

Gardening with the Masters

For the Cherokee County Master Gardeners Volume XXIV, Issue 5 Aug/Sept 2017

WHAT'S HAPPENING
AUGUST
Aug 3 - Demo Garden workday 9:30-12
Aug 8 - Papa's Pantry workday
Aug 15 - Monthly Meeting
Aug 15 - Demo Garden workday 9:30-12
Aug 24 - Papa's Pantry workday
Aug 26 - Lecture on Fall Vegetable Gardening, Hickory Flat Library @ 10am
SEPTEMBER
Sep 7 - Demo Garden workday 9:30-12
Sep 8 - Fall Plant Sale set up
Sep 9 - Fall Plant Sale, 9-12
Sep 14 - Papa's Pantry workday
Sep 16 - Lecture on Saving Herbs and Seeds, Hickory Flat Library @10am
Sep 19 - Monthly Meeting
Sep 21 - Demo Garden Workday, 9:30-12
Sep 28 - Papa's Pantry workday



Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



Fall is very important to a lot of our pollinators. Is your garden ready for them? Fall is the time when our pollinators get ready for winter. Many have completed their life cycles to the adult stage. A lot of native bees have already returned to their ground nests. Tilling gardens can destroy their dwellings and disrupt their life cycles. Leaving piles of sticks and fallen leaves will give many pollinators a safe place to overwinter.

Fall-blooming plants like goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.) and asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp. and *Eurybia* spp.) provide nectar for a large number of pollinators including butterflies and bees. Some butterflies, such as the monarch, need to bulk up on nectar to successfully migrate to warmer climates where they spend the winter. Hummingbirds have to double their weight to migrate south. Be sure to add nectar plants like ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.), dwarf blazing star (*Liatris pilosa*), Texas hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*), green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), and salvias such as *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue' to your gardens. The flowers of late-blooming herbs like basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*) will be covered in bees. Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) blooms sporadically and attracts bees all year round. Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) not only has a long bloom time but the licorice fragrance of a crushed leaf makes it special for us humans.

Come to our Demo Garden at the Senior Center in Canton and check out our pollinator plants, and ask questions about pollinators at our plant sale on September 9 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Marcia



aster (*Symphyotrichum* sp.)
Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

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Pachysandra procumbens

By Gail Roos, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Pachysandra procumbens—photo by Gail Roos

Pachysandra procumbens, which is native to the southeastern United States, has been a lovely addition to the very shady areas of my yard. Also called mountain spurge, Allegheny pachysandra, or Allegheny spurge, it grows in the woodlands from North Carolina and Kentucky to Florida and Texas. The deer, who roam freely and annoyingly in my yard, don't seem at all interested. That's a big plus!

This article focuses on *Pachysandra procumbens*. *Pachysandra terminalis* or Japanese pachysandra is not native to our country; it is overused and, even worse, it is on the USDA Forest Service *Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States*. *P. procumbens*, while sadly underused, is more attractive and much better behaved.

Pachysandra procumbens is an herbaceous perennial, easy-care ground cover that spreads slowly by long rhizomes and is best grown in well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. Most turf grasses will not grow in shade, but many ground covers will thrive happily. Don't waste time or money trying to grow grass in the shade cast by your trees or your neighbor's trees. Pachysandra is prettier, more adaptable, and far less labor intensive than grass. Combine it with other shade-loving ground covers for interest and color; for example, you could use galax (*Galax urceolata*) and Shuttleworth ginger (*Hexastylis shuttleworthii*) as companion plants for beautiful winter flowerbeds rich with attractive textures. Established plants will tolerate a variety of soils and even drought, but while they're getting established, they do best with acidic, organically rich soil and medium, consistent moisture. When you start the pachysandra as a ground cover, set the new plants 6 to 12 inches apart in shade. Thin out new shoots periodically to discourage leaf blight. Before the plants are well established, you may have to do a bit of weed control, but soon the plants will overcome weed growth by slowly spreading to form colonies in a lush, low-growing mat.

This native ground cover tolerates a variety of soils as long as it is in part to full shade. You'll see that toward fall, the leaves start to lie down and the leaf surface takes on a blue-green mosaic pattern - spotted and mottled - that is subtle but beautiful. The old growth lies flat; eventually you will want to cut it back, but it is very pretty. Cut it back when it starts to look ragged, which might not be until spring. In early spring, in March and April, small, fragrant, white to pink flowers appear on 2- to 4-inch spikes and remain for a week or two. New leaves appear next; they are bright green on 8- to 12-inch stems that stand above last year's faded growth. In USDA Hardiness Zones 5 and 6, the leaves are typically deciduous, but are semi-evergreen to evergreen in Zones 7 to 9.

Because *Pachysandra procumbens* spreads slowly and you want to have more plants, you can propagate by stem or leaf cuttings in early summer. Dip the leaves or cuttings in rooting hormone then place in pots or a tray with seed starting mix. Keep moist. You can also propagate by rhizome division. Pachysandra naturally spreads with rhizomes, so look under the foliage to find a "joint" of the rhizome. If the plants are mature - not newly planted - there should be many joints. Make complete cuts at several places then cut a couple of 2- to 4-inch pieces from the rhizome. Root them the same way you would the stems or leaves. The new plants should have good roots in 6 to 8 weeks; move them to a well-prepared planting area.

Pachysandra procumbens is a useful and adaptable shade-loving ground cover with a lot going for it. You can use it around shrubs, under trees, or along walkways; it can also be used for erosion control on shady banks. It is deer resistant and fairly disease free. Try it in your shady areas for year-round interest in your gardens. It would be hard to find a shade plant with more interesting seasonal appearance.

Home Remedy for Fire Ant Stings

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener



[USDA APHIS PPQ - Imported Fire Ant Station](#), [USDA APHIS PPQ Bugwood.org](#)

In general, I love insects and find them fascinating. However, due to some painful encounters I have had, I have no love whatsoever for the fire ant!

According to the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, there are two species of non-native fire ants, the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) and the black imported fire ant (*Solenopsis richteri*). Both are now found in parts of the Southeast (and they have even hybridized in some areas), but the red fire ant is the most widespread. The stings are quite painful and usually cause redness, swelling, itching, and the formation of a pus-filled, hard bump (pustule) at the injection site. Those who are especially allergic to the sting may experience anaphylactic shock, which is potentially deadly and requires immediate medical attention.

I have a bad reaction to fire ant stings (but fortunately nothing life threatening). Several years ago I was stung on my hand, and my fingers became so swollen I could barely bend them. The itching was intense and enough to keep me from sleeping well at night. It took many days for the effects to finally wear off.

I've learned to keep my distance from fire ant mounds, but this year we have had a real problem with them in our yard, and I received a sting on my hand in late June. I realized it immediately from the sharp pain I felt. I rushed back indoors and put ammonia on it, which is the primary ingredient in some over-the-counter remedies that I have used to ease the itching from mosquito bites.

I was hopeful that the ammonia would also ease the pain and itching I was feeling from the fire ant sting, but after several minutes, I realized this approach was fruitless. I did a quick search on the internet and found several suggestions for using vinegar (acetic acid), noting that the venom of the fire ant is basic (alkaline) in nature, so the acidity of the vinegar would help neutralize the effects.

I quickly poured some white vinegar in a small bowl and soaked my hand for about a half hour to let the vinegar get absorbed into the skin as much as possible. It didn't take long for the pain and itching to subside substantially. I was amazed! My hand never did show any serious effects from the sting – just a tiny bit of swelling and itching – which is pretty miraculous in my mind since I usually have such a problem. And if I had treated the sting earlier, not wasting time with the ammonia, even the small reaction I had could perhaps have been avoided.

Wanting to understand more about this easy vinegar remedy, I did further research. I learned that the venom of most ants is formic acid, and it is usually delivered via a bite rather than a sting. In contrast, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the fire ant's venom (delivered by a sting) contains the piperidine alkaloid Solenopsin A, which is basic in nature. That explains why soaking my hand in the acidic vinegar apparently neutralized the venom.

Out of curiosity, I also did a lot of reading about the chemical components of various insect venoms. I learned that there is quite a complex mixture of ingredients in many of them. Also, there is much variety of venom among different insects; for instance, the venom of a bee is different from that of a wasp. So there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to treatment. If you are especially prone to getting bitten or stung by a particular insect, I'd suggest that you research remedies ahead of time so you'll know what to do immediately once stung – the quicker you can treat it the better. But for me, vinegar will always be my remedy of choice for the nasty fire ant sting.

(Note from the author: Please be aware that this article is not meant to be or to replace medical advice. I am simply sharing my personal experience and what I have learned about the fire ant. Different people may have different reactions to both the sting of the fire ant and to various remedies and treatments. Also remember that the sting of a fire ant or other insect can be deadly to those who have an anaphylactic reaction.)

Colorful Saddlebacks: Look, But Don't Touch!

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener



If asked to name a stinging insect, most people would answer bee, yellow jacket, hornet, or scorpion. However, if you have the misfortune of getting too close to a saddleback caterpillar you will quickly add another critter to that list! It is capable of delivering a painful sting that will rival or surpass that of a bee. Severity of the sting, however, is dependent on how many of the bristles come in contact with your skin and how sensitive you are to the toxin.

The saddleback (*Acharia stimulea*) is one of a group of over 50 stinging caterpillars known as slug caterpillars, as its members are short, stubby, and slow-moving. Native to the eastern United States, it is the larval stage of an unassuming dark brown moth. In the caterpillar stage, its coloration is a vivid warning to stay away, as it sports a "saddle" that is

a purplish-brown, white-ringed circle in the middle of a green patch.

Large horn-like appendages, covered in spines, extend from each end of the caterpillar. Smaller tufts of spines extend along each side of the caterpillar. Known as urticating hairs, these essentially hollow structures have a barb at the end, designed to break off and lodge in the skin of a predator, delivering its irritating venom directly into the skin. In fact, these bristles are even incorporated into the cocoon to protect the pupa as it turns into a moth. (As a side note, plants such as the stinging nettle have urticating hairs too.)

The flashy caterpillars are generalist feeders and can be found on many host plants including roses, various trees, and vegetables, such as corn foliage, from midsummer to early fall. Because they eat a wide variety of plants and are typically loners, they tend not to cause extensive damage. Therefore, most gardeners do not take measures to kill them, especially since they are only around for a short time. Furthermore, they do play a role in nature, as they provide food for birds, lizards, toads, and other wildlife species.

Therefore, the best thing to do is watch out for the vibrant caterpillars, wearing protective clothing while pruning, gardening, and doing other tasks where you might encounter them. Occasionally, they may drop out of trees, crawling onto outdoor furniture or other objects on the ground. Be careful when attempting to brush them off by never swatting or crushing them by hand. Remove them carefully and slowly with a stick or other object. It is also a good idea to teach children to not handle colorful, fuzzy caterpillars. While not every hairy caterpillar is harmful, it is better to err on the side of caution.

Nevertheless, if you have the misfortune of coming in contact with a saddleback, wash the area immediately with soap and water, and apply ice to help relieve pain. If any spines are still embedded in the skin, adhesive tape may be useful in removing them. The burning pain and discomfort can last for several hours. People with allergic reactions or who have a sensitivity to bee stings should contact their physician immediately.

Overall, these hazardous little critters are interesting, beautiful, and quite dynamic to observe. It is entirely possible to enjoy them from afar – just remember not to touch!

Resources

Drinkard, Randy. "Saddleback Caterpillars: Watch Out for that Sting." Center for Urban Agriculture. UGA Extension, 30 Nov. 2015. Web. 25 June 2017. <<https://ugaurbanag.com/saddleback-caterpillars/>>.

Schultz Nelson, Jennifer. "Saddleback Caterpillars." Plant Palette. Illinois Extension, 15 Aug. 2010. Web. 25 June 2017. <<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/palette/100815.html>>.

Rudbeckia maxima

By Hope Sorrells, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Rudbeckia maxima, commonly called giant coneflower, is an herbaceous perennial of the aster family (Asteraceae). These attractive coneflower plants have striking silvery blue foliage the color of cabbage. In summer, tall stalks that are 3 to 6 feet in height, support yellow-rayed flowers about 3 inches in diameter, with dark brown cone-shaped centers. Picture giant black-eyed Susans, another of its common names.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service lists *Rudbeckia maxima* as a native wildflower of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and South Carolina. This tough plant can be found growing in pastures, prairies, and along roadsides. It prefers full sun and moist soil, but it will tolerate some shade and drier conditions once established. Fortunately this plant is not picky about soil type or pH.

So Georgia gardeners, will *Rudbeckia maxima* flourish in Georgia? Certainly! If so, why cultivate it? This is a striking, interesting, and attractive addition to the summer garden. Its cabbage-colored, paddle-shaped leaves make an uncommon contrast in borders, naturalized areas, cottage gardens, or native plant gardens.

Wait, fellow gardeners, there are even more reasons to cultivate *Rudbeckia maxima*. One reason is that the flowers attract butterflies. According to the National Wildlife Conservancy, rudbeckias attract eleven kinds of butterflies. We should all be thinking pollinators. Also once seeds form, finches and other songbirds will visit to dine on them. This is a special treat for bird lovers as well as the birds. An added bonus is that rabbits and deer tend to leave this plant alone.



How do we grow *Rudbeckia maxima*? Plants may be grown from seeds or from division of existing plants in spring or fall. We can collect seeds in the fall after the centers dry. Store them in a cool, dry place. Seeds may be sown directly into the ground in February, or they can be planted inside in flats to transplant to the garden later.

Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

If you want to prevent self sowing, pinch back the flowers after blooming. Of course, unfortunately this will deprive the birds of the seeds. Self sowing is usually not a concern since *Rudbeckia maxima* is not an aggressive grower. It is, however, an easy way to propagate new plants.

Can't resist a beautiful native plant that brings butterflies and birds to your garden? Ready to locate *Rudbeckia maxima*? Check the usual garden centers, especially those specializing in native plants. Look online or in mail-order plant catalogs. I found mine at the Cherokee County Master Gardener plant sale, always a great place to shop.

LAWN TIPS

By Rachel Prakash, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Warm Season Grasses

(Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine)

- Mow to a correct height and never more than 1/3 of the height of the blade length. If needed, start with the blade higher and gradually lower down to prevent stressing the plants and making them more vulnerable to disease.
- Spot treat with a post-emergent weed killer for broadleaf weeds or hand pull before they flower to prevent seed production and a lot more work later.
- Because of all the rain, aeration may be needed this summer to counteract compaction of soil.

Cool Season Grasses

(Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass, 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.
- During hot weather, do not fertilize now. It will put extra stress on the turf and possibly cause dead spots.
- Control weeds that are present by either pulling manually or treating with a post-emergent.

Fall Plant Sale

September 9, 2017
9 am—12 pm



[Herbert A. 'Joe' Pase III, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org](#)

- Pollinator Plants
- Sun and Shade Plants
- Ferns
- Cannas
- Seeds & Bulbs
- Native Bee Houses



[Lesley Ingram, Bugwood.org](#)

Marcia Winchester

At the Demo Garden on Univeter Rd.

Fall Daylily Care

By Marcia Winchester, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Daylilies are very low-maintenance plants, but no plant is “no maintenance.” To keep your daylilies vigorous, divide them every three to five years according to how full they appear and because it is easier to separate the fans when they aren’t grown together so tightly. They will also be healthier because they will not have to work so hard to get their share of nutrients and water. Daylilies put out their best blooms and have more buds with larger blooming scapes after two years in the same location. The best time to divide daylilies is in late September when it is cooler and they still have time to put out new roots before it gets cold.



Photo by Marcia Winchester

To divide daylilies, first cut the foliage back to 5 inches from the crown. Then carefully dig them out, being cautious not to pierce or cut into the crowns and damaging as few roots as possible. Tease apart the fans; if they don’t easily separate, wash the soil off the tubers and then shake or pull them apart. Pull off all the old dead remnants of leaves so water will not run off and to avoid creating a harbor for insects. Turn the fan over and remove any dead or damaged tubers. Replant by spreading the tubers out in shallow holes, planting in groups of three. The closer you plant together, the sooner you will have to divide, so allow at least 3 to 4 inches between plants. Be sure to replant at the same depth, and plant in a location where they will receive at least six hours of direct sun each day. Finally, fertilize and keep the plants watered until they are established.

Bee Kind Cherokee

HELP SHOW THAT CHEROKEE COUNTY IS CREATING
A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY COMMUNITY BY REGIS-
TERING YOUR GARDEN WITH OUR POLLINATOR
SPACES PROGRAM



Bumble bee on basil, photo by Marcia Winchester



Skipper on annual lantana (*Lantana camara*)



Hummingbird on cardinal flower, photo by Ellen Honeycutt

It’s not too late to register your garden as a Cherokee County Pollinator Garden.

To register, email photos and a list of pollinator plants to jfuder@uga.edu

AUGUST TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens (such as azaleas, holly, and hydrangeas) to propagate.
- Powdery mildew diseases attack a great many ornamentals, most often in late summer when the days are warm and nights are cool. Some mildews, particularly those on roses, apples, and cherries, also are increased by high humidity. Prevention by proper cultural techniques is the first defense. Grow resistant varieties; space and prune plants to improve air flow and reduce shading; water early in the day and at the base rather than on leaves; and reduce nitrogen applications to avoid excessive, late-season growth http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201238_6.PDF
- Water shrubs deeply once a week during August. Many plants including camellias and rhododendrons, are forming buds for next season's bloom at this time. Do not prune or you will be removing the flower buds. Immature berries of hollies may drop if the plants are water stressed. During hot, dry August days, avoid deep cultivation in your flower beds. Loosening the soil under these conditions reduces water uptake by increasing loss of soil water and damaging surface roots. Plants often look much worse after cultivation than before.
- Water roses at least 1" of water per week. Remove spent blooms (deadheading) to encourage quicker rebloom. Prune 1/4" above an outward facing five-leaflet eye. Watch for spider mites on the underside of the upper leaves. A blast of water from underneath will discourage them. Continue fertilizing once a month for both August and September.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Strawberries, blueberries, and bramble fruits are forming buds for next year's crop; keep them watered for better production.
- Fertilize strawberries in August. On plants set out this spring, apply 4-6 oz. of ammonium nitrate (33% actual nitrogen) or 12-18 oz. of 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row. Spread the fertilizer uniformly in a band 14" wide over the row when foliage (not the ground) is dry. Brush fertilizer off leaves to avoid leaf burn. For plants in the second year of growth, increase application rate to 6-8 oz. ammonium nitrate or 18-24 oz. of 10-10-10 per 25 feet of row http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20883_4.PDF
- Heavy rains at harvest can dilute the sugars in melons. Watermelons can reconcentrate sugar if left on the vine for a few dry days, but cantaloupes can't.
- Harvest cantaloupes when the melons pull easily from the stem; honeydews when the blossom end is slightly soft or springy; watermelons when there is a hollow sound when thumped and skin loses its shine. Also, run your hand around the middle of the watermelon. When fully ripe, most varieties develop low, longitudinal ridges, rather like flexed calf muscles.
- Start seeds of cool weather vegetables like broccoli,

cabbage, cauliflower, collards and lettuce in order to transplant to the garden in early September http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/AP%20105_2.PDF

- White fly may be a serious problem this month on tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and squash. There are no effective preventive measures, so it's important to control the population before they increase to damaging levels. Hang sticky yellow strips among your plants to trap these pests.
- Plant bush beans now for your fall crop. Watch out for insects, such as Mexican bean beetle.
- If going on vacation this month, be sure to harvest all your vegetables and then arrange for someone to pick fast maturing crops, such as squash and okra; otherwise, they will become overmature and stop producing.
- Spider mites leave webs on the underside of leaves and eggs are laid in these webs. The grayish, stified appearance of leaves infested with spider mites is a result of their feeding on plant juices. Spider mites thrive in hot, dry weather. For mild infestations, hose the foliage to wash off the mites. For severe problems, spray with an approved chemical according to the label. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074_6.PDF



MISCELLANEOUS

- Water your plants several hours before applying pesticides, especially during dry weather. Drought-stressed plants have less water in their plant tissues. The chemicals that enter the leaves will be more concentrated and may burn the leaves.
- The last two weeks of August is the time to spray kudzu with a non-selective weed killer or mow all visible foliage, since it is at its weakest at this time.

SEPTEMBER TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. Plants planted in the fall do not endure the summer heat during establishment and will form sufficient root systems before winter dormancy. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20944_4.PDF
- Many B & B trees and shrubs are now sold wrapped in synthetic burlap that will not rot in the ground, resulting in a root-bound plant that doesn't grow well if the burlap is left in place. Some of this material strongly resembles cotton burlap; if in doubt about the burlap's makeup, cut it away from the root ball once the plant is in place. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20932_3.PDF
- If you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright.



From left to right: *Lycoris radiata*/spider lily, *Hyacinth*, *Narcissus/Daffodil*, *Crocus*, *Muscari armeniacum*/Grape hyacinth

- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1½ -2" below ground level. Deeper planting keeps the plants from blooming. Look for varieties that perform well in the South.
- Divide, cut back and fertilize daylilies now to promote root growth for next year's flowers.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES


- During the fall, be sure to water vegetables adequately; crops such as corn, pepper, squash and tomato won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water. Snap bean, tomato and pepper flowers may fail to develop fruit when daytime temperatures rise above 90°F.
- Harvesting guidelines: Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree in a paper bag. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
- Cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles and European corn borers pass the winter in debris left in the garden. Remove dead plant material and compost it or till it under. This limits your pest population next year to the insects that migrate into the garden.
- To harvest sunflower seeds, wait until the seeds are fully grown and firm, then cut the head, leaving one foot of stem. Hang in a dry, airy spot to finish ripening. Do not store sunflowers on top of each other or they may rot.
- Winter-type pumpkins and squash, such as acorn, butternut,

and spaghetti keep for several months in a cool, medium-dry basement, garage or tool shed. Allow the fruit to ripen fully on the vine, and cure in the sun to form a hard rind. Harvest before frost, and leave a piece of stem on each when they are cut from the vine. If the floor is damp, elevate them to reduce the possibility of rot. The best storage temperature is about 60°F.

- Keep basil, parsley, garlic, mint and sage producing by pinching off the flowers. Herbs can be used fresh, frozen, or dried. When the dew dries, cut a few stems, tie a strong cord around this little bouquet, and hang in a cool, dry place until fully dry. Place in a jar for use during the winter. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%201170_3.PDF
- Don't prune or fertilize fruits now; it may disturb bud formation.
- Do not store apples or pears with vegetables such as potatoes and squash. Fruits give off ethylene gas that speeds up the ripening process of vegetables and may cause them to develop "off" flavors.
- Beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, onions, parsley, radishes, spinach and turnips seeds can be planted all month.
- Near the end of the growing season, pick off all tomato blossoms that won't have time to bear fruit so that plant nutrients go into existing tomatoes.
- Hot peppers will keep best if stored after they are dry. Pull the plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place. Wash your hands after handling them.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Autumn is a good time for improving garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter. Before adding lime, have soil tested to determine if your soil is acidic. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20896_5.PDF
- Do not spray pesticides when it is windy or temperatures are over 85°F; and always follow directions carefully.
- Washing clothes worn while applying pesticides is important. Use heavy-duty detergent & hot water ASAP.
- Some pesticides are sold as dusts. Dusts cannot be applied as precisely as sprays and may drift to non-targeted areas.
- Ready porch and patio plants to bring inside before the first frost; check under the pots for sowbugs and pillbugs.

RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	May 17	June 17	YTD	May 17	June 17	YTD
Actual	8.7	6.8	33.1	5.6	6.1	30.7
Normal	4.2	4.1	29.5	3.2	4.8	24.8
Overage	4.5	2.7	3.6	2.4	1.3	5.9

Recipes

Send recipes to Pat Bowen
woodsgal@hotmail.com

Chicken "Spectacular"

(from Hope Sorrells)

- 2 pounds cooked chicken breast OR a whole rotisserie chicken
- 1 box Uncle Ben's Long Grain and Wild Rice mix
- 1 t curry (optional)
- 1 small can sliced mushrooms
- 2 medium carrots, grated or 1 cup "match stick" carrots
- 2-3 stalks celery, diced
- 1 can French cut green beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 8oz can sliced water chestnuts, drained and rinsed
- 1 can cream soup (celery, mushroom or chicken)
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 small jar pimentos
- 1 small onion diced

In a large pot prepare rice per package directions with water, or use broth from the cooked chicken. When the rice is done, add onion, celery, carrots, mushrooms, curry, and cook 5 more minutes. Blend in chicken and remaining ingredients, reserving pimentos for the top. Pour into 2-½ quart greased baking dish.

Bake uncovered 50 minutes at 350 degrees.

Serves 6-7.

Goes well with a green salad and crusty bread.

Salmon Quiche

(from Shirley Lowe)

- Readymade pie crust, uncooked
- 15 oz can salmon
- 3 beaten eggs
- 1 c sour cream or cottage cheese
- 1/4 c mayo
- 12 c shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 T grated onion
- 1/4 t dried dill
- 6-8 drops Tabasco hot pepper sauce
- Dried bread crumbs

Drain salmon and set aside the drained liquid. Flake the salmon, discarding the bones and skin.

In a bowl, blend eggs, sour cream (or cottage cheese), mayo, and reserved salmon liquid. Stir in salmon, cheese, onion, dill, and hot pepper sauce. Spoon the filling into uncooked pie crust. Sprinkle with dried bread crumbs.

Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until firm in the center, brown on top, and the piecrust is starting to brown on bottom.

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

Diane Walton
326 Lauren Lane
Woodstock, GA 30188

UGA Cooperative Extension—Cherokee County
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Canton, GA 30114
www.ugaextension.com/cherokee



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.
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