

# Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge April/May 2022

## Gardening With The Masters

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Links are on Page 10 and we hope to see you soon!

### Cherokee County Master Gardener PLANT SALES!

Spring  
April 30, 2022

Summer  
June 18, 2022

Fall  
September 17, 2022

Want to know how the Master Gardeners were active in 2021?

Check out our stats on page 6 and see how we stack up.

### Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,  
Cherokee County Master Gardener



Frequently I'm asked what my favorite flower is. I have to confess, I can't decide on a favorite. I love early blooming flowers because they mean winter is ending. A woodland area covered in native trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) takes my breath away. The soft mottling on the leaves is beautiful even without the nodding yellow flowers rimmed in maroon peeking out from under a leaf.



Photo trout lily Mary Tucker

Before the trout lilies are done, my daffodils take turns blooming through April. Each one is my favorite as it opens up. I have daffodils with large trumpets, some with multiple heads, and some that are even fragrant. During all of this display, my star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata* 'Waterlily') begins blooming and is covered in hundreds of frilly pink and white flowers. How can that not be a favorite flower?



Photo oakleaf hydrangea Mary Tucker

Summer brings my hydrangeas, with their long lasting blooms. My favorite is the oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) at the Demo Garden that I got from my friend Murrel. The blooms bring back happy memories.

But I guess if I have to decide, my truly favorite flower is the yellow bloom of a tomato plant when the plant is covered in small yellow flowers. They are my favorite because I love to eat tomatoes. Now if you want to know my favorite tomato that is another article!

Marcia

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# Strawberry Begonia: A Rock Shattering Plant?

By Carolyn Puckett, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Did you know that there is one genus of plants that is known for its supposed ability to break rocks? It sounds farfetched, but the genus name *Saxifraga* derives from the Latin words *saxum*, meaning rock, and *frangere*, meaning to break. Indeed, many *Saxifraga* species live in the fissures of rocks, and over time do contribute to the crumbling of the rock.

At one time, people determined the medicinal use of plants based on the “Doctrine of Signatures,” which means a plant’s characteristics were used as a clue to the part of the body it would heal. Because of its ability to break rocks, *Saxifraga* plants were used for shattering kidney stones.

Most *Saxifraga* species are small, dwarf alpine plants, indigenous to cold climates high in the mountains. These plants would be extremely unhappy in Georgia’s hot, humid weather, and they would quickly die. But there is one *Saxifraga* species that will fare very well in the shady areas of your garden—*S. stolonifera*, sometimes sold as *S. veitchiana* or *S. sarmentosa*. The plant also has multiple common names; the most-used name is strawberry begonia, but it is also known as mother-of-thousands, strawberry geranium, or creeping saxifrage.



*Saxifraga stolonifera* Adobe Stock #26862147

Strawberry begonia is native to China and Japan. It is principally used as an evergreen groundcover, growing just 3 to 8 inches high, although the flowering stems can branch 15 to 18 inches tall from spring to early summer. The flowers grow in sprays of 1-inch, wispy white flowers of five petals. The lower two petals are three to four times longer than the other three. Leaves are 2 to 4 inches wide, round to heart shaped, with conspicuous white veins and a reddish underside.



Bloom *Saxifraga stolonifera* Adobe Stock #467371704

A single plant grows 1 to 2 feet wide, but the plant spreads by stolons (above ground runners), similar to strawberries. It can make a decent-sized colony in just a few years, though it is not invasive. Plantlets form at the stolon tips, thus its common name “mother-of-thousands.” Propagation by division or by rooting the plantlets are easy ways to make plants for additional areas of your garden.



Plantlets *Saxifraga stolonifera* Adobe Stock #444338791

Strawberry begonia is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 6 to 9 and will take partial to nearly full shade. It has no serious insect or disease problems, although root rot may occur in poorly drained soils. Aphids, slugs, and spider mites may appear, but they are not generally a problem.

Strawberry begonia also can be grown in pots, and it even makes a good house-plant, given bright indirect light. In fact, it was sold as an annual where I previously lived in Maryland; that enabled me to buy a bunch at a huge discount at the end of the summer season! The “annuals” proved to be quite hardy in my Zone 6b garden.

Strawberry begonia is especially attractive in hanging baskets, with the plantlets dangling down the sides. Many proud owners post pictures of their strawberry begonia hanging baskets to Pinterest.

There are a number of attractive cultivars. ‘Harvest Moon’ has chartreuse leaves. ‘Hsitou Silver’ has larger leaves and more obvious white veins. The leaves of ‘Maroon Beauty’ have a reddish tone with red hairs on the stems. ‘Stephanie’ also has bright red stems and runners. The leaves of ‘Tricolor’ are variegated in green, white, and pink. However, the straight species is equally attractive as the cultivars in my opinion.

Continued on page 7





## Tending Nature: Free Webinar Series

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Early this year, Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences hosted a six-session series of webinars with the theme "Tending Nature: Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity." The broad focus of the series is "the ecological roles of native plants and some of the creatures that depend on them."

I attended the webinars via Zoom, and it was one of the best series of classes that I have ever attended. And now you can benefit as well because the Tending Nature presentations are archived on the Ohio State University website at <https://u.osu.edu/certify/tending-nature/>. Click on the "Tending Nature" tab, and you will find links to the recordings and to audio transcripts.

All of the speakers in the lineup were excellent, and I highly recommend the series to anyone interested in nature, gardening, wildlife, pollinators, or ecology in general. Attesting to its popularity, there were approximately 10,000 registrants from around the United States and Canada, and even some from other continents.

Each session lasts for about an hour, and you can count the time toward your Master Gardener Continuing Education hours.

### Here is the lineup of speakers and topics:

- ◇ Mary Gardiner: "Beneficial Insect Biodiversity: What It Is and Why It Matters"
- ◇ Doug Tallamy: "Bringing Nature Home: The Importance of Native Plants"
- ◇ Lisa Olsen: "Cultivating a Community of Support for Native Plants"
- ◇ Bryan Danforth: "Host-plant Specialist Bees – Biology, Biodiversity, and Conserving Them in Your Backyard"
- ◇ Heather Holm: "Bumble Bee Banquet: Selecting Native Plants for Bumble Bees"
- ◇ Debra Knapke: "Native Plants in My Garden? Absolutely!"

While you are on the Ohio State University website, I invite you to look at the many other resources available at the Tending Nature section. In addition to the Tending Nature webinar recordings, you'll see other archived recordings of programs. You'll also find a wealth of information about beneficial insects, native plants, bees, and much more. There are also a links to their Facebook and YouTube pages, where you will find yet more resources and educational videos.

I am especially impressed with the extent of information that OSU has on bees. In fact, there is a whole section called the "Bee Lab," which is devoted to education, research, and outreach related to honey bees, wild bees, and other pollinators. Here you can learn about the keeping of honey bees, their management, and their diseases. If you are interested in native bees, the Bee Lab can help you learn about identification, nesting habits, life cycle, and conservation issues. The section on plants will help you educate yourself on how to garden to attract pollinators, plants that provide nectar or pollen, and how pollinators interact with plants at various stages of the insects' lifecycles.

This OSU website will certainly be one of my "go-to" resources whenever I want to know more about bees and other insects and their interactions with our native plants.



# Exploring Farmers Markets in Cherokee County

By Veronica Steffensmeier, Cherokee County Master Gardener

One of my favorite weekend activities is exploring one of the many farmers markets in Cherokee County. The county boasts more than two dozen markets, each offering a unique shopping experience. Locally grown produce, handcrafted products, and artisan foods fill the colorful stalls that are set up on Saturday mornings and on some weekdays.

These are difficult times for small, sustainable farmers who are struggling to survive. Buying from and paying the farmers directly for their wares keeps small farms alive and contributes to the local economy.

Unlike the supermarkets, you'll find fresher fruits and vegetables grown locally, ripened to perfection, and sold hours after being picked. Locally grown food tends to be healthier, with more vitamins and minerals and a better quality than produce found in grocery stores.

I especially enjoy meeting and talking to the farmers at the markets and knowing where my food comes from. You can even find vendors that grow organic foods free of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. If corn is in season, you'll find the freshest, best-tasting varieties available. Locally grown tomatoes, peaches, and strawberries are just some of the local commodities to shop for when they're in season. If it's not in season, you won't find it at the markets.

## Woodstock Farm Fresh Market

One of my favorites, and one of the longest running markets, is in Woodstock, the Woodstock Farm Fresh Market. Opening this year from April 23 until December 31, from 8:30 a.m. until noon, the market is located on Market Street near the Woodstock Salt Factory Pub. The beer garden is the perfect place to relax after shopping Saturday mornings. Unique to this market are the many homemade artisan foods being sold. From freshly cooked pork rinds to unique craft coffees, homemade baked goods and a varied selection of ethnic foods, the Woodstock market is the place to breakfast while strolling around.

On the second Saturday of the month, the Farm Bureau members provide information on locally grown produce. In May, they'll discuss plants and have a seed planting activity for children. The topic in June will be all about Georgia peaches, and in July the commodity will be watermelons. You won't want to miss Pie Day, Harvest Day, Apple Day, or Pumpkin Day, so check the Woodstock Farm Fresh Market's website for these upcoming events and their dates.

## Downtown Canton Farmer's Market

The downtown Canton Farmers Market is another favorite. The market is spread out over the sprawling grounds of Brown Park near Main Street and is worth visiting just to see how beautifully the vendors decorate their booths.

The open-air market features farm-fresh produce, baked goods, specialty food items, fresh flowers for sale, and a wide selection of food-related items such as olive oils and spices. If you enjoy growing your own vegetables and herbs, be sure to look for the Hickory Flat Garlic Company booth. You'll want to meet Arthur Mosley who specializes in growing garlic, basil, herbs, and select vegetables.

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners have a Plant Clinic Booth at the Canton market one Saturday each month, and they will answer your questions on just about anything related to gardening: what vegetables or flowers to grow, and when, where, and how to grow them; pest management; pruning; weed control; and soil composition. Each month, the Plant Clinic booth focuses on a particular gardening topic. The June topic will be identifying and controlling weeds in the garden. Check the Canton market website or the UGA Extension office for upcoming topics and dates.

Opening day for the Canton market is Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. until 12:30p.m.; closing day is October 15.

These are only two of the markets you can visit in Cherokee County. Check the list below for markets to visit near you. Make a habit of shopping at a farmers market and contributing to the local economy. It's a great Saturday morning experience and a fun way to bring Georgians together.



# The Benefits of Squirrels

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

When you look into your backyard and witness the unmistakable bushy tail of a squirrel scurrying across your lawn, do you think of it as an amusement or a pest? Many gardeners consider them a nuisance, as they plunder bird feeders, dig up freshly planted seeds, dig holes in lawns, or sample the vegetable garden's ripening buffet. With all of this bounty, it's understandable that they are regular visitors to our gardens. However, tree squirrels also provide valuable services to our natural environment despite their annoying behaviors.



Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) Adobe Stock #458833580

In addition to the recognizable eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Georgia is home to three other tree squirrel species, including the eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) and the southern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*), both of which occur throughout the state. The American red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) is found only in the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Eastern fox squirrel Adobe Stock #52105234



Southern flying squirrel Adobe Stock #67592613



Red squirrel Adobe Stock #394130328

While they often get a bad rap, these mischievous acrobatic wonders do provide great entertainment as they delight in playing tag, chasing each other from tree to tree, flying from branch to branch, burying nuts, and teasing backyard pets. Not only do they provide enjoyment and laughter, but these misunderstood creatures play a vital role in sustaining and expanding plant communities.

Even though they mainly munch on plant-based foods like nuts, berries, flowers, and acorns, squirrels are considered omnivores. Thus, they have been known to help with pest control by eating insects in our yards and gardens. They also eat mushrooms, and the spores of these fungi pass through their bowels without being harmed and are then scattered around the forest floor through their fecal droppings. Additionally, the nuts and seeds you observe squirrels caching in various places, by burying them in the soil or hiding them in a hole in a tree, can sprout and become new trees or plants. Researchers also consider the demographics of squirrels to help determine the health of a forest ecosystem. Lastly, squirrels also play an essential role in the natural food chain as prey for several predators.

Regardless of the environmental benefits they provide, many gardeners will still consider them a nuisance as avid foragers who delight in many of the same plants that we do, including our garden fruits and vegetables, seeds, nuts, and berries. They will also devour tulip bulbs and even tulip blossoms. Therefore, consider the many plants that squirrels find repulsive that you can add to your garden beds, pots, or hanging baskets. These plants have strong odors or flavors that squirrels do not relish. Think about growing alliums (*Allium* spp.), daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*), lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*), irises (*Iris* spp.) geraniums (*Geranium* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), hyacinths (*Hyacinthus orientalis*), marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.), bleeding hearts (*Dicentra spectabilis*), and peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*).

Additionally, to protect your plants consider using a physical barrier, such as plastic netting, fencing, chicken wire, cloches, tunnels, or fruit cages to help keep your plants from being harmed. Furthermore, to prevent them from digging in flowerpots or around your plants, arrange large pebbles or aluminum foil around the topsoil, which has the bonus of preventing moisture from evaporating. Lastly, sprinkling cayenne pepper or making homebrew with vinegar and spraying it around the plants can help deter the furry bandits. Note that the spray must be reapplied after it rains.

When humans and wildlife interact, wildlife will adapt if they are provided with the things they need. Therefore, the good, the bad, and the ugly of squirrels have shown us that they are one of the most inquisitive and adaptable animals to be found anywhere. So, whether you view squirrels as fluffy friends, problem pests, or admirable adversaries, they are definitely a fact of our gardening lives and entertainment pleasure.



# Watch Out for the Sunbathers

By Sue Allen, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Photo Eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) from weblink below

Did you know that snakes do not hibernate? Instead they go into a state of brumation where their metabolism slows down, and they become less active. They can begin this brumation period anytime from September to December, and it lasts until March or April. Then when the temperature reaches around 60 degrees Fahrenheit, they search for a nice warm surface on which to sunbathe during the mid-day. When the temperature begins to drop, they return to their dens.

In our climate zone, USDA Hardiness Zone 7, you might see the following snakes sunbathing on a warm rock, driveway, or patio in March or April:

- ◊ Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)
- ◊ Eastern garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
- ◊ Eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*)
- ◊ Northern watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*)
- ◊ Rat snakes (*Elaphe [Pantherophis] obsoleta*)
- ◊ Ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)
- ◊ Scarlet kingsnake (*Cemophora coccinea*)

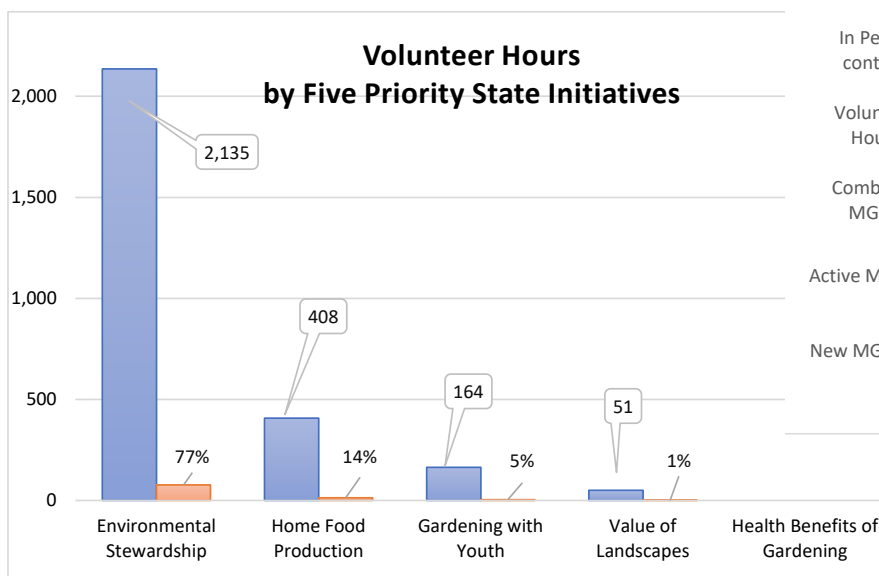
Snakes serve important roles in nature. For instance, kingsnakes not only eat small animals such as mice, rats, lizards, frogs, and other snakes; most importantly, they also eat the venomous copperheads.

According to Georgia law, it is illegal to possess or kill any non-venomous snake. The charge is a misdemeanor, but it can be punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and one year in jail (O.C.G.A. 27-1-28). It is also illegal to keep native nonvenomous snakes as pets without a proper permit. It is legal to kill venomous snakes. Please respect the law as well as our beloved snakes.

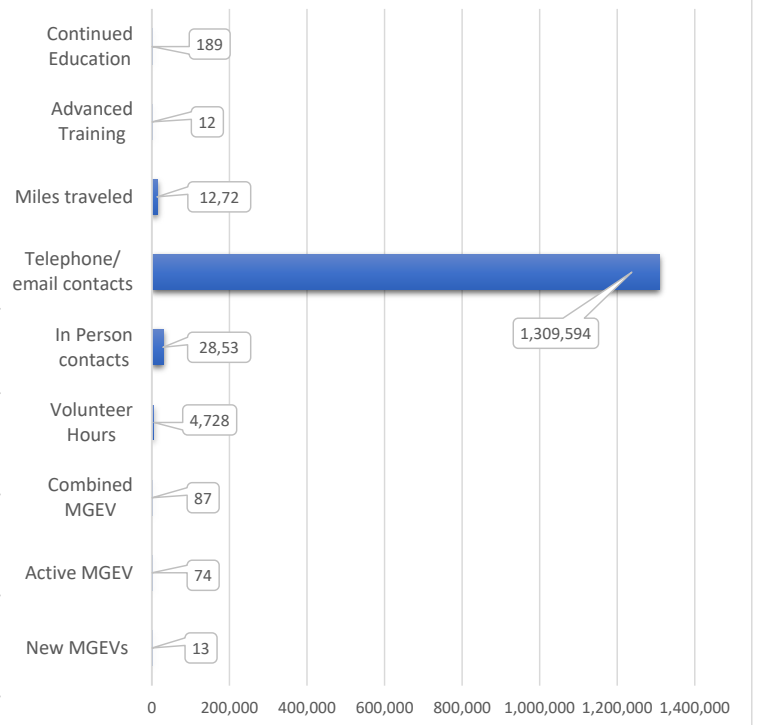
For more information about the snakes in Georgia visit <https://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/index.htm>. The pictures that accompany this article are from this website.

For more information and photos about the snakes in Georgia visit <https://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/index.htm>.

## Annual Summary of Master Gardener Activity Cherokee County



Total Volunteer Hours X (\$28.54 per hour) = \$132,384



## 2021 Statistics Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

## Strawberry Begonia: A Rock Shattering Plant? .. continued from page 2



Hanging planter of  
*Saxifraga stolonifera* and  
begonia flower  
Adobe Stock #278094287

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners will have a large number of strawberry begonias available at a bargain price during our plant sales from 9:00 to 12:00 on April 30, June 18, and September 17 at the Cherokee County Senior Center at 1001 Univeter Road in Canton. Dozens of other species that do well in our climate will also be for sale.

Check out the following sources for more information about strawberry begonia:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/saxifraga-stolonifera/>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c251>

Allan M. Armitage's *Herbaceous Perennial Plants, A Treatise on their Identification Culture and Garden Attributes*, 4th edition (2020), is an excellent source of information on this plant and on a wealth of other perennials.

## Exploring Farmers Markets in Cherokee County... continued from page 4

### Farmers Markets In Cherokee County

Canton Farmers Market, 130 E Main Sreet, Canton, GA 30114 - Location Cannon Park

Canton Farmers Market 251 East Marietta Street, Canton, GA

Cherokee Market Farm Fresh Produce & Antiques, 11611 Cumming Highway, Canton, GA, 30115

Woodstock Farm Fresh Market, Market Street and Reformation Brewery's backyard, Woodstock, GA

Waleska Farmers Market at Reinhardt University, 8891 Fincher Road, Waleska, GA 30183 - Near City Hall

### Farmers Markets In Cobb County

Acworth Farmer's Market, 4405 Cherokee Street, Acworth, GA

Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market at Cobb International, 2350 Spring Road, Smyrna, GA 30080

Kennesaw Farmers Market, 2829 Cherokee Street North West, Kennesaw, GA -Depot Park in the bus turn-around lot

Marietta Square Farmers Market, 65 Church Street NW, Marietta, GA 30060 -Mill Street, 1 block off the square

Smyrna Outdoor Market, 200 Village Green Circle SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 -Atlanta Road next to Community Center

### Farmers Markets In Fulton County

Alpharetta Farmers Market, North and South Broad Street, Alpharetta, GA -In front of City center

Common Ground Farmers Market, 7741 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA -Fulton County Government Annex Building

Roswell Farmers and Artisans Market, 38 Hill Sreet., Roswell, GA 30350 -Under the oaks behind Roswell City Hall

Sandy Springs Farmers Market, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328 -City Springs

### Other Farmers Markets Near Cherokee County

Sweet Apple Farmers and Artisan Market, 320 Hardscrabble Road, Roswell, GA

Milton Farmers Market, 12615 Broadwell Road, Milton, GA

UGA Cooperative Extension Service Fulton County, 11913 Wills Road, Alpharetta, GA

Jasper Farmers Market, Park and Ride, Stegall Drive, Jasper, GA

Vickery Village Farmers Market, 5920 Post Road, Cumming, GA

Halcyon Farmers Market, 6365 Halcyon Way, Alpharetta, GA

Stewards of the Earth Farmers Market, 7770 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs, GA

Dunwoody Green Market, 1551 Dunwoody Village Pkwy, Dunwoody, GA

Cartersville Farmers Market, 10 North Public Square, Cartersville, GA

Brookwood Farmers' Market, 2980 Vaughan Dr, Cumming, GA

Check your County Extension Website and these additional websites for a Market near you.

<https://www.agr.georgia.gov/community-farmers-markets.aspx>

<https://nfmd.org/ga/>



# APRIL GARDENING TIPS

- Thin young fruits of apples, pears and peaches within 25 days of the peak bloom, leaving 4-7" between fruit to insure larger, healthier fruit.
- Grapevines with excessive vegetative growth generally have less high-quality fruit. In early spring, prune out the canes with the fewest buds to allow light, moisture, and air circulation within the plant to improve the quality and quantity of the fruit. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201505\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201505_2.PDF)
- Erect trellises now for beans and cucumbers. Don't plant tomatoes, peppers, or other warm season plants until the soil temperature warms up. Usually in Cherokee County that will be April 15 or later. Plants that are planted earlier will just sit there and not grow, or they will be killed by a late frost.
- When weather is wet and cold, allow about twice the germination time listed on the seed packet. If there is no sign of growth after this time, dig around a little to check for sprouted seeds; if you find no signs of life the seed has probably rotted and you will need to replant.
- If your garden is small and you do not have adequate space for the long-vine varieties, plant a bush type.
- Root crops must be thinned, no matter how ruthless this practice seems. Thin carrots, beets, parsnips and onions so you can get three fingers between individual plants.
- When planning your vegetable garden, consider that leafy vegetables need at least six hours of sunlight to develop properly. Fruiting vegetables like squash, tomatoes, eggplant, beans, and peppers need 10 hours of full sun.
- When transplanting seedlings in peat pots to your garden, be careful not to allow the rim of the peat pot to protrude above the soil level. If the rim is above the soil, it will act as a wick and draw moisture away from the transplant. To prevent this from happening, break away the uppermost rim of the pot before planting and make sure the pot is completely covered with soil.
- When tomato seedlings have 5 to 7 leaves, they are ready to transplant into the garden. To increase root growth and produce a sturdier plant place tomatoes in soil up to the bottom leaves.
- Drive stakes for future supports at the same time you plant tomatoes. If you try to install stakes later, you may damage the plant roots. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201150\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201150_1.PDF)



Photo bush beans, courtesy UGA

## ORNAMENTALS

- If your bulbs have been shaded by new growth of a tree or shrub plantings, consider moving them to a sunny location or pruning back the plantings. Mark crowded unblooming clumps; and dig up and divide them after the tops have died back. Note where you want to add color for next spring. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20918\\_4.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_4.PDF)
- Upon emergence of foliage, fertilize bulbs with a 10-10-10 fertilizer. After the bulbs have bloomed, fertilize with a 10-10-10 at a rate of 3 lbs. per 100 feet.
- If you plant an Easter lily outside, don't plant it near other lilies as it may carry a virus that can infect them.
- Prune spring-blooming shrubs, such as forsythia, quince and early spirea, after they have completed flowering. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20961\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20961_5.PDF)
- Do not fertilize azaleas and camellias until they have finished blooming. They should be pruned after blooming. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20670\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20670_5.PDF)
- Many gardeners plant annual and perennial flowers to attract hummingbirds; woody plants can also be added to the yard to provide nectar for our smallest native birds. Some trees to add are buckeye, horse chestnut, apple, crabapple, hawthorn, redbud, and tulip poplar. Shrubs include red and bottlebrush buckeye, rhododendrons, Georgia basil, azaleas, and rosemary. [https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension-county-offices/forsyth-county/anr/B1483\\_1.pdf](https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension-county-offices/forsyth-county/anr/B1483_1.pdf)

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- When planting orange or yellow peppers, plant extra since they take longer to mature and produce fewer peppers.
- To hinder early blight on tomatoes, mulch to keep the soil-borne diseases from being splashed on the plant during rains. Remove mulch and dispose of at end of season. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201271\\_6.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201271_6.PDF)



Florida weave tomato stake method described in web link





# MAY GARDENING TIPS

## ORNAMENTALS

- Keep an eye out for aphids and other insects on roses. Spray if necessary. Begin spraying for blackspot at least twice a month. Removing and replacing mulch under roses will cut down greatly on black spot. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201001\\_2.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201001_2.PDF)
- Red and silver maples, willows, poplars, and elms can clog septic lines with their roots. Don't plant near water/sewer lines.
- If you are building a home on a wooded lot, save young, vigorous trees. They will adapt to changes in their environment better than older trees. Trees that once grew in shade and are suddenly exposed to increased sunlight, wider temperature changes, and drying winds may not survive.
- Lightly sidedress perennials, including spring bulbs, with a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, being careful to avoid the center or crown of the plant.
- Prune off sprouts from the base of crape myrtles. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20944\\_7.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20944_7.PDF)
- Check the leaves on azaleas and camellias for leaf galls. They are white to green growths and can be pruned out and disposed of. <http://blog.extension.uga.edu/bulloch/2015/04/what-is-this-strange-growth-on-azalea-leaves/>

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Protect developing strawberries from birds with spun bonded row covers. Netting can trap and kill beneficial snakes and birds. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20883\\_4.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20883_4.PDF)
- Technically, berries are fruit that are soft throughout, such as blueberries. The raspberry is not a true berry, but a fruit that is made of many small sections each with a seed or pit. Fruits with fleshy material surrounding a hard seed are called drupes. Thus a raspberry is not a berry but is a cluster of small drupes or drupelets.
- Thin peaches 4-6" apart for large, high-quality fruit.
- If spraying fruit trees near a vegetable garden, cover vegetables with a sheet of plastic to protect them.
- Place a thick layer of newspaper under tomatoes to cut back on leaf diseases. This helps prevent fungus spores from splashing on leaves. Remove and dispose of at end of the season.
- To ensure pollination of sweet corn, plant several rows together in a block, rather than in one long row. Side-dress with 3 Tbsp of 10-10-10 per 10 feet of row when 12-18" high. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C20905\\_4.pdf](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C20905_4.pdf)
- When thinning beans, watch for "snake heads," seedlings that have lost one or both of their cotyledons and produce poor, weak sprouts. Also, watch for "bald heads," seedlings that have the growth point damaged so severely that they cannot develop. Both types will be weak and delayed in growth and should be removed.

<https://vegedge.umn.edu/insect-pest-profiles/seed-corn-maggot>



Aphid infestation on a rose. (Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, [Bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org))

## April/May Miscellaneous

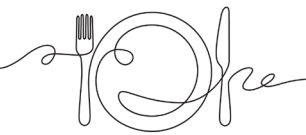
- Mark the handle of your spade/hoe in inches for a handy measuring device for row width and planting distances. Paint or tape the measurements on the handle, and apply varnish to make the marks last longer.
- When you see ants crawling on garden plants, look for aphids. Some ant species protect aphids, moving them from plant to plant and even taking them into the anthill for overnight safety. The ants do this to ensure a supply of honeydew, a sugary water substance secreted by aphids, on which ants feed. [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)
- A garden use for plastic milk jugs: seep irrigation. Punch holes in the sides of a jug about 2" apart. Bury the jug leaving the neck protruding from the soil. Fill jug with water (solutions of liquid fertilizer may be used to water and feed at the same time) and screw on the cap. The water will seep out, providing a slow, deep irrigation for plants.
- Trellis and stake downwind from the prevailing winds so plants lean against the supports when the wind blows.
- Don't be too anxious to move your houseplants outdoors. A slight chill can knock the leaves off tender plants.
- Replace bulbs on plant lights yearly. They gradually lose their strength causing plants to stretch and stop blooming.
- Moles are tunneling insect eaters and are particularly attracted to grubs. When bulbs are missing or shrubs have root damage, look for voles or field mice to be the culprits. These rodents often use mole tunnels as their runs.

## RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	YTD 2022	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	YTD 2022
<b>Actual</b>	4.4	7.3	11.7	3.2	4.4	7.6
<b>Normal</b>	6.0	5.0	11.0	4.1	4.5	8.6
<b>Deviation</b>	-1.6	2.3	0.7	-0.9	-0.1	-1.0



# Recipes



## Crustless Quiche

Submitted by Maurya Jones

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. cottage cheese (small curd)
- 1/2 lb. Swiss shredded cheese
- 1/2 lb. mild cheddar cheese
- 4 beaten eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 10 oz. frozen chopped spinach (thawed and drained)
- 1 tsp. baking powder

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix all ingredients and pour into 9 x 13 baking dish. (This freezes well before baking.)
3. Bake for 1 hour.

This quiche is very easy and will go nicely with the Mushroom Soup recipe.



## Mushroom Soup

Submitted by Mageeda Doe

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 lb. fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 3/4 cup hot milk
- 2 cups chicken broth (or made with bouillon cubes)
- Thyme (a sprinkle to taste)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cook chopped onion. Add mushrooms, and cook until soft (about 15 minutes).
2. Make a white sauce by melting the butter, adding the flour, and cooking on low. Then stir in the hot milk.
3. Add this white sauce to the mushroom mixture; then stir in the chicken broth.
4. You can use a wand to puree the soup or serve it as is.
5. Sprinkle thyme (to taste) on top before serving.



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

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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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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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