

## GARDENING

## Native plants now prominent in many of today's gardens

## GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

introduction to some of the native species for the southeastern part of the state:

■ Ash, red; green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)—Prefers poorly drained, spring-flooded sites of wet forests; occurs in abandoned fields and moist forests. Medium to large, grows fast, many soil and moisture conditions; yellow in fall. Very adaptable tree tolerates salt and drought.

■ Basswood; linden (*Tilia americana*)—Round, dense crown; moist, nutrient-rich forests; wet woods; shade tolerant. Often has multiple trunks.

Leaves, dark green on top, more pale beneath. Flower clusters and fruit (nut) hang from slender, leafy branch. Winter buds turn bright red as season progresses. Bees love the flower and make honey from nectar.

American Indians used the bark of young stems to make rope.

■ Beech, American (*Fagus grandifolia*)—Moist forests, beautiful large canopy tree. Shade tolerant, best in moist conditions. Shallow roots; doesn't do well in lawns with a lot of foot traffic. Strong wood; long-lived. Leaves silvery green in spring, deep green in summer and golden-bronze in fall. Smooth, gray bark.

Nuts and lustrous buds pro-

vide multisession interest. Nuts are important wildlife food.

■ Blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)—Straight trunk, spreading branches; small to medium. Wet to moist forests, slightly acidic soils; can tolerate drier conditions. Northern limit in southern Michigan, needs shelter from harsh wind. Leaves lustrous, dark green in summer; bright yellow, orange or scarlet in fall. Blue-black fruit highly sought after by birds.

■ Crab apple, wild (*Malus coronaria*)—Found in open, formerly agricultural sites under various soil/moisture conditions. Small flowering tree excellent for home gardens. Very fragrant white flowers after bright green foliage in spring; drops early in fall, revealing pale green-yellow fruit that can be used for preserves or jellies.

■ Dogwood, flowering (*Cornus florida*)—Moist or dry wooded sites. Four petal-like bracts make up creamy white flowers on horizontal branches. Pagoda-shaped buds, scarlet fruit; good fall leaf color. All-season interest.

May get fungal disease, anthracnose. (Because of this disease, the latest recommendation is to grow cultivars of this dogwood; there are several varieties.)

During the Civil War, the bark of *C. florida* was used as a substitute for quinine as well as a treatment for jaundice and cholera.

■ Hawthorne, cockspur, (*Craegus crus-galli*)—Small, wide spreading; various soil and moisture conditions, open, old field sites. Shiny, dark green leaves in summer turning purple-plum cast in fall. Lustrous thorns, persistent bright red fruit provide year-round interest. Food and shelter for birds and other wildlife.

■ Ironwood; hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)—Understory tree; various well-drained soils, wooded sites. Handsome, medium size for home landscapes; dark green foliage; delicately shredded bark. Clusters of nuts add esthetic interest in fall and winter.

It's best to buy native plants derived from seed produced in the same area as the plant will be grown, then you will be assured of having the one you truly want.

Here are several sources in Michigan that sell retail, from Landscaping with Native Trees, Chapters publishing. They are:

■ Olken Tree Crops, P.O. Box 19425, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

■ Wavcrest Nursery, 2509 Lakeshore Dr., Fennville, MI 49408 (catalog \$1)

■ Vans Pine Nursery, 7550 144th Ave. W., West Olive, MI 49460 (wholesale/mail order)

Many of the sources for these trees sell wholesale only or in bulk quantities. The county extension service can help you locate a supplier if you can't find a particular tree at a nursery.

Clarification: Last week's column included a wrong phone number. The correct number to order bulbs or a catalog from Brent and Becky Heath of Gloucester, Va., is (877) 661-2852.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

## Sponsored by English Gardens

## HIGH HOPES CONTEST

## Submit your entries as follows:

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE NEWSPAPER. Use the entry form below (or a facsimile) printed in this newspaper. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, Aug. 27, 2001. Fill in all the blanks. Clearly print or type the information. Include area code with your telephone number and the best time of day to call if we wish to take photographs. Children should include their ages. Your comments about how you care for the plant can also be sent along with the entry. This information may be passed on to our readers when we announce the winners. There are two categories of winners in this High Hopes Sunflower Contest: The tallest sunflower and the one with the largest seed head (not including the rays of the flower), grown in the 2001 season through Aug. 27.

1. Sunflower measurement must be taken from soil level to the base of the head where the stem attaches to the flower.

2. Seed head measurements must be taken diagonally across the seed head (not including the rays of the flower).

3. Participants must send the official entry form (or a facsimile) to: High Hopes Sunflower Contest, The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax call (734) 591-7272. Judges will notify contest finalists to verify height and size.

4. Winners will be announced in the newspaper in September.

5. Employees and families of the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers aren't eligible.

6. Decisions of the judges are final.

7. Entrants must live in Oakland or Wayne County to be eligible.

8. Gift certificates from English Gardens will be awarded to the winners — \$75 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 third place. Prizes will be awarded 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI.

Winners must appear at awards to claim their prize.

My sunflower height is: \_\_\_\_\_ My sunflower's seed head is: \_\_\_\_\_

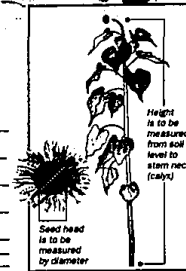
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ If Child, include age: \_\_\_\_\_

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Best time of day to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant-care comments: \_\_\_\_\_



## GARDENING CALENDAR

Does your garden club have an upcoming event or meeting you want publicized? Send items for consideration in Gardening Calendar to Ken Abramczyk, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.com. net. To send a fax, call (734) 591-7272.

## GARDEN WALKS

**GARDEN CITY**  
Organizers of the 2002 Garden City Garden Walk want to hear from gardeners in that community who are willing to be featured on next year's garden walk. Zydys Bateson, chairwoman of the walk, said just five homes will be featured, but a flower show also will be scheduled that day. Call Bateson at (734) 427-5452 by Sept. 15 if you are interested in having your yard as part of the garden walk.

## BACK TO CLASS

## GROWING GARDENERS

The Master Gardener Association of Wayne County will present its 13th annual conference. Growing with Master Gardeners, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at the University of Michigan Dearborn. Dean Krauskopf, the host of WJR's Gardening Show, and Janet Macunovich, advanced master gardener and co-founder of Michigan School of Gardening, will be keynote speakers. The conference also includes a choice of workshops, with topics such as butterflies and hummingbirds, herbal tea time, roses, ground covers, garden pests, herbs, seeds of success, therapeutic horticulture, late bloomers and others. Children aged 5 to 12 can enjoy the Budding Botanists class that morning, and gardeners of all ages are invited to enter a container planting con-

test to be judged by those attending the conference. Entrants must enter entries between 5 and 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15 at the campus. For the conference itself, registration must be postmarked by Sept. 7. For more information, click on [www.mgawc.org](http://www.mgawc.org) or for registration information, call (313) 892-8125.

## MORE GARDENING

The Michigan School of Gardening, 29429 Six Mile, in Livonia offers classes on a variety of subjects. Register in advance. Classes are limited in size. Weekly classes usually are scheduled for 9:30 a.m., while evening courses begin at 6:30 p.m. Classes listed here will be taught at the Livonia facility. Classes and dates are: Ins and Outs of Plants, three Mondays, starting Sept. 17; Healthy Soil and Wise Fertilizing, three Tuesdays, starting Oct. 9. Call (248) 4-GARDEN.

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## PLUMBING TIPS

## DO YOU RUN OUT OF HOT WATER?



JEFFREY MOSS

Are you always running out of hot water when you take a shower? Does your family have to wait until your water heater recovers to take another shower? Let me introduce you to the newest water heater on the market today. It is called the Takagi Instantaneous water heater.

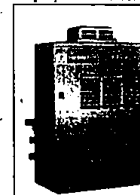
The Takagi Instantaneous water heater delivers nearly 7 gallons of hot water continuously, enough to shower and still fill the washing machine or run the dishwasher. No more waiting until the water heater recovers to take a shower.

The tankless design and computerized temperature control insure the unit will provide an endless supply of hot water at the desired temperature. The electronic ignition feature means that gas is consumed only when you are using the hot water. No energy is wasted when hot water is not in use.

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For more information, please contact your licensed plumbing contractor or Advance Plumbing Supply Company at 248-669-7474.



Jeffrey Moss is vice-president of Advance Plumbing Supply Co., in Walled Lake and Detroit. Call (800) 560-7474 toll-free. Have a plumbing question? Write to Jeffrey at Advance Plumbing Supply Co., 1977 E.W. Maple Rd., Walled Lake, MI 48390. [www.advanceplumbing.com](http://www.advanceplumbing.com)