



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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The Garden Bench

May/June 2013

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



→Effective January 1, 2013, all soil samples will be \$8.00. Please use exact cash or check made out to Houston County Office Fund.

Inside this issue:

Planting Dates for Your Vegetable Garden

Plant Spotlight

Your Garden Bench

Home Garden & Landscape Tips for Middle Georgia

Planting Dates for your Vegetable Garden

| Planting Dates | Type of Vegetable |
|-----------------|--|
| Through May 10 | Pole beans |
| Through May 15 | Cucumbers, Eggplant, Summer Squash |
| Through June 1 | Lima beans, Pole lima beans, Corn, Okra, Peppers |
| Through June 15 | Sweet potatoes |
| Through June 20 | Cantaloupe |
| Through July 1 | Winter squash |
| May 15—July 1 | Pumpkin |
| Through Aug 10 | Southern peas |
| June 15-July 10 | Okra |
| June 15-July 15 | Tomatoes |

Plant Spotlight

Hemerocallis sp.

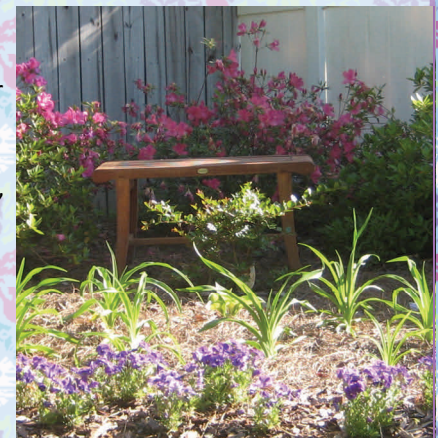


Daylilies are without doubt among the most widely grown perennials in Georgia. Growing from 1 to 4 feet high, a rainbow of colors is now available. Bloom usually peaks in June or July, but varieties are available that flower from May until October. Daylilies are easily grown and have much to recommend them. For more information on daylily culture, access the CAES publication "Daylily Culture"

at http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/thomas/anr/documents/Daylily_C545.pdf

YOUR GARDEN BENCH

Garden benches come in many sizes, shapes and materials. Whether mass produced or one-of-a-kind, when placed in your personal garden, each one takes on a unique character. The simple bench in this garden provides a pleasant view of blooming azaleas and pansies with the promise of crape myrtle and daylily flowers later in the year.



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

Flowers: Use a controlled release fertilizer when you plant annuals or fertilize monthly with a regular fertilizer. Liquid fertilizers work quickly, but do not last very long. They must be reapplied often, usually every 7-14 days.

Continue to deadhead flowers of annuals and perennials. This will keep them from going to seed and may produce additional blooms. If you love to garden but don't have a lot of time, choose plants that are easy to maintain. Annuals that do not need deadheading include begonia, impatiens, coleus, alyssum, ageratum, lobelia, vinca and salvia.

If iris leaves appear thin and limp, check the roots for iris borers. This grub-like worm can destroy an iris bed.

For easier care of large plants, sink a large can or plastic bottle with holes in the bottom into the ground near the plant. Fill the can with water or weak fertilizer solution to water or fertilize the plants.

Vegetables & Herbs: The most important steps to take now are proper watering and weed control. Most gardens need an inch of water a week. Some vegetables need more.

Hand weeding is most effective in the garden. Once you get things weeded, use newspaper covered with a thick layer of mulch to block new weeds. Mulch to control weeds and slow water loss.

Keep vegetables harvested, well-watered, and fertilized to continue production. Fertilize every four weeks if needed.

Root tomato suckers to produce more plants.

Bacterial wilt and fungal wilt rapidly damage tomato plants. Choose varieties that are resistant to fungal wilt—these will have the letter F after the variety name, such as Betterboy, VFN. There is no cure or prevention for bacterial wilt.

Tomato spotted wilt virus attacks the tops of tomato plants, stunting them and making the foliage look wilted. The leaves may have dark discolorations, and the fruit can have rings on it. Remove badly infected plants. Plant resistant varieties like Amelia, Stiletto and others.

Visit <http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/Home&Garden/indexFS.cfm?storyid=2548> for information on other tomato diseases

Shrubs & Trees: Replenish the mulch around your shrubs and trees.

Look for lace bugs under azalea leaves where they make brown, tarry spots. The tops of the leaves will be speckled or silvery. Spray twice with Sevin or Orthene about two weeks apart. Use imidacloprid according to the label.

You can shear small leafed hedges (dwarf yaupon, helleri holly, etc.) now through August. Shear plants as rarely as possible. Do not prune so heavily as to remove all new growth.

Prune spring flowering shrubs (azalea, camellia, forsythia, spirea, etc.) anytime after bloom through mid-July. For more information on when and how to prune woody plants, visit http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6098

Fertilize roses monthly if they are well watered. Continue black spot sprays on roses. Rake up and discard fallen leaves that have the disease. Try not to wet the leaves when you water.

Powdery mildew is a fungus that attacks leaves of dogwood, roses, euonymus, crape myrtle and other plants. It looks like a white powder on the leaves. Established trees and shrubs can withstand the disease, but you may want to prevent its spread on young or flowering plants. Fungicides with the active ingredients tridimefon or myclobutanil are very good at controlling powdery mildew. You can also use tuboconazole or chlorothalonil. Follow all label directions. The best defense is planting mildew resistant varieties.

Lawn Tips: Water lawns deeply about every 7-10 days, as needed, with approximately one inch of water. This practice promotes good root growth. Wait until your lawn fully greens up to fertilize. Use half rates of fertilizer on centipede. Fertilize lawns less often if they are not well watered or will not be mowed often.

Seed, dethatch or vertical mow, and aerate lawns through June.

Control lawn weeds through late May before they get large and temperatures get too high to apply herbicides.

Service your lawn mower and sharpen your blade to improve lawn quality. Mow at the proper height for your lawn type. Mow often enough so you do not remove more than 1/3 of the leaf at each mowing. Mowing centipede too high can kill it!

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