

Thank you for volunteering to help with the Farmers Markets this month. Please remember to wear your Master Gardener shirt and badge. I recommend that you familiarize yourself with all the brochures from the ACES website and that you watch the videos listed below so that you will be well versed on the topics for the day.

The June Topics for Farmers' Markets are as follows:

1. Tomatoes – Our information for the market will focus on the types of tomatoes to grow, how to prune, how to deal with blossom end rot, and how to identify tomato fruitworm and hornworm.

Please read the attached document entitled **Lesson on Tomatoes** and the following brochures: Tomato Insect Pests & Scouting Methods ANR-2206, Pruning Fresh-Market Tomatoes ANR-1060, and Blossom End Rot ANR-1059. We will also have the Grow More Give More tomato cards. Please read the card when you are at the market.

Displays:

*Two tomato plants (one slicing tomato and one cherry tomato). These can be used to show visitors where one would pinch off suckers when pruning.

This video from the ISU Extension Office in Dubuque shows how to prune a couple of different indeterminate tomato plants:

<https://youtu.be/ARhJUgOcxEY>

*Slicing, snack, and paste tomatoes on display to explain the difference between the types of tomatoes. Optional to cut and have for tasting. Stand up sign with pictures and names of varieties.

*Wanted poster of a tomato fruitworm and a hornworm.

2. Pruning Azaleas/Hydrangeas

Please read the attached document entitled **Pruning Azaleas and Hydrangeas** and the following brochures: Evergreen Azaleas for Alabama ANR-0200 and Hydrangeas ANR-1276

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/hydrangeas/>

Display:

*Two hydrangeas to use for demonstration on where to prune on the limbs of the plant. One is labeled for having blooms on new growth and the other with having blooms on old growth. See pruning attachment for more information.

3. How to Care for your Tools. Three tools with labels are provided: Hedge Shears, Loppers (short handles, may need to explain that many have long handles), and hand clippers. A stand up sign with the following information is included:

Care for your tools

- * Wash away dirt and grime with water and dish detergent.
- *Scrub away built-up residue from blades.
- *Store out of the elements.
- *Wipe down wooden handles with linseed oil yearly.
- *Sharpen along the original bevel when dull.

This is an excellent video from ISU Extension in Dubuque on sharpening garden tools:

<https://youtu.be/Gx0v2qdgVil>

The following information will be included each month for ongoing discussion and sharing of information.

4. Soil Sample kit distribution and explaining the importance of testing. There are two soil kits – one from Alabama Extension and one from a privately owned company called Powered by Soil Kit. The Soil Kit gives exact product recommendations (from their sponsors). Both use the Auburn University lab. As Master Gardeners, we do NOT make product recommendations.

5. Be a label reader of your growing medium: Small stand up sign and 3 tubs containing potting mix, topsoil, and garden soil will be on hand. MG should discuss reading the labels on the bags, using a potting mix for raised bed or container gardens, and when to use the other growing mediums. (Recommend reading <https://www.yourindoorherbs.com/what-is-a-growing-medium-materials-photos/>)

6. Grow More Give More growing cards for Tomatoes, Okra, Green Beans, and Squash are available for distribution. Bushel baskets and Share Your Harvest cards will be on hand for donations. Small stand-up sign for display with Share Your Harvest card is available as well.

7. Helpline cards and Smart Yard brochures available for distribution.

8. Start a Garden brochures to distribute: Raised Bed Gardening ANR-1345, Container Gardening ANR-1139, Five Gallon Bucket Supply List ANR-2663, Raised Bed Supply List ANR-2664, and Garden Box Supply List ANR-2665. Only place 2-4 brochures on the table at a time to prevent “grabby” hands. Share the Grow More Give More resources on the ACES website via the QR code on the small sign. An additional QR sign is available for the lengthier The Alabama Vegetable Gardener ANR-0479.

Give aways:

Large and small buckets with soil, fertilizer, and bean seeds should be given away to new gardeners. These are provided by ACES Grow More Give More.