

Gardening on the Shore

Fall, 2018

Message from the President

On a recent morning, I was at the Kiptopeke State Park Native Garden taking care of some routine garden chores...weeding, deadheading, etc. It just so happened that on this day, I was the only one working at the garden. The weather was clear, calm and warm. It was a perfect morning. Not a cloud in the sky. It was just me and the garden. I can truthfully tell you that I spent more time sitting on the bench enjoying the beautiful weather and the inspiration of the garden than I did actually working. However, you will be glad to know that by the time I left the garden, I was hot and sweaty with filthy knees and lots of Mother Nature's dirt under my fingernails – just the way I like it! It was a wonderful day!

The entire time I was on sitting on that bench, I was thinking of nature's incredible beauty and awesomeness. Bees and butterflies were everywhere drinking the nectar of the flowers that were in bloom. I saw a hummingbird visiting the garden's native honeysuckle. Gold finches were eating the seeds of spent Black Eyed Susan's flowers. Other birds of many species were in and around the nearby Taylor Pond. It was a transcendental moment for me. It was a perfect day! I was completely at one with my natural surroundings at the garden. I was reminded why I love to garden and enjoy nature while it is at its best.

Fellow gardeners, keep the faith. Continue to work in your gardens and enjoy the Eastern Shore nature that surrounds us all. Serve as an inspiration to our friends, family and neighbors and teach them how wonderful nature can be.

Phil Goetkin

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature Article

- The Many Faces of Composting

Member Spotlight

Articles of Interest

- Create a Fall Cutting Garden
- Fall Lawn Maintenance

Gardener Tips

- Fall To-Do List
- Excerpt from Master Gardener Handbook: Mowing

2017 Milestone Awards

New Master Gardeners

Name This Plant

Save the Date

Announcing: ESVMG Speakers Bureau

Feature Article

THE MANY FACES OF COMPOSTING

by Susan Weir, ESVMG Master Gardener



You've decided that composting is a good move for your garden, your environment, and your pocketbook. Congratulations! You are joining a movement that is thousands of years old and proven to benefit all kinds of gardens. You've done your homework and are ready to begin. But where do you put something that can't be disturbed, and may not be very attractive, and has the potential to bring unwanted critters into the garden?

The answer is to carefully consider the type of container for composting. It's an individual decision of course, based on many factors. Fortunately, there are many alternatives available for modern gardeners.

Listed below are some of the types of compost containers commonly used by gardeners and a few points to consider when deciding.

No Container Composting

It's what many think of as traditional composting. Dedicate an area in your yard or garden for a compost pile. Start with a layer of "brown" materials (like leaves, sawdust, eggshells, paper, tea bags) then put a layer of "green" materials on top. Green materials include kitchen scraps and grass clippings. On top of that, put a layer of soil, then repeat the layers. The pile needs to be turned occasionally and water added.

An advantage of this method is the ease of access to the pile. Turning it may be seen as good or bad; it's great exercise but can be difficult for some. This method does take a long

time to produce humus depending on weather, moisture, and temperature of the pile. It also needs to be big enough to maintain temperatures that promote decomposition. Recommended size: 25 square feet

Trench Composting

Similar to the no container method, trench composting doesn't use any container at all. Dig a trench about three feet deep, toss in the materials to break down, then cover each layer with soil. When the trench is full, wait a couple months, then sow or plant your garden right in the trench.

This method works well when started in the fall so the materials can break down during the winter. The compost is right where you want it, eliminating any hauling. It does take pre-planning for the spring garden, and someone has to dig the trench in the first place.

Open or 3-Bin Composting

This is another common composting method. A bin to hold composting materials is left open to the elements during the process. An inexpensive bin can be constructed from shipping pallets or chicken wire. Many garden supply sources sell pre-formed plastic bins with ventilation holes in them.

The 3-bin technique simply calls for the gardener to fill one container with materials to be composted, then move to the next one. Since each bin is started at a different time, there should be a steady supply of humus as each bin matures in turn.

Using composting bins can be very inexpensive, depending on the choice of materials for the bin. Location of the bins is critical since they will be difficult to move when full. The materials in the bins can dry out faster or become too wet, affecting the quality of the humus and the length of time to wait for the finished product.

Closed Bin Composting

A closed bin has a lid that keeps the materials contained. The lid helps cut down odors and keeps out unwanted wildlife but can also inhibit air circulation critical for the composting process. Moisture levels can be a problem unless there are adequate drainage holes. Many closed bins are too small to allow the materials to reach high enough temperatures for the composting process. Finally, a closed bin opens from the top, or sometimes has an opening on the bottom, so removing the compost can be awkward.

Tumblers

So how can a gardener avoid these pitfalls? A tumbler style compost bin can be the answer. It's usually made of plastic so it's very durable. It has a lid, so odors and visits from wildlife are less of a problem. Some models are round or shaped and they can be easily rolled around on the ground, so lifting and shoveling are avoided. Other styles of tumblers are built with legs and a central axis part through the middle of the container, so they can spin, which makes turning easy.

Tumblers can have some of the same drawbacks as compost bins with lids. Taking out the finished compost can be difficult; they may be too small to allow good composting action or too big to turn easily.

A Word about the Worms

Discussions about layers, digging and turning may make composting seem like too much trouble even for a dedicated gardener. There is an alternative. Called vermicomposting, this method involves letting red wiggler worms feed off kitchen scraps such as coffee grounds, cooked leftovers (no meat or meat byproducts, please) or fruit peels. The worms are kept in a small container inside the house or other protected area (don't let it get below freezing). Once the scraps are digested, the kitchen waste is transformed into highly fertile manure and ready to be spread on the garden.

There are several advantages: small container, no lifting or turning, no odors or wildlife to worry about. It's kept inside so composting goes on year-round without being dependent on weather conditions. Anything needed for getting started can be purchased online.

All this good news of course has a caveat – there can be problems with keeping the worms alive and producing. Odors, escaping worms, flies and other problems arise when the bin's environment is out of balance.

Vermicomposting doesn't produce a huge amount of composting material- it may not be enough for your needs. When considering vermicomposting, it's important to do your homework before you invest in any materials.

So Gentle Gardener, say yes to composting! Carefully consider all the container options and get started. Your garden will certainly show the benefits.

Member Spotlight: Susan Weir



Susan grew up in suburban Washington D.C. and taught Science and Special Education in Montgomery Co. MD for more than 30 years. She always taught science, especially earth science, environmental

science, and biology in middle and high school.

Susan's interest in Master Gardeners has roots in her family history. Her grandparents owned a small farm in Uniontown, PA and, when Susan and her family visited, a tour of the garden and fields was always done first. She and her sister regularly helped to bring in fresh vegetables for their grandmother to cook for dinner. A vivid memory is that "when we came home, the trunk of our car was always packed with fresh produce." Her mother continued the tradition with a small tomato garden and lots of flowers beds at her house. "I learned so much from her."

Her experiences on the farm and garden memories influenced her interest in science. "I'm fascinated by how the earth's systems – air, water, and land-work together. That includes plants!"

When she retired, the MG program was a natural fit. This program brought together her interests and her enjoyment of passing knowledge along. Susan has had several roles in the club. Initially, she was the secretary under the past president, Julie Rogers', tenure, and is currently the webmaster for ESVMG.com. She has recently taken on the responsibility as coordinator for the new Accomack County Plant Clinic.

She's met great people, learned a lot and says "Thank you, Master Gardeners!"

MEET OUR COLORFUL GARDEN SPIDER



Say hello to *argiope aurantia*, known by many common names including the "writing spider" and "black and yellow agriope."

Although it looks rather threatening, the writing spider doesn't prey on humans. It does, however, enjoy a meal of flying insects including flies, moths, wasps and mosquitoes. This spider will bite humans if provoked, which feels like a bee sting.

The female also preys on her mate. After intercourse, the male writing spider has an irreversible seizure and is dead within 20 minutes. Then, preparing her afternoon treat, the female spider wraps him in a silk sack and leaves him on the edge of her web to devour him later.

Writing spiders are orb-weavers, making multiple elaborate webs in a circular formation. Every day this scribbling spider builds and tears down its UV-light-reflective web which is stronger and more flexible than steel!

These spiders are most commonly found in gardens, bushes, and shrubs throughout the North American mainland. It's highly likely that you've seen one or its web and, if not, you may have read about it, having been made famous in E.B. White's beloved novel "Charlotte's Web."

Take a Picture

If you have a garden bed that needs refurbishing, take a picture now so that you can study it in the winter. Stay tuned for the upcoming article on redesigning a garden bed in the Winter issue of "Gardening on the Shore."

Articles of Interest

CREATE A FALL CUTTING GARDEN

by Jane McKinley and Diane D'Amico

Being a closet floral designer, my eye always goes to the plants with the hardiest blooms that stand up to arranging. I am attracted to different textures and colors which add interest and dimension to an arrangement. And I am always asking myself, "how would this plant perform in a container?" Then, there is the question of what to plant to produce those flowers, berries and seed pods to keep my kitchen windowsill, dining room table and porch alive with the outdoors.

With it being so easy to purchase those lovely spring blooming annuals and perennials, it is easy to pass over the ones that look so uninteresting early in the year. But time and experience has proven that it is important to include fall blooming plants in the spring so that the cutting garden will stay alive with color well into the cooler months of the fall. The soft colors of spring and happy colors of summer will eventually give way to the deep oranges, butterscotch, burgundy and reddish browns of fall which make beautiful seasonal arrangements for the home.

The fall offers a plethora of flowers that make wonderful additions to the cutting garden. In September, asters and dahlias (the "peonies of fall") come into their own. New York aster (*Symphotrichum novi-*



belgii) is a native perennial that offers showy ornamental flowers that attract butterflies. Perhaps a little more cutting-friendly is the golden aster (*Heterotheca villosa* 'Golden Sunshine'), although it's not really an aster. Butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*) continue blooming into the fall and are a magnet for migrating Monarch butterflies. Offering purple to create a contrasting color combination for the fall, coneflowers (*Echinacea*) may also bloom past the summer and, once the flowers are spent, produce seed heads, as do Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), that add interest to a dried arrangement. Annual sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus* cvs.), many of which come in wonderful harvest colors, will bloom into the late fall if seeds are

sown in June. In October, if kept pruned in the summer (remove buds up until early July), chrysanthemums come into season. Many varieties of chrysanthemums will continue to bloom into November, especially if temperatures remain mild. Swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*), a robust American native, is also blooming in November.

If your sunny space is limited, consider harvesting wildflowers from the roadside or beach. One can easily find fields of Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), High-tide Bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) on the Eastern Shore. When envisioning your fall arrangement, don't forget to include the interesting spikes of American Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). However, you want to avoid harvesting them from areas where they have been planted as a dune stabilizer. If you want to brave the thorns, Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*) makes a beautiful addition to an outdoor porch arrangement along with other native bloomers such as Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) which, unlike some, is not poisonous and produces a lovely dried flower.



Smooth Sumac makes a lovely addition to a fall & winter arrangement.

The fall is an ideal time to include dried flower pods and berries in your arrangement. Northern Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), rose hips (produced by Rugosa roses) and viburnum (various botanical

names) all add a nice contrast to fall bloomers. Try growing okra in your vegetable garden and letting the pods dry on the stalk. They add interesting contrast to an arrangement and can be sprayed for holiday ornaments. Dried hydrangea flowers make a nice arrangement either as a collar around the base of other dried flowers or as a big, fluffy arrangement by itself. Experience has taught me that it is best to cut the blooms while still fresh on the shrub and dry them in water to retain their color. Although the thorns can be a challenge, Pyracantha (*Pyracantha coccinea*) offers rich orange berries which can be dramatic either by itself or as a focal point in an arrangement. Once established, Pyracantha provides lots of berries to use as cuttings with plenty left over to feed the birds in the winter. The variety noted has a sprawly, rangy growth habit, so allow plenty of room in a sunny spot for it to spread out. While Pyracantha has an upright growth habit, Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) produces clusters of reddish-orange berries that hang down, softening the edges of an arrangement as they cascade around its base.

Cut flowers from one's own garden or natural area are the best reflection of the area in which they live – much more so than retail flowers either flown in from abroad or grown in a greenhouse under controlled conditions. However, don't rule out adding the occasional retail flower to the leafy and dried branches from your garden if short on blooms. It's all about balance and color.

FALL LAWN MAINTENANCE

by Jane McKinley

Everyone loves a lush, green lawn that is easy on the bare feet and provides an attractive vista that frames the home. To this end, most homeowners in Virginia think of fall as the time to perform annual maintenance on their lawns. Depending on the variety of grass, this is partially true; however, a regular maintenance plan of watering and mowing is necessary throughout the year to ensure a healthy lawn. Fertilization, weed control and leaf management are more specific to the varieties of grass in the lawn or the time of year. There may also be an occasional need for dethatching, pH adjustment, aeration and disease and insect control.

During hot, dry weather, lawns can use an inch or more of water per week. The lawn should be watered deeply when the soil begins to dry out but before the grass wilts. A light sprinkling on the surface of the grass is more harmful since this encourages roots to stay close to the surface of the soil, dependent on more watering maintenance, and increases crabgrass germination. If it's not possible to maintain a regular watering regimen, it is best to allow the grass to go dormant until natural conditions bring it back. The best time to water is early morning when evaporation is minimized and water-use efficiency is maximized. Early evening or night watering is not recommended because it leaves the blades and thatch wet at night, introducing the potential for disease.

Mowing is the most frequently necessary maintenance practice in the production of a good lawn. See the excerpt from the Virginia Master Gardener Handbook for guidance on recommended mowing practices.

It is important to identify the type of turfgrass in your lawn since the maintenance schedule other than mowing and watering is unique for



each. Turfgrass varieties fall into two basic categories: cool-season and warm-season. Cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine leaf fescue and perennial ryegrass, have a long growing season and provide green winter color. Kentucky bluegrasses are best suited to areas in the western part of the state, so these should be avoided in our area unless included as a small percentage of a mix. The tall fescues dominate the home lawn market and are oftentimes mixed with a small percentage of Kentucky bluegrass to help recovery in high traffic areas. Fine leaf fescues exhibit the best shade and drought tolerance and can grow well in low-nitrogen and higher acidic soil. They require the least intensive maintenance of any of the grasses adapted to Virginia.

Warm-season grasses, such as zoysiagrass, Bermudagrass, centipedegrass and St. Augustinegrass, go dormant after the first hard frost and stay brown through the winter months. The wider leaf varieties of zoysiagrass tend to have the best cold tolerance of the warm-season grasses in Virginia. Zoysiagrass also has a low requirement for fertilization and irrigation, does well in full sun and some shade, has very few insect and disease problems and has a density which helps to keep down undesirable weeds. Bermudagrass has exceptional drought tolerance, an aggressive growth habit and grows extremely well on the Eastern Shore. While the winter color of the warm-season grasses may make them less desirable, maintenance costs are somewhat reduced since the shorter growing season requires less water and fewer mowings per year.

For both types of turfgrasses, it's important to test your soil at least once every three years to determine if supplemental nutrients other than nitrogen are required. Soil test results, done at least one month before lawn renovation begins, determine the basic nutrients available in the soil and will give recommendations for amendments such as lime and fertilizer. The numbers on the fertilizer bag, such as 10-10-10, indicate the percent of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P₂O₅) and potash (K₂O). Nitrogen requirements of turfgrass cannot be reliably evaluated by a soil test, therefore, the test results will contain a nitrogen recommendation for the kind of grass being grown (refer to "[Lawn Fertilization in Virginia](#)," for more information.) Since too much phosphorus in the environment causes nutrient pollution that results in serious environmental and human health issues, apply it only when indicated as necessary by a soil test. Likewise, although maintaining sufficient levels of potassium (potash) in plants is very effective in improving the hardiness of turfgrasses, if a soil test indicates that levels are adequate, the supplemental application wastes money and negatively affects its balance in the soil with other nutrients.

Maintenance for Cool-Season Turfgrass

Late summer to mid-fall is the best time to establish and refurbish cool-season turfgrass. This time of year presents growing conditions conducive for improving lawn density through the development of new shoots and stems, increased carbohydrate storage (i.e., food for the plant) and enhanced root production.

A diagnosis of your soil's fertility and pH status is the best way to identify why your grass may have had problems during the past growing season and to prepare the soil to maximize success for the next growing season. Since growing conditions are ideal at this time of year, grasses respond quickly to soil-test-recommended applications of fertilizer and

lime. And, if recommended, the fall and winter months are ideal times to make lime applications since it takes weeks to months to fully realize the benefit of the treatment. Supplemental seeding of an established lawn in late summer or fall can be beneficial. To minimize the need for weed control, promote the rapid establishment of new grass by applying a generous amount of seed and keeping it well watered. If you seed in late summer, a mid-fall application of a pre-emergence herbicide to control undesirable weeds such as annual bluegrass, henbit, chickweed and geranium will help reduce them by inhibiting their seed germination. If you are planning a fall planting, remember that these chemicals will also prevent cool-season turfgrass seed germination. Carefully read the herbicide label to ensure that the product is safe and determine when the product can be applied relative to seeding. Seedlings are much more sensitive to chemical applications than mature plants.

There are also numerous post-emergence broadleaf herbicides available for fall weed control. Many cool-season perennial broadleaf weeds (plantains, dandelion, clovers) will also have a surge of vegetative growth like the turfgrass, and this presents a great opportunity to maximize the effectiveness of chemical control. Controlling these weeds will improve overall turf density in the fall and will result in even lower weed populations the following spring because of the thick turfgrass canopy. Refer to "[Fall Lawn Care](#)" for more information on herbicide types and recommendations.

There is potential for early fall applications of certain insecticides for grub control, but the ideal period for their control is between July and August.

Chemical sprays over the top of leaves are often a waste of time, effort, and money in terms of receiving the anticipated response in pest

control. Granular applications will have a better chance of delivering the chemical to the soil, but not all chemicals are available in granular formulations. One thing that can be done with the leaves before any chemical application is to simply mulch them back into the lawn.

You can make supplemental nitrogen applications later in the fall if you want a boost in growth or color. The fertilization program following the acronym "SON" (representing the months of September, October, and November) is ideal for maximizing the benefits of nitrogen fertilization on cool-season grasses.

Core aeration (removing plugs from the soil) is a standard method for reducing compaction by improving the circulation of air and water in the soil. Dethatching physically removes thatch, a layer of un-decomposed stems and other living and decaying organic matter that develops between the soil and the turf canopy. Both methods are best done in the fall for cool-season turf when recovery can be optimized by weather conditions and a fertilization and irrigation program.

Maintenance for Warm-Season Turfgrass

The cooling temperatures of fall provide warm-season grasses the opportunity to increase carbohydrate reserves and root production as leaves continue to photosynthesize but overall shoot and leaf development rates decline. The last application of nitrogen for lawns with bermudagrass or St. Augustinegrass should be made no later than one month prior to the anticipated frost date. Grasses with minimal nitrogen requirements, such as zoysiagrass and centipedegrass, should only be fertilized during the most active growing months. As mentioned earlier, only apply phosphorus when needed according to soil tests for established lawns. A key to success is ensuring that other nutrients, particularly the winterizing nutrient potassium, are present in satisfactory quantities. The

benefits of potassium in warm-season turfgrass winter survival are often more pronounced than those of cool-season turfgrasses, so be sure to periodically conduct soil tests to evaluate where these levels are prior to winter's arrival.

The dormant warm-season grass provides little to no competition to cool-season weeds, thus weed control is often necessary. Most turf pre-emergence herbicides

labeled for use in warm-season turf can control annual bluegrass, and timing is crucial to get the best control. In most parts of the state, germination begins in early September. Many of these chemicals also have excellent activity on many broadleaf weeds.

Insect and disease pressure for a grass preparing for dormancy are minimal. If a bermudagrass turf has a history of spring dead spot, consider a preventive application of a labeled fungicide in early to mid-fall before the turf goes dormant. This is the only time to chemically control this disease because spring treatments are not effective.

Fall is too late in the growing season to safely aerate or vertically mow warm-season turfgrasses. Do this in late spring or early summer when these grasses are actively growing.

Additional Resources:

["Fall Lawn Care,"](#) Virginia Cooperative Extension, Publication 430-520

["Soil Sampling for the Home Gardener,"](#) Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 452-129

["Lawn Fertilization in Virginia,"](#) Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 430-011

["Maintenance Calendar for Warm-Season Lawns in Virginia,"](#) Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 430-522

["Maintenance Calendar for Cool-Season Lawns in Virginia,"](#) Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 430-522

Gardeners' Tips

FALL 'TO DO' LIST

Fall is a very busy time for the gardener. This is when we perform all of the tasks necessary to prepare the garden for winter and set the stage for healthy spring growth. The following tips provide some guidance for the fall 'Must Do's.'

- **Plant New Plants.** Now is the time to plant spring bulbs, shrubs and trees. Also consider filling in summer gaps with cool season annuals & perennials such as asters, pansies, kale and mums. Fall is also a good time to extend your vegetable harvest by adding cabbage, broccoli, lettuces, radishes and some root crops. Use row covers, mulch and cold frames to further extend the season into winter.
- **Water, Water, Water.** Don't forget that fall blooming plants and newly planted trees & shrubs continue to need plenty of water going into the fall months. This will help to establish a good root system before the following year's heat is upon them.
- **Clean Up Old Growth.** Remove your spent vegetable plants, clean up plant debris and weeds, and winterize your lawn furniture and water features. Some easy autumn garden ideas include raking leaves onto the lawn and mowing them with a grass catcher. The resulting mix of nitrogen and carbon makes an excellent cover for the vegetable garden, which will enhance the fertility in spring and help prevent weeds.
- **Put the Garden to Bed.** Dig up and bring in any sensitive bulbs or tubers. Removing plant debris and raking will decrease pest, disease and weed seeds that overwinter. Empty the compost bin and spread it around the base of plants. Start a new batch of compost for the spring (see "Many Faces of Composting" feature article. If not starting a fall garden, plant a cover crop on your vegetable garden.

EXCERPT FROM MASTER GARDENER HANDBOOK

Mowing the lawn is a 3-season requirement to maintain a healthy lawn. The following excerpt gives guidance on proper mowing techniques.

The most obvious physical effect of mowing is the decrease in leaf surface area of the grass plants. The grass plant's leaves are the site of photosynthesis and any decrease in leaf surface area proportionately decreases the plant's ability to produce the carbohydrates essential for root, shoot, rhizome, and stolon growth. If more than 1/3 of the grass vegetation is removed during mowing, root growth is temporarily slowed by the plant's inability to produce carbohydrates at the previous rate. Carbohydrate can be pulled out of reserve to enhance extensive root, rhizome and stolon development. However, carbohydrate reserves can be called upon to these structures only a limited number of times while the grass plant is recuperating from the shock of a severe mowing...It is essential to realize that lowering mowing heights to 1 inch or less decreases the amount of leaf area

intercepting sunlight...Mowing at [this] lower range during optimal growing periods can actually improve turfgrass density. However, it is very prudent to begin raising the cutting height of a respective grass 4-6 weeks before the onset of a predictable environmental stress period such as summer or winter.

Frequency of mowing can have severe effects on turfgrass communities. Excessive mowing frequency reduces total shoot yield, rooting, rhizome production, and food reserves. Mowing frequency should be determined by seasonal growth demands, and should be often enough that no more than 1/3 of the existing green foliage is removed by any one mowing.

Collecting clippings on home lawns is not advised. There is no significant benefit to the lawn derived from the collection of clippings if the lawn is being mowed with the proper frequency. Clippings are not a major contributor to thatch buildup. They do provide significant amounts of nutrition to the lawn as they decompose. Three years of returning clippings to a lawn has been shown to increase the growth rate 38% over lawns where clippings were not returned. In addition, earthworm populations increase where clippings are returned, improving aeration and water infiltration.

In summary, mowing is the most frequently necessary maintenance practice in the production of a good lawn. For good results, mow as high as is reasonable ... and don't mow more often than necessary. A final thought – keep the clippings on the lawn to utilize this “free fertilizer” and protect water quality.

From Master Gardener Handbook
Chapter 15, “Lawns”

2017 Milestone Awards

Although volunteers are not compensated financially, the rewards to Extension Master Gardeners are realized by the gratitude of the people served in their communities. The work of Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners is valued and appreciated by all, especially the citizens who come to us for needed gardening knowledge and guidance.

Each year, EMGs are recognized for completing total hours which reach designated thresholds. The following ESVMG Master Gardeners were recognized at the August General Meeting for their accomplishments.

250 Hours Completed

- Jennifer Alley
- Connie Decker
- Kim Fehrer
- Wendy Miles
- Paul Tiffany
- Claudia Underwood

500 Hours Completed

- Terry Ewell
- Phil Goetkin

1,000 Total Hours Completed

- Fran Kubick
- Christine Williams

Thank you all for your dedicated work to educate and support the gardening community on the Eastern Shore!

New Extension Master Gardeners

The following ESVMG Master Gardener Interns have now satisfied the required 50 hours of classroom instruction and 50 hours of hands-on internship spent on field experience in horticulture-based, education programs.

- Carol Amorosi
- Jim Crunk
- Hannah Denny
- Donna Doan
- Joanne Fitchett
- Victor Klein
- Doris LaJoie
- Mary Lou Waller
- Lynn Wajda

Congratulations to all!

Doris & Jim receiving their certificates
at the June Picnic.



Lynn receiving her certificate at the
August General Meeting.



Name This Plant



- A. This grape-sized fruit is usually associated with its tropical cousin. In more northern climates, it is grown on a fast climbing vine capable of surviving slow temperature drops down to -30° F. Often sweeter than its larger cousin, the fruit of this vine can be eaten whole without being peeled. Being a new plant, it surprisingly produced this plentiful bounty in year #2!

contributed by Christine Williams



- B. Bob was surprised to find this plant blooming at Ker Place Herb Garden in February of 2018. Blooms lasted through July. This herbaceous perennial is a shade-loving evergreen ground cover growing to about 12" tall. It is hardy in zones 3a to 8b and prefers moist soil.

Early uses of this plant were the treatment of lung diseases because of lung-like markings on leaves, yellow fever and skin ulcers. Today, it is used to reduce swelling and inflammation from injuries and bruises.

contributed by Bob Shendock



- C. This plant puts on a show twice a year. First in the spring with a delicate pink cup-shaped flower that lasts only a few days and in the autumn with a bold, hard-to-miss display of reds and blues as the seed pod bursts to disperse its contents. Jennifer purchased this plant at the Greenspring Gardens plant sale in Annandale and was sold on it based on its peculiar seed pod.

contributed by Jennifer Alley

Answers: A. Hardy Kiwi Vine, B. Pulmonaria (commonly known as Lungwort) 'Raspberry Splash' C. Japanese Woodland Peony

Save The Date

- Sept 11, 3:00 – 6:00 Cape Charles Plant Clinic
- Sept 4, 9:30 – 11:00 Executive Board Meeting, AREC
- Sept 10, 11:00 – 2:00 Accomack Plant Clinic (every Monday)
- Sept 22, 9:00 – 4:00 Exmore Artisan & Craft Show (ESVMG Plant Sale)
- Sept 25, 8:00 – 3:00 Farm Field Day, Duncan Farms (Northern Accomack)
- Sept 29, 9:00 – 4:00 Outdoor Exploration Day, Kiptopeke State Park
- Oct 2, 9:30 – 11:30 ESVMG General Meeting
- Oct 3, 8:45 - noon Kickoff of 2018-19 Master Gardener Classes
- Oct 9, 3:00 – 6:00 Cape Charles Plant Clinic



Announcing: ESVMG Speakers Bureau

ESVMG announces its newly created Speakers Bureau which arranges for speakers throughout the year to provide educational presentations to the general public and continuing education opportunities for its members. Upon request, the Speakers Bureau identifies members with particular gardening expertise who are willing to present, many of whom are experienced speakers and others who are newly recruited experts. Once selected, the bureau coordinates with the presenter concerning event details.

If your organization is interested in including an ESVMG presentation on its calendar or if you are a member with a specialty that you would like to present (we are still recruiting speakers), please contact the following coordinators:

Sharyn McQuaid 757-789-5010 mcfrogs72@gmail.com

Robert Shendock 757-336-3718 (L) 240-676-8165 (C) rgshendock@netzero.net

2018 ESVMG BOARD MEMBERS

President – Phil Goetkin

Vice-President – Bob Shendock

Secretary – Julie Cardinale

Past President – Julie Rogers

Member at Large (Accomack) – Joyce Falkinburg

Member at Large (Northampton) - Paul Tiffany

VISIT ESVMG WEBSITE

Eastern Shore of Virginia Master Gardeners Newsletter Editor: Jane McKinley
23303 Front St., PO Box 60, Accomack, VA 23301.

Phone: 757-787-1361/Hotline: 757-678-7946. E-mail esmgv@gmail.com.



If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Jill Wright at [757-385-4769](tel:757-385-4769) during the business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. TDD number [\(800\) 828-1120](tel:800-828-1120). Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Interim Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



