



The Spade



The Newsletter of the Gardeners of Greater Cleveland

September 2021

Visit us on the web at www.gardenersofgreatercleveland.org.

Vol.89 No. 90

What's inside:

- **General Information:
Meeting Schedule,
Leadership, Board
Members and Committees**
- **Online article from
Pettiti's on what you can
plant in October**
- **Garden tips from Member,
Bob McMahon**
- **Photos of a few of Bob
McMahon's potted plants**
- **Gardening tips from
Member, Chuck Palsa**
- **Photos from the VA Spinal
Cord raised-beds**
- **Gardening knowledge from
Members**

President's Letter

Just when we thought it was finally loosening its grasp on us, the Corona virus roars up its ugly presence and hits us again. Such is life in Ohio and beyond.

I am as anxious to meet in person as anyone. However, the virus continues to extend its influence. It is impossible to plan or predict under this influence. We will do whatever we can, whenever we can to continue the good work of the GoGC. Stay tuned – and read your email! I have received responses of concern about the previously mentioned meeting on September 13. **The concerns are legitimate, and we have decided to cancel the September meeting.**

Bob McMahon and I have been meeting to prepare for this upcoming year. I mentioned in August I would be convening an ad hoc committee to review our by-laws (governance structure) and effectiveness as an organization. I am glad to announce we have begun meeting with this committee. Progress has been exciting and many ideas were presented which will enhance the Club's purpose and further its goals. We are still targeting the Annual meeting in November as our completion date for "Phase One" of this review/revitalization.

Since we last met in March, 2020, the GoGC has lost four members. Please remember each in your own way: Tom Sheehan, Bill Stark, John Ingold, and Fran Rittenhouse. May they rest in peace!

Remember that Fall is a great time to lose a few more pounds as you plant bulbs and split/buy perennials for next growing season. Looks like we may finally catch a break with the weather.

Chuck Palsa



The Spade

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STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Awards:** Bob Pindell, Chair; Hank Doll; Tom Davis
- **Communication:** Jonny Prell, Chair (The Spade Newsletter, Website / Social Media)
- **Finance:** Bob McMahon (Chair); Hiedi Winston
Andy Kosiorek
- **Income Projects:** Dave Dawson, Julie Henry (Plant Sale); Pat Boggins (Bulb Sale); John Budnik, Ron Hartmiller, Julie Henry (Auction / Raffle)
- **Membership:** Lou Pelton, Co-Chair; Dave Rittenhouse, Co-Chair; Larry Kell, Chuck Palsa
- **Programs:** Robert McMahon, Chair; Cynthia Andersen
- **Scholarship:** Harold Davis, Co-Chair; Hank Doll
- **Service Projects:** Garrett Ormiston, Chair; Bob Rensel, Steve McIntosh

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Cleveland Botanical Garden/Holden Arboretum: Deb Kramarz
- National Organization: Larry Kell, First Vice President; Tom Davis, National Director
- Willott Iris Garden: Sandra and Robert Pindell, Ron Hartmiller
- Friends of the Greenhouse: Joyce Nesbit
- 1 Bratenahl Place & Bratenahl Place Bistro: Tom Segelin
- Horticultural Shows: Julie Henry, Tom Davis
- Nominating: Jonny Prell, Chair, Deb Kramarz, Julie Henry

MEETING INFORMATION:

WHEN: 2nd Monday of each month,
September through June

September 13 Meeting is Cancelled

WHERE: 1 Bratenahl Place
Bratenahl, Ohio

SCHEDULE: 6PM - Social
6:40 - Dinner
7:30 - General Meeting
8 to 9PM - Program



OFFICERS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| PRESIDENT: | CHUCK PALSA |
| 1ST VICE PRESIDENT: | BOB MCMAHON |
| 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: | OPEN |
| SECRETARY: | JODITH JANES (TEMP) |
| TREASURER: | HIEDI WINSTON |
| ASST TREASURER: | ANDY KOSIOREK |

DIRECTORS:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| DAVE RITTENHOUSE | JOYCE NESBIT |
| JULIE HENRY | CYNTHIA ANDERSEN |
| GARRETT ORMISTON | LAWRENCE KELL |
| STEVE MCINTOSH | PHYLLIS DONNELLY-INGOLD |



The Spade

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What Can I plant in Northeast Ohio in October?

OCTOBER PLANTING CHECKLIST:

October is still a great time to plant, especially trees and shrubs. At the time of planting, be sure to Bio-tone, or other plant foods, to help roots establish quickly. Check out our Creating Winter Interest article for plant suggestions.

For a showy fall display, plant fall mums, flowering kale, or pansies and violas. Add finishing touches by dressing the area with some pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, and straw bales.

Quick Tip: Clean and preserve your pumpkin's skin by washing it with a mixture made of 1 part bleach and 10 parts water.

Continue planting spring-blooming bulbs like daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocus, and more until the ground freezes; planting depth is easily achieved by multiplying the bulb's length by 3. At the time of planting, apply Bulb-tone or Bone Meal to the hole so your spring bulbs have nutrients readily available.

Plant any extra bulbs in containers, sink them in the garden for 10-15 weeks for the necessary cold treatment, then bring the pots indoors so the bulbs will begin to wake up and, eventually, emerge.

Note: This month is your last chance to plant, transplant, and divide perennials to get their roots established before winter.

PROTECT YOUR GARDEN:

Spray all the deer favorites with deer-repellent products before a hard frost.

If it is too late to spray repellents, wrap the deer favorites with burlap or mesh fencing to keep them from browsing.

For younger trees, spray Plantskydd or wrap the trunk to prevent deer from rubbing their antlers on the bark, which can severely damage the tree.

Protect roses, hydrangeas, and broadleaf evergreens with burlap, rose cones, etc. These plants are very susceptible to winter wind and weather damage, which can adversely affect next year's growth and flowering.

If you forgot in September, you still have time to seed a new lawn or overseed to thicken the old lawn through the end of October (grade, seed, rake it in, cover with ¼" soil, fertilize, and water).

If you have not applied a lawn food in the past 6–8 weeks, fertilize the lawn with a step 4 lawn food or fall winterizer.

WINTER CARE:

Continue preserving your harvest by freezing, drying, or canning your herbs, veggies, and all the fruits of your labor.

Store harvested seeds in a paper envelope in a cool, dry place like the pantry for planting next spring.

Dig up annual herbs for an indoor window-sill garden for greens you can use all winter. Do this before heavy frost.

Donate any extra produce to your local food bank.

Start a new garden by placing one layer of wet newspaper on top of a lawn area, cover with shredded leaves and lawn clippings, and then cover with black plastic and secure the sides with rocks or lawn staples. Uncover in the spring, till, and your bed will be ready to plant!

As annuals and vegetables start dying back; remove them from the garden and compost or discard them as you go.

If you have poinsettias or Christmas cacti, now is the time to start triggering them into flower. Please see our Common Holiday Plants care sheet.

Apply a pre-emergent weed control, like Preen, to established landscape beds, stopping any fall weed seed germination.

Slow down on watering, especially if rainfall is plentiful. If not, continue irrigation until soil freezes.

For more information, visit <https://www.petittigardencenter.com/october-gardening-guide-for-northeast-ohio/>



The Spade



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Gardening Tips by Bob McMahon

You can effectively control aphids by using hot water drenches followed in approximately 10 seconds later by a room temperature water drench to prevent heat damage to the plant. I conducted research on this topic with a colleague and some of my students while I was a faculty member at Ohio State ATI. Heat an appropriate quantity of water to 130°F and transfer the hot water to a warmed container, adding a drop of liquid dish soap as a spreader sticker. Pour the hot water directly onto the aphids and they will be killed by thermal shock (do not spray as this cools the water quickly and won't be effective). Then drench the area with room temperature water approximately 10 seconds later, so be sure to have the second container of room temperature water handy! You might have to repeat this treatment a day or two later if you still detect living aphids. Thus, this is an environmentally safe method to control these pesky pests!

When handling diseased or insect-infested plants, be sure to thoroughly wash your hands afterwards so you don't spread the pathogen or insect pests to healthy plants. This also applies if you have been re-potting plants that have been infected with a root rot pathogen. Disease pathogens and insect pests are easily spread by handling an infected/infested plant and then handling a healthy plant. Pathogens produce resting bodies, such as spores, that cling to your hands that you then inoculate a healthy plant when handling it. Insect pests also can hitch a ride on your hands, either the adult or juvenile (i.e. crawler) stage and again, you then unknowingly spread the pest to healthy plants. Washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water will prevent you from infesting/infesting your healthy plants.

A few photos of Bob McMahon's balcony container gardens!



Moon Flower or Ipomoea alba



**Miscanthus
'Morning Light'**



Venus Fly Traps



Voodoo Lily



Sensitive Plant



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Gardening Tips by Chuck Palsa

Oxalis – A Real Pain in your Grass

If your lawn is overcome by clover-like weeds that produce small yellow flowers...and there is more of them every month...you have an Oxalis invasion!

No, these are not weeds from another planet! These are weeds from the Wood Sorrel family. They are persistent and prolific...very prolific. They make rabbits look like they are on birth control.

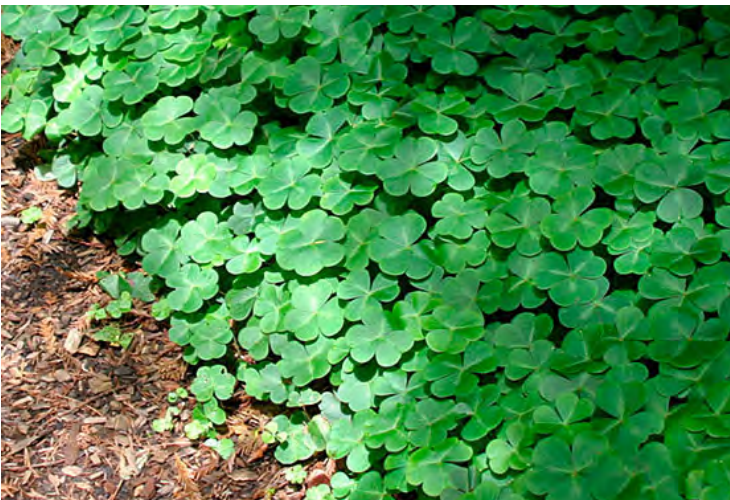
If your lawn is plush and thick, you probably have never seen this weed. But when Ohio sees the heat and drought of most summers, Oxalis takes hold. They can overtake a lawn in a short period of time. I can easily spot oxalis by its heart shaped purple leaves and yellow flowers, making them easy to distinguish from regular clover.

Bonide and Ortho are two companies which make an herbicide specific for oxalis. The herbicide is typically effective against chickweed too. Glyphosate will get them, but I don't want total lawn destruction – just want to rid my lawn of oxalis. Regular 2,4D won't touch them. Most standard weed killers are ineffective. Only products specific to oxalis are worth trying. Sorry – I have never heard of a natural herbicide that will take care of this weed.

What makes them so successful is their method of reproduction. They can multiply sexually and asexually. The yellow flower produces tiny seeds that are distributed with the smallest touch or disturbance. Take it from me, if you try to dig them out, it's a huge waste of time and energy! Even a small piece of stem left in the ground will produce another plant. Underground bulbils are attached to the roots. These are also plant producers. It's easy to see why this Creeping Wood sorrel is so tough to eliminate from your beautiful lawn.

I have read articles on how to eliminate this weed. One person said they fall victim to chelated iron. I have worked with that chemical. I did not see any success on oxalis.

Ridding your lawn of oxalis may be a perennial task. If you aren't aggressively fighting this obnoxious invader, it won't be long before your lawn is overcome. Personally, I am winning the battle. But it will take persistence and annual lawn improvement to declare a victory!





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If you have questions or problems with your garden, plants in your garden and need advice, our Club has many members who have the background and knowledge to help you.

- Keith Biehl: Gardener by profession
- Pat Boggins: Log planters
- Diane Circle: Hostas
- Tom Davis: Native plants
- Hank Doll: Dahlia growing
- Phyllis Donnelly-Ingold: Orchids
- Lou Drasler: Cannas and environmental issues
- Ron Hartmiller: Weeds and grasses
- Herb Klein: Unusual plants and perennials
- Deb Kramarz: Master Rain Gardener
- Andy Kosiorek: Above-ground sprinkler systems
- Kathy Kosiorek: Veggies and container gardening
- Bob McMahon: Insectivorous plant culture, balcony/patio container gardening, and houseplant care
- Garret Ormiston: Native plants, azaleas and roses
- Chuck Palsa: “knows a little about everything”
- Lou Pelton: Vines and clematis
- Bob Pindell: Iris propagation
- Sandra Pindell: Iris care
- Fred Robinson: Care and knowledge of trees
- Deva Simon: Perennials
- Deah Stark: Perennials
- Hiedi Winston: Vegetable gardening, container gardening, and perennials

The purpose of the **Gardeners of Greater Cleveland** is to provide members with all types of information related to gardening - whether their own personal gardening or community projects through our monthly meetings, our newsletter *The Spade* and our website.

We promote horticulture in our community by installing and caring for gardens at various community service facilities such as the VA Hospital, Joseph's Home for Disadvantaged Men, and Malachi House among others.

We hold one to two plant sales per year, one is in May. This is a major source of funds for our scholarship program. It is also a great time to meet gardeners, answer questions and recruit new members.

Membership is open to residents of the Greater Cleveland Area including Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties.

To join, please contact **Lou Pelton**, our Membership Co-Chairman at loupelton305@gmail.com.





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A Few Before & After Photos from the VA Spinal Cord Unit Raised Beds

