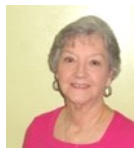




Dirty Digs

June



**ACMGA President
Rose McCauley**

This Fourth of July, the United States celebrated its 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! We live in a great country!!

In honor of this 205th anniversary, Grow More Give More has issued the 250 lb. Challenge to each EMGA in Alabama. The challenge goal is for each county to donate 250 pounds of fresh produce to people in the community between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Currently, Autauga County is number 12 on the list with 275.3 pounds.

The 2026 Great Southeast Pollinator Census is happening August 21-22.

You need to register at www.gsepc.org and you will begin receiving emails about this event. Many of us completed the count last year when Alabama joined the group.

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AMGA Website
Alabamamg.org



Autauga MG Website
autaugamastergardeners.org



Extension Website
mg.aces.edu



Special points of interest:

- *Lunch and Learn*
- *Prattville Garden*

On one of those two days in August, you will select a plant and record the various insects that visit it during a 15-minute time frame.

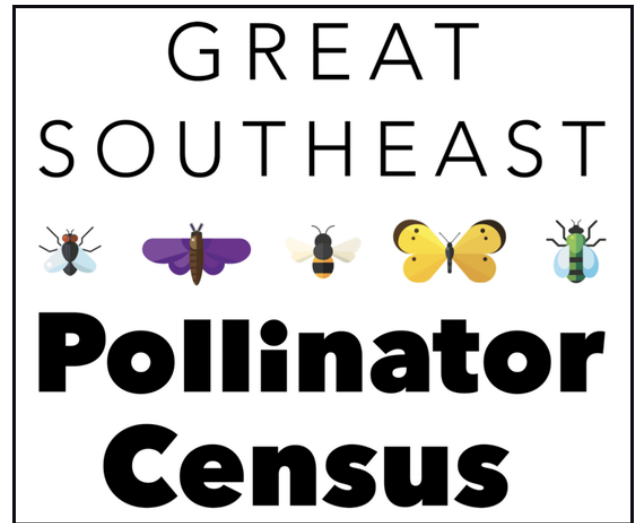
There is a tally sheet to download and when completed, you upload your totals to the website.

There are videos on the website that will give you more information if needed. I encourage everyone to participate.

Upcoming events include the 2025/2026 intern graduation hosted by Central AMGA and the 2026/2027 intern class hosted by ACMGA will begin in August.

Our Fall Plant Sale will be held October 24th & 25th at Spinners Park. Please continue or start propagating plants for the sale.

Rose



Pollinator Census Selected Links:

Home Page: <https://gsepc.org/>

Counting Sheet:

<https://gsepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Counting-Sheet.pdf>

News Letter Signup:

<https://gsepc.org/#newsletter>



Grow More, Give More 250 Pound Challenge

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/grow-more-give-more/grow-more-give-more-250-pound-challenge/>



Demo Garden

275.3 pounds

Karen Joyce George Bell
October 30, 1941 - May 15, 2026



BELL, Karen Joyce George, 84, resident of Prattville, AL went home to be with the Lord on Friday, May 15, 2026. Mrs. Bell was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Ethel George; husband, William Bell; granddaughter, Misty Walls; two brothers, William George and Merle George; two sisters, Louise Ames and Beverly Teel. She is survived by her son, Robert Bell (Barbara); three grandchildren, William Bell, Grace Bell and Faith Bell; daughter, Katherine Walls; brother, Robert George (Sharon); extended family and friends.

NOTE: Karen became a MG in 2016.

Obituary page:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/karen-bell-obituary?id=61476723>

Lunch and Learn

Susan Clapp

2026-03-15

The Lunch and Learn programs for 2026 got off to a great start!

In January, Janell Diggs, Advanced Master Gardener, presented a program on Bluebirds and their Habitat. She demonstrated how elements of bluebird house design and placement of the house help them thrive. She also educated attendees about the life cycle of bluebirds and how they are beneficial to the environment.

Glenn Huovinen, Advanced Master Gardener, provided February's program about Gardening in Small Spaces. He explained the benefits of using grow bags for those who enjoy growing vegetables in addition to other plant types. His slideshow provided unique examples of how he is able to successfully grow many plants in very small spaces, including growing corn in a small child's swimming pool. He also explained methods for setting up drip systems.

Special thanks to Jackie Raines for acquiring the speakers, moderating, and ensuring that the facility is ready for our use.

Lunch and Learn programs are open to the public and occur the third Wednesday of each month at Trinity Methodist Church on Fairview Avenue in Prattville from noon until 1:00 pm.



Janell Diggs



Glenn Huovinen

Photographs: Susan Clapp

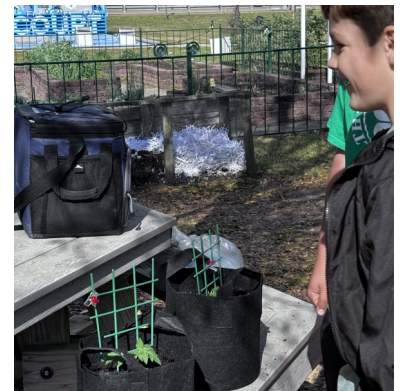
NOTE: Article originally submitted for the first quarter Dirty Digs

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN 4-H KIDS CLASS

Glenn Huovinen

Kacey Powel brought 4-H to the Demo Garden for a day of garden fun and learning.

They planted a Cherry Tomato in a grow bag to take home and grow tomatoes for their families. They learned about composting and a tour of the garden. Great kids and great fun!



Alabama Gardener's Calendar – August

Kerry Smith, Frances Sledge, Dave Williams, and Ron Shumack

Original Article

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar-august/>



Fruits and Nuts

- Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes.
- Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

Shrubs

- Propagate woody plants, such as hydrangeas and azaleas, by layering.
- Do not fertilize woody plants in late summer. It will stimulate new growth that might not have time to harden off before winter's first frost.

Lawns

- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass. Skip this month for fertilizing centipedegrass and zoysiagrass.
- Mow often (every 5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- Water lawns as needed (grayish color or curling leaf blades).
- Stop fertilizing warm-season turf types at the end of the month.

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Lightly prune hybrid teas and floribundas to prevent a scraggly appearance.
- Old-fashioned roses will experience second bloom flush, so no need to prune these types.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials for spring.

Bulbs

- Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month.
- Closely observe for insects and diseases.
- Water.

Vegetable Seeds

- Whole state: Continue planting beans and squash.
- Central and North: Continue planting cole crops, beets, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, Swiss chard, parsley, radishes, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants

- South and Central: Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red-skinned varieties until mid-month.
- North: Plant cole crop transplants that were started in July.
- NOTE: Cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, and Brussels sprouts)

Alabama Gardener's Calendar – September

Kerry Smith, Frances Sledge, Dave Williams, and Ron Shumack

Original Article

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar-september/>



Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease.
- Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease, or freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides.
- Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these.
- Divide old clumps of perennials.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build a compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Monitor house plants for insects and diseases before moving them indoors. Treat as needed to prevent carrying unwanted pest indoors.

Vegetable Seeds

- South: Plant beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, parsley, and turnips.
- Central and North: Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants

- Whole state: Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets.
- South: Plant celery transplants.

Upcoming Birthdays



JULY

Angie Nabors 07/02
Beverly Coutts 07/06
Anthony Yarbrough 07/07
Elissa Davis 07/08
John Carrick 07/10
Carolyn Gray 07/13
Adrienne Yarbrough 07/18
Cindy Salyer 07/21
Judy Preston 07/21
Linda Hicks 07/23



AUGUST

Bionca Lindsey 08/02
Margaret C. Smitherman 08/04
George Walthall 08/06
Robin Snyder 08/09
Jane Boysen 08/12
Bob Sheffler 08/13
Sue Brasel 08/25
Linda Moscetti 08/25

SEPTEMBER

Vicki Williamson 09/03
Glenda Harris 09/14
Lori Terrell 09/20
Bettye Hyde 09/23



Please let us know if we missed your birthday



GROWING CORN IN A KIDDIE POOL
USING ROOT POUCH GROW BAGS
IRRIGATED BY A RAIN BARREL
IRRIGATION LEVEL MAINTAINED
BY KERICK FLOAT VALVE
Glenn Huovinen



Prattvillage Garden

Jane McCarthy, Chair



Our team of master gardener volunteers meet on Tuesday mornings around 8:30 during summer and work approximately 2 hours. Here's what we have done this quarter in Prattvillage Garden:

- Prepped for the ACMGA annual plant sale (sorted pots and potted plants to sell)
- Trimmed shrubs...azaleas, camellias, forsythias, roses, wisteria, weigelia, etc.
- Fertilized, pulled weeds and thugs, mowed and tidied up
- Conducted garden tours for visitors and directed them to the Vegetable Demonstration Garden next to the library.



Clasping Heliotrope...

Heliotropium amplexicaule



Garden Phlox... *Phlox paniculata*



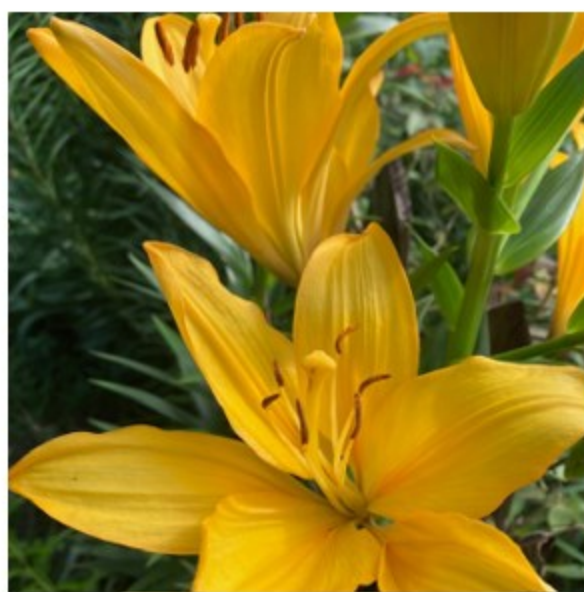
Hairy Rosinweed...*Silphium integrifolium*



Husker Red Penstemon...*Penstemon digitalis*
'Husker Red'



Double Orange Daylily...*Hemerocallis*
fulva 'Kwanso'



Yellow Asiatic Lily...*Lilium asiatic*

All photos taken at Prattvillage Garden by Jane McCarthy

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Autauga County Extension Office

2226 AL-14 W, Suite E
Autaugaville, AL 36003

Phone: 334-361-7273



Autauga County Master Gardener Volunteers are...

Motivated – to share their knowledge and expertise.

Accessible – to other Master Gardeners, horticulture and Extension professionals, and the public.

Service-oriented – to enhance their communities and the environment.

Trained – by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.

Excited – about meeting other people who enjoy gardening.

Research ambassadors – who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.

Next Issue September 30th
Please submit articles, no later than September 15

Prattville Garden
139 1st Street, Prattville, AL 36067

Images courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Honor Bricks:
<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>

AMGA Event Page:
<https://mg.aces.edu/autauga/events-calendar>

