



Growing Athens County

June | 2015



Growing Right Along

Soybeans coming up in a no-till field

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise

Moving back to old home place has been full of surprises; it is cold when the temperature gets below zero, chickens are a lot tougher in the cold than I thought, pigs can generate a lot of heat by building their own compost pile and now, in the spring, I found out that grandma was a very active gardener. Every day I am finding something new popping up. First, it was the hundreds of daffodils, then came the irises, huge hostas and now the daylilies and peonies are showing their stuff with more on the way. I imagine that I will have to go through all of the seasons before I find out all of my surprises. We have added to the mix by planting a couple of apple trees and two varieties of thornless blackberries. One is a new release that I am excited about. It produces berries on this year's growth and then again next year. So, even if the cold gets the canes, you still get berries from the new growth. I will keep you updated on its progress and maybe share a few berries

Ed Brown

Farm Tours	Page 2
New Blog	Page 2
Master Gardeners	Page 2
Plant of the Month	Page 3
Hops	Page 4
Agronomy Field Day...	Page 5
The Last Word.....	Page 6

2015 Statewide Sustainable Farm Tour Series

This annual series of public tours features 30 organic and ecological farms and businesses in Ohio and Michigan, providing unique opportunities for farmers, educators, and conscientious eaters to learn about sustainable agriculture and local foods on the farm from growers and producers with years of practical experience. Additionally, the series includes a one-day Women Grow Ohio event celebrating women in agriculture, and a tour of a university research center showcasing the results of new sustainable agriculture research. This year's series also includes 10 educational workshops on farm machinery, solar energy, dairy herd health, hops production, smallplot market farming, urban agriculture, poultry processing, and living garden structures, along with a farm to table benefit dinner. **All tours and workshops are free and open to the public and do not require pre-registration unless otherwise noted.** Events will take place rain or shine. Guests should dress and plan appropriately. Hats, sunglasses, long pants, closed toe walking shoes, drinking water, and sunscreen are recommended. Tours involve standing and moderate walking; visitors with physical limitations or other concerns should contact the tour host in advance. For everyone's safety, guests should keep children with them at all times. Please do not bring pets to the tours.

To view the brochure with a detailed list of the tours available, please [click here](#) or come by the office to pick up a copy.

Master Gardener Update

The Master Gardener Training committee has just met to review this year's training classes and review the comments from the students. As part of this process we are already starting to think about next year. The planning committee will stay in place and welcomes anyone who would like to get involved. We are also looking at potential students. A list has been started of those who indicated that they were interested. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please let us know. We will be sending out a survey to gather information such as: what is the best day of the week? What are the best times? and what months of the year are best? We will be looking at everything in order to insure that we have the best program possible. Please let us know if you have any other suggestions.

New Blog

The Extension Educators for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Southeast Ohio have come together in order to pool some of their combined knowledge. They have started the Buckeye Hills Agriculture and Natural Resources blog. Each education will be posting insights and helpful hints on some of the common problems that they are seeing around the area. Most of these are quick stories that will make for any easy read with just the information that you need so that you can stop, read it and then get out there growing. There is also a comment box with each post so that you can add in your two cents worth and maybe help some of the other folks in the area. You will also be able to sort through the posts by the subjects that interest you. The site is u.osu.edu/bhanr . If you subscribe, you will get a notice anytime that there is a new article available.



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Follow the exciting
world of agriculture in
Southeast Ohio*

29th Gardening Road Show to Mill Creek Metro Parks and Draime Estate Gardens

The OSU Master Gardeners of Washington County are doing their 29th Gardening Road Show on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 to Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown and Draime Estate Gardens in Warren Ohio.

At Mill Creek MetroParks take a leisurely walk through Riverside Gardens featuring a landscape of remarkable beauty with diverse and colorful plant displays, roses of all classes, seasonal displays of annuals, perennials, flowering bulbs, and scenic vistas. Fellows Riverside Gardens is one of Ohio's finest public gardens and attracts over 400,000 visitors a year.

The Draime Estate Gardens of Kent State University, a botanical display of incredible beauty, grew out of the Draime family's passion for plants and art. The Draimes believe gardens and sculptures beautify one's surroundings and enlighten one's soul. In 2003, Max and Cil Draime partnered with their alma mater by pledging to donate their property to Kent State University to provide educational opportunities for horticulture students.

The \$85 registration fee includes bus transportation, all tours, snacks, lunch and educational handouts. Go to our website <http://washington.osu.edu> and click on "Events" for registration flyer with more information about the trip, or you can call office at 740-376-7431.

Plant of the Month - Peony

Each month I plan on highlighting a plant that has proven itself over time and grows well in our area. Some are still popular and some may have lost favor over time.

This month's plant is the peony (*paeonia* sp.). Peonies are still in bloom at my house and seem to be much later blooming this year. Peonies are a perennial favorite in the flower garden because of their beautiful large blossoms and shiny green leaves. These flowers are often fragrant and provide a stunning display in the garden or make excellent cut flowers. There are two types of peonies that are generally grown in the home landscape, garden peony (*Paeonia* hybrids) and tree peony (*Paeonia suffruticosa*).

Garden peonies are grouped into five types according to flower form: single, semi-double, double, Japanese, and anemone. They range from 2 - 3' in height and 3 - 4' in width. Peonies should be planted in full sun and prefer well-drained soils. Support of the flower stalks is often necessary, especially for the large double flower varieties. Early fall is the best time to plant, transplant and divide peonies but can be done successfully in the spring if completed early.

The most common problems for peonies are Botrytis blight and Cladisporium leaf spot, both fungal diseases. Prompt removal of infected or dead foliage and a thorough fall cleanup are necessary for managing these diseases (thanks to Julie Crook for this article).



Peony Garden in Michigan



Hops

Ohio's alcohol industry is booming! The Ohio Department of Liquor Control handed out more alcohol-manufacturing permits in the first six months of 2011 than it did all of 2010, a trend continuing in 2012. Currently Ohio beer manufacturers send an estimated \$4 million in hops purchases and related jobs out of Ohio by purchasing the flowers of the hop plant, called hop cones or "hops" from out of state.

Based on the increased interest in buying locally grown and produced items, this is an excellent opportunity for The Ohio State University to expand specialty crops research to include hop production.

Hops are a main ingredient in beer manufacturing, providing a bitterness that balances the sweetness of the malt sugars and a refreshing finish.

OSU is committed to developing a well-respected hop research program focused on both production and marketing. This will allow us to develop sustainable production practices directly related to Ohio growing conditions.

Data collected from applied research trials will allow us to educate growers about production, pest management practices, and phenology data. Hop growers will also learn how to develop good marketing and production plans for their hops production.

Hops varieties include: Cascade, Nugget, Williamette, Columbus, Sterling, Galena, Mounthood, Hallertauer Tradition, and Splatter Select.

Hops tours are held the First Friday of each month 10 AM-12 PM

The South Centers has a listserv for Hops information and events. Contact mcglothin.4@osu.edu to be put on the mailing list

VegNet

For those growing fruits and vegetables, (including hops) commercially, Ohio State Extension has ongoing research trials and demonstrations throughout the state. From time to time they will have field days or field nights to showcase their research and to answer questions from producers. Additionally they produce a bi-weekly newsletter called VegNet. It has progress reports and growing conditions for various crops. They also post warnings if they are seeing any particular pest emerging as an issue for growers. If you would like to subscribe to their newsletter, go to vegnet.osu.edu/newsletter. The VegNet site also has other information that you might find useful.

2015 AGRONOMY FIELD DAY



July 15 • 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. • Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.

Western Agricultural Research Station
7721 South Charleston Pike
South Charleston, OH 45368
(SR 41 between Springfield and South Charleston)

Program

- Reducing Questionable Inputs for Increased Profits
- Plant Response with Precision Planters – Seeding Depth and Hydraulic Down Pressure
- Micronutrient Foliar Applications on Soybeans
- P and K Fertilization Trials in Ohio Over Nine Years
- Cover Crop Inter-seeding into Emerged Corn
- Issues with Seed Corn Maggot and Corn Rootworm
- Exploring Hybrid and Management Interactions for Higher Yields

Sponsor

The Ohio Soybean Council



Credits

CCA CEU credits will be available

Speakers

- Laura Lindsey, Horticulture and Crop Science
- Ron Hammond, Entomology
- Steve Culman, School of Environment and Natural Resources
- Anne Dorrance, Plant Pathology
- Peter Thomison, Horticulture and Crop Science
- John Fulton, Food, Ag. and Biological Engineering
- Alex Lindsey, Horticulture and Crop Science
- Andy Michel, Entomology

For more information

Joe Davlin, 937-462-8016, davlin.1@osu.edu

Harold Watters, 937-599-4227, watters.35@osu.edu

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by July 11. \$20 person, includes lunch, payable at the door. To reserve your spot and lunch, please email Joe Davlin, davlin.1@osu.edu, or Harold Watters, watters.35@osu.edu. You may also call 937-462-8016, leave a message, or contact the Logan County Extension office, 937-599-4227.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number attending/amount enclosed: _____



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

280 W. Union Street

Athens, OH 45701

(740) 593-8555 Phone

(740) 592-1113 Fax

brown.6000@osu.edu

athens.osu.edu

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The Last Word

This month I thought that I would end with the beginning. Spring seems to come with a flourish of planning and planting. Then come the care and watering. Finally, the fruits of your labors are realized with a bountiful harvest. Of course it usually doesn't come that easy. There are usually pests and pestilence lurking around every plant. Most folks are over their spring excitement to garden once they hit the middle of summer.

For a few hardy souls, have you ever considered a fall garden? The pests and diseases are winding down from the summer heat and cause fewer problems. By the time that the plants are producing their crops, the temperatures have cooled off a little and it is once again enjoyable to get out into the garden. If you are adventurous enough to try this, then start planting the seeds for your cool weather crops starting here towards the end of June and into July. Let me know if you need help or recommendations. That's why I am here.



Fall vegetable garden from Purdue University