Bethany's Extras

Here we are, halfway through the year with the season of SUMMER finally here! I love this time of year for many reasons, but perhaps the best reason is the labor-payoff begins to happen. We're harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, green beans, and eggplant.

Now is a good time to Plant pumpkins for a fall harvest. As the summer heats up, continue plantings of beans, southern peas, squash and cucumber.

July is a good month to start seeds in flats for August and September transplants; including broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, and collards.

We had quite a wet month in June, and I don't know about y'all but it seems like the mosquito population in my garden has tripled in the last few weeks! Taking a few minutes to remove mosquito breeding habitats around your property can reduce your risk of mosquitoes spoiling your barbecues, or worse, spreading diseases. After each rain take a few minutes and inspect your yard and dump out water from any household containers, such as buckets, flowerpots or anything else that may enhance the breeding environment for mosquitos. Don't forget to check for clogged rain gutters, or tarps over wood piles, and boats that may also be holding water. If you are collecting rainwater for later use, be sure that barrels are covered with fine mesh screen to keep mosquitoes from using them as a home. Dog dishes and bird baths should be cleaned weekly, remember anything that holds water for 7 days can produce mosquitoes. Mosquito dunks (Bt) work as a wonderful organic control method for areas like rain barrels and small ponds. They can be found online or in your local garden center and usually last about 30 days!

One more thing I'm excited to tell y'all about- There will be a Backyard Composting Workshop on July 27th (9-11am) at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens auditorium. The Thursday morning workshop will have detailed composting information including tips and techniques for the home gardener. For any questions, please contact Extension Agent Bronson Lubresky brl0015@auburn.edu