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Special Points of Interest:

Mark your calendars!

→ **Jan 23: Seed Exchange—5PM/ FREE/Extension Office**

→ *Gardening with the Masters*

March 4: Starting Seeds for Your Spring Vegetable Garden

March 11: Azaleas: Native and Reblooming

March 18: What's That Weed?

March 25: Designing with Native Plants

Classes cost \$15 each and will be held 5:30-6:30 PM every Tuesday in March at Hafley Park (1527 Sunshine Ave. Perry, GA). Registration fee covers all materials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Email: morgan.grizzle@uga.edu
Call: 478-987-2028

→ *Spring Plant Sale*

Coming Soon!

Farmer's Market, Macon
In-person and online sales

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THE GARDEN BENCH

January/February 2025

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



January 23: Seed Exchange Come join us on January 23 at 5PM at the Houston County Extension Office for our FREE seed exchange. Seeds can be harvested from your garden or from leftover purchased packets, but should be no older than 2022 and should be in labeled packets.

If you don't have seeds to exchange, come anyway—we will have plenty to share!

Getting Ready for your 2025 Vegetable Garden

Now that all those visions of sugarplums are finished dancing in our heads, it is time to start dreaming of our 2025 gardens! Grab those seed catalogs and decide what you want to plant. Keep in mind what vegetables you will actually eat, what space and resources you have to grow your garden, and how much time and energy you are willing to put into your garden. Be sure to attend the free Seed Exchange at the Houston County Extension Office to get started on obtaining seeds. Then, take advantage of the *Gardening with the Masters* class on March 4 to learn about starting seeds.

Sunlight, moisture, pH, and nutrient requirements vary among plants. It is important to learn the best growing conditions for the plants you want to grow and to prepare your planting site(s) accordingly. Try to select a site that receives 8-10 hours of sunlight daily and is conveniently located near a water supply. Consider adding organic matter to improve the texture of your soil. A routine soil test will provide information about your soil's nutrient status and give recommendations on what nutrients to apply. Test bags can be obtained from and returned to the extension office for \$9 each.

UGA Extension has many publications that can help you with planning your vegetable garden. A few are listed below.

Vegetable Garden Calendar https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20943_8.PDF

Home Gardening https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/B%20577_7.PDF

Starting Plants from Seed for the Home Gardener [B 1432_3.PDF](#)

Vegetable Gardening in Georgia https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/C%20963_9.PDF

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 above. 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 B949 [*Basic Principles of Pruning Woody Plants*](#) 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 C944 [*Crape Myrtle Culture*](#) 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 C949 [*Home Garden Muscadines*](#) 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 B978 [*Weed Control in Home Lawns*](#) or read the pesticide label for more information.