



THE GARFIELD GARDENER

THE NEWSLETTER OF GARFIELD PARK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

November 2022 Next Meeting

November 9

Program:

European Gardens

Speakers:

MaryAnn Donham and
Danielle Randles,
GPMGA Members

December 14

Holiday Pitch-In;
Centerpieces

Programs are being planned
on a month-to-month basis
according to Purdue University
Extension Office Guidelines

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accommodation or special
assistance to attend these
programs due to a disability,
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Newsletter Editor:

Oren Cooley
pastpfct@aol.com

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www.IndyGPMGA.com
www.IndyMG.org
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President's Letter

Greetings,

Happy Fall! My gardens are quiet now and the garlic is planted. Now it's time to address the leaves. I mow/mulch frequently to try to stay ahead of them. More nutrients for the lawn!

We continue to seek a candidate to serve as Vice President in 2023, followed by President in 2024. Neither job is hard work and it's a great way to gain volunteer hours and learn more about the Master Gardener program!

Elections for the officers will be held at the November meeting. I am pleased that Danielle Randles has agreed to run for Secretary and Cindy Maude is willing to continue as Treasurer. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor. If none are received, this slate will be accepted. It would be great to have someone volunteer for the VP spot!

We will have a table outside the last Master Gardener class on November 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m. to offer membership to our association as soon as the students pass the final. Please let me know if you can come to help share the benefits of membership. The class is held in Discovery Hall at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

I hope to see you at our November 9 meeting.

—Nancy Boettner, President, GPMGA

Thanksgiving Cactus vs. Christmas Cactus

You might discover this holiday season that you have a Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) instead of a Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*). Although they look very similar, they are two different plants.

One can distinguish the Thanksgiving cactus from the Christmas cactus by the shape of its leaves. On the Thanksgiving cactus, the leaf segments, called phylloclades, are serrated or "toothed" with pointy spines—usually two to four on each side.

The flowers of the Thanksgiving cactus are produced from the tips and come in a range of colors, including red, pink, peach, purple, orange and white. Also, look at the pollen-bearing anthers—Thanksgiving cactus anthers are yellow.

In contrast, the leaves of the Christmas cactus have a more rounded, scalloped edge. The tip of each segment is slightly curved but it can look almost straight across.

The flowers of the Christmas cactus are usually pink or white. Also, the pollen-bearing anthers of a Christmas cactus are pink to purplish-brown.

There is also an Easter cactus (*Hatiora gaertneri*). These succulents have leaves with small bristles and a thick ridge on one side. The flowers are typically scarlet red.



Thanksgiving cactus (above, below left);
Christmas cactus (below right);
Easter cactus (bottom)



Garfield Park Conservatory Tours

November 12 (11:00 a.m.)
Judy Martin

November 26 (11:00 a.m.)
Arlene Bow
Oren Cooley
John Montgomery

At the Conservatory

November 25 – December 31
Conservatory Crossing

Come enjoy a winter wonderland as Garfield Park Conservatory again decks out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias, model trains and villages, and thousands of twinkling lights during the Garfield Park's Conservatory Crossing Holiday Train and Poinsettia Display.

The cost is \$5 per person; \$12 per family (2 adults max.). For information, visit: www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.



GPMGA In-Person Meeting: Nov. 9

The Garfield Park Master Gardeners will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, at the Garfield Park Conservatory to hear Members MaryAnn Donham and Danielle Randles—who each traveled to Europe in September—co-present what they found interesting about gardens at their respective destinations.

MaryAnn's program, *The Wild Plants of Ireland*, will focus on native plants including herbs, history and folklore, place names and invasives. She was impressed by Ireland's diverse landscape, temperate climate, sustainability programs and especially the use of hedgerows. She has lived in the Garfield Park neighborhood since 2006, completed her Master Gardener training in 2014, and retired from Perry Township Schools in 2020.



Danielle's travels took her to Italy, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, France and Monaco. Her favorite garden farm was Azienda Agricola Foradori in northern Italy where greens (kale, chard, etc.) were planted between the vineyard rows to more efficiently use the space. Her main takeaway from the journey was a reminder that companion planting and succession planting create a fuller garden throughout the garden seasons. She intends to try underplanting and incorporating edible plants throughout her landscape. Danielle completed her Master Gardener training last spring and is the Farm Manager at Paramount Schools of Excellence in Brookside where there are 60+ raised beds and a dairy goat operation with cheesemaking. She lives in the Cottage Home neighborhood.



As a reminder, all members are encouraged to develop programs as a great way to share their knowledge and experience as well as build volunteer hours. For more information, contact Program Chair Debra Boyer at idealgardenspace@aol.com.

2022 GPMGA Officers/Committee Chairs

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Please contact the officers and chairs of the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association if you have any questions or suggestions .

GPMGA Calls for Grant Applications

Any organization wishing to apply for a grant from the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association should submit their proposals to GPMGA Treasurer Cindy Maude at cmaude@sbcglobal.net. Although GPMGA considers each proposal individually, requests typically do not exceed \$500 per application.

A committee of GPMGA officers will review all submitted applications to ensure projects meet the GPMGA's desire to advance gardening and beautification. Recommendations from the committee usually are announced at a monthly meeting for approval by the general membership.

Members of GPMGA are encouraged to nominate organizations. Volunteer garden activities headed by GPMGA members are given priority. Also, projects affecting Garfield Park are considered a high priority in this process.

To apply, individuals should submit the following items:

Cover Sheet, including:

- Organization benefiting (not-for-profit organizations only please)
- Name, location and brief history of project
- Applicant/contact person (name, address, telephone, e-mail, etc.)
- Amount requested; Indicate new or existing project and prior GPMGA funding

Text of Proposal (Not to exceed 2 pages)

- Summary of project (50 words)
- Clear, concise description of project, including:
 1. How does the project furthers the GPMGA's mission?
 2. Why is the project needed?
 3. What objectives are to be achieved?
 4. Detailed list of plants, seeds and materials needed
(Itemization of funds needed; drawings/graphs may be included)
- List names of Master Gardeners and/or Extension Staff working on this project
- Anticipated start and completion dates of project
- Additional donors to your project (if applicable)

Budget Sheet, including:

- Materials, labor and program costs
- Sources and amounts of any funds already raised
- Total cost of project

Project Summary and Comments on the expected results to be achieved within the following year. Photos may be included if applicable.

GPMGA Meeting Minutes: October 12

The GPMGA met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, at the Conservatory.

Business Meeting (Officers Reports):

- President - Nancy Boettner: Welcome all members & visitors; Seeking VP for 2023, Secretary, Treasurer; New member Amanda Anez introduced
- Secretary - Kay Martin-Pence: Minutes accepted as printed in newsletter
- Treasurer - Cindy Maude: Checking balance \$8,177.66

Program: René Walczak on *Shrubs, Vinegars and More*.

Other Reports:

- Hospitality - Carrie Alumbaugh, Jayne Queck, Mary Ann Titus: Mike, Becky and Mary Ann to supply snacks for November
- Newsletter/Communications - Oren Cooley: Picking up t-shirts
- Programs - Debra Boyer: Members Danielle Randles and Mary Ann Donham to present on their travels at November meeting
- Conservatory Tours-Victoria Metheaux: Tours covered, no tours in December; Always looking for more volunteers
- Plant Sale-Carrie Alumbaugh: Has contacted Sullivan about left-over stock; Plans to get new signs for next year; Will discuss date with Garfield Park
- Mums from Heidenreich Greenhouses and succulents from Lane distributed

—Nancy Boettner

Garfield Park Master Gardener Association

in association with



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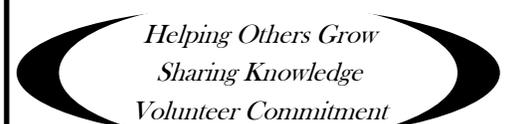
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If you require an accommodation or special assistance to attend programs due to a disability, please contact Carey Grable at 317-275-9290 or Barb Rusin at 317-275-9279. Some accommodations may require 2 weeks notice.

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Questions: Contact Carey Grable at cagrabl@purdue.edu or at 317-275-9290.

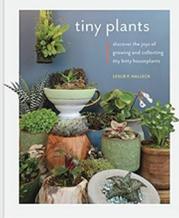


From the Bookshelf . . .

Tiny Plants: Discover the Joys of Growing and Collecting Itty-bitty Houseplants

by Leslie F. Halleck

Discover a fascinating array of perfectly petite houseplants one can collect and grow—in a minimal amount of space—in *Tiny Plants*.



Tiny plants are the ideal solution for plant keepers who do not have much space. Even if one has “all the room in the world” though, their adorableness is reason alone to grow these mini wonders.

Beyond a few small succulents, most people are not aware of the extensive array of tiny plants they can collect and display on windowsills, on tables and desks, and in terrariums.

However, *Tiny Plants* provides:

- Profiles of dozens of miniature houseplants, including aquatic, carnivorous, flowering, succulent and tropical varieties
- Detailed growing information
- A fascinating look at the botany of miniature houseplant varieties
- Advice on how to stylishly display a tiny plant collection
- How-to lessons on the basics of propagating mini houseplants
- Details on the best tiny houseplants for terrarium growing

From the sweet blooms of micro orchids and the soft, smooth texture of lithops, to the frog foot-shaped foliage of the creeping oak fig and the tiny orbs of the string-of-pearls, one will fall in love with these little curiosities before you can say #plantnerd.

On the Web

Unexpected Plants and Animals of Indiana

<https://ag.purdue.edu/stories/category/unexpected-plants-and-animals-of-indiana/>

Indiana is home to a large variety of plant and animal life, supported by the range of Indiana habitats, from its prairies to verdant hardwood forests. Discover some of the state's more surprising species with Purdue Agriculture's new *Unexpected Plants and Animals of Indiana* series.

Preparing the Garden and Yard for Winter

Winter mulch is not necessary for all garden plants—but it can mean survival for some less hardy plants.

Winter mulch has a different purpose than summer mulch. The main benefits of winter cover are to protect against wide temperature fluctuations in the soil and to prevent extreme cold temperatures from harming plants.

Soil tends to heave when subjected to wide temperature changes, pushing plant roots up out of the ground. Heaving is most harmful to relatively shallow-rooted plants, such as strawberries and newly planted specimens of any kind that have not yet had a chance to develop solid footing. Winter mulch also prevents extreme cold damage to above-ground plant parts.

In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of mulch, such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips, give adequate protection. For roses though, more elaborate protection is needed.

Timing is critical when applying winter mulch. It is best to wait until after temperatures are consistently below freezing to apply the mulch. Applying too early can smother the plant and encourage disease development.

Also remember to winterize your landscape plants. Direct sunshine on young thin-barked trees warms the bark considerably. But when the sun goes down, air temperatures drop rapidly, resulting in the tree's bark splitting. Other types of winter injury also are common, including breakage from heavy snow and ice, severe drying and animal feeding damage. However, you can help protect your plants by properly preparing them for the winter season.

Shading young, thin-barked trees such as maples and fruit trees on the south and west sides will help prevent bark splits from temperature extremes. The bark tends to split vertically on the sunny side of the tree, because as the temperatures drop rapidly at sundown, the outer bark cools down and contracts faster than the inner bark. Thus, the outer bark must split to accommodate what's below. Wrapping the trunks with commercial tree wrap provides some protection.



Garfield Park Conservatory's Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*) is a genus of thorny ornamental vines, bushes and trees belonging to the four o' clock family, *Nyctaginaceae*. It is native to eastern South America, found from Brazil, west to Peru and south to southern Argentina.

Bougainvillea are evergreen where rainfall occurs all year, or deciduous if there is a dry season. The species grow 3 ft. to 39 ft. tall, scrambling over other plants with their spiky thorns.

The inflorescence consists of large colorful sepal-like bracts which surround three simple waxy flowers. The actual flower of the plant is small and generally white.

Each cluster of bracts—usually between three or six—provide the bright colors associated with the plant, which include pink, magenta, purple, red, orange, white or yellow. *Bougainvillea glabra* is sometimes called the “paper flower” because its bracts are thin and papery.



The first European to describe these plants was Philibert Commerçon, a botanist accompanying French Navy Admiral Louis Antoine de Bougainville during his voyage of circumnavigation of the Earth.

Many of today's bougainvillea are the result of interbreeding among only three of the eighteen South American species recognized by botanists. Currently, there are over 300 varieties of bougainvillea around the world.

Thankful for Cranberries

by Rosie Lerner, reprinted from *Yard and Garden News*

Although the cranberry is native to the northeastern United States, it requires a rather unique acid bog habitat, which restricts its commercial production to just a few states. The ideal soil pH is 4.0-5.5, quite acidic compared to other horticulture crops. A large supply of fresh water and sand is also required.

Cranberries belong to the family *Ericaceae* and are related to rhododendron, blueberry and heather. Known botanically as *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, cranberries grow on a trailing, evergreen vine. The common name of cranberry comes from “crane berry”, so named because the flower is said to resemble the head and neck of a sandhill crane.



Because cranberries initiate flower buds in late summer, the plants need protection for the buds to survive. Thus, cranberry vines are flooded and layered with sand during the winter months to protect them from the cold. In spring, the bogs are drained. The plants flower in late spring and early summer on short, vertical shoots called uprights. The forthcoming fruit take the rest of the growing season to ripen.

Cranberries are harvested in September and October by one of two methods. Most are harvested via a “wet” method, where growers flood the plants and loosen the fruit by machine. The fruit then floats to the top. Most of these berries are used for processing. Some fruits are harvested for fresh market via a “dry” method, using mechanical comb-like pickers.

In addition to being a source of vitamins C and A, potassium and fiber, cranberries have other nutritional benefit. They are also being linked to cardiovascular and urinary tract health and prevention of dental plaque, cancer and ulcers. . . .

Persimmon: An Indiana Native

The wild persimmon boasts a decadent, sweet flavor, if you can catch the fruit when it is ripe—a task more difficult than it sounds.

The persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) has a bulbous fruit with an opulent orange hue and flared leafy top. The species is called the American persimmon, the eastern persimmon, possumwood and possum apple. Its range stretches from southern Connecticut to Florida and west to Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.



Thus, wild persimmons are native to and grow throughout southern Indiana. They also can be found in the northern part of the state, although less abundantly.

Persimmons ripen in late summer and early fall, and drop from the tree as soon as they ripen. Those persimmons typically have the desired sweet flavor. However, if one picks a persimmon off the tree early, they are extremely tart and produce an astringent effect in the mouth.

Persimmons are most commonly eaten in pulp form. Popular dishes include puddings, sweet breads, pies and other desserts. Upland Brewing Co., based in Bloomington, Indiana, has even developed a seasonal persimmon beer. Persimmons are good for baking and brewing because they are high in sugar content. When ripe, they are about 30 percent sugar.

Persimmon trees serve many other useful purposes. The fruit is a common source of nutrition for scavengers like possums, raccoons and foxes, and can be enjoyed by livestock, especially horses. Also, the wood of a persimmon tree is considered quality firewood, burning hot and producing an appealing aroma.

Two Ingredient Lemon Bars

Many thanks to GPMGA Member Cynthia St. John for not only sharing these lemon bars at a recent GPMGA meeting but also providing the following recipe:

That's right! Just 2 ingredients to these luscious lemon bars.

Time:

- Prep Time: 10 minutes
- Cook Time: 25 minutes

Serving Information:

- Servings: 12
- Calories: 205 kcal

Ingredients:

- 16 oz. angel food cake mix (such as Duncan Hines)
- 21 oz. lemon pie filling

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- In a large bowl, mix together the lemon pie filling and angel food cake mix. Use a spoon or spatula to mix this together. Do not over mix or whip.
- Spray a 9 x 13 pan with non-stick spray or grease with shortening. Add the batter to the pan and spread out evenly.
- Place in oven on the center rack. Bake for 25 minutes or until top starts to brown.
- Place on cooling rack and cool for 1-2 hours before cutting into squares.
- These bars can be cut into smaller pieces if one has a bigger crowd to feed.

Notes:

Other pie fillings can be used—such as a pineapple or key lime pie filling.



Show/Event Calendar

November 14 (6:30 p.m.)

Landscaping with Hosta and Other Shady Characters
Mary Ann Metz, Plant Material Buyer, Prairie Gardens, Champaign, IL
Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road
For more than 40 years, Mary Ann Metz has worked in horticulture—in specialized plant production, greenhouse management and landscape design. She has been involved in the American Hosta Society during that time and is a Master Judge.
www.indianapolishostasociety.org

Study Finds Pesticides in Milkweeds at Retail Nurseries

A new study released in *Biological Conservation* found harmful levels of pesticides in milkweed plants purchased from retail nurseries across the United States.

Pesticides were found in all plants tested, raising alarms for monarch conservation efforts that rely on planting milkweed sourced from commercial nurseries. Fortunately, the limited residues on some plants indicated that it is possible to grow milkweed in a pollinator-friendly manner.

Milkweed is the only food source for monarch caterpillars and thus critical for their survival. People who want to support monarchs often buy and plant milkweed. Researchers gathered 235 milkweed leaf samples from retail nurseries across 15 states and tested them for pesticides. A total of 61 different pesticides were found, with an average of 12 per plant and as many as 28 per plant.

Only 9 of the 61 chemicals found have been tested to understand their effects on monarchs, which means the researchers could not fully assess the toxic load carried by these plants. Still, 38% of the samples had residue levels that could harm monarchs' ability to migrate and forage, primarily due to high levels of fungicides. Fungicides have generally been overlooked as an issue for insect conservation efforts.

Plants labeled "wildlife-friendly" from stores and nurseries included in the study did not have fewer pesticides in or on the leaves of the milkweed plants. In some cases, plants with wildlife labels had more harmful pesticide residues.

The study's findings highlight the need for nurseries to ensure that plants being sold as pollinator-friendly are also pollinator-safe. Read the published study in *Conservation Biology*: Christopher A. Halsch, Sarah M. Hoyle, Aimee Code, James A. Fordyce, Matthew L. Forister. Milkweed plants bought at nurseries may expose monarch caterpillars to harmful pesticide residues. *Biological Conservation*, Vol. 273, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109699>.

GPMGA Membership

Become a member of the Garfield Park Master Gardener Association. Dues are \$15.00 per year and help pay for special activities, speakers, the newsletter and donations to community projects.

Monthly meetings occur on the second Wednesday of the month and begin at 6:30 p.m. Unless otherwise noted at the prior meeting or in the newsletter, meetings are held either virtually or at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 2505 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis.

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Completion date of Master Gardener Training Class ____/____/____

I volunteer with: _____

_____ I wish to be included in the 2023 GPMGA Member Directory.

_____ I wish to receive future newsletters by e-mail only.

Submit this form and your \$15.00 annual membership fee to:

Cindy Maude 7416 Rooses Drive Indianapolis, IN 46217

Volunteers Needed to Move Plant Sale Donation

GPMGA Members are needed to help pick up and transport plants donated by Sullivan Hardware and Garden Center (71st and Keystone) for the GPMGA Plant Sale next year.

Transporting the plants is scheduled to occur beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 13. As many volunteers as possible are needed.

Carrie Alumbaugh plans to rent a U-Haul for the move. However, GPMGA members who have a truck or large vehicle are encouraged to bring that vehicle as well.



The plants will be taken to Garfield Park for storage in the back gated area behind the Conservatory. However, the plants will be stored in a different spot in that area than last year.

If you are able to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Carrie Alumbaugh at 317-538-0872 or at carriesalumbaugh@gmail.com.