

OSU Extension - Auglaize County Weekly Horticulture Newsletter – 3-13-20

Pruning Landscape Shrubs and Trees



Now is the time to prune SOME shrubs and trees. Not all shrubs and trees should be pruned at this time of the year though! Only trim those shrubs and trees that flowered in the summer last year or those that can be trimmed before and after flowering. What are those species that can be trimmed now? Some of the summer flowering species include glossy abelia, aralia, silk tree, butterfly bush, beautyberry, shrub-althea, smooth hydrangea, pee gee hydrangea, St. Johnswort, goldenrain tree, sweet bay, sumac, hybrid tea roses, false-spirea, stewarti, Japanese spirea, potentilla, rose-of-Sharon, and snowberry or coralberry. Red-osier dogwood, cranberry cotoneaster, spreading cotoneaster, many-flowered cotoneaster, Oregon holly grape, Anthony Waterer and Froebel spirea, snowberry, Chenault coralberry and weigela can be pruned before and after flowering. Broadleaf evergreen (leaves staying on the plant through the winter) trees and shrubs such as aucuba, camellia, boxwood, cherrylaurel, elaeagnus, holly, mahonia, nandina, and photinia can be pruned in the spring. Narrowleaf (coniferous) evergreens can be divided into two groups, needle-leaf and scale-leaf.

Most species in the needle-leaf group should be pruned while the candle (new growth) is tan-colored and before the needles reach full length which is not this time of the year. The scale-leaf group such as arborvitae, junipers, cypress, false-cypress, China fir, incense-cedar, and yew should be pruned now. Do not prune spring flowering bushes such as forsythia at this time of the year as you will cut off the flowers.

Reasons or benefits for pruning shrubs and trees include: training or shaping the plant; maintaining plant health (removing diseased branches and thinning overcrowded branches); improving the quality of flowers, fruit, foliage, and stems; and restricting growth.

There are three simple techniques to all pruning situations. Pinching is usually done by hand and is a good way to control plant size and done when shoots are young. Thinning is the removal of some branches back to the main branch, trunk, or soil line. Heading back involves shortening branches back to a good bud or lateral branch.

When pruning, remove all dead and diseased stems. Remove all branches touching each other. Remove all other branches to change shape and size of shrub/tree.

Landscape plants that will regrow when completely cut back to the ground include: orange-eye butterfly bush; forsythia (not now, only after flowering); shrub-althea; hills-of-snow; oakleaf hydrangea; privet; honeysuckle; spirea; and lilac.

Plan every cut. Prune to an outwardly facing bud. Stand back and look. Don't give "haircuts", leave stubs, use dull equipment, or prune everything into one shape.

Pruning tools include hand pruner, lopping shear, folding saw for tight places, bow saw for large limbs, pole pruners, hedge shears, and leather gloves. Do not use carpenter saws as they gum up, especially with plants producing sticky sap. Keep hand pruner and lopping shear sharp for easy cutting and reduce damage to the tree. Do not paint the cut surfaces as research has shown this can be detrimental to the life of the tree. Think safety when pruning. Keep fingers and other exposed skin away from the cutting surface of the pruning tools. When pruning with a ladder have someone hold the ladder or secure it so it can't fall. If climbing a tree use a safety rope.

For further information and for viewing images as to how to prune consider reading the following Extension publications: <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1134/HLA-6409web2012.pdf> and <https://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-4.pdf>

Local Observations

Good afternoon! I pray you are well.

We received rainfall 4 days this past week. Rainfall on Friday, March 6th ranged from a trace near Mercer Line and St. Rt. 197 to 0.09” near Shelby-Fryburg and Santa Fe-NewKnoxville Roads. Rainfall on Monday ranged from 0.01” near Bloody Bridge to 0.19” near Lock Two and Tri-township roads. Rainfall on Tuesday ranged from 0.2” near Mercer Line and St. Rt. 197 to 0.39” near Shelby-Fryburg and Santa Fe-New Knoxville roads. Rainfall on Thursday ranged from 0.61” near Valley and Idle roads to 1.25” near County Road 66A and Dowty Roads. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 1.01” near Valley and Idle roads to 1.75” near County Road 66A and Dowty roads. The average rainfall for the week was 1.36”, 0.77” greater than last week.

The average high temperature now is 46 degrees F, 3 degrees higher than last week. Temperatures are starting to change more rapidly! Temperatures were above normal for 6 days and below normal for 1 day. The average high temperature for the week was 52.9 degrees F which is 6.9 degrees F greater than historical average high. The average high temperature for February was 31.48 degrees F, which is 5.5 degrees F below normal.

VegNet

Last Call – 2 More Pumpkin or Squash Growers for On-Farm Mustard Biofumigation Trial

March 12, 2020

Share

Interested in seeing if planting mustard cover crops prior to pumpkins or squash can reduce soil borne diseases and increase your yield? We are looking for 2 more growers preferably in the central or southern part of the state to put out a mustard cover crop (MCC) biofumigation trial to reduce soil borne disease pressure with the following guidelines and conditions. **Deadline to sign up is March 19.**

Growers requirements and general protocol:

- Growers must plant in field known to have a Plectosporium blight infestation. Growers with fields infested with Fusarium or Phytophthora will also be considered.
- Growers need to have equipment to seed the cover crop, chop (bush hog or flail), incorporate (rototill), pack the soil (culti-mulcher) and possibly seal the soil using a sprayer or irrigation system. These steps will be done in rapid succession so 3 tractors are ideally needed, each hooked to an implement. Don't have 3 tractors? Maybe borrow one from a neighbor for a few hours?
- Growers will put out 4 strips of MCC and 4 strips without a MCC.
- Strip sizes will be up to 0.1A each for a maximum of 0.8A needed for the entire on-farm study.
- Growers will plant Caliente Rojo, currently the highest yielding glucosinolate mustard available.

OSU will provide:

- The Caliente Rojo seed, the fertilizer (urea + granular ammonium sulfate) and 1K seeds of the hybrid Solid Gold (Rupp).
- We will evaluate each grower site for disease incidence on foliage three times during the season, plus a harvest where mature fruit are weighed and graded for disease.

Study Timeline

- The MCC strip plots fertilizer will be disked into the soil prior to seeding to ensure high biomass production.
- The MCC planting date will be between March 30 and April 30 based on soil conditions and weather forecasts.
- Approximately 50-60 days later, the MCC will be at peak flowering and will be chopped, rototill incorporated into the soil and then packed using culti-mulcher. If irrigation is available, water will be applied to help seal the soil and create a better environment for biofumigation.
- Within 10-14 days of incorporation, Solid Gold pumpkins will be transplanted or direct seeded into those strips at roughly 4ft spacing between plants. Note that transplants are preferred at each site instead of direct seeding. Transplants will lead to an earlier harvest.

Plot Care

Each farm will follow their own standard weed, insect and disease control and fertility practices on the 8 strips. The fungicides used on the crop will need to be discussed ahead of time so we can limit the use of fungicides that might help control Plectosporium blight. These fungicides are Flint, Cabrio, Quadris, Inspire Super and Merivon.

Disease ratings of incidence on vines, foliage and fruit will be taken at 14-21 day intervals from vining until fruit maturity. Sections of all strips will be harvested and fruit will be weighed and graded for disease.

Sign up

If interested in participating in this project or have questions, please contact me at 937-484-1526 or jasinski.4@osu.edu by March 19.

If growers want to see a video detailing the steps and processes involved with planting MCC as a biofumigant, check out the work we did in 2019 at <https://youtu.be/Taz-PhDphhA>.

This project is being funded by the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program and the IPM Program.

BYGL

OSU Sports Turf Management Update

Authors

Amy Stone

Published on

March 12, 2020



If your job involves maintaining a field where athletes, no matter their age, are kicking a ball towards an opponent's goal, you know, the soccer season has arrived. Maybe your connection to the sport is from a different perspective, perhaps your son or daughter is on a soccer team. No matter the connection, everyone would like a nice field. Earlier this week, Dr. Pamela Sherratt with OSU's Department of Horticulture and Crop Sciences posted an article on the College's Sports Turf Management Website. We thought it was important to share this post for a couple reasons. The first is to share this excellent educational website and supporting materials with readers of the BYGL that also might have an interest in staying up to date or learning more about sport turf management. Additionally, we want to share the specific information that Pam has shared directly with the BYGL readers.

Here is the information included in Pam's original post with photos.

Soccer season is here! Practices are underway and games are scheduled for early April.

In an ideal world, soccer fields would have been renovated in the fall of 2019, so that there is 100% desirable grass cover, even in high-traffic areas like goal mouths, sidelines, and the classic triangular wear pattern created during games. In the real world, many school & Parks & Rec. fields need repairing now. So, what can you do?



Sod repair in a goal mouth. Sod can be bought from a supplier or grown on site

If no one is playing on the field yet and time allows (1 month +): Repair with sod.

Cut out the thin/bare goal mouth area, aerate and level the soil, & lay sod. Stagger the sod in a brick-like pattern to ensure a tight knit between seams. Lightly topdress with sand or high-quality topsoil, and brush in. This will stand the grass back up and seal seams. Use thick-cut sod if budget allows. Avoid sod with a plastic net backing as it may come to the surface and interfere with play later on. Carefully/judiciously feed and water the sod, periodically poking holes through it with a hand fork, to encourage rooting and growth. Keep people off until it has rooted.



Perennial ryegrass germinates in 3-5 days and can be playable in 3-4 weeks

If no one is playing on the field yet and time allows (1 month +): Repair with seed.

Prepare the goal mouth for seed (seed-bed preparation); fill in holes with good-quality topsoil or a soil material that matches the existing soil, relieve soil compaction, and rake level.

Seed perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), which will germinate in 3-5 days and provide ground cover in as little as three to four weeks. Seed at a rate of 8-10 lbs per 1,000 sq.ft. (40-50 g/M²). Choose varieties that show enhanced resistance to gray leaf spot, brown patch, and pythium diseases. Blend 3-5 varieties of ryegrass, or choose a seed mix of PRG + Kentucky bluegrass varieties that germinate fairly quickly. Broadcast or slit-seed.

Carefully/judiciously feed and water the seed. Keep people off until it has rooted.

Growth blankets/germination sheets are particularly useful at enhancing seed establishment and keeping people off the site.

If playing is happening NOW, or imminent: Regularly over-seed, lightly topdress, & roll.

If possible, rotate fields, move field boundaries etc. to spread wear among goal mouth areas.

Relieve soil surface compaction by poking holes with a hand fork or pencil tines. Do not overly disturb/damage the goal mouth by using aggressive soil cultivation equipment.

Seed perennial ryegrass at a rate of 8-10 lbs per 1,000 sq.ft. (40-50 g/M²). Choose varieties that show enhanced resistance to gray leaf spot, brown patch, and pythium diseases (blend 3-5 varieties). Broadcast seed weekly/biweekly. Don't use a slit-seeder during the playing season unless the goal mouth has time to recover.

Carefully/judiciously feed and water the seed between games.



Growth blanket/germination sheet. Purchase a small one for goal mouths, or make your own. Geotextile can work great in a pinch.

Cover goal mouth with a growth blanket between games, to enhance seed germination and keep people off.

Remove goals posts between games to deter play. Also use signage, asking people to please stay off.

If grass cover is completely lost and the goals cannot be relocated or the field boundaries cannot be moved, the bare soil in that area should be lightly rolled prior to games to provide safety & stability. A light topdressing of sand can also help to keep quagmire conditions from developing.



Rec. field renovation. Before (L) and after (R), taken 4 weeks apart. It might not look pretty, but it's safe and playable. An application of fertilizer + iron will help to mask color differences. A good mowing pattern helps too.

Take home messages:

- Perennial ryegrass + fertilizer + judicious watering can make a big difference in a short period of time.
- Don't worry about weeds like crabgrass in high-traffic spots.
- Rotate wear areas, if possible.
- Use a blanket/cover if you have one.
- Politely keep people off using signage and removing goal posts between games.

More Information

OSU Sports Turf Management Program Website
<https://u.osu.edu/athleticfieldmanagement/>

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expanded in Pennsylvania - What Does That Mean For Ohio

Authors

Amy Stone

Published on

March 7, 2020



Earlier this week, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) announced the expansion of the Pennsylvania's Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) (SLF) Quarantine to include 12 additional counties, bringing the total number of quarantined counties to 26. Two of the counties (Beaver and Allegheny) that have

been recently added, are located in western PA, with Beaver County neighboring or adjacent to Ohio's Columbiana County.

For reference, a copy the information included in the PDA release distributed on March 3, 2020 is included at the bottom of this alert.

You may be wondering, what does this mean for Ohio. Since the detection of SLF in Pennsylvania in September of 2014, Extension Professionals have been spreading the word about this invasive insect and urging Ohioans to become familiar with this pest, its life-cycle, the host plants it prefers, and to be on the look-out for it. *This message has not changed.* The SLF is currently in the egg mass stage. The eggs were laid in fall of 2019, and will hatch in the spring of 2020. The egg masses can be laid on a variety of surfaces including trees, posts, decks, outdoor furniture, metal drums, vehicles, trailers, rail cars, just to name a few.

What we are encouraging Ohioans to do, is look for SLF egg masses. Early detection is the first step in response efforts. I recently heard someone say "if you see something, say something." Today's alert will be focusing on the egg masses, with additional alerts to come.

Below are a series of photos of the egg masses. It is important to note, as they age their color and appearance can change.



Photo Credit: Richard Gardner, Bugwood

The photo above shows the individual eggs laid in rows or chain by the female SLF.



Photo Credit: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood

The SLF egg masses in the photo above were laid on a rock. You will notice the actual eggs aren't visible as above and have been covered by a waxy-like substance. It has been described as mud-like in appearance.

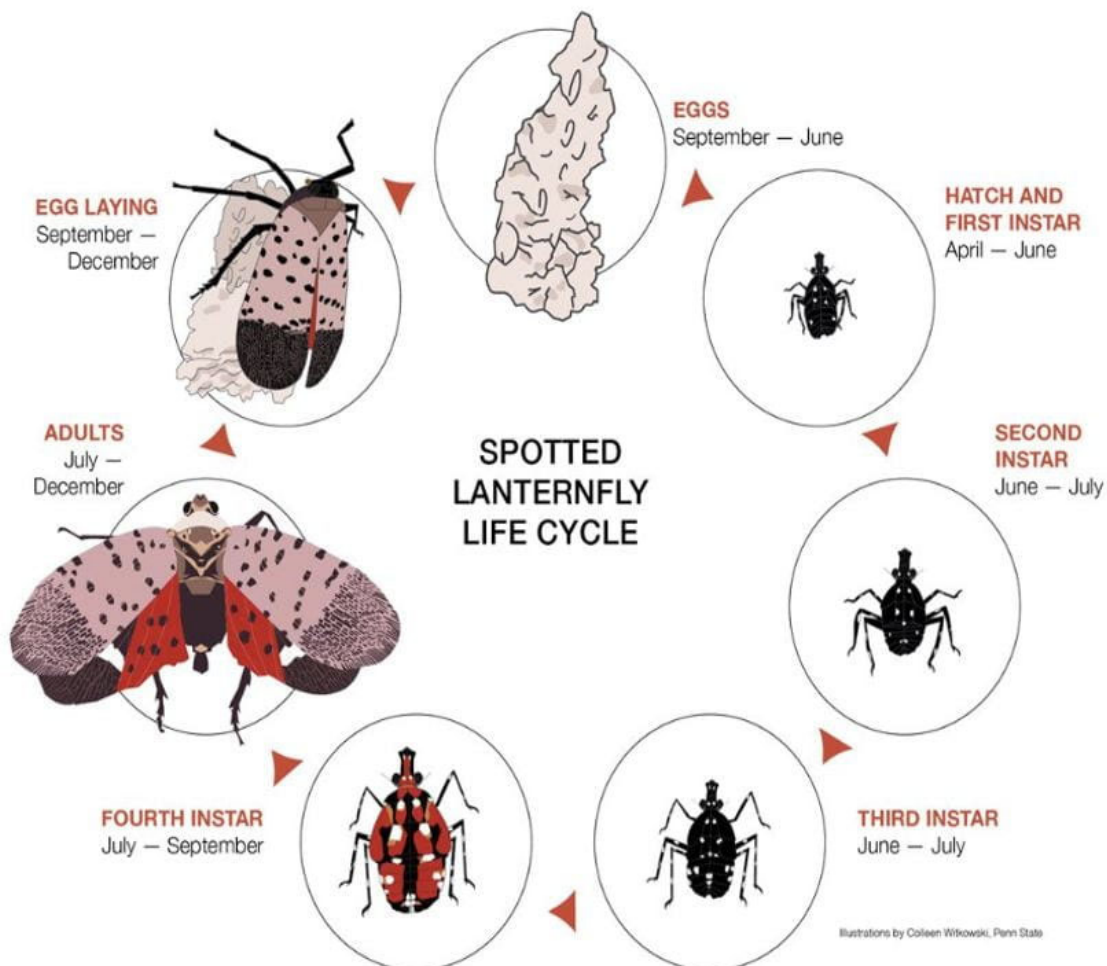


Photo Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood

The SLF egg masses in the photo above were laid on a rusty barrel. Again you will noticed that the eggs are covered. The actual color can fade and age over the winter.

If you begin looking for SLF egg masses, and find something that you suspect maybe an egg mass of the SLF, mark the location, take pictures, and contact your local Extension office, or the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Health at 614-728-6400.

While the focus currently is on the egg mass stage, below is an illustration of the SLF's life-cycle. Stay tuned for seasonal updates in BYGL and information about other OSU Extension Resources coming online soon.



Penn State University

Source:

For more information and pictures of SLF, see USDA's Pest Alert online at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/alert-spotted-lanternfly.pdf

Information included below was taken directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture press release. Information about permits and compliance agreements are specific to PA. There is currently no quarantine, permits or compliance agreements in Ohio because the SLF has not yet been detected in the buckeye state.

Department of Agriculture Adds 12 Counties to Pennsylvania's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

(03/03/2020) **Harrisburg, PA** – Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today announced that twelve counties have been added to Pennsylvania's Spotted Lanternfly quarantine zone ahead of the 2020 spring hatch. With this addition, the quarantine for this invasive pest is now at 26 counties.

"The Spotted Lanternfly is more than a pest in the literal sense," said Agriculture Secretary Redding. "It's wreaking havoc for home and business owners; kids who just want to play outside; Pennsylvania agriculture and the economy of the state we all call home. Whether you think it's your job or not, we need every Pennsylvanian to keep their eyes peeled for signs of this bad bug – to scrape every egg mass, squash every bug, and report every sighting. We need to unite over our hatred for this pest for our common love: Pennsylvania."

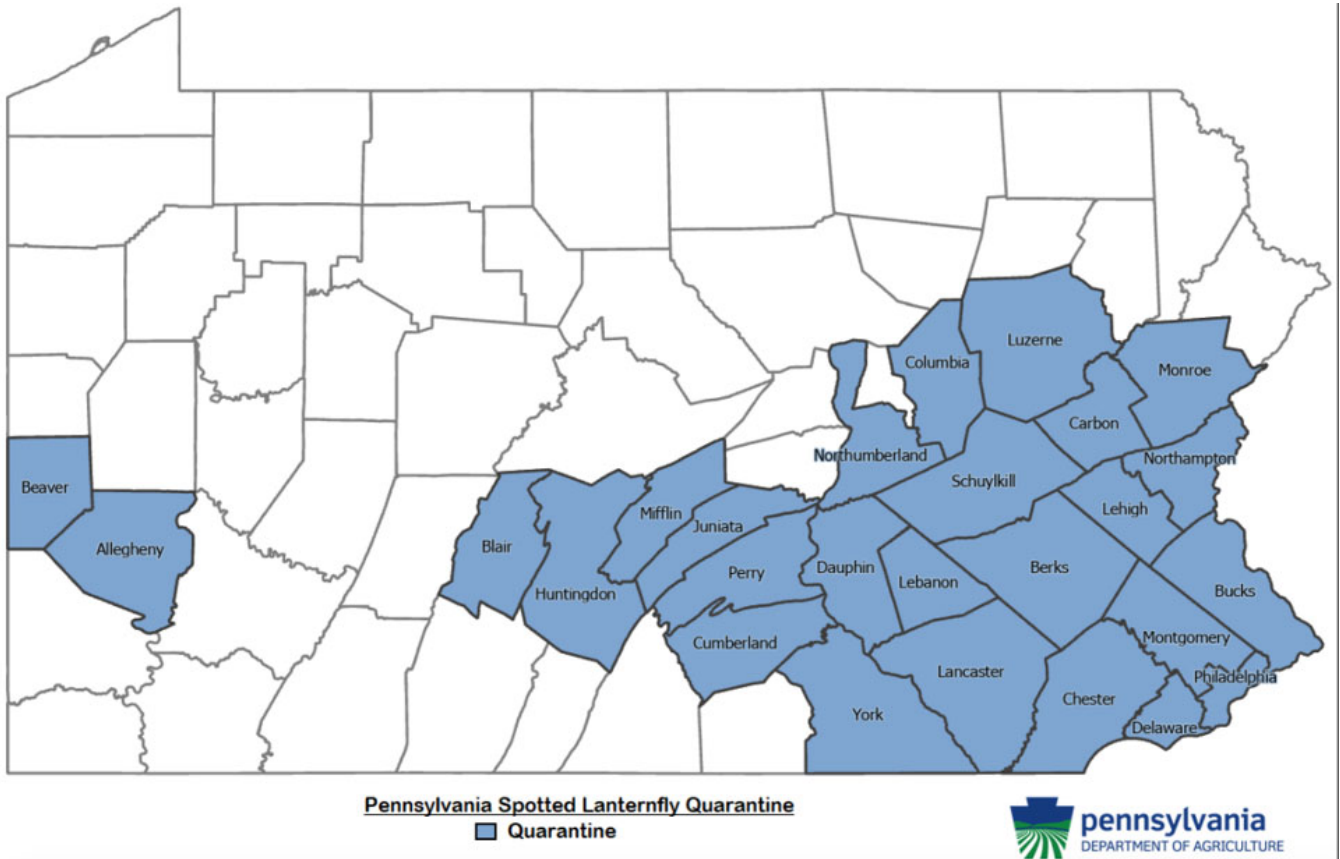
The new dozen counties are not completely infested, but rather have a few municipalities with a known infestation which led to a quarantine being placed on the entire county out of an abundance of caution. Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Columbia, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, and York have been added to the quarantine for 2020.

"Most of these municipalities have already been aggressively treated," said Dr. Ruth Welliver, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry. "With continued aggressive treatment and monitoring, and an actively engaged community, we can strike Spotted Lanternfly from these counties."

Quick, aggressive treatment to newly identified populations of Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania was funded through the Rapid Response Disaster Readiness line of Governor Wolf's 2019 PA Farm Bill. The 2020 PA Farm Bill proposes another \$3 million to combat Spotted Lanternfly, plus an extra \$1 million that is uncommitted to readily act in the event of the next agricultural disaster.

Businesses that operate in or travel through quarantined counties are required to obtain a Spotted Lanternfly permit; fines associated with noncompliance can be up to \$300 for a criminal citation or up to \$20,000 for a civil penalty. Homeowners with questions about treatment are encouraged to contact their local Penn State Extension office or learn about management, including approved sprays. Pennsylvanians who live inside the quarantine zone should also review and sign the Compliance Checklist for residents.

For more information on Spotted Lanternfly, visit agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly. For more about Governor Tom Wolf's PA Farm Bill and its investments in a sustainable agriculture industry visit agriculture.pa.gov/pafarmbill.



Other Articles

Trumpet Creeper Vine Attracts Hummingbirds

MEGHAN SHINN

MAR 8, 2020

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/plants/trumpet-creeper>

Virtues: Trumpet creeper is a vigorous vine native to much of the eastern United States. It blooms in summer with profuse scarlet-colored tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds and pollinating insects.



A ruby-throated hummingbird sips from the midsummer flowers of trumpet creeper, or *Campsis radicans*.

Common name: Trumpet creeper, trumpet vine

Botanical name: *Campsis radicans*

Exposure: Full sun to part shade.

Flowers: Clusters of bright red to orange, tubular flowers appear in midsummer. They are followed by beanpod-like fruits.

Foliage: Deciduous. The large compound leaves are made up of 7 to 11 dark green, narrow leaflets. Fall foliage is yellow.

Habit: A woody deciduous vine that reaches 30 to 40 feet and climbs by aerial rootlets and spreads by suckers to form a thicket. Named varieties are smaller and less apt to spread.

Origin: *Campsis radicans* naturally grows in moist woods, where it climbs trees, and at the edges of fields, where it might climb old fence rows or hedges. It is native to Eastern North America from the Upper Plains, Midwest and northern Mid-Atlantic south to Florida and eastern Texas. It has naturalized in the Northeast US and Ontario.

How to grow it: Full sun will result in the heaviest bloom. Soil can be moderate or low fertility. Provide a sturdy support for this heavy and vigorous vine, which climbs by aerial rootlets. It can also spread by suckering, making it a choice for planting on a slope for erosion control. Site this vine where it has plenty of room to itself, or keep it in bounds by planting it where it borders concrete or a lawn that is frequently mowed. It can be cut back in early spring without diminishing the summer flowering; in fact cutting it back can result in a more compact habit and heavier bloom. There are named cultivars on the market that do not grow as vigorously as the straight species and can be a lower maintenance, smaller choice for the garden. Drought tolerant. USDA Zones 4–9.

Pelleted Seeds: Why and How to Use Them

MEGHAN SHINN

MAR 8, 2020

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/smart-gardening/pelleted-seeds-why-and-how-to-use-them>

As you're selecting garden seeds to sow indoors or out, you may notice that some packets are marked "pelleted seed." What does this mean and what are the implications for gardener and garden?



Pelleted lettuce seed is to the left; "naked" lettuce seed is on the right. The pelleted seed is easier to handle.

Pelleted seeds were developed for commercial growers who use machines to sow seeds. Pelleted seeds are simply normal plant seeds that have been coated to give them a round, smooth, uniform shape and size, making it less likely for them to jam a mechanical seeder, and increasing the accuracy of the seeder in terms of spacing.

Pelleted seeds are also helpful to the home gardener because they are easy to see and handle, especially when compared with the "naked" version of tiny seeds like tomatoes and lettuce.

There are only two precautions to take when using pelleted seeds. First, be sure that the growing medium remains consistently moist, but not soggy, after you've sown the seed and you're waiting for it to sprout. Secondly, use all of your pelleted seed in the season that you purchase it, or dispose of any that's leftover. Pelleting shortens the lifespan of the seed, so pelleted seeds shouldn't be relied upon to sprout the next year.

How to Grow Watermelon in the North

MEGHAN SHINN

MAR 8, 2020

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/edible-gardening/how-to-grow-watermelon-in-the-north>

Northern gardeners hesitate to attempt to grow watermelon because this heat-loving crop typically requires a long, warm growing season to set and ripen fruit. There are some tips and tricks to make a Northern watermelon garden successful, however.



To grow watermelon in the colder climates of the north:

Choose varieties with a smaller number of "days to harvest." Try 'Sweet Dakota Rose', which was developed in North Dakota, 'Blacktail Mountain', 'Sweet Siberian' or '[Mini Love](#)', which is both early ripening and "personal" size.

Start from seed, sowing it indoors about four weeks before your typical last frost date and using four-inch peat pots or similar containers that let you skip potting up and that limit root disturbance at transplanting time. Melons with damaged roots will not grow on well. Use a heating mat under your seed pots to boost germination but shut it off after they have sprouted.

Wait until the soil temperature remains above 65°F night and day to plant out your seedlings. Cover the soil with black or clear plastic to hasten heating. When you transplant your watermelon seedlings into the garden, keep the plastic there; cut holes in it to plant your vines. This will continue to keep the soil warm night and day. Black plastic will block weeds while also retaining heat; clear plastic will retain more heat but weeds can sprout underneath it, since they are receiving light.

Raised beds warm up faster than ground soil, so consider growing your watermelons in a raised bed. A compact variety like 'Sugar Baby' is amenable to raised beds.

[Find more watermelon tips for every region here.](#)

Prepared by Jeff Stachler
Ohio State University
Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator, Auglaize County