

Gardening With The Masters

Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge
August/September 2021

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AUGUST

Aug 14, Canton's Farmer's Market, **Planting Fall Vegetables in Containers**

Aug 17, CCMG Monthly Meeting and presenter, 10am

Aug 27, **Fall Container Gardens, Virtual Seminar**, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite registration.

SEPTEMBER

Sept 18, CCMG **ONE DAY PLANT SALE, 9am - 1pm**, Senior Services
1001 Univeter Road,
Canton, Ga 30115

Sept 21, **Restoring and Establishing Turf, Virtual Seminar**, Visit our Facebook page for Eventbrite Registration

Sept 24, CCMG Monthly Meeting and presenter, 10:00am

Sept 25, Canton's Farmer's Market, **Decorative Fall Containers**

Sept 25, Lecture Series, **Fall Gardening**, Rose Creek Library, Contact (770) 591-1491 for registration information.



GREAT GEORGIA Pollinator Census

Friday, August 20,
and Saturday, August 21, 2021

Visit <https://ggapc.org/> to sign up, for printable resources, information, and click [here](#) for a list of plants to attract pollinators.

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/chokechee.html> or call
or call 770-721-7803

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

or call 770.515.9228

Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,
Cherokee County Master Gardener



Photo courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli

One of my favorite times at our Demo Garden is September when seemingly overnight the Pollinator and Heirloom Gardens have an explosion of beautiful red lilies emerging from the ground. They light up the gardens like fireworks. These lilies (*Lycoris radiata*) are commonly known as "spider lilies" because of the spidery flowers. They may also be called "naked ladies" since they pop up with no foliage. Under any name they make a garden in September a wonder.

Spider lilies were introduced to the US in the early nineteenth century. They bloom in shade or sun in rich, well-drained soil. They don't like to be transplanted, so decide on their location in your garden, and plant them promptly.

Another key point is to plant them shallow so their necks (top of the bulb where the leaves and flowers emerge) are just peeking out.

Spider lilies do have leaves, just not when they bloom in September. Their 12-inch-long leaves emerge in the fall and stay up all winter gathering nutrients; they then go dormant in May.

I love watching bees and butterflies gather nectar from the delicate blossoms. Come visit the gardens this September and enjoy the show.

Marcia

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Help! “The Blob” Has Invaded My Garden!

By Carolyn Puckett, Cherokee County Master Gardener

When I was eight years old, I lived in a small town with a movie theater a 15-minute walk from my home. One night my sister and I walked to the theater to see a movie called “The Blob,” starring Steve McQueen. The Blob was a creature from outer space, brought to earth on a crashing asteroid. The Blob oozed around like a giant amoeba, absorbing all humans in its path and growing enormous (watch the movie trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdUsyXQ8Wrs>). That night in bed, I kept expecting the Blob to ooze through my window to eat me.

Years later, when I studied slime molds in Botany 101, I thought, “wow, slime molds must be the inspiration for the Blob character.” In researching this article, I found that many other people have thought the same.

There are over 900 species of

slime mold. You have probably seen slime molds, as they are quite common, but you likely mistook them for a fungus. At one time they were even classified as fungi. But a slime mold is neither fungus, plant, nor animal. Slime molds are classified under the Kingdom Protista because, like other protists, they just don’t fit in other kingdoms.

A slime mold acts partly like a fungus, and partly like a Protozoa. Like a fungus, slime mold has a fruiting body and reproduces via spores. These spores morph into “myxamoebae” that, unlike fungi, can slowly move about. Slime molds are generally harmless to people, pets, and plants.

There are two main types of slime molds. One type, called cellular slime mold (11 genera in the class Dictyostelia), normally exists as a microscopic-sized single cell with a single nucleus. These eat mostly bacteria. However, if food becomes scarce, the cellular slime mold seeks out others of its species, forming a “super organism” consisting of over 100,000 individual cells that act in unison (remember flash mobs?). This mass of cells forms a slug-like shape; if you cut it into pieces, each piece will move to rejoin the other parts. This aggregate slime mold forms a fruiting body in a beautiful colored sphere or a popsicle shape.

You can see a short time-lapse video of cellular slime mold in action at <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2010/01/20/video-john-bonnors-slime-mold-movies?section=mm-featured>.

The second type of slime mold, called an acellular or plasmodial slime mold (in the class Myxogastria with three genera), is a much larger single cell with multiple nuclei—sometimes over a thousand nuclei. There are about 400 different species of plasmodial slime mold. While it is usually only an inch or less in size, this single cell can occasionally grow as big as 20 feet wide in diameter. It slowly swarms in an expanding, pulsating mass, extending and retracting numerous coral-like protrusions as it searches for food. It creeps over logs, twigs, fallen leaves, and mulch, consuming any food (bacteria, fungal spores, yeasts and Protozoa) in its path. Watch this brief time-lapse video: <https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/676472/view/slime-mould-moving-timelapse>

In the soil food web, slime molds act as significant decomposers and nutrient recyclers. They consume microorganisms, moving this food energy into the food web. They, in turn, are consumed by larger animals, such as insect larvae, worms, and beetles.

Some of the larger slime molds have colorful structures that are beautifully artistic. Depending on the species, the plasmodium can be red, yellow, brown, orange, green, or other colors. If you have organic mulch in your garden, you may have seen the bright yellow “dog vomit” plasmodial slime mold.

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A common slime mold on wood mulch is “dog vomit” slime mold. At its early bright yellow stage it is sometimes called “scrambled eggs” slime mold. Photo courtesy of University of Missouri Extension Service at <https://extension.missouri.edu/news/warm-wet-weather-helps-dog-vomit-slime-mold-thrive-4648>



As the dog vomit slime mold ages, it starts to look more like actual dog vomit. Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Extension Service at <https://plantclinic.tamu.edu/factsheets/slime-mold/>



Dried plasmodium stage of dog vomit slime mold. Photo by Alicia Bessey, University of Maine Extension Service at <https://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/ipddl/publications/5065e/>



What Is a Bulb?

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

As Master Gardeners, a main task of ours is educating the public, and it's usually important to use correct terms when we are describing plants. I'm not a botanist, just an average gardener, and some botanical terms are over my head. Other terms are just plain confusing to me (or hard for my old brain to remember).

Some examples of confusion for me are the terms bulb, corm, tuber, and rhizome. I tend to call all of these things "bulbs," which is not very accurate. In an effort to be more precise, I looked up the terminology. The information below primarily comes from the UGA Bulletin 918, "Flowering Bulbs for Georgia Gardens." I also found some helpful information on the websites of some companies that sell bulbs and their kin. In addition, I referenced the book *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon (Timber Press, 1990).

BULB

In the UGA publication, I was pleased to see that the term "bulb" can indeed be loosely used to refer to true bulbs as well as other bulb-like structures (corms, tubers, and rhizomes). All of these plant parts are food storage structures for the plant. Despite their similarity, it is important to know the difference since care and cultivation of the plants may vary.

A true bulb is an underground plant part that consists of a compact stem from which roots grow (the basal plate) and a growing point that is surrounded by thick, fleshy scales that are modified leaves and provide food storage.

An onion is a good example, and when slicing one vertically you can see these structures. In many bulbs, such as onions, these modified leaves are tightly arranged in a series of rings. On the other hand, the bulbs of most lilies have scales that are loosely attached around the central structure.

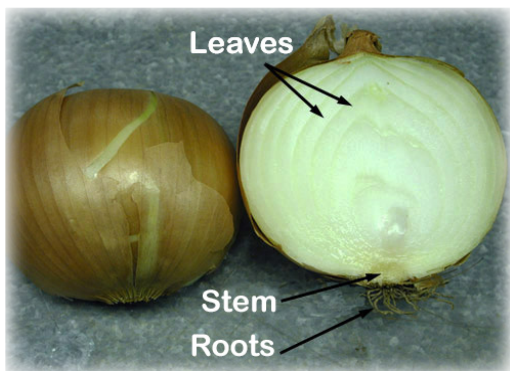


Photo of tunicate bulb (onion) courtesy Texas A&M University



Adobe stock photo of laminate bulb (daffodil)

There are two types of true bulbs. A tunicate or laminate bulb is covered by a papery outer skin (tunic). Examples are the onion, daffodil, and tulip.

Non-tunicate or scaly bulbs do not have this papery covering. Examples are lily bulbs.



Photo of scaly bulb (lily) courtesy Texas A&M University

CORM

Externally, a corm may look similar to a bulb, but the internal structure is different. A corm is a solid, thick, rounded, underground stem with a basal plate. It does not have any separate scales-like leaves. When cut in half vertically a corm will appear solid without the layers (such as are seen in an onion). A stem sprouts from the top of the corm, and then flower buds emerge from the stem. Examples are crocus, gladiolus, and freesia.



Photo of corm (crocus) courtesy University Minnesota Extension

TUBER

A tuber is a modified food storage structure that develops on underground stems. It develops eyes (or buds) on the surface of the structure, and shoots grow up from these eyes. Examples of tubers are the Irish potato and caladium.



Photo of tuber (potato) courtesy Kansas State University

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Webworms, Oh, the Webs You Weave!

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

As the end of summer looms, you may have noticed silken webs draping the tips of tree branches like early Halloween decorations. These highly visible, unsightly, webbed masses are the communal nests of fall webworms (*Hyphantria cunea*), the larva of one of our native insects, which is often mistaken for the Gypsy moth caterpillar (*Lymantria dispar*) or the Eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*). (For more information on the Eastern tent caterpillar, refer to the April/May 2018 issue of the CCMG newsletter.)

These webworm nests contain hundreds of light tan caterpillars with white hairs, orange spots, and a dark stripe along their backs. The caterpillars will be transformed six weeks later into white moths with tiny black speckles.



UGA2080045
Photo courtesy UGA

As females lay their eggs on the bottom of leaves, masses of webworms begin their lifecycle on one of over 100 deciduous hardwood tree species in forests, yards, fruit, or nut orchards. After emerging from their light green eggs, the caterpillars begin to construct a silken web over the end of a branch, enclosing the leaves. The young larvae feed on these leaves, enlarging the protective web as they grow to surround new, fresh foliage. Furthermore, this web is able to trap heat, helping the caterpillars thermoregulate. Researchers have found that the structure has an internal temperature of 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit), which allows the larvae to grow and develop faster.

Interestingly, if the caterpillars are disturbed or feel threatened, the mass has an attention-getting defense that may be disconcerting if you are unfamiliar with this phenomenon. They will move in unison, making the web jerk back and forth in perfect rhythm to startle and deter predators. They will even respond to loud noises, such as a hand clap or shout.

When it is time to pupate, the caterpillars will leave the web to crawl to a crevice under the tree bark, underneath a stone, below leaf debris, or in the soil to spin a cocoon. The adult moth emerges, and the cycle begins again, with as many as four generations per season in southern states. However, the last generation will overwinter in the pupal stage, emerging the following summer. The annual population size of this moth is regulated by many factors, such as cold winter weather, parasites, predators, and diseases.

While the caterpillars may defoliate a few branches, they rarely threaten the life of a healthy tree, as the unsightly damage tends to occur close to its autumnal leaf drop. Next spring, the leaves will appear on the currently affected branches with no sign of the previous year's damage. However, if the infestation is on a young tree or a tree already in distress, there can be permanent damage.

Therefore, the best defense against the fall webworm is to keep an eye on your trees. If caught early, remove the branch where they are located or manually pick off caterpillars and webbing, dropping them in a bucket of soapy water and then disposing of them. Pruning out the webs is possible, but the tree may be left with unsightly gaps in the canopy.



UGA00141

Photo courtesy UGA

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Succulent Gardening for the Home

By Stephanie Howard, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Succulent gardening appears to be increasing in popularity among home gardeners. Succulents are a diverse collection of plants, found in a variety of sizes, colors, growth habits, textures, and environmental tolerances. Most are disease and pest-resistant. They are useful for container arrangements, rock gardens, or interspersed throughout ornamental gardens.

Succulents are sometimes classified by the environmental conditions that they thrive in: Xerophytes (arid-loving) or Halophytes (salt-loving). It is difficult to use this classification method, because many succulents are adapted to both environmental conditions. In addition, both Xerophytes and Halophytes may be found within the same family. It is also important to note that not all Xerophytes or Halophytes are succulents. This makes classification by botanical family easier. Although there are over 60 families that contain succulents, the most popular succulents found in Zone 7 home gardens (as perennials or annuals) belong to one of the following:



Photo Yucca 'Bright Star' courtesy Stephanie Howard

Agavaceae – Agaves and Yuccas

These larger succulents have elongated leaves with a spiny tip. The flowers grow from a long stalk in the center of a central rosette. Among easy-to-find agaves in Zone 7 are *Agave univittata* 'Quadricolor' and *A. victoriae-reginae* 'Queen Victoria'. *Yucca gloriosa* var. *recurvifolia* 'Walbristar' (*Yucca* 'Bright Star') and *Hesperaloe parviflora* 'Perpa' (*Y.* 'Brakelights') are harder to locate in the Southeast, but either will make a striking addition to your landscape if you can find it. *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard' is readily available.

Aizoaceae – Ice Plants

This is a large family of plants, and many do not generally thrive in Zone 7. However, *Aizoaceae* species referred to as ice plants, do quite well. They are so named because of their "glistening bladder cells." They are cold hardy and tolerate a range of environmental conditions. One of my favorites is Trailing Mezoo™ Red (*Aptenia cordifolia*). Ice plants are drought tolerant and prolific fillers and trailers that bloom all summer.

Asphodelaceae – Aloes

Most Aloe species have fleshy leaves arranged in rosettes. Some species appear as branched stems with fleshy leaves. Still others lack stems, with the rosette growing at ground level. Flower clusters are found in a range of colors and shapes. The most common heirloom variety is *Aloe* 'Barbadensis Miller', or true *Aloe vera*. Leaves may be green, gray, striped, or mottled. Also in this family are red-hot poker or torch lilies (*Kniphofia* spp.), which have become increasingly popular in recent years.



Photo Trailing Mezoo™ Red (*Aptenia cordifolia*) courtesy Stephanie Howard

Apocynaceae – Dogbanes and Oleanders

This diverse family includes tropical and subtropical ornamental flowering trees, shrubs, and vines. Many members of this family have toxic leaves – hence the name dogbane or dog poison. Leaves are absent in many species. Some of the most beautiful Zone 7 blooms claim membership in this family, including *Nerium oleander*, and species of *Mandevilla*, *Hoya* and *Vinca*.

Bromeliaceae – Bromeliads and Air Plants

This is a large family of exotic plants, many of which sport long, colorful leaves and an array of spectacular bracts (flowers). Several are epiphytic – that is, they grow upon trees – anchoring to the bark and drawing nutrients from the atmosphere. An epiphyte native to Georgia is Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). Bromeliads grown outdoors are annuals in Zone 7. They are generally disease and pest resistant and are found in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors.

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Help! “The Blob” Has Invaded My Garden!.....continued from page 2

One species of plasmodial slime mold, *Physarum polycephalum* (the “many-headed” slime), has gained the interest of researchers in multiple fields, as it is capable of determining the most direct route between any two points. This one-celled organism, with no brain, can even solve a maze—see a TED Talk explaining how at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UxGrde1NDA>

There is a “Slime Mould Collective” website for researchers and artists, as well as a slime mold Facebook page for admirers. Time-lapse videos of swarming slime molds are a popular YouTube subject. Here are some choices for additional information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GY_uMH8Xpy0
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZhc8R58R7k>

The video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YWbY7kWesI> explains the plasmodial slime mold in more detail.

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) devoted an hour-length NOVA (season 47, episode 12) to slime molds. If you have a PBS “passport,” you can watch the full episode online.



Dog vomit slime mold in its yellow stage. Some people call this species “scrambled eggs” slime mold. Photo courtesy of C. Vecchio.

By the way, in the 1958 movie, the earth was saved from the Blob because it could not tolerate cold. The frozen Blob was bundled up and flown to the North Pole, where it would remain “as long as the North Pole stays cold.” With climate change, the Blob may rampage again!

National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/slime-molds.htm>

There are more NPS pictures of slime molds at <https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery.htm?pg=6625339&id=4EDF8A2B-5D9E-4468-BF84-CB5EDE32635B>. These are all public domain per NPS information.

What Is a Bulb?continued from page 3

RHIZOME

A rhizome is an underground, modified, fleshy stem that grows horizontally on or near the soil surface. The structure, both internal and external, is the same as in a true stem.

Roots form on the underside of the rhizome; leaves and stems sprout from the top. Examples of rhizomes are bearded iris, canna lily, ginger, and Solomon’s seal.



Photo of rhizome (bearded iris) courtesy Purdue University

TUBEROUS ROOTS


A tuberous root is similar to a tuber in that it is a swollen, food-storage structure. However, it is located at the base of the stem. Examples are the sweet potato and dahlia.



Photo of tuberous roots (dahlia) courtesy University of New Hampshire Extension



Photo spider lilies (*Lycoris radiata*) courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli

RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	May 2021	June 2021	YTD	May 2021	June 2021	YTD 2021
Actual	6.0	6.7	30.0	3.7	4.7	24.2
Normal	4.4	4.1	29.5	3.1	4.0	23.8
Deviation	1.6	2.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4



Succulent Gardening for the Homecontinued from page 5

Cactaceae – Cacti

Because members of this family are adapted to dry climates, they are extremely drought tolerant. They have sharp spines or needles instead of leaves, and they conserve water in fleshy stems and branches. Cacti have showy blooms in a myriad of colors. If soil is properly conditioned, several species of hardy cactus will grow well in Zone 7. Pincushion cactus (*Mammillaria* spp.), hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia basilaris* and other species) will thrive in this area, as will barrel cacti (*Echinocereus* and *Ferocactus* spp.).

Crassulaceae – Sedums, Hens and Chicks, and Stonecrops

Most sedums (*Sedum* spp.) are easily maintained and hardy in Zone 7. They are available in a wide variety of colors, textures, and growth habits, and many named cultivars are available. Hens and chicks (*Sempervivum* spp.) are easy-to-grow perennials that are both prolific and cold hardy. They grow close to the ground in rosette fashion. Also popular as either annuals or houseplants are the stonecrops (*Escheveria* spp. and *Kalanchoe* spp.). Stonecrop leaves are fleshy and arranged in rosettes. The leaf varies in shape, color, and size. They cannot tolerate high heat and are not cold hardy. *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* 'Variegata' is an especially beautiful cultivar.

Euphorbiaceae – Spurges

Some succulents are members of the *Euphorbia* genus. The common name for this diverse group of plants is spurge. Based on appearance and shared adaptations, some are often mistaken for cacti. Others can be deciduous or evergreen, herbaceous or woody, annual or perennial. Flowers are simple, but stunningly beautiful.

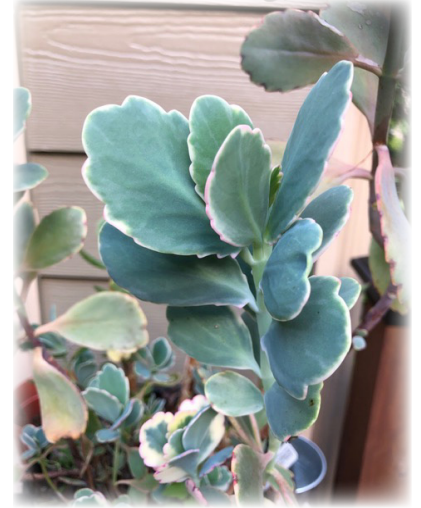


Photo *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* 'Variegata'
courtesy Stephanie Howard

Webworms, Oh, the Webs You Weave!continued from page 4

Additionally, since the fall webworm is native to North America, over 50 species of parasitoids and at least 36 species of predators are known to prey on fall webworms. Indeed, it is not unusual to find fall webworm nests surrounded by a variety of hungry predators. If few predators are observed, use a pole or a stick, and puncture the nest in many places. This disturbance can be effective in allowing easier entry for their natural enemies.

Lastly, birds also love these caterpillars, so consider them a delicious snack at the expense of some leaves on your tree, as you reflect that this is an intriguing part of our native insect diversity. Whatever you decide, your tree will most likely be okay and just as leafy next year.

Cherokee County Master Gardeners Fall Plant/Bulb One Day Sale

Saturday, September 18, 2021
9:00am until 1:00pm

1001 Univeter Road, Canton, Georgia 30115

Check our Facebook page

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

and website

www.cherokeemastergardeners.com



Photo Bog container gardens courtesy Jennifer Ruscelli



Photo powdery mildew <https://site.extension.uga.edu/dougherty-hort/2020/05/powdery-mildew-on-ornamentals/>

ORNAMENTALS

- Take root cuttings of woody shrubs and evergreens (such as azaleas, holly, and hydrangeas) to propagate. <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/plant-propagation-by-stem-cuttings-instructions-for-the-home-gardener>
- 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://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/powdery-mildew/>
- 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 with 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 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.

AUGUST GARDENING TIPS

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://ugaurbanag.com/georgia-fall-garden/>
- 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. <https://newswire.caes.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=4459&story=Spider-mites>



<https://ugaurbanag.com/mexican-bean-beetles-in-your-garden/>

AUGUST 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

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://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/planting-shrubs-correctly/>
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/dividing-perennials/>
- If you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright.



Photo courtesy Marcia Winchester, 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. <https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C742>
- 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.



Daylily division courtesy Clemson University <https://hgic.clemson.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/word-image-15-828x656.jpeg>

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.

SEPTEMBER 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://extension.uga.edu/story.html?storyid=7718>
- 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.

August/September Recipes

By Maurya Jones

During summer months, while vacationing at the beach or while at home, I enjoy preparing easy meals. These two recipes are just that and are fast and delicious. They are perfect for the summer months.

BEACH SHRIMP

Ingredients:

3 lbs. unpeeled, large raw shrimp
1 (16-oz.) bottle Italian dressing
1-1/2 Tbsp. freshly ground pepper
2 garlic cloves, pressed
2 lemons, halved
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup butter, cut up

Directions

Step 1: Place first 4 ingredients in a 13 x 9 inch baking dish, tossing to coat. Squeeze juice from lemons over shrimp mixture and stir. Add lemon halves to pan. Sprinkle evenly with parsley; dot with butter.

Step 2: Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes, stirring after 15 minutes. Serve in pan.

This is soooooo easy to make; takes only 10 minutes to prepare. At the beach I use a disposable roasting pan for easy clean up.



Photo beach shrimp ©paul_brighton - stock.adobe.com

LEMON ICE-BOX PIE

Ingredients:

1 ready-made graham cracker crust
1 can Eagle Brand sweetened condensed milk
1 (8 oz.) container of Cool Whip
1 (6 oz.) can of frozen lemonade

Directions

Mix last 3 ingredients together in large mixing bowl and pour into graham cracker crust; Freeze. Ready in 3 to 4 hours.



Photo lemon ice-box pie ©cheryl_davis - stock.adobe.com

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

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

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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.

<https://chokeemastergardeners.com>