

## THE GARDEN PATH , JUNE/ JULY 2013

A publication of Kerr Lake Extension  
Master Gardeners

### PLANT OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE/JULY

By Marty Finkel,  
Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener

Goblet flower, *Cypella coelestis*



Photo courtesy of Plants Delights Nursery

This beautiful pale blue flower grows from a bulb, and its origin is South America. It is, however, hardy in Zone 7b and this correspondent has grown it successfully in Oxford for three years to date. It has pleated, blue-green, iris-like foliage and is about 24” tall. The flower resembles an iris, and although the impression is of blue, it has three larger lavender-blue petals and three smaller ones that are tricolor in white, yellow, and blue. Each flower lasts one day, but there is a succession of them for several months, starting in June. Grow it in sun to part-sun in average, well-draining garden soil. Some of the Master Gardener Volunteers got Goblet flower plants on a past field trip to Duke Gardens.



### GARDEN TO DO –JUNE AND JULY

By Carl Shafer,  
Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener

Always check previous TO DO lists as many items continue to be relevant and some you may have forgotten to do.

If rain does not fall, you need to provide one inch of water per week to keep the garden growing well. Use of mulch will help conserve moisture. Use of soaker hoses or drip irrigation will keep foliage dry and help reduce disease.

Continue your spray program on fruits as needed. Observe the time period required between the last spray and harvest. **Read the label.**

See “Insect Control For The Home Vegetable Garden” in the N.C. Chemical Manual for insecticide recommendations, (<http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html>). For recommendations on disease control, see “Managing Diseases in Home Gardens”, ([www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/agpubs/ag-436.pdf](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/agpubs/ag-436.pdf)) . With all pesticide use, always read and follow label instructions. It is the law!

As crops mature, compost or till in plant material that is not diseased. Diseased material should be discarded in the trash.

There is still time for a last planting of many warm season vegetables. These include beans, corn, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes. Select early maturing varieties and provide water if needed. Note that “Days to Maturity” in the fall will be as much as 14 days longer due to the shorter day length and cooler nights. Note that if you want pumpkins for Halloween or winter squash maturing in late fall for winter storage,

they should be planted in early July.

If you are considering a fall garden, pick up a copy of HIL 8001, *Growing a Fall Vegetable Garden*, or on the net see:

[www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8001.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8001.html).

Note some of the cool season crops need to be set out or seeded in July. If you have the space, you may want to try planting some lettuce, spinach, and other greens earlier than the listed dates and provide some shade and extra water. See the Central NC Planting Calendar for more crops that can be planted in June and July, as well as in the fall,

([http://cals.ncsu.edu/hort\\_sci/extension/documents/AG-756.pdf](http://cals.ncsu.edu/hort_sci/extension/documents/AG-756.pdf)).

If you have extra space in your garden, consider planting a cover crop. See below.

Check "Organic Production" on the NCORGANIC web site:

[www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/ncorganic/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/ncorganic/), for information on cover crops, season extension, pest and disease control, and other growing resources.

## HERB OF THE MONTH- JUNE/ JULY

By Edna Lovelace Gaston

Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener



*Rumex Acetosa* – Red Veined Garden Sorrel

*Rumex scutatus* – French Sorrel

**Height:** French is more prostrate, Garden could grow up to 3'

**Flowers:** reddish-green spikes, remove so plant can continue producing leaves

**Propagation:** seed, self sows freely, root division

**Growing conditions:** full sun to partial shade, well-drained medium rich soil

**Cultivation:** Both varieties grow well in moist soil and a sunny location. French's leaves are

larger than the Garden variety. Garden Sorrel needs to be divided about every 4 or 5 years.

**Uses:** Culinary – salads, soups, sauces, dips.

Household – juice to remove bleach rust, mold and ink stains

### History:

As with most herbs this one also has a long history, having migrated to America from the Mediterranean area. It can find a home in a culinary garden, dye garden (roots of *acetosa* produce soft pink while the whole plant produces a grayish yellow), container garden. While I'm not personally recommending this, a compress of leaves have a cooling property similar to *Aloe vera*. As summer and beach trips approach, keep this in mind.

Unfortunately this herb is not frequently found.

It is one of the easier herbs to grow, very forgiving when neglected. A nice perennial, it is worth the effort.

Get ready for hot weather,  
Ladybug

### Sources:

Herbs Their Culture and Uses. Rosetta E. Clarkson. The Macmillan Company, New York, NY, 1942.

The Pleasure of Herbs. Phyllis Shaudys. Storey Communications, Inc., Pownal, VT, 1986.

The Complete Book of Herbs. Lesley Bremness. Viking Studio Books, New York, NY, 1988.

## CHECKLIST FOR JUNE/JULY

By Mary Jane Bosworth,

Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener

*A garden is a friend you can visit anytime.*  
*Anonymous*

- ✓ Late June and July are the times to take root cuttings from many of your favorite shrubs. Cuttings should be hard enough that the stem breaks when bent, if not, it is too young to use.

- ✓ Major pruning of spring flowering shrubs should be done right after they bloom. If pruned after August 1<sup>st</sup> next year's blooms will be reduced.
- ✓ Bulbs such as tulips, Dutch iris, narcissus and daffodils need to be divided. Over crowding reduces flower production. When the leaves have turned brown, dig up the bulbs and replant immediately.
- ✓ Deadhead flowers in the garden to promote continued blooming.
- ✓ Snap off the tips of Chrysanthemums when the plants are about 6" tall for better blooms and a fuller plant.
- ✓ Remember to give gardens at least 1" of water a week
- ✓ Stake tall flowering plants such as holly hocks, lilies and asters.

### INTERESTING TID-BITS FOR MAY

By Marty Finkel,  
Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener

The plant of the month for May, the pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*), is available from an area wholesale nursery, so it should be available in Triangle area garden centers and nurseries.

The Kudzu bug is now found in over 89 NC counties in kudzu patches, soybean fields and other plants such as wisteria. They have several generations a year, and as temperatures cool and days get shorter, they start looking for shelter for the winter under bark, rocks, in leaf litter, etc. However, they also are known to move into homes in spring and fall like the Asian lady beetle does and/or congregate on light-colored surfaces (siding, fascia boards, etc.). The ones that over winter inside homes may end up inside the house instead of heading to food sources. Instead of using pesticides in the home to get rid of them, seal gaps and openings such as around plumbing and AC lines so they can't get in. Don't crush them since it may stain surfaces and/or release unpleasant odors. Vacuuming works, also picking and dropping them into soapy water.

This information is from NCSU Entomology Insect Note ENT/rsc#37

One of the highlights of the JCRA's annual Gala in the Garden fundraiser held on April 28 (besides all the opportunities to bid on extra-cool plants) was the Asian Dragon sculpture in the Event Lawn – it was fantastic! Will Hooker's small-scale landscape design studio built it primarily of bamboo after the Arboretum staff requested a sculpture piece to commemorate the opening of the new walk through the Asian Valley. Everyone in the class, including the instructors, Will and Anne Spafford submitted sketches of their ideas, and the class chose Justin Durango's. Justin was a 2012 summer intern, and his design was of a Chinese dragon flowing in and out of the ground. It had a 9 foot tall head, 3 body loops, and an 8 foot tail with a rotating double spiral! The class harvested over 100 bamboo culms ranging in size from 2"-3" in diameter and 20' long from a grove in Durham. The dragon took 15 days to build and install with the class and 26 other volunteers putting in close to 1,200 hours of labor.



### May 18, 2013 Symposium Report

By Marty Finkel,  
Kerr Lake Extension Master Gardener

The first Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Symposium, "Great Gardening . . . Get in Gear,"

was held on Saturday, May 18, at the First Presbyterian Church on Young Street in Henderson. Paul McKenzie lead the talks with “Great Gardens Start With Great Soil,” followed by “Beautiful Bloomers,” on the selection, landscape use and care of daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) by B.J. Wright, and ended with “Vegetable Gardening Forever,” on site selection/preparation, vegetable choices, starting and transplanting, garden care and maintenance, and when to harvest by Mary Jane Bosworth. All the speakers did an excellent job in their presentations and in answering questions from the audience.

Edna Gaston coordinated the organization of the Symposium with about 17 helpers drawn from both the established and the newly graduated MG volunteers. Edna took care of registration, announcements, and introducing the program. Candy and her committee provided refreshments, and Kay’s committee was in charge of decorations which turned into plants given as door prizes. These many types of potted plants were brought by committee members, and Deborah made up the bags of black sunflower seeds. Each person attending went home with 3 – 5 plants or other items, including a Big White Bearded Iris from Kay. Paul brought a set of informational material from the Extension service for each attendee.

The Symposium was well organized, went smoothly, and imparted valuable information. There was a refreshments break between talks, and everyone seemed to enjoy the experience. It can be considered a success from every angle.

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*Pictures courtesy of Edna Gaston, Plants Delight Nursery and JC Raulston Arboretum*