

Yard & Garden Information

Hi Neighbors,

The members of the garden club have gathered information on the following topics that may be of interest to you:

- Current Water Restrictions
- Help for Japanese Beetles
- Garden Club

We hope you find this information helpful. We would like to hear from you with any questions or comments. Just send your emails to gardenclub@chatrunpoint.com

1 Current Water Restrictions

We are under year-round water restrictions that appear to be permanent. These watering restrictions will be tightened whenever we are in a “declared drought condition”. The restrictions are currently as follows:

- Odd numbered addresses may water Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
- Even numbered addresses may water Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday
- No one is to water on Friday

Most lawns need only one inch of water a week. It is best to water deeply once or twice a week and only at night or early morning. Frequent lighter watering promotes shallow roots and less hardy grass. Watering in the heat of the day wastes water due to evaporation and may stress the plants due to the temperature change caused by the watering.

For more information see: <http://www.co.gwinnett.ga.us/cgi-bin/gwincity/egov/ep/gcbrowse.do?channelId=-536882215&channelPage=%2Fep%2Fchannel%2Fdefault.jsp&pageTypeId=536880236>

2 Help for Japanese Beetles

Many of you have experienced the damage done by Japanese beetles, those pesky beetles with the shiny, metallic-green body and bronze-colored outer wings. They not only chew up favorite plants as adults but the white grubs or larva eat the roots of grass, causing large patches of dead grass, sometimes 5 to 20 feet in diameter. Later after the grubs mature to beetles, they go on a feeding frenzy.

Some favorite foods for the beetles are roses, crape myrtle trees, cherry trees, and Japanese Maple, but they are known to eat hundreds of different plants. Garden Club members have found two great ways to control Japanese beetles.

- **Bayer's Tree & Shrub Insect Control** (around \$20 for enough concentrate for 2-3 large bushes) lasts up to 12 months and kills/repels chewing insects from your plant. It prevents Japanese Beetles and works on many other insects as well. We feel it is best to apply in early spring to get the maximum benefit, but it can be applied any time. As always, be sure to read and follow the instructions on the bottle before using.
- **Milky Spore** (10 oz powder is \$24 online but can also be found at Home Depot) is a bacterium that can be applied to your yard. It grows in the ground and, while harmless to humans and pets, it is deadly to grubs. The container indicates one application will last up to 10 years. One garden club member has seen a significant reduction in the Japanese beetle population since applying Milky Spore 2 years ago. Milky spore builds up in turf slowly (over 2-4 years) as grubs ingest the spores, become infected, and die, each releasing 1-2 billion spores back into the soil. Milky spore can suppress the development of large beetle populations. But it works best when applied in community-wide treatment programs. You can apply this product anytime the ground is not frozen.

3 **Trapping beetles** is a bad idea. The commercial traps attract the beetles with two baits that are highly effective in attracting beetles (they can draw in thousands of beetles in a day). Unfortunately, many beetles attracted to traps are never caught in them so the traps may actually increase Japanese beetle problems rather than reduce them.

4 **Garden Club**

The Chattahoochee Run and Point Garden Club is made of homeowners who are new and old to gardening, some with lots of experience and others with only a desire to learn more about gardening. We are sharing our knowledge, ideas and even plants, answering each other's questions and touring various yards and gardens. Our activities are open to all Chattahoochee run and point residents. We would love to have you join us at our next meeting, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 27 at 1:00 PM. Look for details about our next meeting in the Chatt News. If you have any yard or garden questions please email us at gardenclub@chatrunpoint.com. We will do our best to answer your questions.