Guilford County Cooperative Extension Community Garden Outreach, News, and Information

Garden Wise

February 2016

Meet Hanna Pettus

and

Crystal Mercer

Ready, Set, Garden!

Linda Brandon, EMGV

There may indeed be a few inches of snow on the ground as we're putting this newsletter together, but the highs later this week should be well into the 50s. And any time the temperature reaches those levels — once the holiday season is safely behind us — I say let's get gardening! Chances are good that our ground will still need some time to dry out enough for planting, but that gives us a good chunk of time to invest in the other gardening essential: planning. Have you pulled out last year's garden records so you can plan your crop rotation for this season? Have you been composting so you'll have homemade soil amendments ready to go? Have you consulted last year's records concerning which specific seeds did well for you, and which didn't quite meet your expectations? Have you shopped the absurdly beautiful seed and plant catalogs that have been hitting your mailbox (or email in-box) since late December? If you have, you know those plant hybridizers have been hard at work, coming up with new, exciting varieties of old standby plants for you to lust after and purchase.

Just remember, a little bit of time invested now will serve your garden well as the year progresses. And if you *don't* have a journal from last year to assist you in your planning, go grab a binder or a spiral-bound notebook — grab your kid's finger painting paper, just grab something! — and start recording *this* year's garden. We invest time, money, and a *lot* of energy in our gardens; by taking the extra step of keeping gardening records, we can take our gardening to the next level.

Most important, though, is that we all just get out there and grow *something* . . . and have fun while doing it!

"The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives."

Gertrude Jekyll

Now that our former Consumer Horticulture Agent, Karen Neill, is Cooperative Extension Director for Guilford County, she has *finally* been able to hire her replacement, and *our* new Consumer Horticulture Agent, Hanna Pettus. Hanna comes to us from Auburn University, and she started in her new position on December 1 (coincidentally, the same time the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers welcomed our new Volunteer Coordinator, Crystal Mercer.) Hanna and Crystal both hit the ground running; they've stepped into a complex organization with a lot to learn. and I can promise they're looking forward to meeting as many of our gardeners as possible. When Crystal's not in the EMGV office, she's on the Reception desk, and Hanna — well, there's no telling where Hanna will be on any given day. Don't be shy if you're in the Ag Center neighborhood; stop in and say Hello!
And read on for Hanna's very first article for Garden Wise!

Prevent Squash Bugs with IPM

Hanna Pettus, Consumer Horticulture Agent

If there is one question in the summer that could be tagged as a FAQ, "What is killing my squash?" is it. Many gardeners have trouble with squash bugs, and they are a frustrating, hard to control pest that plagues nearly everyone at some point or another. In the past, many gardeners used broad spectrum insecticides, but now most are going away from this practice because it's costly, not so environmentally friendly, and can kill beneficial insects. The approach that farmers are taking now is an Integrated Pest Management strategy, which includes removing debris from around the plants, crop rotation, early planting, planting trap crops, using beneficial insects, and targeted chemical applications. Taking steps to prevent infestations initially will help reduce squash bug populations in the summer. There is a great article found in the Journal in Integrated Pest Management that talks about the life cycle of squash bugs and includes some solutions that you can implement. The article is geared towards growers, but the information is the same for growers and everyday gardeners alike. For chemical recommendations contact your County Extension Office and always read the label.

You can find the article at http://jipm.oxfordjournals.org/content/7/1/1

All photos by Jeff Hahn, via University of Minnesota Cooperative Extension website, http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/squash-bugs/

Mark your calendars NOW for the 14th Annual Passalong Plant Sale & Festival:

- **Friday, May 6, 9:00 am—3:00 pm (Best Selection!)**
- **Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 am to Noon**

Held in the Barn Complex of the Ag Center, this year's sale features Organic Vegetable Plants! This event is the sole Extension Master Gardener Volunteer fundraiser; your purchase directly supports our outreach programs. Passalong Plants — those propagated by other gardeners and shared with you — are a proud Southern tradition with deep, deep roots. Who knows: some of the plants you buy may be family heirlooms!

Central North Carolina Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs

Central North Carolina is a wonderful place to garden. Almost any type of vegetable or fruit can be grown successfully provided you choose appropriate varieties and plant at the right time. The climate, the season, and potential pests all affect the selection of what and when to plant.

Adapted to Climate: Freezing temperatures, high temperatures, humidity, and solar intensity, all common in central North Carolina, can put stress on plants. To successfully grow plants in this environment, select varieties that are tolerant of temperature extremes, plant at the appropriate times to avoid temperature extremes, or plan to protect the plants. It is possible to grow plants out of season by creating microclimates that differ from the overall climate by providing shade, humidity, or artificial heat.

Seasons: We have three optimal growing seasons: spring, summer, and fall. Both day length and temperature vary dramatically between seasons (short days and cold temperatures in winter to long days and high temperatures in summer). Since few annual plants are suited to thrive in both circumstances, it is important to choose plants that mature quickly to ensure a complete life cycle within one season.

Disease and Pest Resistance: Choose varieties that have been bred to resist diseases and pests. Some companies list resistance on the plant tag, the seed package, or in a seed catalog. Many companies use initials following the plant variety name. For example, "V" may mean resistant to *Verticillium* wilt disease, "N" may indicate resistance to nematodes, "F" may indicate

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resistance to *Fusarium* wilt disease, and "T" may indicate resistance to Tobacco Mosaic virus. Different companies use different symbols, so be sure to check their key to understand the labeling. Choose a planting date to avoid known pest seasons. Delay fall planting until whitefly populations decline with cooler temperatures, for example, or delay spring planting until soils become warm to reduce fungal and bacterial disease problems.

Cultivars: Select varieties that provide desirable yield, taste, texture, and color. Using varieties that mature quickly may help avoid insect and disease problems. New varieties are released each year, and other varieties may become unavailable. Check with your local Extension website, Extension Master Gardener volunteers, or Extension agents for the varieties best adapted your area. You can also read vegetable variety reviews from gardeners across the country online at http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu.

Planting dates: These dates are suggested guidelines and should provide the highest probability of success, but weather conditions vary from year to year and planting dates should be adjusted accordingly. Plants established in the middle of the recommended planting dates will do best with lower success rates at both the earlier and later recommended planting dates. The dates on the chart are for planting out in the garden. If you provide shade in the summer and frost protection in the winter, you may be able to extend the season both before and after these recommended dates. Spun-woven covers can allow you to begin your garden earlier in the spring and extend it longer into the fall. In addition, plastic mulches can be used to produce vegetables earlier in the season. Planting additional plants every few weeks within the planting window will extend your harvest over a greater period.

Transplants: If growing your own transplants, start seedlings six to eight weeks before transplanting them into the garden. Protect tender transplants from severe temperature conditions. Harden them off prior to transplanting by gradually introducing them to the new environment. Just before transplanting, take them outside for increasing periods each day until they are acclimatized to the new temperature and light conditions.

Garden Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs in the Piedmont

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Artichokes, Globe	1 year	30 in						T	T	T																
Artichokes, Jerusalem**	6-8 months	9 – 12 in						Tu	Tu	Tu																
Arugula	40-50	6-9 in			S	S	S	S									S	S	S	S						
Asparagus	2 years	18 in	C	C	C	C	C	C																C	C	C
Basil	50-75	2-8 in									S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T										
Beans, Lima-Bush	65-80	6 in								S	S	S	S	S	S	S										
Beans, Lima-Pole	75-95	6 in								S	S	S	S			S										
Beans, Snap-Bush	50-55	2 in						S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S						
Beans, Snap-Pole	65-70	6 in							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S						
Beets	55-60	2 in					S	S	S							S	S	S	S							
Broccoli	T=70-80	18 in				T	T	T	T								T	T	T							
Brussels Sprouts	S=90-100	14-18 in													T	T	T	T								
Cabbage	T=63-75 S=90-120	12 in			T	T	T	T	T							T	T	T	T							
Cabbage, Chinese	T=45 S=75-85	12 in						S,T									S	S		T	T					
Carrots	75-80	2 in			S	S	S	S						S	S	S	S	S	S							
Cauliflower	T=55-65 S=85-95	18 in				S,T	S,T	S,T	S,T								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Celery	120-150	6-8 in				T	T	T						T	T	T	T									
Chard, Swiss	60-70	6 in					S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T							S, T	S, T	S, T							
Cilantro	50-55	2-4 in			S	S	S	S												S						
Collard Greens	60-100	18 in				T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T		S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T							

Note: B= Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers

** Best grown in a pot, as it can spread aggressively.

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Corn, Sweet	85-90	12 in						S	S	S	S	S														
Cucumbers	56-65	12 in								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T									
Dill	40-55	2-4						S									S	S	S							
Eggplant	80-85	24 in								T	T	T	T				T	T								
Garlic	180-210	4-6 in																		B	B	B	B	B		
Kale	40-50	6 in				S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T			S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Kohlrabi	50-60	4 in				S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T			S, T	S, T	S, T							
Leek	120-150	4 in				S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T												
Lettuce, Head	70-85	10 in			S	S	S	T	T	T								S	S	T	T					
Lettuce, Leaf	40-50	6 in			S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T							S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Melons, Cantaloupe	85-90	24 in								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T											
Melons, Watermelon	90-100	60 in								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T												
Mustard	30-40	2 in				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S	S						
Okra	60-70	12 in									S, T	S, T					S	S								
Onions, Bulb	60-80	4 in	S	S	S	S	S, B	S, B									S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Onions, Green	60 - 70	1-2 in			S	S	S, T	S, T										T	S, T							
Pac Choi/ Bok Choy	30 - 75	7-12 in						T										T	T	T						
Parsley	75	9-12 in				S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Parsnips	100-130	3-4 in				S	S	S	S	S	S						S	S	S	S						
Peanuts	145 - 160	6-8 in									S	S														
Peas, Dwarf	54-60	4 in	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								S	S	S	S						
Peas, Trellis	54-72	2-3 in	S	S	S	S	S	S	S								S	S	S	S						
Peas, Field/ Southern	55-65	4 in						S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S								

Note: B= Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers

** Best grown in a pot, as it can spread aggressively.

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Peppers	75-80	18 in								T	T	T	T				T									
Potatoes, Irish	95-120	10 in				Tu	Tu	Tu																		
Potatoes, Sweet	95-125	10 in									T	T	T	T	T											
Pumpkin	115-120	4 ft								S	S	S	S	S	S											
Radishes	20-25	1 in			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S							
Rutabaga	70-80	4 in			S	S	S	S	S						S	S	S	S	S	S						
Spinach	50-60	6 in				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S	S	S					
Squash, Summer	50-60	24 in							S, T	S, T	S. T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T									
Squash, Winter	70-95	36 in								S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T									
Sunflower	55-110	9-24 in						S	S	S	S															
Tomatoes	75-85	18 in								T	T	T	T	T	T		T									
Turnips	55-60	2 in			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S							

Note: B= Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers

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Organic Weed Control

by Nikki Christakos, EMGV

There are several ways to manage weeds organically in the garden. A few different forms of weed control measures to consider are preventative, cultural, mechanic, and informed. All of these help organically control weeds in the garden individually but should be combined in an integrated approach to most effectively mitigate weeds for a thriving garden space.

Preventative measures may be one of the easiest forms of organic weed control and should never be overlooked in the garden. A crucial preventative measure for weed control is sanitation. All gardening tools and equipment should be sanitized to prevent cross contamination and inadvertently spreading weed seeds and other potential diseases from contaminated plants. Buying transplants and seeds from reputable sources can ensure that weed seeds are not embedded in the product. Checking plants for weeds before buying is another easy way to prevent weeds from making their way into the garden. Mulching around plants prevents light from getting to the soil which prevents weeds from growing. It also increases moisture levels for the plants. Mulching mediums can include compost, wood chips, hay, and straw. It is important to take the preventative measure of ensuring that whatever medium is used as mulch does not contain weed seeds as they can carry the seeds into the garden to germinate, this is especially relevant when using straw, hay, compost, and composted manure. Ensure that the compost is heated to at least 160 degrees for 3 days prior to use, which should not be hard to do in an effective composting system. These measures can prevent a weed problem before it has a chance to begin.

Cultural methods of organic weed control can include crop rotation, planting cover crops, irrigation techniques, and companion planting. A cultural method to weed control is intrinsically organic in that it gives advantages to plants in the garden which in turn limits the growing ability of weeds. -Crop rotation lowers weed density and helps to maintain soil fertility. Knowing which crops to plant in rotation based on soil type and relevant weed problems can suppress those weeds and prevent them from becoming an overwhelming problem. Planting cover crops, even in walking paths, can compete with weeds and limit their germination while simultaneously improving the soil. Drip irrigation can also prevent weed growth by only getting water to the areas with intentional plants and not to the soil surrounding the plants where weeds like to grow. Planting intentionally to prevent space for weeds and provide shade to open spaces so that weeds do not grow maximizes garden space while preventing weeds. Companion planting enables a gardener to use garden space more methodically to prevent weed growth and promote plant growth. Companion plants complement one another to ensure stronger growth and optimum use of space which creates added competition for weeds in the garden. Cultural methods of organic weed control are a way for plants to help the gardener manage and mitigate weeds and should be implemented as a way to enhance the sustainability of a garden.

Mechanical methods of organic weed control are probably the most used and well known. These can include: hand pulling, hoeing, pruning, tilling, and mowing. Hand pulling is most effective with annual weeds because the underground root systems of perennial weeds are too complex to eradicate fully with this method. Hoeing is the most effective method for small weeds because they can be easily scraped from the surface before having time to get established. Seek further information on effective hoes and hoeing techniques at the NC Cooperative Extension website (listed below). Pruning weeds is a good way to control invasive species and keep them from spreading out of control. Some herbs and plants in the garden can become weeds if they are not pruned especially before the seeds fall. Tilling is another mechanical method of reducing weeds, especially small weeds. However, it may be more advantageous to till by moonlight since the sun can help germinate weed seeds. Also, keep in mind that tilling is ineffective on perennial weeds and can actually spread them by cutting the roots and rhizomes. Mowing can also reduce weeds but is not the most effective control method. It is important to use the right mechanical method when weeding to save time and energy while effectively reducing weed growth.

Organic Weed Control (continued)

Another method of organic weed control that may not be considered often is being thoroughly informed about weeds: their life cycles, how they spread, and how to identify them. This is important because not all weeds spread the same way, some can spread through cultivation. For example, Jerusalem artichokes actually spread if you till them up because of their underground tuberous stems and roots. Knowing a weed's life cycle can help determine when to initiate a control method by preventing germination altogether or by eradicating young seedlings before they have a chance to really take root. An informed gardener, who is able to classify a weed and whether it is a perennial, like dandelions, annual, like crab grass, or biennial, such as bull thistle, is able to determine the best time to prevent a weed. Understanding whether a weed has underground root systems that must be removed is crucial to prevent future resurfacings. Therefore, one of the easiest methods for controlling weeds is being knowledgeable about them.

Ultimately, no single method for weed management is completely effective on its own, and an integrated weed management system that utilizes preventative, cultural, mechanic, and informed methods should be implemented for optimum organic weed control.

Sources:
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http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/chapter-7-weed-management

Share the Harvest

As you are planning your gardens, please consider planting some extra for the hungry in our community. Share the Harvest is a non-profit, started by community gardens and the NC Cooperative Extension Service, that receives donated produce and distributes it to Guilford County agencies that either prepare a meal for the hungry or have a food pantry. We will start accepting donations of fresh produce and making distributions in late May at the Interactive Resource Center and other sites in the county. *Watch for our new website!*

On the next two pages, you'll find the schedule for this Spring's **Growing the Green Way** series of gardening programs, brought to you by the Speakers' Bureau of the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. They'll be presented at four different venues in Greensboro, providing high-quality, free gardening information for all! Immediately following the Growing the Green Way series schedule, you'll find information for the programs that will be presented by the EMGVs at High Point Public Library. Everyone is invited to as many of these free programs as you'd like to attend. There's no charge, but we do ask that you RSVP — information is on both schedules — so we'll know how many people to expect.

Growing the Green Way Class Series

SPRING 2016

Class Locations:

- Cooperative Extension Office, 3309 Burlington Road, G'boro, NC 27405
- Bur-Mil Park (Wildlife Education Center), 5834 Bur-Mil Club Road, G'boro 27410
- Greensboro Arboretum (Ed Center), 401 Ashland Drive, G'boro 27403
- Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Road, G'boro, NC 27410

**** Programs are designed to be approximately one hour long, but may run slightly over depending on questions and discussion - which are encouraged!***

CLASSES ARE FREE

Pre-Registration Is Requested

Call or email Pam Marshall at 641-2400 or pamela_marshall@ncsu.edu and sign up for your choice of workshop and location.

PLANNING THE 3-SEASON VEGETABLE GARDEN

Vegetable gardening is especially productive in the Piedmont because we can grow food at least 10 months of the year! The key is good planning and succession planting. January is the perfect time to start getting ready; let's talk about the many ways to get the most out of your personal planting space.

Thursday, Jan. 14th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, Jan. 17th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Wednesday, Jan. 20th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, Jan. 26th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

PROPER PRUNING PREVENTS POOR PLANT PERFORMANCE

The art of pruning is not the same thing as using electric shears to turn shrubs into green meatballs (yikes!). This class will discuss the tools, techniques and timing for pruning small ornamental trees and shrubs, and how doing it right is the easy way to have healthier, prettier, and longer-lived plants.

Wednesday, Jan. 27th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, Jan. 28th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, Jan. 31st	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Tuesday, Feb. 2nd	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING

Everyone wants to save time and money on their landscape – you can do this while still creating a beautiful yard by making smart and environmentally-friendly choices. Class discussions focus on those choices, and selecting and growing plants that tolerate and even thrive in our Piedmont conditions.

Monday, Feb. 8th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, Feb. 9th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Thursday, Feb. 11th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, Feb. 14th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum

TOTALLY TOMATOES – ALL ABOUT OUR FAVORITE FRUIT

Time to start planning, it's the key to enjoying the taste of your own home-grown tomatoes. That's all we'll be talking about in this session – proven tips and techniques for successfully growing America's most popular garden vegetable (or is it a fruit?). Get ready for tomato sandwiches all summer long.

Wednesday, Feb. 17th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Sunday, Feb. 21st	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Thursday, Feb. 25th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Tuesday, March 1st	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

See back page for more class listings






BENEFICIAL INSECTS: IT'S A BUG-EAT-BUG WORLD

Did you know that less than 1% of insects are considered pests? Let's learn about some of the beneficial insects who are natural pest enemies (predators and parasites), and how to recognize these "good guys" at various life stages. We'll also discuss how to protect and encourage their populations in our gardens.

Monday, Feb. 22nd	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, March 3rd	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, March 6th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Tuesday, March 8th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN

Learn about best practices for best results in your Piedmont vegetable garden, including: how to prepare soil, the selection and timing of vegetable varieties, and using integrated pest management techniques to control insects and diseases organically. Growing your own food can be economical and enjoyable!

Sunday, March 13th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Monday, March 14th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, March 17th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Tuesday, March 22nd	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

EASY TO GROW CULINARY HERBS

Some of us already grow basil, oregano, and thyme – but what about stevia, sage, or lemon grass? By knowing the characteristics of the plants, you can have lots of fresh herbs to use year round. Come join us to talk about being successful at growing the herbs you want to use in your kitchen.

Sunday, March 20th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Monday, March 28th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, March 29th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Thursday, March 31st	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center

EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

One of the hottest trends today is adding to your quality of life, and the enjoyment of your gardening space, by including plants that are both ornamental and edible in the landscape. Spring is a natural time to get started, so please join us for some ideas and inspiration on creating your own 'paradise garden'.

Sunday, April 3rd	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Thursday, April 7th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Monday, April 11th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, April 12th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

BACKYARD HABITAT: GARDENING WITH (AND IN SPITE OF) WILDLIFE

One of the great benefits gardeners enjoy is observing and supporting nature since birds, butterflies, and other creatures find habitat in our yards – this program is about how to make them welcome. We'll also talk a little bit about ways to discourage any uninvited guests who may sometimes come to the party.

Sunday, April 17th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Thursday, April 21st	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Monday, April 25th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Tuesday, April 26th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension

PRESENTED BY:

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN GUILFORD COUNTY and THE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

SPONSORED BY:

GREENSBORO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT and GREENSBORO BEAUTIFUL, INC.

2016 Spring Gardening Classes

High Point Public Library

Presented by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

All classes are on Wednesday nights:

January and March are in the Story Room

February and April are in the Morgan Room

Class Location

High Point Public Library

901 North Main Street
High Point, NC
(336) 883-3660

Classes are free!
No pre-registration required.

QUESTIONS?

Call Pam Marshall at 641-2400
or by email at
pamela_marshall@ncsu.edu

JANUARY - PLANNING THE 3-SEASON VEGETABLE GARDEN

Wednesday, January 20th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Story Room)

Vegetable gardening is especially productive in the Piedmont because we can grow food at least 10 months of the year! The key is good planning and succession planting. January is the perfect time to start getting ready for this year's garden; let's talk about the many ways to get the most produce out of your personal planting space.

FEBRUARY - TOTALLY TOMATOES: FROM SEED TO SANDWICH

Wednesday, February 17th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

Now's the time to start thinking about it - how to get the earliest and the tastiest home-grown tomatoes from your own garden? That's all we'll be talking about in this session - proven tips and techniques for success with America's most popular vegetable (or is it a fruit?). Get ready for tomato sandwiches all summer long!

MARCH - GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN

Wednesday, March 16th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Story Room)

Time to get out and get growing! Learn about best practices for best results in your Piedmont vegetable garden, including: how to prepare soil, the selection and timing of vegetable varieties, and using integrated pest management techniques to control insects and diseases organically. Growing your own food can be economical and enjoyable too.

APRIL - EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

Wednesday, April 20th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

One of the hottest trends today is adding to your quality of life, and the enjoyment of your gardening space, by including plants that are both ornamental and edible in the landscape. Spring is a natural time to get started, so please join us for some ideas and inspiration on creating your own home 'paradise garden'.

Kids' Corner

Growing Trash Can Potatoes

by Deborah Pelli, EMGV

Growing potatoes in a container is easy and fun for both kids and adults. A clean 20 or 32 gallon trash can is a convenient container for spud gardening. It can be made of metal or plastic. Prepare the trash can by drilling drainage holes in it. Drill enough holes in the bottom to allow water to flow out freely, while keeping the bottom strong enough to hold the soil. Drill a few holes on the sides of the trash can too. Fill the bottom of the can with about 6 inches of potting soil or potting mix. Compared to our native garden soil, potting soil/mix is light-weight, drains well, and does not harbor insect eggs or soil borne diseases, so is better suited to container gardening. Another benefit of such products is they usually contain enough fertilizer for the first 3-4 weeks of growth.

You can obtain seed potatoes that are certified disease-free from garden supply centers or online. Grocery store potatoes may be less vigorous, more prone to disease, and may have been subjected to substances or storage practices that inhibit sprouting. Potatoes can be planted in our area from mid-February through March, but if you wait until the second half of March to plant your trash can potatoes, you won't risk subjecting the young sprouts to late frosts.

Cut seed potatoes into chunks that have two or three eyes. Spread them out on the soil in the trash can with their eyes up and cut surfaces down, about 6 inches apart. Cover them with 4 – 6 inches of potting soil/mix, water them, and place the trash can in a sunny spot in your garden. Once the stems grow up above the level of the soil, cover them with a few more inches of potting soil/mix, but leave the very top leaves exposed. Repeat as the stem grow until the can is full. Potato tubers will grow all along the stems, from the bottom to the top of the can.

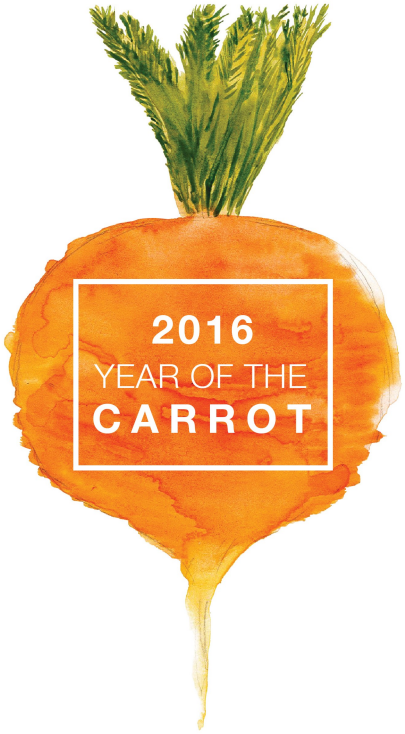
Keep the soil moist by watering regularly, about 1 inch total per week. Apply a balanced liquid fertilizer about six weeks after the sprouts have topped the first layer of soil. After about 100 – 120 days, the above ground plant parts will turn yellow and your potatoes will be ready to harvest. Here comes the easy part. Simply dump out the trash can and pick up your potatoes.

References and additional information on growing potatoes:

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw/eb284/entry_10309/

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/vegetables/potato.html

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/crops/hgic1317.html



The National Garden Bureau has proclaimed 2016 to be the Year of the Carrot.

From their website (ngb.org):

While carrots are one of the top 10 most economically important vegetable crops in the world, they also are one of the most popular vegetables to grow in home gardens - and for good reason.
Carrots are delicious, nutritious, versatile, and with just a little bit of know-how, this root crop is easy to grow.
It is “root” to tell a lie: While Vitamin A that is derived from Beta Carotene found in orange carrots does aid in overall eye health, you won’t be able to have full-fledged night vision from eating an abundance of carrots, as some have purported.
Your skin, however, CAN turn yellow from eating an abundance of carrots! Not to worry though, the yellowing will go away after a few weeks as long as you cut down on the carrot intake.

History:

The ancestor to the modern day carrot is believed to have originated in Afghanistan and was purple, scrawny, and pungent. Over time, cultivation by Greeks and Romans resulted in roots that were plumper, tastier, and came in shades of purple, red, and black. It wasn’t until the late 16 or early 17th century that the orange, appetizing carrots that we know today were bred by the Dutch in Europe.

Basic Types:

Carrots (Daucus carota) are members of the Apiaceae family, which also includes culinary plants such as anise, celery, coriander (cilantro), dill, and parsnips. They are biennials, meaning that they will flower in the second year of growth, but are typically grown as annuals (grown and harvested in the same year). There are several different carrot types and they are primarily divided up by shape.

Variety/Series Names:

The following are some of the more well-known types, along with their characteristics and links to NGB members websites for more information on ordering.

Chantenay - Conical, triangular shaped roots with broad shoulders and rounded tips. Sweet flavor makes it good for eating fresh.

Varieties include:

- Royal Chantenay
- Red Core
- Kuroda

Danvers - Cylindrical, thick roots that are often times used to make carrot juice due to the high water content and low sugar content.

Varieties include:

- Danvers
- Danvers Half Long

Imperator - Long, tapered roots with narrow shoulders. These are typically the carrots you would buy in a plastic bag at the grocery.

Varieties include:

- Sugarsnax 54
- Imperator 58
- Yellowbunch

Miniature/Baby - Either small round roots (also called Planet-types) or cylindrical and short.

Myth debunked: Baby carrots that are purchased in a bag at the grocery are actually made from long, skinny carrots that have been cut.

Varieties include:

- Atlas
- Parisian
- Adelaide

Nantes - Cylindrical, "cigar-shaped" roots that are sweet and crispy.

Varieties include:

- Purple Haze (All-America Selection Winner)
- Nelson

Successful How-To-Grow:

Carrots are easy to grow from seed and perform best when directly sown into a garden bed or patio container. National Garden Bureau Members not only provide great products, but great growing information, too. Here are links to some of their websites that help to explain how to grow carrots:

- Territorial Seed Company Carrot Growing Guide
- Johnny's Selected Seeds Carrot Growing Guide - 4 Keys to Carrot Culture
- Burpee's How to Plant and Grow Carrots Video

The National Garden Bureau recognizes and thanks Josh Kirschenbaum from PanAmerican Seed as author and contributor to this fact sheet. Reprinted with permission from the National Garden Bureau.

Candied Carrots

Ingredients

- 1 pound carrots, cut into 2 inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons butter, diced
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch black pepper

Directions

1. Place carrots in a pot of salted water. Bring water to a boil, reduce heat to a high simmer and cook about 20 to 30 minutes. Do not cook the carrots to a mushy stage!
2. Drain the carrots, reduce the heat to its lowest possible setting and return the carrots to the pan. Stir in butter, brown sugar, salt and pepper. Cook for about 3 to 5 minutes, until sugar is bubbly. Serve hot!

From AllRecipes.com

Lemon Glazed Carrots

Ingredients

- 2 carrots, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- salt and ground black pepper to taste (optional)

1. Place carrots into a large pot and cover with water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until carrots are tender, about 8 minutes. Drain.
2. Heat butter in a skillet over medium heat; cook and stir carrots, brown sugar, and lemon juice in the melted butter, stirring often, until sugar has dissolved, 2 minutes.

From AllRecipes.com

Garden Reports

The raised beds at the community garden at **First Presbyterian Church in High Point** are gardened by all ages of the church from the preschoolers who plant marigold seeds to the middle school and high school students and adults who tend the garden. Vegetables grown in the garden are donated to Open Door Ministries.
Jeanette Quick

The Giving Back Garden, sponsored and maintained by members of **First Presbyterian Church Greensboro**, is located at the corner of West Fisher and Greene Streets. It is designed in the shape of the great rose window which personifies the church. All produce grown there is given to local organizations that help the poor and needy. There are 13 beds, each of which is planted and maintained by volunteers from the church, and overseen by Garden Wizard, Glenn Williamson. In 2015, over a thousand pounds of produce was donated. Plans for the cool season this year include crops of spinach, lettuce, sugar snap peas, carrots, kale, bok choy, arugula and broccoli. Summer crops include bush beans, tomatoes, eggplant, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, lima beans, okra, onions and red potatoes. While not an organic garden in the strictest sense, an attempt is always made to grow things naturally without chemicals.

The small **Guilford College UMC** raised bed garden is receiving soil this late winter to add growing depth. Always a productive garden, our produce goes to Share the Harvest and some other worthy causes. We maximize space with trellis for cukes (and pole beans). The larger GMS raised bed garden has seen interest wane last couple years, but I hope to garner some involvement this spring (hopefully not from deer). *George Bowen*

The **Starmount Presbyterian Church Community Garden** will undergo a big change this coming season with the installation of a fence. After seven years, the deer found us and feasted during the summer of 2015 so a fence is now necessary. Our workdays will start at the end of March. *Linda Anderson*

Mixed Greens Community Garden will have their annual covered dish dinner on Feb. 4 with the purpose of getting organized for the coming year, There are 96 beds each measuring 4' X 50' and there are some beds available for lease at $50 for the first year. If you are interested in leasing one, call the Ag Center for an application, 641-2400.
Ginny Bradsher

World Relief High Point is excited to share the news that land donated to us from Habitat for Humanity will be used to make a community garden. We have had one workday in conjunction with High Point University's "Day of Service" for MLK Jr. Day. Approximately 50 students, faculty and refugees came to work on beginning to clear the land. We look forward to learning and sharing our experiences with you all! *Sandy Paige*

Photos from the HPU Day of Service workday at the World Relief High Point Community Garden site.

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