

# A Bit of Dirt

Summer 2022

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A Newsletter of the  
Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association  
*Promoting Gardening Through Education & Volunteering*



Native Azaleas by Lisa Klein

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**From the Editor's Desk.**

Well summer is definitely here - every humid, hot day of it. I hope you had a chance to celebrate the 4th with family and friends. I know I did.

I was sitting on the back porch the other night watching the fire flies and thinking, do you remember when you were a kid driving around and your windshield was covered with smashed insects? Not so much any more. Monarch butterflies are down 80% in population in just the last 20 years. What can we do to help our beneficial insects? Plant milkweed and other native plants, of course. Stop using pesticides, even organic pesticides if you can because they kill pollinators too. Minimize your lawn and increase pollinator plants, landscaping and vegetable gardening. Use biocontrols (such as nematodes, bacteria, viruses and fungi) which can be as easy as using pesticides. Add plants that attract beneficial insects including alyssum, nasturtiums, yarrow, dill and shasta daisies. Do a little research on beneficials so you recognize them. Think of them as friends and not just "bugs." Here are some to start with: syrphid fly, pirate bug, ladybug, green lacewing and hover flies.

Don't forget to enter something from your garden in the 2022 Gwinnett County

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Fair - flowers, fruits, vegetables and lots more. Bring the entries to the fairgrounds on Sugarloaf Parkway on Saturday, September 17th from 7:30 to 9:45 am. You do not have to pre-register. There are over 58 classes plus 3 youth classes for your kids or grandkids. For the full list, click [here](#).

If you are growing gourds in your garden this year, **Jessica Miller**, Education Committee Chair would like to do a Gourd Birdhouse workshop this fall and is in need of gourds. If you can help out with some gourds, please let her know at [jessicamiller007@comcast.net](mailto:jessicamiller007@comcast.net).

The Pollinator Census is coming up on August 19-20, 2022. It's not too late to set up a site. Contact **Lisa Klein** in the Extension Office. Help a bug! Plant a flower!

Enjoy your summer!

**Shirley**

Submitted by **Shirley Bohm**, MGEV, Editor, GCMGA, *Bit of Dirt*

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## **Message from the President**

Happy summer – though I think summer started a bit early this year.

I wanted to spend a bit of time discussing the differences between the Gwinnett Extension Master Gardener Program and our Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association. I continually run into members of our association that aren't sure of the differences. First – to be a Gwinnett County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer requires specific training classes and required numbers of volunteer hours each year. MGEVs also participate in advanced training classes to keep up to date on the current research in the world of horticulture. Friends are often very experienced gardeners but have not completed the UGA Extension training programs. No training is required to join as a Friend of the association.

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*From the GCMGA Constitution:*

*The mission of GCMGA is to serve as stewards of the environment, working to educate our members and the public about horticultural practices that will foster beautiful gardens, a healthy environment and to operate in cooperation with the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and the Gwinnett County Extension Service.*

*Section 1: Master Gardener. Individuals who are certified Master Gardeners as defined by University of Georgia Extension Service and have paid current GCMGA dues are voting members and eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.*

*Section 2: Friend. Any individual showing an interest in the furtherance of GCMGA may become a Friend upon payment of current GCMGA dues. This is a limited membership without voting privileges. Friends are ineligible to serve on the Board of Directors.*

Friends may be co-chairs of committees and contribute to the programs and activities of GCMGA. Our constitution was adopted in 1994.

I want every member to know that each and every member's contributions are valued and appreciated. As a non-profit, we try to support horticultural projects that enhance our communities and help our neighbors. Thanks to each member for all the time and energy you share with GCMGA.

With gratitude,

**Lynda Pollock**, MGEV, President GCMGA

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### **Meet Miss Polly.**

On March 21, we heard from Melanie Furr, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, at our GCMGA meeting. In 2018 she became the custodian for Georgia Audubon's first education ambassadors, two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds injured in window collisions. These tiny birds with extraordinary abilities lead fascinating lives. We learned about a year in the life of these magical little birds from their courtship and breeding to their incredible migration. As the caregiver for the world's only ambassador hummingbird (see Miss Polly below), Melanie shared unique insights into the lives of these miraculous little birds.

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Miss Polly

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### [Proclamation for Snellville Community Garden.](#)

On Monday, June 13, 2022, the City of Snellville, presented a proclamation to members of Community Garden@Snellville greenhouse team to recognize the many hours that the group spends nurturing seedlings in the garden’s greenhouse and then selling them at the Snellville Farmers’ Market.

This spring, the group raised approximately \$6,000 from four plant sales held at the Market as well as sales at the garden greenhouse. This amount is especially impressive when one considers that plants were generally sold for just \$2.

Plants were provided to the GCMGA plant sale at the end of April. They were also donated to several Master Gardener-funded projects as well as Gwinnett County School Garden projects.

All proceeds are used to maintain and improve the garden, located in Briscoe Park across the street from the Snellville Recycling Center. No city funds are budgeted to support the garden, which began in 2012 with just 12 beds and is now composed of 55 beds, rented by area residents on an annual basis to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers. The garden also includes a pavilion, water feature, calendar garden, storage shed, beekeeping area, rain barrels for irrigation, composting area, as well as a 20’ x 40’ greenhouse.

As the proclamation stated, “The Community Garden strengthens the community by providing a setting for social interaction, education, and self-sufficient food production with a focus on health and wellness. The garden

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promotes sustainable eco-friendly practices and has been designated as a Pollinator Garden by the University of Georgia. The garden also engages in charitable giving by donating vegetables to the Southeast Gwinnett Co-op.”

Members of the Greenhouse Team include: **Wes & Lucy Nettleton, Brian & Ellen Hughes, Kathy Keyes, Martha Whitman, Maggie Van Buren, Karen Hanley, Rob Stewart, Sharon Noy, Dick Kennedy, Kathy Pitman, and Kurt & Gretchen Schulz.**



Submitted by **Wes Nettleton**, MGEV

## **Bad Bugs in Your Garden.**

As you well know, it doesn't take long before our lush, green garden becomes overrun with pests. Controlling the populations so natural predators can do their thing is the best approach. Daily checks and handpicking these "Bad Bugs" when the populations are small is the best control. If you do use a pesticide, make sure to follow label instructions carefully.



Squash bugs feed with their piercing/sucking mouthparts and at the same time, inject their toxic saliva into the plant, resulting in “squash bug wilt.” The gray-brown adults and their ash gray nymphs congregate at the base of the plant. Watch for loose clusters of oval, brown eggs on the underside of leaves. Handpicking adults, nymphs and egg masses can be effective as well as spraying with insecticides such as permethrin. Avoid planting squash in the same location as previous years as the insects overwinter in the soil.

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Paper wasps are actually beneficial to plants, not because they are good pollinators but because they are voracious predators of caterpillar pests which they feed to their young. Recognize where they like to build their nests such as under eaves of the garden shed or in other protected locations and remove the nest only when it is a danger when working in the garden.



Aphids come in a rainbow of colors including green, brown, yellow, red, black or white, have a distinctive pear shape and tend to feed on young leaves in large clusters. They congregate at the tips of new growth and underside of leaves. Aphids use their piercing, sucking mouthparts to feed on plant sap. Grow lots of flowers to attract predators such as ladybugs and hoverflies and

remove plants or weeds with heavy infestations of aphids.

Leaf-footed bugs are sucking insects with long, stilt-like legs with rear legs having a flattened, leaf-shaped segment. They tend to cluster on tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplant, especially late summer and fall and can do a tremendous amount of chewing damage. Natural pyrethrins such as permethrin provide some control although they are likely to fly away when you come to spray.



Squash vine borers are stem-boring caterpillars that cause large squash and pumpkin vines to suddenly wilt and die. Day-flying moths deposit 15-20 bronze-colored eggs on the underside of leaves which hatch into larvae that bore into the base of the stem, killing the vascular system. Spinosad or permethrin will control newly hatched vine borers before they enter the vine. The best control is to check the leaves

every day or so and rub off or squash the eggs before they hatch.

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Scale insects damage plants by sucking sap through their long, thread-like mouth parts. A heavy infestation can kill a plant. There are two types of scale – armored scales that do not produce honeydew and soft scales that produce honeydew which results in heavy accumulations of sooty mold. It is often overlooked because they are immobile and look like small bumps that might be plant parts. Weekly neem oil sprays can control scale in the crawler stage. For heavy infestations, it is often better to remove the entire plant.



Rose slug sawfly eggs hatch out in May or June. The translucent larvae which feed on the leaf surfaces of roses between the veins, produce a window pane look. Leaves turn brown but light infestations are cosmetic in nature and rarely harm the plant. Prune out or handpick small populations. Insecticidal soap or horticultural oil can be used to smother the younger larvae. Bt is not an effective control.

Tomato hornworm caterpillars grow up to 4 inches long and can quickly strip a tomato, pepper, eggplant or potato plant of leaves. Bare branches and black cuboidal frass identify these hard-to-see pests. Hand picking, Spinosad or spraying with Bt can be used to control them. Growing companion plants such as alyssum, dill and shasta daisies will attract braconid wasps which lay dozens of eggs within each caterpillar. When the eggs hatch, the larvae consume the insides and then crawl out to form tiny ricelike sacs on the back of the caterpillar, killing it.



Stink bugs feed on a wide range of fruits and vegetables in your garden. Both the nymphs and adults damage fruit with their piercing/sucking mouthparts. They complete several generations per year and can overrun a garden if not controlled. There are no good organic methods of control except handpicking. Pyrethroid insecticides such as permethrin give good control but check preharvest intervals.



Cabbage worms, the larvae of white butterflies, deposit individual eggs on the underside of leaves of brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, collards, kale, etc.). The velvety, green larvae eat the leaves and burrow into cabbage heads. Handpicking the larvae from plants and covering cabbage heads with nylon stockings or using row covers will protect the plants. There is no need to remove it before harvest because cole crops do not require pollination. Red-leaved cole crops and tight-headed cabbage are less susceptible to cabbage worms.



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## **Creating a Kitchen Garden at *Hobonny Plantation*.**

We decided to enjoy a travel year and one of our first stops on our travel adventure exploring possible retirement spots was to visit friends who own [Hobonny Plantation](#), a historic Lowcountry rice plantation created in 1733 by the Royal Government of South Carolina. It took only a few days of walking the property to realize one thing was missing--a *Kitchen Garden*. We floated the idea of putting in a garden with our host and immediately got the go ahead. We were thrilled to have our first travel-related hands-on project. Our goal: create something of beauty, health enhancing and with honor for the history of the place.

Our project started in January 2022. The first obstacle came when we realized our friend wanted to put the garden within the tabby walls of an old slave dwelling that once stood on the plantation. It was a lovely thought but way too shady a spot for a successful garden. We relayed concern to our host and within a few days, the brush, overhanging limbs and excess trees were removed. The result was a bright, sunny spot perfect for growing a fantastic garden. A water source was close by, so checking that box was easy.

We gathered soil samples from the area and sent them to Clemson University for analysis. While awaiting results, we deepened the trenching around the walls to expose more of the tabby foundation and to create more surface area for the planting rows. As we dug, the earth revealed the most amazing array of buried treasures: pottery, glass, bottles, old tools and coins. We saved every one of those items for the museum our friend is planning.

When the soil reports came back, we added the recommended amendments plus a high-quality cow manure compost. All was tilled in with a hand driven tiller (a lot of work!). Rows were made, weed prevention fabric laid between the rows and a drip irrigation system installed. Straw was placed over the weed fabric and later around the plants for mulch. Everything was then ready for planting.

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Hobonny Kitchen Garden



We followed Clemson University’s planting chart for Coastal South Carolina and over the next few weeks starting in February, we planted: collards, Brussel sprouts, chard, lettuces, cabbage, beets, carrots and cauliflower—planning to remove most of these when the hot weather arrived making room for several rows of a variety of sweet potatoes. We reserved two rows for wildflowers to attract pollinators—and simply for beauty; a variety of herbs were planted for both taste and medicinal purposes. The intermingling of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers is not unique. With a nod to my Huguenot ancestors, the French have been planting this way in their “potagers” or kitchen gardens for generations.

For the summer garden we added a variety of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, basil, and [Bradford Family Okra](#). I mention this okra because it is an heirloom variety saved by my ancestors in Sumter County, South Carolina. With no offense to *Clemson Spineless*, the Bradford Family Okra is delicious!

Hobonny’s *Kitchen Garden* is in full swing, and it is a thing of beauty and delight. I go there every morning – approaching quietly and standing very still to watch the pollinators do their work. I look carefully to see what has changed in the garden’s landscape. I harvest the day’s bounty and feel very grateful that we have restored life to this special plot of land.

Submitted by **Amanda Dew Manning**, MGEV

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## Got Mosquitos?

Mosquitoes are pesky creatures whose itchy bite causes an allergic reaction to the mosquito’s saliva. They also transmit Zika virus, West Nile virus and malaria in humans and heartworm,

West Nile and eastern encephalitis in dogs and horses as they seek blood to produce their eggs. Mosquitoes are attracted by carbon dioxide when you exhale, by your body heat and by the blend of scents on your skin.

Mosquitoes need still water to lay their eggs so where ever possible, eliminate standing water in your garden. They go through a complete life cycle in 7 days so you will likely need to repeat any control methods every week especially after a rain. Focus on the habitat and more effectively controlling the immature stages (larvae, pupae) where they are concentrated, immobile and accessible.



Here are some things you can do to minimize the mosquito population in your yard instead of spraying insecticides which also kill pollinators, predators and other beneficial insects.

- Eliminate puddles of water under leaking faucets and hoses, under air conditioning condensers, in leaf-filled gutters, in watering cans and buckets, wheelbarrows, kids toys and in the folds of tarps used to cover outside equipment which collect water. Dishes under plant containers can be filled with sand.
  - Standing water in fish ponds is also a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Circulating the water with a solar pump or water feature disturbs the surface so females don't lay eggs. Floating BTI tablets (*Bacillus thuriensis israelensis* larvicide) can be used in standing water you can't drain such as rain barrels, ponds or ditches. Native fish (minnows, millionfish) consume masses of mosquito larvae. Encouraging predators that eat mosquitoes such as geckos, frogs, toads, dragon flies and damselflies help too.
  - Change water weekly in birdbaths, fountains and wading pools to break the mosquitoes' life cycle.
  - Keep thick vegetation and grasses trimmed back so they don't provide a cool, damp environment for mosquitoes to harbor.
  - Repel mosquitoes by using cedar mulch (cedar oil is a common ingredient in insect repellants).
  - Plant repellent plants such as lavender, citronella, basil, lemon balm, lantana, ageratum, mint, rosemary, marigolds or geraniums.
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- Change your outdoor light bulbs. Mosquitoes and other insects are attracted by incandescent lighting. Instead, use fluorescent bulbs, LEDs, yellow “bug lights” or sodium lamps.
- Install a bat house. Bats consume hundreds of mosquitoes in an hour. Attach it in an open, sunny area of your yard about 15 feet above the ground.
- Install a fan on your porch or patio. Since mosquitoes are very lightweight insects, a light breeze can knock them out of their flight pattern.

Submitted by **Shirley Bohm**, MGEV

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## **Do You Want to Make Your Garden "Organic"?**

Organic and natural gardening methods are very popular with some gardeners who want to decrease the use of chemicals in the garden. A common misconception in organic gardening is that no pesticides are used, but this isn't true. Pesticides are very important, along with the overall principal of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The key difference between organic vs. man-made pesticides is that organic means you need to have a strong understanding of your soil, the insects in your garden and how each plant in your garden is functioning. For devoted gardeners, this isn't a chore, in fact, for many it is a key benefit. There are dozens of fantastic reasons why gardeners opt to use organic pesticides, what are yours? If you would like to understand what each of the USDA approved pesticides are and their mode of operation, click [here](#) for the UGA Extension Gwinnett Fact Sheet by **Lisa Klein**.

Submitted by **Lisa Klein**, MGEV, Gwinnett Extension Office

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## **Coming Events.**

July 15 - "Bit of Dirt," Summer issue publishes

July 18, 6:15 pm - GCMGA social, potluck & meeting, Photo Contest Winners, **Sonja Lee**, Chair

Aug. 15, 6:15 pm - GCMGA social, potluck & meeting, "All Things Water Features," by John Magyar

Aug. 19-20 - Great Georgia Pollinator Census

Aug. 24 - Nov. 16 - Gwinnett Master Gardeners Class, Gwinnett Tech  
Sept. 12, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon - GCMGA Executive Committee Meeting  
Sept. 19, 6:00 pm - GCMGA Member Appreciation Picnic, McDaniel Farm, plant exchange,  
farm tour beforehand (weather dependent)  
Sept. 30 - Submission deadline for "Bit of Dirt" Fall issue  
Oct. 10, 10:00 - 12:00 noon - GCMGA Board Meeting, 2nd floor, Extension Office  
Oct. 15 - "Bit of Dirt" Fall issue publishes  
Oct. 17, 6:15 pm - GCMGA social, potluck & meeting, "Mason Bees", by Olivia Menard  
Nov. 14, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon - GCMGA Executive Committee Meeting  
Nov. 21, 6:30 pm - GCMGA Holiday Dinner, Bethesda Senior Center

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## *Bit of Sunshine*

Let's celebrate summer! Here's a great recipe to use some of those luscious summer blueberries.

### **Pam's Blueberry Pudding Cake**

1/3 c + 1/2 c sugar  
1/4 c water  
1 T lemon juice  
1 t cornstarch  
2 c blueberries (fresh or frozen)  
1 c flour  
1 3/4 t baking powder  
1 t salt  
1 egg

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½ c milk

1 stick melted butter

1 t vanilla

Preheat a 350<sup>o</sup> oven.

1. Stir together 1/3 c sugar, water, lemon juice & cornstarch in a small saucepan, then add blueberries, bring to a simmer and simmer 3 minutes.
2. Whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and ½ c sugar.
3. Whisk together egg, milk, butter, vanilla and add to flour mixture.
4. Spoon batter into a greased 9x9 inch baking dish. Pour blueberry mixture over the top.
5. Bake 25-30 minutes or until knife put in batter comes out clean.

Submitted by **Karen McGinty, MGEV**

### **Helpful Hints!**

- Annuals that can stand a good mid-summer shearing back by a third to a half to encourage compact growth and/or reblooming including coreopsis, batchelor's buttons, four o'clocks, sweet allysum, chrysanthemums and sweet Williams.
  - Keep your fish safe. If you're building a small pond or water feature with fish, here are some tips to keep your fish safe from racoons and wading birds. Racoons can't swim and catch fish at the same time so make the pond at least 2 feet deep. Also make the edges steep so racoons and birds aren't tempted to wade into the water. Include stone ledges so fish can dart underneath to hide and predators can't get to them. You can also include a piece of PVC pipe in the bottom of the pond so fish can hide there when being stalked.
  - Don't locate your compost pile under a tree. The tree roots will grow up into the compost, making it difficult to turn or dig out the finished compost.
  - If you have a pest problem in your garden, start with physical removal of the insect. Squish them with your fingers or use garden gloves or pick them off and put them in soapy water. Horticultural oils don't damage plants and work by clogging the breathing holes on insect bodies or eggs. While they do kill beneficial insects, they don't last long and allow beneficials to move back in quickly. Insecticidal soaps, another good treatment, work as a dessicant and dry up the insect.
  - If you have tiny squash or cucumbers that shrivel up on the vine, this is usually due to lack of pollination. If you do not see pollinators flying around the flowers, plant more flowers nearby. Catmint, salvia and lavender are good candidates. You can also hand pollinate by using a small paint brush or cotton swab to stroke the anthers of a male flower to pick up pollen then stroking the top of a female's pistil to transfer the pollen.
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- Scabiosa 'Butterfly Blue' is actually close to being an everblooming perennial as possible, especially if deadheaded. It will bloom non-stop from April to November.

### **Garden Humor.**

- As Tulip, Rose and Daisy attend their first Plant Parenthood meeting, the instructor says, "Now remember, Ladies, if you don't wish to get pollinated, keep your petals closed."
- Why did the tree want to leave the woods? It wanted to branch out.
- Remember that children, marriages and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.
- Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.
- Always plant trees so that the prevailing wind blows the autumn leaves next door.
- "Daddy, a lovely white butterfly just landed on your cabbage."
- Husband, "Hey, want to go to the nursery and look at plants?" Wife, "Since when are you interested in gardening?" Husband, "Since I ran over the neighbor's flower bed backing down the driveway."
- Q. What did the alien dandelion say to the earth dandelion? A. Take me to your weeder.
- Advice from a tree.
  - Stand tall and proud
  - Go out on a limb
  - Remember your roots
  - Drink plenty of water
  - Be content with your natural beauty
  - Enjoy the view
- Sign seen in a garden: "Trespassers will be composted."
- I want to grow my own food, but I can't find bacon seeds.
- I'm a plantaholic on the road to recovery. Just kidding. I'm on the way to get more plants.
- Don't tell secrets in the garden. The potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears and the beanstalk.
- Gardening isn't for sissies. Hats off to you!

### **Did you know?**

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- When inner conifer needles (pine, arborvitae, spruce) turn yellow or brown in late summer or fall, don't panic. This should not be confused with browning at the tips or overall yellowing or browning that can be caused by winter desiccation effects of roadside salts, pests and diseases or droughts. The losses should generally be from the inside out, not at the branch tips. Inner needles are the oldest and as they age and get shaded by new growth farther out, they photosynthesize less effectively and are eventually shed.
  - Habitat loss, light pollution for night-flying insects, climate change, loss of diversity and of course, indiscriminate pesticide use is killing beneficial and neutral insects as well as pests. Neonicotinoids, a systemic pesticide that affects insects' nervous systems are taken up by plants roots and transferred to their leaves, flowers, pollen and nectar. That pollen and nectar become toxic to bees and other pollinators.
  - Peat bogs (and sloughs, marshes, fens, mires, moors), a type of wetland, store 30% of land-based carbon, a "carbon sink." "Sphagnum peat moss refers specifically to peat formed mainly from mosses in the Sphagnum genus. They secrete acid into their environment which makes it difficult for other species to grow (but great for acidifying soil for your blueberries). Sphagnum peat moss tissue has terrific water holding capacity and does not easily release it. So when soil becomes dry, the water will be released slowly to benefit our plants. Peat bogs are being drained for use as agricultural land and sphagnum moss is often used in the horticultural industry.
  - Coir from coconut husks is now being used as a substitute for peat moss but the absorbed salts, potassium and chloride could be a problem. These salts can be easily flushed out. When used in pots, mature plants can tolerate the level of salts, and the more the plants are watered, the less salt the pots will contain. But when working with seed germination and seedlings, the salt in coir is too much. Seedlings are very sensitive to soluble salts. Also, coir that has been over-compressed will be hydrophobic and doesn't absorb water quickly so shouldn't be used for seed germination. Don't press a potting mix with coir down into a pot. It will not spring back up like a sponge with vital air spaces the next time you add water.
  - It takes 3 months for dolomitic lime to raise pH in soil
  - Magnesium deficiency in a plant shows up as yellowing between the veins of older leaves. Premature fruit may also fall. One to two teaspoons of Epsom salt per plant will provide needed magnesium.
  - If you see a whitish powder on plant leaves, it's powdery mildew, a common problem for many plants in warm, humid weather. If it's yellowish, then it's downy mildew which favors cool and moist weather. If this is a frequent problem, look for resistant varieties when buying seeds or transplants and give the plants plenty of air circulation. Fungal
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sprays are available and home remedies include a solution of milk and water or baking soda dissolved in water. Remove heavily infested plants promptly.

### Challenge your knowledge!

Fill in the blanks the challenge in this issue of Bit of Dirt. The answers are at the bottom of the challenge.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a modified leaf, usually smaller than the ordinary leaves, that occurs just below a flower or inflorescence, often colored.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance seed germination by providing seeds with a period of cool or warm temperatures. It is also sometimes referred to as “after-ripening.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to slit, abrade or soften the outer covering of a seed to hasten germination.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a flower cluster usually rounded or flat-topped, with all flower stems springing from the same point.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ when crops such as spinach or lettuce put on a vertical growth spurt to flower and set seed before the vegetables are ready to harvest.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ in May or June, it's translucent larvae feed on the leaves of roses between the veins, producing a window-pane look, then leaves turn brown and curl.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ spores of a bacterium found naturally in soils, containing proteins that are toxic to insect larvae when eaten.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ a fungal disease that prefers warm, humid weather and forms a whitish powdery growth on the leaves and stems of certain plants.
9. Removing spent flowers from a plant to encourage further flower production.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ the number of days one must wait to harvest edible produce following an insecticide spray.

Answers:

1. Bract, 2. Stratification, 3. Scarification, 4. Umbel, 5. Bolt, 6. Rose slug sawfly, 7. Bt or *Bacillus thuringiensis*, 8. Powdery mildew, 9. Deadheading, 10. Preharvest interval (PHI)
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## Deadlines for Future Articles in *A Bit of Dirt*

**Fall 2022 Issue - September 30th**  
**Winter 2023 Issue - December 31st**  
**Spring 2023 Issue - March 31st**  
**Summer 2023 Issue - June 30th**

## Upcoming Meetings & More

*GCMGA normally meets on the third Monday of each month at Bethesda Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. Face-to-face meetings will depend on pandemic conditions. Notices will be sent out letting you know if the meeting will be held in person or on Zoom. The event is free and open to the public. Social (and potluck dinner if appropriate) at 6:30, or just arrive in time for the program which begins promptly at 7 p.m.*

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**Our mailing address is:** c/o S. Bohm, 2735 Meadow Gate Way, Loganville, GA 30052

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