

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



SEPTEMBER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ASSOCIATION NEWS	2
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	5
HOTLINE	6
EDUCATION	7
SEPTEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR	8

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays at the Bethany Lutheran Church unless otherwise noted

September 1	Business Meeting
October 6	Workshop
November 3	Business Annual Meeting Elections
December	Holiday Dinner

NEXT BOARD MEETING

September 14th - 6:00 p.m.
La Porte Library

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.
The next deadline is:
September 20, 2022



www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfLaPorteCountyIndiana
www.lpmastergardener.org



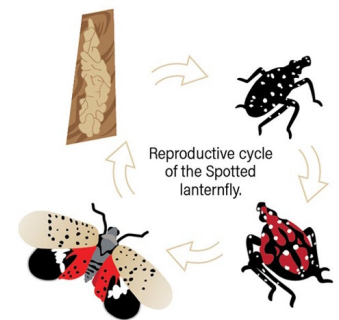
PURDUE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Invasive Spotted Lanternfly

By: Jillian Ellison, Media Relations Specialist, Purdue University

Spotted this July in Huntington County, the invasive spotted lanternfly has officially migrated to northern Indiana, just one year after its initial spotting in Switzerland County.

Cliff Sad of, professor of entomology and Purdue Extension fellow, said this migration poses a significant agricultural risk to wine grape growers, honeybee producers and walnut tree producers. While the spotted lanternfly feeds on over 100 different types of plants, Sad of said the insect can only reproduce when feeding on walnut trees, grape vines or tree of heaven.



Elizabeth Long, assistant professor of horticulture crop entomology, said one of the best defenses against the spotted lanternfly wine grape growers can currently take is learning to identify the life stages of the insect and remain vigilant for them on grape vines and tree of heaven.

The spotted lanternfly has many different appearances through its life stages, with the latter half of its life being the most vibrant in color.

"Several of the insecticides grape growers currently use for other insect pests will also knock down the spotted lanternfly, so there is no need to make additional sprays as a preventative at this time," Long said. "Looking to next season, the same strategy is needed. Keeping an eye out for spotted lanternfly hitchhikers and avoiding moving items that are likely to accidentally move insects along are key. Spotted lanternfly populations feeding on wine grape vines can severely reduce winter hardiness or kill the crop all together."

Brock Harpur, assistant professor of entomology, said beekeeping equipment can provide the perfect spot for spotted lanternflies to lay eggs, allowing the insect to travel around the state.

“It is imperative for beekeepers to keep a careful eye out for signs of the spotted lanternfly in their area and on their equipment,” Harpur said. “Should the spotted lanternfly become established in all parts of Indiana, it is expected that honeydew, the secretion that spotted lanternfly leave behind, will become part of our late-summer honey harvest.”

Bees make good use of any honeydew they collect, Harpur said, but that isn’t desirable. If a colony does collect honeydew, a beekeeper may notice the honey has a smokey taste and smell and is less sweet than a typical honey. The honeydew tainted product has a darker brown color and a notable aftertaste.

Though the full-grown adults have beautiful coloring and patterns, spotted lanternfly eggs resemble a splash of mud, making them easy to overlook on large vehicles traveling from state to state. Homeowners should also remain vigilant in keeping populations in check, Sadof said, as the honeydew secretions from the insect are frequently spread across homes and structures and are extremely difficult to remove when dried.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources asks all residents to search for and report spotted lanternfly sightings. Anyone who spots the insect should take a photo if possible, Sadof said, and send the image and location to DEPP@dnr.in.gov, or call 1-866-No-Exotic.

Banner image courtesy of Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Association Update

By: Jackie Carroll

Summer has had its ups and downs, including the absence of Tina DeWitt, who was a wonderful resource for all of us. Our Board and membership were concerned that no mention has been made about a fall Master Gardener program and the potential negative impact on our membership. This was a frequently mentioned concern in the recent membership survey. Thank you to all who responded. More information on the survey will be shared once the results are consolidated. Good News: Azad recently informed us that it is probable that a Master Gardener program will be held in February.

Summer activities have continued despite the changes. A big thanks to Ann Klosinski, who secured Bethany Lutheran Church as our current meeting location. The Pioneer Garden continues to be a success, even though the rabbits ate most of the food. Thank you, Connie Shei, Mary Davis and all the volunteers. Chris Svoboda coordinated the monthly Farmers’ Market. The last market is October 15th. One spot is available for September 10th. The Hot Line has been active (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) and operates until the end of September. The ability to work remotely has been an attractive feature. We have not yet received information about the Sunflower Fair; we will keep you advised. Karren Coplen and Mary Davis presented a program on Seed Saving on August 22 at the La Porte Exchange. Two Brown Bag sessions are being planned for the fall.

All in all, it’s been a successful summer, and we look forward to finding new ways to encourage learning for our membership. Stay tuned!

ATTENTION

Revising Volunteer and/or Education Hours

By: Azad Chahal, ANR Educator

If you receive a message about revising volunteer and/or education entries that you made in MG Manager, please make sure you complete this revision process by the 10th of the month so those entries can be approved.

September Business Meeting

By: Randa Magill

Next association meeting will be a business meeting held at Bethany Lutheran church, Thursday, September 1st. Social time is at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Jackie Carrol will be heading the meeting. Randy Russell has agreed to step in as Vice President until the end of this season. He will fill the position vacated by Lorraine Wedow. Thanks, Randy!

Mary Davis will invite us to bring in our best tomatoes for a tomato test. More information to follow.

The next Board meeting will be held at La Porte Library on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Pioneer Garden Update

By: Connie Shei and Mary Davis

Another Year of Chasing Critters

In spite of groundhogs and bunnies reaping some of the benefits of the garden, we managed to harvest a good crop of potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers. The garden looked the best about two weeks after fair. The rain and heat brought everything into full bloom. Bees and butterflies are now taking full advantage of the pollen and nectar.

2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	RANDA MAGILL
VICE PRESIDENT	RANDY RUSSELL
CO-SECRETARIES	KARREN COPLEN
	JACKIE CARROLL
TREASURER	DEBBIE MOORE
ED. COMMITTEE/	EUNICE CONWAY
SPEAKERS BUREAU	DEBORAH SARVER
	MARY DAVIS
PAST PRESIDENT	ANN KLOSINSKI

2022 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Brown Bag Gardening Series

Karren Coplen _____ 219-390-4118
 _____ karrenc@comcast.net

Farmers' Market – La Porte

Chris Svoboda _____ 614-377-6409
 _____ svoboda.christina@att.net

Garden Hotline

Extension Office _____ 219-324-9407

Habitat for Humanity

_____ **NEED CHAIRPERSON**

Friendship Botanic Gardens

Rima Binder _____ 219-878-8128
 _____ rimabinder@comcast.net

Pioneer Land School Tours

Linda Hough _____ 219-324-0424
 _____ ljhough614@gmail.com

Pioneer Heritage Garden

Connie Shei _____ 219-362-4866
 _____ jshei@comcast.net

Seed Savers

Mary Davis _____ 219-877-5339
 _____ mdavis9757@gmail.com

Sunflower Fair

_____ **NEED CHAIRPERSON**

Garden Show

Maureen Sherrick _____ 610-737-3398
 _____ shezamurphy@yahoo.com
 Wendy Shafer _____ 219-878-3018
 _____ winterone50@gmail.com



We are harvesting produce and seeds now and are taking produce to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry at St. Mary's. So far, we have harvested 25 pounds of potatoes, 53 pounds of cucumbers, 10 pounds of green beans and peppers, and 23 pounds of tomatoes.

We had another great team of help both for the garden work all spring and the tours. Thank you to all and we hope you enjoyed working and learning and laughing in the garden.



August Picnic!

By: Karren Coplen

Our annual auction and picnic were a success-as usual. This has evolved into a fun event each year, when we bring our extra produce, garden tools, books and fun things in to sell them to each other at a picnic and auction. It's a great time to relax at a table, visit with friends and share a meal.



This year the event was held August 4th at Red Mill County Park. Twenty-five members and guests attended to share a delicious dinner with members bringing in salads and desserts. The board brought chicken and vegetarian lasagna.





Mike Altman served as the auctioneer and Karren Coplen displayed the items. Susan Kieffer kept the record of the bids and collected the moneys at the end. The items up for auction, as usual, were varied and wonderful, ranging from beautiful garden books to tools and gloves, baskets of produce and eggs, plants, pots and even objects of art, a tall metal crane cutout to grace a garden and a metal tractor shaped plant holder, and several of the beautiful crosses that Mike Altman carves.



Even with fewer than usual people attending, the items were so good that we made just about the amount we always do, exactly \$281.00 this year. Each year, we make enough money to pay for the April Awards dinner, where we recognize the hard work each of us has done throughout the previous year .



THANK YOU!!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOTLINE

By: Jackie Carroll

You never know what someone is going to ask about when they call the Hot Line. Some questions can be easy – others not! It is a bit more difficult with a phone contact. It is important to ask enough questions (and the right ones) that will provide a good picture of the issue. Other contacts are through email, which often include photographs. This is helpful, particularly when being asked to identify a plant/tree or diagnose a problem. We often inform the person we will get back to them, which gives us adequate time to research the question/problem.



Some volunteers work remotely and receive an email from the Extension Office with the contact information and issue. If you work in the office, you may receive a call, or a person may stop in. Sometimes, they drop off the actual samples, whether it is an insect, fungus, tree leaves, etc. Someone came to the office the other day with a box of tomatoes, wanting to identify the different deformities and whether they were safe to eat.

Volunteering was a little slow earlier in the year, but now only two openings remain for September: Monday, 9/19 and Monday, 9/26. Working the Hot Line provides an opportunity to research a topic in greater depth, or maybe a topic perhaps unfamiliar. You learn something each time you work the Hot Line. Thank you to all those who volunteer to make this program a success.

SEPTEMBER 2022 HOTLINE		
Monday	Wednesday	Friday
		2 Jackie Carroll Office
5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	7 Sue Cook – Home	9 Home Stacy McGinnis Sharon Stujenske
12 Home Stacy McGinnis Sharon Stujenske	14 Sue Cook - Home	16 Jackie Carroll Office
19 OPEN	21 Sue Cook - Home	23 Jackie Carroll Office
26 OPEN	28 Sue Cook -Home	30 Jackie Carroll Office

Please notify me if you need to change your schedule.

EDUCATION

Botanical Gardens and Master Gardener Seminar Information

Fernwood Botanical Gardens	www.fernwoodbotanical.org LPCMGA is a member of Fernwood Botanical Gardens. Membership card can be signed out at the Extension Office.
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue NW	https://www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum
Friendship Botanic Gardens	www.friendshipgardens.org

Advanced Master Gardener Training

Master Gardener Seminars

Click on this link for more information on these events. <https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/>

Date	Event/Time/Fee	Speaker	Registration
Oct 12	Container Gardening 10 – 11:00 am (ET)	Jo Ellen Meyers-Sharp, Purdue Extension Master Gardener, Marion County	https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_baoAzuPd47HJ7U
Oct 26	Color in the Garden 10 – 11 am (ET)	Karen Mitchell, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, Purdue University	https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Vk7cuVjDBEjpCm
Nov 9	Landscape Design 1-2 pm (ET)	Sean Rotar, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Purdue University	https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8IeCTHn mHG16ey

What's that Brown Bag All About?

By: Karren Coplen



Some members haven't been around long enough to have joined us in a Brown Bag Session, so I thought I'd explain it a bit here. This is a series of classes that we held in the early months of the year, to share gardening information.

It was a great chance for Master Gardeners to share the gardening knowledge they were passionate about with members of the community.

We kept the time short, just one hour, held it at lunchtime, and lots of people brought along their lunch and ate while they learned. We focused on one small topic, so it could be discussed thoroughly in that short time. We had sessions on: seed starting, planning your garden layout, pruning, sprouting, monarch butterfly raising, choosing the right tree for your space, gardening tools, saving seeds, and lots more great stuff-even one on choosing the right Christmas gift for your favorite gardener!

Of course, with the Covid restrictions this year, we couldn't hold them at all, but hopefully we can bring it back next year. In the meantime, please think about what you as a Master Gardener are passionate about and how you could share that valuable knowledge. It's a great way to earn more volunteer hours, and we always learn more ourselves, when we present our knowledge to others. If you'd like to make a presentation, let me know. I'll take care of finding you a space, and an audience. It's fun!

Just wanted to give people a heads up. The plans aren't final yet, so I can't announce the dates, but I'm planning to do a session on Hydroponics in October in Michigan City, and another on Winter Sowing in La Porte in November. I will put out full information when the dates and locations are firmly settled. All Brown Bag sessions will be free to attend this year, and held in the evening.

I'm also looking for people who are interested in Container Planting, to participate in a panel discussion for a session in January. We might as well make our plans while we can't plant outside and it would be nice to have four people to talk about their experiences and what works for them. If you can participate in that one, please email Karren Coplen, karrenc@comcast.net.

GARDEN CALENDAR

September Garden Calendar

By: Rosie Lerner

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Prepare storage areas for overwintering tender flower bulbs and garden produce.
- Thanksgiving (or Christmas) cactus can be forced into bloom for the Thanksgiving holidays. Provide 15 hours of complete darkness each day, for instance, from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., for approximately eight weeks. Keep temperature at about 60-65 degrees F. Temperatures of 55°F will cause flower buds to set without dark treatment.
- Dig and repot herbs, or take cuttings, for growing indoors over winter.
- Store leftover garden seed in a cool, dry place. A sealable jar with a layer of silica gel or powdered milk in the bottom works well.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55°F. Gradually decrease light to acclimate the plants and help reduce leaf drop. Check and control insects and diseases before putting these plants near other houseplants.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec. 10.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables, and small fruits)

- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Plant radishes, green onion sets, lettuce and spinach for fall harvest.
- Thin fall crops, such as lettuce and carrots, that were planted earlier.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons and sweet potatoes before frost, or cover plants with blankets, newspaper, etc., (but not plastic) to protect them from light frost.
- Mature green tomatoes can be ripened indoors. Individually wrap fruits in newspaper, or leave them on the vine, pulling the entire plant out of the garden. Store in a cool location – about 55-60°F.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost. Some cultivars will show an orange blush when mature.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox only if you can apply irrigation during dry spells.
- Save plants such as coleus, wax begonias, impatiens or fuchsia for indoor growing over winter. Dig plants and cut them back about halfway, or take cuttings of shoot tips, and root them in moist vermiculite, soil mix or perlite.
- Watch for garden chrysanthemums to bloom as days grow shorter. Some may have bloomed earlier this summer, which will decrease the number of fall blooms.

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September. Planting too early can cause bulbs to sprout top growth before winter. However, allow at least four to six weeks before the ground freezes for good root formation.
- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost. Allow to air dry, and store in dry peat moss or vermiculite.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals, and fruits)

- Fall is a good time to plant many container-grown or balled-and-burlapped nursery stock. Prepare a good-size planting hole wider than the ball, but plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly. Mulching will help protect against large fluctuations in soil temperature and moisture.
- Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, but not all at once as deciduous plants.
- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries. For most fruits, flavor is the best indicator of ripeness, although color change also can be a good indicator. However, pears are best ripened off the tree, and grapes change color long before they are fully flavored, so sample the fruit to be sure.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- Clean up fallen fruits, twigs and leaves around apple (including crabapple) and other fruit trees to reduce disease and insect carryover.
- To promote the lawn's recovery from summer stress, apply high-nitrogen fertilizer at the rate of 0.5-to-1-pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. More information on lawn fertilization is available at https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=AY-22-W
- Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture. Seeding in late summer allows the turf to maximize its establishment and rooting prior to the next summer's heat and drought. For more information, see <http://purdueturftips.blogspot.com/2014/08/start-seeding-cool-season-turf-now.html>
- September and October are appropriate months to apply broadleaf weed killers to the lawn. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.

STANDING COMMITTEE

COORDINATORS

History Book _____ Donna Pouzar
 Hospitality _____ Eunice Conway
 Librarian _____ Linda Hough
 Newsletter _____ Donna Pouzar
 Speakers Bureau _ See Executive Board
 Sunshine _____

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Azad Chahal ___ aschahal@purdue.edu

The Latest Dirt is published monthly. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month. Our mission is to publish articles and events of interest to other Master Gardeners and the community. Articles about personal experiences, suggestions on gardening books, catalogs, helpful websites, tips and tricks, book reviews, seminars you've attended are welcomed.

Submission requirements: Articles should be no longer than a page and can include photos. References must be included. Latin names of plants should be italicized. We do not accept articles pertaining to medicinal information. Master Gardeners will get volunteer hours for time spent working on an article.

Have a garden item for sale or trade?

Buy, Sell, Trade at the
Trading Shed

Place your free ad in *The Latest Dirt*.

Tools, tillers, mowers, plants, or anything garden related. Keep ads brief and provide your phone number and/or e-mail address. Ads will be limited to space available.

Send ads, photos, events or articles by the 20th of the month to either:

pouzdlp@icloud.com

PURDUE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL
 OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL ACCESS/AFFIRMATIVE
 ACTION INSTITUTION