SEE YOU AT THE FAIR

Don’t miss this year’s NC Mountain State Fair, September 11-20. There is now a new building housing the Heritage Crafts on the site where the Flower and Garden tent used to be. Please come and find the Flower and Garden Department in a brand new Exhibit Building at the back corner of the midway. Drop by the “Ask a Gardener” table to talk to the Master Gardener Volunteers about your gardening questions. While you are there, pick up soil test boxes, purchase a Gardener’s Almanac, and visit the educational exhibits.

Entry days for the flower shows have also changed. The first show entries must be delivered on Wed., September 9 and the second show on Tues., September 15. Entries for fruits and vegetables should be delivered Monday and Tuesday, September 7 and 8.

Normal September Weather
Weather Averages
For Asheville, North Carolina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>76°F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal September Average High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal September Average Low</td>
<td>55.4°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal September Precipitation</td>
<td>3.72”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours of Daylight for Asheville, NC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunrise</th>
<th>Sunset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>7:01 am</td>
<td>7:58 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>7:23 am</td>
<td>7:16 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in activities mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Linda Blue at 828-255-5522 during business hours at least 3 days prior to the event to discuss accommodations.
Garden Chores for September

Lawns

- Fertilize fescue and bluegrass lawn. Use slow-release fertilizer to reduce risk of nutrient run-off.
- This is the time to reseed bare spots in the fescue and bluegrass lawns.
- Although weeds have been plentiful this year, remember that you can not use pre-emergent herbicides (weed preventers) in the same season you are planting seeds.

Ornamentals

- Do NOT fertilize shrubs. Late season nitrogen can reduce cold hardiness of woody plants.
- Butterfly bush will produce flowers until frost if you keep the dead flowers removed.
- This is a good time to cut flowers for drying. Good candidates for air drying include celosia, yarrow, statice, globe amaranth, strawflowers, goldenrod and grasses.
- If you are planning some re-landscaping, fall is a good time to plant shrubs and perennials. Shop now while some garden centers have plants on sale.
- Move house plants indoors before temperatures drop below 50°F. Start checking house plants for signs of insects so they can be treated a few times before moving back indoors. While you are at it, go ahead and give the plants a good bath with the garden hose, remove dead leaves and cut back long stems.

Fruits

- Spray the trunks of peach, cherry and plum trees with permethrin to prevent peach tree borers. The new borer sprays do not have much residual, so it is best to spray the lower part of the trunk, to ground level, a couple of times in late August and early September.
- Strawberries are forming next spring’s flower buds now. Fertilize, weed and water as needed.
- Prune blackberries and raspberries if not already done. Remove the canes that bore fruit this year.

Vegetables

- There have been a lot of diseases in the vegetable garden this year. Remove spent vegetable plants right away to reduce carry-over of insect and disease problems. Consider keeping a separate compost pile for diseased plants and do not use that compost in the vegetable garden.
- This will be a difficult year to successfully save those green tomatoes to ripen indoors. If the plant is infected with late blight the fruit will usually rot before it ripens, even after washing with bleach.
- Plant the fall vegetables by mid-month. This includes broccoli, collards, and other leafy greens. Plant lettuce seeds every couple of weeks for a continual harvest.
- Insects can be a problem with all of the cabbage family crops. A weekly application of B.t. bacteria spray will prevent cabbageworms. Use insecticidal soap for aphids if needed.

Other

- Keep after those weeds to prevent them from spreading seeds.
Insects to Watch For

Ornamentals: Spruce mites on hemlock, juniper and spruce; lacebugs on azaleas, cotoneaster and pyracantha; bagworms on junipers and Leyland cypress; hemlock wooly adelgids on hemlock.

Vegetables: Cabbage worms and aphids on cabbage, greens, broccoli; squash vine borers in squash and pumpkins; pickleworms in squashes and pumpkins.

Aerating Lawns

If regular rainfall continues, this will be a good year to core aerate the lawn. September or October are good months to aerate because maximum root growth occurs in the fall, giving the grass the best opportunity to recover and expand it's root system quickly. It is also beneficial to aerate before applying lime or phosphate if those are needed. With turn-around time on the NCDA soil tests being about 10 days this time of year, take this opportunity to do the soil test before applying fall amendments.

In time, our clay based soils often become compacted, making it difficult for grass roots to grow and for water and nutrients to penetrate into the soil. If you rent an aerator, be sure to get a “core aerator”, which pulls cores of soil from the ground, not a “spiker”, which actually compacts the soil further. Benefits of aerating include:

• enabling rain to penetrate more readily, improving moisture retention and reducing runoff.
• enabling fertilizer and lime to enter the soil, improving effects of the nutrients and reducing fertilizer runoff.
• loosening soil to enable more extensive root growth.
• pruning roots stimulates new root growth.

Fall Garden School

This year’s fall garden school, presented by Extension Master Gardener volunteers of Buncombe County, will be held October 3, 8:30—3:30, at Ferguson Auditorium, A-B Tech Campus. The fee will be $10. Lunch is on your own and bringing your own is encouraged. You must pre-register by sending your check made out to: Buncombe County, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. Here’s this year’s program:

Projects for Fall: Planning for Spring

How Did Your Garden Grow
Putting Your Landscape and Garden to Bed
Backyard Composting
Five Things to Plant This Fall
The Winter Landscape
Planning Your Spring Flower and Vegetable Gardens
Getting Started Indoors
Spotlight: Virginia Creeper

How many vines also offer great fall color? Our native Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, is a fast-growing vine that can have interesting uses in the landscape. With its rapid growth rate, Virginia creeper can quickly cover a trellis or a fence, which would make a nice backdrop for a perennial border. It clings to surfaces with adhesive tips on its tendrils so it can climb a retaining wall without support, but could also damage paint or siding on the house.

The large leaves have five leaflets and add interesting texture to the garden. Although the flowers are inconspicuous, the foliage of this deciduous vine turns a wonderful shade of burgundy in the fall. The blue-black berries also add a nice touch to the autumn landscape. Keep in mind that the berries are poisonous to humans, but will be enjoyed by the neighborhood birds.

This plant will grow in any reasonably workable soil and in full sun to part shade. Best growth and fall color can be expected with good soil moisture and ample sun.

As with most fast growing vines, regular trimming will be required to keep it from invading adjacent areas. Though it will look great climbing an arbor, keep this and most vines off of trees and houses. The vines add excess weight to limbs which can be a hazard during winter ice storms.

Basic Home Maintenance

Are there repairs around your home that need to be done but you lack the knowledge and skill to do them yourself? The **Basic Home Maintenance Course** will give you those skills. This series of five two hour classes will be held from 5:30—7:30pm, September 23 through October 7th on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Some of the topics to be covered are: saving on your heating and cooling bills, basic plumbing repairs, interior and exterior maintenance, landscaping and lawn care, indoor air quality, common household pest, etc. The course will be held at the Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue in Asheville.

Registration fee is $20 and includes all materials. **You must register and pay in advance.** To register please call the Buncombe County Center at 255-5522.
2010 Extension Master Gardener Training

Applications are now being accepted for the Extension Master Gardener volunteer training program for 2010.

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, 12:00 noon until 4:00pm from January 13 through April 21. The deadline for applications is November 20. The training fee for 2010 is expected to be $90 (though that could change). Interviews are generally scheduled during late November or early December.

For an application call 255-5522 or email: joyce.plemmons@buncombecounty.org

Introduction to the Master Gardener Program

Thursday, October 15
1 –3 pm
Buncombe County Extension Center
94 Coxe Ave. Asheville

If you think you might be interested in becoming an Extension Master Gardener volunteer, this is your opportunity to come and learn more about this popular program in Buncombe County. Learn about the training requirements, volunteer activities, class schedule, and meet some current volunteers. You may fill out an application form and even schedule an interview if you like. No pre-registration required.

Analyzing Your Mountain Homesite....
For First-time Homeowners, Home Builders or Dreamers

Sundays, October 18, October 25, and November 1, 2009
9:00 am—12:00 pm
The Botanical Gardens at Asheville, Butler Room
$10 Donation to the Botanical Gardens

Building in our mountains means addressing steep slopes, storm water runoff, invasive plants, wildfires, wildlife and more. Participants will produce a site base map identifying physical features of their property that may be used in setting a home or developing a landscape design. The workshop presenter is Glenn Palmer, President Emeritus of BGA, and Extension Master Gardener.

To register call or email the Botanical Gardens at: bgardens@bellsouth.net or (828) 252-5190.
EVENTS

- Sept. 8  Gardening in the Mountains Series, “Growing Bulbs”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners, NC Arboretum, 10:00am, Free, no registration required.

- Sept. 11-20  NC Mountain State Fair, WNC Ag. Center

- Sept. 12 & 26  Plant Problem Clinics, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market. 11:00am—2:00pm in the breezeway between the retail buildings.

- Sept. 12 & 26  Backyard Composting Demonstration, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, beside Israel's Garden Center, 11:00am—2:00pm

- Sept. 19  Botanical Gardens at Asheville Fall Plant Sale. 9 -3 in the gardens.

- Oct. 3  Fall Garden School: “Projects for Fall, Planning for Spring”. Presented by Extension Gardener Volunteers. 9:00am—4:00pm at AB Tech. Campus. $10 pre-registration req.

- Oct. 13  Gardening in the Mountains Series, “Preparing the Garden for Winter”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners, NC Arboretum, 10:00am, Free, no registration required.

- Oct. 15  Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener program, 1—3 at Buncombe County Cooperative Ext. Office, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville.

- Oct. 18-Nov.1  Analyzing Your Mountain Homestead at Botanical Gardens at Asheville. Sundays, 9:00—12:00, for more info: http://www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org.