

# Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge

June/July 2022



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



**Cherokee County Master Gardener PLANT SALES!**

Summer

June 18, 2022

Fall

September 17, 2022

**Join us for the Great Georgia Pollinator Census in August! Details will be in the August/September 2022 newsletter.**



Photo courtesy John Ruscilli

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

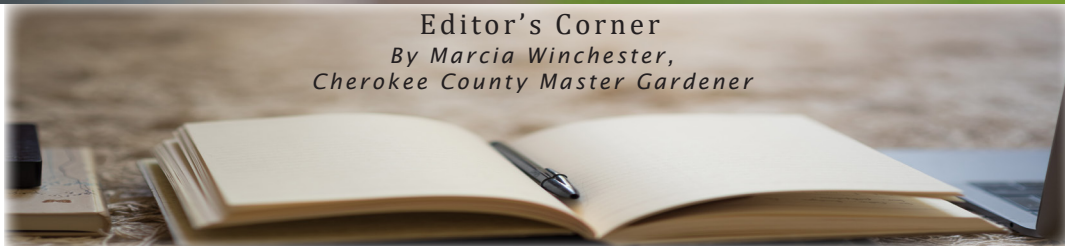


Photo tree with lichen courtesy Marcia Winchester

I love trees! They provide so many benefits to the landscape and so much enjoyment to the gardener. I appreciate the cooling shade they provide, and the noise the wind makes as it blows through their branches is so soothing. I even love all the different shapes and textures of tree leaves, from skinny pine needles to the huge leaves of native magnolias that are the size of grocery bags. But there is

something else about trees that is fascinating, and that is their bark.

The bark of a tree can be used to identify what kind of tree it is. Bark even has different functions. The thick, coarse bark of our common pines hides insects. I love watching birds hop up and down the trunk looking for a snack. The unique patterns of lichen on tree trunks are fascinating from the smooth bark of maples to the furrowed bark of oaks. I also enjoy running my hand along the unique ridges on the trunk of native muscledwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*). I marvel when I see ferns like resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) or orchids growing on trunks of trees. Some tree twigs are used in teas or herbal medicines, which adds a whole different aspect to the benefits of trees.

This brings me to ask why landscapers plant shrubs right in front of tree trunks. Why do they hide the bark? Why not use landscaping to highlight the tree? Why not use tree trunks as the focal point? This summer let's spend some time admiring trees.

Marcia

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# Tree Swallows

By Sue Allen, Cherokee County Master Gardener

One day I was taking a walk with my daughter, Michelle, and just as we arrived in the alley behind her house we spotted two tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), one on the fence and another on a tree; neither one seemed bothered by us, which I found surprising. This prompted me to research where they live, what they eat, and how they build their nests.

**Description:** The male tree swallow is blue-green in the spring and greener in the fall but does change colors in direct sunlight. He has a white belly, notched tail, and pointed wing tips. The female looks similar to the male but is duller, and the juvenile is a gray-brown with a white belly and grayish breast band.

**Habitat:** In our area they are mostly found near freshwater ponds, lakes, and agricultural fields during the summer, and before winter they migrate to the coastal beaches.

**Food:** Tree swallows choose where they live based on the supply of food. You can watch them soaring in the sky overhead scouting for insects. It is very important to have a surplus of insects not only for them but for their offspring as well. During the breeding season they need more calcium, so they will forage through backyard compost piles for pieces of eggshells to eat.

**Nest Building:** They prefer to nest in woodpecker cavities or a nesting box, such as a bluebird house. The female and male assemble a shallow cup made of dead dry grasses and plant stems or pine needles. Upon completion of the nest, they add white feathers to line the nest and arch over the cup. The female incubates the 4 to 6 white eggs from 13 to 16 days, and then their hatchlings will fledge within 20 to 24 days; females and males feed the young.

If you live in an area where tree swallows breed, you may want to put up a nesting box, such as a bluebird house since the hole is the right size for a tree swallow as well as a bluebird. It is too late this year to attract tree swallows to a nesting box, but if you put it up now the birds will welcome it next year!



Photo tree swallow courtesy Sue Allen



By Mary Tucker, Master Gardener

Many insects camouflage themselves to help hide from predators. But did you know that another protective tactic is to scare predators with "eye spots"? These make the creature look more threatening than it really is. Both caterpillars and butterflies may exhibit this feature. Examples include the the buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*), and the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar (*Pterourus troilus*).



Photo buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) courtesy Brett Hondow, Pixabay



Photo spicebush swallowtail caterpillar (*Pterourus troilus*) courtesy Ansel Oommen, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)



# Herbs

By Maurya Jones, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Herbs have been grown for centuries. They are defined as plants whose leaves, stems, flowers, or roots can be used for food, medicine, scent, or flavor. Generally, herbs are easy to grow and are normally free from damage by diseases and insects.

I don't know which I love more—the scent of different herbs in my garden or the wonderful flavor herbs impart when added to my recipes. My favorite herbs are rosemary, sweet and purple basil, thyme, tarragon, oregano, flat and curly parsley, sage, cilantro, and chives.

When planning an herb garden, ask yourself these questions: How am I going to use herbs? What animals and birds will be attracted to them? Are they annual or perennial plants?

There are several ways to design your herb garden and to incorporate herbs into your landscape. For instance, you can combine herbs with flowers in your garden beds. They can also be used as border plants, grouping herbs with taller plants in the background. Herbs can be grouped by color or fragrance and can be grown in raised beds with walking paths. Depending on the species, herbs are either annual, biennial, or perennial, so keep this in mind when planning your garden.

Here are some tips for starting an herb garden:

1. Group herbs according to light requirements (full sun or partial shade), and locate the planting area accordingly.
2. For best results choose a soil that is fertile, well drained, and loamy.
3. The preferred pH for most herbs is around 6.0 to 6.5. Acid soil is not good for herbs.
4. Prepare the soil to a depth of 8 inches.
5. Perennial herbs need a larger area than annuals. Herbs with runners, such as mint, should be contained.

Herbs can be propagated by seeds, cuttings, crown division, rooting in water, and aerial rooting. Herbs may be started either indoors or out. If choosing the seed method, they should be started indoors in February in a south-facing window or under grow lights.

Rather than starting from seed, I prefer to buy small herbs at local nurseries and plant them after April 15. Last year I transformed a fire pit into a mini herb garden with some success. Tarragon, parsley, and oregano all did well.

This season I am going to plant two window boxes and several clay pots with my 10 favorite herbs. I have found that clay pots are the best. You can also plant different herbs in one large pot.

## Harvesting the crop

Gather herbs in the morning after the dew is dry, only picking small portions at one time. I prefer to harvest mine by cutting with a knife, except in the case of chives, which I clip with scissors. It is best to keep herbs separated from one another as you harvest.

## Storing herbs

There are many ways to store herbs for use. One simple way is to keep fresh herbs refrigerated in water in a glass container, and cut the leaves as needed. Herbs can also be frozen for future use. Freeze them in water or plastic bags or foil and seal. Frozen herbs should keep up to six months for use in cooking. If you prefer to dry them, you can hang them in a warm, airy, dark place that is free from dust; after drying, crush the leaves, and store in a glass container.



Photo herbs Adobe Stock #194844284



Photo Adobe Stock #99256419



Photo Adobe Stock #126235971

Continued on page 6

# Water Gardening with Native Plants: Something for Everyone

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

When you think of a “water garden,” the image that may come to mind is a lovely and iconic Claude Monet painting of his pond in France, populated with Asian water lilies. But did you know that there is a wide selection of plants that are native to the Southeast that are suitable as pond plants? And employing native plants is most beneficial for the wildlife that will be drawn to your water garden.

If you’re seriously into gardening, you may already have some kind of pond or water garden. On the other hand, if you’re just getting started, don’t be put off by the idea. Water gardening doesn’t have to be complicated. You don’t need to have a waterfall, fountain, pump, or even an in-ground pond. In fact, you can have a water garden on a balcony or small patio if you want. All it takes is a container that holds water and your choice of appropriate plants! The container can be something as simple as an attractive pot (without drainage holes), and the lightweight resin pots are perfect for a small water garden.



American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) courtesy Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Typically water garden plants are grouped into these categories, though there is much overlap, with some plants suitable for more than one condition:

- **Moisture-loving plants** – These prefer moist conditions but don’t need to be in standing water. Some of them are suitable for average garden conditions.
- **Marginal plants** – These plants grow with their roots in water and foliage above. In nature, these would usually grow within a body of water near the edge. The depth of water needed will depend on the species. Some, such as water lilies or lotuses, require deeper water. Others will perform fine in shallow water or even a sufficiently damp garden bed. There is a wide overlap between moisture-lovers and marginals.
- **Floating plants** – These are plants that live on the surface of the water, and most do not need their roots in soil. They provide shelter for aquatic animals and also shade the surface of the water, helping to prevent algae. Some floating aquatic plants are not very winter-hardy. If this is a concern, you can over-winter a portion in an indoor aquarium.
- **Submerged plants** – These grow under the water or near the surface and help oxygenate the water. They also discourage algae by absorbing nutrients from the water. As with floating plants, they can provide habitat and shelter for underwater creatures. Soil is usually not needed for their survival, though they will often root into mud at the bottom of a pond.

Note that many pond plants, by their very nature, are enthusiastic spreaders. To help control them, plant them in submerged pots, and be aware that you may occasionally need to reduce the population, perhaps by sharing divisions with gardening friends or by simply composting unwanted extras.

## POND PLANTS TO AVOID

Aquatic plants that have a rapid growth rate or a creeping nature can be aggressive, and some non-native water plants have become invasive in our natural habitats. Many of these problematic plants have been introduced through the aquarium or horticultural trade. For this reason, take care to learn about any plant that you use in your own garden, and never introduce it into a natural wetland of any kind.

There are many submerged plants that are sold as aquarium oxygenators that have become severe pests in parts of the U.S. These include Brazilian waterweed or Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). Note that some of these invasives strongly resemble native submerged aquatic plants, so be sure of which species you introduce into your water garden.



Photo Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*)  
Barbara H. Smith, ©2015 HGIC  
Clemson Extension

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## NATIVE POND PLANTS

This chart will get you started in your quest for native plants for the ornamental pond or water garden. The abbreviations for type (M, F, S) indicate moisture loving/marginal, floating, or submerged.

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	TYPE	WATER DEPTH	HEIGHT	BLOOM	FOLIAGE
cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	M	0-3"	2-3'	red spike	winter rosette
northern spiderlily	<i>Hymenocallis occidentalis</i>	M	0-6"	2-3'	white, star-shaped	strap-like from bulb
native aquatic iris	<i>Iris fulva</i> , <i>Iris virginica</i> , <i>Iris versicolor</i>	M	0-6"	2-3'	peach; blue	upright, sword-like, from rhizome
marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	M	0-6"	1-1.5'	golden yellow	round and glossy, mounding
lizard's tail	<i>Saururus latifolia</i>	M	0-6"	2-3'	creamy white	elongated heart-shaped
arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	M	0-6"	2-3'	white with yellow center	arrowhead shape
arrow arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	M	0-6"	1-2'	yellow with green spathe	arrowhead shape
golden club	<i>Orontium aquaticum</i>	M	0-12"	1-2'	white and yellow	blue-green, lance shaped
pickerelweed	<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	M	0-12"	2-3'	bluish purple	rounded arrowhead
water canna	<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	M	0-12"	4-5'	violet-blue	elliptical, bluish green
cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>T. latifolia</i>	M	0-12"	6-7'	brown, fuzzy spike	upright, grass-like
American water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	M	6-12"	water level	white with yellow center	round
American lotus	<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	M	12-24"	1-2'	light yellow	round
fairy moss	<i>Azolla caroliniana</i>	F	2"+	water level	none	small and scale-like
American frogbit	<i>Limnobium spongia</i>	F	4"+	water level	insignificant, white	round
American waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	S	6"+	N/A	tiny, white	lance-shaped in whorls
Carolina fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	S	6"+	N/A	small, white	feathery, fan-like
coon's tail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	S	6"+	N/A	insignificant	thread-like, whorled on stem



Photo native aquatic iris (*Iris fulva*)  
courtesy Mary Tucker



Photo American frogbit (*Limnobium spongia*)  
courtesy Mary Tucker



Photo American water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)  
courtesy Joseph Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson  
Wildflower Center

## Herbs .....continued from page 3

Below are some suggested herbs for beginners to grow, along with their characteristics:

### Pungent herbs—

rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), sage (*Salvia officinalis*), and winter savory (*Satureia montana*)



Photo rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) samsevents Pixabay

### Strong herbs for accent—

sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), dill (*Anethum graveolens*), mint (*Mentha* spp.), sweet marjoram (*Marjoram hortensis*), tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculoides*), and thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)



Photo sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) monicore Pixabay

### Herbs for blends—

chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*), chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), and summer savory (*Petroselinum crispum*)



Photo chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) AdobeStock #269598582

The uses of herbs are endless! There are so many ways to enjoy the large variety of herbs! Experiment by using their scent and flavor for cooking, infusing oils, and making tea. Scatter herbs into a bath or make scented herb bags and balms. If you have an abundant harvest, consider storing them so they don't go to waste. There are no limits!

## Water Gardening .....continued from page 4

Several non-native floating plants have become invasive, including some that have been sold as ornamentals but are now established in natural areas, disrupting ecosystems.



Photo water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) Stephen Compton, ©2015, Clemson Department of Plant Industry

Examples include water hyacinth

(*Eichhornia*

*crassipes*), water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), crested floating heart (*Nymphoides cristata*), giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), water spangles (*Salvinia minima*), and European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*).



Marginal wetland plants that have been sold as ornamentals can also be a serious problem. Examples include yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Photo yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

ncsu.edu Form  
Jorg Hempel CC BY-SA 3.0

## Cherokee County Master Gardeners Summer Plant Sale

Saturday, June 18th at the Sr. Center from 9am until 12noon

1001 Univeter Road, Canton Georgia 30115

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



Photo stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*)  
Adobe Stock #273081218



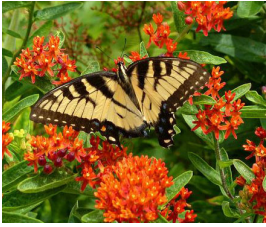
Photo yellow rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Adobe Stock #74083892



# TIME to Celebrate Pollinators!

By Jennifer Ruscilli, Cherokee County Master Gardener

June and July are special months. They mark the time we celebrate our daytime and nighttime pollinators. And both these months have special weeks dedicated just to these special contributors to our landscapes. The images below represent just some of our pollinators highlighted during these two incredible events: National Pollinator Week (June 20-26) and National Moth Week (July 23-31).



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



Hummingbird moth (*Sphingidae* spp.) photo provided by Nancy Hinkle, UGA Entomologist



*Hydrangea paniculata* varieties, like 'Chantilly Lace' and 'Pink Winky', have both sterile and fertile flowers and attract a lot of bees, butterflies and other pollinators.



Ants, birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. Flowers that attract pollinators vary in color, shape, and odor, so pollinators rely on their sense of smell, eyesight, and where they can fit. Want to know more about activities during these celebrations, and plants to select for pollinators with night blooming fragrance? Visit the websites below. There are additional resources for kids' activities to discover and track nighttime pollinators. Without these pollinators we would not have most of the food we eat, or crops grown.

They need us to create and protect their habitat, not destroy it and what better TIME to celebrate them!

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

<http://nationalmothweek.org/>

[https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201349\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201349_1.PDF)

## Clues:

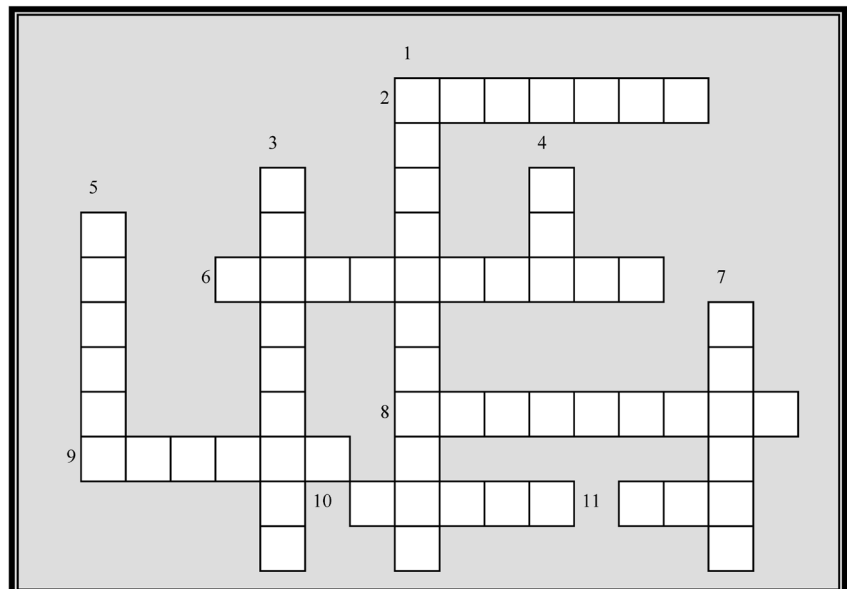
1. A small bird that moves fast!
2. An animal's home.
3. Sweet! This is a treat made possible by a pollinator.
4. This flying mammal likes cactus flowers.
5. Using this spray hurts pollinators too.
6. An animal that helps pollinate flowers.
7. Found in a flower. Sometimes it makes us sneeze.
8. A very colorful and beautiful pollinator.
9. Sweet liquid found in flowers.
10. Yum! Many pollinated flowers grow into these.
11. A busy garden insect.

Bee	Pollen	Hummingbird
Chocolate	Nectar	Pollinator
Fruit	Butterfly	Bat
Poison	Habitat	

Have fun with this Pollinator Puzzle provided by the Pollinator Partnership, and a downloadable resource that can be shared with others. Visit their website and Moth Week, for other free resources and ideas.

<https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week/pollinator-week-resources>

Read the clues on the left and find the matching answer for each number from the list below. See if you can write your answer in the puzzle spaces with the correct number.



# JUNE GARDENING TIPS

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries picked early in the day keep best. Do not wash or stem berries until ready to use. Store berries in covered containers in the refrigerator.
- Set young melons and cantaloupes atop tin cans or flat rocks – they'll ripen faster, be sweeter and have less insect damage than those left on the ground.
- Yellow crook-neck squash tastes best when 4-7 inches long. Pick when pale yellow (rather than golden) and before skin hardens. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993_5.PDF)
- Remove cucumbers by turning fruits parallel to the vine and giving a quick snap. This prevents vine damage and results in a clean break. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201034\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201034_4.PDF)
- Stop cutting asparagus in mid to late June when spears become thin. After the last cutting is made, fertilize by broadcasting a 10-10-10 formula at the rate of 2 lbs per 100 sq. ft. Allow the tops to grow during the summer to store food in the roots for the crop next spring.
- Corn needs water at two crucial times: when the tassels at the top are beginning to show and when the silk is beginning to show on the ear. If weather is dry at these times, you will need to water the corn. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C905>
- If weed plants are mature, weed your garden early in the morning when moisture is present to prevent the seed heads from shattering and dropping weed seeds in the garden. Hold as much of the seed heads in your hand and do not shake off extra soil as it may scatter weed seeds.

## JUNE MISCELLANEOUS

- To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their homes.
- The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early on a sunny day. Herbs are best if watered the day before to wash off the foliage. <http://extension.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=7882>



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



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

## ORNAMENTALS

- Use pliers to pull up tree seedlings after a rain when soil is moist. Grip the stem at the soil line; twist and pull straight up. Watering deeply the day before pulling weeds will make the job easier.
- Climbing roses don't really climb – they have long canes that require support. You will need to loosely tie the canes to trellises with broad strips of material or foam covered wire. Do not use wire as it can damage the cane. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20671\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20671_2.PDF)
- Miniature roses can be propagated from stem cuttings. Take cuttings with 4 leaves and insert them into pots filled with moist potting soil. Rooting hormone is optional. Place whole pot in a perforated plastic bag and place in a shady spot. Water as needed. By autumn, cuttings should be rooted.
- Control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- Fertilize your roses at monthly intervals with either granular or liquid fertilizer. Inspect plants frequently for pests such as spider mites, aphids and Japanese beetles.
- Leaf miner larvae tunnel inside leaves, leaving whitish trails as they move about. Holly, boxwood, columbine, and locust are particularly susceptible to damage.
- Disinfection of pruners between cuts is recommended when removing diseased tissue from plants. UGA recommends a one to ten solution of bleach and water, but it can be cumbersome to carry a bucket of this mix about in the garden, and the solution is corrosive and must be rinsed from tools after use. Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle also works. When spraying tools, spray over a trash can so you don't kill or injure grass or plants.
- Now is the time to prune evergreen azaleas and rhododendrons before they set next year's flower buds. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/newswire/story.html?storyid=4729>
- Divide and transplant German iris now so they will have a long growing season and a better chance of blooming next year. Cut off and discard the older part of the rhizome that does not have white fleshy roots. Cut the leaves back to six inches so they don't blow over. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20918\\_4.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_4.PDF)





# JULY GARDENING TIPS


## ORNAMENTALS

- If your hosta and azalea stems have a white powder covering them, it is probably the waxy coating of planthopper insects. They don't do much damage, but can spread diseases. Spray with garden insecticide if unsightly.
- Lamb's ear tends to have their lower leaves die after a heavy rain. This forms ugly mats that will rot stems and roots. Pull away the yellow leaves to keep up airflow.
- Fertilize crape myrtles, butterfly bushes, and hydrangeas with 1 Tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C944>



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

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Pick squash regularly to keep up production. If the vines wilt, check the base of the stem for "sawdust". This means the plant has squash borers in the stem. Remove infected plants (thus removing the borers) and plant new seeds. It is good to change your planting location to hopefully prevent the new plants from being attacked.  <https://secure.caes.uga.edu/news/multimedia/images/958/SquashVine-Borer.jpg>
- Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label. Each insecticide has a waiting period after application before you can harvest.
- Although tomatoes are self-pollinating, they need movement to transfer pollen. If it is hot and calm for several days, gently shake plants to assure pollen transfer and fruit set. Hot temperatures can interfere with blossom set. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201150\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201150_1.PDF)
- Most fertilizer recommendations are for 100 square feet, so keep your garden's square footage a simple fraction of that. For example, a 4 X 12 foot garden is very close to 50 square feet and would require one half the fertilizer required by a garden of 100 square feet.
- Okra pods get tough if allowed to grow too large. Pick regularly. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20941\\_5.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20941_5.PDF)
- Mulch strawberries heavily to protect them from heat and drought.
- The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day; that's when they contain the most sugar, especially if the day was cool and sunny.
- Cucumbers are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning.
- Start a fall crop of Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and kale indoors. Outdoors, sow pumpkin, beans, squash, cucumbers, and crowder peas. Plant carrots mid-month. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201069\\_1.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201069_1.PDF)
- Sunflowers are ready to harvest when the back of the head turns brown.

- Keep an eye out for the tomato hornworm. They can do enormous damage overnight. When you see damage, check under leaves and stems to find them. Hand pick to dispose of them. <https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension/programs-and-services/integrated-pest-management/documents/insect-pdfs/hornworm.pdf>




Tomato hornworm courtesy UGA

- Don't plant all your beans at once. If you stagger the plantings every two weeks you will have fresh beans longer. Soak bean seeds overnight before planting for faster germination. [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201006\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201006_2.PDF)

## JULY MISCELLANEOUS

- If you keep your houseplants indoors all summer, keep them out of the draft of the air conditioner. Plants react to an air conditioner's cool air in various ways. Some drop their leaves, others don't bloom well and some fail to bloom at all.

## RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	YTD 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	YTD 2022
 Actual	6.6	3.6	21.9	5.1	4.9	17.6
Normal	5.3	4.5	20.8	4.8	3.3	16.7
Deviation	1.3	-0.9	1.1	0.3	1.6	0.9



## Clafoutis

Submitted by Mageeda Doe

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/4 cup whole milk
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 Tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups pitted black cherries (2 jars of dark Morello Cherries from Trader Joe's or Whole Foods) or any berries.
- Powdered sugar (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix In high-speed blender the following ingredients: milk, sugar, eggs, vanilla extract, salt, all purpose flour.
3. Pour 1/4inch layer of batter in baking dish (approx 9-1/2 inches diameter).
4. Place in oven for 2 to 3 minutes.
5. Remove from heat.
6. Spread cherries over batter.
7. Pour remaining batter over cherries, and bake for 60 to 70 minutes (or until an inserted knife comes out clean).
8. Dust with powdered sugar before serving (optional).
9. Serve warm or cold



Photo Clafoutis courtesy Mageeda Doe

## Blueberry-Raspberry Muffins

Submitted by Mageeda Doe

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1½ cup raspberries
- 1½ cup blueberries

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Spray a muffin tin with cooking spray to prevent sticking.
3. Mix together the flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder.
4. Add the oil, egg, and milk.
5. Then fold in the raspberries and blueberries.
6. Place the mixture into muffin tins, and bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes.

**NOTE:** These freeze well.



Photo Blueberry-Raspberry muffins courtesy Mageeda Doe

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