



Hello Garden Friend,

What a difference a year makes. We started out with a rather mild winter with below average snow fall and many of us felt we were going to have an early spring. However, the temperature in mid-April through May remained cold delaying planting for most until late May, early June. During this cold spell we had some damage to fruit trees and ornamentals, killing flower buds and new tender growth. Last year it rained and rained and rained some more during most of the growing season, not so this year! The lack of rain and the above average temperatures took a toll on the gardens, lawns, and home landscapes. If you were able to water your vegetable garden, you likely had one of your best years, especially with tomatoes. The benefit of a dry year is the lack of plant diseases and some insects, such as mosquitos. Another benefit, depending on how you look at it, was the fact that you didn't have to mow the lawn for most of the summer. The Emerald Ash Borer is spreading more within Ontario County and if you have some ash trees that are in good health and key to your landscape, I would suggest that you consider treating them.

Now that we are into fall, be sure to clean up the gardens and put the plant material into a compost pile.

To keep informed and up-to-date on horticultural topics, don't miss out on next year's *Inside Dirt* newsletter for 2017.

**Sign up today!**

Have a garden friend, let them know as well or better yet, give a subscription to them as a holiday gift. We will send a certificate to inform your friend of your gift.

Russell Welser  
Sr. Extension Resource Educator

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