

September 2024 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Beth Waddell
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Shelia Middlebrooks

Directors

Charles Covert
Darvin Helvy
Curtis Marshall
Joan Marshall
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Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

We are already getting ready for the Fall Plant Sale. The container garden looks great thanks to Mark Carlson and the support crew. The third shade structure has been very helpful. It protects sensitive plants from too much sun in the summer and high winds in the winter. A special thanks to Bob Reynolds for his assistance in acquiring the two large shade structures.

The propagation effort has been successful the past two years, which has helped build our plant inventory. The plants look great and we have many to choose from. We are set up to have an excellent fall plant sale. All we need now to have a successful plant sale is customers. We will have ads in the paper and post the sale information on our website and social media. I am asking all members to put on your sales hats and help bring in customers. Let's make the Fall 2024 Plant Sale a Winner!

2024 Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Picnic

Please join us for the September 16th SMGC (Monday) meeting as we celebrate with food, fun and fellowship. Our annual picnic will be moved from the SCC Pavilion (due to renovations) to the Community Room in the Health Sciences Building. We will gather at 6:00 PM. Once again, the club will provide the hamburgers, buns and all the fixings. Club members with last names starting with A-L are responsible for the desserts. Members with last names starting with M-Z are responsible for side dishes. Mark your calendars!





Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.

As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



2024 Litter pickup schedule

December 7 "snow" Dec 14

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Renew Now 2024 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Shelia Middlebrooks.



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Presentations for 2024

September 16	Club Picnic	
October 21	Birds	Irvin Pitts
November	Annual meeting and installation of officers	

Candidate Slate for 2025

Proposed Officers for the coming year

President: Phil Abers
Vice President: Beth Waddell
Secretary: Denie Crowder
Treasurer: Shelia Middlebrooks

Proposed Directors for the coming year

Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term
Darvin Helvy
Charles Covert

New directors for a 2 year term

Will Hawkins
Charles Crescenzi
Ben Waddell
Mark Van Natta
Ed White
Roberta White
Curtis Marshall

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

Creekside Garden & Nursery
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Wofford College



<https://facebook.com/groups/smgc1948>



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Member Musing

By Mark Carlson

In addition to death and taxes, gardeners need to worry about one more fact of life: when is the next invasive going to arrive? For South Carolina, the next to arrive will probably be the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). It is a planthopper indigenous to parts of China and Vietnam. It was first found in the United States in 2014 in southeastern Pennsylvania. Its preferred host is the (invasive) tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Unfortunately, it infests crops including soybean, grapes, *Malus* spp., *Prunus* spp., *Vaccinium* spp., and also feeds on a wide range of plants including trees (black walnut, river birch, willow, sumac, oaks, black locust, tulip tree and maples) and herbaceous plants including some vegetables. Since 2014, the spotted lanternfly has spread rapidly through the eastern states. The closest sighting so far to South Carolina was in Lake Toxaway, NC in September of 2023.

Spotted Lantern Fly



SLF has one generation per year in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States where it is currently found. Eggs are deposited in masses of thirty to fifty and covered in grayish, inconspicuous waxy deposits. The eggs can be hard to spot on plant material, but can also be found on non-plant material, such as rocks, vehicles, and equipment, increasing the risk of increasing their distribution. Adults grow to about an inch long with wings and are most visible from August through September.

CLike most piercing sucking insects spotted lanternfly produces a sticky liquid, honeydew, that can collect on the ground or surrounding vegetation. This results in the growth of sooty mold, which can discolor and kill the plant, and attract other insects, negatively impacting the surrounding area, and interrupting crop harvests. In 2019, Pennsylvania State University estimated statewide costs of the spotted lanternfly to be \$99.1 million in agricultural losses, and \$236.3 million to the forestry industry, annually.

A few natural predators (parasitic wasps) have been identified in the lanternfly's native habitat in China, and a couple are being tested as potential control measures. Four species of fungal entomopathogens native to the United States have been identified to cause death in the spotted lanternfly. A number of insecticides are also effective at controlling the spotted lantern fly.

We may not yet have the spotted lantern fly in South Carolina. This insect is on the move. Please scout for this insect in your gardens when you are making your rounds. It is important to find it as early as possible in order to limit damage to our state's agriculture and natural resources. If you think you have found a spotted lanternfly, please take a picture of it and contact your local Clemson Extension office **864-596-2993**, or the Clemson Department of Plant Industry at **864-646-2140**.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Appendix 6

MGC Folder “Tree Planting Procedure”

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE

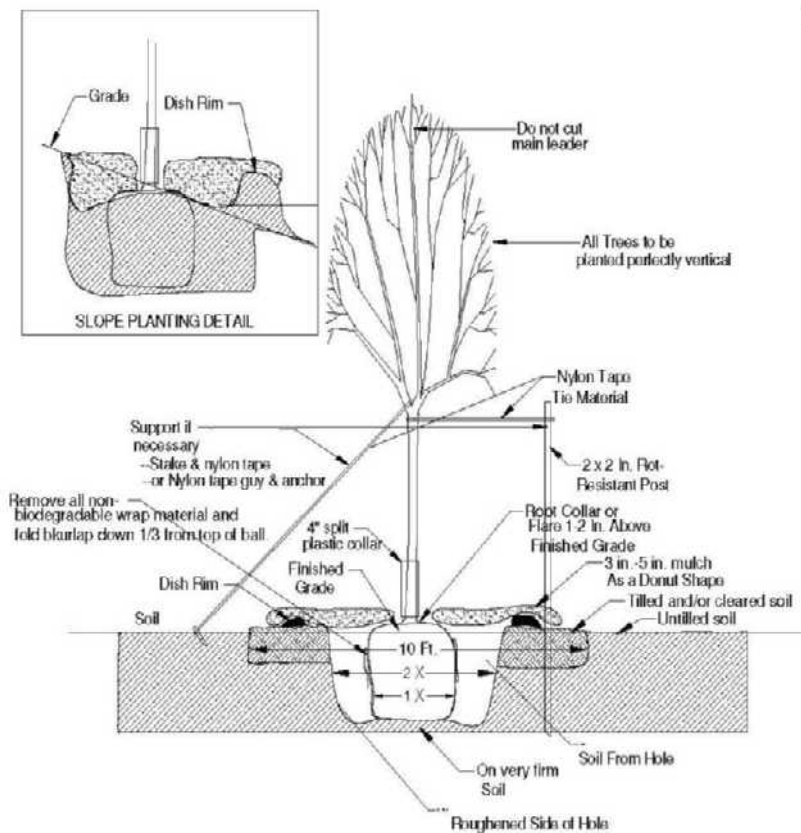
Trees are important! If they aren't properly planted, they may die; they certainly won't prosper. This procedure is based on the best currently available professional advice.

1. Planting Period is between Nov. 21 and Feb. 1, unless special provisions are made for watering and protection.
2. Pre-Watering. Before moving plant material to the planting area, make sure it is well hydrated.
3. Nutrients (optional). Normally withhold until tree is established. *Use no nitrogen at planting.*
4. Clear an area of weeds and brush in a 10 ft. area around planting site.
5. Till (optional) a 6-8 ft. diameter area around the planting location, 6 inches deep—unless this tilling will damage nearby plants. Modify till area as necessary to avoid damage. Rake the area level.
6. Locate Root Flare. Before digging the planting hole, **locate the top of root flare** carefully as follows...
7. B&B Plant—Loosen tie material from around the trunk, and turn down wrap material if necessary (avoid breaking root ball).
8. Container Plant—Remove the root ball from the container if necessary for examination.
9. Carefully remove soil from the top of the root ball to locate the root flare or root collar. (The root flare or collar is where the large roots join the wide part of the bottom of the trunk). Remove soil so the root flare is exposed and visible—*it must not be covered.*
10. Interior Circling or Girdling Roots. Check carefully at and under the root flare and close to the trunk for indication of circling/girdling roots. Cut these circling roots, or *reject the plant.*
11. Measure the new depth of the root ball from the exposed root flare (Par. 4, above) to the bottom of the root ball. This dimension is necessary to know how deep to dig the planting hole. If this dimension is significantly less than the original root ball depth (i.e., it may be a smaller root ball), the root system may be insufficient—*consider rejecting the plant.*
12. Dig the planting hole depth to the new dimension of the root ball (*shallow*) so the root ball will sit in it with the **root flare 1 or 2 inches above the finished grade**. Dig the hole with *sloping sides* and at least *twice as wide* as the ball. *Roughen the sides* of the hole.
13. Roughen and taper augured hole sides before planting
14. Check depth. If the planting hole is too deep, back fill and pack the bottom *very firm* to assure proper depth.
15. Container Grown Plant--
16. Remove the root ball from its container.
17. Circling roots. Make 3 cuts 1-2 inches deep down the side of the root ball through the surface roots.
18. Bottom roots. Make 2 cuts 1-2 inches deep across the bottom of the root ball through the surface roots.
19. Protect roots from drying out. Do *not* allow roots to be exposed to drying conditions. Keep root ball moist and minimize sun exposure.
20. Set the root ball in the hole in proper upright position.
21. Check planting depth and if too deep (Par. 7, above), stabilize root ball to avoid breaking, lift and adjust as necessary. Assure root ball rests on undisturbed or very firmly packed soil.
22. Back fill 1/2 the hole. Use native excavated soil (normally *not amended* with humus unless it is of unusually poor quality) and work soil around the root ball carefully to eliminate voids or air pockets.

Appendix

23. Remove all straps, cord, wire, wrap, etc. from the top half of the root ball. Assure there are no restraints around the trunk.
24. Turn burlap wrap (biodegradable) fabric down to side of ball so it will be completely buried.
25. Remove any synthetic wrap (non-biodegradable) fabric completely. Handle the root ball carefully to not break it.
26. Check root flare location again. Remove any soil above the root flare carefully and check to make sure the root flare is 1 or 2 inches above the surrounding soil elevation. Correct the planting depth if necessary.
27. Complete backfilling and firm with moderate foot pressure. **Do not fill above root flare.**
28. Water retention ring. Rake the top of the backfill soil to form a raised ring of soil outside of the edge of the planting hole and 2 to 3 inches high. Make sure this ring is level so that it will hold water.
29. Water thoroughly (desirable, but optional depending on weather and season). Do not damage water retention ring.
30. Protective Collar. Place a 12 in. long 4 in. diameter slit plastic collar around base of tree.
31. Mulching. Add 6-foot diameter, 3-5 inches (not more) thick of hardwood chip or bark mulch inside and outside the water retention ring. Keep mulch 6 inches *away from trunk* ("donut" shape). Where tree is adjacent to fence, add mulch to fence as a sweeping line to make grass mowing efficient.
32. Tree Supports (avoid if possible). If truly necessary, install guys *or* stakes immediately after planting. Exercise care to avoid injury to trunk or crotches. Remove after first year.
 - A. Guying--Attach 3 nylon tape guys to the tree 6-8 ft. above ground. Attach guys firmly to 3 stakes located around tree to form a 45° angle with the ground.
 - B. Staking--Drive approximately 8-ft. long stakes 2 ft. deep into firm soil outside of the planting hole. Secure the tree to these stakes with nylon tape.
23. Destroy the water ring after the third year (pull away from trunk and use care to not fill soil over root flare). Correct mulching as necessary.

8-15-06, ehp



Pittman Gardens, 8-15-06