

Shelby County Master Gardener

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Volume 28, Issue 8—September 2023

President's comments--Get More Vegetables from Your Garden. By Jim McCracken

Two easy methods to increase the amount of vegetables your garden will produce without increasing square footage of your garden are double cropping and succession planting. Although the two methods differ greatly, the results are similar. A gardener will increase his yields.

Double cropping is exactly what the phrase suggests, planting a first crop then following up later in the growing season with a second crop. I take advantage of this technique mainly with my onions. The Alisa Craig variety I plant usually during the third week of March. The onion plants take 25% of my total garden. Due to the fact onions are a timed vegetable (matures based on the amount of daylight hours) the onions are ready the first half of July. Transplants for my second crop are started around June 21st. Once the onions are totally harvested, weeds are picked and destroyed. The only soil I disturb is where the transplants are placed. Crops such as butternut squash, pumpkins, pickles, and cool weather crops are just a few of my second crop possibilities.

Succession planting is a method of staggering planting of a vegetable to harvest a continual supply. These plantings could be used as a double crop situation also. Benefits of succession planting:

- Fresh produce all season long
- Maximize space in your garden
- Minimize risk of crops ruined by poor growing conditions (weather, pests, disease)
- Maximize yields

Many plants do well with this method, especially those with short seed to harvest times or a single heavy yield. Short season species (less than 60 days) such as lettuce, spinach, arugula.

Next year when you are planning your vegetable garden please consider using either double cropping or succession planting. I promise you won't be disappointed with your added production. 🌱



First Planting—Alisa Craig onions

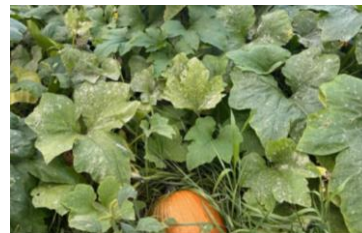
Second Planting—Cool Weather Crops:



Broccoli



Butternut squash



Pumpkins

**September Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 2 p.m.
Extension Office & on Zoom**

Coordinator's comments

By Doug Benson

Greetings! It feels like the heat waves may be over until next summer, and fall may finally be arriving. I hope that you have had a successful growing season and are possibly extending it into the fall with some cool season veggies and flowers. My gardening got off to a slow start, and I'm just now harvesting lots of green beans and a few zucchinis and sweet peppers. My one 'Big Mama' tomato plant is over six feet tall and still producing. The most productive plants have been my Jonathon and McIntosh apple trees that haven't been pruned in years. The Mac has been producing fruits weighing six to eight ounces each. Since I don't do any spraying, they have many issues, especially when they fall from 15-20 feet up. I've still been able to gather enough to make a dozen half-pints of apple butter and almost six pints of unsweetened applesauce. The neighbors have salvaged some good apples also, but the rest are being pitched into the woods for the deer and bees to eat.

The Master Gardener hotline continues to be busy, and our interns are becoming more confident and skilled in handling questions. We've dealt with a number of insect questions, as well as weed and tree issues. Our USB microscope has come in handy several times, as has the "Seek" phone app from iNaturalist. We still have two more weeks of scheduled hotline activity, and typically, questions will continue to come in during the rest of the year. I encourage you to sign up or let me know if you are willing to answer some of those questions. Also, I encourage you to check [BYGL \(BYGL \(osu.edu\)\)](http://BYGL.osu.edu) on a regular basis to see what is going on around the state.

Next week's meeting is an important one. Two major topics will be the election of officers for 2024 and making final plans for the October banquet. Our recently revised constitution sets terms as two years with the possibility of a second two-year term. Jim McCracken and Nancy Russell are both completing their second year as president and secretary respectively. Dave Slagle, vice president, and Linda Jennings, treasurer, are both completing their first year. Only Linda has indicated a willingness to continue. None of the positions is particularly taxing, so I hope we will have some volunteers (you get volunteer hours for serving). The banquet is another concern. It is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, the same date, as our regular meeting would be. More details are in a separate article. I will try to make next week's meeting

available on Zoom for those who can't attend in person, but I really hope to see many of you in person.

At the August meeting, Ann Heeley presented committee recommendations for renovating the Memorial Garden. The plan includes thinning/removing/relocating some existing plants and adding new ones with a focus on sustainability and limited maintenance. We will seek assistance from the sheriff's office jail crew for much of the "heavy" work. We are waiting for an opportunity to meet with the county commissioners to seek financial support for the plan. In the meantime, the Memorial Garden needs some immediate attention for weeding, deadheading, and pruning. If you could arrive for next Wednesday's meeting about 45 minutes early, we could take care of much of that clean-up. We would also like to dedicate the azalea in memory of Bob Bernardi. We will also be discussing whether to participate in Forestry Field Day, to be held at Tawawa Park, Sunday, October 22.



Plant by numbers garden plot

At this time, I don't know where the process of employing a new Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator stands. The usual protocol is OSU posts the opening, receives applications, does an initial screening, and then forwards names of several qualified applicants for local interviews. The local committee makes a recommendation to the university, which then actually negotiates the final contract. The whole process can take several months. I was asked to participate in the local interviews when Matt was hired. I hope that I or someone else representing SCMGV will be involved this time as well. In the meantime, I will work with the rest of the office staff to see that we keep moving forward.

Finally, don't forget the [Farm Science Review near London, Ohio, next Tuesday, September 19, through Thursday, September 21](http://fsr.osu.edu). See the details and schedule of events at fsr.osu.edu. Discounted tickets may still be available at the Extension office. Finally, the [state MGV conference is being held in nearby Fairborn, October 12-14](http://greene.osu.edu). The schedule and registration information is available at greene.osu.edu.

Until our meeting Wednesday, Happy Gardening! 🌱

2023 Recognition Banquet

By Doug Benson

Our annual banquet will be at Arrowhead Golf Club, near Minster, on Wednesday, October 18, with a social time at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. The dinner will feature flat iron steak, lasagna, salad with dressing, baked potato, California blend vegetables, roll, decorated cookie, and some drinks. There will also be a cash bar. The meal cost is \$28, which includes tax and gratuity, but not linens or a three percent upcharge for us to use the Extension credit card.

The committee had proposed charging \$30 with extra two dollars covering some of that additional expense, but a motion to charge \$28 and take the extra costs from our treasury was made and then tabled at the August meeting. A decision will need to be made; and I will have RSVP forms for both prices available at the meeting, as we must have reservations made and paid by September 30. We also collect \$20 dues for 2024 at the same time. With the change in how we do our finances,

all checks are to be made payable to OSU Extension including checks for dues and given or mailed to Linda Jennings at 17865 Gearhart Rd., Sidney OH 45365.

She will keep track of who has paid dues and who will be attending the banquet and then give the checks to the office staff for deposit. Note that your spouse or guest is welcome. This has always been an enjoyable way to close our year, and I hope the price will not be a deterrent to your attending. 🍃

The People's Garden Update

By Conelia Dixon

We have had a successful garden season, with the great weather we have had. We don't have a good count to report yet, but we know we are close to 1000 pounds of vegetables donated to the Agape pantry. We experienced plenty of good rainwater in the rain tank, and mostly warm temps. I believe that the switch from wood garden beds to metal might make the soil stay warmer too. Some seeds just will not germinate unless the soil is warm enough so planting certain ones early just does not work. Read the package of seeds to know when to plant.

Our international gardeners are doing well, regularly tending their crops. Akane grew some "walking" onions, oregano and a few cucumbers. Yuka grew some tiny watermelons in a big bucket, daikon radishes, and many nice tomatoes. Shizuka grew bitter melon



and some really nice onions and edamame, which is soybeans that are harvested

when they are still green. We communicate pretty well with an app for translating when necessary.

A few of our crops now are okra, lettuce, spinach, late yellow squash and zucchini, late beans, green and red tomatoes, herbs, carrots, some nice cabbages, and three



large pumpkins. A new squash that we tried is blue Hubbard squash, which is a trap crop for squash bugs. We will try something different with the squash next year, bigger patches and more companion planting.

If you have time (lol) try looking up some flowers that are good to eat. One of my favorite is nasturtiums. I found that I could eat not only the flowers but also the stems (taste like strong radish), leaves, and the seedpods. I roasted the leaves, coated with olive oil and they turned out very delicate and crispy. We grow many kinds and sizes of flowers at the garden to attract many types of pollinators. 🍃



Source: free web photo
Redbud Leaffolder
Moth, 8mm
Fascista cercerisella

Interesting diagnostic review of redbud tree damage:

[OGIA/OSU Greater Cincinnati BYGL! Diagnostic Walkabout Highlight: The Redbud Leaffolder | BYGL](#)

In the 9/13/23 BYGL issue, Joe Boggs has an expanded narration with photos of the Redbud Leaffolder nest, larva and damaged done by the Redbud Leaffolder Moth's larva. 🍃



Bulbs for Fall Planting and Spring Blooms

By Ann Heeley

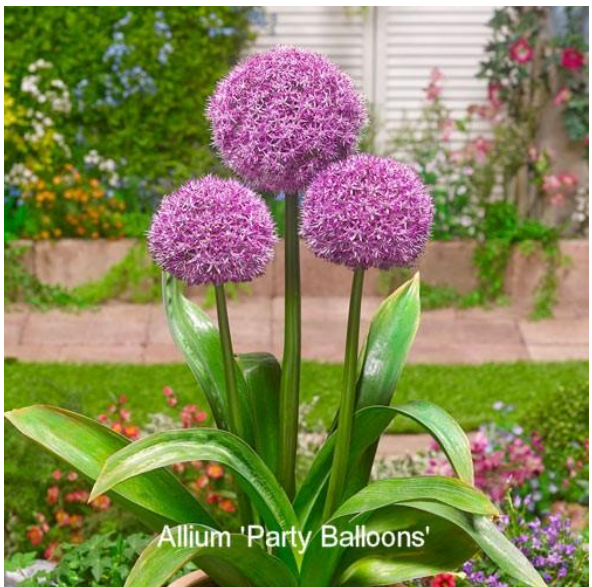
I've always had amazingly good luck with bulbs that I've planted in the fall for spring blooms. So in honor of my current bulb-less landscaping, I've been perusing the online catalogues in search of springtime color.

Four companies that I've used in the past that are noted for their wide selection of healthy bulbs are John Scheepers ([John Scheepers Inc.](#)), Easy to Grow Bulbs--Brent and Becky's Bulbs ([Brent & Becky's Bulbs \(brentandbeckysbulbs.com\)](#)), and Colorblends ([Colorblends® - Wholesale Flower Bulbs. Tulips and Daffodils for Fall Planting.](#)). Another one that I just discovered is Old House Gardens ([Old House Gardens](#)), which specializes in heirloom bulbs. Since I neglected to change my address on the 3 companies' websites that I've ordered from, I didn't receive their full-color catalogues...yet. I plan to do that soon. Browsing the photos in catalogues is so much easier than switching from screen to screen on the computer.

Meanwhile, here are my recommendations based on what I've learned about growing spring-blooming bulbs:



- Lots of short/miniature daffodils – They don't flop over when it rains or is windy in the spring. The bulbs are smaller so they don't need to be planted as deeply. Deer and other critters avoid them, so I scatter them among tastier bulbs. They bloom profusely, often 2 or 3 flowers per stem, and longer than the taller daffodils. They come in solid yellow shades, bicolor yellow/white, and bicolor white/pink.



- Allium – They come in many sizes and shapes in shades of purple and white. Most bloom in late spring, and some in late spring to early summer. This means continuous color for weeks. When they turn tan or brown, I spray-paint them blue to continue the color until other shrubs and flowers start blooming. Deer steer clear of allium, too. One variety to avoid is A. vineale or "Hair" allium. It's very invasive and unattractive.



- Fritillaria – I’ve had success one year followed by failure the next. Fritillaria grow to a height of 3 feet and should be staked or planted in an area protected from wind. Resembling upside-down bells, Fritillaria are available in red, yellow, and white. The bulbs have a skunky smell, but once they’re planted about 6-8” deep, you don’t notice. This one is definitely deer-squirrel-rodent-proof.



- Windflower/Anemone blanda – A great ground cover in the spring, Windflower comes in shades of purplish-blue, white, and pink. They start blooming in mid-spring and often last past June 1. They spread naturally, but are never invasive. I had them planted in rock-hard dirt around a very small shade tree, and they never missed a beat. It was like a carpet of multi-colors. Soak them overnight first, then plant them about 1” deep in either fall or spring.

- Hyacinth – I’ll grow these indoors because of their heavenly fragrance, but they’re just too tempting for the critters when planted outdoors—at least for me.



- Tulips – I plant these among the daffodils and hope for the best. I love intermixing early-, mid-, and late-spring bloomers for the longest-lasting color. I also prefer the shorter varieties, including the Gregeii and Kaufmannianna groups that have variegated leaves. Even when the tulips are finished blooming, the leaves keep their variegation for several weeks and look like hostas. Most bloom in mid-spring. Unfortunately, deer and squirrels love these as much as they love regular tulips. However, these two varieties are much less expensive than others and are gorgeous planted in wide swaths near the front of a garden or around a leafless tree.



- Peony Tulips – Another favorite of mine are the so-called “Peony” (or double-late) varieties that really do look more like peonies than tulips. Most bloom from starting in late spring and are available in a wide array of colors and bicolors.

- Not for me – Crocuses and Grape Hyacinths. I know they're cute; I know they signal the change of seasons; I know that deer and squirrel don't bother them. I also know that they're unruly and spread erratically. Worst of all, when they multiply (multiply is an understatement), their skinny, brown leaves look like hair growing everywhere. No thanks.

What I'd like to try:



- *Corydalis flexuosa*– This one looks like a miniature shrub with tubular flowers. When the bees first emerge, *Corydalis* is there to provide nourishment. Unlike most of the plants listed here, *Corydalis flexuosa* starts out as a tuber rather than a bulb and needs dappled sunlight or part shade and very moist (but not wet) soil. Blooms begin in April and keep up the show until high temperatures hit. Then they tend to go dormant unless kept in the shade with plenty of water. There are many varieties of *Corydalis* with light and dark blue, yellow, or rose-pink flowers. Some varieties self-seed, but I'm willing to take that chance. It can't be any worse than the crabgrass that is now trying to take over.



- *Brodiaea* – Never heard of this one? Neither have I. But it has star-shaped blooms in pink, white, dark violet, and sky blue. It's hardy down to Zone 5 with protection, takes full sun, and reaches 14-18" in height. The notes say it naturalizes if planted in its happy place. I can work with that!

Now excuse me while I place my orders. 🌱

BYGL Bug of the Week (<https://bygl.osu.edu/>):

[Look Closely at Flowers for a Tiny Threat to Pollinators](#) | [BYGL \(osu.edu\)](#)



In the 9/13/23 BYGL issue, Joes Boggs says to look closely at flowers for a tiny threat to pollinators. The enlarged photo at the left was taken by Joe and is a photo of the Jaggend Ambush Bug. See the link for the expanded diagnostic review with other photos.