



Shades of Green
Agriculture and Natural Resources
E-Newsletter
June 2024



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Athens-Clarke County

A Note from Athens-Clarke County

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello readers!

Thank you for staying tuned for another edition of Shades of Green! The temperature is warming up here at ACC Extension and we are ready for the summer! Our Master Gardeners have been hard at work in preparation for Open Garden Days, a celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the Master Gardener Program. We hope to see you on June 8th at Oconee PAR and on June 15th at our ACC Demonstration Garden.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue of "Shades of Green".

Take care,

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources

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2024 OPEN GARDEN DAYS

45th
1979
2024
Anniversary

Visit Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Demonstration Gardens in June for tours and special events in celebration of the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program's 45th anniversary!



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Master Gardener Program



6091 Macon Hwy,
Bishop, GA 30621



June 8, 2024
10 AM – 2 PM



Lemonade
provided for
visitors!

Oconee Plant A Row (PAR) is a 1/2 acre vegetable garden where Master Gardeners grow thousands of pounds of produce each year. This produce is donated to local organizations that feed those in need. The PAR garden serves as a way support the community and is a great training and experiential garden for the Master Gardeners that volunteer there.

The garden is located at Farm 441, which donates the land for the garden. Please be respectful to their business and stop in to look around. They have lots of great plants and other goodies, including peach ice cream!

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

Oconee Plant A Row for the
Hungry Garden



GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAYS: EVENT INFORMATION

June 8, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM

Visit this demonstration garden to learn more about vegetable production. MGEVs will share about the varieties of vegetable grown and the cultural practices they follow. They will also share information about the recipients of produce and how the volume of produce from the garden is tracked.

For more details, contact Gary Wade, gwade@uga.edu.





275 Cleveland Rd,
Bogart, GA 30622



June 15, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM



wheelchair
accessible



no pets,
please



on-site
parking



lemonade
available!

The ACC Demonstration Garden is a creative, relaxing space, where the public can experience seasonal ornamentals plants as well as a thriving vegetable garden. Many of the flowers and plants are neatly labeled. The Master Gardeners who curate this space have provided examples and inspiration for any kind of gardener. From up-cycled trellises and birdhouses to a native pollinator palace and towering corn or okra, there are ideas and new experiences for everyone.

The garden is fully open to the public. We ask that visitors only visit during daylight hours and that they latch the deer fence behind them when they leave.

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY

ACC Demonstration
Garden: Where Knowledge
and Inspiration Grow



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION
Master Gardener Program



GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER OPEN GARDEN DAYS: EVENT INFORMATION

June 15, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM

Visit this demonstration garden to learn more about pollinators, native plants, ornamental plants, raised beds, garden design, and vegetables.

- 9:00 - 10:00 AM Garden Walk lead by Dr. Allan Armitage
- 10:30 AM Bee Hive Visit and Talk
- 11:00 AM Bat House and Viewing Area Talk
- 11:30 AM Purple Martin Talk

For more details, contact Laura Ney, lney@uga.edu.



Master Gardener Open Garden Days offer practical inspiration for the home gardener

Sheri Dorn, UGA Extension Ornamental Specialist

Looking for great garden inspiration that you can implement at home? Consider visiting a [University of Georgia Cooperative Extension](#) Master Gardener demonstration garden during Open Garden Days throughout the month of June.

The [Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer](#) program has created a [comprehensive garden guide](#), including a 2024 garden passport, to help visitors plan garden stops around the state.



Demonstration gardens provide examples of plots people can create in their own gardens. (Submitted photos).

Garden inspiration

Organized around horticultural themes, demonstration gardens are like outdoor classrooms meant to inspire home gardeners with plants and techniques they can recreate in their own gardens. Based on practices backed by research, popular garden themes include gardening for pollinators, how to be water-smart, and choosing native plants, offering a great way for people to learn about a variety of gardening topics and related plants.

“Demonstration gardens are incredibly valuable for showing Extension research in action. It is so handy to deliver programs to the community and to then be able to immediately have the participants put their hands in the soil to try

what they learned before they leave the office,” said [Christen Thomas](#), Master Gardener program coordinator for UGA Extension in Paulding County.

Fayette County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent [Kim Toal](#) said this can be especially important for people who are new to gardening and may gain confidence by observing gardening practices they have learned about in the classroom.

“Indoor gardening classes discuss concepts and techniques, but activities in our demonstration garden reinforce learning. Not only do individuals receive important Extension education in the classroom, they also see a visual of education components in practice,” Toal added.

Master Gardener Open Garden Days offer practical inspiration for the home gardener

Sheri Dorn, UGA Extension Ornamental Specialist

Self-guided learning

For those who want more instruction, Master Gardeners often host tours to offer information about the plants and practices used in the gardens. Master Gardeners also conduct presentations and workshops on how to replicate these practices at home, offering a chance for the public to ask questions and study the garden in depth.

“Since our plants are labeled, visitors can identify plants that will do well and are able to purchase them in local retail outlets,” said Toal.



Demonstration gardens, like this one in Houston County, provide a special place for relaxation and restoration.

Demonstration gardens are popular with visitors of all ages and interests. The Fayette Education Garden in Fayetteville, Georgia, attracts a broad clientele.

“The garden is used in youth education by focusing on practices that increase environmental quality and reduce negative environmental impacts. The education garden is used for hands-on learning with youth horticulture programs, and we partner with the 4-H program for related judging teams, special interest clubs and summer day camps,” Toal said.

In Paulding County, demonstration gardens host ongoing programs with community partners including the senior center, a local nonprofit serving disabled adults, homeschool groups, scout troops, educators and other social groups.

At the Madge Merritt 4-H Teaching Garden in Glynn County, monthly educational sessions on Saturday mornings are convenient for people who are unable to participate in hands-on programs during the week. “These sessions help reach people who work during the week and helps Extension provide more outreach on weekends,” said [MC Halbrook](#), Agriculture and Natural Resources agent for Glynn and McIntosh counties.

Master Gardener Open Garden Days offer practical inspiration for the home gardener

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Building community

In addition to Open Garden Days in June, Master Gardener demonstration gardens provide a place for community members to gather. Artists in Coweta County are frequently found painting at the Inspiration Garden located in the James E. McGuffey Nature Center.

“Master Gardeners hold many educational events in the garden including Art in the Garden, garden walk and talks, pollinator counts with local school children, and plant and flower education during their summer camp program,” said Carroll County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent [Paula Burke](#).

“The Buffalo Creek Garden offers the Carroll County community a space where people and plants can come together,” Burke added. “By visiting the garden, the community can step into nature and enjoy the beauty of the garden to enhance their health with stress relief and being active outside.”

Demonstration gardens are one of the most popular projects for Georgia Master Gardeners. In 2023, Master Gardeners in Athens-Clarke County contributed nearly 1,700 hours at the education garden at the county Extension office, while Henry County Master Gardeners

spent nearly 300 hours working on the gardens that surround the historic Nolan House in McDonough, Georgia.

“Our demo gardens give Master Gardeners an opportunity to show off their incredible depth of garden knowledge and experience and share their love of gardening with the community,” Thomas said.

“It is gratifying for me, as a program coordinator, to look out the office window and see the community enjoying the gardens on a beautiful afternoon. I love to see people appreciating the hard work our Master Gardeners put into our gardens.”

Road trip for Open Garden Days

Visitors who travel to demonstration gardens around the state during Open Garden Days will find the garden passport included in the [comprehensive garden guide](#).

Collect as many stamps as possible between June 1 and June 30 for chances to win prizes like t-shirts, tickets to Winter Wonder Lights at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and other gifts. For more information, visit the [Georgia Master Gardener website](#).

Sheri Dorn is an Extension ornamental specialist and state Master Gardener coordinator in the Department of Horticulture at the UGA-Griffin Campus.

What to plant for a smokin' hot garden in the heat of summer

Sheri Dorn, UGA Extension Ornamental Specialist

Has the heat got you inside looking out? Are you enjoying gardens and landscapes only from the comfort of your air-conditioned car? Indeed we are in the throes of summer in Georgia, but even though it's brutal for us outside, there are many landscape plants that are in their glory this time of year.

Shrubs

While there are a variety of beautiful shrubs in our Georgia gardens this time of year, a few really steal the show. Panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*) takes my breath every time I see it. This hydrangea's large, showy blossoms are mostly white. You'll find a few pinkish variations with some cultivars like 'Vanilla Strawberry', though the blossom color is not sensitive to pH changes like other hydrangeas. These varieties not only offer stunning displays in the peak of summer heat, but they produce abundant flowers that are fun to cut and bring inside. This hydrangea is a reliable plant that endures the sun and heat better than other hydrangeas.

This summer has had enough moisture for the smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) to offer a delightful show. Considered a native of the Eastern U.S.,



this showy shrub sports large, velvety leaves and chartreuse-to-white blooms. Several cultivars are available on the market. I have been struck speechless by the size of blooms on 'Incrediball' and am charmed by the pink hues of cultivars like 'Invincibelle'. While these plants are simply stunning this time of year, remember that they prefer partial shade and moist soils.

What to plant for a smokin' hot garden in the heat of summer

Sheri Dorn, UGA Extension Ornamental Specialist

Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is also a gem in the July garden, and our pollinators couldn't agree more. *Clethra* is also native to the Eastern U.S., adapted to our warm and humid summers. While you can grow *Clethra* in the full sun, it's commonly found in moist, swampy soils. It is a great plant to grow on the edge of trees, where it will benefit from some shade. I am enjoying the light fragrance from its white flowers born on upright panicles.

If you are looking for more color variations, be sure to consider abelia (*Abelia* hybrids). There are many different cultivars on the market offering a variety of mature size, leaf color and bloom color. Choose from a spectrum of green leaves or plants with white, cream, chartreuse, yellow-gold and pink variations. While many abelia have a classic white bloom, some have blooms in shades of pink and purple. Abelia does well planted in the sun, and its summer blooms offer nectar for many insects.

Trees

When summer hits its stride, a few trees distinguish themselves in the landscape. Among them are crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia*) and chaste tree (*Vitex* spp.). Crape myrtles have long been valued for their tolerance of poor soils and heat, so they are often used in streetscapes. These trees are available in

a variety of heights, green and dark purple foliage, and blooms in white, pink, lavender and many shades in between. An added bonus is the bark of this tree. When a crape myrtle gets some age to it, its bark begins to curl and flake off in a way that makes me think of cinnamon sticks. Some cultivars have contrasting bark colors, adding to their appeal, especially apparent in winter when their leaves drop.

Chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus* and *V. negundo*) are great trees for the summer garden as well. It has distinctive compound leaves with lance-shaped leaflets and its flowers range from violet blue to lavender depending on the species. My mind often tricks me into thinking, "Oh, look at that lavender!" when these are entirely different plants. Still, the visual effect is the same and our insects appreciate having chaste trees in the garden. Be sure to give these small trees plenty of space for their 15- to 20-foot height and shrubby nature.

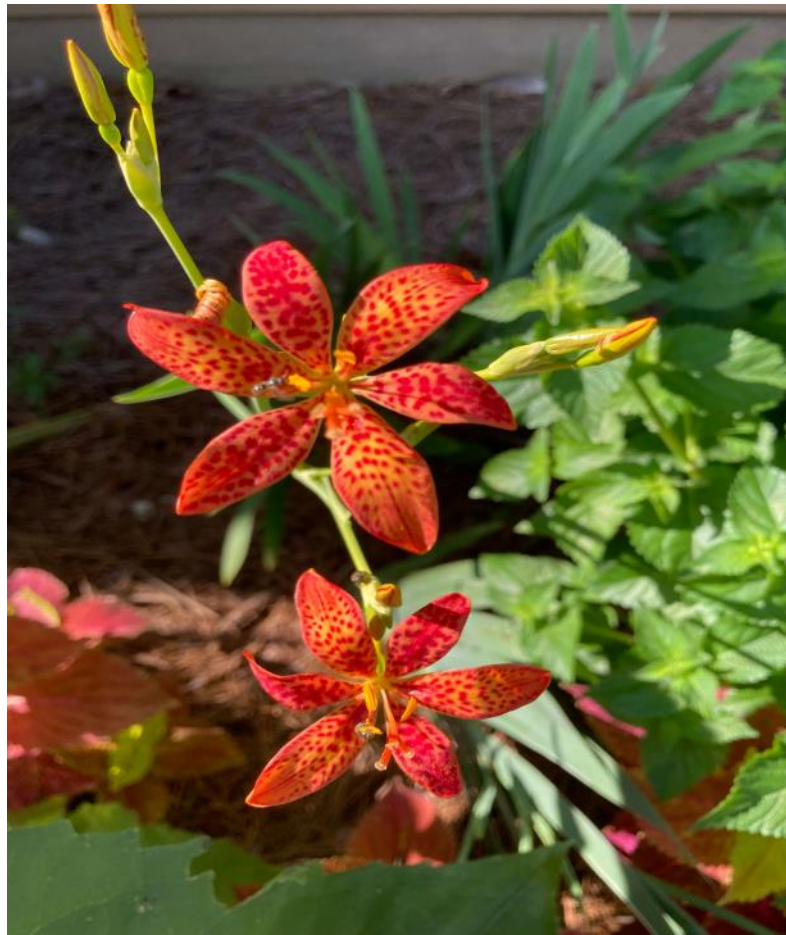
What to plant for a smokin' hot garden in the heat of summer

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Perennials

As I take another look around the garden this time of year, a few perennials tend to catch my eye. These are plants that reliably re-grow from their roots each year but die back in the winter. A few that show off their blooms in the hot July summer include Montbretia (*Crocasmia* hybrids), a plant growing from underground corms. They are available in a variety of reds, oranges and yellows, and make good cut flowers. Black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) and coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) are respectively showing off their signature yellow and purple blooms. I also enjoy the tropical flowers of pineapple lily (*Eucomis comosa*) and the sweet blossoms of blackberry lily (*Iris domestica*), so named for their seeds that look like blackberries and appear in the fall.

If your summer garden doesn't sparkle to your liking, you might consider some of these plants to add to the year-round appeal of your landscape. While it's blazing hot outside now, the good news for your garden is that fall planting season is just around the corner! Make plans to add a few of these summer



For additional information on the shrubs and trees listed in this article, be sure to check out [University of Georgia Cooperative Extension](#) publications on [woody shrubs and ground-covers](#), [trees](#), [annuals](#) and [perennials](#). If you have questions or want to verify whether your new choices will work, reach out to a [Master Gardener Extension Volunteer](#) for help. Master Gardeners are volunteers trained in horticulture and gardening to help answer your questions, and they are available through many county Extension offices. Find a Master Gardener near you at extension.uga.edu.

Local June Events

Open Garden Day: Oconee Plant A Row for the Hungry

June 8th, 2024
10 AM-2 pm
Farm 441
6091 Macon Highway
Bishop, GA 30621

Forest Heights Blueberry Festival

June 1st, 2024 at 9:30 AM
Forest Heights Neighborhood
Athens, GA 30606
Annual neighborhood festival that raises money for a community blueberry planting project.

Open Garden Day: ACC Demonstration Garden

June 15th, 2024
9 AM-12 PM
ACC Extension Office
275 Cleveland RD
Bogart, GA 30622

Celebrate Mud Day at Sandy Creek Nature Center

June 14th, 2024
2 PM-4 PM
205 Old Commerce RD
Athens, GA 30607

UGA Trial Gardens Public Open House

June 8th, 2024
9 AM-12 PM
UGA Trial Gardens
220 W. Green St, Athens GA 30602

State Botanical Garden of Georgia: Sunflower Concert Series

June 18th, July 16th, August 13th, September 17th
State Botanical Garden of Georgia,
The Flower Garden

The Sunflower Concert Series at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia is an opportunity for the community to enjoy music in the garden.

Athens-East Piedmont Chapter Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4th 10 AM– 2 PM
Sunrise Nursery
550 Athens RD, Winterville, GA

Diamond Hill Farm Stand

Every Thursday, 4-6 pm
Vegetables and fresh flowers are available on hand and pre-ordered. Every Thursday, 4–6 p.m. at Authentic Brewing Company.

www.diamondhillfarmathens.com

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.

Local Farmers Markets



The **Athens Farmers Market** is running year-round on Saturdays from 8am-12pm at Bishop Park, and Wednesdays from 5pm-8 pm at Creature Comforts. Make sure to visit [their website](#) for updates and details.

Find them on Facebook:

[@AthensFarmersMarket](#)



West Broad Farmers Market

Will hold markets beginning Saturday, **April 20—December 15th, 2024** from 11 am-2 pm in the West Broad Neighborhood, and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Authentic Brewing Company in Normaltown.

Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find them on Facebook:

[@WestBroadMarketGarden](#)

MARIGOLD



MARKET

The **Marigold Market** is returning on Saturdays 9 am—1 pm at Pittard Park starting April 6th. The Monday Marigold Market (& Café) offers fresh produce and seasonal soup specials year-round, 9 am—3 pm weekly at the Historic Pittard Bank Building. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find out more on Facebook:

[@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)

Instagram: [@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)



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.

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