



What's in your Bucket?

Submitted by Faye Mahaffey
OSUE Brown County Master Gardener Volunteer

“Is your garden planted?” is the question of the week. I have planted my early garden, but no green beans are in the ground yet. It is time to get cracking! I am ready to plant tomatoes, but will wait until I have some bagged mulch to put around each plant before I put up my Texas Tomato Cages.

The herbs have been planted in the containers on the deck. Part of my “critter control” is sprinkling some granules around the pots that seems to repel my little friends that dig in the pots and actually pull the plants out. Every morning I keep my fingers crossed as I head to the deck to feed the birds, hoping that all the soil and plants are still in the pots!

When it is time to start digging in the dirt, I head to the Potting Shed to load up my bucket. Depending on what is on the check list for the day, I pull the needed tools for the job. Some items always stay in the bucket.

My favorite garden hand tools include: A deep weeding tool, soil knife, Bypass pruners, folding saw, trowel, and a three prong cultivator. Other necessities include: Garden gloves, rubber gloves, plant markers, permanent markers, scissors, plastic cord, plastic coated wire, wire cutters, bug spray, sun screen, hand wipes, Band-Aids, zip lock bags, bandana, water bottle, small spray bottle of weed spray, and of course....my cell phone!

If I need potting soil, mulch, pots, or bigger garden tools, I load up my favorite motorized tool, my John Deere Gator. I pile plants, rocks, sand, gravel, etc. in the bed and off I go. The tail gate is just the right working height for me. When I am adding new plants to the flower beds, or planting new trees, I put my garden journal on the seat beside me.

When it comes to weeding I just dump the weeds into the bed. A wheel barrow will work, but I have to admit that my Gator has spoiled me rotten.

So what's in your bucket? Anything you can't live without? I like handles that are bright colors so that they are easier to find when you lay them down somewhere. A bright piece of cord or a splash of bright paint can save you from wasting time looking for a lost tool.

Gardening questions are starting to come in to the OSUE office. Don't forget you can email your questions to OSUE Brown County Master Gardener Volunteer, Mike Hannah, at mhannah2@msn.com. Be sure to give a detailed description of the problem and if possible, include a digital photograph.



It's not too late to register for the upcoming training classes to become a Master Gardener Volunteer! Adams, Brown and Highland Counties are combining to present the training starting in October. The cost is \$150 and the deadline to register is May 31, 2015. A \$100 (non-refundable) deposit is required at the time of registration.

We need a minimum of 10 committed trainees in order to present the 13 training classes. If the minimum of 10 is not met the \$100 deposit will be refunded. The location will be announced at a later date, as we will attempt to have the classes in a location that will minimize driving for the majority of participants.

If you have any questions you can contact David Dugan (937-515-2314), Faye Mahaffey (fhmgarden@gmail.com), Gayle Chadwell (gaylechad@yahoo.com), Ray Koch (koch.381@osu.edu), or OSUE Brown County office (937-378-6716).

To learn more about the OSUE Master Gardeners, be sure to visit our website (mastergardener.osu.edu).

Are you remembering to choose plants for our pollinators? I am the proud owner of four more milkweeds for the Monarch Butterflies. The Humming birds are back and are emptying the nectar feeders. I love this time of the year, don't you?



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