



Houston County Extension Office  
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### Inside this issue:

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- Special Points of Interest
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- Spring Vegetable Garden Planting Dates
- Garden & Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

### Special Points of Interest

Mark your calendars!

#### → Gardening with the Masters

##### Troubleshooting Lawn Issues

March 26/6-8 PM/\$10

##### Landscaping for Color

April /6-8 PM/\$10

##### Propagation

May 25/9AM-Noon/\$45-includes lunch

All classes will be held in the Multipurpose Room of the Houston County Extension Office, 801 Main Street, Perry.

Cost covers all materials used in the class. Deadline for registration is one week before the class. For more information, contact the Houston County Extension Office at 478-987-2028.

#### → Spring Plant Sale

March 21-23

#### → Spring Home & Garden Show

April 5-6

## The Garden Bench

March/April 2019

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

## 2019 SPRING PLANT SALE



SPONSORED BY

MASTER GARDENERS OF CENTRAL GEORGIA (A 501 C 3 NON PROFIT)  
UGA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BIBB AND HOUSTON COUNTY

**MARCH 21-23, 2019**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOON – 5 PM	8 AM–5 PM	8AM –3PM



STATE FARMERS MARKET,  
2055 EISENHOWER PARKWAY,  
MACON, GEORGIA 31206



**FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING**

MASTER GARDENERS OF CENTRAL GEORGIA OFFER A VARIETY OF MASTER GARDENER GROWN PLANTS, TREES, AND SHRUBS TO CHOOSE FROM AT A LOW COST, ALONG WITH GARDENING ADVICE AND RESEARCH BASED INFORMATION.  
**SPECIAL SALE: BARE ROOT CHERRY TREES**



THINK SPRING!!!



### Spring Home & Garden Show

April 5 and April 6, 2019

FRIDAY 9 AM - 7 PM      SATURDAY 9 AM - 6 PM

MCGILL BUILDING  
GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIRGROUNDS, PERRY, GA I-75, EXIT 135

ADMISSION: DOOR - \$5 DONATION, CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE  
ADVANCE - \$4 (AVAILABLE AT HOUSTON & BIBB EXTENSION OFFICES)

A FUN FAMILY EVENT  
FEATURING AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS  
AND SERVICES FOR THE HOME AND GARDEN  
\*FREE PARKING \* FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

PRESENTED BY  
MASTER GARDENERS OF CENTRAL GEORGIA  
UGA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, BIBB & HOUSTON COUNTY

Please visit our website at [www.mgcg.org](http://www.mgcg.org)

## Your Spring Vegetable Garden

Take advantage of warm days to get your garden ready, but don't plant too early—the average last frost date for our area is about mid-March, but the last frost could easily be two or more weeks earlier or later. Use these planting dates as a guide.

Houston County is in USDA Hardiness Zone 8a. Choose plants that are hardy for this zone.

Harden off transplants before planting them in the garden by placing them outside in a sheltered spot for a few hours each day for a week before transplanting them into the garden. Transplant on a shady day in late afternoon or in early evening to reduce transplant shock.

Planting Dates	Type of Vegetable
Mar 1–Apr 1	Cauliflower
Through mid-Mar	Asparagus, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Collards, Kale, Onions, Spinach
Mar 15–May 1	Bush Beans
Mar 15–May 10	Pole Beans
Mar 15–Jun 1	Lima beans, Corn
Mar 20–May 1	Watermelon
Mar 20–June 20	Cantaloupe
Mar 25–May 1	Tomatoes
Through Apr 1	Beets, Mustard, Radish, Turnip
Apr 1–May 1	Butterpeas
Apr 1–May 15	Cucumbers, Eggplant, Summer squash
Apr 1–Jun 1	Okra, Peppers
Apr 1–Jul 1	Winter squash
Apr 1–Aug 10	Southern peas
Apr 15–Jun 15	Sweet potatoes

For additional information on planting, including spacing and planting depths, visit: <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/files/html/c963/c963vegechart.pdf>

## Home Garden and Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

**Shrubs & Trees:** Late March is the time for the first application of fertilizer to trees and shrubs. Do a soil test or apply one-half pound of 12-4-8, 16-4-8, 10-10-10, or 18-0-18 per 100 square feet. Broadcast the fertilizer over the planting area uniformly (prior to a rain if possible, or water after fertilizing). Fertilizing once is enough for most shrubs and trees, but additional applications can be made in May and July if you want the plants to get larger. Spring-blooming plants such as azaleas may be fertilized without affecting flowering.

Aphids, azalea lace bugs, many types of scale insects, white flies, and pine bark beetles become active in March and April. Look for them and treat as needed. Start black spot sprays on roses when new leaves appear. Prune oversized shrubs to 12-24 inches high before they bud out in February or March. Do not heavily prune boxwood and needled evergreens this way.

Prune spring flowering plants (azalea, spirea, camellia, forsythia, etc.) anytime after bloom through mid-July.

**Lawn Tips:** Research does not support the use of a weed and feed product. Wait until soil temperature at a depth of 4" is consistently 65° F to fertilize your warm-season southern lawn. (Visit [www.georgiaweather.net](http://www.georgiaweather.net) to determine soil temperature.) Avoid all chemical applications during the stressful spring green-up period of warm-season grasses. Wait until the lawn greens up to core aerate or dethatch and wait until late April or May to seed lawns.

Control lawn weeds now through late May, before they get large and the temperature gets too high to apply herbicides safely. Water dry lawns between midnight and 10 AM with 3/4 to 1 inch of water.

**Flowers:** Prepare your beds for annual flowers. Do a soil test and till in lime and fertilizer as needed. Fertilize established perennials after all danger of frost is past. Fertilize bulbs when the plant gets 2-3 inches tall by applying one pound 10-10-10 per 100 square feet or another equivalent fertilizer. Continue deadheading and fertilizing pansies monthly with granular fertilizer or bi-weekly with liquid fertilizer. Clean up winter-weary liriop before new growth begins by trimming with a mower or weed eater. Plant heat-tolerant perennials such as lantana, cannas, annual periwinkle, summer phlox, or salvia when temperatures climb in late April or May.

**Vegetables & Herbs:** Plan your vegetable garden so that leafy vegetables get at least 6 hours of sunlight and fruiting vegetables such as tomatoes, squash, eggplant, and peppers get 8-10 hours of full sun. Run vegetable garden rows east-west to maximize sunlight. Plant the tallest vegetables on the north side of the garden to avoid shading other plants. Plant two or more short rows of corn next to each other (as opposed to one long row) for better pollination. Make second plantings (about 2-4 weeks later) of quickly maturing crops like corn, snap beans and radishes. Thin plants when they are 2-3 inches tall to give them plenty of room to grow. Erect trellises at planting for beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes.

Early-planted crops may need a nitrogen side-dressing, particularly if the soil is cool. Place the fertilizer several inches to the side of the plants and water it in. A little fertilizer throughout the growing period is better than too much at one time.

Mulch to prevent weeds and conserve moisture.