



Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge
October/November 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners continue to evaluate our monthly events and activities, and continue to follow UGA extension protocols and state guidelines.

Should we reschedule any of our events, you will be notified here in our newsletter, on our website, or on Facebook.

Feel free to visit any of our website and FaceBook links posted below. They will keep you up to date with all our activities, events and changes, and help you to stay informed.

<https://cherokeemastergardenersinc.wildapricot.org/>

<https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/cherokee.html>

or call 770-721-7803

Cherokee County Master Gardeners Virtual Bulb Sale

Ends October 23, 2020

Choices based on availability and time ordered

Check here: [2020BulbsforSale](#)
for bulb prices and bulb information.

Click here to email your order:
ccmgdemogardens@gmail.com

Cherokee County Extension 2020 Fruit Plant Sale

Orders taken through October 23, 2020
All orders are pre-paid and checks made out to **Cherokee County Extension/4-H**

Click here for order form:
t.uga.edu/6iM

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Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener

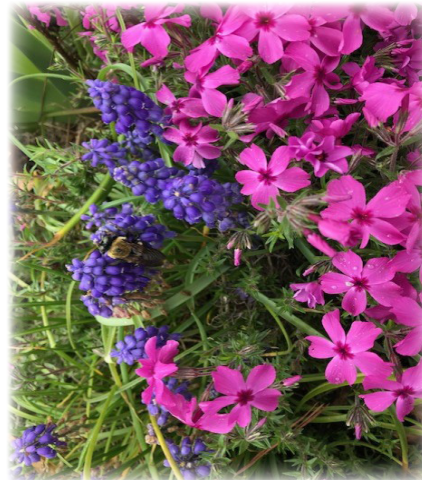


Photo grape hyacinth blooming with thrift, courtesy Marcia Winchester

When I lived in the North, winter was long, dreary and cold. What joy my spring-blooming bulbs would bring! I would walk around the yard looking for the first to bloom. When I moved to Georgia, I kept the tradition of searching for early spring bloomers. I planted a lot of my favorite bulbs with mostly successful results. I found that some bulbs (such as tulips) need a longer cold requirement than Georgia provides. Coupled with the fact that tulips only bloom well one year and deer love them, I've opted instead to buy a couple of bouquets each spring to enjoy.

I love the small flowers of crocus (*Crocus* spp.), grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*) and star flower (*Ipheion uniflorum*). I plant them among spring-blooming ground covers like thrift (*Phlox subulata*) and candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) so I have two different blooms in the same space at the same time. These bulbs are carefree and multiply each year.

The backbone of my spring bulb collection consists of daffodils (*Narcissus* spp.). My daffodils start blooming in January with 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation', bearing a large yellow flower. Next come another yellow called 'February Gold' that blooms in, yes, February. Daffodil blooms can be staggered, blooming until early May. When you purchase the bulbs, check out the bloom times to get continuous blooming in your garden.

I'm amazed by the versatility of daffodils. They can be as petite as 4 inches tall or as large as 20 inches. Colors range from solid yellow or white to combos of yellow, pink, white and orange. There's still more to consider when making your selections. Do you want a large single bloom or a small cupped trumpet or even several stems per bulb? Some bear multiple blooms per stalk. And don't forget that some have double flowers or a split cup, and many are fragrant. If you have trouble deciding, you can always go for a bag of mixed bulbs.



Photo daffodils courtesy Marcia Winchester

I've found that waiting to plant bulbs until after November 1 discourages leaves from emerging early and getting damaged by cold. I fertilize with 10-10-10 both in fall when I plant and in spring after they bloom. Keep seed heads cut off to encourage bulb growth. Daffodils, like most bulbs, need good drainage especially in winter. I also plant mine more shallowly than recommended so they receive enough cold to bloom. After three to five years when you notice fewer blooms, they should be divided. Do this in May after the leaves turn yellow (never remove green leaves from bulbs). Dig, divide and replant either right away or store dry in the garage and replant after November 1. Then it's time to sit back and wait for spring.

Marcia

How Current is Your Gardening Knowledge?

By Carolyn Puckett, Cherokee County Master Gardener

F A C T S

OR MYTHS

Everyone knows that 98.6 degrees is the normal body temperature, right? Actually, there is a range of normal body temperatures that varies from person to person and by time of day, from 97 to 99 degrees. The 98.6 standard, published over 100 years ago, is out of date.

Similarly, a lot of gardening advice that has been passed on for decades has proven to be untrue when tested scientifically. Let's explore some of these gardening "myths."

Myth: If you have clay soil, add sand to improve the texture.

Fact: Adding sand, which is coarse, to fine-particle clay seems to make sense, but it is the wrong thing to do. The pore spaces in a clay soil are all small, while those in a sandy soil are all large. When one mixes the two, the large pore spaces of the sandy soil are filled with the smaller clay particles. The result is a heavier, denser soil with less total pore space than either the sandy or the clay soil alone. To amend the texture of your soil, add compost.

Myth: When transplanting trees or shrubs into native soil, amend the backfill soil with organic matter.

Fact: Do not amend the soil you are replacing in the hole when planting a tree or shrub. Yes, I just told you to add compost to amend your soil, and do add organic matter to the entire bed before you plant annuals or perennials. However, do not add compost to the hole when planting a tree in native soil. Why is that? Organic matter is more porous, and water will wick away to the finer-textured native soil. In the summer, moisture within the planting hole will be depleted by the plant but not replaced by water in the native soil. During wet seasons, water will move quickly through the amended soil only to be held back by the more slowly draining native soil. The resulting bathtub effect, wherein water accumulates in the planting hole, floods the roots and eventually kills the plant.

Myth: When you transplant, try not to disturb the roots; just take the whole pot-shaped lump of soil/roots and pop it into its new home.

Fact: Plants with woody roots often need corrective root pruning before transplanting. Containerized plants are notorious for concealing fatal root flaws. It is best to "bare-root" container plants, removing the container medium, so you can correct root flaws. In a healthy, well-watered plant, root pruning at transplant time will induce vigorous new root growth and assist in establishment.

Myth: Put coarse material such as sand, gravel, pebbles, or potshards, at the bottom of plant containers for drainage.

Fact: Planting containers must have drainage holes for root aeration, and adding "drainage material" to containers only hinders water movement. Use good potting soil and compost throughout the pot for optimal water conditions and soil structure.

Myth: Large quantities of phosphorus promote bloom and stimulate roots.

Fact: Unless a soil is deficient, adding phosphate does not help your plants. Other than intensively farmed agricultural land, most soils naturally have sufficient phosphorus. Adding more phosphorus is not only a waste of your time and money, it can even be bad for your ornamentals. Most plants form a partnership with a soil fungus called mycorrhizae that is really good at taking up phosphorus. Add excess phosphorus to the soil, and that symbiotic partnership never develops, and the plant suffers. In addition, excess phosphorus is bad for our waterways, promoting algae blooms that deprive water life of oxygen. Get a soil test before adding phosphorus.

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The American Beautyberry: A Great Addition to a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary

By Mary Schuster, Cherokee County Master Gardener

While I was getting my yard ready to become certified as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Atlanta Audubon Society, I learned that to attract and maintain a bird population, the habitat should be able to provide food, sheltering/ nesting areas, and a water source. Well, I found out that by having the American beautyberry in the mix of native plants, I had two of the three requirements necessary to become certified—a source of food and shelter.

My beautyberry has become the “flagship” plant in my sanctuary, and, as large as it has become, it requires very little maintenance. I’ll get to that later in this article.



Photo courtesy Susan Strine, NC State Extension website

The American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is a deciduous shrub, meaning it loses its foliage in the fall. The genus name *Callicarpa* means “beautiful fruit,” and the common name of beautyberry refers to its magnificent show of fruit. Its leaves are typically 3½ to 6 inches in length. Depending on the growing conditions, the plant itself can reach up to about 8 feet tall and 8 feet wide.



Photo courtesy Debbie Roos, NC State Extension website

The berries on this bush start out as small, inconspicuous flowers. By the end of summer or early fall beautiful magenta berries form from the flowers. With each berry about 1/4 inch in diameter, the berries merge into clusters about 1½ inches wide. Another form of beautyberry bears white berries. It is often designated as *Callicarpa americana* var. *lactea*. The term “lactea” refers to the milky white color.

This plant will go dormant in the wintertime. When it gets to be late winter/early spring, it can be pruned back to about a foot in height. This sounds drastic, but it will come back in the spring as a much showier plant. Or it can be pruned minimally, and it will still produce

a beautiful show of fruit on the plant come the following summer/fall. I found in my research for this article that some folks don’t prune it back at all. As I mentioned before—low maintenance!



Photo native beautyberry fruit courtesy Forest and Kim Starr, NC Extension website

More than 40 species of birds feed on the berries that they can enjoy well into the winter. Songbirds, in particular, make greater use of the fruit than other wildlife. Some species include Baltimore orioles, catbirds, robins and thrushes to name just a few.

The American beautyberry grows well in fertile loamy soil as well as in the dry, clay soils we have here in Georgia. It does best in sites that range from full sun to partial shade, with the bright sunlight lasting no more than half a day.

My most memorable experience with this gorgeous plant was late last summer. I stepped into my garden area, and with the clank of the garden gate, it spooked what seemed like a jillion birds out of my largish American beautyberry bush. They eventually all flew back and mobbed the local “diner” to finish what they started earlier—devouring berries and chilling out!

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/american-beautyberry/>

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C976>

<https://georgiawildlife.com/out-my-backdoor-beautyberry-blends-show-sustenance-backyard-wildlife>



Fall's Overlooked Migration

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

To most people, butterfly migration is best illustrated by the iconic monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is well known for its annual fall migration from the northern United States to its overwintering grounds in Mexico and returning northwards each spring. But while the monarch gets most of the attention, did you know that there are other butterfly species that also migrate? Though their journeys are less noticed and not as long, they, too, are heading to frost-free areas of their range, since they cannot survive sustained freezing temperatures at any stage of their lifecycle.

Photo common buckeye courtesy UGA Extension

Although most of Georgia's 176 species of butterflies do not migrate, there are some that journey south each winter. They include the common buckeye (*Junonia*

coenia), painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*), cloudless sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*), question mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*), fiery skipper (*Hylephila phyleus*), clouded skipper (*Lerema accius*), long-tailed skipper (*Urbanus proteus*), ocola skipper (*Panoquina ocola*), sachem (*Atalopedes campestris*), mourning cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*), red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*), and the little yellow (*Pyrisitia lisa*).



Photo cloudless sulphur courtesy UGA Extension

Georgia's other butterflies are adapted to overwinter through a variety of strategies, depending on the species. Some will overwinter as a caterpillar, such as the tawny emperor (*Asterocampa clyton*), viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*), and red-spotted purple (*Limenitis arthemis*). They create a hibernacula, or nest, out of leaves and wait until spring to emerge. When the warmer temperatures arrive, they emerge and begin eating and growing again. Others, like the eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Georgia's state butterfly, will spend the winter as a chrysalis and emerge as an adult in the spring.



Photo mourning cloak courtesy UGA Extension

Yet why do butterflies migrate? Like all insects, butterflies are cold-blooded, meaning their body temperature is regulated by the external temperature of the air and surrounding conditions. As winter approaches, many butterflies must move southwards to overwinter in a warmer climate. Additionally, they also migrate for their food sources.

But where they go is a question that is still for the most part unknown to scientists. It is difficult to track butterflies because there must be a method of tagging and relocating the tagged butterflies. The monarch butterfly, being the most studied, has been found to travel to three different locations. The largest eastern population travels mainly to central Mexico to a fir-pine forest. The eastern population that is along the Atlantic Ocean travels south into Florida. After arriving in Florida, it is unknown if they travel further, die, or have an undiscovered overwintering site. The western populations of monarchs, west of

the Rocky Mountains, overwinter in California on pine and eucalyptus trees. There is also a non-migratory population of monarchs that lives in southern Florida and is active throughout the winter months.

Many butterflies that do migrate usually have a one-way trip. They will lay eggs and produce new generations. Come spring, their offspring will head back north, repopulating northern states and even parts of Canada. Monarchs are the exception. The monarch generation that makes the southward journey begins the northward journey the following spring laying eggs. The following generations make it to the locations farther north.

Your garden can be a part of this journey south, as you create a waystation for them to rest and refuel. Be sure to include fall blooming nectar plants to round out the growing season, including goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), asters (such as plants in the genus *Symphotrichum*, *Eurybia*, or *Aster*), swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*), blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), salvia (*Salvia* spp.), joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.), and pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*).

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Homeowner Disposal of Pesticides and Fertilizers

By Ronald Fister, Cherokee County Master Gardener

As we garden and maintain a selected spot in our environment, our lives change, and sometimes we adjust our gardening. For instance, we may stop growing vegetables and instead focus on growing flowers or maintaining other aspects of the landscape. When this happens, our need for fertilizer or certain pesticides (herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) changes as well. In some cases, we might drift away from traditional gardening to totally organic gardening. A change such as this creates a concern about proper disposal of chemicals we no longer want to apply. The information below addresses the proper disposal methods according to the Georgia Pesticide and Fertilizer Program.



Photo courtesy Koch Industry

FERTILIZERS

All fertilizers used by a homeowner are generally made with nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), and in some cases minor elements, such as iron (Fe), zinc (Zn), manganese (Mn) and magnesium (Mg). These elements are not considered as contaminants if they are not allowed to enter storm drains, streams, lakes or rivers. With that said, the best thing you can do is apply the products as directed to the lawn, garden or landscape.

Should you want to eliminate the products because you are moving to a new location or you have changed your thoughts about use of these fertilizers, you could offer them to a friend or neighbor for their use. Giving away fertilizers has a value for the receiver, as well as benefiting plants and soil life. Using the products or gifting them is preferred to disposing of them in a landfill. This reduces the concentration at a single site, which would pose a concern for the environment.

If the fertilizer is in sealed bags, you should be able to return them to the garden center or farm store, without refund of course, for their use or applications. Due to product integrity, it is unlikely that you could return an opened bag to any retailer. You can dispose of the fertilizer in a garbage container intended to go to a landfill, but again it is preferred to give it away or to apply it yourself according to instructions.

PESTICIDES

Disposal of pesticides is slightly different, and the state of Georgia has minimum regulations unless you are classified as "agriculture" with large volumes to discard due to expiration of Federal EPA regulations or if a crop is no longer being grown that requires the use of the specific pesticide. Should you fall into the agriculture category and have a large volume of pesticide to dispose of, contact Mr. Rick Hayes at Georgia Pesticide and Container Waste Disposal at 404-535-1614. This contact is only for agriculture use disposal.

Homeowners have several options for pesticides:

- 1). Use the pesticide for its intended and registered use in order to reduce disposal concerns. Follow the EPA labels as attached to the containers.
- 2). Give the product to someone for use as intended by the EPA label. If the product is given to a friend or neighbor, give it to them in the original container. Do not put a pesticide in an unlabeled container, which could cause the product to injure children, adults, pets, wildlife or the environment. Pesticide containers are manufactured to avoid leakage or spills.
- 3). If the pesticide is in a granular form, seal the container and dispose of it in a trash receptacle intended for the landfill.
- 4). If it is in liquid formulation, put granular kitty litter into the container to absorb the liquid, seal it, and dispose of it in a trash receptacle intended for the landfill.
- 5). Aerosols can be discarded directly into trash intended to be landfilled.
- 6). Fertilizer with pesticide(s) should be spread on the soil surface or discarded directly into a trash receptacle intended for the landfill.

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How Current is Your Gardening Knowledge?.....continued from page 2

The above examples are only a few of the out-of-date gardening myths we have all heard. An excellent website for learning more is <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>.

One last warning: Today, most of us go to the Internet for advice. Unfortunately, many well-intentioned people pass along out-of-date “myths” in those online forums. When searching online for gardening advice, add the word “extension” to your search term to give you access to state Cooperative Extension webpages with current and science-based information.

Fall’s Overlooked Migrationcontinued from page 4

Therefore, grab your favorite butterfly field guide, binoculars, camera, and cell phone, as you head outdoors. What a terrific time of year to observe these butterflies on their trek against the backdrop of blue skies. Be sure to upload your sightings to iNaturalist.org. Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. All you have to do is observe.

Disposal of Pesticides and Fertilizerscontinued from page 5

SUMMARY OF DISPOSAL METHODS

- A. Use all products as they are registered and intended. This reduces disposal concerns.
- B. Find a friend to gift the item or items. It is best to use fertilizer and pesticides on the landscape as intended versus allowing them to be concentrated into a single spot in the landfill.
- C. Do not dispose of products in a manner that may contaminate wildlife, pets, children, water, soil or air.
- D. It is unlawful to dump chemicals into any storm drain, road, parking lot or onto a vacant property.
- E. Never repackage a pesticide or fertilizer when giving it to someone. Unmarked items are not safe for storage in any storage facility.
- F. These are homeowner recommendations, which generally apply to one gallon or less of a single product.

OTHER RESOURCES

In addition to the above-mentioned categories of fertilizers and pesticides, homeowners may contact Atlanta CHaRM (Center for Hard to Recycle Materials) to ask for further advice on disposing of large volumes of other items, such as paints, solvents and multiple gallons of a pesticide. The email address and phone number can be found at this website: www.atlantacharm.com.

Finally, you can search the Georgia Department of Agriculture (www.agri.georgia.gov) for the Clean Day Program, headed by Rick Hayes, Special Projects and Trainer, and find other options from time to time.

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Choices based on availability and time ordered.


Check our Facebook page

<https://m.facebook.com/cherokeemastergardeners/>,

and website

<https://cherokeemastergardenersinc.wildapricot.org/>

for bulb ordering and information.

RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	July 2020	Aug 2020	YTD	July 2020	Aug 2020	YTD
Actual	2.0	7.6	57.7	2.5	7.1	47.2
Normal	4.6	4.2	37.9	4.9	3.8	32.8
Deviation	-2.6	3.4	19.8	-2.4	3.3	14.4



LAWN CARE - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

COOL-SEASON GRASSES

(TALL FESCUE, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, CREEPING RED FESCUE, CHEWING FESCUE)

For Established Lawns

- Mow at the proper height through the growth season.
- For healthy lawns, core aerate during this period, especially if you plan to overseed. October is the best month for aeration, but September and November are possible months.
- If needed, rake and dethatch. Overseed thinning areas and top-dress, if necessary.
- Fertilize Fescue turf. Apply lime (50 lbs./1000 sq. ft.) if needed.
- Use a post-emergent spot spray for broadleaf weeds, such as chickweed or dandelion.
- Reduce irrigation to 1 inch every 10-14 days as the weather cools. Determine irrigation needs depending on the amount of rainfall received..

For Newly Installed Lawns

- Early October is the best time to seed or overseed fescue.
- Look for 'Blue Tag' certified seed, to ensure that you are purchasing a high-quality product.

WARM-SEASON GRASSES

(BERMUDA, CENTIPEDE, ZOYSIA, ST. AUGUSTINE)

For Established Lawns

- Allow Bermuda and Zoysia lawns to grow to 3 inches before the last mowing
- Do not aerate or dethatch during dormancy.
- Use a post-emergent to spot spray for minor broadleaf weed control through October, as well as a winter pre-emergent for St. Augustine.
- There is no need to fertilize or irrigate warm season turfs during dormancy.
- October is the best time to overseed Bermuda lawns.

For Newly Installed Lawns

- Plant early enough to establish the root system before dormancy. If needed, continue to irrigate newly installed turf.

Disease & Insect Control for All Lawns

This has been an extremely wet season, so check for fungal disease. As nights become cooler, check for dead or dark patches with clearly defined edges. Apply an approved fungicide as needed.

Check for webworm, armyworm, and/or cutworm infestations. Webworms leave a veil-like webbing on the turf surface, which is easily seen in the morning before the dew burns off. Circular, sunken patches of cut leaf blades might indicate the presence of cutworms. Armyworms leave significant damage by chewing patches of blades to the ground. White grubs feed on grass roots. Control them during August with an approved insecticide before they move deeper in the soil. Patches of wilted, yellow grass might indicate the presence of chinch bugs. St. Augustine and Centipede are especially susceptible, but other grasses are also at risk.

If needed, treat the soil with an approved product for the specific type of infestation. Control strategies differ, so be sure to follow instructions on the product label.

Review specific requirements for your established lawn at:

<http://caes2.caes.uga.edu/commodities/turfgrass/georgiaturf/index/index.html>

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



Photo sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) courtesy Marcia Winchester

OCTOBER GARDENING TIPS

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Tomatoes need an average daily temperature of 65°F or more for ripening. If daytime temperatures consistently are below this, pick fruits that have begun to change color and bring them inside to ripen. Use recipes that require green tomatoes, or place a ripe apple in a closed container with green tomatoes to encourage the tomatoes to turn red. Ripe apples give off ethylene gas which causes tomatoes to ripen.
- Cure pumpkins, butternut, and Hubbard squash at temperatures between 70-80° F for two to three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55- 60° F. If stored at 50° F or below, pumpkins and squash are subject to damage by chilling. At temperatures above 60° F, they gradually lose moisture and become stringy. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20993_4.PDF
- A final weeding of your strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries will help keep weed problems down to a minimum. Strawberries covered in the fall with a spunbonded polyester material and uncovered in the spring just before bloom produced up to 60% more fruit than plants given the conventional straw or hay mulch cover.
- Make a note of any particularly unsatisfactory or productive varieties or crops. Such information can be very useful during garden-planning time in the spring.
- Clean up home orchard and small-fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or mummies carry disease organisms through the winter that will attack next year's crop.
- If there is a threat of frost at night, harvest your cucumber, eggplant, melon, okra, pepper, and summer squash so the fruits are not damaged by the frost.
- Hot peppers store well dry. Pull plants and hang them up, or pick the peppers and thread on a string. Store in a cool, dry place.

ORNAMENTALS

- October is the best month to plant fall annual beds. It is cooler for the transplants and gives their roots time to become established before winter cold hits. Try mixing dwarf snapdragons with pansies for color, and parsley, kale, mustard, and Swiss chard for background color. Make sure your beds have good drainage. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201359_2.PDF
- Plant love-in-a-mist, poppy, bachelor buttons and larkspur seed now for early spring annuals.
- If climbing roses are in an exposed location, tie them up firmly with broad strips of rags or padded foam tape so the wind will not whip them against the trellis and bruise the bark.
- Don't prune roses this late as new growth would become subject to winter injury. The rose garden should be raked and cleaned, removing all fallen leaves and mulch to prevent black spot and other diseases next year. Replace mulch after the ground has frozen. Continue spraying for fungus.
- Clean up around perennial flowers, such as peonies. If left on the ground, leaves and stems can harbor diseases and provide convenient places for pests to spend the winter.
- Cut down stems and foliage of herbaceous perennials when the leaves begin to brown. Leave 3 inches of stem to ID the plant's location.
- October and November are generally considered the best months to plant trees and shrubs. Garden centers and nurseries usually stock a good selection of woody plants now. Select some accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees that turn red include chokeberry, dogwood, red maple, red or scarlet oak and sourwood. Shrubs with spectacular fall foliage include viburnum, fothergilla, hydrangea, blueberries, itea and amsonia. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20900_5.PDF
- Plant trees at least 6 feet away from sidewalks, concrete pools, and driveways so growing roots do not crack the concrete. Trees that get quite large need to be placed even further away from concrete.
- Small imperfections, such as nicks and loose skin, should not affect the quality of most bulbs. Store bulbs in a cool area (below 65° F). Do not plant before Nov. 1. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20918_4.PDF

OCTOBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Do not apply quick-acting fertilizers while tilling the soil in the fall; nitrogen will leach away before spring. Materials that release nutrients slowly into the soil, such as rock phosphate or lime, can be worked into the soil in the fall.
- When removing disease-infected plant parts/debris, do not place refuse on the compost pile. The disease pathogens will live in the compost pile and can be transmitted with the application of compost to other garden beds, unless compost temperatures reach above 180° F and decomposition is complete. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20981_5.PDF
- Kudzu, poison ivy and other weedy vines are more susceptible to chemical control this time of year. Be sure to follow the directions, and protect other plants from drift of the spray. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20867-10_4.PDF



NOVEMBER GARDENING TIPS

ORNAMENTALS

- Protect the roots of azaleas and rhododendrons with a heavy mulch of organic materials (i.e. oak leaves, wood chips, or pine straw) on the surface. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/B%20670_5.PDF
- For best growth, plant spring bulbs where they are out of the direct sun during the middle of the day. Bulbs have a chilling requirement that is satisfied by winter soil temperatures, so avoid planting bulbs near heated basements where the soil may not stay adequately cold. Do not plant bulbs before November 1.



Photo *Narcissus x medioluteus* "Twin Sisters", courtesy Barbara H. Smith, ©2018 HGIC, Clemson Extension

- Watch for standing water in perennial beds after long periods of rain. Water that collects on the surface during winter will freeze and can damage perennials. Dig shallow trenches to help drain excess water away. Make a note to raise that bed in spring or plant with plants that like "wet feet".
- When placing plants around the home, remember as a general rule that plants with thick leaves can take lower light levels than those with thin leaves.
- If there is any evidence of scale on trees and shrubs, spray with dormant oil in late fall and again in early spring. Follow label directions. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201186_1.PDF
- Avoid transplanting shrubs and trees on windy days; the roots can be exposed to too much light or drying winds, putting undue stress on the plant.
- Peonies that don't require a long cold winter perform better in the South. They can be planted now in full sun and fertile, well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Dig holes 18" deep and fill halfway with a mixture of soil, compost, and a handful of 5-10-10 fertilizer. Add a few more inches of soil and set the tubers so the buds are 1-2" below the soil surface. Backfill, firm the soil, and water thoroughly. Peonies do not grow well after being moved and will not bloom for several years.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Remove grass and weeds from trunks of fruit trees and grapes to prevent damage by mice and rodents. Leave a bare circle (one foot wide) around tree trunks when spreading mulch to keep mice from feeding on the bark. A collar or fence of poultry wire or a commercial tree guard approximately 18 inches high will deter rodents and rabbits.



Photo open wooden cold frame with lettuce

- Plant lettuce and hardy vegetables, such as beets, cabbage, and spinach, in cold frames for winter or early spring crops. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20910_4.PDF
- If you use aged manure as a soil conditioner, apply it now and till it under; it can be a source of weed seed.
- Rough plow or spade garden plots containing heavy, clay soil. Add organic matter and lime if indicated by a soil test. Leave the soil rough. Winter's thawing and freezing will break up the clods and kill some of the insects overwintering in the soil. A rough soil surface also catches more moisture and reduces erosion.
- When time or weather conditions prohibit plowing or cover cropping, you may let your garden lie under a mulch of compost, non-diseased plant wastes, or leaves all winter to be plowed/tilled under in the spring. If using heavy organic matter, chop fine enough so it can break down over the winter.
- Store pesticides in a frost-free location away from food and out of the reach of children. If a pesticide is in a paper container, put the whole package in a plastic container and seal it. Be sure that all bottles and cans are tightly sealed and well labeled. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20998_3.PDF

NOVEMBER MISCELLANEOUS

- Keep an eye out for spider mites on your houseplants; they thrive in dry air. At the first sign of any insect infestation, isolate your plant. Several thorough washings with plain water may bring them under control. If not, apply an appropriate insecticide and follow the instructions on the label. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074_7.PDF
- During the cooler temperatures and shorter days of winter, the growth of most houseplants slows. Unless plants are grown under an artificial light source that is left on 16 hours per day, new growth will be minimal until spring. Reduce fertilization and water until late April or May when new growth resumes. https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201318_5.PDF
- African violets do well when potted in small pots. A good general rule is to use a pot one-third the diameter of the plant. To humidify African violets, surround the pot with moist peat contained in a second pot. http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20660_2.PDF

Recipes

Couscous Meatball Soup

From Pat Bowen

Ready in minutes, enjoy this soup with crispy buttered bread.

Ingredients:

1 lb frozen Swedish meatballs, thawed or not
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tbsp vegetable oil
8 to 10 cups raw greens: your choice of kale, spinach, and/or collards
2 quarts stock: your choice of vegetable and/or chicken
1 tbsp of white wine vinegar
½ tsp red pepper flakes
¼ tsp black pepper
1 pkg pearl couscous (I use Near East brand with Roasted Garlic & Olive Oil spice package)

1. Brown the meatballs and chopped onion in vegetable oil in a large stock pot.
2. Add the greens and cook down, stirring often, 6 to 8 minutes until wilted.
3. Add the stock, vinegar and spices. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Stir in couscous and spice package. Cover again and simmer, stirring once or twice, until couscous is tender, 10 to 15 minutes.

Salmon Salad

From Marcia Winchester

Here's an upscale variation on tuna salad. It's nice for a party buffet or a light meal at home.

Ingredients:

Salmon, cooked and flaked
Mayonnaise (salmon has more oil, so you may want to use less mayo than with canned tuna)
Celery, chopped
Relish
Onion, chopped (white, yellow or red)
Hard-boiled eggs, chopped
Pecans, chopped
Dill
Salt, pepper

Grill or bake salmon until fully cooked through. Allow to cool.

Mix all ingredients in amounts to your personal taste and according to the number of servings desired. Serve on spinach leaves or on toasted wheat bread.

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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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