

Arty Schronce
Consumer Q's

Certain plants are hard to find

Question: I read about interesting plants but often have a difficult time finding them. Why write about things that are so hard to purchase?

Answer: It can be discouraging to be excited about the possibility of adding a certain flower, vegetable, shrub or tree to your garden and then not finding it for sale from any sources you are familiar with. Here are a few points to remember:

Without education, no one may ever know about, let alone purchase, a worthy but uncommon plant. People who write or inform us about uncommon plants do not do so in order to frustrate us. They are trying to broaden our palette and increase our choices.

Every plant is not profitable for a nursery or garden center to produce or to carry. Most growers/sellers make their decisions based on the profitability of each plant or based on what can be sold to the largest number of people. Some uncommon plants may not have a broad appeal or may be difficult to reproduce or maintain. They may also be difficult for the average gardener to grow, and the seller does not want to deal with complaints or questions.

There are many specialty nurseries that do not cater to the general public but that produce plants for people who are looking for something different, the garden connoisseurs, if you will. Familiarize yourself with these sellers. They are your best bets when you read or hear about a plant that is rare or unusual. Subscribing to a garden magazine like *Horticulture* is a way to learn of some of these specialty nurseries. The internet can be helpful in connecting gardeners with these nurseries, too.

We suggest you become a member of a public garden or a horticultural group that interests you. These may have sales or seed exchanges where you find rare and unusual plants long before they enter the nursery trade.

It's worth remembering that seeking can be an adventure that leads us to new friends. After the search, we may find much greater joy when we finally receive that long-sought after plant than we would have if it had fallen into our lap.

If you have questions or services or products regulated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, write Arty Schronce at arty.schronce@agr.georgia.gov. Online: agr.georgia.gov.

Expansion into 24-hour care in Social Circle



Brittney Fitzpatrick | The Tribune

Paul Lemon, far left, stands alongside a few of his team members and the children of the Lemontree Academy in Social Circle. The

academy is expanding into a 24-hour care facility for those children whose parents work unconventional hours.

Where kids play and learn in Social Circle

Childcare | Academy offers more than just a babysitter

SOCIAL CIRCLE

By **Brittney Fitzpatrick**
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Lemontree Academy, located at 1290 N. Cherokee Road, is in the works of expanding in a big way.

The childcare facility, which currently provides childcare to over 70 children ranging from infants to those in the after school program, will now offer 24-hour childcare for parents working unconventional hours.

"There are so many plants opening around town and there are many parents out there who don't get the privilege of working a regular 9-to-5 job," Paul Lemon, owner of the academy, said.

"The number one thing we are trying to accomplish is meeting the needs of the community.

"Studies have shown that children need a routine and that bouncing children from one babysitter or family member to another isn't healthy for the growth process," he said.

The mission of Lemontree Academy is to instill essential core values into children at a young age and provide a clean, healthy, cultured environment when children will be ready.

Mornings at the academy begin with songs and dancing for the toddlers who learn how to differentiate their left and right hands, how to Hokey Pokey and the beginnings of their ABC's.

The pre-school aged children are learning about the world and were all too eager to share the seven continents with *the Tribune* during the morning's interview.

In a recent Social Circle City Council meeting, the academy received more good news in regards to their expansion.

"We are currently looking to add more children to the academy once we get our overflow trailer in place," Lemon said.

The trailer will allow for the academy to take on an additional 45 children for quality educational learning.

"Children really learn here, we aren't just a babysitter watching them, that's why we have brought people on board with us who have degrees in early childhood education, who want to see these children grow and prosper as if they were their own," he said.

As far as safety is concerned, the Lemontree Academy may be placed in an older building, but the technology inside is top-notch.

"We have a series of 18 live cameras throughout the building and including the playground area.

"We want to make sure our employees remain honest and parents know their children are in safe hands," Lemon said.

The camera system allows parents to log-in at any time of the day to watch as their child plays, sleeps, eats or learns, bringing peace of mind to someone who is, like most parents, protective.

On top of the already in place camera system, Lemontree Academy partnered with Brightwheel, an application that runs on any smartphone.

The app will allow parents to better understand what their children did throughout the day instead of asking their children and getting the usual answer of "I don't



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(Top) Lemontree's pre-school group stands with, 'A hand on the hip and a finger on the lip,' prior to making it out to the playground. (Bottom) Toddlers at Lemontree Academy began their morning with the Hokey Pokey.

know," or "A lot of stuff."

The app will allow parents to see what their children ate, when they took a nap and even how many times throughout the day their child went to the restroom.

"It's all about making parents feel comfortable leaving their children in our care," Lemon said.

"We are also happy to announce that by January, we should be Quality Rated by the state. This rating is something you don't see out here in Social Circle, you are

more likely to see these ratings closer to the city," Lemon said.

With numerous things adding up to create quite the expansion, Lemontree Academy is looking to hire individuals who want more than just a paycheck, who want to make a difference in the lives of our future generations.

For more information on the Lemontree Academy, visit [lemontreeacademy.com](http://www.lemontreeacademy.com) or on Facebook by searching "Lemontree Academy."