



Master Gardener Thymes

WWW.LAKELANDSMASTERGARDENER.ORG

August 2014

President's Message

By Sandy Orr



July's public meeting about preparing for your Fall Vegetable garden made me wake up and look at the calendar. It's time to start fall seedlings! Thanks to Bill

Aaron and our speakers for all the preparation. Penny Parisi, James Hodges, and Ann Barklow always give me ideas to make gardening easier, lazier, or more varied and delicious.

Ann Barklow and Sue Monaghan have herded the topiaries back into the greenhouse where they will continue to be debugged and primed over the winter. All Master Gardeners have been invited by Ann to help at the greenhouse whenever she puts out the email call to arms.



I've been checking on the City Garden periodically. We are moments away from needing a good cleanout, which I'll schedule some early Saturday morning in mid-August. Dead-heading is a priority. Anyone that happens to stop by the garden is free to take clippers and dead-head or remove dead stalks. (There are

some great seeds available now). Our section has burgundy okra, *Amaranthus gangeticus* 'Elephant Head' and gorgeous dahlias. There are lots of perennials that have died to the ground, so don't pull up any roots just yet. Our specific section of the long flower border is across the street from the American Legion and runs about 35 feet from the tip of the point of the traffic island, but none of the other plot owners will quibble with you sprucing up theirs.

Sue will also be telling us when she wants a Rain Garden work day at the Extension Office.

Those interested in the upcoming Master Gardener Class, will be meeting July 29th at the Extension Office for a pep rally and hors d'oeuvres. Check the calendar at right for the exact time. Anyone from past classes, wanting to show support or share your garden produce in edible form, please join us. Linda Halsey and Ann Barklow from the Education Committee are planning this party, and will be contacting everyone to sign up to help with the classes.

Our September's speaker's meeting is in the planning stage. Bill Aaron, super-talent-booker, has exciting prospects on deck. Be sure to save the date, Sept. 11th at 6:30.

Dates to Remember:

- AUGUST 14TH BOARD MEETING
- AUGUST 16TH SEED TO SHELF PROGRAM, LAURENS
- SEPTEMBER 11TH SPEAKER MEETING
- SEPTEMBER 19 & 20- SC BOTANICAL GARDEN PLANT SALE MORE INFO TO FOLLOW
- OCTOBER 9TH BOARD MEETING
- OCTOBER 23RD SCMMGA SYMPOSIUM
- NOVEMBER 13TH SPEAKER MEETING
- DECEMBER 11TH HOLIDAY SOCIAL GMD

TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED WHEN EVENTS ARE CLOSER. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

Pictured below, some of the interested parties for our upcoming Master Gardener Class.



The link to use for the Greenwood Master Gardener 2014 registration is <https://www.regonline.com/MGGRWF14>

The mission of the Lakelands Master Gardeners, in association with the Greenwood County Clemson Extension office, is to extend to the public research-based education, horticultural programs and activities that enhance our environment, lives and community.

The Lakelands Master Gardeners Association is a volunteer organization made up of Master Gardeners from Abbeville and Greenwood Counties in SC.

HOMEMADE PROPAGATOR- Sandy Orr

I wish I could remember where I saw this idea, in order to give it proper attribution. It's the fastest root production on a cutting that I've experienced. Boxwood cuttings developed a nice tiny bunch of roots in two weeks! It is a pot-within-a-pot method. The outer pot is any sort of an impermeable solid water-holding container, and the inner pot is a ½" to 1" smaller diameter permeable clay pot. Block the hole of the clay pot with a cork, bunch of plastic wrap or wadded up grocery bag piece. Fill the bottom of the outer container with 1" or so of rooting medium (I used cheap topsoil) and insert the clay pot. Fill the gap between the outer and inner walls of the pots with rooting medium. Fill the inner clay pot with water. Stick your cuttings in the outer ring of rooting medium and cover the ensemble of pots with a plastic shroud to keep humidity in. Place in semi or full shade. Since late July is optimal time to take cuttings and it's too hot to be doing any serious gardening, I filled my system with buxus 'Thomas Bandy' (a columnar boxwood), blackberry 'Arapahoe' which is thornless, a chrysanthemum 'John Wham' (only available at Fort Wham Nursery), a white echinops (it should probably be a root-cutting instead), and a few things I've forgotten to label. Try it and see how you fare.



Seed to Shelf

A Clemson University Extension Service mini-series focusing on how to successfully raise vegetables at home and safely preserve your harvest.

August 16, 2014 at First United Methodist Church 224 West Main Street, Laurens

Morning Session: 9:30 a.m. until Noon



Learn from Clemson University Certified Master Gardeners how to prepare space for a garden, make soil amendments, select vegetable varieties, deal with vegetable pests and disease and when to harvest.



Afternoon Session: 1:00p.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Learn from Clemson University Extension Agent Rhonda Matthews how to pressure can vegetables and boiling water bath can pickles, jams, relishes, fruits. Plus information on dehydrating fruits and vegetables.



Excellent resources available as door prizes at the end of each program including :

Home Gardening in South Carolina (\$15 value)

Bail Blue Book (\$8) value

Rain Gauge (\$5 value)

Vegetables Garden insect Guide (\$12.50 value)

So Easy to Preserve (\$18 value)

These books plus other items will assist you when you plant your garden and can your crops.

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

We need to plan for the correct number of people. Pre-registration required by phoning Laurens County Extension Office at 864-984-2514 x 116 no later than August 13.

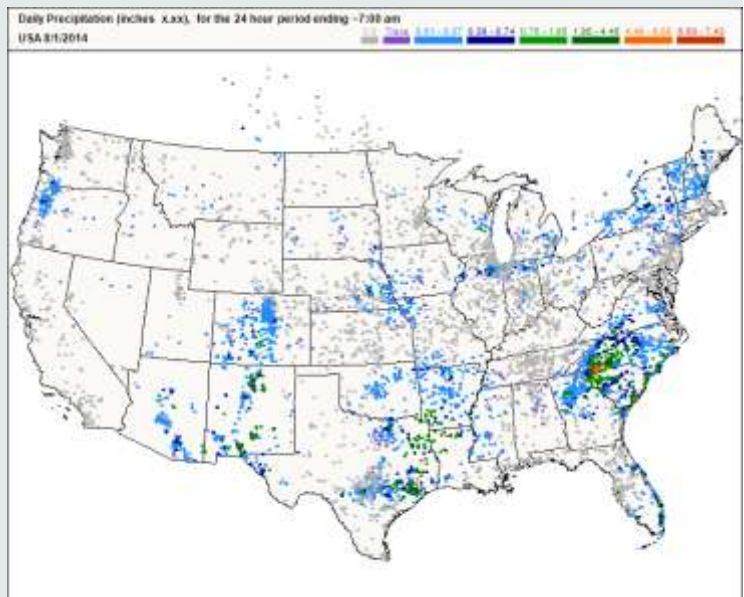


Many of the Master Gardeners are participating in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow reporting. This is a citizen volunteer program to report your precipitation amounts. The reporting area is not just the United States but Canada and just recently Puerto Rico is also joining the ranks. To participate you just order their rain gauge (they like uniform measuring instruments) and then report your precipitation between the hours of 7:00 AM and 9:00 AM. On your way out the door and can't get to your computer before 9:00? They have apps for Android and Apple smart phones. <http://www.cocorahs.org/>

Each month I will share some of our local stations' rain fall amounts— like they say— rain doesn't fall the same in every location! Check out the map on the right—

June 30– July 31, 2014

SC-GW-15 1.35 inches
 SC-AB-4 2.21 inches
 SC-GW-13 2.27 inches
 SC-GW-14 3.63 inches



Topiary Pest Management

by Ann Barklow

This has been an exciting time at the City of Greenwood with the topiaries coming back home. Every step of the way has to have pest management strategies in mind. In a greenhouse setting in particular you can't just wait until you see a pest to take action. By then it is often too late. These are some of the Integrated Pest Management strategies we are incorporating

- While they were out on the square we made notes in a daily journal what pests were present and what topiaries were infected and took action when necessary
- While the greenhouse was empty we shut it down and let it heat up for 4 days at 140-145 degrees to kill pests and diseases
- Power washed and sprayed entire greenhouse with a disinfectant
- Staged all the topiaries out in the back of the greenhouse after coming from Uptown
- Removed plants from the topiaries that were more prone to pest infestations and came up with design ideas using other plants with more pest resistance
- Cut back all other plants and made notes of pests present
- Used a sharp jet of water to remove any soil residue left from the plant plugs in the moss along with pests and removed an inch of moss to remove any hidden pests or eggs
- Sprayed all the topiaries with an organic pesticide drenching the moss by using a hose end sprayer
- Thoroughly cleaned the bases, irrigation parts, and hoses before bringing them in the greenhouse
- Once all this was done, we located the topiaries in the greenhouse with pest management in mind. The tiger landscape had many pests because it was in the corner near the heater so we moved it to the opposite end, the Bearcat got a fungus last year so we placed it near the fans with more air circulation.

- We will now do weekly pest scouting and use the appropriate organic pesticide to keep them in check.
- We also cleaned out all the old plant containers and plug trays outside of our growing greenhouse and ordered new ones for propagation and are setting up a sterilization area for any trays or pots that we will recycle.

Pest management needs to be an ongoing task in a greenhouse because pests can take over quickly. Record keeping is extremely important along with yellow sticky traps to monitor pests. Cleanliness is essential with daily sweeping and weekly hosing down and keeping water leaks fixed so algae doesn't bring fungus gnats or shore flies into the greenhouse. We also, need to watch that we don't spread diseases such as botrytis or rhizoctonia with our hands or tools.

With the master gardeners helping with these tasks they can learn a great deal about pest management and greenhouse growing.



<http://scmmga.org/> Garden Symposium

Gateway to Gardening
...Tomorrow and Beyond
Thursday, October 23, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Columbia Conference Center
169 Laurelhurst Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Pre-registration is required.
Early Bird Registration until August 25, 2014
\$60 for SCMMGA members and
\$70 for non-SCMMGA members
After August 25, 2014
\$65 for SCMMGA members and
\$75 for non-SCMMGA members
Registration Deadline October 13, 2014

My Grapes

Vincent Plotczyk

Since I posted a few pictures of my grapes on Facebook I have had a few people ask me to write a newsletter article on how I grow grapes. My venture into growing grapes started several years ago to see if I could get them to grow, have some idea of the types of insects and diseases I would be dealing with and get a little training on pruning.



Concord Seedless Grape

My first stop was to the Clemson HGIC site where I gave a quick read of Bunch Grapes HGIC 1402. Here the main section I was interested in was **Variety Selection**. I wanted to know what varieties did well for my area and which ones didn't.

Once I had the places I was going to plant the grapevines ready, full sun, soil well drained, pH 5.8 to 6.5 and good air circulation. I went looking for several listed varieties to try. I bought some grapevines from Lowe's and Greenwood Nursery.

Some of the first grapes I tried were Concord, Concord Seedless, Catawba and Reliance. I also bought Black Spanish even though it was listed for the sandhills and coastal areas.



Grape tied to a trellis

I planted the grapevines. You want to do this late winter or early spring. The fertilizer I used was 10-10-10. My trellis system was very basic and not permanent.

I did not look for European grapes because: European Grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) are the primary Grapes grown in the western United States and Europe. European Grapes are difficult to grow in the Southeast and are generally not recommended. **Source: Walterevees.com**

After giving these grapes a try, I have settled on a variety

of grape not listed on the Clemson HGIC 1402 Bunch Grape information sheet. This variety is called Vanessa.



Vanessa

Some information about Vanessa: Vanessa was developed by HRIO, Canada, and is a red dessert grape of excellent quality. The vine is moderately vigorous and among the hardiest of seedless grapes. Grafting may be desirable on many sites to increase vine size (vines grafted on Teleki 5C at trials in Fredonia, New York, however, have shown poor fruit set with very small berries). The seed remnant is usually large and soft; when noticeable it is sometimes a cause for limited marketability. Berries are medium in size on medium, well-filled clusters. Storage potential is good. The flavor is mild and fruity, and berry texture is firm. The fruit quality is among the best of the red seedless types. **Source: Cornell University**

This season is the first season my Vanessa grapevine bore fruit and the vine has done well. The grape canopy has held up to the hot summer days with no fungal disease problems. I did have a small outbreak of Japanese beetles but it was near time for the grapes to be picked and posed no problems.



Japanese beetle damage

Once the grapes started ripening I had to get the bird netting out as a couple of Cardinals set up house in several small trees near my vine. Grapes are also one of the Cardinals favorite fruits. I ordered this grapevine from Double A Vineyards Inc. They are in New York. You can find them on the web at www.doubleavineyards.com. I will be ordering 4 more Vanessa grapevines from them.

Grape Resources

Some grape resources that may be of help to you if you are interested in or are growing grapes

BUNCH GRAPES IN THE HOME GARDEN

Horticulture Information Leaflet 8202

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

Bunch Grape HGIC 1402

Clemson Extension

Production Guide for Organic Grape

Cornell University Cooperative Extension

Basic Principles of Pruning Backyard Grapevines

Ohio State University Extension

Pruning Backyard Grapevines in the First Three Years

Ohio State University Extension

Grape Pest Management for Home Gardeners

University of Wisconsin Extension

Grape Pest Management

Second Edition

University of California

Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Organic Small Fruit Disease Management Guidelines

Integrated Management of Grape Diseases

Ohio State University Extension

Weed Control in Organic Grape Production

Katie Jennings and David Monks

Dept. of Horticultural Science
NC State University

Effective Vineyard Spraying A Practical Guide for Growers

Andrew J. Landers

Sunlight into Wine A Handbook for Winegrape Canopy Management

Richard Smart & Mike Robinson

Compendium of Grape Diseases

Roger C. Pearson and Austin C. Goheen

APS Press



Corn Smut ... Disease or Delicacy?

Jan Haldeman

Have you ever noticed an ear of corn with huge overgrown misshapen kernels bursting out of their shucks? These huge kernels are white at first, then turn grey, and finally pop open releasing a mass of black smutty material. What that ear of corn has is a disease called corn smut, caused by a fungus called *Ustilago zeaе maydis*. The large infected kernels grow into structures that can be compared to weird shaped mushrooms that are actually part "corn."

The black sooty masses of spores are spread by wind, and will survive cold and drought to produce another type of spore to infect corn again next growing season. If most of your corn crop is infected, it is essentially worthless, unless you live in Mexico, where it could be worth its weight in gold! That's because the smutty corn fungus known there as huitlacoche has long been considered a delicacy dating back to Aztec Indian cuisine. And to this day, numbers of huitlacoche dishes are found on menus of ordinary

as well as very high-class restaurants and cafes. Corn smut's earthy taste and texture has been compared to truffles. Ears of corn with fresh, still moist, white to light grey smutted kernels are harvested and sold in markets, and the kernels can also be canned. Many recipes, including some for omelets and quesadillas, as well as shrimp and pork sausage (chorizo) dishes, call for what we could call Mexican truffles! So, wonder of wonders, one plant's disease can be another person's delicacy!



Pause for Plants July, Trumpet Creeper

By Dr. Jan Haldeman



The plant with bright orange trumpet-shaped flowers, currently blooming along roadsides and fence lines is Trumpet

weeding of the vine, gloves might be necessary.

Trumpet Creeper is also distinguished as "number one" on a list of native species that attract ruby throated humming birds! Each flower produces an ample supply of nectar, and nurseries advertise Trumpet Creeper as "Hummingbird Vine." The sweet nectar also attracts insect pollinators. Cheating insects will even bite a hole in the base of an unopened flower to get nectar without returning the favor of pollination. Ants are usually present, cruising in and out of the blossoms. For really great photos and an account of Trumpet Creeper's pollination by humming birds and insects, see: <http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek040601.html>

Creeper vine. This native vine is a member of the catalpa family, Bignoniaceae, and it ranges pretty much throughout the eastern United States. There are around 800 species in this family including other natives, like Cross Vine and Northern and Southern Catalpa trees. Other species of the family are found mostly in South and Central America as well as China. Trumpet creeper's botanical name is *Campsis radicans*. The genus name *Campsis*, comes from Greek for "curved" and is descriptive of its pollen producing stamens. The species name *radicans* refers to aerial roots that grow from the twining stems, and anchor the vine to whatever it is able to climb for added height. Stem pieces will root readily. Vines can overwhelm trees and telephone poles, but they aren't



Leaves of Trumpet Creeper are opposite; that is, arranged by twos at nodes on the stem. They are compound, with seven to fifteen coarsely toothed leaflets, so the whole leaf can be over eight inches long. Fruits produced by Trumpet Creeper are long thick pods, first green, then turning brown in the fall. They split open to release thousands of tiny (less than 1/2 inch) light winged seeds, which germinate readily. If your yard has a mature blooming vine, you'll probably have seedlings popping up all over.

And, did you know that some of Tiffany's objects d'art celebrate our common Trumpet Creeper! Valuable Tiffany lamps and windows feature the flower's images. The world of art appreciates these beautiful blossoms.



generally considered threats like Kudzu or Chinese Wisteria. Horticultural varieties of trumpet creeper are now available at nurseries, and their flower colors range from deep red to apricot and yellow.

There are numerous, mostly positive, internet reports of trumpet creeper. But it's also commonly called "cow itch" referring to the fact that for some susceptible folks, skin contact with plant "juices" can cause a rash. So if you are doing extensive trimming or



Misshapen Veggies

Submitted by Chuck Bender

This summer Chuck experienced some odd formations with his tomatoes and cucumbers. After some investigation this is what he found from veggiegardener.com

Improper Pollination

Obviously your cucumber was pollinated or it would not be there in the first place, but improper pollination can lead to a deformed cucumber. The female [flowers](#) need to be completely pollinated in order to grow a fully developed cucumber. This lack of complete pollination leads to only part of the cucumber becoming fully developed. You need [bees](#) in order to pollinate cucumbers, and if there are a low number of [bees](#) to thoroughly distribute the pollen to the flower, the cucumber will become only partially pollinated. The end of your cucumber that looks normal received enough pollen. The end that looks deformed did not, which is usually the blossom end. If you have low pollinator activity around your cucumber plants, and you are getting a bunch of deformed cucumbers, you may need to resort to [hand pollinating](#) the female flowers.



Hot Temperatures

Very warm temperatures can cause a deformed cucumber in a couple different ways. First, [heat](#) can kill the pollen leaving it virtually sterile. Bees may carry both live and dead pollen to the female flower. The live pollen will pollinate a portion of the cucumber, while the dead pollen does nothing. This can contribute to improper pollination and a deformed cucumber. Heat can also cause moisture stress in the cucumber. Cucumbers need plenty of water while setting and developing fruit. A lack of water during hot, dry conditions can cause the fruit to form in a peculiar shape. To avoid this make sure you provide plenty of water once the plant sets and starts developing fruit. This is very important during those scorching hot summer days.

Too Much Fertilizer

Adding too much nitrogen-based [fertilizers](#) can also result in deformed cucumbers. Make sure you have rich soil to begin with and you will not usually need to add any fertilizers to begin with. Incorporate plenty of organic matter, such as [compost](#), into the soil a few weeks before planting. You can also side dress plants with rich compost throughout the season instead of adding any fertilizers. Giving the cucumber plants a good feeding of diluted [fish emulsion](#) will help keep the plants thriving and continually producing throughout the season.

Chuck's guess: weird pollination for cucumber and hot weather for tomatoes.



A couple photos with added quotes sent in by Stuart Menaker. I will add a couple each month to the newsletter.





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www.lakelandsmastergardener.org

Shutterfly - <http://lakelandsmastergardeners.shutterfly.com>

Clemson Cooperative Extension Office– Greenwood– 864-223-3264



Don't forget the photos from our Christmas social and other LMG events are on our Shutterfly page. (see link above) You can leave comments or download photos from the Shutterfly page. The password has been sent in the email with this newsletter attached.

LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENERS

Lakelands Master Gardener Name Badge Order Form

Master Gardener Information			
Last Name		First Name	
Mailing Address			
City		Zip Code	
Home ()	Cell ()	Other ()	
e-mail address			
For Office Use Only	Received	Confirmation	Delivered

Orders are filled upon receipt of order form. There is no deadline to send money and form to Chuck. Please *Print* Information the way you would like it to appear on your name badge

Cost: \$10/badge
Cash or Check accepted
Make Checks payable to: Lakelands Master Gardeners
Remit Payment and Order Form together to:
Melody McInville
345 Klugh Rd
Abbeville, SC 29620



☹ **Missing a newsletter?** Looking for an earlier edition? All of our newsletters can be found at our website at— <http://www.lakelandsmastergardener.org/newslet2014.html>

THE LAKELANDS MASTER GARDENER BOARD 2012

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