



The Gardening Gazette

The Gardening Gazette is a free newsletter from the Clayton County Master Gardeners. We provide information on Master Gardener projects and tips to local homeowners.

(New website: www.claytoncountymastergardeners.org)

Spring 2009



2009 class of Clayton County Master Gardener volunteers.

SEASONAL CALENDAR

APRIL – The Month for sowing and fertilizing

- Plant warm season annuals and vegetables after the 15th.
- Plant dahlias, elephant ear, gladiolus and caladiums now.
- You may still divide perennials as they appear.
- Prune evergreen shrubs and any shrubs that have bloomed this year.
- Water houseplants more frequently with the onset of more hours of sunshine and new green leaves. Begin monthly feedings with houseplant fertilizer.
- Blooming: Dianthus, Jessamine, Wisteria, Azaleas, Kerria, Lady Banks Rose, Sweetshrub, Dogwood, Cherries, Serviceberry

MAY – The Month for appreciating

- Plant begonias, coleus, geraniums, petunias and vinca for summer-long color in your landscape.
- Remove leafless limbs from shade trees. If they don't have leaves by now, they won't be coming back.
- Dead-head plants as they bloom.
- Move houseplants to garden, deck or patio
- Blooming: Foxglove, Peony, Daylily, Roses, Iris, Salvia, Gardenia, Confederate Jasmine, Climbing Hydrangea, Magnolia, Mountain Laurel

JUNE – The month for spraying

- Look for new seedlings under your Lenten Rose. They can be transplanted now to other locations.
- Mulch your vegetable garden.
- Plant annuals in small beds that make a visual impact.
- Pinch back leggy annuals and perennials.
- Watch for insect pests & diseases during season of tender growth. Treat, if necessary.
- Blooming: Hydrangeas, Phlox, Roses, Daisies, Veronicas, Abelia, Golden Rain Tree

GARDENING ON THE WEB:



LAWN

Early in this quarter is time to get those lawn mowers tuned up, blades sharpened and ready for a new season. Resist the urge to fertilize your lawn until it has fully greened up which is usually April or May. Synchronize fertilizing and weed control with rain forecasts. Control lawn weeds now through late May. **DO NOT** use herbicides on lawns the first year.



FLOWERS

Fertilize established perennials after all danger of frost is past. Fertilize bulbs when the plant gets two to three inches tall. Plant in sunny areas – cockscomb, zinnias, ageratum, purslane and marigolds. For shady areas consider begonias, impatiens, caladiums, coleus and hostas. Plant heat tolerant flowers when temperatures climb probably late April or May. These include ornamental pepper, cannas, Mexican petunia, annual periwinkle, salvia and summer phlox.



VEGETABLES

Plan your vegetable garden. Leafy vegetables need at least 6 hours of sunlight daily to develop properly. Harden off transplants before planting them in the garden. Prepare rows for warm-season vegetables to be planted during the first two weeks of April. Wait until mid-April or until soils warm well to plant sweet potatoes.

University related sites generally provide the most reliable information. **The Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture** site (www.gaurbanag.org) has sections for the home gardener. Look through the **UGA Extension publications** by subject at (www.caes.uga.edu/publications).

Though not actually a UGA site, **Gardening in Georgia**, hosted by Walter Reeves, is a great site with lots of good information (www.gardeningeorgia.com).

If you cannot find what you want at these sites, search **University publications** from across the U.S. at (www.plantfacts.osu.edu/web). This should give you information from universities like Clemson, Auburn and the University of Florida.

Some University-related sites are useful for specific purposes. For snake and reptile identification see (www.uga.edu/srelherp) and for wildlife control visit (www.icwdm.org/Default.asp).

The following sites may be helpful to find photos, plant descriptions or other general information. However, they are not recommended with the same assurance as the University-sponsored sites.

www.ortho.com and www.gardennet.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Noontime Knowledge Programs:
 - “Botany 101”, April 23rd, presented by MG Helen Brown.
 - “Butterfly Gardening”, May 28th, presented by MG Marge Klepinger.
 - “Poisonous Plants”, June 25th, presented by MG Cliff Pauling.

Programs are held on the above Thursdays from 12:15 – 1:00 PM.

Call the Extension Office @770-473-5434 for more information and to register for the free classes. Please join us!

(Tips in the Gardening Gazette are taken from Walter Reeves, Pike's Nurseries, The Garden Bench & Hasting Nature & Garden Center.)