



# HORT SHORTS

## Autumn Issue — 2001



OSU Extension 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  
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Amy Stone, Extension  
Agent  
Urban & Consumer



### *Open House for 2002 Master Gardener Program*

The OSU Extension Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program offered through the Lucas County Extension office at Toledo Botanical Garden. The educational portion of the program will begin on January 28<sup>th</sup>, the last Tuesday of the month, and go for 9 consecutive weeks.

All individuals interested in the 2002 Master Gardener Program must attend our open house scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. Two sessions will be offered on that day (2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.). Those interested need only attend one. Participants must RSVP by contacting the OSU Extension at TBG at 419-578-6783.

### *Research Update — Parasite Offers Natural Way to Control Slugs*

Researchers at Ohio State University are working on a natural way to kill slugs that is just as effective as poison, but safer to use around plants and animals. This work may give Americans a new way to combat slugs, which destroy corn, soybeans, and other key food crops every spring and fall across the Midwest. Parwinder Grewal, professor of entomology, recently reported that tiny parasitic worms native to Europe kill American slugs just as well as popular slug poison.

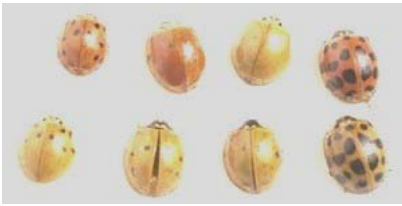
"Sure, poison kills slugs very well," Grewal said, "but it can harm pets and other animals, or contaminate crops and ground water if not used correctly. We want to find something safer, something useful to farmers and gardeners alike." Grewal and his colleagues are having an impact on the country's food safety and production. There is a lot of great research happening at the University. Stay tuned to more highlights and updates.

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

## *The Featured Pest*



**THE MULTICOLORED ASIAN LADY BEETLE** — In a past issue of Hort Shorts, we referenced our NEW FactSheet on the Asian Multicolored Lady Beetle. Since that issue we have received numerous telephone calls daily about this critter.

Lady beetles, which are sometimes called ladybugs or lady bird beetles, are familiar insects in many parts of the United States. For the most part, lady beetles are beneficial predators that consume aphids, scale insects, and many other pests that injure plants in our gardens, landscapes, and agricultural settings.

During the past decade, the multicolored Asian lady beetle has emerged as a seasonal nuisance pest in many regions of our country. It was recognized in Ohio during October 1993, when some residents reported that thousands of lady beetles were congregating on homes and buildings, with many of these insects finding their way indoors. This species is sometimes called the Halloween lady beetle because some adults are a pumpkin yellow-orange color and large populations often occur in late October coinciding with Halloween festivities.

The name "multicolored" refers to the many different color forms of the adult lady beetles. Color variants found in the United States are different shades of yellow, orange, or red, either with or without black spots on the wing covers. Some have 19 black spots while others have faded spots that vary in number and size. On the white pronotum (top covering of middle body part), many have several spots that fuse into a regular- to irregularly-shaped "M."

For more information check out this webpage:  
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hse-fact/1030.html>

## *The Featured Plant — Sassafras*

A reader requested that I include sassafras as featured plant in an upcoming issue.

Here it is . . . Sassafras is a wonderful plant, native to NW Ohio. This irregular formed tree can form a thicket in a naturalized setting. It has a taproot and is difficult to transplant. It prefers moist, acidic soil, so be careful in the placement of the tree.

The aromatic bark, twigs, and roots were once prized by the Indians and early colonists for their numerous medicinal purposes.

The sassafras tree is unique in that different leaf shapes may appear on a single twig. One may be a simple oval leaf, another may have one lobe in the shape of a thumb, while a third may appear with three symmetrical lobes. The leaves have a brilliant fall color. Shades vary from yellow to deep orange to scarlet and purple.

Dr. Michael Dirr, with the University of Georgia and a fabulous plant guru, has commented that the tree is excellent for naturalized plantings, as well as the home landscape. With a little extra cultural effort, one will be rewarded many fold.

And speaking of extra effort, it may take some "sleuth" work to find the plant. Some gardeners have gone the way of mail order catalogs to find their own sassafras.



## *OSU Extension at TBG Garland Cutting*



From left to right - Jerry Thomas, Michelle Grigore, Sandy Isenberg, and Rob Ludeman.

On Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> our office had an official garland cutting ceremony. President of the Lucas County Commissioners, Sandy Isenberg; City of Toledo Councilman, Rob Ludeman; Extension NW District Director, Jerry Thomas; and TBG Executive Director, Michelle Grigore were on hand for the morning's program. We are looking forward to working with the residents of Lucas County on issues related to gardening and urban tree cover.

Stop by and see our us at our new office. Office hours are Monday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Master Gardener volunteers are available on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to answer gardening questions on the Horticulture Hotline, or by coming in the office.

## ***GYPSY MOTH UPDATE***

We have made it through another season and the gypsy moths are in the egg mass stage. Populations are moving into a few new areas - Monclova Township and South Toledo near Anthony Wayne Trail. We are watching populations in Sylvania and Sylvania Township where gypsy moths have been in the past, and numbers are again being noticed. Scouting for the insect in areas west of the identified blocks

has been completed, and is done to hopefully identify populations before the typical "panic" stage.

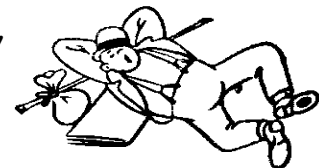
The 2002 application for the ODA Suppression Program has been completed and submitted. Property owners within the blocks have been notified and given the opportunity to opt-out.

A total of five areas have been identified in Lucas County. Those areas will be scouted by ODA professionals and a determination will be made if the areas meet their requirements.

We should hear by the beginning of the new year what areas will be included as part of the 2002 Suppression Program.

Egg masses in the identified blocks should **NOT** be scraped or removed until after the ODA survey is complete.

## ***A Day Trippin' Idea***



Black Swamp Herb Society, c/o Wood County Historical Center, 13660 County Home Road Bowling Green, OH 43402

The Black Swamp Herb Society is located on the grounds of the Wood County Historical Society in Wood County, Ohio.

They maintain four traditional herb gardens, a garden dedicated to native Oak-Savannah plants, a butterfly garden and many roses.

Their mission is to bring together persons interested in herbs; to further the knowledge and use of herbs among the members; to make that knowledge and its application available beyond the society.

Contact can be made through e-mail - fbrent@wcnnet.org or by calling The Wood County Historical Society 419-352-0967.

**Featured Website****Why Leaves Change Color**

Each autumn season reveals the beauty of fall colors. The mixture of red, purple, orange, and yellow is the result of chemical processes that takes place in the tree as the seasons change from summer to winter.

To read and learn more about this colorful process, check out this website — <http://www.esf.edu/pubprog/brochure/leaves/leaves.htm>

**Hort Shorts for Seedlings -  
The Dirt on Planting Bulbs**

Hardy bulbs can provide some of the earliest bloom in the spring. Some colors that most of us need desperately after our winters. Growing and using them successfully requires a knowledge of life cycle, cultural requirements, and use.

Bulbs can be purchased from many sources in the fall. Planting can occur from mid-August until the soil freezes. Daffodils, however, are best planted now (September or early October) because they require a longer period for root development.

Bulbs typically require full sun, with some protection from the hottest midday summer sun. Planting under or near large deciduous trees that cast filtered shade works well too. Plants in full sun will bloom sooner than those in filtered shade.

A sandy-loam soil is ideal because of it provides good aeration and drainage. Bulbs must not be planted in areas that do not drain well, or they will perform poorly or rot and not perform at all.

The soil should be worked 12 inches deep. Loose soil beneath the bulb will provide a zone for good root development. Incorporating three pounds of

(more on bulbs)

complete fertilizer (such as 5-10-10) per 100 square feet as the soil is being prepared.

Recommended planting depths will vary depending upon the type of bulb being planted.

*General Planting Rule of Thumb for Common Bulbs*

*Hyacinths, 6 inches*

*Tulips, 6 inches or deeper*

*Daffodils, 6 to 8 inches*

Once the bulbs are planting, replace 1/2 the soil and water. Finish by covering completely and then water again. Bulbs should be watered if adequate rainfall is lacking until the ground freezes. Mulch can be placed over the newly planted areas only after the ground freezes.

For more information about planting hardy bulbs, contact the Horticulture Hotline (see contact information below).

**OSU Extension at Toledo Botanical Garden  
5403 Elmer Drive, Building #8  
Toledo, Ohio 43615  
(between Holland-Sylvania  
and Reynolds Road)**

**Office Hours, Monday—Friday  
from 10 am—4 pm**

**Horticulture Hotline Hours  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
10 am—1 pm  
419-578-6783 (OSUE)  
419-243-6684 (MOTH)**

**Samples can be left in the mailbox outside  
the office anytime the Garden is open.**