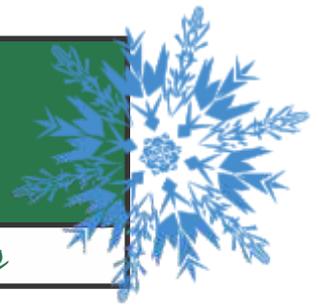




A Garden Of Friends Is Always In Bloom

Defiance County Master Gardeners



Volume 15, Issue 12

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 Defiance County Master Gardeners

Message from Keeper of the Garden

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

Thank you for your love of gardening and lifelong learning. I need to apologize for two things. Here is the first. For many years the Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer program has used the terms “active” and “inactive”. I feel the term inactive has established a “second-class citizen” within the MGV program. While the State MGV program will continue to officially record MGV as active and inactive, locally I want to de-emphasize the status. In reality, all of you have completed the MG training course and I consider you Master Gardeners. Each of you have a passion for gardening and learning while your life is made up of many choices that you must balance between family, work and community. I thank you for being a part of the OSU Extension MG family. All MGs and their guests are welcome to the monthly meetings and activities supported by the Master Gardeners of Defiance County.

I’ve heard MGs say, “But, I’ve been away from the MG program and activities for a while (9 months/9 years) and I don’t have time to make-up all those hours.” Believe me, I completely understand that “Life Happens.” All of you have important roles in family, organizations and work that will pull you in directions that are unforeseen. The MG door is still and will remain open for you when it fits into your life. The MG program offers a lot of learning and activities that can be fun and educational or a therapeutic release from other things in life. The community service and continuing education hours primarily matter IF you want to be active with the Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer program. Here is my second apology. I believed until Fall of 2018 that both the community service and education hours needed to be “caught up” if a MGV was away from the program for a while. Not true. In a phone conversation with Pam Bennett, State Coordinator, she explained that it’s only the continuing education hours that need to be caught up to make a MGV active in VMS. I apologize, I’ve told many local MGs that it was both.

Bottomline, I want you to have more reasons to be involved in the Defiance County Master Gardener program than reasons not to be involved. Thank you to our local MG leaders that plan and organized the monthly meetings and community activities. They work hard to provide many activities and opportunities.

Here are some reminders...

- Record your community service hours; it helps OSU Extension show our impact.
- Record your advanced training/continuing education hours; it helps keep our best garden tool (our mind) sharp and clean.
- A MGs goal each year: 10 hours of continuing education and 20 hours of community service



Planning Ahead

**MG Meeting
Extension Office
Jan 15 @ 6:30pm**



**MG Meeting
Extension Office
Feb 19 @ 6:30pm**



12/9 Mirta Fuentes

12/23 Jane Claussen

12/26 Janice Kline

12/29 Margaret Grimes

12/31 Dwyn Lichty

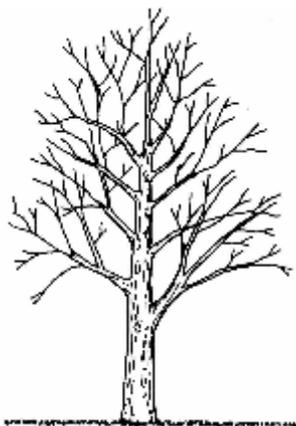
December Newsletter Continued

- When a new MGV training course is offered, all MGs are welcome to earn free education.
- Each monthly meeting has community service and continuing education hours.
- Feel free to work with Deb or Bruce with any questions on hours (what counts? what is needed?)
- Enter your hours in the online Volunteer Management System (Deb can help) by October 15th
- The October 15th is the deadline so we can prepare for the Annual MG Homecoming in late November
- Any MG that enters Any hours by October 15th will receive the incentive gift (our very popular personalized calendar)
- Those volunteers having enough hours to be Active with the Ohio Master Gardener Volunteer program will be marked so within VMS.
- The State MGV fee of \$10 is officially for active MGVs in the VMS and will be used to support and communicate state-wide information.

I wish you well in 2019. I hope to see or talk to you soon. Bruce

Tree Pruning

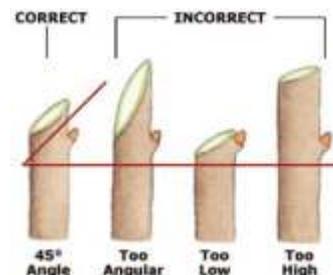
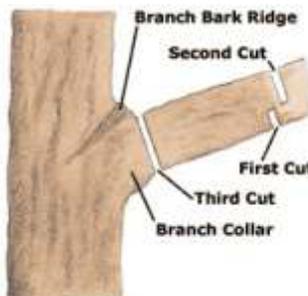
Remember the steps to properly trimming a tree. Use a pencil to reflect your cut marks to prune this tree.



- Center Leader
- Laterals
- Spurs
- Weak branch unions
- Broken limbs
- Rubbing/Crossed-over
- Suckers
- Disease

Tree Pruning Tips

Remember the tips on making healthy cuts so the tree can heal properly.



Tree Identification

Identify the Ohio trees by common name or Latin name. Answers will come in January's newsletter.

A.	G.	M.
B.	H.	N.
C.	I.	O.
D.	J.	P.

See you at the January 15th meeting