

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink roses in full bloom, with a honeybee perched on one of the flowers. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. The image is used as a background for the newsletter cover.

Shades of Green

Agriculture and Natural Resources

E-Newsletter

May 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! April showers have brought beautiful May flowers to our demonstration garden, and our Master Gardeners are hard at work tending to all our wonderful plants!

On our calendar page we have events from the Marigold Market, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Classic City Flowers & Nursery, and others. Also, we are kicking off our first ever annual Honey Bee Festival on May 25th! We hope to see you there with your family.

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

Take care,

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources

Included in this issue...

Articles		Events/Resources	
A Note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources	Pg. 2	Local May Events	Pg. 11
Athens-Area Honey Bee Festival	Pg. 3	Hands-On Composting Workshop	Pg. 12
State Botanical Garden of Georgia debuts 2024 Pollinator Plants of the Year	Pg. 5	Local Farmer's Markets	Pg. 13
Creating an Edible Landscape	Pg. 8	Information and Resources	Pg. 15

Athens-Area Honey Bee Festival

Join Athens-Clarke County Extension on May 25th for our first-ever annual Honey Bee Festival!

There will be activities for the whole family, including a beekeeping demonstration, honey extraction, crafts and games for kids, face painting and more! Come out for a taste of Athens honey and enjoy live music, honey popsicles and bee-friendly plant vendors. Festivities begin at 9 am and wrap up at 1:30 pm. Cost is \$5 cash only at the door, admission for children 5 years and under is free.

Please call ACC Extension at 706-613-3640 with any questions.





An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative
Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

Athens - Area Honey Bee Festival

May 25th, 2024

Family Friendly

- Kids activities and crafts
- Face painting
- Bee hive explorations
- Honey tasting
- Plants for sale
- Food
- Games
- and more!

**\$5 cash or check
only at the door -
Kids under 5 are
free**



9:00 AM -
1:30 PM

ACC Extension Office
275 Cleveland Rd, Bogart
GA 30622

State Botanical Garden at UGA debuts

2024 Pollinator Plants of the Year

One of the most important questions a gardener can ask themselves this spring is which plant species they want to incorporate into their garden. The [Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year](#) program hosted by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia identifies four species each year that make wonderful additions to any garden.

Started in 2020 by the State Botanical Garden and Extension at UGA and green industry partners, the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program celebrates the benefits of pollinator plants. It encourages home gardeners to incorporate these plants into their own landscapes.

The pollinator plants of the year are chosen for each of the following categories: spring bloomer, summer bloomer, fall bloomer and Georgia native. The program is funded in part by the Vaughn-Jordan Foundation.

"I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this year's winners to anyone," said Emily Laske, assistant conservation horticulturist at the State Botanical Garden. "Each of these species explodes into a show of blooms that delight people and pollinators alike."

The four plants chosen for 2024 are:

Spring Bloomer – Robin's

Fleabane



Erigeron pulchellus "Lynnhaven Carpet"

About: Robin's Fleabane is a perennial with 6- to 12-inch flowering stems that provide an evergreen, carpet-like ground cover. The textured foliage bursts into bloom in the spring with small white to light purple daisy-like flowers.

Conservation value: Supports many native pollinators such as bees, butterflies and songbirds.

State Botanical Garden at UGA debuts

2024 Pollinator Plants of the Year

Summer Bloomer – Spotted Horsemint



Monarda punctata

About: Spotted Horsemint is a biennial, up to 3 feet tall, in the mint family that blooms into beautifully complex, yellow-spotted flowers with pink bracts during the summer months.

Conservation value: Supports many native pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.

Fall Bloomer – White Wood Aster



Eurybia divaricata

About: White Wood Aster is a perennial in the aster family that typically grows up to 3 feet tall. It has attractive heart-shaped leaves and showy white flowers in late summer through fall. The center of the flowers turns from yellow to red after being pollinated, providing more color and intrigue in the garden.

Conservation value: Supports many native pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

State Botanical Garden at UGA debuts

2024 Pollinator Plants of the Year

Georgia Native –

American Witchhazel



Hamamelis virginiana

About: American Witchhazel is a shrub or small tree that averages 15 feet tall but can get up to 35 feet. It explodes into a display of bright yellow, firework-like flowers in mid-fall to early winter.

Conservation value: Supports many native pollinators such as moths, bees and small flies.

A committee selects the four plant species from a pool of nominations from gardeners, horticulturists, entomologists, ecologists and green industry professionals throughout Georgia. The committee announces the plants a year in advance, giving growers time to increase the supply of the plants for the public to acquire.

Ellen Honeycutt, board chair for the Georgia Native Plant Society, serves on the committee and says the program has several benefits for Georgia gardeners.

“It helps gardeners recognize that Georgians need to be growing pollinator plants across all three growing seasons, and it gives them specific recommendations to research for their area,” said Honeycutt.

“This program always features at least one plant native to Georgia to help raise awareness of using native plants in our gardens.”

The State Botanical Garden, a unit of UGA Public Service and Outreach, sells the pollinator plants of the year at its spring and fall plant sales and in the garden’s gift shop and works with growers and retailers in Georgia to produce and market the plants.

For more information about the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program and a directory of native plant nurseries, visit t.uga.edu/8sn. For more information about the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, visit botgarden.uga.edu.

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Creating an Edible Landscape

Jessica Warren, ANR Agent, Camden County

Not everyone likes the look of, or has the space for, a traditional food production garden. Or perhaps you have a vegetable garden but would like a way to incorporate more edible plants into the space you have. Edible landscaping can be a great tactic for any of these situations. There are many types or categories of edible landscaping including foodscaping, permaculture, food forests and square-foot gardening. Regardless of these descriptors, edible landscaping is generally the practice of incorporating edible plants into the ornamental landscape following basic design principles. Edible landscaping often has a strong focus on perennials which are lower maintenance and provide a longer yield. Growing more food plants at home offers improved taste and nutrition, increased food security, convenience, sustainability, and exercise.

When creating an edible landscape, there are several things to consider. Will you be planting perennials, annuals, or a combination? Annuals will need to be removed and replaced throughout the seasons which may disturb or damage neighboring perennials. Whatever combination you choose – be certain that you aren't utilizing any invasive plants. Keep in mind that pesticides and herbicides that may be safe for your lawn or



Consider that areas close to roads or sidewalks may be exposed to runoff, debris, and pollution that you may not want your food exposed to. Neighborhood dogs may also be attracted to plants adjacent to roads or sidewalks and see them as scent distributors. Make sure that you don't plant in city right-of-ways or areas needed for utilities access (like a water meter). If you have an HOA, consider the plants and aesthetics that they allow. Accept and expect to share some of your harvest with insects and wildlife.

The most important key to success, however, is planting the right plant in the right place. Choose plants that are appropriate for our USDA plant hardiness zone (8b-9a in Camden), and that require the sun and moisture/drainage that your planting site provides. Space plants

Creating an Edible Landscape

Jessica Warren, ANR Agent, Camden County

according to their mature size, not the size they are when you purchase them. Group plants with similar moisture needs together, and site plants with the highest moisture requirements close to a water source. It is never a good idea to water the whole landscape with an equal amount of water and/or on a set schedule. Water should only be applied when needed to supplement inadequate rainfall, and only to the plants that actually need it.

There are several ideas and suggestions that may be useful to you when creating an edible landscape. You can maintain a healthy and full looking landscape by interspersing annuals with perennials and evergreens.

Utilizing as many native plants as possible will reduce your labor and expense, while providing better resources to birds and pollinators. Use a variety of textures, heights, and sizes for interest, and repeat plants to create unity. Start planning utilizing a design theme or style to guide the layout of your edible landscape. Combine low-maintenance, reliable ornamentals with edible plants. Use evergreen ornamentals or edibles to maintain green structure throughout the seasons. Our native yaupon holly would be great for evergreen structure, berries for birds, and leaves for caffeinated tea.

Use structures (arbors, trellises, tepees, tomato cages, etc.) for aesthetic appeal, proper growing practices, and to provide organization. They can create architectural interest as well as outdoor rooms or comfort zones in the landscape. Planters can be used to provide interest and organization. They are especially helpful in reigning in aggressive plants such as mint and lemon balm. Hard edges such as garden walls, wattle, borders, edging, and raised planters can create a clean appearance and organize your space. Pathways can provide access to plants while creating order and organization. Start small and grow over time so that you don't become overwhelmed or rushed. Select plants that are visually



Creating an Edible Landscape

Jessica Warren, ANR Agent, Camden County

appealing, easy to grow, and that you want to eat. Choose plants that offer multiple services. For instance, passionflower vine produces an edible fruit, leaves that can be brewed for tea, a beautiful flower, and it serves as the host plant for the Gulf Fritillary butterfly.

There are many plants that can be incorporated into an edible landscape from herbs to vegetables, to fruit trees. My favorite additions are low maintenance perennials. Some trees to consider incorporating are red mulberry (red mulberry is a wonderful native but please do not use the invasive white mulberry), pawpaw (native), loquat, yaupon holly (native), satsumas, native plum species, persimmon – native or Fuyu. Shrubs to consider include fig, elderberry (native), blueberry (some are native), pomegranate, rosemary, and sage. Desirable edible vines to incorporate include muscadine, sweet potato, passionflower vine (native), nasturtium, Malabar spinach, and beans. Edible groundcovers include thyme, oregano, savory, and strawberries (some are native). I would also encourage you to reconsider the “weeds.” Many of our wild native plants and others that are often considered weeds (remember a weed is any plant growing where you don’t want it to grow) are edible and nutritious. Some examples are

greenbrier shoots, dandelion, Florida betony, wild garlic, yellow nutsedge, common blue violet, sheep’s sorrel, purslane, Asiatic hawkbeard, dollarweed, and Virginia Spiderwort.

Remember that not all parts of a plant with edibility are edible, and many aren’t edible raw. Never eat any plant without being 100% certain of its identity – some edible plants have toxic lookalikes. Do your research using credible sites (such as university sites) and peer reviewed books. Random blogs and Wikipedia are not credible sources.



Local May Events

Athens-Area Honey Bee Festival

May 25th, 2024

9 AM-1:30 pm

ACC Extension Office

275 Cleveland RD, Bogart, GA 30622

Hands-On Composting Workshop

May 4th, 2024

1 PM—3 PM

115 Parkview RD, Winterville GA

Learn the basics of composting.

Register at accgov.com/gardening.

Marigold Festival

May 11th, 2024

Parade begins at 10 AM

115 Parkview RD, Winterville GA

Parade, live music, vendors, car show,
10K race

Athens-East Piedmont Chapter Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 4th 10 AM– 2 PM

Sunrise Nursery

550 Athens RD, Winterville, GA

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.

International Compost Awareness Week

May 5th-11th, 2024

Celebrated annually, International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is designed to promote the benefits of composting and compost itself for effective resource management, soil health, and plant growth. ICAW is promoted by holding group activities and events throughout the week. Visit <https://www.accgov.com/6542/International-Compost-Awareness-Week>

Hummingbird Festival

Saturday, May 18th

9 AM—6 PM

Classic City Flowers & Nursery

10325 Double Bridges RD

Winterville, GA 30683

State Botanical Garden of Georgia: Nature Ramblers

Every Thursday 9 AM-10:30 AM

State Botanical Garden of Georgia,
Shade Garden Arbor

Join the Nature Ramblers to learn more about the natural areas, flora and fauna of the State Botanical Garden while making new friends and enjoying the fresh air.

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



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



Hands-on Composting Workshop - May 4th

1 PM to 3 PM

115 Parkview Rd, Winterville, GA

- Learn the basics of composting
- Meet some worms
- Bring your kitchen scraps to start our new compost pile together

Free to attend
Kids Welcome

One participant will leave with their own fully-functioning worm bin!

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

Register online

accgov.com/gardening



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.

Visit us online:



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