

Quick Bites programs to resume in September

Mississippi State University is resuming the Quick Bites Programs beginning in September. These educational programs covering a variety of topics will be held on three Thursdays in September: 3rd, 10th, and 24th. All programs will be held from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. There is no charge to attend, however you must register. The registration links will be posted to the Pontotoc County Extension Office Facebook page. After registering you will receive a link with instructions by electronic mail. On the day of the event, you can view the programs using Zoom from your personal computer or phone. For questions, please contact the Pontotoc County Extension Office at 662-489-3910.

Title: Around and About the House

Date: September 3, 2020
Presenter: Lynette McDougald, Instructor, Plant & Soil Sciences
Description: Living



All the Comforts of Home

Ensley Howell
489-3910

with flowers offers beauty to our homes, but there are so many more benefits by reducing stress and depression, inspiring innovative thinking, and refreshing memory. Let's look around our houses and lift our spirits with some homemade floral designs.

Title: High Blood Pressure: Risk & Nutrition

Date: September 10, 2020
Presenter: Juaqula Madkin, Extension Instructor, Food Science, Nutrition and Health Promotion
Description: High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a common disease that can lead to heart disease and other se-

rious health conditions. If you have high blood pressure, it's a good idea to do your best to control it especially during this COVID 19 pandemic. Having high blood pressure can put you at higher risk of severe illness from COVID 19. Learn how nutrition plays a role in high blood pressure prevention and management.

Title: Mississippi Women for Agriculture

Date: September 24, 2020
Presenter: Sandra Berry-hill Alesich, President
Description: The mission of Mississippi Women for Agriculture is to equip women with necessary skills and information in all aspects of farming and agribusiness management. Join us as we examine the role of Mississippi women involved in agriculture and how MWA seeks to educate, engage, and empower women farmers and ag professionals.

Let the American beautyberry amaze you



Farm & Garden Notes

James Shannon
489-3910

Have you ever heard of saving the best for last? American beautyberry is a native shrub that fits that bill. It starts slow but ends the growing season with an exclamation point.

The source for this article is the Mississippi State University Extension Service publication "American Beautyberry Shines in Late Summer" by Dr. Gary Bachman.

American Beautyberry

Beautyberry is a deciduous shrub species that can be found growing along forest edges. They have alternate leaves with serrated leaf margins. The plants grow to an height of more than five feet. Beautyberry can grow reasonably well in most soil types. They can grow in areas of full sun but perform better in areas that receive protection from the hot afternoon sun.

Finishing Strong

American beautyberry begins the year in discreet fashion. It is easily outshined by woodland and landscape flowering plants. Its early summer flowers are even nonchalant. The light pink flowers are small and nearly hidden at the base of the leaves.



As summer progresses, small green berries begin to form. When the berries turn purple in late summer, beautyberry bursts from the backseat and moves directly into the driver's seat. The berries form bunches that surround the stems. The branches often bend toward the ground by the weight from the berries.

Wildlife

The bright colored berries quickly draw the attention from wildlife species. They are eaten by a variety of birds including robins, cardinals, mockingbirds, brown thrashers, and others. Mammals including deer, racoons, and squirrels are also known to feast on the berries.

Maintenance

American beautyberry is practically maintenance free. Pruning down to six inches in the early spring can make the plants more vigorous and encourage a tight growth habit.

American beautyberry traditionally has had few issues

with insects and disease. There have been reports that beautyberry can be a host for crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS). This is a concern since this nonnative insect pest now has the potential to damage native plants as well as crape myrtles. CMBS has been identified in Pontotoc County and is sure to spread to other areas of the state.

Propagation

Beautyberry can be propagated from stem cuttings or from seed. The seed can be collected from very ripe berries. The seeds should be cleaned and allowed to dry. Keep the seeds cool and dry until they can be planted in containers the following spring. Please see the MSU Extension publication "Propagating Plants for the Home Landscape" for information on using softwood cuttings to propagate beautyberry.

Prepare to be amazed as American beautyberry prepares to steal the show during the dog days of summer.

Get your candles and flags out and never forget



Chirps From Cardinal Lady

Regina Butler
489-3511

A week from Friday our country will mark yet another anniversary of September 11. In the midst of this wild year, let's not let that day slip by. The ongoing pandemic is cutting out a lot of commemorative ceremonies, but that doesn't mean we can't have one of our own.

I've never been to New York, and yet each year I've paused to remember those who have lost their lives. We owe it to those people who were just going to work on that clear fall morning back in 2001.

But that is so long ago, some say, yes and it was really just yesterday.

What were you doing that day? Do you remember? Are you going to take a moment and remember? Perhaps I've been thinking about it so much because I'm reading Lisa Beamer's book, *Let's Roll!* which tells of the heroic efforts of her husband, Todd, who with others brought United Flight 93 down in Shanksville, Pennsylvania to keep the plane from crashing into either the White House or the Capital. I remember talking to mama and granddaddy late that Tuesday afternoon.

"That one wasn't an accident," Mom said she told Granddaddy as they watched the second plane hit World Trade Center 2 live on the television.

I have explained to Jon Lee time and again why we should never forget. He was only nine years old when the attack happened. I want him to understand the reason why this day should never be forgotten.

"I remember Granddaddy watching movies and specials about World War II," I said.

"And I always wondered



why he did it. After September 11, I understood. America was provoked into war in 1941. We were a peace-loving nation going about our own business and we were attacked. But that attack was on a military base. That is a place you should be ready for an outside enemy to come and get you.

"September 11 was different. These people were just going to work. They were just getting up and going about their day. They were totally innocent and evil men used planes to kill them."

Jon has begun to understand that dark day in our history. It happened so fast that many did not even know what hit them. I've often wondered what went on in the minds of the people on the planes just before the giant silver birds hit the World Trade Center. Or how the people reacted who were in those towers and saw the planes coming right at them.

The biggest lesson I learned from that day is to never take a day for granted. To always make sure I tell Jon that I love him when we are parted or when we go to sleep at night.

Thousands of people never dreamed when they went to work on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, that they would not be going home that night. I also gained a whole new appreciation for our firemen and policemen and emergency personnel. If you see a policeman or a fireman or an emergency worker, please hug them and thank them for keeping our community safe.

The reason I'm talking about this a little earlier than usual, is so you can make plans. Take time to teach your children. Make a memorial at home. I bought two pillar candles in a glass that I have started burning in my window to remind me of that day.

What about you? Dig out your white candles you normally shine in your windows at Christmas and put two of them together to shine out in the darkness.

Hang a flag in front of your house or on your mailbox to support our country. We need it now more than ever. It's time to stop the fussing and recognize enemies from within and without and unite again as one nation under God indivisible.

ASK THE MASTER GARDENER

Question: Is it too late to move the roots or bulbs of lilies? What if we can't remember where our bulbs were planted? This question might arise after neglecting bulbs due to our busy schedules.

From research that included *The Washington Post*, I found some historical context for this question. Daylilies were once the perennial to plant with a rich variety of showy blooms appearing during early summer heat and often lasting until fall of each year.

From my past reading and visiting the Chateau at Chenonceau, built in the 1500s, I knew that such perennials helped create ambience for past civilizations, so much so that the Bishop traveled to the chateau with such plant gifts. Then, the estate became one of cultured, blooming walkways fragrant with lilies through the twenty-first century.

In the United States and Canada, it all started with the original "wild" orange daylily.

Although called bulbs, there is not just the one onion-like bulb; daylilies form fleshy, thickened roots. Once at a state Master Gardener conference, I received a door prize of these slightly droopy root-bulbs that became beautiful, dark burnt-orange blooms the following spring.

Daylilies are carefree among flowering perennials, growing quickly and often lasting for decades. Although known for their toughness, they reward with delicate yellow, orange, and burnt-orange blooms. These lilies once came up each spring in a semi-circle at my drive. They were the flowering reminders of my own grandmother's lawn.



How do we continue in our area of North Mississippi? After preparing the soil with appropriate fertilizer, plant daylilies in spring or fall during mild weather. ... Feed plants regularly during the growing season. Since deer have liked my gifted daylilies so much, you might want to find a spray to help keep deer away.

If planted too deeply, bulbs can suffocate and rot, putting out leaves without blooms. You may move these bulbs in the fall if you marked the beds and know where the bulbs are. The best planting depth for bulbs is usually three times the size of the bulb. Four to six inches is a good depth for oriental lilies.

The best time for division is, not only in the spring, but also in the fall after they stop blooming. Dig up each group of plants—the young push up, beside mature plants. Push two garden forks back and forth between the plants. If the clump is large, keep dividing until you have manageable sections.

Besides these that historically began wild, some such as calla lilies bloom

white. Blooming starts in midsummer and continues into early fall, with new blossoms opening each day. Touring near Versailles once, we walked into Marie Antoinette's garden where she had spent carefree hours—pretending or playing. One of the most notable sights from that visit was a vast white carpet viewed from a distance down the country road. At closer proximity, there were the separate green stems holding perfect white calla lily blooms behind her little cottage's wooden picket fence. What a diverse tribute to the formal gardens of France!

From my childhood, tiger lilies (*Lilium tigrinum*) that my grandmother divided and moved to the side of her house stood in a sentinel row and came back year after year. Their orange, down-facing flowers with black spots reminded us children of other far-away places.

For those who search the horticultural catalogues during the winter months, you can read of hemerocallis to find out even more.