

# Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 28, Issue 5—June 2023

*Happy  
Father's Day*

## President's comments--By Jim McCracken --

### Procrastination is a Poor Choice to Make

Procrastinate is to delay or postpone, put off doing something. Unfortunately, I choose to put off weeding and mulching my onion patch way too long. I had great intentions of getting the long, tedious job done by mid-May. On a normal year, it may take up to 13-15 hours to get the job completed. My wife and I attended a wedding in Cleveland and the next weekend we traveled to Iowa for my uncle's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. To make matters worse we had over 2 inches of rain both those two weekends while we were gone. During the early portion of the week, it was a little too wet to do the task. The bottom line is I was a procrastinator.



I give advice many times in my gardening talks to learn from any mistakes you make while gardening. Choosing to delay weeding and adding leaf mulch around more than 2,500 onions was actually one of the dumbest mistakes I have made the last couple of years. By procrastinating, I added an additional five hours to the task. Working around long, bent over onion tops is very difficult. Your fearless president has learned a hard lesson, to get a job done in a timely fashion.

I have finished the task, perhaps two weeks later than it should have been. The bad news, it hasn't rained now for more than two weeks. With the above normal temperatures, the garden is getting very dry. Watering has become a necessity in order to have any type of crop.

As always, happy gardening! Hang in there; hopefully, Mother Nature will soon once again be on our side making gardening more rewarding and easier. 🌱

## Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

Finally, the dry spell is over, and the rains have returned. Now, let's hope we don't go to the other extreme. For the most part the rains have been steady showers allowing the rain to soak in rather than short downpours that result in runoffs. We are fortunate to have missed the nasty storms that have struck just south of us. Unirrigated lawns should be greening up quickly, so get your mower and trimming equipment ready.

The plantings in the Memorial Garden have held up well during the dry spell. Many of the flowers are bursting into



bloom, as you can see in the photo. Thanks to Cheryl for spending about two hours of her hotline time Monday doing some weeding. We still have some deadheading to do, so if you have a half-hour or so, stop by with your pruners. Sometime in the future we will need to thin out some of the hostas and daylilies. Visitors to the other side of the building stop and look at the plantings and compliment us on the beauty of the garden. During next week's meeting, Ann will share her suggestions for renovations.

Here is an update on memorial planting for Bob Bernardi. We will be dedicating the azalea for Bob Bernardi at the July meeting when we are back to meeting at the extension office.

As mentioned in an earlier email, the three demonstration "Plant by Numbers" beds were planted a week ago. We watered last Friday, and then we've had plenty of water from the sky in the last few days. The rain gauge in the Memorial Garden had 1.3" over the weekend and another 1.5" Tuesday and Wednesday. Thus, the plants seem to be settling in and growing. Thanks to all who helped with the planting. Now, we will need to maintain the beds. I have created an "opportunity/project" in HOC for you to report time spent. In "Search Projects" look for "Demonstration Garden Creation, Maintenance, and Interpretation." This is like most of the others; just add the project to your "Ongoing Opportunities" and the add hours as you help. It is not one that you schedule. **(continued to page 2)**

**June Membership Meeting—no Zoom  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.  
at The Peoples Garden on Court St.**

**(Coordinator’s comments continued from page 1)**

We have been receiving a few hotline calls, and a number of our interns are getting a chance to put their training to use. Calls have included insect identification and control, weed control, plant diseases, and tree problems among others. In several cases, the interns have gotten practice by dealing with questions from their own gardens and landscapes. We have many vacancies for hotline workers throughout July and also on June 22 and 29. Sign up by going to the calendar in “My Counties” in HOC.

As usual in the summer, we have several activities with kids. Katie Hughes was really pleased with the help she received at the Cloverbuds’ Day Camp. Coming up in the next two weeks will be our participation with Rainbow Gardeners in doing a craft activity at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tawawa Park on Saturday, June 24, and Conservation Day Camp on Thursday, June 29. As mentioned in an earlier email, we will be in charge of the Community Foundation Building at the Shelby County Fair on “Senior Day,” Tuesday, July 25. We can decide at the meeting whether we wish to do a craft activity that afternoon. If we do, it would be one time only – no evening craft. I will be creating a sign-up schedule on the HOC calendar for people to sign up for two-hour shifts to monitor the building from 8:00 to 8:00. I haven’t heard, but I suspect that our Mercer County members will be doing something for “Hoof It” at their fair as well.

Barbara Ray from Dublin, Ohio, gave an excellent talk about attracting good fauna and discouraging undesirable critters at our fourth library program last week. She even brought a box turtle for show and tell. Attendance was down a little from earlier programs, possibly because of the really pleasant weather.

We will have one more program; on August 10 Nick Baughman from Kah Nursery will be talking about flowering shrubs. Also, our own Ann Heeley will be speaking about houseplants in Celina June 28 as part of Mercer County’s gardening series. If you want to attend, call 419-586-2179 to pre-register.

As always, I encourage you to volunteer and to continue to participate in continuing education activities. The Hort Happy Hour and Lunch and Learn webinars are over for the summer, but you can still go back and view the recordings. The descriptions and links are listed on the state MGV website [Home | Master Gardener Volunteers \(osu.edu\)](http://Home | Master Gardener Volunteers (osu.edu)). Be sure to keep recording your hours on HOC.

Remember that Conelia will be hosting our June 21 meeting at The Peoples’ Garden at 2:00 p.m. The building is air conditioned, but you should bring a lawn chair. To get to the Garden, follow Court Street east past the courthouse and down the hill and across Miami Street. You will pass the Goodwill store on the right and cross the bridge. Right at

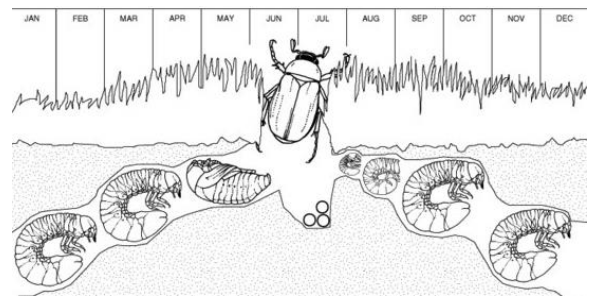
the end of the bridge and before you get to the traffic light, turn right into the drive and follow it back to the garden behind Agape Distribution. There is plenty of parking. Because we not meeting at the Extension office, we will not be on Zoom. Sorry for any inconvenience. I hope to see many of you at the meeting. Until then, happy gardening! 🌿

**Guess what’s coming next!** The Ohio State Phenology Calendar  
By Doug Benson

Have you checked OSUE’s phenology calendar ([GDD - Calendar \(osu.edu\)](http://GDD - Calendar (osu.edu)))? If you remember, phenology deals with the relationship between climate and biological events such as plant flowering and insect life cycles. Growth and development of plants and animals is related to the air temperature. The table in the calendar uses Growing Degree Days (GDD) as a measure. The number starts January 1 at “0”, and goes up when the average of the daily high and low temperatures exceeds 50°. Careful observations are made of plant and insect development compared to the GDD over time to create the table.

As of this writing, June 14, the GDD for Sidney is 927 (the 20-year average for this date is 987). Based on the chart, we can assume that bagworms and two-spotted spider mites started hatching several weeks ago (630 and 627 respectively), so past victims should be on the lookout and be prepared to take action. Immediately on the horizon will be the emergence of Japanese beetles at 970, which could occur this weekend. Get ready! And, looking ahead, 1160 is the estimated GDD accumulation for adult spotted lanternfly to first emerge, with peak emergence at 1584. Keep in mind that these numbers are averages, so natural events may not occur at exactly the given time. I encourage you to check the chart to see what else you might observe in your own landscape and neighborhood.

And for more up-to-date information about what’s happening in and around Ohio, be sure to check out the postings on BYGL – Buckeye Yard and Garden onLine. The website is [BYGL \(osu.edu\)](http://BYGL (osu.edu)) Just today, Joe Boggs and Amy Stone posted information about the continued presence of emerald ash borers (EAB). And just when we hoped that perhaps they were gone! 🌿



**Japanese beetle lifecycle**

## The Next Thing to Worry About

By Ann Heeley

An article about his delightful insect popped up on my newsfeed. I hadn't known about the severity of this threat, but the Ohio Department of Agriculture is spraying from low-flying planes to stop the spread of *Lymantria dispar* aka Spongy Moth. According to the ODA, the pesticide is an organic, biodegradable product that is harmless to birds, bees, plants, pets and humans. It contains a combination of Bt-k (stops the insect from feeding), Gypchek (an insecticide containing a virus that causes the breakdown of the internal tissues of Spongy Moths), and SPLAT GM-O (a fake pheromone that prevents male Spongy moths from locating females and results in unfertilized eggs).

Formerly known as the European Gypsy Moth, this invasive species has moved from Pennsylvania and Michigan into Ohio. Egg masses laid by females contain 500-1000 eggs, and after hatching, each 2-inch larvae can consume one square foot of foliage in a day. And they're not very particular, feeding on over 300 species of trees and shrubs. In areas of heavy infestation, they can completely defoliate trees. Conifers are in more serious jeopardy than deciduous trees since they are unable to produce a second set of leaves. The Spongy moth has been found in 51 of Ohio's 88 counties—Shelby County is not one of the 51...yet.



# Poison Hemlock and noxious look-a-likes

By Carol Strayer

Driving the backroads from Sidney to Piqua this morning (6/15), I was reminded that Poison Hemlock is in full bloom again this June. There has been some interesting news coverage in the past about the differences among some noxious weeds recently, namely the Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) and other look-a-likes. WHIO TV had a news clip and some information posted on their talk radio bulleted news items. Joe Boggs has an excellent article and shows various photos of Poison Hemlock's flower, leaves and stem in the June 7, 2016 edition of Buckeye Yard and Garden Online. See the BYGL link: <http://bygl.osu.edu/node/328>. I have seen this plant on the weedy edge of fields while driving the rural roads. Sometimes it can be seen growing in large clumps of plants.



Harmless Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)



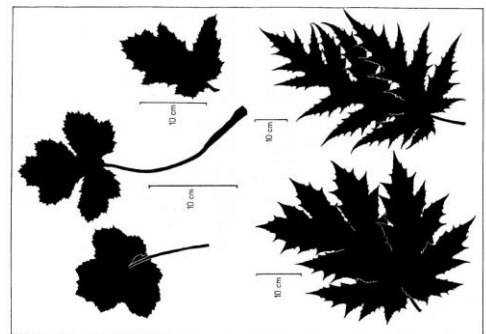
Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)



Hazardous Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-35>

Giant hogweed's greatest danger is the effect its sap has on humans. Furocoumarins in the sap can cause a skin reaction known as phyto-photodermatitis. This causes the skin to be highly sensitive to ultraviolet light. Swelling and blistering of the skin occurs and may lead to permanent scarring. Contact with the eyes can cause temporary and sometimes permanent blindness.



Leaves of the giant hogweed have different shapes and sizes during its life cycle.

The USDA brochure link below shows photo comparisons of giant hogweed, cow parsnip, angelica, and poison hemlock. You may want to do your own research to be able to identify these noxious and toxic weeds.


Safe to open but takes a few seconds to download.   
[Microsoft Word - Giant hogweed brochure \(page 1\).docx \(pwcva.gov\)](#)

Table 1. Giant hogweed and look alike species identifying characteristics.

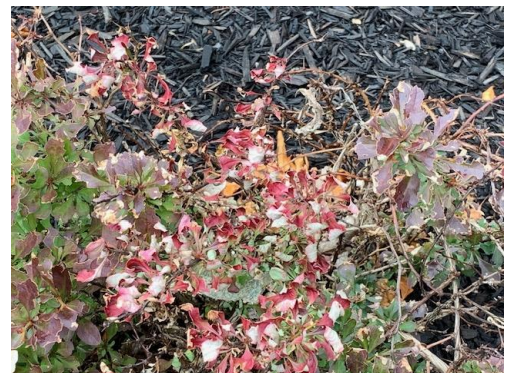
	Plant	Leaf	Stem	Flower
Giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>				
Cow parsnip <i>Heracleum maximum</i>				
Poison hemlock <i>Conium maculatum</i>				
Elderberry <i>Sambucus spp.</i>				

Have you seen this damage before? Verticillian wilt on crimson pygmy barberry

By Carol Strayer

These barberry bushes are growing at my workplace. I have seen some of this damage before, but this year it has hit them hard. Starting at the top of the plant and on one or multiple branches, leaves turn brown and curly and then drop. Our hotline workers diagnosed the problem that it was most likely verticillian wilt, a fatal fungi disease.

More information see: [What's wrong with my plant? : Garden : University of Minnesota Extension \(umn.edu\)](#) and [Verticillium Wilt of Trees and Shrubs – Wisconsin Horticulture](#)



The Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA. Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership. TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only)

Newsletter Editor: Carol Strayer, email: [carolstrayer@yahoo.com](mailto:carolstrayer@yahoo.com)