

Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge

June/July 2021



WHAT'S HAPPENING

JUNE

June 16, CCMG Monthly Meeting and presenter, 10:00am

June 19 - **Garden Pests** outdoor class, Papa's Pantry, has been **postponed**, call 770-345-7567 for more information.

June 25 & June 26 - CCMG **EXTENDED** Plant Sale, Sr. Center, 9:00am - 12noon

June 25 - **Pollinator Gardens, Virtual Seminar**, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite registration.

June 21-27, National Pollinator Week, www.pollinator.org

JULY

July 20, CCMG Monthly Meeting and presenter, 10:00am

July 17-25, National Moth Week, <http://nationalmothweek.org>

July 30 - **Snakes, Virtual Seminar**, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite registration.

Please join us for the Great Georgia Pollinator Census in August! More info will be in the August/September 2021 newsletter.



Photo courtesy John Ruscilli

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

or call 770-721-7803

<https://chokeemastergardeners.com>

or call 770-515-9228

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

Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener

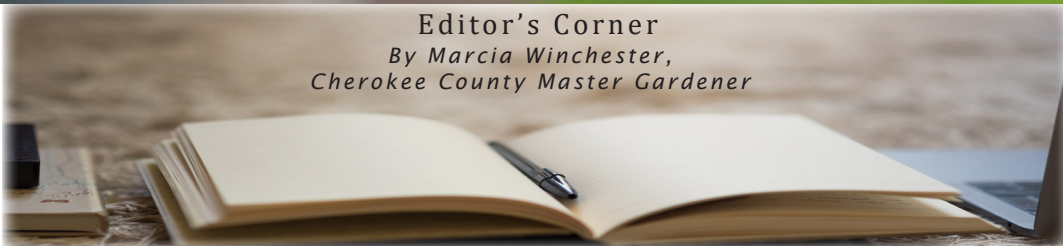


Photo courtesy Mary Tucker

Oh no, not again!!! I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw a new shrub at a local nursery. The nursery trade has introduced a new privet. Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) is a Category 1 non-native invasive plant in Georgia. Category 1 is the worst category. This plant covers huge amounts of native woodlands and open spaces in Georgia. Not only is it invasive in Georgia; it is also considered invasive in 12 other southern states.

About 25 years ago the nursery trade propagated a variegated leaf *Ligustrum sinense* that supposedly "did not form seeds." It was touted

as not being invasive. After a few years shrubs started having branches revert back to solid green leaves that bloomed and formed seeds just like the invasive parent.

Now we are expected to believe this new cultivar won't bloom or form berries! I've already noticed shrubs in less sun are more "green" than other branches. I also noticed that their rate of growth is different. They seem to be leggier and faster growing. In a few years there could be flowers, and then we're back to berries that have seeds, creating a non-native invasive plant in masses in landscapes.

You might think I'm an alarmist, but did you know it took almost 80 years for Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) to become invasive? It also is a Category 1 non-native invasive plant. I feel there are many beautiful shrubs both native and non-native that won't become a pest, so why buy one that might?

If we as customers refuse to purchase plants that could endanger our natural woodlands and open spaces then the nursery trade would stop selling them.

Marcia

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Fun Farm-to-Table Activities for Kids

By Barb Schirmer, Cherokee County
Master Gardener



Photo <https://secure.caes.uga.edu/news/multimedia/images/958/SquashVineBorer.jpg>

Where does our food come from? Do your kids know? In many households, kids don't have an understanding of where their food comes from before it appears on their plates. They might say it comes from the grocery store, or possibly they would know it comes from a farm, but beyond that, there is so much more to know, such as how food is processed (or not), the benefits of buying local food, good nutrition, and healthy eating. Many kids today just don't have a complete understanding of plant or animal lifecycles and all the steps in the process of food reaching the dining table.

Getting children interested in cooking and gardening at a young age is a great way to equip them with useful skills, introduce them to a healthy relationship with food, and create an interest in and understanding of where it comes from. Here are a few simple ways to get started.

A KITCHEN GARDEN

Planting a "kitchen garden" is one of the best ways to introduce children to the "farm" part of farm-to-table. Planting seeds, watching them grow into plants, harvesting their produce, and eating what they have grown gives kids a hands-on understanding of what it takes to grow food. You don't need a big yard (or any yard) to grow food, because you can container garden right from your balcony or patio, or even on a sunny, indoor windowsill. Even the youngest child can be in charge of a container garden.

You can grow just about anything in a container. Some easy favorites for children are herbs, lettuces, strawberries, peppers, radishes, and carrots. Using recycled items for a container is also a good way to teach about recycling. Empty milk cartons or plastic bottles make great container garden vessels.

If you have a little corner in the yard to garden in, then dividing it up into squares can help you make the most of space. Dwarf and compact vegetables and herbs, which will crop in a very small space and won't grow so tall that they overshadow their neighbors, are a great choice and are easy for youngsters to manage.

A PIZZA GARDEN

A "pizza garden" is an especially fun themed garden for kids and involves growing oregano, tomatoes, basil, peppers, thyme, and parsley. Start the seeds inside, keeping them watered and in a sunny window until they sprout, or purchase plants that are ready to transfer to the garden from your local garden store. Imagine the fun of making pizza with ingredients grown in the backyard and the lessons learned about what it takes to grow your own favorite food. Who doesn't like pizza? Pizza gardens can fit into a corner in the family garden or be grown in containers on the patio.



Photo "pizza garden" courtesy Barb Schirmer

VISIT A FARMERS MARKET

A fun visit to a farmers market is also a wonderful opportunity to teach kids the importance of buying locally from growers in your community. Here young people can talk to the vendors who grow the food and learn about what fruits and vegetables are in season. When kids return home to eat the food they just purchased at the farmers market, it cements the farm-to-table learning.

Before a visit to the farmers market or to your local grocery store's produce department, come up with some questions that the children can ask to learn more about what they are buying. Questions such as Where were these grown? Do they grow in another place in a different season? How do you keep them fresh? How do I know what vegetables or fruits are best to purchase by looking at them? How should I fix them at home? These are all great ways to start a conversation about food.

Continued on page 6

Summer Color: Thinking Outside the Bloom

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Though summer garden beds are often associated with bright blooming annuals (and yes, there are plenty to choose from), I want to encourage you to “think outside the bloom” when dressing your garden with warm-weather hues. You can create stunning garden beds without a single bloom in sight, thanks to foliage that comes in virtually every color imaginable. Most of the plants discussed below are annuals and will not survive Georgia’s winter weather, but many can be held over for use the following year by taking cuttings or by storing the tubers in frost-free locations.

CALADIUM



A stalwart performer in the summer garden is the caladium (*Caladium bicolor*), a tropical plant grown for its colorful, heart-shaped leaves. The caladium grows from a tuber and produces luscious foliage during the summer months. You can either purchase the dry tubers or obtain pot-grown plants that have already leafed out. Caladiums require warm soil to really take off, so avoid planting until the soil temperature climbs above 65 degrees.

Hybridizers have developed a wealth of foliage colors and patterns. Hues include deep red, pink, white, green, and all manner of combinations. Many have lovely splotches of color or attractive veining. Caladium cultivars generally grow about 12 to 30 inches in height. Most caladiums prefer shade, though some have been bred to take a bit more sun. Caladiums are happy in containers, in mixed borders, or massed as bedding plants. The colors mix well together, or a single color can be used to brighten up a shady spot in the garden. All will thrive in the heat and humidity of Georgia.



Photo dramatic elephant ear

COLEUS



One of the most popular foliage plants of summer is the coleus (*Coleus scutellarioides*). Hybridizers have created a wide array of cultivars from which to choose. You will find coleus in almost every hue: red, pink, orange, yellow, chartreuse, maroon, purplish black. You will see leaves with spots, splotches, streaks, veining, and variegation. Some coleus cultivars are diminutive in size; others grow up to 3 or more feet in height.

Though most coleus plants prefer shade, there are also sun-tolerant varieties available. Check the plant tag of the coleus you are purchasing to give it the best growing conditions. Coleus cultivars are suitable for garden beds and can be combined for luscious displays of color, or they can be grown in containers to brighten patios and porches. They are easy to prune to keep to the size you desire, and they rapidly flush out with new foliage.

Though coleus plants do send up spikes of tiny flowers, the plant is usually grown for its foliage alone. However, if you like to garden for pollinators, many tiny flying insects are attracted to the flowers.

ELEPHANT EAR



Plants in the genera *Colocasia* and *Alocasia* (collectively called elephant ears) give the gardener a wide range of foliage colors and sizes. They grow from tubers or rhizomes and have heart-shaped leaves that are borne on long stems. Most are grown as annuals in our range, but some will overwinter in the ground.

The size and pattern of the leaves varies greatly, as does the height of the plants. The largest elephant ears may have leaves up to 6 feet in length on a plant that can top out at 10 feet tall. On the other hand, some are low growing, spreading plants under a foot in height.

Continued on page 6

Is It a Ladybug or Not?

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

What do you think of when you see a small, round beetle with a reddish back and black spots? Yes, a ladybug! You also may have considered them a “good” insect, helping rid an area of crop-damaging insect pests. While the family Coccinellidae, or ladybug beetles, consists of some economically beneficial insects, it also includes two serious pests, so gardeners beware! They are the squash lady beetle (*Epilachna borealis*), and the Mexican bean beetle (*Epilachna varivestis*). These unfavorable relatives of the ladybug feed on the leaves of plants. More specifically, the non-native Mexican bean beetle feeds primarily on legumes, while the native squash lady beetle feeds primarily on cucurbits.



Squash lady beetle



Photo (*Epilachna borealis*), with spiny larva at left. Clemson University – USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, www.insectimages.org

Spotted cucumber beetle



Photo (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi*). J.P. Michaud, Kansas State University, www.insectimages.org

Mexican bean beetle



Photo Frank Peairs, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

The two pests have such similar coloration and spot-patterning that people often confuse them with one another. Mexican bean beetles are about the same size as an average ladybug, whereas squash lady beetles are marginally larger. There is a slight color difference as well, with mature Mexican bean beetles having a coppery appearance compared to the more yellow coloration of squash lady beetles. Upon counting the spots, you will tally eight on each wing of the Mexican bean beetle compared to seven spots on a squash lady beetle. Adding to the confusion is the spotted cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*), which may be mistaken as part of the family because of its comparable coloration and spots. However, a noticeable difference is its long, flat body shape.

Similar to the life cycle of their beneficial family members, they both go through a complete metamorphosis with distinct egg, larval, pupal, and adult stages. In late spring or early summer, the female Mexican bean beetle will deposit 40 to 75 pale yellow eggs on the undersides of legume leaves, laying an average of 450 eggs throughout her life. Upon emerging, the yellow larvae are cylindrically shaped and are covered in spines that are either black or yellow with black tips. They generally remain on the undersides of the leaves where they continuously feed, creating a lacy, skeletonized appearance of the remaining leaf. The pupa is yellow, spineless, and about the size and shape of the adult.



lady beetle eggs, bugguide.net



lady beetle larvae, bugguide.net



lady beetle pupae, bugguide.net



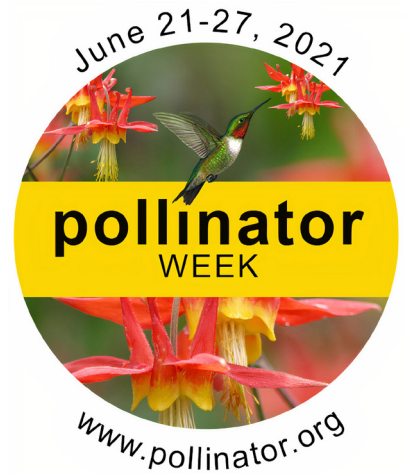
lady beetle adult, UGA

TIME to Celebrate Pollinators!

By Jennifer Ruscilli, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Being at home gives us the perfect opportunity to get outside and look for pollinators. They might be right in our own backyard and we've never had the time to notice, until now! June and July always mark the time to honor our day and nighttime pollinators. The images below represent just some of our pollinators highlighted during two incredible events: National Pollinator Week (June 21-27) and National Moth Week (July 18-26).

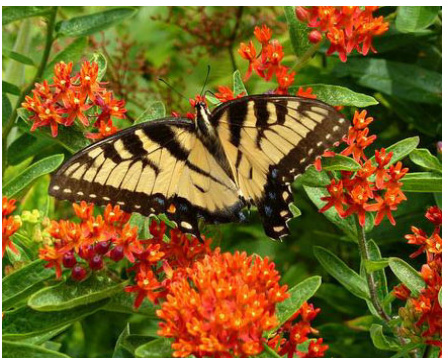
Ants, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. Most (75 percent) of the flowering plants on earth need pollinators. Without them we would not have most of the food we eat, or crops grown. They need us to create and protect their habitat, not destroy it. So, what better TIME to Celebrate Pollinators! Resources are listed below for more information about these two events, native plant suggestions for all pollinators, and resources for kids' activities to discover and track nighttime pollinators.



<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week>
<http://nationalmothweek.org/>

"Beyond Butterflies: Gardening for Native Pollinators"

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201349_1.PDF



Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Georgia state butterfly forages on milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).



Ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) on the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).



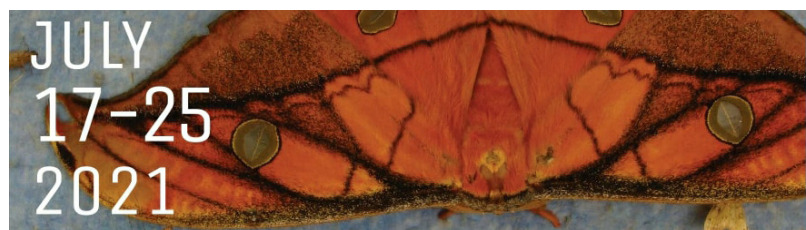
Hummingbird moth (*Sphingidae* spp.) courtesy Nancy Hinkle, UGA Entomologist, <https://ugaurbanag.com/hummingbirds-dont-fly-after-dark-but-hummingbird-moths-do/>



Hydrangea paniculata varieties like 'Chantilly Lace' and 'Pinky Winky' attract a lot of bees, butterflies and other pollinators.



The yucca moth (*Tegeticula* spp.) has a symbiotic relationship with yucca plants. Courtesy M.J. Hatfield, BugGuide.net <https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740>



Fun Farm-to-Table Activities for Kids.....continued from page 2

COOKING CAMPS

A few local communities offer cooking camps for kids where they can work under the supervision of experienced adults or local chefs to learn basic food preparation skills. In selecting a class, look for ones that focus on using locally sourced foods as part of their curriculum. Encouraging young people to become comfortable in the kitchen at an early age sets the stage for developing good food and nutrition habits. Cooking at home is a fun way to find out about ingredients and try out a wide range of different foods that they may not have had before. Cooking is the perfect way to learn why we need to eat a healthy diet, what certain foods do for our bodies, and how to judge if food is fresh, ripe and good quality.

U-PICK FARMS

Another wonderful way to teach children about growing food is to take a visit to a local farm. There are many “U-Pick” farms in our area where you can take children to pick a wonderful variety of fresh produce. Strawberries, peaches, apples, and blueberries are especially abundant in North Georgia. Some farms offer wagon rides through the fields and feature animal petting areas as well, giving young people a whole greater feel for all that goes on at a farm. And don't forget about the bees! A trip to a local apiary to learn how bees make honey is also an exciting adventure.

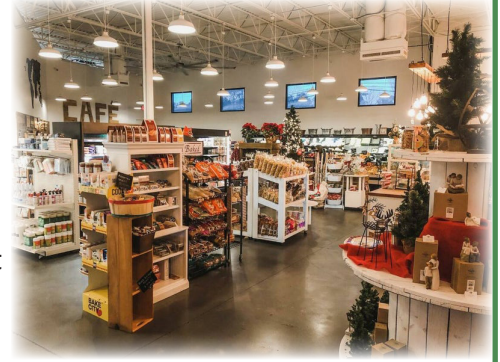


Photo <https://www.farmerstablega.com/market>

To find the location of local farmers markets and farms that you can visit in Georgia, go to <https://www.localfarmmarkets.org>, <https://www.agr.georgia.gov>, or <https://www.exploregeorgia.org> for a complete listing of wonderful places to explore with your children this summer. The Cherokee County UGA Extension website also offers a wealth of information about Georgia Agritourism and many educational resources related to home gardening: <https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cherokee.html>.

Summer Color: Thinking Outside the Bloom...continued from page 3



Photo dramatic elephant ear used as a focal point with annuals

The foliage color varies widely too. Some have solid chartreuse leaves; others bear almost black foliage. Some have speckles and spots; some have elaborate vein patterns. Even the foliage texture varies, from smooth and velvety to ruffled and shiny. Most elephant ears prefer shady conditions, but the lighter, green-leaved cultivars will generally tolerate more sun than those with dark foliage.

Elephant ears are suitable for inclusion in garden borders, where the larger, upright varieties can make quite a statement as a focal point. They are also wonderful in containers with the foliage standing on its own or blending with other annuals.



All photos included with this article were provided by Mary Tucker, *Cherokee County Master Gardener*

Is It a Ladybug or Not?continued from page 4

Like the Mexican bean beetle, the squash lady beetle lays yellow, oblong eggs on the underside of its host leaves. However, it deposits a slightly smaller cluster in early to mid-summer. The eggs resemble beneficial ladybug eggs and even the eggs of the Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*), which all tend to produce a tighter egg cluster. Upon emerging, the yellow larvae are covered in black spines and will continue to eat and grow as they go through four instars over the next three weeks before pupating on the underside of cucurbit leaves.



Photo Colorado potato beetle, UGA



Photo stink bug,
bugguide.net

Prevention and early control are essential. Fortunately, there are some natural enemies that will consume the larvae and adult insects, including stink bugs (*Halyomorpha* spp.) and assassin bugs (*Pselliopus* spp.). These beetles may also be parasitized by tachinid flies (*Peleteria* spp.) or parasitoid wasps (*Pediobius foveolatus*).

If the damage to plants is extensive, the home gardener may want to consider additional control methods. The least toxic method of extermination is simply checking the underside of leaves for eggs, larvae, pupa, and adults, and then handpicking and dropping them into a bucket of soapy water to destroy them.



Photo orange assassin bug,
bugguide.net

In the spring, floating row covers with a fine mesh may prevent beetles from settling on your plants. However, they should be removed when the plants bloom to allow pollinators to visit.

Another suggestion to reduce problems caused by these destructive pests is to turn crops under immediately after harvest to kill late-developing beetles and reduce the availability of sites where they can overwinter. Lastly, check with your local Cooperative Extension for a list of approved pesticides and insecticides if the problem gets out of hand.

The struggle is real in maintaining a healthy garden, as it may feel like you are growing a garden smorgasbord for a rogue family of pests. While it can be frustrating to find holes and sticky slime all over your vegetables and flowers, the journey is worth it when you can admire, harvest, and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Here's to a season of great return!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This Master Gardener newsletter ran an article in the June/July 2018 issue about ladybugs. You can find that newsletter archived on the CCMG website: www.cherokeemastergardeners.com.

Cherokee County Master Gardeners Expanded Summer Plant Sale

Friday, June 25th and Saturday, June 26th at the Sr. Center from 9am until 12noon
1001 Univeter Road, Canton Georgia 30115

Plants include daylilies, sedums, shade and sun perennials including lots of pollinator plants.



JUNE GARDENING TIPS

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. 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://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C905>
- 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.

JUNE 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>



Photo taken at the Sr. Center Demo garden, courtesy John Ruscilli, during the 2019 pollinator census count.



Like a mountain path, the narrow squiggles are characteristic trails left by a group of insects known as leaf miners. Special-Lisa Ames, University of Georgia

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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/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%20918_4.PDF



JULY GARDENING 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.
- 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://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C944>



Adult flatid planthopper and nymphs on an eastern ninebark shrub. Photo courtesy Debbie Roos, NC University, <https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/2014/07/what-is-the-white-fluffy-stuff-on-my-shrubs/>

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.  <https://secure.caes.uga.edu/news/multimedia/images/958/SquashVine-Borer.jpg>
- 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 very close to 50 square feet and would require 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 the 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. <https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension/programs-and-services/integrated-pest-management/documents/insect-pdfs/hornworm.pdf>




Tomato hornworm courtesy UGA

- 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

JULY 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 2021	Apr 2021	YTD	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	YTD 2021
 Actual	6.2	2.1	17.3	5.1	2.8	15.8
Normal	5.5	4.5	21.0	4.8	3.3	16.7
Deviation	0.7	-2.4	-3.7	0.3	-0.5	-0.9



June/July Recipes

By Maurya Jones

During summer months, while vacationing at the beach or while at home, I enjoy preparing easy meals. These two recipes are just that and are fast and delicious. They are perfect for the summer months and would make a classic meal for a Fourth of July celebration.

CLASSIC BARBECUE BURGER

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/4 cup grated 100% Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp. barbecue sauce, any flavor
- 4 hamburger buns, split

1. Mix all ingredients except buns until well blended. Shape into 4 patties.
2. Grill 5 minutes on each side or until cooked through.
3. Serve in buns topped with your favorite condiments.



BERRY BLISS CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 small pkg. of Jell-O vanilla flavor instant pudding
- 3/4 cup cold milk
- 1-1/2 cups thawed Cool Whip, divided
- 2 cups mixed raspberries and sliced strawberries
- 1/4 cup blackberries
- 1 pkg. frozen pound cake (10.75 oz.), cut into 3 layers
- 1/4 cup orange juice

1. Whisk pudding mix and milk for 2 minutes; stir in 1 cup of Cool Whip. Combine berries; reserve 1/2 cup.
2. Brush cake layers with juice; stack on plate, filling each layer with half each of remaining berries and pudding mixture. Top with remaining Cool Whip and reserved berries.
3. Refrigerate 4 hours.

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

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

UGA Cooperative Extension—Cherokee County
1130 Bluffs Pkwy, Suite G49
Canton, GA 30114



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Cherokee County

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.

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**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.

<https://chokeemastergardeners.com>