

# Tom's Garden

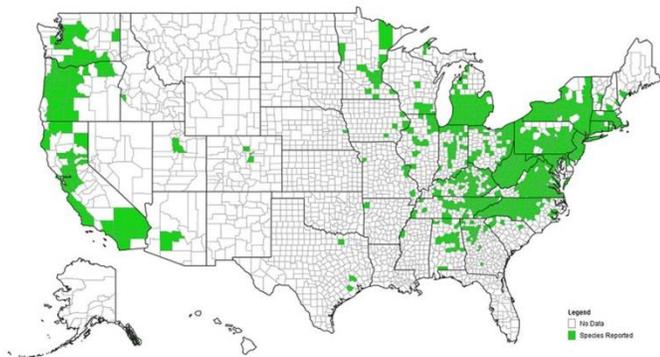
## Blog November 2021

### Brown Marmorated Stinkbug

If you are like me, you have noticed stinkbugs this fall clinging to screens and doors trying get inside each time we open the door.

Stinkbugs were “accidentally” introduced from Asia in the 1990s. Stinkbugs can destroy some small orchard and other crops, but they only pose a nuisance in homes. They become a nuisance pest of homes because they are attracted to the outside of houses on warm fall days in search of protected, overwintering sites and can enter houses in large numbers.

This bug was first collected in Allentown, (Eastern Pennsylvania) in 1998. It has since spread throughout most of Eastern and Western North America and will be found everywhere within a few more years.



Adults emerge in late spring, mate and deposit eggs from May through August. The eggs hatch and go through 5 molts before

maturing. Adults begin to search for overwintering sites starting in September through October. The stinkbug feeds on fruits such as apples, pears, peaches, mulberries and citrus fruits.

The stinkbug will not reproduce inside structures or cause damage.

If they are crushed or sucked into a vacuum cleaner, they can have an offensive odor.

The best method for keeping stinkbugs from entering your home is to seal all cracks with a good quality caulk. Damaged screens on doors and windows should be repaired or replaced. Insecticides are broken down by sunlight, so they may last only a few days.



It is not advisable to use insecticides inside the home after the insects have come inside. Spray insecticides, directed into cracks and crevices, will not prevent

the bugs from emerging. Sealing the cracks around ceiling light fixtures, fans, and door and window trim is the only way to keep them out, especially if they are in the attic.

Pesticides are poisonous. Read and follow directions and safety precautions on labels.

## How to Grow Lobelia

Lobelia can be a tender perennial grown in most USDA zones or some varieties are hardy perennials in zones 4-9. The tender lobelia is perennial only in USDA zones 10-11 and is treated as an annual here in Ohio.

Lobelia is easy to grow and requires no maintenance. It does not have to be deadheaded because the plant self-cleans. Deer and rabbits don't like to eat it. Lobelia can be grown in full sun to part shade conditions. If you grow it in full sun, be sure to water it regularly in hot summer months. It likes rich, well-drained soil, keeping the soil evenly moist.

Annual lobelia comes in a variety of colors;

**\*Lobelia erinus 'Laguna':** Blue flowers and a trailing habit

**\*Lobelia erinus 'Lilac Fountain':** lilac-pink flowers and a trailing habit

**\*Lobelia erinus 'Rosamund'** Cherry red flowers with a trailing habit

The trailing types can be used as a ground cover, in hanging baskets or along with other plants in a mixed container garden.



Fountain Blue Lobelia

They also work well in mixed window boxes. The trailing growth habit allows it to cascade down the sides.

Perennial varieties include;

**\*Cardinal Flower (lobelia cardinalis):** red flowers and upright habit

**\*Great Lobelia (lobelia siphilitica):** blue flowers with upright habit

**\*Great Blue:** blue flowers and upright habit  
Perennial lobelias attract butterflies, hummingbirds, bees; and are deer and rabbit resistant, native to Ohio and good for cut flowers



Tall Great Blue

Mature height: 24-36" tall, 10-18" wide

Bloom time is mid to late summer.

## Birth Month Flower

The birth month flower for November is the chrysanthemum. Meanings for this flower are compassion, friendship and joy. Chrysanthemum colors have different meanings. Red is for love, white means innocence, and yellow denotes unrequited love.

November is named from the Latin word novem, "nine," because this had been the ninth month of the early Roman calendar.

## Some Shrubs You Should Not Prune In Autumn

### **Oakleaf Hydrangea**

Oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on old, or last year's wood. Only remove dead branches in the spring that don't produce leaves.

### **Forsythia**

If you trim forsythia now, you will be removing the blooms that show up in spring. Prune it just after it finishes blooming next spring. New dwarf varieties stay compact and don't get so wild looking.

### **Lilac**

If you prune lilacs in autumn, you are cutting off blooms for next year. Lilacs can be trimmed after blooming, but only a little each year to manage its size.

### **Nine Bark**

Nine bark shouldn't be trimmed except to remove dead branches, suckers and water sprouts.

### **Azaleas**

Azaleas bloom on old wood. Prune after flowering to maintain its shape.

### **Rhododendron**

Prune after it finishes blooming, but no more than 25% each year to reduce its size.

### **Weigela**

Pollinators love the tubular flowers. Don't trim this plant till after it flowers. It will set new buds during the summer.

### **Deutzia**

Deutzia is a pollinator-friendly shrub. Only trim dead and crossed branches from this beauty.

### **Garlic, Tulips, Daffodils**

And other spring-blooming bulbs and tubers should be planted now.

Dig the hole extra deep and put in some compost and bulb food. You will be rewarded with beautiful blooms next year. I treat tulips as annuals, buying fresh bulbs each year. They are never quite as good the second and third year.

Landscapers, also treat them as annuals.

Seed catalogues will be coming soon! I can't wait to sit down with a cup of coffee and plan next year's garden!

Good luck with yours.

