

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XXIV, Issue 1 December 16/January 17

WHAT'S HAPPENING

DECEMBER

Dec 1- Demo Garden Workday
10-2

Dec 3 - Crafting a Holiday
Wreath, 10am, Senior
Center

Dec 15 - Demo Garden Workday

Dec 17—Holiday Party, 6pm
@Woodmont Clubhouse

Dec 31 - 2016 Hours due at
extension

Dec 26– Jan 3 - Extension office
closed for the holidays

JANUARY

Jan 5 - Demo Garden workday

Jan 17 - MG Monthly Meeting,
Installation of new officers

Jan 19 - Demo Garden workday

**MASTER GARDENERS:
REMEMBER TO TURN
IN YOUR HOURS FOR
2016 BEFORE THE
DECEMBER 31ST
DEADLINE**

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



Driving through my neighborhood I learn a lot about my neighbors and their gardening habits. Some neighbors hire others to mow and maintain their yards. They are oblivious to plants growing in their landscapes. I've seen poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) growing in shrubs, small trees that have reseeded by electric boxes, and this year I even spotted kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) that has covered several large Leylands (*Cupressus X leylandii*).

The opposite extreme is the gardener that tries to control Mother Nature. A number of these controllers have pruned their weeping Japanese maples into tidy "meatballs" to match their tidy "meatball" shrubs. I love the weeping branches of my 19-year-old Japanese maple. Her unique shape makes her the shining star in my front yard. One neighbor has gone as far as pruning his native dogwood trees (*Cornus florida*) into "meatballs." They are almost unrecognizable. The most abused pruning in Cherokee County landscapes is done to crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*). The number one rule is that they should not be pruned until late February or early March. Pruning encourages growth, which is not a good thing in the winter. A hard freeze on tender new growth will cause dieback. This happened a couple of years ago. Last year several neighbors pruned the branches back too far, cutting into the trunks. The trunks died and now they have 5-foot-tall dead stubs and sprouts from the ground. This year one neighbor pruned his crape myrtles in October. I hope he has money in his budget to replant them.

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions in many formats. The newsletter has monthly gardening and lawn tips along with useful articles to aid gardening. We attend several farmers markets during the year and will happily answer

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Corner	pg 1	Stinkhorn Mushrooms.....	pg 6
Dec/Jan Calendar	pg 1	Lawn Care	pg 7
Wattle Fence.....	pg 2	December Tips	pg 8
Row Cover.....	pg 3	January Tips.....	pg 9
Roses.....	pg 4	Rainfall	pg 9
Christmas Fern.....	pg 5	Recipes	pg 10

WHAT'S UP WITH A WATTLE FENCE

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Wattle fences may be one of the oldest types of fencing still in use today. Beginning in the Bronze Age, when knives, saws, and hatchets came into use, many early Europeans developed wattle work, bringing this craft to the New World, as can be seen in Colonial Williamsburg and other historic gardens. In fact, during these early times there were craftsmen who made their living by making movable wattle fences called hurdles. But, what is a wattle?

Traditionally, wattle is the art of weaving straight flexible green suckers or sapling wood, called "withies," between upright posts, so that it looks like a beautiful and strong wooden tapestry.

Wattles were originally used to contain domestic livestock or keep predators out. However, these days wattles are being used beyond just fences to create a variety of garden adornments, including arches, towers, trellises, plant supports, wind breaks, and borders.

So, instead of resenting the stump suckers and green whips that keep growing back year after year, try using them to create a sustainable, environmentally friendly wooden structure. Armed with a lopping pruner, it is simple and costs practically nothing to add interest and history to your garden. In fact, wattle fences are a great way to clear out the undergrowth in a woodlot or elsewhere around the property. Unfortunately, it is sad to see how this craft has almost been lost when there are so many benefits.

Traditionally, the fences were built from straight, slender, flexible suckers of willow trees, as this material is pliable and resists splintering when bent. Other possible woods include alder, beech, cherry, dogwood, forsythia, hemlock, lilac, maple, and witch hazel. Choosing a variety of colors and textures from different trees can add interest, or the fence can be created with one type of wood for a more traditional look. Additionally, if the wood is dry, try steaming or soaking it so it is pliable and can easily be woven between the stakes. Conversely, if using willow, note that it will often take root in the ground, creating a living fence. Once completed, you can celebrate and admire this long tradition passed down from 12th century farmers and gardeners.

How to Make a Basic Fence

Locate trees or stumps on your property from which you can prune suckers or twigs that are at least ½ - to ¾-inch diameter and 40 inches in length. The length is important so that the twigs can be woven around several stakes.

Choose thick stakes for the posts, spacing them about 18 inches apart and pounding them into the ground about 12 inches.

Select the thicker twigs first, weaving them alternately under and over the stakes. Slide the weaving down toward the ground so that everything fits firmly together.

Sort out the leftover, thinner branches, weaving them into the gaps of the fence.

Trim off any twigs that stick out.

Tips

To produce a continuous supply of sucker growth, cut a tree back to the base every few years to allow for a new crop.

Strip the withies of leaves and shoots before weaving.

If your fence starts to settle, add new twigs to the top.

References

Miller, Barbara. "How to Build a Wattle Fence." *Alaska Botanical Gardens*. N.p., Apr. 2014. Web. 5 Sept. 2016.

Page, Duncan. "What Is a Wattle Fence?" *The Fence Post*. N.p., 09 Nov. 2009. Web. 5 Sept. 2016.



GARDENING WITH ROW COVERS

By Marcia Winchester, Cherokee County Master Gardener



In the South we are lucky that our first frost comes in mid-October to mid-November. This extends our summer vegetable season. One year when I was living in Chicago, the first frost was September 5. In order to extend my tomato season, I purchased row covers. Row covers aren't used very often in the South but they actually can come in handy. There are two types of row covers. The first is very light-weight spun poly fabric that lets in both rain and 80 percent light. This allows plants to grow under the row cover yet protects the plants from insects like cabbage worms and squash vine borers. It also can keep critters like rabbits from nibbling on our plants. These row covers can come in sizes from 6 feet by 20 feet or even larger. They can easily be cut to fit your planting bed. Manufacturers make big metal staples that you can punch through the fabric to hold it in place, or you can go low tech and use bricks or rocks to hold it in place. I've seen metal hoops that you can place under the row cover to keep the fabric from matting down on plants. This kind of row cover can be used all year round to protect your plants.

The other kind of row cover is designed to protect your plants from frost or cold. There are different thicknesses that can protect your plants from frost from 28 degrees and even 24 degrees. These are also lightweight spun poly fabric, just a bit denser. They too come in different sizes that can easily be cut. The heavier they are, the longer they will last; however, they will also allow less light through, but still plenty for your plants to grow. Several winters ago, when our temperatures got down to 3 and 4 degrees, I was very worried about my container pitcher plant bogs. I took 3-foot-long bamboo poles and placed them around in the containers. Then I put a heavy gauge row cover over the bogs. This kept the fabric from breaking the pitcher plants. Because it was going to be so cold, I put a second row cover over the first to create extra insulation for the plants. I left them on all winter and didn't lose a plant. We have also made a cold frame using straw bales stacked two high and covered with a row cover. It kept our plants warm and toasty during a very cold winter.

That same winter most everyone's winter vegetables died from the cold. A row cover might have helped them survive. So if you like to plant winter veggies you might purchase row covers to protect your crops.

Editorial: Continued from page 1

your gardening questions. At our plant sales we not only sell you plants but give you gardening advice. Our lecture series is another avenue to quiz us. Lastly, on the first and third Thursday of each month, several Master Gardeners are eager to demonstrate proper gardening practices at our Demonstration Garden in Canton. Drop by and get a personal class on pruning, dividing perennials, or even plant identification.

Marcia

ROSES: WINTER PLANTING BARE ROOT ROSES

By Gail Roos, Cherokee County Master Gardener

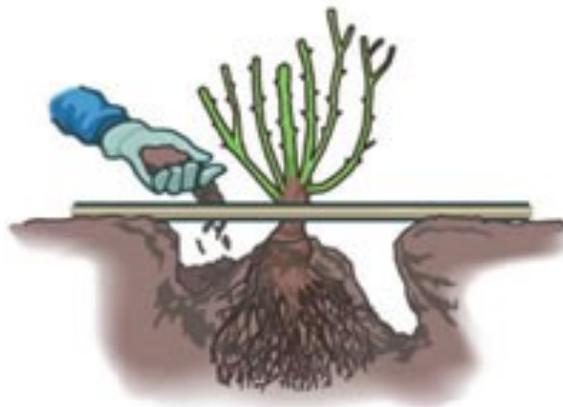


Winter is a good time to purchase and plant rose bushes. They're available as bare root plants or potted in containers. Those in containers can be planted at other times of the year, but for the bare root plant, now is the time. The health and beauty of your mature rose bush depends not only on a proper planting technique and subsequent care but also on the health of the plant that you purchase. Always buy from someone you trust – a local reputable nursery or a rose grower or a well-known mail order source. And always ask – or do your own

research – about how the rose will perform here in the South in our Zone 7. What might be a show-stopper in England or in the Midwest might not work so well here.

“Bare root” is an accurate description; don't panic when you get your plants and they look like a bundle of dead sticks. They are not dead, only dormant. Once you get your roses, you'll want to give them the very best chance of a long healthy life and happy blooming, which will make you happy too. If you have your plants before you're ready to plant them, protect those roots; don't let them dry out. They can be soaked in a bucket of water for 12 hours to keep them from drying out and to put back moisture lost during transportation and storage. I've found there are some specific planting considerations that will get your rose started in the best way. After you have satisfied yourself that you have the best plant, pick a site. Roses require a minimum of six hours of sunlight each day. If some shade during the day can't be avoided, pick a site with the most morning sun. Morning sun will help dry dew from the foliage and reduce leaf diseases.

Now for digging the hole and preparing the soil. Our red clay must be amended! Roses require a well-drained, moderately fertile soil with a neutral pH. A soil test in advance of the season will ensure that you have the right pH, and if not, you'll have an opportunity to prepare the planting site and correct the soil if needed. Dig a hole 12 to 18 inches deep and 24 inches wide, and clean out any rocks and debris. The hole has to be large enough to accommodate the root system without crowding. If you're planting multiple rose bushes, it's a good idea to prepare the soil in an entire bed, and plan spacing of 3 to 4 feet between plants, depending on the expected size of the mature bush. Mix 3 inches of organic matter, such as composted pine bark or manure, thoroughly into the hole or the bed. To set the plant at the correct depth and to make it easy to spread out the roots in the hole, make a cone-like mound of soil in the middle of each space where a plant will go. Trim away any dead and diseased roots. The top of the mound should position the plant so that the bud union – where the root stock is grafted to the upper portion of the rose – is at or above ground level. Place the rose on top of the mound, making sure the bud union is positioned correctly; then spread the roots out and down into the hole. Add soil and shake it down a bit to settle it; then add water. Continue to alternate soil mixture and water but don't pack the soil. Prune to three to five canes and cut each cane back to about 4 to 6 inches, back to an outward facing bud. The last task, especially if there is a chance of frost, is to mulch around your new plant for a week or two. As any threat of frost passes, remove the mulch.



With a good quality plant and proper planting, your rose bushes will reward you with their beauty.

CHRISTMAS FERN

By Nadyne M. Neff, Cherokee County Master Gardener Trainee



If you are anything like me, your introduction to growing and keeping ferns was through a Boston fern. They are easily found in the early spring in huge displays at any big box store, grocery store or nursery. If the Boston fern you had outside this summer bit the dust, you are in good company. Mine got a bit too much sun, and I missed a few watering days with all the heat and the dry spell. So one went in my compost bin, and I'm doing penance by trying to keep another one alive over the winter in my living room.

In my yard, however, there is a tenacious, forgiving fern that hunkers down to wait out the drought where my hose won't reach and tolerates the torrential rains we get here in Georgia. Another bonus is this fern will be green all winter. This often unnoticed, unappreciated and under-planted fern is native to Georgia and is known as the Christmas fern.

The Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) is thought to have gotten its name for being green at Christmas time. In addition to being evergreen (green all year round), another way to distinguish the Christmas fern from other ferns is by the shape of the individual leaflets (pinnae). There is a little hook close to the stalk that points up toward the tip of the frond, which makes it look somewhat like a sock or stocking (think "Christmas stocking" for an easy way to associate and remember).

The Christmas fern is perennial and is one of the most common ferns found growing in the wild. It is native to eastern North America from Nova Scotia, Canada, west to Minnesota, and south to Florida and eastern Texas. It grows in both dry and very moist conditions, but it likes well-drained soil. It is considered a clumping fern, which means it doesn't form a carpet the way some ferns do. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4 through 8. Another bonus is that deer tend to stay away from it when grazing in the woods or at their personal buffet tables commonly known as our backyards and gardens.

The Christmas fern grows quite happily in partial to full shade and in poor soil, surviving drought conditions or rainy weather. Being native to Georgia, it has adapted to our conditions and climate, and it grows well in our acidic soil. This plant is commonly found growing throughout Cherokee County, especially in ravines and woodlands. The developers of my former neighborhood left the trees and gullies undisturbed behind the homes as they built, and as a result, the Christmas ferns were easily found.

This fern is slow to spread by underground rhizomes, so it is not invasive or overpowering. The individual Christmas fern plant is typically between 12 to 28 inches wide and low growing. The leaves (fronds) are described as leathery, dark green in color and about 5 inches wide. It does well on shady hills and slopes, where it helps prevent erosion and provides a bright spot of green in the yard when all the trees have dropped their leaves and other plants have gone dormant or died. Unfortunately, the Christmas fern is a very overlooked and underused plant in our gardens.

The Christmas fern shines as an individual specimen or in a small grouping in front of rocks and with other low-growing, shade-loving annuals or perennials. I have also planted them in mass on a fairly steep slope under a deck where nothing else would grow. They helped control the erosion, and they survived

Continued on page 7

STINKHORN MUSHROOMS

By Hope Sorrells, Cherokee County Master Gardener



While at the demonstration garden recently, we found a very strange mushroom growing on the damp mulched area in the bog garden. It looked from a distance almost like a 5- to 7-inch ceramic mushroom with a shiny white stem and slick looking brown cap. Upon closer inspection this prehistoric looking and very foul smelling mushroom was very much alive. It resembled no mushroom I had ever encountered. Its putrid smell did bring to my aging brain a remembrance of reading about stinkhorn mushrooms. A quick internet search showed our bog mushroom matched a picture of a common stinkhorn.

My curiosity was piqued, and I'm thinking other gardeners might like to know about this interesting family of fungi too. Phallaceae is a family of fungi known as stinkhorn. According to Walter Reeves' website there are four varieties commonly found:

1. Common stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*) has a white shaft and brownish green head. The description and picture match our bog garden find.
2. Elegant stinkhorn (*Mutinus elegans*) has an orange/pink shaft with a dark tapered head.
3. Latticed stinkhorn (*Clathrus ruber*) is described as looking like a red bell pepper turned inside out.
4. Stinky squid mushroom (*Pseudocolus fusiformis*) looks like a squid.

There is one thing they all share: they stink. The odor is described as that of rotting carrion.

The common stinkhorn has a wide natural distribution in North America. It can also be transported by man on wood mulches, bark, soil, or sod. It can be found in gardens, lawns, wood chips, or any cultivated area. It prefers hot and moist conditions. It can be found growing alone or in groups. *Phallus impudicus* has the foul smelling slime covering its head that is laden with spores. Insects such as flies are attracted to the odor and carry the spores far and wide.

Older stinkhorns are sometimes confused with the yellow morel mushroom. After the insects clean up the slime, the head begins to shrivel, giving the appearance of a morel mushroom.

Stinkhorns are not harmful to people, pets, or plants. Stinkhorns are actually beneficial. They break down organic matter in our landscape, such as mulch. This makes nutrients readily available for plants.

That being said, do remember that mushrooms are highly toxic, and even deadly, if consumed. Mushrooms are also very difficult to identify and under no circumstances should anyone eat a mushroom without precise identification.

If you really insist in controlling them, remember that they are seasonal and don't hang around long. You can dispose of decaying organic matter and mulches. Remove the oval egg-shaped structures from which the mushrooms emerge. Seal them in a plastic bag and place in the garbage. Do not compost! There are no chemicals or sprays for control.

These interesting and beneficial fungi are a complex, amazing part of our natural world.

LAWN CARE - DECEMBER AND JANUARY

by: Rachel Prakash, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Cool Season Grasses (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Blue grass, Creeping Red/Chewing Fescue)

- Keep turf at a length of 2-3". Be careful not to mow more than 1/3 of the total length of the grass at one time.
- If it is a new lawn, make sure to water 1" per week if no additional rainfall is received.
- Now is a good time to test the soil pH and amend according to recommendations.
- Control weeds that are present by either pulling manually or treating with a post-emergent.

Warm Season Grasses (Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass, Zoysiagrass, St. Augustinegrass)

- Test the soil in your lawn and add amendments now so the soil pH is optimum come growing season.
- Spot treat with a post-emergent weed killer for dandelions, violets and other broadleaf weeds present in cool weather before they set seed. As an alternative to spraying, these weeds can be pulled with attention to making sure the root is completely removed.

Christmas Ferns - continued from page 5



only on the rainwater they got during the year and despite being mostly covered by leaves in the fall and winter. They got only minimal morning sun and were left largely unattended throughout the year—and they thrived.

As stated earlier, Christmas ferns are easy to grow, forgiving and readily found growing naturally throughout the county. I am not suggesting that you trespass and go digging up ferns on private property to put them in your yard, but if you have a shady or wooded spot, you might be surprised to find them already there and have just not known what they were. You can also find them in many nurseries and catalogues; you just have to do a bit of looking. They are also available to purchase at plant sales held by the Cherokee County Master Gardeners and by the Georgia Native Plant Society.

You can get more information about the Christmas fern and how to care for it on the UGA website by going to <http://extension.uga.edu/>. Click on publications and type Christmas ferns in the search area. You can also go to the Georgia Native Plant Society at www.gnps.org and scroll down to Native Plants and click on Ferns.

2017 Recommitment Forms Due January 17, 2017



DECEMBER TIPS



ORNAMENTALS

- Yews, juniper, holly, boxwood, broad-leaf evergreens and many deciduous trees, roses, and shrubs can be propagated this month. Insert evergreen cuttings in vermiculite or sand in a cool greenhouse or tie bundles of the cuttings together and bury in a cold frame. Remove in early spring and plant in a nursery bed. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=7850
- December is a good month to replace overgrown shrubs - don't fertilize until early spring.
- Fertilize pansies and other winter annuals with a fertilizer containing nitrate nitrogen. The higher the ratio of nitrate nitrogen the better the fertilizer. http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7840
- Finish winter clean-up by pruning deciduous perennials 3-4 inches from the ground. Leaving part of the stem helps mark the location and size of the plant. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=6094
- When it is too cold to work in the yard, work on putting your landscape on paper; mark existing plants, site conditions (wet, dry, sunny, shade) then make a list of what you want to add.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Pick mummied fruit off trees and rake up leaves under fruit trees to remove insects and diseases.
- December is a good month to construct raised vegetable beds. Any length is fine but it's good to build them no wider than 30-40 inches for easy access and to minimize compacting soil. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201027-4_1.PDF
- Apply a thin layer of pinestraw, mulch or cover with a row cover to protect winter veggies from extreme cold. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=7861
- Top dress unused areas of veggie beds with 2-4 inches of composted manure or shredded leaves.
- Fruit trees can be pruned at any time during the winter provided the temperature is above 45°.
- Get asparagus beds ready to plant when weather and soil conditions permit. The planting site should be in areas that will not interfere with cultivation of other crops. Bed preparation should include heavy applications of compost or aged animal manure plus 25 lbs or 6-12-12 per 1000 ft² applied broadcast. Till deeply and smooth soil surface. Set asparagus crowns any time in late December or early January when soil is not frozen.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Keep all indoor plants away from drafts and direct heat sources - inexpensive plastic draft hoods help redirect heat away from plants.
- Keep checking house plants for insect infestation. Isolate and treat infected plants immediately.
- Winterize your lawnmower, tiller and weed-eater. Drain out gas and replace the oil with fresh oil. Remove the oil filter and either clean or replace it. Check all nuts and bolts to be sure they haven't vibrated loose. Mower blades and tiller tines can be sharpened. Inspect wheels, belts and other moving parts.
- To keep your shears and loppers in good shape for next year, clean them with mineral spirits or Lysol bathroom tile cleaner. Adjust the tension screw and give them a good sharpening. Be sure to use a broad file while sharpening. Tools sharpened by a power grinder will over heat and lose their tempering, making the metal likely to chip or break.
- Clean garden hand tools with liquid detergent and bleach, drying thoroughly. Then oil to prevent rust.
- Blades of shovels and hoes can be sharpened with a file. Apply a light coat of household oil. Treat all wood handles with a coat of linseed oil.
- Drain garden hoses and sprinklers checking for leaks. Replace any old washers. Do not store hoses in direct sunlight or freezing temperatures as both will shorten the life of your hose.
- Clean all pressure sprayers and dusters before putting them away for the winter. Make sure they are functioning properly prior to storage.
- Clean and sanitize all stakes and trellises before putting them up for the winter. Use either 1 part liquid bleach to 9 parts H₂O or rubbing alcohol.
- After Christmas, your tree can be moved outside and redecorated for the birds. Anchor the tree in a bucket full of damp sand. Hang strings of popcorn and cranberries and add strings of peanuts (in the shell). Apples, oranges, leftover breads and cakes, even peanut butter cookies, can be hung on the boughs, but don't use food containing chocolate, as it is poisonous to some animals. For best results, push the edible ornaments well into the tree; things that swing may scare birds.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

JANUARY TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Watch camellias for buds that have brown spots, irregular - shaped blooms or blooms that have a nettled appearance. This is petal blight. Remove and destroy any buds showing symptoms. Don't confuse it with cold damage. It's a good practice to remove spent flowers from the ground.
- January is a good month to plant trees. Do not add fertilizer to planting hole - it could burn the roots.
- Fertilize annuals in colder months with a fertilizer high in nitrate nitrogen.
- Keep pansies and violas dead headed.
- If squirrels are digging bulbs, cover them with 1" wire mesh so foliage can grow through then mulch over wire.
- Pull up winter weeds now before they form seeds.
- If a few, consecutive warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer as soon as cold weather returns to prevent freezing by exposure.
- Analyze last year's planting, fertilizing and spraying

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

records. Make notations to reorder successful varieties.

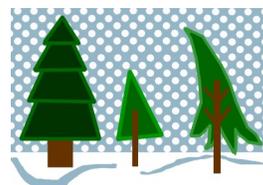
- Plant B & B, bare-root and container-grown fruit.
- Water newly planted fruit trees thoroughly, even if the ground is wet, so the soil around the roots will settle.
- Prune grapes in January or February. If this job is left too late in the season, bleeding from cut ends will occur. Train them onto a one or two wire fence http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7641&pg=np&ct=pruninggrapes&kt=&kid=&pid=
- Don't plant strawberries or figs until February or March http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=6802
- Some mail order seed companies offer pelleted seed of lettuce, carrot, and a few other small-seeded crops. Pelleted seed has a special coating to make them larger. This is especially valuable for children and gardeners with arthritic hands, weak eyesight, or poor coordination. Wide spacing of seed helps eliminate thinning. When using pelleted seed, plant in moist soil and keep it moist because the coating has to dissolve before the seed can germinate.
- Organize your seeds for inside planting. Take each seed packet and count back from the last frost (April 14) taking into consideration the number of days for germination.
- Remove brown raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruit last year; tie up green canes for this year's fruit. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=6371
- Spray dormant oil on fruit trees, per label instructions.
- Prune Apple and Pear trees. Remove dead limbs first, then the pencil-sized, vertical "water sprouts". <http://>

www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=6366

- Sterilize tools, pots, and anything you use around your plants. Use one part household bleach to nine parts water. Soak for about 15 minutes, rinse well and let dry.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Protect liquid insecticides from cold weather to preserve their effectiveness. If any product is stored below the manufacturer's suggested minimum storage temperature, it loses its potency. The most important factor in determining if the product is usable is the complete absence of crystals. If crystals remain after the product returns to room temperature, do not use it. Dispose of it according to the directions on the label.
- Chop unwanted Kudzu, English Ivy, and Bamboo to the ground. Follow with herbicide on the new leaves in April.
- Clean indoor plant leaves with a damp rag. Sandwich the leaf between folds of cloth and wipe gently. Change the cloth for each plant to avoid transferring insects or diseases.
- Make sure houseplants are misted and not touching windows. Cut back on fertilizer except for plants you are trying to force to bloom. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/displayHTML.cfm?pk_id=7639



RAINFALL 2017-PLEASE HELP!

Debbie Meadows is looking for volunteers to track the rainfall in the different parts of Cherokee county. This simply means at the end of each month email to her your total rainfall to the 10th of an inch. Let her know if you can help and which part of the county you live in. debbiemeadows@windstream.net

	RAINFALL COMPARISONS					
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Sept 16	Oct 16	YTD	Sept 16	Oct 16	YTD
Actual	2.7	0	30.6	1.9	0.3	28.3
Normal	4.0	3.8	46.3	3.8	3.1	39.5
Deficit	-1.3	-3.8	-15.7	-3.8	-2.8	-11.2



Recipes



Pat Bowen's Pierogi Casserole (Polish Comfort Food)

- 1 lb pkg potato & onion pierogis
- 1 (3oz) pkg. dehydrated bacon bits
- 2 cups shredded cheese (Cheddar or Pepper Jack)
- 6 chopped scallions
- *** Add any spices you wish

Cook pierogis according to pkg. directions. Place half of them in 8x8 in. casserole dish. Cover pierogis with 1/2 of shredded cheese bacon bits & scallions. Layer the rest of perogies on top & repeat with cheese, bacon & scallions. Cover & bake at 350 degrees for 35—40 mins.



Baked Potato Soup

- 5 large potatoes
- 2/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup flour
- 6 cups milk
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups (6oz) shredded cheese
- 12 slices bacon (cooked and crumbled)
- 4 green onions (chopped)
- 1 small carton sour cream

Bake potatoes. Cut in half; remove pulp. Melt butter in dutch oven over low heat; add flour, stirring until smooth. Cook, stirring constantly 1 min. Gradually add milk; cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thick & bubbly. Stir in potato, cheese, bacon, onion & seasoning. Cook till heated. Stir in sour cream; stir until heated. Serve –sprinkle on extra cheese & bacon bits for garnish.

To receive printed copies of the 2017 newsletters, please send a check for \$10 to:

Diane Walton
326 Lauren Lane
Woodstock, GA 30188

GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!!

UGA Cooperative Extension—Cherokee County
1130 Bluffs Pkwy, Suite G49
Canton, GA 30114
770-721-7803

<http://ugaextension.org/county-offices/ Cherokee.html>
<https://m.facebook.com/ CherokeeMasterGardeners/>



Mission Statement of 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

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension Service offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.
An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.