

# The Greene Leaflet

## News from Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers

January / February 2024



As we transition to a brand-new year, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and passion as a Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer. In the coming year, may our gardens flourish with vibrant colors, and may our efforts continue to sow the seeds of knowledge in our community.

We will continue to work to offer our program good opportunities and knowledge, we want you to be happy in

our program as we are happy to have you. At this pace, we are continuously assessing needs to improve each area of our program.

The Greene Leaflet is also changing its structure and content. We would love your feedback and suggestions. What else do you want to see here? Let us know! Would you like to write an article? We would love to have it! Would you like to share pictures of you and/or your project? We would love to see it! Would

you like to share something that happened in your project? We all want to know! Let's unite our bonds and increase our communication.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to Pat Zehring – she is making The Greene Leaflet possible, and we thank her for being so proactive and accommodating changes.

With the warmest wishes,

Marina and Kim



Every Photo tells a story





# Overwintering Plants in Containers

If you have perennials in a container, you may be able to overwinter them in your planter by following these simple precautions:

The container must have drainage holes.

Your plant (s) should be cold hardy to two zones colder than your location (zone 6a in Dayton/Xenia area).

Water the plant well before the soil freezes.

There are three basic ways to protect your plant.

- You can bury the entire container in the ground and cover it with soil, leaves or mulch.
- Move your container into an unheated garage or shed.

- Group your pots together in a protected location and cover them with leaves, branches or a thermal blanket. Tipping them on their side prevents water from gathering in the root zone thus causing crown rot.

In the Spring, remove the cover as the days warm up and slowly re-acclimate your plants.

Debby Haines,  
OSU Extension Greene  
County Master Gardener  
Volunteer

<https://extension.psu.edu/overwintering-plants-in-containers>

<https://www.provenwinners.com/overwintering-perennials-shrubs>



---

## Fall Lawn Care – Putting your lawn to bed for Winter

What should I do to get my lawn ready for Winter. I get this question a lot from homeowners and by my neighbors. The topics for consideration of general lawn care include fertilization, turf height, removal of leaves, weed control, aeration, and soil testing. What about fall fertilizers. Couple of things – once soils are frozen – nitrogen and granular applications will have limited use. Fertilization in late November is not recommended. We would not recommend slow-release Nitrogen fertilizer anymore – it won't break down and be taken up in time and then becomes environmental issue – quick release more beneficial so that it gets taken up and used. But because many lawns are approaching dormancy, it's probably too late to apply.

Reference: Fall Lawn Care – Putting your lawn to bed for Winter. | BYGL (osu.edu)

# USDA Updates the Plant Hardiness Zone Map in 2023

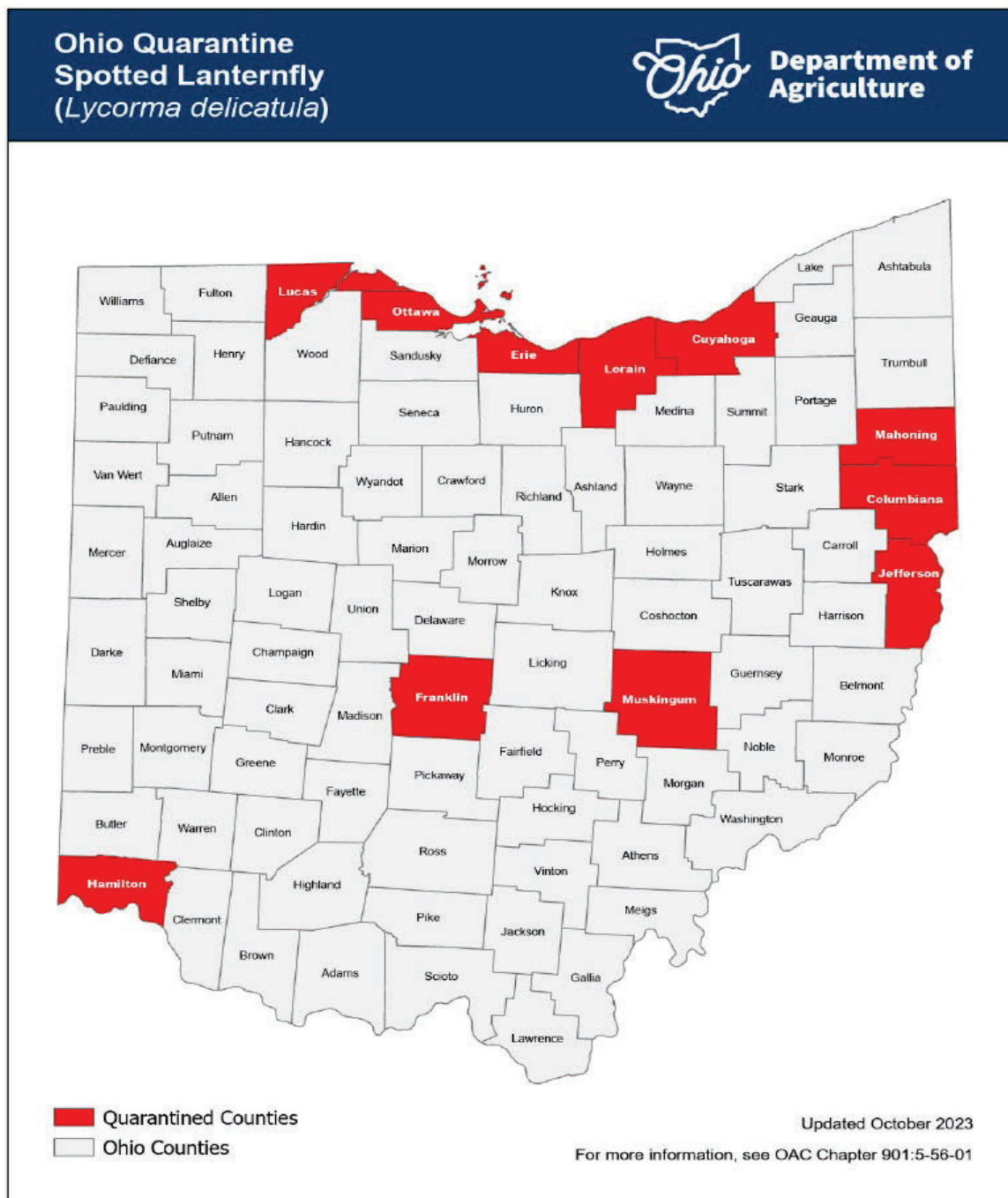


The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced it has updated its Plant Hardiness Zone Map. You will see that Ohio has 4 zones, including: 5b; 6a; 6b; and 7a. The hardiness map looks at low temperatures and indicates and average low for each of the zones. Information on the updated map can be found at the USDA website at: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>

Reference: USDA Updates the Plant Hardiness Zone Map in 2023 | BYGL (osu.edu)



# SLF Update - Ohio's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expanded and More



As spotted lanternfly (SLF) adult activity winds down for the 2023 season, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has updated the Ohio SLF quarantine. Currently there are 11 Ohio counties that are quarantined as a way to reduce, or hopefully eliminate, the artificial spread of SLF to other non-infested areas. Those quarantined counties include: Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Muskingum, and Ottawa. While there have been single finds of SLF in several other Ohio Counties, a quarantine is enacted when a reproducing population is discovered. This includes finding multiple life-stages, and often includes egg masses, not just a single find.

Reference: [SLF Update - Ohio's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Expanded and More | BYGL \(osu.edu\)](#)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following people.  
We all wish you a happy, fun special day and  
an amazing year ahead!

## **January**

*Susan Richardson*

*Marina Miquilini*

*Kim Hupman*

## **February**

*Donna Shoup*

*Sarah Preston*

*Kathy Estabrook*

*Jean Erskine*

*Mary Ann Accorinti*

**Extension Educator, Agriculture and Natural Resources:  
Marina Miquilini, miquilini.1@osu.edu 937-736-7205**

**Program Assistant, Horticulture:  
Kim Hupman, hupman.5@osu.edu 937-736-7209**

*OSU Extension Greene County Master Gardener Volunteer Advisory Board:*

President - Bev Taylor

Vice President - Sarah Preston

Secretary – Mary Ann Accorinti

Treasurer - Starlene Brooks

Board Members at Large - Laura Carroll

Lorraine Bonavita

Kathy Lewis

Jan Fix

Past President - Debbie Downes



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

OSU Extension Greene County Office  
100 Fairground Rd.  
Xenia, Ohio 45385

Phone: 937-372-9971

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

[greene.osu.edu](http://greene.osu.edu)