



HORT SHORTS

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OSU at Toledo Botanical Garden

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Department of Agriculture,
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Urban & Consumer
Horticulture Program
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Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Strikes Again in Lucas County

The exotic insect pest, the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) was discovered in July of 2002 in southeastern Michigan. Since that time, it has moved into the news scene and has become a popular topic for television and newsprint (and rightly so).

Nearly 5,000 square miles in Michigan are infested, and over 8 million ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) have died. Ohio's run-in with the tree killer has not been as severe, as of yet. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has already removed nearly 38,000 ash trees in four counties (Defiance, Franklin, Lucas and Wood) as their focus is eradication - the removal and destroying of emerald ash borer from Ohio. They currently have 9 additional areas in 4 counties (Fulton, Henry, Lucas, and Wood) where the insect has been identified, and are developing a plan of action for each site.

You might ask, "What can I do to help fight the battle of the borer?" Here is where we need help -

- ✓ **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD!** Although the insect does have a natural spread, the outlying infestations are thought to be caused by the movement of infested nursery stock and more frequently, the movement of infested firewood. If you have family or friends in southeastern Michigan that have offered you firewood (free or at a cost), kindly refuse. It is illegal to move any firewood out of Michigan, and those involved can be fined up to \$4,000.
- ✓ **EARLY DETECTION** - If you have ash trees in your landscape, continue to watch them closely. OSU Extension has developed a check-off sheet of what signs to look for. The list can be requested from our office, or downloaded from the website at <http://bygl.osu.edu/eab/checklist.pdf>
- ✓ **And finally, KEEP UPDATED** - News about the EAB is changing rapidly. Stay current with the latest finds in Lucas County, Ohio, and Michigan. Researchers are working hard and learning more about EAB everyday - so should we!

This publication is provided to assist you in receiving 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 419-578-OSUE (6783) or visit our website at <http://osutbg.osu.edu>. If you would prefer receiving an email to get this publication on line please email northrup10@ag.osu.edu.

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Seasonal Happenings

Autumn Colors

We are so fortunate in Lucas County for our proximity to the Great Lakes and all of the summer boating and recreational activities. Once the days start getting shorter, however, we are even more fortunate to have some wonderful *Fall Color Tours* available within a day's drive.

Drive's along River Road in either Maumee or Perrysburg provide some wonderful contrast between the reds, oranges, yellows and the background of the Maumee River.

Both Ohio and Michigan offer some beautiful locations to take in nature's colorful palette.

Take advantage of our natural resources and visit these two websites for some great ideas for a day trip full of fall colors.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fall Drives:

www.dnr.state.oh.us/fallcolor/driveshikes.htm

Visit the Travel Michigan site and click on "Fall Color Tour" tab:

<http://travel.michigan.org/drivingtours.htm>

Apple Season Ripening...

Harvesting time is near for local apple orchards. Some of Ohioan's favorite varieties by color include:

Reds—Red Delicious, Rome Beauty, Jonathan, Stayman, and MacIntosh.

Yellows—Transparent, Lodi and Grimes Golden.

In recent years there have been some delicious new strains of our old standards. Try Franklin and Melrose (Jonathon & Delicious). Also worth

trying are Tydeman's Red, Paula Red, Prima, Priscilla, Surprise, and Empire.

Do you know which type of apple to use for different uses? Here's a starter list for you.

Golden Delicious, Jonathan, McIntosh, and Winesap are best suited for fresh use, sauces, pies, baking, freezing for slices, and general use.

Red Delicious is best suited for fresh use, or frozen for sauces.

Keep a watch out in the local news for apple butter festivals, cider presses, orchard tours, or other apple events, which will be happening soon at our local orchards or Farmer's Market.

For more information on Apple Selection and their Uses, ask for Extension FactSheet #HYG-1402-92, or check it out on the web at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1402.html>

Can Anyone Really Tell the Future?



Both the 2005 Farmer's Almanac and a website called "Longrange Weather" are predicting a cold snowy winter.

"The northeastern U.S., southeastern Canada and areas south to the Mid-Atlantic States should be quite snowy from late October into the early winter period. This region should also see frequent snowstorms and colder than normal temperatures from mid-December through the end of January, especially over New England. From late January through March, northern New England will continue to have snow, but not as frequent."

We wouldn't bet the farm on it, but the Farmer's Almanac predicted a heavy hurricane season with three storms over 111 mph!!!!



Brrr—it's Coming. Here are some winter tips for Gardeners



Here are some tips from OSU Extension FactSheet #HYG-1016-96—Overwintering Plants in the Landscape. If you'd like a copy of the FactSheet please call 419-578-6783 , or download from the web at: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1016.html>

Mulching

Apply a layer of mulch, 2 to 2.5 inches deep, after the soil freezes to keep the soil cold, rather than protect the soil from becoming cold. This will reduce injury from plant roots coming out of the soil, because of alternate freezing and thawing. Plants that benefit from this practice include perennials, alpine, rock garden plants, strawberries and other shallow-rooted species

Apply bark products, composts, peat moss, pine needles, straw, hay, or any one of a number of readily available materials. Pine boughs or remains from Christmas trees can be propped against and over evergreens to help protect against damage by wind and sun.

Tying

Multiple branched plants such as arborvitae, juniper, and yew may be damaged by the weight of snow or ice. Prevent plant breakage by fastening heavy twine at the base of the plant and winding it spirally around and upward to the top and back down in a reverse spiral.

Anti-transpirants

Narrow and broadleaf evergreens lose moisture through leaves in winter. Plant roots cannot absorb what's lost and the foliage turns brown, and may drop. This can be serious with evergreen azalea, holly, boxwood and rhododendron.

Applying an anti-transpirant, or anti-desiccant, reduces transpiration, and damage to the foliage. Two applications per season, one in December and

another in February, are usually necessary to provide protection all winter.

Wrappings

A wrap of burlap or canvas can offer protection to plants against desiccation from sun and wind and drift from de-icing salts applied to drives and streets. Wrap the "body" of the evergreens, but do not cover the top of the plant as some light is necessary during the winter.

Tips more specific for everyone's favorite flower— Roses

Roses should be protected from winter damage after a killing frost, but before the soil freezes, usually late November or early December.

Reduce breakage from winter winds by cutting bushes back to 30—36 inches and tie the tips together. Remove any dead leaves both from plant and from the ground. Mound soil over the center of the plant at least 12" high and 12" wide. Cover the soil with a mulch of leaves, straw, pine boughs, or similar material.

To maximize the protection, cover the bush with a protective cylinder with holes punched in the top to allow for air circulation.

To winterize climbers, remove them from their support and lay on the ground and cover with 3-4 inches of soil. If this is not possible, gather the tips of the stems, tie them, and wrap in straw with a wrapping of burlap over that. The base should be covered with at least 10 inches of soil.

Once the severe weather has subsided, typically mid-March or early-April, remove the mulch and soil from around the bases. You may maintain a 2" layer of mulch in the bed.

For more information on winter protection, contact our Horticulture Hotline 419-578-6783 on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Case of the Missing Gypsy Moth



It's not really a mystery to us, but this is the first year since 1997 that we have not identified any area in Lucas County for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Suppression Program.

Urban areas must have a minimum of 250 gypsy moth egg masses per acre, and be contiguous acres. While we had some hotspots this year, none had the amount of egg masses, and the minimum number of acres required by the ODA.

Due to the wet cool spring that we had this year, we believe that the naturally occurring "gypsy moth" fungus was responsible for killing off many of this year's caterpillars. *Entomophaga maimaiga* once introduced into the soil, spreads naturally under the right conditions.

Even though our population was down in 2004, there's always the possibility of a spike in numbers at a later date. Keep your eyes open, and call us if you find any evidence of their return.

Nature's Crafty, Are You?

With all of the new craft, home design, and gardening TV shows available, we wanted to share a couple of down-home crafty ideas.

Tomato Cage Holiday Tree - Turn tomato cage upside down and tie legs together with wire. Weave pine boughs (secure with floral wire if necessary) through the cage to create a tree. Decorate with cranberries, acorns, fall leaves, or any other items that catch your attention. Place tree outside on porch. (One of our Master Gardeners made us one last year that was beautiful—Thanks Mary Weeks.☺)

Birdseed Wreath—If those weather forecasters are correct, our feathered friends may need our help this winter. Buy or bake a twisted bread ring. Loop a 2 foot length of twine or wire around it for hanging. Spread creamy peanut butter over one side of the bread. Pour birdseed onto a pizza pan, and press the peanut butter side down into the seeds. Make sure it's covered thoroughly. Bake, seed side up at 200° F for 10 minutes. Tie a bow to the top and hang outside where you'll be able to watch the feast!



Horticulture Hotline

Graduates of our Extension Master Gardener classes volunteer their time at our office at the Toledo Botanical Garden. They are available to answer your horticulture questions. Please leave a voice mail any time(Ext. 14), or catch them in (call or stop by) during the following hours:

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)
 You may also email your questions to mghotline@ag.osu.edu