



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 10

News from the President of DCMGA



Hello Fellow Gardeners,

This week autumn will officially begin, along with the cooler weather. Fall is a great time to plant your perennials. The cooler weather allows them to establish themselves through the fall.

We are doing a great job on our Vegetable Garden/Plant a Row for the Hungry. We have donated over 2,500 pounds of vegetables. Jim has done a fantastic job of managing the garden. This may be our biggest harvest yet. Vegetable garden workdays will continue through the fall. We recently planted cabbage, broccoli, and onions.

The water level in the well at the Greenhouse site appears to be adequate for our use. We will have an update of the Greenhouse at our October meeting. Also during our October meeting if you did not get a chance in September, please review your information on the DCMGA Membership Roster. We are in the process of trying to publish an updated directory of our Members.

Our guest speaker for October is Terry Barton on Fragrant Plants.

HOOOAAH

Judy



Next Meeting:

October 5, 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.

October 5, 2006



October To Do List



Spinach or Kudzu? On a recent Walter Reeves radio program, some amazing facts were mentioned about kudzu being a possible replacement for spinach on our dinner plates. Kudzu has about the same nutritional value as other leafy, green veggies and--it's quite tasty! The flowers are also edible---who would have ever thought such a thing!?! Just be sure to pick the *newer* leaves in a kudzu patch away from the road. Kudzu growing on the side of the road is likely to be contaminated by a number of things, like herbicides. Kudzu could be used in salads or cooked as you would other greens. That's certainly food for thought, but I don't know about the eating part.

This is the month to put out a weed preventer on our Bermuda, Zoysia, and Centipede lawns to help prevent weeds like chickweed and annual bluegrass. Raise the mower height by 1/2 inch and mow for what, hopefully, will be the last time for this season.

The second or third week of October is the time to start planting pansies. Drench newly-planted pansies with a water-soluble fertilizer to get them off to a great start and continue fertilizing every two weeks for lots of bloom power.

Move patio plants to a shady area to prepare them for moving inside. This will help prevent leaf drop. Cut brown flower stems of coneflower, black-eyed Susan, daylily, and hosta to ground level. Apply a weed preventer to beds of already-planted cool season flowers to prevent weeds from sprouting. Plant spring-flowering bulbs, like tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth. Bulbs planted in beds last year could be dug up, divided, and replanted. Remove faded rose blooms and prune the wayward stems back to protect against winter winds (or ice and snow). Cut back Lantana, but only enough to keep it from blowing around in the winter. Rake out and replace the mulch under roses and other shrubs to help prevent diseases next season. October is when we need to take root cuttings of geranium, impatiens, begonia, hydrangea, and other plants to be grown over the winter.

Around of the end of the month, drain and store water hoses, sprinklers, etc. to avoid winter damage. Many pests overwinter in the old vines on tomato cages so be sure to clean them up before storing.

The average date of first frost in the Atlanta area is November 13. The average date for a last frost is March 27. We are blessed with 200 - 250 frost free, gardening days here in our area. Gotta love It!



Your Sister in Soil--Elaine

CLAYTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, November 4, 2006 - 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. 9:00 – 9:25 Registration and Coffee

Speakers and Topics:

Billy Skaggs, Agricultural Agent and Extension Coordinator for Hall County will share his knowledge on “10 Tried and True Trees and Shrubs for Georgia Gardens”;

Mildred Pinnell Fockele, Horticulture Director for the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, will speak on “Great Garden Performers – New and Old”.

John Newsome, Vice President of the American Camellia Society, will inspire us to go home and plant more camellias in our yards with “Camellias and Their Culture”.

Lyndy Broder, Henry County Master Gardener and clematis expert with over 200 clematis in her garden, will speak on “Clematis for the Southeast”.

Held at: Newman Wetlands Center, 2755 Freeman Road, Hampton, GA 30228

Directions:

From I-75 South, take exit 235 onto Tara Boulevard, Hwy 19/41; follow Tara Boulevard approximately 8 miles; turn (L) onto Freeman Road (note large water authority building at the corner of Tara Blvd and Freeman Rd); after 2.2 miles, turn right into Wetlands Center (just after a sharp curve).

Cost: \$25.00 includes door prizes, morning snack and box lunch if pre-registered by October 13, 2006.

Please make check payable to: Clayton County Master Gardeners and send to Hortpa, Clayton County Extension Service, 1262 Government Circle, Jonesboro, GA 30236. **Phone 770-473-5434 with any questions.**

Name _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Please note lunch choice: ___ Vegetarian (has egg and cheese)

___Ham



Fall Events at Habersham Gardens

Harvest Market - Farmers market Saturday mornings in October

Camellia Festival - We focus on this classic beauty all month in November

Holiday Open House - Holiday Decorating & Gift Ideas Galore!

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, November 17 - 19

Workshop Schedule - FREE Admission

Fall Gardening in the South - Saturday, October 21, 11 AM featuring Dr. Allan Armitage;
Renowned Author, Plant Expert

Make Your Own Award-Winning Container Gardens - Saturday, Oct. 28, 11 AM

All About Camellias: Ask The Expert - Saturday, November 4, 11 AM

featuring Tom Johnson; Horticulturalist, American Camellia Society

Holiday Porch Pots: Hot Decorating - Saturday, November. 18, 11AM

More events are being added, so watch your email or visit: www.HabershamGardens.com

Control of Insects on Plants

Suggested Alternatives to Pesticide Usage

Home-made soap solution for insect control on plants:

Mix 2 tbsp baby shampoo in 1 gal. water.

Note: Maximum of 6 tbsp. per gallon of water. Thorough coverage of the pest is necessary. Avoid using soaps on plants with hairy leaves or with very thin waxy coverings on the leaves. Test the spray on a small area of the plant. Wait 2-3 days and check for any damage. Reduce potential injury by

Rinsing plant with fresh water a few hours after the soap spray application.

Water the plants the day before the soap spray application.

Home-made oil spray for insect control on plants:

Mix 2 tbsp cooking oil, and 2 tbsp baby shampoo in 1 gallon of water

Controls: aphids, spider mites, thrips, whitefly, lacebugs, scale and mealybugs

Note: DO NOT SPRAY IN SUN ! Also, this may injure hairy or waxy-leaved plants like squash and other crucifers. DO NOT use oil on orchids. Thorough coverage of the pest is necessary so spray both sides of the foliage until it drips from the leaves. Test spray on a small area of the plant, wait 2-3 days and check for damage. It's always a good idea to water the plant the day before you spray. Spray every 5-7 days as needed.

If a fungus is also present then add to the above formula 2 tbsp of baking soda and shake well before and during the application.

If the weather is humid or the threat of disease is high, spray every five to seven days. Spray both sides of the leaves thoroughly at the first sign of disease. Always test any

spray on a small area of the plant. This solution can be used against blackspot and mildew on roses, powdery mildew on summer squash, early blight on tomatoes, and alternaria leaf blight on melons.

Home Remedy - All Purpose Bug Spray

Combine the following ingredients in a handheld sprayer and mist-spray your plants until they are dripping wet. Best done in the early evening to avoid burning leaves: in 2 gallons of warm water, mix in two tablespoons of each, vinegar, canola oil and Murphy's oils soap, along with 3 tablespoons of baking soda. (courtesy of Adrian Hunsberger, Miami-Dade County Extension Office)

Disease Control on Orchids:

Single plants with fungus problems can be treated with ground cinnamon. The orchid leaves must be damp enough for the cinnamon to stick to the leaves. Sprinkle cinnamon on affected area, allow leaves to dry for approximately one week, drying out the affected area.

Mosquito Repellent:

1 cup lemon scented dish soap

1 cup lemon scented ammonia

Set hose end sprayer to 20 gallons, spray three times a week. Avoid smelling ammonia fumes

Mosquito breeding in rain barrels:

Prevent mosquitoes from breeding in rain barrels by applying 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the water's surface.

Thanks to Jan Thomas for collecting these for us. More of these will be provided in the November issue.

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.

WELCOME



Did you know that the public is always welcome to attend our monthly meetings?

See the first page for times, program topic, and location.



Continuing Projects & Works Days

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.
Greenhouse Work ~ On Hold at the present

www.dcdirt.org