

The Greene Thumb

A Newsletter from Greene County Master Gardeners



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Creative Container Gardening

By Yvonne Moore



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Creative Container Gardening

Find the perfect formula for great container gardens.

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Want more of these little gems in your yard...check this out to learn how.

What's Going on with GC Master Gardeners?

Highlights of past and future events!

Here are some helpful hints to get you started...

- **Choose your location, observe sun and shade patterns.**
- **Choose your container, compliment your home style and color.**
- **Choose the right soil, potting soil for containers and NOT top soil.**
- **Choose companion plants for the season considering color, texture, and compatible water needs.**

Time to get to the nursery and make your selections! Look for Part II for more fundamentals on soil, fertilizer, and pest control to guarantee great containers!

This is a favorite time of year to brighten your home and perk up porch spaces with beautiful containers of flowers. From the front door to the back porches and decks, around the pool and at the outdoor kitchen, create flower power to welcome guests and enjoy the easy, low maintenance of container gardening. By placing containers on sidewalks, on columns and fences, hang on walls or create a composition of containers, you can welcome guests from the curb of your home to the front door.

Now, let's get started! Successful container gardening has a fool proof formula to deliver a balanced, appealing flower structure for any space. A traditional way to think about plants in your pot are three concepts...thriller, spiller and filler.

- ✓ Thriller, choose plants that are upright, eye catching for the center of the pot.
- ✓ Filler, choose plants that mound and fill space under the tall plants.
- ✓ Spiller, choose ivy or trailing vines or flowers that spill over the sides of the pot.

The objective is to achieve balance and have the eye follow the height, the fullness and the spill to make a pleasing statement in the space you have chosen.



What's Going on with Greene County Master Gardeners?

Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers have been busy this spring with lots of activities and planning for more. Here are some highlights:

April 30 – Community Gardeners planted their garden plots at the demonstration garden. Master Gardener volunteers were on site to share knowledge and provide guidance,

April 21 - Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers, Mona Villa and Yvonne Moore held a well attended workshop for residents of Reynolds Lake Oconee on Creative Container Gardening. Other Greene County Master Gardener Volunteers attended to help answer participant questions.

April 30 – Grow With Girl Scouts program kicked off as Girl Scouts were assisted by Master Gardeners in planting their beds at the demonstration garden. They plan to donate their harvest to a local food bank.

UPCOMING!!! Encore Performance
CREATIVE CONTAINER GARDENING
June 8, 2022 at 11 AM
Greene County Cooperative Extension Office

Workshop is free of charge!

An Open Invitation for Hummingbirds

By Linda Bone



So you want to attract hummingbirds to your yard! Then, what should you plant? Most people think that hummingbirds suck nectar from plants through their long beaks, but actually their tongue does the work. Because of this, they prefer brightly colored, long tubular blossoms. Long, tubular blossoms also limit access by other insects to the rich nectar that hummers need to thrive. Petunia, gladiolus, foxglove, daylily, hollyhock, salvia and bee balm are just a few flowering plants that hummers frequent. And don't forget vines such as honeysuckle, morning glory or trumpet creeper. Try to plant a variety that will ensure a supply of rich nectar over a long period of time and you'll not only reap the benefit of beautiful flowers, but you will also enjoy beautiful, tiny hummingbirds!

While a number of hummingbird species have been recorded in Georgia, the ruby throated hummingbird is the most widely seen. You usually hear their recognizable hum, made by their fastly beating little wings, long before you see them. Homeowners who are most successful at attracting these fascinating birds may use a combination of plants and feeders. For more information, refer to the UGA Extension publication at the link below:

<https://site.extension.uga.edu/fannin-gilmer/2021/04/luring-hummingbirds-to-your-home-landscape/>