

# Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XVIII, Issue 5 August/September 2011

<b>WHAT'S HAPPENING</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>
Aug 4 - Demo Garden workday
Aug 4 - Waleska FM Plant Clinic
Aug 13 - SEMINAR Creating a Nighttime Garden 10am@Rose Creek
Aug 13 - Canton FM Plant Clinic
Aug 16 - Monthly meeting @Senior Center
Aug 18 - Demo Garden workday
Aug 20 - Woodstock Farmers Market Plant Clinic
Aug 27 - SEMINAR Insects 10 a.m. @Rose Creek
Aug 27 - Cagles FM Plant Clinic
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
Sept 1 - Demo Garden workday
Sept 1 - Waleska Farmers Market Plant Clinic
Sept 10 - SEMINAR Fall Vegetable Gardening 10am@Hickory Flat
Sept 10 - Canton FM Plant Clinic
Sept 10 - Woodstock Farmers Market Plant Clinic
Sept 15 - Demo Garden workday
Sept 17 - SEMINAR Fall Gardens 10am@BGCC
Sept 20 - Monthly meeting @Senior Center
Sept 27 - SEMINAR Native Plants 10am@Hickory Flat



## EDITOR'S CORNER

*By Marcia Winchester,  
Cherokee County Master Gardener*



Even lifetime Master Gardeners can learn at the Demo garden. You might think all we do at the garden is pull weeds and have lunch. While we do go to lunch and get to learn more about one another, we also talk about the garden, plants and other committees. During the workday this week, we looked at the differences in the leaves of two vines. One was a native planted in the butterfly garden for caterpillars to munch on and the other an invasive vine. In the Demo Garden we learn from one another and from the plants.

Learning can even be funny. I learned from a large envelope of *Ceanothus americanus* or New Jersey Tea seeds. They sat in the hot car during lunch.

When I jumped back in the car and begin driving I started hearing a weird noise from all the stuff I'd piled in the front seat. I couldn't figure out from where the sound was coming. I was afraid a critter had gotten in the car until I heard another pop and a seed flew out of the open envelope into the car. I realized that the seeds were ejecting from their pod as they would in nature. *Impatiens*, and *Euonymus americanus* or hearts' a bursting also eject their seeds. This actually is a self-preservation mechanism of the plant, preventing over-crowding.

In the future I'll be sure to seal the envelope.

*Marcia*

### Upcoming Farmer's Market Plant Clinics

Canton	Woodstock	Waleska	Cagles
August 13 September 10	August 20 September 10	August 4 September 1	August 27

### IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Corner..... pg 1	Pond Ponderings.....pg 6
Aug/Sept Calendar ..... pg 1	Pioneer Days.....pg 6
What's in a Name ..... pg 2	Lawn Tips .....pg 7
Cool Tool ..... pg 3	August Tips .....pg 8
Contest Winners ..... pg 3	September Tips .....pg 9
Dolphin Q&A..... pg 4	Rainfall Amounts .....pg 9
Propagation ..... pg 5	Recipes .....pg 10

## NAMES CAN BE DECEIVING

By Megan Hilf, Cherokee County Master Gardener Intern



Millettia is a woody climbing vine often referred to as “Chinese Evergreen Wisteria” or “Summer Wisteria”. Before you panic, starting shouting or grabbing the flame thrower this is not a Wisteria nor is it an evergreen in zone 7. How it got its common name I’m not sure, other than it has beautiful “pea-like” clustered flowers similar to wisteria and they both belong to the Faboideae Family. This is where the similarities end. This vine is not aggressive or invasive.

Millettia Taiwanensis (the species I have) or Reticulata are wonderful vines to add to a pergola, chain-link fence or arbor.

They produce fragrant purple-red flowers in late summer to

early fall when most other plants have succumbed to the summer heat. I challenge the term fragrant, as mine kind of smells like moth balls, (but to each his own). Millettia is an acid soil loving perennial growing in zones 7 to 11. It prefers full to part sun and will do well in containers. Cold hardness is 0 to 10° F. It is recommended to plant this vine in a semi-protective southern area of the yard to avoid extreme cold and wind. It grows at a moderate rate reaching heights of 12 to 15 feet and a spread of 6 to 12 feet. It can easily be maintained as a shrub by trimming back after flowering. The leaves are a glossy green leathery texture in an imparipinnate or odd pinnate pattern, and do not stay on the plant year round in zone 7.

Propagation is by seed. Pods ranging from 3 to 4 inches are produced after flowering and should be allowed to dry on the vine. The seeds do not store well and should be sown in the soil as soon as possible. An all-purpose fertilizer should be applied in the spring before new growth appears.

For those of you who are into taxonomy, here goes: Order: Fabales, Family: Faboideae, Subfamily: Papilionoideae, Tribe: Millettieae, Genus: Millettia and species Taiwanensis. There are over 150 species of Millettia most found in the tropics or subtropics. One site mentions that the genus was named after a botanist, Dr. J.A. Millet, who worked in China in the early 1700’s (I could not confirm this information).

These plants not only have attractive flowers but have other beneficial uses around the world. Millettia pinnate, found in India, is being highly researched for its potential use as a biofuel. The Millettia Taiwanensis has been used in Eastern Medicine for treatment of certain cancers, infertility, gastrointestinal parasites and as a red blood cell promoter. It is also used in Chinese agriculture as a pesticide - mostly against aphids. The bark from these vines is used in making strong ropes. Some of you may have seen this vine at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. It is has been used throughout the gardens to add a late summer attraction. So, the next time you have a fence to hide or need a late summer bloomer consider adding a Millettia to your collection and don’t let the name fool ‘ya.

### Saturday Morning Lecture Series

*Creating a Nighttime Garden* on August 13

*Insects* on August 27

*Fall Vegetable Gardening* on September 10

*Fall Gardens* on September 17

*Native Plants* on September 27

### 2011 CCMG Meeting Schedule

Aug. 16 Senior Center @ 6:30 pm

Sept. 20 Senior Center @ 6:30 pm

Oct. 18 Canton UMC @ 10:00 am

Nov. 15 Senior Center @ 6:30 pm

Dec. 13 TBA Cookie Swap

## COOL TOOL - FISKARS® ROPELESS PRUNING STIK® TREE PRUNER

By Gail Roos, Cherokee County Master Gardener

### *Strong, Trim, Lightweight and Reasonably Priced*

My cool tool makes it easy for me to do a chore that I used to ask my husband to do. And *that's* cool because I'd rather ask him to dig planting holes in our Hickory Flat red cement. His pruner is top-heavy and a bit unwieldy, for me anyway at my height of under 5'3".

This lovely black and orange pole pruner, weighing less than 2 pounds and measuring 54" long, has lots to recommend it. There is no external rope to pull; rather, the sliding handle houses not a 1/2" wide strap that resembles seatbelt material. The cutting head easily rotates 240° and locks securely in place with a thumb lock. That means you can cut at any angle you need whether you need to reach straight up and cut a tree limb or to reach inside a shrub – such as my very overgrown forsythia. There is no external rope to pull; rather, the sliding handle houses not a rope but a half inch wide strap that looks like seatbelt material. When you're ready to cut, just slide the easy-to-grip handle, and the cutting is done. Need more reach? Move your grip down the pole and pull a ball at the bottom.

The package description says it best:

- Stays Sharp – Fully Hardened Steel Blade with Non-stick Coating Cuts up to 1-1/4" Diameter
- Power-Stroke™ - Chain-driven Gearing Provides More Cutting Power
- Reaches Tight Spaces – Ideal for Renewal Pruning on Roses, Trees, Shrubs, and More

The functional difference between this pruner and our old pruner is that this one does not have a saw blade attachment. While that's OK with me, some people may want to spend a bit more for the model with the saw blade.

I've had my pruner since early Spring; several Master Gardeners tested it by pruning trees at the demonstration gardens at the Senior Center. I really liked it and was convinced that it would serve me well. I purchased one the same day; they are readily available at home improvement stores or online for around \$45.

I use this pruner high and low, up to tree limbs and down to errant branches, and reaching into a prickly holly bush for a bit of thinning. I use it to reach up and across a flower bed to cut overgrown tree branches that were hanging too low. It is comfortable to use and is lightweight but very tough.



### 2011 Annual Tomato Taste Test winners:

**Best Yellow/Orange — Jubilee**  
Mary Ellen and Walter Roos

**Best Red — Whopper**  
Mary Ellen and Walter Roos

**Best Cherry — Sun Gold**  
Gerald Phillips

**Best Overall Tomato — Sun Gold**  
Gerald Phillips



From left to right: Walter Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Gerald Phillips



This year's event at the Senior Center was held on July 14

## DOLPHIN Q&A

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

### Question

*What is the difference between a dolphin and a porpoise? And since I don't live near the coast, do my actions in my home and garden have the potential to affect them and other marine life?*

### Answer

For years the word “dolphin” and “porpoise” have incorrectly been used interchangeably despite the fact that they are classified into two different families. Even though they do share some common characteristics, when separated at this level they are as physically different as cats and dogs. You are more likely to see a dolphin, both in the wild and captivity. Consider yourself lucky if you encounter the smaller, cautious porpoise in either situation.

Dolphin & Porpoise Similarities	Porpoise	Dolphin
Scientific order: Cetacea	Family: Phocoenidae with 6 species	Family: Delphinidae with over 30 species
Aquatic mammals	Smaller in size, seldom exceed 7 ft in length	Larger in size, often exceeding 10 ft in length
Breathe air through a blowhole	More robust, chubby body	Lean, sleek body
Tail fluke	Triangular dorsal fin	Wave-shaped dorsal fin
Echolocate	No rostrum or beak	Very prominent rostrum
Give birth to live young	Teeth are spade-shaped for catching small fish	Teeth are conical or cone-shaped for catching larger fish
Nurse their young	Do not live past their mid-teens	Can live upwards of 50 years
	Shy animals, rarely seen at the surface, except to breathe	Less fear of man and more social

With so many challenges facing marine animals in the wild, it is important to understand the land-sea connection and the important role conservation can play in their protection. The land and sea are naturally connected to each other by creeks, streams, and rivers. Our homes and gardens are directly connected to these waterways by a system of gutters, drains, and other hard surfaces. Anything lying on these surfaces, including sediment, animal waste, excess fertilizer or pesticides, and oil can be washed directly into our waterways during a rainfall, where it eventually flows downstream making its way out to sea.

A common misconception is that if we are not putting chemicals directly into the oceans, they won't eventually end up there. One of the most important conservation messages that can be conveyed is that pollutants from very far inland will make their way into streams and eventually into the sea.

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Fortunately, making small changes or additions to your life can increase the chances for marine animals to thrive. One of the simplest ways to protect all animals and habitat is to reduce the amount of waste products created. If we use fewer items (*reduce*), share the items that others have already used (*reuse*), or make new items out of old ones (*recycle*), we can greatly minimize the amount of land we use for landfills and the number of products we take from the earth.

Being aware of human behavior, regardless of how far we may be from the ocean, is one of the most important steps we can take toward protecting this massive, but fragile ecosystem.

## TECHNIQUES OF PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS

By Rachel Prakash, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Using cuttings to create new plants involves taking pieces of the parent plant and placing them in favorable conditions to promote new growth. This allows many plants to be made from a small amount of plant material and is relatively inexpensive. It usually creates identical plants to the parent plant and gives quick results.

Select the parent plant based on its health and desired traits. The expectation is that roots will develop to form a complete plant. Types of cuttings are based on where they come from on the parent plant:

**1. Hardwood:** are relatively easy to prepare and can last for a few weeks in refrigerated conditions with light moisture provided. The cutting should be taken during the plant's dormant period from the previous year's growth. It should have nodes that are evenly spaced and should not be from the tip of the branch. Central and basal portions form roots more easily. At least two nodes should be included, with the cut from the lower portion being just below a node and the upper cut being ½-1" above a node. A rooting hormone can be applied to the lower portion to be placed in the medium to accelerate root formation, but it is not necessary as long as the rooting medium is moist yet well-drained and the high humidity is maintained. Easily rooted species include forsythia, spirea, rose and fig.

**2. Semi-hardwood:** are usually obtained from woody broad-leaved evergreens or leafy summer cuttings from partially matured woody or deciduous plants. The cutting should be 3-6" in length with larger leaves removed or cut to make smaller to lower the amount of water lost through transpiration. They should be obtained from terminal shoots with the bottom cut being just below a node. It is best taken from the parent plant early in the day when water levels in the cutting will be high. Use a rooting medium of 1:1 peat moss to vermiculite or perlite.

**3. Softwood:** cuttings come from new spring growth of deciduous or evergreen species, though not usually fruit trees. They usually root at a faster rate, but need more attention. Since the leaves remain attached to the cutting, more care must be taken to keep moisture levels consistent. Taken from mid-year growth, the cuttings should be somewhat flexible but break if sharply bent. At 3-5" in length and having at least two nodes, leaves should be removed from the part of cutting that will be placed beneath the rooting medium. Large leaves should be cut to a smaller size and all flowers and flower buds removed. To help ensure success, make cuttings early in the day.

**4. Herbaceous:** plant cuttings are a relatively easy way to start new plants. These include geraniums, coleus and herbs like oregano. Follow the same method as with softwood cuttings. For plants with sticky sap such as poinsettia, allow the cutting to air dry for a few hours before placing in the medium so the end can form a callous.

**5. Leaf cuttings:** are done on fleshy-leaved species such as violets and begonias. Adventitious roots and shoots form at the leaf base and the original cutting will die off after the new plant is established. Using a mature leaf, cut the end of large veins on the bottom of the leaf then lay flat in propagating medium. Weigh down the leaf against the medium. Likewise, a large leaf can be cut into triangular sections with a large vein and inserted upside down into sand. Whole leaves may be used, but ensure a large vein has contact with the sand. High humidity is important and can be maintained in a closed environment like a sealed plastic bag. Don't allow it to become too hot.

**6. Root cuttings** are best taken from younger plants in late winter or early spring. Make sure the root is positioned similar to its original state of growth (the part closest to the stem is placed higher than the deeper root portion). Most root cuttings can be rooted 1-2" deep under a well-draining medium. Portions should include several nodes at 2-3" in length. Keep soil moist until new growth is seen.

Propagation sanitation is very important to prevent disease. Keep water from being held against the cutting. Humidity should be high and medium moist, but not wet. Remove any dead material and perform insect control immediately. Once new growth is observed, plants should be gradually hardened-off to prevent shock. Use trial and error to find which method works best in the greenhouse or windowsill where propagating can be done. Once a system is developed, cuttings are one of the easiest and most fun ways of "making" new plants.



## POND PONDERINGS

By Nena Jones, Retired Cherokee County Master Gardener



Another hot summer is upon us. It is wonderful to sit in the evening and hear the waterfall splashing into the pond, and see the green cover of leaves that has spread across the water's surface since spring. Most of the water lilies have closed for the evening. But, if you have a night blooming tropical, you will have flowers open tonight.

How do you decide which should be the first water lily you get? Lilies are expensive and you should put time into selecting the right ones for your pond. This is especially important when you realize that your pond surface is limited, and unlike the rest of the yard, you can't always squeeze in one more plant.

Your main decision is hardy versus tropical. Usually a person will start with a hardy water lily. Instead of replacing a tropical every year, or babying it through the winter, you can just pull the hardy lily into shallower water in the spring, divide if needed, fertilize and soon blooms will appear. A hardy lily is actually a good first choice because of this ease. The colors of hardy lilies range from white to yellow, pinks and reds and they take very little care. Their blossoms are prolific and rest upon the water's surface.

Choose a tropical lily when you want a blue or lavender lily, or one that opens in the evening. Tropical lilies come in a wider range of colors and they hold their blossoms up out of the water. They need to be protected from cold water and are not put into the pond until the water temperature is 70 degrees.

When selecting your water lily, consider the color of your landscape and when you will be using your pond. It is more impressive if you have friends over in the evening to show them your open blooms, than to say "You should have seen them this afternoon."

You need to also consider size when you choose a water lily. Some have been developed for small ponds while another single lily could cover the whole surface of a moderate pond. Often, the choice will be between one large water lily and two different smaller ones. The flower size of most water lilies is about the same.

Water lilies are colorful, some are fragrant and some have different shades of leaves. They can be used as cut flowers. You need to have full sun for them to bloom well, though you can look for those that can tolerate less sun. They are not prone to disease, though koi may shred their leaves. Water lilies are another versatile plant to enjoy in your garden. Beware of over buying or accepting donated water lilies because, yes again, you may need to start another pond to display them. But isn't that great!

*Reprinted from August/September 2000*

### Pioneer Day Recap

On May 3, 2011 more than 200 elementary school children visited the Funk Heritage Center of Reinhardt University to experience life in the garden during the mid-1800's. Cherokee Master Gardeners, as part of its Heritage Gardens Program, planted a demonstration kitchen garden several weeks before, and many plants had already sprouted.



*Master Gardener Joan Mc Father, stationed at the syrup mill, explained how the settlers turned the sorghum they grew into syrup*



*Master Gardeners Steve Scott, Marvin Colston and Tom Connolly demonstrated how settlers planted their gardens, and the children had an opportunity to plant a three-sisters garden*



*Not pictured: Master Gardener Jane Shellnut led a tour of the Bennett History Museum*

## LAWN CARE—AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

by: Bill Slatton, Retired Cherokee County Master Gardener

**Warm Season grasses** (Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass, St. Augustinegrass)

- You can still plant warm season grasses in very early August. Generally, early summer is ideal, since they need time to get established before fall dormancy.
- Continue to mow at the correct height. Your lawn should not be lower or higher than the recommended height during August. See [www.georgiaturf.org](http://www.georgiaturf.org) for references on the correct mowing heights.
- Lawns should get one inch of water per week if there is no rainfall. It is best to water once or twice a week to let the water soak deep into the soil to encourage better root systems.
- You should fertilize Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass and St. Augustinegrass in late August or early September. You won't need to apply anymore this season.
- Warm season lawns can still be aerated in August but not in September. It helps water to get into the soil during those really hot, dry spells. Dethatching can also be done in August, but should not be done in September.
- You can apply winter pre-emergence weed control during the first two weeks of September in north Georgia. Soil temperature should be 70°. A good website for checking soil temperatures is: [www.griffin.peachnet.edu/bae/](http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/bae/). Most granular forms will need to be watered in to activate the chemicals. Do not apply if you are planning to overseed for the winter. You can still apply post-emergence weed sprays to established weeds. Be sure to read and follow the labels.
- Webworms and cutworms feed on grass blades at night. Spidery webs 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. Listen for reports from neighbors and agencies. Chinch bugs can be a big problem on St. Augustinegrass and Centipedegrass. Look for patches of yellow or wilted grass in sunny areas. Treat with an approved soil insecticide. Fungal diseases can arrive in late August and anytime during September as the nights start getting cooler. Keep a watch for them and apply an approved fungicide as needed. Control white grubs during August with an approved insecticide. They will be feeding on the grass roots.

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

- Do not aerate cool season lawns during the summer. Wait until late September or October.
- If thatch is more than .5 inches, you can dethatch before reseeding. Dethatching is generally not necessary on Fescue if mowed frequently and at the proper height.
- Water your lawn deeply, one inch/ week, if no rainfall.
- Fertilize at the beginning of September. This will be all that is needed for the year.
- The last week of September or the first week of October should be the best time for seeding or laying sod.
- 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 if the grass gets excessively tall.
- Wait until the beginning of September to apply fall pre-emergence. Do not apply if you plan to seed, reseed, or sod. 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 type.
- Webworms and cutworms feed on grass blades at night. Spidery webs 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. Listen for reports from neighbors and agencies. Fungal diseases can arrive in late August and anytime during September as the nights start getting cooler. Keep a watch for them and apply an approved fungicide as needed. Control white grubs during August with an approved insecticide. They will be feeding on the grass roots. September will probably be too late, as the grubs are moving deeper for winter.
- Sharpen or replace your mower blade in early September. A dull blade can pull new grass seedlings out of the soil.

**\*NOTE\*** For both warm and cool season grasses, early to mid-September is the time to apply pre-emergent herbicides for annual bluegrass. If applied too soon, it will be diluted when bluegrass germinates. Do not make Spring pre-emergent applications to any Fall planted lawns .



## AUGUST TIPS



### ORNAMENTALS

- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens (such as azaleas, holly, and hydrangeas) to propagate.
- Powdery mildew diseases attack a great many ornamentals, most often in late summer when the days are warm and nights are cool. Some mildews, particularly those on roses, apples, and cherries, also are increased by high humidity. Prevention by proper cultural techniques is the first defense. Grow resistant varieties; space and prune plants to improve air flow and reduce shading; water early in the day and at the base rather than on leaves; and reduce nitrogen applications to avoid excessive, late-season growth. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/cobb/anr/Documents/Powdery.pdf>
- Water shrubs deeply once a week during August. Many plant including camellias and rhododendrons, are starting buds for next season's bloom at this time. Immature berries of pyracantha and hollies may drop if the plants are water stressed. During hot, dry August days, avoid deep cultivation in your flower beds. Loosening the soil under these conditions reduces water uptake by increasing loss of soil water and damaging surface roots. Plants often look much worse after cultivation than before.
- Remember to water roses at least 1" of water per week. Remove spent blooms (deadheading) to encourage quicker rebloom. Cut down into thick canes for largest blooms. Prune 1/4" above an outward facing five-leaflet eye. Watch for spider mites on the underside of the upper leaves. A blast of water from underneath will discourage them. Continue fertilizing once a month for both August and September.
- Harvest cantaloupes when the melons pull easily from the stem; honeydews when the blossom end is slightly soft or springy; watermelons when there is a hollow sound when thumped and skin loses its shine. Also, run your hand around the middle of the watermelon. When fully ripe, most varieties develop low, longitudinal ridges, rather like flexed calf muscles.
- Do not leave pears to ripen on the tree - they will be damaged if they fall and hit the ground. Pick when slightly green and wrap in newspaper to fully ripen.
- Start seeds of cool weather vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and lettuce in order to transplant to the garden in early September. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/C%20947\\_2.PDF](http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/C%20947_2.PDF)
- White fly may be a serious problem this month on tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and squash. There are no effective preventive measures, so it is important to control the population before they increase to damaging levels. Hang sticky yellow strips among your plants to trap these pests. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=6186&pg=np&ct=whitefly&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6186&pg=np&ct=whitefly&kt=&kid=&pid=)
- Plant bush beans now for your fall crop. Watch out for insects, such as Mexican Bean Beetle.
- If going on vacation this month, be sure to harvest all your vegetables and then arrange for someone to pick fast-maturing crops, such as squash and okra; otherwise, they will become overmature and stop producing.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- ### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- Strawberries, blueberries, and bramble fruits are forming buds for next year's crop; keep them watered for better production.
  - Fertilize strawberries in August. On plants set out this spring, apply 4-6 ounces of ammonium nitrate (33% actual nitrogen) or 12-18 ounces of 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row. Spread the fertilizer uniformly in a band 14" wide over the row when foliage (not the ground) is dry. Brush fertilizer off the leaves to avoid leaf burn. For plants in the second year of growth, increase the application rate to 6-8 ounces ammonium nitrate or 18-24 ounces of 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=6859](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6859)
  - Heavy rains at harvest can dilute the sugars in melons. Watermelons can reconcentrate sugar if left on the vine for a few dry days, but cantaloupes can't.
  - Spider mites leave webs on the underside of leaves and eggs are laid in these webs. The grayish, stifted appearance of leaves infested with spider mites is a result of their feeding on plant juices. Spider mites thrive in hot, dry weather. For mild infestations, hose the foliage to wash off the mites. For severe problems, spray with an approved chemical according to label.
  - Water your plants several hours before applying pesticides, especially during dry weather. Drought-stressed plants have less water in their plant tissues. The chemicals that enter the leaves will be more concentrated and may burn the leaves.
  - The last two weeks of August is the time to spray Kudzu with a non-selective weed killer or mow all visible foliage, since it is at its weakest at this time.



# SEPTEMBER TIPS



## ORNAMENTALS

- Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. By planting in the fall, your plants do not endure the summer heat during establishment and will form sufficient root systems before winter dormancy. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/B%20944\\_2.PDF](http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/B%20944_2.PDF)
- Many B & B trees and shrubs are now sold wrapped in synthetic burlap that will not rot in the ground, resulting in a rootbound plant that doesn't grow well if the burlap is left in place. Some of this material strongly resembles cotton burlap; if in doubt about the burlap's makeup, cut it away from the root ball once the plant is in place.
- If you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright.
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1½ -2" below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming. Look for varieties that perform well in the South.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- During the fall, be sure to water vegetables adequately; crops such as corn, pepper, squash and tomato won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water. Snap bean, tomato and pepper flowers may fail to develop fruit when daytime temperatures rise above 90°F.
- Harvesting guidelines: Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
- Cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles and European corn borers pass the winter in debris left in the garden. Remove dead plant material and compost it or plow it under. This limits your pest population next year to the insects that migrate into the garden.
- To harvest sunflower seeds, wait until the seeds are fully grown and firm, then cut the head, leaving one foot of stem. Hang in a dry, airy spot to finish ripening. Do not store sunflowers on top of each other or they may rot.
- Winter-type pumpkins and squash, such as acorn, butternut, and spaghetti keep for several months in a cool, medium-dry basement, garage or tool shed. Allow the fruit to ripen fully on the vine, and cure in the sun to form a hard rind. Harvest before frost, and leave a piece of stem on each when they are cut from the vine. If the floor is damp, elevate them to reduce the possibility of rot. The best storage temperature is about 60°F.
- Keep basil, parsley, garlic, mint and sage producing by pinching off the flowers. Herbs can be used fresh, frozen, or dried. When the dew dries, cut a few stems, tie a strong cord around this little bouquet, and hang in a cool,

dry place until fully dry. Place in a jar for use during the winter. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7751&pg=np&ct=herbs&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7751&pg=np&ct=herbs&kt=&kid=&pid=)

- Don't prune or fertilize fruits now; it may disturb bud formation.
- Do not store apples or pears with vegetables such as potatoes and squash. Fruits give off ethylene gas that speeds up the ripening process of vegetables and may cause them to develop "off" flavors.
- Beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, onions, parsley, radishes, spinach and turnips seeds can be planted all month.
- Near the end of the growing season, pick off all tomato blossoms that won't have time to bear fruit so that plant nutrients go into existing tomatoes.
- Hot peppers will keep best if stored after they are dry. Pull the plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place. Wash your hands after handling them.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Autumn is a good time for improving garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter. Before adding lime, have your soil tested to determine if your soil is acidic. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/C%20896\\_3.PDF](http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/C%20896_3.PDF)
- Do not spray pesticides when it is windy or temperatures are over 85°F; and always follow directions carefully.
- Washing clothes worn while applying pesticides is important. Use heavy-duty detergent & hot water ASAP.
- Some pesticides are sold as dusts but dusts cannot be applied as precisely as sprays and may drift to non-targeted areas.
- Ready porch and patio plants to bring inside before the first frost; check under the pots for sowbugs and pillbugs. Check under leaves for whiteflies and spidermites. [http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=7639&pg=np&ct=houseplants&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7639&pg=np&ct=houseplants&kt=&kid=&pid=)



### RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	May 11	June 11	YTD	May 11	June 11	YTD
<b>Actual</b>	1.1	3.6	24.5	1.1	3.2	22.6
<b>Normal</b>	3.9	4.0	28.9	3.6	4.5	25.4
<b>Deficit</b>	-2.8	-0.4	-4.4	-2.5	-1.3	-2.8

# Recipes



Send recipes to  
Maura Watson at  
mlw229@gmail.com

## Chicago Deep-Dish Veggie Pizza (Serves 4)

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 fresh or frozen pizza dough
- 2 roasted red peppers (thinly sliced)
- ¼ cup pitted Kalamata olives (cut in ½)
- 2 cups shredded part-skim Mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup frozen, chopped broccoli (thawed)
- 1- 14 oz can chopped tomatoes (w/garlic & basil) \*drained
- ¼ cup freshly grated Romano cheese

Preheat oven to 475. Coat 12" oven-proof skillet with oil. Pat dough into a 14" round shape. Wrap loosely with 2 sheets of plastic wrap. Microwave ¼ cup water on High for 1 minute. Remove water & place dough in microwave. Close door & let dough rise 20 min. Remove plastic wrap & place dough in skillet. Flip dough to coat both sides with oil. Press dough 2" up sides. Sprinkle with mozzarella; top with vegetables and Romano. Bake 20-25 min or until golden brown.

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## Fish Tacos (Serves 4)

- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- ½ cup chopped red onion
- 1 pound mild white fish (tilapia or mahi mahi)
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 cups chopped fresh tomatoes
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 8 flour tortillas (warmed)
- Hot sauce & sour cream, optional

In medium skillet, heat olive oil & sauté chopped onion until soft (3 min.). Transfer to small bowl & set aside. In same skillet sauté fish, cooking until it breaks into chunks. Add cumin & cook until fish is opaque. Remove from skillet; add lime juice. Taste for seasoning. Divide fish & onions among 8 tortillas; fill with cabbage & tomatoes. Top with sour cream & hot sauce.



To receive printed copies of the 2011 newsletters, please send a check for \$7 to:

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

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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.