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Special Points of Interest

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Home Garden & Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

Special Points of Interest:

Mark your calendars!

→ Gardening with the Masters

Multipurpose Room-Houston County Extension Office

Seed Exchange—5-7PM/Feb 4 /FREE/
Extension Office

Composting Basics - 5:30-7:30 PM/
Mar 12 / \$10/ Hafley Park

Gardening with Youth — 9AM-12PM/
Apr 25/ \$10/ Hafley Park

Edible Landscaping —6-8PM/ May 21/
\$10/ Extension Office

Call 478-987-2028 or visit us at 801 Main Street to reserve your spot!

→ Spring Plant Sale

Farmer's Market, Macon
Mar 19 (12-5)
Mar 20 (8-5)
Mar 21 (8-3)

FREE! Master Gardeners will be available to assist with your plant selections and to answer your gardening questions. Come discover the wide variety of plants available!

→ *Spring Home & Garden Show*

McGill Marketplace Building
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Apr 3: 9-7
Apr 4: 9-6

→ For more information, contact the Houston County Extension Office at

uge2153e@uga.edu or 478-987-2028

THE GARDEN BENCH

January/February 2020

Gardening and home landscape information from UGA Cooperative Extension in Houston County. Our newsletter provides research-based horticulture information to help Middle Georgia gardeners.

Gardening with the Masters/2020 Spring Series

Classes tailored for the home gardener, Taught by Master Gardeners

February: Seed Exchange

Come join us in February for our seed exchange and open house. Light refreshment will be served. Seed drop off begins at 5:00pm with the exchange starting at 6:00pm. Seeds need to be in labeled packets and no older than 2018. Seeds can be harvested from your garden or from leftovers. If you don't have seeds come anyway, we will have plenty to give and great information to share.

March Composting Basics

This class will introduce you to Black Gold and its benefits in your garden. Participants will learn how to start a compost pile using the traditional recipe as well as different pile construction methods. They will also be introduced to vermicomposting and how to make it manageable and practical.

April Gardening with Youth

Increase your child's interest in gardening with this hands-on gardening class. Participants will learn about planting a vegetable garden, herb garden, trees, native and pollinator plants, garden art and conclude with a lesson on honey bees. Participants will receive a seed tray to start their own garden, and create a garden art project. This is a hands-on class so come prepared to get dirty.

May Edible Landscaping

Have you ever thought about having your landscape and eating it too? Landscaping with plants that are both attractive and produce food is gaining in popularity. Edible landscapes combine fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, vegetables, herbs, edible flowers and ornamental plants to create an aesthetically pleasing design. This class will teach you basic landscape design and how to incorporate edible plants into your landscape.

Planting Dates for Your Winter/Spring Vegetable Garden

| Planting Dates | Type of Vegetable |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan 1 – Mar 15 | Green onion, Dry bulb onions |
| Jan 15 – Feb 15 | English peas, Edible pod peas |
| Jan 15 – Mar 1 | Lettuce, Irish potatoes |
| Jan 15 – Mar 15 | Asparagus, Cabbage, Spinach |
| Jan 15 – Mar 20 | Carrot |
| Jan 15 – Apr 1 | Mustard, Radish, Turnip |
| Feb 1 – Mar 10 | Kale |
| Feb 1 – Mar 15 | Collards |
| Feb 15 - April 1 | Beets |

Home Garden and Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

Prepare your garden for spring planting. Mix compost into the soil to improve fertility, physical structure, and water-holding capacity of the soil. Do a soil test and add lime and fertilizer as needed.

Flowers: When spring-blooming bulbs get 2-3 inches tall, fertilize them with 10-10-10 at the rate of 1 pound per 100 sq ft. Keep the soil moist, but not overly wet.

Continue deadheading and fertilizing pansies monthly with granular fertilizer or bi-weekly with liquid fertilizer. Prepare flowerbeds for warm season annual flowers.

Vegetables & Herbs: Now is the time to plant many cool season vegetables. Raised beds provide better drainage and earlier soil warm-up for winter and early spring plantings. Choose planting times according to the chart on the back. Plan your spring and summer garden now. Be sure to pick an easily accessible area that has 8-10 hours of sunlight and a good water supply.

Shrubs & Trees: Examine trees for structural problems. Remove limbs that rub against each other as well as broken or dead limbs. Look for limbs forming a “V,” cavities in trunks and limbs, or mushrooms growing on the tree.

Late February is the time to prune to encourage spring growth. Refer to CAES publication [Basic Principles of Pruning Woody Plants](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B949) (<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B949>) for information on how and when to prune different plants.

Crape myrtles flower on new growth and can be pruned any time during late winter or early spring though pruning is not essential for flowering. The type and amount of pruning that should be done each year depends entirely on desired shape and size. Refer to the CAES publication [Crape Myrtle Culture](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20944_4.PDF) (http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/pdf/C%20944_4.PDF) for additional information.

Muscadines should be pruned in February or early March. Since muscadine fruit are borne on new shoots arising from last year’s growth, you should prune back the canes that grew the previous year, leaving about 3 inches of growth to form spurs. Refer to the CAES publication [Home Garden Muscadines](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C949) (<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C949>) for additional information.

Plant bare root roses now through March. Prune non-climbing roses in February. Knock-out roses need only be pruned if their branches are unsightly or growing across a path. Fertilize roses after the last frost, usually in late March.

Lawn Tips: Do not lime lawns unless recommended by a soil sample. Too much lime can raise the pH too high and damage lawns.

Wait until lawns green up to core aerate, dethatch or fertilize

Weeds in lawns now are usually leftover winter weeds. Weed control is difficult once weeds get large. You can spray broadleaf lawns with Weed-B-Gon, 33-Plus, or equivalent. Expect poor control when using herbicides on large or blooming weeds. To control wild onion and garlic in your lawn, use two sprays of chemicals containing imazaquin four weeks apart.

Prevent summer weeds by applying a pre-emergence weed killer in late February and again 45 days later. Do not use during lawn green-up or if you plan to seed your lawn within 45-60 days. Atrazine may be used on all lawns except Bermuda. Pendamethalin, benefin, and oryzalin can be used on all warm season grasses. Refer to the CAES publication [Weed Control in Home Lawns](http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B978) (<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B978>) or read the pesticide label for more information.