Seeds For Thought… A Message from the Agent

Barnyard manure can be a great source of fertilizer for growing plants and vegetables. Average manure from a cow-calf producer provides a good balanced fertilizer that contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in relatively equal parts. It also contains other macro and micro nutrients such as calcium. Another advantage of manure is its high amounts of organic matter. Organic matter in the soil helps reduce soil compaction and serves as a reservoir for soil nutrients and water.

However, some barnyard manure can be harmful to your plants and vegetables. Herbicides are often applied to pasture land to control weeds and promote the growth of grass. These herbicides can be applied while cattle and horses are in the field grazing. They are safe for the animal because they pass through the animal without being broken down. This means that the manure from animals grazing treated grass contains viable herbicide. Many of our vegetables are extremely sensitive to many herbicides that are used in pasture such as picloram, clopyralid, and aminopyralid. These chemicals can remain active for long periods of time and do not break down quickly.

Symptoms of injury from contaminated manure can vary. Poor seed germination, death of young plants, twisted elongated leaves, misshapen fruits, and, of course, reduced yield are some of the most common effects. Grazon, Trooper P+D, Surmount, and Milestone are some of the more popular herbicides that could remain active in manure and cause injury.

Manure can be a very effective fertilizer and can be used successfully in a garden. The most important factor to consider when applying manure to your garden is the source. You need to know where the manure came from and what treatments were done to the pastures that the animals were grazing. If you do that, you should have great luck with manure as a fertilizer source.

These chemicals can also remain active in hay, so always know what treatments were applied to any hay that you might use as mulch, also.
Dirt Under My Nails…

Lori Spencer, President

Summer Garden Workshop Series 2014
Mount Magazine State Park Visitor Center
Register at the Visitor Center front desk.

Thursday, June 5

Milkweed and Monarch: 1 - 4 p.m., Fee: $15
Monarchs are perhaps the most famous butterfly, and their numbers are lower than ever. You can help by first understanding the delicate connection between monarchs and milkweed. This 3-hour workshop includes a comprehensive program about monarch biology, milkweed species native to Arkansas, growing milkweed, how to create monarch habitat and care for caterpillars. Each participant receives handouts and will take home a potted milkweed plant. Space is limited to 10 participants; register by May 22.

Thursday, June 26

Herbal Adventure: 1 - 4 p.m., Fee: $10
Learn about the uses of herbs in the park’s gardens, from the culinary to caterpillars. Discover how to grow your own herbs and make herbed vinegar. Tour the garden at the Visitor Center and the herb bed at the lodge. Enjoy herbal delicacies provided by the Mount Magazine Action Group. Space is limited to 10 participants; registration is required by June 16. Each participant receives handouts, vinegar, and potted herb.

Thursday, July 3

Garden Art: 1 - 4 p.m., Fee: $10
Release your creative side as you add color and functionality to your garden. From plant markers to ornaments to fairy gardens and other simple projects, this workshop will help you get started on an adventure. Space is limited to 10 participants; registration is required by June 30. Each participant will create and take home two garden art projects.

Herb Bed at Skycrest Restaurant
The Logan County Master Gardeners have a partnership with Mount Magazine State Park; one of our projects is the herb bed at the lodge that is used by the Skycrest Restaurant. Join members during the festival for tours of the Visitor Center gardens. At the plant sale, get nectar plants for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, caterpillar host plants, and much more. These trained volunteers also answer your gardening questions. All proceeds are used for Master Gardener projects in Logan County.

Butterfly Quilt
This year, we are pleased to raffle a queen-size Butterfly Quilt! This quilt project started by deceased Master Gardener, Elizabeth Patty, features 28 quilt blocks that were created by each Master Gardener—and all of them are completely different and unique in their own way—just like our Butterflies. The quilt is being raffled off as part of the plant sale, and will be on display. Raffle tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5. The quilt drawing takes place right before the concert in the lodge banquet hall Saturday night at 7 p.m. You need not be present to win. LS

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“Top 18” Things to Do During this Year’s Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival, June 20-21

1. Hike to the highpoint and look for butterflies, wildflowers, and sign the highpoint register.
2. Visit the park’s two gift shops and get your butterfly books signed by the author and photographer, and then use them on the trails.
4. Visit the Master Gardeners Plant Sale and pick up something special for your garden and buy a raffle ticket for the Butterfly Quilt.
5. Discover the difference between a host plant and a nectar plant.
6. Get a closer look at a live raptor during the “Birds of Prey” program.
7. Play a fun game of Pollinator Bingo.
8. Marvel at the colors and sizes of tropical butterflies and moths in the exotic display in the Visitor Center.
9. Watch hummingbirds be banded and released.
10. Discover your creative side in the Bug Bonanza with a make-and-take craft! The beaded key chain featured this year is an imperial moth.
11. Take hundreds of memorable photos, leave only footprints.
12. Meet a volunteer in the wildlife garden and learn how to plant a pollinator-friendly garden.
13. Purchase seeds, garden art, tee shirts, and hummingbird feeders at the Visitor Center gift shop.
14. Enjoy the view from Sunrise Rock.
15. Tap your toes to the music of Still on the Hill.
16. Delight your taste buds at the Bounty of Bees buffet at the lodge and discover who’s really responsible for your food!
17. Discover how bears and butterflies are connected at Mount Magazine State Park.
18. Locate and learn about 18 different butterflies, such as the American lady, great spangled fritillary, sachem, gray hairstreak, silver-spotted skipper, zebra swallowtail, silvery checkerspot, red admiral; just to name a few. LS

► The 2014 State Master Gardening Conference will be May 29-31 in Texarkana. It will have education on gardening, getting to know the land, benefits of growing your own, and meeting and greeting neighbors from across Arkansas and surrounding states.

► It is time, once again, for our Master Gardeners to submit their photos for our 2015 Calendar. The cut-off date for entries will be June 1, 2014. For more information, please call the Extension office.

► There will be a Blackberry Production Field Day on Thursday, June 12, at the Fruit Research Station in Clarksville. If you are interested in attending this event, call 479-754-2406 for more details and registration.
**Happy Gardening!**

**Garden Planting Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomatillos, Asparagus, Pumpkin, Basil,</td>
<td>Basil, Gourds, Popcorn, Southern Peas, Collards,</td>
<td>Basil, Pak Choi, Bok Choi, Broccoli, Cabbage, Irish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry Tomato, Squash, Southern Peas,</td>
<td>Pumpkins, Squash (Winter and Summer), Cucumbers,</td>
<td>Potatoes, Snap Beans, Collards, Tomatoes, Southern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Potatoes, Peppers, Okra, Eggplant,</td>
<td>Sweet Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Pole Beans</td>
<td>Peas Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Winter Squash, Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucumber, Watermelon, Cantaloupe,</td>
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<td>Squash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beans (Snap, Pole, Lima), Sweet Corn,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collards, Radish</td>
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All activities mentioned in this newsletter are open to everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.

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