University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

Hort Depot

edited by James Morgan & Teresa Myler

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Lawn Shop

Apply post-emergent herbicides to control summer weeds. Remember to apply after first irrigating or rainfall. Most herbicides work poorly if the weeds are drought stressed. .

Look out for chinch bugs in centipede or St. Augustine lawns. The problem will appear as irregular, brown patches in the lawn.

Fertilize your Bermuda lawn with 6 lbs of 16-4-8 fertilizer per 1,000 sq. feet.

The best time to water your lawn is from 9pm to 10am, to reduce water loss and fungus problems. Apply 1 inch per week in no more than three (3) waterings. The time it takes depends on your watering system- put a can out under your sprinkler and check how long it takes to get a ½ inch of water in the can (measure with a ruler).

Ornamental Shop

Watch for and control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

When it is necessary to transplant woody plants in hot weather, drape them with a wet sheet after they are planted. Dampen the sheet two or three times a day keeping the plant covered for several days. This will help the plants survive the untimely move.

Look for insect activity now on evergreen trees like magnolias and hollies. Scale, spider mites, lacebugs, leaf minor, spittlebugs, and leaf hopper are prevalent this month.

Alkaline soil can cause leaf yellowing (chlorosis) of some shade trees. If you suspect alkaline soil to be the cause of leaf yellowing, have a soil test done to determine soil pH. Pin oak are especially susceptible to this condition. High soil pH limits the availability of micro nutrients.

Fruit and Vegetable Shop

Cucumbers have a very short “vine storage time.” Under warm, humid conditions, fruits on the vine may remain in prime condition for less than 12 hours. For best tasting cucumbers, pick early and often.

After watering, the soil in the vegetable garden should be moist to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. If the moisture is not deep, evaluate your watering technique.

Keep watermelons and cantaloupes well-watered when growing, but drier when fruit is ripening.

Avoid side dressing tomatoes, eggplants and peppers with fertilizer until they have set their first fruit.

In most cases, blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons may be prevented by maintaining uniform soil moisture, by mulching and watering correctly, planting in well-drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Also avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers.

Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers and okra can be fertilized with 5-10-15 about every six weeks throughout the growing season.

Remove all undeveloped fruit which has failed to ripen. Leaving it on the tree may lead to disease.

Flower Shop

Check house plants for tip burn. This symptom indicates that more water is being lost than being absorbed by the roots. Over watering can also cause similar symptoms.

Divide spring and early summer flowering perennials after the blooms fade. Instead of severing the clump in half, try jiggling the roots apart with two sharp, spading forks. This takes more time but damages fewer roots than cutting the clump apart.

Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage the bulb.

Remove old flower heads from bedding plants to prolong the period of bloom.

For hanging baskets in cool, shady locations, use trailing tuberous begonias, ferns, impatiens or fibrous rooted begonias in combination with trailing plants such as English ivy.

Bronzed-leaved varieties of begonias do particularly well in full sun. Keep the foliage dry and provide good air circulation around the plant.

Resources:

Timely Tips for the Landscape and Garden by Bob Westerfield, Horticulturist

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Japanese beetles By Frank M. Watson (UGA Cooperative Extension)

Japanese beetle traps can 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 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 you garden to lure the beetles away from your prize plants.

Rose Rosette Virus – an emerging problem

Jean Williams-Woodward, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist

Rose rosette virus is a damaging disease that is seeing an increase in occurrence across midwestern and southern states. Rose rosette has been described since the 1940s, but it wasn't until 2011 that the causal agent was confirmed to be a virus spread by the 'rose leaf curl' eriophyid mite (*Phyllacoptes fructiphylus*).

Rose rosette virus was predominantly found in multiflora roses (*Rosa multiflora*) that now grow wild in many places and is considered an invasive/noxious weed. The wild multiflora roses were thought to be how the mite and virus spread into rose landscape plantings. What is causing greater concern is that the virus is now being seen in Knock-Out roses (see images). Knock-Out roses cover commercial and residential landscapes throughout the south because they are more disease resistance than other hybrid roses. The presence of the mass Knock-Out plantings provides an easy means for the mite and virus to spread from plant to plant and location to location. The increase in the amount of rose rosette showing up in Knock-Outs, which are all vegetatively propagated, has led to speculation that the virus may be spreading through nursery stock as well. This is possible, but currently I don't have any evidence of this.

Symptoms of rose rosette virus mimic herbicide injury. In the past, we had no way of confirming the pathogen's presence and often tried to rule out improper herbicide use. Symptoms include an increased and rapid elongation of new growth; abnormal reddish discoloration of shoots and foliage (see image above); witches broom (proliferation of new shoots); an overabundance of thorns; and deformed buds and flowers.

We are testing a molecular PCR test in the Athens clinic that can detect the virus RNA in order to confirm the disease. This test is the only way we can confirm virus infection.

If rose rosette virus is confirmed or suspected, control options are few. There is no cure for rose rosette. Roses growing near infected cultivated or wild (multiflora) roses have a high risk of infection.

To prevent infection:

- Inspect new nursery stock for symptoms of infection.
- Remove all multiflora roses from the area and increase plant spacing so rose plants will not touch each other to reduce mite spread.
- If rose rosette is present, completely remove the infected plant by bagging and discarding or by burning.
- There is some discussion on online garden forums and from rose breeders that just pruning off symptomatic canes/stems will remove the virus. There is not at present any scientific evidence that this will work. Therefore, the prudent recommendation I can give is to completely remove the infected plant.
- A miticide can help reduce mite (and virus) spread; however, miticides labeled for spider mite control and those commonly packaged for homeowners are ineffective on eriophyid mites. If homeowners want to have their roses sprayed, then they should contact commercially licensed landscape professionals who can use (per communication with entomologist Will Hudson) Avid (or other abamectin generics), Floramite, Magus, and Forbid.

Mosquito Madness

By Merritt Melancon (University of Georgia)

Mosquito larvae suspended on water surface *Image credit: UGA Entomology Department.*

This year's unseasonably cool spring has left middle and north Georgia virtually mosquito free so far. But with the return of warmer nights that old familiar buzz won't be far behind.

When mosquitoes do finally make their comeback, there should be plenty of them, said Elmer Gray, an entomology research coordinator with University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. Recent heavy rains have resulted in plenty of good habitat for mosquito larvae and may result in larger populations across Georgia.

"Anything that can hold water is holding water and will be holding water for the foreseeable future," he said. "We're above average for rainfall, and there is plenty of habitat for the nuisance mosquitoes. A lot of the rivers flooded, so the river bottoms have a lot of water in them." Gray says any containers outside your home that's holding water can be a habitat for mosquitoes."

So far, cool nighttime temperatures have slowed the development of the mosquito larvae in all those containers and river bottoms. As nighttime temperatures start to warm, however, they should quickly mature into the buzzing, biting bugs that vex spectators at Little League baseball games and backyard barbecuers. "We're right here on the front door of it because the nighttime temperatures are about to get a lot warmer," Gray said.

The good news is that despite the impending increased mosquito population, Gray believes Georgia and the rest of the nation will not see the record-breaking number of West Nile Virus cases the country saw last year.

Nation-wide drought in 2012 brought more of the birds that carry West Nile Virus in contact with the mosquitoes that transmit the flu-like illness to humans because there were fewer watering holes. The drought left plenty of near-empty, swampy storm drains that provided plenty of breeding habitat for the Southern House Mosquito, the species of mosquito most often linked to West Nile.
That combined with a warm spring, that gave mosquitoes a head start, resulted in a long, dangerous and precedent-setting mosquito season. For the first time, all 48 contiguous states reported at least one case of the virus in 2012. In total, doctors reported seeing more than 5,300 cases of West Nile virus last summer and 243 of those patients died from the disease.

"This year is the complete opposite," Gray said. "It's been a very cold spring over most of the country, and there has been little West Nile activity as of yet, which is a good thing."
Flood waters and full storm drains have helped wash many Southern House Mosquito larvae out of their breeding ground. This means their populations should be much smaller, possibly reducing the number of West Nile cases this year. However, nuisance mosquito species, one's that do not carry disease, will be out in full force. While they're not as dangerous, they are still annoying.

"Containers that hold water are perfect breeding habitats for nuisance mosquitoes like the Asian Tiger mosquito," Gray said. "This is a daytime biting mosquito, the one that bothers us when you get home in the afternoon and are trying to enjoy a beverage and a barbecue."

Eliminating habitat, where possible, is the key to reducing populations and defending your summer afternoons.
"You need to be diligent about getting outside and dumping all of those containers out because that's the biggest source of habitat around our homes," he said. "Here in Athens our biggest mosquito problems are the ones we breed ourselves." Larvicidal briquettes, available at most home improvement stores, will kill mosquito larvae in retention ponds, fountains and other water features that homeowners can't easily empty.

Other ways of fighting the buzzing swarms include making sure window screens are in place and in good repair and stocking up on EPA-approved insect repellent. Gray recommends products containing DEET, the only EPA-approved repellent safe enough for toddlers and babies as young as two months of age. Parents should still read each product's instructions before applying it to their children. Parents should apply the spray to their hands and then rub it on their children's arms and legs. Small children have a habit of sticking their hands in their mouths, and if they apply themselves there's a good chance they'll ingest some of it," Gray said.

For more information about mosquito control, visit the UGA Extension publication website at www.caes.uga.edu/publications and search for stinging and biting pests.

Summer Lawn Care

By Becky Griffin (UGA)and Clint Waltz (UGA Cooperative Extension)

Having a healthy, attractive lawn is an integral part of a beautiful home landscape. University of Georgia Cooperative Extension experts say following these five steps can help you achieve an awe-inspiring lawn this summer.

Identify your grass. Make sure you know what turfgrass species makes up your lawn. You may have inherited a lawn and not know which grass you have. Since each grass type requires different care, it is important to correctly identify that grass.

Over the last several years there are increasingly more St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass lawns in the metro Atlanta area. Caring for a bermudagrass lawn is very different from caring for a centipedegrass lawn. For help with grass identification, contact your local UGA Extension agent at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

Mow at the correct height. Turfgrass is healthiest and most attractive when it is mowed at the right height. That varies for each species. Tall fescue performs better when kept at a taller height than zoysiagrass. Bermudagrass can be kept rather short. Mowing heights are especially important for homeowners in subdivisions where tall fescue was seeded in the backyard and bermudagrass was sodded in the front. This means halfway through mowing, the mower blade height needs to be adjusted. Although this extra step can be inconvenient, it will make a difference in how healthy the grass is and how each section looks.

Common turfgrass cultivars 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.

Keep mower blades sharp. Lawn mower blades should be sharpened at least once a year. Each time the lawn is mowed, the grass blades are being cut. With a sharp mower blade this cut seals quickly, keeping out troublesome fungus. **A dull mower blade tears grass blades**. This type of wound heals slower and gives fungus an opportunity to enter the blade and cause disease. Also, a lawn of ragged, torn blades does not look as appealing as a lawn with neatly cut grass.

Water intentionally. A lawn will give clues when it needs water. If footprints are left when you walk across the lawn, the grass probably needs water. Turfgrass wilts by turning in on itself creating a drinking-straw-like appearance. This is another clue your lawn should be watered. Turfgrass needs approximately 1 inch of water per week, ideally given in two applications. A common problem for homeowners who use irrigation systems is overwatering. Overwatering a lawn encourages disease and can hamper root function. Make sure your irrigation system is functioning properly and consider adding a rain shutoff sensor. Inspect sprinkler heads regularly for mower damage. Also, be aware that the 2010 Georgia Water Stewardship law allows landscape irrigation any day between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Aerate, aerate, aerate. Soil compaction is a problem in Georgia's clay soils. Additionally, all the rain received this winter and spring could lead to compacted soils. So aerating early this summer may be more prudent this year than others. A compacted soil means that the soil spaces underground that allow water, nutrients and air to move freely are limited. To get healthy, thick turfgrass on top of the soil, the grass needs healthy well-developed root systems under the soil. **Aeration opens up airways and relieves soil compaction.** It can be done as often as needed, as long as the root systems are actively growing. For warm-season turf, such as zoysiagrass and bermudagrass, that means soil temperatures 65 degrees and above. Many public gardens are aerated several times a season. For homeowners, an economical way to do this is to rent an aerator with a neighbor.

For more information on caring for Georgia turfgrasses, see the website www.Georgiaturf.com.

The next Master Gardener class will be from September 5 through November 14, 2013.
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-12pm, with some Wednesdays for field trips
$130.00 class fee includes Master Gardener Handbook, badge, 1 year membership in GMGA, all class materials and refreshments.
Let us know if you're interested and we will send an application packet to you.
For more information contact:
Dougherty County Cooperative Extension Office at (229) 436-7216

Groundcovers/Ornamental Grasses WORD SEARCH

T S S A R G G N I K A U Q M O S S P I N K R S L S E
M N D E E W T U O G D E T A G E I R A V E Z S I S N
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BLUE OATGRASS
BUGLEWEED
CREEPING JUNIPER
ENGLISH IVY
FEATHER REED GRASS
FOUNTAIN GRASS
JAPANESE SPURGE
LEMON GRASS
LILY OF THE VALLEY
LITTLE BLUESTEM
MOSS PINK
PAMPAS GRASS
PERIWINKLE
QUAKING GRASS
RIBBON GRASS
ROCK CRESS
SWITCHGRASS
TRIALING ICE PLANT
VARIEGATED GOUTWEED
ZEBRA GRASS

HOME FOOD PRESERVATION COURSE:

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (229) 436-7216

Materials fee for each class: $15.00 pre- / NO payments at door

All necessary materials are provided. You only need an apron and a box to take your goodies home.

DISCOUNT $50.00 for entire series if paid before June 7.

***All participants MUST pre-register for class. Class location will be given upon registration.*

Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. No-shows and cancellations on class date are not refundable.

Pressure Canning – Low Acid Foods - Saturday, June 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Hot Water Bathing for High Acid Foods - Tuesday, June 11, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Pickles, Relishes, and Salsas - Tuesday, June 18, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Jams, Jellies, and Marmalades - Thursday, June 27, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	National Camping Month			National Fruit & Vegetable Month		1
2	3 International Clothesline Week 1-8	4	5 World Environment Day	6 D-Day	7 National Sun Safety Week 1-8	8 World Oceans Day New Moon
9	10	11 Corn on the Cob Day	12	13 Okra Month	14 Flag Day	15 Worldwide Day of Giving
16 Father's Day First Quarter	17 Perennial Gardening Month	18	19		21 Summer	22 Great American Backyard Campout
23 Pink Flamingo Day Full Moon	24 Carpenter Ant Awareness Week 23-29	25	26 National Canoeing Day	27 National Mosquito Awareness Week 23-29	28	29
30 Last Quarter	Corn & Cucumbers Month National Turkey Lover's Month				Country Cooking Month Lemon & Mango Month	