



Leaf



Notes



The Newsletter of Lee County Master Gardeners

Presidents Message

Dear Gardening Friends,

You know that you live in the South if you feel giddy when the thermometer falls below 90 degrees. I am sure all of you are looking forward to Fall and all the fun activities it brings. Cooler days, swaths of purple ageratum and goldenrod growing along the roadside and pumpkins and ornamental gourds decorating front yards are reminders of this wonderful new season.

Our extension office has been buzzing with activity each Thursday. A full class of interns from Lee and Russell Counties are being trained to become future Master Gardeners. Classes are scheduled to run through October 31. The Lee County Master Gardeners Association is committed to supporting this group and making them feel welcome at our meetings and programs. The Winter 2019 Master Gardener Class provided a delicious lunch for the new class. Mentors will be assigned to each class member.

LCMGA is reaching out to share gardening information throughout Lee County. We will have a table at Beulah Community Day on September 14 and will also be sponsoring a booth at the Lee County Fair September 30-October 5.

The 2020 Spring Stroll Garden Tour will take place on May 16th and 17th. The garden tour takes place every other year and is our organization's main source of income for the funds that are used for grants, scholarships, and projects. Julia Freeman and Jan Holt have been working to find gardens that will be featured on the tour. Most of the gardens have been identified but Julia and Jan would still welcome suggestions. Pat Giordano and Charlot Ritenbaugh have been busy forming the committees that make our Tour work. Please pitch in, volunteer and say yes if you are asked to help. It takes all of us pulling together to make the tour a success.

I have been working on the Garden Tours since 2010, and have learned much about garden design, identifying plants, and finding new plants that grow in our area. It is always fun getting to meet and work with Master Gardeners whom I haven't met before. I am amazed at the talents in our organization. The jobs needed for the tour are varied and there is something that will fit the skill set for each member.

There are many opportunities to gain new knowledge, new friends, and new experiences. If you haven't volunteered yet, I am encouraging you to get involved!

Happy Gardening,

Linda Nowlin

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Quarterly Quote

Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love, or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give. - Steve Goodier



Lee County Master Gardeners Assn
600 S. 7th St Suite 4
Phone: 877-829-5500
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David Peterson, Editor

Tel: 815-276-9209

E-mail: davypeted@gmail.com

Master Gardeners are encouraged to submit articles, ideas, notices, etc. to:

Tara Barr, County Extension Coordinator

Tel 334-3353, Mobile 334-707-5143

E-mail: barrtar@aces.edu

2019-2020 LCMG Officers

President: Linda Nowlin,

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The Master Gardeners Program educates volunteers in science-based gardening and landscape practices and helps them effectively extend research-based information to the public as Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener's role is primarily that of "educator."

There are many different ways our volunteers in Lee County help the Alabama Extension System (ACES) expand outreach to the community. We construct and maintain community demonstration gardens and help implement community projects. A variety of garden-related programs and workshops are offered to the public.

Editors Column

This issue includes several special articles.

First is a poem "Herbicide" by Bill Haynes, published with his permission. (see pages 7 & 8). Many of you will remember Kelly (a MG) Bill's wife.

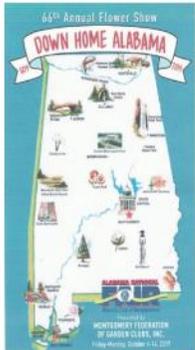
Then there is an article about the large cypress trees in Sky Lake, MS. We made a trip there to witness these majestic trees, you can read about it on Page 7. On our return trip we stayed in Starkville, MS and while there saw an article in the Starkville Despatch by Felder Rushing regarding Crape Myrtle bark scale. (see pages 11-12)

LCMG do a lot of work! As shown on page 6, along with education, check out pages 10 and 13.

Should you have any suggestions for future articles in Leaf Notes, please let me know.



Fall Flower Show



66TH ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW

Celebrating
Alabama's Bicentennial

at

THE ALABAMA NATIONAL FAIR

DOWN HOME ALABAMA

Garrett Coliseum – 2nd Floor
October 4 - October 14, 2019

Presented by

Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs

- Large variety of plants
- Creative floral designs
- Education Exhibit
- Youth Division
- Photography Division

Entry times:

Photography: Pre-register by Sept. 20
 Entries received Sept. 30 Noon-5:30 pm
 1st Show Containers Noon -5:30 pm
 Thurs. Oct. 3
 1st Show Horticulture & Designs
 7:30am-9:30 am Friday Oct. 4
 2nd Show Horticulture & Designs
 7:30 am-9:30 am Wed. Oct. 9

For Information contact:
 Mary Long, General Chairman
 Phone: 334-462-4214
 See www.alnationalfair.org for rules
 under Competitions tab or
www.gardenclubofalabama.org

From Earth Friends

Recycling does work! The photo below of the side panel on a can recycling receptacle at AU states that by recycling just one aluminum can you save enough energy to watch 3 hours of TV.

The second photo is of a display at a Publix store encouraging reuse of plastic bags.

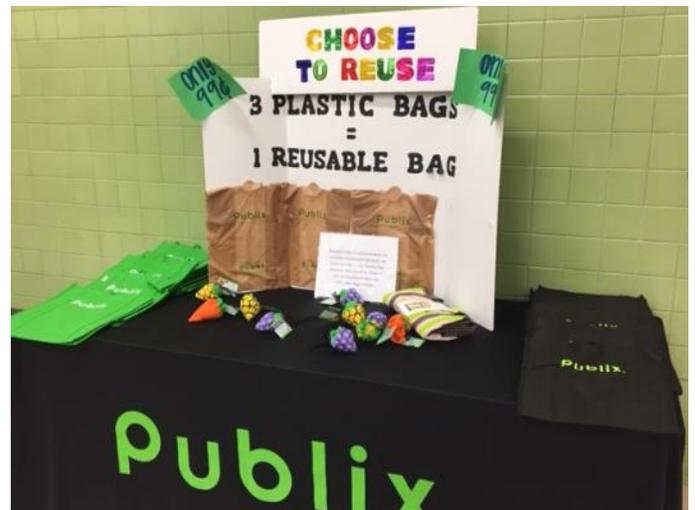


Photo by Pat Giordano



Potpourri

-Charlot Ritenbaugh

The Dewey Decimal Classification, DDC, formerly the Dewey Decimal System, was published in 1876, by Melvil Dewey. Seeking refuge from this summer's heat in the cool, low light of the Auburn Public Library I headed over to the shelves in the 700's, Arts and Recreation. I pulled a newish looking book off the shelf, **712 Reed**. What a gem I found!

Climate-Wise Landscaping,

Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future

Sue Reed and Ginny Stibolt

Foreword by Doug Tallamy

Doug Tallamy's foreword alone is a great energizer. The introduction states, "this book is for anyone who wants to be part of the solution to climate change. What can we do right now, in the landscapes of our own backyards and communities?" This book is full of easy, practical *Actions* that shrink our landscape's footprint, adjust our practices for new, challenging and unpredictable conditions, and assist other species as they adapt to a changing world.

Section X, Materials was spot on for me this summer. The information helped me consider the choices I was making in materials could reduce **my** impact on the climate. Stone, Wood, Metal, Concrete and Earth-en Materials are each evaluated for durability, carbon footprint, potential to be recycled or reused, local availability, impact on wildlife habitat and corridors, and carbon sequestration potential.

I've returned **712 Reed** to the library, head on over and refresh your mind on the DDC with a stroll through the 700s, Arts and Recreation.

Ellen Honeycutt writes a blog, **Using Georgia Native Plants**. On July 21, 2019, her blog entry was titled, *Butterflies Don't Need Flowers (to lay eggs)*. I know, so simple it makes me smile.

Ellen goes on to write "Milkweed is ready for Monarchs once its two inches out of the ground!"

Early this summer my *A. tuberosa* plants bloomed well, but not a Monarch in sight.

Monarchs might love milkweed flowers but they don't need them. They can "nectar" on non-native plants like zinnias and lantana. Bees are the actual pollinators for milkweed flowers which become seed pods and therefore future plants!

Gulf fritillary butterflies lay their eggs on passionvine but they do not use the flowers. Most host plant "flowers" are not required for a butterfly to lay her eggs. Keep growing those good dependable nonnative plants that attract butterflies to dine on their nectar. Go ahead plant known host plants, but don't worry if they do not flower. The next generation of butterflies is in the leaves, *munch, munch*.



Sneak Peek —2020 Spring Stroll

(Mark your calendars for May 16 and 17)

by Pat Giordano

The word "spring" sounds so heavenly this time of year as we watch our own gardens and landscapes wilt for the lack of rain and the ever-present high temperatures. Let's talk about some gardens that you'll be seeing next Spring during the LCMGA biennial garden tour.

Jan Holt, tour co-chair, shares the theme for next May's tour "2020 Spring Stroll, Gardens selected to feed your soul" and explains "the theme welcomes you to join us on a leisurely walk through gardens that reflect the title of the tour." Plan to sit and stay a while at each garden to appreciate the love that the homeowners have for their special oasis.

While talking to numerous home owners to select the 2020 gardens, the committee heard comments regarding the gratification they feel while working, sitting and sharing their gardens. They want visitors to stay and explore their gardens and are eager to share what they love about their special places and how they live in them.

On Raymer Place, the backyard has an arbor-covered eating area and a cozy sitting nook facing a fireplace. These quiet shady areas are in sharp contrast to the open sunny side yard that is perfect for large gatherings.

The garden on Danbury Drive in White Oaks is lush and expansive featuring beautiful classic borders and formal areas as well as natural and casual areas for relaxing on the shore of the small lake. In the natural areas, plenty of seating provides visitors with varied views of the plantings.

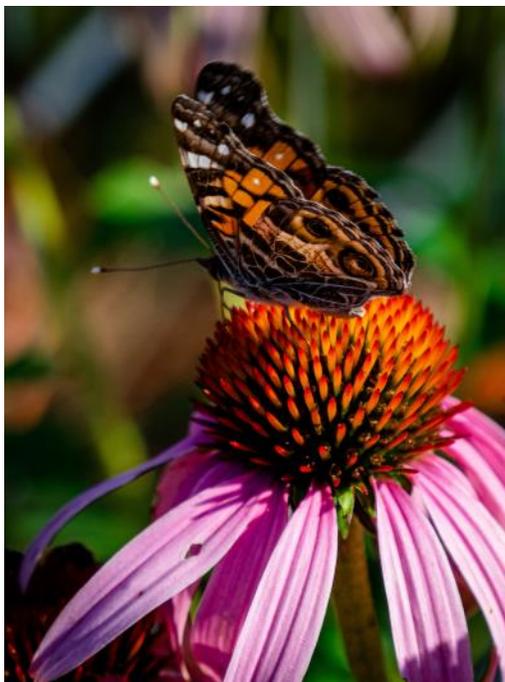
Tickets will be available at the March 4 meeting and at local outlets beginning March 15. You will not want to miss this Spring Stroll.



Danbury Drive — Submitted Photos



Work Day at Kiesel Park



Quarterly Quiz



Do you know the tree and its leaf?

See answer on page 9



Visit to Sky Lake, Mississippi

My wife and I, accompanied by Charlot and Bob Ritenbaugh, set out on July 26, 2019 to see the mighty baldcypress in Sky Lake, Mississippi. Traveling through Starkville, MS we spent the night in Greenwood, MS then headed to Sky Lake (just North of Belzoni).

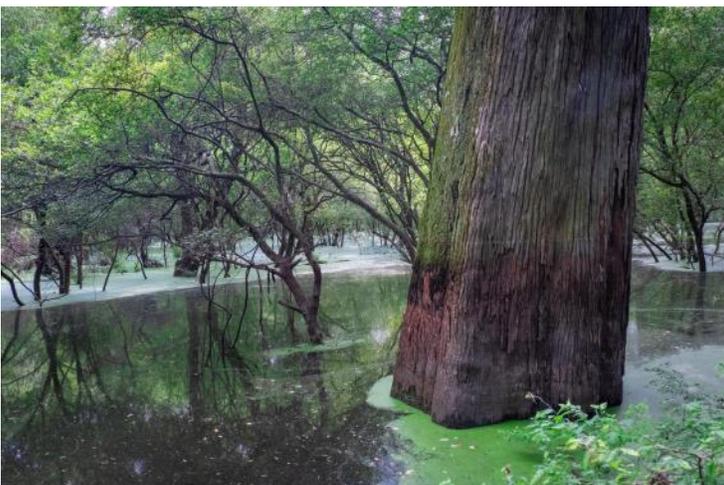
Wildlife Mississippi began working to preserve Sky Lake in the late 1990's. A beautiful half mile boardwalk was built, allowing access to this beautiful and interesting area. The boardwalk was built to blend into Sky Lake's cypress-tupelo swamp as much as possible. It was built 12 feet above the forest floor, allowing visitors ample opportunities for photography and wildlife viewing.

You may also be interested to know that there were no mosquitos while we were there—they apparently don't like cypress trees!

Living dinosaurs of the Delta - Giant cypress tower over us with their extraordinary size, and they humble us with their ability to survive the harshest of natural and human impacts.

Rooted in one place for over a thousand years, these trees hold a myriad of scientific discoveries and untold stories. A testament to survival and splendor, the cypress of Sky Lake offer a glimpse into the past.

Sky Lake was once part of the Mississippi River. It branched off from the main river, forming a distributary, during the Holocene age about 7,700 years ago. Though Sky Lake is no longer a part of the Mississippi River, the sediments deposited here by the river provide nutrients necessary for the trees to grow,





Herbicide

By William "Bill" Haynes

I've never liked working in the yard, especially in hot, humid Alabama. I don't even like to be outside grilling a steak, and I certainly wouldn't eat a meal at our patio table in the summer heat. I like air conditioned spaces, free of insects and sweat. On the other hand, my wife loved

working outside with plants. She created a beautiful yard from scratch, covered in pine straw, with bushes and plants she carefully selected. Don't get me wrong, I always did my share in taking care of the swimming pool, home repair, helping my wife by digging holes and hauling

rocks with the wheelbarrow. I even put in an irrigation system, digging trenches and gluing PVC pipe throughout the property. But, once the yard was finished, she took care of all the maintenance. She used to kneel reverently on a foam pad, pulling each weed, putting

it in a lawn bag for a final trip to the street. That was something I could never imagine doing, unless I died, went to hell, and that was my assignment from Satan himself. Ever since my wife passed on, I've neglected the weeds, and they've taken over the beautiful yard she

created from an unused field. I know, it's my fault the yard has gone to seed, and now I'm paying the price. So lately, I walk reluctantly into the yard, dressed with long sleeves in the summer, old jeans, and sweat socks pulled up over my pant legs to prevent bug bites, ready to

commit serial herbicide. I spray myself with the acrid scent of *Deep Woods Off*, as if I was a guerilla fighter in the jungles of South America. Awaiting me are all kinds of weeds, fleas, ticks, gnats, chiggers, snakes, thorns, and poison ivy. I hate all of these things and what it takes to get

rid of them. My clothes are soaked after ten minutes of work and my glasses steam up with sweat. So, I decided to rely on technology to make the job less daunting. I have a heavy duty mower on wheels that takes down anything green, including some plantings I should keep. With

that mower there is no measuring twice and cutting once. I just carve a swath through the weeds producing a cloud of dust, fleas and ticks, not wanting to stop and determine the genus and species of everything in my path. I have an attachment for my electric drill, a long metal rod

with a claw on the end. I stick it into the weeds and it rapidly winds the vines into a tight bundle I have to remove with a box cutter. I love to watch the vines winding around the claw, slipping toward me through the foliage, like when a kid slurps a long strand of spaghetti. Now, I know

there are people who don't believe in spraying herbicides, and to them I say, "Save the environment on your own time! I'm ready to do whatever it takes." I found a spray called Crossbow, allegedly used in making Agent Orange during the Vietnam Era. I mix it in a sprayer

on wheels, with a battery powered pump, to rain death from the sky on every weed. Unfortunately, I inadvertently strafed three hostas, and some ferns that fell victim to friendly fire. The only thing I have against Crossbow is that I can't see the weeds die immediately.



Herbicide

By William "Bill" Haynes

- Continued

I have to wait for several days to see them gradually wilt and turn brown. I want to be like Johnny Cash in *Folsom Prison Blues*, experiencing the instant joy of shooting a man in Reno, just to watch him die. Last week, I bought a flame thrower, with a cart to carry a twenty pound

propane tank, a ten foot hose and a long-handled flamer. I like to think of myself as a character in a Tarantino movie killing Nazis. The power is intoxicating. The flame thrower immediately withers any weed, and kills it to the root. I relish the instant shriveling of these green interlopers,

destroying their leaves, interrupting their photosynthesis. Unfortunately, I lit my yard on fire several times, once in an area with no hose nearby. So I had to dance around on the burning pine straw stamping out the fire, which unfortunately consumed two azalea bushes and a

hydrangea. Sometimes, as I kick the ashes from my Nikes, or sit sweating on a garden bench, regretting the death of a legitimate plant, I sense my wife is watching and laughing at me. And that doesn't bother me, I know I'm doing the best I can, and I always did enjoy her laughter.

Answer to Quiz on page 5

A **chinaberry tree** is a colloquial name for the tree *Melia azedarach*, which grows natively in Australia, China, and India. This plant has a number of other common names, including White Cedar, Persian Lilac, Bead Tree, and Ceylon Cedar. The plant family to which chinaberries belong is called Meliaceae, a group that also includes trees from which mahogany is obtained.

The chinaberry tree is deciduous, which means that it loses its leaves seasonally. When fully grown, it is typically around 33 feet (ten meters) high, but some specimens growing in the rain forests of Australia may reach 150 feet (about 45 meters) in height. When the tree flowers, it has small, sweet-smelling lilac or purple blossoms. These eventually result in an abundance of yellow, berry-like fruits called drupes, which are an important source of food for many species of fruit-eating birds. The flowers, on the other hand, are typically unpalatable for many animals, including bees and butterflies.

Although the fruit of Chinaberry trees is popular with birds, both the fruit and the leaves are poisonous for humans. They contain toxins that damage the nerve cells, and various kinds of poisonous resin substances. The combination of toxins may even be fatal in some instances. In spite of the toxicity of the leaves, in the past they have been used in a dilute infusion of water to treat uterine cramps or period pains.

The chinaberry tree has been introduced to America and some other temperate countries. When it was first brought into the country it was considered an ornamental tree, and in some areas, plants and seeds can still be bought. Due to its toxicity, it is often considered a pest species in many American states to which it has spread. It is a highly invasive tree which has a tendency to spread rapidly and is extremely difficult to uproot once it is established.

The wood of the chinaberry tree is considered to be of a very high quality. It is typically easy to treat and produces planks that tend to be relatively immune to some of the common problems encountered in wood products, including fungal growth, warping, and cracking. Before the invention of plastic beads, the hard seeds of the chinaberry tree, sometimes called Chinaberry beads, were often used as beads in the manufacture of necklaces. In Europe, monks even used the seeds to make rosaries.



Sensory Garden at Kreher Preserve

by Margaret Holler

The Lee County Master Gardener Association awarded a \$1,000 Grant to see a sensory garden become a reality at the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center. The "Preserve" is administered by AU's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and is currently home to a beautiful Butterfly Garden and productive Organic Vegetable Garden. These gardens are wonderful destinations for visitors and often used in programming but they are nearly a mile from the main hub. In order for more visibility, focused programming and enjoyment to occur, especially for children and physically impaired individuals, this closer destination for a garden will be, and already has been, a wonderful addition.

In the late Fall of 2018 a team of Master Gardeners and others were brought together to clear and prepare an area adjacent to the main hub (amphitheater, pavilion, office...) In early 2019 three 48" L X 24" W X 32" H cedar raised planter boxes were constructed. Then late winter they were brought to the prepared area along with one more 4' X 1' wooden planter box and a very sweet (bird and vine motif) metal bench. As time passed several other additions have been added like a bird feeder, bath and bluebird house, etc.

Planting began in early Spring, just in time for Forest Friends (pre school program) to begin. The Children were able to help and they, and other children, have been keeping everything watered with the child sized watering cans provided. In the taste box they even planted carrot seeds which have been growing successfully.

Seeing the excitement, enjoyment and the learning which has taken place in this peaceful, yet full of life, location is truly, at least for me, a dream come true!

By fine tuning the five senses; young, old and in between will be able to also enliven their sixth sense of Wonder and Curiosity!





In the garden with Felder: Crape myrtles face a tough invader

From the Despatch, July 28, 2019

Forget the snooty debates over "crape murder" pruning; it's a moot point now. We got a real problem. In my lifetime, a fast-spreading insect wiped out most of America's elm trees, and a leafspot disease ruined millions of red Photinias. And nothing we threw at either helped much at all.

Many, if not most, of those trees are long gone, though a few here and there survive, and a few newly-planted ones are far enough apart to be less likely to get attacked. Sadly, in just four or five years a similar situation has reared its head in the Magnolia State that is overwhelming beloved crape myrtles.

I wrote about it last year, but am seeing it in more places and getting worse, with little relief in sight.

Called crape myrtle bark scale, the tiny legless white or grayish bugs with insecticide-resistant waxy shells quickly cover twigs, branches and trunks of trees, usually a few at first but quickly avalanching into crusty masses.

As they feed, they produce a sticky, plant sugary excrement, just like the stuff aphids drip from undersides of leaves of oaks, hackberries, gardenias and a few other plants. That rain dripping from your trees is bug excrement. That's bad enough, but a distinctive black "sooty mold" quickly develops on the drippings, covering everything underneath in black (including my grandmother's concrete chicken).

Other than how it shades leaves which can weaken plants, the sooty mold in itself is harmless. But it has long been a big frustration, because there is no way to prevent aphids and mites from attacking plants, and it's not practical to spray for them. The mold scrubs off with soapy water, or eventually flakes off over winter, but meanwhile it's a really unsightly, sticky mess.

However, an infestation of crape myrtle scale, which may not kill your tree but it's usually too much to bear, dumps their stuff all over, and the sooty mold often turns the entire trees trunks and all, and even the ground underneath, black.

Here's the bad part. From Texas to the Carolinas, the top nonprofit and university experts are saying that treating for bark scale successfully may not be possible, even if you use carefully times pesticides. Some have tried spraying a horticultural oil in late fall or winter to smother overwintering nymphs, or scrubbing. But the current best hope being held out, is soaking the ground underneath plants with a powerful "systemic" insecticide in March, April, May or June, which is when the insecticide is best absorbed into trees.

All the experts, including those at MSU, report that treating in the summer or early fall is much less effective. And that, like spraying for mosquitoes, the recurring problem will likely just return quickly. So, the treatment, using "neonicotinoid", pesticides that are banned in Europe because of how they affect bees, is expensive and has to be repeated, and then with little chance of it working for good.

This is a real heartbreak to folks, including myself, who've invested years in the statuesque trees just to watch them peter out as they reach their peak of beauty and usefulness. But all over the South we're working hard to find a solution to the bark scale. Fingers crossed, but meanwhile, if you want to see good photographs of the insect on crape myrtles, plus the latest recommendations of what to do when (including a link to MSU's latest 2019 MSU report), go to my blog on it at felderrushing.blog. It includes lists of what we can plant next.

Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.



Photos of Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Texas A&M Extension Service





Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage

Dennis Pinkard

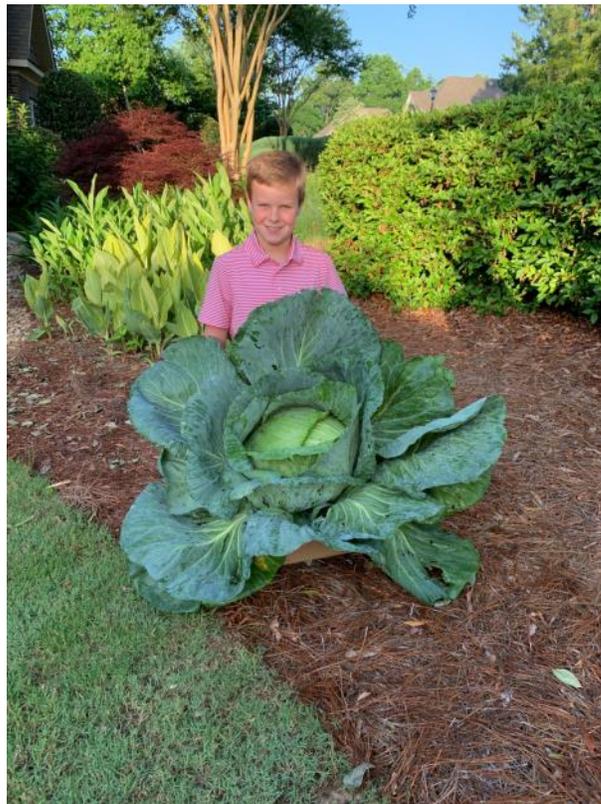
Back in March my next door neighbor, Treavor a 3rd grade student at Ogletree Elementary School, knocked on my door and asked me to help him plant a couple of 3-4 inch cabbage plants that he received as part of the Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program. Bonnie has been offering cabbage plants as part of a school competition since 1996. Teachers from each 3rd grade participating class select the student who has grown the best cabbage, based on size and appearance. That student is entered into a random statewide drawing for a \$1000 scholarship.

Treavor and I planted his two in the bed-liner of a Weeping yaupon that I had planted for his mother, Tracy, a couple years back. Because most of our yards are grass, we have few desirable/available locations. I gave Treavor and his mother a fertilizing and watering schedule and suggested to her that they keep a log of activities, dates, photos, etc. Because we have deer in our neighborhood and the weather was still cool, unlike it has been lately, I suggested that the cabbage, while young, be covered at night and that occasionally he inspect it at night to remove snails, slugs, etc. Treavor is only 10 years old, so I worried somewhat about him carrying out his duties. I am aware that his mother is well organized and helps him pay close attention to his duties.

I visited the cabbages regularly, both day and night, and was pleased with the progress. Treavor did a good job throughout the eight+ weeks allowed before the competition cabbages were brought in for judging. On the morning of the last day of school I met Treavor at 6:30 a.m. to harvest the biggest of his cabbages to take to school and turn in to the judges. I took a scale over and we weighted it at 15.0 pounds the morning he delivered it to school.

Treavor was the winner of his class and a digital image of his cabbage was submitted to Bonnie Plants to be entered in the drawing sometime soon after the September 30. Only the winners are notified about the scholarship.

Since I am only an ornamental gardener, I was not too sure how this would turn out. I did not share my anxiety with Treavor or his mother. I guess I will get another chance to grow an even bigger one when Treavor's sister, two years younger, reaches third grade.





7 Incredible Ways to Get Rid of Weeds in your Garden

Edited By: Violet Tar

Plants, gardens and flowers are the greatest addition to every home. Unfortunately, maintaining the greenery both in and outside the house can be such a nightmare, mostly because of weeds. They can grow in all shapes, sizes, varieties and vigor, and can appear either seasonally or through the year, so keep an eye out!

While some weed plants can be harmless, there are many that can be extremely aggressive and destructive to your plants and garden. Weeds, like dandelions, can also be a major contributor to allergies and aggravate preexisting health conditions like asthma. So those weeds have got to go, and these 7 tricks will help you do it in a jiffy!

1. Let the Water boil!

Who would have known that something as simple as boiling water can be so effective at removing weeds. As a matter of fact, using boiling water on your weeds is much more effective than store-bought packaged weed killers. Just think of it as cooking your weeds straight from the soil.

It's a great way to kill those pesky weeds without much cost or effort. Just remember to be careful while pouring the boiling water, because it can have the same effect on your lovely plants as it does the weeds.

2. Leave Them Thirsty

On the other hand, another seemingly simple way of getting rid of your weeds is to simply deprive them of water. The best way to do that is through various forms of drip irrigation directly over the plants, and away from the weeds, or even implant soak hoses underneath the mulch of the plants.

Without water, germination of weed-seeds is heavily reduced. However, forms of drip irrigation beneath the mulch can be risky and lead to the growth of perennial weeds like nutsedge and bindweed. So keep an eye out for those growers, and make sure to pull them out.

3. A spoonful of Salt

Salt is a necessity in every kitchen. It has been used for various purposes throughout history, though I bet you don't know it's more nefarious uses. In fact, salting the earth is still considered a severe crime in several countries. The sole reason is because even just a pinch of salt can kill plants and makes the ground in the salted area unsuitable for future growth.

Of course, this means that if you're using salt to get rid of your weeds, make sure your aim is precise. A small amount of salt effectively kills the plant and then is washed away without a trace by the next few bouts of rain. However, with large amounts of salt, the damage to the Earth can be so severe, it's considered a form of vandalism, so be very careful!

4. Wet means Pull, Dry means bring out the hoe

The wet seasons are the best time to equip yourself with gloves and tools necessary for pulling out the weeds. If you're going after a big weed plant, you can use a fishtail weeder to pry up tap-rooted weeds, like dandelions.

During hot and dry seasons, pulling the weeds out directly will probably not be an option. However, by using a hoe, you can slice off the weeds just underneath the soil line. This will cause the remainder of the plant to dry up and expire. Steak cutters can also be used to slice the weeds.



7 Incredible Ways to Get Rid of Weeds in your Garden

—Continued
Edited By: Violet Tar

5. Make some shade with newspaper

If killing the weed using boiling water, vinegar or salt isn't your forte, the simplest way to stop nasty weeds from invading your pretty garden would be to lay newspapers on them.

Just cover up your unwanted weed plants with all the newspaper you can find. This essentially cuts off the plant's supply of sunlight, which will ensure that no further seeds will be able to sprout.

6. Off with its head

Removing tiny weeds, especially those with bigger roots, can be difficult and tedious. So for these stubborn plants, the only answer is: chop those heads off! Cutting the head of the unwanted plant reduces reseeding and forces the plant to use up all of its stored energy, which isn't great for its longevity.

Pruning tools can be used to easily "decapitate" your most severe weeds, and even slice off the thorny edges. Of course, there are many ways you can cut your weeds, which is a big advantage because the more you cut the plant, the lower the chances of the plant of reseeding.

7. Pour Some Vinegar

Vinegar is a common household product. Lucky for us, this easily available item can be used to kill even the most persistent weeds and in such an effective matter. Vinegar contains acetic acid which works at killing the leaves, while leaving the roots healthy and intact.

The downside of vinegar is that it only kills the leaves and not the root of the weed. That's why vinegar works best on young weed plants because they do not have enough energy stored up in their roots to regrow the leaves. In fact, frequent application of vinegar to bigger weeds can completely drain any and all of the stored energy in the plant roots, causing it to perish.

Sanskrit Salutation to the Dawn

Listen to the salutation to the dawn,
Look to this day for it is life, the very life of life,
In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of
our existence.

The bliss of growth, the splendor of beauty,
For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only
a vision,

But today well spent makes every yesterday a
dream of happiness.

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well therefore to this day
Such is the salutation to the dawn.



Lilly at Kiesel Park