

JUNGLE TAMING

MONTHLY HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

803.463.2655

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August, 2012

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

Amy's August Horticultural Tasks

Written by Amy Bledsoe

Annuals



Turf



Perennials



Roses



Shrubs

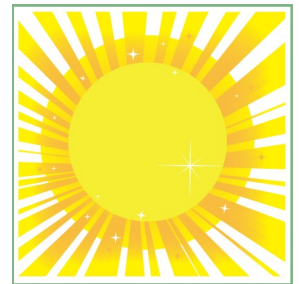


Trees



Annuals

Well, if July wasn't hot enough for you, then August ought to do it! At this point, you can coast a little through the heat if you have been diligent with your plant care. Keep an eye on your annuals to make sure that the irrigation is working. Even two days without water can mean death to plants that are accustomed to regular watering. Replacing plants now is nearly impossible as most nurseries are not re-stocking summer plants. Deadheading will keep your annuals blooming. Take pictures of your best looking sites and note which plants performed best under our brutal heat conditions to re-use in the future. Do not apply any chemicals in this heat if possible.



Turf

August is not the time to try to establish a new turf area. Watch for damage from mole crickets, beetles, and chinch bugs. Be sure to vary mowing patterns and keep grass cut a little higher now because of the heat.

Perennials

Heat and drought-tolerant workhorses of the perennial world are really showing off now. Make note of which perennials performed best. Consider dividing some of these in the fall or spring to use in new areas. Many perennials will get a second bloom if they are deadheaded now, such as Coreopsis, Coneflowers, and Black-eyed Susans. Some daylilies are prone to a disease called rust. This looks like bright orange spots on the leaves. Remove and bag any debris that has this disease to keep it from spreading. There is no cure for it, but good preventative steps will go a long way toward stopping the spread. Do not remove healthy daylily stalks until they are completely dried and come away freely when pulled. Don't be too quick to reach for a chemical to remove caterpillars from your perennials. These are often the caterpillars of butterflies. Birds have babies in their nests right

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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.

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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.

Gardening for Everyone

What's Bugging My Plants?

Written by Donald McInnes, Ph.D.

Don't be surprised if you see a little more insect damage than usual this summer. This winter's mild weather has resulted in insect populations being more vigorous than usual this spring and summer. Some of the insect pests that we don't see much of until summer showed up considerably earlier than in most years. Take pickleworms for example. These are the moth caterpillars that you may find dining inside the fruit of your cucumbers and other members of the squash family. In most winters, the population is killed back to frost-free regions of south Florida. It takes a few months most years for the moths to fly north and find our gardens in SC. This year folks were seeing them mid-spring. (See <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/pickleworm.htm> for more information on pickleworms.)



Diagnosing insect damage is not always straightforward. There are a number of other things that eat plants in our gardens, from mites and slugs to rabbits and deer. As a rule, damage to plants caused by mammals will be "larger" than that caused by bugs—the bite and the appetite of a caterpillar are dwarfed by those of a deer (or a rabbit or a squirrel or a mouse...).



Slug Damage

Slug and snail damage is easily confused with that caused by some insects. Slugs and snails have rasping mouths and scrape away the plant tissue they ingest. Under a magnifying glass, the edges of damage from slugs and snails resemble torn newspaper. Damage from beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers and other chewing insects looks more like paper cut with scissors. Slugs and snails are easy to check for. If they are present in high enough numbers to cause noticeable damage to your plants, you should have no trouble capturing them with a beer trap (www.lhwmp.org/home/publications/publications_detail.aspx?DocID=PsNaozollas%3d, www.ericamulherin.com/blog/2011/05/05/garden-check-in-slugs-wars).

Mites and several types of insects have needle-like mouthparts and damage plants by piercing and sucking. It can be difficult to distinguish mite damage from that caused by thrips and some other very small insects, but fortunately the first thing to try, insecticidal soap, is the same for all of them. Larger piecing-sucking insects like stinkbugs, boxelder bugs, leaf hoppers and plant hoppers won't be controlled with soap, but are seldom found in large enough numbers to do much damage. An exception is that stink bugs, squash bugs and some other true bugs can do consid-

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Professor Ron's Timely Tips

Does Your Lawn Suffer from Low P?

Written by Ron Cowart

Today's commercials on radio are more to the point than commercials of days gone by. One of today's commercial starts out, "Men, do you have low T?" Of course, we know the symptoms: low drive and no energy.

The question I am asking you homeowners is: "Does your lawn have low P?" P stands for phosphorus, the second number on the fertilizer bag. A fertilizer bag labeled 16-4-8 contains 16% nitrogen, 4% phosphorus and 8% potassium. This fertilizer grade is advised by the industry professionals when there is no soil test on which to base a recommendation. A fertilizer bag containing the three numbers is "commonly" called a complete fertilizer although a good fertilizer should include three other macro-nutrients: sulfur, calcium and magnesium and the micro-nutrients.

We have a problem. Our yards have a low P disorder. The visual symptoms of phosphorus deficiency are thin turf, browning dead grass roots, and a purplish leaf color. Over 80% of the yards that I have visited since the beginning of the year have had low levels of soil phosphorus. The majority of the homeowners have been applying fertilizers with little or no phosphorus. The reasons for this situation may be the following:

1. Homeowners purchasing fertilizer recommended by untrained store employees.
2. Failures to soil test every one to two years and follow recommendations.



The solution for low P is to take a soil sample to your local county extension office and show the results of the soil report to your lawn and garden distributor. They will be able to provide you with the fertilizer or the equivalent they have in stock. Read the label and make sure it is a slow release fertilizer.

Remember, the time to apply fertilizer to your lawn is from the third mowing date after green-up (April/May) to the middle of August (August 15). Fertilizer applied after this date may cause your lawn to "stay happy" and not begin to go into the fall dormancy.



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Growing Little Green Thumbs

Found a Peanut, Found a Peanut, Found a Peanut Just Now!!!

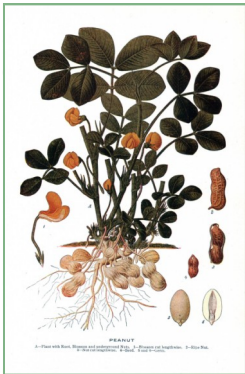
Written by Ruby Haycock DeLoach

Found A Peanut Tune: "Glementine"

Found a pea - nut! Found a pea - nut! Found a pea - nut just now. Just
 It was rot - ten. It was rot - ten. It was rot - ten just now. Just
 Ate it any - way. Ate it any - way. Ate it any - way just now. Just

now I found a pea - nut, found a pea - nut just now.
 now it was rot - ten it was rot - ten just now.
 now I ate it any - way ate it any - way just now.

Are you traveling down memory lane and singing along? The next time you enjoy peanuts with children, introduce them to the entertaining "Found a Peanut" song for children. There are web sites that play the music and provide lyrics.



Did you know that when children crack peanuts open, they are strengthening their fine motor skills?

Young children do not know that peanuts are seeds that grow underground. Yellow blossoms appear on the shrub-like bushes above the soil, but as they mature a vine-like protrusion grows down into the soil. This is where the peanut is formed and grows. It takes about five months of growing to be ready for harvest.

Roasting raw peanuts is fun for all. Spread peanuts out on a shallow cookie tray and roast for 20 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Enjoy the aroma as they roast. Cool before shelling. Roast an extra two cups of shelled peanuts and make peanut butter in a food processor. Add 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil for smoothness and 3 tablespoons of honey for sweetness. Add salt to taste. Fresh peanut butter must be placed in a sealed container and refrigerated.

Amy's August Horticultural Tasks

Cont'd from Page 1

now and are working hard to feed them. Allow them to do some of the work of removing insects.

Roses

Everblooming roses could benefit from a light feeding of a water soluble fertilizer this month.

Shrubs

Little or nothing should be done to shrubs now. It's a good time to note which shrubs may need to be replaced in the fall when planting times comes around again.



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Gardening for Everyone

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erable damage to fruits and vegetables, and more toxic or labor intensive control methods are needed (e.g. www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_pests/veg_fruit/hgic2207.html).

I wish I could point you to an easy to use web resource to solve mystery damage to your plants, but I'm not aware of one. The best thing you can do is to catch whatever is causing the damage in the act. If you don't recognize the culprit (and it's not a mammal or bird), try to collect it. I recommend going to the Google images page and searching the name of your damaged plant followed by "leaf damage" (or other appropriate term). Scroll through the photos and try to match the damage and the critters you see.

I would like to share three websites, should you like to pursue plant problem diagnosis further: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-714/426-714.html>, www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id194/id194.pdf, www.agnr.umd.edu/extension/gardening/mastergardeners/gardeningtopics/plantdiagnostics/DiagnosingInsects2007.pdf. They are from the state Extension services of Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland, respectively. I would also urge you to take advantage of Clemson Extension's resources—you can find information on submitting plant and insect samples for ID and control recommendations at www.clemson.edu/plantclinic.

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 Haycock 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 seenvdes@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.



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Food for Mind, Body & Soul

Miss Patsy's Secret Weapon Recipes

Pan-Broiled Steak and Mushrooms

Written by Patsy Cowart

This receipt was found on two old 3 x 5 note cards in my mother's handwriting. I remember her cooking this many years ago. It was the preacher's favorite. Try it, you'll like it!

-Miss Patsy

- 2 ½ lbs. sirloin steak, 1" thick
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 5 Tablespoons butter
- 1 Tablespoon oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups fresh or 6 ounces canned sliced mushrooms, drained
- ¼ cup green onions, chopped
- ½ cup dry white wine



Wipe steak with damp paper towel. Rub sides with garlic and pepper. In large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter and oil until very hot but not smoking. Add steak and cook over high heat 6 minutes. Turn and cook 5 or 6 minutes longer for rare. Remove to heated platter; sprinkle with 2 teaspoons salt. Keep warm.

Add 2 cups mushrooms to fat in skillet. Sauté 4 minutes or until brown. Remove with slotted utensil and place on steak.

Add ¼ cup onion to skillet and sauté 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in ½ cup dry wine. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve browned bits in pan. Remove from heat. Stir in 4 tablespoons butter until melted, pour over steak and mushrooms.

Serve immediately.



Flowers

*Flower, flower, grow for me,
Become a flower from a seed.
Grow your roots, and a stem,
Let the water come right in.*

*Flower, flower, you are true,
You make me happy when I am blue,
You became a flower from a seed,
You did all that just for me.*

~Olivia Taylor



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