



HORT SHORTS

Summer 2003



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
Horticulture Program
Funded by:
Cities of Maumee
Oregon, Sylvania, and
Toledo;

Townships of Monclova,
Springfield, and Sylvania;
the Villages of Holland
and Ottawa Hills; and
Lucas County

Amy K Stone

Amy K. Stone, Ext. Agent
Urban & Consumer
Horticulture



Buggy Updates



EAB Update - We've received nearly 175 phone calls on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) since the confirmation of this exotic pest in February. Spring has brought over 100 suspect site visits on our list of things to do. All ash trees observed following the Ohio Department of Agriculture's EAB Eradication Program have shown no signs of EAB - D-shaped exit holes, serpentine galleries under bark, and larvae or adults. We've observed other borer activity, presence of the fungal disease anthracnose, and general decline.

We are asking homeowners to continue to watch their ash trees for any signs of the borer. The first adult beetles were observed in Michigan on June 4th (fingers crossed - we will not see any borers in Lucas County and in Ohio). The Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are all working on different aspects of the EAB infestation and eradication in Ohio.

More information is on our website <http://osutbg.osu.edu/eab.htm>. A colored fact sheet from the US Forest Service is available by calling our office.

Gypsy Moth Update - Gypsy moth monitoring is being observed by OSU Extension Master Gardeners, Lucas County Extension staff, and concerned citizens. "The burlap bands put up last month across the county, as part of an expanded gypsy moth monitoring program, give us a good indication of where gypsy moth activity is in Lucas County this season," said John Nicholson with OSU Extension in Lucas County. "Many of the locations are coming up empty (this is good news), but we have found a new infestation, and are monitoring others that have high numbers during each check".

Currently, gypsy moths are between the 3rd and 5th instar, with their appetites expanding with each instar of their development. If you are noticing new or growing gypsy moth populations in your landscape or neighborhood, please contact Amy Stone with OSU Extension, Lucas County at 419-243-MOTH (6684). You may also want to check out the OSU Extension at Toledo Botanical Gardens web site at <http://osutbg@osu.edu/gmhome> for more information.

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.

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

Summer Issue - Plant Highlight

*All American Selections Winner for 2003 —
Ornamental Millet F1 - Purple Majesty*



"Tall, dark and handsome" describes this purple-leaved millet. Young plants are green-leaved, and direct sunlight induces the purple leaf color. Capable of growing 3-5 feet tall, the plants are embellished with 8-12" flower spikes. The immature spikes can be cut

and used dramatically in floral arrangements. Left on the plant, the millet seed spike attracts birds that snack on seed. 'Purple Majesty' is very easy to grow and is very tolerant of heat and low moisture. The purple leaf blades and spike are distinctly different from all other ornamentals.

To see this photo in color—visit <http://www.all-americanselections.org> and Click on 2003 Winners.

Budget Affects Office Hours:

Unfortunately, we have been forced to close our office to the public on Tuesdays, due to budget cuts. We are sorry to have to do this, but we don't have the manpower to cover phones and reception duties five days a week.



Feel free to visit us on other weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Horticulture Hotline continues to run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Master Gardeners are available to answer your horticultural questions or review samples of problem plants in your landscape.

Summer Issue — Website Highlight— Need Plants?



Looking for special plants and need some help? Check out this new website for Northwest Ohio greenhouse and nursery growers: <http://www.glasshouseflowers.com>

On this site, you will be able to find plants you need and find a local supplier that carries them. This group of greenhouse & nursery growers have acres of field grown trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables.

You can also search by your zip code and the number of miles you're willing to drive, to locate plants and garden accessories that will be perfect for your home.

Also check out their Events Calendar which will keep you up to date with Ohio horticultural educational events.

What a great new local resource we have at our fingertips.

We have a new website

We now have an easier website address to remember and to type. You can now find us at <http://osutbg.osu.edu>. We can't make it much easier than that. Please visit our site often for the latest updates on Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth activity in Lucas County .



The Tree Doctor is In

Our phones have been ringing non-stop asking about problems with Maple, Ash, and Sycamore trees that are showing extreme levels of stress this year.

There appears to be a lot of leaf damage on Maples, which we believe started last Fall because of the drought. Maple trees then produced a heavy seed set this year, causing the tree to put all energy into the seeds, leaving little energy left for the leaves. We anticipate that there will be a second flush of leaves later this summer, and the tree should be fine.

In addition to that problem, we had high winds on Mother's Day Weekend, which may have caused damage to the new buds, with symptoms showing up as lack of leaves, or browned leaves on the western side of the tree. However, once new leaves emerge, they should not be affected.

And to top that off, because of the cold wet spring that we've had we are seeing a lot of problems with a fungal disease called Anthracnose.

On Maples, the symptoms appear as brownish discoloration along the veins of the leaf, varying from discrete spots to irregular patches of discoloration extending from the veins. While this leaf damage is unattractive, the tree's overall health is not usually affected.

On Ash trees you will notice a more tan colored blotch and distortion on the leaflets, along with a large leaf drop from lower areas of the canopy. Once again, overall health to the tree is not generally severe, and the plant will usually releaf with healthier leaves. Anthracnose on Sycamores is slightly different in that the fungus overwinters on twig tissue, and the spores splash onto new shoots and leaves in the spring. With cool and wet conditions this disease is easily enhanced.

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The Tree Doctor is In (cont'd)

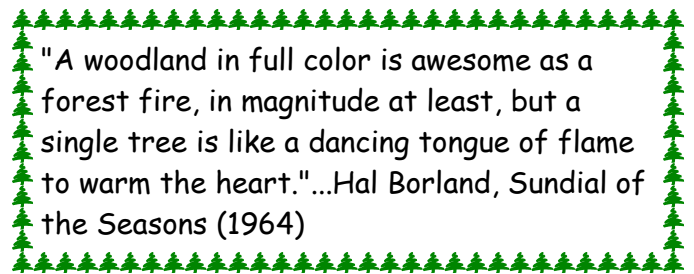
There could be considerable defoliation, sometimes with complete leaf loss. Once again, however, the tree will typically releaf again mid summer and having drier conditions, the leaves will be less susceptible to infection.

What can you do to prevent this in future springs? With any tree, you want to have an overall tree-care program. Make sure you use proper fertilization, pruning, watering, and pest control to encourage vigorous plant growth.

If significant damage occurs every year, properly applied fungicides may reduce damage. You will probably need to use a tree service, because it is important to treat the entire tree with this fungicide.

Fungicides must be applied before and during infection periods. Typically three applications are necessary, with the first one in early spring before buds open. Applications in the fall have been shown to be useful for Sycamore Anthracnose.

If you would like more detailed information, visit <http://ohioline.osu.edu>, and search for the Factsheet number of HYG-3048-96, or call our office and a copy will be mailed to you.



Upcoming Programs:

5th Annual Northwest Ohio Summer Field Day, an Educational Program for Green Industry Professionals Wednesday, August 6th, 2003 - Registration materials will be mailed out to garden centers, landscape businesses, lawn care companies, and arborists at the end of June.

(Continued on Page 4)



Fight the Bite, Ohio— Mosquitoes can Kill. . .

Yep, it's that time of the year again. Time to be on the lookout for West Nile Virus (WNV).

Some symptoms of WNV:

Some people infected have a mild fever, headache, and muscle aches that last up to a week. Many people do not get sick at all from WNV.

One infected person in 150 get very sick. These people may have body aches, confusion, weakness, stiff neck, tremors, or convulsions.

People 50+ years old are more likely to get severely ill or die from WNV. People with other health problems are also more susceptible.

Help is on the way—If you would like to have your property in Lucas County sprayed for mosquitoes, call the Toledo Area Sanitary District at 419-726-7891. In addition to spraying, they also are giving away free mosquito fish if you have ornamental ponds on your property. Once again call their office, and they will deliver the fish, or you can pick them up.

Upcoming Programs (Continued)

Exploring your Forest, August 8th, 2003, Lucas County, 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

Think of **Exploring Your Forest** as a 1-day introduction to Ohio forests. If you're a new woodland owner, or an owner that just doesn't know where to start, this class is for you.

The class starts with the history of Ohio's forests so everyone can understand how Ohio forests got to where they are today. Then, the class explores options for taking care of your forest. Whether you intensively manage a woods for a product, manage it for a specific species of wildlife, or whether you just let it grow - there are always trade offs. This program can be the first step in your woodland owners education program.

The workshop is a class of the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program. The goal of the Ohio Woodland Stewards Program is to provide owners with a wide variety of forestry skills that they can apply to their own property. The knowledge gained through programs like **Exploring Your Forest** will enable woodland owners to make more informed decisions when it comes to taking care of their woodland acreage. Participants in this class will automatically receive the *Ohio Woodlands, Watersheds, and Wildlife* newsletter. A publication designed to keep landowners up to date on what is happening in Ohio woodlands.

Pre-registration with payment is required, and enrollment is limited to the first 50 people. No registrations accepted at the door. The cost of \$30.00 per person covers class materials, lunch, and refreshments. Registration materials are available upon request at the OSU Extension office at Toledo Botanical Garden ((419)578-6783), by email at ohiowoods@osu.edu, or on the web at <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>



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. Leave a voice mail any time, 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)
or email your questions to mghotline@ag.osu.edu