

DIRTY DIGS

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Newsletter

October 2017

ACMGA Demo Garden



ACMGA members are diligent in planting and maintaining the Demonstration Garden located in beautiful Downtown Prattville! Harvested produce from this garden is donated to the Autauga Interfaith Community Center benefiting food challenged families.



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Send your contributions to :
Tana Shealey at tshealey@auburn.edu.

Autauga County Master Gardeners Newsletter - Entertain, Educate, Elevate

September 2017 Hummingbird Award Winner Rita Nichols

The Autauga County Master Gardeners Association awarded the September 2017 *Hummingbird Award* to Rita Nichols. Rita is recognized for her outstanding work that includes developing programs for two gardening-related merit badges for Girl Scouts.

Each month, the Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Board selects a *Hummingbird Award* recipient whose volunteer work for ACMG is as full of energy as our fine feathered friend, the hummingbird.

The Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Board of Directors selected the name Hummingbird Award for this local recognition because hummingbirds are both fast and beautiful, characteristics that reflect the wonderful efforts of our members.



Thank You for Giving to Our Community Contributed By: Anita Shriberg

ACMGA 2017 total donations to AICC-579 pounds!

THANK YOU....Thank you....Thank you....for all your wonderful support to Autauga Interfaith Community Center.

During the fiscal year ended October 1st, ACMGA donated 291 pounds of personal items, 88 pounds of back-to-school kid's clothes, underwear and socks. Plus there was an extra donation of 200 pounds of (appropriate only) items from the ACMGA flea market fund raiser.

AICC is always appreciative and grateful for any appropriate items you wish to donate. It no longer needs to be toothpaste or laundry detergent.

They always need children's clothing and underwear, diapers for babies, bedding, kitchen ware, blankets, and anything that is appropriate to place inside a

gift basket (see picture). The list of opportunities for us to continue giving is endless. Be creative...think outside the box. I'm sure you have lots of items in your house that you are not using, and I someone else would love to have it. Keep the donations coming!



Insects of the Fall Months

By:
Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent



Fall Webworms & Asian Woolly Hackberry Aphids

Many calls and questions have come in about two insects in particular this month.

First, in regards to the webbing that is seen in trees while driving down the side of the road and by home owners who have noticed them in their landscape, this webbing indicates the presence of fall webworms. These worms have been known to web in over 85 species of trees in the United States and in our area are most commonly seen in, but not limited to; oaks, pecans, cherry, willow, and river birch.

Fall webworms become very visible in late summer and fall and create silken nests around leaves at the ends of branches. All of the feeding from the webworms occurs within the silken nests and last approximately six weeks and if food runs out new foliage will be encased.

Though the webs are very unsightly, damage to most trees is considered to be insignificant and especially if it is occurring close to fall when the trees

will naturally be losing their leaves with the change of the season. One of your best measures of defense is sanitation. As limbs, nuts and leaf debris drop from the tree, clean this up to reduce sites for the insects to overwinter on the ground and come right back next year. As always, less stress to the trees throughout the year will make them less susceptible to the attack of insects and disease issues.

The second insect that has caused a great concern this month has been the Asian Woolly Hackberry Aphid. We as southerners are very familiar with the aphid, but this aphid has a little different appearance than what we are used to. Not seen in these great numbers every year, this insect has been described in central Alabama as hot dry "snow" but even if you have not seen them you might still be asking yourself, Why is this sticky stuff getting on my car? And what's making my trees turn black?



The Asian woolly hackberry aphid is one of the many relatively new pests that have been accidentally introduced to the state. Adults are

about 1/16 inch long and are covered with a white, cotton-like waxy material that makes them relatively easy to identify. Adults may be winged or wingless. During the past few weeks large numbers of winged adults have been seen in areas where there are a lot of hackberry trees.

Both adults and nymphs produce large amounts of honeydew, which accounts for the sticky accumulations on vehicles parked beneath hackberry trees. Heavy infestations of this pest can cause trees to defoliate prematurely. There is little risk of this pest attacking other plants. While this insect can be controlled with sprays, few homeowners have the equipment needed to apply treatments to mature trees. Even when equipment is available, foliar sprays are often not an option because of the drift onto adjacent property. For now, the best approach is to live with the situation. They will go away in a few weeks.

Corn Salad
By
Cherri Cook

Ingredients:

- 2 cups frozen corn
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- 2 tbs. Lime Juice
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 1/4 t. garlic powder
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cu finely chipped red onion
- 2 tbs. chopped basil



Directions:

Cook corn in boiling water with salt for about two minutes. Drain, rinse in cold water. Place in a large bowl. In a small bowl, mix olive oil, lime juice, salt, black pepper, and garlic powder— set aside. Add remaining ingredients to corn. Drizzle dressing over corn mixture. Toss together. Refrigerate for several hours.



Ingredients:

- 4 large eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 tbs. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp., plus a pinch salt
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 30 to 40 vanilla wafers
- 3 to 4 medium ripe bananas

Evelyn's (My Mom's) Banana Pudding

By
Tana Shealey



Directions: Separate the yolks from the whites of 3 of the eggs; set aside the whites. Add the remaining whole egg to the yolks. In a bowl, whisk together 1/2 cup sugar, the flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Fold in the whole egg and 3 yolks. Stir in the milk. Cook uncovered in double boiler, stirring often, until the mixture thickens, (10 minutes). Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.

Spread a thin layer of the pudding in a 1 1/2-quart casserole dish. Arrange a layer of vanilla wafers on top of the pudding, then add a layer of thinly sliced banana slices over the wafers. Continue layering wafers, bananas and pudding, ending with pudding.

The meringue: Beat the reserved egg whites with a pinch of salt until they are stiff. Gradually beat in the remaining 1/4 cup sugar and continue beating until the whites are stiff. Spread meringue over the pudding , making a few peaks on top. Bake until the meringue is light brown, about 5 minutes.

Lunch & Learn Contributed by: Paula Seamon

Laurice Goorley with the CCMGA delivered an insightful program for September Lunch & Learn participants.

Laurice agreed to pitch in and discuss many interesting topics related to container gardening and plant care. Everyone who attended was educated and entertained by Laurice!

ACMGA sends a big “Thank You” to Laurice Goorley for a great presentation at the September 2017 ACMGA Lunch & Learn.



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Lunch & Learn 2017

THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER

12:00-1:00 pm



Christ Lutheran Church
2175 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville 36066

BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

They Flit – They Fly – They’re Fast Keep Hummingbirds All Year Round

Fred Bassett

FEEDING
PLANT SELECTIONS
SUMMER VS. WINTER HUMMERS
(Types you may see)

For more information, please contact
Autauga County Extension Office
(334) 361-7273



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Lunch & Learn 2017

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER

12:00-1:00 pm



Christ Lutheran Church
2175 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville 36066

BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

Make Your Own Black Gold Recycling Yard and Kitchen Waste

Karin Carmichael
Master Gardener

COMPOST BIN SELECTION
WHAT TO COMPOST?
HOW TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS
HOW TO USE YOUR GARDEN GOLD?

For more information, please contact
Autauga County Extension Office
(334) 361-7273



**AUTAUGA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Autauga County membership dues for 2018 are \$10. State dues are \$10 and optional. State dues entitle you to State membership and *Garden Pathways* newsletter. You can also receive state awards such as Reach for the Stars. Please complete this form and return it to our Treasurer, **NO LATER THAN OCT. 15, 2017.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

EMAIL _____ DOB _____
(Only give email address if you wish to receive info via email) mm/dd

COUNTY OF TRAINING _____ YEAR OF GRAD _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:	LOCAL DUES	STATE DUES
____ Active Member Local & State (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$10
____ Active Member Local Only (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$0
____ Active Member w/ current State lifetime	\$10	\$0
____ Active member w/ new State Lifetime	\$10	\$100 (One-time fee)
____ Yes, I am a dual member, County of primary membership _____		

Make check payable to ACMGA. Mail or give to:

Deb Hill
241 County Road 101
Autaugaville, AL 36003

Check _____ Cash _____

Ornamental Cabbages Offer Fall Color Extension Daily



Auburn, Alabama — Looking for something to brighten your flower beds and containers through the fall and winter? Ornamental cabbage may be just what you need.

What is ornamental cabbage?

Ornamental cabbage is closely related to kale and common cabbages. The plants need cool temperatures to produce the best leaf color. The main difference between ornamental cabbage and other cabbages is the taste, and ornamental cultivars do not produce a head.

“They are both in the *Brassica oleracea* species and the crucifer family, along with kale, cauliflower, broccoli and mustard,” said Taylor Vandiver, an Alabama Extension regional agent in home grounds, gardens and home pests. “However, it does not get the large head that our common edible cabbage does.”

Vandiver said while you can eat ornamental cabbage, most people grow it for its aesthetic value. People often find it bitter in taste.

Seeds or Transplants

Many people buy ornamental cabbage as transplants and use them in containers along with other annuals or along borders of flower beds as a low-growing foliage plant.

“You can plant them from seed or buy transplants at a local plant nursery or garden center,” said Vandiver. “It is probably easier to find transplants than seeds.”

“Some people like to see an immediate impact and so will choose to plant transplants.”

Vandiver said to space them about a foot apart. At

maturity, they will be approximately six inches to one foot tall.

You can either grow ornamental cabbage indoors or outdoors. Vandiver recommends to grow them outside.

“If grown indoors, it will need a sunny spot and checked often for water,” said Vandiver. “You can do this by sticking your finger down in the soil. If it is moist, you don’t need to water.”

Cabbage is a cool season crop. Vandiver recommends planting in the fall and early spring for the best results. They will start to decline as the summer heat arrives.

“Keep an eye out for insect pests. Ornamental cabbage, similar to our common cabbage, is also susceptible to cabbage worm, cutworms, aphids, and slugs,” said Vandiver. “Some of these you can pick off or spray off with water and others (the worms) you can use a natural bacteria called Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) for control.”

Maintenance

To make sure you ornamental cabbage grows as healthy as possible, provide it with good care. Keep an eye out for pests. Water on a regular basis, unless rainfall provides adequate water, said Vandiver.

“Because they grow during the cool season, you may not need to water as often as if it were a warm season crop,” said Vandiver. “They are relatively easy to maintain and have most of the same requirements as edible cabbage.”

Featured image by Panya_Anakotmankong/Shutterstock.com

Things to do...

- **ACMGA Lunch & Learn**, 1st Thursday of each month, Christ Lutheran Church, Prattville, AL., 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, bring your lunch.
- **AU Medicinal Herb Garden & Plant Diagnostics Lab**. October 11, 2017, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Auburn University Medicinal Plant/garden & Soils, Plant Pathology & entomology Lab, Auburn University.
- **Autauga County Fair**, October 10-14-2017., Mac Gray Park Fairgrounds.
- **Estate Planning Basics**, Hosted by Autauga County Extension and AARP Alabama. October 24,2017, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 178 E. 4th Street, Prattville, AL. 8:30 a.m.—Noon. Register online at: <http://offices.aces.edu/autauga/estate-planning-basics-workshop/>
- **Auburn/Opelika Wine Trail**. October 27,2017. For more information contact Tara Barr, Lee County Extension Office 334.707.5143.
- **Autauga County Fall Landowners Tour**. Nov. 16,2017. Call 334.365.5532 Ext/2403 for details and to register. Registration is required.

Entertain, Educate, Elevate

Monthly Meetings

Second Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church, Prattville (unless otherwise notified)

⇒ All odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, November will have 6:00 p.m. meetings.

⇒ Most even-numbered months: February, April, June, August, October will have 9:00 a.m. meetings.

⇒ The December Meeting/ Christmas Luncheon will be announced during the November meeting. It will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Ag Center Building in Autaugaville.

Autauga County Master Gardeners
c/o Autauga County Extension Office
2226 Highway 14 West
Autaugaville, AL 36003

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: