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- Plant Spotlight
- Planting Dates for your Vegetable Garden
- Garden & Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

**Special Points of Interest**

- Gardening with the Masters
    - \*Pollinator Garden/Census  
Aug 21/9-11AM/\$10 per person
    - \*Winterizing Your Lawn  
Sep 16/6-7:30PM/\$10 per person
    - \*Edible Landscape: Lesser Known Fruit  
Sep 30/6-7:30 PM 15/9AM-Noon/\$10 per family
- All classes are held at Hafley Park, 1527 Sunshine Ave. Perry, GA  
Registration fee covers all materials. Lawn chairs are suggested.  
Class size is limited to 20 people (except Gardening with Youth-class limit is 50)  
Deadline for registration is one week prior to the class.
- For further information, contact the Houston County Extension Office at 478-987-2028

→ Visit UGA Extension Public Events Calendar

<https://extension.uga.edu/calendar/all-public-events.html>

In addition to the many on-site courses offered by various extension offices, there are also many virtual courses available. Check them out and you'll find courses such as **Integrated Pest Management, Forage & Pasture series, Summer Garden Harvest Tips & Techniques, Saving Seeds, Summer Vegetable Series, So You Want to Be a Farmer? and more.**

# The Garden Bench

**July/August 2021**

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

## Plant Spotlight



Georgia is known as “The Peach State” because of the exceptional quality of its state fruit, *Prunus persica*. Georgia-grown peaches are recognized for their superior flavor, texture, and appearance.

Peaches need to be planted in an area that receives 8 -10 hours of full sun . The soil should drain well and have a pH of 6.0-6.5. Be sure to have your soil tested and amended (if necessary) prior to planting!

Peach trees require a period of dormancy and a minimum number of **chill hours** to produce flowers and fruit. A chill hour is the time a plant spends between 32 and 45 degrees F. Visit [www.weather.uga](http://www.weather.uga) to view historical chill hours for your area. Different varieties of peaches have different chill hour requirements, so be sure to select a variety based upon your planting location.

Peaches can be a difficult fruit crop for homeowners to grow in Georgia because they have many diseases and insect pests that can destroy the entire crop unless a good management program is followed. For information on control of pests and diseases, visit: <https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension/programs-and-services/integrated-pest-management/documents/handbooks/2021-pmh-home-chapters/Home%20Orchard.pdf>

For additional information on growing peaches in Georgia, visit: [C 1063 2.PDF \(uga.edu\)](#) OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DskFwQUchTQ>

## Home Garden and Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

### Lawn Tips:

Good cultural practices can prevent many lawn problems. The most important practice for a healthy lawn is to keep it mowed at the right height. Don't remove more than 1/3 the grass blade height at a mowing. Keep mower blades sharp to avoid damaging the lawn by tearing the grass blades.

Many lawn problems are due to improper watering: wait to water until the grass begins to turn bluish-gray. Most established lawns need only about one inch of water per week. **The most efficient and effective time to water is after sunset and before sunrise.**

Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Centipede lawns can be fertilized in July. Do not fertilize Centipede lawns after Sept 1 or other lawns after Sept 15, and don't fertilize if the grass will not be watered properly or is water stressed.

Post emergent herbicides can be applied to small actively growing weeds at air temperatures between 60-90 F. Applications to grass stressed by high temperatures or drought increases the possibility of injury and usually results in poor weed control.

For more information on Georgia lawns, visit [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201009\\_2.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%201009_2.PDF)

### Flowers:

Don't forget to keep those container plants watered! Water when the top of the soil dries, and apply enough water to run out the bottom of the pot.

Fertilize and "dead-head" annuals and perennials. Pinch back mums to make them bushier and keep them blooming longer.

Start seeds of favorite biennials and other fall flowers in pots. Seedlings should be ready for transplanting in the fall.

Sunflowers are ready to harvest when the back of the head turns brown. Plant or transplant daylilies and irises beginning in late August.

### Fruits & Nuts:

Apply a heavy mulch layer around strawberries to protect them from heat and drought. Fertilize strawberries in August.

Water fruit trees once a week, when the soil dries out.

Fertilize established figs if they are watered.

Apply mulch around fruit trees, but to avoid creating a path for insects and disease, do not place it right up against the trunk.

Prevent disease by promptly disposing of fallen fruit, leaves, and dead limbs.

Planting Dates	Type of Vegetable
Through July 10	Okra
Through July 15	Tomatoes (indeterminate, grape, cherry, determinate)
July 1-Aug 1	Beans (pole, lima), Butterpeas
July 5-Aug 10	Bush beans
July 10-July 30	Eggplant
July 15-Aug 15	Cauliflower, Cucumber
July 25-Aug 10	Peppers (bell, hot, hot-sweet)
Aug 1- Aug 25	Summer squash
Aug 1-Sept 1	Broccoli, Collards, Kale
Aug 1- Sept 20	Beets
Aug 1-Oct 1	Cabbage
Aug 10-Sept 15	Turnips
Aug 15-Sept 15	Mustard
Aug 20-Sept 15	Carrots

### Vegetables & Herbs:

Before spraying insecticides on your edible plants, check the label for how long you must wait after spraying before harvesting. Each insecticide has a waiting period after application before you can harvest.

With regular watering, vegetables and herbs can thrive in hot, dry environments. Keeping vegetables picked, well watered and fertilized will encourage continued production. If needed, fertilize every four weeks. Water twice a week with 3/4 inch water. Mulch to control weeds and water loss.

**Most vegetables are best harvested in early morning.** This is especially important for leafy greens like lettuce and chard, for fresh herbs such as parsley and basil, for crisp fruiting vegetables such as peas, and for anything in the cabbage family, such as broccoli and radishes.

Examine your plants regularly for insects and disease.

### Shrubs & Trees:

To encourage a second bloom on crape myrtles, fertilize, water, and remove faded flowers.

**Do not prune or fertilize spring-flowering shrubs like azalea, camellia, and viburnum after mid-July if you want flowers next year!**

Watch for damaging insects on shrubs like euonymus, azalea, camellia, pyracantha, holly, gardenia, and pittosporum. Azalea caterpillars, scale, spider mites, lacebugs and spittle bugs are common now. Spray roses for insects and diseases as needed. For additional information on the control of common pests of landscape plants, visit [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074\\_7.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201074_7.PDF)

Apply a light application of fertilizer to newly planted ornamental trees and shrubs during July. See [https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201065\\_6.PDF](https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%201065_6.PDF)