

# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Yummy Yummy

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



I have said before that Mama rarely cooked but she could cook, she just chose not to. She did cook on special occasions and I do remember her cooking for Easter dinner. I also remember eating Easter dinner at the S&S Cafeteria downtown in Augusta. Often, after church we would ride downtown and get in the very long line to have lunch.

I have seen a recipe floating around from different sources that I want to share with y'all. Honestly, it would be perfect for Easter dinner and if my mama had had a crock pot back in the day, I am sure she would have made this every Sunday!

Directions: You need 4 skinless boneless chicken breasts, 1 can of chicken broth, 1 can of Cream of Chicken soup, 1 bag of herb stuffing mix, and half a cup of water.

Put the thawed raw chicken breasts in the bottom of the crock pot and pour the broth on top of it.

Next, mix the soup, stuffing, and water in a bowl until stuffing is moist and then spoon this mixture on top of the chicken in the crock pot.

Cook on the low setting of the crock pot for seven hours.

Chicken will be moist and dressing will be delicious! Add a can of cranberry sauce for flourish or pickled peaches or some type of relish.

For special dinners, Mama often chilled a can of pear halves then put a dollop of Duke's mayonnaise in the center of each drained pear half and shredded cheese and candied

cherry on top of that; very pretty and easy to do.

To me, strawberries just scream spring! The following recipe was given to me by my cousin and is one you might like to try.

Ingredients are: 1 box of white cake mix, 3 tbsp. plain flour, 1 (3oz) box of strawberry Jell-O, ½ cup of water, ¾ cup of vegetable oil, 4 eggs, 2 cups of fresh or frozen pureed strawberries (1 cup for cake and 1 cup will be used for icing).

In large bowl, combine cake mix, 3 tbsp. flour and Jell-O and stir this dry all together, then add the water, oil and eggs (one at a time) beating well between each addition.

Add 1 cup of the pureed strawberries and beat 2 more minutes.

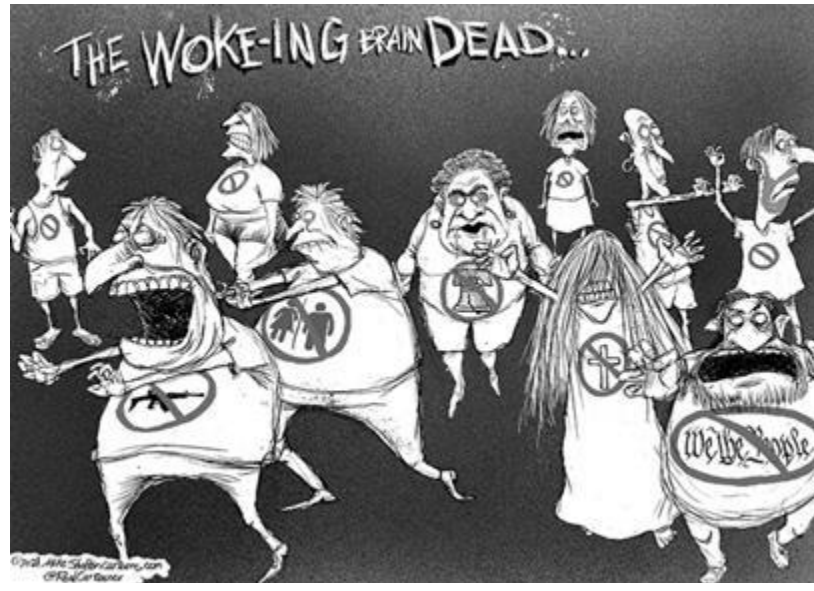
Pour this batter into a well-greased and floured 9x13 pan to bake at 350 for about 45 min.

Make a cream cheese icing from any recipe you like or soften 1 stick of butter and 1- 8oz pkg. of soft cream cheese and about 3 cups of powdered sugar ½ teaspoon of vanilla flavoring and add in the 1 cup of pureed strawberries.

Blend with mixer until well mixed then pour over cooled cake.

You can garnish with fresh strawberries or jelly beans or whatever you feel creatively pleasing for the season.

Whether it is a fancy meal or a peanut butter sandwich, this spring anything will be delicious and appreciated after our last COVID spring! I wish you the very best and healthiest spring season ever!!!



## Consumers get answers from Ga. Department of Agriculture

Consumer Q's is a weekly question-and-answer column by Arty Schronce at the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Please share your thoughts, questions and suggestions with him by phone, mail or email.

**Q: What are the easiest fruits to grow in Georgia?**

A: Figs and blueberries are two of the easiest, most reliable and popular fruits to grow. Oriental persimmons are one of the easiest tree fruits. Muscadines require yearly pruning (an easy task compared to pruning a tree) and a trellis, but are undemanding otherwise. Pawpaws are an option if you have the space. Crabapples (if you like preserves) are another possibility. Strawberries may require replanting and bed renovation and weeding, but at least they do not need to climb a ladder to prune them or pick them. Also consider jujubes, mayhaws and feijoas. Warning: once you start growing fruit and enjoying the harvest, you may stop viewing what you have to do as "work."

**Q: What is the difference between cool-season grasses and warm-season grasses?**

A: Cool-season grasses grow well during the cool months of the year. They may go dormant or be injured during the heat of summer. Cool-season grasses include tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, annual ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass. Warm-season grasses grow best during the warmest months of the year. They grow vigorously during this time and become brown and dormant in winter. Warm-season grasses include

## LWREA offers scholarship to Lincoln students

High school seniors from Lincoln County and Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School may apply for a scholarship sponsored by the Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators Association (LWREA).

To qualify for the LWREA scholarship, students must plan to attend a college or vocational school for the academic year 2021-2022, and write a 250-500-word essay on the topic, "A High-er Education Will Afford Me the Opportunity to..."

The deadline for the essay to be submitted to the high school counselor is Wednesday, March 31, 2021. The scholarship will be issued after verification of enrollment. For further information, call 706-359-4592 or 706-678-1660. Applications are available at the high school counselor's office.

Bermuda, zoysia, St. Augustine and centipede.

**Q: Someone told me that the time to check my house for termites is in the spring when I see a "swarm" of insects. Is that when I should check?**

A: Termite inspection and control is one project that is best left to the professionals. Most homeowners do not have the expertise to properly identify and control termites themselves.

While termites in Georgia usually swarm from late winter to late spring they can, under certain conditions, swarm all year long. If you see a swarm of insects or other signs of termites you should seek professional assistance.

You can find a list of licensed operators and other information on pest control on our web site at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov). Look under "Divisions" for the "Plant Industry Division," then "Structural Pest Control."

**Q: What is a plumgranny?**

A: A plumgranny or plum granny (Cucumis melo Dudaim Group) is a small melon grown because it is very fragrant. It is also known as known as "Queen Anne's Pocket Melon." It is about the size of a small-to-medium apple and has smooth skin and orange stripes when ripe.

It has been grown for many years; some think at least 1,000 years. In the days before perfumes and deodorants, plumgrannies were carried in pockets and purses to mask body odor.

Plumgrannies are edible, but they are mostly grown for their fragrance. One or two can fill a room with their perfume. Think of them as potpourri.

Plumgranny seeds are sometimes offered for sale in the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin and in various seed catalogs, especially those specializing in heirloom vegetables.

If you have questions about agriculture, horticulture, food safety or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce ([arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov)) or visit the department's website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

## Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.



## Plant Stress Basics

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service



While we have started to see some warmer temperatures and sunny skies in Lincolnton, this spring has had a lot of particularly wet and cool weather. This weather or environment may contribute to a significant number of plant issues as we head into the growing season. When experiencing plant issues, there are a few things to keep in mind.

There are two different causes of most plant issues - abiotic stressors and biotic stressors. Abiotic stressors are environmental issues - things like floods, drought, extreme temperatures, soil fertility, and so on. Abiotic stress can cause a decline in plant growth, development, yield, and seed quality of crops and ornamental plants. Most abiotic stress factors can be managed by the homeowner or farmer, such as selecting the best site for your desired species, applying irrigation during times of drought, and evaluating soil pH and fertility on an annual basis.

The second cause of plant issues are biotic stressors. Biotic stressors are living organisms, specifically viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, and weeds. These pathogens cause various types of diseases, infections, and damage to crops and other plants which can cause a decline in plant growth, productivity, and death. In order to have a biotic plant issue, we need three things-

the pathogen or causation agent, the host-plant, and an appropriate environment for the pathogen to develop and thrive. Managing biotic stressors relies on our ability to identify which of those three things we have involved and modify them in some way. Sometimes, we are able to plant varieties that are genetically resistant to disease or infection by a biotic stressor. Other times, we might need to remove the affected plants, manage an abiotic stressor that's contributing to the issues we see, or use a chemical control method. Even then, we might choose not to even treat an affected plant - especially if it's something that will resolve itself with enough time.

Figuring out if we have an abiotic or a biotic stressor can be challenging, and often it is a combination of both. If there is only abiotic stress, we generally will see an entire region or planting all exhibiting the same signs and symptoms. For example, an entire raised bed of vegetables that won't grow is probably going to be an issue with soil fertility or watering- environmental issues.

If we have a biological agent such as an insect or disease, we typically see very specific patterns of disease. For example, a single area of a crop field that fails to grow well might be a root-knot nematode. Every other plant outside of the affected area might do just fine, but that affected region will not. It gets a bit more complicated than that because abiotic, or environmental stressors, can often damage or stress plants and make them more susceptible to biotic stressors like disease.

The wet, cool weather we've been seeing as we come into spring is going to cause an increase in some plant issues, both abiotic and biotic in nature. If you are interested in having our agriculture agent visit your property to help diagnose the issue and make recommendations for handling it, please let us know at [uge3181@uga.edu](mailto:uge3181@uga.edu) or 706-359-3233.

## Festival entries wanted

The American Legion Post 194 and Classic South Quilt Guild is looking for entries for their upcoming quilt, craft and sewing festival scheduled for June 12-13. If you have quilts, sewing crafts, or toys, novelty items, ceramics, paintings, jewelry, etc., please contact Linda Buesching at 706-359-1572 or Al Ewing at 661-666-3749 for more information on entering your items.

## Sit, Sew classes

The American Legion is hosting additional classes: "Sit & Sew" classes, meet monthly on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday morning, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Quilting Classes" are monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7-9:30 p.m. Call Linda Buesching/Instructor at (706) 359-1572.

Sewing and quilting stations are appropriated spaced and masks are required.

All levels of quilting welcome. The cost is a "donation" to the American Legion.

## Divorce care group

Are you divorced or separated? Need Godly guidance with others who are struggling also? Faith Community Church is starting a Divorce-Care group starting on Sept. 2 that will meet for 13 weeks. It will be on Wednesday nights from 7-8 p.m. Childcare is available. Please email [Lee.haskins7@gmail.com](mailto:Lee.haskins7@gmail.com) for more information or see church's website.

## BOE meeting dates

The Lincoln County Board of Education 2021 meeting dates are follows: May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, and Jan. 11, 2022.

The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Board of Education Administration Offices Building at 423 Metasville Rd.

## Registration opens for adult softball at recreation dept.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department is hosting "Summer Sluggfest," an adult softball league. The season will run June 15-July 22, with games held every Tuesday and Thursday.

Teams can be co-ed or all men with a \$250 registration fee per team. Registration will run from March 15-May 31 at the recreation complex.

League rules include: all team members must be in uniform (jersey); have 15 players to a roster; use 44 core and 375 compression balls; no illegal bats; five homeruns per game; any homerun after five changes the inning.

The end-of-season tournament will be held July 31.

For more information contact LCRD Director LeTrellis Glaze or Lisa Willingham at 706-359-2236.

## Mail in tithes

Price Grove Baptist Church members are reminded that they are able to mail in their tithes to Price Grove Baptist Church, P.O. Box 916, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

## This weeks tips from the BBB

A new analysis of consumer scam reports submitted to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) indicates certain demographic groups are more likely to lose money to scammers. The findings come from researchers at the University of Minnesota and the University of Southern California who used data collected through the BBB Scam Tracker consumer reporting platform between January 2017 and September 2020. They analyzed over 167,000 reported scams, with particular attention to scams reported between March and September 2020, and their report gives a broader perspective than previous analyses about how scams impact minority communities.

### Risk Factors for Victimization

Women were much more likely than men to report an attempted scam and were twice as likely as men to report money loss; however, men who did lose money lost higher amounts than women. In this analysis, age did not appear to have a significant effect on the rate of monetary loss, though older victims tended to pay more once victimized.

In order to understand how reported victimization (money loss) is affected by income, education, and other demographic variables, BBB Scam Tracker data was combined with zip code variables from the U.S. Census. In a two-stage regression, researchers estimated how these factors affected both victimization and dollars lost. This regression controlled for all collected scam variables (e.g. scam type, means of contact) and other reported variables (e.g. age, gender, and student status). The results indicated that those reporting from zip codes with a larger portion of Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other racial minorities are more likely to lose money when targeted by scammers. Likewise, those reporting from zip codes with a population less likely to have GED or high school equivalent education, are more likely to lose money when targeted by scammers. However, none of these factors is associated with higher dollar losses. Those reporting from zip codes with a higher-than-average median income are more likely to be victimized and to lose higher dollar amounts.

When interpreting these results, it is important to address any potential reporting bias in the BBB Scam Tracker data. Specifically, one cannot be certain that victims not reporting to BBB Scam Tracker are generally similar to those who do. To identify the impact of such a potential bias, researchers regressed the per capita number of BBB Scam Tracker reports per zip code and found more reported incidents of scams in zip

codes with less diverse populations and people who are more likely to have at least a high school education. In other words, if there is a reporting bias, it means reports will more often occur in regions with populations which are less diverse and more likely to have a degree. Therefore, the findings regarding loss rates among Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other racial minorities, as well as loss rates of those less likely to have GED or high school equivalent education, stand firm despite potential under-reporting from these populations.

### General Findings

In this analysis, 30% of reported scams included a monetary loss, which is consistent with findings from the annual BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. Scams involving online purchases were persistently the most common scam type reported, followed by phishing requests. Both of these scam types spiked in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The assessment of scams between 2017 and 2020 found that scams perpetrated in-person are more likely to lead to monetary loss, followed equally by social media and website-based scams.

### Scams Reported During Early COVID-19 Pandemic (March - September 2020)

There was a notable increase in reporting of scams during March - September 2020, particularly for online purchase and phishing scams, as well as all scams related to COVID-19. The rise and fall of COVID-19 scams coincided with the period of intense shortages, with the most common COVID-19 related scam in the U.S. involving the sale of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). The most common COVID-19 related scam in Canada was related to the sale of pets and pet supplies. There is no evidence that the rates of monetary loss across non-COVID-19 related scams changed substantially during this period; however, there was an increase in reported monetary losses during the COVID period, particularly in online purchases and phishing scams.

These latest research findings enable BBB and its partners to more effectively target consumer education initiatives. Further analysis of scams in 2020 will be released in the upcoming BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, due out the first week of March.

To read the full research report, visit [BBB.org](http://BBB.org). You can read annual BBB Scam Tracker Risk Reports, at [BBB.org/RiskReport](http://BBB.org/RiskReport). To report a scam, go to [BBB.org/ScamTracker](http://BBB.org/ScamTracker).

Read BBB tips on common COVID scams and how to avoid them, go to [BBB.org/coronavirus](http://BBB.org/coronavirus).

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