June 2007

“It is only when you start a garden – probably after age fifty – that you realize something important happens every day.”

-Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

BE SAFE: READ THIS LABEL

For many of us, it has become habit to read the nutrition labels at the grocery store. But, how often do you read the labels on your garden pesticides? Pesticide labels contain information vital to your personal safety, as well as reducing environmental risks.

Start by looking for the “signal word” on the front of the label: Caution, Warning or Danger. Products with the Caution label are the least toxic to mammals. Danger is most toxic.

Read further to make sure the chemical will control the disease, insects or weed you want to control. You will also want to make sure it is safe to use where you want to use it – vegetables, lawn, or on specific plants.

Keep all pesticides in original containers with the label intact. You will always need to have ready access to the information on mixing, safety, storage, disposal and first aid.

Normal June Weather

Weather Averages
For Asheville North Carolina
Courtesy of Wikipedia

| Normal June Average High | 82°F |
| Normal June Average Low  | 60°F |
| Normal June Precipitation| 3.5” |

Hours of Daylight for Asheville, NC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunrise</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>6:15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>6:17 am</td>
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</tbody>
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Garden Chores For June
Spotlight: Cosmos
Focus On Flowers
The Organic Way: Attracting Beneficials
Insects To Watch For

Rose Disease Control
Canning & Preserving Workshop
Garden Tour
2007 EMG Graduates
Coming Events

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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.
CHORES FOR JUNE

LAWNS

- Do not fertilize cool season lawns until September.
- If you irrigate the lawn, apply one inch of water each week if rainfall does not provide enough. Water in the morning, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of starting brown patch fungus.
- If brown patch develops, allowing the lawn to go dormant will stop the spread of the disease.
- Practice “grasscycling”. Use a mulching mower and leave clippings on the lawn.

ORNAMENTALS

- By now tree and shrub branches damaged by the freeze should have put out new growth. Branches that have not leafed out should be pruned back to live wood. Some plants may need additional pruning to restore a nice shape.
- Weather has been dry this spring. Remember to water regularly anything you have planted. Shrubs probably need a good soaking with 3 to 5 gallons of water once a week. Annual and perennial flowers will need watering more frequently until established.
- Unfortunately, weeds do not seem to be deterred by dry weather. Do not get careless when using herbicides such as glyphosate (Roundup) or glufosinate (Finale). Apply only when no wind is blowing and shield landscape plants if needed.
- Check conifers for bagworms so they can be removed or sprayed while they are young.
- Scatter seed of zinnia, cosmos or small sunflowers for late season blooms.
- Irises can be divided after they have bloomed. Remember to plant the rhizomes shallow, so some of the top of the rhizome is exposed to sunlight.

FRUITS

- Without fruit, many fruit trees will produce excessive water sprouts (vigorous upright shoots) and suckers this year. This is a good time to remove water sprouts as less resprouting will occur than with winter pruning.
- A healthy strawberry bed can be renovated after harvest. Beds more than 3 or 4 years old are often best removed and replanted in the fall or spring.

VEGETABLES

- You can still plant many warm season vegetables – squash, cucumbers, beans, pumpkins.
- Blossom end rot is a common tomato problem, especially in a dry season. Mulch plants with straw or chopped leaves and maintain regular watering.
- If you have had blossom end rot in the past, you might try spraying calcium chloride (available at garden centers) to get more calcium into the plants. Apply 4 times at weekly intervals.
- Side dress (fertilize) vegetable plants about 6 weeks after planting, when they have begun to set fruit.
- Do not use excess amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. Many vegetables, including beans, cucumbers and tomatoes will delay flowering or abort flowers or small fruit if over-fertilized.
- Vegetable gardens need one inch of water each week. Provide one good soaking with sprinklers or drip irrigation if Mother Nature does not provide. If using overhead sprinklers, water in the morning so foliage will dry rapidly.

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension.
I love old fashioned, cottage garden type flowers. One that can add charm and color to the flower garden is Cosmos. Cosmos is easy-to-grow even in hot, dry conditions. It can reseed itself if not deadheaded at the end of the season.

The two most common species are Cosmos sulphureus which will have golden-yellow or orange flowers, and Cosmos bipinnatus with a variety of maroon, pink, lavender and white flowers. Both cultivars may grow up to 6 feet depending on soil conditions and may need staking if subjected to high winds and frequent storms.


Plant Cosmos in a location that receives at least a half day of direct sunlight. Sow the seeds outdoors after danger of frost is past and when the soil has warmed to at least 65 degrees. Rake seeds into a loose soil; planting seeds too deeply will hinder germination.

When the spring-planted Cosmos appears to have an abundance of dried seed, do not remove the plants. Encourage re-bloom by cutting the plants back to 12 to 18 inches high. They will be back in bloom in a month and the seed that is cut off will fall to the ground, germinate in the hot soil and increase the density of your plant population and the eventual bloom display.

FOCUS ON FLOWERS – Gardening with Native Plants – NC Cooperative Extension, Extension Master Gardeners and The North Carolina Arboretum are once again teaming up to offer this special day-long symposium on July 14. This year’s theme will be all about using native plants in the landscape. For registration information call the Arboretum at 665-2492. $40 Arboretum members, $46 non-members.

Program Agenda

Native Plants in the Sustainable Landscape
David Tuch, Equinox Environmental

Native Shrubs
Jamie Oxley, We-Du Natives and Meadowbrook Nurseries

Mosses and Ferns
Ernie Henshaw, Master Gardener

Propagating Native Plants
Anthony LeBude, Mountain Horticultural Research and Extension Center, NC State University

Growing and Using Herbs and Native Plants
Becky Lipkin, Becky’s Herbs

Backyard Bullies and Other Misbehaving Plants
Glenn Palmer, Master Gardener

Wildflowers for the Garden
Scott Dean, Naturalist
THE ORGANIC WAY: ATTRACTING BENEFICIALS

Of the one million or so species of insects on earth, less than 3 percent are classified as pests. The rest are either harmless or beneficial. Beneficial insects may include our much needed pollinators as well as those that prey on other insects.

Insect parasites and predators can be valuable allies in keeping down the populations of harmful insects in the garden. There are several things a gardener can do to encourage beneficials to hang around your garden.

The first step is to avoid the use of broad spectrum insecticides. Some organic products such as pyrethrins and neem oil will kill just as many beneficial insects as harmful ones. Even soaps and oils can be harmful to some beneficials such as ladybug larva and syrphid fly larva.

Attract many beneficial flies, wasps and beetles by planting nectar and pollen plants. Try to keep something in bloom all the time. There are lists available of some good plants for attracting many beneficials, including clovers, vetch, buckwheat, Queen Anne’s lace, parsnips, dill and fennel.

Learn to recognize the beneficial insects or at least to differentiate which insects are harmful enough to worry about. Many of the beneficials are quite small and inconspicuous unless you go looking for them.

Here are a few interesting web sites to start your research:

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/sustainable/peet/IPM/insects/co4biolo.html
http://ipm.ncsu.edu/cotton/insectcorner/photos/beneficial.htm

INSECTS TO WATCH FOR

Inspect plants periodically so you can tackle pest problems before they get out of hand. Pesticides should never be applied randomly “just in case” there might be some insects in the garden. You may end up killing off more beneficial insects than pests.

Ornamentals: slugs; lacebugs on azaleas, rhododendrons, pieris, pyracanthas; bagworms on junipers, cedars, cypress, arborvitae; spruce mites on spruce, hemlocks, fir; spidermites on many flowers and shrubs; euonymous scale.

Fruits and Vegetables: slugs, asparagus beetles, cucumber beetles, cabbageworms, tomato fruitworms, aphids, spider mites.

ROSE DISEASE CONTROL

Unless you are growing disease resistant roses, you have probably already started your regular fungicide sprays to prevent black spot and powdery mildew. It is advisable to alternate chemicals as these diseases can become resistant to the fungicides if the same one is used too frequently.

Excellent control of black spot and powdery mildew can be obtained by spraying chlorothalonil (Daconil) and alternating with one of the following three fungicides: triforine (Funginex), propiconazole (Banner Maxx), or myclobutanil (Systhane, Eagle, or Immunox). Spray applications should be made every 7 – 10 days. Spray thoroughly to completely cover all plant surfaces. Follow all directions and precautions provided by the manufacturer on the label.
CANNING AND PRESERVING MADE EASY WORKSHOP

Learn more about canning or just brush up on the newest information on food preservation from canning to freezing to drying by coming to the Canning and Preserving Made Easy program. This program is an introduction to canning, pickling, making jams and jellies, freezing, drying and storage. The workshop will be held at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher on Wednesday, June 6 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. The cost for materials and a Ball Blue Book is $20. Come to one session or to all. Call our office for more information.

GARDEN TOUR – On Saturday, June 30, Extension Master Gardeners of Buncombe County will host their first ever garden tour. Five private gardens of Buncombe County Master Gardeners will be open as well as the two demonstration gardens. There will be large gardens, small gardens, sunny sites and shade. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about plants for shady sites, flower gardens, gardening for wildlife, plant selection, plant propagation, water features, fruit trees, vegetables, and more. Cost of tickets will be $15. Tickets can be purchased at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center at 94 Coxe Avenue. For more information call 255-5522.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the newest graduating class of Buncombe County’s Extension Master Gardener volunteers! These enthusiastic gardeners have completed more than 40 hours of training and have already begun returning their 40 hours of volunteer activities with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Buncombe County Center.

Master Gardener Class of 2007

Henry Anderson
Tom Bailey
Sherry Berman
Bobbye Bridges
Jan Cantrell
Nancy Ackerman Cole
Judy Deutsch
Cynthia Drew
Don Farver
Ann Forbes
Blaine Grindle
George Hess
Beth Hill
Mary Hugenschmidt

Jackie Itzkovitz
Ross Jones
Janice Kennedy
Christy Larson
Len Pardue
Mary Reeves
Sarah Rubin
Sharon Sasse
Clint Smoke
Elizabeth Swann
Brenda Thomas
Sally Wheeler
Debbie Wood

CONGRATULATIONS!
COMING EVENTS

June 9 & 23  **Plant Problem Clinic** by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers Market, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the breezeway between the retail buildings.

June 12  **Gardening in the Mountains Series**, “Native Plants”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners, at The North Carolina Arboretum, 10:00 am. Free, no registration required.

June 30  **Master Gardener's Garden Tour**, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more information call the Extension Office at 255-5522.

July 10  **Gardening In The Mountain Series**, “Growing Small Fruits”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners, at The North Carolina Arboretum, 10:00 am. Free, no registration required.

July 14  **FOCUS ON FLOWERS: Gardening With Native Plants**. The North Carolina Arboretum, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. For registration information call the Arboretum at 665-2492.

*Individuals with disabilities who would like to participate in any program mentioned in this newsletter, but who need special assistance to do so, should call the Extension Center at 828-255-5522 at least five days prior to the event.*