

OSU Extension - Auglaize County Weekly Horticulture Newsletter – 5-8-20

Soil Fertility and Fertilizers for Growing Vegetables in Your Victory Garden



Many gardens have been started, but because of the cold weather we have held off planting many species. In preparation of the last planting I thought I would discuss soil fertility and the sources of nutrients. Plants need water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and minerals for proper growth. Roots need oxygen for proper growth and roots take up the majority of the water plants use. The way to get the most water and oxygen to the roots and to improve drainage is to increase pore space of the soil. The best way to increase pore space and to improve fertility at the same time is to increase the amount of organic matter in the soil. The organic matter acts as a sponge holding water and nutrients and adding pore space for oxygen and water. The darker the soil, the greater the organic matter content. Add compost to increase organic matter. Clay particles are also useful in holding water and nutrients, although the clay can hold too much water. Sand does not hold water or nutrients.

The only way to know what nutrients are in the soil is to have the soil tested. Testing the soil is important to reducing water pollution from excess minerals such as phosphorus, making sure minerals are not out of balance, and knowing the pH of the soil. The closest soil testing laboratory to our area is Brookside Laboratory at New Bremen, Ohio. To collect a two cup soil sample, take 10 to 12, 8-inch deep soil cores (0.75 inch diameter) randomly from the garden. If you need assistance in getting a soil sample, the OSU Extension office has a soil probe available to check out.

Soil pH should be maintained between 6.0 and 7.0 for most vegetables, although many can tolerate pH of 5.5 and up to 7.5. Contact the Extension office before applying lime. This includes wood ashes. Wood ashes act as a liming material, so be very careful how much you apply.

The primary minerals for plants are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. When purchasing a fertilizer the three numbers on the bag represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphate, the source for phosphorus, and potash, the source for potassium, by weight. Secondary nutrients include calcium, magnesium, and sulfur. Micro-nutrients are also needed by plants, but these nutrients are usually sufficient in the soil, unless it is a sandy soil. Micro-nutrients include boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and nickel.

If you plan to grow your vegetables organically obtaining nutrients can be difficult and expensive. Animal manure will provide all three primary nutrients and some secondary and micro-nutrients, but at low concentrations. Poultry manure has the highest concentration of nutrients. Organic sources of nitrogen with the highest concentrations include dry fish meal, McGeary Organics 8-1-1, animal tankage, blood meal, and soybean meal. Organic sources of phosphorus with the highest concentration include rock phosphate, colloidal phosphate, bone meal, and animal tankage. Organic sources of potassium with the greatest concentration include greensand, McGeary Organics 0-2-9, and kelp.

Non-organic sources of nitrogen include urea (46-0-0), 28% liquid urea-ammonium nitrate (28-0-0) [10.66 pounds/gallon], monoammonium phosphate (11-52-0), Ammonium phosphate (18-46-0), and 10-34-0. Non-organic sources of phosphate include the two mentioned with nitrogen and superphosphate (0-46-0) and concentrated phosphate. Non-organic sources of potassium include monopotassium phosphate (0-52-34), potassium nitrate (13-0-44), potassium chloride (0-0-60) and potassium sulfate (0-0-50). There are already blended fertilizers having all three nutrients, such as 12-12-12 that can be purchased at most stores carrying fertilizer, but you may not need as much phosphorus as is included in those blends and for some crops there will not be enough nitrogen. To obtain the fertilizers having single nutrients visit your local agriculture retailer.

Always incorporate nutrients to reduce run off and leaching and volatilization of urea. I will discuss nutrient needs of vegetables next week.

Local Observations



Current stage of my spinach



Current stage of my carrots



Bugleweed



Iris



A peach! Some made it!



The grapes may have survived too!



Columbine



An allium species



Different stages of apple cedar rust on cedar. These spores are now headed to the apples

Good morning! I pray you are well.

We received rainfall 3 days this past week. Rainfall on Sunday, May 10th ranged from 0.1" near Harris and St. Rt. 29 roads, Minster-Ft. Recovery and Sommers roads, C.R. 66A and St. Rt. 66 roads, and Glynwood and St. Rt. 116 roads to 0.3" near Uniopolis. Rainfall on Monday ranged from a trace at most locations to 0.04" near Tri-Township and Lock Two roads. Rainfall on Thursday ranged from 0.1" near Minster- Ft. Recovery and Sommers roads to 0.48" near Valley and Idle roads. Rainfall for the week ranged from 0.2" near Minster-Ft. Recovery and Sommers roads to 0.68" near Feikert and St. Rt. 385 roads. The average rainfall for the week was 0.5", 0.4" more than last week. The next week to be wet.

Another cold week! The average high temperature now is 71 degrees F, 2 degrees higher than last week. Temperatures were above normal for **1** day and below normal for **6** days this past week. Temperatures ranged from 45 degrees F to 77 degrees F. The average high temperature for the week was 58.6 degrees F which is 5.5 degrees F colder than last week and 12.4 degrees F lower than the historical average high. Temperatures will be normal to below normal for the next week.

The stands of all of my early crops are good except for my snap peas. Not sure what happened, but it is poor. I planted basil, coriander, lettuce and green beans on Wednesday. I transplanted my pepper and tomato plants as well. Now we need to warm up and dry up to get the rest of the garden planted.

Some people lost their transplants on Saturday morning despite covering them, but most made it through. The flowers are really popping now. I still have some tulips flowering!

Weekly Weed Photos



Mouseear chickweed



Look at the different leaf shapes of giant ragweed



Look at all the secondary lobes of the right giant ragweed plant



Curly dock



Corn speedwell

Special OSU Horticulture Meetings

Horticulture Lunch and Learn and Horticulture Happy Hour

During this period of COVID-19 OSU Extension is offering a Horticulture Lunch and Learn Program and a Horticulture Happy Hour Program. If you are interested, visit the following web address: <http://go.osu.edu/MGVlearn> The Lunch and Learn occurs every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 1:00 PM and the Happy Hour is Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

VegNet

No news this week!

BYGL

I did not include all of this week's articles in this newsletter. To see all of them go here: <https://bygl.osu.edu/>

Roses Are Red And Violets Are Blue Or Are They?

Authors

Curtis E. Young

Published on

May 14, 2020



Violet is a color closer to purple than blue. And what a person sees may be more in the eye of the beholder, how bright the light is, and how old the bloom is. There are also violets that are mostly white and some are even yellow.



A clump of common blue violets (*Viola sororia*) growing in a wood lot, a very common site throughout Ohio.

Violets are in the plant genus *Viola* which includes the violets (small flowers) and pansies (large flowers). There are some 30 species of violets in Ohio, some being very common (e.g. common blue violet (*V. sororia*)) and some being fairly rare (e.g. southern wood violet (*V. hirsutula*)) restricted to specific habitats. The wild violets are hardy perennials that are spread by seed and underground, horizontal stems called rhizomes.



Curtis E. Young © OSU Extension

Common blue violets can be found in many locations including wood lots, bedding areas, and lawns.



Close-up of a common blue violet.

Are violets desirable wildflowers or weeds? The answer to that question depends on the person who has the violets. Violets are beautiful little flowers that bloom from early spring into the summer and sometimes even into the fall. Four common species that can be found in most parts of Ohio are the previously mentioned common blue violet (*V. sororia*), a color variation of this violet, the confederate violet (*V. sororia* f. *priceana*), the striped white violet (*V. striata*), and the downy yellow violet (*V. pubescens*).



The confederate violet (*Viola sororia* f. *priceana*) is a color form of the common blue violet. The common blue violet is typically the dominant form in many areas, but the confederate violet can rival it at times.



Close-up of a confederate violet.



The striped white violet (*Viola striata*) is found in woodlots and areas that are not mowed.



Curtis E. Young ©OSU Extension

A close-up of a striped white violet.



A characteristic of the striped white violet (*Viola striata*) are these large stipules at the nodes. The stipules are light green, lanceolate to ovate in shape, hairless and have narrow teeth along their margins.



The downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*) can be found in local wood lots.

Given the opportunity, violets can spread to cover large areas. Unfortunately, they sometimes spread into areas where people would prefer that they not spread such as into lawns and flower gardens. They can be aggressive and choke out other desirable plants.

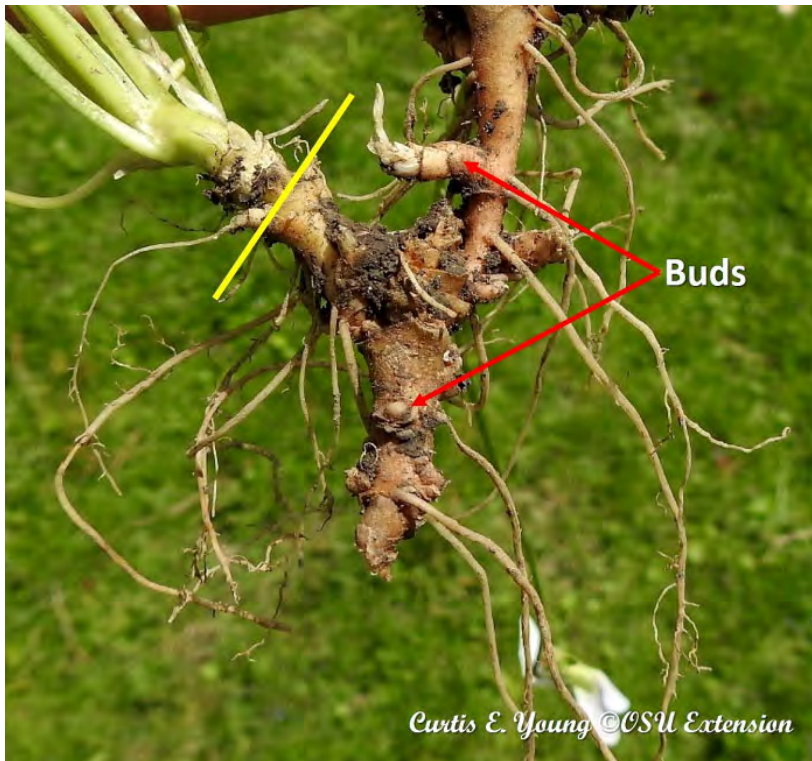
Hand-pulling violets is not easy, they tend to break easily near the rhizome. Thus, unless one digs below the rhizome to remove it, the violets will “resprout”.



Removal of violets from areas where they are not wanted or where they have gotten too thick can be challenging because of their underground, horizontal stems called rhizomes.



Roots and rhizomes exposed by carefully removing the soil.



If trying to hand-pull violets, they have natural break points (yellow line) which will leave the rhizome behind. The rhizomes have numerous buds along their length from which the plant can resprout.



All of these plants came from that earlier clump of violets in the first image above showing the rhizomes in the soil.

Violets in turfgrass can be reduced by increasing the frequency of mowing (i.e. more than once a week) to continuously cut off their leaf tissue. This does not mean one should cut the lawn to a shorter height, maintain a 2 ½-3" minimum height. Cutting shorter than this height will open opportunities for other weeds to move into the lawn and reduce the vigor of the turfgrass.

Even management with herbicides can be difficult. The leaves of violets have a thick, waxy cuticle which is resistant to penetration. Herbicides with the active ingredient triclopyr are effective, but it may require multiple treatments over a couple of years to rid an area of unwanted violets. Triclopyr is active against numerous tough to control plants (trees, shrubs, vines, weeds), so be very careful where this product is applied, how it is applied and how much is applied. When using pesticides, be sure to read all labels and follow instructions.

More Information

Common blue violet information

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/common-blue-violet>

Confederate violet information

http://americanvioletociety.org/Violet_Keys/Viola_sororia_f_priceana.htm

Striped white violet information

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/plants/wh_violet.htm

Downy yellow violet information

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/downy-yellow-violet>

Managing wild violets in turfgrass
<https://turf.purdue.edu/wild-violets/>

Checking the Germination Rate of Old Seed

Authors

Sabrina Schirtzinger

Published on

May 13, 2020

Are you planning your 2020 garden? Do you have seeds leftover from previous years that you would like to reuse? Reusing seeds is a good production practice if you are certain that the seeds are viable. Follow these tips to check the germination rate of your older seeds.

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Checking Seed Germination

Gathering Supplies

- You will need:
 1. Water
 2. Paper towels
 3. Seeds
 4. Ziploc bag or container with a clear lid.

Moisten the Towel

- Dip in water or spray with water.
- Squeeze out extra water.

Seeds

- Place seeds in the center of the paper towel.
- Fold the paper towel over

Seal

- Write on the container the variety that you are working with.
- Days till germination.
- Date started them on.

Placing

- Put in indirect sunlight for the length of time it takes for germination to occur
- You may be tempted to open your container up and look at it.
 - Don't DO IT!

Germination Rate

- A percentage based on the number of seeds that you tested.
 - If you tested 10 seeds and 6 germinated your seed germination rate is 60%.

Do you have old seeds?
Unsure if they will germinate?
Here is how you can test the seed!



More Information

</checkingseedgerminationrate>

Woodland Wonders: Spring Ephemerals Sing the Blues

Authors

Beth Scheckelhoff

Published on

May 12, 2020



© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

The spring ephemeral season is nearing its end in Northwest Ohio as the woodland trees and shrubs leaf out. Temperature largely dictates the pulse of when wildflowers bloom and fade on the forest floor. Our rather cool spring allowed dozens of white blossoms to linger for several weeks. These flowers are now mostly gone aside from a stray spring beauty here and there, replaced by a show of blue and purple blooms. Two warm, sunny days above 70°F pushed the fast-forward button on flowering last week. These are the tail end of the spring ephemeral wildflower show:

Wild violet (*Viola* sp.). There are numerous violet species that flower in early spring - most violet in color, but several with white or yellow flowers.





© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*). This native perennial has beautiful lavender-blue bell-shaped flowers.



Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*). A carpet of wild geranium goes virtually unnoticed until the blooms open one by one atop deeply lobed leaves. Spend a few minutes amidst the geraniums and you are bound to see pollinators stop by for a quick visit.





© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*). The loose clusters of flowers are varying shades of pale blue, lavender to nearly white.



Wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*). This native perennial bulb was used by Native Americans as a food source. The beautiful pale lavender flowers are attached to slender stalks 15 to 18" tall.

Woodland Wonders: A Tale of Two Vines

Authors

Beth Scheckelhoff

Published on

May 12, 2020



Vines are trailing plants that use stems, tendrils or adventitious roots to help them “climb” up surfaces like walls, bricks, stone, plants and trees to reach new heights. The curious nature of two vining plants – Virginia creeper and poison ivy - came to light this past week. Both plants are native, herbaceous perennial vines with compound

leaves commonly found throughout the woodlands of Ohio. Often, they grow near one another or even intertwined on the same tree. Can you tell these two plants apart?



Virginia creeper and poison ivy intertwined on a honey locust. The Virginia creeper has leafed out while the poison ivy can be identified by the "hairy" vines.

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is in the grape family and is both a climbing vine and a groundcover. Its scientific name translates to "five-leaved virgin ivy". As one would expect, each compound leaf has five leaflets. Occasionally, new growth may have three leaflets – thus the cause of some confusion with poison ivy, especially in the spring.



© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

Virginia creeper has five glossy-green leaflets on each leaf.

Virginia creeper climbs by tendrils equipped with adhesive ends called sucker discs. These discs enable the tendril to adhere to the bark or other surface (think of the octopus suckers).



© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

Tendrils and suction discs help Virginia creeper reach new heights.

Virginia creeper produces small, blue berries that serve as a minor food source for wildlife. Despite its beautiful, early fall color, Virginia creeper is considered invasive in parts of the Eastern United States.

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is in the sumac family. Despite its name meaning “poison tree taking root”, poison ivy is regularly consumed and dispersed by animals including deer, birds – and even goats.

Poison ivy has leaves with three leaflets occurring across from one another along the stem. The middle leaflet is somewhat longer than the two below it. The leaves are usually smooth and dull or glossy green. Leaf edges can be smooth, toothed, or lobed and can vary in color on the same vine.



Poison ivy leaves have three leaflets.



Virginia creeper resembles poison ivy in the previous image in size and color. Note number of leaflets and presence of tendrils and suction discs (Virginia creeper) or adventitious roots (poison ivy) to be sure!

Poison ivy can be somewhat difficult to identify because it has several forms – growing in clumps of plants to 30” high, as a climbing “hairy” vine, and sometimes as a small shrub. Poison ivy uses adventitious roots to cling to the side of tree trunks, often imparting a “hairy” appearance. You may have heard the saying “hairy vine, no friend of mine” in reference to poison ivy.



© Beth Scheckelhoff, OSU Extension

Adventitious roots give poison ivy a "hairy" appearance.

All parts of the poison ivy plant, including the leaves, stems and roots, produce and secrete a rash-inducing oil called urushiol. The American Skin Association estimates that about 85% of Americans are allergic to the toxic threesome: poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. Allergic reactions can be lessened or avoided by removing the oil with soap and water or rubbing alcohol immediately following contact (generally within 5 minutes).

Interestingly, urushiol can remain active on surfaces for several month to years - making it necessary to properly wash clothing, shoes, gloves, garden tools, and even pets that have contacted poison ivy. One additional note: Do not burn poison ivy as the oil can be carried in the smoke and cause dermatitis as well as severe respiratory problems when inhaled.

Many sayings from the past used to warn people of the dangers of poison ivy. You may have heard one or more of these sayings: "Leaflets of three, let it be" or "Longer middle stem, stay away from them." The best advice from ages ago that rings true today, "Leaves of three, let it be. Leaves of five, let it thrive."

Can you correctly identify each vine in this image? A rash determination could lead to an itchy rash!



Woolly Aphids on American Elm

Authors

Joe Boggs

Published on

May 9, 2020



Thanks to the sharp eyes of Dave Bienemann (Municipal Arborist/Utility Forester, City of Hamilton), I was able to take some nice pictures of the woolly apple aphid (*Eriosoma lanigerum*) and its characteristic damage on its alternate host, American elm (*Ulmus americana*). This isn't the only woolly aphid that uses our native elm as an alternate host. The woolly elm aphid (*E. americanum*) is another historical American elm pest.

Both of these woolly aphids are native insects that appear in pest records dating back to when American elms were "America's Street Tree." Of course, as American elms reemerge to once again be widely used along our streets and in landscapes, we're becoming reacquainted with these old woolly pests.

Spring feeding damage by the woolly apple aphid (WAA) causes shoots to form rosette-like structures comprised of curled, twisted, and stunted leaves. The affected leaves overlap producing cavities within which the aphids live

and feed. Although the leaf distortions appear to be random, opening the structure may reveal striking spiral-like patterns produced by the leaf veins.

**Woolly Apple Aphid (WAA)
on American Elm**

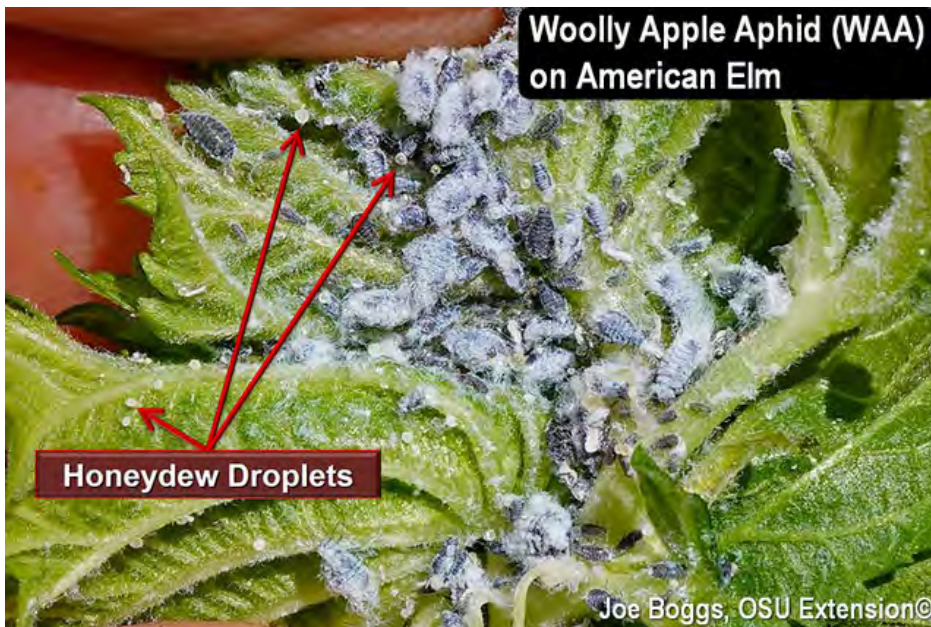


**Woolly Apple Aphid (WAA)
on American Elm**





WAA also produces copious quantities of honeydew as a by-product of tapping into phloem vessels to extract sap. The honeydew rains down onto lower leaves and stems as well as anything else positioned beneath an infested tree. The sweet sticky goo is commonly colonized by black sooty molds further degrading the aesthetic value of heavily infested trees and their immediate surroundings.



WAA is not considered an outright tree killer. However, some historical reports note that on heavily infested trees, the combination of leaf damage coupled with early-season sap loss may make young trees and/or trees on poor sites more susceptible to other problems.



The new crop of aphids that arise from the leaf rosettes migrate to a rosaceous host in the summer where they form damaging colonies on both the shoots and roots. Indeed, as its common name indicates, WAA is a major pest of apples. Interestingly, various online university resources note that with the loss of American elms, this aphid demonstrated the ability to maintain damaging populations on single rosaceous hosts calling into question the need to alternate with an elm host.



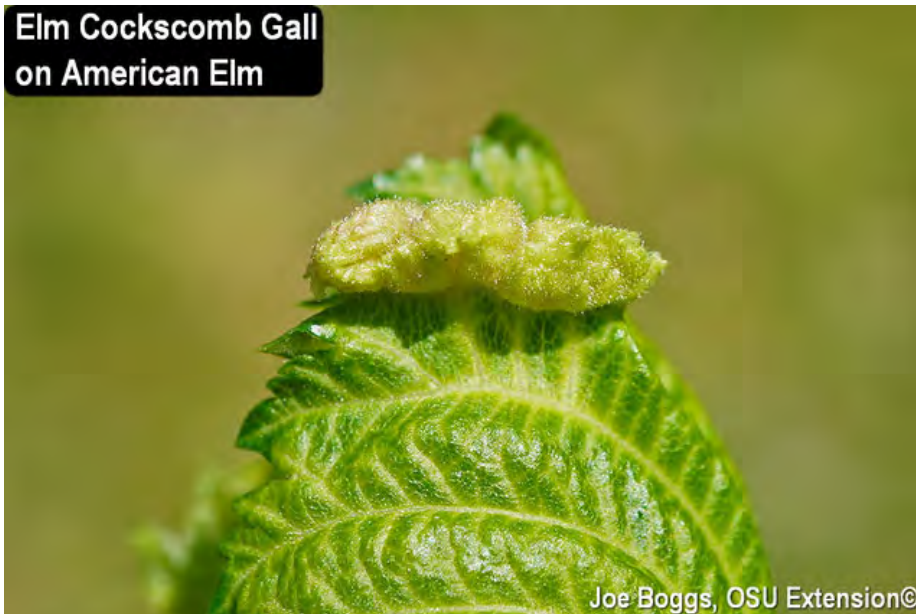
The woolly elm aphid (WEA) causes new leaves to roll along one edge with the tissue becoming swollen to form a gall-like structure which is sometimes referred to as a "pseudo-gall." The woolly aphids reside and feed within the rolled structure.



Although the damage may appear unsightly, records indicate that unlike its woolly cousin, WEA seldom causes enough damage to affect the overall health of the host tree. The aphid alternates between the spring leaf-feeding generation on elm and a summer root-feeding generation on *Amelanchier* spp.

While taking pictures of WAA, I came across the handiwork of the elm cockscomb gall aphid (*Colopha ulmicola*); another "old friend" that's worth mentioning. Although I find these galls most often on red elm (*U. rubra*), I've also occasionally found them on American elms. Like WEA, these galls are mostly oddities causing no significant harm to the overall health of their elm host trees. However, their appearance may cause concern.

**Elm Cockscomb Gall
on American Elm**



Joe Boggs, OSU Extension©

**Elm Cockscomb Gall
on American Elm**



Joe Boggs, OSU Extension©

Early cockscomb galls are tubular-shaped, almost worm-like, and light green. As they mature, the galls will take on the appearance of their descriptive common name: they will look like bright red chicken cockscombs rising up from elm leaves. It's a strange sight.

**Elm Cockscomb Gall
on Red (Slippery) Elm**



Joe Boggs, OSU Extension©

This is another two-host aphid. The cockscomb galls will release winged aphids later this season through a slit on the underside of the leaf. These aphids fly to grass plants where they produce offspring that suck juices from grass roots. Their offspring fly back to elms in the fall to spend the winter in bark crevices.



Elm Preferences

The rise and fall, then rise again of American elm has been remarkable. Along the way, we've picked up a smorgasbord of genetic variations aimed at thwarting Dutch elm disease. These include selections of American elm; selections of non-native elms; and a mix and match of hybrids produced from parents drawn from North America, Europe, and Asia. What impact has this had on old elm pests?

Dan Potter and Carl Redmond (University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology) used elms planted in Lexington, KY, that were part of the National Elm Trial to assess host preferences for an impressive range of potential elm pests including the woolly and cockscomb aphids. You can access their full publication titled, "Relative Resistance or Susceptibility of Landscape-suitable Elms (*Ulmus* spp.) to Multiple Insect Pests," by clicking this hotlink: <https://webdoc.agsci.colostate.edu/bspm/Kentucky2013.pdf>

The Kentucky researchers found that WEA is selective for *Ulmus americana*, but all cultivars were not equal. 'Princeton' was the most susceptible followed by 'Valley Forge', 'Jefferson', and 'New Harmony'. 'Lewis

and Clark Prairie Expedition' was not infested. None of the Asian elms or hybrids involving Asian or European heritage were affected.

They also observed that WAA was highly selective for American elm and none of the Asian elms or hybrids involving Asian or European heritage were affected. But again, all American elm cultivars were not equal. 'Princeton' was the most susceptible followed closely by 'Jefferson'. 'Valley Forge' and 'New Harmony' had minor infestations and 'Lewis and Clark Prairie Expedition' was not infested.

The elm cockscomb gall aphid likewise demonstrated a strong preference for American elms over non-natives as well as hybrids involving Asian or European elms. However again, all American elm cultivars were not equal. Combining two years of data (2011, 2012) 'Jefferson' was most often selected with 'Princeton', 'Valley Forge', 'Lewis and Clark Prairie Expedition' having minor infestations. 'New Harmony' was not infested nor were any of the non-native elms or elm hybrids involving non-native parentage.

Other Articles

Sow and Grow Beans in the Home Garden

MEGHAN SHINN

MAY 5, 2020

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/edible-gardening/growing-beans>

With their large seeds, beans are simple to sow, and they're just as easy to grow. Plant their seeds straight into the garden and get ready for quick sprouting and growth.



Pole beans require a support around which they can twine.
Here's how:

Choose your type: pole or bush. Pole beans require a support, take longer to mature and produce beans for picking over a long period. Bush beans are compact, with no need for a support. They mature more quickly, lending themselves to succession planting. Their beans are ready to pick over a shorter period, so you may need to can, freeze or share some of the harvest.

Wait until your soil temperature remains above 50 degrees (F) to sow bean seeds. However they will do better if you wait a bit longer, until the soil temp rises into the 60s. Beans do not like cold, damp feet, so to speak.

Sow the seeds about an inch deep, leaving at least four to six inches between seeds in a row. In general, rows should be two to four feet apart. Use the lower measurements for bush beans and the higher measurements for pole beans, as they require more space. Always refer to the seed packet for the best spacing for your chosen variety.

If you're growing pole beans, which require support, insert stakes or a trellis when you sow the seeds. That way they will be ready for you to train and tie the stems onto them. Bush beans do not require supports.

Keep the soil evenly moist from the time of sowing throughout the life of the bean plants. Beans do not need fertilizer but they do require even moisture, so be sure to water them if rainfall is scarce or inconsistent.

Bush beans typically produce all their beans over a period of a few weeks. Keep picking the beans as they're ready because this will encourage the plant to keep

producing. Once the plant stops, pull it out and replace it with a different crop, or another round of bush beans.

Pole beans, on the other hand, generally keep producing smaller quantities of beans over a couple months. As with bush beans, pick frequently to prolong production.

Snaptini Snapdragons Bring the Classic Flower on a Shorter Plant

MEGHAN SHINN

MAY 5, 2020

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/plants/snaptini-snapdragon>

Virtues: The Snaptini series of snapdragons bring you a classic, old-favorite flower but on a more compact plant. The short stature of the Snaptini varieties makes it easy to include these annuals in window boxes, mixed containers and at the front of the garden bed. These snapdragons also have very strong stems, so they resist breaking. Both their short size and their strong stems means no staking is required. Finally, Snaptini varieties were bred to be less dependent on day length to trigger flowering. That means that they bloom even in the shorter days of early spring and late fall, and even in the winter in mild climates.



The Snapptini series of semi-dwarf snapdragons covers a range of colors. Shown here is Snapptini Peach.

Common name: Snapptini snapdragon

Botanical name: *Antirrhinum majus* Snapptini series

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Flowers: Snapdragons produce upright flowering stalks lined with two-lipped blossoms. The Snapptini series comprises these descriptively named varieties: Burgundy Bicolor, Peach, Red, Rose Bicolor, Scarlet, Sunglow (crimson with yellow throat), Violet, White

and Yellow. Flowers appear in early spring. Flowering may cease when temperatures rise above the high 70s, but if you keep the plants watered through summer they will likely come back into bloom when temperatures drop back in the fall.

Foliage: Long, narrow deep green leaves.

Habit: Snaptini snapdragons have a mounded growth habit reaching six to eight inches tall and wide.

How to grow it: Plant Snaptini snapdragons in full sun to part shade in well-draining soil. Siting them where they will receive full sun during the cooler months of spring but some shade during the heat of summer (such as near deciduous trees) can help them rebound with flowering in the fall. They appreciate regular watering. Snapdragons are hardy in USDA Zones 7–10, but they are typically grown as an annual. Where they are hardy, they may overwinter and offer a very early bloom the following winter/spring.

Prepared by Jeff Stachler
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