



# Shades of Green

Athens-Clarke County Agriculture and Natural Resources E-Newsletter

October 2022



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# A note from Athens-Clarke County Agriculture & Natural Resources

Hello Readers & Happy Fall!

We will be hosting our [Green Thumb Lecture](#) on *Gardening for Wildlife*, on October 12th

We are excited to have three Masters Programs happening this Winter/Spring! Please check out the flyers for the [Master Gardener 2023](#), [Master Naturalist 2023](#), & [Master Composter 2023](#) courses later in this issue for more information. Applications sent on request.

Email Laura Ney at [lney@uga.edu](mailto:lney@uga.edu)  
or Cari at [cmisseri@uga.edu](mailto:cmisseri@uga.edu) to request.

Thank you for reading this month's issue of *Shades of Green*.

Athens-Clarke county Agriculture & Natural Resources



# Mystery & Misunderstanding: Bats Benefit your Backyard

by Cari Ledford Misseri

What is the first image that comes to mind when you see/hear the word “bat?” You might think of a baseball bat, but you might also envision a winged, furry mammal, with nocturnal habits. If you’ve thought of a furry, flying creature, then you might have also imagined a negative or scary vision of this animal. Did you imagine it flying around and scaring people, by potentially flying into their hair or face? If so, then you may have gotten the wrong idea about bats. I had some wrong ideas and gaps in my knowledge of bats, until I had an enlightening conversation with a super knowledgeable bat ambassador named Kristi Sego.

Kristi excels as a Master Gardener volunteer, for the Athens-Clarke county Extension. One of her many talents is creating and maintaining the visually stunning garden displays, at our office Demo Garden. Kristi opened my eyes to the beauty, importance, and need for bats as she let me in on her efforts to get a bat grant to build bat houses, and hopefully bring bats to the Demo Garden.

Do we believe any of the misconceptions about bats that are common? The bat has sometimes been treated unfairly in media and society. Often being portrayed as an evil, out to get in your hair and get tangled up, monstrous animal. Bats have even been hunted and killed due to mistaken ideas about their role in spreading diseases.

How can we turn those mistaken ideas about bats upside down? We can learn more about what bats do for our ecosystem, and how they are a vital part of the whole health of the surrounding environment.

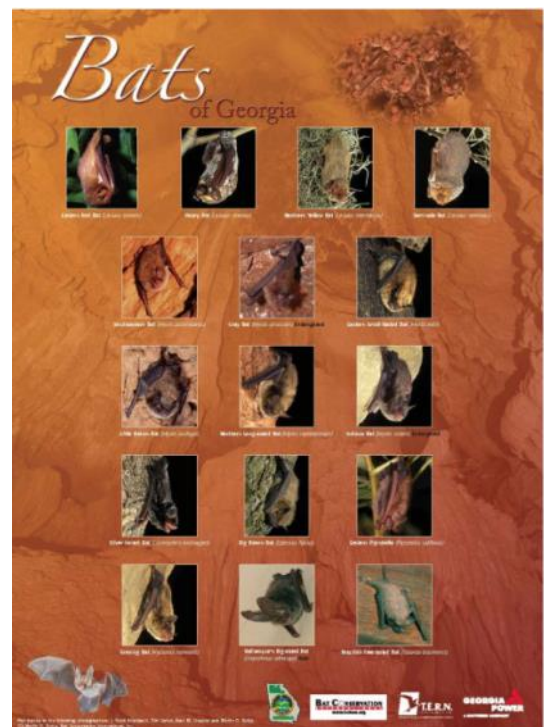


Evening bat *Nycticeius humeralis*

We can learn about how important they are. To help us accomplish this, we have some wonderful resources already available.

There are 16 species of bats in Georgia!

[Bats of Georgia | Department Of Natural Resources Division \(georgiawildlife.com\)](http://georgiawildlife.com)



Bats are insect eaters, and moths and other insects that pollinate night blooming plants are food for bats. They are critical to the ecosystem for many reasons, but we like them mostly because they eat undesirable pests, like mosquitoes.

Kristi has big plans, that are already in motion, to make a happy home for bats here at the ACC Extension Demo Garden. She has spent time researching, preparing a presentation, and collecting data on what exactly the bats will need.

I had no idea how much goes into choosing the proper location, making sure they have enough space, and creating just the right environment for bats to thrive. Kristi knows.

# Mystery & Misunderstanding: Bats Benefit your Backyard

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Master Gardeners, like Donna, pictured below help Kristi plan and create an evening-blooming bat garden area in preparation for future bats. Before planting, they use the [“cardboard lasagna”](#) technique that I learned about just recently, from Kristi. This will help improve the soil in the evening garden area.

“The garden is the background for something more important. Hopefully we can make a bat colony happy here. We are focusing on night blooming plants like nicotiana, four o’clocks, moonflower, and others.” Kristi Sego

Kristi talked to me about the importance of bats to plants they exclusively pollinate, like agave. We don’t grow much agave here in Georgia, but as Kristi said, “it might affect your tequila,” if [white nose syndrome](#) has anything to do with it.

Agave plants are pollinated exclusively by bats. Yes, bats are pollinators too! Because the populations are in distress due to white nose syndrome, the agave plant’s survival is

bats. Our backyards, gardens, & ecosystems need them.

Bats are critical for balance in the ecosystem. They eat loads of insects, and help pollinate plants. They can get rabies and, as with all wild animals, you should never approach or try to touch a bat.

You might want to start your own bat house, to have bats benefit your backyard. There are many different factors to consider, but a good place to start is with the [DNR Bat House Resource webpage](#), if you are interested in buying or building a bat house.

We can each do our part to [help conserve bats in Georgia](#) by preserving their habitat, and by helping them succeed with plantings that attract diverse insect populations. If you’re not ready for a bat house, try planting some [night blooming moonflowers](#) to attract those insects that bats love to eat.



Photos by Kristi Sego

also threatened. White nose syndrome was first seen in Georgia in 2014. By 2019, 95% of cave bats surveyed had it.

The threats facing bats due to issues like white nose syndrome and habitat removal, as well as lack of knowledge and understanding about their importance has led to threatened and endangered bats. The world needs these

What is your mental vision of the word “bat” now? I hope that Kristi and I have convinced you to think of bats in a kinder and less negative way. Maybe you’ll think of them as productive insect eating machines and pollinators, as well as important parts of our ecosystem. It’s all connected, and bats benefit your backyard in ways you never imagined.

# Mystery & Misunderstanding: Bats Benefit your Backyard

by Cari Ledford Misseri

Thank you Kristi for teaching us about bats. Thanks for sharing with us your photos, time, and enthusiasm for bats, and for the bat garden home you're preparing for them here.



Kristi Seago –Master Gardener Bat Ambassador

If you are interested in viewing existing bat gardens here in the Athens-Clarke county area check out the [Dudley Park Bat Garden](#). This bat garden was founded by our very own Extension agent Dr. Laura Ney, and is maintained by Master Gardeners. Also check out [Harris Shoals Park](#), in Watkinsville, for another cool bat garden.

Come by the ACC Extension Office Demo Garden anytime (its free and open to the public!), to visit this lovely garden. Or, check out the bat garden and houses when they are completed. We'd love to have you visit.

Maybe you want to add some night-blooming plants to your garden? Check out Kristi's picks for the bat garden, at right, for inspiration.

Cari Ledford Misseri is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, for the University of Georgia Extension, Athens-Clarke County.

## Additional Resources

[Bat Conservation International / Ending Bat Extinctions Worldwide](#)

[Home - Merlin Tuttle's Bat Conservation](#)

[Bats play a vital role in the ecosystem \(uga.edu\)](#)

[Bat Conservation in Georgia | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

[Bat Houses | Department Of Natural Resources Division \(georgiawildlife.com\)](#)

[Copy of Untitled \(uga.edu\)](#)  
Build your own bat house

[Lasagna Gardening | Home & Garden Information Center \(clemson.edu\)](#)

**Bat Garden, Night Blooming Plants**  
Drawing nighttime pollinators such as bats and moths with their sweet smell, and sticking out against the dark of night with their pops of bright colors, night flowers are favored by backyard gardeners for both their aesthetics and their fragrance filled evening ambiance.

**Bat Garden, Night Blooming Plants cont'd**



- Tuberose (Polianthes)** Opening in the evenings of late summer, clusters of white, star shaped, tubular flowers bloom for weeks and unfurl atop a three-foot tall stem.
- Also known as the **Evening Star** rain lily, this is a native plant to the United States and is Botanically, *Copieira drummondii* or *Zephyranthes brazosensis*. This fragrant perennial grows a foot tall with a leafless stem, lasting 2 to 4 days and then turns pink before withering. Bloom season is between May and September.
- Datura** is a plant with night blooming flowers. It is commonly referred to by many names including, Devil's Trumpet, Thornapple, Jimsonweed, and Sacred Datura. Due to its toxic nature, it may not be planted in the public garden.
- Moon Flower, Ipomoea alba** a tender perennial vine that can add incredible beauty and powerful fragrance to a night garden.
- Evening blooming Chocolate daisies** fill the air with fragrance. Opening its blooms at twilight, the plant's scent of chocolate comes from aromatic stamens that attract beneficial insects.
- Evening Primrose** *Oenothera biennis*, is a biennial wildflower that's native to North America, and has sweet smelling yellow flowers that bloom at night.
- Scented Jasmine** *Ala-Nictiana glauca*. Their sultry, jasmine perfume drifts through the air in the late afternoon and evening.
- Four O'Clocks**, Opening late in the day or early evening, blooms produce a sweet smell.
- Angels Trumpet**, scent depending on each individual species.

Night blooming Plants Slides  
by Kristi Seago

# Cold Crops: Summer's End calls for Winter Gardening Prep

by Bob Westerfield

Late summer is the right time to prepare soil for September to October plantings of cool-season crops such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, kale, Swiss chard and Brussels sprouts.

The end of summer into early fall tends to be the hottest time of the year in the state of Georgia. Many of us are about tired of laboring in our summer gardens, and the heat, humidity, and disease and insect pressure have certainly taken their toll on our summer crops. However, for those of us who still have the gardening itch, the last weeks of summer are the ideal time to prepare your garden for winter vegetables.

If you haven't done so already, it's a good idea to soil test to check out the nutrient levels of your garden plot. The pH of the soil is the most critical element to determine and should be adjusted to a range of 6.2 to 6.8. Spent summer vegetables should be removed and added to the compost pile, allowing room to till and plant new crops. The garden can now be tilled and smoothed to get ready for winter vegetables.

Winter crops — such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts — are best planted as transplants. Leaf lettuce, Swiss chard and other fall and winter greens do well when directly seeded into the garden. Take care not to cover tiny seeds too deeply or they will have trouble germinating. University of Georgia Cooperative Extension offers a [vegetable garden calendar](#) to help guide your planting choices.

When it comes to growing winter vegetables, the biggest challenge sometimes comes from temperature extremes, which can swing from very warm to extremely cold virtually overnight. Warmer than normal days can cause lettuce to bolt and get bitter. Bolting occurs on leafy greens when they sense warm temperatures and try to put up seed heads. In-

sect invasions pose another problem for winter vegetables.

## Controlling pests and diseases

Although many summer pests have begun to subside, there are still plenty of pest insects out there. White flies and aphids could still be present from the summer garden. Cabbage looper is another pesky insect that loves to tunnel through cabbage, broccoli and other greens. Snails and slugs can also manifest themselves on warmer evenings, creating holes in your plants. When it comes to control, early detection is key. Monitor plants regularly to spot the first signs of insect trouble. Organic insect control products, such as *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)* or DiPel, work very well on caterpillar-type insects such as loopers. Other insects can often be chased off or killed with pyrethrins — pesticides found naturally in some chrysanthemum flowers. Other options are Safer® brand insect-killing soap or mild insecticides. Quick control is essential to catch insects before they tunnel deep into the plants. Caterpillars deep inside a cabbage head will be heavily protected from all the leaves and may not be affected by insecticides. Information on home and garden insect control is available in the [Georgia Pest Management Handbook: 2021 Home and Garden Edition](#).

Disease also can be an issue in the winter garden, but usually less so than in the summer months. Foliar diseases, root rots and potential viruses, while not overly common, can still affect the winter garden if not carefully monitored. Many are brought on by poor cultivation practices. Mulching around plants with pine straw, wheat straw or chips can protect weeds from being contaminated with disease-bearing soil. A few inches of mulch will also help cut down on winter weeds, as well as help moderate root temperatures. Watering practices can also influence the potential for disease.

When possible, use soaker hoses or drip irri-

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by Bob Westerfield

-gation to water all winter vegetables. Overhead water with a sprinkler wets the foliage and makes vegetables more susceptible to disease. Overhead irrigation also wets much of the non-target area and encourages excess weed growth while wasting water. Walk through your garden regularly and remove any leaves showing symptoms of disease. This helps keep disease at bay and most of the time the plant will recover. When it comes to watering, people often believe cooler temperatures mean plants no longer need supplemental irrigation, but this is not the case. Vegetables still need one to one-and-a-half inches of water per week to obtain optimum growth. Container grown or raised beds may need more frequent watering as they tend to lose water faster and dry out.

## Enriching the soil



Testing a soil samples through your [local UGA Extension](#) office should give you the right recipe for fertilizing your specific soil.

One of the final components for managing your winter garden is providing proper nutrition to plants. While the soil sample run through your [county UGA Cooperative Extension](#) office should give the proper recipe for fertilization success, many gardeners chose to wing it and fertilize without testing. If you choose this route, it is best to keep it simple. Leafy green vegetables will require more nitrogen than winter peas, carrots or even broccoli.

Without a soil sample, I would fertilize with a premium fertilizer that contains micronutrients as my initial feeding at planting. After the crop begins to form up a tiny vegetable, I would then fertilize with a product such as 12-4-8. Be careful not to feed you plants too much or you'll push out excessive growth and fewer vegetables. Some vegetables, like greens and broccoli, can continue to be harvested even after the initial harvest. Additional fertilization every three to five weeks should help ensure a healthy harvest. A [guide for fertilizing](#) a variety of crops is available from UGA's [Agricultural and Environmental Services Laboratories](#).

For areas of the garden where you have chosen not to plant winter vegetables, consider a cover crop versus leaving the area barren. Cover crops are often called green manure and are essentially green plants that help hold the soil from erosion and provide nutrients when put into the soil. They also look much better than bare soil or dead plants. I prefer a winter crop mix of a cereal grain such as wheat, rye or oats mixed with a legume such as winter peas or clover. Avoid planting the ryegrass available in the big box stores as this plant is difficult to eradicate in the spring. Cover crops should be fertilized at planting time and perhaps once again during the season to give them a boost.

Although winter gardening has its challenges, it is also one of the most pleasant times of year to spend in the garden. While you certainly can purchase all of this produce at the grocery store, there is simply nothing like being able to harvest fresh vegetables from the garden and cooking them the same evening. The satisfaction and flavor are better than anything you can purchase from the store.

A wealth of home gardening and landscape advice is available at [extension.uga.edu/publications](#).

**Bob Westerfield is a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension consumer horticulturist, with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.**

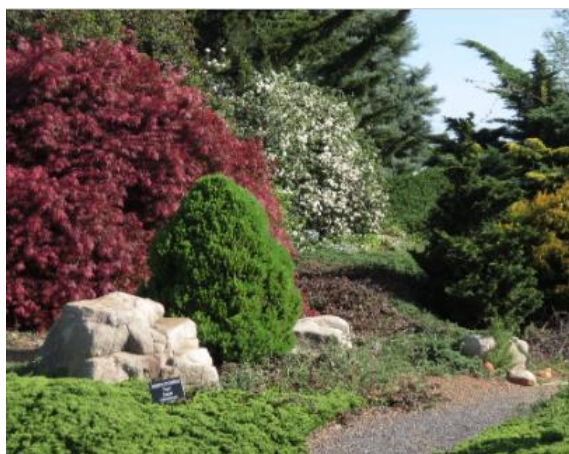
# Adding Small Shrubs to your Home Landscape

by Sheri Dorn, Kim Toal

Do you have a small landscape, but want to add shrubs that will not overgrow the space? It is important to select plants that are suitable for the space and visually appealing.

Plants are primarily selected for their aesthetic beauty, such as outstanding foliage, attractive flowers, unique bark, brightly colored fruit, plant form or branching habit. Plants can be also selected for their ability to attract wildlife and support pollinators. Fragrant flowers, flowers with particular color and shape combinations, edible fruit and dense branching for nesting sites are likely considerations to attract birds, bees and butterflies.

When selecting plants for your space, take your time to fully evaluate the space and select plants that will both thrive and provide you with powerful visual stimuli.



## Finding space and place

Before selecting plants, evaluate the space for environmental conditions and soil fertility. You will need to know whether you are looking for plants that will do well in full sun or shade. You may have a space that stays wet or dry. Ensuring that you have the proper environmental conditions for new plantings will increase plant survival and reduce plant problems. It would also be wise to get a soil test completed to make sure that, nutritionally speaking, plants will have the opportunity to thrive in your space.

Evergreen shrubs provide full foliage throughout the year and are useful for defining spaces and

providing a background for other features and plants. Small- and intermediate-sized evergreens can be used as ornaments, as single specimens or as groups of plants. They are frequently used as foundation plantings, adorning the front of the house and concealing foundation lines.

Small evergreens can be used near the house or a path where they can be observed up close. These plants accent areas near steps, garden gates or patio entrances to soften harsh edges and provide a welcoming atmosphere. Small shrubs with contrasting or variegated foliage or showy flowers show up beautifully against a background of green foliage plants (foundation plantings) for many buildings and homes. Many small shrubs are planted in attractive pots and combined with other plants for spectacular accents.

Deciduous shrubs — those that lose their leaves in the fall — provide the garden with vivid reflections of the seasons. They have a sequence of flowers, foliage, fruit and often vibrant fall colors. Their overall appearance changes dramatically from one season to the next. The continual progression ensures constant change and continuing interest in the landscape.

Finding plants that provide visual appeal without overgrowing available space is important. Otherwise, frequent pruning is required to keep plants within bounds and to prevent them from crowding other plantings. Many species have multiple cultivars available that offer a variety of mature heights and widths. When making plant purchases, choose plants that are properly labeled with genus, species and cultivar. Remember that variation in size, form and color can be observed in plants of the same genus and species. A cultivar can make all the difference in whether or not a plant is appropriate for your site.

## A healthy start

Regardless of plants selected, start with healthy plants to encourage rapid establishment. A typical landscape shrub is available in a 3-gallon plant pot, though it is not uncommon to see 1-gallon or 5-gallon sizes. A soilless growing media



# Adding Small Shrubs to your Home Landscape

by Sheri Dorn, Kim Toal

is used in place of mineral soil, making the plants easy to handle and transport. Great selections of container-grown plants are available year round and can be added to your space at any time. Young plants should exhibit vigorous growth, dark green foliage and stout twigs. Plants should be free of mechanical injuries, like broken branches, crushed foliage or scarred stems. Select plants that are well-branched and have maintained their lower branches.

When selecting plants, check the roots to make sure that they are not diseased. A healthy root system is important on young plants as it provides the primary means for rapid establishment and good plant growth at the new site. The root system should have active white root tips and be large enough to support the plant top. Make sure plants are not pot-bound — roots should be well dispersed in the container with room to grow. Pot-bound plants have roots that are matted thickly and which circle the pot. These are more difficult to establish and may develop girdling roots that will shorten the life of the plant.

Keep the roots moist when installing plants. Until the plant roots in and establishes itself, the soil-less media in containers can dry quickly and the plant can wilt even though the surrounding soil is still moist. Once plants become established, they can withstand some periods of drought but may need supplemental water in prolonged hot and dry weather.

Some plants will need supplemental water several times a week during the summer. Having a small percentage of these plants and clustering them together closer to the house or water source is an example of water-smart landscaping. For more information, be sure to read University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Bulletin 1444, Water-wise Landscape Guide for the Georgia Piedmont at [extension.uga.edu/publications](http://extension.uga.edu/publications).

## Variety recommendations

Choosing healthy young plants for the landscape completes the plant selection process. Small shrubs are typically 5 feet or less in height and width. To assist with decisions, the following list

offers a few suggestions for small shrubs:

- **Kaleidiscopes abelia** (*Abelia 'Kaleidiscopes'*) is 3 feet in height and width and requires full sun. This semi-evergreen, rounded shrub has yellow-gold foliage and is sun and heat-tolerant. White flowers appear all summer.
- **Spreading plum yew** (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) 'Prostrata' is 2- to 4-feet high and wide and needs shade to part sun. This dark-green, needle-like evergreen is attractive planted under trees.
- **Japanese cedar** (*Cryptomeria japonica*) 'Globosa Nana' is 4- to 5-feet in height and width and requires full sun. This shrub naturally keeps its rounded shape without any pruning. In dry spells, supplement with water to avoid plant damage.
- **Mt. Airy fothergilla** (*Fothergilla gardenia*) 'Mt. Airy' is 4- to 5-feet in height and width and needs sun to part shade. This deciduous shrub has many small, white, bottlebrush-like flowers in the spring and excellent foliage color in the fall.
- **Creeping gardenia** (*Gardenia augusta*) 'Radicans' is 18- to 24-inches in height and 4 inches in width, requiring sun to part shade. If you like gardenia fragrance, but need a low-spreading plant, this selection is for you! White, double flowers are 1 to 2 inches in diameter.
- **Dwarf Chinese Fringeflower** (*Loropetalum chinense*) 'Purple Pixie' stands 1- to 2-feet high and 2- to 4-feet wide. It needs full sun. This is a small version of the full-sized, popular burgundy-leaved fringe flower. It can be grown in containers or in flower beds.
- **Dwarf Southern waxmyrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*) 'Don's Dwarf' stands 3- to 5-feet high and wide and requires sun to part shade. This selection of native waxmyrtle is low-growing and tolerates infertile soils. Its leaves and plant shape can be damaged by low temperatures and snow load.
- **David viburnum** (*Viburnum davidii*) is 3- to 5-feet high and wide and needs full sun. Its foliage is a dark, blue-green color and has flower buds that emerge pink and turn to white.

For more information on which plants may be best suited to your site and needs, please check out University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Bulletin 625, Landscape Plants for Georgia, at [extension.uga.edu/publications](http://extension.uga.edu/publications).

**Sheri Dorn is an Extension ornamental specialist and state Master Gardener coordinator in the department of horticulture at the UGA-Griffin campus.**

*Athens-Clarke County Extension*  
**Virtual Green Thumb Lectures**  
*2022 Free Monthly Gardening Class Series*



## **October: Gardening for Wildlife**

Please join us online for an informative presentation on topics including:

- Basic wildlife needs.
- Plants that best attract and encourage wildlife to benefit your landscape.
- Planning your wildlife garden for all seasons.

Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome.

### **WHEN:**

Wednesday, October 12  
6:00 -7:30 pm

### **WHERE:**

ONLINE via Zoom.com

Specific link to join Zoom meeting will be sent to the email you register with.

### **TO REGISTER:**

Registration is required. Please register by October 11th by visiting [www.accgov.com/gardening](http://www.accgov.com/gardening)

### **For questions:**

Contact Laura Ney, Extension Agent at [lney@uga.edu](mailto:lney@uga.edu)  
or Educator, Cari at [cmisseri@uga.edu](mailto:cmisseri@uga.edu)

*The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.*



**UNIVERSITY OF  
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*11th Annual*  
**NATIVE PLANT SALE**  
ConnecttoProtect



**OCTOBER 2022 – 6,7,8 & 13,14,15**

**Thursdays and Fridays 4 to 6 p.m. | Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon**

Join garden professionals at the Mimsie Lanier Center for six days of on-site plant shopping to support pollinators. Experts will answer questions about incorporating native plants into every space, from large gardens to pots.

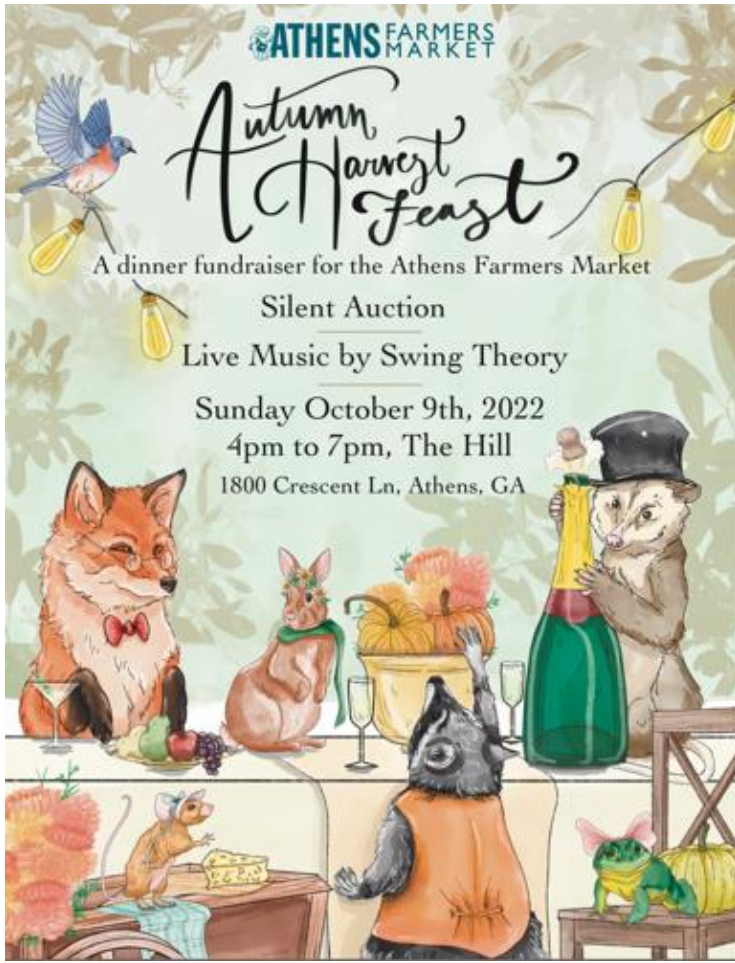
*For event details and a plant list, visit  
[botgarden.uga.edu](http://botgarden.uga.edu).*



State Botanical Garden of Georgia  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

[/BotanicalGarden\\_GA](#) [/BotGardenGA](#) [/BotGarden](#)

# Stay in the loop! (local or online activities and events)



Vulture Festival October 22nd



## 11th Annual Native Plant Sale

ConnectToProtect

October 6,7,8 & 13, 14, 15th

At the Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has great local events occurring each month. Make sure to check out their [event calendar](#) or [discover education activities for home](#).

UGA Extension offices around the state are working hard at developing quality online presentations on various topics.

Visit the UGA Extension [event calendar](#) to see events happening local to our county as well as virtual opportunities.

## West Broad Farmers Market



# Local Farmers Markets



The **Athens Farmers Market** is taking place on Saturdays from 8am-12pm at Bishop Park. Make sure to visit [their website](#) for updates and details.

Find them on Facebook: [@AthensFarmersMarket](#)

Follow them on Instagram: [@athensfarmersmarket](#)

## West Broad Farmers Market

Online ordering with pick-up and delivery options are available on Saturdays.

Visit [their website](#) to find out how to order online.

Find them on Facebook: [@WestBroadMarketGarden](#)



## MARIGOLD



## MARKET

The **Winterville Farmers Market** is taking place on Saturdays from 10am-2pm at Pittard Park. Visit [their website](#) for more information.

Find out more on

Facebook [@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)

Instagram: [@marigoldmarketwinterville](#)

The **Oconee Farmers Market** is

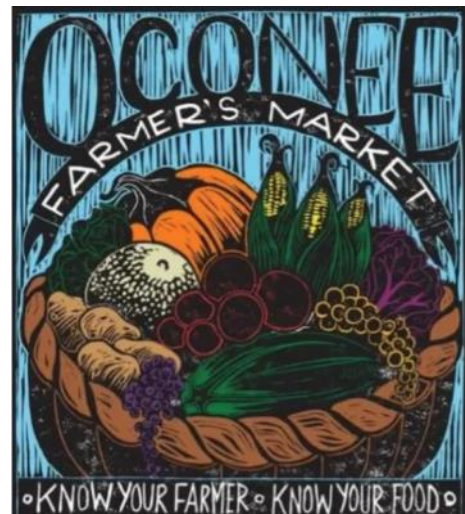
Open 9-Noon every Saturday

from April– October 15th.

Located in front of the

Watkinsville Courthouse

[Oconee Farmers Market - Farmers Market - Watkinsville, Georgia](#)



# Master Gardener January 2023

Join UGA Extension  
as a Master Gardener  
Extension Volunteer  
for Athens-Clarke County

[Apply Online](#)



Established in 1990, the Athens Area Master Gardener Program provides novice and seasoned gardeners with an intensive educational experience in horticulture principles, practices and pest management. Classes are taught by UGA faculty and other subject area experts.

## **Position Summary**

### **Master Gardener Extension Volunteers**

- Answer gardening questions at the ACC Extension office
- Staff informational booths at farmers markets and local events
- Conduct plant clinics, help with Plant a Row for the Hungry gardens
- Assist curators at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia
- Teach Junior Master Gardener programs at local schools and more

## **Job Responsibilities**

- After completing the educational component of the program, participants perform 50 hours of volunteer service in their community before the end of the calendar year.
- Each year thereafter you must volunteer for 25 hours per year to maintain active status.
- 6 hours of Continuing Education per year

Questions? Contact

Extension Agent Laura Ney at [lney@uga.edu](mailto:lney@uga.edu)  
or Educator Cari Misseri at [cmisseri@uga.edu](mailto:cmisseri@uga.edu)



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# Master Naturalist

## April 2023

### Join UGA Extension as a Master Naturalist for Athens-Clarke County



Are you a nature enthusiast? Take the Georgia Master Naturalist course! Developed in 2004 by UGA Extension and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, the Georgia Master Naturalist Program is an adult environmental education course exploring the ecosystems and natural environments of the Athens area and our state.

#### *Position Summary*

##### *Master Naturalist Program*

- This program is a combination of lectures and hands-on field studies taught by UGA faculty and field experts.
- Classes are customized to local habitats such as granite outcroppings, ponds, mountains, forests and urban landscapes.

#### *Course Topics may include*

- *Geology*
- *Ecology Principles*
- *Environmental Awareness*
- *Native Plants*
- *Birding*
- *Wildlife Issues*
- *Entomology & Herpetology*
- *Local Agriculture*
- *Water Issues and Stream Monitoring*
- *Invasive Plants and Pests*

Questions? Contact  
Extension Agent Laura Nev at  
[lnev@uga.edu](mailto:lnev@uga.edu)  
or Educator Cari Misseri at  
[cmisseri@uga.edu](mailto:cmisseri@uga.edu)



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# Master Composter January 2023

Join UGA Extension  
as a Master Composter  
Extension Volunteer  
for Athens-Clarke County



If you enjoy working with people, digging in the dirt and are interested in teaching others about composting, then the Master Composter program is for you! You will become part of an elite group of volunteers that uses the information learned in this training program to teach others how to turn their organic material into a beneficial soil amendment.

## *Position Summary*

### *Master Composter Extension Volunteers*

- Teach or assist with compost workshops.
- Staff composting informational booths at various public education and outreach events.
- Give lectures and hands-on presentations on composting to various civic, community, and garden groups

## *Job Responsibilities*

- *Complete the training course and field trips.*
- *Complete a class project*
- *Volunteer a minimum of 40 hours back to the program in the first year.*
- *Build compost bins*

Questions? Contact  
Extension Agent Laura Ney at  
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**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**  
**EXTENSION**  
*Athens-Clarke County*

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# Join Athens-Clarke County 4-H!



Students in 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Athens-Clarke County can sign up for 4-H now. The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. 4-H meetings will look different this year and are online. There is no charge to be a member or participate in a competition.

To start your 4-H Adventure e-mail the ACC 4-H Agent, Elizabeth Conway, at [ebarber@uga.edu](mailto:ebarber@uga.edu) today!



Virtual 4-H Programs can be viewed on the ACC 4-H website:

<https://tinyurl.com/acc4hvirtual>

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Concerned about the state of your garden?

Are weeds taking over your landscape?

No need to fear, Clarke is here!

Follow @gardenwithclarke on Instagram  and learn how to battle pests, identify weeds, build your soil and so much more as you garden alongside Clarke, Athens-Clarke County's super gardener!



**gardenwithclarke**  
UGA Extension Athens-Clarke County





## Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)

[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[Landscape Alerts Online](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)

[Pest Management Handbook](#)

[Pesticide Applicator Info](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[SE Ornamental Horticulture Production & IPM Blog](#)

[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant Professional](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

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## Athens-Clarke County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources

### Mission Statement

The UGA Athens-Clarke County Extension's mission is to respond to the people's needs and interest in Agriculture, the Environment, Families, and 4-H/ youth in Athens-Clarke County with unbiased, research-based education and information.

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Visit us online:



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