

OF



Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

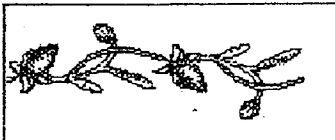
Winter 1994

Issue No. 1



We hope you enjoy the premier issue of A BIT OF DIRT, the newsletter of Gwinnett Master Gardeners. It will be issued quarterly, at first, then if the need seems to exist, we will switch to monthly publication.

This is your newsletter and if there is any material you would like to submit for possible publication in the future, please submit it to either Gail Martin or Brenda Adams. If you want to send something for the Spring publication, please have it to us by Feb. 28. Thanks and Welcome!



The next meeting of Gwinnett Master Gardeners will be Feb. 21, 7:30 PM at the Gwinnett Justice & Admin. Bldg. Steve Brady will talk to us about Pruning. Hope to see you there!

Perennial Symposium - Feb.5 at Atlanta Botanical Garden
The 1994 Southeastern Flower Show - Feb. 9-13 at Ponce Square, Atlanta
Camellia Show - Feb. 19-20 at Atlanta Botanical Garden
Call:ABG at 404-876-5859.



Thoughts on a Garden

Time began in a garden and we have been tied to nature ever since. We are a part of the natural world. Some feel this affinity more than others. Those of us who love gardening were probably drawn to the out-of-doors at an early age. There to begin a bonding with Mother Earth that will take us through a lifetime. Plants are lively, graceful, endearing, beautiful things and working with them can take one away from the stress of this modern age and transport us into a world where we are the masters of all we survey. A garden brings peace, love and pleasure which can be shared with others. A GARDEN IS ALL THESE THINGS, AND MORE!

by Brenda Adams

THE WINTER GARDEN

Now that we're experiencing a winter slow down in the garden, it is time to plan a garden for next winter. By careful planning it is possible to have something blooming all during the cold, dark months.

Pansies will always hold the color spotlight in the winter, but there are other flowers that bloom late into the fall or very early in the spring, sometimes blooming all during a mild winter. Perennials, the English daisy, and dwarf snapdragons are two of these. Don't forget the Hellebores, particularly *Helleborus orientalis*, the Lenten rose, for reliable February/March bloom in shades ranging from white to the darkest purple. Hardy Cyclamen, in their several species, bloom from fall through spring. The little Algerian iris, *Iris unguicularis*, will bloom with fragrant lavender flowers in mild spells all during the winter. Wallflowers, *Cheiranthus*, will begin to bloom in bright reds, yellows and mahoganys long before the tulips bloom. The early daffodil, *Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'* will begin its bloom in January. *Clematis cirrhosa* is a summer deciduous vine that blooms here with red-speckled white bells in December and January.

Many of our broad-leaf evergreen shrubs also bloom in the winter. Camellias, both sasanquas and japonicas, will perform well in all but the most severe winters. The Tea olive, *Osmanthus fragrans*, will show its tiny white flowers all winter, perfuming the air with a fruity, ripe apricot fragrance. *Sarcococca humilis*, a small ground cover shrub, blooms now with little sweet smelling white flowers.

For color, don't forget the hollies, with their abundant red berries, and *Nandina domestica*, with green or red winter leaves and panicles of red berries. *Artemesia 'Powis Castle'* will provide silvery foliage that remains in good condition until well into the winter.

Deciduous material can also supply color in the winter garden. *Prunus mume*, the Japanese flowering apricot, is a small tree that spreads its fragrance over a large area, blooming in January and February in pink, white or red. The Witch-hazels, *Hamamelis* species and hybrids, are large shrubs with wonderful yellow to orangy-red flowers, and the fragrant Wintersweet, *Chimonanthus praecox*, blooms with waxy yellow flowers that sometimes begin in December. Winter jasmine, with its fountain of yellow flowers in January, is reminiscent of the later flowering Forsythia. The bark of the Coral Bark Maple '*Sango kaku*' is a warm, luminous spot of color in the landscape. And don't forget the bark of Crape Myrtles, particularly the new *faurii* hybrids released by the National Arboretum. Those of us lucky enough to have *Stewartia pseudocamellia* will appreciate the cinnamon colored bark of this small tree.

With a little seeking, and a handful of garden catalogs, many plants can be found to ease our way from Asters back to Crocus, and make the winter garden a joy.

by Gail Martin

THE HORTICULTURE CREED

1. I WANT IT.
2. I WANT IT ALL.
3. I WANT IT NOW.
4. IF IT WILL NOT GROW IN MY ZONE OR IS PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE, I WANT IT MOST OF ALL.
5. I AM PERFECTLY WILLING TO FOREGO ANY NECESSITIES OF LIFE SUCH AS FOOD FOR MY CHILDREN IN ORDER TO HAVE IT.
6. I RECOGNIZE MY HORTICULTURAL DEPENDENCY.
7. I RECOGNIZE YOUR HORTICULTURAL DEPENDENCY.
8. I WILL WILLINGLY AID AND ABET YOUR DEPENDENCY, AS YOU WILL MINE.
9. THIS MAKES US INFINITELY HAPPY.
10. ANY MONEY NOT SPENT BY VIRTUE OF COMPARISON SHOPPING EQUALS FOUND MONEY AND THEREFORE IS NOT COUNTED AS SPENDING.
11. MORE IS MORE!
12. REGARDLESS OF MY PREVIOUS DESIRE FOR, PLANNING FOR, OR NEED OF ANY PLANT, IF ALL THE OTHERS HAVE IT, I MUST HAVE ONE, TOO.
13. IF I HAVE PLANTED ALL THAT I HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED, I MUST IMMEDIATELY PURCHASE ADDITIONAL PLANTS.
14. WE BELIEVE IN OWNING ALL PLANTS, WE BELIEVE IN SOWING ALL SEEDS, AND OWNING ALL CATALOGS AND BOOKS RELATED TO FEEDING OUR NEEDS. IF THERE BE ANY PLANT THAT IS VIRTUOUS, LOVELY, OR OF GOOD REPORT OR PRAISEWORTHY, WE SEEK AFTER THESE.

At this point it is customary to recite one's VISA card number, from memory only, please.

Courtesy of the GENie Garden Club*

* GENie is the on-line Information Service of the General Electric Co.

GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Briefly describe your gardening experience:

What do you consider your specialty? _____

Describe the type of garden you have:

How many different varieties do you grow? _____

List gardening topics that would be of interest to you.

Would you be interested in speaking to garden clubs or schools?
_____.

Do you collect seeds? _____.

Are you interested in a seed exchange? _____.

Are you interested in exchanging plants? _____.

Do you prefer day or night meetings? _____.

What day of the week do you prefer for meetings? _____.

List other horticultural societies to which you belong.

