



Digging It!



All the Dirt from the Allen County Master Gardeners

MARCH 2020

Tidbits from Teresa

Ferns, you tend to love them or hate them...if they overtake your beds your love may fade and if you can't get them going you are fond of them. Ferns are great fillers and can be tough, reliable perennials in a shade garden. They are carefree when established and have few pests to bother them.

Ferns add texture and look amazing next to a secluded pond or woodland setting. Hardy ferns require rich, moist soil with organic matter and most grow in neutral to moderately acid soil. They never need staking, pinching or pruning and a coiled frond appeals to the artist in us.

Tips to succeed with ferns:

- ❖ If you have heavy soil, mix in rotted leaves or compost at planting time.
- ❖ Plant shallowly with the crown flush with the soil to prevent crown rot.
- ❖ Keep well watered for the first couple years.
- ❖ In spring apply thin layer of mulch to hold down weeds and conserve moisture.
- ❖ Patience is needed as it takes a couple years to establish and 4 or 5 years to fully mature.

Hardy zone 3-8 varieties include Maidenhair, Cinnamon, Ostrich, Royal, Bracken and Christmas ferns. I haven't had luck with Japanese Painted fern and it is a slow growing variety, but I will try it again and be more mindful of where I plant it and be sure to get it established.

I am excited to see what this spring brings and look forward to seeing you at the March 14th seminar....only 2 weeks away!

Teresa Diehl March 2019

Allen County OSU Extension is now hiring an Office Associate!

This position will coordinate activities for the Master Gardeners, as well as other general office duties. This position will be part time at 24 hours per week. To apply please visit the OSU Jobs site: <https://www.jobsatosu.com/postings/101621>

Please help us spread the word!

ART OF GARDENING

The seminar approaches quickly! Please relieve some burden from Sue Lyon by contacting her to let her know what you can contribute to the seminar in the way of breakfast items and snacks. I received more comments this week on how amazing our event is and how much the guests look forward to our food presentation. That relies on your support.

Also, Sue needs helpers. If you are one of the folks who “just shows up” do Sue the courtesy of knowing you’ll be there. If you want to help with this committee, please reach out to her to let her know so that she can plan. If you are available to help her load and unload on Friday afternoon – please reach out to her.

She can be reached at: 419-999-2591 or lslyon45@gmail.com

We will be filling the packets on Wednesday, March 11 @ 6:30 p.m. at Teresa Diehl’s house. Sign up on the VMS – 6 helpers are needed.

We will be setting up at the campus on Friday, March 13 @ 3 p.m. If you are available to help unload vehicles and move chairs, please come.

The doors will open at 7 a.m. on Saturday, March 14. Please come early to assist with the set up of the food, sales tables, etc. Remember, as an ACMGV you are a HOST of this event. Please be available to greet our guests and assure that they have what they need.

Mark will be at the seminar to collect your 2020 dues. Please bring a check payable to: Allen County Master Gardeners for \$20.00.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

~ Gretchen



Bracken



Maidenhair Fern



Ostrich Fern



Bracken Fern Fronds



Cinnamon Fern

(Fern photos below from en.wikipedia.org)

Christmas Fern →