



Dandelion Flower head



Blackspot on roses



Greetings Guilford Gardener

Typically, July/August means produce and pests. Hard although it may be, we must remain vigilant about weeds, insects and diseases, and timely harvests of the bounty of our gardens. Early morning is probably the most comfortable time to be out and the best for our plants as well. In the morning, flowers and herbs and leafy greens are well hydrated and will stay fresh longer if cut then. Actually, July is a good time to stay inside and contemplate the gardening and landscaping projects you want to tackle when the weather cools off. There are some things you can do inside. For instance, seeds of cold hardy annuals such as the violet, sweet alyssum and calendula can be started right now. Add to this some of the cool weather vegetables like collards, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. Sow them now so they will be ready for transplanting come the end of August.



4th Annual Great Tomato Tasting Festival

Family fun, Farm tours, Musicians, Tomato cooking contest, Taste 40+ tomato varieties



**Saturday July 20,
2013**

**8 a.m. to noon • University
Farm at North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical
state University**

*Brought to You by the Cooperative
Extension Program at A&T And
Guilford County Cooperative
Extension Center*

For more information and entry forms for the cooking contest go to: <http://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/event/7797368/4th-annual-tomato-festiva>



A garden is evidence of faith. It links us with all the misty figures of the past who also planted and were nourished by the fruits of their planting.

Stillmeadow Sampler

Ornamentals:

Have you ever seen a naked lady? No, not the two-legged kind, but the lily by that name. Naked ladies is just one of the more descriptive names for the plant *Lycoris squamigera*. August lily, magic lily, spider lily, hardy amaryllis are all common names of this very showy late summer bloomer. These bulbs' foliage emerges in late winter and then disappears by the end of May. You don't see a thing out of these girls again until late July or August when the flowering stalks emerge. The blooms are light pink and look very much like the holiday amaryllis blooms. Because of their peculiar growth cycle, they're one of the few summer blooming bulbs that will bloom well in the shade of a deciduous tree. Transplant bulbs after the foliage has withered in late spring. Plant five inches deep and six to eight inches apart. Divide them every five to six years.



You can rejuvenate profuse-blooming annual plants by cutting them back and removing all leggy flowering branches. Fertilize these pruned plants and they will rebound with renewed vigor and more blooms. Soluble fertilizer applied with one of those hose-end applicators works great and gets the nutrients to the roots fast. Don't forget to continue to deadhead the spent blooms of your perennials and annuals as well. This not only promotes the formation of new flower buds in some plants, but also makes the garden look neater. The spent blossoms of daylilies can sometimes flop over a developing bud and prevent it from opening fully, so that's another reason to remove the dead blossoms often.

Bearded iris goes somewhat dormant after they bloom so now is the time to cut them back, divide and reset them. After digging them up. Detach the younger rhizomes from the older, woody-looking mother rhizome and replant these young ones. Foliage can also be cut back into a fan shape and this will help them from toppling over when replanting. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot to replant and remember not to cover the young rhizomes completely.



Tree Care

When it comes to pruning trees, you often get what you pay for. An honest, fair and experienced arborist may charge a bit more, but in the long run your trees will look better and remain healthier. If you hire someone to trim a tree and it seems like a great deal, it's probably not.



Homeowners should call an arborist if:

- The tree's leaves are discolored, chewed or curled, indicating insect or disease damage.
- The tree has dead wood in the structure.
- There is storm damage, cracks or broken limbs.
- They are planning construction projects and would like to save particular trees.
- Trees are interfering with homes, wires or windows.
- The tree or its roots need to be pruned.

An arborist is a tree specialist trained to work on trees in a proper and safe manner. Most qualified arborists will take out ads in the Yellow Pages of local phone directories or you can call an Extension Office and ask for a recommendation.

We recommend hiring arborists who are members of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Many arborists are certified by the ISA. This means the arborist has passed a professional skills test and has at least several years of experience.

When hiring an arborist, the process should be no different than finding contractors for other house related projects. The following is a checklist homeowners should go through before making a decision concerning tree removal or pruning.

- Beware of doorknockers. Unfamiliar work crews or people who approach a house looking for work should never be hired to work on trees. An advertisement in the Yellow Pages tells you the person has some experience and has been a member of the community. Always get a written estimate for any work you want done.
- Ask for proof of insurance. At minimum, tree services should carry liability and workers' compensation insurance. You can be held responsible if uninsured workers are injured on your property.
- Ask for local references. Once a tree professional provides local references, contact the former clients and go inspect the work. Be sure to get bids from two or three arborists and tell each arborist you are contacting other services, so they know there is competition for the job.
- Have a written contract. Any contract should contain: a start and end date; a detailed description of work to be done; a description of cleanup, including ownership of firewood; whether stump grinding is included; and a total cost estimate, including tax.
- Make sure they use correct equipment. Certified arborists never wear climbing spikes to prune trees. They should use ropes, rope harnesses or a truck equipped with an extendable bucket.

LEWIS GANNIT:

Gardening is a kind of disease. It infects you, you cannot escape it. When you go visiting, your eyes rove about the garden; you interrupt the serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed.



Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

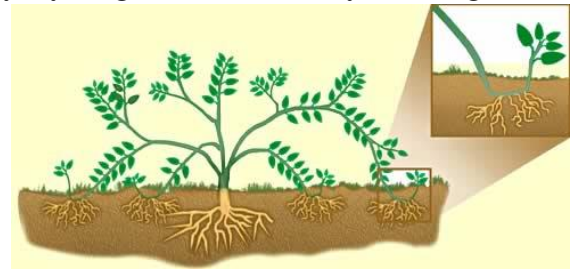
H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

- Don't be fooled by a good deal. Homeowners should never be rushed into making a decision. Most arborists prefer to schedule work well in advance, unless the tree is an immediate hazard. Never pay in advance. Also be wary of anyone who seems eager to remove a living tree, unless it poses a hazard.

Most experts say the best time to prune is when trees are dormant in late fall and through the winter. Deciduous trees can be pruned in mid to late summer, after leaves have formed and hardened. You may be able to get a better price if you schedule in advance. You also can get together with neighbors to offer a larger job to bidding tree services.

Propagating Plants

Many plants are easily propagated by layering. Verbenas, euonymus, English ivy and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil. For more information on how to layer your plants, go to: www.ces.ncsu.edu/hil/hil-8701.html



Edible Garden:

Occasionally we get a call from a gardener about using pet manures as an organic amendment in soil. A recent question had to do with adding dog manure to soil in a vegetable garden and if it was safe to grow vegetables in the site. It is never a good idea to apply manure from cats or dogs to soil that will be used for growing vegetables. Some organisms that are harmful to humans can survive in a cat or dog's digestive system and if their manure is applied to garden soil, can later contaminate vegetable surfaces. There are several parasites that can be transmitted to humans via dog or cat feces including roundworms, tapeworms and occasionally toxoplasmosis. Other pathogens include E. coli bacteria and salmonella, as well as others. There is also disagreement among sources as to whether composting pet manures will eliminate harmful organisms. Some say it does if the pile is "hot" composted and others say not. Since the risk of illness can be high, it is recommended that pet manures not be used at all in vegetable gardens.

Manure from cows, sheep, horse and poultry is often used to amend garden soil and is inherently less pathogenic to humans, although these manures have been reported to harbor microorganisms as well. Even after composting, manure mixes have been shown to harbor disease-causing organisms. Animal wastes contain "pathogens to which humans are vulnerable, including salmonella and cryptosporidium" (Animal Water Pollution in America – 1997). There appears to be a consensus recommending that these animal manures and manure compost should not be used within 120 days of harvest. This waiting period may be critical when using these manures in vegetable gardens. In addition, be

wary of hog manure; pigs carry parasitic roundworms that can be transmitted to humans.

It is imperative that vegetables be washed thoroughly before consumption, especially root crops and salad crops like lettuce, chard, radishes, onions, etc., that grow in the soil or close to the soil surface, as they may pick up soil and manure particles in rainy periods or as the gardener works with the plants.

Source: Weekly Garden News, June 2003

Pesto

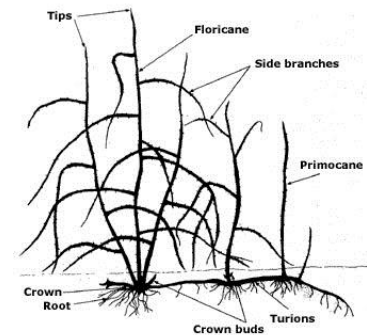


July is pesto time. When harvesting basil, don't just remove individual leaves, but cut back whole stems. This will create a bushier plant that will produce more leaves and less flowers and scraggly growth. Pick basil in the morning for the best flavor. This is when the oil content in the leaves is highest.



Blackberries

The blackberry crop is over and it is time to remove the canes that bore fruit this year - these will die anyway and you might as well get them out of the way of the young canes that will supply next year's crop of berries. I usually remove the top foot of these young canes to encourage side branching. This increases the number of fruiting branches for next year. Keep these young canes watered and fertilized during the next couple of months to promote strong, vigorous growth.



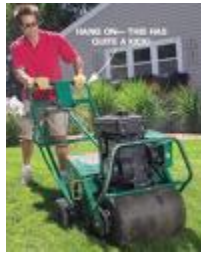
Remember to harvest vegetables in a timely fashion. Produce is really coming in this month. By harvesting, you will keep plants productive, not to mention making sure you are getting the most tender, nutritious produce. If you have more produce than you can use and your neighbors are tired of the zucchini and yellow squash you keep pawning off, consider bringing them out to the Guilford County Ag. Center where we will see that they get to those in need through a program known as "Plant a Row for the Hungry." This is a national program started by the Garden Writers of America. To learn more about the Plant a Row for the Hungry go to: <http://www.gardenwriters.org/Par/>

If one were as good a gardener in practice as one is in theory, what a garden would one create!
V. Sackville-West

For more information on harvesting go to:
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8108.html>

Lawns:

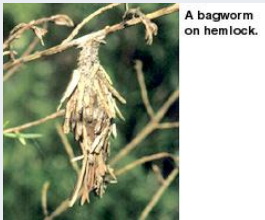
Soil test now and reserve your core aerator as lawn season is just around the corner. Check the dates listed under our Upcoming Events Section (Growing the Green Way) for our Organic Lawn Care Class.



Does a brown or grayish cast appear over a lawn after you mow? This can be caused by a dull or improperly adjusted mower blade that shreds grass rather than cuts it.

Pests:

Now is the time that bagworms will be most easily noticed as the Leylands become defoliated. Unfortunately, the best time to treat was 6 to 8 weeks ago. If the bags are still moving, Orthene might be your best recommendation. If they are not moving, it is too late for insecticide. Hand picking the bags still works where practical. Heavily defoliated Leylands do not *re-foliate* well. In that case, an application of Poulan or Husqvarna chain saws at the base of the plant will usually take care of the problem.



We've received a few samples of euonymus scale recently. The euonymus scale is a common and sometimes very damaging armored scale pest of euonymus and a few other ornamental plants. It is found throughout North Carolina wherever euonymus, pachysandra and celastus grow. Yellow spots first appear on the leaves. Leaves and stems may become encrusted with the scales to such an extent that whole branches or the entire plant may die. This scale usually has two or three generations per year. The females lay eggs under their protective shell, and the tiny crawlers hatch and emerge from the mother's armor in April, May and June, which means they are active any time now. They crawl along the leaves and stems before inserting their microscopic, threadlike mouthparts and settling down to grow and secrete the armor. Another brood hatches in late summer, and a partial third brood may appear even later so that all stages of development are present during most of the year. Although this scale is small, infestations are often plainly visible particularly with dense populations in which males usually greatly outnumber female scales. We usually recommend the use of oil for euonymus scale suppression as these pesticides should also control spider mites and other pests of euonymus as well. Commercial operations have additional choices such as Safari. In severe and recurring cases, consider removing the plant from the landscape. Choose another plant or one less susceptible.



"The garden that is finished is dead."

~ H. E. Bates

The squash bug is attacking all members of the cucurbit family, in particular, pumpkins and squash. The squash bug can be misidentified as a stinkbug. Both insects look similar and emit a distinct odor when crushed; however, the stinkbug is not a pest of cucurbits and is more commonly associated with tomatoes or various legumes. Feeding, via piercing/sucking mouthparts, occurs



primarily on the plant foliage. However, late in the season, squash bugs may also feed on fruit. The associated damage symptoms include wilting of leaves and ultimately results in leaves that appear black or dried out. Both adults and nymphs cause damage by sucking nutrients from leaves and disrupting the flow of water and nutrients, which can cause wilting. Initially, before wilting, yellow specks will develop on the foliage that eventually turning brown. Under heavy feeding pressure, small plants can be killed; larger plants can have many affected leaves and vines. Subsequent wilting can look similar to bacterial wilt; however, bacterial wilt is a disease spread by striped cucumber beetles and is much more detrimental. Once the squash bug population is reduced, wilted plants should recover. By contrast, plants infected with bacterial wilt will continue to decline and will eventually die. Therefore, it is important to determine which wilt is occurring, and the correct identification of the insect pests present in the field is an essential first step. Squash bugs will also feed directly on the fruit, and it has become an increasing problem in recent years. When plants look wilted, check under the leaves for squash bugs and eggs. If the threshold is exceeded, an insecticide application is warranted. If only a few plants are affected, it is most effective to hand pick and destroy squash bugs and eggs. Another option is to place boards or shingles on the ground next to the plants. At night the squash bugs will aggregate under the boards and can then be destroyed each morning. Using resistant varieties and maintaining a healthy plant through proper fertilization and watering are also important to limiting squash bug damage. It is also necessary to remove debris in and around the garden area that could possibly be used as shelter by the bugs. As stated above, by removing debris from the area, overwintering sites for the adults are reduced. Sevin is one of the few insecticides available to home gardeners.

Organic Control: There are few if any effective organic control options for squash bugs. However, natural enemies of the squash bug include Tachinid fly, *Trishopoda pennipes* and Sceleonids, *Eumicrosoma spp.* These biological control options may prove useful.

Yellow Jackets

Yellow jackets are now reaching noticeable numbers in the landscape and nests may make themselves known. Don't find out the hard way that you are allergic. Take these nests seriously and treat as necessary.

Yellow jackets are wasps about the size of a large house fly, with distinct yellow and black markings and a few hairs. Their nests are found in the ground 99 percent of the time. They are not good diggers. Therefore, they choose cavities which were formerly rodent burrows, buried rotted logs, bases of nursery grown shrubbery, or gaps under masonry to start their new nests. Underground, they construct a paper nest similar to a common hornet. However, it will be tan in color and large (grapefruit size). Occasionally, yellow jackets will nest in attics or wall voids of houses or storage buildings. Colonies normally die in winter. Some more southern states report rare nests that have managed to survive mild winter temperatures in protected areas.



Yellow jackets may also be late-season pests around picnics, trash cans, ripened fruit and humming bird feeders as they scavenge for food or moisture. The only way to manage this situation is to locate the nest (which is very difficult) and destroy it. Yellow jacket traps are not effective in this part of the country.

If the location of the nest is known, **do not pour gasoline down the hole** to destroy it. Use an aerosol hornet and wasp killer sprayed directly into the hole at night. Or use a mixture of Liquid sevin. A second treatment is sometimes necessary.

Do not forget that yellow jackets are helpful because they prey on other insects.

Miscellaneous:

MASTER GARDENER CORNER



Contact the Guilford County Master Gardener Infoline:

By phone 336-375-5876

By email guilfordmg@gmail.com

By Internet www.guilfordgardenanswers.org



We're excited about our 12th Annual Gardening Gala and Seminar, scheduled for September 26 here at the Ag Center. Featuring nationally-known keynote speakers and informative breakout sessions, this year's Gala will focus on garden design. Open to the public, this event is always a sell-out, so don't miss your chance to register soon.

This is the time of year for us to look ahead to 2014, and to encourage all of you who've read about the Extension Master Gardener program during the past months to explore the program in more depth. We welcome enthusiastic, energetic, and dedicated people into our program each January for a year-long training period. Classes are held from January until late April, every Wednesday morning from 8:30 - noon. A couple of additional classes are held later in the year, as well. The first-year commitment is challenging, with fifty hours of volunteer service and 45 hours of classroom education required. Our EMGs range in age from early 20s to late 80s, so don't worry about finding someone in your age bracket among the membership. If you have the time to invest . . . if you enjoy meeting other passionate gardeners . . . if you love learning more about plants . . . and if you love *sharing that knowledge with others* . . . this just might be the program for you! Contact us at 375-5876 to request a brochure and application form. The application deadline for the 2014 program is October 15.

Upcoming Events:

Tomato Festival!



Saturday, July 20
8 am -Noon
Rain or Shine!

Activities:

- Tasting and ranking of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes
- Tours of the farm's research plots
- Tomato cookery and canning
- "Ask a Master Gardener" all day
- Live music
- Kids' activities: Make Your Own Salsa, Story Time

NC A&T Farm
3136 McConnell Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27405

COST: \$5.00 per person
FREE if you enter a recipe for the Tomato Cook-Off.
Judging at 10:30; be there by 10:00.
FREE to children 10 and younger

NC A&T and Extension staff and Extension Master Gardeners will be available throughout the event to answer your gardening questions. Feel free to bring plant samples!

Learn More:

www.guilfordextension.com or call 375-5876

12th Annual Gardening Gala and Seminar - Trends in Landscape Design - What Works? What's New?

Thu Sep 26, 2013 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro, NC 27405

The day will be devoted to exploring gardening practices that are helpful to Piedmont gardeners. The day's focus will be "Trends in Landscape Design - What's New? What Works?"

This seminar offers educational enrichment and continuing education for Extension Master Gardeners from several counties, and education for the public.

Please join us for this unique opportunity to focus on tried and true landscape design principles and gardening practices, provided by professionals with experience and enthusiasm who want to help you.

The nonrefundable \$40.00 fee for registration includes refreshments and lunch. Seating is limited; register early. For additional information, please contact Rose Chamblee at 336-275-6562 or email chambleer@bellsouth.net.

For the complete brochure/registration form please click on the link below:

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MG_Gala_Brochure_060913.pdf

Growing, the Green Way

Class Locations:

- Cooperative Extension Office, 3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro, NC 27405
- Bur-Mil Park (Wildlife Education Center), 5834 Bur-Mil Club Road, Greensboro 27410
- Greensboro Arboretum (Ed Center), 401 Ashland Drive, Greensboro 27403
- Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Road, Greensboro, NC 27410

CLASSES ARE FREE BUT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED:

Call or email Pam Marshall at 375-5876 or pamela_marshall@ncsu.edu and sign up for your choice of workshop and location.

FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING

Vegetable gardening for the year does not have to end when the tomatoes and cucumbers do! This workshop will focus on strategies and timing to maximize yields and extend the harvest from your vegetable garden by growing fall and winter crops. We'll talk about season extenders and other tips and techniques to keep your garden producing well past the first frost.



Thursday, Aug. 15 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Monday, Aug. 19 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, Aug. 20 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Sunday, Aug. 25 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum

ORGANIC LAWN CARE – A GREENER YARD

Fall is the best time for rejuvenating lawns - and also to discuss how using good growing practices saves you time and money and reduces environmental impact. Establishing a healthy stand of grass with good planning and careful management can minimize issues with weeds, diseases and insects. Come learn about having a healthy lawn and reducing or eliminating the use of synthetic chemicals.



Monday, Aug. 26 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, Sept. 3 rd	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Thursday, Sept. 5 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, Sept. 8 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum

GREAT PLANTS FOR WINTER INTEREST

Of course spring and summer gardens are beautiful, and fall's foliage colors are unsurpassed. But which plants have special characteristics that add winter interest to your landscape? Join us to discuss choosing and growing some of the many wonderful plants that can make your winter garden more captivating and unique.



Tuesday, Sept. 17 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Thursday, Sept. 19 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Monday, Sept. 23 rd	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Sunday, Sept. 29 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum

2013 Gardening Classes / High Point Public Library

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers



Class Location: High Point Public Library

901 North Main Street
High Point, NC
(336) 883-3660



Karen C. Neill

North Carolina
Cooperative Extension

3309 Burlington Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27455

Phone:
336-375-5876
Fax:
336-375-2295

Karen_Neill@ncsu.edu

We're on the Web!

www.quilfordgardenanswers.org

- We will be presenting one vegetable gardening class each month through the fall growing season.
- Each class will be offered twice in the month (on the 2nd Saturday and the 3rd Wednesday)
- * **Saturday afternoon classes / 12:00 - 1:30 in the Story Room**
- * **Wednesday evening classes / 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Morgan Room**

AUGUST - Fall Vegetable Gardening: Extending Your Harvest

Saturday August 10th 12 - 1:30 pm (Story Room)
Wednesday, August 21st 6 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)



Vegetable gardening for the year does not have to end when the tomatoes and cucumbers do! This workshop will focus on strategies and timing to maximize yields and extend the harvest from your vegetable garden by growing fall and winter crops. We'll talk about season extenders and other tips and techniques to keep your garden producing well past the first frost.

SEPTEMBER: Composting: "Trash to Treasure" For Your Garden

Saturday, Sept. 14th 12 - 1:30 pm (Story Room)
Wednesday, Sept. 18 6 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)



What to do with all those leaves?! Composting is a great way to recycle, and it also produces a fantastic organic amendment that improves the fertility and texture of your soil and helps everything grow better. We will discuss easy ways to start composting in your own backyard, what should and shouldn't be composted, and how to use this treasure in your garden.

OCTOBER - Preparing for Next Year's Vegetable Garden or, What to Do Until the Seed Catalogs Come!

Saturday, Oct. 12th 12 - 1:30 pm (Story Room)
Wednesday, Oct. 16th 6 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)



Even though this year's growing season is winding down, there is still gardening to be done! Late fall is the time to take important steps which will "sow the seeds of success" for next year's vegetables. We'll also talk about using the winter months for planning, to help you save money by getting the most out of your personal planting space.