

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XXII, Issue 4 June/July 2016

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUNE

Jun 1: GMGA tour of Oakland Cemetery & Gardenhood Nursery

Jun 2: Demo Garden workday

Jun 8: Plant-a-Row workday, 10am

Jun 9: Plant Swap at Debbie Meadows @11am

Jun 11: Seminar—Heavenly Hydrangeas, Hickory Flat Library, 10am

Jun 16: Demo Garden Workday

Jun 18: Lecture on insects and diseases 10am at Ag Agent Research Garden

Jun 21: Monthly meeting at Merrill's 10am, potluck and daylily tour

Jun 22: Plant-a-Row workday, 10am

Jun 24: Plant Sale Setup, 10am

Jun 25: Plant Sale, 9am, Senior Center

JULY

Jul 7: Demo Garden Workday

Jul 16: Lecture on saving herbs and seeds 10am at Hickory Flat Library

Jul 19: Monthly Meeting

Jul 21: Demo Garden Workday

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



I would like to welcome the 2016 trainee class. They are the best group yet. I love watching a new group eagerly listening to the training classes. Passing the mid-term and final are great accomplishments. Now begins the second part of their training, which I call "the hands-on training." The interns sign up to help with different committees; then with their enthusiasm, they jump in and help. It's like a breath of fresh air. While volunteering, they in turn learn more. Seven of our trainees volunteered to help with our Plant a Row garden. I love this committee. I have learned so much about vegetable gardening working with other volunteers. This year I copied Gerald's idea of putting up chicken wire as a fence to keep the rabbit from eating my beans.

proper gardening techniques. Of course we have weeding and mulching, but they will also learn how to deadhead, harvest seeds, and when and how to prune properly. Several trainees helped me with a lecture recently. Our lecture series is a great educational opportunity for both trainees and the public. Check out our new website for the complete schedule of our classes <http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/chokeee.html>. We have many committees and projects to benefit Cherokee County. I hope to see you at one soon.

Marcia

The demonstration garden is another opportunity for the trainees to learn about plants and

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BAD NEWS FOR BASIL LOVERS

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

I LOVE BASIL! However, there's unfortunate news for gardeners who grow basil for their Italian or Thai dishes. For the past several years of growing it in my garden, I have noticed that the leaves oftentimes become yellow, which I mistakenly diagnosed as a nutritional deficiency. When I turned the leaves over, I observed a gray, fuzzy growth on the underside, which eventually led to the leaves dropping off after they turned a brownish black. Yes, I thought it was my fault for not knowing how to properly grow this gourmet treat. However...

If this sounds familiar to you, chances are your plants have basil downy mildew too, which is caused by an oomycete, *Peronospora belbahrii*. This is a new, destructive disease that has spread to at least 42 states in the United States since its first detection in south Florida in 2007. Oomycete is a water-mold pathogen that evolved from brown algae and is not related to fungi at all. Conversely, because it looks and behaves like fungi, it was classified as such for many years. This pathogen is transmitted through spores that can be blown long distances by the wind or carried on clothing, hands, or tools, which then contaminate and infect the basil leaves and seeds.



Bruce Watt, University of Maine, Bug-

The pathogen thrives in a warm environment, with 85 percent or more humidity, and is a highly contagious disease among most basil plants, especially during late summer. Therefore, increase row width and distance to provide good air movement between plants to allow leaves to dry quickly after being watered. Use drip irrigation if possible. In other words, "water their feet, not their heads," and avoid overhead irrigation.

Consequently, if basil downy mildew is identified on any plant, it should be removed by first covering the entire plant with a bag to keep as many of the spores contained as possible, and destroyed immediately. However, do not compost or try to remove any of the infected leaves, as this can lead to the spread of more spores. Additionally, the disease can stay viable in the soil for many years, with some experts saying up to eight years or more. If nothing else, rotate your crop of basil by planting it in an entirely new location for the next season.

Unfortunately, at this time no commercially viable tests are available for detection of infected seed. Nor are there any resistant varieties of sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*). However, lower disease levels have been observed in red leaf (*O. basilicum purpurescens*) and lemon (*O. citri-dorum*) varieties. Therefore, prevention is the best course of action. Be sure and harvest the leaves early, which can then be frozen, dried, or turned into pesto.

Resources

Grabowski, M. (2016). Basil Downy Mildew. Retrieved May 01, 2016, from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/basil-downy-mildew/docs/basil-downy-mildew-pub.pdf>

McGrath, M. T. (2016, February). Expect and Prepare for Downy Mildew in Basil. Retrieved May 01, 2016, from <http://vegetablemndonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/BasilDowny.html>

2016 GOLD MEDAL PLANT WINNERS

By Joan McFather, Cherokee County Master Gardener

There are times—especially mid-winter—when I wonder what I should do next with my landscape. What will refresh it, make it interesting and exciting? What new plant might I be missing? Choosing plants can be difficult. You have to plan for how they will look after their growing season, if they will hold up in winter, survive our clay, stand the heat. Should one, in fact, head for the newbies or fall back on the tried and true? Georgia Gold Medal Plant Winners to the rescue!

Each year since 1994, the Georgia Plant Selections Committee chooses beautiful, proven plants to help Georgia gardeners improve their landscapes: native plant, annual, perennial, tree, and shrub. In 2003, they added a fifth category: flowering vine/groundcover. About 30 members represent the combined efforts of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia; the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension; University faculty members; and nurserymen, flower growers, garden retailers, and landscape professionals across the state.

The Georgia Gold Medal awards are meant to get deserving but underused plants into Georgia landscapes. There is a tough supply-and-demand barrier. If a plant's not popular, the demand is low, so growers don't supply many, so prices stay high, thus demand stays low... "It's a vicious cycle," said Gary Wade, a UGA Extension horticulturist and a committee member. "Plants have to go through a tough period of introduction. It can be a wonderful plant, but it takes a while for it to break into the market." Each year the Gold Medal winners are recommended to growers in the summer in hopes that they will propagate ample supplies. The selections are formally announced the following February. To become a winner, a plant has to excel in five criteria: consumer appeal, low maintenance, survivability, ease of propagation, and multi-seasonal interest.

If you are seeking inspiration, the Gold Medal finalists for 2016 are as follows.

The annual winner is Persian shield (*Strobilanthes dyerianus*), for full sun or partial shade. It has vibrant variegated purple foliage highlighted with a metallic sheen. Use it as a mass planting of a stunning 18 to 36 inches, or fill a container. It handles heat, humidity and drought well; in our area wait to plant until you plant tomatoes. Pinch it back for thicker growth.



Rhododendron spp
Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

In the native category, the committee chose native azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.) in general, a terrific choice to my mind, since I have woodland part shade that they prefer. There are 12 species in Georgia, ranging from 3 to 15 feet, varying in color from white to pink to yellow, orange and red. When different species are planted near one another they can hybridize, giving you new colors.

Note that all natives are deciduous and may bloom early or late in the season. Butterflies and other pollinators love them.

The pineapple lily (*Eucomis* spp.), the perennial winner, is a South African native. Its flower spikes actually do look like a pineapple. It has bold, strappy leaves that are especially notable in the variety 'Sparkling Burgundy'. The plant is deer resistant—yay!—and can be grouped as a groundcover or planted in a container. It likes full sun and is reliably hardy through Zone 8. In our area it might have to be overwintered.

Continued on page 7



Persian shield
Paul Thomas, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Pineapple lily
Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

SPREADING NATURE'S CARPET: MOSS

By Patricia Bowen, Cherokee County Master Gardener



I live in the woods with lots of shade, so moss is one of my ground covers of choice in certain areas. It thrives between the flagstones around the fire pit on my patio. It fills in bare spots where grass won't grow around my little barn and under my Japanese maples. It's easy to encourage, is weed free, and it needs almost no care once it's established. It can be fragile, easily kicked up with the toe of my shoe but just as easily put back in place if disturbed with no harm done.

Mosses are among the world's oldest plants, and have remained very primitive in structure through the ages. They can change to accommodate different levels of water, a characteristic from their prehistoric past when they began moving from the sea to land. There's a growing movement towards moss as gardeners are looking for sustainable, shade loving options, either as a lawn replacement or as a sculptural backdrop to accent the grounds of residential properties.

There are over 12,000 types of moss, including many found in shady woodlands, and even some species that grow in the desert. What I informally call ground moss is formally a Bryophyta, a small flowerless plant that has no real roots, produces no seeds and propagates by means of spores. It grows in green clumps or mats in damp, shady locations on the ground, on rocks and on the bark of trees. In fact mosses are not fussy about the kind of soil they'll grow in with the exception of sandy soil which may be too loose for moss to attach to securely.

If you'd like to grow moss in an area of your property, first prepare the landscape by smoothing it, removing stones and leveling the area because as moss spreads it will accentuate every nook and cranny, every dent in the dirt. A smooth surface is also important because mosses don't like air pockets underneath, and they'll spread faster if they can attach evenly to the ground or to other surfaces like rocks and trees. A dense moss carpet will allow few if any weeds or other plants to sprout within its bed, so if you want to integrate other plantings into the area do that before you start your moss.

Moss is an evergreen plant and it can grow all year except during the coldest conditions. Thus it can be planted at any time of year. However be mindful that the hottest times of year will cause moisture to evaporate from the soil more quickly and require more supplemental watering, and that autumn leaves will be difficult to remove from a moss bed that has not yet established itself as raking or blowing are likely to dislodge the new plantings. Spring provides ideal weather conditions but bare spots in the moss will be competing with weeds which will have to be gently removed until the moss has spread.

You can collect moss for transplanting or purchase it. If you're gathering your own moss it's best to collect it after a rain. Use a flat spatula, like a trowel or a long handled barbecue tool, to scoop under a patch of moss, including a thin layer of soil so the moss will have familiar enzymes and rhizomes in its new home. The best way to propagate moss is to have large pieces of healthy moss and divide them into smaller pieces. These can be as small as a dime or as large as your hand. Pulling it apart is preferable to cutting to minimize damage. One square foot of moss can cover anywhere from four to twenty square feet of ground, depending on how much you have and how long you are willing to wait for it to fill in. *Continued on page 6*

Echinacea in the Summer Landscape

By Hope Sorrells, Cherokee County Master Gardener Trainee



David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

If you want a dependable, attractive, tough perennial in your summer garden, you might want to consider *Echinacea* spp. or coneflower. These native prairie plants grow well in our Southern heat once established. The most commonly found species is *Echinacea purpurea*. The genus *Echinacea* is named for the Greek word for hedgehog, a reference to the prickly center of the flowers. This herbaceous flowering plant is in the daisy family, and it bears blossoms that are 2 to 4 inches in diameter.

Echinaceas are easy to grow, and rich soil is not necessary. Coneflowers like regular watering but will tolerate drier conditions once established, and good drainage is needed. They are best planted in a sunny spot, for they may become floppy and require staking if grown in less than full sun.

Coneflowers begin blooming in June and will continue blooming intermittently until frost. Deadheading helps promote more flowering; however, at the end of the season, leave the dry flower heads for the birds. Finches in particular will come to snack on the seed heads. During the summer, the nectar-rich flower centers are a magnet for butterflies. Generally *Echinacea* does not attract deer—though we know nothing is 100 percent guaranteed with these beautiful and hungry critters!

Echinacea has been used in herbal medicine for centuries. It was widely used for its medicinal properties by Native Americans.

It is best to plant container-grown *Echinacea* in the spring or fall. Divide existing plants in spring, generally every three to four years. *Echinacea* grows well in containers too. If you are starting your cone-flowers from seed, plant in pots in December and leave outside. The seeds likely benefit from the cold, but it is best to put the pots near the house for some protection. If plants are started from seed, remember it may take two or more years for them to bloom. Also know that seeds of hybrids will not be true to the plant from which collected. *Echinacea purpurea* will, however, often self sow, with small plants coming up near the base of the existing plant. Allow for adequate space between plants to promote good air circulation, which may help prevent fungal disease. Coneflowers are generally healthy plants but can be susceptible to leaf spot. Another potential problem is the Japanese beetle, which may munch on their leaves.

Many colorful coneflower cultivars are available in pink, purple, peach, orange, red, white, or green. In addition, different flower forms have been developed. Why not give this plant a chance to bloom in your landscape? It will add beauty, require little care, hold up in the summer heat, attract butterflies and birds, and hopefully return next year and do it all again.

Master Gardener Summer Plant Sale

June 25, 2016 at the Senior Center, 9am—12pm

Come browse our selection of blooming daylilies, perennials, natives, ground covers, herbs, pollinator plants and garden art.

Master Gardeners will be available to answer gardening questions and give tours of the Demo Gardens

Moss - continued from page 4

When you're ready to "plant" your moss, rake the soil lightly, lay down the moss, water it thoroughly and then walk on it or tamp it down by hand to remove any air beneath it. Different species of moss have different growth rates. Under ideal conditions it may take anywhere from six months to two years for them to double in size. Water is the key ingredient as moss goes dormant when it becomes dry, so for the first couple of months water the moss daily, then for the next couple of months very gradually cut back to once a week. Once the moss has completely filled in it should only need water when rain has been scarce and it begins to exhibit dry brown or yellowed areas.

If you're just inclined to add moss to a small space, say between the cracks of your flagstone or to cover a few rocks with moss, here's a fun family project to get you started: gather some moss (without soil attached) and put it in a blender with equal parts of water and buttermilk. Blend until it's the consistency of a thick milkshake. Then pour the moss mixture where you want it to grow, or use a paintbrush to cover a rock or fence post, or write or draw some moss art on it. Use a mister to keep the spot moist for the first couple of weeks, and if possible grow your moss in a shaded area. The moss should start to grow within 3 weeks. Finally, if that's too much work for you, there's a new product on the market called Moss Milkshake which contains moss particles, acidifying compounds and a water-absorbing gel, available at www.mossacres.com.

PROUD TO INTRODUCE OUR 2016 UGA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER TRAINEES



LAWN CARE - JUNE AND JULY

By Rachel Prakash Cherokee County Master Gardener

- Mowing needs to be done regularly to keep grass at its needed height. Never mow more than one-third of the length of the grass blade.
- If you use post-emergent, put it only on the spots where you see the weeds. Try to hand-pull weeds before they flower to prevent them from setting seed and growing a large population next season.

Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine)

- Mowing height should be between one and two inches.
- Feed your lawn with a high nitrogen content fertilizer. Only do it every other month during the growing season or it will promote disease.
- If you have thin patches in your lawn or are seeding a new lawn, it is a good time to plant your seed. Mulch lightly after seeding and keep seeds moist for two weeks after they sprout.
- For faster results in establishing a lawn, sod may be used. Also water lightly every other day for the first two weeks after putting down and make sure it does not go more than a week without water during the summer.

Cool Season Grasses (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass)

- The most important thing you can do for cool-season grasses during the summer is to not fertilize them or overwater them.
- Mowing height should be between two and three inches.



RAINFALL COMPARISONS

| | Cherokee County | | | State Wide | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------|------|------------|--------|------|
| | Mar 16 | Apr 16 | YTD | Mar 16 | Apr 16 | YTD |
| Actual | 1.8 | 3.5 | 16 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 11.2 |
| Normal | 5.8 | 4.5 | 21.2 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 16.8 |
| Deficit | -4.0 | -1 | -5.2 | -2.6 | 0.1 | -5.6 |

Gold Medal Winners - continued from Page 3



distylium

One of my favorite plants is the shrub winner, distylium (*Dystilium* spp.), for full sun or part shade. I am still enchanted with its glossy ever-green foliage. I have the spreading type, but others are being developed from 3 to 10 feet tall. So far deer have left mine alone. Tired of laurel, juniper, holly, Indian hawthorn, boxwood? Get this.

And then the tree of the year is blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a mid-size (60 t 80 feet) native tree to be planted in full sun or part shade for fall color of reds and purples. A good shade tree, blackgum provides flowers for bees and fruit for birds. It also provides munching for deer, so be prepared to protect young trees. It is happy in wetlands but also tolerates upland locations and even drought.



Nyssa sylvatica
Richard Webb, Bugwood.org



JUNE TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Tall fall bloomers such as chrysanthemums, swamp sunflowers, and phlox can be cut back by about one half now to reduce their fall height and make them fuller.
- Use pliers to pull up tree seedlings after a rain when soil is moist. Grip the stem at the soil line; twist and pull straight up. Watering deeply the day before pulling weeds will make the job easier.
- Climbing roses don't really climb – they have long canes that require support. You will need to loosely tie the canes to trellises with broad strips of material or foam covered wire. Do not use wire as it can damage the cane. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201001_2.PDF
- Miniature roses can be propagated from stem cuttings. Take cuttings with 4 leaves and insert them into pots filled with moist potting soil. Rooting hormone is optional. Place whole pot in a perforated plastic bag and place in a shady spot. Water as needed. By autumn, cuttings should be rooted.
- Control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- Fertilize your roses at monthly intervals with either granular or liquid fertilizer. Inspect plants frequently for pests such as spider mites, aphids and Japanese beetles.
- Leaf miner larvae tunnel inside leaves, leaving whitish trails as they move about. Holly, boxwood, columbine, and locust are particularly susceptible to damage.
- Disinfection of pruners between cuts is recommended when removing diseased tissue from plants. UGA recommends a one to ten solution of bleach and water, but it can be cumbersome to carry a bucket of this mix about in the garden, and the solution is corrosive and must be rinsed from tools after use. Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle also works. When spraying tools, spray over a trash can so you don't kill or injure grass or plants.
- Now is the time to prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons before they set next year's flower buds. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20670_5.PDF
- Divide and transplant iris now so they will have a long growing season and a better chance of blooming next year. Cut off and discard the older part of the rhizome that does not have white fleshy roots. Cut the leaves back to six inches so they don't blow over. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_3.PDF

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries picked early in the day keep best. Do not wash or stem berries until ready to use. Store berries in covered containers in the refrigerator.
- Set young melons and cantaloupes atop tin cans or flat rocks – they'll ripen faster, be sweeter and have less insect damage than those left on the ground.
- Yellow crook-neck squash tastes best when 4-7 inches long. Pick when pale yellow (rather than golden) and before skin hardens. Scalloped (patty pan) squash is best when grayish or greenish white (before it turns ivory white) and is still small, even silver-dollar size.
- Remove cucumbers by turning fruits parallel to the vine and giving a quick snap. This prevents vine damage and results in a clean break. If you have trouble mastering this, take a sharp knife to the garden for harvesting. Cut or pull cucumbers, leaving a short stem on each.
- Stop cutting asparagus in mid to late June when spears become thin. After the last cutting is made, fertilize by broadcasting a 10-10-10 formula at the rate of 2 lbs per 100 sq. ft. Allow the tops to grow during the summer to store food in the roots for the crop next spring.
- Avoid side dressing tomatoes, eggplants and peppers with fertilizer until they have set their first fruit.
- Corn needs water at two crucial times: when the tassels at the top are beginning to show and when the silk is beginning to show on the ear. If weather is dry at these times, you will need to water the corn. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20905_3.PDF



MISCELLANEOUS

- If weed plants are mature, weed your garden early in the morning when moisture is present to prevent the seed heads from shattering and dropping weed seeds in the garden. Hold as much of the seed heads in your hand and do not shake off extra soil as it may scatter weed seeds.
- To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their homes.
- The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early on a sunny day. Herbs are best if watered the day before to wash off the foliage. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201170_3.PDF

JULY TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- If your hosta and azalea stems have a white powder covering them, it is probably the waxy coating of planthopper insects. They don't do much damage, but can spread diseases. Spray with garden insecticide if unsightly.
- Keep pinching back mums to keep them blooming longer and make them bushier.
- Lamb's ear tends to have their lower leaves die after a heavy rain. This forms ugly mats that will rot stems and roots. Pull away the yellow leaves to keep up airflow.
- Fertilize crape myrtles, butterfly bushes, and hydrangeas with 1 Tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height. Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Each insecticide has a waiting period after application before you can harvest.
- Although tomatoes are self-pollinating, they need movement to transfer pollen. If it is hot and calm for several days, gently shake plants to assure pollen transfer and fruit set. Hot temperatures can interfere with blossom set.
- Water stress in sweet potatoes can result in cracked roots. A potassium deficiency causes long, slender roots. Too much nitrogen reduces yield and quality. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201014_1.PDF
- Most fertilizer recommendations are for 100 square feet, so keep your garden's square footage a simple fraction of that. For example, a 4 X 12 foot garden is exactly 50 square feet and would require exactly one half the fertilizer required by a garden of 100 square feet.
- Okra pods get tough if allowed to grow too large. Pick regularly.
- Mulch strawberries heavily to protect them from heat and drought.
- The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day; that's when they contain the most sugar, especially if the day was cool and sunny. Other vegetables, like lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them.
- Start a fall crop of brussel sprouts, broccoli,

cauliflower and kale indoors. Outdoors, sow pumpkin, beans, squash, cucumbers, and crowder peas. Plant carrots mid-month. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201022_2.PDF

- Pick squash regularly to keep up production. If the



vines wilt, check the base of the stem for "sawdust". This means the plant has squash bores in the stem. Remove infected plants (thus removing the bores) and plant new seeds. It is good to change your planting location to hopefully prevent the new plants from being attacked.

- Sunflowers are ready to harvest when the back of the head turns brown.
- Keep an eye out for tomato hornworm. They can do enormous damage overnight. They also attack Nicotiana. When you see damage, check under leaves and stems to find them. Hand pick to dispose of them.
- Don't plant all your beans at once. If you stagger the plantings every two weeks you will have fresh beans longer. Soak bean seeds overnight before planting for faster germination. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201006_2.PDF
- Use bamboo poles to form a large teepee-like structure. Use twine to create a trellis though all but one section of the teepee. Plant pole beans along the twine. Watch the beans grow into a house that kids love to play in. The section that was not tied with the twine is the entrance to the bean teepee.
- If you keep your houseplants indoors all sum-

MISCELLANEOUS

mer, keep them out of the draft of the air conditioner. Plants react to an air conditioner's cool air in various ways. Some drop their leaves, others don't bloom well and some fail to bloom at all.

Recipes

Send recipes to Maura Watson
at mlw229@gmail.com

Grilled Tomatoes with Pesto (serves 6)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 medium firm tomatoes (cored and halved crosswise) | Salt & pepper (optional) |
| 1/4 cup purchased pesto | 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese (about 2 oz.) |
| 6 very thin onion slices | 1/3 cup smoked almonds (chopped) |
| | 2 T. snipped parsley |

Hollow out the top 1/4 of each “tomato half” with a spoon. Top each “tomato half” with 2 tsp pesto sauce & an onion slice. Arrange in 2 foil pie pans.

Place tomatoes in center of grill rack. Cover & grill for 8–10 mins. or until tomatoes are heated thoroughly.

Stir together the cheese, almonds, & parsley in small mixing bowl. Sprinkle mixture over tomatoes. Cover & grill 5 more mins. or till cheese melts. Season to taste.

To receive printed copies of the 2016 newsletters, please send a check for \$7 to:

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CHEROKEE COUNTY

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.

Snap Bean-Corn Salad with Yellow Tomato Vinaigrette (serves 6)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 3 yellow tomatoes (coarsely chopped) | 1/2 lb yellow wax beans (trimmed) |
| 1/8 cup Extra-virgin olive oil | 1/2 lob. Green beans (trimmed) |
| 1 1/2 T White Balsamic vinegar | 1 large ear fresh corn (kernels removed) |
| 1/2 shallot (minced) | 2 T snipped fresh dill |
| 1/2 t kosher salt | |
| 1/4 t black pepper | |

Vinaigrette: Puree tomatoes, oil, vinegar, salt & pepper in blender until emulsified. Transfer to bowl & stir in shallot.

Salad: Cook green & yellow beans in large pot of lightly salted boiling water until “crisp-tender” (about 4 mins.) Stir in corn, cooking 1 more minute. Drain in colander; rinse beans & corn under cold water to cool. Pat dry with paper towel. Place bean mixture in large serving bowl; add vinaigrette & dill. Toss.



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