

August 2011

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 8



Gail Ruhl is our speaker for September general meeting at the extension office

Join us for our next general meeting at the extension office at 6:30 p.m. on September 27. Our speaker will be Gail Ruhl, Senior Plant Disease Diagnostician with the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue University. With the extreme weather we've experienced this growing season, some of us may have dealt with diseases new to our yards and gardens, or simply dealt with the return of old nemeses. This is a great opportunity to talk to an expert.



By
Evelyn
Harrell

In addition, we will hear announcements and updates. Refreshments and set-up will be provided by Cindy Benson's committee of Ann McEndarfer, Jackie Gilkey, Nancy Miller, Mary Hawkins, and Nancy Page. Last fall many people contributed to a brainstorming session and came up with suggestions for field trips. At this meeting, you'll have the opportunity to join a small committee to help plan and coordinate field trips that will provide new experiences for members to enjoy. A sign-up sheet will be available.

Our September meeting qualifies for two education hours. If you've attended all 2011 general meetings, you are eligible for a total of seven education hours.

A big thank-you to Di Dingman for organizing the refreshments for all the hardy volunteers who joined in cleaning up the demonstration garden last month.

On August 20 the **14th Annual Herb Fest** will be held at Paradise Springs Historical Park in Wabash. The fest offers free seminars which qualify for educational hours for Master Gardeners. For information, email cecampbe@purdue.edu.

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Special points of interest

- Gail Ruhl is excellent! Hear her on September 27*
- Learn about fall garlic planting*
- Did you know you can harvest winter squash in summer*
- Rosie Lerner says weeding is good exercise*
- Gretchen Scott's friends are sponsoring a fund raiser and need help*
- Read about Imprelis® herbicide injury*
- Karen Sparks provides web sites with advice on gardening in the heat*

Member News

Many thanks to all who came on July 19 to help ready the Demo Garden for the Monroe County Fair. We were joined by Master Gardeners Peggy Reis-Krebs, Diana and Herman Young, Joanna Howe and Beth Murray, who have volunteered at the Demo Garden all year and have adopted a special plot.



By
Nancy
White

As you may remember, it was the hellish week where every day the temperature and humidity went up a little more than the day before. Over 20 of our hardy members arrived and reinforced their energy with some of our signature ice cream floats, and after some Fair-related announcements, went to work. Weeds were eliminated, roses were pruned along with some perennials and shrubs, beds and paths were mulched and even some poison ivy was removed. Beth Murray, Demo Garden Coordinator, directed the efforts and encouraged us as the heat made us wish we were somewhere cool. At the end of the session, the garden looked renewed and ready to welcome guests who will visit during the Fair.

The public was invited to three guided tours of the Garden during Fair Week. For some Monroe County Fair visitors, the Demo Garden is all they may know of the work of MCMGA. This year's Garden is telling our story well.

Master Gardener board meets on August 30; general meeting is September 17

As a scheduling reminder, the August/September Master Gardener board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 30, at 6:30 at the extension office. Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27, also at 6:30 p.m. in the extension office meeting room. Mark your calendars.

Time to think about planting bulbs

For a brief while I can forget the heat and humidity when catalogs featuring spring bulbs appear in my mailbox. My eyes glaze over recalling how pleasant it is to open those bags of tulips, allium, and muscari and begin to plan where they will brighten a spot inside my deer fence. Bulb companies now are showing a wide range of new tulips, some never available in the US before. Colors include several in variations of green and green and white and intriguing combinations of rose and orange and a new apricot Emperor that includes shades of coral, salmon pink and ivory. It's not too early to order now to assure you get your choice as some of the most popular ones have limited availability.

Check out this website

A rather new website, gardenershub.com, from *Horticulture Magazine* is an interesting place to browse for garden information, including gardening books, unusual tools, tips on organic gardening, and even cookbooks.

Email address update; please add to your membership book

Dianne May's email address is di.may11@yahoo.com .

Master Gardeners visit Ted and Diann Lock's garden

Last month, Bob Baird reviewed the first two stops on our 2011 Garden Walk. This month we complete the series with a special look at the county garden of Ted and Diann Lock.

By
Nancy
White

As the stream of cars entered the drive of the “house on the hill” on That Road, the reason we were invited was evident. The rolling front yard with several side gardens greeted us and enticed us to see more—what was the backyard like, we wondered? Like a pull-out picture from a child’s book, when revealed, the back yard seemed to be endless with patios, waterfalls, shaded seating areas, and a barn in the distance.

Three generations of the family have made this spot their home and have lovingly and carefully tended the gardens, barns, fenced vegetable plot, and rolling grassy areas. Originally built by Diann’s parents, the house seems to watch over the comings and goings of visitors who find a new view around every corner. Diann recounts that her family, although not farmers, were horse lovers and owners. The property continues to be home to several horses along with cats, dogs, a few raccoons, and some rabbits.

In the June *Roots and Shoots*, Diann told us how each gardening challenge has led to creative and charming solutions. Garden Walk visitors happily investigated the results before and after our delicious picnic.

And now a new chapter seems to be unfolding for the Lock homestead. Diann reports that plans are underway to offer it to the public for special outdoor celebrations such as weddings, anniversaries and parties. Construction will begin later on an enclosure west of the barn that will serve as a wedding and reception area. The well house patio where members enjoyed our Master Gardener picnic will be used for pre-wedding reception activities. Diann and Ted are being advised on this exciting commercial venture by the staff of Terry’s Banquets and Catering. Spring 2012 is the target for opening . So, stay tuned, “the house on the hill” is getting ready to make some more history.

Plant garlic this fall

Although garlic is thought to have originated in Asia, it has become an integral ingredient in most every county's cuisine. Garlic is usually grown for the flavorful bulbs that grow underground, but the green tops are used much like green onions in some countries. The flowers of the garlic plant are sterile and so do not produce seed. New plants are grown from the individual sections of the bulb known as "cloves."

By Rosie
Lerner,
Extension
Horticulturist,
Purdue
University

Garlic for planting should be purchased from a reliable garden center or mail-order catalog. Garlic that has been stored at about 40 F for several months is ideal for starting a new planting. Garlic can adapt to a wide range of soil types, but it must have a well-drained soil. Garlic can be planted in either fall or early spring. Generally, most gardeners find it easier to get the garlic planted in fall, since early spring soils are usually too wet for planting.

Echoes from 2011 Monroe County Fair

The patio of the Community Building was welcoming to visitors on Monday, morning, July 26, all decorated with the open class herb and veggie entries delivered on Saturday. Judging took place that day, and results are clearly evident with many blue ribbons to be seen. Esther Minnick, chair for the open class vegetable and herb entries, was pleased with the turnout considering the hot weather and limited rain these last few weeks. Assisting Esther were Jim Jefferies, Amy Thompson, Dale Wilkens, and Lloyd Minnick

By
Nancy
White

On Monday, both open class flowers and floral arrangements were entered. Judging was accomplished on Monday afternoon, and the display was awash in blue and red ribbons as well as purple ones for Grand Champions. Master Gardeners assisting with the Monday entries were Mary Ackerman, Nancy Fee, Dot Owen, Amy Thompson, Lloyd Minnick, and Kay Cunningham. MCMGA members Esther Minnick and Diana Young coordinated the flower entries and Sharon Hobson the floral arrangements.

Several days during the Monroe County Fair, members staffed the Master Gardener booth on the community building patio. Special thanks go to Dan Pyle, Keith Barnhart, Ann McEndarfer, Barb Cappy, Dale Wilkens, Mary Carol Paul, Cindy Benson, Kathy Baxter, Jeannie Cox, and Jim Jefferies for their work at our booth.

Set up and tear down staff for patio activities included David Dunachik, Ramsey Fahim, Keith Barnhart, Karen King, Mary Ackerman, Esther and Lloyd Minnick, Dale Wilkins and Jim Jefferies. Special thanks also go to Donna Terry, Robin Rothe, and Diann Lock who helped to keep the exhibits looking fine. Robin Rothe served as the monitor for the Garden Chats.

Wednesday evening the first of the Master Gardener Garden Chats was held in the Community Building. An appreciative audience enjoyed the presentation on *Tree Grafting*, presented by Phil O'Conner, Indiana Department of Natural Resources forest geneticist. On Thursday evening, the presentation was on *Seed Saving and the Wylie House Garden*, with Sherry Wise as speaker. On Friday evening, Esther Minnick presented a chat on *Backyard Berries*.

Did you know the Master Gardener board presents a special award to the Master Gardener with the most points from winning entries in open class flowers, floral arrangements, and herbs and vegetables? This year's winner will be announced at our September meeting.



Rachel McCarty and Betty Neal [right] register fair entries with [left, bottom to top] Lloyd Minnick, Nancy Fee, Kay Cunningham, and Esther Minnick. Photo by Amy Thompson

Special event planned for Gretchen Scott

As was announced in an earlier issue, Master Gardener Gretchen Scott is staying in Virginia with her daughter as she receives treatment for a very serious illness. She will return to Bloomington in the near future. Meanwhile, gardening friends and colleagues from work are planning a special event, a garage sale fund-raiser, to be held on Saturday, August 13, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Cornerstone Christian Church, just north of the roundabout on Tapp Road. Donations of items for the sale can be made at the church on Friday, August 12, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed on both days to help receive items, sort/arrange, and price. Contact Master Gardener Dot Owen darowen@sbcglobal.net or Jan Johnson, jjohnson@pfgmortgage.com if you can help or if

By
Nancy
White

Harvest winter squash this summer

This summer's heat wave is bringing the vegetable garden to maturity a bit earlier than usual in some areas. So many of our typical fall-harvested items may be ready sooner than you're expecting.

By Rosie Lerner,
Extension
Horticulturalist,
Purdue
University

Winter squash is so named because it is harvested in the mature stage, when flavor is rich and the rind is tough, making it suitable for winter storage. Summer squash is harvested in the immature stage, when the rind is still very tender and seeds have not yet developed.

Usually, winter squash begins maturing in September or perhaps late August. But this year, some fruits are already mature enough to pick. How can you tell if your squash is ready?

There are many different types of winter squash, and each has its own tell-tale signs of maturity. In general, look for a color change on the rind. For example, the butternut squash changes from light beige to deep tan when ripe. Many winter squash will develop an orange blush in spots, such as the Acorn squash, which is deep glossy green with a yellow spot facing the ground. When the yellow spot changes to orange, the fruit is ready to pick.

Spaghetti squash changes from creamy white to bright yellow at maturity. The delicate types, which have green steaks across a white background, are ready when the white changes to beige and an orange blush appears.

You'll probably want to eat the early maturing fruits right away, since it's been such a long wait since last year's crop. But when you're ready to start storing squash for winter use, choose a cool, dark, dry location. Winter squash can be stored from two to six months if kept at about 55 F, depending on the cultivar. The challenge will be to find such a cool storage area while summer is still cranking up the heat.

Honeydew

If you have ever walked under a tree and noticed the lower leaves and anything else under the tree covered with a shiny, sticky substance, then you have seen honeydew. Honeydew is actually plant sap that has passed through the body of an insect. Though aphids are the usual culprit, other members of the insect order Homoptera also can produce honeydew, including planthoppers, soft scales, mealybugs, whiteflies, psyllids, and some leafhoppers.

Submitted
by
Amy
Thompson

All these insects have sucking mouthparts and usually have little impact on the landscape. The honeydew they produce is considered a nuisance because of its sticky nature. But the high sugar content of the honeydew encourages the growth of a fungus called sooty mold. Sooty mold turns anything on which it grows a black color, making it much more objectionable to people.

We normally do not recommend control of these insects because populations are usually controlled naturally. Adverse environmental conditions, predators, parasites, and fungal diseases often cause populations to crash. But if you feel control is necessary, a heavy spray of water will help remove insects and honeydew from small plants. A wide range of insecticides, such as acephate (Orthene), horticultural oils, and malathion are labeled and can be used on larger plants, but again this is rarely necessary.

Hot weather tough on plants and gardeners

Sultry summer weather is not only tough on gardeners but on our plants as well. In addition to garden and landscape plants gasping for water, some vegetable crops have trouble producing when under stress.

By
Rosie
Lerner,
Extension
Horticulturist,
Purdue
University

Tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, pumpkins, cucumbers and beans often drop their blossoms without setting fruit when day temperatures are above 90 F. There's not much you can do but wait for cooler temperatures to prevail. As more favorable conditions return, the plants will resume normal fruit set.

Cool-season crops, such as lettuce and spinach, will bolt, or produce, seed stalks, causing the flavor of the leaves to become bitter. It's best to remove these crops and replant with heat tolerant vegetables, such as beans, carrots orchard.

The good news is that weather is always changing. The extreme heat won't last forever--it will just seem like it! In the meantime, try not to overdo the garden work. Aim to complete your chores very early in the morning or in the evening when the sun is less intense, take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water to keep yourself from wilting.

Web Castings

Some 'pre-digested' web offerings provided by local Master Gardeners and their friends.

Back in May this year, we looked at gardening with heavy rain, mud, using raised beds... wanna bet we are gonna look a gardening in extreme heat this month??! Yup.



By
Karen
Sparks

There is a good list of tips for gardening in this heat, and of course the first tip is to have planted items that do well in heat (duh!), but here you go: first, Google 'gardening extreme heat' and click on the first link, which has 'myweathercontent' in the list. The addy is so long, I can't include it here, but you will get it.

The very next link on that Google results page (for me, anyway) is an article from the Metro DC Garden Blog about how garden chemicals are far more dangerous in high heat. You can go to this addy and look at the list of articles, you may be interested in more than just the one on heat/chemicals: <http://www.metro-dc-lawn-garden-blog.com>

Another site looks at all of the above and also how this will affect you and your safety. If you look down the list a bit you will find an article on gardening in weird weather, too:

www.stlmag.com/Blogs/Diggin-the-Dirt/June-2011

This next link, from the U of Vermont, also stresses your own safety:

<http://www.uvm.edu/pss/ppp/articles/heat.html>

eHow normally has good items, and this is no exception:

http://www.ehow.com/how_5120102_raise-vegetables-extreme-heat.html

Raising vegetables in extreme heat in West Texas could be more challenging than it is here usually, but maybe not this year!

Good luck with your own garden. Take care of yourself, and remember to drink that water. I am about two months behind on my work out there, due to health and travel issues, but that makes it even more of an interesting challenge, right? Till next time.

Dividing iris

Late summer through early fall is a good time to lift and divide iris. Dividing every 3-5 years will help rejuvenate the planting and encourage more blossoms for the subsequent years.

Dig the clumps by inserting a spade around the circumference of the planting. Then, insert the spade beneath the clump and lift. Deep spading should not be necessary as iris rhizomes and roots are rather shallow.

Use a sharp knife to cut the younger, outward-growing rhizomes into sections, leaving as many roots and buds on each piece as possible. For ease in replanting, cut the leaves to one-third their original height. Discard the old central portions of the original rhizome, as well as any sections that appear to be diseased or infested with iris borer.

By Rosie
Lerner,
Extension
Horticulturalist,
Purdue
University

Weeding is good exercise

No matter if the weather is cool or hot or wet or dry, gardeners must do battle with weeds. Despite having a number of weapons to fight this battle, this year the weeds have won the war at my place. Between torrential rains, heat waves and ravenous mosquitoes, I must confess to nearly giving up. But I have renewed my efforts by putting myself on a weeding exercise schedule.

By
Rosie
Lerner,
Extension
Horticultuist,
Purdue
University

That's right, weeding is good exercise! According to the AARP activity calculator, a 175-pound person can burn around 180 calories per half hour through activities such as raking, planting, weeding and pruning. I think if I convince myself to do just 30 minutes of weeding a day, maybe I can at least make a slight dent in preventing new weeds for next year. And maybe earn an extra cookie in my lunchbox!

The best weapons for the home garden and landscape include tools such as the hoe and rototiller. There are quite a few different designs for weeding tools, including different handle lengths, pointed arrow-shaped blades, winged blades and scuffle hoes, which have a twin-blade action. For larger areas, shallow cultivation with a rototiller a few times during the season can do wonders.

Mulching around plants will go a long way toward reducing the ability of weeds to take over. Organic mulches tend to cool the soil, as well as conserve soil moisture and reduce weed germination. Materials such as chipped or shredded bark, straw, hay, grass clippings or pine needles should be applied 2-4 inches deep and replenished as needed. Plastic mulch tends to warm the soil and is best used on warm-season vegetables, such as tomatoes, melons, squash and peppers. If soil gets too hot in mid-summer, you might want to put a shallow layer of organic mulch on top of the plastic.

Don't underestimate the power of your bare hands (well, make that gloved-hands)! Young weeds can be very easy to pull, especially during or just after a rain. You want to prevent the weeds from going to seed, as that will bring many more future battles. For example, a single dandelion plant can produce 15,000 seeds in one year, and each seed is capable of surviving for up to 6 years in the soil. Each purslane plant can produce more than 52,000 seeds, and these seeds can survive up to 30 years in the soil. So, it is in your best interest to stay ahead of the weeds!

Although a dizzying number of herbicides (pesticides designed to kill plants) approved by the EPA are available, only a relatively limited number of them come in small homeowner-sized packages. Generally speaking, herbicides are low in risk to people and animals when they are used according to the label. But there is a risk of doing damage to the very plants you are trying to protect.

For more information on weed control in the yard and garden, take a look at Purdue Extension publication HO-217 <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-217.pdf>.

Pin oak looking yellow?

Pin oak trees can be a beautiful asset to the landscape. Their pyramidal form, pendulous lower branches and reddish or bronze fall color are striking. Unfortunately, most pin oaks planted in the Midwest are plagued by a yellowing of the leaves known as chlorosis. Other landscape plants are also susceptible to chlorosis, including rhododendrons, river birch, holly and sweet gum.

Chlorosis gets its name from the lack of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for healthy plants' green color. When chlorophyll is not present, the resulting color is usually yellow. The major cause of chlorosis in landscape plants is a deficiency of either iron or manganese. Both are considered to be plant micronutrients, meaning they are needed in small quantities by plants.

Iron and manganese deficiencies usually are not caused by an actual lack of these nutrients in the soil, but by soil that is too alkaline. As soil pH becomes more alkaline, iron and manganese are chemically tied to the soil, making them unavailable for plant uptake.

Iron deficiency causes interveinal chlorosis—a yellowing of the tissue between the veins while the veins remain green. This striking contrast becomes apparent on the youngest foliage first. In extreme cases, the tissue may turn brown and plants may be stunted.

Manganese deficiency symptoms are similar to those of iron. Silver and red maples are especially sensitive to manganese deficiency. However, if manganese-deficient leaves are treated with iron, they become even more chlorotic.

Iron and manganese chlorosis can be corrected in several ways. For a long-lasting solution, make the soil more acidic to free up the existing nutrients. Small areas can be made more acidic by applying acidic organic matter, such as peat moss, to the soil. Larger areas are more feasibly treated with elemental sulfur, iron sulfate or aluminum sulfate to the soil. The amount needed depends on the size of the area, the current soil pH and soil type. These materials are relatively slow acting, and the soil will have a tendency to return to alkaline, so it can be a never-ending battle.

To bypass the problem of soil alkalinity, iron or manganese can be applied directly to the plant. The nutrients can be sprayed on the foliage, but such treatments generally give only temporary relief. And, of course, you'll need sprayer equipment that can reach the entire plant.

Nutrients can be injected directly into the trunk of the tree. Injections are very effective, however they are expensive and create wounds that can provide entry for insect and disease organisms.

Adding nutrients to the soil near the plant is yet another option. Use specially formulated nutrients, known as chelates, to avoid the problem with soil alkalinity. These materials can be expensive and slow to work.

The best solution is to choose plants that are adapted to your location. Avoid chlorosis-prone plants if your soil is alkaline.

By
Rosie
Lerner,
Extension
Consumer
Specialist,
Purdue
University

Suspected Imprelis® herbicide injury in the landscape

Imprelis® (aminocyclopyrachlor) is a new selective herbicide that was first sold in October 2010 and is currently available only to turf professionals. It is a selective auxinic herbicide designed to control broadleaf weeds in turf.

The herbicide has both foliar and soil activity and is absorbed by the target plant's leaves, stems, and roots. Since Imprelis® remains active in the soil, it can provide residual control of weeds.

Although Imprelis® was registered for control of broadleaf weeds in turf, some homeowners, lawn care operators, and golf course superintendents started observing injury on trees and some ornamentals in their landscapes this spring (late May and early June) in the turf areas where it had been applied last fall or this spring. Symptoms observed include dieback; brown and twisted shoots, leaves and needles; especially near tree tops. Symptoms are most severe on the current year's growth — the outermost or topmost growth. Unlike conifer insect and disease problems, suspected Imprelis® injury occurs rapidly — usually within two to four weeks of application. The most commonly affected trees to date have been Norway spruce, Colorado blue spruce, and eastern white pine. Firs, yews, arborvitae and some deciduous trees and shrubs have also been affected.

Initially, it does not appear that this damage is from misapplications. After tree damage was reported, DuPont issued a statement on June 17, 2011, that cautioned applicators: “do not apply Imprelis® where Norway spruce or white pine are present on, or in close proximity to, the property to be treated.” However, the original product label did not specify this caution to applicators.

To date, university Extension services in 22 states from Kansas to Pennsylvania have reported injury to conifers associated with Imprelis® application to turf and lawns. Although damage is widespread, injury to trees is inconsistent at many locations as some trees are damaged more than others and researchers are still trying to learn more.

Based on experience with synthetic auxin herbicide injury and other types of environmental damage, trees that have minor browning (less than 1/3 of crown affected) on new growth will likely recover. However, recovery may be slow and occur over one or two growing seasons. Trees with distorted top growth may resume growth, but will likely require corrective pruning to maintain desirable form and symmetry. Severely distorted and damaged trees and those with extensive death of new growing tips may die. Norway spruce appears to be the most susceptible species. Initial observations on trees with extensive injury suggest that many Norway spruce may die as a result of herbicide exposure, while other species may recover.

The trees that appear to be most sensitive to and commonly affected by Imprelis® injury typically have a vigorous growth habit, which makes them good candidates to recover from minor injury. If you suspect trees are injured from Imprelis®, reduce drought stress by watering them during dry periods. Avoid overwatering, which causes water-logging. Fertilization during this growing season is not recommended, unless a nutrient deficiency exists.

By Aaron Patton, Tom Creswell, Gail Ruhl, and Steve Weller, Purdue University

Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries and research	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	writing articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Evelyn Harrell, 339-0572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Jessica Williams, 334-8374
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer 2010	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Remember to report 2010/2011 hours only at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>.

August 2011

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our next general meeting is on September 27
at the extension office at 6:30 p.m.

2011 MCMGA Board

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Hours Report: <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>

Watering 101

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University

Most garden plants will need 1-1.5 inches of water per week to maintain healthy leaves, flowers and fruit. When Mother Nature does not provide enough, it's up to the gardener to supply the rest.

When you do need to water, it's best to do a thorough deep application, and then put the hose away for the rest of the week. The worst thing you can do to your garden is to sprinkle lightly every day. Frequent, shallow watering only moistens the upper layer of soil, which encourages plant roots to stay shallow. In turn, that top layer of soil dries out quickly, making shallow-rooted plants more susceptible to drying. This holds true for lawns, as well as garden and landscape plants.