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Container gardens can make heartfelt Mother's Day gifts

Every year Americans spend about \$2 billion dollars on fresh flowers for Mother's Day. While fresh flowers are gorgeous, they have a short shelf life — often less than 10 days after purchase.

This year, **why not skip the bouquet, and make mom a living collection of flowers and plants that may last for years?**



This year, why not skip the Mother's Day bouquet, and make mom a living collection of flowers and plants that may last for years? Matthew Chappell, a UGA Extension horticulturist, has several tips for creating the perfect, one-pot container garden.

Image credit:
Merritt
Melancon

Matthew Chappell, a horticulturist in the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, recently published a how-to brochure for creating the perfect, one-pot container garden.

Filled with woody perennials like shrubs and accented with colorful vines and annuals, these self-contained gardens can add color and texture to any corner of the home and can be maintained with little work.

"The important thing to remember when creating a container garden is that you can both **show your personal creativity and showcase your mother's favorite flowers** — be it a small tree like a Japanese maple, a variety of edible plants she can use to cook for you or a particular color theme she loves," Chappell said.

It's important, when planning a container garden as a gift, to not only make your container garden aesthetically pleasing but also to set your gift-getter up for success.

Nobody wants a container garden that's stressful to maintain, or that they have to feel guilty about killing.

Here are a few tips for container garden composition and survival:

Theme

There's a tremendous diversity of plants out there. It can be easy to end up with a jumbled mess of a container garden if you don't start out with a plan. Themes can be as loose as Southern forest staples, with small conifers, hostas, small woody ferns and flowering vines or as concrete as a pizza garden — featuring basil plants, tomatoes and small pepper plants.

(Continued on [page 2](#).)

Variety

Now that you have your theme, think of plants of different heights, colors and textures that fit within your theme. Many successful containers start with a taller, woody perennial — to give the container weight and height — surrounded by colorful annuals or perennials. Avoid putting too many plants with feathery or needle-like leaves together because this can lead to a fuzzy, messy-looking container.

Compatibility

While variety in color and shape will help create an interesting container garden, plants need to have similar water and sunlight requirements if the garden as a whole is going to survive. Avoid mixing shade-loving plants with plants that need full sun, or mixing cacti with lush shade and moisture loving plants like hostas.

Growth rates

Plants that are grown together in the same container also need to have similar growth habits. If you use one vigorously growing plant in the same pot as a slower growing plant, the faster growing plant may end up taking over and choking out its container-mates.

If a fast-growing variety is essential to your composition, plant it in its own plastic pot, and then plant that pot in the larger container. This will keep the roots from taking over the garden.

Spacing

Whether they are slow growers or fast growers, you can expect your plants to continue to get taller and to spread out

as time goes on. You don't want the plants to become crowded. The best practice is to fill your container two-thirds of the way with plants to give everybody room to grow.

Irrigation

The most important part of maintaining any container is keeping it properly watered. Newly planted containers need to be watered once every two to five days. Well-established containers, ones that have grown for a few months, will have to be watered daily during the spring and summer, and about once a week during the late fall and winter.

Only water the container until water starts to drain from the bottom of the pot. Any additional water will just be wasted.

Fertilization

The best way to fertilize container gardens is to use slow release fertilizers and apply them once or twice a year, depending on the instructions. Planters should avoid fertilizing their container gardens after August because fertilization can spur new growth and that growth could be damaged by any early cold weather.

For more details on building a successful, one-container garden and for suggestions on plant combinations read the UGA publication "[Success with Mixed Containers Using Perennial and Woody Plants.](#)"

(Merritt Melancon is a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.)

Athens Area Master Gardener Trainees Complete Three-month Course

Last month the Athens Area Master Gardener Class of 2014 completed the instructional component of the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer training program. The trainees attended 22 classes taught by UGA faculty, Extension Agents and professional curators. Their 60 hours of class instruction included topics such botany and physiology, plant pathology, pruning, entomology, propagation and much more.

The class will now begin volunteering to assist UGA Extension in providing researched-based gardening resources and information to the public. They will staff Master Gardener booths at farmers markets and events, volunteer at the ACC Extension office and State Botanical Garden of Georgia Help Desks, assist with Plant-a-Row for the Hungry and more. After each volunteering for 50 hours, the trainees will graduate in December.

The 2015 Athens Area Master Gardener Program will be held from January through March on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you would like to receive an application when it is available, please email lisloh@uga.edu or call (706) 613-3640.



The Athens Area Master Gardener Class of 2014 at its class reception at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia on April 1, 2014.

Early detection and persistence are the key to defeating Japanese beetles

By Frank M. Watson



Japanese beetle traps actually attract beetles to your landscape. Image credit: Kris Braman

Adult Japanese beetles seldom become a problem when gardeners are following a regular spray schedule for the control of other insects. But if you find yourself battling the beetles, **persistence and the right insecticides are the key to controlling the rose-munching pests.**

You can protect the foliage and fruit of most plants by spraying them with insecticides like sevin or malathion. Unfortunately, insecticides will not fully protect roses as they unfold too fast and are especially attractive to beetles.

When beetles are abundant on roses, clip the buds off and spray the bushes to protect the leaves. When the beetles become scarce, let the bushes bloom again. Limited numbers of rose blooms for show purposes can be protected from beetle damage by tying perforated plastic bags or netting over

the buds before the beetles appear.

When it comes to tackling Japanese beetles, timeliness and thoroughness are very important. Begin treatment as soon as the beetles appear, before they can do any damage. Use insecticides only on plants for which they are designed, and follow all of the directions on the insecticide's label. Apply insecticides thoroughly, so that all parts of the plant are covered. More than one application may be necessary to maintain protection, especially of new foliage and ripening fruit. Most Japanese beetle insecticides will control the insects for about a week, but additional applications may be necessary after heavy rains.

When insecticides are applied to edible plants, it is important to observe the required waiting period between the last application and harvest. This is specified on the insecticide container label. To be doubly safe, always wash

edible plant parts before cooking or eating them.

Japanese beetle traps impress a lot of home gardeners, but they may not always be effective.

These traps work by attracting beetles and can actually increase the number of beetles you are fighting against.

However, they can work well if you are trying to draw the beetles out of a small area like a rose or vegetable garden. In that case, place the traps on the outer edges of your garden to lure the beetles away from your prize plants.

*(Frank Watson
is the University
of Georgia
Extension agent
in Wilkes
County, GA.)*



Vermicompost: good for something, or good for everything?

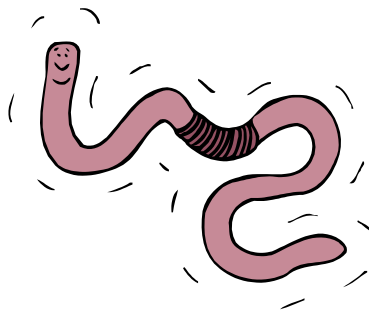
By Lisa Sebannie



Spring has officially sprung! And with spring, many of us will be spending more time in our gardens and enjoying the outdoors. During this season of renewal, it is always good to reflect on some of our accomplishments so far. And if this is your first time joining us in this newsletter, let's catch you up to speed. The good news to share is that **composting is growing ever more popular**. At several events that I attend, I hear stories of people composting, some of the challenges they experience, how they make improvements to their compost pile, and most importantly, the effects of their composting. Every single composter that I speak with tells me how good they feel to be making a difference. They know how significant it is that they are removing even a small part of organic materials from the landfill. Every action, even the small ones, can make a difference. These are exciting times!

Our column this month is going to focus on the uses of vermicompost. I recently spoke with a gardening group and volunteered at several festivals, and a recurring question that I received was, "What are some uses for vermicompost?" This got me thinking. Many people know a few of the uses of vermicompost but do not know just

how amazing the "worm poop" really is. In our article, **we will look at vermicompost, how it can be applied to different situations and the benefits it can offer**. We will then answer the question: is vermicompost good for everything?



Lower temperatures: a benefit of vermicompost

People often ask me which composting method is best. In my personal opinion, the answer to this question is, "It depends!" There are several factors that will make one type of composting more ideal than another: under what conditions will you be making compost; how much space do you have; what is the intended use of the compost. Therefore, it may be said that one type of composting is not better than another, but one kind may suit your needs more than another.

One thing to consider is the

temperature of the composting piles and the consequences of these piles. For example, **in a traditional composting pile, the temperature typically does have to be higher than in a vermicomposting pile**.

It is challenging for residential composting piles to reach a high enough temperature to kill the pathogens, and it can take a lot of time and effort to do so. Therefore, in this case, a vermicomposting pile would be an easier choice.

Use it now or store it for later

Another benefit of vermicompost is that you can use it immediately around your garden or in your house plants. However, if you do not have an immediate use for it, you can also do have the option of saving it for later and using it at that time.

Make compost tea to feed your plants

Another benefit of vermicompost is that we can make it into "compost tea," and this in turn can be used to feed our plants.

There are a few methods for making compost tea. Here is one method:

- ◊ Add two tablespoons of vermicompost to one quart of water.

(Continued on [page 8.](#))

A little wildlife knowledge will help you determine who's eating landscape plants

By Sharon Dowdy



University of Georgia Extension wildlife expert Michael Mengak tells visitors to a field day how a squirrel trap should be used. Image credit: Sharon Dowdy

Chewing pests have many Georgia homeowners wondering “Who dunnit?” when their favorite tree or shrub is scarred by teeth marks.

In west Cobb County, Bruce Roberts is losing landscape plants to a critter that loves to chew through the main stem of plants just above the roots.

“Several months ago, I noticed one of our nandinas lying on the ground. Something had chewed completely through it just below ground level, where the trunk meets the roots,” he said. “Since then, the same thing has happened with other nandinas, mahonias and hollies.”

Roberts describes the gnaw marks as small. If the shrubs and marks were larger and he lived on a pond, Roberts

would think beavers caused the damage.

University of Georgia Extension wildlife expert Michael Mengak says **correctly knowing who is causing the damage is key to preventing and controlling wildlife in landscapes.**

“Deer don’t chew below ground. If your damage is below ground, you have voles or rabbits,” he said.

All animals leave signs or evidence that they’ve been in the area.

Droppings

Fresh droppings are black and shiny while old droppings are dry and brown or gray.

“Black and white droppings can be

from a bird, snake or lizard,” Mengak said. “The size of the droppings will also tell you a lot.”

Rats, mice, chipmunks and toads leave droppings the size of a grain of rice. Rabbit droppings are pea size and deer droppings are large and oval.

Digging

A dirt mound could be a sign of a groundhog, turtle, armadillo or coyote.

If there is no dirt mound, the digger is likely a chipmunk, skunk, mole or vole. Tunnels are also signs of moles and voles. Armadillos dig inverted, cone-shaped holes 3 to 4 inches deep and 1 to 2 inches in diameter, Mengak said.

Gnawing

If leaves are clipped or bitten in a clean, sharp manner, the pest is likely a rabbit, squirrel or woodrat. If branches are cut, squirrels or rabbits are probably the cause. Deer lack upper incisors, so they leave a ragged cut on leaves.

Time of day

Raccoons, skunks, opossums and woodrats move at night, while squirrels, chipmunks and woodchucks are active during the day.

UGA’s Extension experts offer some tips on controlling wildlife in your landscape.

To discourage deer from munching on your marigolds, Mengak recommends using Liquid Fence, Deer Off or Deer Away. All of these products are available as a spray from local home gardening centers. “These products should never be applied to food crops, and read labels carefully,” he said.

To treat for voles and rabbits, use milorganite, also available at most home improvement and gardening centers.

(Continued on [page 9](#).)

Azalea bloom show is over so it's time to prune

By Frank M. Watson

Azaleas are a traditional part of Southern landscapes. University of Georgia Extension experts say **prune azaleas now, after they have bloomed**, to allow the plants to prepare for blooming next year.

In Georgia, many azaleas begin to set flower buds in July. Therefore, pruning after early July may reduce next year's flower production. Compact plants can be maintained with minimal effect on flower production.

Pruning techniques

Two pruning techniques or types of cuts are used: thinning cuts and heading cuts.

Thinning refers to the complete removal of branches back to another branch or main trunk.

Thinning is used to remove leggy branches that extend beyond the canopy of the plant, to reduce the size of the plant or to remove any damaged or diseased wood. Thinning can be done any time of the year without significant impact on flowering, growth or cold hardiness.

Heading refers to the cutting back of a branch, not necessarily to a side branch.

Vigorous new shoots will emerge within 6 inches of the pruning cut. Heading is usually done with three goals in mind: to reduce the size of the plant, to increase the number of branches or to rejuvenate old, overgrown plants. Severe pruning of old, overgrown plants to within 6 to 12 inches of ground level is a common type of heading.

New shoots emerging from the old stems should be thinned out and headed back to encourage branching and a full canopy. The best time to make heading cuts is just after the plant flowers out in the spring. This allows sufficient time for the new growth to mature and harden-off

before winter and for flower buds to form in late summer for the following year.

Depends on size

Young plants should be pruned about six weeks after blooming and thereafter as branches develop sufficient length. However, do not prune later than the first week in July, so plants will have time to initiate new growth and bloom buds.



Azaleas bloom on the north campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, GA.

Image credit: Andrew Tucker

Small azalea plants should be pruned several times during the growing season to develop well-branched plants. This involves pruning the tips of the new, individual branches after five or six inches of new growth has been produced. This pruning not only results in a compact, well-branched plant, but also one that will produce many more blooms.

Azaleas often become entirely too large for the area they occupy, especially when they are used as

foundation plants. If this happens, cut back the large plants to 12 inches above the ground level in early spring. Growth of the new stems and leaves will be quite rapid once new growth buds appear on the stem. Keep the soil moist during the period after severe pruning.

Other tips

Azalea limbs are killed occasionally by fungus diseases or by freezing weather, which kills the conducting tissue and causes the bark to split. These limbs should be pruned out with small hand pruning shears. Heavier loping shears should be used for cutting out larger stems. **Cut the diseased or dead limbs back far enough to expose live wood.** If flecks of diseased or dead wood remain visible inside the cut surface, continue to cut farther back on the stem to expose only healthy wood.

Azalea plants often produce a few tall shoots relatively late in the season that do not initiate flower buds. These shoots not only detract from the general shape of the plant, but also fail to branch properly the following year. Cut these tall shoots out during late October or early November.

For more information on pruning landscape plants, search the [UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences publication website.](#)

(Frank Watson is the University of Georgia Extension agent in Wilkes County, GA.)



Vegetable Garden Calendar: April

By Wayne J. McLaurin, Darbie M. Grandberry and Willie O. Chance

- ◇ **Plant** your choices of the following "warm-season" or "frost-tender" crops: beans (snap, pole and lima), cantaloupe, corn (sweet), cucumbers, eggplant, okra, field peas, peppers, squash, tomatoes and watermelon.
- ◇ Plant **tall-growing crops such as okra, pole beans and corn on the north side** of other vegetables to avoid shading. Plant two or more rows of corn for better pollination.
- ◇ **Make a second planting** within two to three weeks of the first planting of snap beans, corn and squash.
- ◇ Within three to four weeks of the first planting, plant more lima beans and corn. **Remember: for better pollination, plant at least two or more rows.**



- ◇ Be sure to plant enough vegetables for canning and freezing.
- ◇ **Cultivate** to control weeds and grass, to break crusty soil and to provide aeration.
- ◇ Maintain **mulch** between rows.
- ◇ For the crops planted earlier, **side-dress** as described above.
- ◇ Plant **tender herbs**.
- ◇ **Remember: Do not work in your garden when the foliage is wet to avoid spreading diseases from one plant to another.**

(Wayne J. McLaurin, Darbie M. Grandberry and Willie O. Chance are University of Georgia horticulturalists.)

Q & A: How Can I Start a Butterfly Garden?

By Amanda Tedrow

Question: I would like to start a butterfly garden with my kids but I am not sure if my sunny back yard will have everything they need. Can you give me some tips for starting this garden?

- Amy, Athens

A **sunny yard** is a great place to start butterfly gardening. It is recommended to provide your butterflies and their larvae with **nectar-producing plants, larval food plants and a shallow pool of water**. The nectar-producing plants provide food for the adult butterflies. The link below has a list of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, perennials and annuals that produce nectar for the butterflies you will be attracting.

Some common butterfly-attracting plants you may already have in your garden include butterfly bush, lantana, purple coneflower, sunflowers, pentas, single marigolds, verberna and zinnias.

Once you have plants to attract the adult butterflies, don't forget about the larvae. The caterpillars need food and habitat to thrive. **Tall grasses and native wildflowers are a great food source and should only be mowed in the late fall**. Some of the best foods include willow, milkweed, passion vine, parsley and asters.

The last crucial element to a butterfly garden is a shallow water source. A **clay saucer filled with wet sand or mud with a rock in the center as a**

resting spot is a great water source for your beginner butterfly gardening.

Find the University of Georgia Extension publication on butterfly gardening [here](#).

And, read the UGA publication "[Beyond Butterflies: Gardening for Native Pollinators](#)."

(Amanda Tedrow is the UGA Extension Agricultural & Natural Resources Agent for Athens-Clarke County.)



Vermicompost: good for something, or good for everything?, continued...

- ◇ Periodically mix your compost tea throughout the day.
- ◇ After one day of mixing, you can then water your plants with this tea. The additional nutrients will then be added to the soil, benefitting your plants.

Five benefits of worm castings in the garden

Ohio State research showed that the optimum ratio of worm castings to native soil is 10-20 percent. Here are some of the main benefits of worm castings in the garden:

1. Improved plant growth

After using vermicompost, test results have shown an improvement in:

- ◇ plant size
- ◇ bloom quantity
- ◇ quality
- ◇ flower color
- ◇ fruit and vegetable yield
- ◇ fruit and vegetable taste and appearance

2. Soil softening

Soils can become hardened by a

reduction in beneficial soil biology, limiting fertility. Adding worm castings provides the biology needed to return the soil to a softened state. Within a few weeks following the application, the hard soil is workable again, allowing ease of plant growth.

3. Fungus control

Research demonstrates that complete soil food biology found in worm castings quickly controls fungus problems on a long term basis.

4. Odor elimination

Did you know that worm castings quickly and effectively eliminate odors?

Mix 10 percent worm castings with compost or composted dairy manure, horse manure or chicken manure, and the objectionable odors are eliminated within a few hours!

With addition of worm castings, animal manures can be used as effective fertilizers without the offensive odors.

Worm castings have been tested for odor absorption compared to activated charcoal and found to be more efficient and much less expensive than

activated charcoal.

5. Insect Repellant

Testing has shown that microorganisms found in worm castings act as effective repellants for large array of insects!

Well if you were not convinced before, I am sure by now you must agree that worms are the way to go!

These are just a few of the wonderful benefits our worms offer us. Our little slithery friends: hard at work, diverting food scraps and also offering these additional benefits! They are amazing!

Well, it has once again gotten to be that time to get back to our worms! If you are reading our article for the first time and have not yet set up your worm bin, this is a great time to get started! Even on a small scale, your contributions are having an impact and will positively affect your community as a whole.

(Lisa Sehannie is a Georgia Master Composter Extension Volunteer.)

Shades of Green Classifieds

Worm Factory DS5BT 5-Tray

Worm Composter, Black

\$75.00 — Very good condition

A good solution for vermicomposting. Item is best used by somebody with access to a garage as under-carriage of each tray is screened, a little messy for apartment-dwellers.

We are fundraising for a new ocean advocacy group called Friends of the Dolphin!

List price (new): \$109.95

Available on Amazon (new): \$99.95

Contact Elizabeth at (706) 850-0469

Mantis Compost-Twin **Dual-chamber Composter**

\$285.00 or best offer — Good condition

Holds almost 25 cubic feet of raw material! Unlike traditional single-bin composters, the Mantis composter allows your compost to "cook" in one composting bin while leaving room for you to fill the second composting bin with more kitchen and yard scraps. Bin contents are fully enclosed and latched to keep out rodents, pets, and other wildlife.

List price (new): \$600.00

Contact Bill at (706) 247-2500

Like their rodent cousins, voles and chipmunks should be trapped using mousetraps baited with peanut butter. "Not much else will be effective," he said. "Chipmunks are primarily seedeaters. They might chew a woody shrub, but that would be unusual."

If trapping doesn't appeal to you, modify your landscape to discourage voles and chipmunks. Clear existing mulch and apply gravel instead of bark or pine straw, Mengak said. "This method can work, but it's counter-intuitive to gardening principles," he said.

Use the HERL method

When fighting critters in your landscape, follow the HERL method: **habitat modification, exclusion, removal or repellents, and lethal control.**

"Unfortunately, it's hard to create a

habitat that attracts the wildlife you want and discourages the nuisance species," Mengak said.

He recommends following these steps:

Modify your landscape so it's not the perfect habitat for the pest animal.

Remove anything that could be used as cover.

Mow tall grass and remove piles of brush, logs, rocks and other debris.

Build a fence to exclude wildlife. A deer fence should be 8 feet tall or higher, while chicken wire fences can be just 2 feet high.

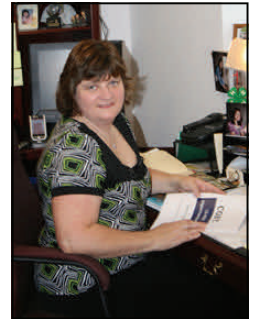
Use a net or a trap to remove the pest or a repellent to discourage the animal from coming into the area. Effective repellents work through taste, fear or odor.

Lethal traps can be used to control a small number of pests, but may require permits from a state or federal wildlife agency. Use live traps with extreme caution. Raccoons, skunks and other animals that may carry rabies should not be caught in live traps.

Use poison baits to control rats, mice and other small rodents. Keep out of reach of children and pets. Baits are best used in out buildings or under careful observation.

For further assistance, call your local UGA Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

(Sharon Dowdy is a news editor with the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.)



Amanda's Slice—Local farmers markets have much to offer

In addition to plant sales, another sure sign of spring is the Athens area farmers markets. Doing some or all of your shopping at one of these markets will support local business and agriculture. And you'll often find great deals! The Athens area has several weekly markets—each offering something a bit different. Here is a breakdown:

Athens Farmers Market: Saturdays from 8am—12pm at [Bishop Park](#) and Wednesdays from 4pm—7pm at [City Hall](#)

The Saturday market features 80+ local vendors selling produce, meats and dairy, prepared foods, and crafts by artisans. The Saturday markets includes live music and activities like the 1-mile "Wellness Walk" loop through the market.

West Broad Farmers Market: Saturdays starting

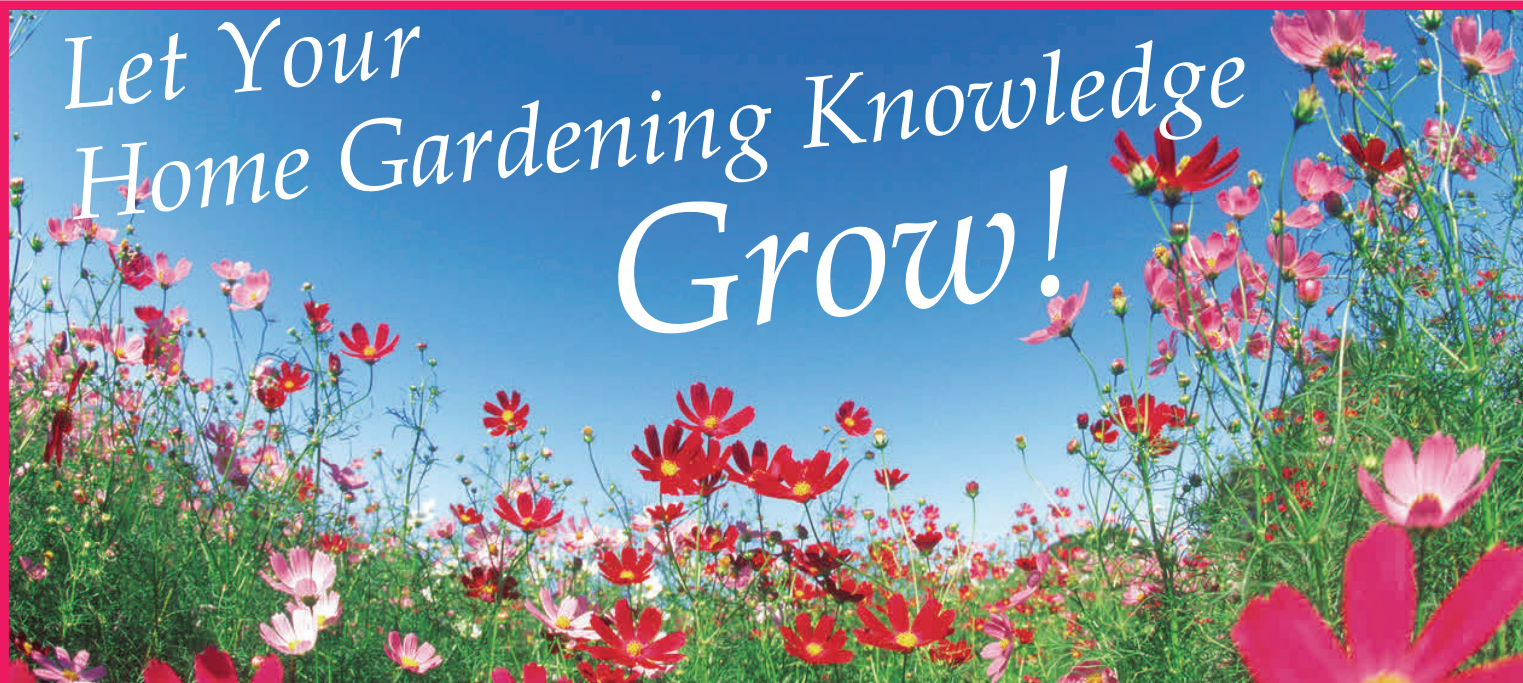
May 3 from 10am—2pm and Tuesdays starting May 7 from 4pm—7pm at the [West Broad School](#)

Started by the Athens Land Trust, the Saturday WBFM includes produce, baked goods, local artisans, live music, nutrition education, sustainable gardening workshops and health screenings.

Oglethorpe Fresh Farmers Market: Saturdays starting May 3 from 8:30am—12:30pm and Tuesdays starting May 7 from 4pm—7pm at [111 South Platt Street](#) in Lexington

Oglethorpe Fresh includes baked goods, flowers, herbs, vegetables, honey, jams and meats and features some of the best musicians in the area.

I recommend trying all three to find a favorite. All of these markets accept cash and credit/debit cards. Happy farmers market season!



*Attend a **FREE** monthly gardening class led by Athens Area Master Gardeners!*

WHEN: The second Tuesday of each month from 6:00—7:00pm

WHERE: Athens-Clarke County Extension Office
2152 West Broad Street, Athens, GA 30606

REGISTER: Register before the class by contacting Athens-Clarke County Extension at (706) 613-3640 or atedrow@uga.edu.

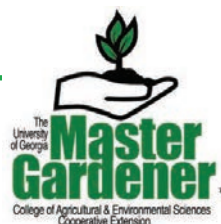
Gardening Class Topics

All classes will be at the ACC Extension Office from 6:00 – 7:00pm

May 13:	Flower & Vegetable Gardening in the Backyard
June 10:	Attracting Hummingbirds & Butterflies to the Garden
July 8:	Herb Gardening
Aug. 12:	Perennials & Winter Annuals
Sept. 9:	Fall Vegetable Gardening, Amanda Tedrow, Extension Agent
Oct. 14:	Learning to Garden with Bambi: Dealing with Deer
Nov. 11:	Creating Your Own Rain Garden



For Questions and to Register:
Contact Amanda Tedrow, Extension Agent
at 706-613-3640 or atedrow@uga.edu.





Gardening Events in Our Area



West Broad Farmers Market is at the corner of West Broad and Minor Street on **Saturdays** (May through December) from 10am-2pm. Also starting in May, the **Tuesday market** is open from 4-7pm. For more information, contact [Athens Land Trust](#) at 706-613-0122.

Seniors Garden Club hosted by the [Athens Community Council on Aging](#) meets on **Thursdays** from 10-11:30am. Meetings are **FREE**. Contact 706-549-4850 for more information.

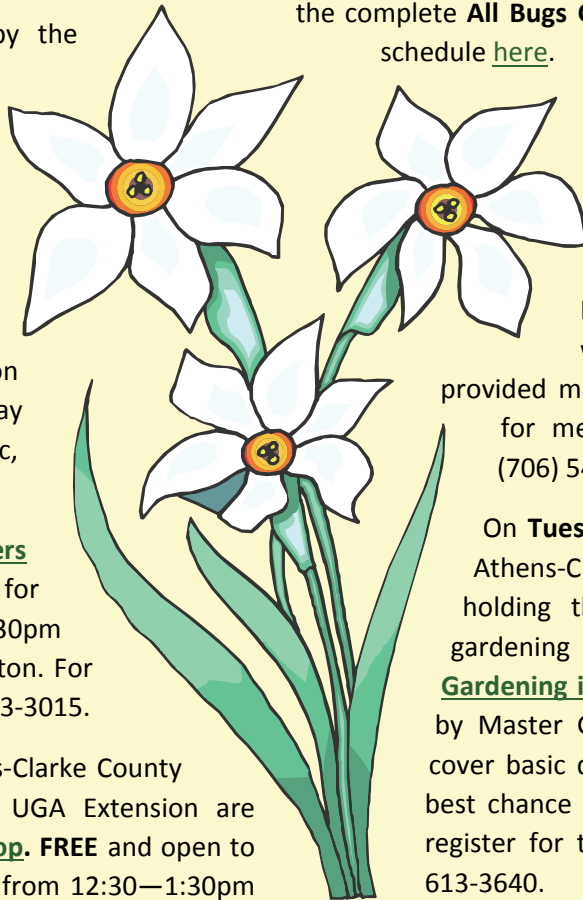
Athens Farmers Market is at Bishop Park on **Saturdays** from 8am-12pm and at City Hall on **Wednesdays** from 4-7pm. Saturday market events include live music, chef demos, and kid's activities.

Visit the [Oglethorpe Fresh Farmers Market](#) at 111 South Platt Street for on **Saturdays** from 8:30am-12:30pm in the heart of downtown Lexington. For more information, contact 706-743-3015.

On **Thursday, May 1**, the Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office and UGA Extension are holding a **[Drip Irrigation Workshop](#)**. **FREE** and open to the public, the workshop will be from 12:30-1:30pm at the UGA Horticulture Greenhouses in Athens. Learn how to conserve water and have a beautiful garden using drip irrigation! Register online [here](#) or call (706) 613-3729 for more information.

On **Friday, May 2**, Athens-Clarke County Extension will

be hosting a telecast of the webinar, **[“Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad?”](#)** This free 45-minute session will be presented by [Dr. Nancy Hinkle](#), Professor of Entomology at UGA. The telecast will run from 2-3pm at the ACC Extension office. For more information, please call (706) 613-3640. You can view the complete **All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series** schedule [here](#).



The State Botanical Garden of Georgia is holding a **[Vermicomposting Workshop](#)** on **Monday, May 5** from 7:30-9pm. Learn how to make your own worm bin and leave with all the provided materials. Cost is \$35 or \$31.50 for members. Register [here](#) or call (706) 542-1244.

On **Tuesday, May 13** from 6-7pm the Athens-Clarke County Extension Office is holding the first of its free monthly gardening classes. **[“Flower & Vegetable Gardening in the Backyard”](#)** will be taught by Master Gardener John Aitkens. It will cover basic dos and don'ts to ensure your best chance of a successful garden. Please register for this free class by calling (706) 613-3640.

On **Saturday, May 17** the Athens Area Master Gardener Association will hold a second **[Spring Plant Sale](#)** at the [Winterville Marigold Festival](#) at Pittard Park in Winterville, GA. The sale will be from 9am-5pm.



*“The April winds are magical, And thrill our tuneful frames; The garden-walks are passionate
To bachelors and dames.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson, “April”*



Public Utilities
water. wastewater. conservation.

Non-Drought

Outdoor Water Use Schedule*

Effective August 8, 2013

allowed daily

Between 4:00 pm and 10:00 am

- Automated irrigation systems
- Hand watering (without a shut-off nozzle)
- Lawn sprinklers

odd/even schedule

No hourly restrictions

Even: Mon • Wed • Sat

Odd: Tues • Thurs • Sun

- Car washing at home
- Charity car washes
- Hosing driveways
- Outdoor cleaning
- Pressure washing by homeowner
- Topping-off pools

allowed anytime

By anyone

- Commercial pressure washing
- Drip irrigation or soaker hose
- Watering of food gardens
- Hand watering (with a shut-off nozzle)
- Hydroseeding
- Installation and maintenance of an irrigation system
- Irrigation of newly installed turf (for the first 30 days)
- Irrigation of public recreational turf areas
- Irrigation of plants for sale
- Irrigation of sports fields
- Water from a private well
- Water from an alternate source
 - grey water, rain water, condensate

Please note: The odd/even schedule still applies to non-landscape outdoor water use.

*This Non-Drought Outdoor Water Use Schedule is consistent with the Outdoor Water Use Rules set forth in the Georgia Water Stewardship Act that went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010.

Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office
706-613-3729 / savewater@athensclarkecounty.com

Outdoor Water Restrictions:

Barrow, Oconee & Jackson Counties

Outdoor water use for Barrow, Oconee, and Jackson Counties is now limited to three days per week with even number addresses allowed to water on Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday and odd number addresses allowed to water on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The ban on watering between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM remains in effect for all scheduled watering days. No outdoor watering is allowed on Fridays other than exemptions below.

THE FOLLOWING USES ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL HOURLY/DAY OF THE WEEK RESTRICTIONS:

- Drip Irrigation
- Soaker Hoses
- Hand Watering
- Food Gardens
- New installations of plants and turf (with a permit)
- Grey Water, Rainwater and AC Condensation Reuse
- Golf Course - Tee and Green Irrigation
- Plants for sale, resale, or installation

Please be aware that water restrictions are subject to change.

For more information and additional exemptions please contact your county's water conservation department.



Helpful information online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)

[Pest Management Handbook](#)

[SE Ornamental Horticulture](#)

[Production & IPM Blog](#)

[Bugwood – Pest Images](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)

[Pesticide Applicator Info](#)

[Georgia Certified Landscape](#)

[Professional](#)

[Landscape Alerts Online](#)

[Upcoming Trainings](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant](#)

[Professional](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

Mission Statement

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/Youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

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