

2017

*Gardening*  
*in the* *South*

**extension**  
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES



# Gardening in the South

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## 2017 Calendar

### Learn. Grow. Explore.

Gardening is a year-round hobby for many Southerners and always a fun opportunity to LEARN something new. From native beauties such as summersweet to historical traditions such as camellias, the plant palette has something for everyone. Weather in the South allows a vegetable garden to GROW all winter and long summer harvests often provide plenty to share. EXPLORE a botanical garden or call an Alabama Extension agent or the Master Gardener Helpline to find demonstration gardens and workshops near you. Gardening is for everyone.

*You will find references throughout the calendar to garden information from Alabama Extension. Titles such as Home Bulb Forcing (ANR-1325) are available at no charge at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu).*



*Look for our Learn, Grow, Explore icons throughout the calendar. They offer great ways to learn more about Alabama Extension, our program partners, and the bounty of resources we offer every gardener.*



# Windmill Palm

Family: Arecaceae

Cold hardy palms such as needle palm (*Rhapidothymus hystrix*), windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), and dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*) can withstand low winter temperatures as well as ice and snow. Add these for a tropical surprise in your landscape.



## 📍 Longleaf Botanical Gardens: Anniston, Alabama

This botanical garden has a collection of cold hardy palms found on its beautiful 74-acre property. Additionally, this garden has year-round attractions including a wonderful collection of spring blooming plants, event venues, and plant sales. A goal of the Longleaf Botanical Garden is to be a noteworthy destination for the entire region.

## 🔍 Right Plant, Right Place

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map helps gardeners choose hardy plants based on average minimum winter temperature. Alabama includes zones 9a to 7a. Learn more: [aces.edu/gardencalendar](http://aces.edu/gardencalendar).



## 🌿 Garden Tip: Cold Weather Color

Variegated winter daphne (*Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata'*) is perfect for a shady, dry garden or a special container. Plant this winter bloomer near a patio to appreciate its sweet fragrance from January to March.

# 2017 JAN

## Views From The Field

**HAYES JACKSON**  
Urban Regional Extension Agent  
Celebrating Winter Gardens in the South

"Southern gardens flourish in all seasons. Wintertime isn't a season of rest—it's alive with flowers and fragrance. Hands down, camellias are my favorite winter flower. There are even a few fragrant ones. I do my best gardening in winter—all my landscape planting, new beds, and building hardscapes. It's just easier to work in cooler weather than in the sweltering summer."



**Home Bulb Forcing (ANR-1325)**  
Forcing bulbs at home brings the bright colors and the fragrances of spring indoors for late winter and spring enjoyment. Bulbs can be purchased at your local nursery or box stores. These bulbs make the perfect gift or decorative piece for any space. Visit [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) to download.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>Serenity in the Garden</b> Even in the wintertime, the Birmingham Botanical Garden's Japanese garden is spectacular. Visitors can bundle up and stroll the gardens free of charge.			

**GOT QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS.** The Master Gardener Helpline answers questions from your yard or garden. Alabama Extension Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who will gladly assist you. Give them a call at **1-877-252-GROW (4769)**!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Late fall and winter are the optimal months for planting since the canopy is dormant. By the time spring and summer come around, plants have a better-developed root system to tolerate the hot, dry weather of summer.

# Camellia

Family Theaceae

Blooming fall or winter, each camellia variety provides bright, showy interest to a landscape. More than 2,300 cultivars are registered with the American Camellia Society. With so many bloom types, it's likely at least one will fit your needs.



### Did You Know?

Green, black, and oolong tea are all made from the new leaves of *Camellia sinensis*. Each unique flavor is imparted from a different oxidation process.

### Mobile Botanical Gardens: Mobile, Alabama

If you are down south, check out the 100-acre Mobile Botanical Garden. It has the Kosaku Sawada Winter Garden, which was named as a "Garden of Excellence by the International Camellia Society—an honor only achieved by seven public gardens in the United States." It also features an extensive azalea collection and many woodland walking trails.

### Garden Tip: Pruning Time

Now is the time to prune late blooming plants before new growth begins. Be warned! Do not prune plants blooming before May 1 or you'll accidentally remove this year's flower buds.



# 2017 FEB

### Views From The Field

**ROBIN KRCHAK**  
Executive Director, Mobile Botanical Gardens

#### Love Your Camellias Month

"Japonica camellias are in peak bloom and complemented by companion plants such as Asian magnolias, Taiwan cherries, coreopsis, and hundreds of daffodils throughout the 7-acre site. This month—on the 14th—we will welcome visitors from the International Camellia Society who will be traveling to the United States to review our camellia garden among other southeastern collections. We will be in tip-top shape for this important visit. Hopefully lots of folks will visit and enjoy."



Want to learn more about growing camellias? Do you need variety recommendations? Download *The Culture of Camellias (ANR-0202)* at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Groundhog Day		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Valentine's Day				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Presidents' Day					
26	27	28				



**Planning a Smarter Yard!**  
As spring fever approaches, consider a new approach to yard management. Smarter choices save time and money. Look for *Smart Yard Landscapes (ANR-1441)* at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu).

**DID YOU KNOW?** Don't let the warm days of February fool you. Plants that normally bloom before May should not be pruned now. It cuts off their flower buds. Call the Master Gardener Helpline at 1-877-252-GROW (4769) any time you have garden questions.

## Native Azalea

Family Ericaceae

Unlike Asian azaleas, native azaleas are deciduous and most have deliciously fragrant blooms. Their delicate flowers, resembling honeysuckle, vary in color including pink, white, orange, and red. Give extra attention to providing water in the first year of establishment.



### Donald E. Davis Arboretum: Auburn, Alabama

Located at Auburn University, the 13.5-acre arboretum is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. Not only can you view Auburn's collection of native azaleas in spring, but a diverse network of walking paths winds through displays of southern plants and their ecosystems. Other collections include oaks and carnivorous pitcher plants.

### Auburn Azalea Series



Starting in the 1980s, Auburn University has hybridized native azaleas. Some cultivars in the series include 'Tiger', 'Aubie', 'War Eagle', and 'Plainsman'.



### Garden Tip: Companion Plants

Be smart, plant companion plants in the same bed. These companions need similar conditions or provide growth support to each other. For instance, supplying nutrients or shade. Azalea companions include acid soil lovers such as pine trees and mountain laurels.

# 2017 MAR

### Views From The Field

PATRICK THOMPSON

Donald E. Davis Arboretum  
Azaleas for Every Occasion

"I stay excited about Auburn's azaleas all year round because they offer so much. Some are wonderfully fragrant, providing a reliable source of nectar for several insects. Auburn has a rich tradition of growing and creating new garden varieties with even bigger flowers and extensions to the bloom calendar. Others withstand the heat of Alabama's summers once they get established."



**Fire Ant Control Materials for Alabama Homeowners (ANR-0175-A).** This list of available treatments explains how each works and other information to help every homeowner who has fire ant problems. Visit [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) to download.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Daylight Savings Time					St. Patrick's Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	First Day of Spring					
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**DID YOU KNOW?** A quick recipe for hummingbird food is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. For more information, see **Hummingbirds in Alabama (ANR-0716)** on [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu).

**REMINDER:** As you get ready for a new planting season, leave some of your cool-season vegetables in the garden. These flowers are attractive to many beneficial insects in early spring.

# Woodland Phlox

Family Polemoniaceae

Often soft blue, but sometimes lavender or rose, woodland phlox is a native wildflower across the Deep South. Allowing a rich humus layer encourages its ability to spread, creating large colonies. This spring beauty's flower carpet is a gem in any shade garden.



## Longleaf Pine Treasure Forest: Mobile, Alabama

Many botanical gardens include a wildflower trail. Mobile Botanical Gardens is home to the Longleaf Pine Treasure Forest. Stroll the popular trails to see thousands of wildflowers blooming each spring. It's also a great place to see the elusive dwarf pawpaw, the larval host plant to zebra swallowtail butterflies.

## Dry Shade Gardens

Shady gardens evoke cooler comfort in a hot southern garden. Establishing new transplants requires attention to adequate watering the first year. Trees easily outcompete other plants for water.



## Beautiful Shade Gardens

Look for shade plants that have colored or textured foliage. Some offer strong contrast with white foliage or golden variegation. Others have different growth habits to add even more character to your garden.

# 2017 APR

## Views From The Field

JOHN MANION

*Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator,  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens*

### Experience Native Beauty

"An excellent way to become familiar with the beauty and ecological importance of our native flora is to visit the Kaul Wildflower Garden at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. There is nowhere else in the world where visitors may walk amongst a spectacular collection of nearly 800 species of plants native to Alabama, the fifth most biodiverse state in the nation."



Planting for the plate! Knowing the season to plant starts every successful vegetable garden. Gain valuable knowledge with the *Planting Guide for Home Gardening in Alabama (ANR-0063)*. Visit [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) to download.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	Arbor Day



## Plan Your Garden with SOW!

This free app takes the guess work out of gardening. It tells you the best days for planting, spacing, recommended varieties, and more. Its available in both iTunes and Google play stores.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Mulching helps reduce weed growth, retain soil moisture, and give the garden an attractive finished look. Use any organic material that will break down into the soil and also provide a natural woodland look. Call the Master Gardener Helpline at 1-877-252-GROW (4769)!

# Plains Coreopsis

Family Asteraceae

Coreopsis are dependable, easy to grow from seed, and offer long lasting flowers. Choose from more than 30 native coreopsis species for your native pollinator garden! You might be surprised by the number of beneficial insects who visit.



## Black Belt Garden: Livingston, Alabama

This native plant garden on the campus of the University of West Alabama is dedicated to the preservation, education, and study of the native flora of the prairie Black Belt soils in Alabama. If you are ever nearby in May or June, go check out the blue larkspurs, purple prairie clovers, and many song birds.

## Purple Prairie Clover

Native to the black soil prairies from Saskatchewan to New Mexico to Alabama, this bean family plant attracts a variety of pollinating insects.



## Garden Tip: Attractive Gardens, Happy Pollinators

Help pollinators by adding native plants to your garden. They are attracted to flowers with fragrance, and an easy place to land. Always, always, protect pollinators by targeting the pests whenever using pesticides.

# 2017 MAY

### Views From The Field

**DANI CARROLL**  
*Regional Extension Agent*

#### Building a Better Garden

"Planting and maintaining our landscapes to promote beneficial insect habitat, including pollinators, is a fun, sustainable approach to gardening. We often focus on ridding our landscapes of the less than 3 percent of insects that are considered pests. Many beneficial insects can do the work for us if we provide them a good home."



Planting native wildflowers in the landscape is a great idea. They generally require less water, less soil preparation, and they are tolerant of the Alabama heat. To learn more, check out *Wildflowers in Alabama Landscapes (ANR-0623)*. This resource provides a lot of plants to choose from for your planting area. Visit [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) to download.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	 <p><b>Good Guy or Bad Guy?</b> It's easy to think all insects are bad, but try using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tactics or call the Master Gardener Helpline before using pesticides.</p>		
	Memorial Day					

**DID YOU KNOW?** If a plant blooms before May 1, prune it as soon as its flowers are spent. If a plant blooms after May 1, prune it before it flowers.

# 'Snowflake' Oakleaf Hydrangea

Family Hydrangeaceae

This unique variety of the native oakleaf hydrangea has stunning double white flower clusters and a long bloom season. It has large, deeply lobed leaves that make a statement in fall as the leaves turn deep shades of purple and red.



## Aldridge Gardens: Hoover, Alabama

Visitors explore and learn in this 30-acre public garden that was the home of well-known horticulturist Eddie Aldridge. The garden showcases hydrangeas and other plants, including the 'Snowflake' hydrangea, which is now the official flower of the City of Hoover. Stroll the trails and visit the home galleries to enjoy art from nature and local artists.

## Burkwood Viburnum

Viburnums are great companions for hydrangeas because they share many cultural requirements. These deciduous plants add blooms to woodlands or part sun gardens.



## Garden Tip: Daylilies

Daylilies are easy to grow perennials that bloom all summer and adapt to most any sunny locale. Their flower buds are tasty fried, boiled or fresh in salads. Plant the crowns in early spring or very late fall.

# 2017 JUN


## Views From The Field

**EDDIE ALDRIDGE**  
*Hydrangea Expert*

### A Magical Thing

"As a boy, I remember our nursery forcing hydrangeas for Mother's Day sales. From dormant "sticks" in the greenhouse, they'd bloom 5 months later. It was magical to me! The native oakleaf hydrangea is my favorite of all. Not many people know that the 'Snowflake' variety was found in the woods; God made it, not me. Dad and I knew it was something special. We made our first cuttings from the wild plant in 1969, and now 'Snowflake' is planted in gardens around the world."



 Growing strawberries is easy to do with the right environment. These tasty fruits grow best in raised beds for better soil drainage. Their shallow roots need regular water during hot summer days!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Father's Day			First Day of Summer			
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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# Water Lilies

Family Nymphaea

While water lilies appear delicate, don't let their exotic look fool you. These tough, beautiful flowers grow in tropical and temperate climates. Display gardens often plant these in special containers to limit their spread.



## Huntsville Botanical Garden: Huntsville, Alabama

Located near the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, this 112-acre botanical garden is open to the public. Explore multiple trails and see the *Garden Railway*, *Damson Aquatic Garden*, and the nation's largest open-air butterfly house. Whatever you choose to see, you are sure to find a treat.

## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens add beauty and reduce storm water runoff. This depression planted with flood-tolerant plants catches and holds water for only a day or two. Learn more: [aces.edu/gardencalendar](http://aces.edu/gardencalendar).



## Garden Tip: Rain Garden Plants

Rain garden plants must tolerate both soggy and dry soils. Many are native to flood plains or wet meadows. Joe Pye weed prefers full sun, but tolerates afternoon shade. Cut plants to the ground after song birds finish snacking on its seeds.

# 2017 JUL

## Views From The Field

EVE BRANTLEY

*Water Resource Specialist,  
Alabama Extension*

### Water Conservation

"Protecting and conserving water around your home and work is simple with rain gardens and rain barrels. Rain gardens are shallow, attractive areas that catch and clean polluted storm water. They hold water for no more than 2 days and allow storm water to soak into the ground where natural processes transform pollutants into less harmful forms. Rain barrels store storm water to irrigate gardens, wash cars, and other nonpotable uses."

## Ways To Learn



Call a Home Grounds regional agent or county Extension office to find a rain barrel workshop near you! (See the resources area in the back of the calendar.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
		Independence Day				
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

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# Milkweed

Family Asclepiadaceae

Milkweed plants come in many shapes and sizes. Flowers are shades of white, red, or yellow. Several insects, including monarch butterfly caterpillars, depend on these plants.



## Dothan Area Botanical Gardens: Dothan, Alabama

The Dothan Area Botanical Gardens consists of 50 acres of cultivated gardens, nature trails, and undeveloped wooded landscapes. The Butterfly Garden has a wide array of plants such as butterfly bush, coreopsis, hibiscus, and zinnia as well as host plants for butterfly larvae. Late summer is the best time to see these colorful insects.

## Butterflies in the Garden

From late summer through fall, gingers bloom with richly fragrant flowers. The butterfly ginger is named because of its open, wing-shaped flowers.



## Garden Tip: Butterfly Gardens

A bountiful butterfly garden includes a wide variety of annuals, perennials, and shrubs that provide continuous flowers throughout warm weather. Many native butterflies often visit purple, red, orange, and yellow flowers.

# 2017 AUG

## Views From The Field

**AMANDA MAPLES**  
*Children's Garden Manager,  
Huntsville Botanical Garden*

### Butterfly Gardens

"For a successful butterfly garden, you must be able to sustain the entire life cycle of the butterfly. This means providing butterfly-specific host plants for the larval stage at the beginning of spring. A few examples of host plants are milkweed for monarchs, fennel and parsley for black swallowtails, pawpaw for zebra swallowtails, and passion flower vine for Gulf fritillaries."



Tiny parasitic wasps are beneficial to gardeners. They attack, paralyze, and kill many kinds of insect pests, but do not sting people like other wasps. (Pictured: braconid wasp pupae on hornworm caterpillar)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**BELLINGRATH GARDENS AND HOME.** During the month of August, Bellingrath Gardens and Home celebrates an Anniversary Special in honor of their 80th anniversary. Ticket prices will be reduced to \$16.50 for adults and \$11.50 for children.

**SOW EASY TO USE.** August is the prime month for planning your fall or winter garden!



# Late Summer Squash

Family Cucurbitaceae

Mix it up! Late summer squash need not be alone in the garden. In fact, there's no rule that relegates vegetables and ornamentals to separate beds. Planting vegetables in with flowers increases the chance of seeing the beneficial insects who help your garden thrive.



## CASA Gardens: Marshall County, Alabama

Master Gardeners are a special part of CASA, Care and Assurance for the Aging and Homebound, in Marshall County. They provide fresh vegetables from a 3-acre garden. Ten dedicated Marshall County Master Gardeners volunteer through the week growing every veggie you can imagine. This labor of love boasts an average annual harvest of 4 tons!

## Try Something New!

It's time to change seasons in the garden! Lettuce and other cool-season crops, such as beautiful chard or kale, are trendy and pretty.



## Garden Tip: Fall Surprise!

Hurricane lilies (Family Amaryllidaceae) are unique! Their foliage grows fall through winter, and the flowers pop up in late summer during the peak of tropical storm season. This is why they are called hurricane lilies.

# 2017 SEP

## Views From The Field

**J.D. SWARTZLANDER**  
*Marshall County Master Gardener and CASA Garden Lead Volunteer*

### On the CASA Garden

"If you've ever given fresh food to someone who doesn't have any and seen the look on their face, it's reward in itself. We use consecutive cropping. It means we plant new (squash) when the first plants look rough and keep the garden growing. Our vegetable donations usually last from March to November. We feel like that does a lot of good."



**The Alabama Vegetable Gardener (ANR-0479).** A bountiful home garden comes only with planning and constant attention. This publication includes a spring and fall planting chart for approximately 30 vegetables and a guide to harvesting at the correct stage, plus soil troubleshooting. Visit [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) to download.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					First Day of Fall	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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# Japanese Maples

Family Aceraceae

Japanese maples, and related kin, are often used as garden focal points. They easily catch your eye and offer four seasons of interest. These unique trees brighten spring and bring rich color to fall. Choose your favorite from over 1,000 named varieties.



## Fruits of the Silver Maple

Maple seeds are always a pair of winged samaras. Of the North American natives, silver maple has the largest samara, which is up to 2½ inches long.

## Quail Hollow Gardens: Notasulga, Alabama

Quail Hollow Gardens and is owned and operated by former Auburn Coach Pat Dye, where more than 5,000 Japanese maple trees are available for purchase. Located in Notasulga, Alabama, visitors enjoy seeing specimen trees planted along paths and flowing water features. Visit the nursery, schedule a tour, or even stay for lunch. Go to [quailhollowgardens.com](http://quailhollowgardens.com) to schedule.

## Garden Tip: Divas in a Southern Garden

Japanese Maples can be garden divas. Varieties with especially lacy leaves are more sensitive to drought. Their planting location needs dappled or afternoon shade, protection from wind, and consistently moist soil.



# 2017 OCT

## Views From the Field

**PAT DYE**  
*Owner/Operator of Quail Hollow Gardens*

### From the Football Field to the Nursery Field

It's obvious that Pat Dye loves trees, all of them. "Trees are a lot like people. You give them what they need, sunlight, water, and a good spot to live – you know, the right attention – and they thrive. Just give 'em a little care." He champions the virtues of mulch. Grass hay, not straw, is his favorite. "They'll never get dry again."



Mount Cheaha State Park is located in Delta, Alabama off Highway 281. This state park is the highest point in Alabama and the perfect place for a fall getaway. Fall colors peak between mid-October and mid-November.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	<b>It's Fall. Check Your Soil!</b> Fall is the best time to send a soil test to the lab. This gives the amendments time to break down and make the soil ready for spring flowers.			

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# Cascading Mums

Family Asteraceae

Taking advantage of their free-branching habit, cascading mums are trained over various forms to showcase their blooms. Many hours of care go into the pinching and tying to each frame shape. Bellingrath's Mum Show is the nation's largest outdoor chrysanthemum display.



## Bellingrath Gardens and Home: Theodore, Alabama

This southern estate is now a public garden. The property is 65 acres of year-round floral pageantry and was the home of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath. Bellingrath Gardens houses thousands of exquisite plants and flowers indoors and out. It is a perfect location to host community occasions such as weddings, birthdays, and special events.

## Duffie Oak: Mobile, Alabama

This live oak is about 300 years old and is the oldest living landmark in the city. The National Arborist Association and Alabama Forestry Commission recognize it as a famous, historic tree.



## Garden Tip: Fall Mum Maintenance

For longer lasting flowers, keep mums consistently moist and shielded from night time lighting. Don't allow them to stand in water, and water them at the soil line to prevent petal blight.

# 2017 NOV

### Views From the Field

**BILL BARRICK**

*Executive Director, Bellingrath Gardens and Home*

#### Epitome of a Southern Garden

"Bellingrath Gardens is a classic southern garden. In the '40s and '50s, visitors came every March to see all the azaleas in bloom. We were then and we are today, the epitome of a southern garden. Without question, our greatest horticultural achievement is the cascade chrysanthemum displays in November. Requiring over 9 months to produce, they grace the balconies of the Bellingrath Home, Boehm Gallery, and gardens of the 65-acre estate."



*It's not too late to plant spring blooming bulbs. Daffodils are a favorite and they're deer resistant too!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Daylight Savings Time		Election Day				Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Thanksgiving	

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# Winterberry Holly

Family Aquifoliaceae

Plants with brilliantly colored red berries, such as winterberry, brighten up any winter scene. This unique holly produces fruit on bare, deciduous stems. Additionally, these shrubs are attractive to song birds. Wildlife bring vibrance to your chilly landscape.



## Birmingham Botanical Gardens: Birmingham, Alabama

Visit the Barber Alabama Woodlands to explore the 6-acre forest containing the Gardens' oldest native trees. The diverse habitats located in this forest make it a popular destination for birdwatchers, including the Birmingham Audubon Society. Throughout the year, the Audubon Society and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens host many educational events for children and adults.

## Plant Native

Benefits of using native plants include higher adaptability to weather cycles, lower maintenance once established, wildlife attractants, and seasonal interest. Learn more: [aces.edu/gardencalendar](http://aces.edu/gardencalendar).



## Garden Tip: Ornamental Grasses

When other plants may lose attractiveness by December, ornamental grasses can fill the gap for seasonal interest. In some species, the feathery seed spikes remain through winter adding texture, movement, and variety to a landscape.

# 2017 DEC

## Views From the Field

JERRY JONES

Blount County Master Gardener

### Winged Wonders

"There is nothing I enjoy more than sitting on our porch with a cup of coffee and binoculars watching birds. I see our common birds mating and building nests along with many birds that are not so common such as summer tanagers, orchard orioles, cedar waxwings, and blue-gray gnatcatchers. Each season brings new species to supplement our year-round birds, so I never get bored."

## Suet Recipe



Suet is a good winter energy source for birds. Purchase it at most garden centers or make your own.

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup vegetable shortening
- 4 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 handful of sunflower seeds

Spread on log feeder, or freeze into blocks to put in suet feeder.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

### 'Tis the Season

Did you buy a poinsettia this month? It is a classic holiday plant. *Consumer Poinsettia Care (ANR-0894)* provides information on plant selection, care, and life expectancy, as well as on the challenges of post-holiday care and reflowering. Download at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				First Day of Winter		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
New Year's Eve	Christmas Day					

**GOT QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS.** The Master Gardener Helpline answers questions from your yard or garden. ACES Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who will gladly assist you. Give them a call at 1-877-252-GROW (4769)!



**GARDENING EVENT CALENDAR:**

**JANUARY**

January–December: Alabama Extension and Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn, dates and locations at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

**FEBRUARY**

Feb. 15: Central Alabama Master Gardeners host Toby Hemingway and Jason Powell, Gardens in Permaculture, Wetumpka



**MARCH**

March 17–19: Mobile Botanical Gardens, Plant Sale

March 23: Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners host Jenks Farmer

March 30–April 1: Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, Plant Sale

**APRIL**

April 7–9: Huntsville Botanical Garden, Plant Sale

April 8–9: Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Plant Sale  
April 22: Capital City Master Gardeners, Plant Sale  
April 29: Autauga County Master Gardeners, Plant Sale  
April 29: Tuscaloosa Master Gardeners, Plant Sale  
April 29–30: Morgan County Master Gardeners, Plant Sale



**MAY**

May 1–3: Alabama Master Gardeners Association Conference, Huntsville  
May 6: Central Alabama Master Gardener, Plant Sale, Wetumpka

**OCTOBER**

Oct. 1–30: Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, *Scarecrows in the Gardens*

Oct. 20: Bat Walk at Donald E. Davis Arboretum (Tri-Beta Honor Society)

Oct. 20–22: Mobile Botanical Gardens, Plant Sale



**NOVEMBER**

Nov. 5–19: 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Outdoor Cascading Chrysanthemums, Bellingrath Gardens & Home, Mobile

Nov. 23–Dec. 31: Huntsville Botanical Garden, *Galaxy of Lights*

Nov. 24–Dec. 22: Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, *Gardens Aglow*

Nov. 24–Dec. 31: Bellingrath Gardens & Home, *Magic Christmas in Lights*, Mobile



**NATIVE AZALEA BLOOM TIMES:**

Florida Azalea: March 25–April 25

Pinxterbloom Azalea: April 1–30

Oconee Azalea: April 15–May 15

Alabama Azalea: April 22–May 15

Swamp Azalea: May–June

Sweet Azalea: May–June

Flame Azalea: May 28–June 25

Plumleaf Azalea: July–August

**FEATURE LOCATIONS:**

Aldridge Botanical Gardens  
[aldridgegardens.com](http://aldridgegardens.com)

Bellingrath Gardens and Home  
[www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)

Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
[www.bbgardens.org](http://www.bbgardens.org)

Black Belt Garden  
[www.centerforblackbelt.org/units/garden/](http://www.centerforblackbelt.org/units/garden/)



Donald E. Davis Arboretum  
[www.auburn.edu/cosam/arboretum](http://www.auburn.edu/cosam/arboretum)

Dothan Area Botanical Gardens  
[www.dabg.com](http://www.dabg.com)

Huntsville Botanical Garden  
[www.hsvbg.org](http://www.hsvbg.org)

Longleaf Botanical Gardens  
[www.longleafbotanicalgardens.org](http://www.longleafbotanicalgardens.org)

Mobile Botanical Gardens  
[www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org)

Quail Hollow Gardens  
[www.quailhollowgardens.com](http://www.quailhollowgardens.com)

**U-PICK FARMS IN ALABAMA:**

**AUTAUGA:** Mims Blueberries

**BALDWIN:** Hillcrest Farm, Alan Norden Farm, Bee Natural Farm, Gardners Berry Farm

**BLOUNT:** Daniel Allman Farm, Baty Farms, Trina's U-Pick Strawberries, Jerry Marsh Farm



**CALHOUN:** Bennett's Blueberry Farm, Jerry's Berries, Bill & Faye Graham Farm

**CHAMBERS:** Dempsey Farms

**CHILTON:** Gerald Coody Farm, Bernice McCraw Farm, Sunshine Farms/J. Durbin Farms, Sugar Hill Strawberry U-Pick, Petals from the Past

**CLAY:** Holmestead Farms

**COFFEE:** Leaky Brooke Farm

**COOSA:** John G. Neighbors Farm, Oakachoy Blueberry Farm, Rogers Berry Farm

**CULLMAN:** Darrell & Karen Bagwell Farm

**DEKALB:** Hardman Blueberry Farm

**ELMORE:** Barber Berry Farm, LLC; Oakview Farms

**ESCAMBIA:** O.J. Blount Farm

**ETOWAH:** Gypsy Ranch

**GENEVA:** Charles and Sharon Turner Farm, Little Sweets Strawberry Farm

**JACKSON:** Bill Beard Farm

**JEFFERSON:** Max and Lydia Blackburn Farm, Robert and Ada Strickland Farm, Judy Bee's Honey and Berry Farm



**LAUDERDALE:** McGee Farm

**LAWRENCE:** LouAllen Farms

**LEE:** 2-J Pic N Pay Vegetable Farm, Randle Farms, Billy Allen Farm

**LIMESTONE:** G & N Berry Farm

**MADISON:** Turner Farms, Brown Farms, Blue Willow Farms, Harvest Farm Blueberries

**MOBILE:** Ken Buck Farms, Betty's Berry Farm, Sunnyland Satsuma, Dan Powell Farm, Blue Moon Farm

**MONROE:** Hickory Hollow Vineyard

**MONTGOMERY:** Southern Growers Nursery & Greenhouse, Harold McLemore Farm, Nick Handey Farm

**MORGAN:** Vest U-Pick, Jeff Fagerman Farm, E & J Farms

**PIKE:** Linton Pea Patch

**RUSSELL:** Backyard Orchards

**ST. CLAIR:** Mike Wadsworth Farm

**SHELBY:** Morgan Creek Vineyards, JT and Shirley Lyon Farm, Barbara Reynolds Farm, Smith U-Pick

**TALLAPOOSA:** Blueberry Havens, Sweet Pick'ins Farms

**TUSCALOOSA:** Leavelle's Berries

**WALKER:** Pick Deason

**ALABAMA EXTENSION HOME GROUNDS REGIONAL AGENTS:**

**North Alabama**

Taylor Vandiver, Lauderdale County Office (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone)  
Allyson Shabel, Lawrence County Office (Lawrence, Morgan)  
Marcus Garner, Madison County Office (Madison)

**North, Central Alabama**

Tim Crow, Cullman County Office (Cullman, Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Walker, Winston)  
Sallie Lee, Jefferson County Office

(Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Walker)

Hunter McBrayer, Marshall County Office (DeKalb, Marshall)

Bethany O'Rear, Jefferson County Office (Blount, Jefferson, St. Clair)

Eric Schavey, Etowah County Office (Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Marshall)

Nelson Wynn, Shelby County Office (Bibb, Chilton, Pickens, Shelby, Tuscaloosa)

**East, Central Alabama**

Dani Carroll, Calhoun County Office

(Calhoun, Chambers, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, Talladega, Tallapoosa)  
Hayes Jackson, Calhoun County Office (Calhoun, Etowah)  
Mallory Kelley, Autauga County Office (Autauga, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Montgomery)  
Roosevelt Robinson, Montgomery County Office (Autauga, Elmore, Montgomery)

**West, Central Alabama**

Willie Datcher, Greene County Office (Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Wilcox)

**Southeast Alabama**

Lucy Edwards, Dale County Office (Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston)

David Koon, Barbour County Office (Barbour, Bullock, Crenshaw, Pike, Russell)

**Southwest Alabama**

Denise Heubach, Mobile County Office (Baldwin, Mobile)

Ellen Huckabay, Mobile County Office (Clarke, Mobile, Washington)

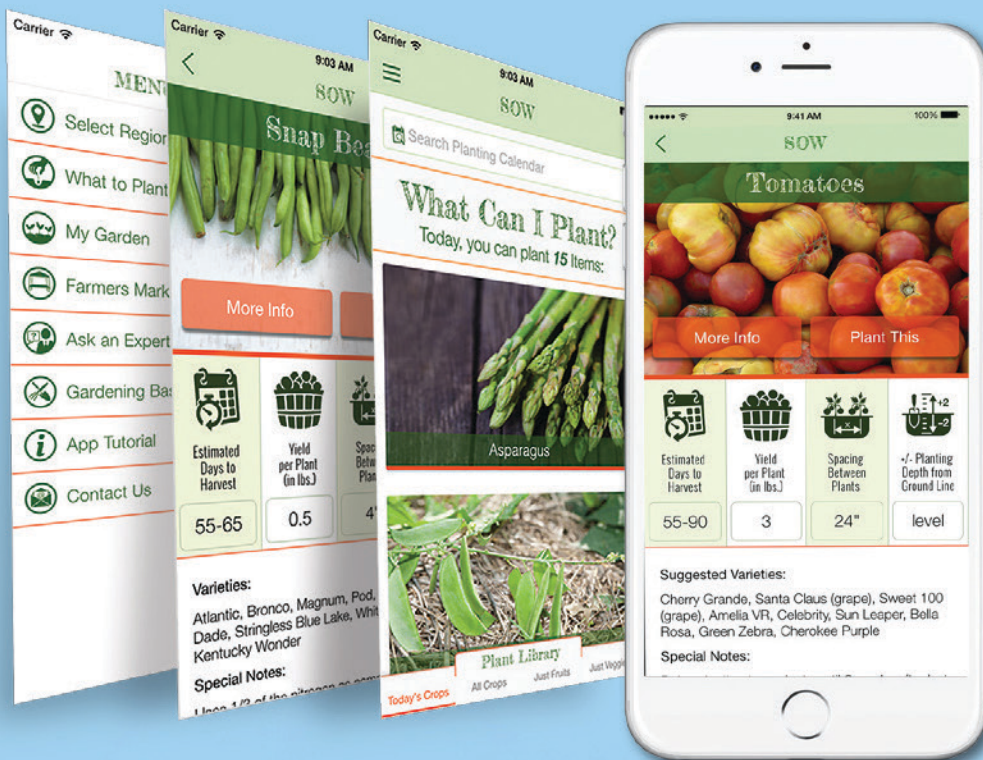
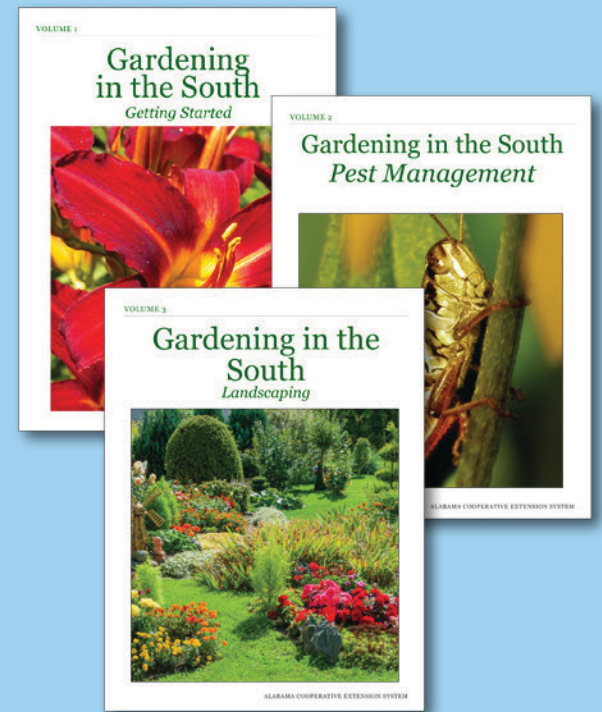
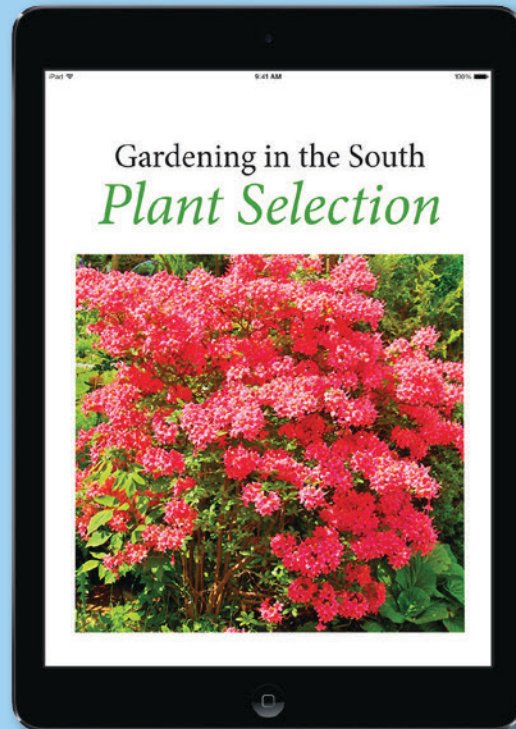
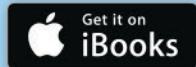
Mike McQueen, Monroe County Office (Baldwin, Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe)

Get access to the latest research-based information all about gardening through Alabama Extension's eBooks, apps, website, and more. From preparing your soil to selecting plants to tracking your harvest, our products will help you create beautiful landscapes and grow strong, productive plants. Are you ready to maximize your garden's potential? Find out more about what Extension has to offer.

## A Must-Have Series for the Home Gardener

This helpful eBook series can transform you into a successful southern gardener. It can help you create a vision, season it with inspiration, apply science and experience, and realize your dream of a beautiful garden. Learn about designing, fertilizing, watering, pruning, selecting plants, and more.

Available for free on eBooks.



## SOW Easy to Use!

This planting and gardening mobile app features optimum planting times, My Garden tracker, a farmers market locator, Ask an Expert feature, and more.

Available for free on Google play and the App Store.



## Why You Want Bugs

Most insects in your garden don't harm plants. In fact, 97 percent of the insects you see benefit your garden. They pollinate plants, improve your soil, and eat the pests that really harm plants.

Go to [www.aces.edu/gardencalendar](http://www.aces.edu/gardencalendar) to meet these hard-working benefical and find out why they can be a gardener's best friend.



## News You Can Use!

The stories you find on Extension Daily cover a wide range of topics including gardening, food, living, and the outdoors and environment to name a few. You will find news you can use on a variety of topics and perspectives on trending national stories.

Check out Extension Daily at [www.extensiondaily.com](http://www.extensiondaily.com).

## Service Oriented. Community Motivated. Extension Trained.

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational volunteer-recruitment program where participants receive classroom and hands-on instruction in horticulture and related areas. Volunteers work with Extension to offer their communities reliable, relevant, and reachable gardening information.

Visit [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg) to learn more about becoming a Master Gardener volunteer.





# Gardening in the South

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## 2017 Calendar

*Celebrating the unique heritage, spectacular destinations and perennial wisdom that make gardens across the South such a colorful sight to see!*

### Alabama Extension Home Grounds Team

Do you know how to prevent fire ants from colonizing your yard? Do you know the best time to prune your hydrangeas? Ever wondered why tomatoes stop producing fruit in July? Answers to these and others come from Alabama Extension's Home Grounds Team. We offer workshops for hands-on learning, train and coordinate Master Gardener volunteers, sponsor the Master Gardener Helpline, and much more. Find a Home Grounds Extension agent near you or call your local Extension office for the answers you need. We teach practical problem-solving for your home, lawn, and garden.

