MCMGA Holiday Party and Meeting
November 28 at First United Church on Third Street

The holiday season is fast approaching, and what better way to get into the spirit than to join your fellow Master Gardeners for a special pitch-in MG holiday dinner and program on care, growing, and re-blooming of poinsettias. The November 28 dinner and meeting is at 5:30 p.m. at First United Church, located at 2420 East Third Street.

Master Gardeners will provide meat, cheese, drink, and tableware. Members are asked to bring their favorite salad, appetizer, vegetable, side dish, or dessert to share. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. with program to follow immediately afterward.

Gordon Elsbury, owner of Elsbury’s Greenhouse in Hope, Indiana, is our program presenter. Mr. Elsbury has been in the nursery business for about thirty years and is one of the five biggest sellers of plants in the state. Mr. Elsbury’s presentation will focus on the care, growing, and re-blooming of poinsettias. For those of us who have tried, and failed, to make our holiday plants bloom the following year, this should be interesting information. Mr. Elsbury will bring 20 to 30 poinsettia plants of different varieties, including several new varieties, for us to see. These plants will be for sale at the end of the program.

Mark Your Calendar

| November 28, 5:30 p.m. Holiday Dinner and Program, at First United Church on Third Street |
| January 23—6:30 p.m. General Meeting, location to be announced |

Have You Reported Your MCMGA Volunteer and Education Hours?

See the October issue of Roots and Shoots for new guidelines and a form for reporting your hours. Forms are also available at the Extension Office. Send your completed form to Monroe County Master Gardener Association, 119 W. 7th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404. Direct any questions about education or volunteer hours to Amy Thompson or Mary Hawkins.

From the President’s Desk

Recently I was wandering around my garden, thinking about another garden from years past. My paternal grandmother was an avid life-long gardener and had gained her knowledge of growing plants through hard work and trial and error. She likely had no prize-winning specimens in her collection, or rare and expensive plants, but what she did have was the sort of old-fashioned garden that was just on this side of tame. Living on a working farm, her flowers and houseplants necessarily had to take the back seat most of the time. That, however, did not dim her appreciation of or her pride in her gardens.

This set my thoughts on wondering just what motivates a person to follow a path that promises much hard work, dealing with the vagaries of nature, insects, disease, and of course, the joy of realizing the fruits of all that labor and worry. In fact, I would believe that most of us can point to one person or one event that led each of us into the world of gardening.

In that vein, I would love to hear your stories, so please feel free to write or e-mail me with your story. This is after all, part of why we garden: the pride in our own gardens as well as the camaraderie we share with our fellow gardeners.
Member News by Nancy White

De-Mystifying Orchids

At the general meeting in September, President Marilyn Brinley educated us on the wonderful world of growing orchids. Marilyn has been involved with orchids for several years and in her master class titled *De-mystifying Orchids*, she discussed types and their positives and negatives. We learned that there are over 25,000 orchid species in the world, and they grow in all environments in the world. Many species are not suited for home growing. Growing mediums include peat moss, bark chips, or a mixture of peat and chips may be better in drier environments.

Marilyn used slides to show us some types that will do well in our homes, such as phalaenopsis, dendrobium, cattleya, miltonia, and the favorite of many growers, paphiopedilum or the slipper orchid. We were encouraged with a picture of her old reliable, a dendrobium, which regularly blooms for up to 18 months before starting the cycle again. It has been known to have seven flowering stalks at one time. If we could be guaranteed our own personal ‘old reliable’, many of us would join Marilyn as orchid specialists.

Marilyn concluded by discussing orchid diseases, pests, and environmental issues and providing a bibliography for future use. Her presentation helped us appreciate these beautiful and exotic plants. Some even suggested that we take a field trip sometime soon to see one of the regional orchid nurseries. Many thanks to Marilyn for preparing this very informative advanced training.

Master Gardener Experiences Validated by Research

If you don’t already do so, you might want to look for the horticulture column written by fellow Master Gardener, Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, appearing each Saturday in the *Indianapolis Star*. Each week she discusses issues we all face and often gives solutions to our most annoying gardening problems.

Recently Jo Ellen discussed the positive results of having flowers in our homes. This time of year with little to choose from in our own gardens, we can indulge ourselves by purchasing a fall bouquet at the grocery store or maybe even bring home one flower to put in a special Asian vase.

Jo Ellen reports that a Harvard Medical School psychologist and faculty member conducted a study that looked at how flowers in the home affected our well-being. Participants in the study placed the flowers where they spent most of their time and reported having more energy and enthusiasm, more compassion toward others, and fewer negative feelings. Nancy Etcoff is the Harvard researcher and has written a book, *Survival of the Prettiest: The Science of Beauty*. Although we are grateful for the scientific reinforcement, Professor Etcoff might have just interviewed a few Master Gardeners; we could have told her those same results and saved her the trouble!

January 23, 2007 Is First General Meeting in 2007

January 23 is the date of our first general meeting in 2007, and we will meet at the Monroe County Public Library on Kirkwood. Since weather may be a problem during January, we try to find a central location for this meeting. Mark your calendar for 6:30 p.m. on January 23 and plan to be with us.

Reminder: Have You Renewed Your MCMGA Membership?

It’s time to renew for 2006-2007!

A renewal blank is included in our October issue.

Membership blanks are also available at the website

Www.mcmga.net
Honoring Our Volunteering Members by Nancy White

Since volunteering is part of our responsibility as members of Indiana Master Gardeners, MCMGA board especially recognizes those who contributed hours and energy to so many projects in 2006. This month we highlight several projects from the volunteer roster, and in the next issue of Roots and Shoots, look for the remainder of the list. If you served but were not listed, be sure to contact Nancy White to let her know; we don’t want to leave anyone out. On behalf of the board and all residents of Monroe County and southern Indiana who benefit from the work of these volunteers, congratulations and thank you to all.

ADVANCED TRAINING IN FEBRUARY
Mary Jane Hall, Marilyn Brinley, Judy Hawkins, Jeff Schafer, Gino Brancolini, Helen Hollingsworth, Larime Wilson, Ann Wrenn, Richie Epps, Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White, Mary Hawkins, Dan Nichols, Diana Young, Barb Cappy, Dale Calabrese, Lydia Anderson, Herman Young, Linnea Good

WONDERLAB GARDEN
Mike Engber, Cheryl Engber, Elizabeth Brown, Barb Cappy, Rosemary Dever, Mary Jane Hall, Nancy White

REFRESHMENTS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS
Esther Minnick, Diana Young, Herman Young, Nancy White, Ann McEndarfer, Mary Jane Hall, Joyce Peden, Barb Cappy, Dale Calabrese, Carol Cobine, Larime Wilson, Helen Hollingsworth, Susan Osborne, Gloria Noone, Preston Gwinn, Juanita Shelton, Irvin Shelton

BLOOMINGTON GARDEN WALK MG BOOTH
Ann McEndarfer, Ann Wrenn, Marsha Trowbridge, Deidaimia Whitney, Jeff Schafer

INTERN CLASS MENTORS
Bob Baird, Carol Cobine, Ann McEndarfer, Diana Young, Gloria Noone, Helen Hollingsworth, Jeff Schafer, Marilyn Brinley, Mary Jane Hall, Nancy White,

WRITERS FOR MCMGA NEWSLETTERS
Amy Thompson, Helen Hollingsworth, Marilyn Brinley, Nancy White, Ann McEndarfer, Larime Wilson, Mary Hawkins, Nancy White, Susan Osborne

HOSTS AND COMMITTEE FOR GARDEN TOUR AND PICNIC
Mary Hawkins, Nancy Miller, Marilyn Brinley, Nancy Fee, Saundra Olvey

MCMGA WEBMASTER
Barbara Hays

MEETING PRESENTERS
Marilyn Brinley, Bob Baird

Word Fun Submitted by M. Susan Osborne
See page 8 for quiz

Answers
1. iris
2. tulips
3. lavender
4. lady slipper
5. forget-me-not
6. wandering jew
7. mum
8. dandy lion
9. blue bonnet
10. tulips
11. lily of the valley
12. hyacinth
13. babies breath
14. buttercups
15. rosemary
16. thyme
17. daisy
18. rose
19. four o’clock
20. -marigold
Q. We planted new blackberry and raspberry plants this spring. We would like to know what has to be done to prepare them before cold weather moves in.

A. There should not be much to do for these plants, assuming you planted hardy cultivars. You do want the plants to be well watered before going into winter, but that doesn't seem to be a problem for most areas of Indiana this fall. Both blackberry and raspberry have biennial canes, meaning that they live for two growing seasons. They produce foliage the first year, flowers and fruit the second year, and then those canes die. So, any canes that bore fruit this year should be removed all the way to the ground. The one-year-old canes should be allowed to remain overwinter so they can produce their crop next year. For more information about care of raspberries, see Purdue bulletin HO-44, "Growing Raspberries" online at [http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-44.pdf](http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-44.pdf). Blackberries are very similar in culture to raspberries.

Q. I enjoyed your article on peaches (September Electric Consumer). We had three trees of them and all rotted. Please tell me the name of a spray and the time to spray them.

A. You were in good company this year as many gardeners experienced a particularly bad season of disease problems on their fruits (and other plants), thanks to weather that favored many fungal pathogens. For brown rot of peaches, you have to begin spraying before bloom when the buds are just beginning to show pink, during bloom, at petal-fall, shuck-split and about every 10-14 days thereafter. For most of these applications, you can use Captan, Immunox or a multipurpose fruit spray (MPFS) labeled for home orchard use. While flowers are open, do not use MPFS as they contain an insecticide, which is harmful to bees that are working the blossoms. For more information on controlling this and other disease and insect pests in the home orchard, see Purdue Extension Publication ID-146, available online at [http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/ID/ID146pdf/ID-146.pdf](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/Entomology/ext/targets/ID/ID146pdf/ID-146.pdf), which includes a chart that illustrates the various stages, such as petal-fall and shuck split. As always, read and follow all label directions before using a pesticide.

Q. I have a yellow peach tree that had a bumper crop. The tree was loaded the past three years. Just before the peaches are ripe, the deer and raccoons eat every peach on the tree in two or three nights. What can I do to keep the deer from eating all the peaches?

A. You and me both! My peach tree was also loaded this year. It, too, was picked completely clean while I was away for just the weekend, not even one rotten fruit left behind! Well, the good news is that they saved me from having to clean up all those fruits that had been infected with brown rot, because I choose to not spray my tree. And you already know the bad news!

There are scads of testimonials for all sorts of repellents, but none that I know of are effective and safe to use at harvest time. Some gardeners have had good luck with scare tactics, such as motion-sensitive lights and/or sprinkler systems. Fencing is probably the most reliable method of excluding animal pests, though raccoons are known to climb just about anything. A 6-foot fence that angles away from your orchard will deter most deer but not likely the raccoons.

If you really want to get serious about preventing animals from ravaging your harvest, consider electric fencing. Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources publication FNR-136 Electric Fencing for Preventing Browse Damage by White-tailed Deer" is available online at [http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-136.html](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-136.html).

For more information on identifying and controlling wildlife conflicts, check out the USDA Wildlife Information Hotline at [http://www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/wild.htm](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/wild.htm).

(continued on page 5)
Cut Back Perennials Now or Later?  
By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Gardeners often ask, "When is the best time to cut back the dead tops of herbaceous perennials (stems die back to the ground each year)?"  
"Should we cut them in fall as the tops fade?"  
"Or wait until spring just before new growth begins?"

The answers depend, in part, on the specific plant and whether disease or insect pests are a factor.  
For most healthy plants, leaving plant tops over winter is fine and, in many respects, preferable.  
Many species retain dried seed heads and foliage that may have aesthetic value. Ornamental grasses are at their best in fall and winter.  
And, if you don't cut back the tops, your native wildlife will thank you! Seed heads, fruits, stems and foliage provide food and shelter. Although late-season bloomers, such as brown-eyed Susans and coneflowers, may have turned brown, birds still feed on the seed. Many butterflies overwinter on plant debris.  
Allowing plant tops to remain over winter can also help collect leaves and snow for insulation and moisture. For some marginally hardy perennials, like garden mums, waiting until early spring to cut back the dead tops can actually improve a plant's chances of survival.  
And, of course, leaving the tops in place will remind you where the plants are, in case you're thinking of adding more plants or rearranging the elements of the garden before spring growth begins.  
On the other hand, plants with disease or insect pest troubles should be pruned back in fall to reduce the chances of carryover to the following season. Sanitation is one of the best investments gardeners can make in reducing problems for next season. Peonies and Rudbeckia with blackened foliage should definitely be cut back in fall. The same is true for bee balm and phlox, which are routinely plagued by powdery mildew. Removing iris and asparagus foliage in the fall reduces overwintering sites for the iris borer and asparagus beetles, respectively.  
Badly damaged or infested foliage can and should be removed as soon as possible. Otherwise, wait until after several hard frosts have killed back the tops. Cut back the tops to about two inches above the soil. Hand pruners and hedge clippers work fine, if you have just a few plants to cut back. But for larger plantings and large clumps of ornamental grasses, a power hedge trimmer works well.

In the Grow: Question and Answer (Continued from Page 4)

Q. Last year my hostas were beautiful. This year, they bloomed, then the light-leaved ones started turning brown. Now, they are almost gone. Whatever it is has not so far bothered the dark-leaved ones. I'm sending you some pictures. I sure hope you can help me.  

A. If I had a crystal ball, I would say that all signs point to one of several plant diseases that are favored by the relatively wet weather we experienced throughout much of Indiana this summer. There are leaf spots, petiole rots, root rots and more. The fact that all of and only the light-leaved ones were affected does make me wonder if this might not be an environmental problem. The photos you sent looked to be quite sunny. Some of the pale-leaved cultivars can be easily burned in strong light.

If the problems continue, consider submitting a sample plant to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory on the West Lafayette campus. You'll find more information about this service online at http://www.ppdl.purdue.edu; and other information at http://www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/DGP/DGP136.pdf
Several times in my life I've been called "Bug Guy," as in "Hey, Bug Guy!" I'm not sure whether I should be honored or offended by such a moniker. To be honest, I don't spend much time worrying about it. However, an old adage does hold that "you are known by the company you keep!" In that case, guilty as charged! Well, maybe.

You see, I claim entomology as a profession. And entomologists do deal with insects. And insects are bugs, right? Not really. Not all insects can correctly be called "bugs." But some can.

Insects, like all other living things, are placed in groups in a system of classification. One level of such a system is the order. In insects, order names include Coleoptera, Diptera and Hemiptera. The insects in these orders also have common names. Coleoptera are beetles, Diptera are flies and Hemiptera are the true bugs. And that, my friend, is where the rub comes in.

Some scientific purists would say to really be a bug person you would have to work primarily with Hemiptera -- the true bugs. If you worked with flies, you would be a fly person -- a Dipterist. In like fashion, a Coleopterist could be called a "beetle guy."

But, in everyday language, the term "bug" has come to have broader usage than its specific scientific basis. The word is commonly used for all insects and, occasionally, for disease-causing microorganisms as well. So "Bug Guy" is not a technically correct handle for everyone who happens to be an insect enthusiast. But chances are that any individual who is interested in insects is likely to be dubbed a "bug person" by some people.

Semantics aside, our names and our occupations or place of employment are among the most common ways that humans identify themselves. When we meet new people, we introduce ourselves first by name. But, it is a good bet that in many first meetings between people that occupations or places of employment come up quickly. What we do is one way that we have an identity.

That is the way it has been for eons. Early in human history, one personal name, say Tom, Dick or Harry, might have been sufficient. But, as more and more people came into existence, it became necessary to differentiate between folks with the same name. So, somewhere around the 13th century, some cultures began using personal names of two parts: a given name and a family name.

In Western cultures, the first family names reflected a variety of sources. Some were based on location. Tom, who lived by the hill, became known as "Tom Hill" and Tom, who lived by the river, "Tom River." Especially in Scandinavian countries, the practice of calling an offspring "Son of John" eventually evolved into a surname such as Johnson.

In patriarchal societies, surnames were often based on the occupation of the father. So, we have names like Miller, Cooper, Brewer and Taylor. Those names were based on men who ground the grain, made barrels, produced alcoholic beverages or sewed clothes, respectively.

Some people have more than two names; they also have a middle name. A third name is useful today to help distinguish between all of those Joneses, Browns, Lopezes and Changs in the phone book. Middle names might honor ancestors or relatives, or be the maiden name of the mother. In some Catholic families, the middle name is a saint's name.

One interesting middle name was that of Catherine Riley. Catherine was the daughter of a famous entomologist by the name of C. V. Riley. His daughter's middle name was Vedalia. As it turns out, Catherine was named after a ladybird beetle that her father had imported and introduced into the United States for control of cottony cushion scale in California. I don't know if Catherine was proud or not to have been named after an insect, but at least it was a beneficial insect and not a pest!

I guess I really don't mind being called "bug guy," since that is my occupation.
**November Yard and Garden Calendar**
By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

**HOME (Indoor plants and activities)**
As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.
Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional 3-4 weeks for blooming.
Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

**YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)**
Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-quarter-inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.
Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples and many fruit trees, are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.
Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.
Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.
Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.
Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.
An early November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, in either water-soluble or slow-release form, per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

**GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)**
If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 F; the warmer the temperatures, the faster they ripen.
Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.
Remove plant debris, both crop and weed, from the garden and discard or compost. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.
Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring, thus allowing crops to be planted earlier.
Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon, the plant's crown can rot.
If you're not quite ready to hang up your gardening tools just because of a few killing frosts, fall is a great time to get your soil ready for next year's planting.

Removing this year's plant debris is a good, general sanitation practice. Plant refuse makes a great place for insects and disease to overwinter. Why not turn that refuse into valuable compost? A properly constructed compost pile should create temperatures high enough to destroy insects, diseases and most weed seeds. Once the compost has decomposed (hopefully by spring), it can be worked into the soil to add organic matter and some nutrients. Or, perhaps your earlier composting efforts have now yielded some of that black gold?

Tilling and incorporating organic matter during fall avoids the rush of garden activities and often waterlogged soil in spring. Adding organic matter will help improve soil drainage and water-holding capacity, and loosen up heavy soils. Materials such as dry tree leaves, grass clippings, manure or summer mulch should be well decomposed by spring, if plowed under in fall. Work these materials into the top 5-7 inches of soil with a rototiller or shovel. However, garden sites that are prone to erosion by wind or water over winter should not be turned until spring.

Fall is a great time to collect soil samples for testing in order to keep current on your garden's nutrient status. Testing in fall allows plenty of time to receive your results and act on recommendations. There are a number of private laboratories that offer soil-testing services. The test results and recommendations will only be as good as the soil samples that you send in. Make sure your samples are representative of your garden. Small cores of soil 6-8 inches deep should be taken from several spots throughout the garden and then mixed together. A total of 1-2 cups of this mixed soil should then be submitted for testing. If you need information on where to send your soil sample for testing, visit Purdue University's agronomy department Web site http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/soiltest.html for a list of certified soil testing labs.

**Word Fun**
Submitted by M. Susan Osborne

The answers are names of plants. See answers on page 3.

1. part of an eye 12. a happy hello to Cynthia
2. place for a kiss 13. infant air
3. shade of purple 14. used by a cook in making good cakes
4. woman’s footwear 15. two very familiar girls’ names
5. what a serviceman tells his sweetheart 16. what a clock gives you
6. Moses in the desert 17. a flower that won’t tell
7. English mother 18. often between two thorns
8. a wonderful animal 19. an hour in the afternoon
9. sad hat 20.-one way for a man to get rich quick
10. sought by young men
11. lady who lives between two mountains
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<td>Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, <a href="mailto:landers@wormsway.com">landers@wormsway.com</a></td>
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<td>various</td>
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<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
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<td>year around</td>
<td>writing, stapling, labeling</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<td>year around</td>
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<td>Barb Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<td>year around</td>
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<td>Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801, Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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<td>Sherry Brunoehler, 855-6224</td>
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<td>Rene Thompson, 353-3000</td>
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<td>various</td>
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<td>year around</td>
<td>Assess grounds, develop plans</td>
<td>Michael Bell, 336-6141</td>
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PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.
Plan to attend the MCMGA Holiday Pitch-in Dinner and General Meeting on Tuesday, November 28 at 5:30 p.m.

**2006 MASTER GARDENER BOARD**

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**State Advisory Committee Representatives:**  
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**Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
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