

# Editorial page

## Nolia's Notes

### Sooner or Later?

by NOLIA BIGGERSTAFF



Are you a 'sooner' or a 'later'? Either can be good or bad. When I was in school and the teacher assigned a project and gave us three weeks until it was due, I went straight home and began to work on it until I finished. I had friends who would wait until the last week to begin the work. We both finished on time, but I was a 'sooner' and some of my friends were 'laters'.

I am just not a last minute person, but that can be both good and bad. If I am invited somewhere and need to take a gift, the minute I get the invitation, I start looking for the gift, even if I have weeks until the event. I also have dresses in the closet for funerals and weddings, spring and winter, just in case.

I hear of folks who wait until an invitation to a wedding comes then they go out to find that formal dress or appropriate sundress to wear. Their outfit might be more up-to-date than mine. We both wind up at the event with clothes on, we just prepared differently!

When I begin a project, I am uncomfortable until I finish. I have friends who are just the opposite. They will buy cans of paint, wait six months, begin to paint a room, go on vacation, and come back and finish the job. I couldn't enjoy my vacation unless my paint job was finished. I am speaking from experience here. We both get the job done, but at different times. I am not sure if I learned this behavior or if I was born this way.

Whenever I go on vacation somewhere, the last day of the trip, I am up, packed, and ready to leave that morning. I am unsettled to wait until later in the day to leave. I just have an uneasy feeling knowing that that day I have to leave and I anticipate. Some folks, however, do not.

Dwaine's family would wake up the last day of their beach trip, put on bathing suits and head back to

the beach. They would wait until the very last second to head home, which meant that they got in at least another half day of vacation. I guess they were pretty smart to do that because of the extra vacation time. It is a gamble to be a 'sooner' or a 'later.' Both have their pros and cons.

It seems that if I wait, other things pop up to cause me stress and complicate things. I used to visit schools and do workshops for teachers. Back then, we used a machine called an overhead projector. The machine would project the presentation on a very large screen so many could see. The schools always assured me that they would have everything set up, including the overhead. However, I learned to take my own overhead projector from work with extra bulbs. I also, arrived early to set up everything to make sure all was working and ready to go.

Once I went to a school and they did have a projector but the bulb was out, then there was the time there was no projector at the school to be found. I learned that carrying my own supplies made me feel more prepared, my success depended on it. You cannot plan for everything, but I believe in preparing as much as you can.

Funny thing, before COVID, Dwaine and I went to a technology conference. We could choose different sessions to attend. Guess what happened? Yep! In every single session there was a problem. The computer died, there was no internet service, the cords would not fit, or no one had the proper adapter, etc. We sat there as the presenters fumbled and stumbled and tried to explain in words what we would be seeing and hearing if their equipment was working. It was a mess. Every session was a mess. I figured the folks in charge of the conference were 'later' people, just sayin'.

## This weeks tips from the BBB

Many people are beginning to think about life after COVID, and part of that thinking involves planning a well-deserved getaway. Before you finalize your travel plans, be sure you have given careful thought to whether you need to purchase travel insurance. There are circumstances that could cause you to cancel your trip, return home early or force you to seek emergency medical treatment while traveling. Travel insurance may provide the extra protection you need. Better Business Bureau is advising travelers to weigh the pros and cons of travel insurance before going on an extensive trip.

Before you purchase coverage, check your homeowner's or medical insurance policies to avoid any overlap. For instance, expensive items such as your camcorder, laptop computer or jewelry may be covered by your homeowner's insurance should they be stolen while you are traveling. If the airline loses your checked luggage, they are required to reimburse you for your bags (up to a certain dollar amount). Or, if you become sick or injured while traveling, your personal medical insurance may pick up the cost of your medical bills.

Some of the different types of insurance available include:

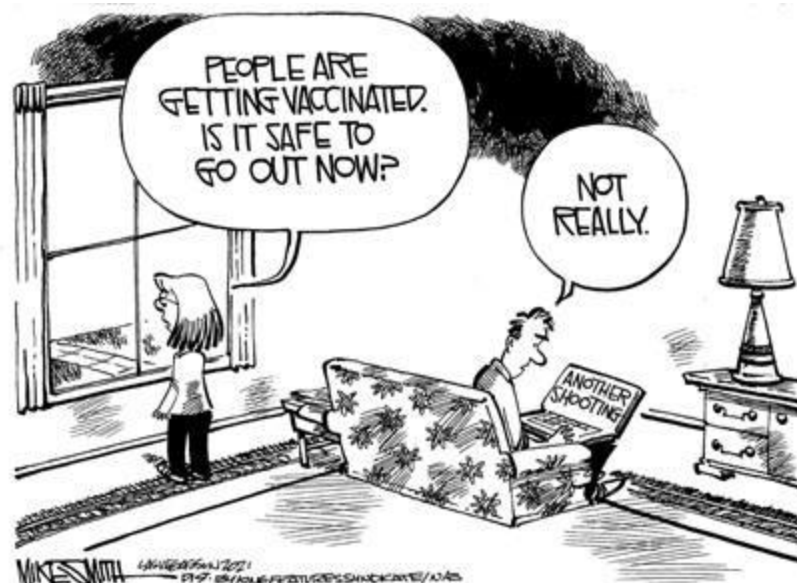
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption (TCI) – If your plans suddenly change and you have to cancel or end your trip early, TCI will cover you for this. But it will only reimburse you for reasons on the insurer's acceptable list, such as injury, sickness, or death of yourself, a family member, traveling companion or business partner. Some policies will cover only medical issues, and some will not cover pre-existing medical conditions. It's important to read the fine print.
- Emergency Medical Evacuation – If you are going on an adventure vacation or to an area that is far from modern medical facilities, it may be a good idea to buy this coverage. If adequate treatment is not available at a local hospital, you would be transferred to the nearest acceptable medical facility.
- Baggage Loss – This coverage reimburses you for lost, stolen or damaged bags. As you are packing,

make a list of everything you are taking with you. If your bag is lost, you may be reimbursed for some contents, but not all. Baggage-loss protection is only necessary if you are carrying more than \$2,500 worth of items in your bags. Be sure to check your homeowner's policy.

BBB recommends travelers take the following into consideration:

- Read the fine print. Know exactly what coverage you are getting and what is covered. Policies and insurance firms differ in what they cover.
- You may not need to buy it right away. Travel insurance can be purchased days before your trip. Check to see if the policy you are considering requires you to purchase within a set time period after you've booked your travel. For trip cancellation insurance, you won't be covered if you buy the policy after you've become ill or natural disaster has wiped out your vacation destination.
- Not every trip needs travel insurance. If your total trip is a couple hundred dollars in airfare, travel insurance probably isn't worth it. But if you're taking the trip of a lifetime and spending thousands, travel insurance is a good consideration.
- Don't fall for high pressure sales tactics. Don't let someone pressure you into buying travel insurance right away. You are the only one who can decide if you truly need it.
- Pay with a credit card. Protect yourself further by paying for travel related expenditures, including insurance, with a credit card. Ask your credit card issuer if there are additional protections that come with your credit card. Some travel insurance may be built into your credit purchases.
- Don't forget travel agents. Consumers spend billions of dollars each year traveling. This past year of uncertainty has renewed our appreciation for local travel agents who can help navigate travel issues. Good planning goes a long way toward making travel efficient and stress-free so why not use a professional?

For more tips you can trust, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).



## 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: How long may raw chicken be safely kept in the refrigerator? What about cooked chicken?

A: When you bring your chicken home from the grocery store, immediately place it in your refrigerator. Your refrigerator should maintain a temperature of 40 degrees F or lower. Cook raw chicken within one or two days, or freeze it at 0 degrees F. You can keep cooked chicken in the refrigerator three to four days or freeze it within that length of time. If kept frozen continuously, it will be safe indefinitely. Chicken may be frozen in its original packaging or repackaged. If freezing longer than two months, wrap around the porous plastic store packaging with airtight heavy duty foil or freezer paper, or place the package inside a freezer bag. Use these materials or airtight freezer containers to repackage family packs into smaller amounts or to freeze the chicken from opened packages.

### Q: What are banty eggs?

A: Banty eggs are the eggs of bantam chickens a.k.a. "banty" chickens. A bantam is a small variety of poultry, especially chickens. Bantam breeds are much smaller than standard breeds. A banty egg is small; it takes about three banty eggs to equal one regular chicken egg.

### Q: Can corned beef be frozen?

A: Drained and well wrapped, an uncooked corned beef brisket may be frozen for one month for best quality. The flavor and texture will diminish with prolonged freezing, but the product is still safe. After cooking, corned beef may be refrigerated for about three to four days and frozen for about two to three months.

### Q: What is a spider daylily?

A: The term "spider daylily" refers to daylilies that have long, narrow petals. Specifically, the American Hermerocallis (Daylily) Society defines a spider daylily as one with a flower whose petal length is four times the petal's width or more, a ratio of 4.0:1 or greater. There are hundreds of spider daylilies. A few are: 'Android,' 'Heavenly Light,' 'Kindly Light,' 'Lake Norman Spider,' 'Let It Rip,' 'Lois Burns,' 'Marked by Lydia,' 'Memories of Oz' and 'Miss Jessie.' These are especially interesting when you contrast them with daylilies that have wide petals.

### Q: I have trouble finding some of the plants I read about. It seems

the big stores in my area only carry a few, basic plants – nothing different or unusual. Any suggestions?

A: Consider making a trip to some smaller nurseries and specialty garden centers around the state. While big box stores can provide massive quantities of basic, mainstream plants, you will need to look further for rarer items or ones that require special care. Put a free ad in the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin asking where to find a specific plant. (You may even find a generous gardener willing to share what they have.) Subscribe to a garden magazine such as Horticulture. You will see lots of advertisements for different plants and seeds. The articles also list sources of where to find items. Do some internet surfing and you will find mail order sources and perhaps some local ones as well. "Dave's Garden" is an online database with comments and suggestions from gardeners about where to find and how to grow certain plants.

Ask your county Cooperative Extension agent; he or she has a wealth of information. Visit the state botanical garden in Athens or one of the other botanical gardens around the state. Employees and volunteers there are often a big help. If you become a member, you also get newsletters about events, seminars and classes. You may also get invitations to plant sales and plant giveaways. The Georgia Perimeter College Native Plant Botanical Garden in Decatur has plant sales of hard-to-find native plants. The horticulture program at Gwinnett Tech sometimes has plant sales including some uncommon plants. If you read about a plant you really want, don't stop until you find it.

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).

### Super Crossword

Answers

AFLAC	RISOTTO	FCO	WAS	
BLUSH	UNLEARN	GOH	ALP	
DUCHESSE	FRIGATE	EWASTIVE		
UNREPEATED	PIS	TE	RIOTIC	
LGE	SLR	SHOCKING	PINK	
BRIE	ROAD	INTER		
TRAINED	SEAL	EMS	ALFA	
WELLS	ITAL	CLIP	MENTAL	
TINIS	ITAL	ADY	ONINA	
NOTA	NOR	MOTE	ORE	ESS
	UNDER	COVER	STING	
NOU	ER	ALEX	HEN	AHAB
APPLE	BRANDY	PELLE	RACE	
DEPART	ROS	ALIA	LIT	THE
ACEY	EVE	CHUR	HUSHER	
	ROMANO	CEOS	OUCH	
NERVOUS	NELLY	GPS	TAB	
ALIENS	EXO	TOOK	A	VOTE
DIGRESS	PRE	CIOUS	JEWEL	
FISH	YIP	ATRIE	ST	ARTIAL
REI	SEA	TISE	TISE	RIATTY

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**UGA extension**

**What's that plant: Crape Myrtle**

By Robyn Stewart  
Lincoln County Extension Service

As Georgia starts to warm up, with the promise of spring and summer around the corner, many of us are starting to appreciate the new growth and blooming plants around us. While we have another month or two to wait until we see blooms, one of my favorite landscape plants in our area are crape myrtles.

Lagerstroemia indica, commonly called the crape myrtle, is one of the most useful and popular flowering shrubs/trees in Georgia. The crape myrtle is native to China and Korea and was believed to have been introduced to Charleston around 1786. The plant thrives in our hot, humid climate and thus has become a popular addition throughout the American South. Crape myrtles are popular due to the huge variety there is in cultivars. Some options are considered shrubs and may be 3-5 feet tall, while other options can be over 20 feet tall and are considered trees. Be sure to select a cultivar that's mature size is appropriate for the landscape site you've selected it for.

A second selection criteria are the colors of the blooms produced. Typically, crape myrtles bloom in the summer, though the exact timing will depend on what cultivar is selected. Early blooming options can be pruned and encouraged to bloom a second time in late summer, but cultivars that bloom after mid-July will most likely only bloom once. Blooms range in color with a variety of shades and tones of red, pink, lavender, and white. In the fall, leaf color changes from yellow to orange and red, with variation depending on the cultivar.

If you're considering adding a crape myrtle to your landscape, there are a few things to think about. Crape myrtles are popular because they can grow in adverse soil conditions - but they do grow and flower better in well-prepared soil. Information on soil testing and amending pH and

### 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.

### 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.

fertility can be found in several old newspaper articles, on the UGA Extension Publications website, or through our office. When planting crape myrtle, be sure to dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball, and no deeper than it originally grew in the container or field. Then, backfill the hole loosely. You should not add any amendments to the planting hole itself as they encourage roots to remain in that space instead of growing outward into the surrounding soil. After planting, water your crape myrtle thoroughly and mulch the base to conserve moisture, reduce weeds, and insulate the roots.

Crape myrtles prefer full sun and should be placed in locations that provide this. Too much shade will reduce their growth and flowering potential, and will also increase risk of diseases like sooty mold. Planting too close to other large trees will cause competition for moisture and nutrient, further compounding growth and flowering issues. The most common causes of poor growth and flowering are lack of sunlight and lack of moisture. In order to establish your crape myrtle, be sure to water it thoroughly at planting and then once a week for two months after planting. If we have an exceptionally wet season like these past few months, additional irrigation may not be needed. Once established, crape myrtles are drought tolerant, though they will flower better if they are irrigated during dry periods of the flowering season.

In addition to proper planting and establishment, crape myrtles benefit from proper fertilization. A general purpose fertilizer such as 10-10-10 can be used. For new plantings, apply one teaspoon of fertilizer along the perimeter of the planting hole each month from March through August. For established trees, broadcast 1lb per 100 square feet one per year in the spring.

If you have questions about crape myrtle varieties, care, pruning, disease, or anything else, please let us know at [uge3181@uga.edu](mailto:uge3181@uga.edu) or 706-359-3233.

## Registration opens for adult softball at recreation dept.

The Lincoln County Recreation Department is hosting "Summer Slugfest," 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.

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