

Planting for Energy Conservation

IF YOU are concerned about rising energy costs proper landscaping could make a significant difference in what you are paying to heat and cool your home. Through proper use of trees, shrubs, vines and man-made structures, you can modify the climate around a home to reduce heat gains in summer and heat losses in winter. You will use less energy because you will be protecting your home from winter wind and shading it from summer sunlight. Using various techniques, winter heating bills could be reduced by as much as 25 percent and summer cooling bills could be reduced 50 percent or more.

Providing Shade. The recommended way to provide shade is to plant deciduous trees in an arc around the home on its east, south, southwest and west sides. When planting shade trees, locate them with an understanding of their mature height. This way, they will be properly spaced and still provide the desired shade.

Location of shade trees also depends upon the shape of the tree crown, the position of the sun, height of the roof or walls, keeping a desirable distance from windows, aesthetic appeal in landscaping a home and avoiding overhead wires and underground pipes. A tree that is a small twig when planted can grow into a large tree at maturity. If you do not plan for the mature height and shape of the tree in advance, its location can cause problems.

How to Conserve Water and Have a Beautiful Garden, from page 3

irrigation systems help reduce water use and meet the needs of plants. With these methods, very small amounts of water are supplied to the base of the plants. Since the water is applied directly to the soil, rather than onto the plant, evaporation from leaf surfaces is reduced. The water is also placed where it will do the most good, rather than sprayed over the entire garden.

Installing Irrigation Systems. An irrigation

Observe the sun during different seasons of the year. Notice how the sun strikes the house between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the winter. A south-facing solar heating device (including a window) receives the majority of its solar radiation between these hours during winter months. Notice also how the sun strikes the house during the summer months, particularly in early morning and late afternoon, so that appropriate shading can be provided.

Add shade trees to your plan to maximize summer shading and winter solar heating. Choose specific trees for your plan with an understanding of their mature height. This will determine where they should be located for maximum effectiveness. Choose vines and shrubs in a similar fashion. Add man-made structures appropriate for immediate effectiveness.

By Loyld Walker, Colorado State University, Cooperative Extension Agent, retired. For more information see: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/Garden/07225.html>

system can be easy to install. Numerous products are readily available for home use. The simplest system consists of a soaker hose that is laid out around the plants and connected to an outdoor spigot. No installation is required and the hose can be moved as needed to water the entire garden.

Plants Adapted to Sunny, Dry Conditions

- Yucca gloriosa
- Broom (Cytisus spp.)
- Yarrow (Achillea spp.)
- Nasturtium (Tropaeolum majus)
- California poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
- Blanket flower (Gailardia spp.)
- Sedum spp.
- Gold dust (Alyssum saxatile)
- Moss rose (Portulaca grandiflora)
- Juniper (Juniperus spp.)
- Artemisia spp.
- Lavender (Lavendula spp.)
- Sage (Salvia spp.)
- Iris spp.
- Thyme spp.
- Crocus spp.
- Evening primrose (Oenothera biennis)

For information on installing permanent irrigation systems, including the slotted pipe system and drip or trickle irrigation, see <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/water-con.html>

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APALACHEE PLANTATION HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 922

Dacula, GA 30019

Summer 2007

Apalachee Plantation Homeowners' Association Newsletter

Gwinnett follows Georgia's water restrictions

The State of Georgia currently limits outdoor water use to three mornings per week. Gwinnett County follows the state's regulations:

- Even-numbered addresses: Saturday, Monday, Wednesday
- Odd-numbered addresses: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday
- No watering after 10:00am. No watering on Fridays.
- For information on wise water use see: <http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net/>

These are the permanent water use restrictions. They may be changed should our severe drought continue. Check: <http://www.co.gwinnett.ga.us>

Homeowners Working Together

Did you notice the cleaner, neater entrance to our sub-division? On our last clean-up day, a few of the homeowners worked to clear the brush and debris along the fence line. They also removed damaged fencing. Our Association may need to replace the fencing at a later date.

Don't leave the care of your neighborhood to a few of your neighbors. By giving up a Saturday morning a couple of times a year for clean-up days you can help keep Association fees down. The more we all do, the less we have to hire done.

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Native Alternatives to Exotic Pest Plants

PLANTS are commonly sold and purchased in the trade often without a clue as to what the long term results are. This is such a



common occurrence in all aspects of life like saying something you wish you could take back. The same can be said about planting species of non-native flowers, vines, shrubs, and trees. That is what has happened with Kudzu, Asian Wisteria, Japanese Privet, and mark my words on this one, Elaeagnus is not far behind. The list goes on and on of the commonly requested plants that have become naturalized by escaping out of the landscape.

A good example would be the Butterfly Bush (Buddlei) which is usually chosen to be planted in a landscape to attract butterflies. This would be considered an attractor and not a host plant (a host plant is a species on which the female butterfly deposits her eggs) but either way, if a lot of the butterflies visit this plant there are that many fewer butterflies that will pollinate our native plants reducing the pollination rate for flowers, and less pollination means less viable seed for our *continued on page 2*

Photos: this page Kalmia latifolia (Mountain Laurel) in bloom
page 2: Natives: Swallowtail butterfly on Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)

Are Your Gutters Clogged?

Let's face it, each year we dread cleaning out gutters to remove accumulated leaves and debris. It is both unsafe and tedious work.

However, there is more than convenience at stake with clogged gutters. Your wood trim and eaves are also at risk when you have clogged gutters.

When gutters clog, they allow excess water to flow over both the front and back of the gutter. When this happens wood behind the gutter becomes soaked and is not exposed to open air to dry. Eventually this wood will mildew, and even the best paint will begin to degrade. Then, you begin to experience wood rot.

Once the wood begins to rot, mold and mild may accumulate behind the rotting wood and spread to other areas. Now you are looking at a significant investment in home repairs.

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Need to Pressure Wash Your Home? Special Offer for Apalachee Plantation Residents

KEEPING your vinyl siding clean improves the appearance of your home and the neighborhood. It also improves the resale value of your property. Gwinnett County has stringent requirements on water usage that affects anyone pressure washing, whether a private home owner or commercial contractor. Violations can lead to a \$1000 fine, and/or 60 days in jail.

Cleanly Done, L.L.C., one of the few businesses listed by Gwinnett County as code compliant, is offering a 15% discount on pressure washing to all Apalachee Plantation residents. Please use the coupon included with this newsletter.

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Clean Decks for Lasting Value

A clean and sealed deck lasts much longer than those left to the elements. Pay special attention to leaves between the boards as these will rot and eventually damage to boards themselves. When sealing, first clean out all debris, clean the surface (remember County restrictions on pressure washing and water use), then stain or seal. You will need to reseal your deck every couple of years.

Protect New and Existing Fencing

There have been a number of attractive fences installed in our neighborhood this year. One great way to keep that new look is to spray on a clear sealer with a garden sprayer. This will help control moisture damage and mildew growth (which causes fences to turn gray). Existing fences, even those already gray from mildew, can be refreshed. Contact your local home improvement store, or an area contractor for details.

Native Plants, from page 1

native plants to reproduce. The same is true with planting the exotic hollies as opposed to planting our native hollies which attract our bees and other insects and again lowering the pollination rate on not only our native hollies but other fruit bearing shrubs and trees which decreases the food source (the berries) for the birds and other wildlife.

Another aspect to consider in choosing to use native plants in the landscape is the disease and pest resistance these plants have to our native conditions not to mention the fact



that they can withstand our extreme weather conditions much better than the exotics. If you are into spending your free time and

money on treating insect damage and diseases on your plants, not to mention the midnight to 10:00 am routine with the sprinkler that a lot of people love to participate in this time of the year, then the exotic species are for you.

I am not trying to convince you not to plant any non-native plant species, but at least take upon yourself the responsibility of not planting the ones that can reproduce on their own and escape from your garden to become a noxious weed for the rest of us.

The box lists a few alternatives to common garden plants. For a more comprehensive list, go to <http://ecoterrallandscape.com>. Thanks you for allowing me to share my knowledge of wonderful Native Plants.

Jim Rodgers

Jim and Debi Rodgers own Nearly Native Nursery in Fayetteville, Georgia.
www.nearlynativenursery.com

Gutters, from page 1

The alternative is to clean gutters on a regular basis or consider a gutter protection system. While regular cleaning is the most economical, it but is not without risks. Gutters are generally found in places that are high and awkward to access. Paying someone to clean gutters is a great alternative if you have someone you can contact for this work.

Gutter guards, on the other hands, if properly installed can eliminate the need for any on-going gutter maintenance. If you are considering the installation of gutter guards, seek a qualified and bonded contractor to perform the work. Ask for samples to review the quality and finish of the materials used. And, if at all possible, ask for a guarantee. Quality providers will happily provide one for you.

Wiley & Associates, Carl & Brenda Wiley, Associate Brokers 404-402-8845, Daisy Hurtarte, Realtor, Se habla espanol 678-862-3474, Keller Williams Atl. Partners

Improved Retention Pond Safety and Compliance

WE NOW have completely fenced in our retention ponds to comply with County requirements and reduce safety concerns.

Board Members and Contact Information

President: Lee Adkins
Vice President: Ren Burnette
Secretary: Celia Olavarria
Treasurer: Madeline Andrade
Member-at-large: Salvador Fuentes
E-mail: Contact Any HOA Board Member at: apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com
Mailing address: PO Box 923; Dacula, GA 30019
Website: www.apalacheeplantation.com
Lee Adkins can be reached at: 404-432-6878

How to Conserve Water and Have a Beautiful Garden

YOU ARE not limited to cacti, succulents, or narrow leafed evergreens when selecting plants adapted to low moisture requirements. Many plants growing in humid

environments are well adapted to low levels of soil moisture. Numerous plants found growing in coastal or mountainous regions have developed mechanisms for dealing with extremely sandy, excessively well-drained soils, or rocky cold soils in which moisture is limited for months at a time.

Indigenous plants, plants that occur

naturally in the local environment, will likely need less supplemental moisture most years than non-native species. These species have evolved under the local conditions and usually have well-developed mechanisms for surviving extremes in the weather.

Efficient Watering Methods. Trickle irrigation and drip *continued on page 4*

Monthly Gardening

June

- Continue to dead head flowers. It's ok to prune shrubs and trees as long as you do not remove more than 25-30% of their foliage.
- Remember to change the water of the bird bath and any other areas of standing water to prevent mosquitos. You can use organic mosquito BT dunks too.
- The Japanese Beetles are starting. Use pyrethrin spray. Do not use bait traps. They do more harm than good!
- Remember to water newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Sidedress beds with compost or composted manure.
- Continue to mow the lawn weekly, cutting no more than 1/3 of the blade off. Remember to compost!
- In Mid June apply fertilizer to warm season grasses.
- In late June gradually begin to raise your lawn mower height.

July

- Refresh your pine islands and put down a layer of pinestraw about 3 inches deep. Keep mulch approximately 2 inches from tree and shrub trunks and stems.
- Continue to dead head flowers.
- Remember to water newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials. Remove any diseased foliage and discard.
- Continue to mow the lawn weekly, cutting no more than 1/3 of the blade off. Remember to compost!

August

- Cut back your mop-head hydrangeas by August 1st.
- Remember to water newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Begin making plans for new landscaping additions, changes, etc (such as reducing your lawn!)

*Advice from Theresa Schrum
www.eco-tlc.com*

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Ads

Ads can be placed for \$15 per year for homeowners and \$25 per year for non-homeowners.

Contact the HOA

Noxious weeds and great native alternatives!

Non-native pest plants	Native alternative
Japanese Privet, <i>Elaeagnus</i> , Common evergreen azaleas, Boxwood	Wax Myrtle - <i>Myrica cerifera</i> , Myrtle Oak - <i>Quercus myrtilifolia</i> Fetter Bush - <i>Lyonia lucida</i> Black Titi - <i>Cliftonia monophylla</i> Mountain Laurel - <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> Dahoon Holly- <i>Ilex cassine</i>
Burning Bush	Virginia Sweetspire - <i>Itea virginica</i> Witch Alder- <i>Fothergilla major</i>
Helleri Holly	Running Oak - <i>Quercus pumila</i>
Crape Myrtle	American Olive - <i>Osmanthus Americana</i> So. Crabapple- <i>Malus angustifolia</i>
Butterfly Bush	Summer Sweet- <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> Virginia Sweetspire- <i>Itea virginica</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle, Clematis , Oriental Wisteria	Carolina Jessamine - <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> Swamp Jessamine - <i>Gelsemium rankinii</i> Coral Honeysuckle- <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> Cross Vine- <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> Curly Clematis - <i>Clematis crispia</i> Climbing Hydrangea - <i>Decumaria barbara</i> Jackson Vine - <i>Smilax species walteri</i> Passionflower - <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> American Wisteria- <i>Wisteria frutescens</i> Species <i>macrostachys</i>

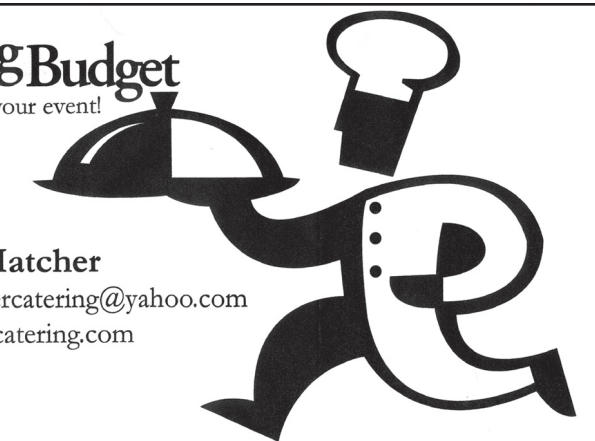
List, courtesy of Theresa Schrum, www.eco-tlc.com

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Donette Hatcher

Email: hatchercatering@yahoo.com
www.hatchercatering.com
770.356.5060



**We do Birthday's, Wedding's, Bar Mitzvahs,
Super Bowl Parties, Office Parties, etc.**