

# Horticulture Hints



Surry County Center

June 2019

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## Extension Master Gardener Interns on Their Way

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program is an extremely helpful program within North Carolina Cooperative Extension. They perform important outreach and education projects for Surry and most other counties in North Carolina. They provide unbiased, research-based information on gardens, lawns and landscapes. There are over 4,500 volunteers in 90 counties across the state!

In order to become an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, participants (interns) must attend 40 hours of intense classroom and hands-on instruction. At the end of the instruction period, these interns must pass a written test that confirms their horticulture knowledge. They then must volunteer 40 hours of their time in the horticulture area, helping N.C. Cooperative Extension reach county homeowners. They do this in a variety of ways: answering phone questions about horticulture topics, leading horticulture workshops, writing newsletter articles, promoting N.C. Cooperative Extension, and attending special events to offer answers to participants' horticulture questions. EMGC do not handle questions from commercial entities, but do provide others with accurate information on such topics as climate, soil, native plants, composting, invasive species, and garden pests. After the 40 volunteer hours are met, they are awarded the title "Certified Extension Master Gardener Volunteer". They continue their horticultural education each year to maintain their certification and to keep their knowledge up-to-date.

Our newest EMGV Interns who have completed 40 hours of classroom instruction are:



Jerry Dorner, Vicki Whelan, Cheryl Ward, Stephanie Dorner, Deborah Geip, Debbie Evers, Robin Portis, and Maggs Cerow.

Within the next 12 months, this group will be volunteering at numerous events. Keep your eye open for these newbies! Great things are going to be happening!

## Certified Junior Beekeepers Announced

Four local youth have been named "Certified Junior Beekeeper" by the Surry County Beekeepers Association. These four inspiring beekeepers completed a six-week educational junior beekeeper course, passed a written exam, and passed a five part practicum in order to reach this distinction. These youth: Jax Haynes, Eliza Wilson, and Reagan Poindexter were recognized with a certification, hive tool, smoker, and beekeeper veil for their hard work.



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# EMGV Gardening Symposium

Composed by: Christina Connell and Joanna Radford

Surry County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers held their first “**Gardening Symposium**” on April 13 at the beautiful new Extension office at 915 East Atkins Street, Dobson. The day was a huge success with nearly seventy-five participants and nine vendors in attendance. There were numerous local business sponsors to help support the event and make it possible. The program had keynote speakers addressing timely topics were:



Kyle Montgomery, owner of York Farm which has operated a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program for several years. As a CSA, he has natural interest in providing his subscribers with fresh produce for as many weeks as possible. He presented information on “Extending the Gardening Season”. As a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate with a degree in biology, Kyle applies his knowledge of sustainable practices on family land in the Beulah area of Surry County.

Wythe Morris, retired Extension Agent from Virginia Carolina Cooperative Extension and now part-time Extension Associate in Surry County with North Carolina Cooperative Extension. Wythe specializes in food safety, produce production, and ornamentals. At the Symposium, he offered information and suggestions about “Coping with Clay Soil”. As local residents know first-hand, Surry offers little but clay. Though many bemoan its challenges, there are also benefits and ways to modify the less attractive aspects of gardening in clay. Wythe had the answers and shared them with the group.

Lastly, Alex Tuchman from the Spikenard Farm Honey Bee Sanctuary in Floyd, Virginia where he is co-director. He addressed the importance of honeybees as fascinating insects and pollinators of a significant percentage of the food crops we enjoy. Alex, with a background managing a student farm at Loyola University Chicago and training from the Biodynamic Association and other institutions, brought an experienced and practical approach. He introduced concepts of beekeeping practices at the Sanctuary and provided information on ways individuals could become involved in supporting critical pollinators.



In addition to these speakers, vendor tables at the Symposium offered information and products of interest to gardeners. Break-out sessions provided opportunities for smaller interest groups to delve into topics such as composting and hydroponics. Attendees enjoyed morning refreshments, a catered lunch, and door prizes.

A special thank you goes out to EMGV for making the symposium a success. Your hard work truly paid off!

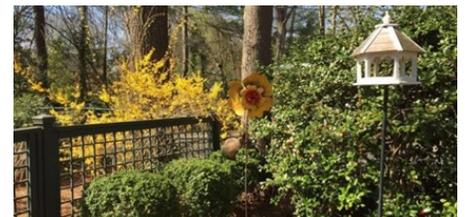
# Mount Airy Blooms Gardening Tour Set

**Mount Airy Blooms** gardening tour has been scheduled for Saturday, June 8 from 10 am - 4 pm. Three local garden clubs coordinated the event for anyone to participant. There will be eleven gardens to visit throughout Mount Airy and are relatively close to each other to facilitate traveling. There will also be Extension Master Gardener Volunteer educational booths behind the Blue House.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 and are on sale at Webb Interiors, 1191 W. Lebanon Street and at the Mount Airy Visitors Center, 200 N. Main Street, or online at Eventbrite.com.



A \$13 box luncheon will be offered under the pavilion at Cross Creek Country Club between 11 am - 2 pm. Boxes must be prepaid by June 3. The funds raised from the tour will be used for community projects such as the rose garden at the Joan and Howard-Woltz Hospice Home, maintaining the mini-garden and fountain at the junction of North Main and Renfro Streets, maintain the pollinator garden on Main Street near the post office, restoration of the gardens at the historic Moore House, and special programming for Tharrington Elementary and Mount Airy High School Exceptional Children’s classes.



# Upcoming Horticulture Classes - Open to the Public

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Surry County have designed two new workshops scheduled in the next few months. These workshops are open to anyone and everyone. There is no fee for the workshops. Each workshop will offer several different topics for participants to get involved in.

The first workshop, “**Propagation, Herbs, and Composting**” will be held Saturday, June 15 from 1 - 4 pm at the Extension Center at 915 E. Atkins Street, Dobson. This workshop will be hands-on.

The second workshop is “**Cover Crops and Fall Gardening**” scheduled for Saturday, July 20 from 10 am - 1 pm at the Mt. Airy Library in Mt. Airy. This will be an informative workshop that will have several nice give-a-ways for the participants.

Registration is required by calling the Extension office at 336-401-8025 at least one week prior to the workshop.

## Time to Prune Shrubs

Time of pruning varies with plant species. Spring-flowering shrubs (forsythia, deutzia, azalea, spirea, etc.) are normally pruned after flowering. Pruning spring-flowering shrubs during the dormant season will remove flower buds because they bloom on the previous season’s growth. Summer-flowering shrubs (abelia, butterfly bush, crape myrtle, etc.) generally are pruned during the dormant winter season

before growth begins in the spring. Light, corrective pruning can be done at any time of the year. Avoid heavy pruning during the late summer and fall because re-growth may occur and make the plants more susceptible to cold injury.

When you are pruning the shrub, first remove any dead, diseased, or damaged wood. Then carefully select and remove branches while maintaining the natural shape of the plant. A good pruning job should not be conspicuous! There are five basic techniques for pruning shrubs:



- 1) Pinching - removing the tip of a succulent, green shoot before it becomes woody and firm. Done to reduce length and encourage branching.
- 2) Heading back - cutting a branch back to a healthy bud or branch to stimulate growth and increase bushiness..
- 3) Thinning - removing a branch at its point of origin (ground, parent stem, side branch, etc.) to create a more open plant without stimulating new growth.
- 4) Renewal pruning (rejuvenation) - removing the oldest branches by pruning them near the ground, leaving the younger, more vigorous branches (which may also be pruned). Abelia, deutzia, forsythia, spirea, and weigela are pruned using this method.
- 5) Shearing - removing the tips of most branches with shearing or hedge clippers. Shearing should be used sparingly as it destroys the natural shape of the plant and inhibits light penetration, eventually causing dieback in the interior of the shrub.



The Surry County Farmers’ Markets are open! Be sure to stop by any of the markets for produce, meats, and more! Please note that the Dobson Market has moved to a new location! It is now held in the parking lot of the new Surry County Government Service Center!

### Dobson Market

Thursdays from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
915 East Atkins Street  
Dobson, NC 27017

### Mount Airy Market

Fridays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
111 South Main Street  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

### Elkin Market

Saturdays from 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon  
226 North Bridge Street  
Elkin, NC 28621

For more information on the Surry County Farmers Market, please visit [www.surrycountymarket.com](http://www.surrycountymarket.com)!



**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.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Trail Days**

May 31 - June 2  
Elkin, NC

**Mt. Airy Blooms Gardening Tour**

June 8, 2019 / 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Mt. Airy, NC

**Surry County Beekeepers  
Monthly Meeting**

June 10, 2019 / 7:00 pm  
Surry County Farm Bureau, Dobson

**Master Gardener Monthly Meeting**

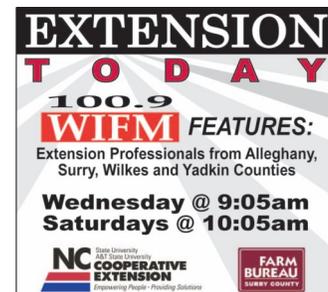
June 12, 2019 / 12:00 pm  
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

**Propagation, Herbs, and  
Composting Workshop**

June 15, 2019 / 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
N.C. Cooperative Extension, Dobson

**Cover Crops and Fall Gardening  
Workshop**

July 20, 2019 / 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Mt.  
Airy Public Library, Mt. Airy



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**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.*