



A BIT OF DIRT

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GCMG MEETINGS

Date: 3rd Monday of each month

Location: Gwinnett Senior Center
225 Bethesda Church Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Time: 6:30 PM - Social
7:00 PM - Business Meeting
7:15 PM - Speaker

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jackie Kujawa, GCMG

I'm writing this in early February and have survived the coldest snap in Georgia in 30 years. Hopefully all of your plants will have survived. I have been going through my spring gardening catalogs looking for seeds to start in the coming months. I have decided try to start some Cherokee purple, Rainbow Yellow, and Rutgers (red) tomatoes.

The 2010 Georgia Master Gardeners will have completed their classes by the time you read this. Let's encourage the new interns to complete their volunteer hours, both in and outside the extension office.

The Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Plant Sale will be on May 7th this year. Volunteering for this and other activities is a wonderful way to meet and socialize with other Gwinnett County Master Gardeners. On May 6th we will need volunteer to assist setting up the tents, tables, placing the plants in their proper location and watering the plants that need it. On May 7th we will need volunteers to discuss different plants with potential customers, sell plants, and carry them to the customer's vehicle. Prior to the plant sale on May 7th, I hope many of you will be digging and repotting your pass-along plants for the plant sale.

Spring is one very busy time planting and caring for your gardeners. Hopefully, you will reserve some of your valuable time for other activities that are sponsored by the GCMG Association. We always need volunteers to: keep presentable the gardens at the Bethesda Senior Center (we get the meeting room for free if we maintain the gardens); participate in Plant Clinics; help out at the various Home and Garden shows; participate in the annual Plant Sale; assist planting, maintaining, and harvesting the vegetable garden at McDaniel Farm; work at the Vines Gardens; answer the phone at the Master Gardeners Desk and perform other duties in the Gwinnett County Extension office.

Thanks for keeping up the good work done by the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners.

GWINNETT COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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THE ROSE

By Christina Rossetti

The lily has a smooth stalk,
Will never hurt your hand;
But the rose upon her brier
Is lady of the land.

There's sweetness in an apple tree,
And profit in the corn;
But lady of all beauty
Is a rose upon a thorn.

When with the moss and honey
She tips her bending brier,
And half unfolds her glowing heart,
She sets the world on fire.



SILLY FACTS

Anonymous

A pin has a head, but has no hair;
A clock has a face, but no mouth there;

Needles have eyes, but they cannot see;
A fly has a trunk without a lock or key;

A timepiece may lose, but cannot win;
A cornfield dimples without a chin;

A hill has no leg, but has a foot;
A wineglass a stem, but not a root;

A watch has hands, but no thumb or finger;
A boot has a tongue, but is not a singer;

Rivers run, though they have no feet;
A saw has teeth, but it does not eat;

Ash trees have keys, yet never a lock;
A baby crows, without being a cock.



EARLIEST BLOOMERS TO TEMPT YOU

By Barbara Gilford, FCMG

April "daisies," Grecian windflowers (*Anemone blanda*), bloom dependably for six or eight weeks from mid-March into May following the worst winters northern counties can offer. The 2-inch white flowers with a central puff of golden stamens close in cloudy or bitter weather and thus can withstand the chilly surprises of early spring. There is an electric blue variety and a mix of pastels. Plant anemones in semi-shade and soil with lots of humus.



Although technically tubers, thickenings of underground stems, Grecian windflowers are one of a group of small, early spring bloomers known affectionately as "the little bulbs." All do best in well-drained soil and summer dryness.

They're oblivious to summer shade, blooming, setting seed, ripening their foliage and disappearing in spring sunshine before the trees leaf out. Their disappearing act can lead to disaster if the space is chosen for another plant. So use a low ground cover to hold their spot or pair them with a late-arriving companion. Although mulch is beneficial, any smothering winter leaf cover must be removed in time for their early appearance.

The little bulbs can become addictive. Just leaf through a specialty bulb catalog to see the wide selection offered. Here are the earliest bloomers to tempt you.

Giant snowflakes (*Galanthus elwesii*), all of 7 inches tall, are first to appear in my garden. Tucked into a southern exposure near a protective brick wall, the nodding white bells tipped emerald green often appear for Christmas. The more common form (*G. nivalis*) is half as tall and somewhat later to appear, forming large clumps of graceful little blooms. The double form looks rather frumpy to me.

Snowdrops in flower, as with other little bulbs, can be frozen under a foot of snow and perk up as though nothing had happened when the sun touches them again.

In some years, winter aconites (*Eranthus hyemalis*) – the name means "flower of spring" – almost beats the snowdrops into bloom. This glowing yellow flower resembles a larger version of its relative, the buttercup, in a collar of bright green leaves. A drift under an early-blooming witch hazel is a heartwarming sight. They seed themselves readily.

Crocuses are a well-known harbinger of spring; species crocuses are the earliest, some blooming in January. Among the first are the ethereal Tommies (*C. tommasinianus*) in soft purple shades, their dainty blooms making the familiar big Dutch hybrids look almost clumsy. In a mature crocus clump, some bulb-like corms work to the surface. Gently scoop them up and plant them elsewhere. This keeps the original planting thrifty for years.



Crocuses, along with jonquils, Grecian windflowers

and other little bulbs grow wild by the thousands on Mediterranean hillsides and have been there since before written history. They bloom on 4,000-year-old frescoes and ancient jewelry and vases, proof of their tenacity.

Plant anemones and other little bulbs now, as early as possible, but never just a few. A handful fades into the background. A drift of 50 is another matter. Fortunately they are inexpensive and easy to grow, requiring little attention once planted.

And they satisfy a craving for those of us who can't wait for spring.



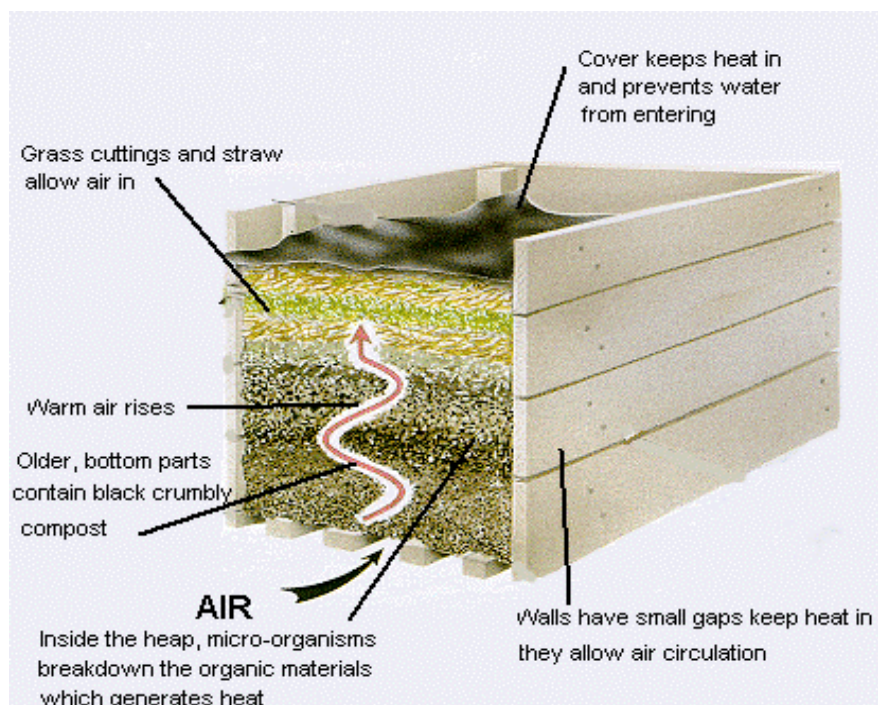
COMPOSTING IS FOR EVERYONE

By Roy Thomas, ACMG

Backyard composting doesn't consist of merely dumping summer's grass clippings and autumn's dried leaves on the compost pile. There are many other kinds of refuse that we use in our daily lives, such as kitchen and household materials that could easily be incorporated into our backyard compost pile.

Some of these are orange and grapefruit peels, apple and potato peels and vegetable scraps of all kinds, bread and grains, eggshells, coffee grounds and tea bags. Most of us have annual flowers in pots that are tossed in the trash at the end of the growing season. These same plants are often potted up in a mixture of potting soil and vermiculite that makes a great addition to any compost pile. And while we're at it, let's not forget to toss the spent annuals on the compost pile as well along with all that we clean out of our container gardens and vegetable and flowerbeds. A good rule of thumb is that if it comes from the soil, it should return to the soil. There are a few exceptions, however, such as diseased plants, poison ivy or weeds that have gone to seed.

Old flowers, grass clippings, leaves, twigs and woody yard wastes of all kind make wonderful additions to the backyard compost pile, and all will turn into wonderful dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling organic matter by the time next spring rolls around. I have used all the grass clippings from the lawn along with leaves saved from last fall to make good chemical-free compost.



Compost piles work quickly if the two most important chemicals--nitrogen and carbon--are in balance. Old, usually brown and dry plant materials, like autumn leaves, straw, hay, and sawdust, are rich in carbon. Nitrogen rich materials include green plant parts like vegetable waste from the kitchen.

By using compost, we return organic matter to the soil in a usable form. Organic matter in the soil improves plant growth by helping to break heavy clay soils into a better texture, by adding water and nutrient-holding capacity to sandy soils, and by adding essential nutrients to any soil.

Compost training provides an opportunity to understand how to make compost and what to do with it. Composting is the most practical and convenient way to handle household and garden wastes. It can be easier and cheaper than bagging these wastes and putting them out for the trash. Compost can be used to enrich the flower and vegetable garden, to improve the soil around trees and shrubs and as a soil amendment for houseplants and planter boxes. Chipped woody wastes that are not completely composted make excellent mulch or path material.



ORNAMENTAL CORN YIELDS FALL PLEASURE

By Mary Staub, Adams County GM

Spring is just around the corner and it is time to think about spring planting. Are you a vegetable gardener, strictly floral, or a bit of both? Do you like to experiment with out of the ordinary plants? One plant to consider is the ornamental corn plant. Its yield will provide you with lovely autumn decorations for your home and provide the birds with food. Whatever the reason for planting this corn, the results will be much appreciated this coming autumn.



History of Corn

The Indians of both North and South America introduced corn as food to the early settlers. Today ornamental corn is grown for its hard ears of bright shades of orange, red, and golden yellow. You will find this corn in table and door displays. However, the corn plant offers an interesting display in the garden during the growing season. And there are many new varieties to explore, too!

Corn is categorized into four groups based on the shape of the seed or kernel: field corn, popcorn, ornamental corn, and sweet corn. Ornamental corn is a flint corn with very hard kernels that are difficult to grind.

Planting Ornamental Corn

My husband plants a summer vegetable garden each year. I remember once when he planted corn in rows. Recently I was reading a gardeners blog. I learned from another gardener that they recommend planting the seeds about 8 - 9 inches apart and in a square formation, not in rows. By clustering the plants you increase the chance of pollination. Also the stalks will survive a strong windstorm.

A well-drained soil is essential to achieve high quality ears. Plow the seedbed several weeks before planting to allow the ground to settle and for grass to decompose. Disk the soil three to four times before planting to prepare a good seedbed.

For best results, ornamental corn seed should be planted after the soil temperatures are between 56 degrees F. and 60 degrees F. For the corn to mature in time for September harvest, planting should be between May 15 and May 25, or 80 days before harvest. Seed germination will be lowered under cold, wet soil conditions.

Sow the seed 1 to 2 inches deep and 8 to 10 inches apart in the row for small-eared cultivars, 10-12 inches apart for large eared cultivars. The rows should be 30 to 42 inches apart depending on the equipment used to plant and cultivate. Again, small vegetable gardeners may want to try the square garden technique as mentioned earlier in the article.

Soil pH is critical to a good harvest. A pH range between 5.5 and 6.8 is good. Add lime to soils to bring the pH to 6.5.

There are various types of ornamental corn cultivars: Broom Corn (red), Indian Art, Fiesta, and many more. An excellent resource is a web site from the University of Kentucky, www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ho/ho81/ho81.htm. Here you will get information on planting and diseases common to ornamental corn.

Insect Control

Ornamental corn is not exempt from insect damage. Wireworms and cutworms can present a problem before the planting. Early weed control can help reduce this problem.

After planting, insect damage is likely, too. Several problem insects can include rootworms, armyworms, corn earworm, cutworms, European corn borers, and many more. Plant diseases can hurt the crop as well.

Harvesting

It is ready to harvest when the tassels turn color. Unlike the edible variety, the ears can stay on the stalks until you are ready to harvest them - unless raccoons are smart enough to find it!

Pick the corn and pull back the cornhusks to reveal the kernels. The corn needs to cure and should be hung from hangers in a barn or dark airy room from rafters. As it cures the colors get darker and the husks dry out. The reason it's hung in the rafters is to keep the mice and raccoons away from it! Before using the corn in your creative display, spray varnish on the ears to preserve them.

Uses of ornamental corn

Tying three to five ears together with ribbon and bow can make wall and door hangings. Ornamental corn wreaths can be made from smaller ears of corn. To build your wreath, wire the ears onto a circular wire (an old metal clothes hanger works well and has a readymade hook for hanging.)

Add to ornamental gourd arrangements.

The individual kernels work well for jewelry and seed crafting. Use the good seed from a bad ear of corn. Let the ear dry and strip off the kernels.

A century old use is making dolls, flowers, wreaths, and paper from dried cornhusks.

Explore the seed catalogs and search the Internet for new varieties of ornamental corn. Plant a few new varieties to see what colors you will end up with. Then enjoy the variety of colors you get and the compliments from neighbors and friends.



FISH PONDS: SPRING TIME MAINTENANCE

By Dan Willis, GCMG

Now is the time to start cleaning the koi, goldfish, and other ponds. Ponds need to be cleaned at least annually. If the pond has any debris on the bottom, the water in your pond will have trouble staying clear for your enjoyment. Algae feed on the organic decaying matter in the pond. As the weather and water warms up, the algae begin to feed on the organic matter and a "bloom" will occur that will turn the water cloudy.

Another reason to clean the ponds is to get rid of disease carrying parasites that live in the decaying matter. These parasites seek out the koi and other fish and can cause them to become sick.

Several methods are available to clean your pond. If the pond isn't too large and/or dirty, it can be cleaned using a net to muck the stuff on the bottom. I have my ponds cleaned by an IPPCA professional at least once every other year. My koi pond has three "waterfalls" and contains about 9800 gallons of water. (I would have added a photograph but my digital camera decided to die on me. Sorry!)

I recommend that you select pond professional that is a member of IPPCA (The International Professional Pond Contractors Association). It is the not-for-profit trade association whose goal is to ensure that high quality standards are met within the pond and waterscape industry.

For who like to go it alone, put on your boots and gather some old towels or rags, a garden hose, a water pump, a couple of 25 gallon tubs to hold the fish, an aeration pump for the tubs with fish (not necessary if you work quick), a wet-dry vacuum cleaner from the hubby's workshop, some buckets, and at least one net.

You can use a garden hose to siphon the water out of the pond. I use one of my water pumps to get most of the water out of my three ponds. The nutrient rich water from my pump discharges into a future "bog garden." (I plan to build it some day.) You can also use this water on the lawn and flowerbeds. As the water drains from the ponds, gather up the pond plants and set them in buckets, along with some pond water. Place them in a shady area. Some of the water from the pond also should be pumped into the holding tubs set aside for the fish.

When the water level in the pond drops to about 6 inches, put your boots on, climb in, and net out the fish. The first time I cleaned my pond, I tried to catch the koi using a cast net with a full pond. I wasn't very successful but did manage to fall into the pond, which the neighborhood kids thought hilarious.

Gently put the fish in the holding tubs that are about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of pond water. I use 25-gallon plastic tubs with lips that can be used as handles. It is nice if you have an air pump available to provide some aeration for the fish in the tubs but it is not necessary. You can add a product called "stress coat" to the tub's water to ease the stress on the koi. Stress Coat does remove the chlorine and it also removes hard metals and adds a protective coating to your fish. Every time you touch your fish, with your hand, net or anything else, the fish will lose its protective coating. The fish will then be very susceptible to different illnesses and diseases such as different bacterial infections such as fin rot. If you have koi, put some kind of cover over the tubs since they have a tendency to "crawl" out of the tubs.

Finishes draining the pond after the koi and other fish have been removed. I use my Wet/Dry Shop-Vac at this point. The muck on the pond's bottom is a good fertilizer for the garden.

Now is a good time to check the main water-circulating pump to make sure it is working properly. I have a skimmer system that acts as the filtration system. I clean the filtration members and flush out the line that circulates the water from the lower pond to the upper waterfalls.

Start refilling the pond with tap water by gently rinsing down the sides of the pond with a garden hose. What every you do, don't try to scrub it clean. The material on the pond's sides contains beneficial bacteria that aid in balancing the pH of the pond.

Tap water is chlorinated so be sure to use a product called "*Pond Start*" or something similar to rid the water of chlorine and chloramines that can be deadly to the fish. Check the pH and temperature of the fresh water to ensure that it is almost the same as the pond water in the holding tubs. If they are not the same, add a little of the fresh water to the water in the holding tubs. This will help acclimate the fish to the new water conditions.

The reason I use a pond professional is that they will check the fish for parasites and sores. If they find any that have parasites, they will quarantine them in a separate tank. The professional will treat the sick fish in the quarantine tank.

When a about a foot of fresh, de-chlorinated water in the pond, pour the fish and water from the holding tubs back into the pond. This water helps to inoculate your pond with beneficial bacteria. Return the fish back into their clean home as soon as possible to prevent over-stressing them.

While the pond is continuing to fill, clean up the plants and return them to the pond. I add "*Aqua One*" or "*OneFix*" once a year to the water (each cost about \$40-50). These are all-natural microbial water treatment that digests suspended organic matter and prevents additional accumulation by removing the nutrients released from decaying algae. Basically, it helps keep the pond clear and free from all forms of algae. I have had little success with barley straw but you can give it a try.



RECIPES FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS

By Shirley Cook, GCMG

LEMON CAKE MIX COOKIES

1 pkg. Duncan Hines Lemon Supreme Cake Mix
1/3-Cup Vegetable Oil
2 Eggs
1 Tbsp lemon Juice
¼ to ½ tsp. Lemon Zest
1 Cup Powdered Sugar
2 Tbsp Lemon Juice
1 tsp Lemon Zest

Mix cake mix, oil, eggs, 1 Tablespoon lemon juice and ¼ to ½ tsp lemon zest together. Dough will be very stiff. Drop dough on un-greased cookie sheet (or parchment paper lined cookie sheet). Bake at 350 degree for 12 to 14 minutes, depending on oven.

While cookies bake, make a glaze: Mix powdered sugar, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and 1 teaspoon lemon zest together in a small bowl. Let cookies cool for 1 minute then top with glaze.



MONTHLY GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

By Dan Willis, GCMG

APRIL

Let us get out and help Mother Nature show the wonders she can provide.

1. Feed azaleas once they have completed blooming. Use a special azalea-camellia fertilizer or a complete and balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10. The shallow rooted azaleas are easily injured by over-fertilization. Make light and frequent applications. A safe formula is one tablespoon of fertilizer per foot of height for established plant. Repeat applications monthly in March, May, July, and, if the light green, in October.
2. Plant lawn grasses as the nights begin to warm and spring rains become more frequent. New lawns may be planted and old lawns renewed. There are several grasses from which to choose, yet each has its advantages and disadvantages. Plant sprigs and sod of improved Bermuda, St. Augustine, Centipede, and Zoysia. Seed may be sown for Bermuda and Centipede but germination may be slow and erratic.
3. April is the time to plant caladiums. Caladiums, whether planted in pots or a shady garden, add a vivid richness to any summer garden. Caladiums are a warm weather plant and do best when planted after the soil warms up or when the average air temperatures are 70 degrees F. Remember that the brightly colored Caladiums are like a salad bar for deer.
4. Other shade loving plants can be planted now, including ferns. Native or cultivated ferns always add a touch of garden coolness and freshness. Ferns love shaded garden pockets with generous summer watering and humidity. Plant in loose organic rich soil and use as a backdrop for the colorful annuals. Coleus (see the included article by Shannon Pable) is fast growing annuals with colorful foliage, easily propagated from cuttings, and widely available at nurseries. Bedding begonias are ideal for mass plantings, borders, or containers.
5. Geraniums love to get into the ground in April. These popular plants are excellent for color masses in the garden. Locate the plants in a rich, loamy, well-drained soil. Several inches of soil amendment spaded into the top six inches of the soil will help the plants tolerate summer conditions. Allow ample growing room for each plant since they will fill out to 12-15 inches in diameter.
6. Annuals to plant in April include Ageratum, Dusty Miller, Amaranth, Verbena, Cleome, Morning Glory, Celosia (Cockscomb), Moss Rose, Coleus, Petunia, Sunflower, Zinnia, Cosmos, Gourds, Gloriosa Daisy, Salvia, Vinca, and Marigold.
7. Prune overgrown spring flowering trees and shrubs once they have completed their blooms. Think in terms of "thinning" rather than "hacking" the plant back.
8. Cut spring flowering annuals such as sweet pea, larkspur, pansies, and calendula blooms often to encourage new growth and more blooms.
9. Falling and yellowing leaves of magnolia, photinia, hollies, and gardenia is normal at this time of year and is a sign of new growth.
10. Winter injured plants should be watered during dry periods. Be patient in cutting the plant back. Cut only dead wood and damaged foliage prior to spring growth. Green stems may leaf out again.
11. The summer canna is easily grown in rich soil in part shade or full sun. Remember that these plants can be invested with the Canna leaf-roller insect in the rolled leaves.
12. Watch for and control spring insects such as scale, whiteflies on gardenia, holly, camellia, and Ligustrum; aphids on new growth; and cutworms on tender new plants; tent caterpillars in trees and large shrubs.
13. Complete spring fertilization of fescue grasses and plants if you haven't done so.
14. As the new gardening season gets underway, don't forget to put your grass clippings, vegetable tops, leaves, and other organic matter into the compost pile. This will provide excellent material later for potting soil, flowerbeds, and other garden needs.

MAY

The month of May welcomes the approach of the busy days of summer gardening.

1. Plants should be mulched with pine straw, straw, leaves, etc. to conserve summer watering. A 4"-6" layer of mulch will help control weeds and keep the soil cooler.
2. If you haven't started a compost bin, now is the time. Organic materials such as leaves and lawn clippings will decompose when mixed with soil to form a good organic garden soil. Water from time to time adding commercial fertilizer (10-10-10) and turn the pile over to aid the decomposition. Don't add lawn clippings that have been sprayed with herbicides and/or fungicides.
3. Keep hydrangeas well watered for summer blooms.
4. Some evergreens, such as magnolias, euonymus, live oak, gardenia, and some hollies, lose some of their leaves during late spring and early summer. The flush of new growth on many evergreens will cause a yellowing of old leaves and leaf droppage. There is nothing to be concerned about.
5. Select and plant mums for fall color and blooms. Mums need a sunny, well-drained location. Pinch back terminal growth on existing mums to induce branching and more flowers.
6. Prune climbing roses if needed after their major peak of bloom.
7. Remove flowers on caladium and coleus to encourage healthy showy foliage.
8. Give roses, camellias, gardenias, and other flowering shrubs a feeding of Bayer All-In-One Rose and Flower Care. It is a systemic fertilizer that also controls insects (aphids, Japanese beetles, lace bugs whiteflies, etc.) and diseases (black spot, powdery mildew, rust, and Southern blight).
9. Fertilize crepe myrtles to get that abundant summer bloom. Apply about ½ cup of 10-10-10 per square yard of soil.
10. Plant summer annuals that take the heat such as marigold, cosmos, gaillardia, portulaca, etc. Annuals for shade may include impatiens, coleus, caladium, bedding begonias, and fern.
11. Pinch back young flowering annuals by removing the terminal so as to produce more branches and flowers.
12. Select summer perennials such as Shasta daisy, dusty miller, hosta, daylilies, summer phlox, coreopsis, ferns, etc.

JUNE

Time to reap the rewards of the season - fresh vegetables and summer blooms.

1. Start new hanging baskets for summer accents. Basket plants for sun may include portulaca, lantana, verbena, petunias, dwarf and creeping junipers. Shade baskets may include begonia, impatiens, ferns, spider plant, and wandering Jew.
2. Control powdery mildew on crape myrtle using fungicides.
3. Aphids may secrete honeydew that blackens the foliage of crepe myrtles. Control sooty mold by controlling the aphids.
4. Check your landscape plants for insects such as spider mites on junipers, roses, verbena, and marigold; lacebugs on pyracantha and sycamore; and bagworms on junipers.
5. Continue to spray rose bushes for blackspot control with fungicides. Keep infected leaves removed from plants and ground area.
6. Annual flowers that can be seeded now through August include zinnias, marigolds, portulaca, and periwinkle. Keep old spent flowers removed so plants can bloom again.
7. Last chance to plant strong, healthy container-grown mums. Pinch terminal growth on existing mums to encourage more branching.
8. A summer mulch of pine bark, pine straw, grass clippings, and leaves can be beneficial to retain moisture, protect the root system, aid weed control, and make the beds look more attractive.
9. Azalea roots do not go deep and need good summer watering and a 4" to 6" deep mulch layer to conserve water.
10. Check for any freeze damage on azaleas, evident by the splitting of major stems 4" to 8" above the ground. Remove any dead canes at ground level.

A BIT OF DIRT

11. Newly planted trees and shrubs need help during the heat of summer. Keep grass and weeds from competing with the plants for moisture by providing a generous layer of mulch around the trees or shrubs. Cultivate the soil if necessary and watering is essential.
12. Summer heat will stress many ornamental plants and it is important to water well and deep. It is more important to water deep rather than often. Shallow watering causes roots to come to the surface and they will dry out fast.
13. Propagate your favorite plants using 4" to 6" cuttings from the current season growth. Keep cuttings moist and in the shade. Cover the pots with clear plastic to hold in humidity. Heat and humidity are essential for root development. Rooting hormones are available to encourage root establishment.
14. Caladium, coleus, impatiens, hydrangea, azalea, and container plants are water thirsty plants so check the soil often.
15. Don't damage trunks of trees and other woody plants with lawnmowers and weed eaters.
16. Harvest vegetables often to encourage more production.
17. Cut garden flowers for indoor use either in the early morning or late afternoon. Place in deep water and a cool location for several hours before arranging. Milky stems cuttings, such as hydrangea, should be sealed (burning works) before placing in water.
18. Frequently, lightly cultivate soils around annuals, perennials, vegetables, and other plants to allow easy water penetration. Mulching will help keep the soil loose and open.
19. Place houseplants out-of-doors in a shaded garden bed and mist the foliage often to encourage new growth. Most houseplants love summer heat and humidity provided they don't receive direct sun. Houseplants outside dry out quickly so check the soil often.



Gardeners Know All The Dirt

