



Evergreen Garden Club The Wild Iris

JUNE 12, 2012
"FRIENDLY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT"

Joe Julian, extension agent for Colorado State University in Douglas County, will guide us through the unlimited, effective, yet friendly, methods of thwarting our fine, furry garden invaders.

Meet at the Fire & Rescue Station on Bergen Parkway at 9:30 am. Remember to bring your plants, cuttings, pots etc for the World Gardening Table...And in keeping with being green, your own coffee mug.

"We mistakenly thought that the 10 green knee pads in the closet belonged to the Garden Club. They actually belong to the CPR instructors for their students to use when kneeling on the floor to practice chest compressions and breathing. They would like the knee pads returned or replaced before their next class on June 23rd.

Meet the Board. Thank you for serving!!!

2012-20123 OFFICERS

- President—Barbara Steger
- Vice President/s— Lynn Dimmick & Grace Coveyeau
- Secretary— MaryEllen Putnam
- Treasurer— Roseann Paslay
- Past President—Lucy Ginley
- Member Emeritus—Louise Mounsey

Reminder!!

It's time to renew your EGC membership for 2012-2013. Please bring your cash or checks to the May or June meeting.
\$25 individual, \$35 Family, \$55 Business **Thank you!**

Deer Stopper

Smells like cinnamon & cloves, works well. ~ Karla Briggs

Spray or Granule Manufacturer - Messina www.messinawildlife.com

Available - Sundance Garden Center

Visit us online at: <http://www.EvergreenGardenClub.org>

June 2012

HOSPITALITY BITES

MaryEllen Putnam, Roseann Paslay, Annell Hoy, Dee Sacks, Lindy Doty, Pam Hinish, Barbara Steger. Please arrive between 8:45 & 9:00 am to help set up the room and be prepared to stay after the meeting for clean-up. THANKS!



Garden Clean-Up Day Ana Psenda & Grace Coveyeau



" A note on the door says...Ring bell...If no answer..pull weeds."
~Arlene Fetterer

To Bee or Not to Bee
[http:// readersupport-ednews.org/ opinion2/271-38/11497-bee-kills-in-the-corn-belt-whats-ge-got-to-do-with-it](http://readersupport-ednews.org/opinion2/271-38/11497-bee-kills-in-the-corn-belt-whats-ge-got-to-do-with-it). Please click on the link and read this important article!!!

MINUTES—May 8th, 2012 MEETING

Officers Present: Lucy Ginley, Grace Coveyeau, MaryEllen Putnam, Roseann Paslay, and Lynn Dimmick

Lucy called the meeting to order at 9:30. About 30 members were present. Since this was the first work day in the community gardens, the business meeting was short with brief reports from each of the committees.

Lucy announced that Barbara Steger has agreed to serve as president of the Garden Club for the 2012/2013 year. Her term will begin at the first meeting in September, but she will start attending board meetings now. The Garden Club does not meet during June and July.

Earth Day: Diana Aldridge reported that Earth Day was a particular success this year in terms of participation and activity. The group gave away a variety of plants and club members planted seedlings with young people.

Publicity: Susan Blake commented on the delightful article and picture in the Canyon Courier on Louise's birthday party. Susan would like a picture of each garden group before they leave this morning.

King Soopers Cards: Barbara Steger reported that 20 people have signed up to use the cards and the proceeds are adding up quickly! Barbara also spoke with Ann Moore and she will be willing to have her home on the next Garden Club tour!

Sharing our Gardens: Roseann Paslay explained the "Sharing Our Gardens" program and passed around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to participate. The program will take place every Tuesday during the summer.

Community Gardens: Karen MacFarquhar announced that work would begin today in most of the eight community gardens. However, there will be no work in the library, Stagecoach or Metro dam gardens. The gardens are our primary presence in the community and everyone in the Garden Club should be assigned to work and water in one of these. For those not currently assigned to a garden, Karen will make arrangements.

Karen and her group also believe that each of the gardens needs a sign to identify it as a Garden Club enterprise. Each group can discuss the type and size of sign they would like.

The meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed breakfast before leaving to work in their garden.

Submitted by MaryEllen Putnam

Bee Kills in the Corn Belt: What's GE Got to Do With It? By Heather Pilatic, Reader Supported News 18 May 12

In the last few weeks beekeepers have reported staggering losses in Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio after their hives foraged on pesticide-treated corn fields. Indiana too, two years ago. What's going on in the Corn Belt?

No farmer in their right mind wants to poison pollinators. When I spoke with one Iowa corn farmer in January and told him about the upcoming release of a Purdue study confirming corn as a major pesticide exposure route for bees, his face dropped with worn exasperation. He looked down for a moment, sighed and said, "You know, I held out for years on buying them GE seeds, but now I can't get conventional seeds anymore. They just don't carry 'em."

This leaves us with two questions: 1) What do GE seeds have to do with neonicotinoids and bees? and 2) How can an Iowa corn farmer find himself feeling unable to farm without poisoning pollinators? In other words, where did U.S. corn cultivation go wrong?

The short answer to both questions starts with a slow motion train wreck that began in the mid-1990s: Corn integrated pest management (IPM) fell apart at the seams. Rather, it was intentionally unraveled by Bayer and Monsanto.

Honey Bees Caught in the Cross-fire Corn is far from the only crop treated by neonicotinoids, but it is the largest use of arable land in North America, and honey bees rely on corn as a major protein source. At least 94 percent of the 92 million acres of corn planted across the U.S. this year will have been treated with either clothianidin or thiamethoxam (another neonicotinoid).

As we head into peak corn planting season throughout the U.S. Midwest, bees will once again "get it from all sides" as they: fly through clothianidin-contaminated planter dust; gather clothianidin-laced corn pollen, which will then be fed to emerging larva; gather water from acutely toxic, pesticide-laced guttation droplets; and/or gather pollen and nectar from nearby fields where forage sources such as dandelions have taken up these persistent chemicals from soil that's been contaminated year on year since clothianidin's widespread introduction into corn cultivation in 2003.

GE Corn & Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments Go Hand-in-hand

Over the last 15 years, U.S. corn cultivation has gone from a crop requiring little-to-no insecticides and negligible amounts of fungicides, to a crop where the average acre is grown from seeds treated or genetically engineered to express three different insecticides (as well as a fungicide or two) before being sprayed prophylactically with RoundUp (an herbicide) and a new class of fungicides that farmers didn't know they "needed" before the mid-2000s.

A series of marketing ploys by the pesticide industry undergird this story. It's about time to start telling it, if for no other reason than to give lie to the oft-repeated notion that there is no alternative to farming corn in a way that poisons pollinators. We were once -- not so long ago -- on a very different path.

How Corn Farming Went Off the Rails

In the early 1990s, we were really good at growing corn using bio-intensive integrated pest management (bio-IPM). In practice, that meant crop rotations, supporting natural predators, using biocontrol agents like ladybugs and as a last resort, using chemical controls only after pests had been scouted for and found. During this time of peak bio-IPM adoption, today's common practice of blanketing corn acreage with "insurance" applications of various pesticides without having established the need to do so would have been unthinkable. It's expensive to use inputs you don't need, and was once the mark of bad farming.

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Then, in the mid-to-late 1990s, GE corn and neonicotinoid (imidacloprid) seed treatments both entered the market -- the two go hand-in-hand, partly by design and partly by accident. Conditions for the marketing of both products were ripe due to a combination of factors: regulatory pressures and insect resistance had pushed previous insecticide classes off the market, creating an opening for neonicotinoids to rapidly take over global marketshare; patented seeds became legally defensible, and the pesticide industry gobbled up the global seed market; and a variant of the corn rootworm outsmarted soy-corn rotations, driving an uptick in insecticide use around 1995-96.

Then, as if on cue, Monsanto introduced three different strains of patented, GE corn between 1997 and 2003 (RoundUp Ready, and two Bt-expressing variants aimed at controlling the European Corn Borer and corn root worm). Clothianidin entered the U.S. market under conditional registration in 2003, and in 2004 corn seed companies began marketing seeds treated with a 5X level of neonicotinoids (1.25 mg/seed vs. .25)... and in the space of a decade, U.S. corn acreage undergoes a ten-fold increase in average insecticide use. By 2007, the average acre of corn has more than three systemic insecticides -- both Bt traits and a neonicotinoid. Compare this to the early 1990s, when only an estimated 30-35 percent of all corn acreage were treated with insecticides at all.

Adding fuel to the fire, in 2008 USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Board of Directors approved reductions in crop insurance premiums for producers who plant certain Bt corn hybrids. By 2009, 40 percent of corn farmers interviewed said they did not have access to elite (high-yielding) non-Bt corn seed. It is by now common knowledge that conventional corn farmers have a very hard time finding seed that is not genetically engineered and treated with neonicotinoids.

Enter Fungicides

In 2007, what's left of corn IPM was further unraveled with the mass marketing of a new class of fungicides (strobilurins) for use on corn as yield "boosters." Before this, fungicide use on corn was so uncommon that it didn't appear in Crop Life's 2002 National Pesticide Use Database. But in the last five years, the pesticide industry has aggressively and successfully marketed prophylactic applications of fungicides on corn as yield and growth enhancers, and use has grown dramatically as a result. This despite the fact that these fungicides work as marketed less than half the time. According to this meta-analysis of efficacy studies, only "48% of treatments resulted in a yield response greater than the economic break-even value of 6 bu/acre."

Back to the bees. Neonicotinoids are known to synergize with certain fungicides to increase the toxicity of the former to honey bees up to 1,000-fold, and fungicides may be key culprits in undermining beneficial bee microbiota that do things like make beebread nutritious and support immune response against gut pathogens like Nosema. Fungicide use in corn is likewise destroying beneficial fungi in many cropping systems, and driving the emergence of resistant strains.

As with insecticides and herbicides, so too with fungicide use on corn: Corn farmers are stuck on a pesticide treadmill on high gear, with a pre-emptively pressed turbo charge button (as "insurance"). Among the many casualties are our honey bees who rely on corn's abundant pollen supply.

Keeping us all tethered to the pesticide treadmill is expected behavior from the likes of Monsanto. But what boggles the mind is that all of this is being aided and abetted by a USDA that ties cheap crop insurance to planting patented Bt corn, and a Congress that refuses to tie subsidized crop insurance in the Farm Bill to common-sense conservation practices like bio-intensive IPM. Try explaining that with a waggle dance. Submitted by Paul Luzetski



Please note the Garden Center and Design center are in separate locations, so coupons are only good at the specified location.



Bring this coupon to Sundance Design Center for 10% off on any single non-sale item. Evergreen Garden Club Members only!!

Expires 9/30/12



We have a great selection of stone fountains and planters, as well as a new shipment of granite birdbaths and garden art. We are located behind Mountain Home in the Evergreen Design Center, Mon-Sat 10-5 and some Sunday hours. Call for information: 303.670.8211.

Thank you!

**Kathryn Boylston
Sundance Design Center**



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Expires 9/30/12

May Garden Tips Water is a precious resource in Colorado, which is why you can feel confident that when you purchase plant material from Sundance you will be planting things that are hardy for our environment. Plant responsibly and water responsibly. Mulching new plantings is an easy way to conserve water. Anything from straw to newspaper can be used for mulch. If bark is used as mulch, be sure to add nitrogen to the soil yearly. As bark decomposes it robs soil of nitrogen and must be replaced. For more information <http://www.sundancegardens.com/garden-center.html>

May Special at the Garden Center Soil Pep is a great soil amendment and mulch. Since it is bark that is already decomposed, it adds nitrogen to the soil. **Buy one bag of Soil Pep and get 2nd for 50% off (limit 4).**

Summer Garden Tours, seminars, and classes

May 18 - High Altitude Garden Tour - Denver botanic Gardens - <http://calendar.botanicgardens.org/show/detail/53028>

June 16 - Park Hill Garden Walk - <http://www.parkhillgardenwalk.blogspot.com/2012/03/park-hill-garden-walk-2012.html>

June 23 - Jefferson County Master Gardeners - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/92724863/2012-Jefferson-County-Master-Gardeners-Garden-Tour>

July 14 and 15 - 9am - 4pm - Colorado Springs - <http://www.coloradogardenclubs.org/events/garden-tour-southern-district-qkaleidoscope-of-gardensq.html>

Denver Urban Gardens - www.dug.org/delaney-calendar

Echter's Nursery & Garden Center - www.echters.com

Paulino Gardens - www.paulinogardens.com/instoreclasses.htm

Tagawa Gardens - www.tagawagardens.com/tgevents.htm

Timberline Gardens - www.timberlinegardens.com/class-list/

Center for Resource Conservation - <http://conservationcenter.org/water-home/water-wise-landscape>

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