

NEWS YOU CAN USE

For Montgomery County Master Gardener Volunteers

December 2018

We are Ohio State University Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely research-based gardening information.

What's the Buzz?



This time of year we fall victim to, what I term, holiday fever. Unlike spring fever, it is a shorter, much more expensive seasonal affliction lasting to January 2nd leaving you 10 pounds heavier and your wallet 10 pounds lighter. At some point, you realize you have acquired a poinsettia. While it is bright, beautiful, and festive during December, it quickly seems to wilt or drop leaves as soon as January begins.

So what happened? Poinsettias are native to Mexico and prefer temperature at a toasty 70°. They, like many of us, really don't care for the cold temperatures. If they are placed near a drafty window or in an area regularly subjected to blasts of cold air, they will slowly begin to decline. Poinsettias prefer even soil moisture, not too wet or too dry. The pretty foil wrapping they come in is capable of holding enough water to keep the soil too wet, causing it to look slightly wilted. A look that encourages more than one person to apply more water.

There is always the very confident plant person who swears they can keep poinsettias alive for years into the future and even get them to bloom. There is truth to this statement, but the poinsettia will never be the full, luscious plant with showy blooms that you brought home. Commercial greenhouse growers provide perfect amounts of light, humidity, water, fertilizer and growth regulators to produce beautiful plants. Most leftover poinsettias tend to have 2 - 3 small, stunted, sad leaves on the end of each stem. Which begs the question, should I just put it out of its misery or continue to torture the poor thing?



One question the persistent always ask when you are talking about poinsettias is, "Are they poisonous?" The answer is no. OSU did research a couple of decades ago, showing no adverse effects on rats ingesting all parts of the poinsettia plant. Other sources have confirmed this research.

So, enjoy your poinsettia while it is at its best and decide what the future holds for it later. Happy Holidays!

~ Kim

Submit information for "News You Can Use" to Gail Carone: getcarone@hotmail.com



More News . . .

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,

The Executive Committee recently reviewed the recommendations of the **Washington Township Sustainability Committee** upon input from Yvonne Dunphe. We are pleased with the progress the group has made and support their recommendations.

The basic premise of the recommendations is to spread some of the planting process across a longer period of time, specifically make it a “year-round” activity. During the planting process, preparation work on the NON-ROADSIDE BEDS (trimming roses, splitting daylilies and nepeta, etc.) will be performed either in late April or early May, based on weather. Since we will be working in the non-roadside beds, we will not need Washington Township maintenance personnel to be present. At our normal time in mid-to-end of May, we will begin the more familiar planting process. However, in 2019, we plan to start the dead heading and rooting on a Thursday and Friday and run the planting process over the weekend and into the following week.

By spreading the work over a 10-day period, rather than the one week we have done in the past, it will eliminate the frantic pace of working long days in order to finish. The committee believes it allows more flexibility for all members, especially for those working part- or full-time during the week. Additionally, the committee has generated some ideas on ways to restructure the preparation work, e.g., making it easier for MGVs who have trouble kneeling or bending over to plant. Thus, the committee is offering a way for all our MGVs to participate.

The Sustainability Committee will also make a change to the maintenance process for a couple of the largest locations. Instead of individual monitors, monthly ‘maintenance parties’ will take place where everyone can learn about mid-season pruning, how to clean up the beds, and enjoy some refreshments. Overall, we believe this maintenance change will increase everyone’s shared experience and just be more fun!!

I think everyone is now aware of how important the donation from the Washington Township Trustees is to GMCMGA. The major portion of the donation allows the Program Committee to offer advanced Continuing Education programs at little to no cost to our members. A portion of the donation also covers the Administrative costs incurred for General Liability Insurance coverage at the site and WTP lunches.

There are more details in the committee’s recommendations that will be explained over time, but this is the basic idea. We believe these changes will allow us to increase participation by the membership and sustain this very important project.

~ Janet Hickey

**** Check out the Greater Montgomery County Master Gardener Association's Facebook page ****
Go to www.facebook.com/gmcmga to view the latest posts and if you have photos or information to share, please email to infomastergardeners@gmail.com.

GMCMGA Annual Banquet Highlights

November 7, 2018, the Greater Montgomery County Master Gardener Association (GMCMGA) held the Annual Banquet at The Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering, Ohio. During the evening, we acknowledged our members who volunteered significant milestone hours, and we applauded our outgoing Executive Officers for a job well-done.

A BIG Thank You goes out to: Janet Hickey, Donna Zobrist, Joyce Zech and Carol Williams for your great leadership over the past five years!

Another highlight of the evening was our version of the “Academy Awards”– **The Golden Watering Can Award.**

This year’s recipient was Sue Howorth. Sue has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2011, taking the lead on many projects, serving on and chairing committees and keeping all of us up-to-date with the VMS system.

The Program Committee also had the 2019 packets ready for pick-up, which included the 2019 continuing education programs offered through the GMCMGA, with program descriptions, dates and registration information included. Please review the programs and sign up for the classes you want.

Registration is due no later than February 15, 2019.

Please note – some of the classes can accommodate a limited number of participants, so register early to reserve your spot.

Retain a copy for your records and **return a copy** of your registration with your check for the class fee, payable to GMCMGA, no later than **Feb. 15, 2019** to:

Judy Wanamaker, 2849 Meadow Park Drive, Kettering, OH 45440 or register online to Judy Wanamaker at jkw1712@aol.com with **Continuing Education** in the subject line. Your cancelled check is your receipt.



Sue Howorth accepting the 2018 Golden Watering Can Award

Milestones for 2017 Hours Exceeded for the first time in 2017

500 Hours	750 Hours	1000 Hours	1250 Hours	2000 Hours
Cathy Lieberman Karen Veve	Kathy Enneking Donna Zobrist	Terry Calcutt Jeanne Keffer Carol Williams	Susan Baker Sue Howorth Joyce Zech	Bob Neff



Elections were held at the Quarterly General Membership Meeting on November 20th at Wright Memorial Public Library in Oakwood.

Welcome to our new GMCMGA Executive Officers:

Co-Presidents – Sue Howorth and Pat Martin

Vice President – Yvonne Dunphe

Treasurer – Robin Mann

Secretary – Stephanie Bange

This is a reminder to pay your **membership dues** before December 31, 2018, if you haven’t already done so. Please remit a **\$15.00** check, payable to GMCMGA, to:

GMCMGA
c/o Treasurer
P.O. Box 292421
Stroop Road Facility
Kettering, OH 45429.

What is the Name of that Perennial?

Anemone × hybrid 'Andrea Atkinson'

Common Name: windflower
Type: Herbaceous perennial
Family: Ranunculaceae
Zone: 4 to 8
Height: 2 to 4 feet
Spread: 2 to 3 feet
Bloom Time: August to September
Bloom Description: White with yellow center
Sun: Full sun to part shade
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low
Suggested Use: Naturalize
Flower: Showy, Good Cut
Tolerate: Deer



Photo courtesy of Gail Carone

Culture: Best grown in organically rich, humusy, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Soils must not be allowed to dry out. Plants are best suited in part shade locations with protection from wind. Foliage tends to burn in hot, dry, sunny summer conditions. Plants do not perform well in the deep South (south of USDA Zone 7). Avoid wet, poorly drained soils, particularly in winter. Plants appreciate a winter mulch in cold winter climates. Plants may be slow to establish, but will naturalize well by spreading rhizomes in optimum growing conditions. Propagate by root cuttings in winter (perhaps most effective) or by division in spring.

Noteworthy Characteristics: *Anemone x hybrida*, commonly called windflower or Japanese anemone, is a hybrid category which includes a large number of hybrid pink or white flowered cultivars that bloom from late summer into fall (August - October). These cultivars vary somewhat in character but generally are erect, clump-forming, fibrous-rooted, woody-based perennials which typically grow to 2-3' (infrequently to 4') tall on stems clad with oval palmate toothed leaves. Genus name is often said to be derived from the Greek word *anemos* meaning wind.

'Andrea Atkinson' is a vigorous, fibrous-rooted, mounding, Japanese hybrid anemone that typically grows to 3-4' tall. It is noted for producing an excellent late summer to early fall bloom (late August to October) of pure white flowers (2-3" diameter) with yellow centers. Flowers are single to semi-double, and appear on long, wiry-but-graceful, branching stems rising well over an attractive foliage mound (2' x 2') of usually trifoliate, dark green, basal leaves. Japanese anemone cultivars are commonly sold as *Anemone x hybrida* or *Anemone japonica*.

Problems: No serious insect or disease problems. Watch for leaf spot, powdery mildew, downy mildew, rust and leaf/stem smut. Caterpillars, slugs and nematodes may be troublesome. Black blister beetles and Japanese beetles can defoliate plant foliage in some areas. Taller plants may need some staking or other support.

Garden Uses: Excellent fall bloomer. Perennial borders, cottage gardens, woodland gardens. Effective when massed. Attractive with hostas and astilbes.

Resource - www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Tribute to Dottie Cyr, Ken Wright, and Susan Pearson at the Kettering Pondview Park with a "Save the Pollinator" sign dedicated to their memory. We are grateful to Barbara Bowser who initiated this fund and to Sue Howorth, Terry Calcutt, and Bob Neff who also contributed to this memorial. It also allowed the GMCMGA to utilize the remainder of the Pearson memorial fund. Dottie, Ken, and Susan gave many volunteer hours at this park because they recognized the importance of providing a natural habitat for pollinators of all kinds.



 **Save the Pollinators!** 

What is a pollinator?  *How important are pollinators?*

They are animals that move pollen from one flower to another flower of the same species, which helps the plant produce a fertile seed. They include our littlest friends like butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

More than eighty percent of the world's crop species and most native plants rely on animals for pollination. Because of habitat loss, diseases, pollution and pesticides, biologists fear that many species of the butterfly and bee are declining rapidly and are in danger of disappearing completely in some areas.

How can you help pollinators?

- Leave your leaves! Fallen leaves provide homes for caterpillars and moths to hide from predators.
- Mow your grass less often. This allows clover and other plants to grow through.
- Use less (or no) pesticides! These not only hurt animals, they aren't good for humans, either.
- Plant a variety of flowers that bloom through the fall so there will be food available to the end of the season.
- Leave seed heads on flowers during the autumn and winter rather than cutting them back to provide nesting habitat for insects.

*In memory of
Dottie Cyr, Ken Wright, and Susan Pearson
OSU Extension volunteers of the
Greater Montgomery County Master Gardener Association*

Montgomery Co. Master Gardener Volunteer Program

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
	No Committee or Board Meetings this Month.					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Submit information/articles/photos for January 2019 issue of "News You Can Use" this week.					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					<i>First Day of</i> WINTER	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	President's Day & Christmas observed OSUE office CLOSED					
30	31					
	 OSUE office OPEN					