

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XVI, Issue 6 October/November 2009

WHAT'S HAPPENING



OCTOBER

Oct. 1	9:30-3:00 Demo Garden workday
Oct. 2	Deadline for MG Intern Apps
Oct. 3	10:00 am Burgess Arboretum Open House
Oct. 11	9-11:30 Redbud Nursery open to MG
Oct. 15	9:30-3:00 Demo Garden workday
Oct. 17	Lecture: Gardening with Houseplants
Oct. 17	State MG fall conference
Oct. 20	6:30 pm - Monthly meeting
Oct. 24	Lecture on Lawn Care
Oct. 28-30	Burgess Arboretum Plant Sale 11:30-1:30
Oct. 30	Extension Office Closed

NOVEMBER

Nov.5	9:30-3 Demo Garden workday
Nov.17	Monthly Meeting and Annual Elections
Nov.19	9:30-3:00 Demo Garden workday
Nov.21	Seminar: Making Natural Christmas Wreaths
Nov. 25	Extension Office Closed

**December 18th - Mark the Date!
MG Christmas Party**

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester, Cherokee Master Gardener



There is a difference between an aggressive plant and an invasive plant. An aggressive plant is one that a fellow gardener gives you (beware of the gardener that shares) or worse yet, you pay for it and in a short time it starts taking over. It may take some time to either get it under control or get rid of it, but it is doable. An invasive plant is quite a different situation. An invasive plant is one that you may never totally get rid of no matter how much you work at it. Sometimes a plant becomes a problem because you give it growing conditions that allow it to become a thug. For example, take a plant like Aster tataricus: give it even moisture and full sun and it will go wild. If you give it dry sun it will be easier to control. Roots tell you a lot about a plant so look at them. Roots that are thick and grow horizontal like Bermuda grass are a good indicator to be curious. Actually very thin horizontal roots are just as

bad because they usually break off and the plant keeps growing.

The Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council www.gaepcc.org has several categories of invasive plants and believe it or not quite a few can still be purchased at nurseries. Sometimes it takes a while for a plant to become invasive. For example it took 80 years for Japanese Honeysuckle to escape cultivation and become a problem in our native woods. Some plants are invasive in some areas and not a problem in others. I feel there are so many wonderful well behaved plants to choose from (especially natives) that if I find out a plant is invasive anywhere in the U.S. I get rid of it. I feel a conscientious gardener has to be an example of being a good steward to our planet. If you are interested in learning more on invasive plants and many other important topics on nature I recommend Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy.

As we enter this season of gratitude and mindfulness, remember our tiny feathered friends who are preparing for long journeys - they will be needing lots of energy. For a wonderful recipe for suet, check out the 2004 Feb/March issue of our newsletter:
<http://www.ugaextension.com/cherokee/anr/CherokeeMasterGardenersNewsletters.html>

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BRINGING YOUR PLANTS IN FOR THE WINTER

By Pat Bowen, Cherokee County Master Gardener

My houseplants enjoy the warm outdoor weather as much as I do. Some like more sun, some more shade, and all look robust and larger by the time the drop in outdoor temperatures require they return to their winter homes (indoors). Don't wait for the first freeze warning to begin planning their trip inside. Tropical plants (which are what most house plants are) can begin to suffer when the temps dip below 45, so keep an eye on the 10 day weather forecast for your zip code at www.weather.com. In metro Atlanta the minimum average temperature in November is between 40-45 degrees.

Most plants will need a short period of acclimation to their new living conditions, so don't be alarmed if you see a little bit of wilting or yellow leaves, or even some moderate die back. If you prepare to move your houseplants using the following advice, they should be just fine in a week or two:

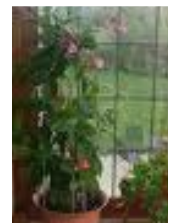
1. Decide well in advance where the plants will go. If you have plants that need lots of sunlight, clean the windows inside and out near their resting spots. If you're hanging plants, be sure their hooks are still sturdy. If you've added plants through new purchases or propagation, prepare their sites as well with waterproof trays or waterproof gravel beds.
2. Check for insects before you bring the plants in so the critters don't begin to breed inside your cozy warm home. You can clean the outside of each flower pot, and then soak the potted plant in a tub of lukewarm water for around 15 minutes to see if anything crawls out of the soil; then drain the pot well. If you suspect the pots contain snails or worms you may want to repot them.
3. Checking for diseases is trickier, as they may not be immediately apparent. If you suspect disease on a houseplant, either isolate it from your other plants until it's healthy again, or discard it for the good of all your plants.
4. Plants that have outgrown their pots or become root bound over the summer should be repotted before bringing them in. If you pull the plant out of its pot and it is mostly roots with little soil, take action. You might want to divide the plant and put

the divisions in multiple pots, or cut back the root ball a little, or find a larger pot for it. In all cases, be sure to use fresh potting soil for filler.

5. If the root ball looks fine but the plant is top heavy, you can prune it back for better balance and shape. Plants differ so much in their ability to recover from pruning, so unless you're very familiar with the plant go very gently on the pruning at first; you can always do a little more at a time if it continues to thrive, until you're happy with the result.
6. Remember to adjust your watering and fertilization schedules. Water most plants only when dry, unless you have some that like wetter feet. And with less watering and slower growth, stop fertilizing most plants for a couple of months as they will build up salts in the soil that can damage the roots. One exception would be a dose of fertilizer for repotted plants which have no accumulation of fertilizer.
7. Finally, you may want to take cuttings of some easy annuals like coleus, geraniums, sweet potato vines and other favorites and bring them inside. Either let them root in water then plant in small pots or dip in rooting hormone and pot in sand or potting soil.

Plants have been used as complements to home décor for centuries all over the world. They can brighten up almost any room, give it a face lift, some color, some life. They even clear the air inside stuffy winter homes, feeding on the carbon dioxide that we exhale and feeding us back with more oxygen. Take care of them, and they'll take care of you. Fair exchange.

**The editor has noted that plants fair much better if brought indoors before the heat is turned on. It gives the plant a chance to adjust to the lower humidity found indoors....



SO... WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT RECYCLING?

By James Dixon, Cherokee County Master Gardener Intern

"...With the amount of pollution piling up in our ground, air and sewer systems, thousands of people are turning to the benefits of recycling to save money and to help save the environment. Even though everybody knows that the benefits of recycling are helpful in maintaining our natural resources so that they will last longer, we still find reasons to avoid recycling. While people who recycle remain in the minority within our society, every little bit helps when it comes to recycling any type of recyclable products. As such, educating ourselves about ways to save money and save the planet simply by recycling might cause us to take that extra step and begin recycling..."

from "Reaping the Benefits of Recycling"

There are 6 major recycling facilities in Cherokee County; they are:

Hobgood Park 6688 Bells Ferry Road Woodstock, GA 30189	Kenny Askew Park 1080 Univeter Road Canton, GA 30115
Dwight Terry Park 13395 E. Cherokee Dr. BallGround, GA 30107	Blalock Road Facility 470 Blalock Road Canton, GA 30115
J.J. Biello Park 155 Brooke Blvd Woodstock, GA 30188	North Canton Fire Sta. 1398 Reinhardt Pkwy. Canton, GA 30114

While these convenient locations are scattered throughout Cherokee County, recycling services are also offered by many local trash collection services that come right to your door. These trash collection companies are making recycling easier for all of us and we should take advantage of their services whenever possible. Some folks collect larger recyclable material over time and then make a trip to one of the centers listed above on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

So, what is recycling material? Smaller items can be:

- **Plastic** (milk, water, juice cartons codes 1 thru 7) No plastic bags or styrofoam accepted.
- **Glass, Steel, and Aluminum cans.** Note: Some trash collection services will not take glass items.
- **Aseptic Packaging...**The square boxes used for liquids are called "Aseptics", the most common brand of which is "Tetra Pak". Aseptics are made from complex layers of plastic, metal and paper. The aseptic industry has spent millions in public

education on the issue of aseptic recycling, including distribution of classroom guides and posters like "Drink Boxes are as Good on the Outside as They are on the Inside" and "A Day in the Life of a Drink Box". The actual recycling process, unfortunately, is very expensive and awkward, and is therefore only available in very few places.

- **Paper...**Most any paper and cardboard can be recycled, including cartons coated in wax

Certain items can be recycled only during amnesty days:

- **Old refrigerators and stoves**
- **Air-conditioners and heat pumps**
- **Batteries**
- **Computer parts**

Other items that should be considered for recycling are **motor oil** and **household toxics**. Instructions for recycling these can usually be found printed on such items. Many times a phone number is also included for additional questions. If you are not sure if something can be recycled, just ASK! If there are questions you may have concerning recycling in your community, simply call or log on to the nearest center and ask what they take or don't take.

The web sites below offer information on recycling programs with Publix and Kroger:

<http://sustainability.publix.com/>
www.kroger.com/healthy_living/green_living/

Waste Management services offers postage-paid recycling kits that can be ordered here:

www.ThinkGreenFromHome.com

Local Recycling Center hours can be found online at:

www.cherokeeega.com

Everyone would probably agree that recycling is the right thing to do, but still some people feel it is an inconvenience or too much hassle. As our natural resources dry up, recycling will not just be an inconvenience but a necessity to keep our planet in tact. We may as well get used to the idea, hassle or not....Our future and our children's futures may depend on it.

LAWN CARE—OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

by Bill Slatton, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Warm Season Grasses: (Bermudagrass, Centipede-grass, Zoysiagrass)

- October is the best month to overseed with Ryegrass. Use 5-10 lbs. of seed per 1000 square feet. It is still possible in November, but October is better.
- Overseeding is not advisable on Centipede or Hybrid Zoysia because the thick turf prevents good germination of overseeded grasses.
- Keep the Ryegrass cut about an inch above the base lawn or it could damage your permanent grass.
- Do not use pre-emergent on lawns that you plan to overseed with Ryegrass or other evergreen grasses.
- Spot spray with broadleaf post-emergent to kill chickweed, dandelion, wild onion, etc.
- You do not need to fertilize in October or November, but fertilize overseeded lawns in October with 10 lbs of 15-15-15 per 1,000 sq. ft. to start Ryegrass growing well.
- Normally it is (marginally) possible to put down sod in October; new sod should not be allowed to dry out.
- Let Bermuda and Zoysia grow to about three inches before the first frost. This will help them harden up and provide protection during the winter. No need to cut until next spring. Centipede does best when always cut at 1 1/2 inches.
- November is too late to plant new warm season grasses; wait until spring.
- Keep leaves off the grass. Leaf buildup can smother grasses, even the dormant ones.

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

- The first two weeks of October are the best times to plant Fescue seed. This is the time to overseed established lawns. Sod can be put down now through March.
- For seeding a new lawn, use 5-8 lbs. of seed per 1,000 square feet.
- October and April are the best months to use a core aerator on Fescue lawns.
- To overseed an existing Fescue lawn, you should core aerate or verticut.
- If the lawn is 50% or less healthy fescue just touch the top of the soil with a verticutter.
- If the lawn is more than 50% healthy, use an aerator. You need 10 or more aerator holes per sq. foot. Aerate on moist soil to penetrate 2-3 inches.
- For overseeding an established lawn, use 3-5 lb. per 1,000 square feet.
- Drag the lawn with a carpet or section of chain link fence to crumble the aerator cores and cover the seed with soil.
- Cover bare spots with a thin layer of wheat straw.
- Apply 1/4 - 1/2 inch of water each morning that watering restrictions allow. New seedlings and existing Fescue will not need more than 1/2 inch at a time. After 10 days, apply 1/2 inch every four days for two weeks, then 3/4 inch every six days for two weeks. After this, one inch per week.
- Apply turf fertilizer in late November at the recommended rate.



RAINFALL COMPARISONS



	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	July 09	Aug 09	YTD	July 09	Aug 09	YTD
Actual	2.5	5.0	38.4	3.5	4.0	35.5
Normal	5.0	4.2	39.7	4.5	4.5	37.6
Deficit	-2.5	0.8	-1.3	1.0	-0.5	-2.1

START SAVING SEEDS NOW!!!

Start saving your extra seeds now. Be sure to label the package with name and color. Drop them off at the Demo Garden box or Extension box. We will have a party in January to separate, package, and write up information labels for the different seeds. If you attend you will get free seeds and lots of information on how to succeed with them. The ones we package will be sold at the spring plant sale. Direct any questions to Marcia Winchester... (770) 592-4022

Cool Tool: Looking for a Cool Inexpensive Microscope?

by James Dixon, Cherokee County Master Gardener Intern



Upon competing the MG in-house class program this year, I developed an interest in taking a closer look at the plants and pests I am learning about, as well as the general marvels of the garden that sometimes pass by the naked eye. I sure didn't want to spend a lot of money on a microscope and wasn't sure what to look for, having not even thought about microscopes since I was a kid. I asked Paul what he thought; he suggested that rather than a compound microscope, there might be more benefit to a device that can view in 3D as well as slide specimens. I went on a search for a microscope that would allow me the best of both worlds....versatility and a very *low price*.

I am delighted to have found the perfect microscope for me: the Carson zPIX200 Digital Microscope. The zPIX 200 is designed to integrate with your computer via a USB cable. Attached to my laptop and works great!

This is no conventional microscope! Upon close inspection, you will notice it kind of resembles an empty roll of toilet paper - it's about the same size. The stage is removable, allowing for a clear look at spiders, beetles and other garden dwellers. You can also view fungus and diseases that are difficult to evaluate without the aid of

magnification. The zPIX 200's range is 26x-130x... plenty of power to get close enough to look at whatever interests you. There is built in lighting that gives your subject a well-lit sharp image and the operation is simple. You can view your subject right on your computer screen. It has a focus, zoom and capture function....all conveniently located right there on the device. It even captures video! I have included two images so you can see the quality of pictures this microscope can capture.



One is a flea beetle and the other is a juvenile predator of some kind (I managed to rip off one tentacle and part of his head. I

apologize for that. I am still trying to work out the details on how to properly corral the subjects I want to view and some are, well... not quite so cooperative.) When you get the image you want, you simply press the little button at the top of the device and your image is saved. I chose jpg format, but you can save in several formats. The Carson zPIX 200 lists for around \$100, but can be purchased on line for around \$50 (or even less) if you look hard enough. To learn more about this tool:

<http://www.buy.com/prod/carson-optical-mm-740-zpix-200-zoom-digital-microscope/q/loc/17250/2091>



BULB GARDENING

by Lynn Sisson, Cherokee County Master Gardener

For a burst of color in the spring start with a bulb garden today. You can plant tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus and grape hyacinths, to mention a few, to get an early burst of color in spring.

It is so easy to plant a bulb garden. As a general rule you plant the bulbs 2 1/2 times deeper than the size of the bulb. Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinths are usually planted in an 8" hole, smaller bulbs like grape hyacinths, and crocus are planted in 5" holes. You can group them together in groups of 3 or more, or plant them for individual color. Plant them in flower pots or your seasonal beds.

Prepare your planting beds now since the weather is cooling down, but before the ground freezes. Place your bulbs in the ground and sprinkle with some bone meal. If your not sure which side to plant the bulbs, plant them sideways, bulbs are very forgiving. Generally the pointed side points upward and the stringy side goes to the bottom, but sometimes it is hard to tell. Water newly planted bulbs frequently to help get roots es-

tablished. Spread an organic slow release fertilizer, a mixture of 9-9-6 in the fall and again in the spring. I know the weather is getting colder and it is not as much fun to get in the garden, but believe me you will be glad you did when late February, early March comes and you see the first sightings of spring color.

Bulbs are inexpensive and they bring years of enjoyment making them a pretty good investment. Almost all bulbs naturalize; in a couple of years you can separate and extend your bulb garden or share with your friends.

Bulbs can be passed down through generations, there are daffodils I have in my garden that belonged to my grandparents. When I see them bloom, I imagine my grandparents viewing and enjoying the same burst of color that I am.

The colors and varieties of bulbs are limitless.

Start your bulb garden today!!



RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANT AND WILDFLOWER BOOKS, PART II

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

In the last issue of this newsletter, I started a listing of nine books on native plants, books that I can personally recommend. Due to space constraints, not all books could be covered in that issue, so the list is continued below.

As I noted in that first article, there is no one “best” book on native plants, and you may well want to accumulate a small collection, as I have. All of these books have their advantages, and you should analyze your own needs (and budget) before making a purchase. The list I have compiled is by no means comprehensive. There are numerous books about native plants; you can learn about many of them by perusing the Reading List that is posted on the Georgia Native Plant Society’s website: www.gnps.org.

In the first part of this series, I described the following three books: *Armitage’s Native Plants for North American Gardens* by Allan M. Armitage; *Gardening with Native Plants of the South* by Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski; and *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place* by Margie Hunter. Below are five more of my favorite books on native plants.

Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada by William Cullina

Cullina is a propagation expert; therefore, this book has propagation information that is hard to come by in most books. The book covers approximately 200 genera and 1000 species of native plants. The introduction covers many topics, including general information on cultivating plants in an ecological manner. The bulk of the book is an encyclopedia of plants that are listed alphabetically by botanical name and illustrated with color photos (though not every species is illustrated). The description of each plant gives information on culture, uses, and propagation. The final chapter is on propagation and discusses all aspects of that topic, including nicely organized propagation information for all the genera profiled in the book. Appendices include lists of wildflowers for various sites and a list of sources for native plants and their seeds.

322 pages, Approx \$40 retail.

Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide by Lawrence Newcomb

This book is good for plant identification, for either the beginner or advanced native plant enthusiast. It covers almost 1400 wildflowers, shrubs, and vines of the northeastern US, most of which are also found in the Southeast. A key in the front of the book helps lead you to the plant you are trying to identify. The book is organized by flower type (for instance if the plant has regular or irregular flowers or how many petals it has). The plants are primarily illustrated with black and white line drawings

(though a few are in color). The plants are very briefly described with text that includes flower size, color, bloom time, and plant habitat. Plant range is also included, so you can determine if the plant grows in the Southeast. Plant descriptions are on one page and illustrations are on the opposite page. 490 pages Approx \$20

Southeastern Wildflowers by Jan W. Midgely

Jan Midgely is a nursery owner and native plant propagator, so this book has information on propagation that many wildflower books do not. In the first third of the book, Midgely includes information on forest types, plant communities, botanical terms, cultivation tips, and information on different methods of propagation. The rest of the book consists of plant profiles of about 100 primary species, though related species are also mentioned briefly. Each plant profile includes a color photo and thorough description of the plant, as well as its habitat, cultural requirements, propagation methods, and use by wildlife. The plants are organized alphabetically by botanical name. 298 pages, Approx \$20 retail.

Wildflowers of Tennessee by Jack B. Carman

This book is organized by plant family, and plants within each family are organized alphabetically by botanical name. More than 1100 species are included. Though it is written for Tennessee, the plants covered are found in much of the eastern United States, including northern Georgia. Each plant profile is illustrated with a color photo that is larger than in some books. Each profile also includes distinguishing features of the plant, as well as its habitat, occurrence, and distribution. Other facts of interest are sometimes included, such as name derivation or medicinal use. 427 pgs, Approx \$28

Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians by Dennis Horn and Tavia Cathcart

Introductory material includes information on the physiographic regions of Tennessee. Though the book focuses on Tennessee, most of the plants are found in north Georgia. The book is organized by plant family, and plants within each family are organized alphabetically by botanical name. Over 1250 species are covered, and the description of each plant includes a color photo as well as the plant’s distinguishing characteristics, its habitat and distribution, and notes of interest, such as name derivation or medicinal use. The book has a color key to flowers in the front, which is useful if you don’t know the identification of a plant.

496 pages. Approx \$23 retail.

A CHANGE OF SEASON

By James Dixon, Cherokee County Master Gardener Intern

As tomato leaves begin to brown, squash plants yellow and temps drop off, we once again realize the tell-tell signs of autumn in the air. We have enjoyed our bounty of beans and Big Boys, taken delight in our dahlias and daisies. Now it is time to say goodbye to those old friends and prepare for fall planting and next year's crops. In closing our veggie gardens, there are a few things to remember. Dead plants can be turned over to provide nutrients in the soil for next year, but there are some precautions to consider. If there have been any problems with some of your plants - *any* problems - turning them over might not be such a good idea. Plants that have had bugs, blight, or disease should be removed early so as to not impact next year's crop, but it is not a good idea to put diseased or questionable plants in your compost piles. Best to just throw them away and remove them from the equation altogether. So...What do we do with that bare ground we have? Annual Ryegrass can satisfy numerous soil objectives for growers: **Erosion control, soil improvement, nutrient recycling, nitrogen recovery, and weed suppression.** The extensive and deep root system that annual ryegrass develops also provides pathways for increased water infiltration.

While you are planning your design for next year's garden (don't forget to rotate your vegetables), you can also enjoy a new family of late summer, early fall plants. Our gardens need not go dormant altogether when the weather turns. There are some great fall and even winter crops that are proven to be favorable.... Kale, broccoli, spinach, mustard greens and cabbage

are just a few cold-weather plants that could do well all the way through the end of the year!

Web pages for winter veggie garden ideas:

- <http://www.humeseeds.com/falwint.htm>
- <http://www.wintergardeningtips.com/fallandwintervegetables.html>

Also visit the Georgia FACES (Family, Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences) website and search for the specific vegetable you want to grow:

- <http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/index.cfm>

A few web pages that contain a variety of winter flowers:

- http://www.essortment.com/hobbies/winterflowersg_sfyq.htm
- http://plantsbulbs.suite101.com/article.cfm/beautiful_flowers_even_in_winter

Two articles about cool-season annuals from the GA FACES site are:

- <http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/getstory.cfm?storyid=1971>
- <http://georgiafaces.caes.uga.edu/getstory.cfm?storyid=2331>

It seems most all dedicated gardeners are on a quest to make next year's garden better than this one, as well as to find more creative ways to utilize the space left behind our summer plants. It stands to reason that the more we discover along the way, the better chance we have for success in all seasons. So, keep it going and...
...Stay Dirty!!!

Note from Krissy Slagle UGA-CAES-Cooperative Extension Georgia Master Gardener Program

Native Plants for Georgia Part 2: Ferns, Publication B987-2 is now available online. This is a great resource for Master Gardeners and others who are interested in native ferns. There are wonderful line drawings, photographs, and information on identification and culture.

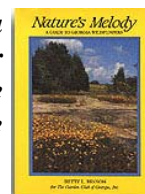
<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B987-2/B987-2.html>

Also, if you haven't seen **Publication B987 Native Plants Part 1: Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines**, it is also a great native plant resource.

<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B987/B987-contents.htm>

Holiday Gift Idea:

For a really special gift, this book is a favorite of Cherokee County Master Gardener, Mary Tucker - a little more work to find, but sure to bring joy to the avid gardener.



Nature's Melody

by Betty Benson for the Garden Club of Georgia

This book concentrates on Georgia plants, unlike some other books, and over 300 plants are included. The book is divided into two sections. The first half consists of plant descriptions and is organized by plant family. Each plant description includes that of the flower and foliage, as well as the habitat and culture. The second half has color photos of the plants, and it is organized by flower color, which makes it handy for plant identification. This wonderful edition is out of print, but may be available through used booksellers.

OCTOBER TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- October is the best month to plant fall annual beds. It is cooler for the transplants and gives their roots time to become established before winter cold hits. Try mixing dwarf snapdragons with pansies for color and parsley, rosemary, kale, mustard and Swiss chard for background color. Make sure your beds have good drainage. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/horticulture/pansies.html>
- Plant poppy, cornflower and larkspur seed now for early spring annuals.
- If climbing roses are in an exposed location, tie them up firmly with broad strips of rags or padded foam tape so the wind will not whip them against the trellis and bruise the bark.
- Don't prune roses this late as new growth would become subject to winter injury. The rose garden should be raked and cleaned, removing all fallen leaves and mulch to prevent black spot and other diseases next year. Replace mulch after the ground has frozen. Continue spraying for fungus. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B671.pdf>
- Clean up around perennial flowers, such as peonies. If left on the ground, leaves and stems can harbor diseases and provide convenient places for pests to spend the winter.
- Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials when the leaves begin to brown. Leave 3 inches of stem to ID the plant's location.
- As you clean out the flower beds, mark the spots where late emerging perennials will come up next spring to avoid damaging them while working the beds.
- October and November are generally considered the best months to plant trees and shrubs. Garden centers and nurseries usually stock a good selection of woody plants now. Select some accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees that turn red include aronia, dogwood, red maple, red or scarlet oak and sourwood. Shrubs with spectacular fall foliage include viburnum, fothergilla, hydrangea, blueberries, itea and amsonia.
- Plant trees at least 6 feet away from sidewalks and concrete pools so growing roots do not crack the concrete.
- Small imperfections, such as nicks and loose skin, should not affect the quality of most bulbs. Store bulbs in a cool area (below 65° F) if unable to plant immediately. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B932.pdf>
- To minimize the look of open spaces between new shrubs, plant a low-growing evergreen ground cover.
- Cut back perennial herbs to encourage well-branched growth next year.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65°F or more for ripening. If daytime temperatures consistently are below this, pick fruits that have begun to change color and bring them inside to ripen. Use recipes that require green

tomatoes or place a ripe apple in a closed container with green tomatoes to encourage the tomatoes to turn red. Ripe apples give off ethylene gas which causes tomatoes to ripen.

- Cure pumpkins, butternut, and Hubbard squash at temperatures between 70 - 80° F for two to three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55- 60° F. If stored at 50° F or below, pumpkins and squash are subject to damage by chilling. At temperatures above 60° F, they gradually lose moisture and become stringy.
- A final weeding of your strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries will help keep weed problems down to a minimum. Strawberries covered in the fall with a spun-bonded polyester material and uncovered in the spring just before bloom produced up to 60% more fruit than plants given the conventional straw or hay mulch cover.
- Make a note of any particularly unsatisfactory or productive varieties or crops. Such information can be very useful during garden-planning time in the spring.
- Clean up home orchard and small-fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or mummies carry disease organisms through the winter to attack next year's crop.
- If there is a threat of frost at night, harvest your cucumber, eggplant, melon, okra, pepper and summer squash so the fruits are not damaged by the frost.
- Hot peppers store well dry. Pull plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place.
- Do not apply quick-acting fertilizers while tilling the soil in the fall; nitrogen will leach away before spring. Materials that release nutrients slowly into the soil, such as rock phosphate, can be worked into the soil in the fall.
- When removing disease-infected plant parts/debris, do not place refuse on the compost pile. The disease pathogens will live in the compost pile and can be transmitted with the application of compost to other garden beds, unless compost temperatures reach above 180° F and decomposition is complete. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/c816.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

- Kudzu, poison ivy and other weedy vines are more susceptible to chemical control this time of year. Be sure to follow the directions, and protect other plants from drift of the spray. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C867-1.htm>



NOVEMBER TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Protect the roots of azaleas and rhododendrons with a heavy mulch of organic materials (i.e. oak leaves, wood chips, or pine needles). <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/C872.pdf>
- For best growth, plant spring bulbs where they are out of the direct sun during the middle of the day. Bulbs have a chilling requirement that is satisfied by winter soil temperatures, so avoid planting bulbs near heated basements where the soil may not stay adequately cold. Do not plant bulbs before Nov. 1st.
- Watch for standing water in perennial beds after long periods of rain. Water that collects on the surface during winter will freeze and can damage perennials. Dig shallow trenches to help drain excess water away. Make a note to raise that bed in spring or plant with plants that like “wet feet”.
- When placing plants around the home, remember as a general rule, plants with thick leaves can take lower light levels than those with thin leaves.
- If there is any evidence of scale on trees and shrubs, spray with dormant oil in late fall and again in early spring.
- Avoid transplanting shrubs and trees on windy days; the roots can be exposed to too much light or drying winds, putting undue stress on the plant.
- Peonies that don't require a long cold winter perform better in the South. They can be planted now in full sun and fertile, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Dig holes 18” and fill halfway with a mixture of soil, compost, and a handful of 5-10-10 fertilizer. Add a few more inches of soil and set the tubers so the buds are 1-2” below the soil surface. Backfill, firm the soil, and water thoroughly. Peonies do not grow well after being moved and will not bloom for several years.
- Now is the time to move established roses to a new spot and plant new ones. Top tall rose bushes to avoid wind damage.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Remove grass and weeds from trunks of fruit trees and grapes to prevent damage by mice and rodents. Leave a bare circle (one foot wide) around tree trunks when spreading mulch to keep mice from feeding on the bark. A collar or fence of poultry wire or a commercial tree guard approximately 18 inches high will deter rodents and rabbits.
- Plant lettuce and hardy vegetables, such as beets, cabbage, and spinach, in cold frames for winter or early spring crops.
- If you use aged manure as a soil conditioner, apply it now and till it under; it can be a source of weed seed. Composting before application can reduce the number of viable seeds. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/C963/C963VegeChart.pdf>

- Rough plow or spade garden plots containing heavy, clay soil. Add organic matter and lime if indicated by a soil test. Leave the soil rough. Winter's thawing and freezing will break up the clods and kill some of the insects and slugs overwintering in the soil. A rough soil surface also catches more moisture and reduces erosion.
- When time or weather conditions prohibit plowing or cover cropping, you may let your garden lie under a mulch of compost, non-diseased plant wastes, or leaves all winter to be plowed/tilled under in the spring. If using heavy organic matter, chop fine enough so it can break down over the winter.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Store pesticides in a frost-free location away from food and out of the reach of children. If a pesticide is in a paper container, put the whole package in a plastic container and seal it. Be sure that all bottles and cans are tightly sealed and well labeled.
- Keep an eye out for spider mites on your houseplants; they thrive in dry air. At the first sign of any insect infestation, isolate your plant. Several thorough washings with plain water may bring them under control. If not, apply an appropriate insecticide and follow the instructions on the label! <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1318/B1318.htm>
- During the cooler temperatures and shorter days of winter, the growth of most houseplants slows. Unless plants are grown under an artificial light source that is left on 16 hours per day, new growth will be minimal until spring. Reduce fertilization and water until late April or May when new growth resumes.
- African violets do well when potted in small pots. A good general rule is to use a pot one-third the diameter of the plant. To humidify African violets, surround the pot with moist peat contained in a second pot. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/B1318.pdf>
- If you plan to lay newspapers as mulch in the spring, glue them end to end this winter and store them as rolls. The paper mulch unrolls easily and won't be lifted by wind before anchoring.
- Check attic vents, building joints and loose siding. Seal any openings that would allow squirrels and mice to enter. <http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1248.htm>



Recipes

Send recipes to
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European-style Cinnamon Apple Tart-serves 8

- 1 refrigerated pie crust (room temperature)
- 2 cups (about 4 med.) thinly sliced, peeled apples
- ½ cup granulated sugar 4 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tsp. cinnamon 1 tsp. granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp. chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Unfold the crust; place on ungreased cookie sheet. Lightly roll to press out fold lines. Seal any cracks.

In a bowl, mix ½ cup sugar, cornstarch & cinnamon. Add apples & toss to coat the apples. Spoon apple mixture onto center of crust & evenly distribute to within 2 inches of the edges. Fold crust edges over filling to form a 2 inch border. Gently “pleat” to seal.

Brush crust edge with water & sprinkle with the 1 tsp. of sugar. Bake for 15 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Sprinkle nuts over apples. Bake 5 to 15 minutes more, or until apples are just tender.

**Be careful that crust doesn't over brown.

Marcia's Brewmaster's Goat Cheese & Apple Omelet- Serves 1

- 2 tsp. butter (divided)
- ½ Granny Smith apple (peeled & sliced)
- Pinch of sugar
- 2 eggs (or Eggbeaters)
- 1 Tbsp . Milk (omit if using Eggbeaters)
- 2 oz plain goat cheese (cut into 3 inch thick slices)

In nonstick skillet melt 1 tsp butter. Add apple slices & sauté until slices start to brown. Add a pinch of sugar & continue stirring until lightly golden (about 5 minutes) Remove from heat & set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk eggs & milk. Melt remaining butter in skillet. Then pour into skillet. Reduce heat to med-low & cook eggs, raising edges to let uncooked egg mixture go to the bottom. Cook until bottom is firm & top is almost done.

Arrange goat cheese on top; then add apple slices. Fold omelet in half to cover filling. Cook 1 more minute; then serve.



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