

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XXIV Issue 2 February/March 2017

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 - Demo Garden Workday

Feb 9 - Plant a Row workday

Feb 11 - Garden Planning and Seed Starting @ Hickory Flat Library. 10am

Feb 16 - Demo Garden Workday

Feb 16 - Hands on class on building a Wattle @ Demo Garden, 10am

Feb 17 - Canton Arbor Day giveaway

Feb 21 - Monthly meeting

Feb 23 - Plant a row workday

Feb 24 - State webcast

MARCH

Mar 2 - Demo Garden Workday

Mar 8 - last day Fruit tree/shrub orders accepted

Mar 9 - Plant a Row workday

Mar 15 - Pickup Fruit tree/shrub order

Mar 16 - Demo Garden Workday

Mar 21 - Monthly Meeting

Mar 23 - Plant a Row workday

Mar 25 - Gardening Summit @ Sr. Center, Canton

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



A few years ago we changed the name of our Butterfly Garden at the demonstration garden to Pollinator Garden. We did this because, while we love our butterflies, we wanted to acknowledge our other wonderful pollinators in the garden.

You might be wondering why pollinators are important. Several years ago we had a late freeze in mid-April. Our blueberries were blooming, and after the freeze I noticed that most of the flowers started shriveling, both at my house and at the demo garden. At first I thought the cold killed the flowers, but what actually happened was the cold kept the bees in their "homes" so the blueberries didn't get pollinated. This event affected the entire state blueberry production. This vividly demonstrates how badly we need pollinators to get food to eat. That makes pollinators pretty important.

This year the Cherokee Extension and the Cherokee County Master Gardeners are going to be talking a lot about pollinators and how you can attract them to your yard. Our plant sales will include pollinator plants, and of course you are welcome to drop by the demo garden's Pollinator Garden at the Senior Center in Canton. We will be available on the first and third Thursdays to show and talk about our plants and pollinators.

In the next issue of this newsletter, I'll talk about planting annuals to attract pollinators, and we'll feature a more in-depth article on pollinators.

Marcia

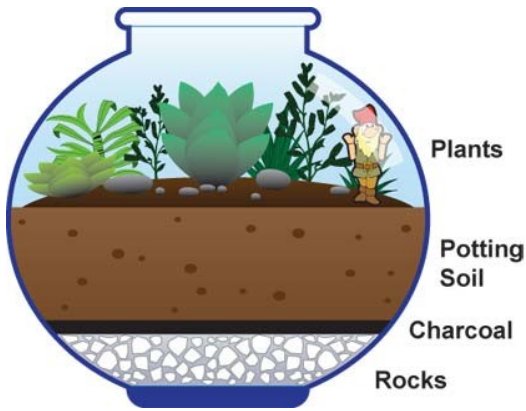
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INDOOR GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

By Joan McFather, Cherokee County Master Gardener

In these dark days of February when you have exhausted seed catalogues, what to do to keep your green thumb flourishing? Plant an indoor garden, of course. Terrariums are all the rage these days and are simply defined as planting small plants in small containers. Well, actually some not-so-small containers I have seen. My personal interest goes back to my childhood, way before the activity caught on.



My having brought home a dime store turtle, my mother went into over-achiever mode, as she was wont to do, and created a veritable landscape as a domain for said turtle: rocks, a small pond, tiny “trees,” a verdant moss lawn.... Trouble was, he learned immediately how to climb out of the low-sided glass box, and we spent inordinant amounts of time searching for him, under the sofa, down the hall...to the point where we named him Livingstone after the explorer famously located in darkest Africa by H.M. Stanley: “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?” But I digress.

Much later my daughter gave me a lidded quart jar already planted with moss and tiny “shrubs.” How hard can this be? Not very, as it turns out. Let’s do it. Ah, but now decisions. First, decide on your concept. I personally favor open-air mini-landscapes, but even minis can get fairly large, so decide where you want to put your finished work. Those of you who are fond of fairy gardens will love this concept. Otherwise, a good way to start is by selecting a container—almost anything will do, just decide if you want it open or sealed.

Got your container? Be sure to wash and rinse it thoroughly to protect your plants. Begin by layering sand and/or pebbles in the bottom—not more than a third high. This is important as it achieves a place for excess water to sink. Now place a thin layer of activated charcoal to keep the water fresh and deter mold and bacteria. (Pet stores with aquariums sell it.) Next comes a thick layer of soil—be generous: this is where your plants will develop their root systems. What plants should you choose? Look for minis in the big box stores—even grocery stores have them now. Ferns, crotons, ivy, creeping fig, dwarf coleus...endless possibilities. A word of caution here, though. Ordinary plants will be fine in ordinary potting soil, but succulents—which may or may not be cacti—will need cactus soil (big box stores) and should not be attempted in a closed terrarium: the humidity will kill them.

With soil in place, gently loosen the roots of the plants you have chosen, poke holes in your soil, and pop the plants in. Tamp the soil around the base of each—sometimes a tricky maneuver: a tool such as a chopstick might help. Be careful to keep the leaves away from glass sides since they can burn on a hot day. With plants in place, you might finish with a top layer of pebbles or moss, and yes, you fairy garden fans can add figurines. Rinse down the insides of glass containers, and find a well-lit location, that is, enough light to read by.

Some thoughts on how to care for your creation. Neglect it! That’s my favorite part. Seriously, under-watering is far better than over-watering. Use a turkey baster to avoid wetting the leaves and disturbing the landscape. No fertilizing—you want your plants to stay small. If need be, pinch off new growth to encourage fullness. If you have a lidded terrarium, watch the glass: if too much condensation builds up, open the lid to decrease the humidity and then close again. If you plant succulents, wait for the soil to dry completely, then water slowly, allowing the soil to absorb. Check the leaves: slight withering indicates water needed. It really doesn’t get any easier than this.



GROWING SPRING GREENS

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

What better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than by growing your own spring greens. Nothing compares to that first bite of tender, fresh salad straight from your garden as a way to help you say goodbye to the winter doldrums and usher in the taste of spring. However, it is not just about growing lettuce. Greens come in all sorts of varieties, textures, and flavors that will inspire any homegrown menu.

Whether you have an expansive back yard, a tiny garden, or even just a sunny balcony, you can grow enough leafy produce to give your family a ready source of nutrient-rich salad greens. Don't delay in getting your garden underway, as many of these greens will not survive when hot weather arrives.



Unlike many vegetables which require warmer temperatures to germinate, most greens are "cold hardy," meaning that you can plant them long before the last frost. In fact, according to the National Garden Bureau, you can plant many greens when the soil temperature, at a depth of two to three inches, is between 32 to 40 degrees F. Regardless of the greens you decide to grow in either raised beds or containers, here are some tips on how to prepare, plant, and harvest your own fresh homegrown greens.

1. Ensure your soil is ready by squeezing a fist-full in your hand. If the soil forms a ball that separates easily or crumbles through your fingers, it's dry enough to begin planting. If not, wait a few more days. If your soil is too wet because of a high clay content, consider improving soil quality by adding some organic matter such as compost and aged manure, which will also provide nitrogen to support your leafy plants.
2. Sows seeds shallowly in rows or broadcast over the top of the bed, so they can germinate easier. Most seeds should germinate in a week, with many varieties ready to harvest in 25 to 45 days. For a continuous harvest, consider consecutive plantings spaced two to three weeks apart.
3. Since most greens are 80-percent water, be sure to keep the soil moist, as dry soil can stress the plants. However, with less evaporation taking place this time of year, be careful not to overwater.
4. You won't need a lot of fertilizer, as greens are not as demanding as flowering plants. However, if you do fertilize, make sure that you are using one that is suitable for edibles.
5. Harvest the leaves of your greens just above the soil line, when they are at least two inches high. Many varieties of greens will sprout again with a second harvest. This is called the "cut-and-come-again" method.

But, what to plant? Here are a few fantastic cool-weather, early harvesting suggestions:

- Mustard greens are a peppery alternative to regular lettuce or spinach for your salad greens. They are cold-hardy and bolt-resistant, so you can start them early and keep them going longer than more heat-sensitive greens like spinach.
- Broccoli raab looks a little like broccoli, but is actually related to turnips. It grows faster than broccoli, so it will be ready in about six weeks. Also, it may not breed true, as it will readily cross pollinate with turnips, mustard, and any other close cousins.
- Swiss chard is actually a beet that doesn't produce a beet. It is a prolific grower that tolerates poor soil, inattention, and withstands frost and mild freezes. It can be harvested in as early as four weeks. Let the rest grow to full size.
- Arugula is a spicy, nutty green that grows quickly. In just 20 days after sowing you can harvest the baby greens; for a full head wait another 10 to 15 days. When the plant produces flowers, prolong production by pinching them off.

Resource

Cowan, S. (2013, March 22). 5 Tips for Growing Early Spring Greens. Retrieved February 27, 2016, from <http://learn.eartheasy.com/2013/03/5-tips-for-growing-early-spring-greens/>

WHAT'S THAT HUMMING IN YOUR GARDEN?

By Sue Allen, Cherokee County Master Gardener



No, I am not speaking of the gas guzzler SUV Hummer, I am speaking of something much more exciting and entertaining, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. They are the tiniest of birds, measuring between 3-3 1/2 inches long, with iridescent feathers. The males have a black throat patch which reflects bright ruby red in the sun and with aerobatic movements. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird starts migrating to our area in early spring, so if your feeder is not out, get it out now. Don't limit yourself to just one feeder, you can put out multiple feeders, but be certain to keep the feeders filled with fresh nectar (*recipe to follow). In placing your feeder stations have them close to plants and away from other bird feeders. Hummingbirds are very territorial.

In conjunction with the hummingbird feeders, you have an array of plants to choose from that your soil is just waiting for you to dig up and plant. In your plantings include a habitat that will give them shelter, food, shade and security. Also, plant in tiers with plenty of room, so they can hover from one plant to another. Hummingbirds' vision is excellent so they can see bright colors from a long distance, such as red, orange and yellow flowers. Not to worry, once they discover your garden they will partake in your other colored flowers. Before starting your plantings, be certain to contact the Cherokee County Extension Office, 770-721-7803, and get your pH tested in your soil. To attract hummingbirds to a newly planted garden hang red ribbons in different locations and they will come or just wear red when working in your garden, but beware you may get hummed.

Plant multiple flowers, shrubs, vines, perennials, bi-annuals and annuals. You want something blooming all season long in order to provide the nectar and insects they depend on to survive. Did you know that they must eat at least half of their body weight each day to replace the 12,000+- calories they burn off? This means they need to eat from sunrise to sunset visiting at least a 1,000 flowers every day. That is why it is so important to provide hummingbird stations when there are not enough flowers to supplement their daily calorie intake.

Bright, tubular flowers hold the most nectar as well as attracting soft-shelled insects, a bonus feast for our tiny feathered friends. Hummingbirds need protein as well as nectar to maintain their energy level. You can select from many perennials, such as, bee balm, salvia, columbine, butterfly bush, coral bell, daylilies, Hibiscus, cardinal flower, Turks cap hibiscus, red-hot poker, verbena and weigela; biennials such as fox-gloves and hollyhocks; many annuals including four o'clock, cleomes, impatiens, lantana and petunias; and vines including honeysuckle, crossvine, scarlet runner-bean, canary creeper and purple passion flower.

If you want to treat your children, grandchildren or yourself mark your calendar for September 9, 2017. Smith Gilbert Gardens will be having their annual Hummingbird Banding on that day from 8:00 - 11:00a.m. It was so exciting to watch our granddaughter, Isabelle, hold a hummingbird that I plan to go back this year with her.

*Hummingbird Nectar: When first attracting use one part sugar by volume to two parts water; switch to a weaker solution once you have attracted the hummingbirds, to a safer mixture, one part sugar to four parts water. Boil water, add sugar, stir, cool, fill your feeders and refrigerate remaining nectar.

COME TO OUR GARDENS!

By Gail Roos, Cherokee County Master Gardener

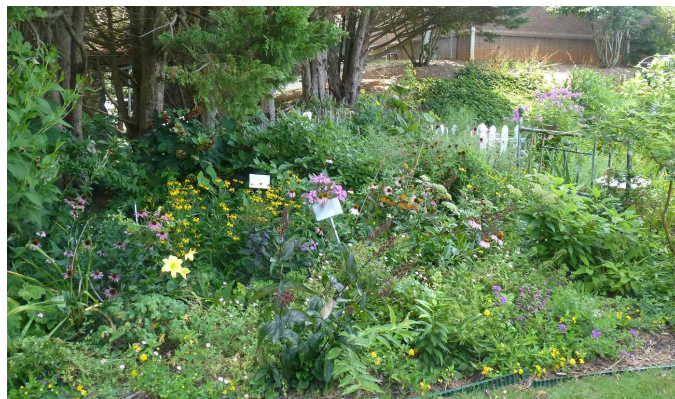
Do you know you're invited to our demonstration gardens? We are open to the public! The gardens surround the Senior Center on Univeter Road in Canton. You'll see urban, heirloom, butterfly and pollinator, herb, fragrance, native bog, propagation, and cutting gardens. We highlight companion plants and the conditions suitable for each of them. You'll even see an espaliered apple tree! We have stone walkways and yard art – including a bottle tree and a full-sized door where we put seasonal wreaths. Lovely gardens that beautify the front of the building include a Georgia Gem garden that placed third in a statewide contest. These gardens are not a secret, and we're so proud of what we do that we want to share it with you.



Cherokee County Master Gardener Volunteers plant and maintain the gardens, which were originally envisioned and started by our dear friend, the late Master Gardener Judie Bicknell. What we do here is hands-on, diggin'-in-the-dirt gardening. We learn about soil, mulch, water requirements, sun/shade, native plants, as well as what plants are host and food sources for butterfly larvae. Whatever you fancy to grow in your own garden, you will probably see in our gardens, and we can tell you how to grow and care for it.

In addition to the teaching aspect, the gardens provide fundraising opportunities so we can continue our work from year to year. We propagate seeds, raise new plants, and harvest bulbs from our own home gardens. Then in the summer, we sell what we grow at our summer plant sales. Our gardens are a place to learn new skills and better gardening techniques. We provide Master Gardener continuing education, intern training, and classes, as well as show-and-tell demonstrations. In addition, the seniors at the center love our presence and the cut flowers we provide for them. The dog walkers from the adjacent animal shelter happily walk the dogs and enjoy the scenery.

No matter the season, there is work to be done in the garden. Gardeners look to the future, planning for the next season. We never know what we may see that's new and interesting when we come to do our volunteer work. One day in the bog garden, we saw a bug being devoured by a Venus flytrap; another day, there was a smelly unlovable stinkhorn mushroom growing. We may see a cocoon hanging under a leaf, and we do not disturb it. By turns of season, the gardens may be bursting with colors in the spring, or they may be tranquil, going into a rejuvenating period preparing for next spring. We work with an eye toward the next season.



If you ask volunteers about our demonstration gardens, we will wax poetic. For us, the peace and tranquility come from being on our knees weeding, planting new plants, harvesting seeds. Come share our joy, we'll say. It is peaceful, beautiful, and ever changing. We consider it a special place. We invite you to walk around, see the seasonal offerings, bring a friend, take a picture, or sit for a while with the beauty of the gardens all around. Or come when we're there on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays to see what we do and ask us how we do whatever interests you. We can identify plants for you and tell you how to grow and care for them. We can show you how to save seeds, plant a new addition to your garden, or identify weeds and bugs. The gardens are a microcosm of much larger spaces. You'll be amazed at the number and type of plants that grow and flourish in a small space.

Again, we want to share this labor of love with you. If you want to know more or want to do what we do, contact the Cherokee County Extension Office for information. We invite you to visit our beautiful gardens.

FOAMFLOWERS

By Nadyne Neff, Cherokee County Master Gardener



With spring hopefully not too far away, we should soon be seeing native foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) bloom in shaded and woodland areas. Blooming starts in early spring with white to pink, foamy flowers found at the top of stalks, giving this plant its common name. Bloom period is four to six weeks. The plant looks similar to coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.).

Foamflowers are perennial and are native to the eastern United States and Canada and are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3 to 8. In the wild they can be found on the banks of streams and in moist conditions but in well-drained soil. They do best in moderate to full shade and in soils high in organic matter with pH ranging from 4.5 to 7. The plant is also evergreen, with the leaves taking on an orange-red color in the winter months.

Foamflowers are relatively low growing, only reaching heights of a foot or so, with a spread of 6 to 12 inches. The plants do self-seed but may also be stoloniferous, meaning they send out runners. That being said, they aren't invasive, and with all the positive things this plant has to offer, who wouldn't want to encourage them to grow?

Foamflowers have few pest and disease problems, with slugs and snails being the most common issue. The leaves are generally left alone by deer and rabbits, another huge plus considering the deer population in Cherokee County.

T. cordifolia has long been underutilized in landscaping, but in the past fifteen or so years, numerous hybrids have been produced by crossbreeding the native eastern species (*T. cordifolia*) with the species found in the western United States (*T. trifoliata*) or with the Asian foamflower (*T. polyphylla*). This has resulted in variations of leaf color and shape and increase in blooms. That being said, trials in Georgia found that the Asian foamflower, which is native to China, Japan, and the Himalayas, doesn't perform as well as the eastern species, and the western foamflower was less tolerant of the heat and humidity of the South. Therefore, it is best to plant the foamflower native to GA found at a local nursery, or one of the hybrids.

Horticulturalists have also crossed coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.) and *Tiarella* spp. to create heucherellas or foamybells.

Consider planting foamflowers with hostas, ferns and coral bells for both the spring flowers and the winter color that the leaves provide.

Additional reading:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1183.html>

or <http://gnps.org>

2017 EXTENSION/MASTER GARDENER

FRUIT PLANT SALE

To benefit 4H camp scholarships, Master Gardener projects,
and educational programs in Cherokee



APPLE, PEAR, ASIAN PEAR,
BLUEBERRY, PERSIMMON,
BLACKBERRY, RASPBERRY,
PLUM, FIG, MUSCADINE &
POMEGRANATE

PRE-ORDER THROUGH MARCH 8TH

PICK-UP MARCH 15 9:00-6:00PM

AMERICAN LEGION FAIRGROUNDS
297 MCCLURE ST. CANTON 30114

Fruit sale order forms can be found here: <http://ugaextension.org/content/dam/extension-county-offices/cherokee-county/2017%20Plant%20Sale%20Order%20Form.pdf>

TURFGRASS TIPS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

By A. Rachel Prakash , Cherokee County Master Gardener

Cool Season Grasses (Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass) and Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda grass, Centipede, St. Augustine):

- Start planning for the coming growing season by getting a soil test done and repurposing shady areas for flower beds as grass will not grow well in shade.
- If you have any leaves on your lawn, they need to be raked up and removed so the grass is not smothered with all the rain North Georgia has been getting this year.
- When the weather begins to warm up, watch for invasive broadleaf weeds and pluck them up before they have a chance to set seed.
- If your lawn struggled with disease over the previous summer, try to identify ways to prevent the problem this year by adding an irrigation system on a timer so the lawn receives regular moisture. If the problem was caused by too much moisture, perhaps a drain under the area could help move water to a less problematic area. By addressing these issues now, you can save much time and money in the months ahead.

FEBRUARY TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Prune hybrid tea roses and knockout roses now, removing old canes and lowering plant to a height of 12-15". To care for rose bushes now, apply a fertilizer heavy in potassium (K). Prune rose canes back to about 6-10". Apply a drop of white glue to the end of fresh cut canes to prevent borers. Apply a dormant spray of lime-sulfur and dormant oil before active growth appears. Clean up rose beds, discard old foliage, pieces of canes, and remove old mulch with weeds. Re-apply a fresh layer of mulch to rose beds. For more rose pruning info: http://pubsadmin.caes.uga.edu/files/pdf/B%20671_2.PDF
- Winter is a good time to prune deciduous trees and shrubs that don't bloom in the spring. It allows you to view the trunk and branches when making your cuts. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20961_4.PDF
- Change plant light bulbs over seedlings, as older bulbs do not give off as much light.
- Continue to fertilize pansies and other winter annuals with fertilizer high in nitrate nitrogen. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201359_2.PDF
- Prune clumps of ornamental grass before new growth appears. Tie large clumps with rope; cut with a hedge trimmer.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Remember that vegetable seeds have a short life and usually will not be good after a year or two. This includes sweet corn, onion, okra, beans, parsnip, and peppers.
- Consider the family vacation when planning your garden. Choose planting dates and varieties so your garden won't be ready for a full harvest while you are away. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20943_4.PDF
- Peaches grow best when maintained with an open center (no central leader). Keep 3 or 4 strong, scaffold branches evenly distributed around the trunk. Limbs that branch out at a 60° angle are preferred. Spreaders can be used to widen narrow crotch angles. http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=7354&pg=np&ct=pruning_peaches&kt=&kid=&pid=
- Prune fruit trees and grapes in late February or early March after the worst of the winter cold is passed but before spring growth begins when

temps maintain at 45°. For disease and insect control, cut out dead wood and dispose of the prunings. Disinfect pruners with one part bleach -9 parts H2O or rubbing alcohol after each cut. Drift from both will damage grass or other plants.

- Before working an area in the garden for early spring planting, check the soil. It should be dry enough to crumble in your hands, so that you don't compact the soil while working it.
- Don't start your vegetable plants indoors too early. Six weeks ahead of the expected planting date is early enough for the fast growing species such as cabbage. Eight weeks allows enough time for the slow growing types such as tomatoes and peppers. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201432_2.PDF
- Handle seed packets with care. Rubbing the outside to determine how many seeds are inside can break the protective seed coats, thereby reducing germination.

MISCELLANEOUS

- To make old hay and manure weed-free, spread on the soil in late winter, water well, and cover with black plastic. Weed seeds will sprout after a few days or warm weather, and then will be killed by frost and lack of daylight.
- Hang or clean out bluebird houses now before the birds start looking for a home. Don't clean them on a windy day.
- Clean and disinfect clay pots by soaking them in a solution of 1 part liquid bleach and 10 parts water. Rinse thoroughly to remove all bleach residue. This will have your containers ready to plant with spring annuals.



RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Nov 16	Dec 16	YTD	Nov 16	Dec 16	YTD
Actual	2.8	3.7	37.1	2.2	4.0	34.5
Normal	4.5	4.7	55.5	3.8	4.0	47.3
Excess	-1.7	-1	-18.4	-1.6	0.0	-12.8

MARCH TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

Be aware that a brown plastic material that looks and feels like natural burlap, but does not break down in the soil, may be used to wrap root balls of B & B plants. Synthetic materials enclosing the roots of trees and shrubs must be completely removed to ensure success of the transplants. Planting techniques for trees can be found at: http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20932_3.PDF

- Propagate deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia and winter jasmine, now by ground layering.
- Give your roses a starter application of complete fertilizer.
- Cut back butterfly bushes to 1/3 desired height.
- Fertilize spring bulbs after they bloom. Do not remove leaves until they turn yellow.
- Prune Crape myrtles only removing the old flower heads. Do not cut back to the same spot each year as it creates a weak joint and the branches can split and fall in the summer with the additional weight of heavy flower heads. Remove sprouts at the base of the tree.
- If you have left a few inches of plant stems on your perennials to ID the plant's location cut them back before the new growth emerges. It is also a good time to cut back the tattered foliage on evergreen ferns and perennials.
- Cut foliage off tattered Liriope.
- Start fertilizing pansies and winter annuals with houseplant fertilizer.
- Divide daylily and hosta clumps when the leaves just start to emerge from the ground so you don't damage the new growth. More Hosta info: http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20944_4.PDF

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Don't rush to remove mulch from strawberries. Leave it over your plants to protect them from late cold spells. When plants start to grow, the mulch must be removed to allow leaves to develop in the light. If leaves develop under the mulch, they will become etiolated (blanched) and yellow from lack of chlorophyll, and may burn and die when exposed to the sun. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20883_4.PDF
- Begin summer vegetable seedlings inside now.
- Spring applications of pesticides should be made on peaches, apples and pears. Correct timing for spraying depends on the stage of development of flowers. Check the label and follow the directions.

- Lettuce is very sensitive to low pH. Lime should be applied to the soil if the pH is below 6.0.
- If your garden is on a hillside, plant across the slope (not up and down) to help hold moisture in the soil and reduce erosion.
- Seed root crops, such as carrots, beets, radishes and parsnips, in your garden.
- Do not add lime to the area for potatoes. The lower pH helps control scab. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201011_3.PDF

MISCELLANEOUS

- One way to avoid the danger of unusually cold nights is to set water-filled plastic jugs around each seedling. Warmed by the sun, these will radiate heat all night, preventing cold damage. Other ways to protect from the winter cold are at http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20872_4.PDF
- Place bird houses outdoors early this month. Birds will begin looking for nesting sites soon and the houses should attract several mating pairs. Ideally, houses erected on smooth metal poles where predators cannot climb are most often selected, but placement on top of fence posts or in trees will usually suffice. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20977_2.PDF



- Put out hummingbird feeders in mid-March.
- Re-pot houseplants that have grown too large for their containers. Cut back leggy plants to encourage compact growth. Root the cuttings in moist media to increase your supply of plants.
- Houseplants can be watered more frequently with the onset of spring and new growth. Start fertilizing houseplants now for good growth. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201318_4.PDF

Recipes

Send recipes to
Maura Watson at
mlw229@gmail.com

“Craisin” Waldorf Salad

(serves 6)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 3/4 cup plain Greek yogurt | 2 medium golden apples |
| 1 T honey | 2 medium red apples |
| Juice of 1/2 lemon | 1 3/4 cup celery (diced) |
| 1 (5oz) pkg dried sweet cranberries (Craisins) | |

Whisk together in salad bowl: yogurt & honey. Cut apples into bite-size pieces; add to dressing. Squeeze lemon juice over apples; stir in celery & cranberries. Chill until ready to serve.

Spinach Frittata

(serves 4)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 lb spinach leaves (cleaned & chopped) | 2 T milk |
| 1 T olive oil | 1/3 cup grated Pamesan cheese |
| 1 medium onion (chopped) | 2 T sun-dried tomatoes (chopped) |
| 1 large clove garlic (minced) | 3 oz Feta or goat cheese |
| 9 large eggs | Salt & pepper to taste |

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cook spinach in 1/4 cup water in covered saucepan until “just wilted.”

Drain water & set aside. In mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, & Parmesan cheese. Add in chopped sun dried tomatoes & seasoning. Set aside.

Saute` onions in olive oil in oven-proof, stick-free skillet, until translucent (about 4-5 mins). Add garlic & cook 1 more minute. Add cooked spinach to onion & garlic mixture. *Allow egg mixture to flow underneath the spinach.* Sprinkle with bits of Feta (or goat cheese). Bake for 13-15 minutes, Frittata should be “puffy & golden.”

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/>

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

Diane Walton
326 Lauren Lane
Woodstock, GA 30188



CHEROKEE COUNTY



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.