Hello, Northeast Ohio Counties!

Are you ready for the heat? After today the temperatures will be climbing into the 90’s for several days. The upside is that it will dry out for a few days in time for barley harvest and getting a few more acres of first crop hay baled. Be sure to have plenty of water with you while working in this heat. We have a great article to help you recognize the warning signs that it is time to get out of the heat.

It’s also that time of year when many of our poisonous plants are out and blooming. Hogweed in particular is making its appearance known. See the article inside on how to recognize, and control this weed. Wild parsnip is also in full bloom throughout our region. It’s that tall, yellow flower you see in many roadside ditches. Be sure to handle similar to hogweed to avoid a rash.

Stay safe out there!

Lee Beers & David Marrison
Extension Educators
Ag & Natural Resources
Hot Streak Ahead!
By: Jim Noel
Source: https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-19/hot-streak-ahead

After a really wet period last week and even some flooding in northwest Ohio, we will be seeing a switch toward hotter weather and a drier window from Thursday into the weekend. We have had a few hot bursts this summer but nothing like the stretch ahead. So far May and June have been warmer and wetter than normal in most places. It looks like after one more round of showers and a few storms the middle of this week it will turn hot for the end of June. This heat will last into the first half of July before relaxing some for the second half of July. There may a a day or two break from time to time during the warm weather the next few weeks but above normal temperatures will rule into July.

Rainfall also looks to relax more toward the normal range but with longer stretches of dryness mixed in with the wetness. The outlook for the remainder of June calls for temperatures to average 3-5 degrees above normal. Rainfall will average 0.50-1.0 inches for the last week of June which is close to normal or slightly below normal. The outlook for the first week of July calls for temperatures to average 6-8 degrees above normal with highs mostly 85-95. Lows will be 65-75. Rainfall will average 0.25 to 1.00 inches which again is normal to below normal for most of Ohio. The outlook for the rest of July (weeks 2-4) calls for temperatures 1-3 degrees above normal and rainfall of 1-4 inches. Normal highs in Ohio are 80-85 and normal lows are 60-65. Rainfall normally average near 1 inch per week.

Looking further ahead in the growing season and harvest season, it appears August will still see slightly above normal temperatures and slightly below normal rainfall. September looks near normal temperatures and normal or slightly wetter than normal. Finally, October appears to be about normal temperatures and slightly drier than normal. For the latest 2 weeks rainfall predictions, see the graphic from the NOAA/NWS/Ohio River Forecast Center using the North American Ensemble Forecasting System average rainfall.

Heat-related illnesses and agricultural producers.

Farmers and ranchers perform job responsibilities in all types of weather conditions including excessive heat and humidity. It is important for agricultural producers to understand risks associated with working in high heat work environments, potential heat-related illnesses, precautionary steps, and appropriate medical responses.

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
Understanding the Body's Response to Heat

Our body’s primary defense against heat is through sweating. Sweating allows moisture to collect on the skin and evaporate. Sweating happens when the surrounding environment becomes greater than skin temperature. When this occurs, an internal body system called the sympathetic nervous system releases a chemical called acetylcholine which turns on sweat glands in the skin in an area called the dermis. The sweat glands release moisture and move it to the outer surface of the skin for cooling. However, in hot, humid weather, the moisture does not always evaporate and can collect on the skin causing the body to warm up and the heart to pump more blood to the skin. When this happens, the body starts to sweat excessively and depletes the body of water and electrolytes, which can lead to a heat-related illness.

**Fig. 1: Breakdown of Heat-Related Illnesses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heat-Related Illnesses</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heat rash</td>
<td>Excessive sweating during humid weather</td>
<td>Red, blotchy skin rash; clusters of pimples or small blisters</td>
<td>Keep the affected area dry, and treat with cornstarch or powder. Work in a cooler, less humid work environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat syncope</td>
<td>Prolonged standing or rising suddenly from a sitting or lying position</td>
<td>Light-headedness, dizziness, or fainting</td>
<td>Move person to a cool place to lie down, elevate the feet, and give liquids to drink.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat cramps</td>
<td>Loss of body salts and fluids from sweating during strenuous activity</td>
<td>Pain in stomach, arms, and/or legs</td>
<td>Stop activity, drink clear or sports beverage. Massage affected muscles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat exhaustion</td>
<td>Excessive loss of body salts and water from sweating</td>
<td>Cool, pale skin, dizziness, headache, cramps, nausea, sweating, weakness, confusion, high body</td>
<td>Have the person drink plenty of cool fluids, remove excess clothing, and apply cool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northeast Ohio Agriculture
The range for normal body temperature is between 96° to 100°F. Hard exercise, strenuous work, or fever will usually put the body in a range between 101° to 105°F. At 105° to 107°F, cooling treatment or fever therapy may be needed, and at even higher body temperatures, heat exhaustion and heat stroke usually occur. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke indicate a serious impairment to the body's cooling system and is a definite signal for medical assistance. Heat stroke or body temperatures beyond 110°F may result in death.

Risk Factors for Heat-Related Illnesses
Everyone is at risk for heat-related illness if they do not follow standard precautionary measures. The following factor(s) can increase the chance for developing one of the five main heat-related illnesses:

- Being elderly or an infant.
- Having certain medical conditions such as circulatory problems, heart conditions, or pregnancy.
- Being physically unfit or overweight.
- Consuming alcohol and/or drugs (including prescription medication; for example, the medication atropine interferes with the ability to sweat).
- Having lower heat tolerance levels or not becoming acclimatized to working in high heat and humidity.
- High temperatures and humidity levels in the environment (as well as sun radiation or heat-conducting surfaces like black asphalt).
- Not having adequate fluid intake levels needed to hydrate the body.
- Limited air flow or breeze to aid in the cooling process.

Breakdown of Common Heat-Related Illnesses
There are five heat-related illnesses: heat rash, syncope, cramps, exhaustion, and stroke. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are typically the most severe and require immediate medical attention. Figure 1 outlines each illness, typical symptoms, and treatment.

Recommendations to Avoid Heat-Related Problems
Do not wait until you are thirsty – drink approximately 8 oz. (1 cup) of water every 15 to 30 minutes.
Take a 15-minute break in a shaded area every two hours.
Monitor the weather, and schedule strenuous work activities accordingly to reduce exposure to high heat situations.
Wear light-colored, lightweight, and loose-fitting clothing.
Avoid the use of alcohol, drugs, caffeine, and large amounts of sugar when exposed to heat because they can increase your rate of dehydration.
Check your prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to determine if there are any side effects when you are exposed to heat.
 Appropriately wear specialized protective gear such as cooling vests to reduce your risk of a heat illness; if used inappropriately, heat illness can actually increase.
Learn about prevention of heat illness and teach your workers about health and safety instructions related to working in hot weather and appropriate responses to heat-related illnesses.
Gradually build up a tolerance to working in the heat. If a person has a severely low tolerance to heat, that person may need to perform tasks that limit exposure to the heat.
Certain types of personal protective equipment (PPE) can increase the risk of heat stress, such as protective suiting. Schedule jobs that require PPE during cooler times of the day.
Recognize the conditions that can affect body heat such as fever, physically strenuous work, and even time of day (for example, body temperature is higher in late afternoons).
Talk to your physician if you have a chronic health condition or disability (e.g., spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis) before working in the heat.

**Spores of Cercospora sojina Found**
By: Anne Dorrance & Linda Weber
Source: [https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-19/we-have-found-some-whiskers-spores-cercospora-sojina](https://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2018-19/we-have-found-some-whiskers-spores-cercospora-sojina)

Last week, samples of frogeye leaf spot of soybean were brought into the lab. On the underside of the characteristic lesion were the conidia. This came from an area where the incidence of frogeye was notable at the end of the season. For the 2018 season a susceptible variety was planted back into that same field. Environmental conditions have been favorable for this disease to begin in some areas of the state. However, most of the varieties in the state have very good levels of resistance to this disease and if...
good rotation is practiced it will take more time for enough inoculum to build up to begin to move around the state. Whiskers a.k.a. conidia of Cercospora sojina that causes frogeye leaf spot

There are numerous fungicides available for this foliar pathogen and in Ohio, but the caution here is the the strobilurins. Based on sampling over the past 3 years, the samples of this fungus in 2017 (last year) indicated that most of the populations were now resistant to the strobilurin based fungicides. We will begin testing any samples received this year in earnest, but based on last year’s sampling, farmers who are managing this disease should focus on using a triazole (FRAC Group 3) or a MBC Thiophanate (FRAC Group 1, thiophanate methyl) at the higher rates if disease is active in the field. The best timing is one spray at R3, at the end of flowering. This fungus will only infect young newly expanding leaves, so the goal in the spraying is to protect those big flushes of leaves as our indeterminant soybeans really fill out. Fungicide coverage should focus on the upper third of the canopy for this disease.

Other soybean diseases to keep in mind.

**Phytophthora** - Early and mid-season *Phytophthora*. With each of these saturating rains, soybeans that have low levels of partial resistance, (tolerance) will continue to develop Phytophthora stem rot. At this point, the plant should be able to hold its own against this pathogen if the resistance package is there. Make notes if it is not and choose a variety with better resistance scores for 2019.
**Sclerotinia** - White mold caused by *Sclerotinia* stem rot. Cool nights and random rains to keep the moisture levels up are perfect for this disease of soybean. However, only in historically infested fields and only if the canopy is closed at those first flowers and most often on highly susceptible cultivars. So double check your variety ratings that got planted in those areas with a history of white mold. Based on a very large study by my team, resistant varieties did not need the fungicide and the fungicides that have worked were boscalid and picoxystrobin. Do not use other strobilurins in these fields as those have enhanced disease development. One application at first flower or right before (1 to 2 days) provided the best management of this disease on highly susceptible varieties.

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**Using ecology and technology to control weeds**

By Tracy Hmielowski

Source: [https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/articles/63/6/4](https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/articles/63/6/4)

Modern agriculture relies on many chemicals to produce the food and animal feed demanded by a growing human population. Unfortunately, the use of chemical herbicides has resulted in some weed populations becoming resistant. Much like antibiotic resistance in the medical field has led some to fear a future where a simple infection can be deadly, there is concern that herbicides will become ineffective against common agricultural weeds.

The best way to preserve the effectiveness of herbicides is to use them less by either rotating chemical modes of action or relying instead on other management options. Widespread use of herbicide is a strong selective pressure on weed populations. Susceptible plants die off quickly, leaving those with resistance behind. If all that remains are resistant phenotypes, their offspring
Herbicide resistance was first documented in the 1950s, but the problem has been growing. The U.S. has more herbicide-resistant weeds than any other country (161) as documented by the International Survey of Herbicide Resistance in Weeds.¹ This is likely due to the high proportion of herbicide-resistant crops planted since the 1990s. However, the U.S. is not alone; globally, there are 254 weed species across 70 countries with documented cases of herbicide resistance, and some are resistant to multiple herbicides.

Farmers cannot count on the development of new chemicals, either. There have been no new advances in the chemical modes of action in herbicides brought to market in more than 30 years. Because of this, farmers need to maintain the effectiveness of the chemical herbicides that they currently have access too, by using them less and combating weeds with alternative strategies. These strategies range from using management techniques developed before chemical herbicides were available as well as new technologies. Of course, these methods may be slightly less effective, challenging to implement at large scales, or simply take more time and money—making it hard to change farming practices.

Ecological Approaches
Farming at all scales, from home gardens to industrial agriculture, can reduce herbicide use by taking a diverse approach to weed control. Todd Gaines, a Molecular Weed Scientist at Colorado State University, says an “herbicide-only syndrome” has developed in farming. When developing weed management plans, herbicide has become the first line of defense. Gaines says there is a “need for more diversity in weed management,” including the use of cover crops as mulches and reducing weed seed sources.

Organic farming systems have a variety of weed control methods such as mulches and other physical barriers, hand weeding, and using cultivators to kill emerging weeds. These approaches can be more time and labor intensive, which is part of the reason organic produce fetches a premium price. Eric Gallandt, Professor of Weed Ecology at the University of Maine, describes organic farmers using the “many little hammers” approach to weed control. The

¹ This is likely due to the high proportion of herbicide-resistant crops planted since the 1990s.
phrase, coined by Gallandt and Matt Liebman,\(^2\) describes managing weeds using multiple stresses.

“Instead of solely focusing on killing weed seedlings, the biology and ecology of targeted species guide management strategies to deplete the weed seed bank, improve the crop competitive ability, and avoid proliferation of difficult-to-manage species,” Gallandt explains.

One important management strategy is to keep weed populations from increasing by focusing on seeds and the seed bank. Gallandt describes the seed bank in the same way you would think about your checking account, with deposits and withdrawals over time. For either your bank account or the seed bank, the fastest way to reach a zero balance is to keep making withdrawals without ever making a deposit. Farmers can draw down a seed bank by letting seeds sprout (withdrawing seeds) and destroying these individuals before they reach reproductive maturity (depositing new seeds). Of course, a field will never really reach a zero balance. Seeds can lay dormant in the soil for many years, or be moved by equipment and animals, so farmers need to continuously monitor fields and remove weeds even when they have significantly reduced a population.

Not all weed problems can be controlled through seed bank management. Weedy species that are long lived and spread belowground through rhizomes, like Johnsongrass, require a different approach for non-herbicide removal. While farmers may avoid diskimg a patch of Johnsongrass, which will spread rhizomes, and therefore, the problem across the field, diskimg can also be part of a management plan for rhizomatous weeds. Diskimg or hoeing will kill the aboveground parts of the plant and break up the roots, forcing the plant to use the stored energy to sprout. Continued treatment of the area, through diskimg or mowing, would continue to draw down stored resources, eventually killing the plant. However, this approach takes time and requires a plan and commitment to management to keep the problem from getting worse.

Harnessing Inhibitors
Some home gardeners learn a hard lesson about what lives in the soil when their heirloom tomatoes become sickly and fail to produce fruit. If planted in the same spot year after year, fungi, nematodes, and bacteria that damage tomatoes can build up in the soil. To avoid this,
gardeners should avoid planting tomatoes in the same spot year after year. Crop rotations to avoid harmful soil microbes are a way to benefit crops, but the concept of using soil microbes to inhibit the growth of weeds also has potential.

Bioherbicides, which use soil microorganisms to control weeds, are an alternative to chemical herbicides. Some bioherbicides are commercially available but not used as widely has chemical herbicides. Jenny Kao-Kniffin, an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University, is investigating management techniques that can increase the weed-suppressive activities of microbes. "It's not necessarily a change in the composition of microorganisms, but instead, it could be a modification of their function," she says. One way Kao-Kniffin is looking to develop bioherbicides is to encourage soil microbes to compete with weeds for the nitrogen and phosphorus in the soil. "We are attempting to help crops get a head start in growing by delaying weed emergence early in the season via microbial capture and retention of nitrogen that reduces the growth of nitrogen-sensitive weeds that compete for nitrogen," Kao-Kniffin says. This research requires understanding both the cash crops and weed species. There is also potential to identify and isolate weed-suppressing compounds produced by soil microbes, which could then be added to fields as bioherbicides. While the use of microbes is an alternative to chemicals, solely relying upon one of these methods would result in the same problems of weed species developing resistance. “We need a multi-disciplinary team of investigators to come up with creative and radical ideas to overcome serious management problems,” Kao-Kniffin says, “[that can] bring together ideas and approaches across disciplines in synergistic ways to tackle this looming problem of increased herbicide resistance.”

Technology
There are other advances in equipment that could drastically change the approach to weed control. A recent story that appeared on the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA websites (e.g., see www.crops.org/science-news/dry-weeds-keep-crops) describes the use of a propane-fueled flame weeder. The flame weeder applies high heat to weeds, drying out the tissue and killing the plant without the need for chemical applications.

Weed-killing robots may also play a role. The Tertill, developed in part by those behind the Roomba, had a successful Kickstarter campaign, and units are scheduled to ship this summer. The robot is a small, solar-powered, four-wheel-drive weed whacker. The unit does daily patrols, clipping any small plants that it drives over. The Tertill will not damage desired vegetables once they grow over a specific height, and small transplants can be protected using barriers. Some of the drawback to the unit are that it can get stuck in mud, on large rocks, or in holes, and it is most effective in areas up to 100 ft². However, being marketed as a time saver that spends each day patrolling for new weeds, it obviously has high appeal for home gardeners.
Gallandt sees the potential for robotic weeders in the future. “It remains to be seen what the ‘ideal’ weeding robot will look like,” he says. “It could be an autonomous tractor with a very wide, camera-guided weeder, with hoes or flames that selectively target intra-row weeds.”

Alternatively, robotic weeders may stay small like the Tertill. As the technology advances, units may be capable of covering larger areas and communicating with other units to ensure that an entire field is patrolled. It may seem far-fetched, but this technology may come to market faster than new chemical herbicides.

Many of these non-herbicide management techniques may be difficult or cost prohibitive to do on a large scale for crops like corn and soybeans. However, the development of alternatives to chemical weed control needs to be happening before chemical options are rendered useless due to herbicide resistance. Changing the system, and solving the “herbicide-only syndrome,” will require greater economic analysis and the development of decision-making tools to aid farmers.

IRS Has New Ammunition in Hobby Loss Case Win

By: Paul Neiffer

The Tax Court just released the Robison case yesterday on June 19, 2018. This case is likely to provide additional ammunition for the IRS to go after farmers and ranchers who have a large amount of non-farm income and incur losses year-after-year on their farm/ranch operations.

Here the brief facts of the case:

- Shane and Robin Robison lived in Utah. Mr. Robinson had a very successful career working for a number of technology companies in Silicon Valley. During the years at issue (2010-2014), his wages/salaries ranged between $1.4 million and $10.5 million.
- In 1999, they purchased a 410 acre ranch in a remote area of Southern Utah at an elevation of approximately 6,700 feet. The cost of the ranch was about $2 million. In 2000 and 2009, they acquired additional acreage bringing total acres to more than 500 acres.
The ranch was run down and they spent money to fix up the ranch. They first operated as a horse breeding and training operation, but shifted to a small cattle herd to reduce the losses.

From 2000 to 2015, the ranch never made a profit and the average annual loss during this period exceeded $500,000.

They had hired a full-time manager to operate the ranch, however, they did spend a fair amount of time dealing with the ranch operations.

As a result of the tax court case, they prepared logs showing that they exceeded 500 hours of time spent on the ranch each year.

As expected the IRS did not like seeing all of these losses; audited the returns; argued that the losses should be disallowed due to hobby loss rules or that the taxpayers were not material participants in the ranch operation.

Over the last couple of years, the IRS has brought several ranch and farm hobby loss cases to the tax court and has lost several of those cases. This case was a little different in that they asserted the taxpayers were also not material participants. If the IRS would win on hobby loss issue, then the taxpayers would not be able to deduct any of the losses. If they lost on that, but won on material participation, the IRS would have a partial victory. The taxpayers would not be allowed to deduct the losses currently, but could deduct all carryover losses when the ranch is sold.

The Tax Court finally ruled that the taxpayers were not operating the ranch as a hobby (but just barely). However, the Tax Court did rule that since the time logs were retroactively created and there was a manager on the ranch doing most of the ranch operations, these hours were primarily as an investor. Investor hours do not count toward material participation hours. Typically, a taxpayer needs to work at least 500 hours to be considered a material participant and logs should be done on a contemporaneous basis.

As a result of this case being a partial win for the IRS, I would expect all future Tax Court cases by the IRS to assert both the hobby loss rules and the passive activity rules. This can be a high hurdle for many of these taxpayers to meet as the Robison’s found out.

**Stopping Those Doggone Deer**

By: Ashtabula County Master Gardeners

It can be very frustrating to spend hours on your garden only to have it end up as a salad bar for the local deer. There are a variety of measures to take to limit and hopefully prevent the damage done by deer browsing. But Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, a nationally recognized expert in wildlife management, warns that the goal is timely use of a variety of cost-effective methods to...
reduce damage to a tolerable level. No method is 100% effective, and success usually requires a combination of measures.

Habitat modification can be used. This involves using plants that deer do not like to eat and designing your garden so it is difficult for the deer to access your treasured plants. The success of this technique depends somewhat on how many deer and how hungry and motivated they are.

Some plants might as well be labeled deer candy. Phlox, azaleas, clematis, coleus, daylilies, hydrangeas, roses, sweet potato vines, and tulips are plants that deer particularly love. Putting these plants in containers higher than deer can reach is one way of still enjoying these plants. Surrounding them with plants deer do not like or using decorative scare tactics such as glittery light balls might help deter the deer.

Deer also do not like to maneuver level changes, so designing your garden with steps and different levels make it more difficult for deer. Try adding a trellis covered with non-friendly deer plants to the entrance of your garden. With care and time spent investigating, it is possible to have a garden that is not attractive to deer.

Deer tend to avoid textured leaves or highly aromatic plants. Some examples of plants that repel deer are azure monkshood, big root geraniums, bleeding heart, pachysandra, Lenten roses, peony, barberry, boxwood, and spirea. They also are not fond of highly aromatic herbs such as sage, rosemary, oregano, and basil.

It may be necessary to consider some type of fencing if the number of deer in your area is high and other measures have failed. Though expensive, this approach is a long-term measure that can be counted on to keep deer out. Be sure and check building codes in your area before installing. If you are considering some type of electrified fence, professional installation is recommended. Or a simpler method is to use some type of black or plastic netting over treasured plants.

Another method to control deer damage is to use repellants. There are a variety of commercial products on the market, as well as a number of homemade remedies. They range in cost and effectiveness, with higher cost not always guaranteeing higher effectiveness.
Direct repellants change the taste of the plant, but the deer have to sample the plant to find that out so some damage will occur. Indirect repellents give out a sight, smell or sound that deer do not like. Some repellents, such as putrescent egg solids, do both by giving off an offensive odor and tasting bad.

It is critical to read the label of commercial products carefully for application timing, method, saturation, and safety for your type of plant. You do not want to keep the deer away only to have accidently killed your plant. Commercial repellents can vary in cost from $15-$200 per gallon but come with testing done and specific guidelines for use.

Homemade remedies may be a cheaper alternative, but their effectiveness is more variable. The most effective appears to be to mix 20% egg with 80% water in a spray bottle and apply at least monthly. Putting bags of human hair in your garden or hanging highly fragrant bar soap can also be tried.

Noise makers, scare crows, and guard dogs are also worth a try. But deer tend to get used to scare tactics and they have limited effectiveness. Clearly, a cost-effective method that works best for you is the goal. Budget, time, and severity of the problem will all need to be considered as you plan your strategy to combat those doggone deer.

In 2018, Ashtabula County Master Gardeners will be covering a wide range of topics, indicating special interests among their members. If you would like a master gardener to write about a particular topic, call the OSU Extension Office at (440) 576-9008.

David’s Weekly News Column
For Publication in the Jefferson Gazette on June 27

Hello, Ashtabula County! OSU Extension is in full gear this week as we have 183 campers and youth counselors participating in our week-long camp at 4-H Camp Whitewood in Windsor, Ohio. We were very excited to have Sean O’Brien, Ohio Senator for District 32, spend some time with the kids on Monday morning. On the farm front, the persistent rains of last week have really saturated things again. It is quite soggy out there and it may have dashed any hope of our farmers sneaking more soybeans into the ground. Our farmers really need a dry stretch of weather as we roll into July.

During the past week, our Extension office has also received multiple calls about a tall white flowering weed...
that folks are seeing along many country roadsides. With a white flower it could be a variety of plants. Given the time of year, though, it could be poison hemlock, angelica, cow parsnip, or giant hogweed.

The one on this list that causes us the most alarm in Ashtabula County is Giant Hogweed. As many of you know, Ashtabula County has been the hot-bed for Giant Hogweed for the state of Ohio for about 15 years now. Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) is a majestic plant which reaches a mature height of 6 to 12 feet with a distinct umbrella shaped flower head.

While this plant is beautiful, it can be very harmful. When folks come into direct contact with the sap present in the seeds, foliage or stems, they may react with skin and eye irritation. Sunlight “activates” the dermatitis reaction causing it to create painful blisters that may scar. Contact with eyes can cause temporary or even permanent blindness.

People are encouraged not to touch or try to remove giant hogweed without proper protection. This protection includes gloves, long sleeves, long pants and safety glasses. I recommend never touching the plant with your bare hands and keep in mind that the sap can persist on mowers, string trimmers, tools and gloves. If you think you have come into contact with hogweed, or any of its relatives, you should wash the area with soapy water immediately and keep the affected area away from sunlight for 48 hours. Wash clothing and tools in hot water and detergent before using again.

A hot pocket of Giant hogweed has existed for years in Pierpont with other plants scattered around the county. For the most part, most of the calls we receive from folks turn out not to be Giant Hogweed but other weeds such as angelica, cow parsnip and poison hemlock. This means, proper identification is key.

A few years I wrote a factsheet on Giant Hogweed and it can found at: https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-35. It has a lot of great pictures that will help you identify it. Michigan State University also has a good publication which shows the pictures of look-alikes. This publication can be found at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/E2935_2012_Revision.pdf.
We are also able to mail these factsheets to you if you do not have internet connection. Just give us a call at 440-576-9008.

A reminder that our Master Gardeners are available on Monday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to help you with your horticultural questions. With our really weird and wet growing season, it appears that we will have our share of diseases and insects this year. Just give them a call at 440-576-9008 and they will be happy to assist you with your home horticulture questions.

To close, I would like to share a quote from Denis Waitley who stated, “Change the changeable, accept the unchangeable, and remove yourself from the unacceptable.” Have a good and safe day.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>David Marrison</th>
<th>Lee Beers</th>
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<td>Ashtabula County Extension Office</td>
<td>Trumbull County Extension Office</td>
</tr>
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