

Gardening with the Masters

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AUGUST

Aug 1 - Demo Garden Workday, Sr. Center, 10am, and Aug 15.

Aug 7 - Plant-A-Row Workday, also Aug 14, 21, and 28

Aug 17 - Fall Vegetable Gardening Lecture, 10:30am, Rose Creek Library

Aug 20 - CCMG Monthly Meeting

Aug 24 - Great Georgia Pollinator Census, GGaPC

Sr. Center, Canton and The Ball Ground Botanical Garden, 11am, 12noon, and 1pm

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4 - Plant-A-Row Workday, also Sept 11, 18, and 25

Sept 5 - Demo Garden Workday, Sr. Center, 10am, and Sept 19

Sept 13 - Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale Set-Up

Sept 14 - Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale, Sr. Center, 9am-Noon and **Great Sunflower Project**

Sept 14 - Companion Planting with Bulbs, Lecture, 10:30am, Sr. Center, Canton

Sept 15 - 22 - Cherokee County Fair, Entries Accepted 15 and 16

Sept 17 - CCMG Monthly Meeting



Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener

On the last day of school this May I was driving through the neighborhood. I caught up to a school bus full of junior high students. As the bus approached its first stop, I noticed several kids in swimsuits and lots of people waiting for the bus with big coolers. I became intrigued. It didn't take long to discover what was planned. When the bus stopped, a sudden barrage of water balloons were flung at the bus and at the kids hanging out of the windows. Someone carried a bunch of water balloons onto the bus, and the kids started throwing balloons back. For over 10 minutes balloons flew back and forth through the air. It was really entertaining. Finally the kids got off and more balloons were tossed back and forth before everyone started for home.

At the second stop, as I was watching the same event happening, I got to wondering who was going to clean up all the pieces of balloons. I sadly came to the conclusion that no one was going to clean up. The next time it rained, all of the hundreds of small pieces of rubber would wash down the storm drains into our creeks and then into our rivers and lakes, where fish and other wildlife could ingest them. I wondered how many critters would die.

During my neighbors' Fourth of July celebration of fireworks I was reminded of the balloons. The morning after the fireworks, there were pieces of plastic, wax paper, and cardboard littering the street. As I was picking up the debris in my yard, I again thought of the pieces washing into our streams and harming our wildlife. These parents and adults missed a great teaching moment; they simply could have cleaned up with their children after the fun and potentially saved wildlife.

Marcia

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



A Star of the Summer Garden: Scarlet Rosemallow

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Huge red blooms, attractive foliage, value for wildlife, adaptability in the garden, nice fall foliage color—all of that and more describe scarlet rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*), one of my all-time favorite plants.

Scarlet rosemallow's flower is the typical hibiscus shape; however, it is a bit more interesting in my opinion, for when fully open, the five petals separate out from one another, which



gives it another common name, Texas star. As with other hibiscus species, the blooms only stay open for one day, but they open in quick succession, giving a good, long display.

The blooms are large enough, at 6 to 8 inches in diameter, to make an impact even at quite a distance. Upon closer inspection of the plant, you can appreciate the elegant, deeply cut, palmate leaves; the delicate pink cast on the stems; and the long, dramatic stamens. Adding to the dramatic appeal is the stately height of 5 to 7 feet. An extra bonus is nice fall foliage color, with the leaves turning a lovely shade of yellow.



Hibiscus coccineus, plant leaves and fall foliage.

The bloom time is another benefit, for scarlet rosemallow typically puts on its show during the months of July, August, and September, when many garden plants are flagging in the heat. Scarlet rosemallow is a wonderful companion to other tall, late-summer bloomers. In my garden, the vibrant purple flower heads of giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) contrast dramatically with the red blooms of the hibiscus. Blooming at the same time is the green-head coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) with its lemon-yellow, daisy-shaped blooms. This trio creates a riot of color that lasts for several months.

H. coccineus has an open, airy nature, giving it a somewhat delicate look, despite its size. This openness prevents the foliage from obscuring the blooms and makes the plant easy to incorporate into a mixed border. There it can mingle comfortably with other plants, and the loose, open structure of this hibiscus keeps it from overshadowing or overtaking its companions. It will bloom best with ample sun, so don't let it get shaded too much by nearby plants. If you prefer less airiness and more mass, plant a grouping. Each specimen will not take up much room, so they can be planted fairly close together.

Scarlet rosemallow serves as a wonderful addition to the wildlife habitat garden. Its bright red blooms attract the ruby-throated hummingbird, and the plant is in bloom during the height of the hummingbirds' appearance in my yard. In my garden, even the songbirds make use of it; it is planted in the bed near my bird feeder, and its loosely spaced stems provide numerous perches for the birds as they approach the feeder. The cardinals seem especially fond of the plant, as if they know that the scarlet blooms match their hue and enhance their beauty. I purposefully leave the dried stalks when the plant dies back in winter so the birds continue to have their resting places.

Hibiscus coccineus is a Southeast native and is usually found in damp, sunny areas in its natural habitats, hence another common name, swamp hibiscus. Most references say it is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 6 or 7 through 9.

Given its tolerance for moisture, this plant is perfect for rain gardens, sunny ditches, and areas with drainage problems. However, I've seen it growing fine in gardens that get little supplemental water. It has a fairly deep, thick root, so that may account for its adaptability (though this also makes it difficult to move once it has grown significantly).

Note that *H. coccineus* is slow to emerge from the ground in spring, so don't be alarmed and think you have lost the plant. It's a good idea to leave at least part of the stalk so you won't accidentally harm it when installing other plants early in the growing season.

(Continued on page 6)

Fabulous, Fast-Sprinting Fall Crops to Consider

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

While summer might be viewed as the pinnacle season for most home gardens, autumn's mild temperatures bring additional rewards for cool-weather vegetables. You might think the garden is winding down, but fast-growing leafy greens and root vegetables are great additions to revive the most disheveled, weary-looking, end-of-summer garden beyond the first frost. Just think about it...fewer pests, less watering and weeding, and more pleasant weather conditions.

The secret to having a great fall vegetable garden is timing. This means thinking a little differently because you have to plan backward from your area's average first frost date. Then look at the number of days to harvest to determine if you have time to start seeds or will need to purchase starter plants from a nursery. Remember to add two weeks because many fall vegetables mature slower under the lower light conditions as we near the autumnal equinox. For example, the first frost typically occurs in northern Georgia between October 21 and October 31. Therefore, to grow and harvest riverside spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), it would need to be planted 27 days earlier. As a bonus, once these plants mature, fall weather often allows them to keep their quality longer and bolt more slowly than summer crops.



Photo Courtesy Marcia Winchester.

To begin, prepare the garden by removing any summer vegetation that is no longer producing well or has succumbed to disease or heat. Furthermore, remove any weeds, so they do not compete with the young plants for moisture and nutrients. If you are sowing cool-weather vegetable seeds or setting out transplants in the late summer, just keep in mind that fall is different than spring. The air and ground temperatures are already warm.

Whether to plant seeds or transplants depends on the crop and the time until harvest. Plants that do best directly seeded in the garden include carrots, parsnips, beets, radish, mustard greens, cilantro, and arugula. Many crops like kale, chard, lettuces, arugula, and other greens can be sown heavily for "cut again" greens, providing up to two to three harvests. Cut the greens above the crown of the plant when the leaves reach 4 to 6 inches.

Lastly, seeds and plants need to be consistently watered. Adding mulch also helps water conservation, as does adding a lightweight row cover or shade cloth if the sun's heat is too intense.

It may require a little trial and error and judgment on your part to determine the best time to plant a fall garden in your specific growing region, but it is better to plant too early than to get your crops in the ground too late. Record the dates that you planted, note the results as the fall crops mature, and adjust the timing in future seasons, if necessary.

Here are five quick crops that go from seed to table in 55 days or less. They do best when daytime temperatures start dipping into the 70s and nights are in the 40s and 50s.

- Bok choy (*Brassica rapa*)—A non-heading Asian cabbage that grows close together with leaves and stalks much like celery. Harvest when the leaves reach 12 to 18 inches tall. The leaves can be harvested individually, or the entire plant and bulb can be used. Baby bok choy is ready to harvest in 30 days.
- French breakfast radish (*Raphanus sativus*)—When planting, always have loose and fertile soil with lots of even moisture, and sow a few seeds every few weeks, rather than all at once, to have a longer period with ripening produce. This variety is ready to harvest in 25 days.
- Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*)—Spinach grows most quickly in well-drained soil rich in organic matter. The leaves are ready to harvest as soon as they are big enough to eat, in about 31 days. Harvest by removing only the outer leaves and allowing the center leaves to grow larger; this will allow the plant to keep producing.

(Continued on page 6)



Helianthus annuus, 'Lemon Queen' was the sunflower of choice for the Great Sunflower Project/Backyard Bee Count. Photo courtesy, *Horticulture Magazine*, March 20, 2018.

Pollinator Projects You Can COUNT-ON, For Georgia!

By Jennifer Ruscilli, Cherokee County Master Gardener

If you took "The Pollinator Quiz" by Mary Tucker in the June/July 2019 newsletter, you learned that there are many pollinator visitors that help in pollination. But the queen of the pollination game is the BEE, and we really don't know much about the health of bees or our bee populations. There just isn't enough time, money or people to do an extensive study in one small area, so this is where YOU can help. I love Citizen Scientist Projects that involve public participation, and here are **TWO** that will prove to be fun for all ages.

The first project to participate in is the **Great Georgia Pollinator Census, or GGaPC**. Many Georgia county extension offices are taking part in the Pollinator Census on August 23 or August 24. Coordinated by UGA Extension, this will be the first of its kind in our state. Come join our Master Gardeners of Cherokee County to meet and record numbers and types of pollinators that visit

our gardens during late summer. Don't worry, you don't have to be an entomologist or bug guru to participate. Just come ready to count visitors on one plant for 15 minutes. We will provide the data sheets and help you with plant and visitor identification.

The second project to participate in is the **Great Sunflower Project/Backyard Bee Count**. All sunflowers are beneficial to bees. But in 2008 an e-mail was sent to people in the southeastern U. S. asking for volunteers willing to plant the *Helianthus annuus* 'Lemon Queen' sunflower and then count the number of pollinators visiting them. 'Lemon Queen' has multiple flower heads from one stem, is easy to grow, and the flower itself is hundreds to thousands of tiny flowers. Each day more open providing a long-lived supply of nectar and pollen.

How can you participate in the Great Georgia Pollinator Census?

1. On August 24, 2019, join us at the demo garden at The Senior Center, 1001 Univeter Road, Canton, Georgia, or The Ball Ground Botanical Garden, Ball Ground, Georgia 30107.
2. Both gardens will have three counting times that will start at 11:00am, 12noon and 1:00pm. Show up a little early for parking and instructions.
3. Master Gardeners will be available to assist with every step of the count.

How can you participate in the Great Sunflower Project/Backyard Bee Count?

1. Come to the Demo Garden at The Senior Center, 1001 Univeter Road, Canton, Georgia on September 14, 2019. We will be counting pollinators during our plant sale.
1. Counting times will take place from 9am until noon and will only last for FIVE minutes.
2. Master Gardeners will be available to assist with every step of the count.

As you know from the 'pollinator quiz' there are many different types of pollinators. During these counts the number of visits is more important than the types of pollinators. Only be specific about a type of pollinator if you are certain!

For more information about the **Great Georgia Pollinator Census**, visit <https://ggapc.org/>.

For more information about the **Great Sunflower Project/Backyard Bee Count**, visit <https://www.greatsunflowerproject.org>. Both these sites have additional resources, identification cards, and downloadable information. You can do additional pollinator counts at any time on any plant in another selected site or park you may visit. Plus, you are providing invaluable data for the health of plants and pollinators vital to our state. The Bees and other pollinators are counting on YOU!

For more information about these projects and other Master Gardener events, visit our facebook site, <https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>, and our website, <https://cherokeemastergardenersinc.wildapricot.org/> to follow all our activities.



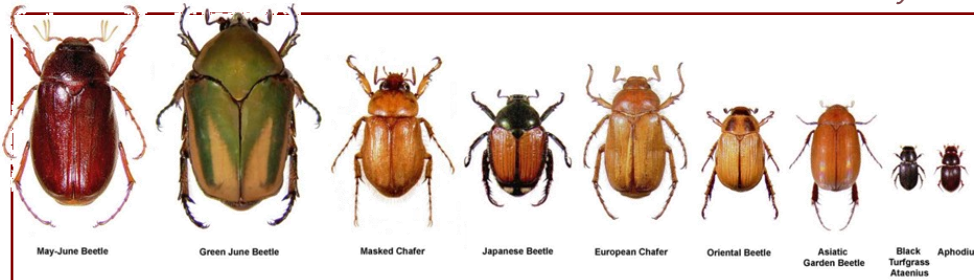
Bees on *Monarda fistulosa*, courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli. Can you spot the sweat bee?



A female long-horned digger bee (*Melissodes trinodes*). Photo courtesy, *Horticulture Magazine*, March 20, 2018.

The Grubs Beneath our Turf

By Ron Fister, Cherokee County Master Gardener



Plots of green turf, small or large, can be useful assets in our landscapes. They serve to blend beautiful shades of green against other colors of nature and gardens, and a lovely green carpet of grass can visually lend a pleasant cooling effect.

Different adult beetles that are found below the surface of turf as grubs. Courtesy of Princeton University (NJ)

Generally, we take growing turf for granted when ambient temperature, sunlight, and

rainfall is just perfect for us as well as the turf. Nevertheless, there are subsurface pests that enjoy turf even more than we do, because turf roots serve as their food source and a nice place to rear their offspring. Soil insects live their lives in a rich environment of carbon, microbes, water, and nutrients to carry out their existence.

The grubs of the insects we are discussing damage turf below the ground, and then the adult beetles emerge in early to mid-summer to cause additional damage to plants above the ground. This may be where we take most notice of them when we see them feeding on roses, blackberries, grapes, and crape myrtles, just to name a few. During that time, those beetles begin to live out their life cycle by mating and laying eggs for the next season's offspring. Turf is an ideal home for their reproductive cycle. Rainfall, hot weather, and dry conditions do not slow the process. Grubs are designed to lay eggs in our turf, and we will see the effects later in the year. Therefore, do not take them for granted if you value the quality of your turf.



Courtesy of Nutri-Lawn Raleigh, NC

In late May throughout June, the soil-inhabiting insects (many species of beetles, mainly belonging to one family) begin their metamorphosis from grub (larvae, third instar) to adult beetles as they emerge from the thatch layer of turf.

Regardless of the specific beetle, the grub larvae stages are similar in appearance, ranging from 1/2 to 3/4 inch long. They are



Grub stage that does damage to turf roots. Courtesy UGA.

white to grayish in color, with brown heads and six distinct legs. If you have been lucky to see them, they are characterized by the C-shape position they are in as they feed on the roots of turf. You can see them in landscape environments as you begin to get active in gardening in spring. Severe infestation of grubs feeding on turf roots can produce stressed turf that causes sod to turn brown and die. Let's not confuse dying turf from grub damage with winter diseases in the turf.

(Continued on page 7)



RAINFALL COMPARISONS

	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Mar 19	Apr 19	YTD	Mar 19	Apr 19	YTD
Actual	2.2	4.4	32.4	2.2	6.1	23.1
Normal	4.3	4.2	29.4	3.6	4.0	24.3
Excess	-2.1	0.2	3.0	-1.4	2.1	-1.2

Grass Type	Mowing Height(in)
Bermuda grass	1 - 1.5 to 2.0
Centipede grass	1 - 2
St. Augustine grass	2 - 3
Zoysia grass	1 - 2
Tall Fescue grass	2.5 or more
Kentucky Bluegrass	2.5 or more

Scarlet Rosemallow.... (Continued from page 2)

Seed Pods of
Scarlet rosemallow



I have found *H. coccineus* to be relatively problem-free. Occasionally, I may have to stake a stalk or two, especially if we have heavy rain or wind. A true bonus is that I rarely have any insect problems. Unlike many other plants in the mallow family, the Japanese beetle rarely attacks it, though I don't know why this is the case.

The large, spherical seedpods of scarlet rosemallow split open a bit as they dry, revealing round velvety seeds that are similar in shape to an okra seed but smaller. In fact, the plant is related to okra, both being in the Malvaceae (or mallow) family. I have found *H. coccineus* to be very easy to start from seed, and in my experience, no special treatment (such as soaking, cold stratification, or scarification) is needed. However, some sources say it is beneficial to scarify the seeds by rubbing them with a file or sandpaper to improve germination rates. In addition, some growers recommend soaking them in warm water for a few hours after scarification.

If you want to see *H. coccineus* in person, just visit the Cherokee County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the Senior Center in Canton; it's planted in both the bog garden and the pollinator garden. And if you want to grow it yourself, you can usually find seeds or plants for sale at the CCMG plant sales.

Photo credit: All photos courtesy of Mary Tucker

Fabulous, Fast-Sprinting Fall Crops... (Continued from page 3)

- 'Sugar Bon' peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *macrocarpon*)—Peas should be planted in an area that is well drained, rich in organic matter, and in full sun. Ready to harvest in 55 days, pick the peas when the pods are full but before the peas have a chance to harden.
- Tatsoi (*Brassica rapa*)—A fast-growing mustard green that is perfect for salads and soups. Harvest when the leaves are 4 inches tall, or wait until they reach full maturity in 40 days.

Other plants to consider in your fall garden include beets (*Beta vulgaris*), carrots (*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativus*), green onions (*Allium fistulosum*), broccoli (*Brassica oleracea*), fava beans (*Vicia faba*), kohlrabi (*Brassica oleracea*), kale (*Brassica oleracea* in the *Acephala* group), lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), and Swiss chard (*Beta vulgaris*).

Summer may be ending, with the days growing shorter and the temperatures dropping, but there is still time left for the home gardener to begin planting a fall garden and harvesting a variety of fresh produce.

The Great Georgia Pollinator Census

<https://GGaPC.org>



Be part of Georgia pollinator history!
A citizen science project, August 24, 2019

Master Gardener Plant Sale, September 14, 2019

@ Canton Senior Center, 9am—12pm

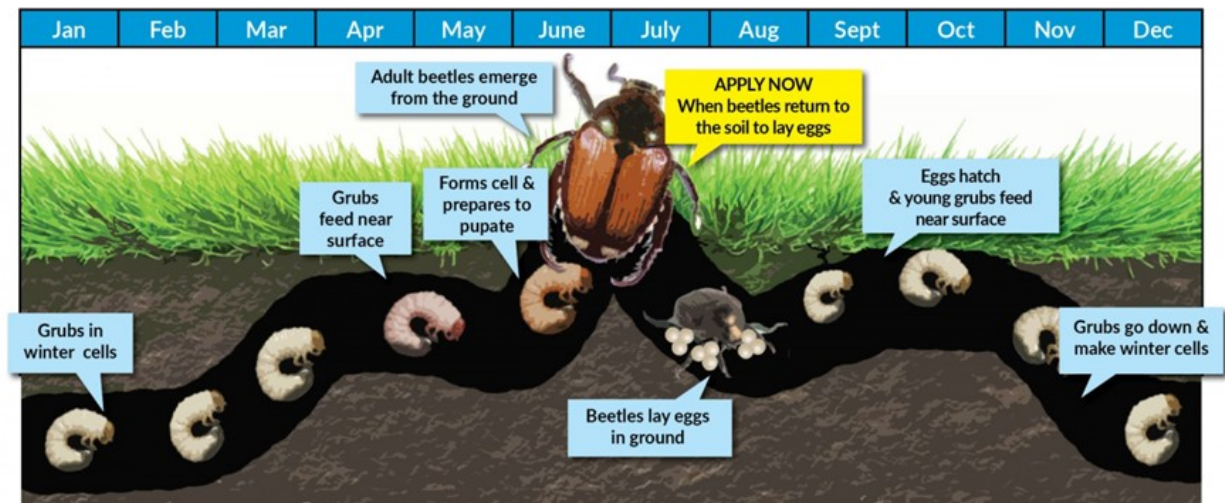
Browse our selection of bulbs, perennials, ground covers, pollinator plants, and garden art. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions,

The Great Sunflower Project
A citizen science project, September 14, 2019,
Canton, Sr. Center, 9am - noon
www.GreatSunflower.org



The Grubs Beneath our Turf.... (Continued from page 5)

Generally, grub damage is not noticed until the late winter and early spring as we walk across our lawn and notice spongy surfaces caused by moles tunneling through the lawn searching for the grubs to feed on. Controlling these subsurface insects in the spring can be costly and have negative effects on the environment. The most ideal time to treat for the beetles (grubs) that harm turf is August and September after egg laying or first instar of the insect.



Total lifecycle of subsurface turf beetles and when it is ideal to treat.
Courtesy of Turf Care Supply Corp (OH)

There are various granular insecticides to use for grub control. University of Georgia recommendations are as follows:

Insect	Active Ingredient	Brand if Applicable	Instructions	Comments
White grubs (such as Japanese beetle larva, European chafer, Southern chafer, billbugs)	carbaryl	Sevin, many other brands.	Read the label	Many formulations available
	dinotefuran	Safari 20SC by Green light	Read the label	
	trichlorfon	Dylox and other brands	Read label for rate with formulation being used	Specific to grubs
	imidacloprid	Merit and other brands	Read label for desired formulation	Long residual
	halofenozide	Mach II, Grub B-Gon and other brands	Read label for desired formulation	

Water lawn before application of any control material; water thoroughly following insecticide application.

Refer to UGA Circular #940 for how to identify specific grubs.

AUGUST Gardening Tips

Photo of Native Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
courtesy UGA Extension.

ORNAMENTALS

- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens (such as azaleas, holly, and hydrangeas) to propagate. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20973_2.PDF
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/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



Stock Photo, Wikimedia.org

- 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 https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201022_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. 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_7.PDF

The best remedy for spider mites on plants is a good, heavy rainfall.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/newswire/story.html?storyid=4459&story=Spider-mites>

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 Gardening Tips

Photo of Miner Bee in action, courtesy UGA Extension.

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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/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. <https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/html/C989/SmallTreePlanting.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.
- 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.



From left to right: *Lycoris radiata*/spider lily, *Hyacinth*, *Narcissus*/daffodil, crocus, *Muscari armeniacum*/grape hyacinth, Photo by Marcia Winchester.

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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20742_3.PDF
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201121_1.PDF
- 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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/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 in the garden 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.



Stock Photo, Wikimedia.org

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. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20816_4.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.

Thanks to Hope Sorrells for passing this tasty dish along.

Special Sesame Chicken Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

16 oz package bow tie pasta
1 cup vegetable oil
2/3 cup white wine vinegar
2/3 cup teriyaki sauce
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/3 cup sugar
3 cans (11 oz size) mandarin oranges, drained
2 cans (8 oz size) sliced water chestnuts, drained
2-4 cups cubed cooked chicken (deli roasted saves time)
1 1/3 cups honey roasted peanuts
6 oz package dried cranberries
6 green onions, chopped
1/2 cup fresh parsley, minced or snipped fine with scissors
1/4 cup sesame seeds, toasted
1 package fresh baby spinach, chopped (optional; I don't use)

Directions:

1. Cook pasta per package directions; drain and place in very large bowl.
2. In small bowl combine well the oil, vinegar, teriyaki sauce, pepper, and sugar.
3. Pour over pasta, toss gently, and refrigerate at least two hours.
4. Just before serving add remaining ingredients; toss gently to coat.

This makes 20+ one-cup servings.

(Seems reasonable to cut this recipe in half for a smaller salad.)

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/chokeee.html/>
<https://m.facebook.com/chokeeeastergardeners/>

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This recipe's from Dawn Perlotto, who found it on the UGA website.

Asparagus Shrimp Salad

Ingredients:

1 lb. medium-sized cooked shrimp
1 bunch asparagus, cut into 1-inch diagonal pieces, discarding bottom fourth
3 TBS vegetable broth
1 fresh tomato, diced into 1/2-inch pieces
3 tsp dried parsley
Small head of romaine lettuce, chopped
Salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste
2 oz crumbled goat cheese (optional)

Dressing:

3 TBS fresh lemon juice
2 TBS extra virgin olive oil
1 TBS Dijon mustard
1 tsp honey
4 cloves garlic, minced
Salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Make sure cooked shrimp is completely thawed and patted dry with a paper towel or it will dilute the flavor of the salad.
2. Slice asparagus spears thinly into 1-inch pieces on the diagonal until you get close to the tip. Cut the asparagus tips off in one piece (they look prettier that way)
3. Add broth to medium skillet and after it has heated up, sauté asparagus for 5 minutes.
4. Whisk together lemon juice, oil, mustard, honey, garlic, salt, and pepper. Toss shrimp, asparagus, parsley, and tomato with dressing and herbs. Allow shrimp salad to marinate for at least 15 minutes.
5. Discard outer leaves of lettuce head; then rinse, dry, and chop remaining lettuce. Serve shrimp mixture on bed of lettuce, and top with crumbled goat cheese, if desired.

Serves 4

Nutrient Analysis, per serving: 254 calories, 16g. carbohydrate, 29g. protein, 10g. fat, 307mg. sodium

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