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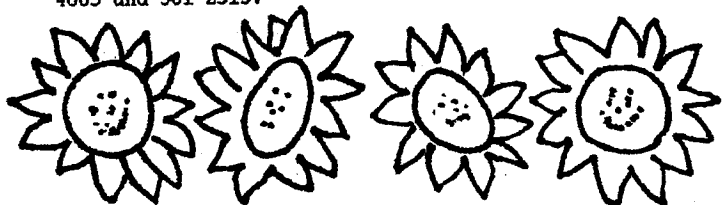


Quarterly Newsletter of **THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS**

FALL 1995

Issue No. 8

A Bit of Dirt is published quarterly by Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Editors are Brenda Adams and Gail Martin. If you wish something published, please contact us at 466-4665 and 381-2513.



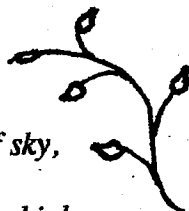
FUTURE MEETINGS

September 11 - Roxie Higgenbotham, Master Gardener "Garden Ornaments"

October 9 - Business Meeting; Elect Officers. Shelia Wilbur (& husband) "How to Make Stone Walls". We will meet at Shelia's house at 7 P.M. See map on back page.

November 13 - End of Year Party with Walter Reeves speaking on Soil Improvement.

GWINNETT MASTER GARDENER Meetings are the second Monday of each month, February through November. 7:30 PM at the Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville. NOTE different time and place for October meeting.



*For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank Thee,
For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank thee,
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 16 & 17, "Refining the Garden" GPPA Fall Symposium.

Sept. 18, Week of: GWINNETT COUNTY FAIR.

Sept. 21, "Garden Bulbs for the South" by Scott Ogden. GPPA meeting 7:30 PM at Atlanta History Center.

Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1: Dekalb College Fall Plant Sale. For additional information call 244-5001.

Sept. 30, 4 to 8 PM. GPPA Second Annual Fall Picnic at Wilkerson Mill Gardens. \$6.50 per person. Contact Marlene Bryar 977-1048. For members and their guests.

Oct. 9 - Christopher Lloyd speaks. 7:30 PM at the Atlanta History Center. Cost \$10.00 Presented by GPPA. George McGraw, Treasurer 429-8393.

Oct. 19 - "Native Plants for the Atlanta Landscape - Part II" by George Sanko. GPPA meeting, 7:30 PM at the Atlanta History Center.

Oct. 20-22 Georgia Master Gardener Conference at the Agricultural Center in Tifton, GA. Consult your GaMG Newsletter.

Nov. 16 - 7:30 PM GPPA meeting: "Gardens of Historic Charleston" by James R. Cothran.

For Your
Information

AT THE AUGUST MEETING

There was a lot of business accomplished at the August meeting, August 14, 7:30 PM at GJAC. It was announced that we need a project for Master Gardener Day, the third week of March, 1996. Mid-October was tentatively set for the Pansy Sale. The Gwinnett County Fair will be mid-September; Robert Brannen is signing up people to help with this.

Money was collected for T-shirts and MG pins. (T-shirt orders were taken over the phone in July) Don Freidus had a pin to show everyone. There is now a T-shirt and a pin at the Extension office for everyone to come by and see. Judy Bear, the receptionist can help you with this. The T-shirts and pins will be at the next meeting September 11; you can bring your money then and pick yours up. Otherwise, contact Brenda Adams, 466-4665 to arrange pickup and payment or to order a pin. The T-shirts are \$10; X sizes are \$12. The pins are just \$5 and well worth it. They have our name Gwinnett Master Gardeners around the "hands" logo. Please help support GMG by buying a pin. Thanks, Don, for designing and ordering them for us.

Our apologies for the fact that some of you came expecting a presentation on Rock Wall building; Shelia had to cancel but will present this program at October 9 meeting.

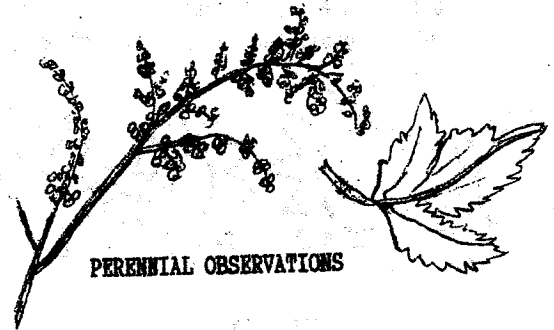
Many thanks to Beverly Howerton for taking over the program time slot with a very instructive program on drying flowers. She presented many facts learned from her experience in an easy-to-understand format. She had lots of dried flowers and materials to show us; even telling us in many instances where we can purchase supplies. That is always important.

The club has an ongoing project which Pam Folks will tell you about elsewhere in this newsletter.

As most of you have probably heard by now, in July, we lost one of our dearest members, Harold Edwards, died. We miss him but we won't forget him. Harold was Gwinnett's Master Gardener of the Year two years in a row. He loved helping out both at the Extension Office and at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, where he worked for years as a volunteer.

On August 13, a letter and check for \$25.00 was sent to the library at ABC with a request to purchase a book in memoriam of Harold and if they would be so kind, as to post this message in the front of the book:

"In loving memory of Harold Edwards, from his fellow Master Gardeners of Gwinnett County, Georgia. 1995."



PERENNIAL OBSERVATIONS

ASTILBE

Most of the Astilbes sold are arendsii hybrids; which constitute most of mine; except for two clumps of *A. chinensis* 'Pumila'. The 'Pumila' is small in stature and has lavender pink flower spikes instead of the wider, fluffy panicles of the arendsii. The cultural requirements for astilbe goes something like this: Part shade; requires moist, rich soil. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

I have them planted in various places and they have all behaved in different ways this summer. The chinese type are in dry shade under a maple tree. Although dry, they have kept good foliage all summer; even during the very hottest days. They bloomed their little pinkish spikes as desired. Up under the shade of an American Holly tree and an oak, in good soil, my white X arendsii (cultivar names lost) has maintained its leaves in an admirable way. However, in another location of dry shade, lavender pink X arendsii looked like it was almost dead during those hottest days. I transplanted them to low lying ground where water would probably accumulate during a rain; mixed Water Grabber crystals with them and behold! they are actually putting on new growth here the last of August. Meanwhile, I had moved two of the same type down near the pond, 1 to 2 feet above the water line; one in part sun, one in sun. They both bloomed well this spring; but both have lost most of their leaves since.

CONCLUSION: The Chinese Astilbes will do well in our climate in mostly shade and a fairly good soil. They are the best performers. The X arendsii types must have enough shade to prevent leaf burning and will perform best in moist rich soil, but will do well enough if the soil is dry but rich.

Brenda Adams



A WILDLIFE HABITAT; YOU CAN DO IT

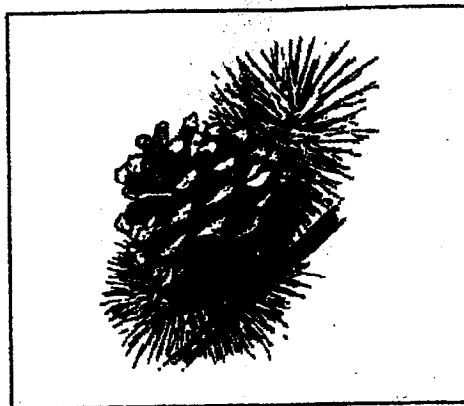
Sometimes we feel helpless to change the world we live in. We see politicians that we elect completely change when they get to office; they don't keep promises. They seem to sell out or give in and we feel helpless to get things done that would help to keep America the great land our forefathers helped to build.

We hear about the depletion of the ozone, the melting of the Arctic icecaps and the burning and ravaging of the tropical rain forests which destroys habitats of every living organism that depends on this special environment for existence.

We may not be able to do anything earthshaking in Washington, except to elect politicians we think are sensitive to environmental problems; but there is something you can do in your own back yard that will help to keep this planet's surface suitable for generations yet to come.

In 1993, I was given some information concerning the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. It was started in 1973 to show appreciation of those who are helping to maintain a habitat suitable for wildlife on the property that they live on. Whether it be a small city lot or a big spread with acreage, there is lots that you can do. I personally feel this is one of the ways we are helping to insure the survival of the bluebird; and they do need us. They are meek birds and do not compete successfully with more aggressive birds such as the English Sparrow. They are also somewhat "picky" about where they wish to set up housekeeping.

The four basic requirements simply put are: food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. Plants of all kinds play a large part in supplying these needs. As gardeners, we should be one step ahead of the crowd in fulfilling the requirements. Gardeners are usually nature lovers, so it should come easy for you.



FOOD

- * Berries, fruits and seeds from trees, shrubs and flowers
- * Nectar for butterflies, moths, bees and hummingbirds
- * Plants that provide food for larval stages of butterflies and moths
- * Supplemental feeders for seeds, suet and nectar

WATER

- * It can be as small and simple as a shallow dish on the ground or as big as a pond or stream through your property. All living things need water.
- * A submersible bath heater, installed in a bird bath, provides a critical need for wildlife during cold winters--unfrozen water. This is not as big a problem with our recent Southern winters; perhaps just having water available and checking the water on the coldest days would be appropriate for the South.

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG

- * Trees and shrubs for bird nesting. Don't forget to leave trunks of dead trees for birds like woodpeckers. For safety reasons, you can't always keep the whole tree, of course.
- * Birds, small mammals, snakes and salamanders lay their eggs or raise their young in brush piles, rock piles, etc. By the way, some birds love thorny bushes such as thick rose bushes or blackberry for nesting. Ex. cardinals.
- * Aquatic creatures such as frogs, insects and dragonflies deposit their eggs in water.

* Aquatic creatures such as frogs, insects and dragonflies deposit their eggs in water.

* Butterflies and moths and their stages rely on flowers, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees for reproduction.

These are the basic needs you will be questioned about on your application. You will be asked to send a rough sketch or drawing of your yard.

There is a \$15 Program Enrollment Fee to send with application. To receive your application, call or write:

National Wildlife Federation
1400 Sixteenth Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-2266

1-202-797-6800

In Georgia, you may contact:

Georgia Wildlife Federation
1936 Iris Drive
Conyers, GA 30207-5045

770-929-3350

You will receive a lovely, colorful certificate when you are accepted.

Take that first step to get started on helping the wildlife in your area. You will be happy that you did!

Brenda Adams

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Quips by Dolores:

"KNOCK, KNOCK!"

"Who's there?"

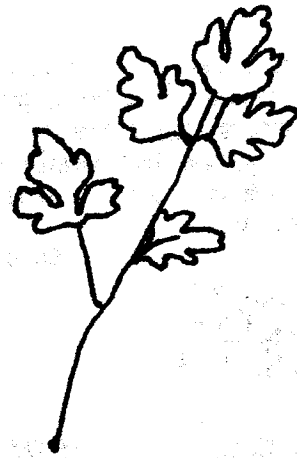
"AMARYLLIS."

"Amaryllis, who?"

"Amaryllistate agent. You wanna buy some land?"

THE HERB CORNER

PARSLEY



Greeks held parsley in high esteem; using it medicinally, to crown victors at the Isthmian Games and to decorate tombs. But it appears the Romans used it first as a food. All parsleys are rich in vitamins, minerals and antiseptic chlorophyll, making it a beneficial as well as attractive garnishing herb.

It is easy to cultivate in full sun or light shade. Give it a rich soil and water during drought. Parsley is a biennial which means that it grows leaves in the first year and blooms, sets seed and dies in the next year. Therefore, it is better to collect leaves the first year. Dry or freeze leaves. You may collect seeds the second year to replant so that you will always have a supply.

Always grow enough to share with the Eastern Black Swallowtail, which feeds on the parsley in its larval stage.

Leaves can be added raw to salads. Finely chop and sprinkle over sandwiches, egg dishes, vegetable soups, fish, and boiled potatoes. When cooked, parsley enhances other flavors, but add towards end of cooking time. Chew raw to freshen breath and promote healthy skin. Infuse for a digestive tonic.

Parsley is very decorative in the garden. It makes a lovely edging for an herb bed. Grow with roses to improve their health and scent.

And those who are peacemakers will

plant seeds of peace and reap

a harvest of goodness.



A BOTANICAL WONDERLAND

In August I was fortunate to find myself at the Jardí Botànic Marimurtra, a botanical garden on the Costa Brava in Spain. The garden is situated high on a cliff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, and bathed by the warm breezes and gentle climate of the region. Rainfall occurs mainly in the winter, and the summer days are bright with clear blue skies and the sparkling blue and turquoise waters of the sea.

Marimurtra means Sea and Myrtle, for the sea below and the many myrtles (*Myrtus* species) growing in the garden. There are many levels and sections on the hillside, each one containing plants of a particular region of the world.

Entering the garden beneath a standard bouganvillea you first reach the tropical section, composed of plants from the Canary Islands and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Next is a huge collection of plants from the African and American arid regions, leading up to a tropical pergola and a garden filled with 4' fuchsia bushes, begonias, ferns and 10' tall daturas. In this garden stands a large mimosa (acacia) in full golden bloom.

Next comes the temperate section, with palm trees from Chile, roses paired with matching fuchsias, geraniums, a stand of tree-sized bamboo, and araucarias. Turning a corner in the path you come to a large pond, filled with water lilies and lotus, and surrounded by moisture loving plants and cannas.

The largest section is the Mediterranean garden, with a section on endangered Catalonian plants, stands of Washingtonia palms from California and many eucalypts and wattle from Australia. This section also contains plants from South and North Africa and Chile. On a point of the cliff reaching out into the sea is a temple dedicated to Linneaus.

In all sections, throughout the garden, large oleanders added pinks and white, and orange trees hung golden globes over the walks. Exclamation point Italian cypresses punctuated the exotic trees, while lantana, bouganvillea, rosemary, salvias, rudbeckia and dahlias added bright colors in counterpoint to the tropical greens.

Sipping a cool lemonade at the cafe on the cliff edge outside the garden, and feeling the cooling breeze from the sea, I counted myself a very lucky and very happy gardener.



GAIL MARTIN

GARDENERS BOOKSHELF

GARDENING WITH HERBS

Emelie Tolley & Chris Mead
1995 Random House
Library 712

Another very pretty book that won't fit most bookshelves. Mead's photographs are stunning. A good book for those living in England, the Pacific NW or Provence, a lot of the combinations Tolley writes about wouldn't do in the hot and steamy South. The emphasis is on herbs, and there is a section on herb gardens, but mostly the book covers perennials and roses combined with herbs. There are a few photographs of Ryan Gainey's garden for token Southernness. Get this one from the library, as there are lots of good and adaptable ideas if we just change the plants around a bit.

IN A SOUTHERN GARDEN

Carol Bishop Hipps
Horticulture Books
1994 McMillan
Library 712.6



Happily, another book about Southern gardens and gardening. Ms. Hipps gardens in Huntsville, in conditions very much like ours. The book is informative about plants and gardening methods that work in our torrid summers and mild winters. The author has a wonderful sense of humor, as when she recommends planting yuccas under a wayward teenage daughter's window, or likening the name of the camellia fungus, *Glomerella cingulata* to one of Cinderella's step-sisters. This is a pleasant book, full of hard information couched in a friendly, conversational manner.

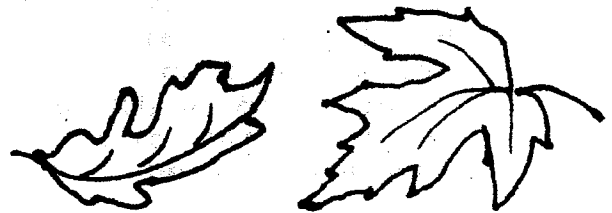
Dear Master Gardeners,

Following is a brief description about Creative Enterprises. Joanna Cox, the Coordinator of the garden/greenhouse projects is anxious to begin a fall garden by "terracing" the existing garden so they won't have erosion and run-off problems. We will probably begin this next week (9/4-9/9) as well as start putting together two of the "donated" indoor and outdoor greenhouses. We are in the process of organizing the teaching schedule as well as the physical work that the 4-H'ers and some of the county workers will be doing. If any of you want to take part in putting up the greenhouse or terracing the garden, please let me know - we can always use the physical efforts as well as your gardening expertise.

Also, Robert Brannen would like to challenge any of you "hot shot" vegetable gardeners to enter your produce in the Fair. Contact him for details. I know Creative Enterprises is aiming for the day they will enter some prize tomato, pepper, or sunflower which they have grown! With your help - it will happen!!!

See you at the next GMG meeting.

Pam Folks



*O, sweet September, thy first breezes bring
The dry leaf's rustle and the squirrel's laughter,
The cool fresh air whence health and vigor spring,
And promise of exceeding joy hereafter.*



CREATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC
701 Hi Hope Lane
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30243
(404) 962-3908

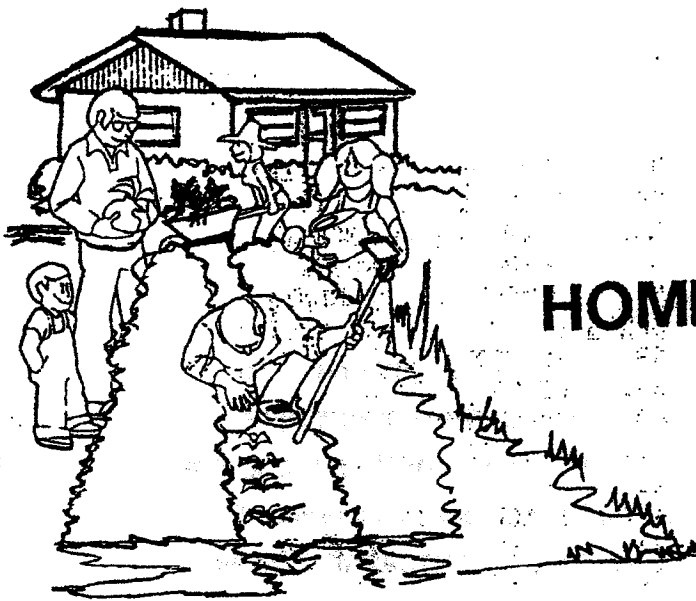
Where There's A Will...

There is a business on Hi Hope Lane, a warehouse where workers assemble parts for different projects sent in by a variety of large Atlanta businesses. The workers here work diligently and patiently, with enormous concern for the quality of their work. But, this company is very different from others in Atlanta. What sets it apart is the fact that each and every one of the more than sixty employees at CREATIVE ENTERPRISES lives with some form of mental and/or physical disability.

CREATIVE ENTERPRISES was established in 1979 with the purpose of educating and training persons with disabilities in the skills and appropriate behavior necessary for them to work in the marketplace. People with disabilities want to work as much as – and possibly more than – any of the rest of us. They want to experience the pride and dignity and satisfaction born from a job well done. But people with disabilities are, for the most part, overlooked or seen with distrust when and if they are considered for a job. Sadly enough, these people – who are as trustworthy, willing, and with a little education and training, as competent as the marketplace demands – are not given the chance to be productive, to generate an income, to create a life for themselves.

The purpose of CREATIVE ENTERPRISES is to give these people a chance to have it all. It's a place where they can discover for themselves the rewards of their abilities, rather than knowing only the limitations of their disabilities. The fact is that they are able, and CREATIVE ENTERPRISES provides an arena where they can learn what is wanted and needed in the job market – and then practice toward perfection.

It seems odd perhaps, but one of the facts of life most widely ignored is that we, as human beings, have the right to fail. It seems that we live in a culture geared only towards succeeding, and if failure occurs, we are thought of by ourselves as well as others as being less than adequate as people. Although "to err is human," there doesn't seem to be a lot of room for failure in a society striving for the unattainable goal of perfection. At CREATIVE ENTERPRISES however, failure is used as a tool with which to learn. Clients are given constant coaching towards improvement, with a background of freedom to learn from their mistakes. And it works...



1995

HOME GARDEN EXHIBITS

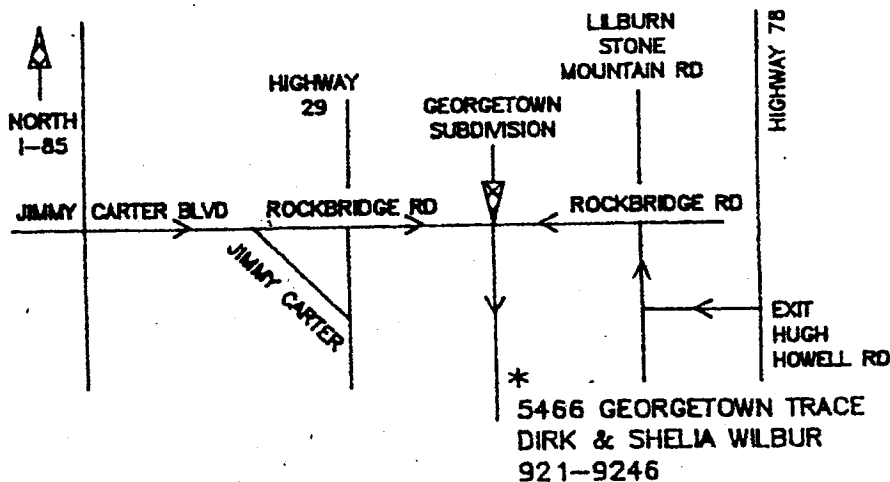
1. Exhibits can be entered Saturday, September 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2. Exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor.
3. Items must be picked up between 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 24th. The GCL&FA, Inc. will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or unclaimed exhibits. PRIZE MONEY SHOULD BE PICKED UP AT THIS TIME.
4. Prize Money -1st place - \$3.00; 2nd-\$2.00; 3rd-\$1.00. Exhibits with no competition will receive 1st place ribbon with 2nd place prize money.
5. Exhibits not listed may be displayed. Classes can be added if sufficient entries at check-in. In some classes, ribbons may be awarded but no prize money.
6. Exhibitors are responsible for attaching their name, address and class number to their exhibits. No special tag is required. This should be done at home. Tags are available at the Gwinnett Extension Service.
7. Exhibitors may prepare their exhibits by cleaning, washing and polishing or waxing.
8. NEW! YOUTH 15 YEARS AND UNDER ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENTER THE 3 NEW YOUTH CLASSES.

CLASSES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPLES - (6 IN A BASKET) 2. BEANS - LIMA (HANDFUL) 3. BEANS - STRING (HANDFUL) 4. BEANS - OTHER - (HANDFUL) 5. CORN - INDIAN - BEST DISPLAY 6. CORN - CORN - WHITE - 6 EARS 7. CORN - YELLOW - - 6 EARS 8. CORN - MISCELLANEOUS - 6 EARS 9. CORN - BEST STALK 10. EGGPLANT (1) 11. FEED - HOME MIXED - 1 PINT 12. GOURDS - ORNAMENTAL (best display) 13. GOURDS - LONG DIPPER (1) 14. GOURDS - MARTIN TYPE (1) 15. GOURDS - MISCELLANEOUS OTHER 16. HAY - BERMUDA - 1 BALE 17. HAY - FESCUE - 1 BALE 18. HAY - LEGUME - 1 BALE 19. HONEY/SORGHUM (1 PINT) 20. IRISH POTATOES - RED - 6 21. IRISH POTATOES - WHITE - 6 22. MUSCADINES - (1 PINT) 23. OKRA (PINT) 24. ONIONS - BUNCH 25. PEANUTS - 1 SINGLE PLANT 26. PEAS - CROWDER TYPE (HANDFUL) 27. PEARS - (6) 28. PEPPER - BELL - (3) 29. PEPPER - BANANA (3) HOT/SWEET 30. PEPPER - HOT TYPE - LONG (3) 31. PEPPER - OTHER (3) 32. PEPPER - POTTED | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 33. PUMPKIN - SMALL PIE 34. PUMPKIN - TAN (1) 35. PUMPKIN - ORANGE (1) 36. PUMPKIN - LARGEST 37. PUMPKIN - ORNAMENTAL SEEDS (In Pint Jar - DRIED) 38. BUTTERBEANS 39. BEANS - OTHER 40. CHESTNUTS 41. PEANUTS 42. PEAS 43. SMALL GRAIN 44. OTHER - MISCELLANEOUS 45. SQUASH - ACORN 46. SQUASH - BANANA 47. SQUASH - BUTTERNUT 48. SQUASH - CUSHAW 47. SQUASH - YELLOW (3) 49. SQUASH - TURBAN 50. SQUASH - OTHER 51. SUNFLOWER - LARGEST 52. SWEET POTATOES (6) 53. TOMATOES (6) 54. TOMATOES - NOVELTY (PINT) 55. WATERMELON - ICE BOX 56. WATERMELON - LARGEST YOUTH - 15 & UNDER 57. DECORATED FRUIT OR VEGETABLE 58. GARDEN BUDDIES (Scarecrow/garden companion) 59. GARDEN DRAWING - (NAME AND AGE ON FRONT) |
|---|---|

DIRECTIONS TO

SHELIA WILBUR'S
HOUSE. 7:00 PM
OCTOBER 9



DROUGHT RESISTANT TREES

by Dr. Kim D. Coder, Extension Forest Resources, The University of Georgia

APRIL 1989

Drought resistant tree selection is a long-term solution to low maintenance landscapes. Drought resistance requires that tree leaves use water efficiently and continue to grow and make food at relatively low water potentials. Drought resistance involves characteristics like extensive root systems, thick leaf waxes and bark, good stomatal control, and the capacity for leaf cells to function at low water contents.

Below is a list of drought resistant tree species. Once established, these trees can survive drought periods during the growing season.

<u>Acer buergeranum</u>	maples	<u>Juniperus spp.</u>	juniper
<u>Acer negundo</u>		<u>Maclura pomifera</u>	osage orange
<u>Acer platanoides</u>		<u>Morus spp.</u>	mulberry
<u>Acer rubrum</u>		<u>Nyssa spp.</u>	tupelo
<u>Acer saccharinum</u>		<u>Ostrya virginiana</u>	ironwood
<u>Ailanthus altissima</u>	tree-of-heaven	<u>Pinus echinata</u>	pinus
<u>Betula maximowicziana</u>	birch	<u>Pinus ellioti</u>	
<u>Betula nigra</u>		<u>Pinus glabra</u>	
<u>Carya glabra</u>	hickory	<u>Pinus palustris</u>	
<u>Carya ovata</u>		<u>Pinus sylvestris</u>	
<u>Carya tomentosa</u>		<u>Pinus taeda</u>	
<u>Catalpa bignonioides</u>	catalpa	<u>Pinus virginiana</u>	
<u>Celtis occidentalis</u>	hackberry	<u>Platanus spp.</u>	sycamores
<u>Cercis canadensis</u>	redbud	<u>Populus alba</u>	white poplar
<u>Crataegus spp.</u>	hawthorn	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	cottonwood
<u>Cupressocyparis leylandi</u>		<u>Quercus acutissima</u>	oaks
<u>Cupressus spp.</u>	cypress	<u>Quercus coccinea</u>	
<u>Diospyros virginiana</u>	persimmon	<u>Quercus durandii</u>	
<u>Elaeagnus spp.</u>	olive	<u>Quercus falcata</u>	
<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	ash	<u>Quercus georgiana</u>	
<u>Ginkgo biloba</u>	ginkgo	<u>Quercus imbricaria</u>	
<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust	<u>Quercus laevis</u>	
<u>Gymnocladus dioicus</u>	coffee tree	<u>Quercus laurifolia</u>	
<u>Ilex decidua</u>	holly	<u>Quercus lyrata</u>	
<u>Ilex vomitoria</u>		<u>Quercus macrocarpa</u>	
<u>Juglans nigra</u>	black walnut	<u>Quercus marilandica</u>	
		<u>Quercus muehlenbergi</u>	
		<u>Quercus oglethorpensis</u>	
		<u>Quercus phellos</u>	
		<u>Quercus prinus</u>	
		<u>Quercus shumardii</u>	
		<u>Quercus stellata</u>	
		<u>Quercus virginiana</u>	
		<u>Quercus velutina</u>	
		<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
		<u>Salix nigra</u>	willow
		<u>Sassafras albidum</u>	sassafras
		<u>Ulmus americana</u>	elms
		<u>Ulmus parvifolia</u>	
		<u>Ulmus pumila</u>	

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COUNTIES OF THE STATE COOPERATING THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE OFFERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, ASSISTANCE AND MATERIALS TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, SEX, OR HANDICAP STATUS. A UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ORGANIZATION