



# Leaf



# Notes



The Newsletter of Lee County Master Gardeners

## Presidents Message

Dear Gardening Friends,

I love spring with the wonderful colors and smells: yellow daffodils, pink, red, and white camellias, flowering trees, pink budding bushes, green grass, and the wonderful color and smell of fresh mulch. Hope we don't have the white of frost or snow. I am ready to put those spring plants in the soil.

Welcome new interns! Twenty-four eager interns have begun their studies and are already joining us in volunteering on our many community projects. We are so glad to have them. Any Master Gardeners is encouraged to stop by the class during lunch on Mondays to say hello. Welcome also to Dani Carol our regional extension horticulturalist who has recently been assigned back to Lee county. Mal-lory, we will miss you, but glad to have Dani.

So many special spring events involve MG. I encourage you to check out important dates out in New Weeds and be sure you Save The Dates. May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> is our Garden Tour and largest fund raiser. We need you to help advertise, sell tickets and help host a garden. Check for work dates in our demonstration gardens, mulch sales, native plant sale, and city event dates. We hope every MG can be involved on these important events. Special thank you to those MG who are coordinating these events. Master Gardeners success depends on each and every member participating to accomplish our many goals.

Happy planting and don't hesitate to call or email me if I can be of assistance,

Nancy

Nancy Golson, President

## Inside This Issue

Presidents Message	1
Quarterly Quiz	2
Carolina Jessamine	3
Up Coming Events	4
Empty Bowls	5
Garden Myth Busters	6-7
Local Events	8
Check it Out	9-12
Fall Contest Pictures	13
Are Your Daffodils Blooming?	14

## Quarterly Quote

The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is to be one. – Ralph Waldo Emerson





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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.

**Quarterly Quiz**

Is this a flower ?



You decide!!!



## **Carolina Jessamine**

Revised by Joey Williamson, HGIC Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson University, 09/15

Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) is one of the most beautiful vines of the South. It covers fences and trees in open woodlands and along roadsides throughout the Southeast with its slender vines and bright yellow flowers. It is the state flower of South Carolina.

### **Mature Height/Spread**

Carolina jessamine grows to 20 feet or more when grown as a vine. It can also be grown as a ground cover, maintained with a yearly cutting in late spring after flowering to 3 feet or less.

### **Ornamental Features**

Sweetly scented, golden yellow flowers cover the cascading, fine textured foliage from February to April. The trumpet-shaped blooms have 5 lobes, are 1 to 1½ inches long, and are attractive to both butterflies and bumblebees. The shiny evergreen leaves are 1 to 3 inches long on 10-to-20-foot tall vines.

### **Landscape Use**

Carolina jessamine is easy to grow. It is attractive on an arbor where the slender branches hung with yellow flowers can be seen from below. This plant will stay in scale and can be used on decks and porches and near patios and entryways. It is good in containers and as a ground cover along steep banks to help control erosion.

Carolina jessamine tolerates either full sun or partial shade. Flowering is more prolific and foliage growth is denser in full sun.

### **Problems**

All parts of this plant are very poisonous. The sap may cause skin irritation in sensitive individuals. Children can be poisoned by sucking the nectar from the flowers. Insects or diseases are rarely a problem on Carolina jessamine. Deer and rabbits will not eat it.





## Special Event—Slow Gardening

### Alabama Style

Felder Rushing is an 11th-generation American who travels worldwide looking for interesting gardening angles. The graduate horticulturist has written twice weekly newspaper columns for 37 years and hosted a live radio program for nearly that long, including 14 years now as the host of The Gestalt Gardener, one of NPR's most popular gardening programs.

He has written 18 gardening books, and his articles and photographs have appeared in countless magazines, including Fine Gardening, Landscape Architecture, Better Homes and Gardens, Horticulture, Garden Design, Organic Gardening, and the National Geographic; his garden has been featured in many. Southern Living magazine named Felder as one of "25 people most likely to change the South."

The board member of the American Horticulture Society, Fellow of the Garden Writers Association and original Q&A guy for HGTV's garden website has been featured in three full-length articles in the New York Times, most recently for being the founder of the Slow Gardening movement.

When not traveling coast to coast with lectures, he splits his time between his celebrated Mississippi cottage garden and a Victorian terrace house herb garden in Lancashire, England with his partner Susan.

#### **DATE AND TIME**

Thu, April 12, 2018

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM CDT

#### **LOCATION**

The Chapel Of the Waters

1 Chapel Hill Street

PIKE ROAD, AL 36064



## LCMG Garden Tour 2018

Lee County Master Gardeners announce the Biannual Garden Tour 2018. The tour features 10 residential gardens (5 in Auburn, 5 in Opelika) and 2 public gardens.

Dates and times are:

Saturday May 19, 10am - 5pm with lunch available  
11am - 4pm

Sunday May 20, 1pm - 5pm with lunch available  
12:30pm - 2:30pm

Tickets (including lunch) are \$35 if purchased the day of the event, \$30 if purchased beforehand, and \$28 for groups of 10 or more.



Photos to left and above are from gardens on the 2018 tour.

Photos by David Peterson



## Empty Bowls

*LCMG assist in making the fifth annual "Empty Bowls" fundraising event for the Food Bank of East Alabama a success.*



Opelika hosted the 5th annual Empty Bowls event on Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Drive Recreational Studio at 1102 Denson Drive.

Over 1,000 bowls were made by local potters, who donated both their time and energy into getting all of the bowls prepared.

There were many volunteers who, without their help, the event wouldn't have been able to happen, including members of The Master Gardeners of Lee County, who came in and provided all hands on deck to do what needed to get done.

The total raised? \$13,145!!!



## Garden Myth Busters!

### Improving Container Drainage with Gravel

Posted on March 5, 2018 by MGNV Webmaster (Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia)

**THE MYTH:** Put gravel or rocks in the bottom of containers to improve drainage.



**THE REALITY:** This long-held gardening belief is based on the idea that gravel or rocks at the base of a container will allow water to move more freely from top to bottom, thus preventing the plants' roots from becoming waterlogged. Ironically, the exact opposite occurs.

Soil scientists have proven that water travels through and over different textures at different rates. Texture, in this case, is defined as the surface area of the medium. Container soil or planting medium has a much finer, or smaller, texture than gravel or rocks, which have a coarse, or larger, texture. Water moves at a slower rate over and through a fine texture than over a coarse texture, and it does not move easily across the interface between layers of different textures.

According to Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, Extension Horticulturist and associate professor at Washington State University, "Gravitational water will not move from a finely textured soil into a coarser material until the finer soil is saturated." In other words, the soil in the container behaves like a sponge. It fills with water, but the water won't drip through until the soil reaches maximum capacity. As a result, a person may unintentionally overwater a container plant, believing that the water is moving through the soil and draining out over the gravel, when, in fact, it is not. Consistently overwatering a plant will most likely lead to root rot, which generally causes plant death.



## Garden Myth Busters!

### Improving Container Drainage with Gravel

*Continued*

So how does one improve drainage in a container?

All planting containers should have drainage holes at the bottom which allow for root aeration.

If the container is large or deep, place empty, sealed plastic beverage bottles at the bottom to take up space. This will reduce the amount of planting medium required. Avoid Styrofoam, though, as roots can penetrate it, and a plant in Styrofoam can float out of the container.

Use a high-quality potting mix and combine small amounts of leaf mold, compost, and topsoil throughout the mix.

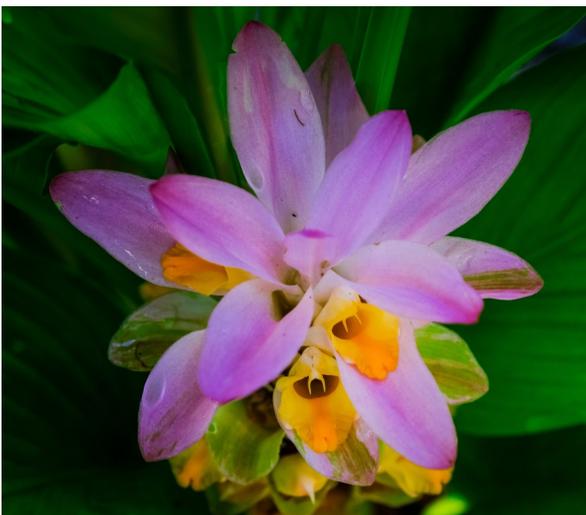
If using a heavier garden soil or topsoil, add perlite to create a lighter mix that will improve drainage.

#### SOURCES/REFERENCES:

Chalker Scott, L. (n.d.). [The Myth of Drainage Material in Container Plantings \[PDF\]](#). Puyallup: Washington State University

Gillman, J., & Maynard, M. (2012). *Decoding gardening advice: the science behind the 100 most common recommendations*. Portland, Or.: Timber Press.

Olsen, E. (2016, March 10). Hydrological Discontinuity. Retrieved February 28, 2018, from <https://blogs.ext.vt.edu/henrico-hort/2016/03/10/hydrological-discontinuity/>



Photos from Garden Tour 2018 Gardens



## Someone to Know

*The Auburn Villager January 25, 2018*

***This week's Lee-Scott Athlete of the Week is Sara Young, a senior who plays shooting guard for the Warriors' basketball team.***

***AV: Are plans coming into focus for after you graduate?***

***SY: My grandfather started our family business, Young's Plant Farm, and that's where my dad works. And my grandfather passed away not too long ago, so my dad took it over. And I'm hoping to take it over after my dad in a couple years.***

***AV: Are you going to school?***

***SY: Yes. I'm going to go to Auburn and study agriculture and horticulture, and then try to take the family business over later on.***

***AV: How does it feel trying to carry forward the family legacy?***

***SY: It's really exciting.***

**Interview by Brian Woodham**

*For complete interview see:*

[https://www.auburnvillager.com/sports/lisa-athlete-of-the-week-sara-young/article\\_ddd47270-01e8-11e8-a9d8-](https://www.auburnvillager.com/sports/lisa-athlete-of-the-week-sara-young/article_ddd47270-01e8-11e8-a9d8-)



Youngs Plant Farm

## Orchid Growing in Auburn/Opelika



LCMG members enjoying learning the "ins and outs" of Orchid growing by Dr. Joel Pittard at the March 7, 2018 meeting.



Lila Lofton presents certificate to Dr. Joel Pittard for books that will be given to the Opelika Public Library in his honor.

Photos above by Jolly Roberts



## **Check it out!**

In 2016 the Lee County Master Gardeners began honoring their guest speakers by supplying funds to local libraries to purchase books related to the topics of the speakers' presentations. During 2017 the books listed below were purchased by the Auburn City Public Library via LCMG funds and are available for checkout at that facility by anyone with a library card for any library in the Lee County system. In 2018 the funds will be given to the Lewis Cooper Jr. Memorial Library in Opelika to expand their collection of gardening books relative to the speaker's topics. Many of these books are coffee table quality beautiful packed with large colorful photographs and ideas and instructions on a variety of garden topics. Some chronicle the creation of historic or celebrated gardens and others focus on a specific aspect of nature's bounty. Before spring sends us outdoors to our gardens, grab one or more of these books and find inspiration and new ideas for the season to come. Happy reading! -- *Tomie Dugas*

### **The Garden Awakening: Designs to Nurture Our Land and Ourselves** by Mary Reynolds in honor of *Jennifer Lolley*

Drawing inspiration from long-forgotten Irish gardening traditions, Mary Reynolds re-imagines gardens as spaces that work in harmony with nature. Under Mary's gentle guidance you can awaken your garden, nurturing the land to become a beautiful natural space. **The Garden Awakening** provides: inspiration for garden designs that are in harmony with nature, practical ideas and guidance for creating and maintaining your garden, advice on creating a spiritual space in your garden. Whether you want to bring the energy and atmosphere of wild places into your own garden, are interested in permaculture and forest gardening or want to create a spiritual space, this book will guide you in embracing the wild way.

### **Gardenista: The Definitive Guide to Stylish Outdoor Spaces** by Michelle Slatalla in honor of *Emily Smyth*

**Gardenista** contains lushly photographed tours of 12 enviable gardens; planting guides for a variety of climates and color palettes; in-depth case studies on more than a dozen outdoor structures (from yoga studios to chicken coops); do-it-yourself projects; easy-to-implement design ideas; "The Gardenista 100," a guide to timeless everyday objects for the outdoors plus advice from landscape professionals. Equal parts inspiration and expert intel, Gardenista is both a perfect starting point and an all-in-one manual when questions arise," – Amazon.com.

### **The Writer's Garden: How Gardens Inspired our Best-Loved Authors** by Jackie Bennett in honor of *Dr. Charles Mitchell and Mrs. Peggy Mitchell*

"**The Writer's Garden** goes inside the lives of 20 influential authors to discover the roles that gardens played. From Sir Walter Scott's fairytale Scottish castle to Rupert Brooke's riverside retreat in Cambridge; from Virginia Woolf's rural Sussex idyll to Beatrix Potter's windswept hill-top farm in the Lake District, each garden provides new insights into the writer's work, life, solace and inspiration." – Back cover.

Contents: Jane Austen at Godmersham and Chawton; Rupert Brooke at Grantchester; John Ruskin at Brantwood; Agatha Christie at Greenway; Beatrix Potter at Hill Top; Roald Dahl at Gipsy House; Charles Dickens at Gad's Hill Place; Virginia Woolf at Monk's House; Winston Churchill at Chartwell; Laurence Sterne at Shandy Hall; George Bernard Shaw at Shaw's Corner; Ted Hughes at Lumb Bank; Henry James followed by E.F. Benson at Lamb House; John Clare at Helpston; Thomas Hardy at Hardy's cottage; and Max Gate, Robert Burns at Ellisland; William Wordsworth at Cockermouth and Grasmere; Walter Scott at Abbotsford; Rudyard Kipling at Bateman's.



## Check it out!

-Continued

**Practical Rose Gardening: How to Place, Plant, and Grow More Than Fifty Easy-Care Roses** by Inger Palmstierna in honor of *Jason Powell*

**Practical Rose Gardening** provides instruction on selecting, growing, and caring for roses. It also offers guidance on mixing roses with companion plants in flowerbeds, with advice on color choice and rose varieties.

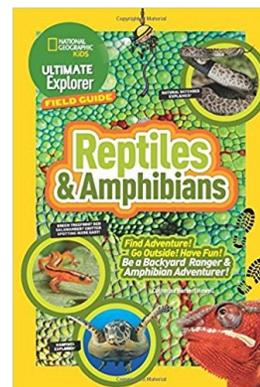
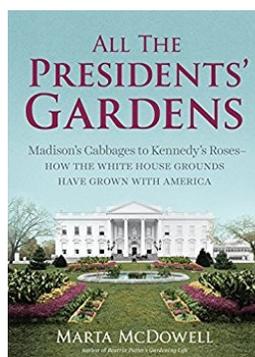
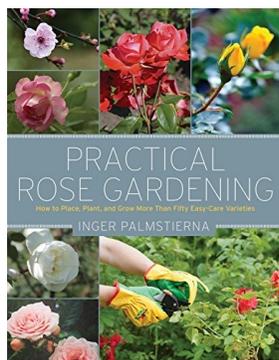
Contents: Roses – prized flowers; Types of roses; Rose care; Planting roses; Fall in the rose bed; Roses for the flowerbed; Red roses; White roses; Yellow roses; Apricot, copper, yellow and orange roses; Pink roses; Blue, purple and violet roses; Dream roses; Pruning bedding roses; Trivia for the rose enthusiast; Roses as a groundcover; Climbing roses; Roses as shrubs; Roses the easy way; Roses and their beautiful companions; Early spring with bulbs; Roses with flowering perennials; Roses with annual summer flowers; Summer flowers you can sow yourself; Roses in the fall; Long-lasting companion plants; Ideas for using roses; Beautiful rose combinations; Potted roses; Roses in garden centers and in cultivation; Quality; Problem roses.

**All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses – How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America** by Martha McDowell in honor of *Dr. Louis Adams*

The 18-acres surrounding the White House have been an unwitting witness to history – kings and queens have dined there; bills and treaties have been signed and presidents have landed and retreated. Throughout it all the grounds have remained not only beautiful, but also a powerful reflection of American trends. In **All the Presidents' Gardens**, bestselling author Marta McDowell tells the untold history of the White House Grounds, starting with plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's kitchen garden. History buffs will revel in the fascinating tidbits about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, Jackie's iconic roses and Amy Carter's tree house. Gardeners will enjoy the information on the plants whose favor has come and gone over the years and the gardeners who have been responsible for it all. And readers everywhere will delight in the historical and contemporary photographs, vintage seeds catalogs and rare glimpses into Presidential pastime.

**Reptiles and Amphibians: Find Adventure! Go Outside! Have Fun! Be a Backyard Ranger & Amphibian Adventurer!** by Catherine Herbert Howell in honor of *Jordan Graves*

This fun, photo-filled and fact-packed guide to reptiles and amphibians will make kids stop and look for all kinds of scaly and slimy creatures right in their own backyards. From turtles to geckos, red corn snakes to toads, kids will learn how, where and when to spot these animals all over the United States (and how to keep a safe distance when necessary). With tons of info and interactive prompts, **Reptiles and Amphibians** is the perfect companion for backyards or field trips, camping or vacations. Durable and portable, it's just right for your pocket or backpack! — Google.com





## **Check it out!**

-Continued

### **Farm to Table Desserts: 80 Seasonal, Organic Recipes Made from Your Local Farmers' Market** by Lei Shishak in honor of *Beth and Josh Hornsby*

"When we shop at farmers' markets, we support our local economy and consume food that's healthier, tastier, and packed with essential nutrients specific to our local environment. In **Farm-to-Table Desserts**, chef Lei demonstrates how baking with locally sourced, organic ingredients is so satisfying that it will quickly become an easy and delicious habit. With more than 80 sweet recipes divided by season, Farm-to-Table Desserts shows readers how to create simple desserts using fresh and local ingredients at their prime. With Lei's instruction, home cooks will see how easy it is to bake fresh year-round."— Amazon.com.

### **Thenford: The Creation of an English Garden** by Michael Heseltine and Anne Heseltine in honor of *Morgan Beadles*

**Thenford** is the story of one garden and one family over a 40-year time period. In their own words Michael and Anne Heseltine describe the ups and downs of how they set about transforming and expanding a wild, overgrown and often dilapidated woodland into the magnificent garden they have today. The garden has an arboretum that contains more than 3,500 different species of trees and shrubs, including rare plants which were wild-collected by well-known plantsmen such as Roy Lancaster OBE, Allen Coombes, Keith Rushforth and Chris Chadwell. It is also well-known for its sculpture garden, which has an eclectic collection of work ranging from a white marble Tazza fountain to an enormous statue of Lenin. Beautifully illustrated with both professional photographs and private family images, this personal story of the creation of an extraordinary garden will delight horticultural experts and novices alike.

### **The Bold Dry Garden: Lessons from the Ruth Bancroft Garden** by Johnanna Silver in honor of *Dan Ballard and Thom Weintraut*

"Dry-gardening pioneer Ruth Bancroft grew a private landscape so remarkable, it spurred the founding of the Garden Conservancy. Today Bancroft's masterpiece has become one of America's most acclaimed public gardens. What makes this water-wise haven so noteworthy –and so relevant for today's home gardener? At its heart the **The Bold Dry Garden** is a testament to fearless planting. A lover of succulents, Ruth Bancroft is a curious, experimental plant collector. It is this drive that shaped the garden into a wondrous model of xeriscaping. Succulents, wildflowers, roses, cactus and trees come together in a collage of colors, textures and shapes. As low-water realities dominate an increasing number of gardens, Bancroft's example shows us how dry can be not only bold, but breathtaking. – Excerpt from dust jacket.

### **Garden Revolution: How our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change** by Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher in honor of *Beth Guertal*

**Garden Revolution** shows how an ecological approach to planting can lead to beautiful gardens that buck much of conventional gardening's counter-productive, time-consuming practices. Instead of picking the wrong plant and then constantly tilling, weeding, irrigating and fertilizing, Larry Weaner advocates for choosing plants that are adapted to the soil and climate of a specific site and letting them naturally evolve over time.

Contents: Ecological gardening: An introduction; The learning process; The rise and fall (and rise) of a cardinal flower patch; Influences and innovators; The making of a garden star; The garden ecologist's primer; Design; The plant that wants to be here; Site analysis; Where are you, ecologically speaking?; Reversing succession; Creating an ecologically connected master plan; Inspiration from Uncle Max; Developing a synergistic plant list; In the field; Weeds and the ecological garden; Setting the ecological process in motion; A do-nothing attitude; Creating meadows and prairies; Growing pains; Creating shrub lands; Sedges in the landscape; Creating woodlands; Postscript; Living in it; My house.



## Check it out!

-Continued

### **New Small Garden: Contemporary Principles, Planting and Practice** by Noel Kingsbury in honor of *Art Chappelka*

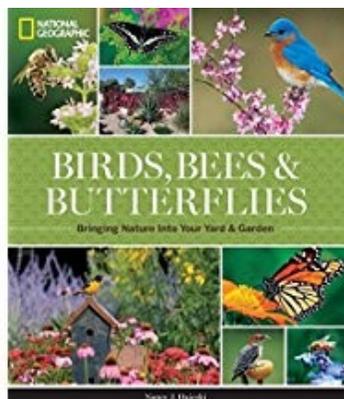
Small gardens are a challenge to design and keep looking good. **New Small Garden** aims to inspire and inform gardeners to make the most of their small spaces by looking at more than 50 contemporary and inspirational gardens, at how their designers have created them and how their owners use and develop them. Kingsbury explains the theory and practice of planting a small garden, advocates on the use of containers, revitalizes growing your own and explains design tricks, storage solutions and vertical planting to help small garden owners maximize their small spaces. And lack of space should not limit ambition for embracing sustainability, the use of recycled materials and the scope for bio-diversity, as well as providing habitats for wildlife. Special photography is by Dutch garden photographer and former fashion stylist Maayke de Ridder whose design rigor perfectly complements the author's gardening expertise.

### **Fix Your Garden: How to Make Small Spaces into Green Oases** by Jane Moseley and Jackie Strachan in honor of *Charlene LeBleu*

Don't know what to do with a messy garden or bleak-looking balcony? Want to stake your claim on a little corner of a shared garden? No gardening experience whatsoever? **Fix Your Garden** is the perfect solution. Packed with tips and tricks to get your green fingers going, this beautifully illustrated little book will help you make the most of your outdoor space, even if you've only got a tiny window box. It will take you step by step from early analysis of the soil to find out which plants will do best, to fixing that weed-covered wilderness of a backyard you've inherited and in starting to grow your own fruit and vegetables. With tips on garden design and how to conquer common pests and diseases, this is a crash course in getting your outdoor space sorted, and it also contains information on houseplants, so you can bring a little bit of the outdoors in.

### **Birds Bees and Butterflies: Bringing Nature in Your Yard and Garden** by Nancy J. Hajeski in honor of *Becky Richardson*

"Generously illustrated and full of practical information, this approachable reference covers the wide world of birds, butterflies and pollinating insects, including honeybees, and how to bring them into a yard and garden. For the new homeowner choosing shrubs and flowers for landscaping or the retired couple with bird feeders out the picture window, **Birds Bees and Butterflies** combines tips and advice with solid sci-





### Fall Contest Pictures

Contest Winner



Kitty Greene

Contest Winner



Ronda Hardgrave

### Other Entries



Dennis Pinkard



Charlot Ritenbaugh



Will Shinn



Raleine Sillman



Sheila Allen



Steve Carter



## Are Your Daffodils Blooming?

Posted by: Justin Miller

AUBURN, Alabama—Daffodils are one of the most popular spring flowers. Their beautiful colors are a sign that spring is on its way. Lucy Edwards, an [Alabama Extension](#) regional home grounds agent, said daffodils are usually carefree plants.

“In soils that are too moist, bulbs can rot leading to blooming failure. Daffodils need good drainage for flower production,” Edwards added. “Sometimes daffodil plants may need thinning. The best time to divide plants is in the fall.”

### Causes of Daffodils Bloom Failure

Edwards said other causes of bloom failure include:

Too much shade: Plants need to move to a sunnier location.

Planting depths: Always plant at the correct depth. Bulbs planted in shallow soil may result in sparse blooms.

Wrong Variety: Some varieties of daffodils will not reproduce in your climate. Purchase plants according to label specifics for planting locations.

One of the most common mistakes is removing the leaves too soon in the spring, according to Edwards.

“The bulb itself is an energy storage unit. It saves up energy through the dying plant material,” Edwards said. “Cutting the leaves before they die back essentially steals the nutrients from the next year’s growth and flower production.”

If your daffodils did not bloom this year, do not give up on them. Edwards said there is a possibility they will bloom next year.

“It is possible for bulbs that haven’t bloomed in the past to bloom the following year. Home gardeners need to do a little detective work to determine the cause behind the poor flower production,” Edwards said.

“Sometimes, it can be as simple as feeding the bulbs with a fertilizer. A soil test can also be obtained through the [Alabama Soil Testing Lab](#). Test results provide fertilizer recommendations specifically for your soil.”

