



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 34 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

July 2025



Message from Cindy
Cindy Augustine
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT



Hello, Fellow Gardeners!

Can you believe we are already halfway through 2025? Our plants have been blessed with all the rain we have been having, but I'm ready for some sunshine! The lightning, thunder, and wind have been intense at times, so I'm ready for peaceful skies as well.

Just a couple of reminders for July events:

- July 8th is Lunch & Learn from 12 – 1 PM at Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church. The topic is "A Twist on Stumpery" and will be presented by Sandy Rosamond.
- July 12th is the Saturday Wetumpka Farmer's Market. Check with Darlene Branyon if you are interested in helping with our table.
- July 14th is the CAMGA, Inc. Projects Committee meeting at the Extension Office.
- July 15th will be our next CAMGA, Inc. meeting.

According to *Month-By-Month Gardening in Alabama* by Bob Polomski, July items for gardeners include:

If you used a slow-release fertilizer, now may be the time to make your second application for your annuals and biennials.

Continue to deadhead spent flowers and leggy annuals such as salvias and garden zinnias.

Look for insects and mites on your bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers. You may be able to sow another round of basil, cucumbers, squash and southern peas.

I hope you are all having a wonderful start to summer! I look forward to seeing you at our July 15th meeting at 10 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Office.

Happy Gardening!
Cindy

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Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory
Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,
Gardens, & Home Pests

Tips to Keep your Tomato Plants Healthy

The tomato is by far the most popular plant in the vegetable garden, but it can also be the most problematic. There are so many things to watch for when growing tomatoes to insure you have a healthy crop. Following the tips below will help keep your plants healthy the further we go into the hot and humid summer months.



Start with drip irrigation or hand watering only at the surface of the soil to avoid splashing. Then prune all lower limbs off the tomatoes that are touching the soil and apply mulch.

Mulching your tomatoes keeps the plants moisture level consistent and will help prevent blossom end rot. Mulching helps control weeds where insects like to overwinter and eliminates there competition for the fertilizer you have applied. Mulch also creates a barrier between the plant leaves and the soil to help control many of the fungal problems that come from the surface of the ground.

Remove yellow and brown spotted leaves as soon as they appear and if not already, start a fungicide application to prevent "Early Blight." No tomato grower can avoid this problem so apply the PREVENTATIVE fungicide before the tomatoes get the fungus. Products with the active ingredients: Chlorothalonil, mancozeb or copper will control Early Blight.

Scout daily for insects. Go out and inspect for armyworms, fruit worms, hornworms along with stinkbugs. (The main insect problems on tomatoes). Products that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) will work when the WORMS are young or use products containing carbaryl if the worms are larger. Another insecticide that will control stinkbugs and some of the other pests you may find is bifenthrin.

Don't wait until your plant has no more leave before you start your search for the hornworm. Scout today cause the plant may not be there tomorrow!!!! Weather challenges, garden insects, viral, fungal and bacterial problems, and disorders are all challenges we face with growing our own backyard tomatoes.

Like I said, they are the most popular vegetable/fruit to grow, but also the most problematic. If you have more questions on what may be affecting your tomato plants and what you can do to stop it.



CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2025
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Martha Rodgers, Secretary

Jason Maddox opened the meeting with our guest speaker, Enrique Grossi Bovi, Department of Horticulture at Auburn University. Enrique spoke to members about Best Management Practices for Growing Vegetables in Alabama. He started with the importance of planning and preparation emphasizing for instance that the closer water is to the plant root, the more efficient the production. He went on to discuss practices for sustainable gardening which included 1) fertilization using cover crops to replace nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium; 2) pest and disease management through crop rotation and IPM; and 3) preserving soil health by minimizing soil disturbance, maximizing nutrients and soil structure through cover crops, and mulching.

#

The CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Business Meeting was called to order by President Cindy Augustine at 11 a.m.

Jason reported two upcoming events in July. The Pollinator Census, July 22-23rd, and Tomato Tasting, July 30th. For the Pollinator Census, select any plant to observe for 15 minutes recording the type and number of pollinators observed. The Advanced Tomato Workshop will be at the Autauga County Extension Office in Autaugaville.

Cindy asked if there were any questions about last month's minutes. Connie moved that the minutes be approved. Candy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Martha had nothing to report.

Sherri Davidson gave the treasurer's report noting income for May. Katrina moved that the report be approved. Jason seconded and The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Mallory introduced Anne Clecker as a guest visitor and daughter of Cheryl Fitzgerald. Anne has enrolled in the Intern Program starting in August. Mallory also reported that 17 participants had already registered for the course starting August 14. She reminded everyone that there will be a class portal for participants to watch ahead of the class meetings. There will be guest speakers in person. Lunch will be in house each week. Classes will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first 7-8 weeks of classes will be at the Extension office and the remaining 5-7 will be in outdoor locations.

Candy reported that the Education Committee will have a "Wildlife in the Garden" workshop on August 27th. Committee members will meet briefly after the day's meeting.

Mary mentioned that more signage was needed in the Learning Gardens. She also reported that the irrigation system had been turned off since we are having so much rain. She invited members to harvest a few Misome leaves from the garden.

Robin reminded members that the upcoming intern class needed volunteers to provide food and to become mentors to the participants. She also suggested that we have a "Propagation Challenge" among members for the exchange of plants and possibly for the plant sale.

CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes (Continued)
June 17, 2025
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Martha Rodgers, Secretary

Anida had nothing to report regarding the network.

Darlene reminded everyone of the Wetumpka Farmers Market coming up in July. Volunteers are needed for both shifts.

Speaking on behalf of Rebecca, Darlene announced that the senior project in August will be a Living Obelisk which will be made from grapevines. Cost of materials for members will be determined and announced soon.

Jane reminded members it is time to prune the roses at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. Be sure to bring pruners and loppers.

As AMGA liaison, Kelly announced that the AMGA State Advisory Committee will be meeting in August.

Cindy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Martha Rodgers, Secretary



Governor's Mansion Report For June 2025

By: Amanda Borden



In June we weeded, planted, trimmed, updated Herb Garden labels, fertilized, and weeded some more.



Ann C. & Kathy weeding in herb garden



Alicia & Robin trimming herb garden



Ann C. with plants to be
transplanted



Alicia, Kathy, Ann in herb garden



Ann, Jane, and Amanda in herb garden



CAMGA Library News

July 2025

By: Dee Turberville

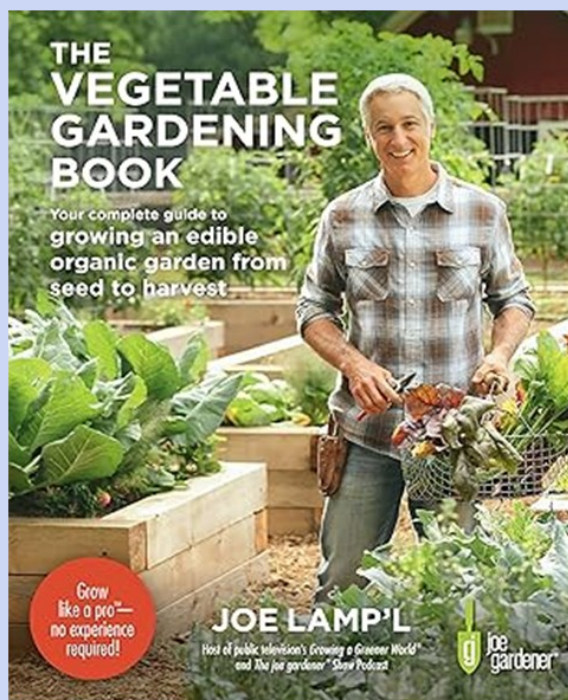
The Vegetable Gardening Book

Your complete guide to growing an edible organic garden from seed to harvest

By Joe Lamp'1

Winner of the GardenComm 2023 Laurel Media Award, the respected television and podcast host Joe Lamp'1, known as Joe Gardener, provides insider tips and experience for creating a fruitful and resilient vegetable garden in *The Vegetable Gardening Book*.

After interviewing many growers with expertise, along with his own extensive, hands-on knowledge, Joe Lamp'1 presents practical and useful information on everything from starting seeds and selecting varieties to building the perfect tomato cage, encouraging pollinators and creating biodiversity-rich soil in an organic food garden.



You will find detailed how-to-grow profiles for 40 of Joe's most beloved crops, plus, a tutorial for building Joe's famous and sturdy tomato cages, along with simple strategies for making life in the garden easier with crops that are both high yielding and more flavorful. Some garden writers consider this all-inclusive guide perfect – if you desire to become a guru of the veggie patch!

Spotlight on Volunteers

Submitted by: Robin Synder

On Friday June 27 the 2024 fall intern class sponsored a volunteer event at the Charlton Place long term care facility in Deatsville. Interns from Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery counties joined together to renew the three raised beds in the courtyard. They did all of the planning, purchasing and planting for these beds and spent time chatting and sharing with the residents and staff. These beds are now filled with a large variety of herbs, annual and perennial flowers and small shrubs. They had previously tended these beds with a fall planting last December. The plan is that the fall intern classes will continue with this fine project each fall and spring.



Pictures from the past Hydrangea workshop. Big successful program!! Many Master Gardeners from Montgomery, Autauga and Elmore County came as well. Thanks to all who participated, Mallory.



Volunteers Needed

Darlene Dixon needs two people from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and two from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the July Wetumpka Farmers Market. She will be there the whole time. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EABAE2EA6FCC70-57441338-july>



Message from Mary Ann Hatcher

Dear CAMGA Friends,

First of all, many thanks for the luncheon, beautiful plants, money, and kind words.

I've been associated with the best people for the past 19 years. It was all of you that have made volunteering a pleasure.

I will miss the Helpline, but I know it will pass into capable hands.


Love Always,
Mary Ann Hatcher

Upcoming Workshop



Hydroponic Systems Workshop for Gardeners and Educators

Registration: \$45.00
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Registration closes one week prior to event
Scan the qr code for registration





Macon County
Tuesday, July 15
E.V. Smith Research
Center
4725 County Road 40
Shorter, AL 36075

Henry County
Wednesday, July 16
Wiregrass Research and
Extension Center
167 State Hwy 134
Headland, AL 36345

Mobile County
Wednesday, July 23
Jon Archer Agricultural
Center
1070 Schillinger Rd, N.
Mobile, AL 36608

Baldwin County
Thursday, July 24
Gulf Coast Eco Center
1650 Eco Trl
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

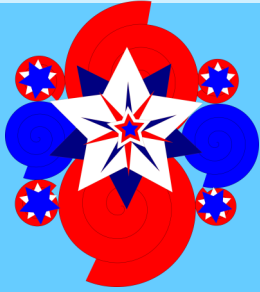
Limestone County
Monday, July 28
Sandridge Student Center
300 N. Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611

Tuscaloosa County
Tuesday, July 29
Courthouse Annex
Auditorium
2513 7th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401



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July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <i>Learning Gardens workday at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	4 <i>Happy Fourth of July!!</i>	5
6	7 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	8 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12—1 p.m.</i>	9 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11a.m.</i>	10 <i>Learning Gardens workday at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	11	12 <i>Wetumpka Farmers Market</i>
13	14 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m. Projects Meeting at the Extension Office 10 a.m.</i>	15 <i>Monthly CAMGA meeting at the Extension Office 10 a.m.</i>	16 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11a.m.</i>	17 <i>Learning Gardens workday at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	18	19
20	21 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	22	23 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11a.m.</i>	24 <i>Learning Gardens workday at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	25	26
27	28 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	29	30 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11a.m.</i>	31 <i>Learning Gardens workday at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>		