

# Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge  
October/November 2021



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### OCTOBER

Oct 7 & 21, Demo Garden Workdays, Sr. Center, Canton

Oct 9, Woodstock Farmer's Market: **Decorative Fall Containers**

Oct 19, CCMG Monthly Meeting and PICNIC, 11am

Oct 29, Virtual Seminar, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite registration.

### NOVEMBER

Nov 4 & 18, Demo Garden Workdays, Sr. Center, Canton

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

Nov 26, Virtual Seminar, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite Registration



Photo annuals rooting in water courtesy Mary Tucker

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

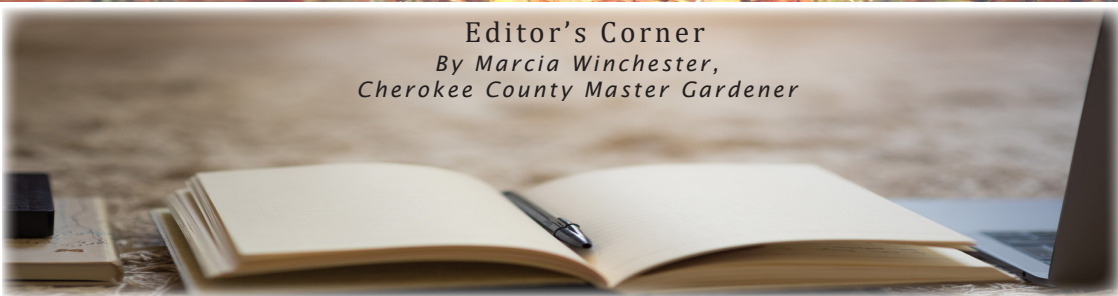


Photo white iris courtesy Marcia Winchester

Has another gardener ever given you a plant or seeds from their garden? If so then you are part of a tradition called "passalong plants." This tradition was started by our grandparents before there were nurseries or websites selling plants. Plants were shared by digging, harvesting seeds, or by taking cuttings, which were often rooted in water.

I remember my grandmother rooting a rose by layering it and covering it with a jar. Plants from all over the globe have been traded and shared over the years between gardeners.

I think the most special aspect of a passalong plant is the memories they invoke. Recently at a Master Gardener meeting, Mary Ellen Roos gave a presentation on passalong plants. Mary Ellen told how her mother had her plant irises along the path to the mailbox. Each time Mary Ellen got the mail, she walked by those plants. To this day, irises are her favorite plants.

As Mary Ellen was telling her story, I thought of the white German irises in the Demo Garden at the Senior Center. They were originally donated by one of the seniors over 20 years ago. These irises are still beautifying the Demo Garden. I now have this iris in my garden, as do several other Master Gardeners, along with a number of other Cherokee County residents.

*Marcia*

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## Community Wildlife Habitat: Let's Get Your Beautiful Yard Certified!

By Mary Schuster and Denise Stephens, Cherokee County Master Gardeners

It's so easy to get your community certified as a wildlife habitat! It's especially easy for you, fellow Master Gardeners! We did, and we hope this article helps you to do so also.

Two UGA Master Gardeners, two Naturalists, and one event planner in Cherokee County, Georgia, recently participated in a project sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to educate their community on the importance and relevance of wildlife to everyday life. The area involved was the Eagle Watch subdivision in the southern part of the county comprised of approximately 1400 homes. Working

on a sliding scale based on population size, Eagle Watch needed to satisfy NWF requirements totaling 250 points to qualify as the first neighborhood in Cherokee County to be designated as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the NWF. And, happily, success was achieved!

So, here's how the breakdown of points is divvied. The bulk of the work focused on getting 100 individual homes certified as wildlife habitats for 100 points. The Eagle Watch committee (Birds, Bees, and Butterflies) also needed to secure an additional 150 points. This was achieved by completing activities geared towards registration, outreach, education, and administration goals using a flexible checklist that included educating citizens at community events, hosting a native plant sale, organizing a stream clean up, and bringing new partners to the effort by hosting workshops, to name just a few activities.

This article will elaborate on the effort of recruiting 100 individual homeowners to have their yards certified as wildlife habitats. To do so, four basic elements that all wildlife need had to be present on their properties: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. In addition, the NWF required that homeowners maintain sustainable gardening practices such as using rain barrels, reducing water usage, removing invasive plants, incorporating native plants, and eliminating pesticides. In going about this task, the following modalities were used to achieve the goal:

- ◊ Monthly meetings, texts, calls, and use of Google Docs to keep all the members of the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies committee in touch with each other
- ◊ Creation of a Facebook page
- ◊ Creating and organizing an email address list for mass mailing in Gmail
- ◊ Answering homeowner questions and even offering site visits
- ◊ Attending subdivision events: the Easter Egg Hunt, the Concert under the stars, Fourth of July celebration, and tennis drills
- ◊ Arranging for recognition by local media channels with informative articles and photographs
- ◊ Displaying banners and posters on familiar signposts within the community
- ◊ Offering garden tours of three members' gardens on the Saturday of the Pollinator Count

These are but a few examples of how we got the word out. As folks responded with interest to the above activities, a member of the committee would swiftly respond. A very effective method our committee used was to hand-deliver a folder of materials that included the simple application for certification. The application could be completed by snail mail or by going online. Our local bird supply shop supported the effort by providing generous coupons to include in the folder, and if the yard became certified, a bag of goodies was given to them by this vendor. Along with that, each interested party received a pretty bag with a seed pot and seeds of native plants. The seeds were supplied by the Extension office in Canton.

We also had a poster showing a large "certification thermometer" installed in a place familiar to the residents of Eagle Watch. It was easy to see the "temperature rise" from week to week as yards were certified. Readings from 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, to 100 were noted by everyone keeping track. Before we knew it, not only did we get 100 yards certified, but 139 to date!



# Creating a Moon Garden

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

During the past several months, many homeowners have upgraded their outdoor spaces to accommodate social events for more of their family and friends. These gatherings often extend into the night, resulting in a perfect opportunity for the home gardener to expand the garden spaces for evening enjoyment. A Moon Garden or Night Garden serves the same functions as your colorful day garden.

- It provides for enjoyment and personal satisfaction.
- It adds dimension and interest to your home's exterior.
- It serves a biological function for pollinators and native habitats.
- It stimulates the senses.

By adding a few plantings and supplemental light sources, you can transform your vibrant day garden into an ethereal wonderland in the evening hours. Twilight ushers in the Night Garden where fireflies, or lightning bugs, are the first visitors. Often referred to as a Moon Garden, the moonlight offers the primary illumination, bathing the plants in a soft reflective light. Daytime White Gardens perform a spectacular double shift in a Moon Garden.



Photo courtesy Stephanie Howard



Photo Autumn Angel® azalea courtesy Stephanie Howard

Consider planting anchor ornamental shrubs or trees in the autumn or early spring. There are many white-blooming specimens to choose from that will make a splash in the Moon Garden. These include the prolific white Knock Out® rose (*Rosa* 'Radwhite'), *Peonia* 'Festiva Maxima', White Wedding® hydrangea, Autumn Angel® azalea, Annabelle hydrangea (*H. arborescens* 'Annabelle'), Chinese snowball viburnum (*Viburnum macrocephalum*), 'Natchez' crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* x 'Natchez'), and White Chiffon® rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*). You can also look beyond white for impact in the night garden. For instance consider the conifer *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Golden Mop' with its bright golden foliage.

and lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) bear light gray foliage that will add sparkle to shadowy corners. For touches of BLING, use 'Silver Mound' artemesia (*Artemesia schmidtiana*), dichondra 'Silver Falls' (*Dichondra argentea*), or sea holly (*Eryngium planum* 'Silver Salentino' or *E. giganteum* 'Silver Ghost').

For warm-weather interest, there are many annuals that are useful for the Moon Garden, and they will serve you with months of brightness. In the shady areas, plant seasonal annuals such as *Caladium* 'White Queen' or the Infinity® series of New Guinea impatiens (*Impatiens hawkeri*) en masse for a stunning nighttime display. In sunnier spaces, try the white-blooming annuals *Lobularia* 'Snow Princess', Angelface® *Angelonia*, or the *Cleome* hybrid *Senorita Blanca*®. You may also select from a variety of variegated *Begonia* species to add flair to a dark space. A Night Garden is incomplete without incorporating a moonflower vine (*Ipomoea alba*). Its large, white flowers open only during the evening hours.



Photo Atlanta Botanical Gardens night garden courtesy Stephanie Howard

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# Native anise: the (almost) perfect shrub

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Is anise the perfect shrub? Well there's probably no such thing, but it surely comes close in my opinion! It has all of these characteristics going for it: native to the Southeast, evergreen, deer resistant, low maintenance, and resistant to diseases and insect pests.

There are two species of anise that are native to the Southeast, *Illicium floridanum* (Florida anise) and *Illicium parviflorum* (yellow anise). The two species have somewhat different ranges, but both are found in the lower parts of the Southeast. Fortunately for gardeners, anise is quite happy and cold-hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 7 through 10, making it a suitable landscape plant throughout most of Georgia. I grow both in my Cherokee County garden, but I have heard that yellow anise is slightly more cold-hardy than Florida anise.



Photo Florida anise (shrub); courtesy Mary Tucker



Photo yellow anise (shrub); courtesy Marcia Winchester

In the garden, one of anise's most useful characteristics is its evergreen nature. In both species, the elliptical, leathery leaves grow 4 to 6 inches long and have an attractive glossy sheen. The leaves emit a pleasant, spicy, anise-like fragrance if they are brushed against. These aromatic compounds are poisonous, and this makes the plant resistant to deer browsing and to insect infestation. Though the foliage of the two species may appear quite similar, there are some minor differences in the leaf shape. *Illicium floridanum* has a sharp point at the tip of the leaf, whereas the leaf tip of *I. parviflorum* is rounded.

Despite their overall similarities, these anises have quite different blooms. Florida anise bears dramatic, dark red blooms, about 1 to 2 inches in diameter. These springtime flowers are star-shaped with many strap-like petals, giving them a bit of an otherworldly look. Some say that the flowers have an unpleasant fragrance, but I've never detected any malodorous scent. In contrast, the blooms of yellow anise are



Photo Florida anise bloom courtesy Mary Tucker

small, cup-shaped flowers that are light yellowish green and only about a half inch wide. The flowers of both species are followed by light green, multi-pointed, star-shaped fruits. These fruits develop into brown seed pods that look similar to culinary anise, but be warned because these fruits, like the foliage, are toxic!



Photo yellow anise (fruit); courtesy Marcia Winchester

Both species of anise grow in an upright, compact, rounded habit and produce multiple stems. They also spread by suckers, and roots will form where the lower branches touch the soil. This makes it easy to propagate them to obtain new plants. They form large shrubs or small trees, usually growing to a height of 8 to 12 feet with a similar spread.

In their native ranges, anises are most often found in low, damp, understory areas such as wooded ravines and stream sides. Given the natural habitat, anises prefer partial shade and moist soil and will wilt in drought; however, I find that they quickly recover when given water. In my garden, both of these anises have been very low maintenance. I have never needed to prune either for height, though I understand they are amenable to that practice if you want to keep them shorter.

The only issue I've had is when one spreads via suckers and starts to overtake nearby plants. Then I simply and easily pull up the unwanted pieces, potting them up if I want to share with friends.

Continued on page 7



# Let's Talk Turkey

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Every fall, I love teaching my students about North America's largest gallinaceous bird, which was almost extirpated from North America in the early 1900s. I also enjoy introducing new vocabulary words. Like many of my students, you may not be familiar with the terms "gallinaceous" and "extirpated." The word "gallinaceous" is used to describe primarily terrestrial birds, with many preferring not to fly but instead to walk and run. "Extirpation" is when a species no longer exists in a specific geographic area but still exists elsewhere.

The largest gallinaceous bird is the eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), which has since recovered and flourished due to wildlife management, with approximately 300,000 birds found throughout Georgia alone. There are four other subspecies of wild turkey in North America, including the Florida (*M. g. osceola*), Merriam's (*M. g. merriami*), Rio Grande (*M. g. intermedia*), and Gould's (*M. g. mexicana*). However, the eastern wild turkey is the most widely distributed and numerous subspecies.

Because wild turkeys are large, heavy birds, it is often presumed that they do not fly. However, a wild turkey is amazingly well adapted for an explosive, short-distance flight when startled or escaping predators. In contrast, domestic turkeys are often bred to have a higher proportion of breast muscle, which causes the bird's power-to-mass ratio to diminish, so it cannot flap quickly enough to support sustained flight and therefore cannot fly.

Wild turkeys have long legs, necks, and fan-shaped tails, and short, rounded wings. Male wild turkeys, known as gobblers, have dark, iridescent plumage. Their flight feathers are black with brown stripes and are banded with white. They have a red fleshy lobe that hangs down from the chin or throat, known as a wattle; a caruncle, a wart-like projection of skin attached to the upper part of the forehead; and a blackish breast tuft. Their pinkish-gray or silver-gray legs have spurs that they use to fight other males during mating season. Female wild turkeys, called hens, are smaller and duller than males. Most females have a grayish head with a feathered neck, but no beard.



Photo female wild turkey courtesy Cornell University

Wild turkeys are considered social, fringe birds that can exist close to civilization. Once a rare sight, it is not surprising to see a flock of wild turkeys in a residential neighborhood. As some areas experience habitat destruction or degradation, they are drawn to these communities searching for food, mates, or nesting sites. In the daytime, the most common place to spot them is on the ground, in somewhat open space so that they can see as they feed on a variety of insects, seeds, and vegetation. Occasionally, wild turkeys will also forage in trees, plucking fruits or nuts directly from the branches—though more often than not, they will choose to scratch at the ground to find the food that has already fallen. They also use trees at night for roosting, which protects them from predators.

While some love these visitors, they are considered a nuisance or source of fear for others. Therefore, how can you encourage turkeys to be occasional visitors rather than daily pests? Most encounters with turkeys occur in areas where there is a food source, such as direct handouts, unsecured garbage cans, or spilled birdseed from feeders. Therefore, removing these attractants may help resolve the conflict. Additionally, removing food sources such as fallen nuts or fruit can help, although these foods may also attract more welcomed visitors to backyards.

When it comes to damage to gardens, it is usually caused by other animals, such as raccoons, opossums, or insects. However, if turkeys are the feasting culprits, try to make the garden less friendly by protecting it with hardware cloth or putting up a tall fence. Avoid using netting, as it may entrap small birds and other animals. Also, keep your lawn mowed so that there are no grass seeds to feed on, and keep bushes pruned and thinned. Without adequate cover or decent places to roost, the garden might not be an easy target.

On the other side of this issue, some gardeners want to attract wildlife to their backyards and do not mind the presence of wild turkeys. Therefore, to meet their needs, consider providing them with a large ground-feeding station containing cracked corn or mixed birdseed.



Photo male wild turkey courtesy Mississippi State University Extension

Continued on page 7

## Community Wildlife Habitat .... continued from page 2

An undertaking we and NWF initially thought might take years boiled down to completion in a matter of five months. If you are interested in generating support in your neighborhood, go to NWF.org, and that organization will help you get started.

This was an exciting project for us and our community. We all had fun, met new friends, and look forward to planning an Eagle Watch certification celebration in November.

All photos courtesy Denise Stephens



## Creating a Moon Garden ....continued from page 3

Although the beauty of a White Garden is best enjoyed under a full moon, we want to make use of our Moon Garden more than once each month. It is not cheating to incorporate supplemental lighting. Just do so carefully. If you are establishing your Moon Garden in stages, autumn is a great time to install lighting. Use path lighting and soft up-lights as needed. In larger gardens, add strategically placed low-voltage lighting to highlight focal points.



Photo Atlanta Botanical Gardens night garden courtesy Stephanie Howard

Adam's needle yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), Japanese kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), or Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) may serve as appealing focal points. Consider a fountain or charming sculpture to add an interesting element. In larger gardens, use white crushed gravel to create shimmering winding pathways.


Of course, plantings do not need to be limited to white or pale flowers or foliage. Intersperse fragrant plants in the garden in order to lead one through the garden using the sense of smell. Begin with lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), Rosa 'Sugar Moon', and fragrant evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*). The rustling of Japanese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Bandwidth'), snowy woodrush (*Luzula nivea*), or Regal Mist® pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Lenca') will integrate the use of yet another sense.

Remember, Moon Gardens are not just for our human entertainment. They also serve a purpose for the environmental community. Evening pollinators begin visiting the garden at dusk. Just as brightly colored blooms and species-specific fragrances attract daytime pollinators, nighttime pollinators are drawn by pale blooms illuminated by the moonlight and by tantalizing fragrances. Moths are the primary pollinators, but bats, nocturnal bees, and beetles are important contributors.



Photo hummingbird moth at night courtesy <https://newswire.caes.uga.edu/story/4528/Hummingbird-moths.html>

This is just a sampling of plantings to add to your garden if you want to renovate it for evening enjoyment. There is no need to overdo it. Just add a few purposefully placed plantings that will brighten up the space in the moonlight. Do not forget the furnishings for your Moon Garden. By adding a comfortable bistro set for warm summer nights and a fire pit for cool autumn nights, you are one step closer to maximizing the use of your garden spaces.

	RAINFALL COMPARISONS					
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	July 2021	Aug 2021	YTD 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	YTD 2021
<b>Actual</b>	5.6	8.0	43.6	6.3	6.6	37.1
<b>Normal</b>	4.7	4.2	38.4	4.9	3.8	32.5
<b>Deviation</b>	0.9	3.8	5.2	1.4	2.8	4.6

## Fall Armyworms

By Joshua Fuder, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent,  
Cherokee County

Fall armyworms have wreaked havoc on area lawns and pastures during the late summer and fall. Damage to established turf is usually aesthetic with the turf rebounding in three to four weeks. They do not survive cold, which means the threat will be gone eventually. The life cycle from egg to larvae to pupae to adult moth can be as short as four to five weeks, so continue to monitor through the first frost.



Damage to tall fescue caused by fall armyworm feeding. (Charlotte Glenn, NC State Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator).

If you notice patches of brown or thinning turf that expand rapidly or groups of birds clustered in your turf, you probably have an active infestation. To check for armyworms, simply mix about two tablespoons of a lemon-scented dishwashing detergent in one gallon of water and pour it over a one square foot area of the lawn. If armyworms are present, they will quickly come to the top of the sod.

Several insecticides are available that will provide effective control of fall armyworms. They include trichlorfon (Bayer Advanced), carbaryl (Sevin) 50WP, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel WP) and various pyrethroids. Always read and follow label directions carefully.



Fall armyworm | Frank Peairis, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

## Native anise: the (almost) perfect shrub ....continued from page 4

An anise has many uses in the landscape if you provide it with part shade and moisture to suit it. Given its evergreen nature, it's perfect as a screening plant or hedge. It also makes a lovely specimen shrub at the edge of the woods where the dark green foliage provides contrast to bare trees in the winter landscape.

You can also expand your gardening repertoire with cultivars of either species. Among cultivars of Florida anise are several that bear white blooms rather than red: *Illicium floridanum* 'Alba' and 'Semmes'. The selection of Florida anise called 'Halley's Comet' boasts blooms that are said to be larger and redder than the norm. There are several cultivars of yellow anise that are noted for bearing bright chartreuse foliage: *Illicium parviflorum* 'Florida Sunshine' and 'BananApeal'.

Whether you grow anise for its bloom, its evergreen foliage, or its deer resistance, you are sure to find a spot for one in your garden.

## Let's Talk Turkey ....continued from page 5

Turkeys will also hungrily clean up any spills under hanging feeders that may be up for other birds. Keep in mind that turkeys have a healthy appetite, so even having one or two birds in your yard may mean buying a large amount of food. As they are omnivores, a less expensive option is having them forage from natural food sources, including nuts, seeds, fruits, and a variety of insects.

Secondly, all living species require water, so choose a ground-level basin filled with fresh, clean water if there is no nearby pond or creek. Thirdly, turkeys roost in large, mature trees but have been known to seek shelter in a large brush pile or tall bush. Lastly, the brush pile and leaf litter will also provide suitable nesting sites. Extra steps to consider include a large, wide dust bath where the turkeys can dust and preen safely. Also, minimize the use of insecticides, as it can decrease the availability of natural foods. Placing a boulder or having a low stump provides a perch for watching for predators.

Despite how you may feel about wild turkeys, by late October, with the summer birds long gone, I find myself appreciative of the birds that stick around, including wild turkeys. With their leathery necks and odd gaits, they are reliably entertaining and fascinating to watch, not only for their distinctive plumage but also for their interesting behavior and social natures. So, while you are eating your Thanksgiving turkey this year, give a thumbs-up to the majestic wild turkey too.



Photo sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) courtesy Marcia Winchester

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65°F or more for ripening. If daytime temperatures consistently are below this, pick fruits that have begun to change color and bring them inside to ripen. Use recipes that require green tomatoes, or place a ripe apple in a closed container with green tomatoes to encourage the tomatoes to turn red. Ripe apples give off ethylene gas which causes tomatoes to ripen.
- Cure pumpkins, butternut, and Hubbard squash at temperatures between 70-80° F for two to three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55- 60° F. If stored at 50° F or below, pumpkins and squash are subject to damage by chilling. At temperatures above 60° F, they gradually lose moisture and become stringy. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993_5.PDF)
- A final weeding of your strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries will help keep weed problems down to a minimum. Strawberries covered in the fall with a spunbonded polyester material and uncovered in the spring just before bloom produced up to 60% more fruit than plants given the conventional straw or hay mulch cover.
- Make a note of any particularly unsatisfactory or productive varieties or crops. Such information can be very useful during garden-planning time in the spring.
- Clean up home orchard and small-fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or mummies carry disease organisms through the winter that will attack next year's crop.
- If there is a threat of frost at night, harvest your cucumber, eggplant, melon, okra, pepper, and summer squash so the fruits are not damaged by the frost.
- Hot peppers store well dry. Pull plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place.

## ORNAMENTALS

- October is the best month to plant fall annual beds. It is cooler for the transplants and gives their roots time to become established before winter cold hits. Try mixing dwarf snapdragons with pansies for color, and parsley, kale, mustard, and Swiss chard for background color. Make sure your beds have good drainage. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201359\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201359_2.PDF)
- Plant love-in-a-mist, poppy, bachelor buttons and larkspur seed now for early spring annuals.
- If climbing roses are in an exposed location, tie them up firmly with broad strips of rags or padded foam tape so the wind will not whip them against the trellis and bruise the bark.
- Don't prune roses this late as new growth would become subject to winter injury. The rose garden should be raked and cleaned, removing all fallen leaves and mulch to prevent black spot and other diseases next year. Replace mulch after the ground has frozen. Continue spraying for fungus.
- Clean up around perennial flowers, such as peonies. If left on the ground, leaves and stems can harbor diseases and provide convenient places for pests to spend the winter.
- Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials when the leaves begin to brown. Leave 3 inches of stem to ID the plant's location.
- October and November are generally considered the best months to plant trees and shrubs. Garden centers and nurseries usually stock a good selection of woody plants now. Select some accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees that turn red include chokeberry, dogwood, red maple, red or scarlet oak and sourwood. Shrubs with spectacular fall foliage include viburnum, fothergilla, hydrangea, blueberries, itea and amsonia. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20900\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20900_5.PDF)
- Plant trees at least 6 feet away from sidewalks, concrete pools, and driveways so growing roots do not crack the concrete. Trees that get quite large need to be placed even further away from concrete.
- Small imperfections, such as nicks and loose skin, should not affect the quality of most bulbs. Store bulbs in a cool area (below 65° F). Do not plant before Nov. 1. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20918\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_4.PDF)

## OCTOBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Do not apply quick-acting fertilizers while tilling the soil in the fall; nitrogen will leach away before spring. Materials that release nutrients slowly into the soil, such as rock phosphate or lime, can be worked into the soil in the fall.
- When removing disease-infected plant parts/debris, do not place refuse on the compost pile. The disease pathogens will live in the compost pile and can be transmitted with the application of compost to other garden beds, unless compost temperatures reach above 180° F and decomposition is complete. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C816>
- Kudzu, poison ivy and other weedy vines are more susceptible to chemical control this time of year. Be sure to follow the directions, and protect other plants from drift of the spray. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20867-10\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20867-10_4.PDF)





## ORNAMENTALS

- Protect the roots of azaleas and rhododendrons with a heavy mulch of organic materials (i.e. oak leaves, wood chips, or pine straw) on the surface. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20670\\_5.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20670_5.PDF)
- For best growth, plant spring bulbs where they are out of the direct sun during the middle of the day. Bulbs have a chilling requirement that is satisfied by winter soil temperatures, so avoid planting bulbs near heated basements where the soil may not stay adequately cold. Do not plant bulbs before November 1.



Photo *Narcissus x medioluteus* "Twin Sisters", courtesy Barbara H. Smith, ©2018 HGIC, Clemson Extension

- Watch for standing water in perennial beds after long periods of rain. Water that collects on the surface during winter will freeze and can damage perennials. Dig shallow trenches to help drain excess water away. Make a note to raise that bed in spring or plant with plants that like "wet feet".
- When placing plants around the home, remember as a general rule that plants with thick leaves can take lower light levels than those with thin leaves.
- If there is any evidence of scale on trees and shrubs, spray with dormant oil in late fall and again in early spring. Follow label directions. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201186\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201186_1.PDF)
- Avoid transplanting shrubs and trees on windy days; the roots can be exposed to too much light or drying winds, putting undue stress on the plant.
- Peonies that don't require a long cold winter perform better in the South. They can be planted now in full sun and fertile, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Dig holes 18" deep and fill halfway with a mixture of soil, compost, and a handful of 5-10-10 fertilizer. Add a few more inches of soil and set the tubers so the buds are 1-2" below the soil surface. Backfill, firm the soil, and water thoroughly. Peonies do not grow well after being moved and will not bloom for several years.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Remove grass and weeds from trunks of fruit trees and grapes to prevent damage by mice and rodents. Leave a bare circle (one foot wide) around tree trunks when spreading mulch to keep mice from feeding on the bark. A collar or fence of poultry wire or a commercial tree guard approximately 18 inches high will deter rodents and rabbits.



Photo open wooden cold frame with lettuce

- Plant lettuce and hardy vegetables, such as beets, cabbage, and spinach, in cold frames for winter or early spring crops. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20910\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20910_4.PDF)
- If you use aged manure as a soil conditioner, apply it now and till it under; it can be a source of weed seed.
- Rough plow or spade garden plots containing heavy, clay soil. Add organic matter and lime if indicated by a soil test. Leave the soil rough. Winter's thawing and freezing will break up the clods and kill some of the insects overwintering in the soil. A rough soil surface also catches more moisture and reduces erosion.
- When time or weather conditions prohibit plowing or cover cropping, you may let your garden lie under a mulch of compost, non-diseased plant wastes, or leaves all winter to be plowed/tilled under in the spring. If using heavy organic matter, chop fine enough so it can break down over the winter.
- Store pesticides in a frost-free location away from food and out of the reach of children. If a pesticide is in a paper container, put the whole package in a plastic container and seal it. Be sure that all bottles and cans are tightly sealed and well labeled. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20998\\_3.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20998_3.PDF)

## NOVEMBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Keep an eye out for spider mites on your houseplants; they thrive in dry air. At the first sign of any insect infestation, isolate your plant. Several thorough washings with plain water may bring them under control. If not, apply an appropriate insecticide and follow the instructions on 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)
- During the cooler temperatures and shorter days of winter, the growth of most houseplants slows. Unless plants are grown under an artificial light source that is left on 16 hours per day, new growth will be minimal until spring. Reduce fertilization and water until late April or May when new growth resumes. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201318\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201318_5.PDF)
- African violets do well when potted in small pots. A good general rule is to use a pot one-third the diameter of the plant. To humidify African violets, surround the pot with moist peat contained in a second pot. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20660\\_2.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20660_2.PDF)



# October/November Recipes

By Maurya Jones, Cherokee County Master Gardener

## Gingerbread Apple Cobbler

This is a recipe from my daughter, Kim. It's a favorite fall dessert and is so easy to prepare. I got the recipe from her years ago and have taken it to an annual fall barn dance for the past 10 years, and it's always been a big hit.

### Ingredients:

- 14.5 oz. gingerbread mix (recommended Betty Crocker)
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 42 oz. apple pie filling
- Vanilla ice cream (optional)



Photo courtesy Maurya Jones

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375.
2. Stir together 2 cups gingerbread mix and 3/4 cup water until smooth. Set aside.
3. Stir together remaining gingerbread mix and brown sugar.
4. Cut in 1/4 cup butter until mixture is crumbly.
5. Stir in chopped pecans. Set aside.
6. Combine apple pie filling and remaining 1/4 cup butter in large saucepan.
7. Cook, stirring often, over medium heat until butter is melted and filling is thoroughly heated.
8. Lightly grease an 11 x 7 baking pan.
9. Spoon hot pie filling mixture into the baking pan.
10. Spoon gingerbread mixture evenly over hot apple mixture.
11. Sprinkle with pecan mixture.
12. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until set.
13. Serve with ice cream if desired.

## Sausage and Peppers

Thinking of fall, apple festivals, and Oktoberfest, I have chosen a hearty entree and yummy apple dessert for the October/November recipes.

### Ingredients:

- Package of Italian sausage sliced, or 4-5 links
- 1 Tblsp. of olive oil
- 3 bell peppers sliced (I use orange, green, and red)
- 1 small onion sliced
- 1 Tblsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 (15-oz.) can of diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (8oz.) can of tomato sauce
- Salt and pepper

### Instructions:

1. In a large skillet over medium high heat, add the sausage. Cook for 4-5 minutes and remove and set aside on a plate. Add the olive oil to skillet with bell pepper and onion, sauté until tender. Add sausage back to skillet.
2. Add in Italian seasoning, tomatoes, tomato sauce, and salt and pepper. Let simmer until heated through. Serve it with hoagies or over pasta.



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