

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM FALL 2008 WEBINAR

I want to plant a privacy hedge and I was told that Arborvitae or Photinia would make a good plant. I do not want something that grows more than 6 or 8 feet and can be pruned easily any suggestion

photinia - no - too tall and disease prone. arborvitae - maybe but read the tag for the mature size of the variety you select TS

I have a 1 1/2 yr. old camellia that I rooted. When, where, and how should I plant it?

newly rooted cuttings are best protected the first fall/winter and planted either early the next spring or the following fall. TS

I would like to plant some deodar cedars this fall. Are there any cons to these trees?

this is the ideal time to plant these, but make sure to have enough space in full sun for them to grow without pruning. --theresa

What is the best Pecan tree to grow in the metro area and is it wise to plant them in the drought we are currently having?

any of the named varieties. i particularly like stuart. --theresa

When did you get started in gardening?

i don't know about walter, but i started gardening as a small child with easy vegetables. --theresa

I am starting from scratch. What should I plant in my yard now and what should I wait for until the Spring. I want to have some kind of color before my neighbors kill me.

this is the time to plant trees, shrubs, cool season annuals. perennials and summer annuals should be planted in early april. --ts

I have a 4x7 raised bed with strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. Crowded! Can I take the raspberries and blackberries out and plant them in the yard now and what prep needs to be done?

yes, they can be moved now. loosen and amend the soil so that it drains well and don't forget the trellis for them to grow on TS

When and how is the best way to prune goliath crape myrtles?

pruning should be done after the leaves drop. pencil pruning is the best: only remove branches that are the diameter of a pencil or less. --ts

I have about an acre of cleared land on a hill with a driveway down the middle from top to bottom at the house. Should I call a landscape architect to deal with the drainage or can I plant something to control it?

that depends. slopes over 30 degrees may need terracing and that is best handled by a landscape architect. --ts

What do we need to do in the fall to prevent weeds in bermuda grass?

pre-emergent herbicides now and spot treating weeds that have emerged. repeat the pre-emergent in early march. --ts

I need to redo a small front yard with shrubs - to put right in front of my house. I get partial sun. Can you please make some suggestions?

azaleas, hydrangeas, pieris, leucothoe, anise, rhododendrons. TS

What's the best way to plant a coral bark maple that is three to four years old in a ten gallon container. It was grown from a sampling. Where should it be planted?

coral bark does best in full sun to get the best bark color. you need high organic, loose and well-drained soil. --ts

Shade garden w/huge oak trees. Planted shade plants. Lots of roots found on planting. Plants continue small. How do I fertilize?

slow release fertilizers are best. also maintain a 2-3 inch layer of mulch. TS

I love my Encore's, but when to fertilize and when to prune. Their multi. blooming times confuses me!

prune after the main spring flush. fertilize at that time and lightly again in the fall. ts

is this a good time to prune Japanese Maples?

best to wait until the leaves drop and you can see the architecture. ts

I have 3 Japaness Maples- between 2 and 3` tall- do i plant them now or in the spring?where? what kind of soil?

plant now with well-amended soil that has good drainage. most j. maples prefer part shade. TS

When can I transplant trees and shrubs?

now from fall to mid winter. ts

are there any ferns that can survive full sun that you can recommend?

southern shield (thelypteris kunthii) is probably the most sun tolerant if it has adequate moisture. ts

should rain barrels be on the ground, or should I build a platform off the ground to put it on?

best elevated 12-24 inches for gravity to help the water flow. ts

I planted encore azalaes last early fall and they are not blooming? They may not be getting 4-6 hrs of direct sun. I have `fed` them and try to water everyday, but they just don't `look` good.. any suggestions?

you're overwatering. water only once per week and ease up the fertilizer during drought. ts

I am located in Monroe, GA; I would like to know what trees I could plant to provide

privacy fencing and is a fast grower

little gem magnolia, bright n tight cherry laurel, emily bruner or savannah hollies. -ts

We have Indian Hawthorns near our deck. When is the best time to transplant them, and where in the yard? Full sun, partial shade? Thanks.

now: fall to mid winter. full sun to partial shade. ts

Are trees ordered from the Arbor society a good quality ?

They're small and some are not suited for this climate. ts

When planting Azaleas, do you recommend amending the soil with "soil moist" or a crystal that turns into a gelatin form that absorbs water?

no. organic matter (nature`s helper) or other soil conditioners are best. ts

Once established, are green giant arborvitae drought tolerant?

very much so. much more than leylands ts

where is the best place to get trees ?

reputable nurseries that are locally-owned where you can deal directly with knowledgeable staff.
ts

I have dead branches in well-established fositythia & S. wax myrtle. I'm pruning out the dead branches. Should I do more?

not at this time. only remove dead wood. additional pruning on forsythia is done after blooming. wax myrtle is pruned in the late winter. ts

are there any bulb plants the grow in shade?

virginia and english bluebells, early blooming daffodils, crocus, ts

Will there be another webinar about bare root trees?

probably not. there are issues with bb trees that are difficult to address. ts

should I have a soil test done now or should I wait until spring?

now would be a good time to get your soil test. ts

we need to move a flowering red quince that is quite large. should we remove some of the branches when pransplanting?

only if it makes it easier on you. otherwise try to not prune the branches. ts

When is the best time to aerate the lawn? Should we have soil tested first? Thanks.

aerate when the grass is actively growing: fescue now, bermuda and other warm season grasses in may/june. test soil now. ts

I have a small bradford pear seedling in a pot, maybe 1.5 feet tall. OK to plant now? Survive the winter?

trash tree. i would plant something else. stay tuned to my upcoming segment for alter-natives.

ts

I need to separate my Happy Returns Daylilies. Do I do this now or wait till dormant?

do this in the spring just as the foliage is emerging. ts

I have bearded iris lilies; can I mow over them if the top is brown or will it harm or kill them

mowing is somewhat rough. they are best pruned with pruners to avoid shredding the foliage or uprooting the tubers. ts

With the ground so hard now, what do you use to dig the proper size holes - an auger?

a pitchfork to loosen the soil and a sharp shovel for the hole. if necessary, use a pick axe. ts
I used an auger last week W

Does the issues difficulty of bare root trees mean that it is best to avoid them if you are an amateur gardner as I am?

i avoid them and i'm a professional. i prefer to use container trees. ts

I bought a bougenvillea over the summer and it has flowered beautifully. I took it inside when the temp dropped this week. Can you tell me how to take care of it indoors this winter?

cut it back to about 24 inches, fertilize lightly and only water when very dry. place in a sunny window. ts

I have a Dietes Grandiflora (Butterfly Iris) and wonder if it would survive in the landscape in Roswell?

This plant comes from Africa..I doubt it would survive winter outdoors in Roswell W

I have some mexican heather; will it survive if I plant outside or can it be cared for inside

this is a summer annual and will die in the winter. i don't think you can give it enough light indoors. you can always try to overwinter it as a houseplant. ts

How much water does a buckeye tree need in the draught?

approximately 4 gallons per foot of height per week. ts

My Crepe Myrtle never bloomed this year. When do I cut it back? I planted it 2 yrs ago. Nice green leaves, but no blooms..

still young. perhaps don't prune this year. transplant it if it's not in full sun. ts

live in Stone MountainWhat can I use to make my fescue grass grow in the shade or what kind of grass should I get to grow in the shade.

less than 3 hours of sun and you can't get grass to survive in shade. instead make beds of shade tolerant plants. ts

Have a wild and crazy Lady Banks rose...when and how to prune?

prune back after spring flowering. ts

what`s the best time to plant mums outside? can i plant the ones available at the local stores?

now. plant any that are available even at the grocery store. ts.

Is it OK to let ground cover (periwinkle) grow around trees?

periwinkle (vinca) is an invasive plant and best not used in the garden especially around trees. ts.

my hibiscus didn`t bloom this year, even with even watering and fertilizing. Does it need full sun vs. partial sun?

full sun is best. drought may have played a role. ts.

I`ve had a rock on a branch of an azalea to promote root growth for the last four years. It has rooted well. What is the next step?

Clip the connection with the mother plant now. If you think it has lots of roots, you can transplant it now. If not so many roots, wait until March to transplant. W

We have several trees with Ivy growing on them. We were told by some people not to touch it the trees have it`s own eco system. Others have said to cut it back?

Cut it off...ivy does no good for trees. W

I have alot of clay soil around my yard. What can I use to treat it?

Lots of soil conditioner...I like 3 inches of soil conditioner tilled into the soil before planting, W

Walter just said trees compete with grass. But, can you underplant a tree with a groundcover, say blue rug juniper?

Yes - groundcover is much less competitive. W

How much can I cut back my hibiscus and when? I bring it in for the winter.

Cut it back now by 1/4. Should be done in Sept each year. W

what is the best way to get rid of bramble briars

roundup or brush-b-gone. ts

When part of the root system run visibly on the surface, is that normal?

It`s normal for the tree...but hard to mow or plant over. Cover the roots with mulch or no more than two inches of topsoil. W

If want to expand the mulch area around a tree, what is the best way to deal with grass growing in the area to be mulched. (i.e. should it be dug up, roundup, etc.)

roundup. this should not harm the tree unless you pour gallons and gallons of it. ts

I cut down a large red maple two years ago. What is the best way to hide the stump as it decomposes?

Creeping raspberry vine W

Planted 2 sweetgum trees with no balls. Ugly trees. Should they come down or continue to grow? Thanks.

i'm guessing you have rotundiloba. give them some time to grow and perhaps grow on you. ts

how do i keep my grass (bermuda grass) from speading into the flower bed?

a 4x4 trench will help. you then patrol the beds and spray any grass that crosses the threshold. ts.

What Apple Trees do you recommend for the Metro area?

See my website for notes W

Can you recommend a good holly w/pyramid shape, evergreen, and good show of berries.

See my website for notes W

reccomend some Perennials good for a southern exposure next to my house? full sun all day!!

oh boy: phlox, purple coneflower, daylilies, irises, black-eyed susans, etc. ts

do bamboos really get out of control? love the look and want to use in backyard

bamboos are classified as running and clumping. runners must be contained in bamboo rhizome barriers or you'll come to hate yourself. i also recommend barriers for clumpers who run but more slowly. ts.

What is the best way to plant trees and shrubs on a hillside?

loosen the soil as demonstrated. use shredded hardwood/pine mulch which holds better on a slope. ts

Emerald Green Arborvitae tends to split into two peaks at the top - what causes this?

they tend to have multiple trunks. they can be tied together to prevent splitting especially when ice is threatened. ts.

I have several hibiscus planted outdoors (brought from the Northeast - survives the NE winters). When should I trim it?

right after bloom W

Are Japanese red maples full sun loving like Coral Bark Maple.I have one I need to take from a pot to my yard what is the best way to plant it?

i only feel comfortable with the coral bark in full sun. TS

I like Shirazz and Viridis in sun Walter

Should you add a soil conditioner when planting bulbs? If so, how much?

yes- 3 inches PLUS the gritty sand to get good drainage W

how often should i change my pine straw?

when it looks gray...usually once per year W

My best basil bush has turned a very pale yellow, despite regular watering/fertilizing. Why?

end of season - cooler temps, less light. ts

I planted an Autumn Brilliance Service Berry (15 gallon size I think) in the spring. It did not bloom and does not have any berries. Is this normal?

perfectly normal the first year especially for a spring planting. fall planting is better. ts.

Want to plant a persimmon tree. Should we purchase two for pollination?

It's impossible to tell male from female when at a nursery. I prefer Asian persimmons....no pollination problems and some are non-astringent. W

My back yard has washed away, just hard crack clay is left. How should I prepare the it for planting?

LOTS of soil conditioner may need to have topsoil delivered go see the soil before delivery to be sure it is rich and dark W

Starting a compost pile- mostly veggie scraps, yard cuttings, etc- should I add dirt or commercial compost to this to help it along? thanks!

a shovel of "woods dirt" would be good at first....then use compost from the bottom of the pile to inoculate the top in the future W

Do I recall that ginko trees come male and female and that the female tree produces lots of smelly fruit?

yes - female fruit stinks, buy from a nursery that guarantees their trees are all male W

lichens growing on north side of azaleas??

lichens don't hurt shrubs...they just signify the plant is thin and weak may need to start over if you can't determine why the azalea is failing W

I planted some crepe myrtles in the spring and used enriched planting soil when I planted them. I did not mix it with the native soil. I didn't know that it was supposed to be mixed with the native soil. Should I replant these crepe myrtles correctly now?

nah. they're tough and will adapt. ts.

had to join late, can I see and hear the whole seminar?

yes - link will work for 90 days W

I have 2 40 to 50 fttall pecan trees. Every year the nuts come with a small hole in it. is this a disease or pest problem. How do i prevent this?

pecan weevil. Pecan weevil, check out walter's site for help. www.walterreeves.com ts.

Can a lorelpetulum be cut now safely from 6 ft to 4 ft?

yes W

I have a leyland cypress that is turning brown from the bottom up. The limbs are bleeding

sap from the trunk. Any idea the problem? Thanks

one of the fungal diseases: bot canker or seridium canker. prune out the dead branches, sterilize your pruners between cut and mulch the plant to maintain health. ts.

What`s good for a small, wet area? I`d rather do several small plants rather than one large one.

See plant lists on my site W

We have, like thousands of other homes, two mature Bradford Pears in our front yard. (about 20 years old so replacing them not an option at this point.) What is the best way to try to prevent them from splitting?

www.georgiaarborist.org W

I need to put in a screen of trees to block out the view of a neighbor`s house. I would like something that would grow somewhat fast, however the location is shaded. Would arborvitae work? Any suggestions?

Consider `Bright n Tight` cherrylaurel or Florida agarista W

when does bermuda grass go dormant and when should i give it a final cut for the season?

Goes dormant around mid-November. Do final cut in mid October W

Is it possible to prune a butterfly bush? It is huge.

wait until after our first hard frost and prune at will. you won`t hurt it. ts.

nurseries sell special top soil for shrubs and gardens. Is this the same as organic matter?

it has an organic component and probably a slow release fertilizer, too. ts.

My nadina bushes are tall and leggy. Can I trim them to make them more rotund and bushy

yes - see my website for notes W

Planted 8-10 ft Yoshina Cryptomeria last December. How long do I need to keep watering and how much/often?

Probably is well established by now....no need for water now. W

I have some crape myrtles that were here when I bought home; they are tall; what is the safest trimming and when

see my website for notes W

Where can I find information for when to prune?

See my website notes W

I`m afraid to over water a newly planted tree in case the roots rot. What is the best way?

10 gallons per week for a month is usually OK for a 6 ft tall tree W

Neighbor has a perennial plant in front yard that looks like Goldenrod. What is it?

Might be 'Fireworks' goldenrod; I love mine W

Landscaping a slope. Plenty of sun in spring and early summer. Shaded much of the day in late mid-late summer. Late afternoon sun. Would encore azaleas do? How about knock-out or carefree roses?

All of the above would work fine W