



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

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Garden Bench Subscription

The Garden Bench is a free bi-monthly newsletter from UGA Extension Houston County and local Master Gardener Extension. To subscribe, email uge2153@uga.edu



Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Training Class

→ Do you want to increase your knowledge of home landscaping issues through research-based information and to share that knowledge with others through volunteering?

→ Our next class will start in February. For more information, contact the Houston County Extension Office at Christine.kelly@uga.edu

The Garden Bench

Nov/Dec 2024

Gardening and home landscape information from UGA Cooperative Extension in Houston County.

Our newsletter provides research-based horticulture information to help Middle Georgia gardeners.

Holiday Crafts with the Master Gardeners

Nov 19/2-4 pm /Join us and learn how to use amaryllis bulbs for all of your fresh holiday centerpieces!

Dec 9/1-3 pm / Make a holiday wreath with a bow for your home.

Classes are held at 300 Church Street, Centerville. The cost is \$25 per class and includes all class supplies.

To register, call us at 478-987-2028

For more information, email morgan.grizzle@uga.edu or call 478-987-2028.

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the Houston County Extension Office at 478-987-2028 or uge2153a@uga.edu at least three weeks prior to the program date.



Planting Dates for Your Winter Vegetable Garden

Although the time has passed for planting most cool-season vegetables, it's not too late to plant asparagus, garlic, and onions!

Dry Onion Bulbs: plant through Nov 10

Asparagus: plant in Nov & Dec

Elephant Garlic: plant in Nov & Dec

Green Onions: plant through Dec 31



Home Garden and Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

Flowers: Continue planting pansies, snapdragons, calendulas, ornamental cabbage, and kale. For best results, plant pansies before Nov 15, and remember to water and fertilize them. Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, anemones, and crocus at a depth equal to 2 to 3 times the height of the bulb. Choose a sunny spot with well-drained soil. Leave foliage on perennials until after it is killed by the cold weather. *Don't prune lantana until next spring.*

Vegetables & Herbs: Asparagus, elephant garlic, and green onions can be planted through the end of the year.

Harvest any remaining summer vegetables before a killing frost. Remove plants that have stopped producing and clean the garden area of weeds and dead plants to reduce pests that could attack next year's crops. Start planning next year's garden!

Shrubs & Trees: Now is a good time to plant shrubs and trees; shrubs and trees planted when they are dormant have an easier time establishing good root systems before they begin actively growing again next spring. Remember to water them at planting time and throughout the winter. Camellias provide colorful blooms as cold weather arrives. Crape myrtles, red twig dogwoods, birch trees, and many other plants have beautiful bark that looks good in winter.

Shrubs should not be pruned or fertilized now—new growth may be too tender to survive a cold winter. Begin pruning again in January. If there has been no significant rainfall for one week, water your plants.

Lawn Tips: Keep leaves and pine straw raked.

Early spring weeds can be controlled in warm-season turf grasses by the application of atrazine or simazine from Nov through Feb. **DO NOT** use atrazine or simazine on *actively growing* Bermuda lawns!

Winter Protection of Ornamental Plants

It looks like La Niña is going to give us a warm winter here in Middle Georgia, but even warm winters offer up some cold nights that can injure some of our prized landscape plants. There are several things you can do to improve the survival rate of your landscape plants this winter:

Select plants that are suited to your climate and maintain proper plant nutrition.

Utilize windbreaks such as fences, buildings, or evergreen plants, especially on the northwest side of a planting and consider planting your cold-sensitive plants on a southern wall.

Avoid doing the following: pruning in late summer or early fall, fertilizing with high nitrogen fertilizers in the fall, and transplanting in late fall or early winter.

To minimize heat loss, mulch or cover sensitive plants that remain outdoors. Sheets, blankets, or cardboard boxes can be used to cover plants, **but DO NOT USE plastic sheeting!** Remove the cover during the day.

Push pots together to decrease heat loss from the sides of the containers and wrap the bases of the containers in burlap or blankets.

For more information, visit

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Plant Spotlight

True Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*)

Ginger originated in Southeast Asia and has been used in Chinese and Indian medicine for thousands of years. It contains an anti-inflammatory compound called gingerol, which helps alleviate arthritis pain and gives the immune system a boost. It has also been used for indigestion, nausea, constipation, and stomach acid reflux. In addition, both the roots and leaves of ginger are edible and can be used in a variety of recipes.

Although it is a tropical plant, ginger can be successfully grown outdoors in zone 8 in a protected location or grown in pots and moved to a protected location when temperatures drop.

Ginger prefers partial shade and a slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil. Use a fertilizer containing high levels of phosphorous. It should be planted in early spring and is best harvested 8-10 months later. Rhizomes for planting can be obtained from a grower or from a grocery store (soak grocery ginger in water overnight to remove any growth retardants). Harvest by digging up the entire plant.

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/indianriverco/2020/07/28/gardening-with-ginger-and-turmeric/>