



Houston County Extension Office

801 Main Street, Perry, GA

<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/houston.html>

Phone 478.987.2028

E-mail: lb29120@uga.edu

The Garden Bench

September/October 2018

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



Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale!

State Farmers Market, 2055 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA

Sponsored by Master Gardeners of Central Georgia
UGA Cooperative Extension Bibb & Houston County



Special Points of Interest:

Georgia National Fair

Oct 4-14 at the fairgrounds in Perry. Be sure to visit the **UGA MASTER GARDENER** booth in the **Georgia Grown** building for answers to your gardening questions! Stay tuned to our website <http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/houston.html> for further details.

Master Gardener Training

Want to learn more about gardening and to share that knowledge with others through volunteering? Applications for the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Training Program will begin in October. For more information, contact the Houston County Extension Office at 478-987-2028 or lb29120@uga.edu

THINK SPRING!

The Spring Home & Garden Show presented by MGCG UGA Cooperative Extension Bibb & Houston County will be April 5-6 2019. If you've ever thought about having your own booth at the show, contact Diane Stephens, MGCG Vendor Coordinator, at 478 988-8344 or email Diane at erincelt@hotmail.com.

Thursday: Noon to 5:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Come on down to the State Farmers Market in Macon **Sept. 20-22** and discover some plants perfect for fall planting. Proceeds benefit community and county Extension projects, Junior Master Gardener Program, and college scholarships.

Planting Dates for Your Fall Vegetable Garden

Through Sep 15: carrot, mustard, turnip

Through Sep 20: beet

Through Oct 15: radish, spinach

Oct 10-Nov 10: dry bulb onion

Through Dec 31: green onion

Many cool-season vegetables produce best flavor and quality when planted to mature during cool weather. Take advantage of the mild weather during these months to plant these cool season vegetables!

Fall Garden Tasks & Tips

- Take the time to evaluate this year's garden and consider changes and improvements.
- Fall is the most desirable time to do soil tests because landscapes and gardens are usually dry and easily accessible. Vegetable gardens should be sampled every 1-2 years. Soil tests are available at your Houston County Extension office. If your soil test indicates a need for lime, fall is a good time to apply it. Lime reacts slowly in the soil. Till it into the soil when possible.
- Pull up dead or declining annuals and clean up overgrown areas.
- As you clean out the flower beds, mark the spots where late-starting perennials will come up next spring to avoid damaging them.
- Compost dead, disease-free plants and leaves or till them into the soil to increase organic content.
- Turn off and drain irrigation systems before freezing weather. First frost in Middle Georgia usually occurs in mid-November but can occur as early as October.
- Pests are usually fewer in fall and winter, but not always! Stay on the lookout for cabbageworms and aphids.

Plant Spotlight



Hyphantria cunea

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1074&title=Control%20of%20Common%20Pests%20of%20Landscape%20Plants>

FALL WEBWORMS

In late summer and early fall it seems as though the trees are getting ready for Halloween by making their own webs! These webs are produced by fall webworm caterpillars to protect themselves from predators as these caterpillars feed on the leaves of more than 100 different trees and ornamentals. Although these nests are unsightly, damage to most healthy trees is insignificant. Young trees or trees that suffer constant infestations are more likely to be adversely affected.

The best defense against insect and disease problems is to select plants that are less prone to infestation and to follow best practices to maintain a healthy plant. Regularly monitor plants for pest problems since early detection and treatment can prevent extensive damage.

To control a webworm infestation: (1) Prune out and destroy the webs and crush the caterpillars or (2) Treat with insecticide, first breaking up the webbing to allow penetration of the insecticide. Spraying outside the webbing will **not** provide acceptable control. Products containing acephate (Orthene), *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel) or carbaryl (Sevin) may be used for webworm control. When using any of these products, remember to always read and follow the labeled directions, and do not spray if there is bee activity in the area.

Home & Garden Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

Flowers: Save seeds from your summer annuals to plant in the spring (hybrids will not breed true).

September is the ideal month for planting as the heat of summer begins to subside. Plant flowers such as snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, and violas now to bring fall color to flower beds and container plantings. Chrysanthemums are a great source of color and texture in the fall garden and generally grow in any soil capable of producing a good crop of vegetables or turf.

September and early October are good times to move, divide, and plant irises, liriopse, and daylilies. Dig caladium tubers before the first frost.

Plant perennials now: fall-planted perennials outperform perennials planted in the spring.

Fall is the time for choosing and planting bulbs for color in the spring garden. When planting bulbs, if you aren't sure which end is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright!

Vegetables & Herbs: Now is the time to plant your cool season vegetable garden (See front page for planting dates).

If your summer garden has quit producing and you are not planting a cool-season garden, pull up and compost your old plants. Remove all old leaves and debris and work in a layer of compost, then cover with a thick layer of mulch to keep weeds at bay.

Before those herbs bolt and go to seed this month, think about harvesting in bulk and storing them for use later. Many herbs can be dried by hanging upside down in a dark spot. Others can be preserved by removing the leaves from the stems and freezing them into oil or water ice cubes. These are great for use in soups and stews as well as spaghetti sauce and broths.

Shrubs & Trees: Shrubs and trees have a much greater chance of success when planted in the late fall and winter. Winter planting gives plants a chance to develop their root systems before the summer heat stress. The rule of thumb is 3/4 to 1 inch of water per week. If there has been no rainfall for one week, water shrubs, trees, and vines. This is especially important for new plantings, which should have water directed to the root ball.

Do not prune shrubs after September 1 or you run the risk of having that first frost burn all the new tender growth that you've made the plant produce. New fruit or nut plants should not be pruned until January or February. Keep those pruners away from crepe myrtles this time of year, too. Wait until late February if you have to prune them.

Control weeds around shrubs and trees to reduce overwintering insects, and promptly dispose of all fallen fruit, leaves, and dead limbs to help prevent disease. Apply mulch to minimize weeds and retain moisture, but do not place it right up against the tree.

Lawn Tips: Continue to mow until the grass goes dormant. Don't remove more than 1/3 the grass blade height at a mowing. Keep leaves and pine straw raked up off the lawn.

Recommended dates for selected winter annual broadleaf weed control are approximately September 15 to October 1 for middle Georgia. Apply a pre-emergent herbicide labeled for your type of grass. http://commodities.caes.uga.edu/turfgrass/georgiaturf/CultPrac/1310_Calendar.htm

Remember, your grass needs at least 1" of water a week year round. Use your rain gauge to determine how much water you must apply.