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, veteran status 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 OCTOBER

LAWNS

• This is an excellent time to core aerate compacted soils.
• If you did not fertilize the lawn in September, you can still apply 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, preferably using slow release fertilizer.
• Scattered leaves don't hurt, but do not let a layer of leaves accumulate on the lawn. Rake or pick them up with the mower, and add them to the compost pile.

ORNAMENTALS

• If you have identified hemlock woolly adelgids in your hemlock trees, this is a good time of year to treat. Soap or oil should be applied between August and December. Fall is also a good time to apply systemic soil drench treatments.
• Plant pansies. Don't be skimpy – they are small plants.
• Most perennials can be divided now. Divide spring blooming plants, peonies and sedum.
• Plant trees and shrubs. Loosen roots of container grown plants that may have become root-bound. Do not plant too deep.
• Do NOT fertilize ornamental plants.
• Inspect house plants before moving back indoors for insect infestations, particularly spider mites, whiteflies or mealybugs. While you are at it, clean up the plants by removing dead leaves and flowers, snip back over-long stems and give the plant a thorough bath with the garden hose.

FRUIT

• Good sanitation in the orchard is important for reducing pest problems next year. As you rake leaves, also remove any fruit left in the trees and pick up all fruit from the ground.
• Finish removing old canes from blackberry and raspberry plantings.
• Tend the strawberry bed. Weed, fertilizer and water if needed. Next spring’s flower buds are forming now.

VEGETABLES

• Plant garlic and onions.
• Greens planted last month could use a little fertilizer now.
• Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost.
• Good sanitation is important here as well. Remove spent plants to the compost pile or turn them into the soil to rot.
• Remove asparagus spears as soon as they are killed by frost.

OTHER

• Leave hummingbird feeders out for late migrating birds.
• Clean out the storage shed. Discard or repair damaged tools.

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.
TAKING STOCK

If you are not in the habit of keeping a garden journal, right now would be an excellent time to walk around the landscape with a pencil and paper to make some notes for next year.

Which plants performed best this year? Which did not? What do you want to plant more of and what should be replaced? Maybe you want to try other varieties of the winners. Include the vegetable garden in this list.

Did some of your plant combinations turn out particularly well? Or maybe you want to make note to try a different color combination next time.

Are there problems to be dealt with? It could be plants that have become invasive or a disease or insect problem you want to note when and where to be on the look out for in the future. Do you need to remember to water the hydrangea more often? Or is it time to replace an overgrown shrub or one that suffers drought stress or pest problems.

TIPS FOR THE WATER WISE LANDSCAPE

How does maintaining a healthy lawn contribute to protecting water quality? Turf grass is the best material for controlling erosion, filtering runoff water and slowing water movement. The grass can do its job better if it has a good healthy root system. And the lawn will come through drought without irrigating much better if it has healthy roots.

Fall is a good time to give the lawn some attention. If soil is compacted, using a core aerator (not a spiker) in the fall will loosen the soil, allowing better penetration of rainfall and enabling the root system to expand during the winter and spring growing seasons. After aerating is an excellent time to apply lime and phosphate according to soil test recommendations, as well as the application of slow release nitrogen. Materials will enter the soil more readily and risk of runoff is reduced.

INSECTS TO WATCH FOR

Ornamentals: Check evergreens for bagworms. Half of those bags contain eggs which will hatch in the spring, so remove and destroy them. Spruce mites are cool weather mites that become active now. Shake a branch vigorously over white paper to check for them.

Vegetables: Aphids and several species of caterpillars can be a problem on broccoli, cabbage, collards and other cabbage family plants.
BACKYARD COMPOSTING

When the fall leaves begin to drop many people are inspired to start a compost pile. If you would like to learn more about backyard composting, Extension Master Gardeners maintain a compost demonstration at the WNC Farmers’ Market. They will be holding the last demonstration for the season on Saturday, October 11, between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Drop by for a visit.

FALL GARDEN SCHOOL

Saturday, November 1
Folk Art Center
Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville

This year’s garden school, presented by Extension Master Gardener volunteers of Buncombe County, will be held at the Folk Art Center, near Asheville. The fee will be $10. You must pre-register by sending your check made out to: Mater Gardener Project Fund, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville, NC 28801.

- 9:00 - 9:30  Registration
- 9:30 – 10:30 Bulbs for Spring and Fall
- 10:30 – 11:30 Winter Interest for Your Garden.
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch on your own
- 12:30 – 1:30 Everything You Wanted to Know About Pruning But Were Afraid to Ask
- 1:30 – 2:30 Growing Vegetables in Containers
- 2:30 – 2:45 Wrap Up
Introduction to the Master Gardener Program

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
1 pm to 3 pm
Buncombe County Extension Center
94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

Are you interested in learning more about the Extension Master Gardener volunteer program? Come to this introductory session and find out if volunteer training is for you. We’ll talk about the training requirements, the volunteer activities and meet some of the active volunteers. You may fill out an application form if you don’t already have one and even schedule an interview if you like. The deadline for applications for the 2009 program is November 21. Classes for 2009 will be Thursdays from 12:00 until 4:00, beginning January 15. For more information call 255-5522

THINK SPRING

If you would love to have daffodils, crocus, tulips and grape hyacinth blooming in the spring, you should be planting bulbs now since spring bulbs need to be exposed to cool temperatures to bloom, its best to get them planted before Thanksgiving.

Daffodils, grape hyacinth, crocus, squill, snowdrops and fritillaria will perennialize so you can enjoy even more blooms in years to come. However most tulips and hyacinth do not bloom more than a couple of years. Bulbs often do not thrive in poorly drained clay soil. If needed, work in plenty of organic soil conditioner to improve drainage and try to plant at the appropriate depth. The larger the bulb, the deeper it is planted – 2 to 4 inches for crocus, 6 to 8 inches for large daffodils.

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The Mountain Gardener is a newsletter produced by the Buncombe County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform and educate Buncombe County residents about issues related to home lawns and gardens.

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Check out Buncombe County Center's website at.....
http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu
COMING EVENTS

October 7  Gardening in the Mountains Series, “Native Alternatives to Exotic Invasives”, Presented by Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the North Carolina Arboretum at 10:00 am. No pre-registration, Tuesday is free admission.

October 11  Plant Problem Clinic - By Extension Master Gardeners at WNC Farmers’ Market. Last clinic of the year 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the breezeway between the retail building.

October 11  Backyard Composting Demonstration - By Extension Master Gardeners at WNC Farmers’ Market 11 am – 2 pm.

October 22  Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener Program – 1:00 to 3:00 at the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville.

November 11  Gardening in the Mountains Series, “Welcoming Bees into Your Garden”. Presented by Extension Master Gardener volunteers at the North Carolina Arboretum at 10:00 am. No pre-registration. Tuesday is free admission.

November 21  Deadline for applications for the 2009 Extension Master Gardener volunteer training program.

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.