



Master Gardener

Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

July, 2007

Upcoming Events...

July 13th&14th Plant Sale for Gov. Center & Master Gardeners

Aug 14th Plant Clinic on Vegetables

October 4, 5, 6th Fall Plant Sale

Oct 8,9,10th.... State MG Conference in Raleigh

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/masgar/conference.html>

December 13th Holiday Party

Upcoming Speakers

July 26th Bruce Williams will be our July Speaker. The DownEast Gardener will give us some tips on local plants.

Sept. 27th Some type of MG Social

Oct. 25th Toby Bost, Hort Agent, Forsyth County - Has written books on gardening.

Nov 29th Dick Bir - Retired - worked at Fletcher Research Station in Fletcher NC.

New Storage Building Approved

A new storage building and cement pad are now is now ordered in the greenhouse area. The irrigation is now in place, so no more hand watering. Hurray! Ash advised electrical hook up is still to be completed.

Hilton Holcomb, Gardens - We need help in the gardens, there is a tremendous amount of work required to maintain them. Work Days are 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday.

Was the Recognition Meeting/ Luncheon a success?

I thought so! What did you think? Email Becky Dus rcd@nfcexperts.com with your thoughts. I know we had a room full of people. I know we had an enthusiastic bunch from both new classes get their Certificates and many of my classmates from last year were present to get our recognition as the newest Master Gardeners. I also know I ate too much great food. Do want it the same next year or go back to a dinner? Let us know.

Lucy Bradley, PHD – Urban Hort. Specialist

was our last speaker. Lucy came to NC from Phoenix, Arizona where she directed the largest Master Gardener Program in the Country. She should be a very helpful resource to our program as she puts together a number of new programs and tools available to us. Some of her projects include; Video training for Urban Tree Care, Forestry Training for Local Agents, a Natural Environment Preschool program, Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods workbook, Plant Clinics, Community Gardens, Plant Databases, Intranet (that we could use as our local web page + be part of a state wide site)

Southport Farmers Market Has been successful on Wednesdays for 8-1 on the Garrison Lawn. Charlie has been offering a plant clinic and a couple dozen vendors have been present to sell produce, plants, and home made merchandise. Come see what you're missing!

Will we see you at the July Meeting on the 26th?

State Conference Information

If you are going to Conference this fall, now is the time to make your reservations. You should have received a packet in the mail. If not, go to the internet site I gave you on page 1 and get a form. Let's all go party together and learn something to boot!

Automation Committee

Al Smith & I were very interested in the Intranet project that Lucy Bradley is working on. Looks like she may have the answer for how we will maintain a good website in the future. She should have the first test sites up soon and we hope to offer her suggestions for how the site could better serve our needs.

Wanted: *Master Gardeners with expertise in creating web pages. We are trying to bring information to you more efficiently. Call Al Smith 910-457-6677 if you could help.*

For the Most Current Info...

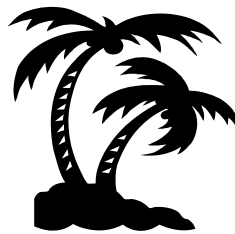
Our website (<http://bcmastergardener.org/>) has a calendar that is now being updated regularly. Check it out and be a member that knows what is going on. Better yet, if you know of an event you feel our members would be interested in, email me and I will post them. jloughlin@ec.rr.com

Got Ground Pearl?

David Barkley, Hort Agent: Peter Hertyl NC. Crops Department – is continuing his study and research on ground pearl and is asking for help from BCMGVA members. He will train volunteers on all aspects of gathering information.

Come see the New Fountain in the Connector Garden

Come see the new tropical garden to surround this beautiful new addition. Palms and exotic plants have filled the space. Hard to believe what it was and is now! Our thanks to Jim, Hilton, and all the volunteers that helped. The fountain will be lighted and make a dramatic focus.



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Don't Forget the Perennial "Jungle"

There is no group of plants more versatile, durable and attractive than herbaceous perennials. Sometimes they get too versatile and durable. Many of the herbaceous perennials will need cutting back or staked, as the growth since spring may be getting too large.

Unpruned plants are good candidates to be blown over in a thunderstorm. Also a good summer trim will encourage new growth and possibly more flower buds for late summer or fall. Several plants to consider for midsummer clean-up are; Tansy, Hollyhocks, Mexican Bush Sage, Santolina, Comfrey, Catnip, Queen Anne's Lace, Fennel, and Thyme. Remember to keep a 3-4 inch layer of an organic mulch throughout the perennial border. Also keep any insect pests under control and fertilize if necessary.

Have you paid your Dues? They're only \$5/yr. Why not pay for several years at once and forget about it for a while?

You Know you're a Master Gardener When...

You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores for your compost pile.
You have to wash your hair to get your fingernails clean.
All your neighbors ask you questions.
You spend more time volunteering than at home.
You buy a bigger truck so that you can haul more mulch.
Everything you touch turns to "fertilizer".
Your non-gardening spouse becomes conversant in botanical names
Your boss makes "taking care of the office plants" an official part of your job description
You smile often at God's Beautiful Creation

Joe's Kitchen

What's growing in your garden? I should be giving you one more recipe for zucchini squash. They seem to multiply by 2 daily this time of year. My eggplant is also keeping me busy (look back in Jan or Feb for my roasted veggie recipe). Tomatoes seem to be doing much better this year than last and I harvested my first last week. Here is a cool summer recipe I just love

**Cinnamon Couscous**

Serves approx. 6
1 pkg Osem Toasted CousCous
2 C chicken stock
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

Mix couscous, salt & cinnamon together while bringing to boil chicken stock. On boil, add couscous to stock, cover & simmer 8-10 mins 'til liquid absorbed. Fluff & sit aside until cool – may put in frig if wish. When cooled add following ingredients.

1/4 C Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1 lemon (the zest & juice)
Freshly ground black pepper
1 small red onion (diced)
1 large English Cucumber or 2 reg. (dice)
1 red bell pepper (dice)
2 bunches green onions (dice)

After mixing all together, sprinkle top with 1/4 C cilantro leaves, pushing them into mixture but leaving visible ...so it's pretty! ☺ Keep refrigerated. Enjoy!

The brand of CousCous is important order it here:

<http://www.koshermania.com/prodinfo.asp?number=OCOUS>

Garden Tips and Greetings to You!**David Barkley****July 2007**

Now is a good time to stroll around the landscape and be observant. Look at the new growth on the trees and shrubs as an "indicator of progress". There should be foliage all the way to the tips. If the ends are bare, this may indicate some serious root problems.

New growth should be apparent on lirioppe, English ivy, periwinkle and pachysandra. If new growth from this spring season is not visible, or is less than normal, then investigate the problem --- environmental stress, poor drainage, low nutrient availability, pH problem, construction damage to the root zone area or possible chemical injury. Be sure to check for insects. Aphids, mites and scales are serious problems.

Summer Bedding Plants: Finish planting summer color beds. Don't take shortcuts in preparing the soil. Good root establishment will maximize top growth and flowering performance.

July is a good time to trim the "bleeders" in the landscape. Maples, birches and dogwoods can be lightly pruned and reshaped. This is also a good time to prune water sprouts from crabapples, Crapemyrtles and all fruit trees.

PRUNING:

- The appearance of many shrubs can be improved with a general pruning at this time of year. With new growth averaging 6-8" long, many evergreens are getting slightly out-of-bounds. Now is a good time to take hand pruners and shears to shape them.
- Individual branches and stems need to be cut to back inside the plant.

This will reduce the overall size of the plant and also reshape it.

- Continue to shear formal hedges.
- Rejuvenation Pruning: If the shrubs have turned into small trees over the years, now would be an appropriate time to get the big saw out and take them back to 12-15" stems.
- The other professional approach is to limb up from the ground and accentuate the 'tree look'.
- If all else fails....remove the entire plant and start over again. Before replanting, evaluate the space to determine what type of plant, if any, is needed. This is often the best solution to overgrown plants.

Crapemyrtles are some of North Carolina's favorite summer landscape trees. They provide great color and interest in the landscape and they are also adaptable to numerous stressful landscape situations. Several tips to consider for enhancing their performance are:

- Take care of Japanese beetle problems immediately. Use appropriate insecticides (Sevin) to control the generous population of beetles.
- As the flowers begin to fade, keep the limbs trimmed back. You will also notice that many of the limbs will be drooping under the heavy load of blooms. They should be trimmed periodically to maintain an upright form.
- Now is a good time to prune lower growing branches back to enhance the tree form of the plant. Stored

energy reserves are low at this time and regrowth will be minimized.

- Help your crape myrtles lose weight this summer. As the flowers fade, tip prune them. This will encourage new, dense growth and more flowers for late summer

Lawns:

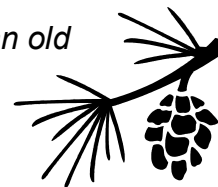
- Irrigate warm seasoned grasses at this time of year as needed. Most lawns will need 1 and 1/2" of water each week. It is best to apply all at one time or split the application to make two 3/4" applications several days apart.
- Watch for chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and be prepared to apply pyrethroids for chinch bug control.
- Weeds are really adaptive to the harsh conditions that prevail in the summertime. Check on your weed population, get the weeds identified, and control with the appropriate weed control product. The best weed control strategy is to have a well established turfgrass that prevents weeds from establishing.
- Fertilize the warm seasoned grasses with 1/2 to 1 pound of actual nitrogen.
- Continue to mow at the proper heights for the various grasses.

Centipede grass	1.0 - 1.5"
St Augustine grass	2.5 - 3.0"
Bermuda grass	.75 - 1.25"
Zoysia grass	.75 - 1.0"
Tall Fescue	3.5 - 4.0"
- Watch for mole cricket activity - small tunnels at the soil surface. Fipronil may be used for mole cricket control.

The wind in the pines

By Master Gardener Ford Balch 1-07

*I paused at an old fenceline, an old
boundary line,
With darkness approaching it
was time to go back,
A grove of pine trees was on
the other side,
It's growth a barrier but I knew a track.*



*In the pines, it was the shortest way home,
The wind unnoticed until now began to
blow-
A sound magnified by the number of trees,
Being steady and eerie it seemed to follow.*

*Sounds in the forest were told by lore
For it was here that the Satyrs played,
Deities of the woodlands they were merry
And with gaiety danced and drank all day.*

*At gloaming they fell asleep
Breathing heavily, as they dreamed
Of nymphs chased earlier that day,
And attending to Pan in between.*

*Pan, the God of Woodlands and Fields,
His music was wind through rushes
At woodland edges where reeds were
found,
But most surely it was just a simple gust.*

*Leaving the pines we go through a field,
It is not far from here to home,
When a bird glides to a tree for the night,
It is a ruffled grouse that is alone.*

*Leaving the woods I cross the bridge,
Looking back-the ridge is now all dark
But the lights in the village are aglow
As I return to home, until I again embark.*

2007 Dues Notice

Dues are payable by January 1 each year.

(But we will accept them now!)

Make checks payable to: Brunswick County Master Gardener Volunteer Association (BCMGVA)
\$5.00 per Individual

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mail checks to: **Allen Smith**

4515 Fieldstone Cir SE
Southport, NC 28461

NAMETAG; you have earned it, now wear it.
We would all like to know your name.

If you have an item for the newsletter, submit it to Joe Loughlin (jloughlin@ec.rr.com)

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www.bcmastergardener.org

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