

# Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Volume XXIII, Issue 4 June/July 2017

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### JUNE

Jun 7: Workday Papa's Pantry Garden
Jun 8: Plant Swap and covered dish at Debbie Meadows @11am
Jun 10: Seminar—Heavenly Hydrangeas, Hickory Flat Library, 10am
Jun 15: Demo Garden Workday
Jun 17: Lecture on Sun and Shade Plants
Jun 20: Monthly meeting
June 22: Workday Papa's Pantry Garden
Jun 23: Plant Sale Setup, 10am
Jun 24: Plant Sale, 9am, Senior Center

### JULY

Jul 6: Demo Garden Workday
Jul 8: Lecture on Insect and plant Diseases @ Hickory Flat Library, 10am
Jul 12: Workday Papa's Pantry Garden
Jul 13: Tomato taste test, Sr Cntr@10am
Jul 18: Monthly meeting
Jul 20: Demo Garden Workday
Jul 27: Workday Papa's Pantry Garden



Hummingbird getting nectar from *Lonicera sempervirens*, photo by Ellen Honeycutt

## EDITOR'S CORNER

By Marcia Winchester,  
Cherokee County Master Gardener



I think everyone loves hummingbirds. Their tiny high-energy bodies are fascinating to watch. We have published several articles over the years on hummingbirds, concentrating on attracting them with feeders. I'd like to address attracting them with plants.

Do you know hummingbirds are great pollinators? Their long thin beaks are designed to pollinate long tubular flowers. I have in my garden and woods native plants like red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), and coralbells (*Heuchera americana*) that are natural nectar sources for them. I've added native azaleas with *Rhododendron canescens* blooming first in the spring, followed by *R. flammeum*, and even the summer-blooming *R. prunifolium*. Native vines with spring booms that attract hummingbirds include crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) and native honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), and for summer, trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) is great if you have space for it to romp.

Other plant genera that attract hummers are *Penstemon*, *Silene*, *Hibiscus*, *Salvia* and petunias (*Ruellia* spp.). Hostas have long tubular flowers, and by staggering their bloom times you can give your hummers an excellent nectar source. In early fall when the evenings get cooler, our hummingbirds finish fattening up on small insects and nectar from cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Texas blazing star (*Hibiscus coccineus*), and annuals with tubular flowers (check out the April/May editorial for lists). They then start their long migration to Mexico where they'll spend the winter. Adding plants to your woods, garden, and even deck will help supplement their voracious appetites.

Marcia

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## NUTSEGE: THE EDIBLE GARDEN RIVAL

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Yellow Nutsedge, [Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org](#)

For years, I have battled one of the most annoying and invasive plants to have taken residence in my garden. Despite pulling it out by the bucketfuls, it unfortunately sprouts again in days!

This perennial garden enemy, *Cyperus* spp., is often known as nutsedge, nutgrass, chufa sedge, or swamp grass. However, it is not a grass, but instead a sedge that is identified by the triangular shape of the stem. In fact, if you roll the stem between your fingers, you should be able to feel its triangular shape. Additionally, other distinguishing characteristics include leaves that are light green to yellow and waxy to the touch.

The two most common species in this area are yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*) and purple nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*). Yellow nutsedge is more prevalent because of its cold tolerance. It produces a single tuber at the end of rhizomes and grows 12 to 16 inches tall. Purple nutsedge grows tubers in chains along rhizomes and only grows 6 inches tall.

The “nut” is really a tiny tuber growing beneath the soil that can remain dormant in the soil for several years, sprouting new plants when moisture becomes available. In addition to tubers, this plant sends out rhizomes that reproduce at an alarming rate. In fact, the rhizomes form patches that can grow up to 10 feet wide, sprouting its tough grass-like leaves above the ground, thus making it difficult to control.

While this rather invasive plant has caused many a groan from gardeners, it has one redeeming quality...it is edible. In Southern Europe it is cultivated for its palatable tubers, called earth almonds or tiger nuts, and for the preparation of horchata de chufa, a sweet, milk-like beverage. Furthermore, William Woys Weaver even suggests growing your own nutsedge for food in his book, *Heirloom Vegetable Gardening*. Praising the tubers’ similarities to other nuts, he says, “In texture, nutsedge is somewhat mealy like a chestnut, yet with a distinct almond-like flavor. It was used by country people as an almond substitute in cookies and confectionery, and was even pounded with sugar to make a type of faux marzipan once quite popular among the Pennsylvania Germans.” (Spiegele, 2011). (Caution: Do not eat it if you are unsure that it is a nutsedge plant.)

However, to most gardeners it is still considered an exasperating weed. Thus, what are some options for controlling nutsedge in your landscape? Attack the top, never letting the nutsedge mature. A juvenile plant has three leaves, while a mature plant has five. More than five and you have work ahead of you.

The best control is prevention. Keep your lawn healthy.

Address drainage problems by aerating your turfgrass and adding compost, as nutsedge thrives in moist soil. Therefore, hold back water, if possible, by watering only the plants that need it. Mulch your garden with polypropylene weed cloth, as solid black and clear plastic mulches do not suppress nutsedge. Its sharp blades easily penetrate the plastic. Additionally, top the barrier with decorative mulch, so that it will provide another layer of shade.

Look for herbicides that are formulated for nutsedge control. As always, read the label and follow directions. Note that for serious infestations, repeat applications over several years may be required to achieve complete control.

Tilling a nutsedge infestation can cause more problems by spreading the tubers.

Solarizing for six weeks in the summer can reduce nutsedge. By tarping the area with 4-mil thick

*Continued on Page 6*

## SURVIVING MOSQUITO SEASON

By Joshua Fuder, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

Whether it is West Nile Virus, heartworms in pets, or Zika Virus, mosquitoes and the diseases they carry seem to always be in the news. There are a number of ways to make your landscape less of a mosquito magnet, and the sooner you start, the better.

### Personal protection

Your first line of defense when out in the yard is to protect exposed skin. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants that are light colored and loose fitting will work until temperatures get too high. Insect repellents that are EPA approved, like products containing DEET, are quite effective. Select the product containing the highest percentage of active ingredient, and apply it to exposed skin.

### Eliminate breeding sites for larvae

There are 150 different species of mosquitoes in the United States, and all species require water to complete their life cycle. Mosquitoes have four distinct stages in their life cycles: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. A single female can lay hundreds of eggs during her life, which typically lasts for several weeks. All stages except the adult stage are dependent on still water.

To achieve effective mosquito control, it is imperative to eliminate things like old tires, buckets, wheelbarrows, and anything that can collect and hold water. Drain water from things like birdbaths, pet dishes, and flower pots on a weekly basis.

Scout those old trees in the landscape that may have holes or depressions that hold water. You can fill these with sand without harming the tree. Another option is to use the expanding foam insulation for windows and doors. Foam insulation would help to better seal new moisture from entering old decaying wood in your still-living tree.

Clean rain gutters, and ensure that they are draining properly. The corrugated drain extenders are great to get rainwater away from the foundation of homes; however, they will hold small amounts of water between rain events, and this is all that most mosquitoes need to lay eggs. Consider using straight pipe drain extenders instead.

### Treat larval breeding sites

Replacing old water with new water only removes the mosquitoes that have emerged from the egg stage. It does not remove all of the eggs because eggs are often stuck or fixed to the structure itself. To effectively remove eggs, one would have to scrub the inside of the vessel itself then replace with new water.

In lieu of scrubbing, use mosquito fish or other species of fish in small ponds and water gardens to keep larval-stage mosquitoes from entering into adulthood. Apply mosquito larvicide dunks that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* or *Bacillus sphaericus* to small water bodies like birdbaths. These products contain naturally occurring soil bacterium and are safe to non-target species of insects, as well as birds and pets.

Since mosquitoes can complete their life cycle, egg to adult, in as little as 10 days, it is imperative to start preventative measures early in the season. Some adult mosquitoes seldom travel more than 200 yards, so a few control measures by you and your neighbors could make your summer a lot more enjoyable.

### Reduce adult mosquito populations

Keep grass mowed to reduce resting sites for adult mosquitoes. Clearing out brush or overgrown areas near the home will also help eliminate or reduce these adult resting areas.



Image by Dan Suiter, UGA

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## A NATIVE PLANT BONANZA

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Wow!!! Way to go, UGA!

I knew that the University of Georgia had produced several publications on native plants, but I had no idea how comprehensive and useful they were until recently. I was researching a native plant for a friend who knew I was a Master Gardener. Whenever I'm acting as a Master Gardener, I'm careful to first and foremost give advice or information that is sanctioned and approved by the UGA Cooperative Extension.

So I began my research at the UGA website on the general page for UGA publications: <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/>. Then I did a simple search for "native plants."

In my search, I found these four excellent publications, shown below by title and publication number.

Native Plants for Georgia Part I: Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines (B 987)

Native Plants for Georgia Part II: Ferns (B 987-2)

Native Plants for Georgia Part III: Wildflowers (B 987-3)

Native Plants for Georgia Part IV: Grasses and Sedges (B 987-4)

You can be sure the information provided is top notch because the publications are authored by groups of experts, which include UGA Extension horticulturists, Master Gardeners who are authorities on native plants, naturalists, researchers, botanists, and plant enthusiasts.

Each publication is viewable online, or you can download a PDF of each. I'll give you an overview of the kind of information the publications include, but please take a look at them for yourself to understand their scope and functionality.

The publications are similar in format, with the bulk of the content consisting of photos and descriptions of the plants that are featured. For each specific plant, you will find information such as the common and botanical name, its general characteristics, landscape uses, cultural requirements, hardiness zones, and its native range and habitat. Beautiful photographs will help you identify and learn about the plants. In addition, line illustrations are employed to educate the reader on subjects such as plant parts and leaf and flower characteristics. Each publication also includes a glossary to explain terms that are applicable to the type of plant featured. Lists of suggested references will lead you to books on the subject if you want to go further in your studies.

Additional informative text is included, tailored to each publication. For instance, in the publication on ferns, you'll learn about the fascinating life cycle of these ancient plants. In the publication on grasses, you will find information on establishing and maintaining a meadow. The publication on trees, shrubs, and woody vines has a section on establishing native plants in the landscape, which covers design considerations, site evaluation, plant selection, and site preparation and establishment. Both the publication on grasses and the one on wildflowers include a handy "selection guide" of the plants that are featured, which gives you at a glance the basic characteristics and preferred growing conditions.

*Continued on page 7*

## SQUASH VINE BORER: HERE TODAY; GONE TOMORROW

By Mary Schuster, Cherokee County Master Gardener

This writer took on the assignment to write about the squash vine borer (*Melittia cucurbitae*) with nary a clue of what it even was—so much so, I really wasn't sure if it was a plant or an animal! This reality forced me to dig for a lot of research. Now enlightened, I am happy to share my bit of knowledge with all who read this. You will be reassured to know that it didn't take long for me to figure out that my subject was—a bug!

Getting up from lunch with a group this week, we started discussing plans for the upcoming weekend. When asked what was on my agenda, I remarked, "Ugh, I've got to write an article about the squash vine borer. How in the world can I make that interesting?" I was surprised to receive a recited chorus of experiences other folks had about this critter that they started to share. For instance,

"My (squash) plant looked great one day; a wilted mess the next."

"I found these 'bugs' in the stem."

"Had good luck growing them last year. What's up with the disaster I'm encountering this year?"

So, here's the skinny—the what, where, when, how, and why—on our little backyard garden visitor.

**What:** My research uncovered this apt description: "The adult squash vine borer is a stout dark gray moth with 'hairy' red hind legs, opaque front wings, and clear hind wings with dark veins." They fly about the plants during the daytime and look more like a paper wasp than a moth. What is different about these moths is that they fly during the day while nearly all other moths fly at night.

**Where:** These pests are usually found where squash, zucchini, or other host plants were grown the previous season. The pupae overwinter in cocoons in the soil, awaiting warm weather to develop into adults and emerge from the ground.

**When and How:** These pests usually occur in consecutive seasons. When the adult moths emerge from the soil, usually beginning in late June or early July, they lay eggs on stems of susceptible plants during the daytime. After about a week, pale grubs hatch and eat their way into the stems near soil-level, leaving tell-tale evidence of their damage through the sawdust-like frass (or excrement) that you will see on the stems. Once this insect finds its way inside the stem, the obstruction created by the infestation cuts off water to the remaining viable plant, and it wilts fairly fast and dramatically making the affected plant an overnight disaster!

**Why:** Simply put, it's what squash vine borers do. The squash plant is their reason for existence.

Although they have the name (squash vine) officially attached to them, these borers go after squash—of course—winter squash (particularly, 'Hubbard' and with lesser damage to 'Butternut'), and also pumpkins. Additionally, they will take out cucumbers and melons.

### Management Methods:

Try to get the harvest done before the end of June or early July, before the most active season for the borers.



Squash vine borer larva pulled from pumpkin vine.  
[Jim Jasinski, Ohio State University Extension, Bugwood.org](http://Jim.Jasinski.Ohio.State.University.Extension.Bugwood.org)

Continued on page 6

*Squash Vine Borer— continued from page 5*

Try row covers before the first female flowers appear, and then remove the covers to allow for pollination.

Try placing yellow sticky traps and yellow-colored bowls of soapy water that will attract the adult orange moths. They will be attracted to the yellow (just as they are to the yellow squash blossoms) and they will be trapped.

Try growing an alternative squash variety such as the snake gourd or cucuzza.

Try planting more plants than vine borers can tackle in order to have some healthy harvest left over. After all, as one researcher remarked, "You can only eat so much squash."

**Bibliography:**

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/newswire/story.html?storyid=4431>

<http://www.extension.numn.edu/garden/insects/find/squash%2Dvine%2Dborers/>

[http://ipm.illinois.edu/vegetables/insects/squash\\_vine\\_borer/index.html](http://ipm.illinois.edu/vegetables/insects/squash_vine_borer/index.html)

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef314>

*Nutsedge - continued from page 2*

plastic and weighting down the edges, a greenhouse effect can be induced to bake weed seeds, tubers, and rhizomes.

Despite the nutlets breaking off, hand-pulling is still the recommended method of management when a small area is invaded. When you see a nutsedge sprout, begin to attack it immediately by digging deep, digging it out, and removing the little tubers if you find them. Beware that the nutsedge will sprout again in a few days, but don't give up. Dig again...dig again...dig again.....

**References:**

Bertauski, T. (2014, June 27). Getting tough with nutsedge. Retrieved May 06, 2017, from [http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/getting-tough-with-nutsedge/article\\_3869a822-d619-5093-8e03-e03dd5b34422.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/columnists/getting-tough-with-nutsedge/article_3869a822-d619-5093-8e03-e03dd5b34422.html)

Spiegele, L. (2011, February 23). Nutsedge: The Edible Garden Foe. Retrieved May 06, 2017, from <http://www.motherearthnews.com/Organic-Gardening/nutsedge-edible-zb0z11zsie>

Williamson, J. (2015). Nutsedge. Retrieved May 06, 2017, from <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2312.html>

## Master Gardener Summer Plant Sale

June 24, 2016 at the Senior Center, 9am—12pm

Come browse our selection of blooming daylilies, perennials, natives, ground covers, herbs, pollinator plants and garden art.

Master Gardeners will be available to answer garden questions and to give tours of the Demo Gardens

## LAWN CARE - JUNE AND JULY

By Rachel Prakash Cherokee County Master Gardener

- Mowing needs to be done regularly to keep grass at its needed height. Never mow more than one-third of the length of the grass blade.
- If you use post-emergent, put it only on the spots where you see the weeds. Try to hand-pull weeds before they flower to prevent them from setting seed and growing a large population next season.

### Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine)

- Mowing height should be between one and two inches.
- Feed your lawn with a high nitrogen content fertilizer. Only do it every other month during the growing season or it will promote disease.
- If you have thin patches in your lawn or are seeding a new lawn, it is a good time to plant your seed. Mulch lightly after seeding and keep seeds moist for two weeks after they sprout.
- For faster results in establishing a lawn, sod may be used. Also water lightly every other day for the first two weeks after putting down and make sure it does not go more than a week without water during the summer.

### Cool Season Grasses (Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass)

- The most important thing you can do for cool-season grasses during the summer is to not fertilize them or overwater them.
- Mowing height should be between two and three inches.



#### RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Mar 17	Apr 17	YTD	Mar 17	Apr 17	YTD
<b>Actual</b>	5.1	5.3	17.6	2.5	5.1	19
<b>Normal</b>	5.6	4.6	21.2	4.9	3.3	16.8
<b>Deficit</b>	-0.5	0.7	-3.6	-2.4	1.8	2.2

#### Mosquito Season - continued from Page 3

Here are some key points to consider when using pesticides or if you are hiring a professional company to apply chemicals in your landscape:

-Many products advertised as “natural” or “the ingredient found in chrysanthemum flowers” are actually synthetic pesticides called “pyrethroids,” which are toxic to many insects including honeybees and butterflies as well as fish.

-Spray areas as late in the day as possible when the pollinators are no longer active.

-Talk to your neighbors to make sure there are no pets or children in the area. Also find out if there are bee hives, fish ponds, or vegetable gardens in the area that you might not know about. Many of the pesticides used are not intended to be sprayed on edible plants.

#### UGA Publications - continued from page 4

Please take a look at all of these excellent UGA publications, and download them for your own digital library. They will surely come in handy if, as a Master Gardener, you are asked about native plants – or if you just want to further your own knowledge. Way to go, UGA!



## JUNE TIPS

### ORNAMENTALS

- Use pliers to pull up tree seedlings after a rain when soil is moist. Grip the stem at the soil line; twist and pull straight up. Watering deeply the day before pulling weeds will make the job easier.
- Climbing roses don't really climb – they have long canes that require support. You will need to loosely tie the canes to trellises with broad strips of material or foam covered wire. Do not use wire as it can damage the cane. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20671\\_2.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20671_2.PDF)
- Miniature roses can be propagated from stem cuttings. Take cuttings with 4 leaves and insert them into pots filled with moist potting soil. Rooting hormone is optional. Place whole pot in a perforated plastic bag and place in a shady spot. Water as needed. By autumn, cuttings should be rooted.
- Control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- Fertilize your roses at monthly intervals with either granular or liquid fertilizer. Inspect plants frequently for pests such as spider mites, aphids and Japanese beetles.
- Leaf miner larvae tunnel inside leaves, leaving whitish trails as they move about. Holly, boxwood, columbine, and locust are particularly susceptible to damage.
- Disinfection of pruners between cuts is recommended when removing diseased tissue from plants. UGA recommends a one to ten solution of bleach and water, but it can be cumbersome to carry a bucket of this mix about in the garden, and the solution is corrosive and must be rinsed from tools after use. Rubbing alcohol in a spray bottle also works. When spraying tools, spray over a trash can so you don't kill or injure grass or plants.
- Now is the time to prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons before they set next year's flower buds. <http://www.caes.uga.edu/newswire/story.html?storyid=4729>
- Divide and transplant iris now so they will have a long growing season and a better chance of blooming next year. Cut off and discard the older part of the rhizome that does not have white fleshy roots. Cut the leaves back to six inches so they don't blow over. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20918\\_3.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_3.PDF)

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries picked early in the day keep best. Do not wash or stem berries until ready to use. Store berries in covered containers in the refrigerator.

- Set young melons and cantaloupes atop tin cans or flat rocks – they'll ripen faster, be sweeter and have less insect damage than those left on the ground.
- Yellow crook-neck squash tastes best when 4-7 inches long. Pick when pale yellow (rather than golden) and before skin hardens. Scalloped (patty pan) squash is best when grayish or greenish white (before it turns ivory white) and is still small, even silver-dollar size.
- Remove cucumbers by turning fruits parallel to the vine and giving a quick snap. This prevents vine damage and results in a clean break. If you have trouble mastering this, take a sharp knife to the garden for harvesting. Cut or pull cucumbers, leaving a short stem on each. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201034\\_4.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201034_4.PDF)
- Stop cutting asparagus in mid to late June when spears become thin. After the last cutting is made, fertilize by broadcasting a 10-10-10 formula at the rate of 2 lbs per 100 sq. ft. Allow the tops to grow during the summer to store food in the roots for the crop next spring. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201026\\_3.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201026_3.PDF)
- Avoid side dressing tomatoes, eggplants and peppers with fertilizer until they have set their first fruit.
- Corn needs water at two crucial times: when the tassels at the top are beginning to show and when the silk is beginning to show on the ear. If weather is dry at these times, you will need to water the corn. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20905\\_3.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20905_3.PDF)
- If weed plants are mature, weed your garden early in the morning when moisture is present to pre-



### MISCELLANEOUS

- vent the seed heads from shattering and dropping weed seeds in the garden. Hold as much of the seed heads in your hand and do not shake off extra soil as it may scatter weed seeds.
- To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their homes.
- The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early on a sunny day. Herbs are best if watered the day before to wash off the foliage. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201170\\_3.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201170_3.PDF)

## JULY TIPS

### ORNAMENTALS

- If your hosta and azalea stems have a white powder covering them, it is probably the waxy coating of planthopper insects. They don't do much damage, but can spread diseases. Spray with garden insecticide if unsightly.
- Lamb's ear tends to have their lower leaves die after a heavy rain. This forms ugly mats that will rot stems and roots. Pull away the yellow leaves to keep up airflow.
- Fertilize crape myrtles, butterfly bushes, and hydrangeas with 1 Tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201065\\_3.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201065_3.PDF)

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label. Each insecticide has a waiting period after application before you can harvest.
- Although tomatoes are self-pollinating, they need movement to transfer pollen. If it is hot and calm for several days, gently shake plants to assure pollen transfer and fruit set. Hot temperatures can interfere with blossom set.
- Water stress in sweet potatoes can result in cracked roots. A potassium deficiency causes long, slender roots. Too much nitrogen reduces yield and quality. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201014\\_1.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201014_1.PDF)
- Most fertilizer recommendations are for 100 square feet, so keep your garden's square footage a simple fraction of that. For example, a 4 X 12 foot garden is exactly 50 square feet and would require exactly one half the fertilizer required by a garden of 100 square feet.
- Okra pods get tough if allowed to grow too large. Pick regularly.
- Mulch strawberries heavily to protect them from heat and drought.
- The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day; that's when they contain the most sugar, especially if the day was cool and sunny. Other vegetables, like lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them.
- Start a fall crop of brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and kale indoors. Outdoors, sow pumpkin, beans, squash, cucumbers, and

crowder peas. Plant carrots mid-month. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201022\\_2.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201022_2.PDF)

- Pick squash regularly to keep up production. If the vines wilt, check the base of the stem for "sawdust". This means the plant has squash bores in the stem. Remove infected plants (thus removing the bores) and plant new seeds. It is good to change your planting location to hopefully prevent the new plants from being attacked.



Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

- Sunflowers are ready to harvest when the back of the head turns brown.
- Keep an eye out for tomato hornworm. They can do enormous damage overnight. They also attack Nicotiana. When you see damage, check under leaves and stems to find them. Hand pick to dispose of them.
- Don't plant all your beans at once. If you stagger the plantings every two weeks you will have fresh beans longer. Soak bean seeds overnight before planting for faster germination. [http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201006\\_2.PDF](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%201006_2.PDF)
- Use bamboo poles to form a large teepee-like structure. Use twine to create a trellis though all but one section of the teepee. Plant pole beans along the twine. Watch the beans grow into a house that kids love to play in. The section that was not tied with the twine is the entrance to the bean teepee.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- If you keep your houseplants indoors all summer, keep them out of the draft of the air conditioner. Plants react to an air conditioner's cool air in various ways. Some drop their leaves, others don't bloom well and some fail to bloom at all.

# Recipes

Send recipes to Pat Bowen at woodsgal1007@gmail.com

## Baked Zucchini Casserole

- 6 small or 2 large zucchini
- 2 eggs
- Bread crumbs, flavored or plain
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut zucchini into 1/4" slices. Cook in small amount of water until soft, around 20 minutes. Drain well and mash with a potato masher.

Combine all other ingredients, except cheese, in a large bowl until zucchini is well coated. Put into shallow baking dish and sprinkle generously with cheese.

Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. Serve hot or at room temperature.

For added flavor, mix in a ripe chopped tomato, a sliced jalapeno pepper, or 1/2 cup grated Swiss cheese before baking.

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[www.caes.uga.edu/extension/cherokee](http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/cherokee)

Mission Statement of the Georgia Master Gardener



CHEROKEE COUNTY

## Fried Green Tomatoes

This is a great recipe for end of season tomatoes that have to be picked before frost, or anytime you want a change from red, ripe tomatoes.

- 3 tomatoes, green or slightly red but still firm
- Bread crumbs, corn meal or all purpose flour for dredging
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Core tomatoes and cut into 1/2" slices. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium high heat while dredging tomato slices. Add tomatoes to the skillet and sauté until golden brown on each side. Add more oil as needed. Drain slices on paper towels and serve hot or at room temperature. Good as a side dish, on a BLT, or on hoagie rolls with sautéed onions and peppers and your favorite cold cuts.



### Association:

To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others

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