

Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge
December 2021/January 2022

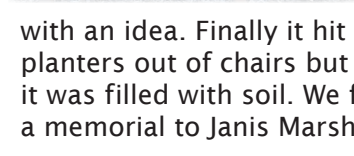
Ilex vomitoria



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



A Master Gardener project I've been involved in since I took the training is the Demonstration Garden at the Cherokee County Senior Center on Univeter Road in Canton. I've seen it transform a great deal over the years. It started out simply consisting of plants donated by the seniors. Now it's a garden that is ever-changing and that features a huge variety of plants. Each visit can highlight a different section of the garden or a different plant.



This spring a Master Gardener dropped off a patio table with no glass top. This very special table had been used by beloved Master Gardener Roxanne Rutledge, who passed away several years ago. For weeks I'd look at the table and try to come up with an idea. Finally it hit me: make a planter out of the table. We've made planters out of chairs but nothing this big. It would be heavy and immobile after it was filled with soil. We first decided on the placement, which is by our pot lady, a memorial to Janis Marshall-Kroen at the back entrance to our gardens.



I rounded up several Master Gardeners to work on the project, and we waited for cooler weather. In late October we put together our table planter and planted several different sedums, using the planter as a "propagation bed." It turned out great! It's always fun working as a group discussing how to cut the form and laying the liner and even deciding on placement of the plants.



Now every time I drop by to work in the Demo

Garden, the first thing I see is our tribute to Janis and Roxanne.

All photos provided by Marcia Winchester

Marcia



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Seeds: An Offer Too Good to Refuse!

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener



You rarely get something for nothing, but I'm going to tell you the next best thing—at least when it comes to annual bedding plants, vegetables, herbs, and many perennials. By spending just a few dollars on a packet of seeds, you can reap hundreds of dollars worth of prized plants. For gardeners who want to expand their plant selection, this is an offer too good to refuse!

You can purchase seeds from online or brick-and-mortar retailers, or better yet seed-swap with gardening friends or shop at the Cherokee County Master Gardener plant sale this spring where a variety of seeds will be available. One advantage of acquiring seeds locally is that the plants that grow from such seeds are likely to do well in your garden since they are accustomed to the same local climate.

Beyond the cost savings, there are other benefits from starting plants via seed. Seedlings retain genetic diversity that is lost with vegetative reproduction techniques. This gives you the advantage of selecting those that perform best in your garden or that have desired characteristics, such as a particular bloom color. This genetic diversity can also create some surprises if you are using open-pollinated seeds (such as those you might collect from a friend's garden). Some related species of plants will hybridize, and you may find yourself with an offspring that is somewhat different from the parent plant. Note that this can be a problem with vegetable seeds. For instance, if a gardener is growing different kinds of peppers, they may hybridize with one another, and saved seeds won't yield the same fruit as the parent plants.

Starting plants from seeds will also give you the opportunity to grow many plants that are difficult or impossible to find in the nursery trade. Commercial nurseries are limited in space, and they usually only carry plants that they know the public will buy. On the other hand, seed companies can carry a much greater diversity of stock.

Annuals (including most vegetable seeds) are typically the easiest to start, and they usually don't require any special treatment. In contrast, some perennials have mechanisms to keep their seeds from sprouting until the time is right, and the gardener needs to employ a method to overcome these obstacles to germination. For the purposes of this article, I'll just concentrate on the seeds that are easiest to start.

Seeds can be sown directly in the garden if you time it right, but you'll be at the mercy of weather conditions and digging varmints such as squirrels and chipmunks. I prefer to start most seeds indoors where I can keep an eye on them. This also gives me a head start since I don't have to wait for the soil to warm. I just have to time everything properly so the plants are ready to go outdoors when the conditions are right.

Seeds should be sown in sterile pots (I often use plastic 6-pack cells), filled with moistened seed-starting medium. Then you need to create a humid, greenhouse-like environment for the seeds. You can achieve this with sealed plastic bags or clear plastic containers. I purchase large containers of mixed greens in the grocery section of our membership club, and the plastic containers are ideal for seed starting. Be sure to somehow label your pots if you are starting multiple kinds of seeds.

A general rule of thumb is to sow the seeds at a depth equal to their thickness. However, some seeds require light for germination, so these should be sown directly on the surface of the soil. Reference books or internet resources (or the seed packet if seeds are purchased) can tell you if light is a requirement and give you more specifics about depth of planting.

Once the seeds have germinated, you don't need the greenhouse effect anymore, so you can take the top off the container or remove the pot from its plastic bag. It's best to do this gradually to avoid shocking the seedlings by changing the humidity level too much at one time.



Continued on page 6

Home for the Holidays

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Are you hosting the holiday gathering this year? You may have one or two multi-generational family outings planned. Perhaps you scheduled a game or movie night. During the day, the traditional family cooks are busy preparing special holiday recipes. Another group gathers around the turkey fryer or grill. The teens are doing their thing—most likely communicating with each other on their devices. Have you organized anything exciting for the children? Do you hope that streaming Christmas movies on the big screen is enough? Use this opportunity to develop an interest in gardening! Break up the video time with some interesting garden-based activities.



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These “relatively clean” activities can be enjoyed inside the house or outdoors. Set up a table with a few carefully chosen activities. Select ones that only take a few minutes to set up and complete but will stoke their imaginations. Ask the family tweens to help entertain the younger crew.

Offer an activity every two or three hours—text them when it is starting time. These activities will not entertain the kids for the entire weekend. With a little of luck, it will grab their attention just long enough to give them the occasional break from screen time. These are take-home projects to enjoy through the winter and into the spring. Remember, you are creating memories for the little ones—and planting an interest in gardening to cultivate as they grow older.

Forcing Bulbs for Winter Beauty

Materials: bag of bulbs, bag of gravel, small mason jars, adhesive labels, markers, a pitcher of water

Instructions: Amaryllis (*Amaryllis* spp.), grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*), daffodil (*Narcissus* spp.), and paper-white (*N. tazetta*) bulbs work well for indoor planting. Decorate a label and place it on a jar. Fill about 2/3 of the jar with gravel. Plant one bulb in the gravel—pointy side up! Take care that you do not plant the bulb too deep. To keep the bulb from rotting, add just enough water to touch the bottom of the bulb. When you get home, find a sunny window, maintain the water level, and in a few weeks enjoy your very own beautiful blossoms. You may have adults who want their own jar of joy, so plan on extra materials.

Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Materials: pine cones (open), peanut butter, large bowl of birdseed mix, twine, Popsicle sticks, paper plates, plastic baggies, markers

Instructions: Write your name on a baggie. Be sure you have a paper plate, a pine cone, a Popsicle stick and an 8-inch length of twine. Use the Popsicle stick to spread peanut butter on the pine cone scales. Sprinkle the cone with birdseed. Attach twine loop to the cone. Carefully, place the cone in the baggie for the trip home. Once you get home, hang the cone on a tree, and watch the birds enjoy. If you have binoculars and a field guide, try to identify birds that visit the feeder.



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Lori Swadley

Garden Survey

Materials: plastic ice tray (egg carton as substitute), magnifying lens, paper plates

Instructions: Add a bit of the raw ingredients used in your holiday dishes to each section and discuss which part of the plant it comes from. For example, use parsley, kale, chard, or arugula to depict leaves. Celery, asparagus, and rhubarb are all stems. Carrots, ginger, and beets are root vegetables, which differ from tubers (yams, potatoes, and sweet potatoes). Broccoli and cauliflower are actually flowers. Onion and garlic are bulbs. Lima beans, green beans, and peas are seeds. Find fruits, grains, beans, nuts, and berries if you have time for a holiday scavenger hunt.

Decorated Succulent Pots

Materials: clay pots (3.5 inches in diameter), oil-based markers, assortment of small succulents (optional), bag of succulent potting mix (optional), stencils (optional)

Instructions: Using markers instead of paints saves on clean-up time. Read a story before the activity to stimulate the kids' creativity. You may choose to have the children decorate their terracotta pot only and save the planting for home. If you choose to include the succulent planting, spread a plastic tarp on the table for minimal clean-up.



Photo courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli

Hellebores: the “Roses of Winter”

By Diane Walton, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Who says you can't have flowers in winter? I think every gardener should plant hellebores (*Helleborus* spp.) somewhere in the garden in order to add some colorful life to the dull, dreary winter garden.

Hellebores are perennial plants that have evergreen foliage and a large range of colorful flowers, which are frost resistant. The shape of the bloom resembles that of a rose, and in fact some hellebores are commonly called “winter rose” or “Lenten rose.” Bloom time will depend on the species and the climate. However, the Lenten rose usually flowers around the period of Lent, with most blooming in the winter months and into spring. Blooms may last for two to three months.

Much breeding has occurred with hellebores, and many cultivars are available. Flowers come in many colors ranging from pure white to a deep blackish purple. Some boast spotted or speckled blooms, and some cultivars bear doubled flowers.

The easiest way to add a hellebore to your garden is to purchase a plant or get a cutting from an existing plant. If you decide to use seed, be sure to collect the seeds from the pods and plant the seeds in a container or somewhere outdoors during the summer months. Keep the soil moist, and you should have new plants the following winter or spring. If you decide to keep the seeds to plant later, they will go dormant and have to be stratified before planting, which may not work.

When incorporating hellebores into your garden, consider the following factors:

PLANTING LOCATION

Hellebores can grow in partly shady areas or in full shade such as under trees. These plants need only a few hours of sun each day and do not tolerate full afternoon sun. The plant will self-sow, and new plants may appear; however, this is not an invasive plant. Clumps also expand slowly by rhizomatous roots. Hellebores grow to 2 feet high and 2 feet in width.

SOIL

Soil needs to be rich with organic matter and well-draining. I use compost which seems to work well. You can use an organic rich fertilizer if you do not have compost. Fertilize in the spring and early fall if you feel you have to, but don't over-fertilize as this could damage the plant. I have not used fertilizer (only compost and mulching), and the hellebores have been growing for the past five years with beautiful blooms.

WATER

The soil needs to drain well since the roots will rot if they sit in water-soaked ground. These plants are tolerant of dry soil and do not need watering daily or even weekly. I water my plants if we have not had any rain in 10 or more days, and then I water with stored rain water at the base of the plant only. Over-watering can be the death of the plant.

MAINTENANCE AND DIVISION

Maintenance is very minimal, which is one reason why I love this plant. You do not need to prune a hellebore unless you want to pull off the dead leaves. I have never trimmed mine. Just a note: the sap in hellebores can irritate skin, so wear gloves when pruning or propagating. You may want to propagate your hellebores, which can be done by division. The best time to divide a plant is before flowering. I usually propagate in September or October. Dig up the entire plant and divide it, making sure you have two or more buds on the divided plant. Plant one portion back where it was previously, and then plant the others in your garden, or pot up and give to neighbors and friends to enjoy.



Photo courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli



Photo courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli

Pleased for Peas: English, Snow, or Sugar Snap?

By Karen Garland, *Cherokee County Master Gardener*

Does anything signal the beginning of a new growing season like garden-fresh peas? Few things compare to the sweet taste of freshly grown peas picked right off the vine in the spring. Grown worldwide, peas (*Pisum sativum*) are vining or low-growing plants in the legume family that are considered one of the earliest known cultivated crops.

Historically, peas were allowed to fully ripen and dry in the pods, later stored for use over the long winters when no fresh vegetables were available. Split pea soup is still a comforting cold-weather standby, and most readers may be familiar with the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old!" However, in the 1700s, the practice turned toward eating fresh green peas.

Did you know that peas are botanically considered a fruit, even though they are generally treated as a vegetable on menus? The pod is viewed as a fruit because it contains seeds formed in the blossom's ovary.

The relative ease of growing peas has helped keep them popular in backyard gardens today. While there are many different types of peas, most gardeners are familiar with the three most commonly grown varieties: English peas (*Pisum sativum*, var. *sativum*), snow peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *saccharatum*), and sugar snap peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *marcrocarrpon*). While there are similarities in growing them, there are subtle differences in their pods that may help determine which variety you wish to sow.

English peas have firm, curved pods, with circular peas inside that need to be shelled before eaten, with the pod discarded. Furthermore, one pound of pods yields about a cup of peas. Snow peas are flat with very small peas inside; the whole pod is edible, although the tough "strings" along the edges are usually removed before eaten raw or cooked. Bred by a grower in 1979, sugar snap peas are a cross between snow peas and English peas and have a pod that may be eaten raw or cooked. Additionally, the stem, leaves, and curly tendrils of all three varieties are edible, with a subtle pea flavor and delicate texture.

The most challenging part of growing peas is choosing what variety you want to grow. They are a cool-weather crop that should be planted in a fertile, well-draining medium in full sun when the soil reaches a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit, usually between Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. A helpful tip is to prepare the ground in the fall so that the seeds can be sown at the earliest opportunity in the spring without waiting to till the soil.

Companion planting is an excellent way for different species to enhance each other's growth. This strategy can be especially important in small gardens, or wherever careful space planning is needed. Peas are good companion plants because they increase the availability of nitrogen in the soil. The good news is that the harvest time does not need to be the same for the various companion crops. Options include carrots, celery, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Plants to avoid planting near peas are those in the allium family, such as onions and garlic, as they tend to stunt the growth of the peas.

Peas need little care once they are established and have few significant pests. However, peas do not tolerate drought, excessive temperatures, or waterlogged soil. Therefore, deep watering weekly should be enough, but do not let the plants dry out, which diminishes pod production. Additionally, do not overwater, as root-rot can be a problem in heavy clay soils during wet winters. Lastly, vining varieties require a trellis to support their climbing habit.



Photo english peas courtesy Purdue University

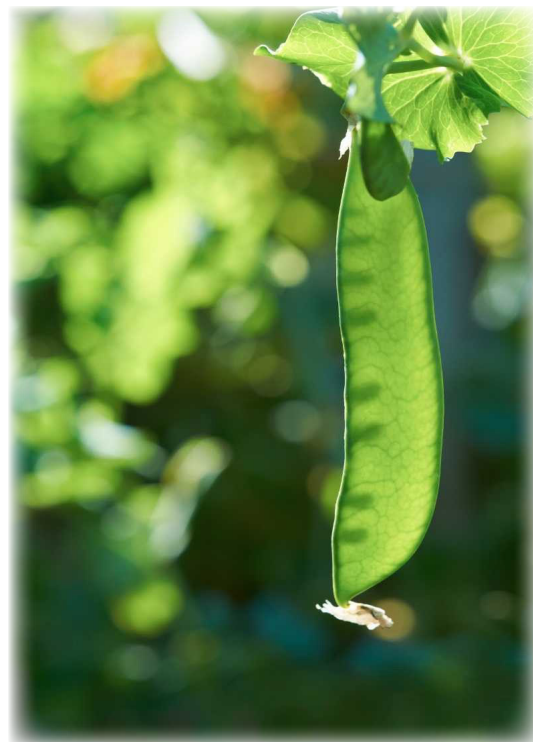


Photo snow peas courtesy Michigan State University

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Seeds: An Offer Too Good to Refuse!..... continued from page 2

Upon germination, it's very important to give the seedlings ample light. This will create strong growth and prevent them from getting leggy. Light from a windowsill is insufficient, so you must use artificial lights, and the wavelength needs to approximate that of sunlight. The most reliable way to achieve this is to purchase light bulbs specifically designed for growing plants. Place the light source close to the seedlings, moving it up if necessary as the plants grow.

You can start giving the plants a weak fertilizer once they have developed several sets of leaves. Most authorities recommend fertilizer concentrations that are a quarter to half the normal amount. A higher concentration is likely to burn the tender seedlings.

As the plants grow, you don't want them to become root bound. This may necessitate potting them up into larger containers. When you do this, you can use regular, high-quality potting soil rather than a medium specific to seed starting.

Finally, before transplanting into your garden, you will need to accustom the seedlings to outdoor conditions by exposing them to brighter light and wider temperature swings. This is called "hardening off" and is done by taking them outdoors for a few hours each day for a week or so. Check them carefully during this period to be sure they don't dry out or get too much sun.

This is just a rudimentary article that I hope will inspire you to grow plants from seeds, and it can't cover all the details. There are numerous books and internet resources that will give you more thorough information. One is UGA's Bulletin 1432, "Starting Plants from Seed for the Home Gardener," which can be found online. Also be sure to watch Cherokee County Master Gardener Mike Lloyd's excellent seminar on seed starting, which is available on the YouTube channel of UGA Extension Cherokee County: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiGkiXHHjbZxVJ71xKW-bL5g/videos>. There you will find the seed starting seminar along with other offerings.



Photos of annuals easy to start from seed:

Left - celosia (*Celosia spicata* 'Purple Flamingo') and Below - scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*), courtesy Mary Tucker



All photos courtesy Mary Tucker



Pleased for Peas: English, Snow, or Sugar Snap? ...continued from page 5

The key to knowing when the peas are ready for harvesting is in the pod. They overmature quickly, so once the pods start to flesh out with peas, check on them daily. Pick peas as soon as the pods have reached their maximum size.

If you think the pods are ready, pick one and eat it. It should be sweet and tender. If it is bright green and round, it is ripe. A dull green color means the pod is past its prime. If left on the plant for too long, those sugars are converted into starches, making the peas fibrous and tough with a less sweet flavor.

Pea plants are relatively fragile, so be careful when you snap off the pods to avoid pulling up the entire plant by its shallow roots. The more you harvest the peas and the shoots, the more they produce. By harvesting often, you remove the seeds, which sends a signal to the plant to produce more. On the other hand, leaving peas on the pod too long signals to the plant to slow production as the plant thinks its job is complete because the produced seeds are still on the vine.

If it is difficult to wait for the first taste of produce from your garden, an early spring pea variety might be the answer to your wishes. The brilliant, beautiful garden peas deserve a place in your spring garden. Fresh-off-the-vine peas deliver a crisp crunch, an unmistakably bright and complex flavor and, because they are often the first spring crop to be harvested, the first promise of summer's bounty yet to come.



Photo sugar snap peas courtesy Clemson University

Hellebores: the “Roses of Winter”continued from page 4

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

As we all know, plants have pest problems. The hellebore is not susceptible to many bug infestations. Aphids are the biggest problem because aphid infestation can bring black death disease, which causes black streaks. Remove and toss the plant if this happens. Treat the plant for aphids so they do not spread to other plants. Slugs can eat holes in the leaves.

The plant is poisonous, and ingestion by a pet should not be fatal but can result in illness. The taste is very bitter, so the pet would probably not eat a great amount. Even though toxic, deer, rabbits and squirrels have been known to eat hellebores. Rabbits seem to eat everything!

Since hellebores bloom early in the winter or spring, I plant companion plants around the hellebores so I have continually flowering plants. I use hostas (*Hosta* spp.) and coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.). Other plants that can be used are native ferns, columbines (*Aquilegia* spp.), and bleeding heart (*Dicentra* spp.).

So, try planting a few hellebores in your garden. I'm sure you will be pleased.



Photo hellebore leaf spot <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/is-your-garden-being-affected-by-hellebore-leaf-spot>



Photo courtesy <https://ugaurbanag.com/growing-pansies/>

ORNAMENTALS

- December is a good month to replace overgrown shrubs - don't fertilize until early spring.
- Fertilize pansies and other winter annuals with a fertilizer containing nitrate nitrogen. The higher the ratio of nitrate nitrogen the better the fertilizer. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201359_2.PDF
- Finish winter clean-up by pruning deciduous perennials 3-4 inches from the ground. Leaving part of the stem helps mark the location and size of the plant. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20961_5.PDF
- When it is too cold to work in the yard, work on putting your landscape on paper; mark existing plants, site conditions (wet, dry, sunny, shade) then make a list of what you want to add. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C1032-4&title=Drawing%20a%20Landscape%20Plan%20-%20Site%20Analysis>
- Pick mummied fruit off trees and rake up leaves under fruit trees to remove insects and diseases.



Photo raised bed at Encompass Ministries courtesy Gerald Phillips, Master Gardener

DECEMBER GARDENING TIPS

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- December is a good month to construct raised vegetable beds. Any length is fine but it's good to build them no wider than 30-40 inches for easy access and to minimize compacting soil. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201027-5_1.PDF
- To protect winter veggies from extreme cold, apply a thin layer of mulch or cover with a row cover. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20984_3.PDF
- Top dress unused areas of veggie beds with 2-4 inches of composted manure or shredded leaves.
- Fruit trees can be pruned at any time during the winter provided the temperature is above 45°.
- Get asparagus beds ready to plant when weather and soil conditions permit. The planting site should be in areas that will not interfere with cultivation of other crops. Bed preparation should include heavy applications of compost or aged animal manure plus 25 lbs of 6-12-12 per 1000 ft² applied broadcast. Till deeply and smooth soil surface. Set asparagus crowns any time in late December or early January when soil is not frozen.

DECEMBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Keep all indoor plants away from drafts and direct heat sources - inexpensive plastic draft hoods help redirect heat away from plants. <https://site.extension.uga.edu/fannin-gilmer/2020/12/houseplant-woes/>
- Keep checking house plants for insect infestation. Isolate and treat infected plants immediately.
- Winterize your lawnmower, tiller and weed-eater. Drain out gas and replace the oil with fresh oil. Remove the oil filter and either clean or replace it. Check all nuts and bolts to be sure they haven't vibrated loose. Mower blades and tiller tines can be sharpened. Inspect wheels, belts and other moving parts.
- To keep your shears and loppers in good shape for next year, clean them with mineral spirits or Lysol bathroom tile cleaner. Adjust the tension screw and give them a good sharpening. Be sure to use a broad file while sharpening. Tools sharpened by a power grinder will overheat and lose their tempering, making the metal likely to chip or break.
- Clean garden hand tools with liquid detergent and bleach, drying thoroughly. Then oil to prevent rust.
- Blades of shovels and hoes can be sharpened with a file. Apply a light coat of household oil. Treat all wood handles with a coat of linseed oil.
- Drain garden hoses and sprinklers checking for leaks. Replace any old washers. Do not store hoses in direct sunlight or freezing temperatures as both will shorten the life of your hose.
- Clean all pressure sprayers and dusters before putting them away for the winter. Make sure they are functioning properly prior to storage.
- Clean and sanitize all stakes and trellises before putting them up for the winter. Use either rubbing alcohol or 1 part liquid bleach to 9 parts water.

JANUARY GARDENING TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Watch for camellia buds that have brown spots on the edges and then spread to the entire flower. This is petal blight. Remove and destroy any buds showing symptoms. Don't confuse it with cold damage. It's a good practice to remove spent flowers from the ground. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/camellia-diseases-insect-pests/>
- January is a good month to plant trees. Do not add fertilizer to planting hole - it could burn the roots. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20932_3.PDF
- Fertilize annuals in colder months with a fertilizer high in nitrate nitrogen.
- Keep pansies and violas dead headed.
- If squirrels are digging bulbs, cover the bulbs with 1-inch wire mesh so foliage can grow through. Then place mulch over wire.
- Pull up winter weeds now before they form seeds.
- If a few, consecutive warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer as soon as cold weather returns to prevent freezing by exposure.
- Analyze last year's planting, fertilizing and spraying records. Make notations to reorder successful varieties.



UGA1436148

Camellia flower blight rapidly turns flowers brown. Clemson University – USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org


FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Plant B & B, bare-root and container-grown fruit.
- Water newly planted fruit trees thoroughly, even if the ground is wet, so the soil around the roots will settle.
- Prune grapes in January or February. If this job is left too late in the season, bleeding from cut ends will occur. Train them onto a one or two wire fence. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1505>
- Don't plant strawberries or figs until February or March. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C883&title=Home%20Garden%20Strawberries>, and <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C945&title=Home%20Garden%20Figs>
- Some mail order seed companies offer pelleted seed of lettuce, carrot, and a few other small-seeded crops. Pelleted seed has a special coating to make them larger. This is especially valuable for children and gardeners with arthritic hands, weak eyesight, or poor coordination. Wide spacing of seed helps eliminate thinning.
- When using pelleted seed, plant in moist soil and keep it moist because the coating has to dissolve before the seed can germinate.
- Organize your seeds for inside planting. Take each seed packet and count back from the last frost (April 14) taking into consideration the number of days for germination.
- Remove brown raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruit last year; tie up green canes for this year's fruit. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20766_3.PDF

- Spray dormant oil on fruit trees, per label instructions.
- Prune apple and pear trees. Remove dead limbs first, then the pencil-sized, vertical "water sprouts". <https://site.extension.uga.edu/franklin/2018/01/when-to-prune-fruit-trees/>
- Sterilize tools, pots, and anything you use around your plants. Use one part household bleach to nine parts water. Soak for about 15 minutes, rinse well and let dry.

JANUARY MISCELLANEOUS

- Protect liquid insecticides from cold weather to preserve their effectiveness. If any product is stored below the manufacturer's suggested minimum storage temperature, it loses its potency. The most important factor in determining if the product is usable is the complete absence of crystals. If crystals remain after the product returns to room temperature, do not use it. Dispose of it according to the directions on the label.
- Chop unwanted kudzu, English ivy, and bamboo to the ground. Follow with herbicide on the new leaves in April.
- Clean indoor plant leaves with a damp rag. Sandwich the leaf between folds of cloth and wipe gently. Change the cloth for each plant to avoid transferring insects or diseases.
- Make sure houseplants are misted and not touching windows. Cut back on fertilizer except for plants you are trying to force to bloom. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C951&title=Care%20of%20Holiday%20and%20Gift%20Plants>

	RAINFALL COMPARISONS					
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	YTD 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	YTD 2021
Actual	4.9	4.4	52.9	4.0	6.5	47.6
Normal	3.9	3.8	46.1	3.8	3.1	39.4
Deviation	1.0	0.6	6.8	0.2	3.4	8.2

Recipes

APPLE COBBLER FRENCH TOAST

From Maurya Jones

Ingredients

1-8 oz. baguette French bread
4 eggs
1 cup milk
1/4 tsp. Baking powder
1 tsp. Vanilla extract
6 apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. Cinnamon
1/2 cup melted butter

Slice bread into 1-inch slices. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, vanilla, and baking powder. Pour over bread, turning to coat completely. Cover and let stand overnight, or at least 1 hour.

Lightly grease baking dish (9x 13). Place sliced apples in bottom of pan and sprinkle brown sugar and cinnamon over them. Arrange soaked bread over the top and brush with melted butter. Bake in 400 degree oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until tops are golden brown.

Sift confectioner's sugar over top and serve with apple or maple syrup.



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

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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.

The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.

Christmas Ribbon Salad

From Maurya Jones

Ingredients

2 (3oz.) pkgs. Lime flavor gelatin
5 cups hot water
4 cups cold water
1 (3oz.) pkg. lemon flavor gelatin
1/2 cup miniature marshmallows, cut into pieces
1 cup pineapple juice
1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 (1 lb. 4 oz.) can crushed pineapple
1 cup heavy cream whipped
1 cup mayonnaise
2 (3oz.) pkgs. Cherry flavor gelatin



Dissolve lime gelatin in 2 cups hot water. Add 2 cups cold water. Pour into 14 x 10 x 2 " pan. Chill until partially set.

Dissolve lemon gelatin in 1 cup of hot water in top of double boiler. Add marshmallows and stir to melt.

Remove from heat. Add 1 cup of drained pineapple juice and cream cheese.

Beat until well blended and stir in pineapple. Cool slightly. Fold in whipped cream and mayonnaise. Chill until thickened.

Pour in layer over lime gelatin. Chill until almost set.

Dissolve cherry gelatin in 2 cups hot water. Add 2 cups of cold water. Chill until syrupy. Pour over pineapple layer. Chill until firm. Makes 24 servings.



**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.

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