

The New Leaf

Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers Newsletter
University of Georgia Extension – Coweta County

SEPTEMBER
2023

PATTY ELLIS, MGEV
PRESIDENT



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The other day I was in my garden and saw what I thought were two tomatoes that needed to be picked. When I reached for them, I discovered that they were fused together, like conjoined twins. It got me thinking about how weird and wonderful nature can be in all of its diversity. Then I did a little research about the cause and learned a little bit more about fasciation in plants. Fasciation is the unregulated growth of the plant at the apical meristem and it will cause a flat splayed growth instead of upward growth. The result is an elongation and malformation of flowers and stems. The causes can be genetic, infectious, or abiotic. So fascinating! Here's a link to some information from Walter Reeves about fasciation in different plants

<https://www.walterreeves.com/name-that-plant/fascinating-blob-what-is-it/>

While searching for information to post on the MGEV Facebook page, I came across an article about how houseplants help to improve mood and the growing body of science that supports this fact. It got me thinking that some indoor spaces just seem uninviting and cold, for example hospital rooms and medical offices. The addition of plants (or even pictures of plants) and the color green warms things up and helps make people feel better. This is yet another reason that I'm thrilled that our spring plant sale included houseplants and a few of our BYA presentations have featured them as well. The power of plants is amazing! You can read the article here . <https://theconversation.com/owning-houseplants-can-boost-your-mental-health-heres-how-to-pick-the-right-one-202197#:~:text=Houseplants%20make%20us%20feel%20good,space%20and%20boost%20your%20mood>

Often fall is a time when gardening starts to take a back seat to other pursuits, but we know that fall is a great time to plant trees and perennials. The greenhouse and plant sale teams have been working diligently to create an inventory of beautiful plants and plan to sell them at the sale in October. The education committee continues to bring us interesting presentations and the nature trail and demo garden volunteers continue their year round maintenance. While this may be a slower time, the help desk still answers client questions and follows up on soil tests. Every MGEV brings special talents to our group as we fulfill our mission to educate our neighbors about gardening.

I wish each of you a happy and safe Labor Day holiday weekend!

ALERT

INVASIVE YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET FOUND IN SAVANNAH

“In mid-August, beekeepers in Savannah found the invasive yellow-legged hornet (YLH), *Vespa velutina* near the port of Savannah. This hornet should not be confused with the Asian (now “Northern”) Giant Hornet that was discovered in Washington state in 2020. While the YLH can pose a stinging risk to people and pet just like all stinging insects, it is primarily a threat to the beekeeping industry. This hornet is a voracious predator of honeybees. Even if it fails to kill a colony, its threatening behavior at hive entrances can intimidate bees from foraging and can cause the colony to decline.

Georgia consistently ranks within the top 20 states for honey production and the top 2-3 for production of package bees and queens. UGA scientists and GDA are consulting with colleagues in Washington state and Europe to draw on their experience and formulate a plan for eradication, surveillance, and management to fast-track a response for Georgia.

Please note that there are many domestic lookalikes that are native to the United States and do not pose a threat to honeybees. Many of them are valuable pollinators. The United States Department of Agriculture has a photo gallery to help with identification. Visit www.aphis.usda.gov and search for yellow-legged hornet to see the gallery.

If you would like more information about the YLH or would like to report a possible siting, please visit <https://agr.georgia.gov/yellow-legged-hornet> through the Georgia Department of Agriculture website.”

Stephanie Ray Butcher

College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences | *County Extension Coordinator*

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR 4-H RMT

4-H Risk Management Training is available on MGLOG. Link to training and the test is on the HOME page.

Please mark your calendars for the Thursday, **September 14th** volunteer meeting, at **10 AM** in the DMMR! Join us for program updates, fellowship, and great food prepared by our Hospitality Committee.



Cathy LeBar has won the prestigious "New Leaf Reader's Award" for reading the continuing education article in the August issue of the New Leaf . She identified the two MGEVs in the *Thoughtful Thursday* segment as Dale Senko and Jan Boyer.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REVIEW

Submitted by Dale Senko



Soon it will be time to plan next year's garden and decorate for the holidays. These may sound unrelated, but the continuing education session I watched connected the two. As we all know BYA is a good source for learning from knowledgeable speakers. However, if you are unable to attend in person, sessions are taped and can be accessed at Coweta MGEV YouTube,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUm_YBxxmsZ5eoSx-CSmG5A

I watched the session for Floral Design with David Brown from Hills and Dales. While the technical aspects for filming are still evolving, I give this session a thumbs up for content. Mr. Brown starts the session by describing the types of cutting gardens, giving pros and cons for each, and explaining how to create the garden. Having a cutting garden provides you with a flower source for holiday floral arrangements, and year round decoration. He explains techniques for conditioning flowers before arranging, flower direction, and how to create angles and shapes. A few words of advice when viewing; sound may be difficult to hear when the audience asks questions, skip the start before the speaker, and the end during door prizes.

BYA

Submitted by Lyn Matthews



At the August BYA Trecia Neal spoke to a full house. Her topic, *Living with the Landscape, Why Native Plants*, was well received by everyone. She was a speaker we would like to have back again.

On September 12, JoHannah Blanca, the new Horticultural Manager at Hills and Dales in La Grange, will speak on fall vegetable gardening. She will take fall vegetable gardening to the next level by discussing raised beds, containers, and much more. Melanie Landrum says, "She's dynamite and is making positive changes at Hills and Dales." Come early for a good seat!

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

- Buy spring flowering bulbs but wait to plant until soil temperatures are cooler.
- Divide daylilies and irises.
- Cut back dead flowers and brown foliage on perennials.
- Check vegetable garden calendar to plant seedlings for cool season vegetables and schedule planting according to frost date.
- Replace mulch under rose bushes to prevent diseases next year

SEPTEMBER PRUNING HINTS FROM CR

Annuals: Reserve a day this month to tidy up leaves, dead stems, and faded flowers. Even tired plants look better when they are neat.

Bulbs: If you have daylilies blooming pinch off the blooms unless you want the seeds to set. Cut off and save any ripe seed pods from bulbs that you want to grow from seed next year. Once these seed pods turn from green to brown and begin to dry out, the seeds inside should be ripe so store them in a cool, dry place. If the foliage on your lilies has turned yellow or brown, it's now safe to cut them back to a height of 2" to 4".

Edibles: Remove dead limbs from fruit trees and vines. Remove short stubs that have weak sprouts growing from them.

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

Lawns: If you raised your mowing height to help your grass during the summer, lower it to the proper height now. centipede: 1"~1.5", fescue: 2"~3", ryegrass: 1"~2", seeded Bermuda: 1"~2", sodded Bermuda: 0.5"~1.5", St. Augustine: 2"~3", and zoysia: 0.5"~1.5".

Perennials & Ornamental Grasses: Cut back flowers when they finish blooming and remove any foliage that is diseased or dying. This will limit the number of places for unwanted pests to overwinter. Leave attractive seed heads for winter decorations.

Roses: Prune hybrid tea and grandiflora roses to remove dead limbs and to shape them for winter.

Shrubs: Prune only dead, damaged, or diseased branches during this season.

Trees: Remove any dead or diseased branches but wait until the trees are dormant to do any severe pruning. Trees that are pruned now, before they are completely dormant, could experience cold damage. This damage occurs when young growth sprouts during mild spells and doesn't have time to harden off before winter sets in. If scale-like leaves on your cryptomeria are turning yellow and brown, and the plant looks wilted, you may have phytophthora root rot, a problem that occurs in soils that are poorly drained or wet.

Vines & Ground Covers: Limit your pruning to dead or diseased leaves, stems, and twigs on vines. Prune off dead or diseased leaves on ground covers but don't cut them back severely now - wait until they are dormant. Cut off seed pods as they ripen from annual vines. Do this on cool, dry days. Remove the seeds from the pods as soon as possible, carefully cutting away the seedpod. Keep seeds in a cool, dry place until you sow them next spring. Be sure you properly mark the bags that they are stored in. Seeds from your garden make excellent gifts for the holidays.

And, as always, Many Thanks to Reeves & Glasener in their *Month-by-Monty GARDENING in GEORGIA.*"



“

Happily we bask in
this warm September
sun, which illuminates
all creatures.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Southern Living

“Excuse me, the birds want me to
ask when you might be refilling the
feeder.”



GREAT SOUTHEAST POLLINATOR CENSUS August 19, 2023

MGEVs and members of the public counted pollinators at the Pollinator and Demo Gardens on August 19th. Twelve girl scouts, with their parents, showed up as well as a large contingent of MGEVs.



NATURE TRAIL

Submitted by Audrey Harrelson

Native Plants Really Matter!

Most of you know that one of the key tasks we work on every month at the Nature Trail is getting rid of invasive plants, such as privet and Japanese honeysuckle. Many of us understand the negative effect those plants have on our gardens. It is easy to overlook the "less negative" impact some beautiful ornamental plants have on our gardens.

Like many MGEVs, I participated in the August pollinator census. This year I tried a different plant from the native plant I usually use, my beautiful butterfly bush. This is merely my reporting, but by using this plant, the results of my count resulted in the lowest and least varieties of pollinators in at least 4 years. My second count, half an hour later, on an 'old reliable' native plant, resulted in many more insects, and much more diversity. The conditions for both were similar and only the plants differed. My follow up counts during the next 2 days resulted in the same phenomenon. No matter what, my buddleia isn't going anywhere. The difference in pollinators, of all types, using the native plant versus mainly butterflies on the butterfly bush was noteworthy. There's room for all kinds of plants in most of our yards. Add a native plant or two to add more life to your yard.



**VISIT THE NATURE TRAIL
TO SEE THIS BEAUTIFUL
NATIVE SWAMP AZALEA
THAT IS BLOOMING
NEAR THE PAVILLION.**

Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

Fall Plant Sale

Greenhouse, Behind Extension Office
255 Pine Road, Newnan, GA

- Perennials
- Shrubs
- Trees

We encourage you to bring wagons and boxes for ease of shopping.



Saturday, October 14

8:30am—12:00noon

Questions? Call 770.254.2620



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WHAT HAVE WE HERE?



Marge Cox, class of 2022, identified this plant grown by Barbara France as a YUCCA.

Great work Marge!



Stephanie sent this lovely little wildflower picture in. A client called the Extension office and asked for an ID.

Can you help the client out?

**Send answers to:
Patfarmer100@gmail.com**

2023 Master Gardener Coweta County Committee Chairs

Ask MG/Market Day	Harley Stewart
Backyard Association	Melanie Landrum, Deberah Williams
Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed.	Rebecca Gibson
Demonstration Garden	Kathy Olmsted, Amy Keller
Education	Cathy LeBar, Paula Hyatt
Ext. Landscape	Cathy LeBar
Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk	Susan Mills (library), Patty Ellis, Deberah Williams
Fall Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Finance	Colleen Stephens
Fundraising	Diane Cook, Cathy LeBar
Garden Tour	Diane Cook
Greenhouse	Barbara Schwartz (lead), Cathy LeBar, Marge Cox
Hospitality	Colleen Stephens, Amy Sharpe
Communications	Jerry Allen
Nature Trail	Ed Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Audrey Harrelson
Scholarship	Jennie Adcock
Speakers Bureau	Dan Gentry
Spring Plant Sale	Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted
Sunshine	Sara Hanson
The New Leaf	Pat Farmer
Volunteer Awards	Patty Ellis
Volunteer Management/Support	Patty Ellis, CR Phillips

Photos: Pat Farmer, Amy Keller, Dave Granroos, Marge Cox, Dale Senko, Patti Ellis
 Editors: Dianne Teer, Patty Ellis, Connie Gilliam



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