

Horticulture Hints



Surry County Center

July—September 2017

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Mount Airy Blooms Garden Tour

Extension Master Gardeners have not slowed down this summer. They were involved in the Mount Airy Blooms Garden Tour on June 10. Booths were set up and Master Gardeners were available to answer questions from participants on the tour. They each had a particular topic they were sharing to interested gardeners. Some of those topics included: Color Wheel in the Garden, Container Gardening, Edible Landscapes, Managing Garden Pests and Diseases, Native Plants for Piedmont Gardens, Planting to Attract Pollinators, and Vermiculture. There were over 300 tickets sold for the garden tour.

For more information on the NC Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program, please call our office at 336.401.8025!



*Photo Credit: Andy Winemiller
NC Extension Master Gardener Volunteers Sharon Poindexter (left) and Terry Willis (right) share gardening tips at the Mount Airy Blooms Garden Tour.*

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Our Volunteers Are Out Of This World!

Our Extension volunteers are invaluable to the work we do here in Surry County. With over 200 volunteers giving over 18,000 hours of time in 2016, we were able to reach more people and impact more lives. To showcase our appreciation for their unwavering service, we gathered on June 6th and celebrated all of our Extension volunteers and how they are making "a WORLD of difference" in our community.

Thank each and every one of you who helps us make differences in the lives of or people here in the county. We hope you enjoyed the volunteer event and were able to leave with a new sense of "color" as we explored each of our personalities. It is the uniqueness of us all that makes the world so beautiful.

A special thank you goes to Joy Barlow and Alei Barlow for supplying the beautiful flowers for our Volunteer Appreciation event! The hydrangeas and butterfly bush flowers were phenomenal.



NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Blight on Tomatoes

How do you get a big, red, juicy, ripe tomato in Surry County? If you garden and include tomato plants then you probably have asked yourself that question at least once. There is nothing like picking your own tomato. Ah, how delicious is the tomato sandwich, the fresh salsa, the tomato juice and crackers, the spaghetti sauce, and the list goes on? But many times the gardeners are faced with declining plants and the fruit produced is minimal. We can thank much of this to the high humidity we have here. Tomato diseases are more prevalent in warm, moist climates. Tomato growers are no stranger to early blight, late blight and bacterial diseases. These diseases attack the leaves and fruit after the plant has been set and begins to grow.

Early blight is first observed on the plants as small, black lesions mostly on the lower leaves. The spots continue to expand and concentric rings in a bull's eye pattern can be seen in the center of the diseased area. Tissue surrounding the spots may turn yellow. If high temperature and humidity continue the disease can move up the plant and kill most of the foliage. The fungus survives on infected debris in the soil, on seed, on volunteer tomato plants and other hosts, such as Irish potato, eggplant, and black nightshade. We are seeing early blight more and more each year.



Early blight on tomato leaf.

Photo by:
Inga Meadows

Late blight is another frustration to the tomato gardener. It is especially damaging during cool, wet weather. It usually shows up in late July or early August in wet years. The fungus starts as small, dark, water-soaked spots on the leaves. These leaf spots will quickly enlarge and a white mold will appear at the margins of the affected area on the lower surface of leaves. The leaves (and stems) turn burn and shrivel up. This

can occur quickly—within 14 days from the first symptoms. Infected tomato fruits develop shiny, dark or olive-colored lesions, which may cover large areas. Bacterial diseases are caused by a wide range of bacteria that are generally spread on seed or transplants. They can also infect the plant when splashing water carries soil onto the plant. Bacterial diseases can affect both the foliage and the fruit. The symptoms of bacterial spot consist of numerous small, angular to irregular, water-soaked spots on the leaves and slightly raised to scabby spots on the fruits. Bacterial speck causes tiny, raised, dark brown specks on the green fruit and dark brown to black spots on the foliage.



Late blight on tomato fruit.

Photo by:
Dr. Lina Quesada,
NCSU Vegetable
Pathology Lab

Control of these diseases is difficult once gardeners see symptoms. The best control occurs as prevention practices such as: planting resistant or tolerant cultivars (although, there is no cultivar that is resistant to late blight), use disease free seed, do not plant diseased plants, rotate crops in the garden, manage weeds and volunteer tomato and potato plants, do not compost potatoes or tomatoes, use proper fertilize and applications, keep plants green and healthy, allowing extra space between plants, plant in full sun, prune and stake, and avoid overhead watering, especially late in the day. Keep the foliage as dry as possible to prevent diseases.

Early blight and late blight can also be prevented by using a fungicide spray program. Chlorothalonil, maneb and mancozeb are labeled for use on tomatoes. Copper sprays such as

copper sulfate and copper hydroxide will also give some control of fungal diseases and will help to control the bacterial diseases. Some formulations of copper sprays are approved for organic use.

Neem oil, another organic product, will also give some control of foliar diseases. These products will prevent the disease but not cure it after it starts. Fungicide sprays should begin just after setting or at the first appearance of the disease and repeated every 7 to 10 days. Always read and follow the label directions when using any pesticide.

Many gardeners choose to use the cultural practices listed above with the understanding that these foliar diseases will limit the length of their tomato production, especially in a wet year. Other gardeners may choose to use organic fungicides such as cooper sulfate and neem oil to extend harvest. Growers that want to achieve tomato harvest until frost should consider using a non-organic fungicide spray program.

FREE FUN
for all ages!

CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE
Promoting local agriculture
and saluting our farmers!

Saturday, September 9, 2017

2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fisher River Park

Disclaimer

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

Pruning and Planting Calendar



trees, flowers, shrubs, and small berry plants. Use the guide below to help you determine the right time to prune your plants over the next three months.

July Pruning

- Prune “bleeder” trees such as maple, dogwood, birch, and elm.
- Prune fruiting canes of raspberry and blackberry plants after the harvest is over. Cut canes at ground level.
- Prune off dieback limbs on hybrid rhododendron, azalea, mountain laurel, and blueberry.
- Trim hedges as needed.
- Pinch your chrysanthemums the **FIRST WEEK OF JULY ONLY!**
- Remove faded flowers on flowering perennials to encourage a second flowering.

August through September

- Do NOT prune shrubs in August, September, or October.
- Remove “weed” or unnecessary trees from your landscape.

Late summer is a great time to begin planting for fall. Use the calendar below to help in the next three months.

July

- Mid-July is a great time to set out plants for the fall garden. Start planting your brussel sprouts, collards, beans, carrots, and tomatoes now.

August

- Mid-August should be the targeted time to transplant broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower, beets, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radish, rutabaga, spinach, squash and turnip.

- Plant pansy seed in flats for planting in the landscape in September.
- Plant Spider lily (lycoris), colchicum (autumn crocus) and sternbergia bulbs.
- Sow seed of the following perennials: hollyhock, delphinium and stokesia to produce healthy plants for next spring.

September

- Set out landscape plants.
- When planting containerized plants, try to be certain to disturb or “open up” the plants’ root ball.
- Set out new chrysanthemum plants.
- Plant pansies to add color to your yard in the autumn, winter and spring months.
- Plant groundcovers.
- Transplant any evergreen trees or shrubs that need moving this month.
- Plant mustard, onion, radish and turnip.
- Repot houseplants.

Fall Lawn Care



What does every homeowner want that is lush, green, weed free, and maintenance free? You guessed it, a lawn. While we may not be able to have a maintenance free lawn, we can get a nice lawn that will be the envy of our neighborhood. Many good lawn practices do not cost a lot of money. Let’s take a look at what homeowners can do to have a green, healthy lawn.

Great looking lawns begin with the correct mowing height. As I look around the county, I see the majority of lawns almost scalped. What I mean is that the grass is cut as close to the soil line as possible. This is not ideal for growing a good stand of grass. It is good for introducing weeds into the lawn and allowing them to take over the grass that is present. Lawn mower blades should be at a height of 2.5 to 3 inches. Keeping the mowing



height at this level reduces weed competition and promotes healthy grass growth. Some weeds are difficult to control in the lawn so we want to decrease the chances of them getting established. And let’s face it, all weeds are easier to prevent than eradicate once they are established.

Next, proper fertilization is important. Grass, just like all other plants, needs nutrients to grow. Three major nutrients needed are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Nitrogen is needed for green, leafy growth, phosphorous is needed for root development and potassium promotes disease tolerance and drought resistance. When looking for the right fertilizer you will see these nutrients displayed on a fertilizer label as three numbers in the same order (i.e., A 40 pound bag of 10-6-4 fertilizer has 10% nitrogen (4 pounds), 6% phosphate (2.4 pounds of phosphorus, and 4% potash (1.6 pounds of potassium). A typical lawn feeding is 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. As a fertilizer example, see if you can follow this: you will need 10 pounds of 10-6-4 fertilizer if you are targeting the 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. And, if your lawn is 5,000 square feet, multiply 10 pounds by 5. The result is 50. You would need a 50-pound bag of 10-6-4 to cover your lawn.

Homeowners can overseed (if needed) in September with a turf-type grass seed. Several good choices are Rebel or Falcon. Do not use any seed mixture with bluegrass. Bluegrass will go dormant in our environment here in Surry County when the weather is hot and dry. Keep in mind if there are a lot of shade trees in the landscape, a shade tolerant grass is preferred.

August through September is also an excellent time to treat for grubs. You know you may have a grub problem when you see mole tunnels running through your yard. Eliminating grubs will help eliminate moles since they are their main food source. The active ingredient, imidacloprid, is an excellent product for controlling grubs.

These are just a few tips to help you reach the lawn that will make your neighbors drool. If you have further questions call our office at 336.401.8025!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Advisory Council Meeting](#)
July 25, 2017 / 6:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Fall Vegetable Gardening Workshop](#)
August 1, 2017 / 6:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Surry County Beekeepers
Annual Summer Picnic](#)
August 5, 2017 / 5:00 pm
Fisher River Park, Dobson

[Edible Landscape Workshop](#)
August 8, 2017 / 6:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Surry County Extension
Master Gardener
Volunteers Meeting](#)
August 9, 2017 / 12:00 Noon
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Beginning Permaculture Workshop](#)
August 15, 2017 / 6:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Vinedressers Meeting: Producing Wine
and Beer, Malolactic Fermentation](#)
August 17, 2017 / 6:00 pm
Round Peak Vineyard, Mt. Airy

["It's a Wrap" Cover Crop Workshop](#)
August 29, 2017 / 6:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Celebrating Agriculture](#)
September 9, 2017 / 2:00—7:00 pm
Fisher River Park, Dobson

[Surry County Beekeepers Meeting](#)
September 11, 2017 / 7:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Surry County Extension
Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting](#)
September 13, 2017 / 12:00 Noon
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Private Pesticide Applicator Recertifi-
cation
"V" Category Training](#)
September 28, 2017 / 9:00 —11:00 am
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

[Commercial and Private Pesticide
Recertification Training: "Weed and
Insect Identification and Control"
All Categories](#)
September 28, 2017 / 1:00-3:00 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, Dobson

247 copies of this public document were
printed at a cost of \$95.24 or .3856 per copy



Accommodation Statement: If you are a person with a disability or desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Extension office during business hours of 8:15 AM—5:00 PM at least two weeks before the event to request accommodations.

Special Note: Registration for events listed in this calendar are required unless otherwise noted. Register by calling (336) 401-8025.