



Johnson County Master Gardener

THYMES

October 2021

MG Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 7 P.M., virtual meeting by Zoom will continue. Johnson County Extension Office. All MGs are invited to participate!

Thymes Deadline

Information/articles for the Thymes should be sent to Melissa Serenda at msserenda@gmail.com or Doug Geraets at dougrph@aol.com.

Please send news, volunteer opportunities, stories, pictures, gardening book reviews, etc., for the December/January issue by **Friday, November 26**.

BeetleJUS!, BeetleJUS!, BeetleJUS!

BY ELAYNE SEXSMITH

Ask a gardener this time of year how their garden is doing, and you'll often hear horror stories of damage and dismay brought on by Japanese beetle infestations. Listening to gardeners at the Johnson County Fair Attended Displays and other MG events we heard many of these stories that often ended with pleas for advice as to how to banish these beetles. With the worst of this year's damage still in our memories, I want to share my experience in successfully managing the adult Japanese beetles in my yard—something for you to consider as you start planning your garden for the coming year.

Truthfully, if the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) wasn't so destructive, they *might* be considered attractive. You know them when you see them—they're small (less than ½-inch long) with an iridescent green head and thorax with coppery brown wing covers. The adult beetles emerge from the ground in late June to early July and begin feeding immediately destroying some of our favorite garden plants. And it isn't your imagination, these beetles are rarely seen alone—they are often found in large clusters mating and feeding and ultimately skeletonizing the leaves on their favorite trees, shrubs and



plants and eating fruits and flowers. It turns out that the leaves they damage emit an odor that is attractive to other Japanese beetles which invites more of the metallic green beetles to join the party. And while healthy, mature plants can typically withstand the damage, young and weaker plants can be permanently disfigured and future production impacted.

Some background before I share my success in dealing with this year's infestation in my backyard. The Japanese beetle was inadvertently introduced into the United States in a nursery shipment arriving in New Jersey from Japan in 1916. While not a major pest in their home country, conditions here were ripe for their success as there are no major predators to keep them in check. As a result, the Japanese beetles have been steadily making their way across our country. They were first reported in Iowa in 1994. As of now, they've traveled as far as

the middle of the country and are present in $\frac{3}{4}$ of Iowa counties.

So many gardens, so much damage. The beetles can seem relentless—they feed on over 350 species of plants and that long list includes many gardeners' favorites. In my yard zinnias, cosmos, dahlias, roses, raspberries and blackberries have all suffered from beetle damage. And the damage isn't limited to what we see above ground—the larvae and grub form of the beetles live in the soil where they feed on turf and plant roots, damage that is further compounded as raccoons, skunks and even crows dig into the ground to feed on the grubs.

How does one control these adult rose-destroying menaces? One straightforward approach is to manually pick the insects off plants in the morning when the beetles are less active and drop them into soapy water. People with smaller gardens and stronger stomachs have success with this. And while insect traps and lures are temptingly simple to use, there seems to be a common understanding that these may attract more beetles to your yard than they trap. Neither of these approaches appealed to me and I was hoping to avoid the use of traditional insecticides in my dog-friendly yard so I was delighted to read about the success that some gardeners were reporting with some new *Bt*-based products.

So ... here's my experience. After investigation, I purchased **beetleJUS!**® online early in the gardening season to have on hand so I could respond quickly to the first Japanese beetle sighting in my yard (the week of June 23 in my rural Iowa City garden). **beetleJUS!**® contains *Bacillus thuringiensis galleriae* in a powder that is to be mixed with water and then sprayed on the foliage and flowers of the favored plants. The product is certified by the National Organic Program for use in the production of organic food. The label indicates that it is not to be applied within 300 feet of any habitats of threatened or endangered moths and butterflies and has a caution statement to keep out of reach of children. The spray does not kill the beetles on contact; the beetles must eat some of the treated foliage and then they die.

We timed our first use of the product around rainstorms, wanting to be sure that the beetles had adequate time to ingest the *Bt* product before rain washed it off. We went out the morning after that first application and the beetles were gone—yes, gone. We could still see a few beetles flying around the berry bushes, but their numbers were small and those beetles soon disappeared as well. Altogether, we sprayed 3 times this summer and we were very pleased with the results. We quickly learned to make certain we applied the product to the actual blooms, not just the foliage, or the Japanese beetles would continue their destruction of those flowers. Each time we used the minimum amount of product called for in the instructions, applying with a hand-held pump sprayer. We felt the process was easy and effective. We have a sizeable yard with a number of plants that the Japanese beetles find irresistible. The cost of the product for the season (roughly \$40) was acceptable and allowed us to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

While there is no guarantee that you'll have the same experience as we did, I believe the *Bacillus thuringiensis galleriae* is definitely worth exploring. And as you're looking on the internet you might also want to study the lists of plants that the Japanese beetles *don't* find appealing—investing in plants they don't find attractive is a worthwhile gardening strategy.

And it's interesting to note that Japanese beetles are not immune to the impact of climate change in our gardens. Model projections based on current and future climate conditions predict that the beetle's northward expansion could extend into Canada while moving its southern-most range simultaneously. Unfortunately, in all these projections the Japanese beetle remains viable in Iowa.

Resources

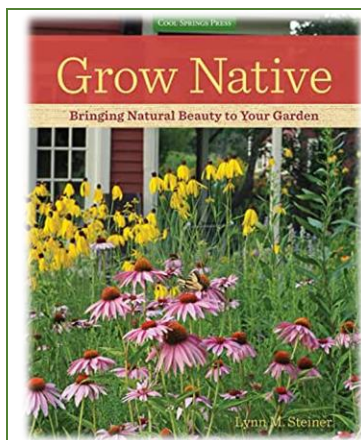
1. Japanese Beetle, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Horticulture and Home Pest News, last reviewed July, 2021.
2. Japanese Beetles in Yards and Gardens, University of Minnesota Extension, authors Jeff Hahn, Extension entomologist, Julie Weisenhorn, Extension horticulturist, and Shane

Bugeja, Extension educator, Reviewed in 2020.

3. Japanese Beetle, University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension, Authors R. Chris Williamson, P J Liesch, and Vijai Pandian, Last Revised December 2020
4. Kistner-Thomas, Erica Jean, The Potential Global Distribution and Voltinism of the Japanese Beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) Under Current and Future Climates, Journal of Insect Science, March 2019, Department of Agricultural, Agricultural Research Service, Midwest Climate Hub, National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, Ames IA.
5. **beetleJUS!**® for Ornamental and Vegetable Pests, Manufactured for Gardens Alive!®, Phyllom BioProducts Corporation.

From A Gardener's Bookshelf

BY SHARON RUDE



*Grow Native:
Bringing Natural
Beauty to Your
Garden*
By Lynn M. Steiner

Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to Your Garden was published in 2016 and is carried at Coralville and Iowa City Public Libraries.

Lynn Steiner is a well-known upper-Midwest garden writer and frequently speaks at gardening and environmental events. She has won several awards for her gardening publications. She enjoys tending her gardens and watching the progress of her restored prairie, savanna, and oak woodland at her home in Minnesota.

Most people consider native plants to grow naturally without human intervention in the United States before European settlement. Others consider natives to be indigenous within a radius of their location. Still others consider plants that would have been found in their state or even North America to be native. The author explains native plants are a very important part of our ecosystems and how they can be incorporated into a variety of landscapes. Native plants help preserve the natural heritage of an area.

Historically native plants were only used in naturalistic landscapes, large prairies and woodland gardens, but they also do well in traditional landscapes. Gardens should enhance the benefits of native ecosystems, which provide a haven for native plant species facing elimination from their natural habitats as well as much-needed sources of pollen, food and shelter for native creatures. It is important to diversify plants to attract a variety of birds, mammals and insects to keep an ecosystem in balance. Natives can be used in rain gardens, boulevard strips, shady areas and xeriscaping. Xeriscaping promotes water conservation by using drought-tolerant, well-adapted plants for maximum use of rainfall-runoff and minimum care. After getting established, the need for water or any fertilizer is nearly eliminated, and pesticides should never be needed.

Understanding communities will help you choose plants for your landscape, but you will need to look at your current conditions to determine your plant selections. Native plants integrate into a natural community, establishing relationships with other local plants and animals. Communities have subgroups such as wetlands, waterways, open areas, and forest areas. Taking the time to learn about plant communities, soil, and sunlight requirements makes natives easier to grow than cultivars.

Native plants rarely grow out of control in their natural habitats. However, the location should still be maintained according to your neighborhood. Native gardens still need regular maintenance. Natives can even be used in formal settings. Don't let the space look unattractive or untended. Natives are no more invasive than other garden plants. Any

plant can be invasive if given the right conditions and the lack of native insect predators to keep it in check. A landscape should be a reflection of your lifestyle and your preferences for color, style and plants.

An entire chapter is dedicated to information about a variety of native plants. Plants are divided into sections for flowers, ferns, and groundcovers; grasses and sedges; shrubs, vines and small trees; and trees (both deciduous and evergreen). Information for each plant includes both the common and Latin names, hardiness zones, mature size, pollinator and wildlife benefits, how to use the particular plant, how to grow and maintain it, and related cultivars and hybrids. Inspirational landscape pictures from various climates across the United States are included, as well as pictures of butterflies. The butterfly pictures include a brief description, range, habitat, larval food, and adult food for the particular butterfly.

References to a few websites are included to help with plant selections. You can find original plant provinces of North America at <http://go.grolier.com/atlas?id=mtlr054>. This website allows you to select and view different agriculture, natural vegetation, climate zones, precipitation, temperature, geology, population density, and national parks. A searchable database of North American native plants is available at the Ladybird Johnson Wildlife Center located at www.wildflower.org. Plants native to each state and what is native at a county level can be found at <https://www.plants.usda.gov>.



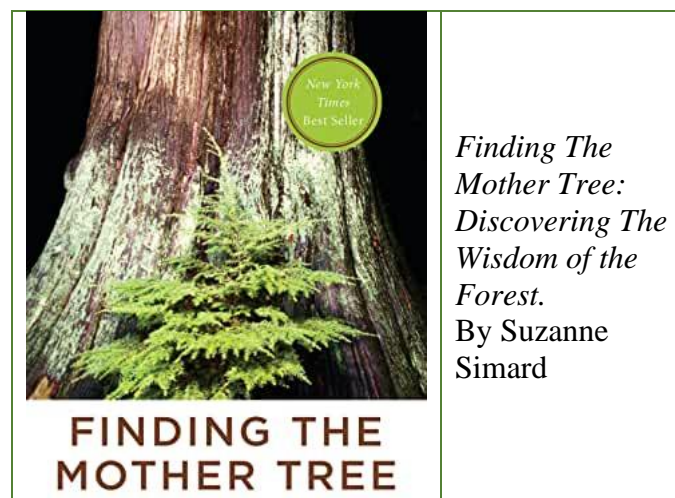
**Johnson County
Master Gardeners**

open-air class
Houseplant Propagation and Care
Tuesday, October 19
5:30 p.m.
Heritage Barn Breezeway
Johnson County Fairgrounds
3109 Old Hwy 218 S.
Iowa City

FEEL FREE TO BRING A LAWN CHAIR
and maybe a jacket for this outdoor activity
participants receive plants with freewill donation

From a Gardener's Bookshelf

BY BRANDI JANSSEN



As gardeners, we think a lot about how plants and animals interact in the bigger system. Planting zinnias near brassicas attract beneficial wasps that prey on pests. Planting sunflowers around solanaceous crops help shade out weeds and protects them from sunscald. The result, we hope, is a garden that works together to benefit all its residents.

In *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, Suzanne Simard explores plant relationships on a much larger scale than the garden. She blends personal memoir and science into an engaging narrative that will speak to all of us who have walked through a forest wondering about the larger questions of “how” and “why.”

Simard is Canadian and was trained as a forester, a discipline that seemed a natural continuation of her outdoorsy childhood. Her early work was with the Canadian forest service repopulating woods that had been clear cut for timber. Her training had taught her that trees competed with each other and that planting trees in monocultures, without others that would take advantage of light or nutrients, would result in the most productive “forests.” This didn’t seem right to her, and she soon realized as she observed the new landscapes she created that something important was missing.

She was especially fascinated by the root systems of the trees she worked with. In natural forest settings, she found long strands of fungus on the roots. But in the new monoculture forests she planted, these fungi were absent. She started asking more questions and learned that she was looking at *mycorrhizal* fungi, which are known to form mutual relationships with other plants. They gather water and nutrients from the soil and funnel them to trees or other plants; in exchange, they receive the sugars that the plant produces by photosynthesis. On page 60, she muses: “*Mychorrhiza*. How would I remember that word? *Myco* like fungus, and *rhiza* like root. *Mychorrhiza* was fungus root. *My. Core. Rise. Ah.*” She wondered what else the mycorrhizal fungi could do. Did they connect trees to other trees? Did they move chemicals other than nutrients?

These early questions led her down a lifelong research path. She returned to graduate school to earn a Ph.D. and eventually became a college professor. Her breakthrough experiment involved tenting birch and fir trees in plastic, then injecting radioactive carbon gas into the birch trees’ tents. The goal was to see if the radioactive material would transfer to the firs. It did. And much more quickly than Simard and her research team imagined. Only a couple hours after the trees were treated, their Geiger counter chirped at the fir, which had received the new carbon source from the birch. She wrote, “we were listening to birch communicate with fir.” When the full data were analyzed, she learned that the birch, which was considered a weed in the forestry business, was contributing enormous amounts of carbon to the valuable firs. The firs were reliant on that process. As she writes, “Roots didn’t thrive when they grew alone. The trees needed one another.” (pg.161)

Simard’s research was not well-received by the forestry industry, or by other scientists who had also been indoctrinated with the perspective of individual competition. It took decades of papers being rejected and critical comments during her research talks, while other colleagues slowly started replicating, and validating, their work.

By 2015, she had embarked on her most ambitious project yet, to understand how dying mother trees, the oldest and most dominant trees in the forests, might continue to provide nutrients, water, and other services to their kin and neighbors as they decay. She writes, “Our goal is to further develop an emergent philosophy: complexity science. Based on embracing collaboration in addition to competition—indeed, working with all of the multifarious interactions that make up the forest—complexity science can transform forestry practices into what is adaptive and holistic and away from what has been overly authoritarian and simplistic.” (pg. 304)

This book is incredibly appealing if you also stand in your garden and muse about plant relationships. Are broccoli really happy there? Is that “weed” really taking nutrients, or is it providing some cooling shade? In addition, the message is a nice boost for those who remind others that prairie plants aren’t weeds and that taking some advice from mother nature about plant diversity will provide a lot of long-term benefits. Whether you garden in Iowa, or do forestry work in Canada, there is a lot to learn from this book!

Ornamental Grasses

Hard-working and Low Maintenance

BY LINDA SCHREIBER



The beauty of ornamental grasses extends to all seasons. A great feature of this hard-working plant is its beauty and year-round low maintenance.

Landscape designers like the fact that after grasses are established they are drought resistant, seldom bothered by pests and rarely need fertilizer. In fact, over-fertilizing will lead grasses to grow too fast and flop-over.

Ornamental grasses offer homeowners many benefits:

- Screen unsightly items in the landscape.
- Add privacy to your to patio by adding tall ornamental grasses.
- Soften the appearance of a structure, fence or corner.
- Creates a backdrop for plants to pop.
- Creates an atmosphere with plants that have beauty, movement and purpose after the growing season has ended.

Low maintenance, however, does not mean “no maintenance.” In our changing climate conditions, it is necessary to keep an eye on grasses’ watering



needs, especially while the plant is getting established. Mulch will also help maintain moisture levels and feed the plant as it breaks down.

Once ornamental grasses are established, little attention is needed. It is important to cut the grasses back once a year and divide them every four or five years.

The majority of gardeners leave grasses up for winter interest and to provide habitat and food for the birds.

The time to cut grasses back is late winter or early in the spring before new shoots appear. You will know when it’s time to divide the grasses when a ring of living grass surrounds a dead center. Dividing grasses when they are short from a post-

winter cut is easier and the best time to divide grasses that flower in late summer and fall. Use a sharp spade or a root saw tool to separate the live plant and create smaller sections that are slightly larger than a softball to replant. Plant and water well.

When Wildflowers become Weeds

BY MARY LOU MAYFIELD

The official definition of a "weed" is a plant that's growing where it's not wanted, in competition with cultivated plants. Native plants that are growing where they are not welcome, are often described as "aggressive," since they are not like invasive plants, which come from other countries. An exception is the California Poppy, which is native to the "lower 48 states," but classified as "invasive" in Alaska, Canada, and Hawaii.

When I brought some Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*, a native sunflower) home from the Plum Grove wildflower garden, I was warned that it was a plant that spread aggressively, through the root system and the seeds. Even though it's a native plant, I've had to stay on my toes, to keep it from taking over the flower bed.

A surprise was the Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*), which I planted on the northeast side of the house, and it didn't thrive because it wasn't getting enough sun. So I planted it by my back door, on the southeast side of the house, and it thrived in the full sunlight. So I had the bright idea of mixing it with my perennial border, on the southwest side of the house. Not so bright! It was out-competing the native plants I had growing there, including Blue and Cardinal flower Lobelias (*Lobelia siphilitica* and *L. cardinalis*). So as soon as it finished blooming, they all came out and I'll have to stay ahead of the ones that come up in that location, next year. I still have the patch by my back door, for the hummingbirds and butterflies.

Don't be confused by common, or even scientific names. According to USDA Plants Database, "Canada" thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is not

native to the Americas! It took over our neighbor's yard, and even though he has weeded it all out, we still get seedlings. The Native "Field" thistle is very similar, but is taller and has larger blooms.

<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/20-017.pdf>

The Common Milkweed, whose scientific name suggests that it originated in Asia (*Asclepias syriatica*), is native to the Americas and is no longer considered a "noxious" weed due to its value to Monarch butterflies. On the other hand, it's critical that hay farmers keep it out of their fields because large quantities are toxic to livestock. I haven't had any trouble with it or the "Butterfly Milkweed" (*Asclepias tuberosa*) spreading outside their designated flowerbeds.

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/15-057_01_XercesSoc_Pollinators%2BRoadsides_Are-Milkweeds-Really-Weeds_web.pdf

Canada goldenrod can also be very aggressive. One gardener simply controls her patch the way I do with the Jerusalem Artichoke and Bee Balm.



Beebalm and daylilies

Another way to discourage over enthusiastic native plants is to "solarize" the area with black plastic, which kills everything underneath without introducing plant toxins. On the other hand, Goldenrod can out-compete Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

Some other "aggressive" native plants make excellent groundcovers, outcompeting the invasives. It's called "competitive exclusion." I know of one yard in Iowa City that is awash with Virginia Bluebell flowers in the spring. Ostrich Fern can be

used to control invasives in shady areas. Other vigorous natives include Mountain Mint, Wild Bergamot, White Snakeroot, Jewelweed, and Virginia Creeper. We have some Virginia Creeper on a trellis near our house, and we have to cut it back to keep it from "invading" the space between the house and the siding!

Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*) can out-compete Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*). Native woodferns (*Dryopteris spp*), combined with weeding, can overcome Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Southwestern wild rye (*Elymus glabriflorus*) can crowd out Canada thistle. <https://www.humanegardener.com/how-to-fight-plants-with-plants/>

Sometimes cultivars are sold as native plants, such as Blackeyed Susans (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) "Goldsturm." This perennial provides a nice groundcover in my yard, spreading by both root and seed, but does not come true from seeds. If I don't deadhead the flowers, I can expect the patch to eventually be replaced to the native form.



<http://downtoearthgardenclub.org/2017/07/black-eyed-susan/>

Some woody natives can also be aggressive. Our Common Elderberry (*Sambucus nigr*) and Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) produce seedlings and send out runners that are attached to the original bush. The unlucky ones wind up in the lawn, where they are mowed down. The others will keep sprouting because cutting them down does not remove the connection with the parent plant.

<https://ipaw.org/aggressive-native-plants/>

Finally, there are the native plants that are not welcome anywhere. The Giant and Common Ragweed, are the cause of late summer allergies, not the Goldenrod, which blooms at the same time and is more noticeable because of the color.

1. https://www.ecobeneficial.com/ask_ecobeneficial/can-native-plants-be-invasive/
2. <https://thegardendiaries.blog/2021/05/16/invasive-or-aggressive-plant/>
3. <https://www.zip06.com/living/20190717/some-native-plants-get-aggressive-and-thatx2019s-why-we-love-them>

Orchids are a Scream

BY LINDA SCHREIBER



If exotic plants are your thing, you are in for a wonderful treat. After a year's absence due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the Eastern Iowa Orchid Show and Sale, "Orchids are a Scream," is back in conjunction with the Halloween holiday.

Johnson County Master Gardener alums Nile and Lois Dusdieker help coordinate this annual show that will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23–24, at the Elks Lodge Hall, 801 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The show hours are Saturday, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The show venue is family-friendly and offers visitors an "up close and personal" view of some of nature's most exotic flowers. Following the show's theme, some of the orchids are even a bit scary!

Hundreds of blooming orchids, exhibited by orchid society members around the Midwest, will be on display. Orchid-related crafts and collectibles, centered on the seasonal Halloween theme, will also be displayed and for sale. Four regional vendors will offer orchid plants for sale.



The show is free and open to the public. Visitors are urged to follow COVID-19 precautions. Volunteers will be available to answer questions. Visit The Eastern Iowa Orchid Society's website for information:

<http://www.easterniowaorchidsociety.org>



MG Birthdays



October 2021

2	Muriel Naumann
3	Jeff Baker
4	Kristin Ho
5	Janice Hining
6	Betty Kelly
6	Mary Starry
11	Ann Ruppenkamp
13	Ramona McGurk
18	Paul Deninger
25	Connie Funk
30	Marge Jensen

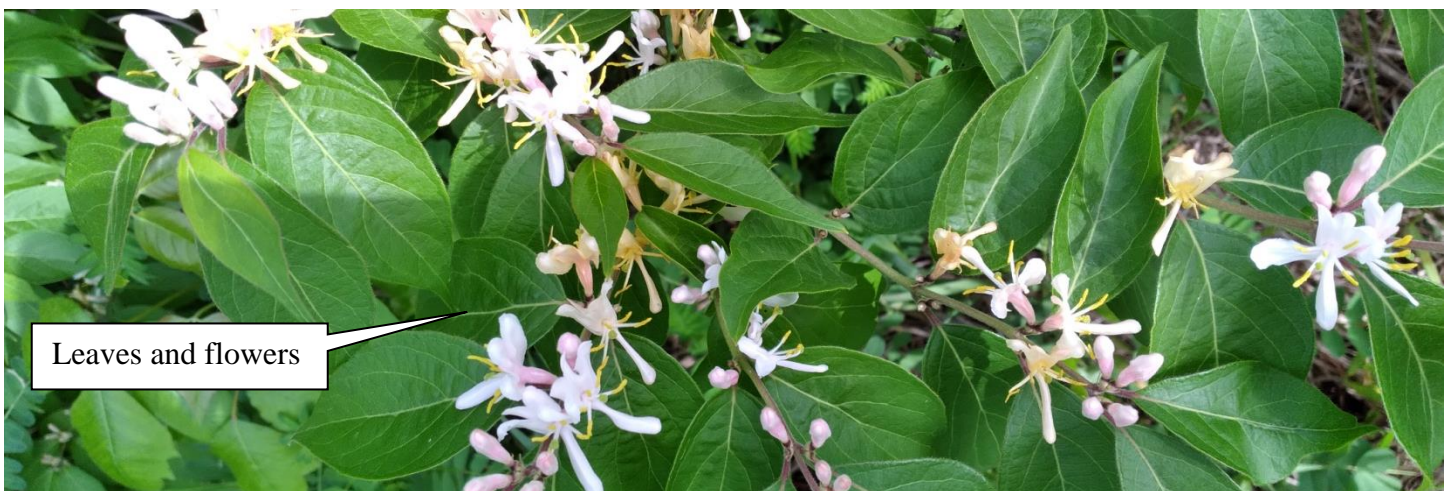
Eurasian Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp): Recognition and Management

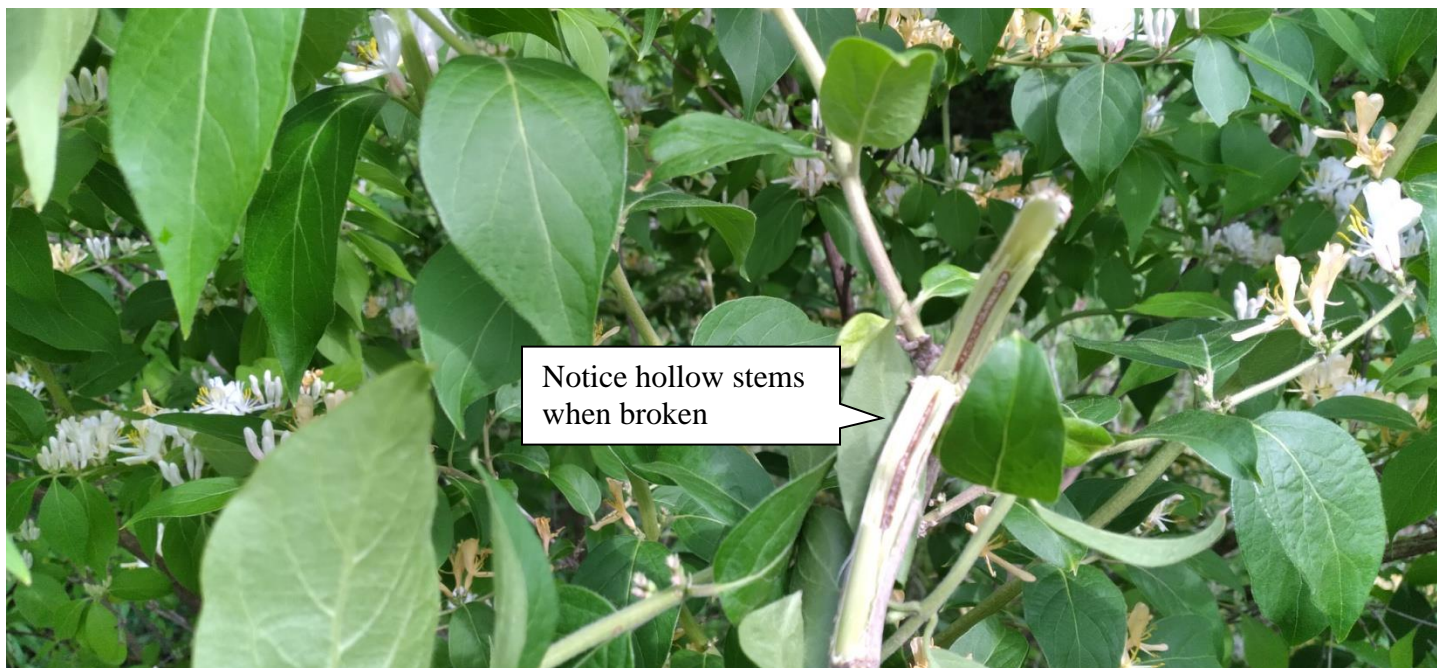
By Joel Wells

This Honeysuckle bush is prevalent in my neighborhood and all around Iowa City. I have been trying to eradicate this plant from my property for two years and have had good success.

Distinguishing Features: Bush Honeysuckle plants can grow from 6- to 15-feet tall and looks a lot like Lilac bushes. The 1- to 2 ½-inch egg-shaped leaves located opposite along the stem are difficult to discern from Lilac bushes. The only way I have been able to distinguish their differences is to break a branch and if it is hollow it is a honeysuckle. They have creamy-white to pink to crimson flowers (but not always present) that are less than an inch long located on the leaf axils. In the fall, they produce a red to orange berries. This berry is abundant in carbohydrates but does not offer high-fat, nutrient-rich food migrating birds need, that are supplied by native plant species.

Invasive Species: These bushes are considered an invasive species that produce chemicals that inhibit the germination and growth of other plants. They decrease available light and inhibit mycorrhizal fungi. Mycorrhizal fungi help root systems; improve efficiency of nutrients, and increase utilization and absorption of water. These plants grow rapidly and push out native plants.





Control of the plant: The best way to get rid of Bush Honeysuckle is to pull it up after a rain when the plant is small. When it gets older and established the only effective way to get rid of it is to cut it down as close to the ground as possible and spray the stump with a herbicide like Roundup or products containing the active ingredients glyphosate, or 2,4-D. If the stump is not sprayed, shoots will emerge and the plant will start growing again.




References:

1. <http://goodoak.com/info/weeds/honeysuckle.pdf>
2. <https://www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/forestry/exoticbushhoney.pdf>

HortLine Quiz from August 2021

BY MARY STARRY

During the month of August the HortLine calls seemed to focus on vegetable diseases, how to get rid of various invasive plants, and of course plant identification. Here are five quiz questions from topics the Johnson County Master Gardener's HortLine addressed during the month of August 2021. What would your response have been to these questions? Choose your answers and then compare them to the responses provided by the HortLine volunteers, provided below the quiz.

<p>1. What is wrong with this green pepper?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mosaic virus Southern blight Cyclamen mites Sunscald 	
<p>2. Can you identify this plant?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> <i>Sambucus nigra</i> <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> <i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i> 	
<p>3. Can you identify this plant?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Campanula <i>Collinsia verna</i> <i>Lobelia erinus</i> <i>Myosotis alpestris</i> 	
<p>4. Tree-of-heaven is considered invasive and should be removed. How does an established Tree-of-heaven spread?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Root suckers Rhizome system Bulbs Knees 	

5. When trying to eliminate Japanese knotweed, another invasive species in Iowa, what aspect of plant reproduction needs to be focused on and controlled?

- a. Roots that are sending up new suckers
- b. Seed production
- c. Production of buds
- d. Rhizomes creeping underground



Now, here are the answers, as researched by the HortLine volunteers. If you have a suggestion or different information regarding any of these, please let us know, so we can all learn from each other!

1. **Answer is C.** Mites feeding on the peppers cause them to russet. Russetting is brown and rough to the touch and the pepper starts to look like a potato! The cyclamen mites feed on the young developing peppers and inject auxins (growth regulators) into the young pepper which causes the damage. A resource from Iowa State is <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2011/9-14/cyclamenmite.html>
2. **Answer is A.** The Plant.id app is 94.9% certain that this is a photo of *Aegopodium podagraria*, which is also commonly called bishop's weed, snow-on-the-mountain, goutweed, and wild masterwort.
3. **Answer is C.** However the Plant.id app was only 27.3% certain that this was a photo of *Lobelia erinus*, also called garden lobelia or trailing lobelia. If you are certain it is something else, please let us know! The other possibilities (although lower % certainty on Plant.id) were *Collinsia verna* (blue-eyed Mary), *Campanula* (harebell) and *Myosotis sylvatica* (forget-me-not).
4. **Answer is A.** While female tree-of-heaven trees can produce thousands of seeds, both male and female established trees constantly send up root suckers, which can come up as far away as 50 feet from the parent tree. Elimination of this invasive species has to focus on the roots, either by pulling young plants totally out (including every speck of roots), coating the entire circumference of the bark of small trees with a herbicide that penetrates to the roots, or a hack-and-squirt application of herbicide to trees with trunks larger than 6 inches in diameter. An excellent resource on eliminating tree-of-heaven is <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>

5. **Answer is D.** Japanese knotweed spreads horizontally by producing many underground rhizomes, which can then send up shoots to sprout new plants. Similar to tree-of-heaven, just cutting down the plants will not eliminate them. A thorough description on how to eliminate Japanese knotwood can be found at <https://extension.psu.edu/japanese-knotweed>.

MG Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

October 2021

Backyard Abundance

<http://backyardabundance.org/events>

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, 6 to 8 P.M.

Encountering Wholeness with the Full Moon & Forest Therapy. Kent Park, 2048 U.S. 6, Oxford. Join Backyard Abundance and Good Medicine for an immersive experience with the land and the full moon. Nature & Forest Therapy provides us with an opportunity to slow down and be present with self and with the world around us. Together we will bathe in the medicine of the land (Shinrin-Yoku), a practice that first started in Japan. No swimsuits required!

Please dress for the weather and for being outdoors—heat, sun, light rain, etc. Feel free to bring a water bottle and something to sit on if you prefer not to sit directly on the Earth.

This walk will be guided by Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide Emelia Sautter. Cost: \$20.

Register at <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/encountering-wholeness-with-the-full-moon--forest-therapy-2138805576>.

Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, 2 to 4 P.M.

Grow Easy Pollinator Habitat. Wetherby Park, 2400 Taylor Drive, Iowa City. Support your buzzing friends by establishing a pollinator garden of native prairie plants that will emerge next spring. Top plants and seed mixes that thrive in Iowa's climate will be discussed.

You will learn how to:

- Prepare a patch of turfgrass for seeding.
- Prepare an existing garden bed for seeding.
- Properly spread native prairie seed.

Free seed packets of native prairie plants will be provided to all attendees. Only organic methods will be demonstrated; no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers will be discussed. Participants of any experience level are invited. Yummy snacks are generously provided by New Pioneer Co-op. Fee: \$5 per family (up to 4). Register at <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/grow-easy-pollinator-habitat-2138810450>

Bur Oak Land Trust

<https://www.facebook.com/BurOakLandTrust/events>

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, TBD

A Force for Nature Virtual Campaign Kickoff. In mid-October, we will launch A Force for Nature, our virtual fall campaign and we're hoping you'll join us! Local natural spaces are critical. Everyone — adults and children — can learn, grow and connect with our world in deeper ways when the outdoors is accessible. Hear from our lineup of featured speakers as they share the reasons they support Bur Oak Land Trust and how you can, too. More details to be announced.

Eastern Iowa Bird Watchers/IC Birds

<http://www.iowacitybirdclub.org/events>

Wednesdays, Oct. 6 and 20, 8 to 10 A.M.

Kent Park Bird Walk. Kent Park CEC, 2048 U.S. 6, Oxford. Kent Park Bird Walk with leader Rick Hollis. Meet at the Conservation Education Center parking lot. Walk with Rick along his patch of mulched and mowed trails. We'll spend about two hours observing breeding and migrant birds throughout the seasons. Group size is limited to 10 people who are COVID-vaccinated. Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549a8ac2ea1fd0-8am> or contact Rick through Facebook here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/830060220397361/>.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, 7 A.M. to 12 P.M.

The Big Sit! Drop In. Sugar Bottom Recreational Area, 2192 Mehaffey Bridge Rd NE, Solon. Drop in anytime between 7 A.M. – 12 P.M. to count birds and enjoy the camaraderie, free coffee, and donuts. The objective of this worldwide, semi-competitive birding event is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard from within a 17-foot circle. Join team hosts Terri Macey and Linda Quinn near the parking lot at the Day Use Area, near the beach and restrooms. Bring a chair and binoculars.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.

Cedar River Crossing. 5473 Sutliff Rd NE, Solon. Target species include migrating sparrows, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Mark and Deb Rolfes will lead a birding tour of one of Johnson County Conservation's newest properties. There will be extensive walking on mowed grass paths which may be wet or muddy. For safety, wear orange as this area does have public hunting in season. At 11:30 A.M. Johnson County Naturalist Frances Owen will give a talk covering the area's history, habitat restoration, and interesting features. Bring a chair for the talk and a spotting scope if you have one. For a map and information visit <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation/public-use-areas>.

Johnson County Conservation

<http://www.johnson-county.com/conservation>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/johnsoncountyconservation/events/>

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, 7 A.M. start

Iowa River Clean Up 2021. Sturgis Ferry Park, 1700 S Riverside Dr., Iowa City. Play a role in cleaning up our river and creating a healthier environment! This river clean up takes place along a 9.5 mile stretch of the Iowa River, starting at Sturgis Ferry Park in Iowa City and ending at Hills Campground and Access. Volunteers are needed on the water and on the land.

Volunteers on the water will paddle canoes, hauling out river junk along the way, with junk covering a wild array of items, from old washing machines and car parts to plastic shopping bags and single-use bottles. Volunteers on land meet the canoes at stopping points and haul junk from the boats to

trash collection, and tire or scrap metal recycling. Sign up for this FREE volunteer event at <http://www.iarvcp.org/>.

Trees Forever

<http://www.treesforever.org/Events>

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Southern Iowa Agroforestry Field Tour. Starting Location: 12380 Bison Trail, Unionville IA 52594. Join Trees Forever, the Iowa Nut Growers Association, Iowa Woodland Owners Association, Indian Hills Community College, IA DNR Forestry, and partners for an exciting Fall Field Tour of several agroforestry sites in Southern Iowa.

Learn about forest management, invasive species, nut production and tour the IA Nut Growers Association research plot at Indian Hills Community College where varieties of chestnut, pecan, hickory, hazelnut, black walnut and more are growing.

Plans include a visit to a large chestnut operation in production that also sells seedlings. Don't miss out on your chance to learn more about agroforestry opportunities from those engaged in the business growing trees and shrubs.

Jeff Jensen will present on the Iowa Hazelnut Project, and how folks can get involved growing some cutting edge plant varieties being tested for commercial production. Learn more and register at <https://treesforever.org/event/southern-iowa-agroforestry-field-tour/>.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021, 5:30 to 7 P.M.

Tree Care Workshop for Homeowners. Thomas Park, 343 Marion Blvd, Marion. Learn to plant and properly care for trees. Each workshop will include an introduction to urban trees, community walkabouts with Q&A opportunities, and a tree planting demonstration. Details at <https://treesforever.org/event/tree-care-workshop-in-marion/>.

The University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums

<https://pentacrestmuseums.uiowa.edu/>

Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, 2 P.M.

Tree Talk & Tour at the Sciences Library. UI Sciences Library, 120 Iowa Ave, Iowa City. Join Arborist Andy Dahl for a tree talk and tour at the Sciences Library! This program will be held on Friday, October 1, 2021. The tree talk will begin at 2 P.M. on the 3rd floor of the Sciences Library. There will be a short break at 2:45 P.M. for light refreshments. The walking tour of campus trees will begin at 3 P.M. at the Sciences Library. This program is free and open to the public. The Sciences Library is located at 120 Iowa Ave. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/events/447068903161347>.

Additional Resources/Event Opportunities

100 Grannies

<http://www.100grannies.org>

Iowa State Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/calendar/>

Johnson County-ISU Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/>

Linn County-ISU Extension

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/>

New Pioneer Coop

<https://www.newpi.coop/community>

Project GREEN

<http://www.projectgreen.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/www.projectgreen.org>



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Mail can be sent to:

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