

# Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge  
August/September 2020

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

As the worldwide health concerns continue with the COVID-19 virus, the Cherokee County Master Gardeners also continue to evaluate our monthly events and activities, and continue to follow UGA Extension protocols and state guidelines.

We continue to ensure the wellbeing of our members and community. Should we reschedule any of our events, you will be notified here, in our newsletter, on our website, or on Facebook.

Please feel free to visit any of our web links posted below. They will keep you up to date with all our activities, events and changes, and help you to stay informed.



## GREAT GEORGIA Pollinator Census

Please join the **SECOND ANNUAL Great Georgia Pollinator Census!**  
Friday, August 21, 2020 and  
Saturday, August 22, 2020

Visit <https://ggapc.org/> to sign up to count, for printable resources and information, and click [here](#) for additional information and a list of plants to attract pollinators.

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/chokeee.html>

<https://cherokeemastergardenersinc.wildapricot.org/>

<https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>

or call 770-721-7803

## Editor's Corner By Marcia Winchester, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Photo courtesy Marcia Winchester

Years ago at a Master Gardener conference I attended, a speaker discussed landscaping from your window. This class really hit home with me. I love looking out my windows and have many large ones in my house. Using that lecture, I started planting so I could view plants or yard art from inside. My enjoyment is never hindered by rain, mosquitoes, heat, or cold wind.

My deck has three sections, plus we added a landing this winter. It is packed with

containers featuring pitcher plant bogs, hydrangeas, hostas, and even a number of native azaleas. I tuck in a few annuals, and this gives me blooms all year to enjoy while sitting at my kitchen table.

I can view a climbing hydrangea (*Schizophragma hydrangeoides*) 30 feet up a tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) from both the bedroom and family room. I also have a *Magnolia liliflora* 'Ann' that has beautiful deep pink/purple flowers that I can see from both rooms. I have a grouping of a large clay pot planted with ferns with a ceramic mushroom that I see when I'm practicing yoga.

A dear friend gave me a combination container with a beautiful 10 foot tall deep pink hibiscus that blooms in mid-summer, and when it stops in late September, an equally tall and dramatic Confederate rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) blooms until frost. I view these two beauties out one of my office windows. My other office window has had monarch butterflies fighting over annual yellow cosmos (*Cosmos sulphureus*) and *Tithonia rotundifolia* 'Torch'.

Now that you've read this, turn and look out your window. What do you see? What can you add to make it more beautiful?

Marcia

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# Add Spice to Your Landscape

By Carolyn Puckett, Cherokee County Master Gardener

A problem many gardeners share these days is foraging white-tailed deer. Many natural areas are stripped of native plants from the floor of the forest too as high as the deer can reach. But even in these ravaged forests, there is one small tree that is rarely heavily browsed: spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). One rarely sees spicebush in home landscapes, but it is worthy of consideration, especially if you want to support our birds, butterflies, and pollinators.

Spicebush is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or small tree native to the eastern United States. Its leaves, up to 6 inches long and 2½ inches wide, are obovate, simple, entire (smooth-edged), and alternate on the stem. The plant is dioecious, that is the male and female flowers are found on separate plants. It is easy

to grow, is adaptable to both acidic and alkaline soils, and tolerates a wide range of moisture conditions. In its native habitat it is an understory plant most commonly found in wet areas, but it will grow in either sun or shade. It usually grows as a small, open tree in shade, and as a dense shrub in sun. Very few pests bother it.

Spicebush only grows 6 to 12 feet high and wide. It blooms in early spring, as early as March in our area, with fragrant, small, yellow blooms providing a nectar source for small, early pollinators. Its leaves emerge shortly later, and the foliage turns a lovely yellow in the fall. The female flower develops into a ½-inch berry, actually a drupe, which turns bright scarlet in early autumn. Over 24 bird species enjoy the fruit, and the leaves serve as a host plant for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio troilus*), the eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly (*P. glaucus*), the promethea silkmoth (*Callosamia promethea*), and the tulip-tree beauty moth (*Epimecis hortaria*).

Spicebush produces an essential oil in its twigs, leaves, and fruit. If you wonder whether the plant you encounter is spicebush, you need but squeeze a leaf to smell its wonderful spicy scent. Native Americans used the leaves and twigs as both a remedy and a food spice. One of its other common names is “wild allspice,” and the berries were used as a substitute for allspice during the Revolutionary War. An old hiker’s trick is to chew on a spicebush twig when feeling thirsty.

Do not try to transplant spicebush from a natural area. Spicebush is available at nurseries that sell native plants. The Cherokee County Master Gardeners have some for sale, as well. You can propagate spicebush by seed or softwood cuttings, although some references report difficulty with cuttings. Remember you will need both a male and a female spicebush to produce fruit.

For early spring flowers, fall color, nectar for early pollinators, and berries for the birds, add some spicebush to your landscape.

For more information, see <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/lindera-benzoin/>

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), courtesy

Julie Makin, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
[https://www.wildflower.org/image\\_archive/640x480/J\\_M/J\\_M\\_IMG0485.JPG](https://www.wildflower.org/image_archive/640x480/J_M/J_M_IMG0485.JPG)

Spicebush caterpillar  
courtesy Debbie Meadows



Promethea moths (left) and spicebush swallowtails (right) lay their eggs on spicebush. Spicebush swallowtail by Ken Larson CC by NC ND 2.0  
<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/04/spicebush-swallowtail-prom-moth-768x295.jpg>



# Dragonflies and Damselflies: Know the Difference?

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

If you have ever spent time outdoors on a warm, summer day, you have likely spotted an aerial acrobat darting across an open meadow or just above a body of water. Dragonfly or a damselfly? Can you tell the difference between these similar species?

Dragonflies and damselflies are a colorful group of insects that are classified as Odonata. More than 5,100 species have been described, with approximately 169 different types residing in Georgia. While at first glance, they appear to share some physical characteristics, there are four ways you can differentiate between them.



5364304

Photo bluet damselfly courtesy UGA

1. Dragonflies have larger eyes than damselflies; the eyes take up most of their head as they wrap around from the side to the front of the face. While the eyes of a damselfly are also large, there is a gap between them.
2. Damselflies are smaller than dragonflies, with bodies that range between 1½ inches to 2 inches in length. In contrast, dragonflies are longer than 2 inches. Dragonflies also have thicker, bulkier bodies, while damselflies are thin like a twig.
3. Both dragonflies and damselflies have two sets of wings, but their shape has some distinct differences. Dragonflies have hind wings that broaden at the base, where they attach to the body. In contrast, damselfly wings are more slender, and they taper where they attach to the body.
4. Lastly, you can spot another difference when the insects are at rest. Dragonflies hold their wings out perpendicular to their bodies, like airplane wings. In contrast, damselflies fold their wings together across the top of their bodies.



Photo blue dasher dragonfly courtesy UGA

Additionally, many people do not know these insects spend about 90 to 95 percent of their lives underwater as aquatic nymphs (immature stage). These nymphs are ferocious predators, feeding on other aquatic insects, crustaceans, worms, small fish, and tadpoles. They molt six to 15 times before crawling out of the water and changing into adults. As nymphs, they are also living indicators of water health; their absence is one of the first signs of declining water quality.

During the adult stage, dragonflies and damselflies are a real asset to gardeners. They have a voracious appetite for mosquitoes and other insect pests, eating many dozens a day.

Additionally, some cities have found that using dragonflies to control mosquito populations is cheaper and safer than spraying harmful pesticides. Using natural methods for pest control is called biological control. When it works it is a win-win situation for people and for the environment.

Unfortunately, with the degradation and destruction of their habitats, many species are now considered threatened. Therefore, there are tasks we can do to ensure Odonata survival, which includes creating small ponds in our backyards and schoolgrounds. It will not be long before dragonflies and damselflies start to colonize them since many species readily discover new habitats. Also, landowners are urged to preserve their hedgerows where the adult insects shelter in inclement weather.

Continued on page 6



## Gardening in an HOA

*By Patricia Bowen, Cherokee County Master Gardener*

Two years ago, I moved from one extreme to another: from wooded acreage to a condo in a 55+ community with a Home Owners Association (HOA) where all the flora is managed by hired landscapers. I no longer have to worry about trees falling on my house and car, carpenter bees eating my cedar siding, and wildlife living in my attic. But I do miss many things about my garden: planning in the winter in front of the fireplace, shopping for plants in the spring, watching them grow all summer, and enjoying their bounty in the way of beautiful flowers and luscious fruits and vegetables. The work...I missed that part not so much.

While rules vary from one HOA to another, I quickly learned that my HOA encouraged and enforced uniformity in landscaping. I knew what the rules (otherwise known as bylaws) were before I bought in, so I was okay with most of them. The ones I didn't like I've learned to live with. Most HOAs have their bylaws posted online, so you should read them before you commit to a purchase there. Remember they're in place to protect property values, not to pick on certain residents who chafe at restrictions.

As a new resident, I walked through my little village of families aged 55+, taking notice of what was growing on their properties that wasn't on mine. Come to find out, there was quite a bit of variety. Discreet, well contained plantings of perennials were in

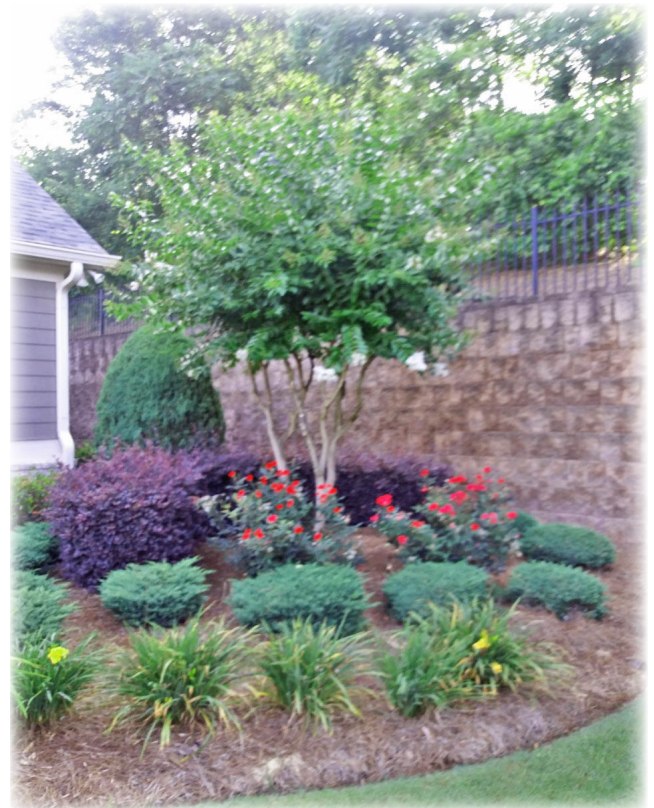


several yards. Flower pots graced patios all year round. It seemed as long as things didn't get too showy, or get in the way of the landscapers doing their jobs, there was no pushback. I suggest you ask your (potential) neighbors how strict the HOA is on this topic, and if they've made flexible changes to garden-related bylaws in the past.

While you're abiding by your HOA's rules, look for ways to improve the existing landscape over time, using your gardening expertise. As older shrubs decline or get unwieldy, ask for permission to replace them with ornamental edibles or fragrant shrub varieties or other plantings more to your visual taste for shape, size, and seasonal color. When new tree plantings are being considered, suggest flowering ones like crabapple and cherry or trees that provide fall color. If annuals are planted in common areas suggest edibles like colorful peppers, kale, or even perennials like strawberries. Do your homework and make recommendations that are low maintenance and non-invasive.

On a grander scale, if there's room and interest, consider suggesting a small community garden in a common area. It's a lot of work to get one started, but it can really bring people together. If not, get creative with container gardening. I have a few pots on my sunny little patio, and I've had yields of various kinds of tomatoes, berries, and herbs. Next season I plan to line my walkway with lavender and keep it trimmed to give off fragrance.

Finally, if you want to improve your own property and your entire neighborhood with more sustainable landscaping options, get involved in the HOA. Attend meetings, and get to know the movers and shakers and influencers. Join the landscape committee and have a voice in affecting positive change from the inside. I've joined mine, and it's been a good learning experience.



All photos courtesy Pat Bowen





# Farm-to-Table and More

By Barbara Schirmer, Cherokee County Master Gardener

If every tomato you've ever bought was produced on a farm and ends up on your table, doesn't that mean it's farm-to-table? Not really. There's no centralized criteria by which farm-to-table is defined, but generally, if you know the farm or ranch your product came from, if you know they're raising their crops or livestock without added hormones or pesticides, and if you're cutting out the middleman by bypassing commercial vendors, you're eating farm-to-table.

The farm-to-table, farm-to-fork and farm-to-school movements began as social movements to promote serving local food at restaurants and school cafeterias, preferably through direct acquisition from the farmer or the producer. It incorporates a form of food traceability where the origin of the food is identified to consumers.



Photo courtesy UGA Flickr online

Oftentimes, chefs will take whatever crop a farmer has too much of off the farmer's hands and start fermenting or pickling what can't be used on the menu right away. And the same goes with livestock—a chef will help a farmer move the product and start creating the menu around what was brought in for the week, like organ meat for instance. Chefs have fun with how to twist little-used ingredients into something palatable.

A farmer in turn might ask a chef about what is specifically needed in the restaurant and then go ahead and plant it. A chef and the farmer can even arrange to plan out crops a year in advance by sitting down, mapping out the weather, and deciding what would make the most sense to grow for both parties. It's a complex relationship that reaps great benefits and great food.

The farm-to-table movement helped to spawn the farm-to-school initiative that brought locally grown produce to school lunch programs. Today well over 1,500 school districts around the country, from Georgia to Iowa, have linked up with local farms to serve fresh vegetables and fruits to children. This effort has provided an added educational component of teaching children about where food comes from plus adding fresh-sourced vegetables and fruits to improve the nutritional value of the school lunches. In some areas, school gardens, grown and tended by the students, have provided an even greater hands-on experience for young people to learn about how things grow.

For those of us who would like to support local agriculture through eating locally grown or produced items in our home kitchens, the first stop is at the local farmers market. Make no mistake, not all items sold at local farmers markets are grown locally, so you have to have a conversation with the vendor. You're looking for something real. Your farmer should be able to engage in a discussion about how they grew the asparagus or about how the green beans are going to be a month late because the ground hadn't thawed enough to plant them. When purchasing meat or eggs, you want to know what the livestock is being fed and that they are treated humanely and not pumped with antibiotics.

There are also many food cooperatives that focus on sourcing locally grown produce, and in recent months many of these are providing the option of home delivery. UGA Extension, in collaboration with Georgia Grown (a program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture) and other industry partners, is using its network of county Extension offices to connect agricultural products with consumers looking for fresh, Georgia-grown products. For more information about local producers involved in the Georgia Grown initiative, check out this website: <https://extension.uga.edu/ag-products-connection.html#top>.

By far one of the most reliable ways for you to know where your food comes from is to grow it yourself. With food prices rising and more people trying to save money due to the economy, home gardening has taken off in a big way. Many vegetable seed companies report sales have shot up 30 to 50 percent, which is a clear indicator that more people are putting on their gardening gloves and focusing on "garden-to-table." Growing your own fruits and vegetables is the most basic that you can get! You will be helping the environment and saving money at the same time. For more information about managing a home garden, see the many gardening publications from <https://extension.uga.edu/publications.html>.

*continued on page 6*

## Dragonflies and Damselflies....continued from page 3



Photo common green darner, *Anax junius*

Lastly, while many people are familiar with butterfly migration to warmer regions for the winter, many may not know that several dragonfly species are also southbound during this time. Dragonfly migration is one of the fascinating events in the insect world, but also one of the least known. In Georgia, migrating dragonflies include the common green darner (*Anax junius*), wandering glider (*Pantala flavescens*), spot-winged glider (*Pantala hymenaea*), and black saddlebags (*Tramea lacerata*), according to naturalist Giff Beaton in his book, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast*.

Although this event has been documented since the 1880s, North American dragonfly migration is still poorly understood. Much remains to be learned about migratory cues, flight pathways, and the southern limits of overwintering grounds. Therefore, scientists are undertaking studies to try to understand them, which include public participation in a citizen science project to help gather much-needed data for the Migratory Dragonfly Partnership (MDP). For more information, visit the website at [www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org](http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org), which includes identifying, collecting, photographing, and submitting data to help scientists better understand the migration of these beneficial aviators. All photos courtesy <http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org/index/virtualImages>.



Photo wandering glider, *Pantala flavescens*



Photo spot-winged glider, *Pantala hymenaea*



Photo black saddlebags, *Tramea lacerata*

## Farm-to-Table and More ....continued from page 5

Once you have obtained locally grown produce or grown your own, the true fun begins when you get it in the kitchen. There are many wonderful recipes to explore, so be courageous and try something new. On page 10, you'll find two of my favorite recipes for late summer enjoyment.

If you're looking for locally sourced produce, recipes, cheeses and meats, click on this link to find local markets.

<https://georgiagrown.com/find-georgia-grown/retail/farmers-market/>




### Cherokee County Master Gardeners Fall Plant/Bulb Sale

TBD - September

Check our Facebook page

<https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>  
and website

<https://cherokeemastergardenersinc.wildapricot.org/>  
for plant/bulb sale items and availability.

	RAINFALL COMPARISONS					
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	May 20	June 20	YTD	May 20	June 20	YTD
<b>Actual</b>	3.9	5.5	48.1	2.7	3.1	37.6
<b>Normal</b>	4.3	4.0	29.1	3.1	4.0	24.1
<b>Deviation</b>	-0.4	1.5	19.0	-0.4	-0.9	13.5

# LAWN CARE - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

<b>COOL-SEASON GRASSES</b> (TALL FESCUE, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, CREEPING RED FESCUE, CHEWING FESCUE)	<b>WARM-SEASON GRASSES</b> (BERMUDA, CENTIPEDE, ZOYSIA, ST. AUGUSTINE)														
<p><b>For Established Lawns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cool-season grasses are not actively growing during the summer months. Maintenance needs are limited to irrigation, weed management, and mowing as needed.</li> <li>• Do not aerate during the summer months.</li> <li>• You may rake your lawn, but do not mechanically dethatch during the summer months.</li> <li>• If needed, apply a post-emergent for grassy weeds like crabgrass, but take care not to treat drought-stressed turf. You may also spot spray broadleaf weeds like chickweed or dandelion.</li> <li>• July may be a great time to do a soil test before turf enters the fall growing season.</li> <li>• Lime may be applied at any time. Apply about 50 lbs. per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. However, do not fertilize during June or July.</li> <li>• A healthy lawn needs about 1 inch of water per week. Determine irrigation needs depending on the amount of rainfall received.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For Established Lawns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm-season turf is typically stressed during the summer months. Take care to mow at the proper height and follow appropriate irrigation recommendations to maintain your lawn.</li> <li>• If needed, you can aerate or dethatch. Remember that these activities are not necessarily required every year. However, if you applied a pre-emergent in June, the chemical barrier will be disturbed.</li> <li>• It's not too late to apply a pre-emergent for significant weed control. Use a weed and feed product or spot spray for minor weed control.</li> <li>• Fertilize Bermuda, Zoysia, and St. Augustine at the beginning of July. The Zoysia lawn may not need to be fertilized at this time if it is healthy—dark green and thick. This application should be effective through September. For Centipede lawns, use a slow-release, low-phosphorus fertilizer in early July.</li> <li>• Follow water-wise irrigation methods to insure a healthy lawn and promote a strong root system. If irrigation is needed, apply 1 inch of water per week. Consider rainfall amounts. Do not overwater.</li> </ul>														
<p><b>For Newly Installed Lawns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should not attempt to install new cool-season turf during this time, as fall is the best time to seed or install cool-season sprigs/sod.</li> <li>• If you are considering installing this year, use the summer months to research the best cultivars to fit your needs. Look for the "Blue Tag" certified seed to insure that you're purchasing a high-quality product.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For Newly Installed Lawns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigate daily for the first two to three weeks until well established.</li> <li>• Fertilize according to soil test recommendations. To promote good coverage, apply a complete fertilizer monthly.</li> <li>• To discourage weeds, extract manually or mow often.</li> </ul>														
<p><b>Disease &amp; Insect Control for All Lawns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you're using proper irrigation methods, there should not be any major fungal issues during the hot, summer months. However, check for dead or dark patches with clearly defined edges.</li> <li>• Check for webworm, armyworm, and/or cutworm infestations. Webworms leave a veil-like webbing on the turf surface that is easily seen in the morning before the dew burns off. Circular, sunken patches of cut leaf blades might indicate the presence of cutworms. Armyworms leave significant damage by chewing patches of blades to the ground.</li> <li>• Patches of wilted, yellow grass might indicate the presence of chinch bugs. St. Augustine and Centipede are especially susceptible, but other grasses are also at risk.</li> <li>• If needed, treat the soil with an approved product for the specific type of infestation. Control strategies differ, so be sure to follow instructions on the product label.</li> </ul> <p>Review specific requirements for your established lawn at:  <a href="http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/turfgrass/georgiaturf/index/index.html">http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/turfgrass/georgiaturf/index/index.html</a></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="987 1325 1547 1692"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grass Types</th> <th>Mowing Heights (inches)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bermuda Grass</td> <td>1 - 1.5 to 2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Centipede Grass</td> <td>1 - 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Augustine Grass</td> <td>2 - 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zoysia Grass</td> <td>1 - 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tall Fescue Grass</td> <td>2.5 or More</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kentucky Bluegrass</td> <td>2.5 or More</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Grass Types	Mowing Heights (inches)	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
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Photo powdery mildew <https://site.extension.uga.edu/dougherty-hort/2020/05/powdery-mildew-on-ornamentals/>

# AUGUST GARDENING TIPS

to 6-8 oz. ammonium nitrate or 18-24 oz. of 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20883\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20883_4.PDF)

- Heavy rains at harvest can dilute the sugars in melons. Watermelons can reconcentrate sugar if left on the vine for a few dry days, but cantaloupes can't.
- Harvest cantaloupes when the melons pull easily from the stem; honeydews when the blossom end is slightly soft or springy; watermelons when there is a hollow sound when thumped and skin loses its shine. Also, run your hand around the middle of the watermelon. When fully ripe, most varieties develop low, longitudinal ridges, rather like flexed calf muscles.
- Start seeds of cool-weather vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and lettuce in order to transplant to the garden in early September. <https://ugaurbanag.com/georgia-fall-garden/>
- White fly may be a serious problem this month on tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and squash. There are no effective preventive measures, so it's important to control the population before they increase to damaging levels. Hang sticky yellow strips among your plants to trap these pests.
- Plant bush beans now for your fall crop. Watch out for insects, such as Mexican bean beetle.
- If going on vacation this month, be sure to harvest all your vegetables and then arrange for someone to pick fast maturing crops, such as squash and okra; otherwise, they will become overmature and stop producing.
- Spider mites leave webs on the underside of leaves, and eggs are laid in these webs. Spider mites thrive in hot, dry weather. For mild infestations, hose the foliage to wash off the mites. For severe problems, spray with an approved chemical according to the label. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074\\_7.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074_7.PDF) The best remedy for spider mites on plants is a good, heavy rainfall. <https://newswire.caes.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=4459&story=Spider-mites>

## ORNAMENTALS

- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens (such as azaleas, holly, and hydrangeas) to propagate. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/plant-propagation-by-stem-cuttings-instructions-for-the-home-gardener>
- Powdery mildew diseases attack a great many ornamentals, most often in late summer when the days are warm and nights are cool. Some mildews, particularly those on roses, apples, and cherries, also are increased by high humidity. Prevention by proper cultural techniques is the first defense. Grow resistant varieties; space and prune plants to improve air flow and reduce shading; water early in the day and at the base rather than on leaves; and reduce nitrogen applications to avoid excessive, late-season growth. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/powdery-mildew/>
- Water shrubs deeply once a week during August. Many plants including camellias and rhododendrons, are forming buds for next season's bloom at this time. Do not prune or you will be removing the flower buds. Immature berries of hollies may drop if the plants are water stressed. During hot, dry August days, avoid deep cultivation in your flower beds. Loosening the soil under these conditions reduces water uptake by increasing loss of soil water and damaging surface roots. Plants often look much worse after cultivation than before.
- Water roses with at least 1" of water per week. Remove spent blooms (deadheading) to encourage quicker rebloom. Prune 1/4" above an outward facing five-leaflet eye. Watch for spider mites on the underside of the upper leaves. A blast of water from underneath will discourage them. Continue fertilizing once a month for both August and September.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries, blueberries, and bramble fruits are forming buds for next year's crop; keep them watered for better production.
- Fertilize strawberries in August. On plants set out this spring, apply 4-6 oz. of ammonium nitrate (33% actual nitrogen) or 12-18 oz. of 10-10-10 per feet of row. Spread the fertilizer uniformly in a band 14" wide over the row when foliage (not the ground) is dry. Brush fertilizer off leaves to avoid leaf burn. For plants in the second year of growth, increase application rate



<https://ugaurbanag.com/mexican-bean-beetles-in-your-garden/>

## AUGUST MISCELLANEOUS

- Water your plants several hours before applying pesticides, especially during dry weather. Drought-stressed plants have less water in their plant tissues. The chemicals that enter the leaves will be more concentrated and may burn the leaves.
- The last two weeks of August is the time to spray kudzu with a non-selective weed killer or mow all visible foliage, since it is at its weakest at this time.



# SEPTEMBER GARDENING TIPS

## ORNAMENTALS

- Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. Plants planted in the fall do not endure the summer heat during establishment and will form sufficient root systems before winter dormancy. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planting-shrubs-correctly/>
- If you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright.



Photo courtesy Marcia Winchester, from left to right: *Lycoris radiata*/spider lily, *Hyacinth*, *Narcissus*/daffodil, crocus, *Muscari armeniacum*/grape hyacinth.

- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1½ -2" below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming. Look for varieties that perform well in the South.
- Divide, cut back and fertilize daylilies now to promote root growth for next year's flowers.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- During the fall, be sure to water vegetables adequately; crops such as corn, pepper, squash and tomato won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water. Snap bean, tomato and pepper flowers may fail to develop fruit when daytime temperatures rise above 90°F.
- Harvesting guidelines: Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree in a paper bag. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C742>
- Cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles and European corn borers pass the winter in debris left in the garden. Remove dead plant material and compost it or till it under. This limits your pest population next year to the insects that migrate into the garden.
- To harvest sunflower seeds, wait until the seeds are fully grown and firm, then cut the head, leaving one foot of stem. Hang in a dry, airy spot to finish ripening. Do not store sunflowers on top of each other or they may rot. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201121\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201121_1.PDF)
- Winter-type pumpkins and squash, such as acorn, butternut, and spaghetti keep for several months in a cool, medium-dry basement, garage or tool shed. Allow the fruit to ripen fully on the vine, and cure in the sun to form a hard rind. Harvest before frost, and leave a piece of stem on each when



Daylily division courtesy Clemson University <https://hgic.clemson.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/word-image-15-828x656.jpeg>

they are cut from the vine. If the floor is damp, elevate them to reduce the possibility of rot. The best storage temperature is about 60°F.

- Keep basil, parsley, garlic, mint and sage producing by pinching off the flowers. Herbs can be used fresh, frozen, or dried. When the dew dries, cut a few stems, tie a strong cord around this little bouquet, and hang in a cool, dry place until fully dry. Place in a jar for use during the winter. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201170\\_3.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201170_3.PDF)
- Don't prune or fertilize fruits now; it may disturb bud formation.
- Do not store apples or pears with vegetables such as potatoes and squash. Fruits give off ethylene gas that speeds up the ripening process of vegetables and may cause them to develop "off" flavors.
- Beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, onions, parsley, radishes, spinach and turnips seeds can be planted in the garden all month.
- Near the end of the growing season, pick off all tomato blossoms that won't have time to bear fruit so that plant nutrients go into existing tomatoes.
- Hot peppers will keep best if stored after they are dry. Pull the plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place. Wash your hands after handling them.

## SEPTEMBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Autumn is a good time for improving garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter. Before adding lime, have soil tested to determine if your soil is acidic. <https://extension.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=7718>
- Do not spray pesticides when it is windy or temperatures are over 85°F; and always follow directions carefully.
- Washing clothes worn while applying pesticides is important. Use heavy-duty detergent & hot water ASAP.
- Some pesticides are sold as dusts. Dusts cannot be applied as precisely as sprays and may drift to non-targeted areas.
- Ready porch and patio plants to bring inside before the first frost; check under the pots for sowbugs and pillbugs.

# Recipes Farm-to-Table Recipes

## Scalloped Vegetable Bake

By Gwenaelle Le Cochenec, *Tasty Recipes*

### Ingredients:

2 medium zucchinis, washed  
3 medium potatoes, washed and peeled  
5 medium carrots, washed and peeled  
4 eggs  
1/3 cup butter, melted  
2/3 cup milk  
1/8 tsp. nutmeg  
1/8 tsp. dried basil  
1/2 tsp. dried thyme  
Salt to taste  
Pepper to taste  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a 10-inch spring form pan with parchment paper.

Carefully slice the zucchini, potatoes, and carrots very thinly with a mandolin or a sharp knife.

In a large bowl, combine the eggs, melted butter and milk, and whisk until combined.

Add the nutmeg, basil, thyme, salt, pepper and flour.

Add the sliced veggies to the batter, and stir well until the slices are well coated.

Add half of the vegetable slices to the prepared pan and flatten with a spoon.

Sprinkle the cheese over the vegetables.

Top with the rest of the vegetables, and cover the pan with aluminum foil.

Bake for about 1 1/2 hours, until the vegetables are fully cooked and tender.

Let cool for at least 10 minutes then release the spring form pan. Slice and serve.

(Serves 6)

## Cauliflower Parmesan

By *Delish Recipes* online

### Ingredients:

1 large head cauliflower, stem trimmed and cut vertically into 1-inch planks  
3 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
1 1/2 cup marinara sauce  
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, divided  
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese  
1/4 cup basil leaves, torn if large  
Crushed red pepper flakes



Photo courtesy UGA Flickr online

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Arrange cauliflower in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet, and brush both sides with oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Roast, flipping once, until cauliflower is tender and golden, about 35 minutes. Remove from oven, and top each cauliflower steak with marinara sauce. Sprinkle with mozzarella and half of Parmesan. Switch oven to broil, and broil cauliflower until cheese is bubbly and golden in spots, about 3 minutes. Serve with remaining Parmesan, basil leaves, and red pepper flakes. (Serves 4)

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cherokee.html>

<https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>

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