



HORT SHORTS



BIG NEWS . . .OSU @ TBG



OSU at Toledo Botanical Garden
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The Ohio State University,
The United States Department of Agriculture, and Lucas County Commissioners Cooperating

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Urban & Consumer Program Funded by:
City of Maumee
City of Sylvania
City of Toledo
Springfield Township
Sylvania Township
Village of Holland
Village of Ottawa Hills
Lucas County

Amy Stone, Extension Agent

Urban & Consumer Horticulture

Ohio State University Extension has a new satellite office! We are located at the Toledo Botanical Garden (TBG), next to the Garden Gallery, TBG's gift shop. Office hours are Monday - Friday, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with extended hours for special TBG events. There is also a Horticuture Hotline, manned by Master Gardener volunteers, for residents to call with their plant and pest questions. Hotline hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact Information

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Toll Free:
800-358-HORT (4678)



Stop in, check out our Home Yard and Garden Factsheets, horticulture reference library, and meet our staff. While you are out at the Garden, be sure to spend some time walking the grounds and learning more about plants.

Gypsy Moth Update

On Monday, April 23rd gypsy moth caterpillars were observed starting their hatch in Lucas County. Residents have begun calling the 243-MOTH (6684) number reporting caterpillars in their landscapes. Those calls are logged into our database and locations mapped out for egg mass observations later this summer. Homeowners are also being provided with a packet of information about this insect pest and options for management in the battle of **"Learning to Live with the Gypsy Moth."**

Four areas or blocks will be included as part of the 2001 Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. In total, 551 acres will be treated with two applications of B.t.k. Site maps, along with the spray status, are just some of the valuable information included on the ODA website. The address is <http://www.state.oh.us/agr/gypsymoth>

If you would like information about the gypsy moth, please contact Amy Stone at 243-MOTH (6684) or 578-OSUE (6783).

PEST OF THE MONTH

Carpenter Bees

We have received some telephone calls about bumblebee-like critters buzzing about the heads of folks who simply wanted to enjoy the use of their wooden decks. The brash culprits were CARPENTER BEES. Bumblebees and carpenter bees are often confused because they look quite similar. Carpenter bees are large, 3/4" to 1" long, heavy-bodied, blue-black to black colored with a green or purplish metallic sheen. The thorax is covered with bright yellow, orange or white hairs and the abdomen, especially on the top side, is black, shiny and bare without hairs.

It is the males, with white markings on their head, that fly around aggressively, but they are harmless since they lack a stinger. Females have black heads, are docile and rarely sting. They have a dense brush of hairs on the hind legs whereas bumble bees have large pollen baskets and numerous, yellow hairs on the abdomen. Carpenter bee larvae, housed in chambers bored into the wood, are sac-like, white and legless with brown, globular heads that bear small mouthparts.

These bees sometimes become a nuisance outdoors when they fly very erratically (hover) around the heads of people, causing great fear. Homeowners complain not only about the aggressive nature, but also about the 1/2" diameter round holes bored into wood trim near eaves and gables of homes, fascia boards, porch ceilings, outdoor wooden furniture, decks, railings, fence posts, telephone poles, siding, shingles, dead tree limbs and other weathered wood. Initial damage is minor, but new tunnels may be excavated and old ones enlarged, causing considerable wood damage. Also, the yellow, coarse sawdust falling from their entry hole contains their waste materials, leaving unsightly stains.

Although carpenter bees are important pollinators, control may be necessary to prevent structural damage. Dust formulations of insecticides work best. After the bees are dead, holes should be filled with caulking compound to prevent re-infestation. For more information, request OSU Extension Factsheet, # HYG-2074-94, "Carpenter Bees," or check it out on the web at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ohioline/hyg-fact/2000/2074.html>



Ready, Set, and Grow. . . . An educational bus tour for those interested in gardening with children July 12 and 13, 2001. This bus tour has been designed for both the young and experienced gardeners, and everyone in between. We will be visiting gardens throughout the two-day jam-packed trip to Lima, Cleveland, and East Lansing. Youth are encouraged to participate, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult, at the adult:youth ratio of 1:1 or 1:2.

Cost is \$125.00 for Adults, \$60.00 for youth (includes 1 night lodging, transportation, 5 meals, entrance fees and snacks.) Call our office for a brochure, including reservation form.

Horticulture Hotline OSU at TBG

Call with your home, yard, or garden questions. .. Bug identification, plant identification, pest problems, cultural practices, soil concerns, basic plant, tree, shrub, flower care, etc.

Hotline Hours are 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Local Phone 419-578-OSUE (6783)
Toll Free 1-800-358-HORT (4678)

Hort Short for Seedlings

Have you ever heard of oak wilt? Oak wilt is an aggressive disease that affects many species of oak (*Quercus* spp.) It is one of the most serious tree diseases in the Eastern United States, killing thousands of oaks each year in forests, woodlots, and home landscapes.

Oak wilt fungus moves from tree to tree in two ways: underground through the roots or overland by insect vectors. Management of oak wilt can be accomplished by a variety of strategies that prevent new infection centers. A good management program for oak wilt will include all of the following strategies for combating the disease - removing infected trees, avoiding injury to healthy trees (do not prune oaks April - July), trenching or vibratory plowing, and chemical control using preventative fungicides.

For more information on oak wilt, contact the OSU at TBG office to request a packet of information.



Day Trippin'

Holden Arboretum 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, OH 44094. Twenty-five miles east of Cleveland, the arboretum encompasses over 3,400 acres and is one of the largest arboretums in the U.S. The Holden Arboretum is dedicated to collecting woody plants for ornamental and scientific merit for northeastern Ohio. Education, research, and conservation efforts, combined with the plant collections and natural areas make the Holden Arboretum one of the nation's leading horticultural institutions. For more information call 440-946-4400 or visit their website at: www.holdenarb.org

HORT SHORTS WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



NEW FACTSHEETS - CHECK THEM OUT! There are some great new OSU Extension Home Yard and Garden, and Household and Structural Entomology Factsheets. Factsheet titles include:

#1078-01, "Growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Ohio";

#1080-01, "Noteworthy Broad-Leaved Evergreens for Ohio";

#1081-01, "Evergreen Trees for Ohio";

#1082-01, "Deciduous Trees for Ohio";

#1401-00, "Growing Apples in the Home Orchard";

#1647-01, "Container Vegetable Gardening";

#4029-96, "Managing Turfgrass Under Drought Conditions";

#1000-01, "Termites: How to Reduce Your Home's Risk of Infestation";

#1030-01, "Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle."

These and all of the OSU Factsheets are available on-line at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/>

Upcoming Events

May - Ohio Department of Agriculture's Gypsy Moth Suppression Treatment, 4 treatment blocks or areas in Lucas County, contact Amy Stone for more information.

May 11, 12, and 13 - Toledo Botanical Garden Annual Spring Plant Sale, 5403 Elmer Drive (between Holland-Sylvania and Reynolds Road), Toledo, Ohio, contact TBG for additional information by calling 419-936-2986

Plant of the Month

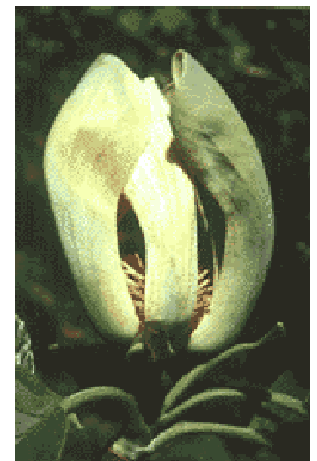
The temperate zone magnolias are native only to North America and Asia. *Magnolia acuminata*, an Ohio native, is the northernmost-occurring and most winter-hardy of the large tree magnolias. Trees of northern provenance are faring well in cultivation in USDA Zone 4 (we are in zone 5). In recent years, this species has proven useful to breeders as a source of hardiness and delayed blooming dates.

In its usual form, cucumbertree is not grown for its floral beauty. Its flowers, which appear after the leaves have expanded, are a glaucous blue-green in bud and open to reveal a greenish outer ring of petals surrounding greenish-yellow to yellow inner petals. There are selected cultivars with more yellow flowers: 'Golden Glow' with bright yellow blooms, found in the mountains of Tennessee; and 'Miss Honeybee', a selection of the smaller-growing variety, with cup-shaped yellow flowers. The developing fruits are to some like cucumbers in appearance, and in pioneer days, were steeped in whisky to yield a bitter spring tonic.

As a large specimen tree for parks, campuses and other such large landscape situations, *Magnolia acuminata* inspires admiration. Young trees are vigorous and upright, with symmetrical, egg-shaped crowns that become more spreading and irregular with maturity. Old trees are often massive. The Ohio champion tree, in North Canton, is over 90 feet in height and seven feet in diameter at breast height.

As with many large tree species, cucumbertree is difficult to root from cuttings, and is propagated primarily from seed. After three months of moist cold storage, seeds may be sown and will germinate in 4-5 weeks. *Magnolia acuminata* has a particularly coarse root system, even for a magnolia, so bare-root transplanting should be limited to young seedlings only.

If you have the space, this might be a great plant for you!



This publication is provided to assist you in receiving the horticultural information necessary to enhance the quality of life for you and your family. If you have any additions or deletions to our mailing list – please call Amy Stone or Barbara Northrup at 578-OSUE (6783), or Visit our website at <http://lucas.osu.edu>

All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status.

Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Ag. Admin. and Director, OSU Extension. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868