

SOUTHERN

Master

GARDENING

A Monthly Newsletter brought to you by the
Horticulture Experts from

JUNGLE TAMING

JUNGLE TAMING

WITH BILL KUNZE



My name is Bill Kunze. That's me up there waving my hat! Greetings! I'd like to take a moment to tell you about us ...

At Jungle Taming, we take unattractive grounds and make them beautiful again. This involves imagination, vision, and manicuring effort which is far beyond what it would take to simply maintain grounds.

No greater joy exists for us than taking on the challenge of changing what looks impossibly ugly and making it beautiful again. That's why we call our business "Jungle Taming."

Most of the people in the lawn maintenance business are geared up for speed (and multiple jobs per day) and cannot expend the time and effort required to tackle "jungle" projects. After all, to do this job properly, one must frequently get down on hands and knees and crawl around under large shrubs and trees. How else can a person remove vines and saplings from under a beautiful old azalea or camellia? Most lawn maintenance crews are not trained in horticulture and are not skilled in the care of shrubs and perennials and trees.

May I encourage you to subscribe, because, it is:

free.

specific to Columbia, SC

gardening is learned over the years & is an exercise in experimentation

passed along from one gardener to the next...one tip @ a time

May I also encourage you to forward this magazine to any of your friends who you think might be interested in ways to get more joy out of life.

Our garden writers want you to get more joy from your yard. That can happen for you as you begin to employ the tips in this newsletter. If you decide to join us on our quest for beauty, you will be glad you did because you will have engaged your body, mind and soul in the process. So may I encourage you to just take a few minutes to look over this magazine, pick out a few things you want to try, then begin to try them in your soon-to-be-famous Garden of Eden.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

It's easy to subscribe to the **FREE** monthly e-Newsletter. **Email** your request to info@jungletaming.com.

Monthly Horticultural Newsletter and Southern Master Gardening is distributed free of charge each month by Jungle Taming, LLC, an upscale 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.

Amy's Horticultural Tasks



April

Annuals

Keep transplants well watered and mulched to help them get rooted in before summer's heat and humidity arrives. Liquid fertilizers can be applied every two weeks to get new plants off to a good start. Slow release fertilizers should be used at planting time and not be needed again until mid summer. Watch out for aphids and whiteflies.

Turf

- Repair bare patches or replant large area using seeds or sod when the average daytime temperatures stay above 60 degrees. Water newly seeded or sodded turf to encourage rapid establishment. Wait at least two or three weeks after the turf has completely greened up before fertilizing according to soil test recommendations.



Fire Ants

Pesky, painful creatures

If fire ants have cropped up in the turf now is the best time to control them using the two step method.

Step 1. Broadcast a fresh-bait insecticide over the entire landscape. Apply the bait when the workers are foraging for food. In the spring and fall, this is during the warmer daylight hours.

In the summer, apply the bait in late afternoon or evening when the ants are foraging. Distribute the bait with a handheld seed spreader. Make one or two passes over the area at a normal walking speed to apply the recommended rate. Most mounds that receive this slow-acting bait treatment will eventually be eliminated.

Step 2. No sooner than seven days after applying the bait, treat only those mounds that pose a threat to people. These mounds are located near walkways, play equipment, and other areas where your paths cross. Use an approved fire ant insecticide product following label directions.

Perennials

Plant perennials now and apply slow release fertilizers. Many perennials can be divided now or in the fall. Watch out for aphids, whiteflies, and slug or snails.



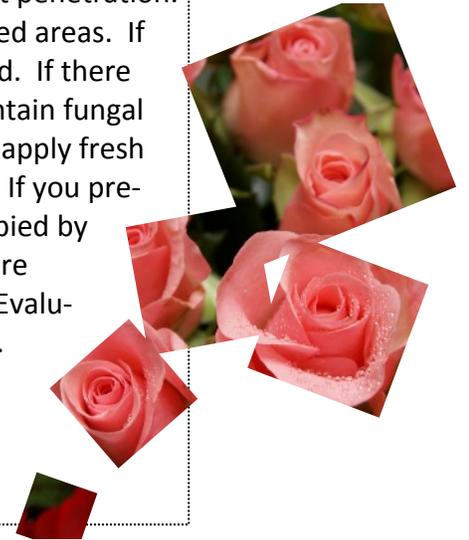


Amy's Horticultural Tasks



Roses

Prune roses to buds that point outward. This encourages good air and sunlight penetration. Dark colored canes indicate dead wood. Cut back an inch below these darkened areas. If the center of the cane is discolored, cut back further until white pith is exposed. If there are no live buds, remove the entire cane or branch. Last year's mulch may contain fungal disease spores that can infect your rosebushes. If you haven't done so already, apply fresh mulch to blanket the old mulch. Keep the layer between 2 and 3 inches thick. If you prefer to remove the old mulch, apply it to other areas of the landscape not occupied by roses or till it in as compost. Fertilize once-blooming roses in early spring before growth begins. Repeat-blooming roses should be fertilized only if necessary. Evaluate the growth and appearance of the plant to decide if fertilizing is necessary. Only one or two applications may be necessary during the season if you use a slow-release fertilizer. Water after application to make sure the nutrients are available to the rose. Inspect your roses for aphids and spider mites.



Shrubs

Continue to plant shrubs. Pay strict attention to watering to help them get established. If you're unsure of extent of winter injury, wait until growth starts before removing dead wood. Prune spring-flowering shrubs as their blossoms fade. Prune out dead, damaged, or pest-ridden branches first. Avoid using heading cuts to prune them into mushrooms or meatballs. Rather, use thinning cuts to remove renegade limbs and to accentuate their natural shapes. To prune forsythia, quince, nandina, or other multistemmed shrubs, cut off a few of the older central stems right at ground level so new ones can spring up and take over. Prune azaleas only if they require it. Thin wayward branches. Cut back branches that have just a ring of leaves at the top. Watch out for aphids, whiteflies, and spider mites. Azalea lacebugs suck sap from the undersides of azalea leaves, creating damage that appears as stippled or blanched areas on the surface of the leaves. Look for tea scale on the undersides of leaves on camellias and hollies. They will appear as white spots.

Trees

Fertilize palms with a slow-release fertilizer that has an analysis such as 18-6-12 or 15-5-10. Palms also benefit from fertilizers containing magnesium and other micronutrients. Epsom salts are a great source of magnesium. Place a cupful around your palm once a month and water it in.



**Amy's Horticultural Tasks**

About Amy



My name is changing. For many years I have written under the name of Amy Bledsoe, but on April 13th, I will have the honor of marrying Jeff Wright, and so you will see a different name appearing on my articles. I'm not going anywhere, and will continue to live and work in the Columbia area. I can still be reached at the same e-mail address for some time to come, but will be transitioning to a new one that reflects my name change eventually. My cell phone number will remain the same. Bill Kunze at Jungle Taming will always be able to put you in touch with me.

I'm excited to be transitioning into this new phase, of my life and look forward to having a brand new yard to plant in!

Amy, who has a degree in horticulture, is a Certified Nursery Professional, Pesticide Applicator, Environmental Landscaper, Arborist, and Landscape Technician, and has been in the horticultural industry for several years as a garden center employee, lecturer, consultant, and designer. She was the recipient of the 2002 Horticulture Student of the Year award from the SC Nursery and Landscape Association. She is currently the landscape designer for the City of Columbia, and is a member of the SC Nursery and Landscape Association and the Greater Columbia Landscape Association. 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.

International Certified Arborist, and Certified Environmental Landscaper

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Growing Little Green Thumbs

Dropping In

Nothing could be finer than to be in South Carolina in April where azaleas bloom beside each door whispering about rainbows, daffodils tulips and more... The Garden Club of South Carolina invites you to Garden Parties from the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains to the southern coastal regions! Nothing creates a love for gardening more than walking along beautiful garden paths. Each garden, hand-crafted by its owner, teaches a lesson. You'll learn how to grow your own vegetables, design prettier borders, and create outdoor rooms. Explore historic properties, contemporary landscapes and horticultural sculpture. Ride on roads less traveled and explore a glorious variety of gardens throughout small-town South Carolina.

A Lizard's View of Pink Azaleas



Sharing drop rooted branches from azaleas with gardening friends is a joy I learned from my mother. In spring, when the leaves were raked away from the azaleas, she would discover bottom branches that had taken root in the soil. To prevent disturbance of the roots she would find rocks to hold them in place. Then, gardening friends would start dropping in with their hearts set on seeing these colors in bloom in their gardens. My mind touches yesterday and I can see her bare hands caked with black dirt cutting a stem with pruning shares to separate it from the parent plant, lifting the shallow rooted baby plant with a spade and wrapping it within a newspaper page folded, twisted and secured with a rubber band. If branches were touching the ground but not yet rooted, she placed rocks to hold them against the soil. Soon they would take root and be ready for friends dropping in or a new spot in her garden. (Important fact: Prune azaleas immediately after spring blooms are spent.) Ruby plans to attend the Saturday, April 27 reenactment at the Cross Keys House in Union County, as it was the former home of her first grade teacher, Miss Bess Long Wilburn.

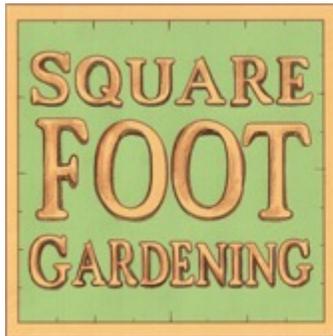


Ruby has an Ed. D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of South Carolina. After retiring as an educator, she developed her artistic abilities and illustrated her first nonfiction children's science book, *Earth Turns on Its Axis*, and... She has another book under production called *Growing Little Green Thumbs*.

Ruby DeLoach Author, Retired Educator

Email: rhdeloach@aol.com

www.crookedcreekart.org/deloach.htm



Square Foot Gardening or SFG is a method of gardening that uses raised beds filled with a perfect soil blend and perfect spacing of plants to create a produce garden at home.

...But I don't know how to Garden, and I kill everything.

SFG can be taught in less than 15 min. All you need to do is follow these simple steps:

- 1 Build a box.
2. Fill with a perfect soil.
3. Add a grid and start planting.

It really is that easy.

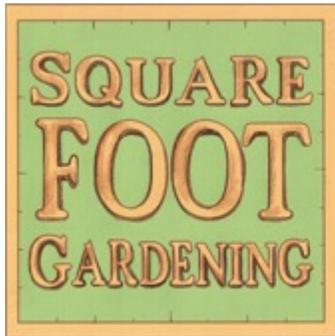
...But I don't have time

SFG takes all the work out of gardening. There is no tilling up the existing ground – you don't use it – you lay a weed cloth down on top of your soil – build or place a raised bed on top of the weed cloth and start gardening. This method also uses 80% less water than the traditional method as we only water the plants by squares and not the whole garden. No weeding – that's right – No weeding is required because the soil you are starting with won't have weed seeds already present.

...But I can't afford it

SFG can be built out of anything! Well, pretty much anyhow. You can use any lumber you have around, you can use cinder blocks or pavers. My mother took an old twin waterbed frame and turned it into the perfect 4x8! The produce grown in the SFG will save you up to 500.00 per month per box and family member fed from the garden.

PERFECT SOIL?



What is this “perfect” soil ?

We call it Mel’s Mix after our Founder Mel Bartholomew. He has created the recipe for this blend over 36 years and found it will grow almost everything in only 6 inches of soil because the plant has everything it needs to be happy and healthy.

1/3 Coarse Vermiculite – Helps retain and release moisture. Do not replace this ingredient with perlite – the vermiculite is a mineral and has wont float to the surface of the soil when watering.

1/3 Peat Moss (or Coco Peat) – has the unique ability to retain and release water while encouraging good soil aeration.

1/3 Blended compost – this is important – make sure you find a good blend – at least 5 different sources – like poultry , manure, green waste, mushroom, worm castings, blood meal, bone meal, kelp meal, cottonseed meal, or alfalfa meal– home made compost works great too !

Use these ingredients in equal portions by volume not by weight.

What size does this garden need to be ?

Start out with a 4 foot by 4 foot by 6 inch deep box for each adult in the home. For a child make a smaller version using 3 foot by 3 feet boxes.

What’s with the grid?

The grid is placed directly on top of the soil – this is a visual key for the actual plant spacing. The grid will give you 1 foot by 1 foot squares (hence Square Foot Gardening) each square will equate to one crop. So in the standard box you will have 16 crops. In a child’s box only 9. You will plant a pinch of seeds or a transplant according to the size of the plant.

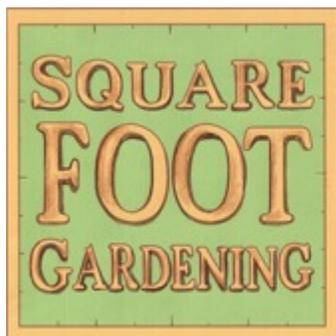
12 inches = 1 per square

6 inches = 4 per square

4 inches = 9 per square

3 inches = 16 per square





How do I learn more ?

Come by and see us at 9005 Two Notch Road #2 Columbia SC
Call us at 803-397-2816

Visit our websites www.squarefootgardening.com and www.squarefootgardening.com - Mel writes a blog with tons of how to and questions and answers at www.melbartholomew.com

The Square Foot Gardening Foundation has moved the national headquarters from Eden, Utah to Columbia SC to help promote our mission of healthy eating and self reliance through gardening. We are a 501c3 non-profit and we strive to donate every dollar we can back into community gardens and school programs.

If you are interested in hosting an event or lecture please call our office or email us at thestore@squarefootgardening.com. Place in subject line I want to host an event.



Victoria has been with Square Foot Gardening for many years and has helped to build the foundation to the level it is today. She brings her charm and business sense to the foundation. Come see her!



GARDENING for EVERYONE

by Donald McInnes

English Ivy

It Doesn't Mature Until It Grows Up

The above title may sound redundant, but let me explain. Many plants go through transformations as they age. A familiar example may be our native red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*. Young red cedars are quite prickly. Their needles are sharp, and they are uncomfortable to brush up against. They're probably less attractive to deer and other herbivores than they would be if it weren't for the prickles. When red cedars get to be more than a few years old, they start to replace their prickly foliage with needles that are flat, scale-like and much softer. You can see photos of red cedars, including the different leaf types by coming to this post at www.JungleTaming.com - we have all the links there.

English ivy, *Hedera helix*, also undergoes a transformation as it matures. The leaves of young ivy are lobed—the shape is suggestive of a maple leaf. When mature, its leaves lack lobes, and the shape is more like that of a teardrop. Unlike junipers, or humans for that matter, the transformation to the adult form doesn't happen when ivy reaches a certain age. English ivy will

remain in juvenile mode unless it climbs vertically. If allowed to climb and reach up out of the shade, it will flower and produce clusters of small black berries.

For an ecologically minded gardener like me, this is a very important revelation. English ivy is one of the worst scourges on our wild lands and forests. Birds spread the berries far and wide, and the resulting plants climb up and over our native vegetation, weighing it down and depriving it of light. English ivy is on many states' noxious weed lists, and its sale and import has been banned in Oregon. It's like kudzu, with a better press agent (I think it's the "English" in its name—"English Ivy" brings to mind tea and crumpets and *Mary Poppins*, whereas "kudzu" sounds like a giant monster from a Japanese horror movie). Because ivy won't make berries in its juvenile state, it can still be a benign component of our landscapes—as long as it's not allowed to climb and undergo the transformation to reproductive maturity.

If you've got a bed of English ivy, I urge you to consider replacing it someday with plants

that are more wildlife friendly (perhaps with our state flower, Carolina jessamine, or Virginia creeper underplanted with spring bulbs). If you want to keep your ivy, please don't let it grow vertically—keep it from ascending trees, houses and fences to keep it from reproducing. All it takes is cutting it back to the ground a couple of times a year. Your trees (which won't be smothered), your house (which won't have its mortar or its paint damaged) and your neighbors (who won't have as many young ivy seedlings to pull) will thank you.

More links and information on English ivy and its ecological threat can be found at our website.

Come see us -
www.JungleTaming.com!



GARDENING
for
EVERYONE

by Donald McInnes

About Don

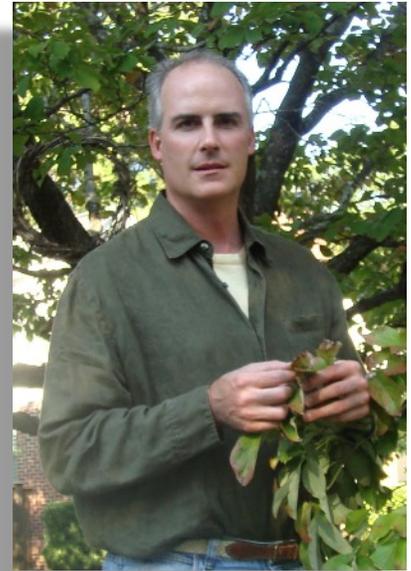
Donald McInnes, Ph.D., has degrees in biology from Duke, Northwestern and Florida State. He has worked for Clemson Extension in Richland County for more than a decade, assisting thousands of consumers with landscape, garden, wildlife and pest control questions. He is also the owner of Southeastern Environmental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

Donald McInnes, Ph.D.

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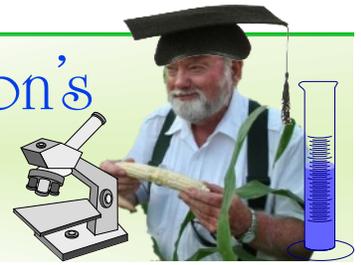
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Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



Variable Level Container Gardening

“GROWING ABOVE THE FRAY”

As previously stated, there are three methods to grow a garden, (1) traditional gardening, (2) raised gardening and (3) and container gardening. These three methods have their advantages and disadvantages. One year ago, I was asked to give a presentation to a group of former patients that had undergone hip and knee replacements. The idea was to assist them and others that had physical disabilities to enjoy gardening without the associated physical stresses. Traditional gardening and container gardening was out of the picture. Both of these gardening methods require a lot of bending and lifting. Raised gardening was more suitable, however, those patients confined to a wheel chair or walker were at a disadvantage.



There must be a better way,
a way known as adaptive gardening.

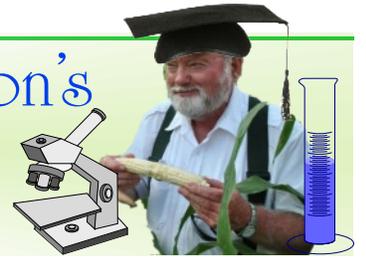
I had been thinking about a way that a person in a wheel chair could ease up to a container, push a button, the container would rise from the ground and the wheel chair could be maneuvered placing the legs and knees beneath the container. Containers positioned on table tops would accomplish this, but could not be lowered or moved. One night about 3:00 in the morning, I awoke, thinking about this new method of growing, and it dawned on me that an electric hoist could be employed over the container to raise and lower it. The problem was, how do you fasten a cable to a container? Then I remembered that my grandfather had a wooden tool box with a horizontal wooden handle attached to 2 vertical wooden pieces attached to 2 sides of the wooden box. A cable could be attached to the center of the horizontal handle to raise and lower the container to the desired level.



The gardener in the pictures is Ed Wagner, a friend of mine who has had both knees operated on for knee replacements. Next month, you will be reading about the beautiful and mouthwatering tomatoes that were grown. Happy Gardening!
Professor Ron.

Timely Tips

Professor Ron's



About Ron

Ron 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 teacher at Midlands Tech, and was honored as the Adjunct Professor of the Year in Continuing Education in 2006. As owner of Cowart Landscaping Consulting, LLC, Ron's goal is to "arm the homeowner with knowledge."

Ron Cowart

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JUNGLE TAMING

WITH BILL KUNZE

Miss Patsy's Secret Weapon Recipes



Corned Beef Brisket with BBQ Sauce

This is a recipe I have been using since the 1960s. Each delicious bite is savored as fit for a king. It goes very well with steam cabbage and potato salad. Left-overs make a tasty Ruben sandwich.

4 – 5 lb. corned beef brisket

Cooked according to directions on package

Add additional bay leaf and garlic.

When done, cool in it's liquid for 45 min. Drain meat and place in shallow baking pan. Start oven at 350 degree F.

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.



BBQ Sauce Ingredients

2 Tablespoons Butter
1/3 cup plus 1 full Tablespoon
brown sugar.

1 Tablespoon prepared mustard
1/3 cup ketchup

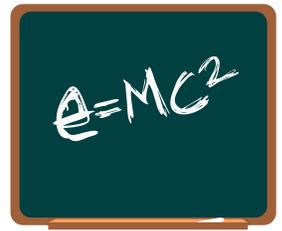
3 Tablespoons cider vinegar
2 dashes grown cloves



Miss Patsy



Classes to Further Learn



Want to learn more about how to take care of your property & possibly convert that knowledge into your own lawn care, landscaping, or nursery business, then you may want to enroll in the Adult Evening educational courses offered through the Continuing Education Program of Midlands Tech.

Most courses are taught @ the N.E. Campus, located in the Research Park, near the intersection of Farrow Rd & I77. For more info click on:

<http://mtconline.midlandstech.edu/CeClassCatalog/scheduleopen?v=SCEHOR&pr=cehor> for course description & dates, location, registration. Note: if not enough people enroll to justify paying the professor, then the course will not be taught @ that time & your money will be refunded.

4.18 to 4.21

Midlands Spring Plant & Flower Festival, State Farmer's Market, near intersection of I77 & I26. This is the SC Dept of Agriculture's introduction to Spring.

4.27

Sparkleberry Faire, N.E. Columbia across from the Village @ Sandhills Shopping Mall. This event attracts about 25000 people each year.

5.9 to 5.11

Columbia Plant & Flower Sale, near the intersection of Garner Ferry Hwy & Atlas Rd.

5.18

Forest Acres Festival, Athletic fields of AC Flora High School, between Forest Dr & Beltine Rd on Falcon Rd close to Richland Fashion Mall

8.7 to 8.9

Palmetto Health System Employee Discount Advantage Vendor Fair (open to employees only), Baptist & Richland Memorial Hospitals, downtown Columbia

9.27 to 9.29

Midlands Fall Plant Festival, State Farmer's Market, near intersection of I77 & I26.

4.22 starts
Arboriculture

5.7 starts
Woody Plants & Shrubs

5.8 starts
Landscape Construction

5.9 starts
Lawn Care

7.8 starts
Soil Management

7.9 starts
Landscape Design

7.10 starts
Annuals & Perennials

8.13 starts
Irrigation (taught off campus @ local irrigation equipment supplier WP Law, located near the intersection of I26 & Hwy 378)

8.15 starts
Woody Plants & Shrubs

9.4 starts
Pests in the Landscape

9.9 starts
Plant Growth & Development

10.8
Landscape Design

10.10 starts
Landscape Management

11.4 starts
Landscape Construction

COME SEE US!