

JUNGLE TAMING

MONTHLY HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

803.463.2655

Volume 1, Issue 11

November, 2012

Helping to minimize the effects of original sin in your Garden of Eden!

Amy's November Horticultural Tasks

Written by Amy Bledsoe

Annuals



Turf



Perennials



Roses



Shrubs



Trees



Annuals: Finish planting any annuals not completed in October, and make sure they are getting sufficient water.

Turf: Warm season grasses grown in this area are likely to become completely dormant by the end of November. Use the lawn mower to chop up fallen leaves and leave off the bagger! This free fertilizer will benefit the turf and the trees. Determine if the mower needs maintenance prior to storing it for the winter. If repairs are needed, winter is a good time to take it to the small engine repair shop; business is much slower. Beat the spring rush, and relax for the season!

Perennials: Resist the temptation to cut back any perennials that are going dormant unless they are **completely** brown and dry. Cutting into foliage that is still wet and green can allow diseases to enter the plant. Lantana and verbena should not be cut back **at all** in the fall. Both of these plants have hollow stems; cutting them allows water to get inside the plant. Wait until new growth emerges in the spring to prune these two plants back. Clean and store any outdoor terra cotta pots.

Roses: Do not fertilize roses this time of year. Continue to water recently transplanted roses.



Shrubs: November is still a good month to plant and transplant shrubs. Mulch around shrubs to a depth of three inches, keeping mulch off the trunk. Water regularly while roots are getting established. Winter winds dry out plants just as they do our skin. Newly planted shrubs need water even during periods of cooler temperatures. If the forecast is for freezing temperatures, make a point of watering prior to the freeze. Plants are better able to withstand freezing temperatures when they have plenty of water in their cell tissues. Do not prune now.



Continued on Page 3

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

It's easy to subscribe to the FREE monthly e-Newsletter. Email your request to JungleTaming@earthlink.net.

Monthly Horticultural Newsletter is distributed free of charge each month by Jungle Taming, LLC, an up-scale yard restoration landscaping company proudly serving the Columbia, SC area.

Visit www.JungleTaming.com for more information.

Disclaimer

The information in this newsletter has been compiled by local experts in horticulture and landscaping, and combines scientific and practical applications of horticultural theory. Suggestions are general, and individual results may vary. Opinions of authors do not always reflect Jungle Taming's opinion.

Growing Little Green Thumbs

Hurrah for Pumpkin Pie!!!*Written by Ruby Haydock DeLoach*

It is the season for bright red pomegranates, orange pumpkins and an autumn palette of mums. Ever since the first Thanksgiving Day, pumpkin pie has been on the family dinner table. The orange pumpkin gourd of the squash family is a fruit native to America. Native American Indians used pumpkin as a staple in their diets centuries before the Pilgrims landed. Indians would roast long strips of pumpkin on the open fire and eat them. It was the Pilgrims that added sugar and milk to make a sweet pie.

The pumpkin pie is one of Lydia Marie Child's childhood memories of visiting her Grandfather's house. She includes this memory in the familiar Thanksgiving song, "Over the River and through the Woods."

Write up your family story of **"Thanksgiving Day 2012 with the _____ Family."**

You can definitely modernize the 1844 song. The dapple grey could be Uncle Bob arrived in his dapple grey Ford Escapade. Knowing the way can be MapQuest or GPS. You are only limited by your imagination and observations. Writing stories with young children creates memories that last all lifelong.

At your public library, a children's book, *Over the River—A Turkey's Tale*, recasts the poem as a humorous tale of a family of [turkeys](#) on their way to a vegetarian Thanksgiving. The book was written by Derek Anderson, and published by [Simon & Schuster](#) in 2005. ([ISBN 978-0-689-87635-6](#)).



Persephone's Pomegranates
by Ruby DeLoach

Ruby will be signing copies of her latest book, *Growing Little Green Thumbs*, during November. Grab your favorite little friend and come see her!

Thursday, November 1, 2012
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Chapin Christmas Open House
Palmetto Fine Arts, 107 Virginia Street, Chapin

Sunday, November 4, 2012
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
ArtCan Studio & Gallery
108 Beaufort Street, Chapin

Thursday, November 15, 2012
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Open House, Wingard's Nursery
1403 North Lake Drive, Lexington



Written and Illustrated by
Ruby Haydock DeLoach, Ed. D.



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Gardening for Everyone

25 More Ways to Make Your Landscape Greener, Cheaper and More Responsible

By Donald McInnes, Ph.D.

This continues the list of sustainable landscape and gardening tips from last month. If you missed last month's Jungle Taming newsletter, you can find it online at <http://jungletaming.com/?p=1154>.

1. **Cover crops:** Vegetable gardeners often use cover crops to enrich the soil and help the garden resist weeds. You can do the same for landscape areas that won't be planted immediately (like an area to be planted with turf in spring). Legumes especially add nitrogen to the soil, and all cover crops will improve soil texture when turned under.
2. **Don't spray insecticides prophylactically**, but inspect often and catch problems early.
3. **Windy day—don't spray!**
4. **Keep and eye out for weeds when you mow and rake**—there's not another time when you so carefully look at every square foot of your lawn.
5. **Corn gluten is a non-toxic pre-emergent weed control.** Some of the synthetic weed control chemicals have been linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, birth defects and ecological detriment.
6. **Turn off your irrigation system timer.** Water when the garden needs it—check the plants and the soil, not the calendar. Use the timer only when you're on vacation.
7. **Dispose of unused pesticides and containers properly** and promptly.
8. **With chemicals, don't buy more than you'll need**—fire ant baits go bad, lime and fertilizers absorb water and become difficult to use, and who wants to store toxic chemicals at home?
9. **Use deciduous trees to provide shade.** Trees actually cool better than fabric shades—in addition to blocking the sun, they cool by evapotranspiration.
10. **Reduce turf area**, and grow your lawn organically. Lawns require more water and more work than planting beds.
11. **Green roofs** reduce run-off and urban temperatures, and they last a long time. Think about it when it's time to re-roof or add an addition.
12. **Use water permeable hardscapes** to reduce run-off. Even concrete can be made permeable these days.
13. **Fallen branches can be used as edging** for paths and woodland beds.
14. **Buy recycled plastic** furniture, decking, composters, edging—complete



Continued on Page 4

Amy's November Horticultural Tasks *Cont'd from Page 1*

Trees: Fallen leaves are a treasure trove of free fertilizer and mulch for your plants. Use the lawn mower to chop them into smaller pieces and leave on the lawn; or use the leaves in the compost bin. They also make excellent mulch in flower beds. They add organic matter to the soil, improve drainage, and encourage good microbes. Thinking about adding new trees to your landscape? The Division of Forestry and Beautification has an excellent brochure called **The Urban Tree Species Guide** listing good tree choices to plant in the Columbia area including information on the mature sizes of trees, features of trees, how to plant, site considerations and more. Contact the Division of Forestry and Beautification at (803) 545-3860 to request your free brochure.



Gardening for Everyone *Cont'd from Page 3*

the cycle.

15. Rain gardens **capture rain water** that would otherwise contribute to flooding, erosion and storm damage. So do rain barrels and cisterns.
16. **Wetland buffers** help protect waterways from pesticide and fertilizer run-off. See: www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/WATER/WQL22.pdf.
17. **Plan for wildlife**—think water, food and shelter. Include ponds, fountains, birdbaths or drippers. You'll do more for butterflies if you plant host plants for caterpillars along with nectar plants. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide more nesting sites for birds. Native flora usually provides better than exotic plants for our native fauna.
18. **Reduce outdoor lighting**—motion detectors, lower wattages, compact fluorescents, and LEDs can reduce your electricity use. Reduce light pollution by choosing fixtures with deflectors. Don't install more lighting than you need—your house should not rival the airport at night.
19. **Use leaves as mulch**—they're free for the raking, and they work great. If the look is not what you want, put a thin layer of a different mulch on top of the leaves.
20. **Compost** or vermicompost (See www.compost.org. Click "welcome").
21. **A barrier of copper will exclude slugs and snails** from your plants. Copper tapes and roofing flashing are both effective. If a barrier is not practical, beer (or any liquid with yeast and sugar) traps will capture slugs and snails.
22. **View plant and seed catalogs online** to save trees and reduce pollution.
23. **Shelter wildlife** with birdhouses, bat houses, bee tubes, toad houses, as well as evergreen shrubs and trees. And dead trees--many critters depend on dead wood for food and shelter.
24. **Leave the clippings on your lawn** when you mow. The only time you should remove what the mower picks up is when there are numerous weed seeds present.
25. **Educate yourself** and your neighbors, and **advocate** for better gardening practices.

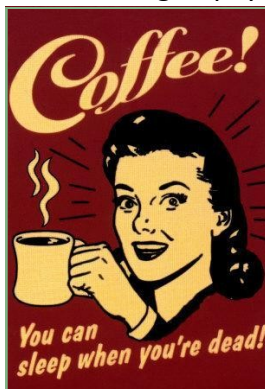
Useful Links

Rain Garden and Harvesting	http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/raingarden www.clemson.edu/public/carolinaclear/cc_toolbox/tools_pubs.html#pubs_rg
Natural Landscaping	www.for-wild.org/whenciti/ingram-1.htm
One Person Can Make a Difference	www.for-wild.org/download/onepersn.html
Handling Granular Pesticides and Fertilizers	www.gardening123.com/basf/GranularPresentation.pdf
Beyond Pesticides	www.beyondpesticides.org
Integrated Pest Management	http://extension.psu.edu/ipm , www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm
Lawn Maintenance without Pesticides	www.pesticide.org/solutions/home-and-garden-toolbox/landscape-and-plant-solutions/lawns www.savingwater.org/docs/natlawncafe.pdf
Pest & Weed Control without Pesticides	www.pesticide.org/solutions/home-and-garden-toolbox/weed-solutions/weed-solutions www.panna.org/resources/advisor www.organicgardentips.com
Organic Gardening Tips	www.organicgardentips.com
Grow Smart, Grow Safe Guide	www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=558
Clemson Publications	www.clemson.edu/psapublishing (free publications) https://shopping.clemson.edu (for sale publications)
Search Extension Resources	e-answers.adec.edu
Pesticide Action Network	www.panna.org
Gardener's Guide to Global Warming	http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Global-Warming/Reports/Gardeners_Guide.ashx
Washington Toxics Coalition	www.watoxics.org
SC Native Plant Society	www.scnps.org
Urban Tree Care	www.clemson.edu/extfor/urban_tree_care/index.html

Trickle, Trickle, Slurp, Slurp Coffee for Your Garden!

Written by Amy Bledsoe

For many people having a cup of Joe each day is just a part of life. That cup of steaming coffee jump starts their sluggish brains, and allows them to begin the day. Not being a coffee drinker myself, I have observed others waxing poetic over the virtues of coffee. They need the caffeine in order to function, and to save the lives of other drivers on road, I'm told. People are willing to pay nearly any price for their fancy mochas, lattes, and iced coffees at coffee shops across the nation. I get tickled at the long line of cars at the Starbucks drive-thru in the pre-dawn hours. I imagine that these devotees who willingly roll out of bed fifteen minutes early just to stop for coffee are probably the same people who claim that they



don't have time to exercise, attend PTO meetings, volunteer their time, or any number of other activities. Not judging here, you understand, just noting the devotion of coffee lovers. Even if you're not a coffee drinker, you may want to consider serving some coffee to your garden. Wait! What? That's right, I'm not bonkers. Even better, you can do it for free. (Don't you just love that word, "free"?)

Coffee grounds and coffee chaff are an organic source of nitrogen that can be used in your compost and mixed into your soil. The average NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) ratio of coffee grounds is 2-0.3-0.2. Coffee bean chaff is a byproduct of the roasting process. Coffee beans, much like pecans, have a husk that comes off during the roasting process. The chaff of coffee beans is especially good for speeding the growth of vegetables, particularly tomatoes. Be careful not to overuse chaff when adding it to your garden. A too high concentration of chaff in mulch or compost becomes a barrier to water absorption from

Continued on Page 6

About the Authors

Amy Bledsoe, who has a degree in horticulture, is a Certified Nursery Professional, Pesticide Applicator, Environmental Landscaper, Arborist, and Landscape Technician. She is currently the landscape designer for the City of Columbia. She has consulted on gardening articles for Columbia Metropolitan magazine and The State newspaper, appeared on ETV's "Making It Grow," and has also been a radio guest on "The Andy Thomas Show" to answer questions on gardening. Email Amy at abledsoedesign@msn.com.

Patsy Cowart, "Miss Patsy," is the eldest of four children, all born in a country house built before 1900. She was taught to cook at an early age by her mother, Miss Mildred Ross. It was and still is a sign of respect in certain pockets of Kershaw county to refer to locals by their name with Miss or Mr. preceding the first name. Simple home cooking was the rule of the day, and nothing was thrown away. A cook book was hardly followed and recipes were shared using terms like "use a pinch of this, pinch of that," and "add to taste." Miss Patsy is a pretty darn good cook—so Professor Ron married her 41 years ago.

Ron Cowart has 40 years of landscaping experience. Since 1975, he has owned and operated Tookeedoo Farms, a landscaping and nursery business. With two degrees from Clemson University, he is also a horticulture and landscape instructor at Midlands Tech, and owner of Cowart Landscaping Consulting, LLC. To contact Ron, call (803) 513.4242 or email cowartconsulting@gmail.com. You can visit Ron's website at www.cowartconsulting.com.

Ruby Haydock DeLoach has an Ed. D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Carolina. After retiring as an educator, she developed her artistic abilities and illustrated her first nonfiction children's science book, **Earth Turns on Its Axis, and...** She has another book under production called **Growing Little Green Thumbs**. To contact Ruby, email rhdeloach@aol.com. Also visit her website at www.crookedcreekart.org/deloach.htm.

Donald McInnes has degrees in biology from Duke, Northwestern and Florida State. He has worked for Clemson Extension in Richland County for more than a decade, assisting thousands of consumers with landscape, garden, wildlife and pest control questions. He is also the owner of Southeastern Environmental Design, a landscape coaching, consulting and design service, and chairs the City of Columbia's Tree and Appearance Commission. He can be reached at seemvdes@aol.com.

About Jungle Taming

Jungle Taming, LLC is an upscale yard and garden restoration company that specializes in pruning, cultivating and uncovering hidden beauty from overgrown landscapes. Call Jungle Taming for fence line cleaning, ivy and weed removal, bed improvement, trimming and cleaning shrubs, tree trimming, debris removal, herbicide application and much, much more.

Owner **Bill Kunze**, certified in Landscape Management, has over 15 years of hands-on experience in the Midlands area. For more information, contact Jungle Taming at (803) 463-2655 or email info@JungleTaming.com. Visit the website: www.JungleTaming.com.

Food for Mind, Body & Soul

Miss Patsy's Secret Weapon Recipes

Caramelized Onion and Pear Pizza

Written by Patsy Cowart

Makes a great appetizer. Enjoy!

- 1 Boboli pizza crust
- 1 large sweet onion
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 1-½ cup Bartlett pears, sliced thin
- ¼ cup gorgonzola cheese
- ¼ cup mozzarella cheese
- 1 Tablespoons chopped walnuts
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 425°. Melt butter in a frying pan and cook onion until brown and caramelized. Spread caramelized onion over pizza crust. Layer thinly sliced pears over onions. Sprinkle gorgonzola and mozzarella cheese. Top with walnuts and salt. Bake for 15 minutes.



Trickle, Trickle, Slurp, Slurp *Cont'd from Page 5*

the soil and plant life. When chaff becomes wet it becomes very sticky and acts like a sheet that repels water and keeps air out of the soil. As long as you mix it with other matter and keep the percentage low, it should not become a problem.

Coffee grounds and chaff also contain a number of substances that promote healthy plant growth. As a bonus, coffee ground mulch seems to deter slugs and snails from the garden. Plants that are especially beloved by slugs, such as hostas, daylilies, lilies, and ligularias, would probably benefit from a sprinkling of coffee bean grounds. Studies have shown that when the slimy rascals travel over a strong concentration of caffeine, the results are fatal. I find it hilarious that slugs and snails, which are strongly attracted to beer, find the common cure for a hangover to be fatal.

Sources of coffee grounds can be found as close as your local coffee shops on a first-come, first-serve basis. James Kirk, owner of Jamestown Coffee located on Highway 378 a quarter of a mile past Target in Lexington would love for gardeners to come take home some grounds for free. His store produces about fifty pounds of coffee daily. Starbucks, too, offers grounds to their customers. An even larger producer of coffee grounds and coffee chaff is Pontiac Foods located off Bookman Road in northeast Columbia. They would love for people to take home to their gardens some of the large quantities of chaff and grounds produced daily rather than it wind up in a landfill. There is no charge for the chaff or grounds. So, serve up some coffee to your garden today!

