



# Shades of Green

## From Gardeners to Gardeners



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### Hello from your new Agent



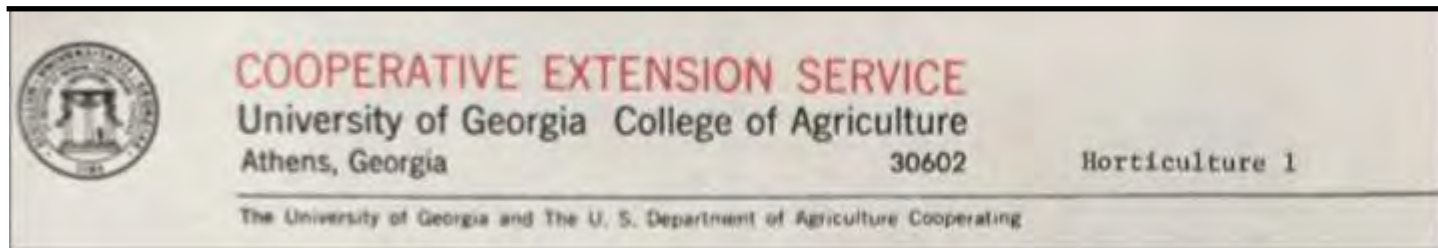
I couldn't be more excited to greet this community as your new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. I have a deep love for Athens-Clarke County and I am anxious to follow in the footsteps of the past agent, Amanda Tedrow, in serving the County's needs to the best of my ability. Another exciting change is coming to Athens-Clarke County Extension this year. Our office will soon be moving to a new location in a brand new facility! Be on the lookout for more details about this exciting transition.

As we are packing up to move, we have come across stacks of ACC extension history. It has been great fun to read through the aged pages of forgotten articles and advice columns. Much of the advice remains relevant and helpful in responding to some of the common questions and problems facing ACC gardeners

decades ago and still today. I'd like to share these ambles into the past by introducing a segment called "Advice from the Archives" on the following page.

- Laura Ney

# Advice from the archives



## Marginal Leaf Burn on Shrubs

1976

In "Ornamental Horticulture Timely Topics"

Author: G. E. Smith

\*Text that appears in color has been added or amended\*

During the hot months of July and August, some Georgia gardeners notice injury to the foliage of their plants. Typical symptoms consist of dying of the tips or margins of the leaves. The cause of the problem is usually due to the fact that more water is being lost through the foliage than is being taken up by the roots. An inadequate amount of water getting to the leaves of plants can be due to a number of reasons. Any condition that injures the root system of the plant can result in marginal leaf burn symptoms. Recently transplanted shrubs often show this symptom during dry weather. Injury to the root system from too much fertilizer is a common reason for the sudden appearance of marginal leaf burn. Insect or disease injury to the root system can also result in the leaf symptom. A common reason for symptoms on dogwood, for example, is an infestation of borers in the trunk (which disrupt the flow of water through the xylem). If a shrub is planted too deeply or is located in a poorly drained area, this may lead to the marginal or tip leaf injury symptoms due to root rot or inhibited fine root development.



### Laura's 2 cents:

1¢ If your plants are experiencing leaf burn or "scorch", resist the temptation to start giving them constant water. Instead, try to deeply soak the plants at infrequent intervals. This will encourage, healthy, deep root development.

2¢ Other ways of preventing leaf scorch are by minimizing injury during transplanting, grading or any other operation that involves the plant's root system and also by preventing moisture stress by mulching around your trees and shrubs.

# Kill Weedy Grasses with Mulch and Herbicides

By Paul Pugliese



**M**any clients contact their local University of Georgia Cooperative Extension office frustrated with grasses taking over their flower beds or vegetable gardens. A common phone call might involve Bermuda grass taking over a bed of juniper ground cover or daylilies. And, if you've ever tried to pull Bermuda grass out by hand, you quickly learned that it just grows right back from any root fragments left in the soil. It's nearly impossible to dig or pull out every piece of grass by hand.

One option to control grasses in flower beds is what I like to call the "smothered and covered" method. Mulching can be used to effectively control small infestations or in areas where herbicides cannot be used. To use this method, cover the entire infestation with several inches of mulch. This may include wood chips, pine straw or similar materials. Hay and grass clippings should not be used as mulch, since they may carry weed seeds. Covering the area with a layer of cardboard topped with mulch may improve the effectiveness of this method. The mulch should stay in place for at least two growing seasons to kill tough perennial grasses.

Depending on whether these weedy grasses are growing in a flower bed or a vegetable garden, there may be options available to control weeds with selective herbicides labeled for particular applications. In vegetable gardens, use an herbicide containing the active ingredient sethoxydim

(brands such as Poast and Vantage) around broadleaf vegetables to control Bermuda grass, crabgrass and other grasses without harming your veggies. This product cannot be used around corn, however, as corn is in the grass family and will be damaged. This chemical is very selective for controlling grasses and will not control other weeds. There are also product options on the market that can be used in flower beds to selectively control weedy grasses. Products containing the active ingredient clethodim (Envoy), fluazifop-p (Grass-B-Gon and other brands) or sethoxydim (Segment) are safe around most flowers and shrubs. For nutsedge that is invading flower beds, a selective product that contains imazaquin (Image) can be applied over the top of a number of ornamentals. Be sure to read the label for which plants are safe to spray around.

A nonselective herbicide containing glyphosate (brands such as Roundup and others) can also be used in between rows and along borders of vegetable gardens and flower beds. However, because this is a nonselective herbicide, avoid any direct contact or spray drift with desirable plants. Do not spray on a windy day. Make a shielded spray application by using a piece of cardboard or other barrier to shield plants and spray just the weeds. As long as the spray does not contact the leaves of vegetables, fruit trees, shrubs or flowers, it should

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# Most Ground-nesting Bees and Wasps Are Good Bugs



By Paul Pugliese

**G**round-nesting bees and wasps may alarm people, but they are actually "good bugs" that are busy doing their jobs as pollinators or serving as useful predators in controlling harmful insect pests. There are more than 3,500 species of solitary bees in North America. The most common ground-nesting bees and wasps that we see include bumblebees (those "giant" ones), sweat bees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, digger wasps and cicada-killer wasps. All of these ground-nesting bees and wasps are curious and investigate people and pets near their burrows. This is probably what you would do if someone



**Pictured above is a common ground-nester, the bumblebee.**

was walking onto your front porch, right? Generally, these bees do not present a stinging hazard and do not defend their nesting territory aggressively — unlike yellow jackets and honey bees, who are more easily provoked. With the exception of yellow jackets, most ground-nesting bees and wasps are solitary, which means only one lone female works and lives in each underground nest. However, multiple solitary nests can be found in an individual back yard or lawn. These bee neighborhoods make the insects more noticeable, giving the appearance that the in-

sects are swarming around. So why do certain back yards or lawns seem to have more ground-nesting bees than others? According to most entomologists, it's because they have an environment that these bees prefer. Ground-nesting bees generally prefer nesting in areas with morning sun exposure and well-drained soils that contain little organic matter. Burrows are excavated in areas of bare ground or sparse vegetation. The best control methods include heavy watering or irrigation with a lawn sprinkler during the nest-building period to discourage nesting. Tilling of soil to destroy tunnels may help a little, but establishing a dense turfgrass is probably the best long-term discouragement to further nesting. If the soil or location is not conducive to a healthy lawn, using ground covers or heavy mulches may be an alternative solution. Mulches may be used on bare patches caused by heavy foot traffic where grass will not grow. Generally, chemical applications are not practical and control can be difficult since each individual nest cell or colony requires treatment. If possible, try to identify which type of bee you have before reaching for the jet-spray aerosol. For more aggressive bees and wasps such as yellow jackets, this may be your only option. But remember, most ground-nesting bees and wasps are "good bugs" and they have a very important, valuable function in landscapes for pollination and getting rid of "bad bugs." For some crops, bumblebees and other native bees are more efficient pollinators than managed honey bees. It's estimated that one of every three bites of food you put in your mouth depends on pollination by bees. In fact, 90 percent of all commercially-grown field crops depend on pollination for growth. So, instead of destroying these valuable insects, take a moment to teach your children and neighbors to appreciate their importance and respect their place in nature.

*(Contact Paul Pugliese, the Bartow Co. Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent by emailing [pugliese@uga.edu](mailto:pugliese@uga.edu))*



# Great Georgia Pollinator Census Needs More Counters

By Merritt Melancon

This August, more than 900 Georgians will make history by participating in the first citizen-powered census of pollinators in the United States. As part of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service's Great Georgia Pollinator Census, hundreds of Georgians will head in their yards, nearby parks or local community gardens to help take a count of Georgia's pollinators.

"We're going to be making pollinator history in Georgia this August," said Becky Griffin, UGA Extension school and community garden and pollinator census coordinator. "This is the first time this type of project has been attempted with pollinators. We have a great network of counters all over the state, and we're going to end up with new and very useful insights into the health of pollinators in our state."

Over the past year, Griffin has been working to recruit students, teachers, gardeners and other citizen-scientists to participate in the count, which is modeled after the Great Backyard Bird Count organized by Cornell University each fall. For 15 minutes each day on August 23 and 24, Georgians will head outside and focus their attention on plants that are known to attract pollinators. They'll tally up the insects that they've seen at work and report their numbers.

"We are encouraging every Georgia citizen to get involved with this project. Counting criteria and training will be available through the website, and there will be events centered on the project

across the state," Griffin said.

"We are using this as an opportunity to educate Georgians about the importance of pollinators and pollinator habitats while generating useful data about the types of pollinators in our state." It's OK if would-be counters don't yet know their butterflies from their bombas (the Latin name for bumblebees), because Extension has excellent counting and identification tutorials on the census website, Griffin said. All a citizen-scientist needs is 15 minutes and an interest in helping the world better understand beneficial insects. Census takers can view the training materials online and count by themselves, or they can join one of the many guided counts that will be held across the state.

## GREAT GEORGIA Pollinator Census



Many of the groups who have already registered are classroom groups in which teachers are using the census to help teach science, tech-

nology, arts and mathematics (STEAM) lessons. Griffin is hoping to attract more classes to join the count when the school year starts for many of the state's school systems in August.

"The more census takers we have across the state the more accurate the count we will have and the better picture we'll have of the health of our pollinators," Griffin said. "Casting a wide net is key to making this project work."

Griffin successfully ran a smaller-scale pollinator census project at 50 school and community gardens across the state in 2017.

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## Kill Weedy Grasses with Mulch and Herbicides (continued)

not damage these plants. Glyphosate is inactive in the soil, so it does not affect plant roots in the areas that are treated. Make sure the formulation used has only glyphosate as the active ingredi-



**Nutsedge, pictured above, is a grassy weed that you can find invading your flower beds.**

ent. Many other herbicides and combination products are soil active and are not appropriate to use in these situations. For example, avoid using combination products such as Roundup Extended Control, which should never be used in a

vegetable garden or flower bed.

One last tool to add to your weed control toolbox is a pre-emergent herbicide. Consider using pre-emergents in combination with mulch and other selective herbicides as needed. There are several products on the market such as trifluralin (Preen, Treflan and other brands) that can be applied to prevent the seeds of annual grasses (i.e., crabgrass) from growing. Pre-emergents will not control weeds that are currently established, but they will significantly reduce the number of weeds that come back from seed. Timing is the key with pre-emergent herbicides. They should be applied before March 15 for weed prevention in flower beds or incorporated into the soil of a vegetable garden, according to the label. Be sure to read and follow all labeled application rates and safety precautions when using herbicides.

*(Contact Paul Pugliese, the Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent for the University of Georgia Extension office in Bartow County, by emailing [pugliese@uga.edu](mailto:pugliese@uga.edu))*

## Great Georgia Pollinator Census Needs More Counters (continued)

With just those 50 schools participating, Griffin saw some interesting trends concerning pollinator distribution. “We saw some statistically significant differences in the distributions of carpenter bees and honeybees,” Griffin said. “There were differences between rural and urban areas for them, but we didn’t see any difference in the distribution of smaller bees and butterflies.”

The success of the pilot census project gave Griffin confidence that she could teach people across

the state how to identify pollinators and enlist them for the statewide census project.

To register to be a census taker, visit [GGaPC.org](http://GGaPC.org).

*(Contact Merritt Melancon, a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, by emailing [jmerritt@uga.edu](mailto:jmerritt@uga.edu))*

# Behind the Greens: Our Research and Extension Summer Experiences at UGA

By: Kamaya Brantley and Keandre Leaks

*Kamaya Brantley and Keandre Leaks were two of 11 students who participated in the Plant Center, University of Georgia Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) Crop Genetics and Genomics summer program. They conducted laboratory and field research with the UGA Plant Center faculty mentors and participated in a service-learning project at the Athens Farmer's Market in Athens, GA. Their essay summarizes their experience and was selected to debut in this newsletter.*

When we weren't in the lab this summer doing research with our REEU, we were out harvesting organic potatoes, petting turkeys and setting up food stands at the local Farmers Market. From organic farm trips to helping out local farmers at 5:00 am, we got to experience first-hand what the other side of our research looks like.

On our day at the market, we had the pleasure of working with Mark Golden, a former travelling musician that now spends his days as a whimsical full-time farmer at Hearts of Harvest Farms. He decided to farm after realizing that farming would always be an important part of his life. "It kind of just happened. I never planned on becoming a farmer," he said. His stand was simple, yet colorful and attractive. Mark's products included beautiful "ugly" tomatoes, carrots, Spanish garlic, onions, fresh basil, flowers, and even micro-greens (different, but delicious). He chuckled as we inquired of his crop selection. "Call me crazy, but part of it is a calling from the Earth. Sort of a



music that you hear from the plants, you know? Otherwise, I grow by the season, and I try to grow as many varieties as possible. That way, our produce is more marketable."

He also told us about how the highlight of organic farming is omitting the

use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Likewise, he only uses plant-based compost, and even fish emulsions for his crops. To deter pests, Mark prefers to plant borders that take the brunt of it all, and use organic sprays. Finally, he informed us that being a good person and communicating is a key aspect in what he does. "Treat people like they're people and everything will be just fine," he said as he bagged tomatoes for a customer. "Having good food helps, too!" the customer quipped.

Our experience cemented that our research is about so much more than lab work and genetics. On the other side are people that rely on this knowledge for their livelihoods. Meeting growers and sharing their experiences was extremely rewarding and will leave a lasting impression.

# 2019 Free Gardening Class Series



## Fall Vegetable Gardening

Please join us for an informative presentation on topics including:

- General vegetable gardening guidelines for our area
- What vegetables do best in fall weather and when to plant
- How to maintain, troubleshoot, and harvest your veggies

**Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome!**

### WHEN:

Wednesday, August 7 • 6:00-7:30 pm

### WHERE:

Athens-Clarke County Library  
Appleton Auditorium  
2025 Baxter Street  
Athens, GA 30606

### TO REGISTER:

Registration is required. Please register by August 6 by visiting

[www.accgov.com/gardening](http://www.accgov.com/gardening)



### For questions:

Contact Athens-Clarke County Extension  
lney@uga.edu 706-613-3640

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





# Local “Green” Events

to name a few...

## **Swing Dance Night at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Tuesday, August 6 from 7:00pm-10:00pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Athens Photo Share Group at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

The photo share group meets at the garden to share digital images from mostly outdoor photography.  
When: Wednesday, August 7 from 6:30pm-8:30pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **August Full Moon Hike at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Thursday, August 15 from 8:00pm-9:30pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Friends of the Garden Gigantic Flea Market at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Saturday, August 17 from 8:00am-1:00pm  
Gardening items, books, household items, tools, toys, jewelry, decorations, purses, accessories, baby items and more for sale. [Click here](#) for more information!

## **Alice H. Richards Children’s Garden Performance Series at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Saturday, August 17 from 9:30am-12:00pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Natural Colors “Plants that Dye” Ramble at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

Join Beatrice Brown in an exploration of many natural sources that can be used in textile dyeing for personal and home use.

When: Tuesday, August 20 from 5:30pm-6:30pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **August Sunflower Concert: Austin Darnell at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Tuesday, August 20 from 7:00pm-9:00pm  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Pollinator Census at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Friday, August 23- Saturday August 24  
[Click here](#) for more information.

**Nature Ramblers at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**— Please join our Nature Ramblers and learn more about the natural areas, flora and fauna of the Garden while making new friends and enjoying the cool, fresh air.

When: Reoccurring Thursdays at 9:00am-10:30am  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Garden Earth Explorers at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

When: Recurring Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:15am-11:00am  
[Click here](#) for more information.

## Farmers Markets

**Athens Farmers Market Saturdays at Bishop Park**  
Every Saturday from 8:00AM- 12:00PM  
(until December 21) [Click here](#) for more information!

**Athens Farmers Market Downtown— Wednesdays**  
Reoccurring weekly on Wednesday from 4:00PM-7:00PM at Creature Comforts Brewing Co. [Click here](#) to visit the website.

**West Broad Farmers Market**  
Saturdays from 9AM—1PM  
For more information [click here.](#)



# 2019 Outdoor Water Use Schedule

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## Allowed Anytime

- Drip or soaker hose irrigation
- Hand watering with a hose with an automatic cut-off spray nozzle or hand-held container
- Hydroseeding
- Watering personal food gardens
- Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems
- Pressure washing
- Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf recreational areas
- Irrigation of plants for sale, resale, or installation
- Water from personal well or alternate source (gray water, rain water, condensate)
- Washing vehicles, driveways, parking lots or sidewalks WITH a shutoff valve or nozzle



## Allowed only between 4:00 PM - 10:00 AM

- Automated irrigation systems
- Hand watering without an automatic cut-off spray nozzle
- Lawn sprinklers



## Not allowed at anytime

- Failing to repair or bypass a leaking sprinkler head or emitter, valve, faucet, pipe, or toilet
- Allowing tap water to flow into public rights of way such as alleys, streets, or gutters or onto another person's property
- Operating an irrigation system during rain events exceeding 1/4 inch
- Washing vehicles, driveways, parking lots, or sidewalks WITHOUT using a shutoff valve or nozzle

This Outdoor Water Use Schedule is consistent with the Outdoor Water Use Rules set forth in the Georgia Water Stewardship Act that went into effect statewide on June 20, 2010 and the Georgia Drought Management Rules, Chapter 391-3-30 Level 1 and Non-Drought Response. Water wasting prohibitions are per Athens-Clarke County Code of Ordinances Article 7, Sec. 5-3-123. This schedule may be changed by Athens-Clarke County Unified Govt. of the State of Georgia due to drought conditions.

Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office / 706-613-3729 / ThinkAtTheSink.com



### Helpful resources online:

[Find My Local Extension Office](#)

[Pest Management Handbook](#)

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

[Bugwood— Pest Images](#)

[Georgia Turf](#)

[Pesticide Applicator Info](#)

[UGA Center for Urban Agriculture](#)

[Landscape Alerts Online](#)

[Free Online Webinars](#)

[Georgia Certified Plant Professional](#)

[Extension Publications](#)

### 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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