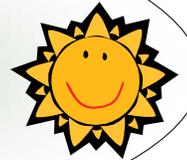




# Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 6



## News from the President of DCMGA

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

The annual plant sale was a great day. We sold a total of \$6,137 in plants. I just want to say thanks to the Greenhouse/Plant Sale Committees. I regret not being there; everyone did an outstanding job. Thanks again.

Our next major project is helping Jim with the vegetable garden. He has gotten a great head-start and those of us who were there this Wednesday really appreciated his personal effort. It is really looking fantastic. Jim has planted some cabbage that could grow to weigh up to 40 pounds. WOW. This is produce we raise to feed the hungry. We will work at the garden every Wednesday and Saturday beginning at 9:00am. Any amount of time you can put in at the garden will be appreciated.

Our group will be growing by five individuals. Four new members; Deborah Jones, Betty Jo Ridgeway, Susan Thomas, Phillip Lawrence and a current associate, Randy Cooper have registered for the summer class in Carroll County. Let's all give them a warm welcome when they come to our meetings and ongoing projects.

The county has done a great job in demolishing the house that was at our future site for our greenhouse. It is located across from the Woodie Fite Senior Center. There is still a lot of work to be done, and I will keep you informed of the status.

HOOAAHH



### Next Meeting:

**June 1, 2006**

Douglasville, GA

6:30 for pot-luck

dinner

7:00 meeting

begins

**How to get to the meeting site:**

St. Julian's Episcopal Church

5400 Stewart Mill Rd

**Take Chapel Hill Road to Stewart Mill Road (Intersection at Target and Shell gas station)**

**From I-20 turn right on Stewart Mill Road. Church is about 1 ½ miles on the right.**

**June 1, 2006**



# June To Do List



Oh, the joys of June---let's count the ways! Here's another top ten list-this one is for gardening fun in June.

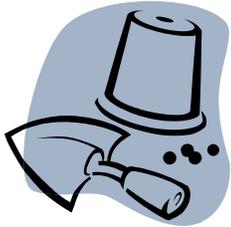
#10. Raise the height of your lawn mower by one notch--it will help your lawn withstand drier weather. Remove low limbs from trees to get them out of the way when you mow. If you water your lawn, make it a deep, thorough soaking (in the morning is best). Don't forget--Bermuda needs to be fertilized this month.

#9. Look for new seedlings under your Lenten Rose and transplant them to other shady spots. You can collect seeds from foxglove stalks and plant them for new ones next year.

#8. Plant hydrangea and crepe myrtle now while blooming so you can tell what color they are.

#7. Plant gladioli bulbs each week this month to get a succession of blooms. Dahlias, tuberose, and cannas should be planted no later than mid-June.

#6. Annuals can still be planted, especially in containers or small beds that are easy to water and fertilize when needed. Cut back bearded iris and divide. Fertilize outdoor houseplants regularly because the rain quickly washes the nutrients out of the soil.



#5. In the vegetable garden, pull out spent plants, re-till the soil, and plant a second crop. Don't forget to mulch the veggies-- newspaper with straw or leaves on top works great. Plant herbs like basil, oregano, and rosemary for delicious dishes this summer.

#4. Important!! Don't let weeds go to seed--keep them pulled out!

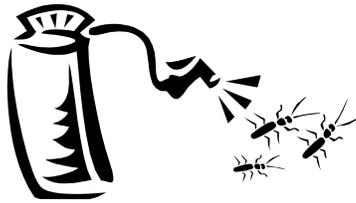
#3. June is a good time to take cutting for rooting of deciduous and broadleaf evergreen shrubs.

#2. Be alert for harmful insects and diseases and treat appropriately.

**Finally, the #1 thing to do in the garden in June--Take time to relax and enjoy the garden!**

Your Sister in Soil--Elaine





# Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the new buzz word used to control pests in schools, homes and gardens. Using IPM to control ants is safer, more effective and less costly than traditional methods. IPM is the strategy of combining different techniques to control ants and other problem pests.

## Inspection before treatment

Most colonies develop outside, but ants often find their way into homes. That's why it's important to inspect both indoors and outdoors.

**Indoors:** Along the walls, under sinks, inside food cabinets, near sliding glass doors, the edges of fireplaces, pipes and drain access.

**Outdoors:** Along building foundation, fences, walkways and underneath mulch. Rake back ground cover in flower and shrub beds and look for ant colonies.

### Species Identification

Successful IPM depends heavily on correct **identification of the ant species. Food and harborage preferences vary, so treatment must be adjusted accordingly.**

### Control techniques

Trim tree limbs, and keep woodpiles and debris away from buildings.

Caulk or fill cracks and holes in masonry, wood trim, eaves and fascia.

**Caulk around sewer traps, cable wiring and other entries into buildings.**

### Perimeter Sprays

Perimeter sprays are effective in suppressing an **outbreak or developing a protective barrier. Note, however, that this technique will not wipe out the entire colony primarily because the forager ants die before they carry any food or poison bait to the colony. Also, secondary outbreaks may occur because perimeter sprays kill beneficial parasites and predators of the ants.**

### Baits

As an IPM tool, baits offer important advantages **over sprays. They are less likely to affect beneficial ant predators and parasites. Baits can be placed away from people and pets. Forager ants carry baits back to colony and queen which will eliminate the colony.**

### Common Ants Types

Argentine (small, reddish-brown, invade by the hundreds)

Establish well-developed "Pheromone Highways" between food source and the colony. Baits work best.

**Carpenter** (big black or brown, chew on wood)

Don't respond well to baits. Perimeter treatments are encouraged to prevent them from entering structure and causing significant damage.

**Pharaoh** (tiny, sugar ants)

Will develop very large colonies within homes, apartments, and hospitals. Sprays make infestations worse by stimulating the ants to develop satellite colonies within the structure. Bait, Bait, Bait.

**Fire** Once a fire ant colony has been found, it should be drenched with liquid insecticide. Using baits geared specifically toward fire ants can reduce and prevent further infestations.

### Home Made Bait:

4 Tbs Peanut Butter

6 Tbs Honey

¼ tsp Boric Acid

Mix well, place small amounts on trails. Ants are very picky. If they like it, give them more.





# WARNING - HOSTA VIRUS X

## Spring 2005 Update

### NEW! Hosta Virus Myths

Many hostas are turning up that are infected with a virus called Hosta Virus X (HVX). The most commonly seen ones are plants of 'Gold Standard', 'Striptease', and 'Sum and Substance', but other common varieties are being reported infected in large numbers. While this disease does not kill plants, its primary danger lies in its proven ability to spread. Because symptoms may take years to show after infection, HVX has infected tens of thousands of plants and is at epidemic levels around the world. If a batch of hostas contains any individual plants that show HVX symptoms, the whole batch is infected and should be destroyed.

If you are a gardener, do not buy plants from batches that show even the slightest markings on even one plant. If you have these plants from batches that show symptoms at your home, dispose of them immediately. If you are a grower or vendor, learn what the signs are and contact the supplier if you see them in your stock. This virus is widely spread at this time in the above plants and others and the source nurseries are still learning about the problem as of 5/05. Only testing with the specific ELISA kit for HVX can detect HVX. Very large numbers of HVX-infected plants are currently being sold.

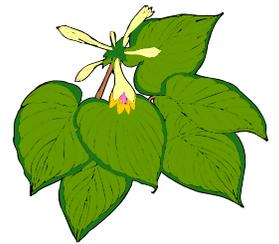
This virus is transmitted primarily through cutting the plants. Contact of the infected plant's sap with sap of a healthy plant will infect the new plant. This can happen whenever cuts are made and the instruments or hands are not disinfected afterwards. Dividing hostas, removing bloom scapes, removing leaves, stepping on them, even accidentally running the lawnmower over them can and will spread this virus. It survives only in living plant tissue and dies without a host. Plants in pots may be simply disposed of or burned. Plants in the ground should be dug carefully as to get as many roots as possible, and the spot should not be replanted until any remaining roots have died and rotted away.

[Return to HostaLibrary](#)

[More Photos of HVX-infected plants](#)

[HVX article by Bill Meyer](#)

Just a quick FYI to all hosta lovers, and there are many in our group. Beverly Smith and I attended the Coweta County garden tour today. One of the stops was Country Gardens in Fayetteville. I was looking for a particular hosta, so we went to see what they had. What I found was a real serious case of Hosta Virus X on the Sum and Substance. I showed them the sick plants and told them to go to "Hostalibrary.org" and they would see what the problem was. They immediately went in to check it out, and were pulling the hostas as we were leaving. Just want everyone to be aware that it is in our area, and if you do spot it anywhere, be sure to tell the people who are selling it!



Country Gardens did the right thing... hopefully everyone else would too.



# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

**President:** Judy Cole 770-489-0567  
**Vice President:** Jan Thomas 770-489-9276  
**Treasurer:** Jim Simms 770-942-4556  
**Newsletter:** Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278  
**Secretary:** Sharon Morton 770-949-4797  
**Web site:** Lori Mason 770-948-9294  
**Archivist:** Rachel Hendee 770-577-3493  
**Yard of the Month:** James Kirkwood 770-942-1663  
**Douglas County Extension Office:** 770-920-7224  
Douglas County Court House

## Your input is needed.

For newsletter articles, tips, hints, anecdotes, recipes, book reviews, website reviews, gardening and/or shops or online sources, and ideas: Email: MJ\_Cardell@yahoo.com  
Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.

Did you know this newsletter is also posted at our web site in full color, so you can get your dirt online?



## GMGA Mission Statement:

To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening, and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others.



I would like to thank Jan [Thomas] for all her hard work as well. She is often the face of Master Gardening in Douglas County and she represents us well. I didn't know she was regularly teaching a class for seniors. I did know she is always there when we need her and I very much appreciate her. She makes meetings fun and she has been doing a good job getting the word out via email even if we don't always heed her. Thanks for being there, Jan. Julie Murray

Although this e-mail was sent to us by Julie, I think the entire club would second it and unanimously approve!

## Continuing Projects & Works Days



**Greenhouse Work** ~ Every Wednesday

**Butterfly Garden at Deerlick Park** ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

**Children's Garden at DC Library** ~ Generally Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

**Nature Trail Work Day** ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

**Vegetable Garden Work Days** ~ Every Wednesday & Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

[www.dcdirt.org](http://www.dcdirt.org)