MICHIGAN STATE



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Genesee County Master Gardener Newsletter

DOWN TO EARTH



2017

VOLUME 15 5



FEATURE ARTICLE How to Grow Raspberries

You may think the sheer gustatory pleasure of wolfing down ripe, juicy raspberries, whose flavor explodes in your mouth, is reason enough to grow them. Well, think again. Raspberries are not just another tasty berry; they are loaded with healthful attributes. They're high in fiber and contain vitamin A, folate, antioxidants, and numerous minerals; the juice contains vitamin C; and those sometimes-annoying little seeds contain vitamin E. And, of course, if you have a raspberry patch, you have endless dessert possibilities.

The key elements to raspberry success are careful selection of plant type, a good solid trellising system, and husbandry techniques that match the needs of the plant. Once everything is in place, your raspberry patch will provide you with many years of satisfaction.

WHY CHOOSE AN EVERBEARING VARIETY?

We chose a classically red, everbearing variety called 'Summit', after asking our local agriculture office which raspberries are recommended for our area. We also taste-tested berries from local berry farms (an important step) to determine our favorite. We then shopped around for rooted canes that were certified disease-free. Various raspberry cultivars will flourish from Zones 3 to 10. A little homework will get you, too, the right raspberries for your location. Take your time in selection, because raspberries come in varying shapes, sizes, and colors—red, purple, golden, white. So why did we choose an everbearing variety? We love raspberries. We're willing to pick fruit every day until frost so we can eat our fill, give some to the neighbors, freeze some for winter, and leave the rest to the birds. Summer-bearing raspberries fruit for about a month, then it's all over (the fruit and the work) until next year. Everbearing raspberries, treated well, are just that—ever bearing. One mild winter we found a few ripe berries still hanging on in

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December. Once established, ever bearing raspberries -- called fall bearing by some—begin production in our area in July. The canes are usually so loaded down, they bend far over their support wires. Summer-bearing varieties generally fruit earlier, usually by a few weeks, so we also planted a few bushes of wine-red 'Brandywine' to enjoy while we wait for the heavierproducing main crop. For variety, we added the yellow-tinged 'Golden', which is everbearing. Other similar varieties are 'Fall Gold', 'Golden Summit', and 'Golden Harvest'.

HOW MANY PLANTS, AND HOW BIG A PATCH?

Raspberries multiply precociously, prodigiously, and prolifically. If you plant one cane this year, you will have a dozen or more in the same spot next year. Raspberries are joyfully exuberant about procreating by underground runners, poking up impressive numbers of healthy new plants all around your original patch. I don't consider this to be a problem, though, because one whack of the hoe takes care of them. You can also present them to a friend or use them to extend your patch.

Our two-row raspberry patch is 7 feet wide by 33 feet long. If I were to do it all over again, it would be 9 or 10 feet wide to allow more elbowroom for picking between the rows. We have 3 feet between rows, which is just barely enough. Four to 6 feet would be better.

RAISED BEDS ELIMINATE ROOT ROT

Raspberry plants hate wet feet, and they are gross

feeders. We addressed these two critical points by building a 20-inch-high raised bed and filling it with a mixture of four-fifths good garden topsoil blended with about one-fifth sand, peat, and well-rotted manure. If, like us, you have acidic soil, you will also need to add some lime, because raspberries prefer a soil pH of around 6.0. We left one end of the box open to allow easy access with our wheelbarrows, then closed it in when the box was full. This job can be done in the fall, so you are ready to plant, come spring.

If you have rich, deep soil that drains well year-round, you can simply plant your raspberries in a permanent garden site. Not us. The Pacific Northwest gets rain all winter, and many gardeners lose raspberries to root rot because they make the mistake of planting their raspberries' fussy little toes directly in the ground, which is often soggy clay covered with a skim of topsoil. We also experience a two-month drought most summers. Raised beds allow us to have deep soil that holds moisture evenly yet drains well.

It is important that you do not establish your raspberry patch in an area where you have recently grown tomatoes, peppers, or potatoes, to avoid verticillium wilt, which these vegetables can carry, and raspberries can catch.

SPRING IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT

The best time to find plants, early spring, is also the best time to plant them, although you can put raspberries in anytime in the summer if you come into some healthy gift plants. Spring plants will establish better, though, and may well give you a few berries their first summer. I soak bare-root plants in a half-strength solution of vitamin B1 growth stimulant (1/2 teaspoon per quart water) for about six hours (see Give your rootstock a healthy start). Don't delay planting. The small plants will not stand for soaking longer than a day in the B1 solution,



HOME GROWN 906

I am just beginning to become a vegetable gardener. I have this great idea for planting vegetables and my friends think this could work. When all the snow melts off my garden in a month or so, I will plant all my garden seeds. Then, in the spring, they can come up when it warms up. This would be a real time saver because they will come up when they are ready instead of me rushing to plant the garden all at once. Why hasn't anyone thought of this before?

There's a very good reason. It's time to go back to the idea machine. This can't work. Virtually all of the vegetables and garden fruit we grow are annuals. This means the plants cannot live over the winter. They cannot handle the cold Michigan temperatures. And their seeds can't handle being frozen, either. If ripe vegetables are left in the garden over the winter, it would be unusual to have seeds come up from those vegetables. Occasionally, a volunteer tomato plant might come up but it is usually in late June and there is not time to grow big enough to produce fruit before the first frost. And while you are planting seeds in the garden, little critters and birds are seeing free food for the hungry buffet. They will consume as many seeds as they can find. And to complicate all of this, vegetables are divided into two groups: cool season and warm season. If each is planted when the soil is warm enough for them, they germinate and grow. Otherwise, they just sit. And while they are sitting, many will become waterlogged and rot. There is a reason that people have planted vegetables a certain way. Learn from those gardeners who have gone before you.

I have a white spruce and in the last five years has been losing lots of needles. I was told it had a needle disease that causes the needles to fall off from the bottom of the tree up and from the inside out. It has less than half its needles. I really like this tree and want to save it. How do I fix it?

Unfortunately, you cannot fix this. But don't be upset that you might have waited too long. The needle disease is Rhizosphaera Needlecast and affects both blue and white spruce. Rhizosphaera is a disease that is almost impossible to beat, even if it is treated as soon as it is discovered. But by the time a blue or white spruce has lost half or more of its needles, the tree is severely weakened. It no longer has the ability to recover. Rhizosphaera is fungal disease that is enabled by humid, moist or wet weather. It usually affects spruces older than 12 years old. The first needles infected are those lowest to the ground and closest to the trunk. Those areas are heavily shaded and the most humid. Fungal diseases thrive on warm, damp air. Trees can be sprayed to prevent Rhizosphaera but fungicides do not cure already infected needles. There are no products that can be injected into trees or used as a soil drench that have been proven to work. If you were spraying the tree to prevent Rhizosphaera, you would use a fungicide containing chlorothalonil. The problem becomes the number of times the tree needs to be sprayed during the growing season and timing is critical. The first spray is applied when the new growth is one-half to two inches long in the spring. The tree needs to be sprayed during the season on a three week repeat until late in the fall when the temperatures stay reliably below 50 degrees and the fungus is dormant. And if that isn't bad enough, you have to do this every year the tree is in your landscape. This is a huge commitment. And with less than half a tree to look at, consider removing it and replacing it with anything other than a white or blue spruce. Eventually, almost all white and blue spruces will succumb to Rhizosphaera. Take a look at concolor or white firs if you want something similar to blue spruce. To have questions answered, call the MSU Extension Master Hotline at 888-678-3464 Monday through Friday mornings.

Gretchen Voyle, MSU Extension Horticulture Educator, retired



Ingredients

• 1 16 1/2 - ounce roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough, cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices

- 2 3 ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups fresh red raspberries, blueberries and/or blackberries
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar
- Powdered sugar



COOKS CORNER

Raspberry Cream Tart

Directions

 Press cookie dough slices into bottom and fluted sides of a greased 11-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Do not prick.
(Or, press onto bottom of greased 12-inch pizza pan.) Bake in a 350 degree oven 20 minutes or until light brown. Remove from oven; set aside.

2. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese with an electric mixer on medium-high speed for 30 seconds. Add 1/4 cup sugar, the egg, lemon zest, lemon juice and vanilla. Beat until combined. Pour cheese mixture over warm crust and spread evenly.

3. Arrange the raspberries in a single layer on top of cheese mixture. Sprinkle raspberries with 2 teaspoons sugar. Bake for 15 to 17 minutes more or until cheese mixture is set. Transfer to a wire rack; let cool for 30 minutes before serving.

Just before serving, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Midwest living

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

and they will die quickly with dry roots. Should you receive dormant bare-root plants by mail before you are ready to plant, put them in the fridge to keep them dormant.

GIVE YOUR ROOTSTOCK A HEALTHY START

Have on hand some well-rotted manure, mushroom manure, or compost; organic fertilizer (see Organic fertilizer mix for raspberries), or 4-20-20; a water source; and some mulch. We use straw for mulch, but other materials will do just fine. I know a man who uses ripped-up newspaper.

Dig a hole 1 foot deep and wide per plant. In our case, we set the plants 3 feet apart in the row. Put a handful each of rotted manure and fertilizer in the hole. Add some water, pop the plant in, then carefully tuck the soil around and over its spread roots to make a small depression or basin at the surface, a place for rainfall to accumulate. Sprinkle some more rotted manure in this depression to provide a jump start for growth, then cover the ground around the plants with your mulch -- no more than 3 inches deep. We laid landscape cloth over our path between the rows and covered it with wood chips. Drip irrigation is the ideal way to water raspberries, and this is the easiest time to install it.

ORGANIC FERTILIZER MIX FOR RASPBERRIES

I make this up each year in a big rubber horse-feeding trough. If you use this mix just before your raspberries blossom, reduce the amount of canola/fish meal by half (to 2 parts), as the plants need less nitrogen then.

4 parts canola seed meal or fish meal

1 part dolomitic lime (offsets the acidity of the seed meal)

1 part rock phosphate or 1/2 part bone meal

1 part kelp meal

A T-BAR TRELLIS LENDS NEEDED SUPPORT

A raspberry plant laden with fruit is top-heavy and needs support to keep it from falling over. Because we wanted our raspberry patch to last a long time, we began with a formal support system. At the end of each row of raspberries, we buried a 6-foot post 1 foot in the ground. Across the top and middle of each post, we fastened 30-inch crossbars with sturdy screws. We then stretched lengths of 16-gauge wire from the ends of each crossbar. In the beginning, we used only the top wire, but we found that some of the plants bearing fruit would fall over before they ever got to the top wire, so we added a second tier of wires about 2 feet off the ground. Sometimes the wires stretch from the weight of the plants and fruit, so we tighten them in early spring when we are pruning.

PRUNING FOR A LONG HARVEST SEASON

The main purpose of pruning is to get rid of older canes in favor of newer canes that will produce fruit. In late summer, some of your newly planted canes will begin to fruit at the top of the cane and continue into the fall. In the early spring of the following year, while the plants are still dormant, it's time to prune these now 1-year-old canes, and here is where we do something special.

The common method of pruning everbearing raspberries is simply to cut all of the canes down to about 1 inch from the ground. Though it's an easy way to go, this method eliminates the

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

July crop. Fruiting doesn't begin until early fall, the reason some raspberry growers call everbearing raspberries "fall bearing." (This method is useful, however, if a disease has developed in your patch.)

Instead, the first spring, we cut the 1-year-old canes back to below the fruiting area, level with the top support wire. These shortened canes begin fruiting in July. In the meantime, leafy new canes, called primocanes, grow rapidly up from between the old canes. These new canes will flower and fruit later in the summer. We thin them out and clear away those suckers that popped up around the patch. The following spring, we remove the 2-year-old canes completely to make room for new growth, cutting them off at the ground, and we trim back the 1-year-old canes. We usually top-dress our raspberry patch with well-rotted manure and berry fertilizer in early spring. You can also prune summer-fruiting varieties using this method.

DAMP IN SUMMER, DRY IN WINTER

To keep your plants healthy and productive, make sure they don't dry out in the summer. Remember: damp in summer, dry in winter. Spread straw or other mulch around the roots to help keep in an adequate supply of moisture. If you don't have a drip system, a soaker hose used for an hour or two each week should do the trick. In subsequent years, remember to topdress the freshly pruned plants with several inches of well-rotted manure or compost, fertilizer, and, if necessary, a sprinkling of lime.

Raspberry plants need a significant amount of nitrogen to grow to their full 6 or 7 feet, but you should stop pushing high-nitrogen fertilizer on them as fruiting time approaches. At this time, the plants must concentrate on producing fruit instead of leaves. Using the homemade organic fertilizer on the facing page allows the plants to receive the nutrients they need when they need them.

We have found our raspberries to be remarkably free of pests and diseases. This is a good thing, because we are not fond of pesticides (or bugs). Some of the critters that can attack raspberries are nematodes, root or bud weevils, aphids, fruit worms, and crown borers. This latter problem involves maggots girdling the emerging canes, which may then break off at soil level or produce a poor crop. If you cut the canes to the ground, you can confound the borers and avoid drenching the root zone with an insecticide.

A few diseases you may encounter are fruit rot, root rot, and spur blight. Fruit rot is a fungus that sets up housekeeping when canes are too crowded. The remedy is to prune for openness and to pick frequently in wet weather. Avoid overhead watering and prune out fruiting canes after harvest. Root rot results in the sudden death of the plant right after flowering, when the weather turns warm. The only remedy is to plant resistant varieties in friable, well-drained, rich soil. Spur blight shows up as dark chocolate-colored blotches on primocanes in mid-summer to fall when humidity is high. Infected areas on overwintered canes are silver gray and produce millions of spores. Lime-sulphur solution applied as a dormant spray and good air circulation provide adequate prevention.

On the flip side of pest control, we have encouraged healthy pollination in our raspberry patch by building a simple home for orchard mason bees, which we attached to one of the trellis poles. It's just a length of 4x4 with 5/16-inch holes drilled in it and an overhanging shingle for a roof; the orchard bees take up residence in the holes and proceed to do their thing.

Staying Ahead of Rose Rosette Disease

It's been around for a while, and it appears that it's not inclined to go away very soon. Although research is continuing, the approach, for now, remains the same.

According to Mary Ann Hansen, Instructor in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science at Virginia Tech, the disease remains "pretty widespread, if the number of symptomatic samples we get in our lab every year is any indication. Luckily, the rose industry is working with researchers and Extension folks to try to find ways to control the disease. Hopefully breeding programs will eventually bring us some new roses that will have resistance to this disease!"

Perhaps through the work of the National Clean Plant Network-Roses program, resistant varieties can be identified (see "Keeping Roses Clean," by David C. Zlesak, on page 16). Until then,

we'll revisit information we published last year, in hopes that more vigilant adherence to scouting and management can stem the tide of rose rosette disease.

Rose rosette disease (RRD) can be tricky. Its transmission involves three players: a virus, which is vectored by an eriophyid mite (*Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*), and the wild and sometimes invasive multiflora rose. For rose rosette disease to be successful, those three elements must be present. To break the cycle of this disease, eliminate one of the trio. Sounds easy. It's not.

It's believed that all cultivated roses are susceptible to the disease; this includes shrubs, hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras and miniatures. So even if there's no evidence of multiflora in the immediate area, other roses may already carry the



These samples display nearly every sign

pathogen and can transmit it to your presumably clean stock. Once that happens, removal and destruction of the affected plants is your only option.

Symptoms of rose rosette disease can be difficult to recognize and confirm, as some signs mimic normal new growth. Many rose varieties are known for their richly colored young foliage, with leaves emerging a deep red to purple in spring. These generally turn green during the growing season, so if a plant continues to display intense red foliage throughout summer, it may have been infected.

Flushes of massed, tangled growth, similar to a witch's broom, can signal the presence of rose rosette virus (RRV). This may be more evident in plants that have been infected for more than a year. Infected plants may display unusually large masses of distorted buds, most of which fail to open. Reddening and/or flattening of the cane can occur. Excessive thorn growth is an obvious sign.

Several of these symptoms appear similar to the signs of herbicide damage – which just adds to the challenge of confirmation.

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Plants infected with RRV will decline and eventually die, but the disease may not be fatal for three to four years, by which time nearby plants may have been affected. Some speculate that rose rosette disease has become widespread in recent years due to the popularity of mass plantings, positioning plants close enough together to give the mite – which cannot fly, but can "balloon" on the wind – easy access to its next victim. So vigilance is key.

How to manage rose rosette disease

Ultimately, the rose rosette virus is fatal. Once a plant is infected, it will not survive, so management of the disease is about preventing its spread to other plants.

Scouting for symptoms is vital to the long-term survival of nursery stock or landscape installations. It's a good idea to inspect plants before they're purchased, and take a look at neighboring plants, as well.

Although selective pruning of affected canes has been suggested as a possible means of management, this has proved - so far - to be ineffective. If signs of the disease are detected, the affected plants must be rogued. Many plants infected with RRV may remain asymptomatic; it's a good idea to remove plants immediately surrounding them, providing a safeguard against further infection. Rogued plants should not simply be removed from the site, but bagged where they stand prior to removal.

A quick and dirty checklist of symptoms

Symptoms can range from what appears to be a flush of new growth to grotesque mutations that disfigure the plant. The most easily spotted signs of a rose rosette attack are:

increased growth and/or rapid elongation of shoots

new leaves and twigs have an abnormally bright, rich red color

leaves may be distorted, curled or twisted

an overabundance of foliage may be produced

spiral pattern of cane growth

canes produce excessive, red-tinged thorn growth

atypical flower coloration, such as mottling

deformed buds and flowers

Witches' brooms are a sure sign of rose rosette infestation, although at first the odd growth may appear to mimic the effect of herbicide drift. Where canes overproduce thorns, the growth may be so excessive that stems are covered.

The most effective way to fight rose rosette disease: Vigilance; early detection; rouging of affected plants.

There's an excellent online resource at **American Hort's Knowledge Center**, including a webinar and videos that help to explain the how's, the what's and the why's.

Read more: Downy mildew of rose

Container Materials

Pots are like plants: They come in all sorts of colors, sizes, and patterns. When it comes to materials, some require more care or attention than others. When you've found what looks like the perfect pot, ask yourself a few questions. Do you know what lurks behind its charming facade? Do you know what will happen to it during a hot spell? A cold snap? If you don't know, we've broken down the popular choices so that you'll know what you and your plants are in for.

GLAZED CERAMIC POTS ARE COLORFUL AND DURABLE

Love color? Who doesn't? Glazed ceramic pots come in just about any imaginable hue, making it fun to coordinate colors between pots and the plants they hold. The containers can look classic and traditional or modern enough to decorate the Museum of Modern Art. And because they're coated with glaze, they efficiently retain moisture.



Love a hefty price tag? Who does? Glazed ceramic

pots can be expensive, but a patient shopper can put together an impressive collection by sifting through clearance sales, tag sales, and big-box stores. Keep in mind that glazed ceramic containers can crack—not quite as often as unglazed terra-cotta but regularly enough. They also lose their colorful luster after some time in the sun.

CAST-STONE POTS LAST A LONG TIME

Cast-stone containers are in it for the long haul. They're strong, like concrete, and just as heavy, so they aren't for the gardener who likes to rearrange container groupings every weekend. The silver lining is that they won't easily tip over or break due to rough weather conditions. Use them as substantial focal points in the garden. Cast-stone pots are less permeable and thus hold moisture better—than baked-clay options. They still need protection, though,



during extremely cold winters. PLASTICS ARE EASYGOING AND KIND TO THE WALLET

Plastic containers are light and strong, retain moisture, and look the dashing part for years. They come in just about every style and sit on the lower rungs of the price ladder. Modern manufacturing can make them look like almost any other available pot material. But alas, plastic pots have one unfortunate Achilles' heel: They don't cut it with garden snobs. If you tremble at the idea of a visitor unmasking a stone like plastic's true identity, seek out another material. If you think you'll be able to grin and bear it, plastic containers are a great option.

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METAL IS A VERSATILE CHOICE

It seems as if metal can be smelted or shaped into any form or style imaginable. Cast-iron and copper models usually stand out as the ornamental belles of the garden ball. In addition to their visual appeal, metal pots handle winter with crack-free grace. They do, however, get hot in summer, especially if placed in direct sunlight. A metal container in full sun could burn your plants or the unaware passerby. It can also rust, so a vessel's thickness will influence its longevity. A thick iron pot can last for decades, but a sheet-metal container might only last a few years before rusting beyond repair.

TERRA-COTTA IS A DELICATE BEAUTY THAT REQUIRES DILIGENT CARE

Terra-cotta has enjoyed unwavering popularity from ancient times to the present. Thanks to its clean looks, a terra-cotta container fits almost seamlessly into any design, and if allowed to age, it develops an alluring patina. It is, however, fragile. A cold winter—not to mention a barreling dog or a slippery grip—can make shards out of a terra-cotta pot. Its porous clay walls hold lots of water, so when temperatures drop to below freezing, water molecules expand and crack the container. The pores in the material also wick moisture away from the soil, so a strict watering schedule is a must during the growing season.

ANTONIO REIS FINE GARDENING

Cleaning Used Flower Pots: How To Clean A Container

So why is it so important to clean containers for the garden? Soil builds up salts that can damage plants, and these salts get deposited on the inside of planters. In addition, any diseases your plants may have carried last season can get transferred to your new plants. The solution is cleaning used flower pots before using them again. Garden pot cleaning only takes a few minutes, but it can keep your plants healthy and productive.

The best way to clean containers is outside in the spring before planting, or in the fall after you discard dead and dying plants. Washing pots before planting has the added bonus of moistening terra cotta, which helps to keep soil from drying out during the first crucial day of transplanting.

Garden pot cleaning begins with physically removing any dirt that clings to the inside and outside of the containers. Use a stiff scrub brush and clear water. If stubborn salt deposits stick and don't come off with the brush, try scraping them off with an old butter knife.

Once the pots are clean, make up a large container filled with a 10 percent bleach solution. Use one part unscented household bleach and nine parts water, filling a container large enough to hold all the pots. Submerge the pots and let them soak for 10 minutes. This will kill off any disease organisms that might be lingering on the surface.

Rinse off plastic pots to remove any residual bleach and allow them to air dry in the sun. If you have terra cotta pots, submerge them in a container filled with clear water and allow them to soak for an additional 10 minutes to remove the bleach from the pores of the material. Air dry these as well.

Knowing how to clean a container can preserve the health of your seedlings and will give your container garden a new and fresh start to the season. Make a habit of cleaning every pot as soon as it's emptied to reduce the possibility of diseases being transferred from one group of pots to another.

Ann Baley Gardening Knowhow

When to Feed for a Greener Lawn

The most important thing you can do for your lawn is to feed it. A well-fed lawn is healthier, which means it has a better root system to combat heat, cold, drought, mowing, foot traffic and other stresses. While feeding your lawn once a year will improve its condition, feeding it four times a year will make it even healthier. If you put your lawn on the regular feeding schedule outlined below, it will look lush and green, and your neighbors will turn green with envy.

Early Spring (February - April)

Lawns wake up hungry in the spring. Feeding your lawn in the spring strengthens roots and gets it off to a good start before the heavy growing season. If you had crabgrass last year, apply a combination product, that contains a pre-emergent to control crabgrass. A good rule of thumb to follow: feed your lawn in the spring around the first time it needs mowed.

Late Spring (April - June)

Spring is lunchtime for lawns. Your grass is busy and using up stored energy. That's why you want to supply the lawn with a feeding designed for this time of year. Unfortunately, broadleaf weeds are actively growing, too. Hit them and feed your lawn with a combination, that combines lawn food with broadleaf weed control.

Summer (June - August)

Summer is tough on grass. Heat, drought, foot traffic, and insects stress it out. Feeding your lawn in the summer protects and strengthens it against these problems. Lawns in warm-season grass areas should be fed over the summer months as they grow steadily from spring to fall. If you see insects in your grass, use a feeding product that also contains insect killer.

Fall (September - November)

Fall brings back ideal growing conditions for your lawn. Cool nights, warm days, ample rainfall and morning dew are just about as good as it gets for grass. Now the lawn is ready to grow again, and is looking for the nutrients it needs to recover from summer damage. Some experts will say this is the single most important lawn feeding of the year. Apply your final feeding right before the winter months, when grass is prepping for a winter nap. This will strengthen roots and increase nitrogen storage for an early spring green up and a healthier lawn next year. Following a general program like this one should improve your lawn.

Adapted from an article by Scotts

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FLUSHING RIVERVIEW TRAIL May 2017 WORK SCHEDULE

May 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Meet in the Flushing County Park, drive in to pavilion #3, across from the baseball field. We will be cleaning up the berm area. Bring wheelbarrows, forks, rakes, cultivators, shovels, weeding and planting tools.

May 17, 9:00 am-11:00 am. Meet at trail head, Main street, corner of Bueche's plaza. We will deadhead and weed in berm area C. Bring pruners, weeding tools, kneelers, gloves, brooms, dustpans and tarps.

The MGAGCM Bulb Sale is

still in progress, but quantities are running low. This sale will go on until Mothers Day and then Randy will start taking the displays down. If you would like to purchase bulbs for your gardens you can come to the Hotline on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 8:30 am-1:00 pm.

Again, we would like to thank Chris Green from Euroblooms and Randy Tatro for making this bulb sale an annual event.

ASK A MASTER GARDEN-

ER needs volunteers for Saturdays during the month of May to fill our obligation to Walkers Farm and Bordine's Nursery. These are 4 hours shifts from either 9:00 am-1:00 pm or 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.

If you are able to volunteer on any of these days, please call Alan Grove at 810-922-8776.

This project is a good way for our association to make a profit as these nurseries pay for each hour a Master Gardener volunteers.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Our May MGAGCM monthly meeting will be held at the GCCARD building at 605 N. Saginaw St., Flint, 48502 on May 18, 2017. Social time is 5:30-6:00pm. Our speaker, Erin Caudill, will be speaking on the subject of hoop houses and will begin at 6:00 pm. Erin is the owner of the "Local Grocery" on MLK Bld., owner of a farm in the Beecher area, Flint Farmer's Market vendor and a horticultural instructor. Let's plan on coming out to hear Erin and give her a warm Master Gardener welcome.

Please remember the challenge that was given to Alan Grove to wear the colors of MSU if our attendance reaches 100 on or before our August membership meeting. At our May meeting we will be giving away one ticket to the bus tour and five tickets to the garden tour. These monthly meetings are important for you to attend as it shows support for our association , you learn the news of our association and you have an opportunity to voice your opinion on matters brought up at each meeting. So, mark May 18th on your calendar and maybe you will be one of the lucky winners of these giveaways.

Our snack providers are Loretta Ellwood, Shirley Johnson, Susan Biron and Alan Grove.

OUTREACH EVENTS

Outreach I-75, May 26, 2017 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

At least 2 volunteers are needed for each time slot. These projects include manning an informational/education table at these events.

You can sign up by contacting Christi Jones at

NEXT CLOTHING ORDER goes in June 30, 2017. Check out our website on VMS. Any questions call Vicki Laurin at 810-744-0725.

MGAGCM OFFICERS (2017)

President 810-744-0725 1st Vice President 810-275-8822 2nd Vice President 810-922-8776 Secretary 810-695-2649 Treasurer 810-659-8014 Vicki Laurin laurinvicki@gmail.com Mel Kennedy mkennedy60@charter.com Alan Grove plantdoc049@outlook.com Dick Moldenhauer rnmold1050@aol.com Michelle Chockley chockleym@gmail.com THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED BY: Vicki Laurin,laurinvicki@gmail.com.

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<u>CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES</u> <u>MMGA Inc Website at:</u> <u>www.michiganmastergardener.org</u> <u>MMGA Inc Facebook Page at:</u> <u>www.facebook.comMichiganMG</u> <u>MGAGCM Website at: Genesee</u> <u>County MG.org</u> <u>MGAGCM Facebook Page at:</u> <u>http://facebook.com/groups/2169046</u> <u>232310/</u>

<u>Link to VMS: https://</u> michigan.volunteersystem.org

Abiya (Abi) Saeed

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