



Dougherty County Extension • 125 Pine Ave., Suite 100 • Albany, GA 31701 • (229) 436-7216

Lawn Shop

Fertility is one of the contributing factors to a good healthy lawn. Continue to supply your lawn with the necessary nutrients. Use an inorganic nitrogen source such ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate to supply your Bermuda and Zoysia grass one pound of nitrogen per 1000 ft² this month. St. Augustine lawns require a complete fertilizer at this time for its source of nitrogen. Apply 15-0-15 fertilizer to your centipede lawn at for the last time this year.

To further achieve that healthy attractive lawn, **continue to monitor your lawn for any signs of insects** such as [chinch bugs](#), [mole crickets](#), [grubs worms](#) and [spittle bugs](#). If detected early enough, proper control will help to minimize injury.

Water your lawn when it needs it and not just when your irrigation is set to come on. Apply water when the grass is wilting. You should notice that the grass appears dark and dull. The leaves will begin to roll and footprints will remain after walking over the area.

Ornamental Shop

During prolonged dry periods **keep trees and shrubs watered**. This is especially true for flowering dogwoods. Dogwoods are affected by numerous diseases if they become stressed. Continue to monitor them for [dogwood anthracnose](#). Keep them heavily mulched with a good organic material. Do not mulch all the way up to the trunk. Water your trees thoroughly.

Think about propagating some of the shrubs in the landscape to add to your landscape later in the year or to share with family and friends. Take semi-ripe cuttings from such plants as Camellia, Hydrangea, and [Forsythia](#). Take a cutting about 2 to 4 inches long. Strip the lower leaves from the cutting and then dip it into a rooting hormone before placing the cutting firmly into the ground. Label the cutting and water thoroughly. Continue to water throughout the summer, ensuring that the cutting does not dry out.

Monitor roses in your garden for signs of [powdery mildew](#) and [aphids](#). Mildew will show up on the leaves, flowers and stem. Apply proper fungicide at two week intervals and pick up any and all fallen plant litter.

Remember to prune your [Bigleaf or French Hydrangeas](#) immediately after flowering.

Flower Shop

Enjoy the beauty of your flower beds at this time. You should have sown or planted everything at this time. **Little maintenance is needed in your flower beds this month.** Your top priority will be placed on keeping things adequately watered and well mulched to suppress weeds. Do not wait until your beds are overrun with weeds to start doing something about it. If weeds should come through the mulch, hoe or hand pull while they are small and few.

It may be a good time to finally thin out iris. You should divide and transplant them. Cut the leaves back to about eight inches. .

Scout for pests that might be found in the garden. [Black soot mold](#) will indicate the presence of aphids, [soft scales](#), [mealy bugs](#) or some [leafhoppers](#). Proper id will be the key in recommending an insecticide. Make sure that the product is labels for plants with sooty mold or test the product on a small area first.

Think about ordering your bulbs now so that they arrive by autumn. Keep them stored at 60°F to 65°F in a dry area

Fruits & Vegetables Shop

Call your local Extension office (229/ 436-7216) for a [Vegetable Garden Calendar Leaflet #174](#) written by Wayne J. McLaurin, Darbie M. Granberry and W.O. Chance, Extension Horticulturists. This leaflet is a great tool to keep a gardener on task every month in their greenhouse and vegetable garden. For the month of August should be carried out:

Plant the following no later than the dates indicated below:

August 15 - Snap beans and Irish potatoes (seed can be sprouted two to three weeks before planting).

August 31 - Cucumbers and squash (plant varieties resistant to downy mildew)

~ In order **to calculate the planting date**, determine the frost date and count back the number of days to maturity plus 18 days for harvest of the crop. If snap beans mature in 55 days and your frost date is November 15, you should plant on or before September 3.

~ Start plants for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale and onions in a half-shaded area for setting out in September.

~ **Prepare soil for September to October plantings** of "cool-season" crops. Apply fertilizer and prepare seeded so rains will settle the rows and make it easier to get seeds to germinate when they are planted. ~ If watering is necessary to get a stand, open the furrow for seed, pour in water, plant seed and cover.

~ Use starter solution on the transplanted crops.

~ Water the garden as needed to prevent drought stress.

Lespedeza Identification and Control in Turfgrass

Patrick McCullough, UGA Extension Weed Specialist

See the entire publication at <http://tinyurl.com/ocgez5>

Common lespedeza (*Kummerowia striata* (Thunb.) Schind syn. *Lespedeza striata*) is a freely-branched summer annual legume that is a problem weed in lawns and other turf areas. Common lespedeza, also known as Japanese clover or annual lespedeza, has three smooth, oblong leaflets with parallel veins that are nearly perpendicular to the midvein.

As common lespedeza matures, the stems harden and become woody, which is attributed to persistence and competition with turfgrasses in late summer

Flowers are pink to purple and present in the leaf axils. Other lespedeza species may also be found as weeds in turf but common lespedeza is the primary species in Georgia.



Turfgrass Disease Update – Gray Leaf Spot and Rust

Alfredo Martinez, UGA Plant Pathologist



Time to scout for gray leaf spot: Gray leaf spot is a fungus disease that affects St. Augustinegrass, perennial ryegrass and tall fescue in Georgia. Hot humid summer weather and high nitrogen levels can make turf susceptible to this disease. The fungus causing the disease is *Pyricularia grisea*.

Symptoms: The symptoms of gray leaf spot vary depending on the grass cultivar. On St. Augustinegrass, gray leaf spot first appears as small, brown spots on the leaves and stems. The spots quickly enlarge to approximately ¼ inch in length and become bluish-gray and oval or elongated in shape. The mature lesions are tan to gray and have depressed centers with irregular

margins that are purple to brown (see image). A yellow border on the lesions can also occur. In cool-season turfgrass, the symptoms are similar to those of melting out.

Conditions Favoring Disease: Gray leaf spot is favored by daytime temperatures between 80°F to 90°F and night temperatures above 65°F. It is also found in areas with high nitrogen levels and in turf stressed by various factors, including drought and soil compaction. This disease is most severe during extended hot, rainy and humid periods.

Disease Management Tips: Avoid medium to high nitrogen levels during mid-summer. Irrigate turf deeply and as infrequently as possible to avoid water stress. Allow water to remain on leaves for only a short period of time. Reduce thatch. When possible, plant turfgrass that is resistant to gray leaf spot. Avoid using herbicides or plant growth regulators when the disease is active. Fungicides are available to control the disease. Consult the current *Georgia Pest Management Handbook* -- www.ent.uga.edu/pmh/.

Phyllanthus is a growing problem in Georgia landscapes

By Mark Czarnota, University of Georgia

We all have our top weeds to deal with in the garden. One that continues to move up my list is leaf-flower. These 6- to 18-inch annual weeds are a growing a problem in landscapes and the container plant industry.

Leaf-flower is a commonly used name for many [Phyllanthus](#) species. Some people in Georgia have misnamed them "mimosa weed" because the leaves of some resemble those of mimosa. Part of the Euphorbiaceae family, Phyllanthus is a big genus, with 700 species worldwide. They're mostly annuals, although some are weak perennials.

Only a few are common in the continental United States. Mainly, they go by the names leaf-flower, Niruri, long-stalked Phyllanthus, chamber bitter and Mascarene Island leaf-flower. Only three species are real problems in landscapes and nurseries: long-stalked Phyllanthus (*P. tenellus*), chamber bitter (*P. urinaria*) and Niruri (*P. niruri*).



Chamber bitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*), shown here, is a growing menace in Georgia landscapes and gardens.

The name leaf-flower comes from the tiny flowers that arise from the axils (where the plants' leaves emerge). Long-stalked Phyllanthus is named for the long stems, or "stalks," on which its flowers arise from the undersides of the leaves.

Chamber bitter and Niruri can be confused with long-stalked Phyllanthus. In nursery containers and landscapes, chamber bitter is more of a problem. Niruri, much shorter at 6 to 8 inches tall, is better able to survive in the 2- to 4-inch environment of turf grasses.

A close cousin of spurge (Euphorbia species), the long-stalked Phyllanthus can be extremely hard to control in the landscape. Like spurge, it germinates in hot, dry conditions of late spring and early summer when the soil temperatures are warm. Once it's established, Phyllanthus is extremely tolerant of drought. It can survive even the most inhospitable conditions.

All Phyllanthus species can go from seed to flower in less than two weeks. And they can produce copious numbers of seeds. Each plant can release thousands.

Another characteristic that makes Phyllanthus such a problem weed is its high tolerance of dinitroaniline herbicides such as Preen, Surflan and Barricade. These pre-emergent herbicides are the backbone of weed control in the container and landscape industry. Even when these herbicides are used, Phyllanthus has the ability to germinate when other weeds can't.

One other dubious ability of Phyllanthus is its ability to spread its seed by explosive force. When the fruits of the Phyllanthus species ripen, they explode to help disperse the seed. One of the most important cultural approaches you can use to help control Phyllanthus is to maintain a 2- to 4-inch layer of mulch. Phyllanthus seeds are small. Not many plants will survive if they have to penetrate a thick layer of mulch.

Herbicides help control this plant, too. Postemergent herbicides with the active ingredient diquat (Reward), glufosinate (Finale) or glyphosate (Roundup) will do a good job of controlling Phyllanthus after it has germinated.

If you have severe infestations, consider using pre-emergent products. When trying to control Phyllanthus with pre-emergent herbicides, consider making at least two applications, in February or March and in May or June, to cover the worst Phyllanthus germination window.

Obviously, you can hand-remove small infestations, too. But be aware that Phyllanthus is prone to breaking off at the soil level.

However you do it, try to remove all [Phyllanthus](#) plants from your garden, since each plant can produce a lot of seed. Good luck.

June Climate Report - June's Rains Soaked the State But Kept It Cooler Than Normal

By Pam Knox (University of Georgia)

Georgia saw a soggy June, with almost all counties receiving more rain than normal and a few cities seeing record-breaking amounts.

Although the exact state average rainfall is still being calculated, it appears that this was the wettest June since 2005, when the state average was almost eight inches of precipitation. However, it is unlikely that this June will surpass the all-time June record of 9.34 inches set in 1900.

The abundant rainfall helped small grains and forage growth, but impeded late planting and harvesting of wheat and hay. Diseases and pests driven by the wet conditions were observed in many areas of the state.

Areas that received the most rain during June are expected to be more susceptible to flash flooding in July due to the widespread saturated soil conditions that prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground.

Both Macon and Augusta had their highest total rainfall for June in 2013. In Macon, the rainfall of 12.25 inches washed out the old record of 9.91 inches set in 1923. Macon's normal rainfall for June is about 4 inches. The city had the highest monthly rainfall totals in the state for the month of June, as reported by a National Weather Service station.

Daily rainfall records were also set in Columbus, Macon and Brunswick last month. In Columbus an observed rainfall of 1.11 inches on June 10 surpassed the old record of 0.98 inches for the same date, set in 1981. In Macon an observation of 1.63 inches on June 23 beat the old record of 1.29 inches from 1928. In Brunswick a rainfall of 1.95 inches on June 23 broke the old record of 1.04 inches set in 1956.

The lowest monthly total precipitation from National Weather Service reporting stations was in Columbus at 7.32 inches (3.6 inches above normal). Atlanta received 9.57 inches (5.62 above normal), Athens received 8.21 inches (4.03 above normal), Brunswick received 8.31 inches (3.47 above normal), Alma received 7.78 inches (2.4 above normal), Savannah received 8.28 inches (2.33 above normal) and Augusta received 10.83 inches (6.11 above normal).

The highest amount of rainfall measured on a single-day by Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network observers was 5.31 inches near Martinez in Columbia County (Northeast GA) on June 6. An observer near Athens in Clarke County reported 4.46 inches on June 6. The highest monthly total rainfall was 15.47 inches, observed by the Martinez observer, followed by 15.34 inches measured near Watkinsville in Oconee County.

In spite of rains across the state, some abnormally dry conditions were found in the far southwestern part of the state at the end of the month due to short-term dryness.

Persistent cloud cover associated with the rain kept temperatures slightly below normal in most of the state.

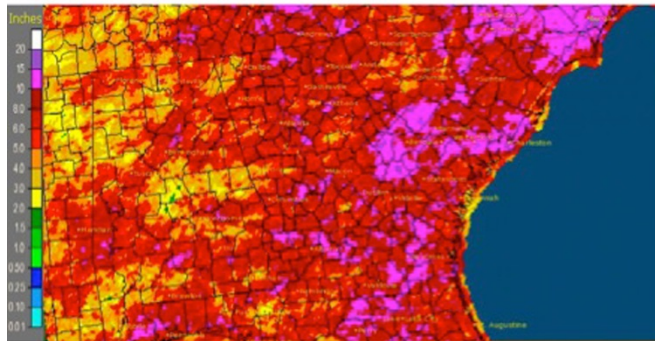
No temperature records were set in June in Georgia.

Severe weather was reported on 20 days in June, which was mostly wind damage and small, scattered hail. The storms caused an estimated \$50 million in insured losses and left 160,000 Georgia Power customers without service. Several people were injured by falling trees.

Two EF-1 tornadoes were observed on June 13 in northmetro Atlanta. Both tornadoes moved in an unusual northwest to southeast track on the evening of June 13. This marks the end of the longest stretch of years since 1950 with no June tornadoes. Details can be found at

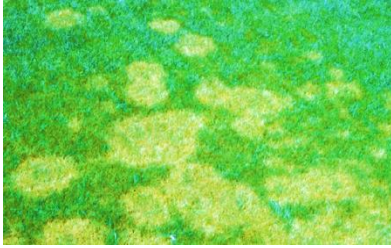
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=june13_2013

Georgia: Current 30-Day Observed Precipitation
Valid at 7/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 7/1/13 16:12 UTC



Brown Patches - Too Much Moisture Can Bring Brown Patch Disease to Lawns

By Paul Pugliese (UGA Cooperative Extension)



If doughnut-shaped rings of dead grass are popping up in your lawn, it may be because the recent onslaught of rain created ideal conditions for brown patch disease

[Brown patch](#) on turfgrass is caused by a fungal disease known as *Rhizoctonia solani*. Circular patches of dead grass that range from a few inches to several feet in diameter occur during periods of high humidity and warm temperatures (75°F to 85°F).

It loves humid summers. Georgia's summer climate is ideal for this fungus. Brown areas of dead grass are surrounded by a reddish-brown or purplish halo. After two to three weeks, the center area of the brown grass may recover and turn green, resulting in a doughnut shape of dead brown grass.

This common lawn disease is prevalent during warm, humid summer months. It attacks all turfgrasses including bermudagrass, tall fescue, centipedegrass and zoysiagrass. This time of year it affects tall fescue the most. Some varieties of these grasses are resistant or less susceptible to the disease, but none are totally immune.

Conditions that favor brown patch include excessive nitrogen fertilizers, frequent watering, watering late in the day (or too much rain) and high humidity.

To help prevent brown patch, follow these tips.

Don't apply excessive amounts of nitrogen fertilizers. Use only enough fertilizer to maintain a reasonably healthy, green turfgrass based on a soil test. Excessive nitrogen tends to favor the development of brown patch due to lush, tender growth of grass that is more susceptible to attack by the fungus. Be sure you're following the recommended fertilization practices for your turfgrass.

Water early in the morning to allow grass foliage to dry before nightfall. Most fungi grow and develop during the night when given adequate moisture. It's best to water lawns early in the morning, less often and more deeply. Turfgrass needs approximately 1 inch of water per week, ideally given in one or two applications. With all the rain this year, no one should need to water their lawn. If you're watering your lawn this summer, you're probably watering too much.

Mow the lawn slightly higher than normal during periods of excessively high heat conditions. This reduces stress to turfgrasses and helps reduce the possibility of disease. Common turfgrasses and their recommended mowing heights are as follows: bermudagrass - 1 to 1.5 inches; centipedegrass - 1 to 2 inches; St. Augustinegrass - 2 to 3 inches; zoysiagrass - 1 to 2 inches; and tall fescue - 2 to 3 inches. Tall fescue, especially, performs better when kept at a taller height in the summertime.

Avoid or remove excess thatch from the lawn. [Thatch](#) is decomposing grass stems, shoots and roots, not clippings that have accumulated at the soil surface. More than half an inch of thatch will retain excess moisture and favor disease development. Thatch buildup can be caused by improper mowing practices and over-fertilization. Dethatching machines (vertical mowers and core aerators) can be rented for use on lawns that have accumulated too much thatch; this should only be done in early summer for warm-season turfgrasses and in the fall for tall fescue.

Mow your lawn often enough that no more than one-third of the grass height is removed in a single mowing. This may require mowing as often as once or twice a week, which can be a challenge with all the rain we've been getting. Keep your mower blades sharp and don't mow grass when wet. Bagging grass clippings is usually not necessary if you are mowing your grass frequently enough.

Bring in a sample. If you think you have brown patch or any other diseases in your lawn, bring a sample of the turfgrass (about a 4x4 inch square, including the roots) to your local UGA Extension office for proper diagnosis. An ideal sample for diagnosis is half dead and half alive, taken from the outer edge of a dead patch. A fungicide recommendation may be required if the problem cannot be corrected with cultural practices. For more information on [grasscycling](#), see the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension publication website at www.caes.uga.edu/publications/

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 2013	National Farmer's Market Week 4-10			1 <u>U.S. Air Force Day</u> 	2 <u>International Beer Day</u> 	3 <u>National Watermelon Day</u> 
	4 <u>Coast Guard Day</u> 	5	6 <u>National Night Out</u> Lots of fun activities New Moon ●	7 <u>National Lighthouse Day</u> 	8 * <u>National sneak some zucchini onto your neighbor's porch night*</u>	9 <u>Worldwide Art Day</u> 
11 <u>National Goat Cheese Month</u> 	12	13 <u>International Left-Handed Day</u> 	14 <u>First Quarter</u> ☾ 	15 <u>Worldwide Best Friends Day</u> 	16 <u>National Airborne Day</u> 	17 <u>International Geocaching Day</u>
18 <u>National Fennel Month</u> 	19 <u>National Catfish Month</u> 	20	21 <u>Senior Citizen's Day</u> Full Moon ○	22 <u>National Orange Month</u> 	23 <u>World Daffodil Day</u> 	24 <u>National Papaya Month</u> 
25 <u>National Water Quality Month</u> 	26 <u>National Dog Day</u> Celebrate your pooch!	27	28 <u>National Cactus Fruit Month</u> Last Quarter ☾	29 - 31 <u>National Be Kind to Humans Week 25-31</u>		

or any other abundant vegetable you may have!

You can get the full color version of this newsletter by sending your email address to uqe4095@uga.edu

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Diseases of Vegetables Word Search

B Q M M M B M T R A E H W O L L O H V N D B G S
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- [ALTERNARIA LEAF BLIGHT](#)
- [ANTHRACNOSE](#)
- [BACTERIAL STREAK](#)
- [BELLY ROT](#)
- [BLOSSOM END ROT](#)
- [BOTRYTIS LEAF BLIGHT](#)
- [CORN SMUT](#)
- [DOWNY MILDEW](#)
- [ERWINIA STEM ROT](#)
- [HOLLOW HEART](#)
- [LEAF CURL VIRUS](#)
- [LEAF RUST](#)
- [PHOMOPSIS](#)
- [PHYTOPHTHORA](#)
- [PINK ROOT](#)
- [BACTERIAL LEAF SCORCH](#)
- [PURPLE BLOTCH](#)
- [SOUTHERN STEM BLIGHT](#)
- [GUMMY STEM BLIGHT](#)
- [TOMATO SPOTTED WILT VIRUS](#)

These are all linked to UGA pages