



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.

www.claytoncountymastergardeners.org

Summer 2009

TREE and SHRUB CARE:

DO NOT prune or fertilize spring flowering shrubs like azalea, camellia and viburnum after mid-July. It may interfere with next year's flowers.

Don't over fertilize trees and shrubs. Actively growing plants use more water. Over fertilizing leads to a landscape that will be a water hog. A soil test from your Extension Office will tell your soil's fertilizer and lime requirements.

Crape Myrtles are in full bloom. To encourage a second bloom, remove faded flowers, fertilize and water. Be careful not to cut off the newly emerging flowers.

Powdery mildew may appear on your Crape Myrtles. Powdery mildew affects the leaves and **will not** kill a tree or shrub. Clean up any fallen leaves. The best way to prevent powdery mildew on crape myrtles is to plant resistant varieties. For a list of resistant varieties see: <http://www.pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubed/I331.htm>.

Mulch around trees out to the edge of their canopy. This practice helps soil retain moisture and will enhance the appearance of your landscape.



CONTAINER TIPS & TRICKS:

- Use good quality, sterile potting soil.
- Use insulated containers especially for full-sun locations.

- Use a thin sheet of bubble wrap around the inside walls (just below soil line) for non-insulated pots.
- Use pot feet on containers to protect against high heat and ensure good air flow.

VEGETABLE and HERB GARDENING TIPS:

Keep vegetables harvested, well watered and fertilized to continue production. Fertilize every four weeks. Water twice a week with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of water. Mulch to control weeds and slow water loss.

Plant the following vegetables no later than July 20th to allow time to mature before frost: tomatoes, okra, corn, pole beans, lima beans, cucumbers, squash and snap beans. Plant carrots August 20th – September 15th. Start plants for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and kale in a half-shaded area or in pots.

Time to get those planting beds ready for September and October planting of cool season vegetables. Till, fertilize and prepare the seedbed to give it time to settle.



Beautiful gardens begin with a plan. Ensure you know what each plant needs to thrive not just survive.

Herbs need loamy soil that drains well. One method for checking your soil is to wet the soil and then squeeze a handful of it. Sandy soil will remain loose. Clay soil will form a thick ribbon. Loamy soil will form a short, then and soft ribbon in your hand. Amend sandy soil with compost. If your herb bed has mostly clay soil, consider using containers for your herbs.

Use a good quality potting soil for your herb containers, preferably one with no moisture beads or additives to retain moisture. Herbs like dry feet after watering!

Given regular watering, herbs thrive in hot, dry environments. For best flavor and scent, harvest herbs in early morning.

Additional online garden and landscape information can be found at:
<http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/>

SEASONAL CALENDAR

JULY – The month for watering

- Water deeply when possible. Most plants need 1" of water per week.
- Keep plant areas mulched and weeded. This reduces competition and keeps roots cooler.
- Continue to dead-head flowers and shrubs as they bloom.
- Cut lawn higher in summer to reduce stress.
- Cut back by half herbs like basil, mint and oregano. This prevents them from producing seed and promotes more fragrant leaves.
- Check the houseplants you've placed outdoors for insect pests. Use insecticidal soap to manage insects.
- Be alert to slug and snail damage.

AUGUST – The month for sweating

- Keep watering, especially pots and containers that will dry out rapidly.
- Watch for insects and disease, especially fungal infections.
- Cut back annuals and fertilize to extend blooming into the Fall.
- Plant fall blooming bulbs like crocus.
- Wrap cheesecloth around sunflower heads to keep the birds away. The head is ready to harvest when the back has turned from green to brown.
- Keep weeds pulled before they have a chance to flower and go to seed again.

SEPTEMBER – The month for lawn renovation

- Fescue lawns: This is the best month for establishing a Fescue lawn.
- Fescue lawns: Apply lime, if necessary, and 16-4-8 fertilizer
- Bermuda/Zoysia/Centipede lawns: Apply 5-10-5 fertilizer and overseed with Rye, if desired.
- Daylilies, Hosta and Irises can be divided now.
- Spring-flowering bulbs are on sale now. You can buy them – but don't put them into the ground until soil temperatures are in the 60's or cooler in early October.

- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter.
- Mark your perennials with tags so you'll know where/what they are when they die back at the end of the season.

FARMER'S MARKET

- Every Wednesday & Saturday
- June 20th thru September 19th
- Saturdays: 9:00 – 11:00 AM
- Wednesdays: 4:30 – 6:30 PM
- Clayton County Extension
1262 Government Circle
Jonesboro, GA 30236
- Questions: 770-473-5434

SYMPOSIUM

"The Plant Lover's Garden"

- The Perry Center, Lee St., Jonesboro
- Saturday, November 7th
- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- \$30.00; \$35.00 after November 1st
- Speakers: Bob Westerfield -
Vegetable Gardening
Elizabeth Dean -
Shade Gardening
Bruce Holiday –
Landscape Design
TBA -
Container Gardening

July 31st, Griswell Senior Center, Master Gardener, Debbi Walding will present "Herbs". For info and sign up, call 770- 477-3499

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Classes held @ the Clayton County Extension on the 4th Thursday of the month from 12:15-1:00 PM and are FREE but reservations are required.

- July 23rd; "Green is a Good Color"; Sandy Foster, FACS Extension Agent.
- August 27th; "Growing Orchids 101"; Mary Cawthon, Hobby Orchid Grower.
- September 24th, "Water Gardening in Containers"; Suzanne Norman, Master Gardener.
- October 22nd, "Bulbs Are a Bright Idea", Carolyn Hawkins, Master Gardener.

Call the Extension Office at 770-473-5434 or e-mail hortpa@uga.edu to register for the FREE classes. Please join us!

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