

Garden Variety News

November 2004

A publication of the Morgan County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Web site: www.mcmastergardeners.org



“Helping Others Grow”

Next Meeting—Wednesday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. - **Holiday Finger Food Pitch- In.** Please bring a covered dish. Meeting will be at Debbie Myer’s home.

Directions: 50 Mosier Road. 342-0312 Go past Ann Lankford’s house to T (Mosier Rd.), go straight across into Debbie’s driveway. Big 2- story white house w/white barn. No need to bring chairs.

Leslie Thompson will be our featured speaker for the December meeting, helping us to feel revived and refreshed over the holidays with Aromatherapy. Hope to see everyone there!

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS NEW FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES FOR 2005

If you're looking to add some new bold and beautiful colors to your garden next season, All-America Selections (AAS) has selected some outstanding new plants for 2005. These new cultivars have been judged superior in their class, based on their performance in test gardens all over the country.

Gaillardia 'Arizona Sun' is a dwarf perennial blanket flower that packs loads of blossoms in its first season from seed, making it just as useful as an annual bedding plant. Reaching just 8-10 inches tall, 'Arizona Sun' bears 3-inch, single mahogany-red daisy-type blooms with bright-yellow petal edges and continues to bloom all summer.

Vinca 'First Kiss Blueberry' is the first cultivar of annual vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*) with violet-blue flowers. The sun-loving plants will reach about 1 foot tall with a slightly wider spread. Good for containers or the flowerbed, 'First Kiss Blueberry' should provide summer long color.

Zinnia 'Magellan Coral' is an improved selection of *Z. elegans*, featuring fully double, coral-colored dahlia-flowered blooms, 5 to 6 inches across. Despite the large blooms, the sturdy plants should not require staking. 'Magellan Coral' flowers continuously all season but covers old, spent blooms with new foliage so that the plant requires little dead-heading. Expect plants to reach 15 to 17 inches tall with an equal spread.

Eggplant 'Fairy Tale' yields clusters of sweet, tender, miniature white eggplants with violet/purple stripes. Reaching only 2 1/2 feet tall, 'Fairy Tale' was bred for container gardening but will also perform fine in more traditional gardens. Fruits should be ready to harvest in about 50 days from transplanting

Squash 'Bonbon' is a hybrid buttercup-type, featuring an upright, semi-bush growth habit and early production of 6-inch fruits about 80 days

from transplanting. 'Bonbon' has sweet flavor and smooth, string-less texture.

Tomato 'Sugary' is a sweet, cherry-size tomato with a reddish-pink color and teardrop shape. 'Sugary' can be expected to set fruit clusters throughout the growing season, due to its vigorous, semi-determinate habit. Caging is recommended.

AAS winners are selected from many new cultivars, based on performance in the garden, as well as in the greenhouse. Although no plant offers a guarantee of success in an individual garden, the AAS winners have proven themselves worthy over a broad range of growing conditions. Try these new selections alongside your old standbys so you'll have a means of comparison. AAS winners should be available through local garden centers and mail-order catalogs next spring. For more information about these and previous years' winners, point your Web browser to <http://www.all-americanselections.org/>.

B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, rosie@purdue.edu
Olivia Maddox, maddoxol@purdue.edu

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART HAPPENINGS

* **Christmas at Lilly House
November 17, 2004 through January 9,
2005**

See Lilly House, the former home of the J.K. Lilly Jr. family, beautifully decorated for Christmas in the style of the 1930s. Sparkling decorations of wreaths, ribbons, garlands and trees will re-create what the house might have looked like while the Lillys lived there. Christmas decorations in Lilly House are supported by a generous gift from the Engledow Group.

* **Wreath Making and Holiday
Adornments
Session 1: Saturday, December 4**

10 - 2 p.m.
Session 2: Saturday, December 11
10 - 2 p.m.

Both sessions: Members \$40, Public \$50
Or individual sessions: Members \$24, Public \$30
Explore the art of wreath making, or design unique holiday adornments in this two-part class. Participants may choose to take one or both sessions. Register by Monday, November 22 by calling 317-920-2648. (H107)

- * **Member Double-Discount Days**
Enjoy a 20-percent discount on all items in the Alliance Museum Shop, Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse and Lilly House Shop from November 23 to December 23. Just show your IMA membership card and find a unique gift for the upcoming holidays. ima-art.org

NEWS FROM INDIANA NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

- * **NEW** - The anticipated Indiana tree identification book by Marion T. Jackson is now available! Click on List of Indiana Native Plant Reference Books for more information.
- * **Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Indiana**
DNR officials have confirmed that the emerald ash borer has infected a tree in Steuben County. This is the first confirmation of the ash tree-killing pest in Indiana. The larval stage of the insect destroys live ash trees by eating the layers under the bark of the tree that supplies nutrients. After those layers are destroyed, the tree starves to death within a short time. Infestations are most easily identified by tiny D-shaped holes that are visible on the tree's bark. The bark may also develop lengthwise cracks or fissures. To date, millions of ash trees have fallen prey to this pest in Michigan and has also been found in Ohio.

State Entomologist Dr. Robert Waltz has announced that the state would begin to take steps to contain the spread of the infestation.

Homeowners can help by keeping their trees well watered and watching out for signs of this pest. Additional information is available on the DNR web site at: www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pestinfo/ashborer.htm

*** South American plant invades lake**

The Associated Press, Wednesday, September 1, 2004

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - An aggressive South American plant that's infested lakes in several states with floating mats of foliage has reached a southern Indiana lake.

Brazilian elodea, a plant popular with aquarium aficionados, has spread rapidly in Griffy Lake on the north side of Bloomington, threatening its native plants and animals.

"Native species can't compete," David Kittaka, a fisheries biologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, told The Herald-Times for a story Tuesday.

Kittaka used a boat on Monday to apply a herbicide on about a quarter of an acre of the lake, particularly the area around a boat ramp where the green elodea was thick.

The goal is to keep the invasive plant from leaving the manmade lake on a boat or a trailer and spreading elsewhere.

Griffy Lake is elodea's northernmost appearance in the Midwest, the DNR said. Although popular in aquariums, it can spoil boating and fishing in a body of water.

Biologists believe the elodea found its way into Griffy Lake from water dumped or flushed from an aquarium. Elodea was first spotted in Griffy Lake last year during a survey of another invasive plant - the Eurasian water milfoil.

Officials tried to control the milfoil four years ago with weed-eating weevils. The milfoil is still there, but elodea has eclipsed it as the lake's top invasive plant.

A Seymour company, Aquatic Control Inc., is surveying the lake and will prepare a management plan with recommendations on how to control invasive plants, Kittaka said.

AREA LINKS

Our Website – www.mcmastergardeners.org

Purdue University Master Gardener Program

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/>

Indiana Museum of Art Garden and Grounds - <http://www.ima-art.org/imagardens.html>

Indiana Gourd Society -

<http://www.netusa1.net/~twill/index.html>

Indiana Native Plants and Wildflowers Society - <http://www.inpaws.org/>

White River Gardens –

<http://www.whiterivergardens.com/>

Journalist (Debbie Parsons) can be contacted at hardwarestore@scican.net or 5869 S. Haasetown Rd., Morgantown, IN 46160. Info and/or articles are always welcome.

