

GREEN MATTERS

~Fort Gordon, Ga



DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter

Upcoming Events/ Training

- Oct. 1 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307
- Oct. 8-9 Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600; Bldg 11307
- Oct. 20-24 Environmental Officer Course, 0800-1600

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Fall Gardening Down South

Now that the summer season has come to an end, so has our summer vegetable gardens. But the winds of fall bring the opportunity for fall vegetable gardens. Here in the south, you are able to grow some sort of vegetable year round.

Here is a list of some vegetables suitable for growing in the CSRA during the fall:

Asparagus

Asparagus should be planted in November and December. For this area Jersey Giant, Purple Passion and Mary Washington are the best cultivars. Note that Asparagus does not mature for harvest until its second year.



Lettuce

Lettuce should be sowed between Sept. 1 and Oct.1. Romaine, Buttercrunch, and Butterhead are some good ones to grow. They take about 60-85 days to mature.



Radishes

Radishes are fun and easy to grow. They should be planted between September and November. It takes 21-28 days before reaching maturity.



Spinach

Spinach should be planted late September to early November. It will be ready for the picking in 37-45 days.



Turnips

Turnips can be planted September to early October and are ready for the harvest in 50-60 days.



Garlic

Garlic can be planted between September and mid-November. Harvest large bulbs in the Spring.



Onion

Planting onion seeds in September to October will yield a Spring harvest.



Download the **When to Plant App** available on the App Store. Visit www.motherearthnews.com for more information on this app as a helpful tool for planting all year round.



Fort Gordon Green Matters

What's Brewing in Your Coffee?



Fall is in the air and so is the smell of fresh brewed coffee in the morning. Millions of Americans, like myself, start their day with this liquid awakening every morning. How often do we stop and think if our coffee is eco friendly or not? My guess is we aren't awake enough to even go there.

The United States alone ranks at the top of the list as the nation that consumes the most coffee worldwide! 400 million cups a day are consumed by 52 percent of the over-eighteen population. Coffee is the second in line as the most heavily traded legal commodity in the world after oil. And believe it or not, it cost more per gallon retail than gasoline.

There are a few questions to ask yourself the next time you go to purchase this "black gold":

1. **Organic or not?** Opting for pesticide-free grown coffee is always best for you and the environment.
2. **Shade-grown**—Coffee that is grown in the shade beneath the forest canopy, rather than sun grown, which involves wiping out a forest and its ecosystem, is much better for the environment. Bird habitats aren't destroyed and the shade prevents less weeds and less need for pesticides.
3. **Is it Fair Trade?** Purchasing Fair trade coffee insures that child laborers were NOT used, fair wages given to the farmers, and limited use of pesticides. Starbucks and Nestle use certified fair trade coffee.
4. **Is it home brewed?** Making your own coffee eliminate the use for Styrofoam cups and them being tossed in the landfills. It can take hundreds of years for them to decompose. Plus you can reuse the coffee grounds as fertilizer.

Ways to Reuse Coffee grounds and Coffee cans

- Coffee grounds can be used as fertilizer for acid loving plants
- Mixed with an egg white, coffee grounds make a great homemade skin tightening mask.
- Reuse cans for storage in the garage for nuts, bolts and other small ,loose items
- Simple dehumidifier— fill it with salt and place in your basement to absorb the moisture. Replace salt every month or as needed
- Coffee cans are great to put paint thinner in to clean your paint brushes.
- Make a simple lawn seeder by punching holes in the bottom, like a shaker, and place the lid on the top. Place seeds inside, then shake things up a bit for small planting area.
- Reuse coffee cans to make a Campfire crock pot. Simply place veggies in the bottom and meats on top. Cover with tin foil then place on the grill for a tasty meal.

Compliance Corner

Generally, Environmental Laws involve all aspects of the environment. They are designed to protect and preserve the environment to reduce impacts on human life. Here at Fort Gordon, we have many operations that have the potential to negatively impact the environment if they are not properly managed.

The purpose of the "Compliance Corner" is to provide you with regulatory information on issues that are important to our environmental stewardship and compliance status. Listed below are some useful sites to visit concerning compliance issues:

<http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast>

<http://epd.georgia.gov/>

<http://aec.army.mil/>

<http://www.arborday.org/index.cfm>

<http://www.qadnr.org/>

http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/r200_1.pdf



Common Environmental Acronyms

- **NOI (Notice of Intent)**
- **NOV (Notice of Violation)**
- **NOT (Notice of Termination)**
- **BMP (Best Management Practices)**

Winterizing Your Lawn Equipment and Tools

Winterizing Small Engines

Summer has come to an end and so has a lot of grass mowing for awhile, but don't neglect the care of your lawn equipment as it "sleeps" for the winter. There are maintenance steps that need to be taken in order to preserve the efficiency of your lawn equipment for use the next spring/summer season. You definitely want your lawn equipment to "rise from the dead". For small gasoline engines, there are two main steps to take in the winterizing process:

1. **Drain the tank of excess fuel.** (check owner's manual for more details). Make sure it is collected in a clean, approved storage container. The excess gas can then be put in your car.



2. **Adding a fuel stabilizer** is the next option if the fuel can not be easily removed. Fill it full with stabilizer to minimize air space. Let the engine run for 5 minutes to make sure it gets in the carburetor.



Why should you winterize these small engines? Well, leaving gasoline in engine tanks for extended periods of time can lead to the formation of gums and deposits. The fuel begins to degrade over time, and reacts with the air and moisture that can cause these build ups which plugs the fuel system. It is not recommended to leave fuel inactive in tanks for periods longer than one to two months.

Additional steps to take:

- Change the oil
- Clean the air filters or replace if needed
- Replace old spark plugs and add a half ounce of oil into the spark plug port
- Clean mower decks off and other debris from lawn equipment before storage



Garden Tool Care and Storage for the Winter

The first step to take when getting ready to store your garden tools for the winter time is to make sure they are cleaned off. Use a wire brush to help remove any dirt, rinse, then dry thoroughly.



Next you can remove any rust stains with sandpaper or steel wool, and use vegetable oil to coat any metal. For wood handles, apply linseed oil or paste wax lightly to help prevent cracking or splitting. For hand tools, clean and oil as well.



Hang rakes, shovels, and other tools in an easy to get to area.



Water hoses should be brought in from the weather and make sure the water has drained from them completely. Repair leaky hoses inexpensively and timely with hose repair kits found at local gardening and hardware stores, or simply recycle the hoses for other uses.



Taking these extra steps every season will help to ensure that your lawn and garden equipment and tools will be ready to handle a new season.

Look Before You Leap



Recycling...a Curbside Service, at Your Service!!

Augusta-Richmond County Curbside Services

There is a once a week pickup for residents for garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk waste. The following items are permitted for curbside recycling pickup:

- ♦ Cans and foil
- ♦ Plastics
- ♦ Cardboard flattened and place in recyclable carts
- ♦ Yard waste
- ♦ Bulk waste (large household items, appliances)

Prohibited items include:

- ♦ Plastic bags
- ♦ Styrofoam
- ♦ Packing peanuts
- ♦ Food contaminated paper
- ♦ Photos
- ♦ Grass cuttings
- ♦ Oil
- ♦ Batteries
- ♦ Liquid paint
- ♦ Refrigerants
- ♦ Contaminated soil
- ♦ Hazardous materials
- ♦ Trees

For more details and information on the curbside recycling services offered in Augusta-Richmond County call #311 or visit www.augustsolidwaste.com.

Grovetown Curbside Services

The City of Grovetown Curbside Services

- ♦ Newspaper
- ♦ Aluminum
- ♦ Cardboard

For more information visit <http://www.cityofgrovetown.com/recycling>.

Fort Gordon

Currently Fort Gordon does **NOT** offer curbside recycling, BUT in the very near future they will! At that time, items that will be accepted include:

- ♦ Paper
- ♦ Cardboard
- ♦ Plastic bottles 1 & 2
- ♦ Plastic bags
- ♦ Tin
- ♦ Toner cartridges
- ♦ Aluminum cans

Curbside recycling services for Aiken County offered for North Augusta and the City of Aiken

The Blue Bag Recycling program is the best in South Carolina. You can place all of your recyclables into one bag that you place on the curb for pickup. The following items can be recycled:

- ♦ Paper
- ♦ Plastic
- ♦ Aluminum
- ♦ Glass (bottles, jars, jugs)
- ♦ Metal products
- ♦ Some petroleum products(see website for more details)
- ♦ Bulk items(large household items)
- ♦ Yard waste
- ♦ Electronics

For more information visit www.aikencountysc.gov.



SOURCES

cityofgrovetown.com
 Augustasolidwaste.com
<http://chasinggreen.org/article/choosing-earth-friendly-coffee/>
<http://www.thefashionspot.com/life/392139-is-your-coffee-eco-friendly/>
<http://www.epa.gov/reg5oair/mobile/winter.html>
<http://www.better-lawn-care.com/winterize.html#axzz3CBkFS6W2>
 www.aikencountysc.gov

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/how-to-winterize-your-garden-tools.aspx#axzz3CGAb7Umf>
<http://www.gardenguides.com/88742-fall-vegetable-garden-georgia.html>
<https://agriculture.sc.gov/userfiles/file/School%20Gardens%20Program/9%20SGP%20What%20When%20How.pdf>
http://garden.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Best_Vegetables_for_a_Fall_Garden
 www.northaugusta.net



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