

Houston County Extension Office  
2030 Kings Chapel Rd, Perry, GA  
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/houston/>  
Phone: 478.987.2028  
E-mail: christine.kelly@uga.edu

**Inside this issue:**

Special Points of Interest  
Plant Spotlight  
Planting Dates: Winter/Spring Vegetable Garden  
Home Garden & Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

**Special Points of Interest:**

**Mark your calendars!**

→ **Gardening with the Masters**

**March 7: Spring Turf**

**March 14: Hydrangeas**

**March 21: Veggies/Flowers**

**March 28: Cutting Garden**

Classes will be held at Hafley Park (1527 Sunshine Ave. Perry, GA) unless otherwise noted.

Registration fee of \$10 covers all materials

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: [morgan.grizzle@uga.edu](mailto:morgan.grizzle@uga.edu)

Call: 479-987-2028

→ **Spring Plant Sale**

Purchase Master Gardener-grown plants and help support horticultural programs

Online orders: Mar 29- Apr 7

In-person sale and pick up date: Apr 15

Contact the Extension Office for more information

**Stay up-to-date with Agriculture and Natural Resources in Houston County! Subscribe at [Agriculture & Natural Resources | Houston County](#) ([uga.edu](http://uga.edu))**

# The Garden Bench

## March/April 2023

Gardening and home landscape information from UGA Cooperative Extension in Houston County. Our newsletter provides research-based horticulture information to help Middle Georgia gardeners.

### 2023 Spring Plant Sale



Presented by

Master Gardeners of Central Georgia

UGA Cooperative Extension Macon-Bibb and Houston County

Offering a variety of plants, trees, and shrubs, locally grown by Master Gardeners, along with gardening advice and research-based information.

Online Orders March 29- April 7

[MGCG.org/sale](http://MGCG.org/sale)

In-Person sale & order pickup April 15

Macon State Farmers Market  
2055 Eisenhower Parkway  
Macon, GA 31206

### Lawn Burweed

### Plant **Spotlight**



This pesky weed is known by many names, including sandspur, pricker plant, sticker weed, and spur weed. As you might have guessed from its name, this weed produces hard, spiny burs that are extremely painful for pets and barefoot people. Varieties of lawn burweed include *Soliva pterosperma* and *Soliva sessilis*.

Lawn burweed is a low-growing, freely branched winter annual. It germinates and begins to grow in fall and winter, producing its characteristic burs in spring and then dying off as temperatures rise.

Lawn burweed can be controlled through the application of a preemergence herbicide in early October, prior to germination. This treatment should be coupled with visual examination of the lawn in December, November, and January for any young plants that managed to germinate. Postemergence herbicides may be used if burweed is found. Two to three weeks after the initial application, lawn burweed control should be evaluated. If control is not acceptable, an additional application may be needed.

See [Weed Control in Home Lawns](#) for pesticide recommendations for your turf type.

[UGA](#) [Clemson](#) [UFL](#)

## Planting Dates for Your Winter/Spring Vegetable Garden

Planting Dates	Type of Vegetable
Mar 1-Apr 1	Cauliflower
Through mid-Mar	Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Collards, Kale, Onions, Spinach
Mar 15–May 1	Bush Beans
Mar 15–May 10	Pole Beans
Mar 15–Jun 1	Lima beans, Corn
Mar 20–May 1	Watermelon
Mar 20–June 20	Cantaloupe
Mar 25–May 1	Tomatoes
Through Apr 1	Beets, Mustard, Radish, Turnip
Apr 1–May 1	Butter peas
Apr 1–May 15	Cucumbers, Eggplant, Summer squash
Apr 1–Jun 1	Okra, Peppers
Apr 1–Jul 1	Winter squash
Apr 1–Aug 10	Southern peas
Apr 15–Jun 15	Sweet potatoes

## Home Garden and Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

**Shrubs & Trees:** **Late March** is the time for the first application of fertilizer to trees and shrubs. Do a soil test or apply one-half pound of 12-4-8, 16-4-8, 10-10-10, or 18-0-18 per 100 square feet. Broadcast the fertilizer over the planting area uniformly (prior to a rain if possible, or water after fertilizing). Fertilizing once is enough for most shrubs and trees, but additional applications can be made in May and July if you want the plants to get larger. Spring-blooming plants such as azaleas may be fertilized without affecting flowering.

Aphids, azalea lace bugs, many types of scale insects, white flies, and pine bark beetles become active in March and April. Look for them and treat as needed. Start black spot sprays on roses when new leaves appear. Prune oversized shrubs to 12-24 inches high before they bud out in February or March. Do not heavily prune boxwood and needled evergreens this way.

Prune spring flowering plants (azalea, spirea, camellia, forsythia, etc.) anytime after bloom through mid-July.

Crape myrtles flower on new growth and can be pruned any time during late winter or early spring though pruning is not essential for flowering. The type and amount of pruning that should be done each year depends entirely on desired shape and size. Refer to the CAES publication C944 [Crape Myrtle Culture](#) for additional information.

Muscadines should be pruned in February **or early March**. Since muscadine fruit are borne on new shoots arising from last year's growth, you should prune back the canes that grew the previous year, leaving about 3 inches of growth to form spurs. Refer to the CAES publication C949 [Home Garden Muscadines](#)

Plant bare root roses now **through March**. Fertilize roses after the last frost, usually in **late March**.

**Lawn Tips:** **Research does not support the use of a weed and feed product.** Wait until soil temperature at a depth of 4" is consistently 65 °F to fertilize your warm-season southern lawn. (Visit [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net) to determine soil temperature.) Avoid all chemical applications during the stressful spring green-up period of warm season grasses. Wait until the lawn greens up to core aerate or dethatch and wait until late April or May to seed lawns.

Control lawn weeds now through late May, before they get large and the temperature gets too high to apply herbicides safely. Water dry lawns between midnight and 10 AM with 3/4 to 1 inch of water.

Do not lime lawns unless recommended by a soil sample. Too much lime can raise the pH too high and damage lawns. Wait until lawns green up to core aerate, dethatch or fertilize

Prevent summer weeds by applying a pre-emergence weed killer in late February **and again 45 days later**. Do not use during lawn green-up or if you plan to seed your lawn within 45-60 days. Atrazine may be used on all lawns except Bermuda. Pendamethalin, benefin, and oryzalin can be used on all warm season grasses. Refer to the CAES publication B978 [Weed Control in Home Lawns](#) or read the pesticide label for more information.

**Flowers:** Prepare your beds for annual flowers. Do a soil test and till in lime and fertilizer as needed. Refer to CAES publication B954, [Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens | UGA Cooperative Extension](#)