March 3, 2017

Hello, Neighbors! In this issue you'll find information about the cumulative effects of drought stress in plants, drought disaster relief loans, and classes that we’re offering in March – including an important horticulture update for professionals (with 2 hours of CEUs for commercial and private pesticide applicators) and the 3-part Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program for beginning and aspiring farmers.

**DROUGHT DAMAGE IS PERSISTANT**
By Heather N. Kolich, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, UGA Extension

Forsythia are blooming beautifully around Forsyth County, and some of our early blooming trees and shrubs are budding out. In my yard, crocus and azaleas are blooming together.

For many plants, however, the effects of last year’s record drought are becoming evident. Projections are that the drought will continue in March for the northern part of Georgia.

Drought stress causes a number of physiological and biochemical changes in plants. While some drought responses, like smaller than normal leaves on trees and shrubs and mid-summer dormancy in warm-season turfgrasses, are apparent immediately, other issues show up during the next few growing seasons.

Because roots don’t grow and proliferate as they should during drought conditions, the root system may be insufficient to support the entire plant. Smaller leaves and stalled
growth limit photosynthesis, which in turn short-changes the root systems of energy stores necessary to get plants growing in the spring.

Drought-related problems we may see in the next few months include death of young plants and those that were planted last spring. Established trees and shrubs may experience dieback in twigs and branches, and fruit trees may not flower or fruit well. Warm-season grasses may be slow to green-up.

These issues create continued stress that make the plants more susceptible to pests and diseases, which further weaken the plants. For example, pine bark beetles are more prevalent in years following drought. In years to come, these secondary aggressors may get blamed for killing plants, but drought stress is still the primary factor. Read more.

DROUGHT DISASTER SBA LOAN DEADLINE IS MARCH 27
March 27, 2017 is the deadline for filing for Small Business Administration federal economic injury disaster loans related to the 2016 drought in Georgia that began on May 31, 2016. The disaster declaration includes Barrow, Bartow, Cherokee, Cobb, Dawson, DeKalb, Fannin, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rockdale, Union, Walton, and Whitfield counties.

Under this declaration, the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. With the exception of aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela .

Disaster loan information and application forms are also available by calling SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for deaf and hard-of-hearing applicants) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov . Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster . Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than March 27, 2017.

FRESH AND LOCAL FOOD FOR MARCH – Carrots: Not just rabbit food
By Barbara Worley, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, UGA Extension
Finally! The days are getting longer and the weather is beginning to warm up! Spring is right around the corner. It is the time of year when one starts to think of all of the young fresh vegetables that will be available in the coming weeks to welcome the flowers as they begin to bloom, and the greening of the trees and fields. I love spring, and I love carrots!

The carrot is a member of the parsley family. Their leafy green tops have a similar flavor profile as that of parsley, and can be used in the same way. The green leafy tops grow above the ground, while the taproot (what we associate with being the ‘carrot’) grows below ground.

Carrots originated over 5000 years ago in the Middle East. However, the plant grew during Roman times as purple or white, not the orange that we associate with the vegetable today. It was not until the 16th century that Dutch farmers bred the vegetable to grow in the color of the ruling House of Orange. Still today, orange is the color that represents the Dutch royal family.

Carrots are one of the most nutritious vegetables available in Northwest Georgia. Rich in beta-carotene and vitamin-A, carrots are responsible for helping us keep our eyesight sharp. Carrots are low in calories, fat free, cholesterol free, and high in fiber.

Available year round in the United States, and in season January through May in Georgia, carrots lend themselves to Easter and spring dishes. Carrots can be enjoyed in soups, stews, salads, cakes, and breads, or prepared in a variety of ways including steamed, sautéed, roasted, grilled, or raw. Additionally, carrots do not lose their nutritional qualities when cooked like some other vegetables. Also, their sweetness is enhanced when heat is applied!

Today, carrots can be found in a variety of colors, from orange to yellow to purple. Baby carrots are actually pieces of larger carrots that were once parts of larger carrots that have simply been peeled, trimmed, cut and packaged as baby carrots.

Whether you are looking for the perfect snack or a wonderful accompaniment to tomorrow night’s dinner, carrots are sweet vegetables that will be a satisfying spring addition.

**Molasses Ginger Glazed Carrots**

- 4 T unsalted butter
- 1 pound baby carrots (various colors – purple, orange, white), peeled, left whole, leaving only a small spring of the green top attached**
- 2 T peeled fresh ginger, grated using a microplane
- 4 T molasses
- ¼ c fresh orange juice
- 1 ½ t salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

---

The University of Georgia is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
Forsyth County Extension, 875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Suite 158, Cumming, GA 30040
770-887-2418  www.ugaextension.com/forsyth
Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Saute the carrots for 5-6 minutes until softened slightly. Add the ginger, orange juice and molasses, and cook until the carrots are tender and the liquid has been reduced to a syrupy glaze, approximately 6 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with chopped carrot greens.

** Reserve some of the carrot tops to use as a garnish.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH EXTENSION

**Horticulture Update with CEUs for pesticide applicators – March 15, 2017**
Need CEUs for your Commercial or Private Pesticide Applicator’s license? Forsyth County Extension will host a Georgia Department of Agriculture training offering 2 hours of CEUs in categories 21, 23, 24; or 2 hours of credit for Private license holders. Even better, the topics are interesting and the speakers are great!
- **Native and Invasive Forest Pests in Georgia** – Dr. Elizabeth Benton, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
- **Troubleshooting Southern Lawn Problems** – Dr. Clint Waltz, UGA Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

**When:** March 15, 2017, 7-11 a.m.
**Where:** Coal Mountain Park Community Building
3560 Settingdown Road, Cumming, 30041
**Cost:** $10
**Register** early to assure your spot!

**Soup and Walk – March 15, 2017**
Forsyth County Parks and Recreation and Extension have teamed up to bring you a program of interesting nature topics and a delicious lunch catered by local restaurants. In March, Forsyth County Master Naturalist Extension Volunteer Jackie Grote will offer pointers on beginning birding while leading a leisurely walk at Fowler Park. **Learn more and register!**

**Dig In with Master Gardeners – March 25, 2017, 1-2:30 p.m.**
Forsyth County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers invite scout troops to join them for Scouts Dig In at The Pollinator Garden at Hampton Park Library or The Native Plant Garden at the Bethelview trailhead of the Big Creek Greenway. Scouts will learn about pollinators and make a bird feeder ornament, hummingbird feeder, or bee habitat. There will also be a seed swap. **Learn more and sign up!**

**Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program – Starts March 31**
Forsyth County Extension is partnering with Gwinnett County Extension to offer the **UGA Journeyman Farmer program**, a comprehensive, three-part training for beginning
farmers. Participants who complete all three parts will receive a certificate of completion. The program includes:

**Part 1 – Small Farm Business Planning** – March 31 AND April 1, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
$50 fee covers training, all materials, and lunch for both days.
Registration deadline: March 24

**Part 2 – Fruit and Vegetable Production classes** – Three days of training
Thursday, June 15, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday, June 16, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m.-noon
$75 fee includes instruction, materials, and lunches
Registration deadline: June 7

**Part 3 – Hands-on Production Training**
Through UGA and Georgia Organics, participants will be offered an internship (with stipend) or paired with a mentor on a working farm that cooperates with the program.

**Forsyth County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale – March 31-April 1**
This popular annual event is back in the Big Red Barn at the Cumming Fairgrounds with over 40 vendors offering annuals, perennials, native plants, hardy ornamentals, fruit plants, garden tools and accessories. Covered venue, come rain or shine!

**Forsyth Digs Earth Day – April 22, 2017**
Gather the family and celebrate the wonders of nature with activities and events all around the county, including gardening workshops, hiking, farmers markets, garden tours, and kid’s crafts. Here’s the [event list](http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/forsyth.html) so far . . .

**Cloverleaf Camp: 4th-6th Graders – Register now! Only a few spots remain!**
At this week long summer camp at Wahsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, Georgia, campers participate in a wide variety of activities including three high ropes courses (zip line, climbing wall, and flying squirrel), archery, tubing, gold panning, stream & forest ecology, snakes class, wilderness survival, water games, and a friendly competition. At night, we have campfires, a talent show, and a hillbilly costume party! Sign up began on January 23rd, but there is still space available. For more information, and to download the camp application/flyer, you can visit the Summer Camp Information page under 4-H Youth Development of our website ([http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/forsyth.html](http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/forsyth.html)) or contact the 4-H staff at 770-887-2418.

**FOOD RECALLS TO NOTE**
Recent [food recalls affecting Georgia](http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/forsyth.html) include chicken salad and several cheese products.

As always, please let us know if you have questions!

Heather Kolich, ANR – [hnkolich@uga.edu](mailto:hnkolich@uga.edu)
Barbara Worley, FACS – [bworley@uga.edu](mailto:bworley@uga.edu)
Jack Lowery, 4-H – [jlowery2@uga.edu](mailto:jlowery2@uga.edu)
General questions – [uge1117@uga.edu](mailto:uge1117@uga.edu)

The University of Georgia is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
Forsyth County Extension, 875 Lanier 400 Parkway, Suite 158, Cumming, GA 30040
770-887-2418  [www.ugaextension.com/forsyth](http://www.ugaextension.com/forsyth)