Free Monthly Classes and Webinars Available to Home Gardeners in 2015

UGA Extension is offering many free educational opportunities to home gardeners in 2015. Designed for gardeners of all levels, these classes and webinars might encourage you to try a new project or brush up on your basic gardening knowledge. Three of these year-long series are outlined below. If you have a gardening question not included in these topics, contact your local county Extension office for assistance.

### ACC Extension Gardening Workshop Series

Starting in February, Athens-Clarke County Extension is holding a free gardening class each month through November, 2015. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Library located at 2025 Baxter Street in Athens. Taught by UGA faculty and Master Gardener Extension Volunteers, classes are free and open to the public. Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome to attend. For specific topics and dates, please view the monthly gardening class schedule (right).

To register for one or more classes, please contact Athens-Clarke County Extension agent Amanda Tedrow by emailing atedrow@uga.edu or call the Extension office at 706-613-3640.

### ACC Extension Gardening Workshop Series

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### ACC Extension Gardening Workshop Series

All classes will be at the ACC Library on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m.

### UGA Center for Urban Agriculture and Department of Horticulture Webinars

The UGA Center for Urban Agriculture and the Department of Horticulture are offering monthly webinars for home gardeners and urban agriculture professionals. These 30-minute webinars are accessible from your computer. The links to the webinars as well as the 2015 schedule can be accessed at [www.ugaurbanag.com/webinars](http://www.ugaurbanag.com/webinars). Each live webinar will be broadcast at 11 a.m. on its scheduled date. After the initial telecast, each webinar recording will be posted as an archive for viewing at your convenience.

(Continued on page 5.)
Resolve to live more sustainably in 2015 by creating a compost pile or bin to help reduce household waste.

Many items thrown into the trash can be sorted out and composted in the backyard, and benefits go well beyond waste reduction. Compost can be used to improve garden soil and make landscapes and vegetable gardens more productive. With a little organization and a designated space, home gardeners can amend their own soil through composting.

Start by finding a space where the compost can "cook." The location should be in full sun, at least 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet, out of the way and with good drainage.

A compost container can be bought or built with materials like welded wire, fencing, pallets or blocks. Open spaces should be left on the container’s sides to allow good air circulation through the pile, and the bottom should be open to the ground.

Just like cooking a meal, cooking compost involves following a recipe. Almost any organic plant material can be used for composting, including grass clippings, leaves, flowers, annual weeds, twigs, chopped brush, old vegetable plants, straw and sawdust.

Avoid composting diseased plants, weeds and seeds or invasive weeds, like morning glory. Vegetable peelings and coffee grounds can also be composted, but avoid adding meats, bones and fats that may attract animals.

For best decomposition, mix a variety of materials. Most compost piles are layered with whatever organic material is available at a given time. The smaller the pieces of organic matter, the faster they will decompose. Once a layer of organic matter is added, add a little garden soil or animal manure. This adds fungi, bacteria, insects and worms to the pile and helps speed up the decomposition process.

Keep the pile moist, but not too wet. To speed up the decomposition process and prevent odors, use a shovel to mix the pile once a month.

Compost is completely "cooked" and ready when it looks like rich, crumbly earth and the original organic material is no longer recognizable.

With every mix of the pile, some ready-to-use compost should be available. This compost can be added to the soil before planting vegetables or trees, shrubs or flowers. It can also be used as mulch on the soil surface, or as a potting soil for container plants.

Compost is completely "cooked" and ready when it looks like rich, crumbly earth and the original organic material is no longer recognizable.

For more on how to begin composting, see University of Georgia Extension publication “Composting: Recycling Landscape Trimmings (C981).”

(Mary Carol Sheffield is the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension agricultural and natural resources agent in Paulding County.)
As the seasons shift and people spend more time indoors, so do rodents. A University of Georgia wildlife specialist says, with a little forethought, you can rid your home of those uninvited winter guests.

The first step is to make sure your intruders are rodents. Michael Mengak, a specialist with the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, says watch for these signs.

**Droppings** - Mouse droppings are the size of rice grains. Rat droppings are the size of raisins.

**Tracks** - Scatter baking flour or powder on the floor along walls or attic or basement. Put a cracker with peanut butter in the center of the path. Check for tracks the next day.

**Burrows** - Outdoors, look in weedy places around plants, under boards and doghouses and near garbage cans.

**Gnawings** - A little hole with chewed edges is a sure sign.

Nests - They are often found in boxes, drawers, toolboxes, basements and attics.

**Odor** - A musty, urine-like odor often indicates mice are present, not rats.

**Listen** - Scratching in the walls or attics at night can be a sign of mice.

If you determine you do have rodents, the next step is to get rid of them. Act fast, though.

“One pair of breeding mice can potentially lead to millions more in a year,” Mengak said. “Although they don’t actually reproduce this quickly in nature, mice can breed at 30-day intervals, beginning when female mice are only two months old. So you must keep working to get rid of them.”

Mengak recommends using traps, not poison baits. “Poisons are more dangerous to children and pets, and poisoned rodents don’t die immediately,” he said. “Instead, they usually crawl into an inaccessible space in a wall or behind appliances, die and create an awful smell.”

Place traps in rooms, attics, basements and garages. Put them along walls, in cupboards, in drawers or on countertops.

Mice don’t venture out into a room or open space. Well-fed mice may live for weeks in one corner of a room or attic. Don’t expect it to travel more than 10 feet to find a trap.

Rat traps are larger. Place them where children and pets are not likely to trigger them. A dozen rat traps should work for one home. Mengak says rats are smarter and harder to catch than mice.

(Continued on page 6.)
Landscape planting season is upon us and home gardeners may be eager to buy new fruit trees and ornamentals. New plant material is often produced bare root — without soil — and must be either kept in cold storage or temporarily planted outdoors to survive.

If bare root plants cannot be planted immediately, then certain precautions must be taken to ensure their survival. Home landscapers must make sure bare root plants don’t dry out or freeze before they are planted in their permanent spot.

Don’t store bare root plants in a bucket of water. This cuts off all essential oxygen to the roots.

If refrigerated storage is available, store the bare root plants there. First, make sure the roots are in good, moist condition. Next, return the roots to the moistened packing material the plant was shipped in and place the plant into refrigerated storage.

UGA Extension experts say you can protect bare root plants by cold storing or temporarily planting them. Image credit: Brenda Lee Jackson.

Don’t store plants with fruits and vegetables, as produce can give off gases that can harm new plants. Maintain the storage temperature between 38 and 45 degrees.

If you can’t plant immediately and cold storage isn’t available, the best alternative is to plant in a pot or temporarily plant by covering the root with moist soil or mulch. This temporary planting is called ‘heeling in.’

Select a shady, well-drained site in the landscape. Avoid northern and northwestern exposures as most cold fronts come from these directions.

Dig a shallow trench wide enough to accommodate the plant’s root systems. For multiple plants, separate them, spread them out and cover them with moist soil. Keep varieties labeled and separate.

Water roots thoroughly and be sure all roots in contact with moist soil. This completes the heeling in process.

When you are ready to move the new plant to its permanent home in your landscape, be careful not to damage the roots.

(Frank Watson is the University of Georgia Extension agent in Wilkes County, Ga.)

Q and A: Selecting the right turfgrass

By Amanda Tedrow

Question: We just moved here from North Carolina, and we are interested in starting a lawn in our front yard. The area we are looking at is covered in weeds which are mowed regularly. Once we have the area prepared what kind of lawn should we put in?

— Pat G., Crawford

This is a great question that has numerous components. It is important for you to know the amount of sunlight, water or irrigation, and soil type when considering establishment of a new lawn. Most lawns in the Athens area are composed of warm-season grasses such as Bermudagrass, Zoysia grass, centipede and sometimes St. Augustine. These grasses are green during the summer and dormant (brown) during the winter. The most common cool season turf for our area is tall fescue, which is green during the summer and winter. Visit the link www.extension.uga.edu/garden/lawn for a great overview to having and maintaining a lawn.

Also, visit the Georgia Turf site for a chart with the characteristics of the turfs which grow in Georgia. Pay special attention to the sections concerning heat tolerance, cold tolerance, drought tolerance, shade tolerance and wear resistance. These are often topics which need to be considered when selecting a turf and are often specific to your yard and lifestyle.

Once you have selected your turf, make sure to test your soil so you will know which fertilizers and how much to apply for that particular turfgrass. Feel free to call our office at the number below to talk through which turf to select, there really is quite a bit to consider.

(Amanda Tedrow is the County Extension Coordinator for Athens-Clarke County Extension.)
Free monthly classes and webinars, continued...

Topics range from “Sustainable Turfgrass” to “Summer Container Gardens” and more. If you have questions regarding the webinars, please contact Athens-Clarke County Extension office at 706-613-3640.

### UGA Center for Urban Ag. & Dept. of Horticulture Webinars
www.ugaurbanag.com/webinars

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<td>Sustainable Turfgrass</td>
<td>Clint Waltz, PhD., UGA Turfgrass Specialist</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides on Landscape Trees and Shrubs</td>
<td>Paul Pugliese, UGA Extension</td>
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<td>Jenny Hardgrave, Simply Flowers</td>
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<td>Gary Peiffer, UGA Extension</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Little, PhD., UGA Plant Pathologist</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Small Fruits in the Landscape</td>
<td>Rachel Itle, PhD., UGA Horticulture</td>
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### 2015 All Bugs Good & Bad Webinar Series
Another monthly webinar series is the “2015 All Bugs Good & Bad” series. These webinars feature information you can use about good and bad insects. Topics include how to help good insects in your garden and how to control insects like fire ants, termites, bed bugs, white grubs and wasps. Webinars can be accessed from your home computer and will take place on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Webinars will also be recorded and archived for you to view at your convenience.

The All Bugs Good and Bad webinars are brought to you by the Imported Fire Ants, Urban IPM, Disasters, and Pesticide Environmental Stewardship eXtension Communities of Practice; and by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the University of Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture. For questions regarding these webinars, you can contact Athens-Clarke County Extension office at 706-613-3640.

#### All Bugs Good & Bad Webinar Series
www.extension.org/pages/72197

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<td>Pesticide Strategy: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>Fire Ant Management Using Baits</td>
<td>Presented by Dr. Lawrence &quot;Fudd&quot; Graham</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Common Termites of the Southern United States: Biology, Behavior, and Management</td>
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<td>Beneficial Garden Helpers</td>
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<td>Aug. 7</td>
<td>Management of Japanese Beetles and Other White Grubs</td>
<td>Presented by Dr. Juang-Horng (J. C.) Chong</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>Bees, Wasps and Hornets - They’re all Different</td>
<td>Presented by Dr. Charles Ray</td>
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<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Keep Ants and Cockroaches from Ruining Your Holidays</td>
<td>Presented by Elizabeth &quot;Wizzie&quot; Brown</td>
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<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Let's Beat the Bug! New Things to Know About Bed Bugs</td>
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<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Wildlife in the Backyard: a Double-edged Sword</td>
<td>Presented by Dr. Scott Hygnstrom</td>
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Controlling ants and cockroaches will be the topic of the October All Bugs Good and Bad webinar. Photo courtesy Bugwood.org. From Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series.
Amanda’s Slice - Congrats to the Athens Area Master Gardener Class of 2014!

I would like to congratulate the 17 new Athens Area Master Gardener Extension Volunteers. To receive their certification, these dedicated individuals completed the 2014 Athens Area Master Gardener training and each volunteered a minimum of 50 hours in 2014. They officially graduated at a ceremony held on January 20 at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Also at the ceremony, Athens-Clarke County Extension honored 10 Master Gardeners who earned their Lifetime service award. The Lifetime award is given to Master Gardeners who have completed 10 years of volunteer service.

Athens Area Master Gardener Extension Volunteer activities include staffing Master Gardener booths at farmers markets and events, volunteering at the ACC Extension office and State Botanical Garden of Georgia Help Desks, volunteering with local school gardens, assisting with Plant-a-Row for the Hungry gardens and more.

For more information about the Athens Area Master Gardener Program, please visit the Athens-Clarke County Extension website at www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr or call 706-613-3640.

Thank you for your volunteer service, and congratulations on this huge accomplishment!

- Amanda

(Each graduate of the 2014 Athens Area Master Gardener class volunteered 50 hours in the community to receive his or her certification.)

(Ten Master Gardeners received their Lifetime service award, marking their ten years of Master Gardener volunteer work.)
The Seniors Garden Club hosted by the Athens Community Council on Aging meets on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10-11 a.m. Meetings are FREE. Contact 706-549-4850 for more information.

On Thursdays, UGArden holds its weekly produce stand from 4:30-6 p.m. during the spring semester. The student-run stand is located at 2500 S. Milledge Avenue past the greenhouse entrance. Offerings include vegetables, shiitake mushrooms (in season), herbs, and mixed herb teas. For more information, visit www.ugarden.uga.edu.

On Wednesday, February 4 at 11 a.m., the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture and Department of Horticulture are holding the webinar “Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides on Landscape Trees and Shrubs.” Presented by Paul Pugliese of UGA Extension, the webinar will also be archived for you to view at your convenience.

On Thursday, February 5, the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is holding the FREE workshop “Sound and Sensible Organics” for farmers and growers interested in becoming National Organic Program (NOP) certified. Hosted by Athens-Clarke County Extension, the workshop is from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Extension office. To register, please visit the NCAT website or call Rockiell Woods at 479-575-1385.

On Friday, February 6 at 2 p.m., the 2015 All Bugs Good and Bad Series begins with the webinar, “Pesticide Strategy—the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.” This one-hour free webinar will review proper use of pesticides to ensure effectiveness and safety. The link for the webinar opens at 1:45 p.m. Please enter as a “Guest.” A recording of the webinar will be posted after Feb. 6.

On Saturday, February 7, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia is holding the fundraising event “Orchid Madness” from 6-8 p.m. This benefit will include a wine and cheese reception, silent auction and exclusive view of rare orchids. Attendees will receive an orchid to take home. Cost is $50 and will benefit the Garden’s Horticulture Department and their goal of a new deer fence. To register online, visit the Orchid Madness site, or call 706-542-1244.

On Friday, February 13, the UGA Horticulture Department is holding the workshop “Getting Started in the Landscape Business School” from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the UGA Griffin Campus. The program will discuss getting started in the landscape industry from budget development, business plans and job bidding to marketing and equipment. For a full overview of the workshop and to register, visit the workshop link or call 770-228-7214. Cost is $65 and includes materials and lunch. Register by Friday, February 6.

On Wednesday, February 18, Athens-Clarke County Extension agent Amanda Tedrow will present the free gardening workshop “Seed Starting.” Held from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Library, the workshop will review how to start your spring veggies inside, preparing for transplanting and more. Registration is required. To register, please call 706-613-3640 or email atedrow@uga.edu.

On Friday, February 27 and Friday, March 6 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the UGA Horticulture Department is holding a Pruning Workshop at the UGA Griffin Campus. This popular program will review proper pruning techniques for all ornamentals and briefly cover fruit trees. The class will include indoor lectures and outside hands-on demos. Cost is $59 and includes handouts and lunch. Pre-registration is required. To register please call 770-228-7214 or visit the Pruning Workshop site to register online.

*What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.* —Author Unknown
Non-Drought
Outdoor Water Use Schedule*
Effective August 8, 2013

allowed daily
Between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am
- Automated irrigation systems
- Hand watering (without a shut-off nozzle)
- Lawn sprinklers

allowed anytime
By anyone
- Commercial pressure washing
- Drip irrigation or soaker hose
- Watering of food gardens
- Hand watering (with a shut-off nozzle)
- Hydroseeding
- Installation and maintenance of an irrigation system
- Irrigation of newly installed turf (for the first 30 days)
- Irrigation of public recreational turf areas
- Irrigation of plants for sale
- Irrigation of sports fields
- Water from a private well
- Water from an alternate source
  - grey water, rain water, condensate

odd/even schedule
No hourly restrictions
Even: Mon • Wed • Sat
Odd: Tues • Thurs • Sun
- Car washing at home
- Charity car washes
- Hosing driveways
- Outdoor cleaning
- Pressure washing by homeowner
- Topping-off pools

Please note: The odd/even schedule still applies to non-landscape outdoor water use.

*This Non-Drought Outdoor Water Use Schedule is consistent with the Outdoor Water Use Rules set forth in the Georgia Water Stewardship Act that went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010.

Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office
706-613-3729 / savewater@athensclarkecounty.com
**Outdoor Water Restrictions:**

*Barrow, Oconee & Jackson Counties*

Outdoor water use for Barrow, Oconee, and Jackson Counties is now limited to three days per week with even number addresses allowed to water on Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday and odd number addresses allowed to water on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The ban on watering between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM remains in effect for all scheduled watering days. No outdoor watering is allowed on Fridays other than exemptions below.

THE FOLLOWING USES ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL HOURLY/DAY OF THE WEEK RESTRICTIONS:

- Drip Irrigation
- Soaker Hoses
- Hand Watering
- Food Gardens
- New installations of plants and turf (with a permit)
- Grey Water, Rainwater and AC Condensation Reuse
- Golf Course - Tee and Green Irrigation
- Plants for sale, resale, or installation

**Please be aware that water restrictions are subject to change.**

For more information and additional exemptions please contact your county’s water conservation department.

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**Mission Statement**

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension’s mission is to respond to the people’s needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/Youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

**Athens-Clarke County Extension**

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