



EDELWEISS NEWS

Gardeners of the Bluffton Pandora Area

July 27, 2016

Hypertufa/Hyper-tufa/Hyper Tufa:

What is hypertufa/hyper-tufa/hyper tufa and how exactly do you spell it? Well the spelling of it may be in question hypertufa is a way to make pots for plants. Here is the definition that is on hypertufa.net; **[Hypertufa is an artificial stone material that is made of several different aggregates and mixed with Portland cement in order to create pots, planters, stepping stones and more. It is much lighter than cement but can still withstand harsh weather conditions. It is primarily used as garden art and is fairly easy and fun to make.]** And we will be making hypertufa at our next meeting which will be 6:30 p.m. Tuesday August 2, 2016 at Victoria's home.

For making hypertufa pots, you need to bring 2 old plastic bowls with SMOOTH sides, that will nest inside each other. The small pot should be about 2" smaller than the bigger one, so the pot walls are at least 1" thick. Old mixing bowls that nest work well, but if you don't have matching shapes, any plastic pot that can be placed in the center to hold the shape will work. *** Don't plan to ever eat out of these bowls/pots again!! ***. We will need to charge any guests that want to make a hypertufa pot \$4 to cover the costs of the material, members will not be charged. I guess being a member does have the occasional benefits. You should plan to make one bowl but there should be enough materials to do multiples. Those who don't want to make hypertufa can come and watch us make it, or wonder around Victoria's gardens for the evening. **We need some volunteers to bring some refreshments and finger foods, like fruits and vegies.** Contact me 419-358-6766 or Victoria 419-6438980.

I hope to see you there Tuesday you can invite friends to come but they need to know that it will cost \$4 for each pot that they make.

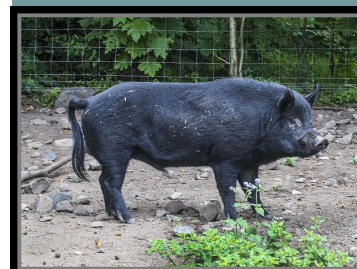
Co-op Garden Tour:

Well we finally got to tour the Co-op Garden. I think it was worth the wait. I am sorry that I transposed a couple of numbers in the address I guess I should have double checked it. At least the weather was not a factor this year.

We had a nice tour of the farm including the barn and the animals. The chicks definitely wanted out of the coop, I guess the grass is always greener on the other side of the door. I think that the smaller size of this breed of pigs makes them more appropriate for a family than the bigger ones. The garden plots were in various stages of growth and some of them have already been harvested and some are yet to be planted. I think that the co-op helps those who cannot garden at their homes. All things considered I think this was a good tour and I would like to do similar tours in the future.

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Weren't those piglets cute.

Variety is the spice of the garden:

In my gardening experience it is the varieties that you grow in your vegetable garden, that is what you can control that makes the difference in why you garden. If you like the way that a variety tastes and it is not in your areas grocery stores the only way to have it is to grow it yourself. There are differences in taste, production and shelf quality. In other words some of the varieties may not taste or look like what “everybody” likes in the grocery business. And if it doesn’t produce a “shippable” or a “sufficient quantity” it is deemed to not an economically viable variety and won’t be grown commercially. But for the home gardener we can look past these downfalls and grow what we like. So don’t just look at the pretty pictures in the seed catalogues read the descriptions and try something different and maybe you will find a new/old favorite that is only going to be in your garden and to hell with those hard as baseball flavorless tomatoes and the boring iceberg lettuce.



You would think that with such dark foliage that the beets would be as dark but they are actually not.

2016 Calendar:

Here is the calendar for the upcoming year:

3/1/2016	Seed Starting	presented by Ann Boyd	at the Bluffton Public Library	Done
4/5/2016	Bees	not confirmed yet	at the Bluffton Public Library	Done
5/3/2016	Phenology	presented by MG Bill Jones	at the Bluffton Public Library	Done
6/7/2016	Roses	presented by Charles Searson	17689 CR 65, Belle Center, OH car pool	Done
7/5/2016	Co-op Garden	tour Ray Person	Ray's farm	Done
8/2/2016	Hypertufa	Group project	Victoria's farm 7896 Cool Rd	
8/21/2016	Garlic Festival	Field Trip!!!	Jandy's farm Bellefontaine OH	
9/6/2016	Dahlias	Tour of Ken Redd's Dahlias	Pandora, carpool from Family Dollar parking lot	
10/4/2016	Hydrangeas	presented by MG Tim Staley	at the Bluffton Public Library	
11/1/2016	Dried Arrangements	Group project	at the Bluffton Public Library	
12/6/2016	Fall FEAST	Potluck	at the Bluffton Public Library 1 hot 1 cold, optional gift swap	

Officers:

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