



Shades of Green



From Gardeners
to Gardeners

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Amanda's Slice

Even though it is cold this week, before long, spring will be in full swing with its beautiful colors and blooms. This month, there seems to be quite the selection of events occurring in the Athens area to celebrate the arrival of spring. Just in March alone, there will be seed swaps, the reopening of the Athens Farmers Market, the much anticipated grand opening of the children's garden at the State Botanical Gardens and many more outdoor activities! These are great opportunities to learn more about plants, vegetables and fruits you may not have been previously familiar with.

Make sure to check out the "local events" section of the newsletter so you do not miss out on these fun, educational events!



Flowering Cherry Trees are a Seasonal Highlight

By Campbell Vaughn

Oh to experience this warm dry weather. It has been so nice. If the powers that be could just get daylight savings time started up, I may never go inside in the evenings. Riding to work, I noticed along the roadways some friendly plants that are happy to have a little warmth. It made me happy to finally see some color after a long time of drab. Flowering cherries have started blooming, which means there is hope for spring. There are a variety of flowering cherry trees. These aren't the cherries we use in pies; they are the ones with showy flowers that we use to celebrate spring. There are a host of different sizes, bloom types and bloom times. All of the ornamental cherries bloom best with a good bit of sun. Washington, D.C., has the National Cherry Blossom Festival from March 20th to April 14th, commemorating the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington,

D.C. One and a half million visitors come to our nation's capital to participate in the celebration every year. Not to be outdone by a simple "National" festival, Macon, Ga., has the International Cherry Blossom Festival every spring based on the Yoshino Cherries that were planted by William Fickling Sr. in the early 1970s. This event has turned into a month-long celebration of the cherry blossom with hundreds of events. Here are a few that have been my favorites through the years: Okame Cherry (*Prunus x incamp 'Okame'*) has pink blooms that are usually Pepto Bismal pink around Presidents Day. They are mildly fragrant, providing an impetus for me being happy at the thought of spring around the corner. Okame grows 20- to 25-feet high and has a little longer flowering period than other cherries. This cherry is more upright than wide. Yoshino Cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*) is a popular one in zones 5-8.

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Trees for Bees

By Sage Barnard

Georgia's Arbor Day celebration, Feb. 16, is a great time for Georgians to show some love for the state's pollinators by planting trees that help support their habitat, said Becky Griffin, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension School and Community Garden coordinator.

"Trees are often overlooked when people think about planting for pollinators," Griffin said. "By drawing attention to trees that support pollinators, especially those super early ones, we can do a lot to support Georgia's pollinators." Substantial plantings of trees, like Chaste Tree or Yellow Poplar, can help support pollinator populations for years with a single planting, and they flower early to support the very first of the spring's bees. "If I was doing foundation planting in my yard, I would choose something that blossoms early," she said. "As temperatures start to warm

up, bees will be coming out and they're going to be looking for nectar and pollen. Having an early food source is a great way to support your local pollinators." Griffin, an

avid beekeeper and coordinator of the upcoming Great Georgia Pollinator Census, is working to promote UGA Extension's Trees for Bees campaign to help Georgians make long-term landscaping choices that support pollinators.

Pollinator health and loss is an important economic point in Georgia as pollinators have an annual value of around \$360 million here. Pollinators

are facing dilemmas like habitat loss, disease, parasites and the misuse of garden chemicals. Many Georgians are unaware that their choice of landscaping plants can have a major effect on the pollinators. The Trees for Bees campaign was launched in 2018 by a team of UGA Extension agents and specialists and faculty from the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.



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Trees for Bees (continued...)

It provides scientific information to Georgians and resources for protecting pollinators around the home. Since then organizers have held more than 50 workshops, conference exhibits, adult educational programs, Arbor Day celebrations and a nationwide webinar to help get the message out. They've reached about 212,436 people with the message that bees need trees and will continue to educate Georgians about pollinator habitats as the 2019 tree-planting season begins.



For more information about supporting pollinators in suburban and urban yards visit extension.uga.edu or call 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

All Georgians should consider being part of the Great Georgia Pollinator Census which takes place Aug. 23 through 24. Visit the project website at GGaPC.org for more information.

(Reach Sage Barnard, a student writer for the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and UGA Cooperative Extension, by emailing smb56597@uga.edu.)

Flowering Cherry Trees are a Seasonal Highlight (continued...)

This cherry is a little wider than tall, spreading to 35 feet and reaching an apex of 25 feet. The blooms are white to pink and arrive early to mid-spring. The glossy foliage turns a bright yellow in the fall before shedding its leaves for the winter. For a little smaller flowering cherry that is very showy, try the **Kwanzan Cherry** (*Prunus serrulata*). This cherry is a little more upright and blooms around Masters Tournament time. The pink/white double clusters of flowers are like a tree of carnations. Flowering cherries don't come without their set of problems. Our heat and



Pictured above is a flowering Cherry Tree in full bloom

humidity in Georgia can limit the life span of these flowering ornamentals. They sometimes will only last 15 years. In the proper place, ornamental cherries are a great plant to really show off some spring colors. If it is an allée of cherries down a street or a single specimen planted as a spring-time focal feature, the cherry can be a seasonal highlight for the landscape.

(Reach Campbell Vaughn, the UGA Agriculture and Natural Resource agent for Richmond County, by emailing augusta@uga.edu.)

Gardening Doesn't Have to Be a Pain in the Shade

By Bob Westerfield for CAES News

Few things are more impressive in the landscape than large, majestic oak trees or maple trees bursting with fall color. They add dimension and needed shade in the summer, too. They also provide a challenge to a gardener looking to add color to a shaded landscape. While the list of plants for sunny locations seems to be endless, the shade gardener must be a little more selective to ensure good plant survival. Luckily, there are many plants available to enhance shadowy real estate. First, determine how much shade you have. Is it a couple of hours in the afternoon caused by a few pine trees? Is it dense shade caused by a group of magnolia trees? There is a big difference between what we call partial shade and full shade. There are also areas of shade that fall

thrive in low-light areas and add color. Common jasmine does well in almost any soil condition and can handle moderate shade. It has bright yellow blooms. Carolina jessamine is another good choice. Both vines need support such as a post or trellis. Other



Pictured above is a flowering Dogwood possessing proper shade tolerance

vines for shaded areas are honeysuckle, cross vine, trumpet vine and large flowered clematis. Most of the ivies will also do well such as Algerian ivy. Avoid invasive types such as English ivy. For areas that require small plants or ground covers, consider holly fern, lenten rose or even daylilies. Others are pachysandra, periwinkle or possibly mondo grass. Many of these are available in a variegated form, which can brighten dark areas. Ferns certainly top the list for thriving in shaded, moist areas. Whether you choose the Christmas fern, Japanese painted fern or one of the other dozens available, they are sure to provide unique interest with their delicate foliage. Ferns can range in size from a few inches across to several feet. Other moist-area selections include willow gentian.



between these two categories. Some plants thrive in almost cave-like shade. Others handle light-filtered shade. It is best to check the yard for shade at different times of the day and throughout the year to see what you really have. A site can be modified with the removal of a few tree limbs. Many vines can

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Gardening Doesn't Have to Be a Pain in the Shade

(continued...)

It's a perennial that grows three feet tall with arching stems bearing ultramarine-blue trumpets in the fall. Bottlebrush buckeye is another possibility for moist shaded areas. It is a native shrub that has white bottle brush shaped flowers. This plant can reach over six feet. Oakleaf hydrangea is a large native plant with spectacular white blooms in the spring that will also survive well in moist



Pictured above is a White Jasmine plant.

shaded areas. This plant is best sited in areas with plenty of room. Mature plants can be eight feet tall with a 10-foot spread. When it comes to shrubs, the list includes short, tall and medium plants as well as deciduous and evergreen varieties. Azaleas and yews are popular shade-tolerant shrubs. Within the world of perennials, the best-known example is the hosta. Hardy ferns of all kinds are easy to grow. Two favorites include autumn fern and cinnamon fern, so named because of its distinctively colored new fronds. Here are a few more shade-tolerant plants:

Annuals: begonia, coleus, impatiens, forget-me-nots (*Myosotis sylvatica*), pansy (*Viola*)

Perennials: astilbe, bleeding heart (*Dicentra*), bugbane (*Cimicifuga*), campanula, columbine

(*Aquilegia*), coral bells (*Heuchera*), foxglove (*Digitalis*), goatsbeard (*Aruncus*), hellebore, daylily (*Hemerocallis*), hosta, Virginia blue-bell (*Mertensia pulmonarioides*), fern, monkshood (*Aconitum*), phlox, primrose (*Primula*), lungwort (*Pulmonaria*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia*), Siberian iris, veronica

Groundcovers: ajuga, wild ginger (*Asarum*), sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), epimedium, lamium, lirioppe, mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*), pachysandra, spirea, vinca

Shrubs: boxwood (*Buxus*), daphne, gold dust (*Aucuba*), holly (*Ilex*) hydrangea, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), leucothoe, Oregon grape (*Mahonia*), mock orange (*Philadelphus*), nandina, cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), rhododendron and azalea, viburnum, yew (*Taxus*)

Trees: dogwood (*Cornus*), Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), stewartia.



Illustrated above is an Azalea plant known for being shade-tolerant

(Reach Bob Westerfield, the consumer horticulturist with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, by emailing bwesterf@uga.edu.)

Athens-Clarke County Extension

2019 Free Gardening Class Series



Shade Gardening

Please join us for an informative presentation on topics including:

- How to classify a shade garden based on light level and shade definition
- Which plants thrive best in low light conditions
- How to manage moisture requirements and drainage

Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome.

WHEN:

Wednesday, March 13 • 6:00-7:30 pm

WHERE:

**Athens-Clarke County Library
Appleton Auditorium
2025 Baxter Street
Athens, GA 30606**

TO REGISTER:

Registration is required. Please register by **March 12** by visiting

www.athensclarkecounty.com/gardening



For questions

Contact Amanda Tedrow, Extension Agent at
706-613-3640 or atedrow@uga.edu

*The University of Georgia is committed to principles of
equal opportunity and affirmative action.*



Local “Green” Events

to name a few...

Winterville Farmer’s Market Interest Meeting

March 4th at 6:00 PM at the Winterville Train Depot
2285 Winterville Road, Winterville, GA 30683

For more information [click here](#).

Hellebore Days at Piccadilly Farm

Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am to 4 pm, on March 1, 2, 8 and 9. We will be open rain or shine! Guided tours at 11 am each day.

Visit: www.piccadillyfarm.com

1st Annual Oglethorpe County Seed Swap sponsored by PlowShare

March 9 from 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

307 Hutchins Wolfskin Road, Stephens, GA 30667

An event to share heirloom seeds but other open pollinated seeds will be welcome as well. For more details or if you have any questions, email plowshareoglethorpe@gmail.com or visit <https://plowshareoglethorpe.wordpress.com/>

Forest Talk and Walk at [Sandy Creek Nature Center](#)

Take a guided walk in the woods with Trails and Open Spaces staff to explore Sandy Creek Nature Center trails. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Starting **March 11 at 10:00 AM–11:30 AM**. Register by March 8 at 2:00 PM or view other events by [clicking here](#).

Bulbs and Ephemerals: Garden Treasures! at the [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#)

March 14 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. This class will give a guide to the identification, propagation, and ecology of both native and exotic spring ephemerals. It will focus on minor horticultural bulbs and native wildflowers that thrive in zone 8A. Register and pay online for this class.

For more information please call 706-542-6156 or to register, visit <http://botgarden.uga.edu/event/spring-bulbs-ephemerals/>

Beech Hollow Farms Open House

Come celebrate the start of our Spring sale season, rain or shine! March 16 from 10:00 AM — 4:00 PM

Special spring opening native plant discounts - For more information visit www.beechhollowfarms.com

Opening Day for [Athens Farmers Market- Bishop Park](#)

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Drop by between 8:00 AM— 12:00 PM

Find more information at:

<http://athensfarmersmarket.net/events>

Alice H. Richards Children’s Garden Grand Opening at the [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#)

Saturday, March 23 at 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Free and open to children of all ages.

For more information [click here](#).

The Soil3 Garden Show in Cumming, GA

Join us at the Soil3 Garden Show where we’ll be talking vegetable gardening on Saturday,

March 30, 2019 at 8:30 AM—3:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Location: Silver City Farm, 5130 Dahlonega Hwy, Cumming, GA (770) 274-2279

To register or for more information, visit <http://info.soil3.com/garden-show>

Athens Area Master Gardener Association’s 2019 Dazzling Daffodils and other Spring-flowering Beauties Sale

The annual Dazzling Daffodil sale is now underway! We are pleased to offer a selection of top-quality daffodil and spring flowering bulbs that are well suited of our southern climate. Place your order now for delivery in time for fall planting.

Orders must be received by April 30, 2019 for delivery in October. Specific dates, times, and location for order pick-up will be announced to purchasers by email in late September. [Click here](#) to view the Daffodil flyer and order form.



Outdoor Water Use Schedule*

Effective March 2017

Allowed daily

Between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am

- Automated irrigation systems
- Hand watering (without a shut-off nozzle)
- Lawn sprinklers

Prohibited at all times

- Failure to repair or bypass a leaking sprinkler head or emitter, valve, faucet, pipe or toilet
- Allowing potable water to flow into public rights of way such as alleys, streets, gutters or onto other person's property
- Operating an irrigation system during rain events exceeding 1/4 inch
- Washing vehicles. Driveways, parking lots or sidewalks without a shutoff valve or nozzle

Allowed anytime

By anyone

- Commercial pressure washing
- Drip irrigation or soaker hose
- Food gardens
- Hand watering (with a shut-off nozzle)
- Hydroseeding
- Installation and maintenance of an irrigation system
- Irrigation of newly installed turf (for the first 30 days)
- Irrigation of public recreational turf area
- Irrigation of plants for sale
- Irrigation of sports fields
- Water from a private well
- Water from an alternative source
 - Grey water, rain water, condensate

*This Outdoor Water Use Schedule is consistent with the Outdoor Water Use Rules set forth in the Georgia Water Stewardship Act that went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010 and the Drought Management Rules, Chapter 391-3-30 Level 1 and Non-Drought Response. Water wasting prohibitions per Athens-Clarke County Code of Ordinances ARTICLE 7. Sec. 5-3-123



Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)
[Pest Management Handbook](#)
[SE Ornamental Horticulture Production & IPM Blog](#)
[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)
[Pesticide Applicator Info](#)
[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#)
[Landscape Alerts Online](#)
[Ask an Expert](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)
[Georgia Certified Plant Professional](#)
[Extension Publications](#)

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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