Fall Plant Sale - The Currituck Master Gardeners "Fall Plant Sale" will be held on Saturday, September 15th from 9:00am to 12:00 noon at the NC Cooperative Extension facility next to Central Elementary School. A large variety of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals will be available at great prices. For more information contact the NC Cooperative Extension at 232-2262 or e-mail tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu

Fall Planting “Hardy Annuals” - There is so much more to fall planting than bulbs and pansies! On Saturday, September 29th, the Currituck Extension Center is offering a seminar that will teach you all about a family of plants that are seldom talked about: “Hardy Annuals”. This includes poppies, larkspur, sweet peas, snapdragons, nigella, and so many more. Our guest speaker Lisa Ziegler, a home gardener turned cut-flower grower began growing field-grown cut flowers in 1998 on less than 1 acre in Newport News, Virginia. During the growing season, this garden yields over 4000 stems of flowers each week. Her flowers are sold to upscale florists, Colonial Williamsburg, and Farmer’s Markets.

Lisa shares her knowledge and passion for cut-flower gardening through her programs. Her audiences have included flower and garden show guests, radio listeners, garden clubs, master gardeners, horticultural groups, commercial growers, civic groups, and others. The seminar begins at 10:00am and will be held at the Currituck Extension facility in Barco. The seminar is free to the public and pre-registration is required. To register or for more information call Tommy Grandy at the Extension office at 232-2262 or email at tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu

Learn the Art of Bonsai! - North Carolina Cooperative Extension is sponsoring a “Beginners” Bonsai Class to be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The instructor will be Jim Martin. All materials will be provided. Class hours are from 10:00am to 12:30pm and will be held at the Currituck County Extension facility in Barco, NC. Class size is limited to 20 and the cost is $35.00 made payable to Currituck County. If you wish to attend please call the Extension office at 232-2262 to reserve your place. Pre-registration is required.

Plants, Pests and Pathogens - On Tuesday, October 23rd, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension is hosting “Plants, Pests and Pathogens” from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. The information will be live from NC State through Black Board. The topic for the seminar is “Local Foods”. All speakers are specialists from NC State University. The seminar is free and will be held at the Currituck Extension facility next to Central Elementary School in Barco. For more information and to pre-register call the Extension office at 232-2262 or email Tommy Grandy at tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu
Pest Watch: Oncideres cingulata Twig Girdler – Fall is an excellent time to control this pest.

The twig girdler is a common insect pest of pecan and hickory, and to a lesser extent on other hardwood trees. The adult beetles girdle twigs and small branches causing the injured portions to break away or hang loosely on the tree. It is not uncommon to see the ground under infested trees almost covered with twigs that have been cut off. With pecans, the fruiting twigs of heavily infested trees are often reduced, resulting in lower nut yields the following year or years. During late summer and fall, the presence of severed twigs on the ground or hanging loosely attached is good evidence of twig girdler activity. Most girdled twigs are normally 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter, and 10 to 30 inches long. The cut by the twig girdler is the only one made from the outside by a beetle and is seldom complete with a thin column of center wood attached. During wind, the twig breaks leaving a jagged area in the center. Prior to girdling the twig, the adults have emerged in August to early October, mated and the female has laid her eggs in crevices on the bark of the twig that is girdled. The eggs hatch in the twig, the larvae feed and pupate inside the twig, then emerge as adults the following summer and fall. There is one generation per year. While the life cycle of the pest is inside the twig, this is an excellent time for control. Normally through the good sanitation of removing and destroying the severed twigs that fall to the ground over a couple seasons, the damaging population of this pest will be reduced. Insecticide is rarely justified or practical.

Cool-Season Grass Lawns - A Water Conservation Effort

September marks the start of the normal seeding and renovation time for cool-season grass species in most of North Carolina. The question is whether to begin fall renovation and seeding given the current environmental conditions. Typically, September seeding is desirable because night temperatures are decreasing and given adequate moisture, tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and the fine fescues will germinate and grow. Early seeding in September is beneficial because this allows these grasses to mature in the fall and therefore progress into the winter healthier. There are a lot of reasons this is important.

First, this means that when the grasses resume normal growth in the spring, they have a more extensive root system which will be better able to tolerate hotter and drier conditions in the late spring and summer. Second, a more mature turf tolerates pre-emergent herbicides better. Being able to use these materials in the spring to reduce weed competition means the perennial grasses can dominate rather than having a mixture of perennial grasses and annual weeds which will open the turf up for erosion problems and sediment loss under storm conditions. Third, a mature turf provides for slowing runoff meaning better infiltration and soil water storage during rainfall. This reduces the dependency on irrigation for keeping the turf in the healthiest condition.

Fall aerification is always advisable providing the soil moisture conditions permit the process to be effective. Aerification works best if the soil is moderately wet. This then allows for broadcast seeding to be used. The seed can remain protected until soil moisture is high enough for germination to occur. Seed (without moisture) can remain viable in the soil for an extended period of time. The worst situation is to irrigate to force germination and then stop. The seed will start to germinate and then the newly emerged seedlings will die. It takes 5 to 7 days for fescue to germinate and longer for Kentucky bluegrass. Fall seeding of cool-season grasses, even under drought conditions does make WaterWise sense!

Don’t Wait – Soil Sample Now!

This is great time to soil sample your gardens, lawns and special areas of your landscapes. By soil sampling now, you will receive your report in a matter of a couple weeks rather than a month or more if you sample in late fall or winter. Plus, by receiving your report now, you will be able to make needed soil amendments this fall to get your gardens and landscapes off to great start in 2013. Soil sample boxes and forms are available at the Currituck Extension Center, or by calling 232-2262.

NE NC Daffodil Society Meeting: The Northeast North Carolina Daffodil Society in conjunction with the Currituck County Extension Center and the Master Gardener Volunteers of Currituck County invite you to the Fall Daffodil Society meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2012 at the Currituck Extension Center. Admission is free and open to the public, you do not have to be a member to attend this meeting. Registration will open at 9:30am with the meeting starting at 10:00am. The meeting will include recognition of spring show workers, a speaker, a daffodil bulb raffle, a bulb exchange give away, and a pot-luck lunch. For more information please contact Clay Higgins at (252) 491-9268 (Cell) 252-207-7992 clayhiggins@centurylink.net or Tommy Grady (252) 232-2262 tommy_grady@ncsu.edu
Things to do in the Garden . . .

Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs especially camellias because roots can develop before summer heat. Now is the time to transplant any trees or shrubs that need to be moved. Spring blooming bulbs should be planted between October 15th and December 15th. Lilies can also be planted now, plant them deeper than tulips and daffodils. When planting mums, do not feed, their growing process has been completed.

This is a perfect time of year to propagate many of the woody shrubs in your yard. One of the simplest ways to do this is called simple layering. This is the development of roots while the stem is still attached to the parent plant. Simple layering is done by bending a low growing mature stem to the ground, covering with soil, leaving 6 to 12 inches above the soil and staking in place with wire. If done in the spring use a dormant branch. Periodically check for adequate moisture and the formation of roots. Examples of plants propagated by simple layering include climbing roses, forsythia, cotoneaster, viburnum, weigela, and wax myrtle. Some of these plants will have adequate roots in the spring, others may take another season.

Now is not the time to do a lot of major pruning. You can remove 10 percent or less of a plant's canopy at this time. Excessive pruning can reduce winter hardiness.

Dig and divide over crowded perennials that have finished blooming like agapanthus, daylily, penstemon and coreopsis to name a few.

Deadhead roses as the blooms fade, cutting off the flowers above the uppermost leaf on the stem. Remove dead or damaged canes. You can take stem cuttings of roses in early September by pushing cut stems into the soil in a prepared area of the garden where they can be left to root and develop for about a year.

Make the most of free seeds produced by perennials and other garden plants by saving them when they are fully ripe. Collect mature seeds in paper bags and hang them in a warm place to dry out. The seeds can then be placed into labeled envelopes and stored in a cool, dry place. Share with friends.

Stop fertilizing and watering amaryllis before October1. This will force it to go dormant. Leave it in its pot and place in a cool location (55 to 60 degrees) where it can remain dry until mid-December. When the foliage wilts and droops, cut it off. Then move the pot to a southern window, begin watering and fertilizing, and the flowering cycle will start again.

Master Gardener Program Training

Now is a great time to complete an application for the 2013 Currituck County Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training Classes. These classes provide a broad scope of horticulture training in areas such as plant identification, organic gardening, landscape design, pest management and more. Anyone and everyone are encouraged to apply regardless of past gardening experience. Classes begin Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and will continue for 13 weeks. Cost for the classes is $95.00. They will be held at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension facility in Barco, NC. If you are interested in becoming a Currituck Master Gardener call the NC Cooperative Extension office at 232-2262 to receive an application or e-mail Tommy Grandy at tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu

Small Farms & Roadside Markets

To “Be Healthy”, you need to “Eat Healthy”. Take advantage of late summer and fall fresh produce. “Make a Choice and Make It Local” by supporting Currituck County local growers and markets. Please view the Currituck Grown local growers brochure on our website, http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/ click on Agriculture & Food on the left side, then under links click Small Farms & Roadside Markets in Currituck County. This is your guide to purchasing locally grown fresh farm products, as well as value-added products from some of our farms in Currituck County. These brochures are also available at the Currituck County Extension Center in Barco, or by calling 232-2262. Everyone who enjoys locally grown farm products from North Carolina is encouraged to join other North Carolinians across the state in the 10% Campaign. Go to the www.nc10percent.com website to register and then see how your support to buy locally grown products makes a difference in your community.
Upcoming Events:

September 18  Canning Class – Jerky, $15.00 registration fee, pre-registration required, call 232-2261

October 6    Currituck Rural Farm Festival, demonstrations and vendors, 10am – 2pm, Currituck County Rural Center in Powells Point, call 232-2262 for more information or email tim_kirkpatrick@ncsu.edu

October 23   Plants, Pests and Pathogens topic “Local Foods”, 10am, Extension facility, call 232-2262 to pre-register or email tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu

January 2013 Currituck Master Gardener Volunteer Training Classes, for more information call 232-2262 or email tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu, pre-registration required

Go Green!
To receive this newsletter monthly via email please notify donna_keene@ncsu.edu to be removed from the US postage mailing list and added to the email list.

For additional information on any of the contents of this newsletter call or e-mail Tommy Grandy at 232-2262, tommy_grandy@ncsu.edu

475 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of $.15 per copy or $71.25

Tommy R. Grandy
Extension Agent, Ag.

Plant Facts: Russian Hollyhock
Alcea rugosa

Unlike most hollyhocks this species has little problem with rust. It also tends to be a perennial rather than a biennial. It grows 5 to 9 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide. It will bloom yellow in midsummer and rarely needs staking. Once the flowers have faded, cut the spires down to the low rosette of foliage. The plant will not use energy to produce seeds and will likely survive the winter. It will also come true from seed if desired.

MISSION, VISION AND GOALS
North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolina.
For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the Currituck County Center at 252-232-2262 no later than five business days prior to the event.

NC Cooperative Extension
Currituck County Center
120 Community Way
Barco, NC 27917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED