

# Gardening With The Masters

## Growing, Gardening and Gaining Knowledge

April/May 2023

Trillium erectum flower Rolf Engstrand CC BY-SA 3.0

### Garden TRIVIA Time

Though you're unlikely to find it in a grocery store, there is a wonderful fruit that is native to Georgia and tastes similar to banana custard. It's also our largest native fruit.

#### Do you know what it is?

To find out, look in the April/May 2020 issue of the Cherokee County Master Gardener newsletter, *Gardening with the Masters*. Archived issues can be found on the CCMG website, <https://cherokeemastergardeners.com/>.

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### Editor's Corner

By Marcia Winchester,  
Cherokee County Master Gardener



Photo sweet Betsy trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*) courtesy [ncsu.edu](https://ncsu.edu)

If you're new to Georgia, the spring season will be a treat. Okay, we have heavy pollen for several weeks, but when you peek through the yellow haze, Georgia native plants will be popping up. If you don't have native plants in your garden, then visit one of our many state parks. Each is unique and well worth a visit.

I know I couldn't begin to decide on my favorite spring native. Each is special in its own way. I love to see native sweet Betsy trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*) covering a shaded woodland. The mottling of colors can make you dizzy, with each plant unique like a snowflake.

The leaves of Jack in the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) first emerge like a sword, growing several inches a day and finally turning so the leaves can spread out, and the flower, either green or maroon/purple, will be ready for a pollinator.



Photo Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) courtesy [ncsu.edu](https://ncsu.edu)

Some natives, such as spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) or trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), are late winter bloomers, and as I write this in mid-March, they are finishing up their bloom for the season. They are now storing food for next year's growth and flowering. (For more information on spring beauty, check out the February/March 2021 issue of this newsletter. It can be found in the "Newsletter Library" section of the CCMG website, <https://cherokeemastergardeners.com/>.)

Even the emerging fronds of ferns are fun to observe as they start out tightly coiled and like a dancer slowly uncurl. Wood poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) are mid-spring bloomers, and their clear yellow flowers can make the cloudiest day bright. While they are native to the northwestern section of Georgia, they perform great in Cherokee County. I love them combined with the blue tubular flowers of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) that actually open up a pretty pink and then turn sky blue.

I don't have space here to get into all of the native trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring. They add yet another dimension to the seasonal landscape.

After I get done enjoying spring natives, I'll start looking forward to summer bloomers. There are native plants to enjoy in every season of the year!

Marcia

# Pollinator Plants of the Year

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Since 2020, the State Botanical Garden at the University of Georgia has been aiding gardeners by selecting four “pollinator plants of the year” and encouraging the use of these plants to support pollinators in private and commercial gardens. Nominations are solicited from Georgia gardeners, and then a selection committee determines which plants will earn the honors each year. Factors that are taken into consideration are the plant’s horticultural value, ease of propagation, and ecological significance.

Plants are chosen in the following categories: spring bloomer, summer bloomer, fall bloomer, and Georgia native. Seasonal selections may or may not be native, though happily this year’s selections are all native plants.

Here are the plants that won the honor this year.



**Spring Bloomer**  
Blue wild indigo  
(*Baptisia australis*)

This perennial member of the pea family bears striking spikes of cobalt blue flowers in spring. The plant reaches about 4 feet tall. It’s a favorite of many native bees and other pollinators. In your garden, it will prefer a sunny, well-drained site with average moisture content, and its tap root makes it tolerant of drought. Wild indigo is easy to propagate from seed, and soaking the seeds in hot water before sowing may encourage germination.



**Summer Bloomer**  
Wild bergamot  
(*Monarda fistulosa*)

This pollinator favorite is a perennial in the mint family. It grows 4 to 5 feet tall and in summer is topped with blooms that may be white, lavender, or magenta depending on the plant. It attracts bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Wild bergamot likes full to part sun and well-drained soil with average moisture content. It’s not picky about the soil type, performing well in anything from sand to clay. Wild bergamot is easy to propagate from seed, cuttings, and division.



**Fall Bloomer**  
Aromatic aster  
(*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)

This perennial member of the sunflower family grows 3 to 4 feet in height and bears a profusion of purple flowers in the fall. It will attract a wide range of pollinators including native bees, butterflies, hover flies, and wasps. It will appreciate a garden site with full to part sun in average, well-drained soil, and it is tolerant of a variety of soil types. Propagation is easy from seed, cuttings, or division. The common name refers to the fragrance of the foliage.

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# What Is the Difference Between Lima Beans and Butter Beans?

By Karen Garland, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Trivia enthusiasts and fans of riddles can take off their thinking caps because the answer to the question is... nothing. Both are just different names for the tasty legume *Phaseolus lunatus* and are used interchangeably as umbrella terms for its many cultivars. Therefore, it is primarily a regional tendency to give nicknames, especially in particular areas of the country. As one of the most prolifically nicknamed beans, it is also known as Cape peas, Chad, civet, Guffin, Haba, Hibbert, Pallar, pocketbook, Rangoon, Carolina, Burma, and mule ears. But deviate from the South, and you will find that many people call the wide varieties after the species' origins of the capital city in Lima, Peru, where it has been grown for around 7,500 years and is considered a status symbol used in ceremonies.



Photo King Garden Lima bean courtesy UGA

So, yes, they are the same thing. They both require a warm-weather, frost-free growing season and produce seeds that can be cooked fresh or dried. And neither has edible pods. But that is not the complete story. When you shop for seeds or decide which variety to plant in your garden, it is essential not to let the lima-versus-butter-bean confusion influence your choices. Instead, focus on these three things before making your selection. The first is to pick one that tastes good to you; whether it be a velvety texture or an earthy, green vegetable flavor, you know what your taste buds enjoy. Next, choose between a bush or a vine variety depending on your garden space and how quickly and often you want to harvest. Lastly, consider the days to maturity because the "no frost" growing requirement is not a suggestion to be taken lightly.

The easiest way to grow lima beans in the garden is to start with your seed of choice. They germinate easily and grow quickly if the soil is between 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Like other bean plants, limas need full sun to grow. If you are planting the pole type, put it in a spot where it will not shade other plants. As far as soil goes, it is vital to have a soil test performed. Lima beans like well-drained, not overly rich soil with too much nitrogen, with a recommended pH between 6.0 and 6.8.

Also, avoid planting in the same spot where beans or other legumes have been growing in the past one to two years. And lastly, do not soak the seeds first. Some bean varieties benefit from a soak, but limas just come apart.

If pole beans are your legume of choice, put in a support system at planting time or shortly after. You can use poles to make a teepee, put up trellises, or use a natural support like a fence. Bush beans do not need any support but require more space to spread.

Watering is a crucial maintenance task for lima beans. They need to be consistently watered, especially during flowering and pod development, at a rate of about 1 inch of water per week. If they do not get enough water, flowers may drop without forming pods. Furthermore, mulch the plants to suppress weeds and maintain soil moisture.

Companion planting can also increase yields. Plant both kinds of beans near crops like corn and summer savory for the best yields and most benefits. Bush varieties do well in proximity to cucumbers, celery, and potatoes, while pole-types like sunflowers and runner beans.



Photo lima beans courtesy UGA  
For more growing information, click [HERE](#).

Regularly check for pests and diseases, as these beans are susceptible to pests like aphids, bean beetles, cucumber beetles, and mites. Handpick any of these insects off your plants and throw them into soapy water. Also monitor for diseases like blight and plant cankers.

Lima beans are ready to harvest when the pods feel full when you test them. They should feel firm, and some varieties will plump up. If you want to harvest lima beans as dry beans, wait until the pods turn brown, papery, and dry. Butterbeans, lima beans, or whatever you want to call them, are worth the effort to enjoy with a pone of cornbread, homegrown tomatoes, and spring onions.

# On the Prowl: Bobcats in Residential Areas

By Sue Allen, Cherokee County Master Gardener

The couple that purchased our previous home sent me a text with a picture of a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) stalking the pond. It is very unusual for a bobcat to eat fish, but if the opportunity allows them the chance, they will pursue this prey. The homeowners covered the pond with a net to discourage the blue heron from eating the fish, consequently not allowing the bobcat to devour any of the fish either.



Photo bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) courtesy Michael O'Connell

## Geography

The bobcat, also known as the red lynx, can be found throughout North America and southern Canada. The bobcat is listed as a species of Least Concern on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2002, due to its wide distribution and large population. When we look at all of the building going on in many metro communities, we can see how not only bobcats but other wildlife are losing their natural habitats.

## Appearance

The bobcat has some very distinctive markings. Take note of the black bars on the front legs and the black tip on the bobbed tail. It got its name because of its bobbed tail, which is shorter than that of most cats. The adult bobcat's tail is 6 to 7 inches in length; hence the name, bobcat, is very apropos.

It is a medium-sized wild cat and looks similar in appearance to the lynx, its cousin. The coat color ranges in shades of brown or beige, with spots scattered throughout the stomach and legs. Males are usually larger than females, up to 50 inches in length, and size also varies depending on the geographic location. Bobcats in the north are typically larger than the ones in the south.

## Diet and Nutrition

In their diet the bobcat prefers rabbits, but if they are not available, they will choose other options such as mice, rats, squirrels, chicken, geese, small fawns, wild birds, and feral cats. Take note that the hawks and coyotes are competing for some of the same prey the bobcats devour. Since the bobcat in my old neighborhood was searching for food from the pond, there must be a shortage of the usual prey, since fish is not a bobcat's food of choice.

## Habits and Lifestyles

Bobcats are adaptable predators and inhabit wooded areas, semi-desert, urban edge, forest edge, and swampland environments. They are active mostly during twilight and track their prey from three hours before sunset until about midnight and then again from before dawn until three hours after sunrise. Each night they move from 2 to 7 miles along their route. During the day, they rest and sleep in a den using a hollow tree or a rock crevice.

Bobcats, like most cats, are very territorial and solitary; they mark their range with scent and claw markings on trees to let others know of their presence.

## Breeding Season

The males have a large range which will often overlap several smaller female territories, though cats will not interact with each other until the breeding season. By chance, if you hear a screaming sound outside that resembles a screaming woman, you may very well be hearing the scream of a bobcat trying to attract a mate. I only heard this sound one time when we lived at our previous home but never saw the bobcat.

Bobcats associate with each other only long enough for courtship and copulation. Both males and females have multiple partners. The bobcat's breeding season is from January through March, with a gestation period of 60 to 70 days and a typical litter of three kittens. The kittens open their eyes at 10 days old and nurse for two months. Females bring meat to their offspring, and once weaned they teach them to hunt. Males do not help in raising the kittens. The young leave during the winter at about eight months of age. Females are sexually mature at one year old and males in their second year.

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# Arbor Day in Canton: Friday, Feb 17, 2023

By Jerry Ince, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Arbor Day came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. The all-night rain finally ended a half hour before the 9 AM opening of the sapling giveaway event. The morning was for just an hour overcast and calm. But then the wind started up, and by the 4 PM closing, the Cherokee County Master Gardener Volunteers staffing the gazebo experienced a constant 10 to 20 mph northwest wind, with gusts of 20 to 30 mph! Thankfully the temperature hovered around 42 to 43 all day. It could have been worse. But it sure felt raw with high humidity and a 30 to 32 degree wind chill the entire day.

But wait! There was also huge success for this annual event, which is held on the third Friday in February! As of 2023, the CCMGs have been working this event for over a decade. This year, over a dozen Master Gardeners worked in two-hour shifts and helped 150+ citizens select the “right” tree (among seven species available this year) for their unique property.

The seven species of tree that were available were northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*), catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), and dogwood (*Cornus florida*). They were available as saplings, 1 to 4 feet tall. The chances of success in planting a tree this spring and having it become a family heirloom some years down the road was made high. With each tree, information was handed out about the species and how to plant for success. We also took the opportunity to publicize the upcoming CCMG plant sale dates.

Much good conversation, laughter, and consulting were enjoyed by all. Most all citizens took time to thank the Master Gardeners for their assistance and for braving such a day to give healthy trees away. Wildlife benefits. Our “Tree City” certification is promoted. Cherokee County and the city of Canton are more beautiful.

Thank you City of Canton for sponsoring this event again. Thank you US Forestry Service (GA) for bringing so many very healthy saplings to the table (year after year). Thank you Cherokee County Master Gardener Volunteers for matching the right tree(s) to each citizen’s special yard.

Next year will bring us a new selection of trees to enhance our properties and God’s green Earth.



Arbor Day courtesy Cherokee County Master Gardeners, Suzanne Carswell, Hope Sorrells, and Jerry Ince

## On the Prowl: Bobcats in Residential Areas ...continued from page 4



### Protecting Your Pets

Since fences do not deter bobcats coming into your yard, please protect your pets by being outside with them. Bobcats are shy animals and will go the other way if a human is outside with their pets. If bobcats eat feral cats I am certain they would go after a domestic cat as well as small dogs.

Photo Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)  
courtesy [gawildlife.uga.edu](http://gawildlife.uga.edu).

## Pollinator Plants of the Year ....continued from page 2



**Georgia Native**  
Coastal Plain Joe Pye weed  
(*Eutrochium dubium*)

This perennial wildflower is in the sunflower family and grows 3 to 5 feet tall. Dense clusters of tiny mauve flowers are borne from July through September. Bumble bees, small bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies are all drawn to the blossoms. In your garden, treat it to a site with full to part sun and well-drained soil with average moisture content. It is easy to propagate from either seeds or cuttings.

All photos courtesy State Botanical Garden at University of Georgia



## Cherokee County Master Gardeners, 2023 Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 9:00am until 12:00Noon

Cherokee County Senior Center, 1001 Univeter Road, Canton, Ga 30115

Sun & shade perennials, pollinator plants, daylilies, hostas, vegetables, herbs

Each plant sale always features nice varieties of plants, shrubs, trees, specialty plants, garden accessories, garden art, plus expert advice. All plants are propagated by the Master Gardeners and accustomed to our growing climate. Master Gardeners are on hand for plant growing advice and to answer questions.

For more information about the Master Gardeners, their events and activities, follow us on Facebook and visit our website. Links are listed below.

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

<https://cherokeemastergardeners.com>





Photo Master Gardener tomato tasting contest  
courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli



Photo Master Gardener senior education classes courtesy Jennifer Ruscilli

## 2022 Annual Summary of Master Gardener Activities Cherokee County

0	# of New Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (completed training this year)
74	# of Active Master Gardeners returning
74	Combined Volunteers
6253	Total # of Volunteer Hours this year X \$29.95 per hour = \$187,277
5697	Total # of in person contacts
927102	Total # of telephone/email contacts
13906	Total # of miles traveled X \$.625 = \$8,691
6	Total # of advanced training hours
278	Total # of continuing education hours

### Hours Volunteered by State Initiative

Georgia MGEV projects fall into five initiatives, or priority, areas

3805	82%	Environmental Stewardship
461	9%	Home Food Production
284	6%	Gardening with Youth
69	1%	Value of Landscapes
	0%	Health Benefits of Gardening

# APRIL GARDENING TIPS

- Thin young fruits of apples, pears and peaches within 25 days of the peak bloom, leaving 4-7" between fruit to insure larger, healthier fruit. **For home fruit orchard pruning techniques, click [HERE](#).**
- Grapevines with excessive vegetative growth generally have less high-quality fruit. In early spring, prune out the canes with the fewest buds to allow light, moisture, and air circulation within the plant to improve the quality and quantity of the fruit. **For bunch grapevine care, click [HERE](#).**
- Erect trellises now for beans and cucumbers. Don't plant tomatoes, peppers, or other warm season plants until the soil temperature warms up. Usually in Cherokee County that will be April 15 or later. Plants that are planted earlier will just sit there and not grow, or they will be killed by a late frost.
- When weather is wet and cold, allow about twice the germination time listed on the seed packet. If there is no sign of growth after this time, dig around a little to check for sprouted seeds; if you find no signs of life the seed has probably rotted and you will need to replant.
- If your garden is small and you do not have adequate space for the long-vine varieties, plant a bush type of beans and squash.
- Root crops must be thinned, no matter how ruthless this practice seems. Thin carrots, beets, parsnips and onions so you can get three fingers between individual plants.
- When planning your vegetable garden, consider that leafy vegetables need at least six hours of sunlight to develop properly. Fruiting vegetables like squash, tomatoes, eggplant, beans, and peppers need 10 hours of full sun.
- When transplanting seedlings in peat pots to your garden, be careful not to allow the rim of the peat pot to protrude above the soil level. If the rim is above the soil, it will act as a wick and draw moisture away from the transplant. To prevent this from happening, break away the uppermost rim of the pot before planting and make sure the pot is completely covered with soil.
- When tomato seedlings have 5 to 7 leaves, they are ready to transplant into the garden. To increase root growth and produce a sturdier plant place tomatoes in soil up to the bottom leaves.
- Drive stakes for future supports at the same time you plant tomatoes. If you try to install stakes later, you may damage the plant roots. **For staking and pruning tomatoes, click [HERE](#).**



Photo bush beans, courtesy UGA

## ORNAMENTALS

- If your bulbs have been shaded by new growth of a tree or shrub plantings, consider moving them to a sunny location or pruning back the plantings. Mark crowded unblooming clumps; and dig up and divide them after the tops have died back. Note where you want to add color for next spring. **For more bulb information, click [HERE](#).**
- Upon emergence of foliage, fertilize bulbs with a 10-10-10 fertilizer. After the bulbs have bloomed, fertilize with a 10-10-10 at a rate of 3 lbs. per 100 feet.
- If you plant an Easter lily outside, don't plant it near other lilies as it may carry a virus that can infect them.
- Prune spring-blooming shrubs, such as forsythia, quince and early spirea, after they have completed flowering. **For more pruning information, click [HERE](#).**
- Do not fertilize azaleas and camellias until they have finished blooming. They should be pruned after blooming. **For selecting and growing azaleas, click [HERE](#).**
- Many gardeners plant annual and perennial flowers to attract hummingbirds; woody plants can also be added to the yard to provide nectar for our smallest native birds. Some trees to add are buckeye, horse chestnut, apple, crabapple, hawthorn, redbud, and tulip poplar. Shrubs include red and bottlebrush buckeye, rhododendrons, Georgia basil, azaleas, and rosemary. **For more information on selecting trees and shrubs for pollinators, click [HERE](#).**

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- When planting orange or yellow peppers, plant extra since they take longer to mature and produce fewer peppers.
- To hinder early blight on tomatoes, mulch to keep the soil-borne diseases from being splashed on the plant during rains. Remove mulch and dispose of at end of season. **For information on Georgia homegrown tomatoes, click [HERE](#).**



Florida weave tomato stake method described in web link





# MAY GARDENING TIPS

## ORNAMENTALS

- Keep an eye out for aphids and other insects on roses. Spray if necessary. Begin spraying for blackspot at least twice a month. Removing and replacing mulch under roses will cut down greatly on black spot. **For more information on growing roses, click [HERE](#).**
- Red and silver maples, willows, poplars, and elms can clog septic lines with their roots. Don't plant near water/sewer lines.
- If you are building a home on a wooded lot, save young, vigorous trees. They will adapt to changes in their environment better than older trees. Trees that once grew in shade and are suddenly exposed to increased sunlight, wider temperature changes, and drying winds may not survive.
- Lightly sidedress perennials, including spring bulbs, with a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, being careful to avoid the center or crown of the plant.
- Prune off sprouts from the base of crape myrtles. **For crape myrtle care, click [HERE](#).**
- Check the leaves on azaleas and camellias for leaf galls. They are white to green growths and can be pruned out and disposed of. **For information on camellia diseases, click [HERE](#).**




Aphid infestation on a rose. (Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org))

## April/May Miscellaneous

- Mark the handle of your spade/hoe in inches for a handy measuring device for row width and planting distances. Paint or tape the measurements on the handle, and apply varnish to make the marks last longer.
- When you see ants crawling on garden plants, look for aphids. Some ant species protect aphids, moving them from plant to plant and even taking them into the anthill for overnight safety. The ants do this to ensure a supply of honeydew, a sugary water substance secreted by aphids, on which ants feed. **For more information about ants and aphids and control measures, click [HERE](#).**
- A garden use for plastic milk jugs: seep irrigation. Punch holes in the sides of a jug about 2" apart. Bury the jug leaving the neck protruding from the soil. Fill jug with water (solutions of liquid fertilizer may be used to water and feed at the same time) and screw on the cap. The water will seep out, providing a slow, deep irrigation for plants.
- Trellis and stake downwind from the prevailing winds so plants lean against the supports when the wind blows.
- Don't be too anxious to move your houseplants outdoors. A slight chill can knock the leaves off tender plants.
- Replace bulbs on plant lights yearly. They gradually lose their strength causing plants to stretch and stop blooming.
- Moles are tunneling insect eaters and are particularly attracted to grubs. When bulbs are missing or shrubs have root damage, look for voles or field mice to be the culprits. These rodents often use mole tunnels as their runs.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Protect developing strawberries from birds with spun bonded row covers. Netting can trap and kill beneficial snakes and birds. **For growing home garden strawberries, click [HERE](#).**
- Technically, berries are fruit that are soft throughout, such as blueberries. The raspberry is not a true berry, but a fruit that is made of many small sections each with a seed or pit. Fruits with fleshy material surrounding a hard seed are called drupes. Thus a raspberry is not a berry but is a cluster of small drupes or drupelets.
- If spraying fruit trees near a vegetable garden, cover vegetables with a sheet of plastic to protect them.
- Place a thick layer of newspaper under tomatoes to cut back on leaf diseases. This helps prevent fungus spores from splashing on leaves. Remove and dispose of at end of the season.
- To ensure pollination of sweet corn, plant several rows together in a block, rather than in one long row. Side-dress with 3 Tbsp of 10-10-10 per 10 feet of row when 12-18" high. **For growing home garden sweet corn, click [HERE](#).**
- When thinning beans, watch for "snake heads," seedlings that have lost one or both of their cotyledons and produce poor, weak sprouts. Also, watch for "bald heads," seedlings that have the growth point damaged so severely that they cannot develop. Both types will be weak and delayed in growth and should be removed.

RAINFALL COMPARISONS						
	Cherokee County			State Wide		
	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	YTD 2023	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	YTD 2023
<b>Actual</b>	8.4	4.4	12.8	8.2	2.5	10.7
<b>Normal</b>	5.9	5.0	10.9	4.4	4.4	8.8
<b>Deviation</b>	2.5	-0.6	1.9	3.8	-1.9	1.9

# Recipes

## Broccoli and Lima Bean Casserole

Submitted by Mageeda Doe

### INGREDIENTS:

1 bag frozen chopped broccoli (12 ounces)  
1 bag frozen lima beans (12 ounces)  
1 can mushroom soup  
1 carton sour cream (8 ounces)  
1 pkg. onion soup mix  
1 small can water chestnuts  
1 Tbsp. butter  
Rice Krispies

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Separately cook and drain the broccoli and lima beans.
2. In a bowl, mix together mushroom soup, sour cream, onion soup mix, and water chestnuts, and then stir the vegetables into this mixture.
3. Pour into casserole dish and top with Rice Krispies.
4. Drizzle melted butter over the top.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.



Photo courtesy Mageeda Doe

## Roasted Asparagus

Submitted by Maurya Jones

### INGREDIENTS:

2 Tbsp. pine nuts  
1 1/2 lbs. asparagus  
1 shallot, chopped  
freshly ground black pepper to taste  
2 tsp. olive oil  
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar  
1/4 tsp. salt

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Spread pine nuts on baking sheet and toast for 7 to 10 minutes or until golden brown; place aside.
3. Increase oven to 450 degrees. Toss asparagus, shallot, and pepper in olive oil and spread in single layer in roasting pan; bake for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Bring balsamic vinegar and salt to a simmer for about 5 minutes or until slightly syrupy and reduced to 1 Tbsp. Pour over asparagus and add pine nuts on top.

The asparagus side dish is easy to prepare and goes great with traditional Easter ham.



Photo courtesy Maurya Jones



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
**EXTENSION**  
Cherokee County

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

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<https://cherokeemastergardeners.com>  
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