

News You Can Use!

March 2023

Hello Greg,

Here is the March issue of News You Can Use featuring:

- Updates from your AC Chair, ANR Educator, & Volunteer Coordinator
- New Volunteer Opportunities
- Garden Leader Kick-off
- Prep for Plants in the Park
- Save the Date notifications for the 2023 Midwest Cactus & Succulent Show & the Spring Plant Exchange
- Buying seeds from Renee's Garden
- New CE opportunities
- MGVC "Update" Archive
- & more...

*NYCU is published once a month October - April; twice a month May - September.

If you have any questions on information found in News You Can Use - contact Tammy L. Currier at currier.37@osu.edu.

Help us build our social media presence by following the [Master Gardener Volunteers of Cuyahoga County Facebook page](#) and by sharing it with your friends. If they share, we will expand our reach!

If you have information to share in the next News You Can Use contact Tammy L. Currier at currier.37@osu.edu.



Update from Ellen Comeau, your Interim AC Chair

Hello All,

What crazy weather we've been having! One minute it's Spring & we get all excited, then it's back to winter temperatures. I just saw my first robin under my bird feeders, poor guy.

Although I couldn't make the proposed AC reorganization meeting, I understand there was a very good turnout. There were good questions & insightful feedback

and the group overall seemed very positive & supportive of this new proposal. At the end of the meeting, the group voted to move this forward to the AC for adoption.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding this proposal, please contact any of the following team members.

- Dave Appel appeldb@gmail.com 216-973-6618
- Kim Hawkins hawkinsek@gmail.com 917-453-2593
- Melanie Biche beeshay18@gamil.com 216-544-9033
- Gretchen Faro gfaro712@gmail.com 440-263-7322
- Mary Jo Rawlins darbyo317@aol.com 216-410-6273
- Barb Franzen hjfranz201@aol.com 216-295-2326
- Rita Politzer psychorita2@aol.com 216-321-7961

I personally want to thank all involved with this for their hard work in putting it all together. It's been no small feat!

Also, you'll see a call in this issue for MGVs to join a master Hotline on the Road volunteer list. We often get requests for our participation in Earth Days or local gardens & typically only the volunteers that volunteer for HOTR (Shaker, Crocker, CBG) receive notification. Sometimes we have to pass on these opportunities because we don't have any MGVs able to volunteer and that's a shame.

I'm extending the offer for EVERYONE interested in representing the MGCC to get on this list, so we can provide the community with MGV's to share our knowledge & love for growing. It's not hard & not scary & a terrific way to get your hours. And it's fun! When a request comes in, the call will go out & first responses win. Shifts can be as little as an hour or two. Contact me directly to get on the list: Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net.

Thanks for reading & I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

~Ellen

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Update from Morning Robinson, ANR Educator

Hello MGVs,

Here's a few updates as we shift into spring and prepare to get into the swing of things. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Reminder: No Basic Training in 2023

While I am getting acclimated to my position and due to some shifts happening within the MGCC, it has been decided the next Basic Training class will take place in 2024. Thank you for your patience and I look forward to the exciting changes going forward.



Community Gardening Programs

- Summer Sprout Garden Leader Kick Off is April 1st.
- Dig In! Community Garden Training starts April 4th; updates for volunteers as well as for new garden mentors will be coming soon.

Ohio Victory Gardens

Victory Garden seeds will be here in April. Sample seed starter packets will be available to the general public, please be on the lookout for distribution event details and spread the word to any interested gardens or individual gardeners you know who might be interested.

Pollinator Gardens

Start planning and prepping your pollinator garden now. With Native Plant Month beginning April 1st, there is no time like the present to learn about native plants and their benefits to bees.

As you know, pesticides can have negative effects on bees and other insects, killing them outright or affecting behavior, longevity, or susceptibility to disease. Limiting pesticide use in the garden by planting natives can help alleviate these negative affects.

To learn more about attracting pollinators and pollinator health, visit this factsheet and the OSU Bee Lab website - it offers so many resources and webinars.

Backyard Hens

Join OSU Extension Cuyahoga County for an evening of all things backyard chickens. OSU Extension Educator Morning Robinson will discuss breed selection, safe egg handling, chicken health, zoning requirements, housing, nutrition and other topics that will help you successfully raise chickens in the city and suburbs.

When: Thursday March 9th, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 PM (MGVS will receive TWO CE's)

Where: OSU Extension Training Room, Fairhill Center

Cost: \$10.00

Register: [HERE!](#)

Note: This course fulfills the educational requirement for Lakewood's Hen Keeping Ordinance.

Thanks for all you do!

Morning

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Update from Tammy L. Currier, Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Dear MGVs,

QUESTION: Are you still having difficulties navigating Hands on Connect? If so, would you be interested in a familiarization session? We have conducted them before and could do so again if there is an interest. Please let me know.

Need a new MGV name badge?

With the new season just around the corner, please let me know if you need a name badge. Once I have final count, I will send out a tally of what each of you will owe the MGCC along with the request for payment to be sent to Treasurer, Gretchen Faro. The cost with delivery for each badge should be @\$6.00. You will be responsible for picking your badges up at the office.

FYI:

- Hour Requirements: **25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours**
- Hours Due: **10/31/2023**
- Watch for **NYCU** & take the time to read it - it comes out monthly October - April; twice a month May - September.
- Lastly, **don't wait until August / September to get hours**. They are so many ways to earn hours - even from your own home, so don't delay.

Please reach out if you have any questions - currier.37@osu.edu.

Thank you,

Tammy

***P.S.** Looking for answers to your burning Hands on Connect and 2023 Hour Requirement questions, please see the archive I have created at the bottom of NYCU. It contains information my updates.*

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MGCC Dates at a Glance:

- March 9th - **Backyard Chickens; REGISTER!**
- March 16th - **Understanding Soil Nutrients; REGISTER!**
- March 25 & 26th - **2023 Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale; SAVE THE DATE!**
- April 1st - **Garden Leader Kickoff; SIGN UP to volunteer!**

- **April 11th - Mulberry Creek Herb Farm Tour; SAVE THE DATE - Registration coming soon!**
- **May 16th - Spring Plant Exchange; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 3rd - Plants in the Park; SAVE THE DATE!**
- **June 18th-22nd - International Master Gardener Conference; REGISTER!**

For more information on these dates, see descriptions below.

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Looking for MGCC Volunteer Opportunities for 2023?

Check out the following MGCC programs in need of volunteers.

Community Garden Mentors:

As we enter the 2023 gardening season and prepare for mentoring the Summer Sprout and Greater Cleveland Community Gardens, our committee is looking for additional volunteers to work as Traditional Garden Mentors.

This style of mentoring involves matching one MGCV as mentor to each community garden requesting a mentor for an ongoing relationship throughout the garden season.

As we get a more specific count on participating gardens, we will begin the process of matching MGCVs as mentors to each garden. Knowledge and interest in vegetable gardening is a plus for this opportunity.

Please reach out to Emily Roll at ejroll@gmail.com or 440-263-1279 if you are interested in mentoring this season.

Note: This opportunity is great for busy working MGCVs since work is done mostly over the phone.

Child & Youth Education:

Interested in Working with Children?

The MGCC is working with our Cuyahoga County 4-H staff to explore ways we can engage the children of our county in gardening programs.

Please reach out to Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net if you are interested in getting involved.

Hotline on the Road - Special Events:

The HOTR team is looking for dedicated MGCVs interested in volunteering at events around the city, like health and wellness events, community gardening events, etc.



We have had several requests so far this year for the MGCC to have tables at various events around the city and need a group of dedicated volunteers that would like to participate.

Please reach out to Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net if you are interested in adding your name to the list.



Volunteer Opportunity: Planning for the Garden Leader Kickoff is underway!

As a reminder, GLKO offers the opportunity for Community Garden Leaders to sign their Land Bank licenses, distribute seeds and other materials, and to relay any other need to know information surrounding tilling, hydrant permits, etc.

For this to go as smoothly as possible, we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help set-up, greet the Garden Leaders, and more. There is also an opportunity to help package the seeds that will be distributed at GLKO. If you are available and willing to help, don't hesitate to sign up.

When: Saturday, April 1st - 7:00AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Avenue, CLE, OH 44103

Garden Leader Kickoff: Register [HERE](#)! Deadline: 3/27/2023

Seed Packing: Register [HERE](#)! Deadline: 3/20/2023



All the Dirt on Plants in the Park

We're only three months away from this year's Plants in the Park coming up on Saturday, June 3rd at the Kiwanis Pavilion in Independence. Planning for our annual fundraiser is ramping up and we need your help. We hope you're ready to dig in and get your hands dirty to support PIP 2023!

Now is the time to start your herb and vegetable seeds in pots. Please start digging and dividing your perennial plants in April or no later than early May so they will look their best for our sale.

Tips for Planting, Digging, and Dividing Plants

We sell herbs, veggies in pots, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, house plants, and container gardens. We welcome all healthy plants except invasives and have found that unnamed daylilies and plain green and white hostas do not sell well.



Dig - Choose a cool, cloudy day if possible. Select the whole plant or take divisions – cut a piece with roots and leaves or take out a whole clump and divide it into pieces.

Divide - If you are dividing a clump, place it on a tarp and use two shovels or a sharp utensil (saw, knife) to cut it apart. Discard the center section that is usually waning and pot up or replant the rest.

Pot Up – In a pot with good drainage, place the plant at the same level as it was in the ground. Fill in with moist potting soil, soilless mix, or good soil from your garden. Water well and keep in a partly shady location until it's time to deliver them to our drop off locations.

Label – Clearly label each plant and be as detailed as you can with plant information. Include the name and varietal of the plant and its scientific or Latin name if you know it. Include requirements such as likes sun/shade, likes moist/dry soil and size when mature. Please don't put the labels on your pots until you're ready to deliver them to prevent them from getting wet, smudged or loose.

Deliver – Take your plants to one of our convenient drop off locations the week before the sale. Look for additional details on this in future issues of NYCU.

We will have a special emphasis on native plants again this year - they are a real crowd pleaser! Please refer to this [LINK](#) for a detailed list of Native Plants of Ohio.

Also, check this list of our top selling plants from prior PIP sales - we'd appreciate donations of any of these plants.

- *Acanthus mollis*, *Acanthus spinosus* (Bear's Breeches)
- Agastache, especially x 'Blue Fortune' or *rupestris*, 'Golden Jubilee'
- Allium bulbs, large bulbs; minimum of 1 or 2, depending on size
- *Anemone japonica*
- *Astilbes*
- *Athyrium*
- *Baptisia*
- *Brunnera* (i.e. 'Variegata', 'Hadspen Cream')
- *Cimicifuga*
- *Crocosmia*
- Daffodils, preferably named (minimum quantity of 3)
- Delphiniums, perennial varieties
- *Dianthus* (not biennials);
- *Dicentra spectabilis* and *eximia* (bleeding hearts)
- *Digitalis* perennial varieties only
- Ferns
- Perennial Geraniums, (not the annual *Pelargoniums*)
- Grasses, choice varieties
- *Helleborus*
- *Hemerocallis* (named only, exclude common ones like *Stella d'Oro*)
- *Heuchera* - newer foliage varieties (Marmalade, Amethyst Myst) - these fly off the shelves
- Hostas, please no plain green or green/white ones
- Hydrangeas, named or variegated, and large un-named specimens
- *Iris ensata* (Japanese)
- *Iris*, bearded
- Lilies
- *Monarda* (newer varieties like Marshall's Delight, Jacob Cline, Purple Rooster)
- *Nepeta*
- *Papaver orientalis*
- *Perovskia* (Russian Sage)
- Peonies
- *Phlox* (newer named varieties i.e. Laura, Starfire, David)
- *Polemonium*, variegated
- *Polygonatum*, variegated, also large specimens
- *Primula* (choice varieties i.e. *japonica*, *denticulata*)
- *Pulmonaria* (only choice, i.e. Apple Frost, Cotton Cool, Excalibur)
- *Rodgersia*
- *Sedum* (i.e. Vera Jamison, Rosy Glow, Frosty Morn, Matrona)
- Shasta daisy, choice varieties (i.e. Becky)
- *Trillium* (nursery grown only)
- Deer resistant plants (labeled as such)
- Annuals, veggie starts, & herbs

Last but not least, please remember to keep track of the time you spend planting, digging, and dividing plants for us – it counts as volunteer hours!

Watch for more updates on our 2023 Plants in the Park Sale in future editions of NYCU. Until then, if you have any questions or would like to talk about the PIP volunteer opportunities in more detail, don't hesitate to contact any of your PIP Co-Chairs!

Dave Appel
appeldb@gmail.com
216-973-6618

Deb Daugherty
debdaugherty2771@yahoo.com
440-506-0237

Cathy Wheeler
Cwheeler12436@gmail.com
330-569-8066



MGCC 2022 STATS

Look what you accomplished in 2022 - this infographic says it all!

Active Volunteers: 158
Total Volunteer Hours Contributed: 11,162
Produce Donated: 119 lbs.
Events: 17 general horticulture events attended by over 9,192 contacts

- * You taught.
- * You fed.
- * You inspired.



Plants in the Park Needs You!

What: Plants in the Park
When: Saturday, June 3rd - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Where: Kiwanis Pavilion, Independence

Do you have any gently used garden hardgoods you'd like to donate to Plants in the Park? In addition to plants, we also sell items like pots, vases, trellises, baskets, gardening tools, garden art, windchimes, steppingstones, garden totes, and any other decorative garden and lawn items you have to spare - all are welcome.



Please drop off any items at one of our drop off locations the week before the sale. If you are unable to do so, contact Amy Shaper at 216-513-7277 or Dave Shaper at 216-408-2249 to arrange a pickup. Stay tuned for more information!



International Master
Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023
Overland Park, Kansas

Learn more: [Collect Experiences, Not Things!](#)
Register: [HERE!](#)

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**Unique Opportunity: Tour OSU's NEW
West Campus Hydroponic Greenhouse
with Tim McDermott, March 8th - 12:00
PM**

The Controlled Environment Agriculture Research Complex (CEARC) uses emerging technology to conduct research and control environmental factors such as light, humidity, temperature, and nutrients, which leads to an extended growing season, reduced waste, and more high-quality crops. The complex also enables CFAES to expand programs to prepare the future workforce and create a pipeline of experienced CEA growers. The greenhouse is part of CFAES' Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory - a unique facility that serves as a university hub for teaching, research, and community engagement. For further reading, click [HERE!](#)

Dr. Timothy McDermott has been an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator within the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for the past six years after twenty years in private practice veterinary medicine and surgery. He assists client resident backyard growers, community gardeners, teacher educators and urban farmers increase their production of fresh local produce through his work in local food production systems in Franklin County. He utilizes his veterinary expertise for Extension work in backyard poultry, small ruminant, insect-vectored disease and companion animal programming to client residents, the Department of Veterinary Preventative Medicine, and 4-H student livestock project education. He is a proud member of Buckeye Nation as a '96 grad of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

For more information and free registration, follow this [LINK!](#)

-shared by Jen Andon. OSU MGV Program Manager

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SAVE THE DATE: Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale 2023 - 3/25 & 3/26

When: Saturday, March 25th, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM / Sunday, March 26th, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Where: The Cleveland Botanical Garden

Note: Only cash & checks accepted.

*For more information, visit the Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society on [Facebook](#).



SAVE THE DATE: Spring Plant Exchange - 5/16/23, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Join fellow MGVs this coming spring for the Spring Plant Exchange.

When: Tuesday, May 16th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: Kiwanis Pavilion, 6363 Selig Drive, Independence, OH 44131

MGVs will receive ONE CE for their participation

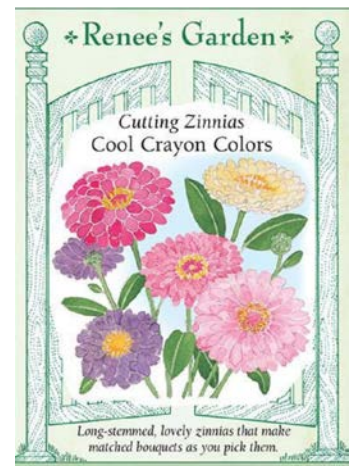


Need Seeds? Try Renee's Garden!

If you're looking for seeds, [Renee's Garden](#) - The Garden to Table Seed Company - is a wonderful resource, offering vegetable, flower, and herb seeds, as well as seed potatoes and lovely watercolor prints. Plus, they have best seed packets going. In addition to offering exceptional seeds, they give back.

Simply go to their website, order your seeds & whatever else your heart desires and use the following number to get part of your order donated back to the MGCC. **FR664A** is our special number - be sure to enter it with your order.

-submitted by Lois Rose, MGV 1998



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CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

(Note: Cuyahoga County CE opportunities will always be listed first, followed by CE opportunities available in other Ohio counties, so remember to scroll down. New listings will be shown first followed by opportunities listed in chronological order.



* Cuyahoga County: 2023 Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

New year, new CE opportunities! Please review the 2023 roster of Cuyahoga County continuing education opportunities.

Upcoming 2023 MGCC CE Opportunities w/ projected dates:

- Mulberry Creek gardens with talk and shopping; April 11th - **REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**
- Stan Hywet gardens with tour of grounds, house? (and lunch); early summer
- Green Circle Growers; possibly September
- Brian Thompson visit with talk by Christine Zust; DTBD
- Kilbuck Mushroom farm, Burbank; DTBD
- Climate change seminar - possible critical issues; February/March
- Spice Gardens farm visit/cooking demo Cuyahoga valley w/Ben Bebenroth, Spice Acres; DTBD
- Small vegetable farming, distributing in Huron, Farmer John Milan; DTBD
- Ben Franklin diagnostic walk; August

MGVs earn **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of programming

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***Greene County:
Understanding Soil Nutrients - 3/16/23,
6:30-7:30 PM**

Soil is a living, complex ecosystem. In the upper layer, plants find the water and nutrients they need to live and thrive. Topsoil is influenced by three main properties: soil texture, organic matter, and pH levels. Nutrients are an

even more important important aspect of soil content.

Join us to hear Ed Brown, ANR Educator Athens County, talk about why it's essential to understand the importance of the nutrients in our soil.

When: March 16th, 2023, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: Zoom

Cost: \$5.00

Registration: [HERE!](#)

Note: Registration closes at 4:00 PM, March 16th, 2023.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email once registration closes. Please check your junk email folder if the email does not appear in your regular inbox.

Questions/Problems: reach out to Kim at hupman.5@osu.edu

MGVs earn **ONE CE** per **ONE** hour of programming

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MGV Coordinator "Important Info" Archive: *Please use this ongoing archive to access important and helpful information shared by myself to assist you in being an effective MGV.*

Need help finding MGCC Projects or Roster? Follow these steps:

- Log in to this [LINK](#)
- Scroll down to **MY COUNTIES**
- Click on the grey box titled: **SEARCH PROJECTS** to locate full list of current MGCC projects. Click on the title of the project to access description.
- Click on the grey box titled: **ROSTER** (located to the right of the **SEARCH PROJECTS** box) to locate the names, status, phone, and email addresses of your fellow MGVs.

HANDS ON CONNECT TIPS:

- Accessing Hands on Connect: - **BOOKMARK** the following link: <https://mgvolunteers.osu.edu/> - doing so will provide easy access to the site and you won't have to reach out to me. :))
- **REMEMBER** to log-in - the log-in button is in the upper right corner - Otherwise, the information you see does not directly pertain to you.

- The Roster is located under the heading - MY COUNTIES. The Roster is in the third grey box to the right.
- If/when you are interested in a project you **need to reach out directly** to the chair in charge of that project to sign up. For instance, if you wanted to work with the Community Garden Mentors, you would reach out to Emily Roll. Contact information for every Master Gardener is located under the ROSTER in Hands on Connect.
- **Do NOT** not use the Hands on Connect sign-up feature – it is more a function of the system than a sign-up tool. Expressing interest basically pins the project to your page and allows you to then log any volunteer time spent.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the site - you can't break it and it will be much easier to use once you've clicked on a few links. You can't get the lay of the land, so to speak, until you explore.

2023 Hour Requirements: 25 Volunteer Hours / 10 Continuing Education Hours.

Your volunteer and continuing education hours should be earned participating in county and OSU Extension sponsored activities and continuing education opportunities. The goal is to support our county's projects benefiting the public and to gain OSU Extension-approved, science-based knowledge.

DON'T DELAY - start earning hours as soon as you can in 2023! It's always easier to accrue hours when our programming is in partial to full swing than to wait until our programming has wound down and hours are due to try and scramble to find hours to fulfill your requirements.

BUSY CAREER or HOME LIFE & WANT TO REMAIN AN MGV? - for those of you working full time, we know work gets crazy, so consider opportunities you can do at home to maintain your status as an MGV:

- Participate in Telephone Hotline (task completed from the comfort of your own home).
- Join the Ask a Master Gardener team (questions answered online - also done from the comfort of your own home).
- Become a member of the Tech Team - you could be a Zoom host (also from the comfort of your home).
- Assist community gardens by becoming a Community Garden Mentor - mostly you respond to phone calls.
- Be a regular contributor to the MGCC Facebook page.

Please keep the information shared above for easy access.

If you have any questions about the information I have shared here, please let me know.

Thanks for all you do,
- Tammy

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Continuing Education Webinars from CFAES

With lots of interesting sessions - CFAES Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour webinar sessions are the perfect way to expand your horticultural knowledge, as well as your knowledge of the natural world - all while earning required CE's.



Follow this [LINK](#) to learn more, register, and access the recordings!

To access 2020 webinars, follow this link: [2020 Spring Lunch & Learn and Happy Hour Webinar Series](#)

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Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County 2023 Advisory Committee Members:

**Interim Chair – Ellen Comeau
Vice Chair – Open
Secretary – Open
Treasurer – Gretchen Faro
Assistant Treasurer - Cheryl Dever**

Members/Term Ending Year

2022

**Melanie Biche
Ruth Connell
Barbara Franzen
Rita Politzer
Kathy Quinn
Sandy Welches**

2023

**Dave Appel
Beth Conroy
Mary Ann Dyer
Deb Hanzel
Mary Jo Rawlins
Amy Shaper**

Cathy Wheeler

2024

**Gretchen Faro
Claudia Gordon
Kim Hawkins
Ed Levine
Beth Murphy
Deborah Osgood**

If you plan to attend to observe and listen, or if you'd like to be placed on the agenda (time permitting) please contact Ellen Comeau at wallpaperhanger@att.net.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday, April 17th, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu.



CFAES

MASTER GARDENERS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES