

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XIII, Issue 5 August/September 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AUGUST

Aug 3 9:00am Sr Ctr Workday

Aug 12 11:00 am "How to grow Orchids and other Houseplants" - Hickory Flat Library

Aug 15 6:30 pm Monthly MG meeting at Canton Sr Center -Bring finger food!

Aug 17 9:00 am Senior Center Workday

Aug 26 11:00am "Composting and Vermiculture" - Hickory Flat Library

SEPTEMBER

Sept 7 9:00 am Senior Center Workday

Sept 9 11:00 am Seminar on "Have Fun with Yard Art" @ the Hickory Flat Library

Sept 11 thru 16 -State Fair

Sept 16 11:00 am "Pansies, Winter Plants, and Bulbs" - Hickory Flat Library

Sept 19 10am monthly meeting

Sept 21 9:00 Senior Ctr Workday

Sept 28 Senior Center - Pull plants for Plant Sale

Sept 29 Noon - Plant sale setup at Autumn Hill Nursery

Sept 30 State Master Gardener Conference

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester



When I really open my eyes and pay close attention to Nature, I see how much She has to teach us. This week I'm seeing baby lizards running across my deck; they are so cute and they eat insects. Earlier this summer I had a mud dauber put up 3 clay "tubes" under my deck to nest its young. They don't sting and they eat spiders; their favorite is the black widow. I'm glad I didn't take down the nest in fear of being stung.

This has been my best bird nesting season; there are quite a few different size bird houses in both my woods and yard. I had 2 successful bluebird nests, 2 Carolina wrens, 1 titmouse (in an owl house), and 1 chickadee. All these babies will soon be out in the neighborhood eating insects. I'm sure everyone has seen a flock of bluejays chasing much larger hawks with a great deal of racket. I just saw the hawk, in the middle of such a chase, turn and jump at one of the jays. It was like a dance: the jays dive-bombing the hawk and the hawk evading, then jumping toward a jay. I don't know who "won" as the dance progressed out of my woods, but I could hear the racket for another 30 minutes across the neighborhood. We are so lucky in Cherokee County to have lots of nature available for us to enjoy. Make sure you take some time to enjoy it.



PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

AUTUMN HILL NURSERY

770 442-3901

Master Gardeners will be on hand to help answer questions about your gardening problems.

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“A CUT ABOVE THE REST”

T.J. Rottenberg

**see note at end of article*

Here we are, are you ready? “Yeah”, okay help me unload all the tools. We’ve got to work on these apple trees today; I want to teach you how to prune fruit trees. You might even learn something. See how the trees line the driveway; they’re the first things you see when you drive up. The trees are overgrown and don’t seem to produce as well as they used to, so I want to teach you how to prune them like my father taught me.

It’s a nice day, huh Jackson? “Yeah”, he replies nonchalantly, as he is engrossed in an ant mound he just discovered. While he is busy it’s a good time to set up the ladder to get started on the first tree. It takes time to find just the right position. Work is sometimes too easy to rush into. I find that the faster you finish the more work there is to do. Today is different though, today is when once a year I can come outside, in the fresh air, and just think and do and not worry about the day to day duties as if we were all ants born to perform one function for the good of the colony.

That’s it, I found the perfect position. See how you can get to over half of the tree just from this one spot. “Are you paying attention, you know someday you’ll be doing this.” “What?” he says as he turns up to me. “Never mind, try not to get bit this time.” He doesn’t even answer, so mesmerized by the moving floor that was once a bustling metropolis of ants, now reduced to a construction site that is months past its completion deadline. Ants are miraculous in the way they can rebuild in a manner of hours, with thousands of workers and the only way to communicate is by touch and smell. Anyways, when pruning, as in life, it’s always best to take a step back and look before you make any decisions. It gives you a chance to see where to start and how much to cut. For example, this apple tree hasn’t been pruned for some time, so it might take some effort to get it back in shape.

Now is a good time to explain the end goal of today’s pruning session. When pruning, in general there are a few things to keep in mind. The type of crown the tree has, or the growing portion of the tree, will determine the approach of pruning methods. Another example is type of growth, whether it is old, new, or sucker growth. The purpose of the tree also plays an important role while pruning, whether it is for fruit

production, screening or just for aesthetic purposes. The goal for these trees is to thin out the crown, shorten the height, and get rid of the sucker growth.

I start by looking at the overall shape of the tree. This one in particular has a good frame or “path” as I like to call it. The path has to be continuous from the ground up without too many crossing branches. As in life there are many paths to be crossed, choosing the right one will determine what kind of fruit you will yield. The path serves as way for food and water to reach its destination in hopes of reproducing; luckily this reproduction yields a tasty treat. Crossing branches may in time cause the tree to weaken by growing into each other. So it’s best to remove the internally crossing branches and allow room for growth. Something else to consider is which branches are meant for support, which are meant for fruiting, and which ones can be removed without hindering either. So I’ll start by cutting out these branches here. They really don’t serve a purpose and might eventually grow into one another. A few more cuts and we will be finished thinning out the internal portion of the tree. I like to start inside and work my way out, it allows you to cut purposely first and aesthetically second. Pruning can be thought provoking sometimes, choosing which branches to cut, how the cuts you make will affect the growth of the tree, while all the time relating to choices in life we make. Some good some bad but with a little effort and patience life can be a rewarding treat after a hard days work.

After getting the overall shape in order, I move onto selective branch thinning. See how there are all these branches growing straight up without any lateral branching? Those are called sucker branches. They grow almost twice as fast as normal branching, serve no real purpose, and look a little ugly. I start by removing all of these because you can do it with little thought and fairly fast. Now with those out of the way I can tell which branches I want to keep and which ones to cut out. As with many other types of plants, fruit trees reproduce on old growth, meaning that branch growth from previous years is where fruiting will take place. So sometimes you’ve got to be patient to enjoy the fruits of life. You see how this branch looks thicker than the others and has a more weathered look? Those are the branches we want to keep because they will have fruit

(...continued on Page 3)

THE "BLACK SPOT" TEST

*Editor's note: In the June/July issue of Gardening with the Masters Karen Garland submitted an article for "Q & A" on the differences between poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. The following information (taken from the website: www.USPharmacist.com) is offered as an item of additional interest...



Poison ivy and its cousins can often look quite different from one another, with different poison ivy plants from various parts of the country not bearing a strong resemblance to each other. One simple way to help with identification is the "black spot test." Urushiol oxidizes fairly rapidly when it is secreted from the plant, becoming exposed to air. Oxidation results in a darkening of the clear oil, so that it becomes slightly cream-colored, then in succession becomes slightly red-brown, dark red-brown, and eventually a black color. Wearing gloves, touch the damaged tip of the plant to a clean white piece of paper. The darkening will occur over 30 minutes or so.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST *(Continued from page 2)*

on them. Another good thing to keep in mind is not to remove all of the new growth to allow for future production. With that portion out of the way I step down to reposition the ladder and to have a look at the tree from afar.

Lining the driveway like a gated entrance to a foreign palace these trees also serve an aesthetic purpose in addition to fruit production. A pleasing form is rewarding when observing daily. This is achieved over several years of training the tree by selective pruning. You have to imagine what it will look like in five years and how it will look with leaves on it in the spring time. It's hard to see the big picture when your head is up in the branches, sometimes it's better to take time and observe before you act. "Be careful Jackson, there are ants all over you!" Running over I see that only a couple had time to bite. Had I not acted quickly, he would have been in some pain.

"Okay, now its time to leave the ants alone and come help me out over here." As I was saying, on the flip side you will know when to act. Not only are we pruning for form and aesthetics, but also for fruit production. Keeping in mind the fruiting aspect of pruning, you also have to be able to actually pick the fruit. So by keeping the branching low it allows you to have access to most of the fruit. Also having the branching evenly spaced up the trunk will prevent the branches from breaking from being overweighed with fruit. With all this in mind you can always keep your trees not only looking good but also producing well.

All finished, come over and sit down with me. So, what do you think, are you going to be able to do this next year? "Yeah", alright we'll see. I just wish you were old enough to understand what I am saying. Maybe when you can talk, you'll be able to understand a little better. Let's have some lunch. Here take this apple, see this is what we'll be eating next year under this same tree.

**28 year old T.J. Rottenberg is the son of Cherokee Master Gardener, Liz Porter. With a horticulture degree from North Metro and working toward a degree in civil engineering from Kennesaw then Southern Poly, T.J. is also in the landscape management business in Alpharetta. In this story he wrote for an English assignment,, he is speaking to his son ,Jackson.*

CAGLES' FARMERS MARKET
EVERY SATURDAY FROM 8 UNTIL 12:00



AVOID CYPRESS MULCH

by Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

We all know that mulch is a good thing, but the use of cypress mulch has serious negative consequences according to an article in the April/May 2006 newsletter of the National Wildlife Federation. Cypress forests act as storm buffers along the Gulf Coast, and it is estimated that more than 64,000 acres of mature cypress forests were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Even before that catastrophe, these forests were in peril from over-harvesting, and the scarcity of trees in some areas increased the storm's impact.

Cypress mulch is valued for its characteristics that repel rot and insects. However, it has been shown that these features are only present in the wood of mature cypress trees. Unfortunately, so much harvesting of mature trees has taken place that immature trees are now being cut. These immature trees make for ineffective cypress mulch – and more importantly, the loss of these trees damages the coastal ecosystem and prevents the forests from regenerating adequately.

Fortunately, you can take action. Simply refuse to buy cypress mulch. The National Wildlife Federation offers the following recommendations for alternatives to cypress mulch:

Compost: A mix of kitchen scraps and yard trimmings, composted in your own backyard, is one of the best and cheapest mulches around. As the compost breaks down, it will also act as a fertilizer for your plants. This is the best choice for traditional landscapes, but it can be difficult for a household to produce enough compost for even a small garden.

Fall leaves: Composted, they make a wonderful component in fertilizer. But even when they are simply shredded and spread around the yard, leaves make an inexpensive and effective mulch. Many towns in leafy areas will give back to gardeners communally collected and shredded leaves. Leaf mulch applied in spring will last about four months if stacked three to four inches deep.

Well-chosen bark: Bark from plantation grown—and therefore renewable—pine or other conifer trees makes a good, long-lasting mulch, especially when applied with compost or other soil conditioners. Just be sure that you're not actually buying wood chips or bark from cypress or other environmentally threatened trees.

To read the full article about the plight of the coastal cypress trees, visit this link on the website of the National Wildlife Federation:

<http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlife/article.cfm?issueID=104&articleID=1314>

Editor's note:

Several years ago I switched from shredded pine bark mulch to cypress mulch. I discovered it didn't repel termites, or neighbor's cats. I really didn't like the fact that each time I planted something or the neighbor's cat dug in it or I just added more mulch the color was different. It looked patchy. The price is about the same as shredded pine bark mulch and I reapplied it the same twice a year. I switched back to shredded pine bark mulch and I hope you do too.

FALL DAYLILY CARE

By Merrily McLaughlin and Marcia Winchester, Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Daylilies are very low maintenance plants but no plant is a "no maintenance" plant. To keep your daylilies vigorous, divide them every 3-4 years according to how full they appear and also for the ease of separating the fans from each other. They will also not have to work as hard to get their share of nutrients and water. However daylilies look their best when they have been undisturbed for two years. They will put out their best blooms and more buds with larger blooming scapes and have a better chance to rebloom after 2 years in the same location. The best time to divide daylilies is in late September when it is cooler and they still have time to put out new roots before it gets cold.

To divide daylilies first cut the foliage back to 5 inches from the crown and then carefully dig them out being careful not to pierce or cut into the crowns and to damage as few roots as possible. Tease apart the fans, if they don't easily separate wash the soil off the tubers and then shake apart. Replant at the same depth and cut the leaves back.

LAWN CARE—AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

by: Bill Slatton, Cherokee County Master Gardener

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

- You can still plant warm season grasses in very early August. They need time to get established before fall.
- Continue to mow at the correct height. Your lawn should not be lower or higher than the recommended height during August.
- Lawns should get one inch of water per week. It is best to water once or twice a week to let the water soak deep into the soil. This will encourage better root systems. September can be a very dry month.
- You should fertilize Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass and Saint Augustinegrass in late August or early September. You won't need to apply anymore this season.
- Warm season lawns can be aerated in August but not in September. It will help 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 pre-emergence weed control around the end of September or early October. Soil temperature should be 70°. A good website for checking soil temperatures is 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 Saint 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 early September.
- If thatch is more than .5 inches, you can dethatch before reseeding.
- Water your lawn deeply, one inch per week.
- Fertilize at the beginning of September. This will be all for the year.
- Do not plant or sod during August. You can begin seeding and sodding in September. The last week of September or the first week of October should be the best 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.
- Wait until the last part 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.
- 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, mid-September is the time to apply preemergent herbicides for annual bluegrass. If applied too soon, it will be diluted when bluegrass germinates. Do not apply pre-emergent until after the third mowing of a reseeded lawn.

AUGUST TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Order Peony roots now for planting in September. Plant about a month before the average first frost date in your area.
- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens to propagate; good choices are azaleas, holly and hydrangeas.
- 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.
- Apply Giberelic Acid to fall and winter-flowering Camellia buds for larger and earlier flowers.
- 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 hollies and pyracantha may drop if the plants are water stressed.
- Start selecting your favorite bulb varieties now by searching out bulb catalogs; look for varieties that do well in the South.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Don't neglect plantings of strawberries, blueberries, and bramble fruits just because the fruit has been harvested. These plants are forming buds for next year's crop. Water now to prevent buds from shriveling.
- Flowering trees are susceptible to Southern borers like fruit trees. Borer control takes place in August. Two sprayings are needed. In the lower South, spray immediately after the fruit harvest and again in early September. In the middle and upper South, spray on August 1 and September 1. Check with Extension for current recommended material.
- 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 inches 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.

- 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 don't do this.
- 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. They may be picked slightly green and wrapped in newspaper to fully ripen.
- If the birds get more of your berries, cherries and raspberries than you do, try some yellow varieties. Birds think the yellow fruits are not ripe and don't eat as many.
- Start seeds of cool weather vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and lettuce for transplanting to the garden in early September.
- 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.
- 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

- Spider mites leave webs on the underside of leaves and eggs are laid in these webs. The grayish, stifled 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 directions.
- 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.



RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	May 06	Jun 06	YTD	May 06	Jun 06	YTD
Actual	1.1	2.9	21	2.4	3.4	21.0
Normal	4.4	3.7	30.2	4.2	4	29.4
Deficit	-3.3	-0.8	-9.2	-1.8	-0.6	-8.4

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.
- 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.
- Rake up leaves, twigs, and fruit from crabapple trees, and dispose of them in the trash to help control scab.
- Wood ashes contain phosphorous, calcium, and potassium and can be placed on the garden, flower beds or spread on lawn, but don't overdo it. Avoid using wood ashes on acid-loving plants such as azaleas and blueberries; ashes raise soil pH.
- 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 1 1/2 - 2" below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming.
- If there has been no rainfall for a week, water roses thoroughly using a soaker hose. This prevents wetting the foliage which encourages diseases.
- Keep basil, parsley, mint, sage, balm and borage producing by pinching out the seed pods. 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.
- Snap bean, tomato and pepper flowers may fail to develop fruit when daytime temperatures rise above 90°F.
- Don't prune or fertilize fruits now; it may disturb bud formation.
- You can deter deer from feeding on your young apple trees by hanging fragrant soap in the trees.
- Check grapevines for mummified berries - victims of black rot. Pick them, and dispose of them before they can spread the disease. Do not put them in the compost pile.
- 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 can be planted from seed all month; the sooner the better.
- Remove all finished crops and plant the bare areas with a cover crop such as Crimson Clover (rather than cowpeas). Crimson Clover is hardy and will last all through the winter.
- 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.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- During the fall, be sure your vegetables are adequately watered. Many crops, such as corn, pepper, squash and tomato won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water.
- 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 heads 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.
- Autumn is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content. Before adding lime to your soil, have your soil tested to determine if your soil is acidic and needs lime.
- Do not spray pesticides when it is windy or temperatures are over 85°F; and always follow directions carefully.
- Careful washing of clothes worn while applying pesticides is important. Use heavy-duty detergent and 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.
- You may need to repot tropical flowering plants that have been outside all summer, such as Hibiscus, Banana, and Allamanda. Look at the roots; if they are matted against the outside of the ball, it is time to repot. Use a pot at least two times bigger, and a peat-light potting mixture.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recipes

Send recipes to
Maura Watson at
toyot@mindspring.com

Tomato and Cucumber Salad

2 Cups tomato chunks
2 Cups peeled cucumber chunks
1/2 Cup chopped bell pepper
1/3 Cup chopped red onion
1-14oz can artichoke hearts,
drained and quartered
1-2 1/2 oz can sliced black olives
1/3 Cup Italian dressing
1/4 tsp oregano
Salt and pepper to taste

Prepare vegetables; add Italian dressing and oregano.
Toss. Add salt and pepper to taste. Refrigerate for one
hour before serving.

Grilled Vegetable Packets

1 small zucchini (sliced)
2 Roma tomatoes (quartered-lengthwise)
1/2 bell pepper (cut into strips)
1 portobello mushroom cap (sliced)
4 baby carrots
1/2 small red onion (cut into strips)
2 thick slices eggplant
1/4 cup vinaigrette-style salad dressing

Make 2 “packets” from 2 **large sheets** of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Divide the vegetables & mushroom between the 2 packets. Drizzle with salad dressing. Fold in the edges of the foil & wrap tightly so that both packets are sealed. Chill until ready to cook. Place packets on rack of a medium-hot grill. Cook for 10-15 minutes until vegetables sizzle inside packets.

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
130 East Main Street, Suite 200
Canton, GA 30114



Mailing
Label
Here

http://www.cescherokee.org/mg/Master_Gardeners.htm

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.