



# Scatter Info As We Bloom and Grow

Horticulture Edition, Gail Berthe, Editor

Environmental Edition, Judy Keenan, Editor

Landscape Design Edition, Jane Hersey, Editor

Volume I, Number 9

Horticulture Edition

July, 2014

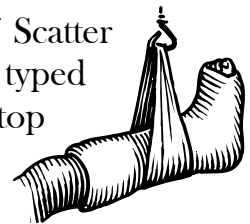
From: your Horticulture Edition editor, Gail (the Happy Gardener) Berthe

Scatter Info....is meant to be a review of various garden related topics to help us with our various pursuits. Know that each of our editors welcome your ideas and questions. Check your GCG Guides for the appropriate emails or contact me at [gail.berthe@gmail.com](mailto:gail.berthe@gmail.com).

Breaking one's foot is not a good thing to do in the middle of summer however one learns much for each experience we have.

- Never pass up the opportunity to help someone in trouble—from the person who rescued me from the bathroom floor to messages of good cheer to delicious food brought to sustain my husband and me and as we work through convalescence the generosity and thoughtfulness of friends and neighbors and fellow Garden Clubbers is beyond expectation. Thank you.
- Perhaps first lesson in importance is keep your cellphone with you at all times!!! My husband was not at home and not expected for at least a couple of hours, and by some miracle I had put the cell phone on counter outside shower door and was able to reach it! Neighbor who is also a nurse rescued me and got robe on me somehow—recognized need for 911 call. Taking cell phone into the garden had become a habit, but not the bathroom—it just happened to be in my pocket going into laundry—so put it on counter!

Fortunately, the materials for the July horticulture edition of Scatter Info Where You Bloom and Grow were organized—now to get it typed propped in recliner with foot above heart and using the laptop keyboard—I've been practicing for two days. Any typos blame on that, please, 'clip art' is a pretty good idea of my leg except pillows under foot, not hook—but foot has to be above heart to reduce swelling. But very little real pain.



## *UGA Extension App*

UGA Extension Coordinator has developed a new app primarily for North Georgia use to help identify flowers, trees, ferns and shrubs growing in North Georgia. “Native Plants of North Georgia” is available for iPad, iPhone, and Android devices and is a consumer-oriented field guide allowing the user a consumer-oriented field guide to browse photos and plants organized by their blooming periods and includes leaf and bloom descriptions as well as correct botanical names and common names. Always remember the rules about picking or uprooting plants on public land. For flower show purposes you may only enter exhibits which are grown on your property, and that should be the correct attitude for each of us—and it is also the law.

The app is available at no charge through the Apple App Store and Google Play. A PDF version is also available for free download and a pocket-sized flipbook for a cost of \$12.00 at [www.caes.uga.edu/publications](http://www.caes.uga.edu/publications). (I’ve used this service for a PDF of ferns. The list of items available is extensive and useful. Apps are still an unexplored technology for this hard copy user.)

*This information is from (UGA) Georgia Magazine—www.uga.edu/am*

## *Snakes and Dangers Involved*

- Snakes are both friend and dangers—just depends on kind of snake. During our ‘navy life’ my husband was offered beautiful quarters right on Chesapeake Bay—an old farm house which we had to turn down because of reasons other than snakes, but the house was also home to king snakes—lived in the attic in the winter and the earthen basement in the winter and traveled between the walls at other times! Also there were days you could not do the laundry because the snakes like to take naps on the washing machine or clothes dryer! But the house never had mice or rats or other creatures of the field. Copperheads snake are a whole different story. According to Georgia Gardening July/August issue copperhead snake population is increasing because of the decrease in king snakes which are a natural predator of cooperheads. What can you do to protect yourself.
- Take a staff of some kind into the garden and create a general disturbance letting the snakes know you are there—they will leave—at least that is what I’m told!
- Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. This is no place for flip flops and shorts!



- Be aware of what a copperhead looks like. See the picture on the left. Note markings and diamond shape of head.

From Google, *How to Treat a Snake Bite* by *HowStuffWorks.com Contributors*

- Keep the victim calm.
- Restrict movement of the affected area (use a loose splint if possible), and keep the area below heart level [source: [Medline Plus](#)].
- Wash the bite with soap and water [source: [UMMC](#)].
- Draw the venom out of the wound using a pump suction device, if available. Follow the device's instructions.
- Remove all constricting items, such as rings, in case the area swells. If the area becomes swollen or discolored, the snake was probably poisonous.
- Monitor the victim's blood pressure, temperature, breathing rate and pulse, to the best of your ability.
- Watch for signs of shock. If they appear, lay the victim on a flat surface with his legs raised about a foot (30.5 centimeters), and cover him with a blanket [source: [Medline Plus](#)].
- Get medical help or transport the victim to a hospital as fast as possible. If no medical care will be available for at least 30 minutes, wrap a bandage 2 to 4 inches (50.2 to 101.6 millimeters) above the wound, making sure it's loose enough to slip your finger beneath it [source: [UMMC](#)].

**Caution: Do not do the following:**

- Let the victim overexert himself (if necessary, carry the victim)
- Use a tourniquet
- Apply a cold compress
- Cut a snakebite with a knife or razor
- Suck out the venom by mouth
- Administer stimulants or painkillers except under the direction of a doctor
- Give the victim anything orally
- Raise the area of the bite area above heart level [source: [Medline Plus](#)]

These are things to not do!

Let's hope you never have to use this information, but read carefully—this kind of incident is also a very good reason to always carry your cellphone into the garden with you—those of us of a certain age did not have this technology advantage.



The picture on the left is a king snake. This snake is currently in decline for unknown reason, but road mortality, habitat loss, pollution, fire ants, toxins in their tissue and over collection for the pet trade are some possibilities. King snakes are natural predators of copperheads—fewer king snakes = more copperheads. Consider how many of the suspected causes for their decline are environment related. If you have the property are you maintaining nesting sites for these desirable snakes? Or are you indiscriminating about killing a

snake—*any snake is a bad snake.*

## *The Detested Tomato/Tobacco Hornworm*

Two insects which are among the most detested ‘evil’ bugs are the tomato hornworm and the Japanese beetle. Today we are going to discuss the hornworm and leave the Japanese beetle for another time. The tomato hornworm is the caterpillar stage of the five-spotted hawk moth which is brown and gray. The tobacco hornworm is caterpillar stage of the Carolina sphinx moth. Both caterpillars are the same genus but different species. They are genus *Manduca* meaning chewing—that’s what they do; eat all the foliage from your *Solanaceae* plants.

Their markings different (tomato hornworm has straight line markings and the tobacco hornworm has V shaped markings in case you ever want to impress your friends with details) but that is about all that is different because both feed on any member of the family *Solanaceae* which includes any number of herbs, ornamentals, and vegetable plants including tomatoes and eggplant. Enough details—how do we get rid of them?

- My favorite is to pick them off the plant and crush them under my shoe
  - One problem with this method is they hide under leaves and are also camouflaged to blend with the specific plant on which they are dining, making them really hard to see before their deed is done
  - They also are voracious eaters making early discovery is very important



- There is also a good reason to not destroy them IF they are being attached by the small braconid wasp because this larva oozing from the body of the hornworm is the larva of the braconid wasp which has the potential possibility of killing more hornworms than you can possibly crush under your foot! Grissly but true—nature is not always beautiful.



Small braconid wasp lara exiting the body of a tomato horn worm!

Then after lots of grueling google search I found a great web site! University of California, Davis good garden life—see reference below. Pictures of early identifying signs of hornworm infestation plus good ideas for eliminating problems.

<http://goodlifegarden.ucdavis.edu/blog/category/gardening-tips/pests-gardening-tips/>

## *Garden Tasks for July, August and September*

Even though it is hot, humid and not necessarily fun to be outside during hot afternoons the garden still needs us....that's why early morning and later in evening in the cool before the sun goes down. It is important to plan activities to coincide with the time of day.

- Watering chores are best done as early as possible, but definitely not late in the day unless you are watering by soaker hose.
  - Don't get foliage wet with no time to dry prior to sunset—sure recipe for mildew
  - Don't water during heat of the day—wastes water and can damage foliage
- Watering should be done with best water saving techniques
  - Use some form of soaking as opposed to sprinkling—soaker hose, drip irrigation,
  - Always deep water to develop deep roots—shallow watering promotes roots to come to surface so they require daily watering

- Use plants that require minimum water and group plants according to water requirements
- Keep containers watered
  - clay pot dry out faster than plastic
  - larger the pot the longer it can go without added water—as long as you really deep water when adding water.
  - Make sure water is absorbed and running out the bottom of the container
    - Key here is the word absorbed—too often the water is applied too rapidly and is not totally absorbed
    - My lazy gardener method is to put lay the hose nozzle on the container and allow a slow but steady soaker drip for complete soaking. As this is being done I tend to other garden tasks, keeping a close eye on the container so as to not waste water
  - Hanging baskets require more watering then ground level containers—greater wind exposure
  - Containers in the sun do very nicely with minimum watering IF succulents or low water need plants are used in the container
  - Conversely containers in shade use less water
- Deadheading is necessary to encourage reblooming—a plant’s primary goal in life is to set seed for continuation of the species. If it is allowed to set seed its job is done, and it stops making new flowers! There are some newer plants which don’t require constant deadheading—some of the newer cultivars of low growing zinnia, angelonia, are a couple that come to mind, but there are others
- Weeding is always a constant chore
  - The more correctly the mulch is applied the less weeding
  - The heavier the good plant cover the fewer bad plants can germinate

- There is always Preen™ or other germination suppressors, but then you don't have any exciting reseeding surprises.
- Pruning issues to consider
  - It is too late to prune any early spring flowering trees or shrubs if any spring bloom is expected
  - All pruning should be complete by early September—otherwise new growth which will occur will be prone to freeze damage in November. Remember anytime you cut a stem, branch etc. it is stimulated to grow more. The only time you can cut without promoting new growth is during dormancy—wintertime. Or if the branch is already dead!

## *A Few Mid-summer Thoughts*

- ✿ According to Dave's Garden Newsletter for July 7, 2014, article submitted by Melody Rose a viral infection is attaching roses throughout the United States and first observed in 1941 in the Northwest. Remember all the lovely pink multiflora roses planted as fences and erosion control throughout the US. They were introduced in the late 1700's and were much admired for their beauty and usefulness—like many species introduced from other geographic locations such as kudzu which were widely used for good reason they were not adaptive to our climates and became invasive or worse harbored disease or insect problems—consider the Japanese beetle. Beginning in 1941 in Wyoming a disease began to attach roses. Now with the widespread use of the wonderful but overused Knockout™ roses the virus is becoming more serious. Knockout™ roses are frequently planted close together creating easy virus transmission—for which there is currently no cure. It is present in Georgia. The *Rose Rosette Disease* is not limited to Knockout™ Roses, but will destroy any rose. The microscopic eriophyid mite called *Phyllocoptes fructiphylus* is the culprit, and the results of infection are devastating. I've done some research and recommend if you have roses to Google search Rose Rosette Disease. Several of the sites were specific to Georgia and gave detailed information. (Any time plants of similar species are planted closely together the risk is that a disease will attach and destroy the entire planting.)
- ✿ Obviously this is not planting season, but as you consider your fall and winter additions to your garden why always choose commonly planted

species. Listed below are several suggestions from *Georgia Gardening* for July/August.

- Native honeysuckle rather than Japanese honeysuckle which is very invasive. *Lonicera americana* is slower growing but spectacular. I have one growing over a trellis covering a swing and it is wonderful—sorry the variety is unknown because my record keeping is non-existent
  - Other invasive plants such English ivy can be replaced with crossvine or Carolina jessamine
  - One suggested substitute for Bradford pear is hawthorn—I can't agree with that. We planted a Washington hawthorn 20 years ago, and it was beautiful—lovely white blooms in spring and red berries in the fall which the birds adored. Tree died in ten years and ten years later I'm still pulling up seedlings. Other more acceptable to me suggestions include flothergilla, or bottle brush buckeye which are interesting suggestions because these are smaller rounded shrubs—not trees, but really neat specimens.
  - Another statement I don't agree with is to plant substitutes for crapemyrtle! Why would anyone want to do that? Remember Jane Hersey's statement from last month's edition concerning the envy felt by her Missouri friends for our crapemyrtle. I can add to that my mother's pride of her crapemyrtle in a protected spot in her central Oklahoma home! It was the marvel of the neighborhood! And it is so hardy right here in Georgia.
  - Privet and elaeagnus, though very acceptable much further north are overrunning our forests, crowding out more acceptable species—just don't ever plant either. The substitutes are numerous—check with your favorite nursery
- ✿ Support your local farmer's markets. Pike County and a few other Georgia counties are running a very special kind of farmer's market. Wednesday Market is a variation of a typical farmers' market. On a specified day the list of produce etc. that will be available on market day will be published on the web and individual choices are made and submitted. On market day these orders are picked up plus there are generally local vendors with other produce to be sold. Really a great system. Search Wednesday Market, Zebulon, Georgia for more information. Pike County also supports a Saturday traditional Farmers' Market.

*Happy gardening*, from the Happy Gardener. Gail, [gail.berthe@gmail.com](mailto:gail.berthe@gmail.com)

Gail