



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners



FEBRUARY 2019



Tidbits from Teresa



Since we don't have to deal with them right now, I decided to tackle our nemesis, weeds. You can't garden without dealing with weeds. Knowledge of their life cycle and growth habits will help keep them from taking over. Different weeds have different survival strategies and to know them is to win the battle with them.

The first thing you need to discover is whether the weed is an annual or perennial. Pigweed, an annual, has seeds that can live for years in the soil waiting for the right conditions for germination. This is why different weeds will be the dominant problem at different times. Annual weeds grow quickly and can produce seed by midsummer. Perennial weeds survive from year to year and have a lot of tools up their sleeves (stalks). They may send out roots, tubers, rhizomes or runners. Some of our efforts to weed them out end up producing more plants.

Biennials take two years to produce seeds. The first year is for leaves and the second flower stalks. Queen Anne's lace is a biennial. Perennials must be removed carefully roots and all, or they will be back next year even stronger. Most weeds like sunlight and their seeds germinate best near the soil surface. This is why mulch can help you control them.

There are staggering numbers of weed seeds in our gardens. The best way to handle them is to keep up on your hoeing religiously when they are small and after a few years you will gain on them. Scuffle hoes are good because they cut just below the soil surface and bring less weed seeds to the surface.

The best time to attack perennial weeds is just after they have flowered. Earlier the roots may respond by coming up with double the seed heads. Perennials can be smothered with black plastic but it will take a full season to do them in. Knowledge is power---a power needed against this formidable foe. ~

Rosa, Rosaceae the rose, represents love, magic, hope and the mystery of life itself. Its name Rosa, is Latin for red and from earliest time the rose symbolized love and passion. The Greeks associated it with the blood of Adonis, the Romans used roses in feasts and orgies. From an image of pagan-love the rose was transfigured to an emblem of Christian mystical and spiritual love. Before the sixteenth century there were a few basic roses in the West. Rosa gallica, native to Europe, was used by healers for any ailment, from barrenness to washing "molligrubs out of a moody brain." A striped Gallica rose called "Rosa Mundi" commemorated Henry II's mistress Rosamund. Hybrids and descendants of roses included the white Rosa X alba, which represented the House of York in the War of the Roses. At the end of the 18th century China roses came to Europe. Among these were the Tea roses, which do not smell like tea, but were in boxes along with imports of tea. The Teas were crossed with Hybrid Perpetuals and became the basis of nearly all our modern roses. Josephine, Napoleon's ex-wife carried a rose with her always so she could hide her bad teeth. She caused ships carrying roses to be allowed through the battle lines unscathed by both French and English for her garden. The Peace rose was a commemoration of a rose bred in France and smuggled out to America just before the Nazis invaded. "You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses." Ziggy



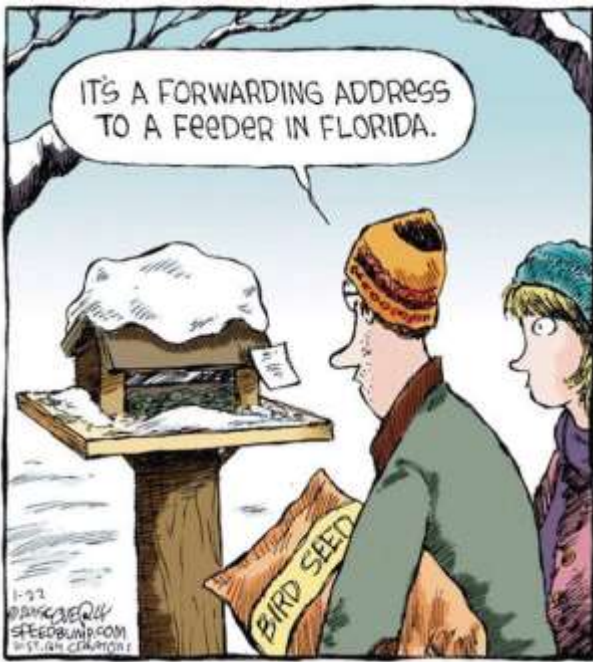
Teresa Diehl

February 2019





HOPE YOU ARE SAFE AND SOUND!



Wow! This record setting cold is hard on everyone and everything! I hope this finds each of you able to hunker down and stay safe and warm in your homes!

Hopefully you are reading this as the weather is warming and we approach the predicted 50 degree weekend! Crazy!

Unfortunately, I am afraid we will see some plants suffer from this deep freeze. Back in 2014 when we had days around -15 Tim and I lost a couple Knock Out Roses and thought we lost a mature Oakleaf Hydrangea, that eventually bounced back. I am predicting that we will see some plant death and a lot of highly stressed plants due to this recent deep freeze. On the bright side, that is an opportunity for plant shopping.... so there's that! Be safe!



ART OF GARDENING REGISTRATION IS OPEN

The first 2 days of mail brought 108 registrations! Half way there! If you didn't receive your registration form via email for some reason or had problems opening it, just let me know. The cost of the seminar is \$50.00 and we are not preselling tools or books this year. Take a minute today to fill out

your check and drop it in the mail this weekend to be sure you get a seat!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE



The success of the "Art of Gardening" seminar is directly the result of everyone working together on this big project! Please watch for emails that offer opportunities to help prepare for the event before the day of the event and for opportunities to assist on the day of the event! I get so many compliments from other counties about the impressive work you all do to make the day so great!



MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASSES

We have begun to line up all the instructors and are finalizing the syllabus for this year's MGV training class. Now we students. Please share information about the MGV program with your friends, family members, neighbors, folks at work, etc. You are the best advertisement of the things that you can learn, the friends you can make, the experiences you can have, and the difference you can make as an MGV! Being a mentor to another MGV is a rewarding experience. Think about who you know who you would enjoy volunteering with, then invite them!



Registration forms are available at this link:

<https://allen.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers/master-gardener-volunteer-training-course-be-offered>

Additionally, if we are able to field a class, there will be opportunities for you to sit in on any of the courses in order to refresh your memory on any of the topics offered.

WHAT'S AHEAD

MGV Training Class starts **March 5**

Art of Gardening Seminar **March 16**

ACMGV Monthly Meetings, 3rd Wednesday beginning **April 17**

Work for Food Day – Garden Clean Up, Saturday, **April 27**

Tuesday Work Days at the Children's Garden begin **May 7**

~ Gretchen

