



HORT SHORTS

Spring 2002



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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
Horticulture Program
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Gypsy Moth Update

Soon it will be "gypsy moth season." Caterpillars usually begin hatching around the 3rd week in April (it will be here before we know it). If you are noticing egg masses, now is a great time to scrape and remove them. Egg masses can be buried, or placed in soapy water and then disposed.

We did observe the gypsy moth fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* hard at work in the summer of 2001. This "good" fungus is one of our gypsy moth management tools. Let's hope we have a repeat "wet" spring in 2002.

Three areas in Lucas County have qualified to be part of this year's Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. The areas included are blocks in:

- Sylvania Township and City of Toledo near Central Avenue
- South Toledo near the Anthony Wayne Trail & Copeland
- Monclova Township near Holloway & Salisbury.

Maps will be posted on the ODA website <http://www.state.oh.us/agr/GypsyMothIndex.html>

Plant of the Month—Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

The Kentucky Coffeetree is one of my favorites. It is considered a large shade tree. It has a rapid growth while young, and slows to a medium growth rate with maturity. It can be planted for shade, as a specimen, or as a focal point.

The tree prefers full sun to partial sun and is very adaptable and urban tolerant. It is propagated primarily by seeds, but also by rooted cuttings (which can be selected from a male tree if fruitless character is desired, or a female tree if fruiting character is desired [as long as a male tree is nearby for pollination.]) The Kentucky Coffeetree is in the Pea Family, with no serious disease or pest problems.

The leaves are alternate, bipinnately compound (one leaf is made up of many small leaflets) and very large, up to 3' long by 2' wide. Fall color is usually chartreuse and not typically planted for its fall show or "lack of." The flowers occur in late May and early

(Continued on Page 4)

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>

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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 White Oak

The white oak keeps its leaves until Spring when other trees are bare,
 And who will take the time to look, will find the young bud there;
 The young bud nestled snug and warm against the Winter's cold;
 The young bud being sheltered by the knowledge of the old.

And when Spring shall come again, and gentle turns the day,
 The youthful bud will swell with strength and thrust the old away;
 The youthful bud will seek the breeze and hunger for the sun,
 And down to earth will fall the old with all its duty done.

Then, heedless of the parent leaf, the youthful bud will grow
 And watch the robins build their nests and watch the robins go.
 Then something strange will come to it when that young leaf grows old,
 It too will want to shield its babe against the Winter's cold.

It, too, will cling unto the tree through many a dreary day
 Until the Spring-time comes again and it is thrust away;
 Then it will flutter down to earth with all its' duty done.
 And leave behind its happy child to drink the morning sun.

How like man's life from birth to close! How like the white oak tree
 Which keeps a shelter for its young against the storms, are we!
 We guard our children through the night and watch them through the day,
 And when at last our work is done, like leaves, we fall away.

Author Unknown

Pest of the Month Revisited

Beetle Strikes in Central Park

The Asian long-horned beetle has invaded Central Park. Two trees in the famous park were cut down to be destroyed after becoming infected, parks department spokeswoman Jane Rudolph said recently. According to a report by *The Associated Press*, almost half of the park's 26,000 trees are susceptible to infestation. This is the first time the beetle has been found in Central Park. The latest infestation was confirmed on January 30, 2002. (This information was reported in the March 2002 edition of *Tree Care Industry*, the official publication of the National Arborist Association.) For more information check this website <http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Health/alb.htm>

Forest Fun Facts

- ◆ One walnut tree sold for over \$35,000 in 1975,
- ◆ 30 percent of Ohio is forested.
- ◆ Ohio has seven national champion Big Trees growing
- ◆ 7.6 million acres in Ohio are in tree cover.
- ◆ The value of Ohio's wood products industry is in

Arbor Day in Ohio



Ohio's official Arbor Day celebration is on Friday, April 26th (always the last Friday of the month). Although celebrated for many years prior, legislation was passed in 1953 establishing Arbor Day in Ohio. You may ask, "What is Arbor Day?" It is the celebration of trees - what they do for us and what we can do for them!

Each year Ohioans plant and care for nearly 15 million trees. That's a lot of trees. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, our "urban forests" are probably the fastest increasing forested areas in the state.

What can you do for Arbor Day? Here is a list of just a few things that you can do to celebrate trees in 2002 - plant a tree; care for a tree; get involved with your community tree or forestry committee/commission; or offer to water a newly planted tree at a school over the summer months. Happy Arbor Day!

Hort Shorts for Seedlings

Looking for some great sources for seeds/seedlings? The following two government agencies are a place to start planning out this year's additions to your landscape.

Contact the Lucas County Soil & Water Conversation District (419-893-1966) for their tree seeding sale. Included are Shade Trees, Hardwoods & Flowering Shrubs; a Backyard Prairie Mix; a Wild Berry Packet; or Conifers. Prices range from \$8.00—\$35.00. Order deadline is March 29th. So don't delay. We also have extra order forms in our office if you're interested.

For larger orders (minimum of 100 trees) another source for seedlings is the Ohio Division of Forestry. Their deadline is April 12, 2002 and prices range from \$0.45—\$0.85 for 25-475 trees and less for over 500.


For more information visit ODNR's website at: <http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Seedling/salesinfo.htm>

Benefits of Planting & Growing Trees

What has a tree done for you lately? Those short and tall, woody stemmed plants with leaves or needles are true wonders of nature. From the air we breathe, to a 2 x 4 in your home's wall, the tree has proven to be "humankind's best friend."

Foresters around the globe are trying to manage the world's forest so they are healthier, more plentiful, and at the same time provide the many products we all need to survive.

Please take a moment to realize just how many things in your everyday lives can be attributed to trees:

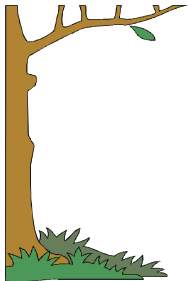
-  Look beautiful
- Create recreational opportunities
- Provide cooling shade
- Provide wood for construction
- Inspiration for poems, songs, stories, and folklore
- Reduce wind erosion
- Improve our energy efficiency 
- Produce food for humans
-  Create privacy or screen unpleasant views
- Reduce soil erosion
- Provide habitat for wildlife
- Increase property values
- Provide homes for insects 
- Condition and filter the air we breathe
- Buffer noise pollution
-  Beautify our communities
- Improve water quality
- Make our cities and towns better places to live
- Provide medicine

Kentucky Coffeetree (Continued)

June, but are often hidden amongst the expanding foliage. The fruits...you usually love them or hate them. They are up to 5" long and .75" thick, bold-textured purplish-brown stout pods that mature in autumn, and contain seeds (with a very hard seedcoat) embedded within the sweet and sticky pulp of the fruit. The fruit pods desiccate and persist in pendulous clusters from stout branches throughout much of the winter, with abscised fruit litter being a maintenance chore (or exercise ☺) to clean up in late winter and early spring.

The Kentucky Coffeetree is a great bold textured tree with winter persistent fruits. If you aren't "in to fruit" be sure to plant a male. Is it a tree for your landscape?

For more information check out http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/Plantlist/gy_ioica.html

**Do you know the answer to this question?**

Does a property owner have a duty to remove tree branches that fall onto another's property?

Read the following information from Agricultural Law Newsletter from Ohio State University Extension

Trees: Liability for overhanging branches

Answer: *Maybe.* There are several distinctions in Ohio law that are important when discussing liability for harm caused by overhanging tree branches. First, the law treats "rural" landowners differently than "urban" landowners. The law loosely defines "rural" land as farm, timber or pasture land. Because rural landowners usually have many trees or a wood lot on the property, the law does not expect a rural landowner to inspect every tree on the property to ensure that branches will not fall onto another's property. There is one exception to this rule, discussed below. For urban landowners, however, the law does place a duty of "reasonable care" to prevent a risk of harm to others from decaying, defective or unsound trees of which the owner has knowledge or should have knowledge. Under this rule, if an urban landowner is aware that a tree branch is rotting or broken and could fall onto an adjacent property, the landowner must take action to prevent any harm that could arise. Even if the landowner claims he or she didn't know that the branch was unstable, the same duty would arise if it is obvious that the landowner should have known that the branch could fall.

Where a public road or street is involved, however, a second distinction in the law is important. For both rural and urban landowners, the law places a duty to take "reasonable care" to prevent harm from a branch hanging over a public way. For a rural landowner, the duty of reasonable care requires that the owner take action if he or she knows or should know that a branch is decaying, diseased, unsound or broken. The duty of reasonable care requires more from an urban landowner, however. The urban landowner's duty is to *inspect* his or her property regularly, in search of branches that might fall, and to then take action upon finding dangerous branches. A municipality has *no* duty to remove a diseased or unsound tree where the tree is located on private property.

Horticulture Hotline

Graduates of our Master Gardener classes volunteer their time at our office at Toledo Botanical Garden. They are available to answer your horticulture questions. Call or stop in 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)