

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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Honey Bee Swarms, what is it and what should I do?

Authors, Ana Heck, Meghan Milbrath and Dan Wyns, Michigan State University Extension, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Honey bee colonies reproduce by swarming, a process where about one-third to one-half of the workers in a colony leave in a swarm with the queen to set up a hive in a new location. The original hive is left with a developing queen, worker bees and brood. A swarm of honey bees is typically composed of one queen and thousands of worker bees and can range from softball sized to larger than a basketball, depending on the number of bees.



Swarming can happen throughout the active bee season (spring through fall) but is most common in the midwest during May and June. When the colony determines conditions are right, the swarm leaves the hive. Before flying to its final destination, it will first gather close to the hive, often on a tree branch, fence post or other nearby spot. The swarm typically stays in this temporary location from a couple hours to several days, which

is when they are often spotted by passers-by. While the swarm is in this temporary location, scout bees are out searching for a suitable location for the colony to take up more permanent residence. Once the new location is identified, the swarm will depart and fly as a group to the new location. Because a swarm is a fully functioning colony, many beekeepers are prepared and willing to collect swarms into hive equipment to expand their beekeeping operations. Swarms that are not collected by beekeepers unfortunately usually do not survive. Beekeepers have to manage honey bee colonies for parasites and disease, so unmanaged colonies have a high likelihood of dying due to unmanaged disease and parasite pressure. Even worse, as these unmanaged colonies die, they can risk spreading parasites and diseases to managed colonies. The scouts of a honey bee swarm will search for a cavity to establish a permanent hive location, and while they may sometimes find a tree cavity, it's also possible that they find a cavity in a building or structure. Colonies that establish themselves within structures or near highly populated areas can be a nuisance or hazard. It can be difficult and often very expensive to

remove honey bee colonies from structures, so having a beekeeper capture the swarm before it has the chance to take up residence is good preventative practice. It is important for the sake of the honey bees and your neighbors to call a beekeeper if you see a swarm.

This article is from The Michigan State University.



Two trees in one? What's going on? One word....Reversion.

Author Thom deHass, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Peak flowering in Northern Ohio reveals some curious plants the seem to have different color flowers on the same tree. What's happening? One wordReversion? Actually, there are 2 different plants genus species and possible cultivars growing on the same plant. The flowering reveals that the plant is actually 2 different plants on the same rootstock. Many times, plants that are grafted, will have growth that occurs below the graft union. The plant below the graft union is the rootstock of the plant that was grafted on top. Why not just grow the plant on top buy using cuttings. Many will not root from cuttings. In order to grow the cultivar, it has to be from the original sport or parent plant. It seems shocking, but all Dwarf Alberta Spruce, *Picea glauca* 'Conica', originated from the same plant. Dr. Curtis Young and Beth Scheckelhoff wrote a great article on why this occurs: Botanists and gardeners have long marveled at Mother Nature's ability to randomly produce unique plant, foliage, and flower forms, colors, and growth habits from common plants. Many variegated plants have arisen from a genetic mutation within the parent plant, often called a "sport". This variegated portion of the plant can be removed and propagated as an entirely new cultivar (cultivated variety) from the parent.



“the Dwarf Alberta Spruce is reverting back to White Spruce..”

It is important to remember that the sport must be propagated by vegetative means – divisions, cuttings, tissue culture, etc. - to maintain these distinct characteristics. These plants will not come true from seed that is grown, although seedlings may produce equally interesting progeny. Another unique source of dwarf conifers is the phenomena of witches' broom. A plant with witches' broom develops growth featuring highly congested shoots with shortened internodes – hence appearing

like twigs bundled into a witch's broom. These brooms can be found on a wide variety of tree and shrub species and can be caused by genetic mutations, but more commonly from insects or disease infestations. Only those developed from a genetic mutation can be propagated by vegetative means to maintain the mutation. Growing out the seedlings of these mutated plants can also yield progeny with varying degrees of dwarfism.

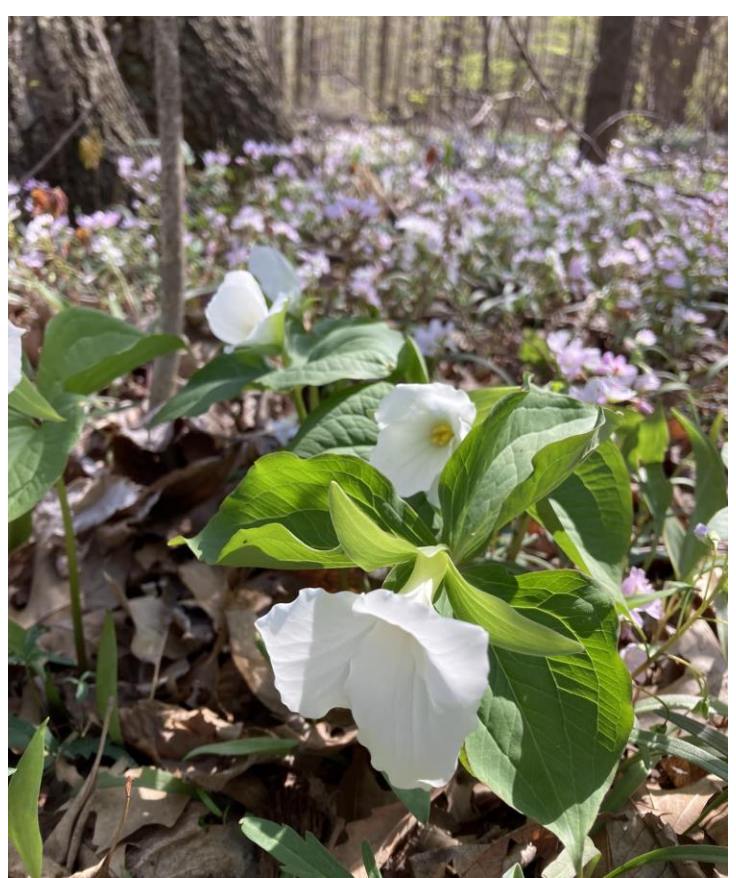
Spring Wildflowers

2023 Wildflower Bloom Report

by ODNR

Edited by Jamie Hampton

This week's featured wildflower is Ohio's state wildflower-- the large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). Commonly found in all 88 Ohio counties, this showy Spring flower grows in a variety of woodland habitats and can form large sprawling colonies in older woods. Some of the best displays of this trillium can be seen at Davey Woods, Eagle Creek, Miller, Johnson Woods, and Whipple state nature preserves. On warm days, take a closer look and you're sure to see plenty of bee, fly, and beetle pollinator activity. Its bright white blooms may also be seen along the wooded trails of many state parks. In Auglaize County we have a few really nice trails managed by the Heritage Trails Park District. The Dr. Elizabeth Yahl Kuffner Nature Preserve in St. Marys is giving a nice display of spring wildflowers.



Great White Trillium at Dr. Elizabeth Yahl Kuffner Nature Preserve, photo courtesy of Allison Brady



Central Ohio is also welcoming a gathering of new wildflowers just as some are nearing peak conditions. It's not too late to see trout-lilies, hepatica, bloodroot, rue-anemone, and cut-leaved toothwort. Other species blooming nicely include trilliums, bellworts, bluebells, miterwort, wild blue phlox, violets, Dutchman's breeches, ragworts, and marsh marigolds. Ohio DNR has a great checklist for wildflower hunters, as well as the spring wildflower field guide. You can find them at ohiodnr.gov

You can read more about wildflowers and other resources [HERE](#)

April Events



Auglaize County Events:

- April 24th, Wildflower walk at Dr. Elizabeth Yahl Kuffner Nature Preserve, 8am
- **Have a safe and successful planting season.**

Nearby Happenings:



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

OSU Extension Auglaize County

Jamie Hampton ANR Extension Educator

208 Blackhoof Street

Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Hampton.297@osu.edu

419-910-6062