

# PURDUE

U N I V E R S I T Y

PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

*Elkhart County*

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

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# Broadcaster

*“Helping Each Other Grow!”*

*Michiana Master Gardeners' Association*

October 2010

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### *From the President's Desk*

Fall is here, the plants have been removed from the Quilt Garden at the 4-H Fairgrounds, mulch is put down and the water to the sprinklers is shut off for the winter.

My goodness, just last month we had 90 degree days and then on the night of October 4th, there was a heavy frost.

However, the dry weather and mild daytime temperatures have resulted in some beautiful days for getting all those outside chores done in preparation for the winter that is sure to come.

Here at the Martin house we have taken advantage of the current weather. The sweet potatoes are dug and stored for winter use. In addition to enjoying some “last of the year outdoor lunches” on our screened patio, we have been busy removing spent vegetable plants, rototilling, and cleaning the flower gardens, etc. It has been rather nice to work outdoors the past few weeks because there haven’t been any mosquitoes.

I hope everyone is ready for Halloween and have the treats that you will need for the kids. We always have over 100 trick and treaters find their way to our door. It is still a big activity in our small town.

I need to advise you that we ran into a conflict with our November Thanks-for-Giving meeting schedule. The Extension Office had to schedule their annual meeting on the same night we had previously scheduled ours, and as several MMGA members are expected or required to attend the Extension Board’s Annual Meeting, we felt that the best plan would be to change our meeting to November 30, 2010. That is the last Tuesday of the month and is our normal monthly meeting date. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but we hope you can still come and join us on this important night

*Jerry Martin*





*Day Minder . . . Watch Us Grow!*



|    |       |   |          |
|----|-------|---|----------|
| 11 | Mon.  | Garden Tour Committee Meeting—<br>Extension Office Conf Room-Goshen                         | 7:00 PM  |
| 18 | Mon.  | Board Meeting—Extension Office<br>Conference Room (Optional Lunch at<br>noon)               | 12:30 PM |
| 26 | Tues. | Member Meeting—Ag Hall<br>“Hardscapes” by Mike Jansen<br>Food: Jean Rhombke/Lucille Johnson | 7:00 PM  |



|    |       |  |                |
|----|-------|--|----------------|
| 8  | Mon.  | Garden Tour Committee Meeting—<br>Extension Office Conf Room-Goshen                                | 7:00 PM        |
| 15 | Mon.  | Board Meeting—Extension Office<br>Conference Room (Optional Lunch at<br>noon)                      | 12:30 PM       |
| 30 | Tues. | <b>Member Meeting- “Thanks-for-<br/>Giving Carry-In” and Board<br/>Member Elections (NEW DATE)</b> | <b>6:30 PM</b> |

## *Upcoming Meeting Dates*

- April 1 through October 1, 2010 **CLOSED FOR THE SEASON**  
**Michiana Master Gardener Hotline** advice available from 9 am to 1 pm daily. Call 574-533-0554. Extension Office—Goshen.

No Garden Tour Meeting in December

**December 6th** - Board Meeting (Officer elections and Liaison Assignments)

No Member Meeting in December

**January 10th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**January 17th** - Board Meeting

**January 25th** - Member Meeting

**February 7th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**February 21st** - Board Meeting

**February 22nd** - Member Meeting

**March 12th** -SPRING CELEBRATION/ANNUAL DINER

**March 14th** - Garden Tour Comm. Meeting Location TBA

**March 21st** - Board Meeting

**April 11th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**April 18th** - Board Meeting

**April 26th** - Member Meeting

**May 9th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**May 16th** - Board Meeting

**May 24th** - Member Meeting

**June 13th** - Garden Tour Committee Meeting

**June 13th** - Board Meeting

**June 21th** - Member Meeting



## **Indoor Plant Activities for October**

*By Ericka Soumare*

Fall is here and the weather changes have come in the blink of an eye. We are at the point where many flowers and plants outdoors are still showcasing their variety of colors and contrasts - even if this will not last much longer. Indoor plants should also be considered and need special care as the cold season approaches.

For poinsettia plants, they should be kept in complete darkness for 15 hours every day. A closet, basement, or room would work fine as long as the light can be blocked out for this amount of time. Planning when to put the plant away for this dark treatment can be arranged to fit around your schedule. For example, if you would like the poinsettia to be out during the day, you could put it away in darkness from 5p.m. to 8a.m. and then bring it back out after that. This should take place until the red bracts begin to show and can take about 8 to 10 weeks.

Do not be alarmed if houseplants drop some of their leaves. This is due to the lower intensity of light that we experience in the fall. This can also occur to plants that have been grown outdoors but bought in for the fall season. Despite the possible leaf drop, indoor plants need to be watered less frequently. Also, the use of fertilizer should be discontinued because plants will go through a period of slowed growth throughout the winter months and some plants will stop growing altogether.

Spring flowering bulbs can be potted and made to bloom indoors, despite the cold weather outdoors. The soil can be moistened and refrigerated for 10 to 13 weeks. It then can be transferred to a cool location that receives good sunlight. Blooming should occur in about three to four weeks after this transfer.

Indoor plants can serve many purposes. They can beautify a room or refresh the indoor air. They can brighten your mood or be a conversation piece. For a more complete list of things to consider for October, you can visit the web at <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/agcomm/newscolumns/archives/YGcal/2010/September/100916YGC.html>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

*Trees serve many great purposes in our yards. They provide shade and protection and are also the home of many species of wildlife. They may be a food source or a beautiful centerpiece in your yard. Even as temperatures begin to cool, trees still need proper care. Fall is a great time to investigate the trees in your yard for signs of stress or other problems.*

*If a tree is under some type of stress, it may be visible through the leaves. For example, if a tree is changing colors too early in the season or is thinning prematurely, it may be under some type of stress. This could be root stress or drought stress if they do not get enough water. Trees should be watered properly in the fall because their root systems will not take up water in the winter. Insufficient water in the fall can cause trees to dry out in the winter and can cause trees to have trouble leafing out properly in the spring.*

*It may be alarming to notice that your tree has spots on the leaves. This is most likely a fungal disease, and cleaning up the leaves when they fall is highly recommended. This will help to keep the disease from overwintering and coming back the following year. Spraying is not an effective method of control when it is this late in the year. Broken limbs and other pieces of tree debris should be removed so insects will not have a place to overwinter as well.*

*For more information on assessing tree health, you can visit the web at <http://www.westvolusiatreeservice.com/tree-pdf/Assessingtreehealth.pdf>. For information on addressing stress related tree problems, you can visit the web at [http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP\\_37\\_W.pdf](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP_37_W.pdf). You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.*



## Bigger, Better Blooms

*The Secret* to compact beautiful chrysanthemums is to pinch back or trim about half of the plant's new growth. Repeat this until about the first week of July. And be sure to water and fertilize properly. ~Mrs. Leroy Martin/MD

*Our Garden* is next to several large trees, and our flowers never seemed to get enough water—until we started using Soil Moist water-retaining crystals. We just poke holes in the ground around each plant, drop in a few granules and presto! Our plants get a good drink before the tree roots soak up all the water. Now we work the granules into the soil whenever we plant annuals and shrubs. ~Rogene Teicheira/CA

*When your Easter lily* is finished blooming, don't throw it out. Let it dry; cut off the old foliage and plant it in a partly sunny spot in the garden. It will grow and bloom again. ~Eileen Crowley/WI

*To Avoid* the hassles of planting and lifting tuberous begonias, I put them in pots. They can be sunk into the ground or set on top of the soil. In the fall, just before frost, take the pots inside and place in a cool room over the winter. I begin watering again in the spring as soon as I see signs of life. When the danger of frost has passed, I set them outside again and fertilize weekly throughout the growing season. ~June Hadland/WA

## Tips for Your Flower Garden (con't.)

**To Make Coleus** plants bigger and bushier, pinch off the flowers when they start to spike. If you don't do this, the plant will grow tall rather than spread out. Naydene Cook/ AL

**Sometimes When** naturalizing an area with spring-blooming bulbs like daffodils and crocuses, you'll find a spot where a plant is missing. Mark it by simply pressing a small tuna can (upside down with the bottom intact) into the soil. This kills the grass underneath and reminds you to plant another bulb to fill the space in fall. ~Muriel Miller/KS

### **WORDS TO GROW BY**

**When Gathering** seeds, always take them from the largest healthiest blooms. Leave the flower on the plant until it is completely faded and the seed head is dry. Then remove the head and place it on a paper plate to dry. Shake out the seeds and store them in a cool dry place. ~Lois Wark/NV

*Hints courtesy of Michigan Bulb Company,  
Lawrenceburg IN*





## **Makeover Easy Apple Cake**

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/2 cup sugar blend
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1-1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup ground flaxseed
- 1-1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1-1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 cups finely chopped peeled tart apples
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted
- 1-1/4 cups reduced-fat whipped topping

### **Directions**

- In a large bowl, beat the sugar, applesauce, sugar blend, eggs, oil and vanilla until well blended. Combine the flour, flaxseed, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and baking soda; gradually beat into sugar mixture until blended. Fold in apples and walnuts.
- Transfer to a 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 28-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Serve with whipped topping. **Yield:** 20 servings.

• **Note:** This recipe was tested with Splenda sugar blend. This recipe contains half the fat of the original recipe.

*From Taste of Home online Recipe of the Week*



## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### M & M's Membership Message

#### **Messages from Membership for... Membership...**

Can it already be time to think about **membership & dues**? It is so! Our dues are very nominal at \$20. They are **payable to Michiana Master Gardeners** via Larry Drudge, Treasurer. Why not just be prepared to do it at either of the two upcoming meetings, October or November? Why pay a bit early? 1. You don't have to remember to do it. 2. We don't have to bug you to do it! It really is helpful for the roster information and for record keeping to get it done early. **Due date is no later than January 1st.**

Reminder that we will be happy to help you find a ride to meetings if driving in the dark or on winter roads is a problem for you. We can all be good neighbors by being aware of the needs of others and offering, but sometimes we just plain don't know and you must tell us!

Be a driver or get a ride & we will see YOU at the meetings!

Membership M & M's, Marilyn's Miles & Horvath  
[mrlnifly@aol.com](mailto:mrlnifly@aol.com)                      522-6889



Miami County Master Gardener Association will host "Autumn Inspiration Seminar" will be held Saturday, November 6th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Miami County Fairgrounds in Peru IN. Six hours of Educational MG hours will be earned. Various speakers will present, and slides of the MG England tour will be shown. Call 765-472-1921. Registration is due by Oct. 29th. Fee \$25.

*Note: Please submit articles for the Broadcaster to Sherrie Zou at [sherrie.zou@gmail.com](mailto:sherrie.zou@gmail.com) by the end of each month so we can get the publication mailed to you before our monthly Membership meetings the following month. Thanks to everyone for keeping the articles, photos, and recipes coming in.*

## **Evergreen Needles Don't Last Forever**

Evergreens provide green color all year long but that doesn't mean that the individual needles live forever. Evergreens shed their older needles to make room for new growth, but what makes them evergreen is that they retain some foliage all year long instead of shedding all of the leaves at once.

Evergreen needles have varying life spans, depending on the species. Arborvitae and pine needles live for 2 years while spruce needles live 3-10 years. Some species of evergreens have a more noticeable leaf drop than others. In autumn, arborvitae and white pine will drop their 2-year old needles all at once, which can be quite alarming if you don't realize that it's perfectly normal.

On other species, needle drop occurs gradually with a small number of needles falling at one time. The older needles of yew shrubs will turn yellow and drop in late spring or early summer. Broad-leaved evergreens such as rhododendrons drop their 2- to 3-year-old leaves in late summer and early fall.

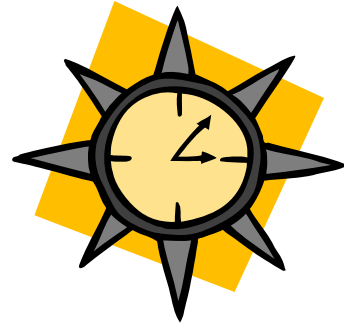
The hot, dry weather experienced over much of the region appears to be causing many plants to drop needles early. Inner and lower needles that are hidden from light are usually the first to drop. Pruning excess growth and dead limbs can help open the plant to more light. But for most plants, there's no need to worry; they are just doing what comes naturally.

**By B. Rosie Lerner**

*Extension Consumer Horticulturist*

Purdue University

Sept. 17, 2010



**Splinters From the Board:**  
**September 20, 2010 meeting**

**Garden Tour 2011:** The Board received a recommendation from the Garden Tour Committee that the Board give approval in May or June for the area of the county in which to hold the Tour in the following year. This idea was affirmed by the Board, and a motion to hold the 2011 Garden Tour in the northwest corner of the county in 2011 was approved. Linda Harkelroad also stated that eight gardens have been confirmed for next year with one just west of the county line in St. Joe County. The Board approved inclusion of this garden.

**Community Garden:** It was reported that 1,100 pounds of produce were harvested this year from the Community Garden. Produce has been donated to Church Community Services, Faith Mission and Salvation Army.

**Reserve Champion Vegetable Trophy – Horticulture Committee:** A motion that MMGA sponsor this trophy, which will cost \$25 annually was approved.

**Quilt Garden –** The approved pattern for next year's quilt garden was displayed . Clean up of this year's garden will be October 4th or 7th.

**2010 MMGA Class:** Ericka Soumare reported that the 2010 class with 22 students is going well.

**Website:** The Board is still looking for a web master to maintain the MMGA website. (The position has since been filled.)

*Submitted by Jim Bare*

**MMGA Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**September 28, 2010,**  
**7:00 p.m. Ag Hall**

President Jerry Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the 52 members and at least 3 guests from the 2010 class who were present.

**PROGRAM**

The speaker this evening was Ildiko Widman, from Lake Michigan College, Dowagiac, Michigan. The title of her very informative talk was ROSES – YOU WON'T REGRET IT. She spoke of types of roses grown in Zone 5, some things to keep in mind when buying a rose plant, where to plant roses, how to care for them once planted, how to prune roses, how to start cuttings from propagation rose hips, and how to enjoy roses inside your home. With a touch of humor she kept the master gardeners involved and there were lots of questions.

**BUSINESS**

Thank you Jean Rombke and others for the refreshments during break.

Jean Rombke, Leah Lichtenberger, and Susan Woolley each won a door prize, donated by Sue Stuckman and Suzanne Pedler.

Larry Drudge, Treasurer, reported that we have \$37,555.97 in the bank. This year, expenses exceeded income by approximately \$2,600.00.

Jerry announced that due to the Extension Office Annual Dinner scheduled for November 16, 2010, our Thanks-for-Giving carry-in dinner and elections, previously scheduled for November 16th, will now be held on NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Several of our members will be attending the Extension Office Annual Dinner.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Quilt Garden – Clean up will be October 4, 9 AM until done. Rain date is Oct. 7th.

Community Gardens – It was reported by Suzan Stuckman that approximately 1,050 pounds of produce from the garden was donated to several charities this past summer.

Membership Committee – Marilyn Horvath requested signees to bring door prizes to the membership meetings. Also anyone needing a ride should let the committee know.

Merchandise - Doris Kehr noted good sales tonight.

Michiana Broadcaster – No report.

Program Committee – Mike Jensen will be the guest speaker in October; the topic is HARDSCAPES.

Speakers Bureau – No report.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Bare  
September 30, 2010*

MICHIANA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
ELKHART COUNTY  
*Mission Statement*



The Michiana Master Gardeners Association is a not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to the improvement of the community. Members of the Association have completed the requirements of the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program, working in affiliation with the Purdue Extension Service of Elkhart County. Its specific aim is to improve the quality of life in the community by providing information and technical assistance in the area of home horticulture through the use of trained and certified volunteers.

*“Everyone must take the time to sit and watch  
the leaves turn.”*

*Elizabeth Morris*

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

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**OCTOBER 2010**