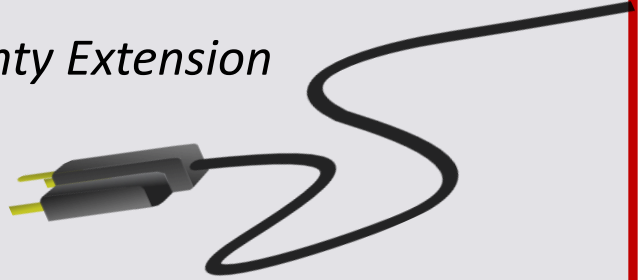


# The Extension Cord

Plugging You into Macon-Bibb County Extension



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**EXTENSION**  
Bibb County



## Camellias

Unlike the vast majority of common landscape plants, camellias bloom during cool weather and provide life and color when most of the landscape is dormant. Camellias, found blooming in garden centers, make beautiful and long-lasting gifts for the season. They are available in a broad assortment of flower forms and colors, from pure white to radiant crimson, many with combinations of colors.

Japanese Camellia (*Camellia japonica*) is a slow-growing woody shrub. In most instances, the mature plant grows from 6 to 12 feet tall with a spread of 6 to 10 feet in the landscape. This winter tree has attractive dark-green leathery foliage providing a pleasing background, even when the shrub is not in bloom.

When shopping for camelia plants, look for full, well-branched, uniformly-shaped plants with vigorous foliage. Inspect the plants and reject any that have wounds or scars at the base – they may cause future problems. Likewise, look for white roots; brown roots can indicate a plant that has been poorly cared for or which may have a soil-borne disease.

Camellias grow best in year-round, semi-shaded areas. A planting site under tall pines or on the north side of a building often provides ideal growing conditions. Camellias are shallow-rooted plants that do not tolerate “wet feet”. If a well-drained location is not available, raise the planting bed 10 to 12 inches above the normal soil level. Now is the best time to plant them (as well as other woody ornamental plants and trees) so their root systems can become established before warm weather.

Plant camellias in holes **at least** two times wider and no deeper than the root ball. When planting two or more, allow a minimum of five feet between



(Continued on p. 4)

### UGA Extension, Macon-Bibb County

145 First Street, Upper Level, Macon, GA 31201

(478) 751-6338 <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/bibb.html>

Find us on Facebook at “Bibb County GA Cooperative Extension”

Macon-Bibb County Cooperative Extension extends lifelong learning to Georgia citizens through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth, and families. Part of the University of Georgia, we are an Equal opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.



# USING AND STORING LEFTOVERS SAFELY



LEARN THE SAFEST WAYS TO STORE YOUR LEFTOVERS AND KEEP THEM FOOD-SAFE. AFTER ALL, THOSE HOLIDAY MEALS ARE OFTEN BETTER THE SECOND TIME, RIGHT?



Food should not be allowed to sit out at room temperature for more than 2 hours.



Divide large quantities of food into shallow containers no more than 2 inches deep.



Do not overload the refrigerator. The cold air must be able to circulate in order to cool foods properly.



If your leftovers do not fit in the refrigerator, store some in the freezer.



Most frozen leftovers will keep well for several months, but refrigerated leftovers should be used within 2 or 3 days.



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## Scarecrow Decorating Contest

A wonderful group of 4-H'ers and students designed scarecrows at home that were displayed at the Museum of Arts & Sciences. Based on overall creativity, family appeal, and use of wildlife-friendly material, "People's Choice" awarded the participants with prizes to celebrate their success and ingenuity.



*First Place Winner of the Scarecrow Decorating Contest:  
Room on the Broom*

*Follow us on Facebook!*  
*Bibb County GA 4-H*

## Veterans Day Events

To honor their valor and service, Bibb County 4-H'ers gave flags and cards to Veterans during the Blossoms & Bacon Veterans Day Celebration in downtown Macon. On Veterans Day, 4-H'ers were able to listen to different speakers and talk with veterans to hear their experiences. They also had the opportunity of meeting Mayor Miller and Senator Raphael Warnock.



*Mayor Miller and Senator Raphael Warnock visit Linwood Cemetery on Veterans Day*



## Macon-Bibb County 4-H NEWS

### November:

- Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Competition in Perry on Nov 4th.
- 4-H'ers handed out cards and flags during the Veterans Day Parade and Linwood Cemetery, where they had the honor of meeting Mayor Miller and Senator Warnock
- DPA Workshop on 23rd
- Club Meetings completed

### December:

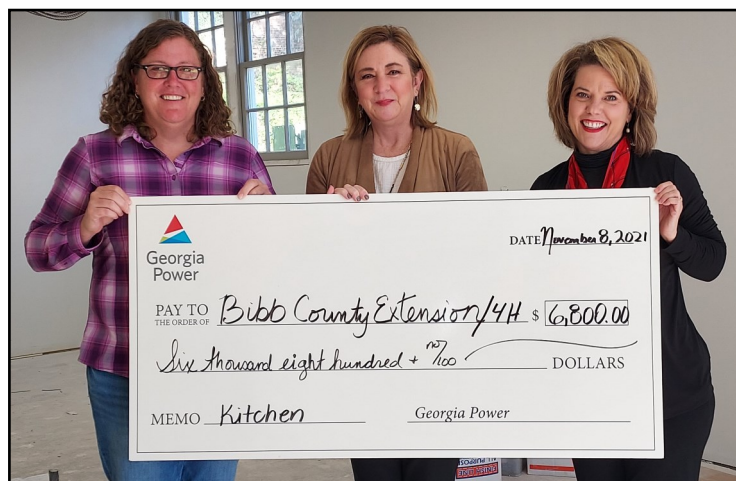
- DPA Workshops
- Community Service -- Ringing the Bell with Salvation Army

### Don't Forget DPA Dates:

- JR/SR -- March 11-13th
- Cloverleaf -- March 26th

## Train Building Progress

Barring any last-minute changes, Bibb Extension is planning to move to our new home in the restored Robert Train Building in early January. In addition to offices, the building will provide meeting space for classes and events. One of the features will be a teaching kitchen. Bibb Extension is grateful to Georgia Power for a grant to furnish the appliances for it.



## Notecard Sale to Benefit Landscape Restoration



As Bibb County Extension has prepared to move to our new home, the restored historic Robert Train Building at 715 Oglethorpe Street, thought has been given as to how best to utilize the landscape of the property, not only for beautification, but also as a demonstration garden area. Recently two University of Georgia student landscape majors did interviews with staff, Master Gardeners, and neighborhood residents and offered suggestions for landscape restoration.

Full landscape restoration and improvement is a long-term goal as funds become available. Several Bibb Master Gardeners had the idea to design and sell blank notecards to support this project.

The cards feature illustrations by Mary Vaux Walcott, American artist and naturalist, used by permission. Each card highlights a beautiful botanical image with an educational narrative on the back. They are packaged in boxed sets with two cards in each design — Flowering Dogwood, American Wisteria, Flame Azalea, , and Passion Flower.

A box of these notecards would make a lovely holiday gift for a friend or as a thoughtful gift to take to the host of a holiday party. They are available from the Extension office for a suggested donation of \$12 per box.



*Continued from p. 1)*

plants and prepare a bed instead of individual holes. If organic matter is added, incorporate it uniformly into the soil so that the entire rooting area becomes a homogenous growing environment for the roots. Do not add fertilizer at planting.

For a balled-and-burlapped plant, remove any materials that bind the roots. Place the plant in the hole so that the root ball is level with or slightly above the soil surface. Backfill around the root ball; use your hand to firm the soil around the roots; and then water to eliminate air pockets. Cover with a 3-inch layer of organic mulch, pushed away from the main trunk of the plant, to maintain uniform soil moisture. Adequate moisture is a necessity until the roots become well established in the soil.

For more information about growing camellias, visit: [http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/thomas/anr/documents/Camellias\\_B813.pdf](http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/thomas/anr/documents/Camellias_B813.pdf)

*This white chili recipe is the perfect way to warm up a cold, rainy winter day. It uses chicken, which is Georgia's largest agricultural commodity, with a \$4.4 billion dollar*

## WHITE CHILI



### Ingredients

- 4 cups white beans (cooked)
- 1 tbsp oil
- 2 red peppers, chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 green chili, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp oregano
- 2 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups skim or low-fat milk
- 1/4 cup cilantro
- 3/4 pounds cooked chicken, shredded

*Source: Washington State WIC Program, The Bold and Beautiful Book of Bean Recipes; [USDA Mixing Bowl website](#)*

*Notes: If using canned white beans, rinse and drain before using for less sodium. May use any vegetable oil in place of olive oil. May use fresh parsley in place of fresh cilantro. May use a mix of other spices such as cayenne pepper, cumin, or oregano in place of chili powder. May use Italian mixed herbs/seasonings, basil, or thyme in place of oregano.*

Happy Holidays  
from  
Macon-Bibb Cooperative Extension