



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Houston County Extension Office

801 Main Street, Perry, GA

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/houston/>

Phone: 478.987.2028

E-mail: mg@uga.edu

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The Garden Bench

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

Planting Dates for your Vegetable Garden

Planting Dates	Type of Vegetable
Through July 10	Okra
Through July 15	Tomatoes (indeterminate, grape, cherry, determinate)
July 1-Aug 1	Beans (pole, lima), butterpea
July 5-Aug 10	Bush beans
July 10-July 30	Eggplant
July 15-Aug 15	Cauliflower, cucumber
July 25-Aug 10	Peppers (bell, hot, hot-sweet)
Aug 1- Aug 25	Summer squash
Aug 1-Sept 1	Broccoli, collards, kale
Aug 1- Sept 20	Beets
Aug 1-Oct 1	Cabbage
Aug 10-Sept 15	Turnips
Aug 15-Sept 15	Mustard
Aug 20-Sept 15	Carrots



Erysiphe australiana
Powdery Mildew

Plant Spotlight

This issue, our spotlight is on a disease, Powdery Mildew, which is caused by the fungus *Erysiphe australiana*. Powdery Mildew is one of the most common problems of crape myrtles. It begins as discrete circular powdery white spots that merge as they expand so that the tops of infected leaf surfaces, stems and flower buds become covered with a white or grayish coating. This fungus requires humid conditions and thrives in warmer temperatures. Crowded growing conditions limit air flow and increase humidity, thus favoring the development of the disease. Powdery mildew can affect almost all ornamental plants and is generally spread by wind or contact with infected plant material. Injury due to powdery mildew include stunting and distortion of leaves, buds, growing tips, and fruit, but the disease will generally not kill a tree or shrub. The best way to prevent powdery mildew on crape myrtles is to plant resistant varieties. If your plant is infected, remove and dispose of infected leaves and branches. There are several effective fungicides available. Contact your county extension agent for fungicide recommendations. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.

Flowers:

Fertilize and “dead-head” annuals and perennials.

Plant or transplant daylilies and irises beginning in late August.

Renew mulch in flower beds for a fresh look.

Start seeds of favorite biennials and other fall flowers in pots. Seedlings should be ready for transplanting in the fall.

Vegetables & Herbs:

With regular watering, herbs can thrive in hot, dry environments. For best flavor, harvest in early morning.

Keep vegetables picked, well watered and fertilized to continue production. If needed, fertilize every four weeks. Water twice a week with 3/4 inch water. Mulch to control weeds and water loss.

Plant fall vegetables according to the provided timetable to allow time for them to mature before the first frost. Start plants for broccoli, cabbage, collards, and kale in a half-shaded area or in pots.

Till, fertilize, and prepare planting beds for Sept and Oct planting of cool season vegetables.

Fruits and Nuts:

Fertilize established figs if they are watered.

Water fruit trees once a week, when the soil dries out.

Apply mulch around fruit trees, but do not place it right up against the trunk as this creates a path for insects and disease.

Prevent disease by promptly disposing of fallen fruit, leaves, and dead limbs. Use ‘Home Orchard’ or ‘Home Fruit Tree’ sprays as needed.

Shrubs & Trees:

To encourage a second bloom on crape myrtles, fertilize, water, and remove faded flowers. Powdery mildew can damage flowers on crape myrtles: see Plant Spotlight.

Do not prune or fertilize spring-flowering shrubs like azalea, camellia, and viburnum after mid-July if you want flowers next year!

Watch for damaging insects on shrubs like euonymus, azalea, camellia, pyracantha, holly, gardenia, and pittosporum. Azalea caterpillars, scale, spider mites, lacebug, and spittle bugs are common now. Spray roses for insects and diseases as needed.



Lawn Tips:

The most important practice for a healthy lawn is to keep it mowed at the right height. Don't remove more than 1/3 the grass blade height at a mowing. Keep mower blades sharp to avoid damaging the lawn by tearing the grass blades.

Many lawn problems are due to improper watering: To encourage deeper root development and prevent water-related lawn diseases, water deeply and wait until the lawn dries to water again. There is no need to water if rainfall is greater than one inch per week.

Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Centipede lawns can be fertilized in July. Do not fertilize Centipede lawns after Sept 1 or other lawns after Sept 15, and don't fertilize if the grass will not be watered properly or is water stressed.

Mole crickets are hatching—now would be a good time to treat for them.

Treat for white grubs now before they get too large.

For more information on Georgia lawns, visit http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6001

YOUR GARDEN BENCH



Many thanks to Jean Swann for sharing a picture of her garden bench, nestled amongst the beautiful foxglove, azaleas, and Solomon's seal. Can't you just imagine the soothing sounds of the wind chimes (seen in the foreground) as one relaxes on the sturdy bench in this beautiful setting?

Send a picture of **YOUR** favorite garden bench to mg@uga.edu and have it featured in one of our bimonthly newsletters!