

# Gardening With The Masters

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## Editor's Corner

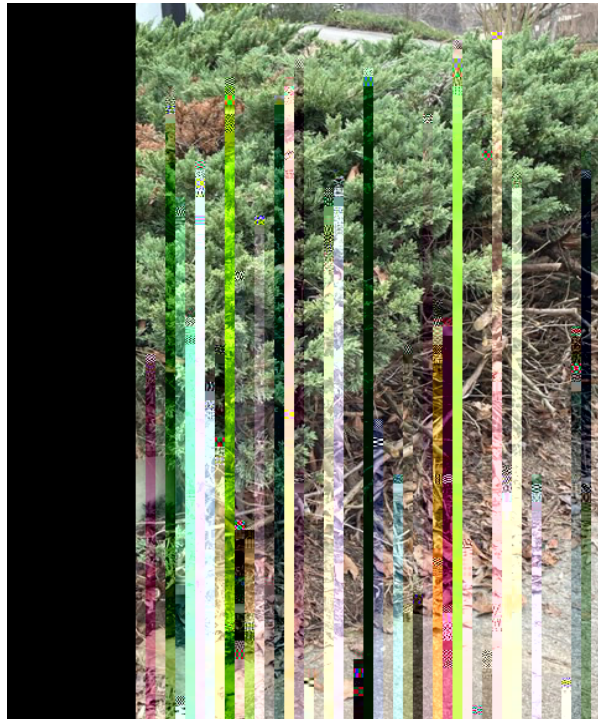


Overgrown shrubs—what do we do with them? My neighborhood is about 25 years old. This means that shrubs planted 20 to 25 years ago are at full maturity. A common habit of both homeowners and even professional landscapers is to plant shrubs in too small of a space. These shrubs will then need to be pruned to fit the space as they grow.

Some shrubs are maintained by lightly pruning each year, which will keep them at a consistent size. Some shrubs are ignored until they are overgrown and need major pruning to get them to both fit in the space and to look attractive. When a shrub that has been planted by a walkway gets overgrown, it can become a hazard to both humans and pets.

If you have overgrown shrubs in your landscape, you will need to evaluate the situation to decide what action to take. To do this, you should ask some questions. Does the shrub add to the landscape? Did you plant the shrub or did the previous owner? Do you even like the shrub? Should you do major pruning and wait months for the plant to recover, or should you simply remove it? Some shrubs never grow back correctly and should be removed. After removal, do you replace it with a smaller shrub that won't infringe on the walkway, or perhaps with sod or some pollinator plants?

If you like the shrub and decide to keep it and maintain it through pruning, first be sure you have it correctly identified. Then research when and how to prune that type of shrub. University of Georgia Extension has several publications on this topic to aid you: Bulletin #949 "Basic Principles of Pruning Woody Plants" and Bulletin #961 "Pruning Ornamentals Plants in the Landscape." These can be found at [extension.uga.edu/publications](http://extension.uga.edu/publications).



Overgrown shrub courtesy Marcia Winchester

February is a great time to analyze your landscape with fresh eyes and make some improvements that you will enjoy for years.

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# Don't Spray that Bug!

I can recall a time when even a short summer trip in an auto would leave my windshield covered with the sticky remains of insects. Now, a day of running errands means hardly any fatal encounters with insects. Where have all the insects gone?

Some studies have shown that as many as 60 percent of insects have vanished. There are probably multiple factors contributing to the decline, but one is our overuse of systemic insecticides. Systemic pesticides enter all parts of a plant and can last as long as a year.

pesticide 14C2704495 (how to use) 10/2016) Sys







# A Winter Scavenger Hunt; Then Fun With Nature





## Freezing Weather - How Bad on Plants?

Fortunately, ornamental trees and shrubs can leaf out again if the initial growth is damaged or destroyed. Damaged trees and shrubs have only suffered a temporary setback. If your shrubs and trees are healthy and well-established in the landscape, they will produce additional growth to replace the damaged foliage within a few weeks. However, this “re-flushing” will put some stress on the plant’s reserves. As a result, it is important to give the freeze-damaged woody ornamentals some extra attention during the growing season. This attention includes watering during dry periods and perhaps some additional fertilization to aid in the plant’s recovery.

Georgia can experience freeze damage both in winter and in spring, after new foliage has begun to emerge. This tender foliage may be subject to freezing damage for perennials in the landscape. The foliage may turn brown or be twisted in shape and off-color. If the freeze is short in duration, the roots and crowns of the perennial plants, especially mulched plants, should not suffer any damage.

Perennial plants will respond to the freezing damage by sending out new foliage to replace the damaged leaves. However, on fruit crops, depending upon the cultivar and how far the fruit blossoms may have opened, we may see reduced blueberry and fruit tree crops, especially on early flowering cultivars.

For more information, see these two UGA Extension Publications: Circular 872 “Winter Protection of Ornamental Plants” and Bulletin 1467 “Effects of Low

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## Oven Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Bacon

From Maurya Jones

### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 lb. Brussels sprouts (ends removed and halved)  
2 Tbsp. olive oil  
4 slices thick-cut bacon  
1/4 cup half-and-half  
Salt and pepper

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Place Brussels sprouts in a 9 x 13 glass baking dish. Drizzle olive oil over the sprouts, and mix to cover evenly. Add salt and pepper to taste.
3. Roast the sprouts for 25 minutes.
4. While roasting the sprouts, cook and crumble the