



The Potting Shed is a free monthly newsletter from the University of Georgia Extension in Bryan County. We provide science-based information to help Coastal Georgia gardeners. Have a question or need help, contact your local County Extension Office.

David Moulder dmoulder@uga.edu



David B. Moulder
Bryan County Extension,
CEC



Barbara S. DuBose,
Secretary

Bryan County Extension

P. O. Box 250
131 N. College Street
Pembroke, GA 31321

Phone: (912) 653-2231

Fax: (912) 653-2236

E-mail:

dmoulder@uga.edu

or: uge3029@uga.edu

Buddleias

Pay attention as you're scurrying about this summer and you will notice one of our finest shrubs blooming and attracting butterflies by the scores. The buddleia's fragrant blossoms attract butterflies and look great as cut flowers. It is



referred to as the butterfly bush in the United States, and summer lilac in its native China.

One thing that is becoming increasingly popular is to use buddleias as the focal point in large, mixed containers. This is a wonderful idea that will only gain in popularity over the next few years.

The buddleia became very popular at the turn of the century and is enjoying widespread revival. While we refer to it as a shrub, in the landscape you find it most often used at the back of the perennial border where the large, arching canes can gracefully hang forward with their gorgeous blooms.

Most of the cultivars for sale are hybrids of *Buddleia davidii*. This variety blooms on new growth and comes with the recommendation to cut back hard in late winter. It will send out vigorous new shoots and bloom all summer until the first frost.

Buddleias are great to use in floral arrangements. A typical floral preservative can be used. On a 3-year-old plant, it is possible to harvest 60 to 100 stems. Suggested harvesting time for maximum vase life is when half the flowers on the inflorescence are open but before the open flowers start to fade. Flowers should last from 5-8 days.

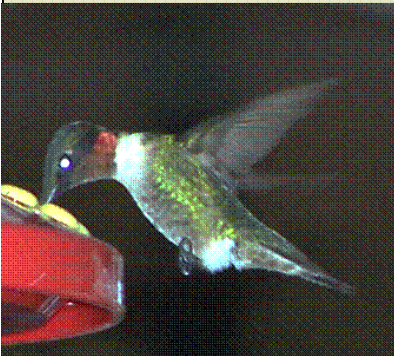
Buddleias are beautiful, undemanding plants that can be used as a specimen or planted in mass. They are easily transplanted and survive most stresses, including people like me who have a propensity for moving plants at the wrong time of the year. Plant them in well-drained soil. Once they are established, watch for the flight of the swallowtails. If using in a mixed container, plant the buddleia first as the center plant and then layer around, filling in pockets and including those plants that cascade over the rim. The butterfly bush also is very easy to propagate by cuttings. In mid-summer, take 4- to 6-inch cuttings, stripping off the lower set of leaves. Dab on a little rooting powder and you are off to the races. Buddleias and lantanas are ideal plants not only to give you color for the intense summer heat, but also to offer a great start for a butterfly garden.

Master Gardener

The next Bryan County Master Gardener meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th. Program on citrus cultivation in Coastal Georgia. The program will be at the Bamboo Farm Annex at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

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Check out our new web site:
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/bryan/>

What to do in Summer?

In summer you need to keep a careful eye out for pests. Spider mites tend to be a problem in the early, dry part of the summer and less of a problem after the summer rains become regular.

Irrigation is especially important before the summer rains begin. Do not let your plants go until they show signs of drought stress. By then it may be too late. Keep your plants well mulched, but remember to keep the mulch away from the trunks. Now is a great time to air layer camellias. I have started air layering and have many already potted. I have two-year old plants in just three months.

The Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty and Glynn County Extension Offices are presenting a unique home owner's horticultural program. The program will have 16 classes, starting in October, 2006 and ending in June, 2007, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will be held at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens on Highway 17 South in Chatham County. Upon completion of the classes, you will be able to adequately create and maintain your home landscape and garden. Cost will be \$75.00 for the series of classes. If you are interested, let **Dave Linvill** or **David Moulder** know as soon as possible. dlinvill@uga.edu or dmoulder@uga.edu. Applications are being accepted for the class now.

Fruit and Nut Trees

- ⇒ **Fertilize established figs** if they are watered.
- ⇒ **Water fruit trees** once a week when the soil dries out.
- ⇒ **Apply mulch around fruit trees** but do not place it right up against the tree trunk as this creates a path for insects and diseases.
- ⇒ **Prevent disease** by promptly disposing of all fallen fruit, leaves, and dead limbs.
- ⇒ **Continue using the 'Home Orchard' or 'Home Fruit Tree' sprays** as needed.

Trees and Shrubs

- ⇒ **Remove faded flowers** from crape myrtles. Fertilize and water **to encourage a second bloom**. Be careful not to cut off newly emerging flowers.
- ⇒ **Do not prune or fertilize spring flowering shrubs** like azalea, camellia, and viburnum after mid-July. It may interfere with next year's flowers. Keep them watered as needed.
- ⇒ **Watch for damaging insects on shrubs** like euonymus, azalea, camellia, pyracantha, holly, gardenia, and pittosporum. Scale, spider mites, lacebug and spittle bugs are active now.
- ⇒ **Spray roses for insects and diseases** as needed.

Container Gardening

- ⇒ **Use containers** to grow almost anything, vegetables, flowers, small shrubs and trees.
- ⇒ **Any container** will work if it has good drainage (and the neighbors don't object).
- ⇒ **Use a quality potting soil mix** that drains well.
- ⇒ **Elevate containers** placed on patios, driveways or walks. This helps with drainage and will help keep pots cooler. Use pot feet or bricks.
- ⇒ **The two most important practices for containers are watering and fertilizing**. What you plant in the container determines the type of fertilizer needed. Consider using a controlled release fertilizer at planting and you may not have to fertilize again for several months. If using liquid fertilizers, apply according to the label – about every two weeks. Stick your finger into the soil to your knuckle. If the soil is dry then water it until water comes out of the bottom of the pot.

Flowers

- ⇒ **Prune or “dead-head” old flowers** off perennials and annuals. Fertilize annuals and perennials.
- ⇒ **Plant or move irises and daylilies** beginning in late August.
- ⇒ **Renew mulch** in flower beds for a fresh look.
- ⇒ **Start seeds** of favorite biennials and other fall flowers in pots. Seedlings should be ready for transplanting in the fall.

Vegetables / Herbs

- ⇒ **Herbs need well drained soil.** With regular watering they thrive in hot, dry environments. For best flavor & scent, harvest herbs in the early morning.
- ⇒ **Keep vegetables harvested,** well watered and fertilized to continue production. Fertilize every four weeks. Water twice a week with 3/4 inch of water. Mulch to control weeds and slow water loss.
- ⇒ **Plant vegetables early enough** to allow time for them to mature before we receive a killing frost. Plant okra before July 1 and corn and eggplants by July 15. Before August 1, plant southern peas and winter squash. Plant tomatoes by August 10 and summer squash and snap beans by August 20. Plant cucumbers before September 1. Plant carrots August 20 – September 15.
- ⇒ **Start plants** for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, and kale in a half-shaded area or in pots.
- ⇒ **Get planting beds ready for September and October planting** of these cool season vegetables. Till, fertilize, and prepare the seedbed to give it time to settle.

Native Plant



Butterfly Weed *Asclepias tuberosa*

- ⇒ Great plant for those dry areas in the landscape-needs no irrigation-will come back every year-absolutely great for butterflies as a nectar source and possible larva host, (not as good as other milkweeds). The coloration of butterfly milkweed can range from the more common brilliant orange to pale yellow to deep red. Butterfly milkweed has a deep taproot, so it does not transplant easily. It will readily grow from seed. I have not had a problem transplanting. Try to keep the root in tack. The foliage will die, but it will come back from the extremely large taproot. I have not failed yet. I have a collection of different milkweeds, but I like this one the best.

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