

Roots and Shoots

Volume 30, Issue 8

August 2014

Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

My cover crop experience

By David Dunatchik



Special points of interest:

- ◆Most evergreens do not re-grow new needles after deer damage
- ◆Submit a garden tip and a recipe for our new book
- ◆Roses develop black spot during a summer of rain and warm temperatures
- ◆Dave Dunatchik reports on his cover crop experience
- ◆Grow shrubs in containers? Yes! See page 6

Inside this issue:

- Member news **2**
- International MG Conference **3**
- Purdue Spotlight **3**
- Come join us **3**
- September general meeting **5**
- Container gardening **6**
- In the grow **7**
- Coming soon **8**

Last fall Master Gardeners had a program at our September general meeting at which Mark Evans, Extension Educator for Putnam County, discussed *Cover Crops for Home Gardeners*. He showed us how to use the no-till method of gardening using cover crops and fabric. Peaking my interest, I decided to try it with my small vegetable garden.

I have two small vegetable plots, each 4' x 20' in size, separated by a 4' path. I decided to use rye as a cover crop on one entire plot and three-fourths of the other. I wanted a little uncovered soil for planting lettuce in the spring. The remaining plot areas would be reserved for tomatoes, sweet peppers, squash, and cucumbers.

The cover crop I used was called cereal rye, and I purchased the seed by the pound from Bloomingfoods Garden Center—very inexpensive. At first I bought one pound not knowing how thickly to seed it, but then I went back and got another pound. As it turned out, these two pounds were just the right amount for my two areas.

Since I had not planted a cover crop before, I researched some articles to see how it was done. While even though articles talked about planting cover crops on large acreages, the technique was clear. I just needed to scatter the seed onto bare soil and lightly tamp it in to assure contact with moist ground.
(continued on page 4)



Cereal rye used as a cover crop in my vegetable garden.
Photo by David Dunatchik

Member news

By Evelyn Harrell



Hats off and a cold, refreshing toast to the 19 Master Gardeners who turned out on a sultry July evening to put the finishing touches on the Demonstration Garden. The gardeners took a break to gather under a tent at the new meeting space that was created where there was nothing but a tangle of weeds a month ago, to hear announcements and enjoy great snacks and cold drinks. Diana Young reported that over the previous two months a crew of about 10 members took responsibility for pulling up thistle, digging out grasses, installing raised beds, planting herbs, trimming bushes, shearing shrubs, and finding the paths again that had mostly disappeared. The winter weather and spring rains had left a mess. The volunteers on July 22 still had their work cut out for them, and their collective gardening skills resulted in an educational experience for visitors that the Monroe County Master Gardeners can be proud of.

Demonstration Garden appreciated during the Monroe County Fair

From MG Karen King: “Yesterday we took our grandson to the fair and walked through the Demo Garden. Dash liked the strawberry patch (I shared a berry with him). It was sweeet! Kent made a comment on how nice it looked. After reading the new posts with information about the volunteer who worked two afternoons on her knees digging up roots, Peggy, it had to be you. I think my first impression is how open and inviting the garden is now. With the new posts, layout of the herbs, elimination of the tall grasses, everything looked so much nicer. Gooooood job to all who helped.” (President’s note: Yes, it was Peggy Rees-Krebs.)

Master Gardener Exhibitor Award

From Stephen Anderson in a recent email: “The MCMGA board is pleased to sponsor the 2014 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Exhibitor Award. The Monroe County Master Gardener with the highest overall points will receive a \$50 award at a future general MCMGA meeting.” There were several entries at the Fair from Master Gardeners, including cut flowers, canned items, and vegetables. It looks like the race might be on between Di Dingman and Nancy Deckard.

Submit your garden photos by Sunday, November 2

From Stephen Anderson’s email announcement of the *folia and flora* Cover Photo Contest: “Part of producing our annual *folia and flora* membership guide involves choosing the cover photo. Please consider participating in the contest for next year’s front cover photo. Please email your entries to Cindi Percifield at ckpercif@purdue.edu by Sunday 11/2. Photos submitted for previous contests may be re-submitted for this year’s contest, provided that the original files are resent to Cindi. Titles for your photos are appreciated, but not required.”

Photos will be judged at our November Meeting and Harvest Dinner on November 11. Please note that photo submissions will be retained by the Purdue Extension Monroe County office and MCMGA and may be used in publications, displays, and/or presentations. Credit will be given to the photographer.

Korean International Master Gardener Conference

Submitted by Amy Thompson



Consider attending the Korean Master Gardener International Conference in Gyeonggi-Do, South Korea, on September 23-October 1, and plan to bring along posters (not larger than 3' x 4') to display at the conference. Find additional information about the conference and poster display at this website: www.kmgic.org.

The main symposium of the conference will run September 25-27 with preconference and post conference activities spanning the dates of September 23 through October 1. Visit the website for the agenda. Those wishing to attend should complete the registration form on the website.

This conference provides opportunities to see and hear about Master Gardeners in other parts of the world.

Purdue Spotlight shines on Master Gardener State Conference

Submitted by Amy Thompson

Check out the new Purdue MG Spotlight featuring highlights from the 2014 Purdue MG State Conference hosted by the Marion County Master Gardeners at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/spotlights/2014MGStateConfspotlight.html>. Thank you to Marion County Master Gardeners and to Steve Mayer for hosting over 250 Master Gardener volunteers, June 12-14. Congratulations to the 2014 Purdue MG SFE Award Winners also featured in this latest spotlight article!

2015 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference will be on June 4-6 in Evansville.

Come join us!

By Evelyn Harrell

Would you enjoy working with a great group of Master Gardeners who volunteer to serve on the Master Gardener board and help support the organization? The board meets on the first Monday of the month at the extension office. If you are looking for an opportunity to be more involved with Master Gardeners' organization and want to get to know the members and have a good time while doing it, please contact Evelyn Harrell at 3389-0572 or email at ear4841@comcast.net.

My cover crop experience (continued from page 1)

I was a little concerned about how late I was planting the rye. The literature recommends planting by mid-September to assure adequate growth by winter. It was late September before I got started, and I worried about the rye maturing in time for spring planting. The literature did warn that this method should be used for late planted crops because the killing by rolling/crimping would be done in late May right after anthesis [flowering of anthers before ovary fertilization].

In preparation for seeding, I removed debris from the old garden and lightly raked the surface to expose bare ground. I then hand broadcast the seed, trying to keep the seed as evenly distributed as possible. After seeding I lightly tamped the seed to the soil to assure good contact, then waited for rain and hoped that the birds did not find this newly offered feast. I did not water, but we did receive enough rain to allow for germination within a week.

I was concerned that my relatively late seeding would delay flowering, but I found that the start of flowering is triggered in rye by 14 hours of light in spring at which time vegetative growth stops. Sun charts show this should occur for us in mid-May. Sure enough, on May 19 I saw the first flowering of anthers and a week later full bloom. The standing crop looked pretty thick, and I wondered if it would be too thick to plant in. Only time would tell.



Cereal rye in bloom
Photo by
David Dunatchik

On May 26 I began crimping the stalks by rolling them down with a four inch, four feet long PVC pipe. I used the pipe like a rolling pin, starting from one end and going about three-fourths of the length of the plot then rolling from the other end so the standing end would overlap the center. I had to roll several times because rye is tough stuff, and some stubborn clumps required that I bend it over by hand.

On May 29 I began my planting. I pushed aside little layers of rye enough to dig small holes for my six tomatoes. Planting was not nearly as difficult as I thought so I was pleased with the prospect of instant mulch and less weeding. Because the rye had not started to decompose, it was tying up nutrients so I added a handful of organic fertilizer to each planting spot. I planted pepper plants, squash, and cucumber seeds on May 30. Again, I just pushed aside enough rye to expose a circle of soil. When planting seeds I lightly loosened the spot of dirt and planted the seeds.

Overall, my garden has flourished, except from some nibbling by deer, and the mulch has been very effective. I am starting to get some determined weeds, but they are easy to pull. I think the effort of planting the rye (continued on page 5)

September general meeting

By Susan Lovell



Summer is rushing by, and before we know it, fall will be upon us. It is time to think about our next general meeting on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the county extension office. We will have presentations by two speakers, Travis Dekoker, owner of Lavender Valley Farm presenting *All about Lavender* and Heather Reynolds, IU Associate Professor of Biology presenting *The Garden Unseen: Subterranean Plant Interactions*. Two hours of education credit are available. The refreshment committee will have snacks and drinks available starting at 6:00 p.m. September's refreshment committee members are Helen Hollingsworth, Susan Eastman, Mary Hawkins, Diane Gregory, Nancy Miller, and Karen King.

A huge thank you to our small but mighty refreshment committee for the Demo Garden clean up night on July 22! The food was delicious, and as one gardener commented, "presented beautifully—almost too pretty to eat." Thanks to Mary Cusack for the wonderful fruit bowls, Judy Dillon for several types of small sandwiches (yum), Pam Hall for the much needed bottled water, and Sandy Belth for the cooler and ice. The snacks were healthy and plentiful. We appreciate the generosity of time and talent so that our volunteers who worked so hard in the garden would have a snack and a cool drink.

Last, a reminder that our November 11 Harvest Dinner will again be a pot-luck meal. I will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting requesting volunteers to monitor the food tables and help with drinks. Our speaker will be Linda Chapman, Harvest Moon Flower Farm, discussing *Flower Arranging*. An hour of education credit is available.

My cover crop experience (continued from page 4)

cover crop is best suited in the small garden for plants already started in pots and ready for transplanting.

I found the planting of cereal rye as a cover crop a worthwhile experience. For the future I will allow the rye to decompose over this winter and next summer and not plant rye for this fall. I'm thinking I will want to plant it as a cover crop every other year to see how it goes.



Vegetables planted in rye mulch
Photo by David Dunatchik

Container gardening: why not try potted shrubs?

By Nancy White



Since shrubs have so many benefits, including low maintenance, multiple season interest, and versatility in garden design, it just seems logical that breeders and gardeners are starting to pair the right shrub with the right pot. Especially in small gardens, potted shrubs can provide diversity, act as dividers, and provide a natural backdrop for perennials and annuals. Potted shrubs can also expand planting possibilities. You might want to try a shrub that is not hardy in our zone. By bringing it under cover in winter, pot and all, the shrub will be protected. Other plants that demand certain soil amendments can be successfully grown in a pot with special soil.

When planning for potted shrubs, consider these guidelines:

- choose small special or compact varieties
- choosing larger varieties is a possibility but will most likely need to be re-potted in the future
- choose a pot two to three times the size of the pot that the plant was purchased in
- choose a frost-proof pot; unglazed terra cotta will break in the cold

Potted shrubs should have a cold-hardiness two zones colder than our area. For instance, for zone 6, plants should be able to withstand winters in zone 4. Some gardeners use plant trollies to move pots inside the garage, shed or other protected place if the plants are not appropriately winter-hardy.

Another caution with potted shrubs is the need for regular watering during drought periods.

Consider trying some potted shrubs to add that extra spark of multi-season interest and versatility to your garden.

From Horticulture Magazine on-line *Smart Gardening* '14

Camera ready? Take photos now of your favorite summer scenes, plants, and ornaments, and you'll be ready for November's fun annual photo contest. First place winning photograph is featured on the front cover of *folia and flora*. Prepare now and plan to enter the contest.

In the grow

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue



Q. I recently received a flower bouquet with some pretty blossoms I do not recognize. Do you know what these might be?

A. Known as wax flower in the florist trade and botanically as *Chamelaucium*, this plant is native to Australia. The star-shaped petals come in shades of white, pink and lavender and some bi-colors. The needle-like, citrus-scented foliage makes a nice filler material for floral arrangements. This shrubby plant is hardy only to about 20 degrees F, so you'll only be able to enjoy it as a cut flower in our area.



Wax Flowers

Q. The woods around our home are loaded with a shrub with red berries. Do you know what this plant is and whether the berries are edible?

A. That would be one of the Asian honeysuckle species, a group of invasive, non-native honeysuckles that have become rampant in recent years. Honeysuckle fruits are not documented to be poisonous to humans or pets, although one occasionally hears tales of illness. Birds love the red berries, which is part of the problem; the birds spread the seeds everywhere.



Invasive Honeysuckle Fruit

The seeds then germinate and start new shrub colonies. The Asian honeysuckles are early to green up in spring and the last to lose their green color in the fall. It is best to try to remove the plants while they are still young. Repeated cutting and digging may work, but the plants often grow back with a vengeance. For more established plants, cutting the trunks and carefully painting the stump with brush killer herbicide may provide some control. Please read the herbicide label carefully and follow all label directions and precautions to avoid damaging desirable plants nearby. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has an excellent publication on how to identify and control the invasive honeysuckles, as well as some suggested alternative shrubs to plant in the home landscape, http://www.in.gov/dnr/files/Bush_Honeysuckle.pdf. For more information on invasive plants in Indiana, visit <http://www.invasivespecies.IN.gov>.

Coming soon



By Sydley Skolnik

This is your reminder to not wait until the last minute to submit your recipe! It is probably the recipe that you have copied over and over for sated friends and family. It certainly could be the recipe for the dish that you contributed to one of our pitch-in events. Haven't we all wanted the recipe for everything we sampled!

And don't forget to include a *gardening tip*—an essential ingredient for making the recipe book an MCMGA officially sanctioned item. Consider a tip that relates to your dish, such as if your recipe includes fresh pumpkin, you might include a hint for growing pumpkins, or how to compost a tired jack-o-lantern.

Submit your recipe *and* garden tip to MGRecipeBook@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paula Perron, Pam Hall, or Sydley Skolnik.

Rose black spot

By Janna Beckerman, Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue

Rose black spot is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Diplocarpon rosae*. It is the primary cause of rose defoliation in the Midwest. Over time, repeated defoliations can weaken the plant, reducing flowering. Severe defoliations that result in a loss of most of the leaves, and repeatedly occur, predisposes the plant to insect attack, other diseases, winter injury, and even death.

Roses infected with black spot primarily develop dark spots on the upper leaf surface in the late spring. Some of these spots occasionally develop feathery edges and can expand up to 1/2-inch in diameter. The leaf spots may also have yellow halos surrounding them. With severely infected plants, the leaves may turn yellow prior to leaf drop. In severe cases, the canes may have small purplish spots on the current year's growth.

Rose black spot problems can be avoided by planting cultivars and hybrids that have resistance to this and other defoliating diseases, such as powdery mildew, anthracnose, rust, and *Cercospora* leaf spot. There are cultural and chemical control practices to manage this disease in susceptible varieties.

For susceptible varieties, a thorough sanitation program in the fall is needed to minimize the disease the next spring. Remove fallen diseased leaves and burn or dispose of them properly—do not compost as it does not eliminate the source of this disease. In the spring, prune back diseased canes to healthy wood prior to bud break. During the growing season, avoid overhead irrigation to minimize leaf wetness. If overhead irrigation cannot be avoided, then water plants in the morning so the leaves dry quickly as the temperature increases.

See <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/.../BP/BP-139-W.pd> for treatment options and more information.

Volunteer opportunities

compiled by Mary Cusack

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 812-345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Herman Young, 812-322-5700 Jeanie Cox, 812-360-3587
MCMGA Garden Walk Committee	year around	select gardens	Mary Jane Hall, 812-345-3985
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Linda Emerson, 812-345-2913 (cell)
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Anthony Joslin, 812-988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Myer, 812-349-2805
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries & research	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 812-332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Stephen Anderson, 812-360-1216
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Sandy Belth, 812-825-8353 Susan Lovell, 812-339-5914
Middle Way House Roof Top Garden	seasonal	various	garden@middlewayhouse.org or call Toby Strout, director, 812-333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 812-855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Kendra Brewer, garden@mhcfoodpantry.org
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 812-824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson, 812-334-8374

Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.

Keep a copy of any volunteer records forms you submit to the extension office.

Roots and Shoots

Deer damage

By Gail Ruhl, Plant Disease Diagnostician, Purdue, Judy Loven, Indiana Wildlife Services State Director, and Jeff Burbrink, Extension Educator, Elkhart County

When damage from deer occurs there are usually two common questions. First, will the plants recover? And second, what can I do to keep the deer away?

Unfortunately, most evergreens (pines, arborvitae, spruce, and fir) will not grow new needles to fill the empty void once the green foliage has been removed from the stems. Arborvitae which have been stripped of foliage by browsing deer will remain bare. The exception appears to be the yew, which has buds in the stems of the plant and can eventually re-grow new foliage.

Standard fencing is one option to physically keep the deer away from trees and shrubs. Another option for protecting larger plantings is an electric fence (above ground electric fence is not legal inside the city limits of most communities). One type, called polytape, when used in combination with peanut butter smeared foil strips, has been fairly effective. Full details on cost, construction and effectiveness are available from your county extension office, in Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources bulletin FNR-136 or online at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-136.pdf>

Other physical barriers include one inch grid plastic bird netting to protect foliage and plastic tree guards to protect the trunk bark.

There are several repellents marketed that deter deer with their scent. You can purchase these at area garden centers or farm stores. Even though these repellents often need to be re-applied frequently because they break down quickly when exposed to the elements, they are much more effective than home remedies such as hanging small bars of scented soap or bags of human hair in each tree, creating a scent of humans nearby (this is an old wives tale that does not work—the deer are coming to your yard, human scent does not repel them). Apply repellents sparingly and leave some less desirable plants untreated in order to give the deer a choice between treated and untreated plants. However, if the deer have nothing else to eat, and they have developed a habit of eating your bushes, they will likely overcome their fear of the new scent. If deer damage to your landscaping is chronic, it may be desirable to replace severely damaged plants with deer resistant varieties (<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/default.asp>) and (<http://www.deerxlandscape.com/>)



Deer damage

2014 Demonstration Garden During and After Clean-up



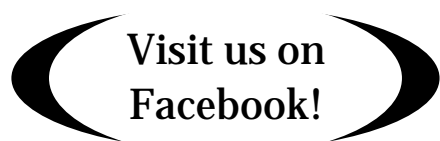
Photos submitted by Evelyn Harrell,
Diana Young, and Amy Thompson

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners
Association**

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401



Helping others grow!



2014 MCMGA Board

President: Evelyn Harrell
339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net

Vice President—Programs: Susan Lovell
339-5914 smlovell@indiana.edu

Vice President—Education: Sandy Belth
825-8353 belthbirds@aol.com

Secretary: David Dunatchik
332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net

Treasurer: Diana Young
339-0040 young-diana@att.net

Journalist: Helen Hollingsworth
332-7313 hlhollin59@att.net

Director—Communications: Stephen Anderson
360-1216 stephen_aee@yahoo.com

Director—Records: Abe Morris
606-5577 abemorris7@gmail.com

Director at Large: Jeff Schafer
650-0277 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Acting Fair Board Representative: Diana Young
339-0040 young-diana@att.net

Past President: Nancy White
824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener Calendar

Friday, August 1 through Sunday, August 17, daily, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis

Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., general meeting at the extension of-fice meeting room, two speakers, two hours of education credit available