

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XVIII, Issue 4 June/July 2011

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUNE

Jun 2 - Demo Garden workday
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jun 11 - Seminar at Sr. Center:
Composting, Vermiculture &
Growing Mushrooms -10 a.m.

Jun 16 - Demo Garden workday
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jun 21 - Regular monthly meeting
at Merrilee McLaughlin's home
followed by a tour of Merrilily
Gardens & covered dish lunch -
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jun 25 - Seminar at Sr. Center:
Pollinators are Our Friends -
10 a.m.

JULY

Jul 7 - Demo Garden workday
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jul 14 - Tomato Taste Test at Sr.
Center - 11a.m.

Jul 16 - Seminar at Hickory Flat
Library: Gardening from the
Ground Up - 10 a.m.

Jul 19 - Monthly Meeting

Jul 22 - Demo Garden workday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jul 30 - Seminar at Sr. Center -
Wet Gardening 10 a.m.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



I had 2 topics for the editorial but decided they could wait. This week was our extension agent's last with us. Next week he will start his new job as Bartow County's Extension Agent. Cherokee County has been very lucky with our Extension Agents over the years. Paul, during his 5 years as our agent, has enriched anyone with whom he has worked. He has a kind demeanor with both adults and the 4-H students. He is soft-spoken, sincere, super intelligent,

and compassionate with a great sense of humor. It's a special guy that can work well in an office of all women! He has a true love of being an Agent and all that it involves. He loves to research and teach on any topic with great enthusiasm. The Master Gardeners, beekeepers, cattleman's group, clients, and the Farm Bureau have all enjoyed his super personality and giving spirit. He will truly be missed in the office as a friend, computer guru, coworker, and leader.



Good Luck,

Paul!

We'll miss you.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Corner	pg 1	Kudzu	pg 5
Jun/Jul Calendar	pg 1	Plant or Pull / Cool Tool....	pg 6
People in my Garden.....	pg 2	Lawn Care	pg 7
Farmers Markets.....	pg 2	June/July Tips.....	pg 8-9
Social Networking	pg 3	Rainfall Comparison.....	pg 9
Fairy Gardening	pg 4-5	Recipes.....	pg 10

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MY GARDEN

By Arty Schronce, Director of Public Affairs, GA State Dept. of Agriculture

The 2010 Census counted everyone in my house but not the people living in my garden. There are at least 15.

Many of these people are no longer in this world, but live on in the flowers, trees, vegetables and shrubs they gave me and my family. Let me see...there are daylilies from my first-grade teacher; daffodils and a yucca from Momma Robinson; a Japanese maple given by a professor when I graduated from college; a fountain-like plumbago from my allergist; Egyptian walking onions from an uncle; 'Aloha', a 1949 hybrid tea rose from an aunt; English boxwoods from Uncle Bob Keever, the great-uncle who taught me how to root cuttings of shrubs; sunflowers and rose campion from Hettie and Luther Yarborough, my "adopted" grandparents next door; ferns, trilliums and red spider lilies from Tony Clack, my friend and favorite Cabbagetown neighbor; and others from friends and relatives.

There is a maxim I have heard all my life: "I've never met a stingy gardener." Whether it is watermelons and tomatoes from the vegetable garden or a start of a flower or shrub, gardeners always share. The people who gave me plants, cuttings and seeds did so because they wanted to share a favorite plant with someone who was interested. They gave me something more valuable than the plants, though, especially those who shared plants with me as a young person. They gave me the joy of gardening and of sharing. They gave me a sense of importance and confidence – that I was worthy of their attention and worthy of taking care of a valued plant. They also gave me a garden composed of memories as much as of trees and flowers. When I walk through it, I see faces and hear voices; I never garden alone.

Create a more beautiful world and a living legacy by sharing the joy of gardening. I may never get a statue or be honored on a postage stamp, but I'll be more than happy with the memorial of someone saying, "Arty gave me that; every time it blooms I think of him."

"Arty's Garden" is written by Arty Schronce, Director of Public Affairs for the Georgia Department of Agriculture and a lifelong gardener. Arty is a horticulture graduate of North Carolina State University. He lives and gardens in the historic Cabbagetown neighborhood of Atlanta. He encourages all Georgians to discover the pleasures of plants and gardening.

LOCAL AREA FARMER'S MARKETS AND PLANT CLINICS

Summertime is upon us again, and that means our local area Farmers Markets are in full swing! From locally grown fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers to homemade breads, cheeses, jams, jellies and hot sauces - you can find it all in Canton, Waleska, Woodstock or Cagle's Dairy on Saturdays May thru Sept. Cherokee County Master Gardeners will be also be hosting Plant Clinics; dates and locations for June and July clinics are listed below:

Cagles Dairy: June 25th, July 23rd

Canton: June 11th, June 25th (Choosing Green), July 16th

Waleska: June 2nd; July 7th

Woodstock: June 18th, July 23rd



MASTER GARDENERS: “LET’S GET SOCIAL!”

by Linda Lullie, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Social media is an exciting opportunity to learn, share and grow. Think of it as a seed that, with the right planting and care, can grow into a huge harvest of information we can share with each other, with clients here in Cherokee county, and with gardeners all over the globe. To understand how social media works, you need to become a part of it, but first learn the basics and what’s available.

There are many kinds of Social Media out there, but here are a few of the most popular:

1. **Social Networking:** connecting on Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace
2. **Blogs & Microblogs:** conversations via various blogs, Twitter = microblog
3. **Social Video:** sharing content via YouTube

Social Networks

Social networking websites allow individuals, groups and businesses to create a web page or profile, and then connect, share content and communicate with other users. The major networks are:

- **Facebook:** the largest social media site with over 200 million active users of which the fastest growing demographic are people aged 35 and up.

On Facebook, you create a profile for yourself, then you can create a fan page or group for a business, brand, or organization that others can “like” or join. Your “fans” will receive your page updates, comment on your status, share links, videos, and engage in other sharing activities.

Examples of Facebook Fan and Interest pages:

Walter Reeves: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Georgia-Gardener/316845926823>

Gardening: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Gardening/105975426100728>

UGA Cooperative Ext: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Athens-GA/UGA-Cooperative-Extension/29938762447?ref=sgm>

- LinkedIn: professional social networking website with over 20 million users whose average age is 41 years old. LinkedIn is mainly used for business connections.



Blogs & MicroBlogs

A Blog is a journal, or web log written about whatever the blogger feels like writing about: personal, political, business or other topics (like gardening). Each entry is called a “post”. You can subscribe to a blog using RSS which allows you to read the blog in a newsreader service like Google Reader, or you can have the latest posts sent to your smartphone, email or internet browser. Use a search engine like Technorati or Google Blog Search to find interesting gardening and plant blogs.

Sample Gardening blogs:

<http://ugatrialgardens.wordpress.com/>

<http://ugamaclab.blogspot.com/>

<http://gardeninggarden.com/>

<http://plant-quest.blogspot.com/>

Twitter is a microblog website with over 100,000,000 users world wide. It’s a combination of instant messaging and miniature blog entries. It allows users to send 140 character messages (called Tweets) instantly to followers. Its popularity stems from the constant and timely updates 50 million tweets per day—that’s an average of 600 tweets per second.



Videos - YouTube is owned by the world’s largest search engine, Google, and is a storehouse of videos about any and everything. To upload videos, you create your own Channel (such as Master Gardeners), where you can post video clips on how-tos product reviews, plant identification and diseases, pests... the possibilities are endless. You can always search for videos of interest to you for viewing. Walter Reeves has a YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/georgiagardener1>

Opportunity Knocks

Of course, once you post a video, or find one that you feel is worthy of sharing, you’ll want to tell everyone via your Facebook page, Twitter account, and your blog! Sharing is the key to the success of social media. All of these online social media channels offer a place where Master Gardeners can talk shop, interact and share: Project ideas, successes and failures, educational (Q&A, FAQs, or support the seminars with more or repeated information), garden calendars and timetables, hints and tips, photos and videos, local events.

A DUSTING OF IMAGINATION: HOW TO DESIGN A MAGICAL FAIRY GARDEN

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Fairy gardening is a trend in gardening that is gaining popularity with all age groups. For centuries the world has been fascinated with the thought that pixies live among us with the power to spread magic and mischief throughout our homes and gardens. The idea of fairies conjures up images such as Tinkerbell or other mythological beings from ancient folklore, that might pull a harmless prank or two. These imps are magical creatures that are said to bring luck, prosperity, and good health to the chosen few whose garden they inhabit.

While evidence of the existence of fairies is slim, adding a fairy garden to your own garden is a amusing way to participate in this centuries old tradition of trying to please the spirits and gain their favor. The good news is that you do not have to believe in fairies to have a garden brimming with charm and intrigue. You only have to have imagination, creativity, and the desire to have fun!

The basic idea of fairy gardening is gardening in miniature, creating the appearance that tiny pixies have taken up residence in your garden. Creating this type of garden is also a great opportunity to connect with your children, grandchildren, or friend's children, by having them be a part of the process. They will find amusement in planting and caring for these miniature havens brimming with charm and intrigue.

The best place to create a fairy garden is where someone will feel that they have simply "stumbled" upon or discovered a magical location. At first glance someone might not see the little details that make your flowerbed or herb garden so special - therefore, for anyone who looks twice, it provides an intriguing outlet for their imagination. Thus, take advantage of your natural landscape and create your fairy garden near the base of a tree or nestled against a hill, rock outcropping, or stump to protect it from the elements and traipsing feet.



3 Steps to a Successful Fairy Garden

Step 1: Planning Your Garden

Before you begin, you should give some thought to the type or theme of fairy garden you would like to build. These gardens can be any size or shape ranging from an expansive flowerbed to a patio flowerpot, dish garden, or hypertufa container. Gardens types to consider include woodland, flower, herb, placement near a water feature, or moon garden, since many fairies are nocturnal. You are only limited by your imagination!

Herbs and many flowers need at least six hours of sun each day, so keep that in mind when deciding on a garden

spot. As in any garden, a good design gets faster results, so draw your plan on paper, showing where each plant will look its best. Remember to keep the design interesting by varying sizes, shapes and textures. Unless the garden is going to be an ordinary size, keeping the taller plants to the back allows visitors to see the fairy garden.

Step 2: Choosing Plants

Most fairy gardens have a combination of flowering plants, herbs, and ornamental grasses. However, these gardens contain more than just fairy-friendly wildflowers. The garden should be eco-friendly, organic, and a great habitat for native wildlife too. In fact, most of the plants that are rumored to attract fairies also attract [birds](#), [butterflies](#) and [bees](#). Use small or low growing plants, keeping in mind scale and proportion.

These are just a few of the flowers and plants that can be used in fairy gardens. With additional research, you will discover many more.

- Colorful flowers, including fairy rose, cone-flowers, coral bells, daisies, poppies, calendula. The nectar also attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
- Herbs, such as lavender, oregano, thyme, savory, sage, scented geranium, chives, and rosemary
- Trees, including apple, holly, ash, hawthorne, elder, and oak
- Mosses, ferns, and ornamental grasses

Step 3: Planting and Creating Your Garden

You may find it useful to section off an area for your fairy gardens with some type of border, miniature fencing, or rocks. However, try to avoid being overly organized, as fairy gardens should appear natural and as "wild" as possible. Once the desired living elements are in place, consider adding fun additions that make the garden appear as if it is [inhabited](#).

- When creating your garden add a small house that encourages fairies to make their homes in your garden. You can either purchase or create one yourself out of rocks, twigs, and bark.
- To make your tiny garden a village, create meandering paths with stones, gravel, or bark that will give it a storybook feel.
- If there is a tree within your garden, fashion a tiny door near the base of the tree to make it appear to be a house. ...Continued on pg 5

KUDZU - IT WILL GROWN ON YOU!

By Hannah Mitchell, Master Gardener Intern

Some call it the Mile-a-minute Vine, some call it The Vine that Ate the South, some call it a weed, and some call it words that shouldn't be used in polite company. Kudzu is almost universally reviled by everyone involved in agriculture, from farmers to gardeners to landscapers. Kudzu climbs into trees and starves them of light; it can grow up to a foot a day in high summer and quickly cover pasture-land; it climbs up (and tears down) power poles and lines. Is there ANYTHING that this incredibly invasive plant is good for? Actually, YES!

Kudzu is an incredibly useful beast of a plant. I can almost see gardeners across the South cringing at the thought of this imported creeper being anything but demonic; however, the truth remains that kudzu has a lot to offer, if you take the time to learn!

Kudzu is a delicious and nutritious leafy green. It can be cooked like collards, rolled like grape leaves, or eaten raw (well, it's *possible* to eat it raw, but – like collards – they're not very tasty this way). The tubers of the kudzu vine (NOT the root or the vine, which are toxic) can be eaten like potatoes: they have almost the exact flavor and consistency.

One of the most interesting uses for kudzu is based on a 2,000 year old Chinese remedy for habitual drunkenness. There is research being done at Harvard Medical School that is testing the effectiveness of kudzu extract in treating alcoholism. A compound found in the kudzu vine dramatically increases the effects of alcohol. This means that the drinker becomes intoxicated much more quickly and with fewer drinks, which leads to less stress on the bodily systems that have to cope with repeatedly large amounts of alcohol.

My favorite use for the kudzu plant, however, is KUDZU BLOSSOM JELLY. This delicious bright purple-pink jelly is made from steeping the fragrant grape-like blossoms of the kudzu vine, adding lemon juice, sugar, and packaged pectin, and processing like any other juice-based jelly. (A side note: my kudzu blossom jelly won third place in the County Fair this year!) The taste of the jelly is just exactly like a mixture of blueberry and grape, and is delicious on toast or on a PB&J.

So next time you're closing your windows at night to keep out the kudzu, remember that, if you're brave enough to try, you too can eat The Vine that Ate the South.



FAIRY GARDENING...continued from page 4

- Consider adding a small pond in your garden, placing a tiny boat tied off the shore made from bark.
- Flat stones are popular additions to garden areas. Myths say that fairies like to sit on them to sun themselves and dry the morning dew from their wings.
- Wind chimes are always a welcome addition to the garden. They add an inviting sound to the area that will increase the interest level of your garden.
- Unleash your imagination and fill your garden with magical tiny miniature details, including furniture, such as beds, tables, and chairs. The possibilities are limitless!



"Fairy Gardens – How to Make Your Garden into a Fairy Sanctuary." Gardening Know How, 2011. Web. 7 Mar 2011. <<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/design/fairy-gardens-how-to-make-your-garden-into-a-fairy-sanctuary.htm>>.

Gladd, I. "5 Tips for a Fairy Garden." Lifescript, 21 Jan 2001. Web. 7 Mar 2011. <http://www.lifescript.com/Life/Timeout/At-home/5_Tips_For_A_Fairy_Garden.aspx?trans=1&du=1&gclid=CLz6lZPA_JcCFQpuGgodkW4RCg&ef_id=1350:3:c_3046ecbeb1b381a41ba2ae917d4d7d91_931657385:Amfn70o-JyIAADAGD0EAAAAI:20090107125324>.

Miesler, T. "Gardening with Fairies." The Herb Companion, Feb 2005. Web. 7 Mar 2011. <<http://www.herbcompanion.com/Gardening/Gardening-with-Fairies.aspx>>.

EUPHORBIA CYPARISSIA - TO PLANT IT OR TO PULL IT?

By Pat Bowen, retired Cherokee County Master Gardener

A Master Gardener friend in Hall County took me to her favorite local nursery last month. Since most of my landscape is shaded woodlands I was attracted to a lovely shade tolerant plant called Euphorbia. I purchased a few different types, from dark green to variegated yellowish white and green. Since there was little information on the plant label I came home and Googled more specifics on their placements and care.



In the western states Euphorbia is a weed of pastures, hay fields, fence rows, roadsides, and landscapes, and in other places is sometimes called the ‘graveyard weed’ as it’s often seen in country burial grounds. Here in Georgia Euphorbia flowers typically bloom from March to May. Flowers are greenish yellow to yellow, and some purple or red in color, and are clustered in bunches at the ends of stems, and then form seeds in the flower bowls.

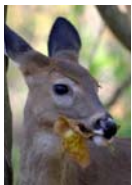
Folklore says the sap from the plants may cure warts; it can also cause skin irritations so if you choose to try this plant wear gloves when working with it.

Surprise! Euphorbia Cyparissia, otherwise known as Cyprus Spurge, is actually a controversial plant, with over 2000 species, and in the same family as poinsettia. The good news is it’s deer resistant. The bad news is in many locales it’s considered so invasive as to be banned in Connecticut and Massachusetts and listed in Weeds of the US, but it’s also sold at several nurseries (even in Hall County) and seed sources. It was introduced to this country by the colonists as an ornamental plant, growing into a one foot high ground cover with showy yellow or red flowers. It naturalizes on its own by self seeding and lateral root buds.

Google euphorbia Cyparissias in Georgia to see photos of various stages of plant bloom and development, and to read opinions of whether or not to plant Euphorbia in your landscape. I’m going to take my chances and watch it closely for the next couple of years. I’ll be happy if it slowly fills in some bare spots, but if it gets away from me I’ll pull it before it has a chance to take over.

COOL TOOL: CLOSE THE DEER BUFFET!

By Marcia Winchester, Lifetime Master Gardener



This spring my garden and woods were on the native plant society tour. My property backs up to a golf course which backs up to Army Corp. property. This means deer!!! Lots of hungry deer. I kept watching my trillium (one of the deer’s favorite food) hoping they would not start eating them or other plants.

One day I discovered trillium in several places had only stems left. I panicked. I said something to a friend whom also has a bad deer problem and she said to buy some spray. I’ve tried different products and found most either really stink, leave a white film on plants or wash off with rain (this was in April when we had lots of rain). I really didn’t know what to do. I stopped by Wild Birds Unlimited to pick up some bird food and Willie was selling a customer a product to stop deer from eating plants. She said it was guaranteed to work for 30 days even in rain. In fact the guarantee is right on the label. I was desperate and bought 2 bottles. I sprayed the trillium and all my other plants that the deer have eaten over the years. Guess what? It worked!! And it didn’t stink!!

Megan Huff, our intern who is a Veterinarian, checked out the ingredients and found that nothing would be toxic to pets. This wonderful product is in a red plastic spray bottle and is called Messina Wildlife’s Deer Stopper; I’m sure it can be found in many different stores.



LAWN CARE - JUNE AND JULY

by: Bill Slatton, retired Cherokee County Master Gardener

Warm Season grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine)

- Warm season grasses can still be planted during June and July. Keep new lawns watered in the summer.
- Mow at the correct height.
- Fertilizer applied in April and May will still be good in June. Bermuda and St. Augustine should be fertilized at the beginning of July. Use fertilizer recommended for your type of grass. Zoysia should be fertilized at the beginning of July if it is not dark green and thick. These applications should last until September. Centipede should be fertilized at the beginning of July with a Centipede fertilizer. You need a slow release fertilizer with as little phosphorus as possible. Centipede should not be fertilized again.
- Warm season lawns can be aerated in June and July. It will help water to get into the soil during those really hot, dry spells. Dethatching can also be done in June and July, but don't do it if you applied pre-emergence weed control in June. You will destroy the chemical barrier.
- You can apply pre-emergence weed control in June. If your lawn is mostly weed free, wait until fall. Follow the directions on the bag. Most granular forms will need to be watered in to activate the chemicals. Morning dew won't be enough. Weeds can be sprayed with a post-emergence spray in June/July. If there aren't very many, handpicking can be effective.
- Webworms and cutworms feed on grass blades at night. Spidery webbing on the surface of the lawn in early morning are a sign of webworms. Patches of cut grass blades are a sign of cutworms. Control both with a soil insecticide approved for your type of grass. Armyworms feed in masses during the day and can do severe damage. Chinch bugs can be a big problem on Saint Augustine and Centipede. Look for patches of yellow or wilted grass in sunny areas. Treat with an approved soil insecticide. Fungal diseases should not be a problem during these months. But watch for dead or off-color areas with clearly defined edges.

Cool Season Grasses (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass, Creeping Red/Chewing Fescue)

- Do not aerate cool season lawns during the summer. Wait until early September.
- Lawns may be raked, but do not mechanically de-thatch during the summer.
- You should not fertilize during June or July.
- Do not plant seed or sod during this time. Mow at the recommended height. Try not to cut more than one third of the height at a time. Mow right before leaving on vacation and as soon as you get back. You may have to mow at the highest possible setting and at the recommended height a couple days later.
- At the beginning of June you can apply a granular pre-emergence. Existing weeds can be sprayed with a post-emergence spray. As always, read the labels and use the correct product approved for use on your grass.
- Soil insecticides may be applied if insects are causing damage.

Recommended Mowing Heights:

Type of Grass	Mow When: (height in inches)	Mow To: (height in inches)
Kentucky 31 Fescue	4.5 - 6	3 - 4
Creeping Red/ Chewing Fescue	3 - 3.75	2 - 2.5
Turf-type Fescue	3.75 - 4.5	2.5 - 3
Kentucky Bluegrass	3.75 - 4.5	2.5 - 3
Common Bermuda	3	2
Hybrid Bermuda	1.5 - 2.25	1 - 1.5
Centipede	2.25 - 3	1.5 - 2
St. Augustine	3 - 4.5	2 - 3

JUNE TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Tall fall bloomers such as chrysanthemums, swamp sunflowers, and phlox can be cut back by about one half now to reduce their fall height and make them fuller.
- Use pliers to pull up tree seedlings after a rain when soil is moist. Grip the stem at the soil line; twist and pull straight up. Watering deeply the day before pulling weeds will make the job easier.
- Climbing roses don't really climb – they have long canes that require support. You will need to loosely tie the canes to trellises with broad strips of material or foam covered twine. Do not use wire as it can damage the cane. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=5977&pg=np&ct=climbing_roses&kt=&kid=&pid=
- Take stem cuttings of woodies and perennials now. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6094&pg=np&ct=propagating_perennials&kt=&kid=&pid=
- Miniature roses can be propagated from stem cuttings. Take cuttings with 4 leaves and insert them into pots filled with moist potting soil. Rooting hormone is optional. Place whole pot in a perforated plastic bag and place in a shady spot. Water as needed. By autumn, cuttings should be rooted.
- Control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- Fertilize your roses at monthly intervals with either granular or liquid fertilizer. Inspect plants frequently for pests such as spider mites, aphids and Japanese beetles.
- Leaf miner larvae tunnel inside leaves, leaving whitish trails as they move about. Holly, boxwood and locust are particularly susceptible to damage.
- Disinfect pruners between cuts when removing diseased tissue from plants. UGA recommends a one in ten solution of bleach and water, but it can be cumbersome to carry a bucket of this mix about in the garden, and the solution is corrosive and must be rinsed from tools after use. Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle also works. When spraying tools, spray over a trash can so you don't kill or injure grass or plants.
- Now is the time to prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons before they set next year's flower buds.
- http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7656&pg=np&ct=azaleas&kt=&kid=&pid=#Guidelines
- Divide and transplant iris now so they will have a long growing season and a better chance of blooming next year. Cut off and discard the older part of the rhizome that does not have white fleshy roots. Cut the leaves back to six inches so they don't blow over. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B670/B670.htm>

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries picked early in the day keep best. Do not wash or stem berries until ready to use. Store berries in covered containers in the refrigerator.

- Set young melons and cantaloupes atop tin cans – they'll ripen faster, be sweeter and have less insect damage than those left on the ground.
- Yellow crook-neck squash tastes best when 4-7 inches long. Pick when pale yellow (rather than golden) and before skin hardens. Scalloped (patty pan) squash is best when grayish or greenish white (before it turns ivory white) and is still small, even silver-dollar size.
- Remove cucumbers by turning fruits parallel to the vine and giving a quick snap. This prevents vine damage and results in a clean break. If you have trouble mastering this, take a sharp knife to the garden. Cut or pull cucumbers, leaving a short stem on each.
- Stop cutting asparagus in mid to late June when spears become thin. After the last cutting is made, fertilize by broadcasting a 10-10-10 formula at the rate of 2 lbs per 100 sq. ft. Allow the tops to grow during the summer to store food in the roots for the crop next spring.
- Avoid side dressing tomatoes, eggplants and peppers with fertilizer until they have set their first fruit.
- Corn needs water at two crucial times: when the tassels at the top are beginning to show and when the silk is beginning to show on the ear. If weather is dry at these times, you will need to water the corn. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7638&pg=np&ct=corn&kt=&kid=&pid=
- If weed plants are mature, weed early in the morning when moisture is present to prevent the seed heads from shattering and dropping weed seeds in the garden. Hold as much of the seed heads in your hand and do not shake off extra soil as it may scatter weed seeds.
- To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their homes.
- The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early on a sunny day. Herbs are best if watered the day before to wash off the foliage. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7751&pg=np&ct=herbs&kt=&kid=&pid=

MISCELLANEOUS

- Using milky spore disease (*Bacillus popilliae*) to control Japanese beetles is most effective in neighborhoods where most residents use it. Otherwise, Japanese beetle larvae hatching in other yards will re-infest yours.
- June is a great time to clean out the greenhouse. Discard dead or diseased plants and old potting soil. Good sanitation is necessary to control greenhouse pests.
- If you keep your houseplants indoors all summer, keep them out of the draft of the air conditioner. Plants react to an air conditioner's cool air in various ways. Some drop their leaves, others don't bloom well and some fail to bloom at all.

JULY TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- If your hosta and azalea stems have a white powder covering them, it is probably the waxy coating of planthopper insects. They don't do much damage, but can spread diseases. Spray with garden insecticide if unsightly.
- Keep pinching back mums to keep them blooming longer and make them bushier.
- Lamb's ear tends to have their lower leaves die after a heavy rain. This forms ugly mats that will rot stems and roots. Pull away the yellow leaves to keep up airflow.
- Fertilize crape myrtles, butterfly bushes, and hydrangeas with 1 Tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6861&pg=np&ct=fertilize+crape+myrtle&kt=&kid=&pid=

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES


- Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label. Each insecticide has a waiting period after application before you can harvest.
- Although tomatoes are self-pollinating, they need movement to transfer pollen. If it is hot and calm for several days, gently shake plants to assure pollen transfer and fruit set. Hot temperatures can interfere with blossom set.
- Water stress in sweet potatoes can result in cracked roots. A potassium deficiency causes long, slender roots. Too much nitrogen reduces yield and quality.
- Most fertilizer recommendations are for 100 square feet, so keep your garden's square footage a simple fraction of that. For example, a 4 X 12 foot garden is exactly 50 square feet and would require exactly one half the fertilizer required by a garden of 100 square feet.
- Okra pods get tough if allowed to grow too large. Pick regularly.

- Mulch strawberries heavily to protect them from heat and drought.
- The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day; that's when they contain the most sugar, especially if the day was cool and sunny. Other vegetables, like lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them.
- Start a fall crop of brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and kale indoors. Outdoors, sow pumpkin, beans, squash, cucumbers, and crowder peas. Plant carrots mid-month. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6806&pg=np&ct=fall+vegetables&kt=&kid=&pid=
- Pick squash regularly to keep up production. If the vines wilt, check the base of the stem for "sawdust". This means the plant has squash bores in the stem. Remove infected plants (thus removing the bores) and plant new seeds. It is good to change your planting location to hopefully prevent the new plants from being attacked.
- Sunflowers are ready to harvest when the back of the head turns brown.
- Keep an eye out for tomato hornworm. They can do enormous damage overnight. They also attack Nicotiana. When you see damage, check under leaves and stems to find them. Hand pick to dispose of them.
- Don't plant all your beans at once. If you stagger the plantings every two weeks you will have fresh beans longer. Soak bean seeds overnight before planting for faster germination.
- Use bamboo poles to form a large teepee-like structure. Use twine to create a trellis though all but one section of the teepee. Plant pole beans along the twine. Watch the beans grow into a house that kids love to play in. The section that was not tied the twine is the entrance to the bean teepee.

Cherokee County Lifetime Master Gardeners

The following Master Gardeners have donated at least 25 hours per year for 10 years or more:

Betty Adams • Mechelle Baardson • Judie Bicknell • Monte Bores • Mariana DiVita • Thomas Dorn • Susan Franklin • Karen Garland • Becky Griffin • Joan McFarther • Debbie Meadows • Helen Omgren • Dawn Perlotto • Liz Porter • Linda Robbins • Mary Ellen Roos • Gerry Skalsky • Martha Ann Slatton • Gerry Slaughter • Mary Ann Szostak • Maura Watson • Marcia Winchester



RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Apr 11	May 11	YTD	Apr 11	May 11	YTD
Actual	8.5	5.0	19.8	9.0	3.0	18.3
Normal	5.8	4.3	21.0	5.3	2.6	17.3
Excess	2.7	0.7	-1.2	3.7	0.4	1.0

Recipes

Send recipes to
Maura Watson at
mlw229@gmail.com

Frozen Fruit Tart (8 servings)

8 graham crackers • 2 Tbsp whole almonds • 1 Tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. canola oil • 2 tsp. water • 1 Tbsp honey
1 ½ cup fruit sorbet 1 ½ cups “light” vanilla ice cream
2 ripe plums & 3 ripe nectarines (pitted & cut into 8 wedges)
1 cup raspberries

Preheat oven to 350°. Prepare crust: in food processor pulse graham crackers till fine crumbs. Add almonds & sugar. Pulse till almonds finely chopped. *In a cup mix canola oil, honey & water*; drizzle over crumb mixture. Pulse until crumbs are evenly moistened. Press crumb mixture onto bottom & sides of 9” tart pan with removable bottom. Bake crust 8-10 mins. or until set & lightly brown at edges. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.

Let ice cream & sorbet stand at room temperature for 10 mins. or until slightly soft. Spoon ice cream & sorbet alternately into tart shell. Press down with back of spoon to smooth. Cover & freeze until firm (4 hours or overnight)

Carefully remove sides of tart pan & place on a round platter. Arrange circle of nectarine wedges around the outer top edge of the tart, then circle the plum wedges inside the nectarines. Mound raspberries in the center of the tart. Serve immediately.

Thai Shrimp Skewers with Zesty Sauce (makes about 3 dozen skewers)

***Soak 3 dozen wood skewers in water*

½ cup coconut milk 1 Tbsp. minced fresh ginger
1 Tbsp. lime zest 1 Tbsp. fresh cilantro
½ cup fresh lime juice 1 Tbsp fish sauce
4 cloves garlic (minced) 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
2 Tbsp honey 2 lbs. jumbo fresh shrimp
(peeled & deveined w/ tails left on)

In large bowl, whisk together: coconut milk, lime zest & juice, garlic, honey, cilantro, fish sauce & pepper flakes. Add shrimp, tossing gently to coat. Cover & refrigerate for 30 mins.- *no longer*.

Remove shrimp from marinade; thread 1 shrimp on the end of each skewer. ***Discard marinade*. Grill, covered with grill lid over medium-high heat for 2-3 mins. per side or until shrimp are pink. Serve with zesty sauce.

Zesty Sauce (makes about 1 ¼ cups)

½ cup sour cream 1 tsp. minced fresh ginger
½ cup mayo 1 tsp. lime zest
¼ tsp. sugar 1 Tbsp. minced gr. onion
¼ cup coconut milk ½ tsp Caribbean jerk seasoning
*** ¼ tsp red pepper flakes (optional)*

Combine all ingredients in a small bowl. Cover & refrigerate. Serve with cooked shrimp.

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.
An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

Cherokee County Extension Service
100 North St., Suite G21
Canton, GA 30114



Mailing
Label
Here

<http://www.ugaextension.com/cherokee/>

Mission Statement of the Georgia Master Gardener Association:

To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others.