



WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUNE

June 5- Plant-A-Row Workday, also June 12, 19, and 26

June 6 - Demo Garden Workday

June - 15 MG Presentation, Canton Farmer's Market, **All About Pollinators**

June 18 - CCMG Monthly Mtg

June 20 - Demo Garden Workday

June 21- Plant Sale Set-Up

June 22 - Plant Sale, Sr. Center, Canton, Ga., 9 - 12noon

June 22 - Seminar Class @ Sr. Center on Hydrangeas, 10:30am

June 17- 23, 2019 Pollinator Week Observe and Count www.pollinator.org Info on page 10

JULY

July 3 - Plant-A-Row Workday, also July 10, 17 and 24

July 8 - Demo Garden Workday

July 11 - Tomato Taste Test, Sr. Center, Canton

July 16 - CCMG Monthly Mtg

July 25- Demo Garden Workday

July 27- Seminar, Seed Saving, Hickory Flat Library, 10:30am



Recently there has been a trend to hire companies to spray yards for mosquitoes. They all promise they will only kill mosquitoes and not hurt beneficial insects, including bees or butterflies. Unfortunately, most companies spray when not only mosquitoes are active but also bees and other beneficial insects. There are no sprays that only kill mosquitoes. If beneficial insects are sprayed, they too will die. Fortunately, those of us that spend time outside gardening or doing other activities have alternatives to spraying.

In our June/July 2017 newsletter, our UGA Extension Agent Joshua Fuder wrote a very educational article on mosquitoes and how to eliminate breeding sites to reduce these pests. He recommended simple things like frequently cleaning and refreshing the water in birdbaths and pets' water dishes, filling in depressions in tree trunks with sand, and eliminating standing water wherever you can. Mosquito dunks or pellets that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* or *Bacillus sphaericus* only target mosquitoes and are useful for areas where you desire water, such as ornamental ponds and water gardens. I use these all summer and fall to keep mosquitoes under control in my rain barrels and rubber storage units. Take a minute to reread Josh's article, and then see what you can do to eliminate breeding places in your yard.

Marcia

In This Issue

Editor's Corner.....Pg 1	Continued Articles.....Pg 6
June/July Calendar.....Pg 1	Lawn TipsPg 7
Pollinator QUIZ!.....Pg 2	June TipsPg 8
Curb Appeal with Annuals!.....Pg 3	July TipsPg 8
Small-World Gardening.....Pg 4	RainfallPg 9
Ailments of TurfGrasses.....Pg 5	RecipesPg 10

Pollinator QUIZ!

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

How well do you know the pollinators and their plant preferences? Test your skills with this quiz, matching the pollinator to the native plants it prefers.

Here is a table of pollinators. Which of the numbered descriptions below applies to each one?

Ant	Bat	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly
Hummingbird	Moth	Wasp	Wind	Fly

Common
horsemint
*Pycnanthemum
tenuifolium*



1. I'm a generalist when it comes to the flower color I prefer. I also visit blooms of varying shape and size. However, I prefer a shallow corolla so I can easily access the nectar. You'll often find me on plants such as goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) and mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* spp.).



Native
honeysuckle
*Lonicera
sempervirens*

Southern
magnolia
*Magnolia
grandiflora*

2. I'm attracted to red, funnel-shaped flowers, such as native honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) and native columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

Pawpaw
*Asimina
triloba*



3. My kind pollinates many flowers, but some of us prefer the odor people would describe as rotten or putrid, such as the scent emitted by the blooms of pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*).



4. I like plants with blooms that are open at night, are pale in color, and emit a sweet scent. Examples are jimsonweed (*Datura* spp.) and yucca (*Yucca* spp.).

5. I am especially drawn to flowers that are yellow, blue, purple, or white. I can even see ultraviolet patterns on petals that help lead me to the nectar. Some good examples are black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*).

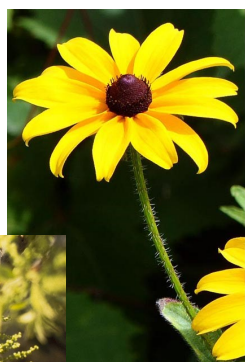
Purple coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



6. The plants I pollinate do not have showy flowers, and the pollen is quite small though copious. Examples of the plants I pollinate include the oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and the pines (*Pinus* spp.).

7. I rely on my sense of smell to find flowers I like to pollinate, and I often prefer a spicy, sweet, or fermented scent. Examples of my favorites include sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*).

Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta



8. I prefer the nectar of blooms that are large and pale in color, and I'm attracted to a strong, musty scent emitted during the night. I'm famous for serving as the pollinator for the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) and agave plants (*Agave* spp.).

Beardtongue
*Penstemon
digitalis*



9. I may not be a strong pollinator, but I do aid in the dispersal of seeds so that the plants spread and increase their territory and population. I am known for handling this task for bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and trillium (*Trillium* spp.).



Southern
live oak
*Quercus
virginiana*

Photos courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; James L. Reveal, Norman C. Flaigg, R.W. Smith, Sally & Andy Wasowski. Look for the Quiz answers on page 10.

Going for Great Curb Appeal? ANNUALS!

By Mary Schuster, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Noted for their impressive display of color as well as for ease of growth, toughness, and relatively low cost, annuals are those plants that complete their lifecycle in one year. When planted in early spring, some annuals will remain viable until the first killing frost. There are three distinct types of annuals: hardy, half hardy, and tender.

HARDY annuals can withstand freezing temperatures. A good familiar example in our area is the pansy (*Viola X wittrockiana*). We see an abundance of these plants during the late fall through early spring in all sorts of venues. Another great example is ornamental kale (*Brassica oleracea*).

HALF HARDY annuals are those that grow best under cool temperatures and may withstand light frost, like annual phlox (*Phlox drummondii*) and calendula (*Calendula officinalis*).

TENDER annuals are not at all frost tolerant and represent the most popular annuals grown in Georgia. Well-known examples are vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*), zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*), impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*), and petunia (*Petunia X hybrida*).



Photo Karen Russ, Clemson Extension.

Since the growing season in Georgia for annuals is relatively long as opposed to other parts of the country, annuals lend themselves beautifully to a large variety of uses, such as borders, backgrounds, trellises, ground covers, containers, and window boxes depending on the annual chosen. In addition, some are good choices for their fragrance, for cut flowers, for their large size, for their ability to trail or climb, and for attracting hummingbirds and/or butterflies.



Photo courtesy Mary Tucker.

When planning displays of annuals in the garden, it is important to heed recommendations for environmental conditions for which the plants will perform best, such as locations that are particularly hot, or dry, or moist, or shady, or partly shady. If clustering plants in a container or elsewhere, be sure they all have similar light and moisture requirements.

As mentioned earlier, the growing season in Georgia is long and can last up to eight months. If one sets out plants in April, say, and discontinues them in November, that gardener will get some real mileage out of that display. This example applies to tender annuals. Filling in with hardy annuals in the late fall to early spring can bring a nice balance to your garden. Native plant gardeners will be happy to mix in native perennials to fill out a display. Coral bells (*Heuchera* species and cultivars), for example, lend some splash and augment any display nicely. At the end of the season, they are already in place so they can do double duty and be companions to annual plants in the wintertime.

Caring for annuals is pretty straightforward. Most plants require 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Rainfall can accomplish much of this, but having drip or trickle irrigation handy is a good plan. Avoid the use of grass clippings, leaves, and sawdust as mulch because this can lead to nitrogen deficiencies. Some annuals will require pruning and "deadheading" to keep them in bloom. The ideal pH for these plants should be 5.5 to 6.5. If needed, lime tilled into the soil prior to planting will help to achieve this measurement. At the end of the season, annuals don't need to be gone forever. Carefully chopped up, the spent flowers can be good organic material to add to your compost pile.

Tapping into the links below, you will find many, many interesting examples of annual plants you may choose. In the end, you may find you are sitting with the "Yard of the Month" award in your neighborhood because of the great curb appeal you have created to appreciative folks passing by!!

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B954&title=Flowering%20Annuals%20for%20Georgia%20Gardens>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/growing-annuals/>

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-annual-flowers>

Encouraging Small-World Play in the Garden

By Barb Schirmer, Cherokee County Master Gardener Intern

There is an educational theory, the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education, that considers that along with the child and the teacher, the environment in which we learn plays a role as the third teacher. Anything that you can teach in an indoor classroom can be taught outdoors, often in ways that are more enjoyable for children. Perhaps more than anywhere else, we can see this most clearly in the garden.

Children learn best through play. It's in their nature and helps them develop skills and gives them opportunities to try out new ideas. Encouraging opportunities and providing space in the garden for children to play will add to their appreciation of nature and foster new concepts about their environment. Every garden, from the smallest container garden to a giant vegetable plot, offers children a rich sensory playground full of interesting things to discover and learn about. With the changing of every season they're surrounded by nature's art, and there is space to run free and use their imaginations.

Creating **Small Worlds** is a perfect way for children to be creative. A Fairy Garden is basically a miniature garden made of natural materials such as pebbles, wood, and living plants. It's meant to be an enchanted green scene where live tiny magical creatures such as fairies, but also gnomes, dwarfs, and elves that are thought to bring good luck to your home. They usually include several components like fantastical figurines, but also miniature benches, houses, pathways, bridges, and rivers that create this unique small universe and give it a charming atmosphere.



Dinosaur Gardens and Princess Gardens are also examples of themed small-world gardens that can be as big or small as space allows. They can be built in a patch of soil, a plant pot, half of a water barrel, an old wheelbarrow, an old suitcase, a wooden treasure chest, or a large plastic dishpan.

Follow these simple steps to create a small-world garden:

- You'll need to make a few drainage holes in the base of whatever container you choose. Next place some small stones or pebbles in the bottom and top with potting soil.
- Adding moss and/or bark mulch makes for a nice forest floor to build on.
- Now children can start creating a home for the garden fairies or princesses. They might need a house that could be crafted from pieces of wood or from a small flowerpot. Pebbles or gravel make good pathways.
- Plants that work well in small-world gardens are hens and chicks, celosia, sedum, asparagus fern, moss rose, impatiens, golden scotch moss, and verbena.

There are many benefits for creating small-world gardens with children. They are a great option for putting a green addition in small spaces like a small living room or on a balcony. Building them encourages creativity, and children are more likely to invest in caring for small-world gardens that they can fill with their own special magic.

THE AILMENTS OF TURFGRASSES

By Ronald Fister, Cherokee County Master Gardener

It is wonderful to walk out of our homes to enjoy the beauty of green grass beneath our feet, while taking for granted green texture blending with the splash of color from flowers in our gardens. It is my belief that turf plays a vital role in connecting shrubs, trees, and flowers to make a wonderful "site" for our eyes. This all works well until we become aware of diseases inching into our landscape...most of the time by ambush.

Diseases in turf are biologically incited and directly dependent on the balance between the host, the pathogen, and the environment. Like all living things, turf is subject to micro-organisms (such as fungi, bacteria, and nematodes) attacking the turf to live, produce, and multiply. However, controlling micro-organisms starts with understanding the unseen organisms before they affect the turf. Sure enough, they always exist in the soil or the air and are waiting for the exact time to attack the plant. The physical environment can alter the form of the disease by changing the susceptibility of the plant or by modifying the pathogenic capabilities of the organism.

To avoid certain diseases in turf, let's start with healthy turf. Over fertilizing will not result in healthy turf. Start with a soil test and give the turf what it needs. Too much nitrogen, for example, creates the ideal situation for certain diseases. Too little phosphate is not ideal for healthy turf while hindering the photosynthesis processes in the plant. Follow the soil testing results, deliver the right nutrients, and meet the requirements of the soil for turf health. Your county's UGA Extension Office provides procedures for testing your soil.

Now that we have balanced the soil, let's look at the potential disease occurrences in our home lawns. Diseases are an absolute condition, while health is a relative condition.



Dollar Spot, courtesy UGA Extension.

Dollar Spot begins to grow and infect susceptible turf when the temperature consistently reaches 50 F during the day. Surprisingly, this disease slows as the temperature reaches 90 F. Bermudagrass that is deficient in nitrogen is more likely to be affected and will show gray/white spots about the size of silver dollars throughout the lawn. Recovering from this disease takes time to fill the spots with healthy turf.

Spring Dead Spot in Bermudagrass and Zoysia starts with large dead patches in the spring. In Bermudagrass, the centers will recover as the outside edges of the patches continue to move outward. Unlike Bermuda, Zoysia centers do not

recover as the disease progresses. This disease starts in the fall, but will be invisible until spring as the grass begins to green up. Do not apply nitrogen within six weeks of dormancy.



Spring Dead Spot, courtesy NCSU Extension.



Brown Patch, courtesy NCSU Extension.

Brown Patch appears as large brown or tan areas that range in size from 6 inches to several feet in diameter. Leaves are generally upright as the disease is evident on the leaves. When the leaves are wet and humidity is high, small cottony growth (mycelium) may be seen during the early sunrise. "Smoke rings" (thin brown borders around the patches) are evident as the disease grows during high humidity conditions.

Pythium Root Dysfunction (root rot) generally can be seen on newly seeded turf during wet, high-humidity conditions. The disease destroys the entire root system, and the turf generally does not recover. Avoid over-seeding fescue when the temperature and humidity are high. Cooler days and evenings are ideal prior to over-seeding or planting new lawn from seed.

Pythium, courtesy UGA Extension.



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

The Ailments of Turfgrasses



Powdery Mildew, courtesy OSU Extension.

Powdery Mildew symptoms are generally severe in heavily shaded areas on fescue. This disease does not grow in full sun areas. The disease appears as a white powder on the leaf surfaces.

Fairy Ring symptoms appear in patches, but are generally rings and arches 1 foot or larger. The symptoms appear year after year with the circles getting larger each year. The centers of the rings are healthy turf, and the rings are dark green. The dark green rings are generally supporting mushrooms and puffballs. Hydrophobic (water repellent) soil conditions occur, killing the grass while leaving behind dead circles or arches.



Fairy Ring, courtesy UGA Extension.



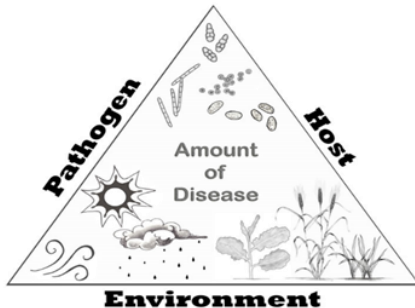
Melting Out, courtesy UGA Extension.

Melting Out or *Curvularia* symptoms can be found on Bermuda, Zoysia and Centipede. This disease results in yellowing and thinning of the turf. The disease is identified by its black spots with tan centers on the leaf surface. The actual disease can be observed by looking closely prior to thinning of turf.

To maintain a lawn while reducing the opportunities for diseases, keep the lawn nutrients at adequate levels, and never over apply nitrogen during the growing seasons. Reduce thatch buildup, and increase soil oxygen levels with core aeration when adequate moisture levels in the soil allow it.

Lawns are beautiful assets to our homes, but the grass is always under attack by organisms in the soil and from the air. Healthy plants allow better recovery. Also, soil testing will allow you to know what is required for a healthy turf that you can enjoy and that will beautify your landscape.

For further information on turf disease identification refer to *UGA Bulletin 1233*.



For recommendations for controlling the diseases refer to *UGA Extension Pest Management Handbook - 2019 Home and Garden Edition*.



Hummingbird getting nectar from *Lonicera sempervirens*, photo by Ellen Honeycutt.

Master Gardener Summer Plant Sale

June 22, 2019 at the Senior Center, 9am—12pm

Come browse our selection of blooming daylilies, perennials, natives, ground covers, herbs, pollinator plants, larval plants and garden art. Kids Activities will be included.

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

Pollinator Week is June 17th - 23rd. This is a great time to celebrate our pollinators and learn what we can do to support them.

Learn more at <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>.

LAWN CARE-June and July

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Cool Season Grasses (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass, Creeping Red Fescue, Chewing Fescue)	Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine)
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Established Lawns</i></p> <p>Continue using a pre-emergent through April. A spray post-emergent may be applied for pesky weeds.</p> <p>Aerate in April to encourage root growth and water infiltration.</p> <p>If needed, set your irrigation for 1 inch per week. Less frequent and deep watering encourages growth of a strong root system. Morning irrigation is optimal. Do not overwater, as April rains may contribute to turf needs. Consider using a rain gauge.</p> <p>Apply equal amounts of a fertilizer approved for cool season grasses during the months of September, November, February, and April.</p> <p>Inspect during April and May for fungal disease. These pathogens thrive in warm temperatures and moist conditions. Use an approved fungicide, if needed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Established Lawns</i></p> <p>Continue using a pre-emergent through April. For persistent weeds, begin using post-emergent sprays in May after mowing at least twice.</p> <p>Aerate in May to encourage root growth and infiltration of water.</p> <p>Remember to adjust irrigation if April brings lots of showers. Too much water may allow fungal pathogens to thrive. Healthy turf needs about 1 inch of water per week. Morning irrigation is best.</p> <p>Apply fertilizer after the last frost once the lawn is 50% green. Most warm season grasses require 1 to 5 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Take special care not to over-fertilize Centipede grass. *See Link below.</p> <p>Inspect often for signs of fungal problems. Check edges for discolored, wilted, or spotted blades or dead areas with defined edges. Use an approved fungicide if needed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Newly Installed Lawns</i></p> <p>The <i>best</i> time to install a cool season turf is in the fall before the first frost. It may also be planted in the spring after soil temperatures reach above 55°F.</p> <p><i>Shade-tolerant grasses</i> for cool season turfs include Fine Fescue (Red) grasses and Kentucky Bluegrass in partial shade.</p> <p>Mow newly installed lawns at least twice before application of a pre-emergent.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Newly Installed Lawns</i></p> <p>The best time to install warm season turf is late spring or early summer.</p> <p><i>Shade-tolerant</i> options for warm season turfs include Zoysia grasses (El Toro, JaMur, Zeon, and Zorro) or St. Augustine grasses (Palmetto, Mercedes, and Raleigh).</p> <p>Mow newly installed lawns at least twice before application of a pre-emergent.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For All Lawns</i></p> <p>Check for webworms, cutworms and armyworms. Mature white grubs may be found near the surface. Newly-hatched grubs may be treated with an approved insecticide in late July or early August.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>For All Lawns</i></p> <p>Check for webworms, cutworms, armyworms and chinch bugs. Indications of webworm or cutworm infestations are spiderlike webs on the lawn that are visible in the morning. Armyworms leave patches of cut grass blades throughout the lawn. Treat with an insecticide approved for your specific turf.</p>

Grass Type	Mowing Height(in)
Bermuda grass	1 - 1.5 to 2.0
Centipede grass	1 - 2
St. Augustine grass	2 - 3
Zoysia grass	1 - 2
Tall Fescue grass	2.5 or more
Kentucky Bluegrass	2.5 or more

* Review specific requirements for your established lawn at:
<http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/turfgrass/georgiaturf/index/index.html>.

June Gardening Tips

Photo of Miner Bee in action, courtesy UGA Extension.

ORNAMENTALS

- 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://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20671_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/newswire/story.html?storyid=4729>
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20944_4.PDF



Leafminer damage to *Aquilegia canadensis*, Photo by M. Winchester

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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993_4.PDF
- Remove cucumbers by turning fruits parallel to the vine and giving a quick snap. This prevents vine damage and results in a clean break. Cut or pull cucumbers, leaving a short stem on each. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201034_4.PDF
- 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 https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20905_3.PDF
- 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 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://extension.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=7882>


July Gardening Tips


Photo of Native Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
courtesy UGA Extension.

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.
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201065_5.PDF

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES


- 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 borers in the stem. Remove infected plants (thus removing the borers) and plant new seeds. It is good to change your planting location to hopefully prevent the new plants from being attacked. 
Alton N. Sparks, Jr.,
University of Georgia,
Bugwood.org
- Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label. 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201150_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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20941_5.PDF
- 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.

- Cucumbers are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning.
- Start a fall crop of Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and kale indoors. Outdoors, sow pumpkin, beans, squash, cucumbers, and crowder peas. Plant carrots mid-month. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201069_1.PDF
- 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. When you see damage, check under leaves and stems to find them. Hand pick to dispose of them. <http://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension/programs-and-services/inegrated-pest-management/documents/insect-pdfs/hornworm.pdf> 
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201006_2.PDF

Tomato hornworm,
(image courtesy of
Whitney Cranshaw,
Colorado State University,
Bugwood.org)

MISCELLANEOUS

If you keep your houseplants indoors all summer, 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.

	RAINFALL COMPARISONS					
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Mar 19	Apr 19	YTD	Mar 19	Apr 19	YTD
Actual	3.5	5.8	25.8	2.1	4.2	14.8
Normal	5.5	4.5	20.9	4.8	3.3	16.7
Excess	-2.0	1.3	4.9	-2.7	0.9	-1.9

Sue Allen's Green Bean, Cherry Tomato & Potato Salad

Break out the grill and have easy and tasty burgers and salad.

Salad ingredients:

- 1 lb. white potatoes, cut into bite-size pieces, cooked and drained
- 12 oz. green beans, cut and cooked
- 1/4 lb. cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled

Dressing ingredients:

- 1 pkg. Kroger Salad Magic zesty Italian salad dressing mix
- 1/4 cup ale-style beer
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. malt vinegar

Cook potatoes and steam green beans until done. Drain and cool. Mix all dressing ingredients. Pour dressing on potatoes and beans and toss. When ready to serve, add tomatoes and bacon, and toss again. Can be served chilled or at room temperature.

Instant Burgers

Burger Ingredients:

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 packet dry ranch salad dressing
- OR
- 1 packet dry onion soup mix
- Finely ground onion to taste, optional

Mix all ingredients well and form into four patties. Grill to preferred doneness. Serve on plates or rolls with your favorite fixings.

(Continued from page 2)

Pollinator QUIZ Answers:

1. Wasp
2. Hummingbird
3. Fly
4. Moth
5. Bee
6. Wind
7. Beetle
8. Bat
9. Ant



CHEROKEE COUNTY

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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.