



April 2022

University of Georgia

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*Vidalia Onions for  
pre-sale in the  
Upson and Lamar  
Extension Offices!  
10lbs for  
\$10*

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## I just bought property, what should I plant?

Throughout the year we get numerous calls from individuals that just bought property in our counties. The acreage of those properties can range from one to hundreds.

Spring time is a very popular time of year for those inquires.

The initial questions are always; "What should I plant?", "What grows here?", or "What would YOU do with this property?"

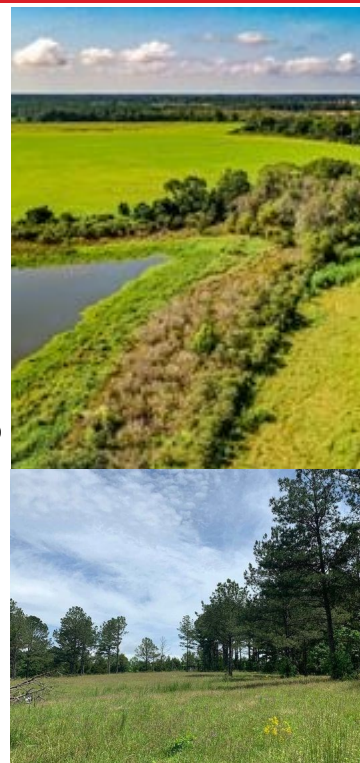
Usually our first reply is "What do you want to plant?" or "What interests you?"

We are very fortunate in our area of the state that we

can plant and produce all types of agricultural commodities. Anything from cattle to fruits and vegetables.

What is most important, is finding something that you are passionate about that you will enjoy getting up everyday to do. Everyone's interests vary. Once you decide on that one thing you think you would really like to plant or grow, that's when our office can step in to help with the testing, recommendations, and educational materials.

The extension service has numerous resources for all types of agricultural information. If we do not have the answer, we will try our hardest to get it for you.



## How to save on fertilizer costs

Right now the hot topic is the drastic price increases on fertilizer and lime. Farmers can see prices doubling, tripling, and maybe even quadrupling in some areas.

So, how can they save on fertilizer and lime costs?

ANR Agents from across the state attended a class that discussed just that. Unfortunately, the answers were not what we were hoping for. There is not a one-size fits all solution for this, or a one-product fits all.

Extension specialists stressed the need for utilizing soil sampling. That way the farmer will know exactly what to put out on their

property /crops and where. This is not the year to use that typical fertilizer ratio that "we have always used." It is the time to only put out what you need.

There are different sampling methods that are effective in pulling soil samples. Farmers can use the Grid Sampling Method that can help define zones to test. They can try sampling based on what is being planted in different areas, or they can utilize Web Soil Survey, to sample based on the different soils types.

Also, remembering the depth in which to test is crucial. It is only beneficial if the test is for the correct

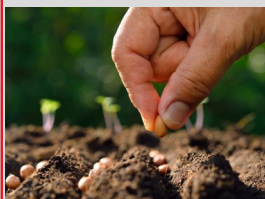
area in the soil, where the crop can benefit from the nutrients that are already there. Then to only put out what is missing.

Once the results come back, following the recommendations set by the soil analysis specialists are crucial.

The more "unnecessary" fertilizer and lime that is put out, the more the farmer can expect in "excess waste" financially.

Our goal is to try to make farming financially stable for the individual, the best that we can in times like this.

It's not too late, soil test today!



**"No matter how long the winter, Spring is sure to follow."**

**-Holly Spangler**



## When to start planting

It is that time of year again, time to start thinking about what vegetables you are wanting to plant for the spring season. The first two factors to take into account are 1. What type of plants do you want? and 2. When do you need to plant?

The extension service will always suggest taking a soil sample to see what nutrients levels and pH your soil is already setting at prior to planting. Next, depending on what type of plant, the optimal soil temperature is very important to determine when you should start to get transplants or seeds in the ground.

We have already started planting tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers in the greenhouse, getting ready for transplanting when the soils warm up.

Here is a list of the optimal temperature ranges for some of the most popular plants:

<i>Corn</i>	60-95°F
<i>Cucumber</i>	60-95°F
<i>Eggplant</i>	75-95°F
<i>Pepper</i>	65-95°F
<i>Squash</i>	70-95°F
<i>Tomato</i>	60-85°F

The University of Georgia has multiple weather stations around the state that are taking daily tests of not only outside temperature,

but also soil temperature, soil moisture, etc. As of Friday March 18, 2022 at 8:44am the Dempsey Research Farm (closest station to our area, Spalding County) is reading 50.6 °F outside temperature; and soil temperatures at 2 inches is 54.1 °F, 4 inches 54.5 °F, and 8 inches 57.1 °F. You can find this information at the following URL address:

[http://  
www.georgiaweather.net/  
index.php?  
con-  
tent=calculator&variable=CC  
&site=DEMPSEY](http://www.georgiaweather.net/index.php?content=calculator&variable=CC&site=DEMPSEY)

## Why soil sample?

To many, the extension office may seem like a broken record. Always saying "have you soil tested?" "You should soil test!" So why do we always say that?

Well, a soil test is the best tool for assessing soil fertility. "Soil testing is a chemical analysis that reveals any soil fertility issues that may be limiting production. The soil sample analysis provides a guideline for the amount of lime or fertilizer needed to correct deficiencies or imbalances in soil pH or available nutrients. These amounts are determined by the specific needs of the crop being grown.

Furthermore, soil test recommendations from the Extension office are based on decades of scientific studies. Thus, by regularly testing the soil and following the recommendations, soil fertility can be maintained at levels that result in optimum productivity of the pasture or hayfield."

Forages differ in the amount of nutrients required and the

time of year in which the nutrients are needed. Your soil test will have the crop specific recommendations printed, based on the results of your test. The recommendations will tell you what to fertilize with, the amount to use, and suggested time of application.

For example, let's say you have a common bermudagrass pasture or a bahiagrass pasture. The recommended pH is 6.0, anything below will require the field to be limed. The recommended nitrogen is 75-125 pounds per acre.

For pastures not intensively grazed the recommendation will be to apply that 75-125 pounds but for intensively grazed pastures that recommendation will increase to 125-175 pounds. If excess forage is common under grazing conditions, the recommendation will be to split the pasture in half and apply nitrogen to only one section in early April, and to the remaining apply nitrogen in July or August, dependent upon the

amount of forage that will be utilized.

Soil sampling test results will give you the base line of what you are currently working with, and they will give you the recommendations to improve the fertility.

So, just like in most educational presentations, the more someone says something, the more important that statement is. "Soil test! Soil test! Soil Test!"

Needing to know how to soil sample? Checkout this "Soil Sampling Basics" video created by Upson/Lamar County Extension, Towaliga SWCD, and Lamar County SWCD. It goes over how to pull a soil sample, how to submit a soil sample, and how to interpret the soil test results.

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?  
v=F6cuwYqWsMw&list=PLjRL  
RGswSK03Y7HTr2nk919CO  
Mq3BKr7s&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6cuwYqWsMw&list=PLjRLRGswSK03Y7HTr2nk919CO Mq3BKr7s&index=2)

# April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Better Beef Systems (Tifton)	6	7	8	9
10	11 Lunch N Learn Rain Gardens (Lamar)	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Small Ruminant Workshop (Oglethorpe)

# May 2022

*\*Contact Upson County if you are interested in riding down to Tifton for the Better Beef Systems Program on April 5th (706)647-8989*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Lunch N Learn Well Water (Lamar)	10	11	12 MGCA Membership (Lamar)	13	14 Cattle Handling Training (Upson)
15	16	17	18	19 Ag Afterhours (Lamar)	20 ANCW Region II Meeting (Jackson County)	21
22	23	24 *Pesticide Credit* (pastures & hayfields)	25	26	27	28
29	30 Offices Closed (Memorial Day)	31	<p><i>*Contact Upson County for details on the Pesticide Credit Program (706)647-8989</i></p> <p><i>*Contact Lamar County for details on the Lunch N Learns (770)358-5163</i></p>			

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## What is UGA Extension?

Through county offices throughout the state, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension offers reliable information and programs in the areas of agriculture, food, families, the environment and 4-H youth development. Let us help you learn, grow and do more!

<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/upson.html>  
or  
<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/lamar.html>

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

Any person with disability who needs an accommodation to participate should contact the county Extension office to discuss their needs in advance.

Follow us on Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/upsonlamarextension/>

## AG Comic of the Month

