

## LUCAS COUNTY

### Agriculture and Natural Resources *Partnership with the City of Toledo*

### Horticulture, Community Forestry and Invasive Species Formally the Gypsy Moth Project



**Programming and Educational Efforts** – individual instruction (referrals from the city/county departments, green industry business and community organizations and partners - telephone calls, emails, text messages and social media exchanges via the horticulture hotline), site visits, group programming and formal and informal presentations are avenues for Extension to reach city residents



**Invasive Species** – this relationship developed in the mid-1990's when there was a gypsy moth outbreak and has grown to address other invasive pests including insects, plants and diseases. Efforts include management from monitoring to treatments of each species, all to protect landscapes and the urban tree canopy



**Landscape Horticulture and Community Forestry** – additional efforts overtime have expanded to increase not only the threats to landscapes and the urban tree canopy, but the benefits of plants on both private and public lands including planting and maintenance



**Urban Ag, Community Gardens and Consumer Horticulture** – Extension serves as a source of unbiased research-based information for gardens to fields, parks to streetscapes, and classrooms to hoop houses





***Extension has four program areas including: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family Consumer Sciences, 4-H Youth Development and Community Development***



The support of Extension has led to enhanced educational efforts that have reduced pest populations, increased applied plant and pest knowledge – correct plant and pest identification, recommended planting and maintenance practices, adoption of integrated pest management options including proper use and timing of pesticides if necessary. Supporting information including Extension bulletins and factsheets are provided to residents as an additional source of information specifically about their questions or situation.

Extension promotes the task of soil testing and the adoption of practices that follow the fertilizer recommendations to reduce the amount of unneeded fertilizer being applied in the city, ultimately protecting the environment and our water resources. *Don't Guess – Soil Test*

Contacts, case studies and impacts are recorded and reported to the City each calendar year.

**ANR Mission:** Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources empowers Ohio's agriculture and natural resources communities, provides outreach and education based on unbiased research, and cultivates relationships to strengthen the economic viability and quality of life for Ohioans.