

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

May 2017

EVENTS

- May 7 – Deer Resistant plant sale, 9 AM – 12 PM. 120 Morris Ave., Athens
- May 13 – Master Gardener Plant Sale, Community Center shelter, 8:30 AM – 12 PM
- May 20 – Tentative field trip, Franklin Park Conservatory. Leave Extension Office at 9 AM. Contact Debby or Ceil
- June 6 - County Employees plant giveaway



Hard working students at the Plant Diagnostic Workshop



BUGS AND BLOOMS



Be on the lookout for the rose rosette virus. It attacks most roses and there is no cure. Signs include skinny leaves and a profusion of thorns. Let us know if you find it. It is moving through Ohio right now.

Lead Article

Friday's Plant Diagnostic Work Shop was presented by Curtis Young from Van Wert County in Northwest Ohio and Nancy Taylor from OSU's Plant Diagnostic Lab. The workshop was primarily concentrated on evergreens-but also included several non-evergreen plants. The program began with the importance of plant identification and then proceeded to the diseases and insects affecting them. The second half of the program was actual hands on identification both of plant samples and insects and diseases. Samples were provided the speakers who shared information collected over a lifetime of study and experience. We learned that we cannot know all of the answers, but that we need to know how to ask the right questions and that it all begins with proper plant identification.

We would like to especially thank all of the Master Gardeners who helped out by setting up the room and bringing snacks.



MAY GARDENING

All Month

- Bush beans
- Pole beans
- Wax beans
- Broccoli (transplant)
- Brussel sprouts (transp.)
- Swiss chard
- Sweet corn
- Onion

After May 15th

- Cucumbers
- Eggplant (transplant)
- Muskmelons
- Okra
- Peppers (transplant)
- Pumpkins
- Squash (summer and winter)
- Sweet potato
- Tomatoes (transplant)
- Watermelon

Plant of the Month



Virginia Bluebells
Mertensia virginica

A native, May blooming perennial. The flowers are a true blue. Virginia Bluebell likes some shade and prefers moist soil, although it will grow well in average garden soil. It dies back soon after blooming, so plants with good foliage should be planted near it to help conceal the brown stem and then fill in the area.

Submit your June Plant of the Month to brown.6000@osu.edu

Project Spotlight

It is May and the Master Gardener Projects are in full swing working to improve and benefit the Community and gardeners throughout Athens County. Master Gardener Volunteers are always appreciated and needed. For more volunteer experiences, here are some ideas:

Farmer's Market - Contact Carolyn Sutherland

Children's Garden - Contact Pat Huntley

Wistendahl Native Plant Garden - Connie Davidson

School Gardens / Projects:

- Chauncey Elementary - Laura Bennet
- Vinton School - David Boothe

And, of course, the May 13 **Annual Plant Sale**

Digging Deeper

The last meeting included a work party at the Children's Garden instead of a presenter. Members attending weeded the garden beds and the signature planting areas. Plants from the garden were dug up and potted for the plant sale. Pat Huntley asked members to volunteer to work with children's classes during the summer.

