

The Latest Dirt

La Porte County Master Gardener Newsletter



JULY 2020

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2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays at the Purdue Extension Office unless otherwise noted

July 2	ZOOM Business Meeting
August 6	Workshop Location TBA 6:00 p.m.
September 3	Business Meeting
October 1	Workshop
November 5	Business Meeting Election of Officers
December 3	Holiday Dinner

"THE LATEST DIRT" is published monthly.

The next deadline is:

July 20, 2020



www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfLaPorteCountyIndiana
www.lpmastergardener.com



The Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL)

By: Walt Sell

As stated on their website,

"The Purdue University Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory works to diagnose plant diseases and identify insects, plants and weeds and other plant and pest problems. This service is provided for the specialists and county extension educators of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and Purdue University's research faculty, staff, and students as well as for private businesses and citizens of Indiana." The lab website is found at the following link:

<https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/ppdl/Pages/default.aspx>

Features of the website include:

- Guidance for submitting digital or physical samples
- Submission forms for contact and background information
- What's Hot at the PPDL
- Pictures of the Week
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact Information
- List of Diagnostic Liaisons for each department

Perhaps there is information you may find on the website in regard to issues you may be facing.

Check the website often to see what is happening around the state in regard to plant and pest problems.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Association Meetings And Workshops

By: Wendy Shafer

It has certainly been a challenging time. The Association Board members are working hard to keep the Association engaged and active during this time of Covid-19. It has proven to be somewhat difficult. We are still holding board meetings using Zoom. Some members have access to computers with cameras and sound and some do not. Then there is always the dropped internet or the challenge of just getting connected.

Hopefully, many of you were able to join us for June's Association Meeting with Janet Macunovich. We had lots of good feedback and I know I certainly learned a lot, especially on what I haven't been doing correctly. Her website is <https://www.gardenatoz.com/> in case you'd like to learn more or revisit the talk she gave.

Our July meeting will be held via Zoom. I am hoping to receive your beautiful garden pictures with descriptions by Monday the 29th so that I can put together a slide show for our meeting. For our August Meeting/Workshop we are considering offering it both in person and virtually so that those who are able can get together, and others who aren't, can join us on-line. We will have Nathanael J. Pilla, a Botanist with Orbis Environmental Consulting, speaking on Parasitic and carnivorous plants of the Indiana Dunes. We have not confirmed the meeting location, but please know that it will require members to wear masks and to social distance. Any refreshments must be individually packaged. More details will be sent out when we get a little closer to the date.

The hotline is up and running, but volunteers work from home. Tina receives the call or the email and then passes it on to whoever is scheduled. We haven't received a lot of requests, but there have been some, and it's still a good way to get volunteer hours and to keep active within the organization. Our presence at the La Porte Farmers' Market will likely start again during the second half of July. We are still maintaining the Pioneer Garden, even though there will not be a fair

Standing Committee Coordinators

Communication _____ Chair: Wendy Shafer
 _____ Co-chair: Vacant
 Development/Planning _____ Chair: Wendy Shafer
 _____ Co-chair: Paula Nevers
 Education: _____ Chair: Paula Nevers
 _____ Co-chair: Vacant
 Event _____ Chair: Vacant
 _____ Co-chair: Vacant
 Hospitality _____ Chair: Eunice Conway
 _____ Co-chair: Linda Hough
 Project: _____ Chair: Karen Sarver
 _____ Co-chair: George Sarver

2020 PROJECT COORDINATORS

Brown Bag Gardening Series

Karren Coplen _____ 219-390-4118
 _____ karrenc@comcast.net

Farmers' Market – La Porte

Chris Svoboda _____ 614-377-6409
 _____ svoboda.christina@att.net

Habitat for Humanity

Randa Magill _____ 219-851-8618
 _____ rmagill4013@msn.com

Friendship Botanic Gardens

Lisa Gerardi _____ 219-262-5146
 _____ kaliherbs2011@gmail.com

Pioneer Heritage Days

Lisa Gerardi _____ 219-262-5146
 _____ kaliherbs2011@gmail.com

Pioneer Heritage Garden

Connie Shei _____ 219-362-4866
 _____ jshei@comcast.net

Sunflower Fair

Megan Countryman _____ 574-532-8480
 _____ mcountry46552@gmail.com

Garden Show

Ann Klosinski _____ 219-872-8367
 _____ annak47@comcast.net

Eunice Conway _____ 219-778-2400
 _____ tconway5971@comcast.net

Wabash Street Rain Gardens

Laura Henderson _____ 219-871-9896
 _____ lhendeliz@yahoo.com

NEXT BOARD MEETING
 July 21, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.
 Zoom meeting

this year and we don't know yet if there will be school tours. We do plan on the seed collection from the garden. If you are involved in any projects, please keep Karen Sarver, the Chair of the Projects Committee, informed on what you are doing and how things are progressing.

I hope to see all of you soon and I hope you are enjoying a garden wherever you are!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To sign-up for the July Hotline please give Tina DeWitt a call or email to let her know what day you would like to help.



July 2020 HOTLINE		
Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	1 Nancy Jahnel-Barnes Jan Manik	3 Nancy Jahnel-Barnes Jan Manik
6 NEED TWO	8 NEED TWO	10 Steve Zolvinski NEED ONE
13 NEED TWO	15 Steve Zolvinski NEED ONE	17 NEED TWO
20 Steve Zolvinski NEED ONE	22 NEED TWO	24 NEED TWO
27 NEED TWO	29 NEED TWO	31 Steve Zolvinski NEED ONE

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Botanical Gardens and Master Gardener Seminar Information			
Fernwood Botanical Gardens	www.fernwoodbotanical.org LPCMGA is a member of Fernwood Botanical Gardens. Membership card can be signed out at the Extension Office.		
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue NW	https://www.pnw.edu/gabis-arboretum		
Friendship Botanic Gardens	www.friendshipgardens.org		
Advanced Master Gardener Training			
Master Gardener Seminars			
Click on this link for more information on these events. https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/events/			
Date	Event/Time/Fee	Description	Location / Contact

For volunteer activity and continued training ideas for Purdue EMG's while at home, visit the web pages below:
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/volunteerideas-at-home/>
<https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/master-gardener/continuedhours/>

GARDENING ARTICLES

“Murder” Hornets: Should you panic? Probably not. Here’s why

Elizabeth Barnes, Exotic Forest Pest Educator, Purdue University
 Brock Harpur, Entomology Assistant Professor, Purdue University
 Cliff Sadof, Extension Entomologist, Purdue University



Headlines all over the country have been sounding the alarm about “murder” hornets. Should you be worried? Yes and no. The presence of these hornets in the United States is bad news for bees and beekeepers alike, but there’s no need to panic yet.

Where did they come from and where are they right now?

The Asian giant hornet originally came from tropical and temperate Asia. We are currently only aware of introductions in British Columbia and Washington State. It’s very unlikely that you’ve encountered one if you live in other parts of North America.

Are they in Indiana yet?

No, they have not been seen in Indiana nor have they been seen in any states near us. It is highly unlikely that there are any Asian giant hornets in Indiana.

What’s with the name?

The name murder hornet is a misnomer. They’re not malicious. They’re just hungry, efficient hunters. If you’re interested in learning more about this hornet, try looking under one of its other names: Asian giant hornet, giant Asian wasp, giant Japanese hornet, giant sparrow wasp, or, if you know a bit of Japanese, オオスズメバチ.

Are they going to hurt me or my family?

To date, only a single colony has been discovered in Washington state. It remains unclear how successful members of that colony were at overwintering and if they established new colonies this spring. Therefore, you’re very unlikely to encounter an Asian giant hornet. However, should you find a colony, don’t approach them, as their stings can be serious and can even lead to death. Beekeepers are the most likely to encounter Asian giant hornets and should keep aware of the states in which this hornet has been found. In general, you should use the same caution that you do with any stinging insect. They are not generally aggressive but will defend their nests or the beehive they are attacking. They generally nest in wooded areas in abandoned borrows in the ground.

How do they impact bees?

Unlike Asian honeybees (*Apis cerana*), the European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) we keep in the United States don’t have any defenses against these hornets*. Asian giant hornets mark beehives with a scent that attracts other hornets. They quickly kill the bees in the hive, often by decapitating them. Once they are finished with this process, some of the hornets guard the beehive while the other hornets collect and kill the larval bees. The hornets then bring the bee larvae back to their nest to feed to the larval hornets. This process generally occurs in late summer and early fall. These hornets also eat many other types of insects like praying mantises and large caterpillars.

Poison Ivy

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-218-W.pdf>

Even a brief touch of poison ivy can result in painful blotches. Learn to identify poison ivy and avoid contact. Control measures can be implemented to destroy patches of poison ivy within the landscape. Never burn any portion of the plant as the smoke is hazardous. Refer to the link to access the Purdue Extension publication “Poison Ivy HO-218-W” for more specifics.

Unwanted Travelers

People have been airline passengers for close to 100 years but insects have flown on weather systems for thousands. Tropical Storm Cristobal has likely brought a wide range of unwanted pest species to the Midwest. These include potato leafhopper, armyworms and cutworms. Be on the alert

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/Default.aspx>

Plants have differing abilities to handle growing conditions including temperature ranges. Growers can refer to the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map to assist in determining how likely a plant is able to survive and thrive in a general location. The map is divided into zones based on average annual winter temperatures. Refer to the recommended zones when selecting plants for the landscape or the garden.

There is more to mowing than cutting grass.

Proper mowing contributes to the long term health of your yard.

Blade sharpness, mowing height and mowing frequency are all play a role in good lawn management.

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-8-W.pdf>

July Garden Calendar

By: B. Rosie Lerner,

Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Closely watch houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place the cut end in rooting media (such as perlite, vermiculite, or peat moss soil mix). Enclose in plastic and keep out of direct sunlight.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those fortunate fruit tree growers who have a good crop this year, prop up tree branches that are heavily loaded with fruit.

- Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- Many Indiana trees are plagued by “lawnmower blight.” Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.
- When watering lawns, apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water in a single application per week. Frequent, light sprinklings will encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought.
- Bluegrass is a cool-season plant and is under great stress during hot, dry summers. If water is not applied, the bluegrass will become dormant and will turn brown, until more favorable conditions arrive in autumn. For extreme dry conditions, rescue watering is required to keep the plants alive, while still dormant. Apply one-half inch of water every 2-4 weeks.
- Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Do not mow when the lawn is under severe drought stress.
- No need to remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Supplement natural rainfall, if any, to supply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week in a single application.
- Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest.
- Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans, and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- Complete succession planting of bush beans and sweet corn.
- Harvest summer squash while small and tender for best quality.
- Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. Supersweet corn varieties maintain their peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- Mulch garden to control weeds and conserve soil moisture.
- Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders, and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent them from developing a green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- Allow blossoms on newly planted everbearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with 0.5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.

2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	WENDY SHAFER
VICE PRESIDENT	PAULA NEVERS
SECRETARY	JOE SZYNAL
TREASURER	SUSAN KIEFFER
ED. COMMITTEE/	PAULA NEVERS
SPEAKERS BUREAU	MIKE ALTMAN
	MAUREEN SHERRICK
	LISA GERARDI
	GEORGE SARVER
PAST PRESIDENT	ANN KLOSINSKI

Purdue Extension Office __ 324-9407

Walt Sell _____ wsell@purdue.edu
Tina DeWitt _____ dewitt8@purdue.edu

The Latest Dirt is published monthly. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month. Our mission is to publish articles and events of interest to other Master Gardeners and the community. Articles about personal experiences, suggestions on gardening books, catalogs, helpful websites, tips and tricks, book reviews, seminars you’ve attended are welcomed.

Submission requirements: Articles should be no longer than a page and can include photos. References must be included. Latin names of plants should be italicized. We do not accept articles pertaining to medicinal information. Master Gardeners will get volunteer hours for time spent working on an article.

Have a garden item for sale or trade?

Buy, Sell, Trade at the
Trading Shed

Place your free ad in *The Latest Dirt*.

Tools, tillers, mowers, plants, or anything garden related. Keep ads brief and provide your phone number and/or e-mail address. Ads will be limited to space available.

Send ads, photos, events or articles by the 20th of the month to either:

DONNAPOUZAR@COMCAST.NET

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OPPORTUNITY/EQUAL ACCESS/AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION INSTITUTION

- Harvest raspberries when fully colored and easily separated from stem. After harvest is complete, prune out the fruiting canes to make room for new growth.
- Remove faded blossoms from annual and perennial flowers to prevent seeds from forming.
- Condition flowers cut from the garden for arranging by removing the lower leaves, placing cut stem ends in warm water, and storing them overnight in a cool location.
- The foliage of spring-flowering bulbs can be removed safely after it fades. This also is a good time to lift the bulbs for transplanting or propagation.

JULY VIRTUAL ZOOM BUSINESS MEETING

Below you will find the zoom meeting link for our July meeting
Thursday, July 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://purdueextension.zoom.us/j/95272519712>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +13126266799,,95272519712# or +16468769923,,95272519712# Or
Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248
7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 952 7251 9712