



Master Gardener Volunteers Teaching "Green" MGV Week May 17-23, 2009

Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will spend the week of May 17 promoting and participating in educational gardening activities that enhance communities throughout Ohio.

Ohioans are invited to participate in events, activities and educational programs being offered in their counties. Can't make it? You can still help Master Gardener volunteers celebrate by participating in your own gardening activities at home, in your neighborhood or around your community.

Here are a few "green" tips to show your support for MGV Week and to spruce up the landscape, while protecting the environment.

- Plant a vegetable garden. Fresh vegetables are healthy and taste great, and you also get exercise while gardening. Planting or buying local helps save energy used in shipping. Take what is left over to your local food pantry.
- Recycle plastic nursery pots, or purchase biodegradable pots.
- Build a rain barrel and collect rainwater to use on your garden, or plant a rain garden to capture storm water run-off.
- Recycle newspaper, and use it in your garden as mulch. Simply place paper on the ground in layers and cover with grass clippings or straw.
- Plant a tree near the southwest corner of your home for energy conservation.
- Diversify your landscape to attract beneficial insects and discourage major pest outbreaks on one species. Many herbs and flowers attract beneficial insects.
- Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Identify the pest problem before grabbing the pesticide. If you need to spray, follow the labels for proper use.
- Select the right plants for the right location. Happy plants are less likely to have insect and disease troubles.
- Water early in the day, and use drip or trickle irrigation to conserve water.
- Build a compost pile to recycle garden and kitchen scraps.
- It's also Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week - help to raise awareness of this pest.

Human needs and a healthy environment are not opposing claims that must be balanced; instead, they are inexorably linked by chains of cause and effect. We need a healthy environment because we need clean water, clean air, wood, and food.

~Jared Diamond, biologist, 2003

The possibilities are endless! To learn more about Master Gardener Volunteer Week and what activities may be scheduled in your county, log on to <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>.

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