

# Shades of Green

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**E-Newsletter**

**September 2024**



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**EXTENSION**

Athens-Clarke County



# A Note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello readers!

Thank you for tuning in to our September 2024 edition of Shades of Green! We are celebrating the start of fall with a checklist of gardening tasks and research-based information for starting your fall lawn and garden! There are many fall festivals and other events going on in the Athens-area that we hope you and your family will enjoy! Please enjoy this month's issue of "Shades of Green".

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources

## Included in this issue...

### Articles

- ◇ A Note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources [Pg 2](#)
- ◇ September Gardening Calendar, Walter Reeves [Pg 3](#)
- ◇ Planting Tall Fescue Lawns, featured from Publication 105 [Pg 8](#)
- ◇ Fall is Collard, Turnip, and Cabbage Planting Time, featured from Publication 105 [Pg 10](#)

### Events/Resources

- ◇ Local September Events [Pg 11](#)
- ◇ Become a Master Gardener! [Pg 12](#)
- ◇ ACC Water Festival [Pg 13](#)
- ◇ Information and Resources [Pg 16](#)





SEPTEMBER

Week 1

# Seasonal Gardening Calendar

## Walter Reeves



### Fertilize Annuals

Fertilize salvia and chrysanthemums with liquid plant food. They will reward you with lots of blooms later this fall.

### Deadhead perennials

Examine your flower beds for tired out perennials like Shasta daisy, black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower. You can cut off dead flowers and brown foliage to neaten the plants for fall.

### Save excess basil

Preserve excess basil leaves by pureeing in a blender with a little water. Freeze the slush in an ice tray and use the cubes in your wintertime spaghetti sauce.

### Trim hibiscus

Lightly trim back the tropical hibiscus you kept outdoors for the summer. Make plans for where you'll place it indoors in bright light.

### Divide daylily, iris and monkey grass

Divide daylily, iris and monkey grass while you still have several weeks of warm weather to encourage root growth.



# Seasonal Gardening Calendar

## Walter Reeves

### Spray broadleaf weeds

Spot spray the broadleaf weeds in your lawn with a herbicide labeled for their control.

### Try a muscadine

You can't live in the South without trying a muscadine: Pop it in your mouth, suck the pulp out of the skin, enjoy the juice, then spit out the skin and seeds. What a delicious mess!

### Plant peony

It's a great time to plant peony roots. A good, old-time favorite is 'Festiva Maxima'. For real excitement, plant a tree peony and get huge blooms next May.

### Prep for fescue planting

Before planting fescue seed, wipe out weeds with a fast-acting but short-lived weed killer. Use glyphosate (Roundup, etc) now; you can seed in seven days.

### Fertilize Bermuda

Bermuda lawns sometimes, but not always, benefit from a "winterizer" fertilizer application. Do it **now** when growth has slowed but before frost turns the grass brown.

### Apply pre-emergent

Did chickweed and annual bluegrass run rampant in your lawn last spring? Now's the time to put out a pre-emergent weed preventer on lawns you'll not overseed this fall.





SEPTEMBER

Week 3

# Seasonal Gardening Calendar

## Walter Reeves

### Buy bulbs on sale

Spring-flowering bulbs are on sale now. You can buy them – but don't put them in the ground until soil temperatures are in the 60's or cooler in early October.

### Plant cool season veggies

Time to plant cool season vegetable seedlings. Broccoli, collards and cabbage plants should be available at garden centers.

### Avoid saddleback caterpillars

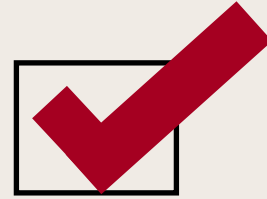
Watch out for saddleback caterpillars feeding on the leaves of trees and weeds. Their poisonous bristles can leave a nasty welt on your skin.

### Check patio plants

Examine patio plants for insects if you intend to bring them indoors. Treat with insecticide if necessary.

### Fertilize fescue

Time for the first application of fertilizer on fescue grass. This cool season turf needs fertilizer in September, November, February and April.



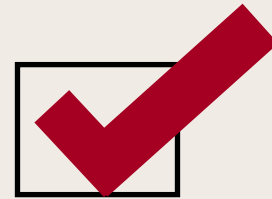


# Seasonal Gardening Calendar

## Walter Reeves

### Plant shrubs and trees

Cooler weather means it's time to plant shrubs and trees. Make sure to dig a hole three times as wide as the root ball.



### Propagate hydrangeas

Propagate limber-limbed hydrangea, grape and forsythia plants by placing a thin branch on the ground and partially covering it with soil and a brick.

### Plant fescue

Planting a new fescue lawn? Use 6 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet.

### Replace mulch under roses

Replace all of the mulch under roses, red tip photinia and crabapples. You'll prevent diseases on next year's leaves.








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EXTENSION

A photograph of a garden in autumn. A wheelbarrow and a rake are leaning against a trellis covered in vines with yellow and orange leaves. The scene is set on a lawn with scattered leaves.

# Fall Gardening

A Collection of Information  
and Resources

A close-up photograph of a white rose flower in a garden, surrounded by green leaves and other plants.

The following two articles  
are excerpts from Annual  
Publication 109: Fall Garden-  
ing; A Collection of Infor-  
mation and Resources



# Planting Tall Fescue Lawns

## Featured from Annual Publication 109

Tall fescue is a popular cool-season grass species known to have a bunching growth habit. Best adapted to Georgia's Piedmont, tall fescue is used for home lawns, general areas and soil stabilization. In general, the southern boundary for tall fescue would be Griffin, GA, although it can be found in shaded or protected microclimates farther south.

Because it can be seeded, tall fescue is popular with do-it-yourself home landscapers. It's also popular because of its genetically dark green color during the spring and fall. Research also shows that some turf-type cultivars have deep, extensive root systems and other genetic characteristics for improved drought tolerance.

For success in establishing a new tall fescue lawn, consider the following techniques and practices:

### **Establishment**

For cool-season species, like tall fescue, September and October are the ideal months to seed or sod. Grass established earlier is subject to heat stress and diseases, while planting later leaves the plants vulnerable to cold weather. When seeded under favorable environmental conditions, tall fescue seed will germinate in 5 to 10 days and be ready for its first mowing between 2 and 3 weeks. However, if tall fescue is to be seeded after mid-November, it is suggested to wait until mid-

February to plant, as air and soil temperatures should be on the rise. Seeding in December and mid- to late spring (i.e., after April) generally is not recommended because the plant does not have adequate time to develop the deep root system needed to survive Georgia's hot summers.





# Planting Tall Fescue Lawns

## Featured from Annual Publication 109

### Soil preparation

Proper soil preparation is critical for effective seed establishment. Ridding the lawn of debris, tilling, incorporating lime and fertilizer, and smoothing the surface are all necessary prior to seeding.

Add amendments, like organic matter or topsoil, and till thoroughly into the existing soil. Next, level the area and collect a soil sample to obtain soil fertilizer recommendations. Then, incorporate the recommended starter fertilizer and lime 3 to 4 inches into the soil. If equipment permits, tilling deeper is always better.

### Seeding

To ensure varietal purity, plant seed that is certified, which is identified by a blue tag. This seed has been tested, and the law assures the product information. In retail markets, most tall fescue seed is blended, meaning several tall fescue cultivars have been mixed together.

The ideal seeding rate for tall fescue is 5 to 6 lb per 1,000 sq ft. To minimize skips and gaps, divide the seed into two equal portions and broadcast half in one direction and the remainder at a right angle to the first direction. This broadcast procedure is also recommended for fertilizer and granular pesticide applications.

The seed can be lightly raked into the upper 1/4 in. of soil or pressed into the seedbed with a roller. Apply a straw mulch to retain moisture, which will improve germination and prevent erosion.

### Irrigation

After seeding, keep the upper 1 to 2 in. of soil moist, not wet. Moisture is necessary for uniform germination. This usually means daily watering of up to 1/4 in. for the first 3 weeks. The 2010 Water Stewardship Act allows for proper irrigation to achieve germination and growth.

As the seedlings develop, irrigate more deeply but less frequently. Under good conditions, tall fescue seed will germinate in 5 to 10 days and be ready for its first mowing in 2 to 3 weeks.

### Mowing

Begin mowing at a height of 2 in. As the seedlings mature, raise the cutting height to the 2.5 - to 3-in. range. Once mature, the lawn can be maintained between 2 to 2.5 in., but a height of 3 in. is suggested during the summer months.

Use a mower with a sharp blade and mow often enough so no more than a third of the leaf height is removed in a single mowing. Do not mow grass when it is wet, especially when mowing young seedlings.

### Timing

Successful tall fescue seeding depends on proper soil preparation, good soil-to-seed contact and proper water management. September is the ideal month to establish tall fescue.

For more information on planting and maintaining turfgrass in Georgia, visit [www.GeorgiaTurf.com](http://www.GeorgiaTurf.com).



# Fall is Collard, Turnip, and Cabbage Planting Time

## Featured from Annual Publication 105

As summer vegetables like corn and beans stop bearing, it's time for home gardeners to start preparing fall gardens of cool-season vegetables.

If you have a summer vegetable garden, chop up these plants with your lawn mower and incorporate them along with a balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 into your garden with a tiller. You also may want to have your soil tested to determine how much fertilizer and lime to add if any is needed.

In Georgia, it can be very challenging to get cool-season vegetables through the end of summer. There is a delicate balance between starting them early enough to allow them to mature (50 to 60 days) before a hard frost and getting them through the end of a hot, dry summer.

Start seeds in August for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, turnips, radishes, spinach, lettuce, beets and onions. It is best to use a store-bought potting mix to start seeds in containers, flats or trays. Place the seeds in a partially shaded spot and keep them watered, and you will have seedlings ready to transplant in September. Onion sets can be transplanted later in October.

Most vegetables can be purchased as ready-to-transplant seedlings from garden centers if you don't want to start from seeds.

Keeping young seedlings watered is critical to establishing them. You also have to keep a sharp eye out for pest problems such as insects, diseases and weeds because they will continue to flourish in warm temperatures and high humidity. A layer of newspaper and mulch placed between rows can prevent a lot of weed problems and help conserve soil moisture.

Contact your local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1 for more information on growing fall vegetable gardens.





# Local September Events

## Fall Wildflowers of the Georgia Piedmont

Saturday, September 7th

9:00 a.m. —1:00 p.m.

### State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Our gardens, roadsides, and meadows are aglow with color in the fall. In this class, students will learn to recognize the most common fall-blooming wildflowers in the Georgia Piedmont and be introduced to the basic botanical terminology used in identifying and describing fall-flowering plants, with an emphasis on plants in the Aster (composite) family. We will then apply that knowledge to plants in the field.

## ACC Water Festival

Saturday, September 7th, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

### Sandy Creek Park, 400 Bob Holman RD

For our 15th anniversary, we're shining a light on the most important building block of life, WATER! Let's celebrate water with games, activities, bubbles, music, and even a magic show!

## Statham Sunflower Festival

Saturday, September 21st

8 a.m.– 2 p.m.

### 1892 Railroad St, Statham GA 30666

Come on out and support hundreds of local small businesses. Music, local food, car/truck show, kid's activities and more. A wonderful treat for the whole family!

**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.

## September Full Moon Hike

September 17th

8 —9:30 PM

### State Botanical Garden of Georgia Athens, GA

See the garden come alive at night! Join our monthly Full Moon Hikes to enjoy the SBGG after hours and hear discussions on nocturnal plants and animals, the changing seasons, and moon folklore. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles on our wooded trails and in the garden, where visibility may be low at times.

## “Adopt a Stream” Workshop at Sandy Creek Nature Center

Saturday, September 21, 2024

9 a.m.—5:00 pm

Interested in adopting a waterway near you? Join us for the chemical and bacterial workshops to learn more about the qualities of clean water. Space is limited to 10 people. Pre-registration is required.

[https://accgovga.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29873](https://accgovga.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29873)

## September Flower Harvest and Design Class

Saturday, September 21st

6—8 pm

### Big Hart Farms

### 208 Martin Normal Place, Hartwell, GA 30643

Join us monthly for our Floral Harvest & Design Class Series! Experience an hour of guided hands-on harvesting followed by our expert design instruction to create your own beautiful farm fresh arrangement from start to finish. Let nature inspire your creativity!



# Would you like to become an Athens Area Master Gardener?



**E**stablished in 1990, the Athens Area Master Gardener Program provides novice and seasoned gardeners with an intensive educational experience in horticulture principles, practices and pest management. Classes are taught by UGA faculty and other subject area experts.

After completing the educational component of the program, participants perform 50 hours of volunteer service in their community before the end of the calendar year. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers answer gardening questions at the ACC Extension office, staff informational booths at farmers markets and local events, conduct plant clinics, help with Plant a Row for the Hungry gardens, assist curators at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, teach Junior Master Gardener programs at local schools and more.



**APPLICATIONS  
ARE DUE  
November 1st,  
2024**



## Course topics include:

- Botany & Plant Physiology
- Soils & Plant Nutrition
- Entomology
- Plant Pathology & Disease Control
- Landscape Design
- Vegetable Gardening
- Fruit Gardening
- Organic Gardening
- Annuals, Perennials & Bulbs
- Plant Propagation
- Composting
- Weed Science
- Integrated Pest Management

Contact ACC Extension at (706) 613-3640 or email [vlc74120@uga.edu](mailto:vlc74120@uga.edu)

<https://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/clarke/agriculture-and-natural-resources/master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program.html>

Athens-Clarke  
County 2025  
Master Gardener  
Extension Volunteer  
Program

### Dates

Tuesday and  
Thursday  
mornings, January 7  
—April 8, 2025

### Time

8:45am-11:15am

### Location

Athens-Clarke County  
Extension Office  
275 Cleveland Road  
Bogart, GA 30622

### Cost

\$250

### To apply





# ATHENS WATER FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 7

10:00am - 2:00pm

Sandy Creek Park (400 Bob Holman Road)

\$2 per person park entry

Swim in the Lake

Music & Magic

Splash with  
Water Trucks

Meet Animals

Water is  
Awesome!



[AthensWaterFestival.com](http://AthensWaterFestival.com)





# 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](#)

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## 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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