



THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

August 2010

The 2010 "Get Growing" Plant Sale

Submitted by Kathy Hoeper

May 8, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.: With the threat of rain and cold, cold windy weather, a group of determined Master Gardeners made the decision to have the plant sale indoors.

What a day it turned out to be! The signs had been placed strategically at businesses and homes within the Quad Cities. This drew more buyers than last year. Good job!

With over 100 Master Gardener volunteers working endlessly in preparation of this sale, on small projects, demonstrations, behind the scenes, labeling, preparing fantastic amounts of tasty food for the volunteers, setting up tables, maintaining the plants for sale, moving the Swift plants into the Cyclone room, selling, selling and more selling, pulled together a plant sale with a vast variety of plants from our own gardens and a good variety from Swift Greenhouses to sell to the public at fantastic prices!

WE DID A GREAT JOB! Hats off to all the volunteers that made this year's plant sale a huge success! The new format involving all Committee Chairs had an impressive impact on this year's sale.

The Plant Sale Income and Expenses:

	2010	2009
Income:	\$ 6,654.55	\$ 5,217.75
Expenses:	\$ 2,744.12	\$ 2,784.75
Net Income:	\$ 3,910.43	\$ 2,433.00

Thank you all very much, and a special thanks to my (cohorts) er... Co-Chairs, Bobbi Goodin and Kathy Wolfe.

Our Mission

To provide home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Scott County consistent with Iowa State University recommendations. We also strive to increase members' knowledge of horticulture through educational programs.

Update from the Fundraising Committee

Submitter by Kathy Hoeper

The Mother's Day Container sale was a success this year. The containers sold for \$25.00 and the extension staff took phone calls and the funds for the orders. The orders started slowly so a change was made this year to advertise the specific plants in each container. The sales grew faster when the specific plants were announced. Thus, 19 Master Gardeners trooped out to Allen's Grove Greenhouse to pot up 134 containers. Gwen Coobs of Allen's Grove watched over each Master Gardener as we potted up our containers. Gwen watches over the containers in a greenhouse on their property.

As time grew near for the transport of the containers to the extension office, the "Fluff and Buff" team tenderly groomed the containers for dead leaves, pinched back growing ends to make the plants more full and accomplished general maintenance of the plants.

The Master Gardener transport team helped Mick and Elena Robertson load their trailer with the precious cargo. The containers were then transported to the ISU Scott County Extension Office for pickup by the lucky buyers.

As the containers arrived, a team of MGs groomed the plants and the Mother's Day Cards, were hung from the containers. These cards have a lovely picture on the front of each card. Pat Bereskin, a local artist paints a new watercolor each year for this specific purpose. Pat then donates the watercolor to the Master Gardeners. The inside of the card has a listing of the cultivars in the container as well as the maintenance of same.

If you visit the ISU Scott County Extension office this summer you will see plantings in the green urns on either side of the walk near the entrance, these plantings are from two of the Mother's Day containers. Stop and admire them on your way.

Income:	\$3,200.00
Expenses:	\$1,846.39
Net income:	\$1,353.61

HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

- **CLIENTS:** During June 2010, the hort clinic assisted 262 clients. MGs handled 75 of the 262 clients (29%). For April through June combined, MGs assisted 347 out of 632 total clients (55%). Trees and insects accounted for over half of the questions in June.
- **STAFFING:** Between June 16th and July 15th, MGs staffed the hort clinic on 18 of 42 available sessions or 43%. The MG staffing rate in the hort clinic for the year so far is as follows:
 - April 1-15 = 15/22 = 68%
 - April 16-May 15 = 32/42 = 76%
 - May 16-June 15 = 23/42 = 55%
 - June 16-July 15 = 18/42 = 43%
 - Overall = 88/148 = 59%
- **MG INTERNS:** Between June 16th and July 15th, the following MG interns completed their required hort clinic service hours. Congrats !!

Tana Odean

Ruth Wilwerding

- **VETERAN MGs:** Many thanks to the following "veteran" active MGs who volunteered in the hort clinic between June 16th and July 15th:

Bob Cohee

Vito Fiore

Kate Gordon

Bob Krush

David Sunleaf

Doug Truesdell

Karen Truesdell

So far this year, the veteran MG participation rate in the hort clinic is approximately 11%, i.e. 14 out of 131 veteran MGs have volunteered.



WHAT'S HOT IN SCOTT!!

The latest "hot calls" and what to look for from ISU Scott County Extension.

The following advice was sent out by Michigan State Extension and is certainly well worth reading. With all the wet weather we are seeing a lot of issues in the landscape and many folks want the quick cure for the garden without knowing what is causing the problem.

MSU Extension educator Hannah Stevens has provided the following information as many gardeners are considering purchase and application of fungicides:

There is a fungus among us

Gardeners have been seeing alerts in the media, on websites and in newsletters regarding some particularly aggressive disease problems which may be appearing in garden vegetables such as potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers. In addition they may be observing wilted squash and cucumber, and eggplant vines, and other symptoms which seem to be threatening the success of the garden harvest for which they had great hopes.

There is a tendency to overreact and spray what I call "pantry pesticides" such as baking soda, peroxide, garlic juice, bleach or anything that seems like it might work to bring these crops back to good health. Likewise whatever insecticide or fungicide happens to be in the garage might seem like a good bet.

Don't do any of these things. Find out what your problems are.

Right now, wilted zucchini or squash may be squash vine borer, an insect that is boring into the stem. Eggplant may be wilting due to Verticillium wilt. Cucumbers with wilted runners are probably suffering from bacterial wilt, a disease spread by cucumber beetles. There are plenty of university websites that will give you recommendations for cultural control. Chemical control recommendations are harder to come by because product offerings change rapidly and universities do not want to endorse products (the following information – inclusion or exclusion of products -- is not an endorsement). However, on tomatoes, leaf blights, including early blight, Septoria leaf spot and late blight are best controlled with the use of preventative fungicides containing chlorothalonil. These are not considered to be "organic" products, but may be used safely. Two brands for gardeners that can be used close to harvest are Ortho-Max Garden Fungicide and Bonide Funginol. These products will also help prevent downy mildew and powdery mildew on cucumbers and other vine crops. Bear in mind two things:

- Disease control is preventative, not curative, so gardeners must apply as directed and continue when conditions are favorable for disease spread and development
- All pesticides must be used according to label directions. Cover any part of your body that might come in contact with the material and do not allow drift to get into your eyes.

Joy N. Landis

Editor, Crop Advisory Team Alert newsletters

**News articles are needed for the Gardener's Dirt
Please have articles to the Extension Office by August 15th**



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Yard Clippings

Submitted by Christine Rice



Unless you take care, the sun will pin you down. Put a hat on that foolish head of yours when you go out into the fields. –Farmer's Almanac, page 73.

So deeply is the gardener's instinct implanted in my soul, I really love the tools with which I work—the iron, fork, the spade, the hoe, the rake, the trowel, and the watering-pot are pleasant objects in my eyes.
–Celia Thaxter, page 69.

A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 69, 73.

Happiness is a habit. Cultivate it.
–Elbert Hubbard, page 24.

The Gardener's Guide to Life. Editor Criswell Freeman. Nashville, TN: Walnut Grove Press. 1997. Pages 24.

St. Bartholomew's Day, 24 August
If St. Bartholomew's Day be fair and clear,
Then a prosperous autumn comes that year.
–English Proverb, page 60.

As to the garden, it seems to me its chief fruit is—blackbirds. William Morris, letter, 24 August 1888, page 62.

Let first the onion flourish there,
Rose among roots, the maiden-fair,
Wine-scented and poetic soul
Of the capacious salad bowl.
--Robert Louis Stevenson, "To a Gardener," 1887, page 28.

A Gardener's Nosegay. Editor Jude Patterson. New York: Barnes and Noble. 2003. Pages 28, 60, 62.