooming Trees
On-demand Webinar

Penn State Master Gardener Tracey Scott presents a medley of attractive spring blooming trees proven durable in USDA Hardiness zones 4-6. All are welcome to participate. View the recorded webinar online at extension.psu.edu/spring-blooming-trees.



Penn State Extension
**Rain Barrels & Rain
Gardens for Managing
Household Stormwater**
On-demand Webinar



Penn State Extension Water Resources Educator, Dana Rizzo, outlines the uses of rain barrels and rain gardens in stormwater management. All are welcome to participate. View the recorded webinar online at extension.psu.edu/rain-barrels-and-rain-gardens-for-managing-household-stormwater.



MidAtlantic Women in Agriculture Webinar
Growing Healthy Soil
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 | 12 PM

This webinar will introduce the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil, and how they interact and affect soil quality and health.

All are welcome to participate. Register online at 2020wednesdaywebinars.eventbrite.com/.

Why Do Trees Hold Their Leaves in Winter?

Have you ever walked around your neighborhood or in a nearby forest during the winter and noticed that some trees seem to hold on to their leaves? From an early age, many gardeners were taught that deciduous trees shed their leaves during autumn as they prepare for winter dormancy.

However, upon further inspection, gardeners will notice that many oaks (*Quercus*), beeches (*Fagus*), hornbeam (*Carpinus*), and witchhazel (*Hamamelis*) trees retain most of their leaves on the branches until spring when the bud-break occurs. According to Andrew Hipp, Plant Systematist and Herbarium Curator at the Morton Arboretum, the phenomenon of deciduous leaves persisting past the end of the growing season is called "marcescence".

What causes leaves to drop?

"The time of leaf drop depends on the cells that make up the abscission or separation zone at the base of the leaf petiole (leaf stalk)," says Michele Warmund, professor of horticulture at the



University of Missouri. Weak wall construction characterizes these cells in the abscission layer of most deciduous trees such as maple and elm. Stress from drought, disease, frost, or shortened periods of daylight can cause biochemical changes that break down the cell walls at the abscission zone.

"In many species, this triggers cells within the abscission zone to secrete a digestive enzyme," says Andrew, which removes the leaf from the tree. In other species of trees, a different group of cells containing the waterproof enzymes suberin and lignin form at the base of the petiole. The compounds develop a separation layer to protect the tree from infection and water loss, but also sever the leaf connection to the branch of the tree. With a fragile connection, the leaves remain dangling on to the branch until a gust of wind breaks the bond with the tree.

What causes marcescent leaves to stay on the tree?

In some trees, such as oak and beech, the abscission process fails to fully develop in the fall. The strong bond between the petiole and the branch allows the leaves to persist on the branches through winter unless wind, snow, or other mechanical forces break them off. During spring the swelling of buds near the petiole may cause the leaves to fall off of the tree. The remaining marcescent leaves are removed by the formation of suberin at the base of the petiole.



ABOVE: The marcescent leaves of a beech tree seen in the winter.

Marcescence is more pronounced on younger trees, but may be visible on the lower branches of larger mature trees.

The reason for leaf retainage is somewhat unknown. Some have speculated that the inedible marcescent leaves deter deer and other wildlife from browsing (eating) on the buds and twigs of the tree during winter. A study of oak trees in Spain speculated that leaves that receive more sunlight persist longer on the tree and consequently are likelier to become marcescent at the end of the growing season. Others have hypothesized that leaves that drop in the spring provide a fresh layer of nutrients to the forest floor that persist throughout the growing season. Still others have hypothesized that the marcescent leaves collect and hold snow close to the tree, thereby increasing soil moisture near the base of the tree as the snow begins to melt. However, leaf retainage also increases the change that branches will break with heavy loads of snow.

Whatever the reason, marcescence is an interesting phenomenon to observe and a great way to identify oak, beech, and hornbeam trees in the winter.

(continued bottom of next page)

Longwood Gardens' **Free Online Course**



Longwood Gardens, a acclaimed botanical garden in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania offers several free online courses for gardeners. These courses allow participants to learn at their own pace through a series of video lectures, discussion forums, and short publications. Check out these free courses offered in 2020:

Everything About Orchids
January 18-March 22, 2020

Everything About Aquatics
May 7- September 27, 2020

Participation in these e-courses are a great way to achieve annual Master Gardener training credit. Visit longwoodgardens.org/education/continuing-education/online-courses to learn more about each course and register.



Save the Date!
Garden Fest
Saturday, April 4, 2020
Boone Co 4-H Fairgrounds



Sources (continued from previous page):

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Warmund, Michele. Marcescent Trees Retain Leaves Longer. 22 Nov 2018. University of Missouri, Integrated Pest Management. Web. ipm.missouri.edu/MEG/2016/11/Marcescent_Trees_Retain_Leaves_Longer/

Williamson, Joey. Winter Leaf Marcescence. 13 Feb. 2019. Clemson Cooperative Extension. Web. hgic.clemson.edu/winter-leaf-marcescence/

Morgan County Master Gardeners **25th Annual Garden Fest** March 28, 2020 | 9 AM to 3 PM



Hoosier Harvest Church
4085 Leonard Rd, Martinsville, IN 46151

Yard and Garden Vendors • Tree and Seed Giveaway • Gardening Demonstrations • Lectures • Free Soil pH Testing • Pansy Sale

3 Featured Lectures:

Colletta Kosiba "Poison in the Garden"
David Mow "Edible Mushrooms"
Tom Flatt "Backyard Apple Orchards"

Direct questions to mcgardenfest@gmail.com



2020 Purdue Extension Master Gardener State Conference September 10-12, 2020

September 10-11 - Lectures
Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds
2003 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, IN

September 12 - Tour & Banquet
Howard Co. (Kokomo)



INDIANA
STATE FAIR

August 7 - 23, 2020



SPRING 2020 CISMA CONFERENCE

INVASIVE SPECIES AND WATERSHEDS

Save the date! March 26th, 2020

Learn about invasive species' impact on watershed health, forest health, and native species.

CEUs will be available!

Get updates at tinyurl.com/CISMA2020



Extension

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Katie Ashdown

Monthly Gardener Checklist

JANUARY 2020

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

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep holiday poinsettias and other plants near a bright window. Water as top of soil becomes dry.
- Increase humidity around houseplants by grouping plants together, placing them on a pebble-water tray or running a humidifier.
- Check stored produce and tender flower bulbs and roots for rot, shriveling or excess moisture. Remove and discard damaged material.
- Repot houseplants as they outgrow current pots.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Keep de-icing salt away from plants. Construct a burlap screen, if necessary, to keep salt spray off plants.
- Read through nursery catalogs or visit websites and make plans for landscape and home orchard additions. Order plants early for best selection.
- Early spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, crabapple, flowering quince, and flowering dogwood can be forced for early indoor blooms by placing cut branches in water in a warm location.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Send for seed catalogs for the garden.
- Sketch your garden plans on paper. Include what to grow, spacing, arrangement & number of plants needed.
- Order seeds and plants as early as possible for best selection.
- Wood ashes from the fireplace can be spread in the garden, but don't overdo it. Wood ashes increase soil pH, and excess application can make some nutrients unavailable for plant uptake. Have soil tested to be certain of the pH before adding wood ash.

Delaware Co. Master Gardener Association's Spring 2020 Book Club

The inaugural Master Gardener Book Club, launched during the fall of 2019, was received with great success. Curious readers and fellow gardeners collectively read *Bringing Nature Home* by Dr. Doug Tallamy. The novel discussed native plants in the home landscape and their critical relationship to sustaining populations of native songbirds, butterflies, moths and other insects.

The next community read will be ***Where Am I Eating? A Journey Through the Local Food Economy*** by Kelsey Zimmerman. The book explores how food is grown from

around the world and how our eating habits affect the lives of those who grow and harvest it.

Kelsey is the co-founder of the Facing Project, a nonprofit aimed at sharing stories to help connect communities and spark crucial conservations. Kelsey has also written *Where Am I Wearing?* and *Where Am I Giving?*

Stay tuned for more information on the dates of the book club meetings! Ambitious readers can purchase the book from [Amazon](#) or your local bookstore.

