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Athens-Clarke County Cooperative Extension

Shades of Green

From Gardeners, To Gardeners

What's Buggin' You? By Pam Snyder

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Follow this link for additional information on the diamondback moth:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/diamondback_moth.htm

I have never given much thought to those plain brown moths flitting about in my garden. Little did I realize that one of them may be the most destructive pest to attack kale, collards, cabbage and other brassica plants. The diamondback moth caterpillar (DBM), *Plutella xylostella*, can turn fall leafy greens into something resembling baby Swiss cheese.



The DBM spends most of its life cycle feeding on brassica plants. The moth lays eggs on the underside of the plant's leaves. When the eggs hatch, the larvae begin feeding on the leafy greens. The larvae

are small green caterpillars which grow as large as 5/8 inches long. The larvae also feed on the heads of cabbage causing misshapen heads and encourage diseases such as soft rots.

Since the DBM is a cold hardy pest, it survives cold temperatures as a caterpillar. When the temperature drops below fifty degrees, it stops feeding, but resumes feeding when temperatures rise above this point again.



For more information and photos of this pest and other pests of cabbage and leafy greens:

http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/B%201181_2.PDF

Razzle Dazzle Raspberries, By Helen Wenner

Who can resist tart and tangy raspberries? But who can afford to buy them at the store for \$4 and up? Especially knowing they will turn to moldy mush in the refrigerator within days if uneaten. Nutritionists say we should eat more berries and reap the benefits of their antioxidant goodness. So the answer is obvious: we should grow our own! Here in Georgia we are fortunate enough to be able to do just that.



When I was taking the Master Gardener class earlier this year, our presenter mentioned that growing “fall” raspberries was pretty easy. Fall raspberries are an “erect” variety, meaning no trellis is needed. They are also “primocane” berries, meaning they produce fruit on the first year’s canes or stems so you don’t have to wait two years for a harvest,

unlike other raspberry varieties. Best of all, in late fall, when the berries are all gone, you can hack away at the plants with your machete or fire up your lawn mower and just mow them down to ground level. Great stress relief! (Don’t forget to rake up the debris and compost it.)



Going back to my Master Gardener class literature, I read that two recommended varieties are (Heritage) and (Redwing). These can be found locally, ordered from nurseries on the internet or a catalog. The best time to plant is fall or early spring. Since no raspberry is happy in our heavy clay soils, you’ll need to prepare and amend the soil in advance of planting your new plants. Think in terms of good drainage, compost and mulch, for starters. Lots of sun and a nearby source of water for irrigating 1” of water per

week during our dry spells are also important. Deer protection? You bet you’ll need it as I’m positive deer and other critters like raspberries as much as they seem to like everything else in a garden.

Oh and another thing to consider is that when you plant raspberries you’re making a commitment to the future. With precaution and some good luck, you’ll have gourmet berries for years to come. So consider your plant location carefully. I’m going to plant my babies next to the asparagus I started this spring. By the middle of next July maybe we can enjoy our first berries while bemoaning the fact that we still have to wait one more year before sampling the asparagus. We’ll see....

Publication on Raspberries: http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/C%20766_2.PDF



Before Spring Has Sprung, *By Pam Snyder*

Start planting spring flowering bulbs now through late December in your garden.



Spring blooming bulbs can be purchased from your local garden center or ordered through catalogs. When selecting bulbs, there is a direct association between the quality of the bulb and the quality of the flower. The bulb should be firm, without any signs of mold or discoloration. Bargain bulbs that are excessively dry, flaky, or blemished are poor quality and will probably be disappointing in the following spring.

Larger bulbs will provide you with larger and or multiple blooms. Medium sized blooms may not provide as

much “show” the first year, but should cost a bit less as bulbs are graded and sold by size.

Most spring blooming bulbs prefer light shade to full sun. Try to plant them where they can receive at least six to ten hours of direct sun light. Planting these bulbs under deciduous trees is a great idea since the bulbs will have bloomed and generated leaves before the trees have leafed out.

The best soil pH range for most bulbs is between 6.0 and 6.8. A soil test is recommended before adding soil amendments. Some gardeners use bone meal as an organic fertilizer instead of inorganic sources of 10-10-10 or 8-8-8. Any amendments to the soil should be incorporated to a depth of twelve inches.



Greek Anemone, *Anemone blanda*

Our normally moist winters should provide enough water to carry the bulbs through to the spring. If moisture levels are low, supply irrigation as bulbs require additional water during growing season.



Crown Imperial, *Fritillaria imperialis*

After flowering, remove spent blooms before seeds are formed and fertilize them according to your soil test report. Let the foliage remain until it dies naturally to build energy for the next season.

For a list of bulbs commonly grown in Georgia, follow this link to UGA bulletin 918. This bulletin also provides details on planting depths, spacing, blooming times, etc.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_2.PDF

Q and A, Armadillos!, By Amanda Tedrow

Help! I have an armadillo in my backyard. It is destroying my lawn and flower beds. How can I get rid of it? Christine P. Athens



Unfortunately, the nine-banded armadillo invaded Athens a few years ago. Armadillos are nocturnal and have an amazing sense of smell but poor eyesight. Whenever they smell their favorite foods, (earthworms and grubs) they begin digging. Armadillos dig not only in the pursuit of food but



also burrow under structures for shelter. Reducing the insect and grub population may reduce visible landscape damage but the armadillo probably will not leave your area completely. The insect population may be lowered through insecticides but can also be affected by reducing irrigation to preferred areas. Armadillos prefer lawn or mulched areas where insects thrive. Also, many homeowners find that armadillos will not enter fenced areas, preferring open spaces.



If you would like to trap your own armadillo you will need a *Havahart* trap and short fencing, edging or wooden boards.

Find an active burrow hole and create a path with the fencing to guide the armadillo into the trap. This path should run from the burrow opening to the trap. Baiting the trap may help but

results are inconclusive as to what will best attract the armadillo; earthworms or grubs in a sock is a possibility.



The problem with trapping your own armadillo involves the relocation process. You are not allowed to release them on public property and I don't know of any homeowners who would want the headache of an armadillo on their property. Contact a local nuisance wildlife removal professional for trapping and humane disposal fees.



Read more at this link:

http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7382#Control

Do It Yourself Seed Tapes, By John Aitkens

We have all struggled to plant small vegetable and/or flower seeds in a straight row with a minimum amount of waste. I especially dislike planting small seeds such as carrot, radish, lettuce, etc., as they are hard to handle.



Purchasing seed tape can provide a clean and easy way to have those straight and evenly spaced plants in the garden. The drawback to this seed tape is the cost, often at \$5 per packet. There are also few retailers who sell seed tape and limited varieties available. Because of this, I wondered if I could make my own seed tapes. I searched the internet for a do-it-yourself method and found several ideas, this is my favorite.

Materials needed: roll of toilet paper (cheap, single ply), flour and water mixture (mixed to the consistency of

Elmer's glue), a small art brush or cotton swabs, and your selected packets of small loose seeds.



Procedure: On your kitchen counter unroll the paper to desired lengths. Spot paint about four to eight glue locations per square, making sure to space your seeds at the distance you would want them in the garden. Drop your seeds on to these glue spots and shake off extra seeds (keeping them to be reapplied later). Let the tissue dry, roll it up and store



in labeled plastic baggies until planting time.

After trying this, I found the process to be time consuming. Some gardeners may enjoy the “crafty-ness” of making your own seed tape, while others may want to spend the little extra money to purchase them pre-made from a retailer.



However, wrapped in ribbon, your handmade seed tapes could make great gifts for your gardening friends and relatives.



For Square Foot Gardening, these seed tapes might be just the answer for planting just a few seeds at a time in a small space.

Gardening Events in Our Area

**UGA HORTICULTURE CLUB
PLANT SALE** Riverbend Green-
house –located off College Station
Road. OCTOBER 7 – 8 8am – 5pm
OCTOBER 9 1pm – 5pm

You Can CAN, Thursday, October
6th, 2:00 to 4:00pm. , at the State Bo-
tanical Garden of Georgia. Presented
by Denise Everson. Preregistration is
required, Cost \$15.00 members, \$17.00
non-members.

37th Annual Harvest Festival,
Thursday, October 13th. Held at
Lyndon House Arts Center. Free
event, contact Lyndon House to
schedule groups.

**Athens Community Tree Council
Annual Tree Fair.** Saturday, Novem-
ber 5, 2011, from 8-12 at Bishop Park
in Athens. Trees can be purchased at
the event or pre-ordered:

<http://athenstrees.com/docs/2011preorder.pdf>

**Medicinal Plant Symposium and
Plant Sale**, Tuesday, October 18th at
the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.
Symposium 9:00am to 3:00pm. Plant
Sale is from 10:00 am to 3:00pm. Sale
is free to the public. Call 706-542-
1244 for more information.



“Plants cry their
gratitude for the
sun in tears of
green joy”

**Terri
Guillemets**

Amanda Says



I have to admit that fall is my favorite time of year. The cool weather is wonderful and I love the promise of a cool season vegetable garden. I also love fall because it offers a chance for planning around the office and at home. Spring and summer are always so crazy with questions and samples from clients we don't always have a chance to think about the future. Upcoming classes include a Master Composter program and a series on home vegetable gardening.

I'm also currently planning the Master Gardener program for

2012 and as usual we have some great speakers lined up. For those of you thinking of taking the class, applications and more information can be found at the following link and are due by November 1, 2011. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/anr/documents/MG2012AppSI.pdf>

If you are a current Master Gardener, don't forget you can always sit in on the classes as a refresher or if you missed a particular topic during your class.

As always, happy gardening and let us know if you have any questions!

Outdoor Water Restrictions: Clarke, Barrow, Oconee & Jackson Counties

Outdoor water use for Clarke, Barrow, Oconee, and Jackson Counties is now limited to one day per week with even number addresses allowed to water on Saturday and odd number addresses allowed to water on Sunday. The ban on watering between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM remains in effect on Saturdays and Sundays.

THE FOLLOWING USES ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL HOURLY AND DAY OF THE WEEK RESTRICTIONS.

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

For more information and additional exemptions please see the following link:

<http://athensclarkecounty.com/index.aspx?NID=1243>



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<http://www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/index.html>

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cooperative 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, researched-based education and information.

Learning
for
Life