

# OVER THE GARDEN FENCE



## EVENTS

- November 17 - A Day in the Woods 'Identifying Trees in Winter' and 'Night Skies', Vinton Experimental State Forest
- November 27 – Monthly Meeting, 'Japanese Gardens' Jon Gordon, Extension Office.
- January 20 – CFI, Seed Saving Adaptation, Athens

November 2017



## Lazy Gardener Pledge

Many gardeners 'put their garden to bed' for the winter by tidying up leaves, stalks, and brush. However, leaving a 'messy garden' in the fall and winter greatly increases the value of your garden to wildlife. Consider this: Insects have left their larvae and eggs in the leaf litter. If they emerge in a plastic bag elsewhere, it isn't good for the insects and it won't do any good for the birds that you might like to attract. A 'clean' yard has little food value for birds who reside year round or for spring migratory birds. A 'messy garden' provides nourishment at all levels of the food chain and helps encourage a rich population of critters of all sorts.

### How to encourage a messy garden:

- \*\*Leave your leaves on the property
- \*\*Allow dried flower heads to stay standing in your garden
- \*\*Let the grass grow tall and go to seed
- \*\*Build a brush pile with fallen branches instead of removing them
- \*\*Forget the chemicals
- \*\*Leave tree snags on your property
- \*\*Delay garden cleanup until Spring, after several 50° days, allowing overwintering pollinators to "wake up" for Spring and move on.

For more information, go to [www.content.yardmap.org](http://www.content.yardmap.org), and click on the 'learn' tab. View the articles "Wildlife Value of a Messy Garden" and "Making Messy Look Good" and take the Pledge to Be a Lazy Gardener. This is the website of the Habitat Network, a citizen science project designed to transform our landscapes.



## BUGS AND BLOOMS



### Unintended Volunteers

Sometimes plants pop up where we didn't plant them. This plant started growing amongst the flowers. The grower did not recognize it and pulled it up with the weeds. Take a close look and you can see several peanuts have formed on the roots. Apparently a furry friend decided that the garden needed a few nuts.



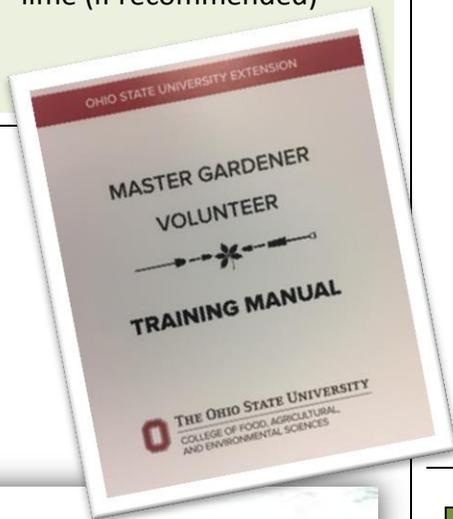
## NOVEMBER GARDEN

### Plant

1. Plant trees
2. Still time to divide and transplant plants before it turns cold.
3. Still time to plant spring bulbs.

### Chores

1. Trim blackberry canes to 4 ft. (promotes growth)
2. Compost dead plants
3. Burn or throw out **diseased** plants and fallen leaves
4. Take soil tests and apply lime (if recommended)



## Plant of the Month



*Ilex verticillata*  
'Winterberry Holly'

Ohio's native winterberry holly is a deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub, with both male and female plants. In November, the foliage begins to drop, leaving the brightly colored berries that will persist into late winter. This provides food for wildlife as well as visual appeal. Pest and disease problems are minimal.

Submit your December Plant of the Month to [brown.6000@osu.edu](mailto:brown.6000@osu.edu)

## Project Spotlight

Master Gardener Training Class is a special project. It serves the function of creating and training new members. This project provides multiple opportunities for members to collect hours and get additional training. Volunteers can serve on the planning committee to develop the training program and solicit speakers and specialists to address the class. This activity occurs primarily in the summer and fall. Volunteers are also needed to attend the classes and grade tests and occasionally bring snacks. Classes offer an opportunity to refresh your knowledge and encourage new members.

## Digging Deeper

Ann Bonner presented a program on trees, how they impact and benefit city and suburban environments and the conditions necessary for a tree to grow and thrive. She addressed the soil conditions necessary for growing trees and the unintentional damage that human action and development can cause to the established trees and their root systems. Using a birthday cake, Ann provided an amusing and graphic demonstration of what happens to soil during a building project.