

Currituck Garden News



State University
A&T State University

**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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April 2015

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The Garden News is published to provide you with educational information, upcoming programs and opportunities on gardening issues. Feel free to share with others.

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Selecting Annuals

Annuals are great for providing color in the landscape for most of the growing season. True annuals grow, flower, set seed and die all in one year. Some biennials are grown as annuals but are not true annuals. Biennials grow foliage the first season and bloom the second season. Annuals are grouped as hardy, half-hardy or tender. Hardy annuals, such as pansies and ornamental kale, are planted in the fall and are grown for cool and cold weather color. Hardy annuals should be planted at least 6 weeks before the first expected frost. Half-hardy annuals, such as alyssum and dianthus, can tolerate light frost and are usually planted in early spring for spring and early summer color. Both will decline and / or die as the heat of summer sets in.

Plant as transplants in the fall, late winter or early spring:

- Lobelia erinus
- Dianthus
- Flowering Cabbage and Kale
- Johnny-jump-up and Pansy
- Snapdragon

Sow seed in the fall:

- Alyssum
- Annual Phlox (Phlox drummondii)
- Poppy
- Stocks
- Foxglove
- Sweet William (Dianthus barbatus)

Petunia and Ageratum



Gomphrena and Zinnia



Tender annuals, such as vinca, zinnia and impatiens, cannot tolerate freezing temperatures at all and should not be planted until all danger of frost is past. These annuals will tolerate very hot weather.

Dry location:

- Annual Vinca
- Cosmos
- Dusty Miller
- Gaillardia
- Globe Amaranth (Gomphrena globosa)
- Moss Rose
- Euphorbia marginata
- Cleome hasslerana
- Zinnia

Less dry location:

- Blue Daze (Evolvulus glomerata)
- Cypress Vine
- Dahlia
- Cuphea hyssopifolia
- Moon Vine (Ipomoea alba)
- Salvia
- Star Flower (Pentas lanceolata)

Most annuals need full sun for at least 6 hours a day. Shade tolerant annuals should be planted in areas that receive less than 6 hours. These annuals will tolerate shade in the afternoon if they had full sun during the morning.

Shade tolerant:

- Begonia
- Caladium
- Coleus
- Impatiens
- Lobelia erinus
- Wishbone Flower (Torenia fournieri)

Lawn Care

Now that the weather is better many of us are turning our attention to lawn care and spring gardening. Unfortunately, as we flock into the stores looking for lawn care products, most of what we see are “weed and feed” type fertilizers. With so many “weed and feed” products to choose from, it might lead you to believe that this is the appropriate and best product to use.

The “weed” part of these products is usually a preemergence herbicide that should have been applied to the lawn in February or early March before the forsythia blooms. Preemergence herbicides are applied to lawns prior to weed seed germination. This group of herbicides controls weeds during the weed seed germination process but does not actually prevent weed seed germination. When weeds are seen in the lawn, it is too late to apply a preemergence herbicide. When applied in the early spring months, preemergence herbicides provide season-long control of summer annual weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass and sandbur. When applied in the early fall months, this group of herbicides will control many winter annual weeds such as annual bluegrass, common chickweed and henbit. Some products may contain a post emergence herbicide which only controls weeds that are already present in the lawn and actively growing at the time of application.

The “feed” portion of these products is of course fertilizer. The correct time to fertilize a lawn will depend on which type of grass you have (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine or Fescue). Each of the grasses require a different rate and timing of application. For example, warm season grasses don't need to be fertilized until May. If you are using a “weed and feed” product, you might apply the herbicide too late or the fertilizer too early. While the use of a combination product is easier and less work, it is not always recommended. Making two separate applications at the proper time will produce a much healthier and more weed free lawn.



Fertilizer applications should be timed to coincide with the plant's growth cycle.

Bermuda: May, July, September

Centipede: May

St. Augustine: May, August

Tall Fescue: September, November, February

Zoysia: May, July

For more information about lawn herbicides see:

http://go.ncsu.edu/lawn_herbicides

How Do Insects Survive Winter?

This is the time of year when we start to speculate on whether the winter weather was cold enough to kill off troublesome insect pests. I hate to disappoint, but most insects are very well adapted for winter survival. So how do insects survive the winter? As the days get shorter and cooler in the fall, insects enter into an inactive state of arrested development called diapause. During the winter an insect's metabolic rate drops to one tenth or less, so it can use stored body fat to survive. Many insects also produce alcohols which act like antifreeze. Their bodies can reach below freezing temperatures without forming cell damaging ice crystals. In the spring, as temperatures rise, diapause is terminated and insect growth and development return to normal. Even with all of these adaptations, extreme cold and temperature fluctuations can indeed effect insect survival depending on how low the temperature dropped, how long the cold persisted and if snow cover was present. Other factors to consider are microclimates and how protected they are in their hiding places. So where do insects hide during the winter?

Insects spend winter in various life stages. Aphids overwinter as eggs laid in the bud scales of woody plants. Bagworm eggs are safely tucked away inside a bag. Tent caterpillar eggs can be found in a mass on branches. Bean leaf beetles spend winter as adults under loose bark or fallen leaves. Lady bugs congregate under firewood. Japanese Beetle grubs hide deep in the soil and some butterflies overwinter as pupae in cocoons or chrysalis. Each insect has its own way of dealing with cold weather and as much as we would like to think that a rough winter will take care of those pesky insects, most will survive.



Two soybean aphid eggs laid next to the bud scales of buckthorn.
(Marlin E. Rice) Iowa State Extension



Vegetable Garden

If you have not already done so, its time to prepare your garden for the planting of summer vegetables. Adding lime to the soil might be a part of your

yearly routine but it may not be necessary each and every year. In fact, adding to much lime can raise the pH to a level that is unsuitable for vegetable plants and cause nutrient deficiencies. Adding lime to the soil should be based on the pH you currently have and the crop you are trying to grow. If it has been 3 or more years since your last soil sample, you might want to consider sending one in for analysis.

As we move from March into April, our gardening activities transition from the planting of cool season crops like cabbage, kale, lettuce, onions and peas to warm season crops. April is a good time to plant snap and pole beans, beets, cantaloupe, sweet corn, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, swiss chard, tomato plants, turnips and watermelon.

For a complete list of vegetables, planting and harvesting dates and recommended varieties see:

http://go.ncsu.edu/spring_vege_guide

All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

Are you worried about diseases carried by ticks and mosquitoes? Do you want to know more about beneficial insects? Join us on the first Friday of every month at 2:00 pm for a webinar series called All Bugs Good and Bad. We will meet at NC Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center 120 Community Way in Barco, NC. The webinars are free but seating is limited so please register by calling 252-232-2262 or go.ncsu.edu/all-bugs

For more information contact Deborah Foster
Deborah_foster@ncsu.edu.

- **April** - No Webinar
- **May 1** - Beneficial Garden Helpers
- **June 5** - Insect Born Diseases



2015 Currituck Home, Flower and Garden Show

The Currituck County Master Gardeners invite you to attend this year's Home, Flower and Garden Show on Friday April 17th and Saturday April 18th. Doors will open to the public on Friday at 12:00 pm and close at 4:00 pm. Saturday's hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The show's theme this year is "Pollinator Appreciation".

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| • Vegetable Plants | • Bird Houses |
| • Herbs | • Wind Chimes |
| • Annual Flowers | • Pottery |
| • Hanging Baskets | • Garden Signs |
| • Houseplants | • Lawn Equipment |
| • Blooming Shrubs | • Honey and Bee Products |
| • Daylilies | • Gourds and Seeds |
| • Citrus Trees | • Tower Garden |
| • Succulent Plants | • Garden Gloves |

Educational Demonstrations

- Bee Condos
- Soil Sampling
- Plant Propagation
- Rain Barrel Kits

Children's Activities, Food and Fun

This event is co-sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center. The show will be held at 120 Community Way in Barco, NC. For more information about the show or if you would like to be a vendor, contact Deborah Foster 252-232-2262 or deborah_foster@ncsu.edu.



Rain Barrel Workshop

Join us on May 13 at 10:00 am for a demonstration on how to make a rain barrel. After the demonstration kits and barrels will be available for those who want to make a rain barrel to take home. A fee to cover the cost of materials will be charged. Admission and watching is free. Registration is required. Please call 252-232-2262 to sign up. For more information please contact Deborah Foster
deborah_foster@ncsu.edu.

For additional information on any of the contents of this newsletter call or email Debbie Foster at **252-232-2262**, deborah_foster@ncsu.edu

Deborah E. Foster

Mission, Vision and Goals

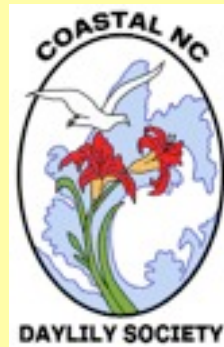
North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolina.

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.

Coastal NC Daylily Society

The next meeting for the Coastal NC Daylily Society will be on May 12, 2015 at 10:00 am. They will meet at North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center in Barco, NC. Anyone may attend and new members are always welcome.

The group is working towards the completion of an AHS Daylily Display Garden. The garden will bring national recognition to the society here in Currituck. Plans for the display garden will be featured in the Spring edition of the Hemalina magazine. The editors will showcase the society's plan to incorporate a cell phone app that will provide an audio video tour of the garden.



Follow The Daylily Society on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CoastalNorthCarolinaDaylilySociety

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