

TROUP COUNTY

MGEV REVIEW

The latest Master Gardener news and announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Agriculture Agent!

Deborah Xavier-Mis is your next Troup County Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. Her start date is March 1, 2021.

Learn more about Deborah in next month's issue of the Troup County MGEV Review!

Trellis Blog

Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Trellis Blog for updates from the State MGEV coordinator.

Face-to-Face Meetings

Face-to-face meetings must adhere to strict social distancing and mask-wearing procedures. No more than 25 people may be in attendance. Enhanced sanitation and cleaning must take place.



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program



After a several-month hiatus, the Troup County MGEV Review is back!

Expect to receive a monthly newsletter moving forward; the format may change as we tweak things but our goal remains the same: to communicate upcoming trainings, volunteer opportunities and other pertinent information to our awesome Master Gardener volunteers.

As a reminder, in each issue you should find:

- **Education Corner** - a section devoted to horticulture education and knowledge
- **Future opportunities** - up-coming projects, training events, and meetings
- **MGEV News** - news that pertains specifically to MGEVs

Contact Laura with any questions at laura.mirarchi@uga.edu or 706.302.8784.

EDUCATION CORNER

February is asparagus planting time

By Frank M. Watson for CAES News, Wilkes County ANR

Asparagus demonstrates what Mother Nature can do with a plant. By planting asparagus only one time, the plants will continue to produce for many years to come. A vegetable garden in Vermont has had the same producing asparagus bed for more than 100 years.

February is the best month for planting asparagus. Crowns not seed are used to establish asparagus, so check with area garden centers early in case the crowns need to be ordered.

A soil test should be taken to determine fertilizer and lime needs in your garden plot. If adding lime to raise the pH level, it should be plowed in before the crop is planted. This is especially important for perennials such as asparagus since the soil once the bed is established it should not be disturbed again.



Asparagus crowns that are one year old are best to use when establishing a bed. Be sure to add organic matter such as animal manure or compost. Adding the appropriate amount of commercial fertilizer will pay good dividends. Use 50 pounds of 6-12-12 or 5-10-15 per 1,000 square feet before setting crowns. Annual split applications of 6-12-12 or 5-10-15 at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet should be adequate to keep asparagus actively growing.

The plant is dioecious, which means the male flowers are on one plant and the female flowers are on a separate plant. The green foliage is fern-like and produces excess food that is stored in the fleshy storage roots. The spears, which develop in early summer, are doing so at the expense of this stored food. For this reason, the harvest season should be regulated to allow sufficient time for the plant to replace this stored food.



Thank you...

to Shirley Gilliam for her continued assistance with MGEV communications.

Up-Coming Opportunities

“Thoughtful Thursday” Webinars

February 11, 2021: 2 sessions

10 am—Firescaping (Zoom link [here](#))

2 pm—“Tale of the Long Beach Red Radish”

(Zoom link [here](#))

2021 Advanced MGEV Trainings: Online

Seats are still available! Check out [this Trellis blog post](#) for more information! The

two courses are:

- 1) Communication Series
- 2) Georgia First Detectors