

Horticulture Hints



Surry County Center

January - March 2018

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Joanna E. Radford
Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources
(Commercial & Consumer Horticulture)

North Carolina Cooperative Extension - Surry Center
P.O. Box 324
Dobson, NC 27017

Phone: (336) 401-8025
FAX: (336) 401-8048

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BEE A PART OF THE BUZZ!

Surry County Junior Beekeeper Program

The Surry County Beekeepers Association and N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center are excited to announce that they will be sponsoring the Surry County Junior Beekeeper Program this year!

This FREE program is for youth ages 18 years and under who are interested in beekeeping! Participants will learn the parts of a hive, the anatomy of a honeybee, how to light a smoker, open a hive, identify worker bees and so much more! At the end of the program, participants will become a certified Junior Beekeeper!

The Surry County Junior Beekeeper Program will be held every Monday from 7:00 - 9:00 pm beginning February 5 and running until March 12 at the Extension office (210. N. Main Street, Dobson).

Those who are interested must register by February 1, 2018. Please call 336-401-8025 to register!



A Better Way!

The Surry County Cooperative Extension is pleased to report that we have implemented a program that allows us to deliver our newsletters in a more cost effective and efficient way.

If you would like to join in our efforts to reduce the clutter around your home, and sign up for workshops electronically, give us a call and we will be happy to add you to our email list!

Surry County Bee School

Surry County Beekeepers will be presenting a Bee School for beginning beekeepers. Classes will include:

- Introduction to Beekeeping
- The colony, organization, and life cycle of the honeybee
- Equipment needed to get started
- How to assemble equipment
- Seasonal hive management of the colonies
- Pests and diseases of the bees
- Harvesting and processing honey and other hive products
- A field day to work with the bees

The Bee School will be held every Monday from 7:00 - 9:00 pm beginning February 5 and running until March 12 in the downstairs meeting room of the Farm Bureau building (112 White Street, Dobson). The cost of the Bee School is \$20 per individual. Participants may purchase the book, "The Beekeeper's Handbook, 4th Edition" by Diana Sammataro for an additional \$25. Refreshments will be provided, and students joining the Surry County Beekeepers Association may enter a drawing for a hive (excluding bees)!

For reservations, please call 336-401-8025. To check for more updates on the Bee School and the Surry County Beekeepers Association, please visit: <http://surrybeekeepers.org>.



NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Foothills Specialty Crop Growers Round Table

Cooperative Extension will host the annual Foothills Specialty Crop Growers Round Table on Tuesday, February 6 from 12:30 - 5:00 pm. The location will be at the Pilot Center of Surry Community College (612 E. Main Street, Pilot Mountain). All fruit and vegetable growers with big and small operations are invited to attend. Some topics to be discussed are:

East Coast Broccoli Project

Broccoli Production

Growing Ginger and Turmeric

Echinacea Production

Industrial Hemp

Appalachian Harvest Markets

Squash Production

Herb Connections and Marketing

Growers will pick three seminars to attend. Register before February 1 by calling 336-401-8025!

WINTER HOUSEPLANT TIPS

- Keep amaryllis in a sunny window. After it is done flowering, the plant will produce leaves. It can be taken outside during the summer and then brought back inside by mid-summer.
- Leaves on some house plants may turn yellow in color and or have leaf drop. This is usually a result of low light conditions or over-watering. Most houseplants should be watered only when the top of the growing medium begins to dry out. Cut back or stop fertilizing houseplants unless they are grown under supplemental lighting.
- Plants that are out-growing their containers can be repotted into clean

containers. Wash out any fertilizer salt residues from the containers. Use lightweight, well-drained soilless potting mixes containing peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. These mixes contain fertilizers that will meet a houseplant's nutritional requirements for 2-3 months.

- In February, we will have passed through the darkest part of winter - the days are longer and the sun is brighter. This is very good for houseplants. Again, if you notice leaf yellowing and leaf drop on some of your houseplants it is usually a result of the low light conditions combines with over-watering. It is always safer to slightly under-water than to over water houseplants.
- A variety of pests may attack houseplants. You may notice honeydew, which is a sticky plant sap product secreted by sucking insects such as aphids, brown soft scale, and mealybugs. Plants commonly affected are ficus, schefflera, and jade plants. The honeydew is often first noticed as a sticky floor or carpeting under a plant.
- Mealybugs appear as white fluffy masses on infested plants. They can be controlled by swabbing them with rubbing alcohol or taking plants outside and spraying with a labeled houseplant insecticide. Do not do this on a very cold day, or your plants will be damaged. Mealybugs and scales often become an overwhelming problem and it is best to discard extremely infested plants before the pests spread to your other plants.
- Several species of soft scale insects appear as brown bumps on leaves and stems and can be controlled with a light horticultural oil labeled for houseplants.



Photo:
Mealybugs on
coleus

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.

GAP

Good Agricultural Practices

Training Scheduled for Fruit and Produce Growers

GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) Training will be offered January 18 from 9:00 am –4:30 pm at the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center (210 N. Main Street, Dobson). GAP is driven by produce buyers and training is recommended, and in some cases required, by buyers.

Training participants will receive information and tools needed to create a plan of action and food safety manual for their farming operation. A flash drive with plan templates and required posters will be given to participants. Extension agents will teach the program.

Surry Community College is a partner to the program. A portion of the training fee will be paid for through the Surry Skill-Up Grant with NC Tobacco Trust Fund. The reduced participant fee is \$50.

Pre-registration is required.
Call 336-401-8025 to enroll today.

Private Pesticide Recertification Opportunities

N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center has several training opportunities for "V" credits in the upcoming months. Each of the trainings will be held at the Extension office (210 N. Main Street, Dobson). The trainings have been scheduled for:

Tuesday, January 9 / 9:00 - 11:00 am
Wednesday, January 17 / 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, January 23 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Registration is requested. Applicators may call 336-401-8025 to register.

Master Gardener Luncheon

Master Gardener Volunteers were honored with an appreciation luncheon on December 13 at the Extension Center. They worked hard through the 2017 year to provide educational information to the public on horticultural topics such as growing fruits and vegetables, plant propagation, cover crops, permaculture, raised beds, herbs, container gardening, and much more. They have given 4,479 hours of their time to the Master Gardener Program at a dollar value of \$105,525.24 to the county. Special recognition was given to Master Gardener Volunteer Linda Vaught, for the greatest number of volunteer hours in 2017. She was awarded the most prestigious award, the "Golden Cultivator". Sharon Poindexter and Linda Vaught were recognized for contributing over 250 hours of service with the Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

Congratulations to all on a wonderful year!

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener Workshops Scheduled

Horticulture workshops presented by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Surry County have been scheduled. All workshops are held at the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Surry County Center (210 N. Main Street, Dobson) and are free unless noted otherwise. Please see the calendar of events for a listing of the workshops that are scheduled.

During the winter months, workshops may be cancelled due to inclement weather. As a general rule, if Surry County Schools are closed, workshops are cancelled.

Registration is required. You may register for any of the workshops by calling 336-401-8025.

Calendar of Events

Surry County Beekeepers Meeting
January 8, 2018 / 7:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification (2 hrs. "V" Credits)
January 9, 2018 / 9:00 - 11:00 am
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting
January 10, 2018 / 12:00 Noon
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification (2 hrs. "V" Credits)
January 17, 2018 / 1:00 - 3:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

GAP Training
January 18, 2018 / 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Shiitake & Oyster Mushroom Production
January 25, 2018 / 4:00 - 6:00 pm / \$30
North Surry High School Ag. Bldg.

Extension Advisory Council Meeting
January 30, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Master Gardener Certification Training
Every Thursday From February - March
1:00-4:30 pm
Please call 336-401-8025 for more information.

Beginning Beekeeping School
Every Monday from
February - March 12
7:00 - 9:00 pm / Cost: \$20
Farm Bureau Bldg., Dobson
Please call 336-401-8025 for more information.

Junior Beekeeper Program
Every Monday from
February - March 12
7:00 - 9:00 pm / Ages 18 yrs. & under
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Foothills Specialty Crop Grower's Roundtable
February 6, 2018 / 12:30 - 5:00 pm
Pilot Center of SCC, Pilot Mtn.

Plant Propagation Workshop
February 6, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Cost: \$10
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Commercial Pesticide Applicator School
February 7 & 8, 2018
Winston-Salem, NC
Call 919-733-3556.

Fruit Tree Pruning and More
February 10, 2018 / 10:00 am
1085 Doe Run Road, Ararat, VA

Spring Gardening
February 13, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Surry Soils and Climate
February 20, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Backyard Small Fruit Production
March 6, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Master Gardener Volunteers Meeting
March 14, 2018 / 12:00 Noon
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

FSMA Food Safety Modernization Act -Produce Safety Alliance Training
March 15, 2018
Wilkes County
Call 828-757-8620 to register.

Tomato and Summer Vegetables
March 20, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Tree Grafting
March 27, 2018 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Cost: \$10
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

Special Note: Registration for events listed in this calendar are required unless otherwise noted.

Register by calling (336) 401-8025.

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.



Surry County Center
210 N. Main St.
Post Office Box 324
Dobson, NC 27017-0324



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