



□ THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Coastal Homeowner Landscape & Turf Monthly Update

July 2006

Mission statement: To help Georgians compete, survive and thrive in the world, UGA Cooperative Extension must challenge citizens to expand their knowledge throughout their lives. Georgians can look to UGA's local access point for objective, science-based knowledge in agriculture and the environment, in youth development and in family and consumer sciences.

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Chores To Accomplish This Month

* Its time to fertilize your lawn again. If you are using a 12-4-8 apply 6 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft. for centipede and 8 pounds for St. Augustine. If you are using a 15-0-15 apply 4 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft. for centipede and 6 pounds for St. Augustine. If a 16-4-8 is used apply 3 lbs/ 1000 sq. ft. for centipede and 4 pounds for St. Augustine. This will be the last time to fertilize Centipede this year.

* Its also time to fertilize shrubs again at 1TBS/ foot height of plant. Scatter the fertilizer at the dripline of the shrubs and water in. If you have cut the shrub back then put the fertilizer out where the plant was before it was cut back. Use either a 12-4-8 or a 15-0-15. Also don't forget to give your flower beds a fertilization if you have not done so recently.. Apply at a rate of one-third cup per 10 sq. ft. of a 10-10-10, 8-8-8 or a 15-0-15.

* We have had several questions about their tomato plants collapsing lately. This is bacterial wilt and it is a bacterium that fills the vascular system of the plant and causes the plant to not be able to get water up the stem and it just collapses. The fruit is still edible, just don't plant tomatoes in that area of your garden again because the bacteria will stay in the soil for many years.

* If you're more of a vegetable gardener, you have many options this month. In early July you can plant okra, tomato seeds or plants, Southern peas, squash, cucumbers, cantaloupes and collards. In late July you can start seeds of broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage and Chinese cabbage. This is a good time to transplant your fall bell peppers, too.

* With the recent rains be on the lookout for diseases. We are seeing brown patch in centipede and st. Augustine. We have also seen some gray leaf spot in st. Augustine. These diseases can be controlled with fungicides like Dithane M-45, Bayleton, and Immunex. We are also seeing powdery mildew on dogwoods, crape myrtles and gerbera daisies. Control with any of the above fungicides or you can also use Daconil on your shrubs and flowers.

* Many of the trees and shrubs popular in home landscapes can be started from cuttings during July and August. But remember, it may be three to five years before they reach the size you see in the nursery. If you are equipped with a large supply of patience, propagating your landscape plants can be challenging and fun. The most common rooting medium is washed builder's sand. Other materials include peat moss, mixtures of equal parts peat and sand, vermiculite, or perlite. The exact medium is not important as long as it is well aerated and drains well, yet holds adequate moisture for the cuttings.

* Prune Bigleaf or French Hydrangeas (*H. Macrophylla*), those with large, pink or blue "snowball" flowers, immediately after flowering.

Articles

My wife Cynthia came back from the grocery store yesterday and starting complaining about having to justify her actions at the store. She was hopping mad. It seems the grocery boy asked her if she wanted plastic or paper bags and she said paper. The people in back of her were all aghast that she chose paper which implied that she was a tree murderer.

Now, you need to understand something. I have car pool tunnel in my wrist. Yes, I know that my spelling may be off a little but my stupid computer doesn't know what word I am trying to type. I thought a spell check on a computer was to spell things correctly. Every time I write carpooltunnel together I get a red line under the word. I click on spell check and there are no suggestions. Anyway, Cynthia has tennis elbow, although she has never played tennis in her life. I played tennis a couple of times in college. Does this mean tennis is one of those social diseases and I gave it to her? The doctor said we need to carry groceries in a paper sack because the little handles in the plastic bags aggravates our conditions by putting a strain on our wrists and elbows.

Trees are a renewable resource. This means you can plant more trees and never run out of wood if properly done. Oil on the other hand is not renewable. Once we use up the oil, there isn't anymore. Plastic bags are made from oil. We can always plant more trees to make more paper tote sacks but we can't make more oil to make plastic tote sacks. We try to recycle at our house. We reuse the plastic bags to put in our bathroom trash can. These plastic bags are just the right size. However, we need about 2,000 more bathrooms to use up all these plastic sacks we have.

Now I have a solution but I don't know how to do it. Scientists say technology will solve our energy problem. I must be a scientist because I have figured out a solution. I have a huge diesel truck that gets 30 gallons to the mile. My truck makes a SUV look like a Moped. There is also a turbocharger under the hood. A turbocharger is a gizmo that has a fast spinning fan that forces air and fuel and exhaust back down into the engine for re-burning. If I could only cut a hole in my windshield, and duck tape (yes I know it is duct tape) a chute to the turbo charger, I could then stuff the plastic bags into the chute from the drivers seat. The turbocharger would suck in the bags, shred them apart, and the diesel engine could burn them for power since the bags are made from oil. Now I could get 25 plastic bags to the mile and save energy.

There are only two things I have not figured out. I have a stick shift so how do I throw bags into the chute when I have to shift? Second, how do I stop the little pieces of unburned plastic bags from littering the streets as it comes out my exhaust pipe? I certainly don't want to be accused of littering.

GARDEN CONTAINERS

The more urban we become, the more container gardens come to the rescue. These small treasures offer a variety of pleasing colors, shapes and textures to brighten up our patios and balconies. Because you're working within a limited space, stick to some basic design principles:

Focus: Draw the eye toward the center of the garden and let the other plants complement and "flow" around this center.

Form: Each plant in the design has a growth habit, or form. Some have strong upright habits. Others are sprawling, while others grow as a mound.

Texture: Some plants have linear leaves, like grasses, dracaena spike or cordyline. Others have rounded leaves, like ornamental potatoes and geraniums. A good design will use a variety of textures to make a feast for the eye.

Proportion: For a balanced look, don't let the plants be more than two-thirds of the overall height of the container garden.

For shallow or small containers, choose plants that won't get too large or plants with small foliage, or both. For large or tall containers, choose plants with medium to tall mature size or those with large leaves, or both.

Mix plants with at least three foliage textures to make a container garden interesting. Coleus cultivars come in many foliage colors, shapes and sizes. They can help "echo" the color of flowers.

Vary the shape of the flowers to add interest. For example, try petunias and verbena. Use bicolor flowers, too.

Positions

For the best effect, be familiar with the various plant positions in the container garden.

The role of the **center**, for instance, is to fill in the crown of the container. Use plants with compact, upright growth such as salvia, grasses, Dracaena spike, coleuses, Persian shield, Alocasia, Colocasia and some perennials.

Plants in **corners** grow well over containers' edges, where they have the most elbow room. Good corner plants include petunias, million bells (Calibrachoa), torenias, scaevolias, plectranthus, helichrysums, fuchsias, ivy geraniums and angel wing begonias.

Use plants on the **edges** to drape over the side, softening the look of the container and filling out the spaces between corners. Good plants for edges include ivy, bacopas, verbenas, vinca vines, portulacas, ivy geraniums, plectranthus and sweet potato vines.

Finally, **filler** plants have compact, upright growth and round out the top of the container. Good examples are argyranthemums, geraniums, coleuses, iresines, cupheas, strawflowers (Bracteantha), Dusty Miller and Heliotrope.

Tips

Soils for containers must be well-drained with good aeration and able to hold enough water to keep plants growing well. If you have plants that need a lot of water and use moss or coco fiber baskets or any container that allows high evaporation, consider adding a water-retaining agent to the soil mix.

It's best to either use a soilless mix with slow-release fertilizer already in it or apply a slow-release product at planting. Don't use granular fertilizer or weed-and-feed products.

The basic rule for a successful container garden is that all plants in one container should have similar water, light and fertilizer requirements.

For places with 4 to 12 hours of sun a day, select plants for full sun to partial shade. For those that get 2 to 4 hours of sun daily, select plants for partial or full shade.

For the best results, select plants that perform best in the season ahead: cool-loving plants for spring and fall and heat-loving plants for summer. Most Marguerite daisies, lobelias and nemesias, for instance, look great in the spring but decline in Georgia summers.

Don't put your container garden in a windy site. Plants in windy, hot places may require watering every few hours just to survive, especially if the plants are large or the container small.

Whether you're a gardening expert or not, try planting a container garden. You'll be rewarded.

Gardening in Containers pamphlet can be found at <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C787.htm>

Weed of the Month



This grass is springing up all over - Alexandergrass (*Urochloa plantaginea*) – unfortunately no control

Upcoming Events You Won't Want To Miss

Contact your local County Agent for information

Email your garden club, plant society, and horticulture meeting/workshop dates that are open to the public

August – Certified Arborist Course – details on separate flyer

September 1 – Hazardous Tree Assessment Seminar – details on separate flyer

October – Homeowner Horticulture Academy – details on separate flyer

10/28/06 Fall Festival – Bamboo Farm – 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Picture Of The Month

Do you have jpeg picture of a favorite plant, landscape, group picture of your organization helping the community or even a problem plant? Email your picture and it will be placed in this section for all to see. Name(s) will be withheld.



Damaged palm from Skidaway – caused by a worm called
– Palm Leaf Skeletonizer - Need to use a systemic insecticide

Contributors

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Webpage Links

American Bamboo Society Home Page

<http://www.americanbamboo.org>

Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens Home Page

<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/horticulture/coastalgarden/coastalgarden.htm>

Chatham County Cooperative Extension Homepage

<http://county.ces.uga.edu/chatham/>

Coastal Master Gardeners Home Page

<http://cmga.caes.uga.edu>

Cooperative Extension Home Page

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/>

Cooperative Extension Publications

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/>

Georgia Turf

<http://www.griffin.uga.edu/caes/turf/Index/index.html>

Southeastern Palm Society

<http://www.speps.net>

The Southeastern Camellia Society

<http://www.southeasterncamellias.com>

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