

# JUNGLE TAMING

MONTHLY HORTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

803.463.2655

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

## Amy's October Horticultural Tasks

Written by Amy Bledsoe

Annuals



Turf



Perennials



Roses



### Annuals



October brings cooler temperatures by the end of the month, but early October can be tricky for us with warm temperatures. This is traditionally the transition month for annuals when we pull out the warm season annuals and plant cool season annuals in their place. Don't try to plant cool season annuals prior to mid October. Warm temperatures will cause plants to stretch.

Pansies in particular are prone to doing this, and the floppy, weak growth will be susceptible to pathogens. When planting cool season annuals, skip the time-released fertilizers such as Osmocote because they will not release fertilizer during cold weather. Instead, use water soluble fertilizers to get the annuals off to a good start. When planting annuals from cell packs, remember that these plants are still just babies and handle them with care. Never pull them from the cell pack; push them out from the bottom.



### Turf



The fungal disease called Brown Patch that shows up in the spring in St. Augustine grass will actually need to be prevented in the fall. Brown patch shows up as large dead areas. Prevention of this disease includes not fertilizing in the fall and raking up and removing affected areas. Florida Betony emerges in the fall in turf grass and beds, and is an aggressive spreader. Spot treat with Casaron. For more information, go to <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2313.html>. The warm season grasses will begin to go dormant at this time of year. Make sure that all mowing equipment is cleaned up and properly serviced prior to storing it for the winter. Mowing the leaves that fall on turf will chop them up into smaller pieces which will add nutrients to the soil and encourage good microbial activity.



Florida Betony

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### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

It's easy to subscribe to the FREE monthly e-Newsletter. Email your request to [JungleTaming@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://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

# Autumn Jewels

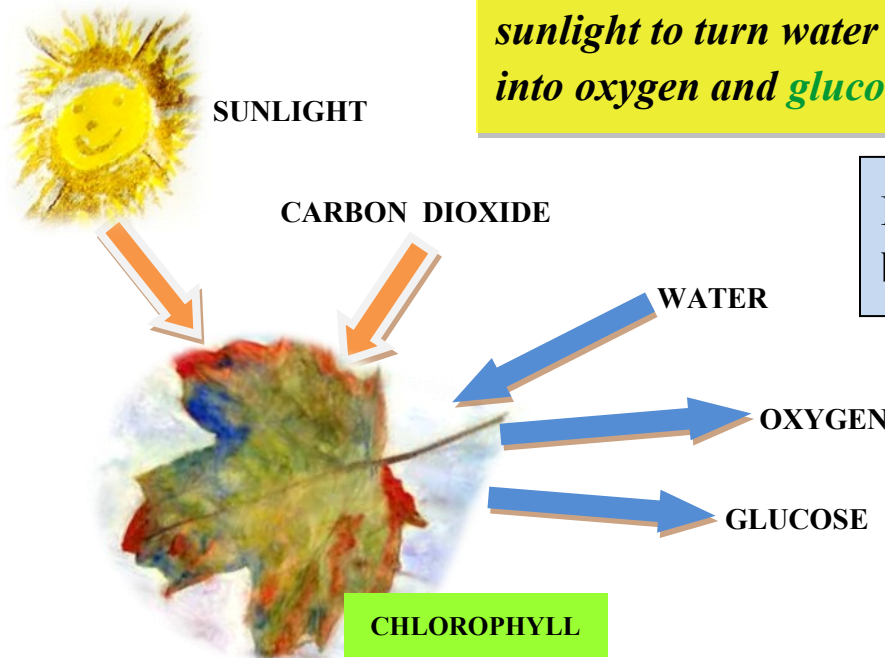
Written by Ruby Haydock DeLoach

October glistens with autumn jewels of red, orange, yellow, brown and purple. Each annual leaf display is painted by the weather which controls the rainfall, shortens the days and places a chill in the air. These are signals to the green leaves that appeared in spring and lasted through summer to stop and store energy through the winter for spring growth.



Watercolor by Ruby

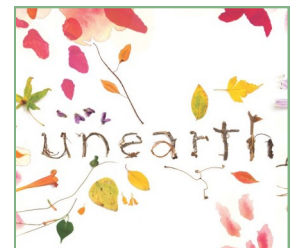
**PHOTOSYNTHESIS:** *Plants use sunlight to turn water and carbon dioxide into oxygen and glucose.*



**People breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide.**

Leaf rubbings make beautiful fall cards. Fold a sheet of paper in half twice to make a card. Pick up a leaf and turn it to the back side so the leaf veins are showing. Place under the front of the card and use a fall colored crayon or pencil to rub across the leaf. Be sure to go all the way to the edges of the leaf. Trace around a variety of leaves so that they overlap and paint with watercolors. Paint leaves that do not touch and allow to dry. Wet paint on dry paper is a good technique. Vary the intensity of the colors by controlling the amount of water. More water makes a lighter shade and less water makes a darker shade.

Join Ruby at 2012 **unearth** at Saluda Shoals Park in Irmo, Sunday, October 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ruby will do readings from her new book. Children should leave her station with a poem, a plant and a picture. Enjoy nature-inspired artistry from 35 artists along the trail. At 5:00 p.m. enjoy the Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra. For the complete schedule of events, go to <http://www.icrc.net/events/unearth.aspx>.



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**EMAIL: [JungleTaming@earthlink.net](mailto:JungleTaming@earthlink.net). TEXT: JUNGLETAMING to 22828.**

Professor Ron's Timely Tips

## Procrastination

Written by Ron Cowart



A good definition for procrastination is as follows:

**procrastination** *noun* 1540s, from L. procrastinationem "a putting off," noun of action from procrastinare "put off till tomorrow," from pro- "forward" + crastinus "belonging to tomorrow," from cras "tomorrow," of unknown origin.

I once knew a man, we'll call him Bill, had a wife named Alice, who always had a long "Honey-do" list for Bill. Eventually the "things to do" on the Honey-do list were resolved in time, on Bill's time. However, Bill was no yard man, and the one thing that Bill hated to do was rake leaves and burn them or, as he would say, "get rid of those darn things."

It was about this time of year (October or November) several years ago that Alice daily reminded Bill it was time to clean up the yard. Bill put it off as long as he could and the holidays were not far off. One weekend Bill said to Alice, "Honey, do you love your nice yard, especially the lawn?"

"You know I love our beautiful lawn, and that's why you need to rake up all the leaves and get rid of them. Maybe start a large compost pile like the Hendersons next door."

Bill thought to himself, "Raking all of these leaves is hard enough, but composting them is too much. If I can wait long enough the winter winds will blow all of them to the Henderson yard next door, and he can compost them." Then he thought of a great idea. "Alice, you said that you loved our yard. Why don't we protect it from the cold winter? Wouldn't that be nice? After all, the man on the radio said something about winter kill." His wife asked, "What shall we do?" That's what Bill was waiting on, and this was his chance.

"Well, we should work with nature and not against it. We don't want winter kill and we want our lawn to wake up next Spring green and happy. Let's let nature lay down a warm blanket of leaves to keep it warm," Bill said with a face full of compassion.

"If you really think so, but you'll have to rake them next Spring. This will give you time to do some of the other chores I have for you," she responded.

I don't know the result of this story, but I think this excuse was not valid the next year. This story is based on a true story that radio personality Bill Benton told over the radio some years back. Thanks for the story, Bill. I've remembered it for many years. Not a bad idea, hmmm.

I'm sitting at my computer finishing this article. Wait a minute, I hear Miss Patsy calling me. What did you say? Did you say rake those darn leaves?

### Amy's October Horticultural Tasks *Cont'd from Page 1*

**Perennials**



Mums, asters, golden rod, swamp sunflowers, anemones, ornamental grasses, and many sedums will be in their full glory right now. It is still a good time to divide many perennials if you didn't get around to it last month.

**Roses**



If a rose has outgrown its spot, now is a good time to move it. Cut out all dead canes. Use soft twine to pull canes together to make it easier to move. Dig the hole for the rose's new home prior to digging up the rose. This will minimize time the roots are exposed to air. Cut the roots 1 to 2 feet from the center of the rose. Use a garden fork to lift the rose from the soil. Do not pick up the rose by the canes. Slide the rose on to a tarp and move it, lifting it by the root ball. Water the roots well to settle it into the new spot. Be very careful to keep mulch away from the canes of roses to prevent fungal diseases.

## Gardening for Everyone

**25 Ways to Make Your Landscape Greener, Cheaper and More Responsible***By Donald McInnes, Ph.D.*

1. **Right plant—right place.** Make sure plants you choose are well suited to the conditions of the site (my favorite resource for this is *The Southern Living Garden Book*). This will give you healthier plants and save you time and money with less maintenance, water, fertilizer and pesticides (and fewer replacement plants to buy).
2. **Avoid plants that require lots of chemical inputs.** Rose breeders have gotten the message and now produce disease-resistant varieties (although they're still heavy feeders). Before shopping for plants, research which varieties thrive without chemical pampering.
3. **Plant natives.** Natives are usually less bothered by pests and diseases and are much more utilized by wildlife. They are adapted to our environment and won't require pampering—less watering, less chemicals, less work. They also pose no threat of "escaping" into the wild (to be our next kudzu or cogongrass). Very few exotic plants are larval food for our butterflies.
4. **Xeriscape.** By choosing drought tolerant plants, you can save water, work and money.
5. **Buy locally produced plants** to get plants adapted to your environment and to minimize the pollution associated with shipping, and the transport of invasive species. (Hitching rides in nursery products is how fire ants conquered the Southeast.)
6. **Plant for wildlife.** You can offset some of the habitat loss caused by development. Consider applying for the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" designation.
7. **Plant a diverse selection of plants.** Plant diseases and pests love to spread from one specimen of a plant to a neighboring plant of the same type. A diverse garden means less disease and fewer pests and better looking and better yielding plants—and less toxic pesticides.
8. **Plant trees.** They clean the air, reduce noise, sequester carbon dioxide, create oxygen, moderate storm water run-off and erosion, and lower our summer temperatures by creating shade and by evaporating water. The services provided by a large tree would cost tens of thousands of dollars every year if you had to pay for them. Start with <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/index.shtml> for info on trees.
9. **Avoid plants suspected to be invasive or potentially invasive.** Many of the world's worst weeds are escapees from horticulture. And many of them are still for sale (Japanese honeysuckle, English Ivy, Asian wisterias, nandina, eleagnus, privet, cogongrass, among many others).
10. **Don't let your English ivy climb**—if made to grow horizontally, it stays in juvenile mode and won't produce seeds that can be spread by birds to natural areas.
11. **Soil test.** By having your soil chemically analyzed, you'll know what to apply to get pH and nutrient levels optimal. Optimal soil chemistry means healthier plants, less waste (and less expense and potential run-off pollutants). Clemson Extension offices will accept soil for testing—for a modest \$6, you'll find out which fertilizer is best for what you want to grow and how much of it you'll need, and the same for lime. See [www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/soils/hgic1652.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/soils/hgic1652.html).
12. **Water wisely.** As infrequently as possible, and deeply when you do. And not when it's raining.
13. **Know what your maintenance contractor is applying.** If you don't need a pre-emergent weed control or an insecticide application, don't let him apply it. If he says you have a grub problem, ask him to show you where he sampled the turf (don't treat unless there are more than ten grubs per square foot). If he says you have mole crickets, ask which species (they are not all pests). Consider that when you walk on the lawn, you'll track the chemicals on it back into your house.



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## Become A Landscape Expert This Fall

*Professor Ron to Teach Two Courses at Midlands Tech*

*Professor Ron Cowart can teach you to landscape like a professional! An initial investment could save you thousands over what you might pay a landscape designer. Register online at <http://mtconline.midlandstech.edu/CeClassCatalog/schedule>.*



**Landscape Design Course (CEHOR-530-11)**  
**Midlands Technical College, Northeast Campus**  
**October 16 to December 18, 2012**  
**Tuesdays, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$179**

*Learn the principles of landscape design, including form and function, symmetry vs. asymmetry, balance, texture, light shadow, composition, use of symbolism, and development of your own style. Study use and design of hardscapes, lighting plans, designing commercial properties, and legal issues associated with the design industry. Learn specific garden styles, preparation of renderings, advanced color theory, spatial arrangements, and water features. The required textbook, **Landscape Plants of the Southeast**, is available at the Beltline Campus Bookstore.*

**Landscape Construction Course (CEHOR-506-09)**  
**Midlands Technical College, Northeast Campus**  
**November 5 to November 28, 2012**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$159**

*Learn site preparation, site drainage, patio, walkway, driveway construction with pavers and various materials, wooden decks, boardwalks, koi ponds, outdoor lighting, fences, segmented retaining walls, proper shrub and tree installation, raised vegetable/flower gardens, outdoor kitchens and a field trip showing most of the above.*



### **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](mailto: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](mailto:cowartconsulting@gmail.com). You can visit Ron's website at [www.cowartconsulting.com](http://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](mailto:rhdeloach@aol.com). Also visit her website at [www.crookedcreekart.org/deloach.htm](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@JungleTaming.com). Visit the website: [www.JungleTaming.com](http://www.JungleTaming.com).

# Food for Mind, Body & Soul

## Miss Patsy's Secret Weapon Recipes

### Quick and Easy Veggie Pizza

Written by Patsy Cowart

- 
- 1 Dr. Oetker Ristorante Pizza Vegetale  
(sold by Food Lion)
  - 10 oz. package of frozen spinach
  - ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
  - ½ cup shredded Mozzarella cheese
  - Dash of garlic
  - Dash of salt
  - 1 Tablespoon Smart Balance Buttery Spread



Mix spinach, butter, garlic and salt, and cook in microwave or sauce pan. Cook frozen pizza as per instructions on box (10 minutes). Spread hot spinach over hot pizza. Distribute both cheeses as topping over spinach and cook another 5 minutes or until cheese melts. Let cool and enjoy!

### Gardening for Everyone *Cont'd from Page 4*

14. **If you can't do the maintenance yourself, hire a maintenance contractor who practices organic methods**, Integrated Pest Management, or at a minimum, scientifically sound methods. Ask if the people working on your property are certified landscape technicians. Be wary of a firm willing to fertilize and lime without first having the soil analyzed.
15. **Opt for the least toxic solution to problems.** EPA approved chemicals aren't always safe. Think about all of the chemicals pulled from the market because we found they were dangerous to our health or the environment only after they were on the market. Research what you're planning to use. Places to start are the Pesticide Action Network ([www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)), the EPA ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)), Beyond Pesticides ([beyondpesticides.org](http://beyondpesticides.org)) and the Washington Toxics Coalition ([www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)).
16. **When you use chemicals, follow the label to the letter.** Use the prescribed equipment, wear the appropriate clothing, apply the correct dose at the correct time on the correct target, and clean-up and store the leftovers appropriately.
17. **Use biological controls when appropriate.** There aren't many for sale locally, but there are scores available by mail. Look beyond ladybeetles, which are prone to fly away.
18. **Re-use bricks, concrete, furniture.** Re-purpose other items as planters and trellises.
19. **Lower your standards** and tolerate a few weeds and a small amount of insect damage.
20. **Avoid gas engines when human-powered and electric alternatives are available.** Reel mowers and hand saws are good exercise. Pollution control devices are not mandated on mowers, blowers and other garden tools, so they can pollute more than cars and trucks.
21. **Follow best-management practices in planting, pruning, mowing, watering.** Well cared for plants will have fewer disease and pest problems.
22. **Handpick weeds before they reproduce and get out of hand.** Or hire a few kids to pull weeds (first teaching them what is a weed and what is a desirable plant).
23. **Organic fertilizers—use'em!**
24. **Know your target pest before spraying.** Most bugs are beneficial or innocent bystanders.
25. **Don't spray fall webworms.** The leaves of the host trees will be lost soon anyway, so the webworms' damage will not hurt the trees. With webworms and tent caterpillars, you can open the webbing with a stick to let birds get the worms.