



Shades of Green

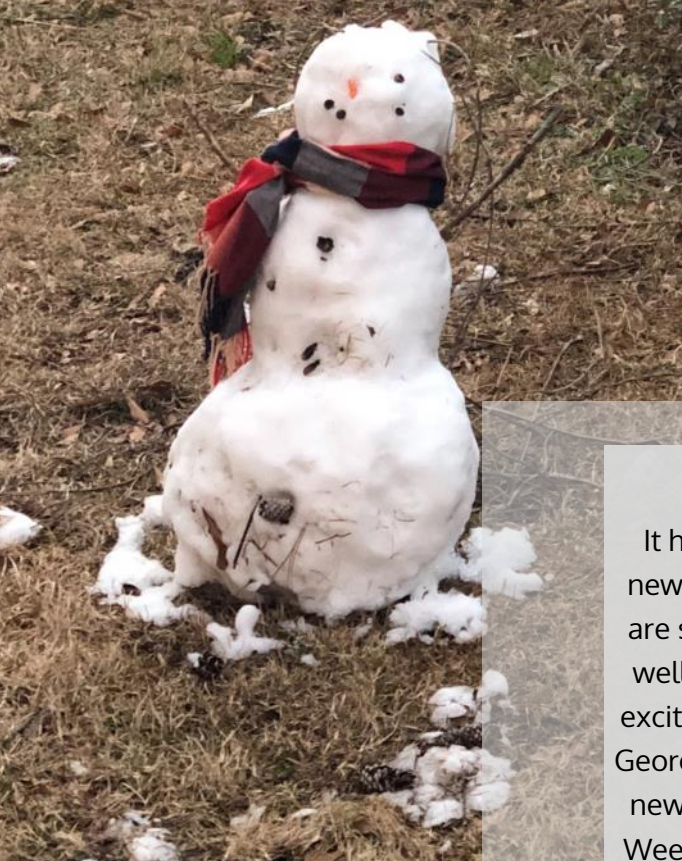
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Newsletter

February 2025



A Note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture & Natural Resources



Hello readers!

It has been a snowy start to 2025 so far at the ACC Extension Office! Our newsletter looks a little different with new colors and arrangement, but we are still providing high-quality, researched-based gardening information as well as local events for you and your family to enjoy. We are packed full of exciting projects to showcase, including the new Hilsman Pollinator Garden, Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year, and Oconee Plant a Row. Get the latest news on Spotted Lanternfly and others during Invasive Species Awareness Week. Lastly, enjoy photos from our office garden and get started with your own spring garden using the UGA Vegetable Planting Calendar. We hope you enjoy the February 2025 edition of "Shades of Green."

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr. Laura Ney and Victoria Clendenning)

Included in this issue...

Articles

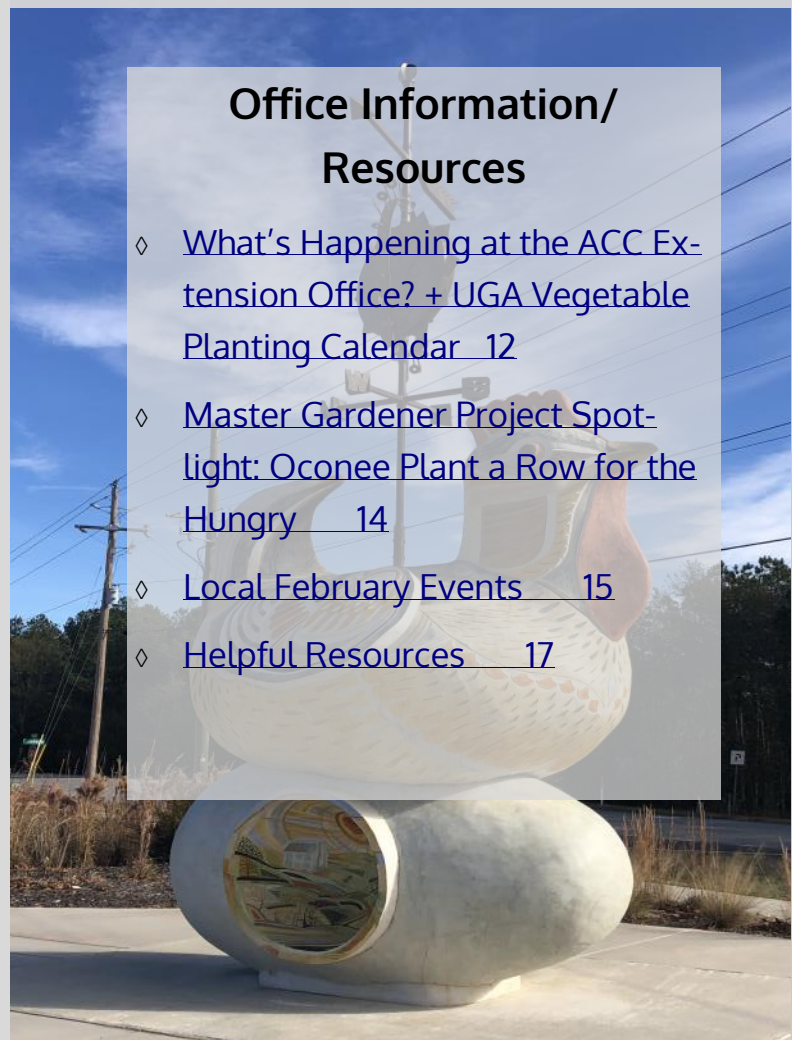
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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Athens-Clarke County



Curiosity and a New Pollinator Garden at Hilsman Middle

Article written by: Scott Thompson, Director of Communications, Clarke County School District

A great morning over at Hilsman Middle School with the official unveiling of a sculpture built by renowned and self-taught metal artist and native Athenian, Harold Rittenberry with Mr. Rittenberry and several of his close friends in attendance.

The sculpture was commissioned by Rita Mathew, Project Coordinator, Harold Rittenberry, Jr. Pollinator Garden.

Located in the front parking lot at Hilsman, the sculpture will be at the center of a new pollinator garden project led by Ms. Mathew and the Athens Area Master Gardener Association. The garden, to be planted next spring, will allow community members to connect with nature through citizen science projects like the Great Southeast Pollinator Census and will also be incorporated into the school curriculum. Hilsman teacher Barbara Gaertig's leadership students will help with maintaining the garden.

The sculpture is named "Curiosity" and features much of the signature imagery found in Mr. Rittenberry's work over the last four decades. He said he hopes the sculpture will inspire curiosity, creativity, and imagination among current and future Hilsman students.



Pictured, from left to right are Hilsman principal Dr. Kenneth Vaughn, Sally Coenen, Professor Dan Coenen (UGA School of Law), Harold Rittenberry, Rita Mathew, HMS teacher Barbara Gaertig, and Bob Clements, UGA Professor Emeritus of Art.



Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year



The Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program annually recognizes four top performing landscape plants that support pollinators and grow beautifully in a garden. Plants will be recognized and promoted from the following categories: [Spring Bloomer](#), [Summer Bloomer](#), [Fall Bloomer](#) and [Georgia Native](#). Seasonal selections may or may not be native.

Nominations are solicited from gardeners throughout Georgia and are then determined by a selection committee based on each plant's horticultural value, ease of propagation and ecological significance.

We recognize the need for collaboration across all steps of production and marketing, from grower to consumer, in order to improve the availability of appropriate pollinator-supporting plants statewide. This program represents the combined efforts of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, growers, entomologists, landscape professionals and conservationists across the state. The program is funded in part by the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation.

Get Involved:

PLANT LOVERS

Nominate your favorite pollinator plants. Anyone can participate in the nomination process. We want to know which plants Georgians think perform well in their gardens and support high pollinator diversity.

[Nominate A Plant](#)

GROWERS

Help us grow more of the winning plants. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia will serve as a seed source for difficult to find plant selections. Limited quantities available.

RETAILERS

Let us know if you carry any of the winning plants in your store. We want to celebrate growers and retailers who are increasing the availability of pollinator plants.

GARDENERS

Plant winning plants in your garden. [Click here](#) for a list of participating retailers.

<https://botgarden.uga.edu/pollinator-plants-of-the-year/>

Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year



Summer Bloomer – Beardtongues *Penstemon*

Light: Sun-shade
Water Requirements: Medium
Bloom Time: May-July
Height: 1-3 ft.

Wildlife Value: Penstemons are well-known hummingbird magnets. They also serve as a major nectar source for bees, including the specialist distinct mason bee, which will only feed from species in the penstemon genus. Other insects enjoy their nectar, such as moths, flies, solitary wasps and butterflies.

Horticultural Recommendations:

Penstemons can grow in a range of light conditions, but they flower best in full to partial sun. While they tolerate a range of soil types, they require well-drained soil.



Spring Bloomer– Chickasaw Plum

Prunus angustifolia

Light: Full sun to part shade
Water Requirements: Medium
Bloom Time: March-April
Height: 4-15 ft.

Wildlife Value: Chickasaw Plum is a member of the keystone genus *Prunus*, serving as a larval host to many butterflies, such as the eastern tiger swallowtail, coral hair-streak, spring azure, viceroy and red-spotted purple. This species is also a valuable early-spring nectar and pollen source for many bees, butterflies and other insects. Chickasaw Plum tends to form thickets, which serve as cover for songbirds and small mammals. The fruit is eaten by mammals, songbirds and other wild birds and is edible to humans, although usually too tart to be eaten raw and preferred as preserves and jellies.

Horticultural Recommendations:

Depending on environmental conditions and pruning, the Chickasaw Plum can be a shrub or a small tree. This species is prone to forming thickets, so it is recommended to prune root suckers if you prefer the plant not to spread.



Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year



Fall Bloomer– Climbing Aster

Ampleasater carolinianus

Light: Full sun to part shade

Water Requirements: Medium to high

Height: Sprawling vine

Bloom Time: September-November

Wildlife Value: Climbing Aster is a larval host to the pearl crescent butterfly. This vine flowers profusely and attracts crowds of butterflies, bees and other insects. The seeds, which set in late fall, are eaten by songbirds and small mammals.

Horticultural Recommendations: Climbing Aster can tolerate occasionally wet soil but prefers to be in well-drained media. This species grows enthusiastically and requires occasional pruning if spread is not desired. We recommend planting this vine with plenty of space to grow, such as over fence lines or in more spacious beds.



Georgia Native– Golden Groundsel

Packera aurea

Light: Full sun to shade

Water Requirements: Medium to high

Height: 1-2 ft.

Bloom Time: March-April

Wildlife Value: Golden Groundsel is an important early spring pollen and nectar source for many native bee species and other insects.

Horticultural Recommendations: This species can form a thick ground cover, especially in shady areas, creating a golden carpet-like display of flowers. Golden Groundsel is also known to be deer-resistant.



Spotting Trouble: How Georgians Can Help Combat Spotted Lanternfly

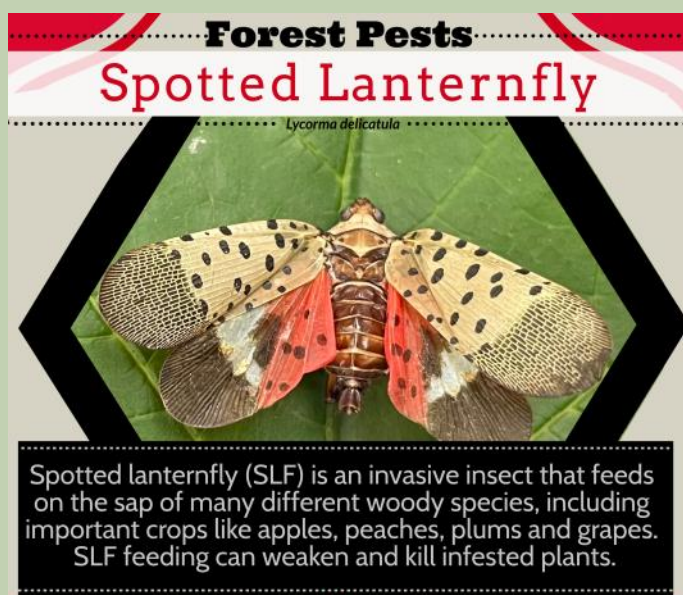
Emily Cabrera

National Invasive Species Awareness Week is February 24th-28th, 2025. For more details, see <https://naisma.org/events/> and USDA National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) at <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

Despite its striking appearance, with bold orange wings and eye-catching patterns, the [spotted lanternfly](#) (*Lycorma delicatula*) is far from the welcome guest it may seem. This invasive insect has made its way to Georgia, posing a significant economic threat to agriculture and threatening residential landscapes with tree damage.

Native to several Asian countries, this [planthopper](#) was first detected in the United States in 2014 in Pennsylvania, likely arriving via imported goods. Since its arrival, spotted lanternfly (SLF) has spread to 15 states in the Eastern U.S., now including Georgia. While they do not bite or sting humans or animals, University of Georgia experts stress that early detection, prevention strategies and timely interventions are crucial to minimizing the spread and impact of this pest on a variety of plants, including grapevines, fruit trees and hardwoods.

[Elizabeth McCarty](#), a forest health outreach specialist with [UGA Cooperative Extension](#) and associate professor at the [Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources](#), emphasized that landscape professionals and the general public are vital to early detection efforts. SLF was first reported and confirmed in Fulton County, Georgia, in November by a crew member of a landscaping company.



Distribution patterns

"It appeared exactly where I would have expected it — more of an urban area where there's more commerce and human activity," McCarty said.

Although SLF have wings, they primarily walk or jump short distances, McCarty explained. "The primary means of their spread is not a gradual movement from one county to the next. They are primarily getting moved around on plant products, firewood, transportation vehicles and nursery goods that carry their egg masses, which highlights the importance of vigilant monitoring."

Females lay egg masses on a variety of surfaces, including tree bark, vehicles and outdoor furniture, making it easy for humans to inadvertently transport them to new areas. Compounding the issue, [tree of heaven](#) (*Ailanthus altissima*) — an invasive plant and the SLF's preferred host — is widely distributed

Spotting Trouble: How Georgians Can Help Combat Spotted Lanternfly

Emily Cabrera

across the U.S., including Georgia, and thrives along roadsides, creating ideal conditions for SLF population establishment and dispersal.

Observations over time will be crucial for understanding how SLF behaves in Georgia. UGA Extension entomologists [Will Hudson](#) and [Shimat Joseph](#), faculty with the [Department of Entomology](#) in the [College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences](#) (CAES), explained that the pest's ability to thrive in southern Georgia might be limited by the scarcity of tree of heaven, a plant essential for its reproduction. However, they noted that wild muscadine grapes, abundant in non-managed areas across the state, could serve as an alternative host. They emphasized the importance of monitoring SLF distribution to assess its potential statewide impact.

Identifying and reporting spotted lanternfly

Proper identification is crucial for effective management. Recently laid egg masses appear whiteish but turn to a muddy grayish appearance as they age, making it challenging to immediately recognize. Egg masses are often laid on flat surfaces like trailers, shipping crates, RVs and vehicles, making them easily transportable across state lines. McCarty explained that young nymphs emerge in spring, starting as black with white spots before developing red patches as they mature. Adults, which appear in summer, are 1 inch long and a half-inch wide with their wings closed. The front wings are generally grayish-brown with black spots, and the back wings have brown, red and light-colored patches.

"This life-cycle timing is based on areas further north of us, where SLF have already been established," said McCarty, "so we'll have to see if and how life cycle development differs over time with our warmer temperatures further south."

If you suspect you have SLF present at any of the described life stages, McCarty encourages residents to follow these critical steps:

- Take a clear picture.
- Kill live SLF or scrape off egg masses.

Report your sighting online through the [Georgia Invasive Species Task Force](#) website.

Reports are reviewed by a network of experts who verify submissions and follow up with next steps for management. "Reports like these are reviewed quickly, and public participation allows us to target management efforts effectively," McCarty said.

[Rebekah Wallace](#), program coordinator at the UGA [Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health](#), oversees data coordination for the [EDDMapS](#) database.

This free mobile and web app draws from state, local and private data to track invasive species throughout the U.S.

Spotting Trouble: How Georgians Can Help Combat Spotted Lanternfly

Emily Cabrera

Managing the impact

While SLF does not generally kill established woody perennials, they have been linked to the death of young vines and saplings, and the pest is of particular risk to newly established plantings, explained [Sarah Lowder](#), UGA Extension viticulturist and assistant professor in the CAES [Department of Horticulture](#).

“Even when it doesn't kill the established vines or other fruit crops, there are significant associated losses in yield and quality of grapes and other affected crops,” Lowder said.

Additionally, the insects’ sap-feeding behavior weakens host plants, leaving them vulnerable to other stressors. The pest’s sticky excrement, called honeydew, promotes sooty mold growth and attracts other nuisance insects like ants and wasps.

McCarty acknowledged that while researchers are studying management strategies used in Northeastern states, pesticide recommendations for Georgia are being considered. “Over time, we’ll have more common insecticide practices, but right now, the first step is to understand how widely SLF is distributed in Georgia,” she said.

In the meantime, experts encourage practices such as sourcing local firewood to prevent unintentional transport of egg masses and inspecting shipments of nursery plants and other goods for signs of infestation.

Wallace advises doing routine checks of vehicles and equipment if traveling

from [known SLF-infested or quarantine areas](#) to minimize the chance of inadvertently carrying the pest into new areas.

McCarty and her team have also created peer-reviewed educational materials, including coloring sheets and identification guides, to help raise awareness.

Why reporting matters

Public participation is key to mitigating the spread and impact of SLF in Georgia. “If we



know where they are, we can better manage them to reduce the negative effects on people’s livelihoods, finances and landscapes,” McCarty said.

Public reporting allows experts to monitor the pest’s distribution. “It’s not just that the insect isn’t present in certain places – it could be that people aren’t reporting it. Public vigilance helps us know where they exist and how to respond,” Wallace added.

For additional resources and updates, visit the [Georgia Invasives website](#).

THE PIEDMONT GARDENERS PRESENT OUR 32nd ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

Contact: Karen Fite, phone: 706-340-1404 and email: Karenjfite@gmail.com

For Immediate Release

The 32nd Tour of Gardens, presented by The Piedmont Gardeners, is perfect for those who enjoy a special opportunity to visit a variety of private gardens in Athens. The tour, which will feature five gardens, will be held Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

If you enjoy exploring wooded trails the Alhadeffs' hidden treasure, a five-acre property on the Middle Oconee River, will surprise and delight you. With terraced gardens from the house to the pool, pickleball court and a large sloping field toward the river, there is also a newly installed wooded walking trail down to the Brookland creek.

The Fontaine home boasts of having the "Tallest Crepe Myrtle in Georgia". The gardens have been restored by integrating a mixture of daylilies, hostas, other perennials and shrubs around well-established trees. There are walking trails throughout the property that take you over springs that feed the creek which runs to Memorial Park. Their daughter delights in checking the Maypop vines for caterpillars in anticipation of the forthcoming butterflies.

The Hayes have successfully integrated their Japanese-inspired home and gardens into the Five Points aesthetic style, with a pristine lawn. They carefully saved most of the existing trees and shrubs during the landscape renovations. In addition to the small Zen Garden, there is a kitchen garden with herbs and vegetables grown for use in the nearby kitchen. Dr. Hayes considers himself a "yardener" as he doesn't do traditional gardening.

Diversity best describes the Kuykendalls' garden. As a landscape architect, Helen spent a couple of years reconditioning the soil by planting cover crops such as Red Clover before serious planting began. The result includes a terraced front yard planted with a thriving mixture of perennials and shrubs designed to attract pollinators. The back yard has a variety of potted plants, perennials and pathways that lead down into the woods. A beehive is managed in the side yard, and there may be an opportunity to safely observe the bees' activity.

Durwood Pepper's whimsical garden displays many unique pots, and a variety of plants nestled among more traditional shrubs. The magic of this garden lies in the eye-catching items he has placed throughout his garden. Every time you look, you may see something different. Special attention should be paid to the Folk Art, including many pieces by R. A. Miller from Gainesville. There is a sentimental side to this : Durwood has planted a Lady Banks Rose at every house-he has lived in from a cutting that a friend gave him years ago.

Proceeds fund the Piedmont Gardeners Scholarships for UGA Horticulture and Landscape Architecture students as well as Athens Technical College Horticulture students. **Advance Tickets to the tour will be \$20 from the vendors, \$10 students with ID, or \$25 online and at the gardens on tour day. Children may attend at no cost.**

Tickets are available at Vendor partner locations:

Appointments@Five

Athens Interior Market

Athens Seed Lawn & Garden

Bird and Brass

Cofer's Home & Garden Showplace

Farm441@Thomas Orchards

The State Botanical Garden Gift Shop

Wildbirds Unlimited

Online at www.piedmontgardeners.org

and at each garden on the day of the tour

Piedmont Garden Tour April 19, 2025

Five Gardens in and around Five Points

Contact: Karen Fite, phone: 706-340-1404 and email: Karenjfite@gmail.com

Visit <https://www.piedmontgardeners.org/>



Kuykendall Garden, 505 Woodlawn Avenue, Athens GA



Hayes Garden, 550 Milledge Circle, Athens GA



Alhadeff Garden, 255 Plum Nelly Drive, Athens GA

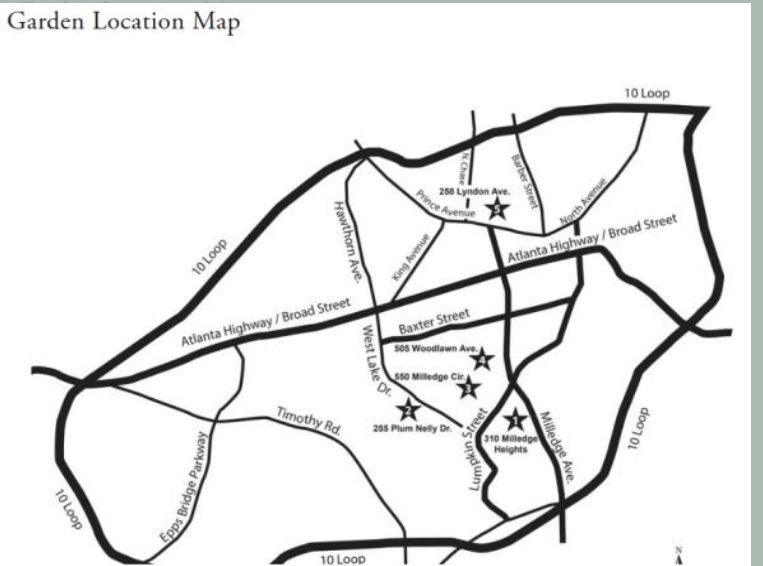


Pepper Garden, 258 Lyndon Street, Athens GA



Fontaine Garden, 310 Milledge Heights, Athens GA

Garden Location Map



Winter veggies in the ground: collards, cabbage, garlic, buttercrunch lettuce



What's happening at the Athens-Clarke County Extension Office?



2025 Master Gardener Class



Developing a native landscape- including water and minerals for butterflies



Start planning your spring garden... see planting chart on next page



Vegetable	Days to maturity*	Cultivars**	Planting dates		Seeds/plants per 100 ft.	Spacing rows per plants	Depth to plant***
			Spring	Fall			
asparagus	2nd year	Jersey Giant, Jersey Knight, Mary Washington, Purple Passion	Jan. 15 – Mar. 15	Nov. & Dec.	50 roots	36" x 18-24"	6"
beans, bush	50-60	Bronco, Blue Lake 274, Half-Runners (State, White, Volunteer), Kentucky Runner, Roma	Mar. 15 – May 1	Jul. 5 – Aug. 10	0.5 lb	36" x 2-4"	1"-1.5"
beans, pole	65-75	Blue Lake, Dade, Kentucky Blue, Moccasin	Mar. 15 – May 10	Jul. 1 – Aug. 1	0.5 lb	36" x 4-12"	1"-1.5"
beans, lima	65-75	Henderson's Bush Fordhook 242, Jackson Wonder (Speckled)	Mar. 15 – Jun. 1	Jul. 1 – Aug. 1	0.5 lb	36" x 3-4"	1"-1.5"
beans, pole lima	80-85	Sieva, Florida Speckled	Mar. 15 – Jun. 1	Jul. 1 – Aug. 1	0.5 lb	36" x 6-8"	1"-1.5"
beets	55-65	Detroit Dark Red, Red Ace, Ruby Queen	Feb. 15 – Apr. 1	Aug. 1 – Sep. 20	1 oz	18-36" x 2"	0.5"
broccoli	60-80	Marathon, Packman, Patriot, Premium Crop, Bravo, Decathlon	Feb. 15 – Mar. 15	Aug. 1 – Sep. 1	100 plants	36" x 12"	—
butterpea	70	Dixie	Apr. 1 – May 1	Jul. 1 – Aug. 1	0.5 lb	36" x 3-4"	1"-1.5"
cabbage	70-120	A&C No. 5+, Blue Dynasty, Bravo, Early Round Dutch, Rio Verde, Green Jewel	Jan. 15 – Mar. 15	Aug. 1 – Oct. 1	100 plants	36" x 12"	—
cantaloupe	80-90	Ambrosia, Athena, Saticoy Early, Sweet	Mar. 20 – Jun. 20	—	1 oz	60" x 36"	1"
carrot	70-95	Chantenay, Scarlet Nantes, Sweetbites, Sweet Delight, Thumbelina (small)	Jan. 15 – Mar. 20	Aug. 20 – Sep. 15	0.5 oz	18-36" x 2-3"	0.25"
cauliflower	60-75	Absolute, Early Snowball, Graffiti (purple color), White Magic, Symphony	Mar. 1 – Apr. 1	Jul. 15 – Aug. 15	100 plants	36" x 12"	—
collards	55-85	Blue Max, Georgia Southern, Hevi-Crop	Feb. 1 – Mar. 15	Aug. 1 – Sep. 1	0.5 oz	36" x 8-16"	0.5"
corn, yellow	65-90	Bodacious, Golden Queen, Honey Select, Mirai 131, Seneca	Mar. 15 – Jun. 1	—	0.25 lb	36" x 12-18"	1"-1.5"
corn, white	65-90	Avalon, How Sweet It Is, Seneca Sensation, Silver King, Silver Princess, Silver Queen	Mar. 15 – Jun. 1	—	0.25 lb	36" x 12-18"	1"-1.5"
corn, bi-color	65-90	Ambrosia, Butter & Sugar, Honey 'n Pearl, Mirai 301, Peaches & Cream, Serendipity, Sweet Breed Chorus	Mar. 15 – Jun. 1	—	0.25 lb	36" x 12-18"	1"-1.5"
cucumber, slicing	50-65	Bush – Salad Bush Hybrid, Bush Crop, Fanfare Vine – Burpless Hybrid, Diva, Marketmore, Straight Eight, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success	Apr. 1 – May 15	Jul. 15 – Aug. 15	1 oz	60" x 12"	0.5"-0.75"
cucumber, pickling	50-65	Bush Pickle, Calypso, County Fair	Apr. 1 – May 15	Jul. 15 – Aug. 15	1 oz	60" x 12"	0.5"-0.75"
cucumber, gynocious	50-65	Calypso, General Lee	Apr. 1 – May 15	Jul. 15 – Aug. 15	1 oz	60" x 12"	0.5"-0.75"
eggplant	75-90	Black Beauty, Classic, Dusky, Ghost Buster's (white), Calliope	Apr. 1 – May 15	Jul. 10 – Jul. 30	50 plants	36" x 24"	—
kale	50-70	Vates, Dwarf Siberian, Blue Armor, Blue Knight	Feb. 1 – Mar. 10	Aug. 1 – Sep. 1	0.5 oz	36" x 8-16"	0.5"
lettuce	60-85	Butterhead, Romaine, Buttercrunch	Jan. 15 – Mar. 1	Sep. 1 – Oct. 1	0.25 oz	18-36" x 8-12"	1/8"
mustard	40-50	Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled, Red Giant, Savannah	Jan. 15 – Apr. 1	Aug. 15 – Sep. 15	0.5 oz	18-36" x 2"	0.5"
okra	55-65	Annie Oakley II, Burgundy, Cajun Delight, Clemson Spineless	Apr. 1 – Jun. 1	Jun. 15 – Jul. 10	1 oz	36" x 12"	1"
onion, green	60-90	White Portugal	Jan. 1 – Mar. 15	Sep. 1 – Dec. 31	300 plants	18-36" x 3"	—
onion, dry bulb	100-120	Burgundy, Excel, Grano, Red Creole, Savannah Sweet	Jan. 1 – Mar. 15	Oct. 10 – Nov. 10	300 plants	18-36" x 3-4"	—
*Days to maturity are from planting seed or setting transplants in the garden. The number of days will vary depending on cultivar (some mature earlier than others), temperature and general growing conditions. Check catalogues for individual maturity time.							
**Cultivars listed in the chart represent a few of those recommended. There are many other good cultivars worthy of trial.							
***Plant shallowly in heavy (clay) soil when adequate moisture is present.							
peas, garden (English)	60-70	Lincoln, Jackson Wonder, Wando, Little Marvel, Green Arrow, Maestro	Jan. 15 – Feb. 15	—	1 lb	36" x 2"	1"-2"
peas, edible pod	60-70	Sugar Daddy, Snow Pea, Sugar Snap	Jan. 15 – Feb. 15	—	1 lb	36" x 2"	1"-2"
peas, Southern	60-70	Blackeyed – California #5 Pinkeyed – Purple Hull FVR Cream Pea – Texas Crème Crowder Pea – Mississippi Silver, Zipper Cream	Apr. 1 – Aug. 10	—	0.5 lb	36" x 3-4"	1"-2"
pepper, bell	65-80	Big Bertha, Camelot x3a, Colossal, Karma	Apr. 1 – Jun. 1	Jul. 25 – Aug. 10	50 plants	36" x 24"	—
pepper, hot	65-95	Habero, Jalepeño, Tula, Marbles	Apr. 1 – Jun. 1	—	50 plants	36" x 24"	—
pepper, hot-sweet	65-95	Banana Supreme, Kuberille, Sweet Banana	Apr. 1 – Jun. 1	—	50 plants	36" x 24"	—
potatoes, Irish	70-90	Red (Pontiac), White (Kennebec, Atlantic, Yukon Gold)	Jan. 15 – Mar. 1	—	12 lb	36" x 12"	4"-5"
potatoes, sweet	90-120	Centennial, Georgia Red, Giant Jet, Hernandez, Red Jewel	April 15 – Jun. 15	—	100 plants	36" x 12"	—
pumpkin, tiny	85-120	Little Ironsides	May 15 – Jul. 1 (depending on maturity date)	—	1 oz	72" x 48"	1"
pumpkin, pie type	85-120	Small Sugar, Sugar Baby, Touch of Autumn		—	1 oz	72" x 48"	1"
pumpkin, small	85-120	Autumn Gold, Jack O Lantern, Jack of All Trades		—	1 oz	72" x 48"	1"
pumpkin, large	85-120	Aladdin, Gold Rush, Major Lantern, Merlin		—	1 oz	72" x 48"	1"
pumpkin, giant	85-120	Dill's Atlantic, Giant, Prize Winner		—	1 oz	72" x 48"	1"
radish	25-30	Cherry Bell, Scarlet Globe, Champion	Jan. 15 – Apr. 1	Sep. 1 – Oct. 15	1 oz	24" x 1"	0.5"
spinach	40-45	Melody, Winter Bloomsdale, Hybrid #7	Jan. 15 – Mar. 15	Sep. 1 – Oct. 15	1 oz	18-36" x 2"	0.5"-0.75"
squash, summer (zucchini)	40-55	Any yellow or green—all are good and easy to grow. Use compact varieties for limited-space gardens.	Apr. 1 – May 15	Aug. 1 – Aug. 25	0.5 oz	36" x 24"	1"-2"
squash, winter	85-120	Acom, Buttercup Bonbon, Butternut	Apr. 1 – Jul. 1	—	0.5 oz	60" x 36"	1"-2"
tomato, determinate	70-90	Bush – Celebrity, Early Girl BHN 444, BHN 640, Celebrity, Mountain Fresh, Mountain Spring, Rutgers, Amelia, Mountain Pride	Mar. 25 – May 1	Jun. 15 – Jul. 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	—
tomato, indeterminate	70-90	Early Girl, Better Boy, Big Beef, Big Boy, Beefmaster	Mar. 25 – May 1	Jun. 15 – Jul. 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	—
tomato, cherry	70-90	Jolly, Sweet Baby Girl, Super Sweet 100	Mar. 25 – May 1	Jun. 15 – Jul. 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	—
tomato, grape	70-90	Grape, Juliet	Mar. 25 – May 1	Jun. 15 – Jul. 15	50 plants	48" x 24"	—
turnip	40-60	Purple Top, Royal Crown	Jan. 15 – Apr. 1	Aug. 10 – Sep. 15	0.5 oz	18-36" x 2"	0.5"
watermelon – large	80-90	Mardi Gras, Royal Majesty, Sangria	Mar. 20 – May 1	—	1 oz	72" x 36-48	1"-2"
watermelon – round	80-90	Baby Doll, Crimson Sweet, Ice Box, Imagination, Jade Star	Mar. 20 – May 1	—	1 oz	72" x 36-48	1"-2"
watermelon – small	80-90	Palm Melon, Solitaire	Mar. 20 – May 1	—	1 oz	72" x 36-48"	1"-2"

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***Plant shallowly in heavy (clay) soil when adequate moisture is present.

Master Gardener Program: Project Spotlight



Oconee Plant A Row for the Hungry

6091 Macon Highway
Bishop, GA 30621

In 2024, Athens Master Gardeners harvested over 3,000 lbs. of produce for low-income seniors in Oconee County at the The Oconee Plant A Row garden (OPAR). OPAR is a 1/2 acre vegetable garden that supports the community and is a great training and experiential garden for volunteers who work there. The garden is located at Farm 441, which donates the land for the garden.

As of August 2024, the garden had produced 462 lbs of cucumbers and 342 lbs of tomatoes in a single season. Also included in summer plantings are peppers, eggplant, okra, bush beans and southern peas. Fall rotations include turnips, collards, spinach and lettuce among others.



Local February Events

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

February 24th-28th, 2025

Online

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is hosting informative webinars in celebration of National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). Topics include pathway management, marine biosecurity, and risk assessment with organizations such as US Geological Survey, USGS, Army Corp of Engineers, EPA, USDA APHIS, and others.

For more information, see <https://naisma.org/events/>.

Orchids and Chocolates

Thursday, February 13th, 2025: 5 PM—7 PM

State Botanical Garden of Georgia

2450 S Milledge Ave, Athens GA 30605

Join us for a chocolate tasting and demonstration by Peter Dale of Condor Chocolates. While sipping chocolate, learn about the cacao bean and some of the unique orchids in the garden's collection from Jason Young, director of horticulture and grounds.

Guests can also enjoy drinks and appetizers.

Starting Seeds Like a Champ

February 4th, 2025: 12 PM—1 PM

Gwinnett County Extension, Online: <https://extension.uga.edu/calendar/event/23375/starting-seeds-like-a-champ.html>

Growing your own plants from seed is a cost-effective way to grow a garden from scratch. Learn how to select the right seeds, prepare the soil and provide the ideal conditions for germination. We will discuss using grow lights vs. placing seed trays in a sunny location and which is better; And when it's time to transition to outside, learn why hardening off seedlings before transplanting will help them acclimate to the environment. This webinar provides 1 hour of continuing education credit toward the 10 hours that MGEVs are required to complete each year.

UGA Extension offices around the state are working hard at developing quality online presentations on various topics.

Visit the UGA Extension [event calendar](#) to see events happening local to our county as well as virtual opportunities.

Make & Take Bee Hotels

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025: 10 AM– 11:30 AM

Oconee County Extension; Watkinsville, GA

Oconee County Extension will be holding a Make & Take program focused on Georgia's native solitary bees! Come learn and build with us on Saturday, Feb. 22nd from 10-11:30 AM. No prior experience or skills are required but if you have a drill, you are welcome to bring it. It costs \$25 per bee hotel building kit, so bring the whole family and share in the hands-on experience. Pre-registration is due by 2/14.

Call 706-542-7078 to RSVP or for questions.

Houseplant Academy Series

February 20th, 2025: 12 PM—1 PM

750 S. Perry St, 2nd Floor, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 Government Annex OR Online

Discover the perfect opportunity to cultivate your indoor gardening skills with Nicole Caldwell from UGA Extension Gwinnett! Join us for an enriching lunch-and-learn series designed to transform your gardening prowess from black thumb to green glory. Whether you're a seasoned plant enthusiast or just beginning your green journey, these sessions cover everything you need to know about indoor growing. Topics include "Creating Your Own Green Oasis", "Gardening Under Lights", "Houseplants and Pest Control", and "Houseplants and the Holidays". Plus, participants can attend online concurrently with the in-person program. **To register for this FREE event, contact us at 678-377-4010 or uge1135@uga.edu.**

The Piedmont Gardeners Present the 32nd Annual Garden Tour

Saturday, April 19th, 2025

Join us this year for The Piedmont Gardeners annual garden tour and take the opportunity to visit *five* inspirational gardens in the Athens, Georgia area. Bring a friend, grab your walking shoes, and immerse yourself in the self-guided tour filled with garden creativity and ideas.


Tickets will be limited this year for the first time ever, buy early!

**HELLO
ATHENS-CLARKE
COUNTY**

**Concerned about the
state of your garden?**

**Are weeds taking over
your landscape?**

**No need to fear,
Clarke is here!**

Follow @gardenwithclarke on Instagram  and learn how to battle pests, identify weeds, build your soil and so much more as you garden alongside Clarke, Athens-Clarke County's super gardener!



gardenwithclarke

UGA Extension Athens-Clarke County





Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local
Extension Office](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[Pest Management
Handbook](#)

[Pesticide Applicator
Info](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant
Professional](#)

[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[UGA Center for Urban
Agriculture](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

[OnlineLandscape Alerts](#)

Athens-Clarke County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mission Statement

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

Visit us online:



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