



# Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

**NOVEMBER 2021**

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## *Notes from Joanne*

~ Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers ~

Thank you to everyone for their hard work this gardening season. The garden looked great, and we were able to accomplish a lot. It was good to get back to “normal” and continue our children’s classes and Brown Bag. It is amazing that this season is so quickly ending. Please be on the look out for more emails about the Christmas Tree Festival. We plan on having a couple of workdays in November.

Everyone should have received an email dated 10/20/2021 about using the new Master Gardener online system called Hands on Connect. If you encounter problems, please let me know and I will try to fix them. Also in this same email was information about the Christmas Tree Festival and the craft booth that we will be having. Please be on the lookout for more emails about the Christmas Tree Festival. We plan on having a couple of workdays in November.

I hope to see everyone at the banquet on November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to attend, but did not sign up, please let me know. Sandy needs an accurate head count to order the main dish and set up the room.

Thanks again for everything that you do for Allen Co. Master Gardeners.

Thank you! **Joanne Rex**



## *Tidbits from Teresa*

*Don't relax yet, if you work on fall tasks now your spring will be easier. We are in a little better shape come fall than after a winter hibernation. We have been blessed to have had such a beautiful October. I'm hoping we have a week or so to finish up the fall chores.*

*My fall list includes:*

- *Attack those perennial weeds so they don't come to haunt me in spring.*
- *Now is a good time to separate peonies if you want to have more clumps, 4 to 6 “eyes” is about the right size. Too large and they won't become larger.*

- *Cut back perennials to 6", that way you have a clear vision for spring and the stubs will hold mulch to protect the plant from winter winds. Loose leaves make a good mulch and they enrich the soil.*
- *Plastic drainage tile sections around young trees help protect them from rabbits, deer and other critters munching on the trunks. Slice them down the side and make them tall enough to account for snow cover giving the varmit a "leg up."*
- *It's still not too late to plant spring bulbs. Choose the largest bulbs you find as they are more reliable bloomers. Six hours of sunlight, good drainage and a sprinkling of 10-15-10 on top the soil make for success. Most tulip varieties tend to peter out after a few years but daffodils will last for years, multiply and are not bothered by squirrels, voles and deer. Daffodils will naturalize easily and if you leave the leaves to dry up they will give years of enjoyment and more bulbs to give away.*
- *Tulips can be damaged by warm soil so don't plant them too early. Any fertilizer applied on top the soil should have a higher phosphorous number than the N and K. Bulbs can benefit from a light (2# per 100 sq. ft.) spring application of fertilizer.*
- *Don't prune forsythias, lilacs or weigia in the fall as you will remove the spring bloom. Oak leaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood so they fall in that category too.*
- *They say not to prune ninebark ever as you take away from its natural graceful shape. I have broken this rule and stooled a Diablo and a white ninebark in the spring and they both benefited from the haircut. If it works disregard established wisdom.*

*Looking forward to seeing many of you at our fall banquet as we close out our gardening year.*

**Teresa Diehl**

**November 2021**




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**November Notes from Sandy B -**

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See you at the banquet!!! -

Happy Thanksgiving --

**Sandy Bindel**





## Greetings from Gretchen

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Wishing you all the joy and fellowship that Thanksgiving brings!

I hope that this year you are able to gather with your loved ones and thoroughly enjoy the celebration!

We are so grateful to all of you who made this year a success! I hope that you found fulfillment and joy in volunteering; that you learned something new and that you enjoyed the warmth of friendship as an ACMGV!

Bless you!

### CLOSING THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

This workday was rescheduled to THIS SATURDAY, Nov. 6 due to the weather. Hope you can join us! Many hands = light work!

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Plans are coming together for the Christmas tree festival at the Allen County Museum. Our booth, Gifts from the Earth, will be open only on Friday, Dec. 3, Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed at the booth for most of the shifts, especially Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday. If you haven't yet signed up, please reach out to Gretchen for available shift times.

Watch your email for 2 workshop opportunities to create some items for the booth together! Fun!

As you are preparing for the holiday, please go through your own stash of items and tour your garden (and your friends gardens, etc.) for suitable items to use to create our "Gifts". Here's some items that are needed that we are looking to be donated:

Small to medium baskets, Christmas tins, Coffee mugs suitable for holiday vases, mixed evergreen clippings, any items you use in your own home for fresh arrangements, rose hips, ivy, ribbon, etc. We will be collecting these items at our workdays and the week of the event.

Thanks again for your support of this event. We appreciate the ongoing support from our neighbors at the Museum and hope this will "be the start of a beautiful friendship".

*Gretchen Staley, President*



## Happenings from Kay

### Frost or Freeze?

It's been a wonderful autumn with unseasonably warm temperatures! I can remember the layers of clothing worn to our son's football games, even sweeping the snow off the field to see the yard lines. Anyone remember the early snowstorm on November 2, which dumped 9 inches? (Not telling what year it was) 😊 None of that this year, not even a frost yet. What's the difference between a frost and a freeze? Here's some information.

A **frost** (ice crystals forming on surfaces) generally happens when air temperature is between 36-32 degrees F.

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A **freeze** happens when air temperature dips below 32 degrees F. The colder it gets, the more damage you'll see to annual and perennial plants.

A **hard freeze** is usually between 28-25 degrees F.

A **killing freeze** is 24 degrees F and below.

Sandy Autumn Colors (waiting out the weather..)



*Brugmansia arborea* Steud (Angel's Trumpet)

<https://worldoffloweringplants.com/brugmansia-arborea-angels-trumpet/>

*Brugmansia arborea* is an evergreen shrub or small tree grows up to 23 feet tall. Ovate leaves have coarsely toothed margins when in their best condition. The leaves, flower stalks, fruit, and especially the young shoots are covered with fine, velvety hairs. Flowers are intensely fragrant, trumpet-shaped, nodding to sub-horizontal, white turning to light pink and up to 7 inches long. They are produced almost continuously in smaller quantities. (note: I found the start for this at one of the may roadside plant sales, 2 years ago...here in Ohio.) It is hardiness zone 9b to 11b so needless to say it enjoys winter in our basement.