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Contact Us

Buncombe County Center
94 Coxe Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801

Linda Blue
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Urban Horticulture

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

Normal September Weather

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weather Averages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal September Average High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Normal September Average Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Normal September Precipitation</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>7:02am</td>
<td>7:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>7:24 am</td>
<td>7:17 pm</td>
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SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

Don’t miss this year’s NC Mountain State Fair, September 9-18. You will find the Flower and Garden Department in the 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 WNC Garden Guide, and visit the educational exhibits.

Entries for the first show must be delivered on September 7, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; and the second show on September 13, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm. Entries for fruits and vegetables should be delivered Monday and Tuesday, September 5 and 6, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm.

There are several different ways to lay out a little garden; the best way is to get a gardener.”
- Karel Capek

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

- If your lawn looks like mine, you may have some bare areas as a result of hot, dry weather, or brown patch. September is the best time to plant cool season grasses (fescue and bluegrass), so this would be a good time to reseed those areas. When using hybrid fescue blends use 5 to 6 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet for new plantings. Use 2 to 3 pounds when overseeding thinned lawns.
- Fertilize fescue and bluegrass lawns. Apply 1 pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Use slow-release fertilizer to reduce risk of nutrient run-off.
- If you want to try to control broadleaf (non-grass) weeds with herbicides, wait until plants are not drought-stressed and are actively growing. Be aware, though, that you may not be able to put down grass seed for a few weeks before or after using the herbicide. Read the label for those instructions.

Ornamentals

- Unless you have been irrigating, the annual flower bed is probably looking pretty bedraggled by now. You can soon start replacing summer annuals with pansies and ornamental cabbage. The earlier you plant pansies, the better display they will give you this winter and next spring.
- Crowded perennials can be divided. Some to divide now include daylilies, irises, phlox, yarrow and Rudbeckias.
- This can be a good time to collect dried plant material for winter use. Seed heads, grasses, pods and dried flower heads can be hung upside down to dry for later use.
- You may want to stop deadheading coneflowers, sunflowers and black-eyed Susans in order to leave the seed heads for the birds to enjoy.
- Watch the temperatures and be ready to move house plants indoors before temperatures drop below 50° F. Before that time comes, start checking the plants for signs of insects so they can be treated a few times before moving back indoors.

Fruits

- This summer many gardeners have been disappointed to lose many peaches and grapes to fruit rot diseases. To reduce problems next year do a good job of removing all plant debris - get mummified fruit out of the plant and pick up everything on the ground. Next year plan a preventative spray schedule.
- Put on long sleeves and finish pruning the old canes from the blackberries and raspberries. Remove canes that bore fruit this year and thin out new canes if needed to leave only 4 to 8 canes per square yard.

Vegetables

- Early in the month it may seem warm for planting fall vegetables, but September is actually a bit later than optimal for planting most of these crops. Give yourself until mid-month to plant things like broccoli, cabbage, collards, and other leafy greens.
- Seed lettuces, spinach and kale through the month.
- By this time it is easy to let down your guard on pest control. If you want to keep tomatoes and cucurbits producing until frost, keep up the fungicide and insecticide sprays.
- 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 filling the hummingbird feeder. Migrating birds will make use of the food supply even into October.
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.

Fall Plant Sale: “From Our Gardens to Yours”

Buncombe County Master Gardeners are planning their first Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 15. The sale will include favorite plants from Master Gardeners’ gardens and, we hope, will also be accompanied with a few short educational talks during the morning. Watch for more information to come.

Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener Program

Tuesday, October 18
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 and interview if you like. No pre-registration required.

2012 Extension Master Gardener Program

The next training classes for the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program will begin in January, 2012. Classes will be Wednesday afternoons from Noon until 4:00 pm. Application forms will be available in September and must be submitted no later than November 4. Interviews will be conducted in early November.
Spotlight: Sourwood

Sourwood, *Oxydendrum arboreum* is one of those plants that is interesting year-round. It is native to the southeastern United States and quite common in woodlands around Asheville. In the landscape sourwood generally reaches 20 to 30 feet, growing less than one foot per year.

One of its best attributes is that it is one of the first plants to begin to show fall color. By late September the burgundy foliage provides outstanding contrast for the cream colored seed clusters, which always look to me like lace hankies hanging all over the trees. After the leaves drop, the dried seed clusters remain for a while, adding winter interest along with the rough gray bark.

Clusters of white flowers appear in early summer when few other trees are blooming. The tree is sometimes called “lily-of-the-valley-tree” because the flower clusters are similar in appearance to the lily-of-the-valley garden flower. Bees love the flowers, which of course results in the prized sourwood honey.

Sourwood is related to rhododendrons and azaleas and enjoy similar growing conditions. They will also adapt fairly well in dry locations if given adequate water the first couple of years to get them established. Like rhododendrons, they will not survive well in heavy clay.

In the landscape sourwood is quite adaptable to partial shade, but will develop the very best fall color and the most flowers in full sun. Although the reference manuals indicate that they do not tolerate air pollution well, there are quite a few outstanding sourwood trees along Interstate 240 in east Asheville.

All things considered, I think sourwood will stay right at the top of my favorite tree list.

Plant A Salad

If you enjoy colorful lettuce salads, you may get tired of paying the grocery prices for mixed salad greens. For the price of one box of mixed greens you can buy a couple of packets of seeds to provide many salads fresh from the garden.

You can purchase mixed seeds as “Salad Blends”, “Lettuce Mix” or “Mesclun”. A packet of “Mesclun Mix” might contain mustards, arugula, endive, totsoi and other interesting varieties along with lettuce, kale and spinach. Of course you can easily buy seeds separately and either plant a mixed bed or plant separately.

Most of these greens are fairly cold hardy and can tolerate some nights below freezing without protecting if you don’t plant them too late. Plan to get them in the ground in early September for best cold tolerance. To keep them going longer, cover with row cover fabric on the coldest nights.

Of the lettuces, Butterhead and Romaine types are probably the most cold hardy. One spring I was surprised to have a planting of lettuce seedlings survive the winter unprotected and to provide many salads in the spring. I wish I knew what variety I planted!

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.
Successful Seed Saving

If you collect seeds to save for next year, or even save leftover seeds from year to year, storing the seeds properly will improve your chances of success. Most seeds will last one or two years with no special packaging if conditions are adequate. However, all seeds will keep best if cool and dry. Preferred temperature is 35 to 50 degrees. Store seeds in air-tight containers to keep out moisture. Screw top jars are probably best. A number of seed packets can be stored in a large wide-mouth jar in the back of the refrigerator.

If you are collecting seeds from the garden, it is important that the seeds be thoroughly dry before storing. Before storing seed heads, pods, or beans, spread the seeds out on an old window screen in a dry, well ventilated location for a few days.

To absorb excess moisture put some desiccant in the jar such as small packets of silica gel or powdered milk. Dry the desiccant in the oven on low setting before use.

Basic Home Maintenance

As extra money continues to disappear from our pockets, our homes still need to be kept in good condition. Neglecting the minor repairs will only lead to more expense and lessen our home’s value in the future. Have you wanted to make those basic home repairs but didn’t know where to start? The Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Center is offering a five class Basic Home Maintenance Course beginning Thursday, October 6 from 5:30 - 7:30pm, The remaining dates for the course are the Tuesdays, Oct 11 and 18 and Thursdays, October 13 and 20. 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 pests, The classes will be held at the Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue in Asheville.

Registration fee is $20 and includes all materials and handouts for the course. Space is limited so pre-registration and pre-payment are necessary. To register please call the Buncombe County Center at 255-5522.

Growing in Mountains, Thursdays, Sept. 1-29, 2011, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 1</th>
<th>Home Lawn Care</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Six Steps To Landscape Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Selecting The Right Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Planting and Maintenance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pre-registration required due to limited seating. $5 per class, pay at the door
EVENTS

- Sept. 1, 15, 22, 29 - “Growing in the Mountains”, “Designing and Maintaining a Healthy Landscape”, Thurs. 5:30 - 7:30, Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave., Linda Blue, Instructor.

- Sept. 3      EMG Info Table - Asheville City Market, 8:30—12:30, 161 S. Charlotte St. Asheville.

- Sept. 9-18   NC Mountain State Fair, see front page of this newsletter.

- Sept. 10 & 24 Plant Problem Clinics, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market. 11:00am—2:00pm in the breezeway between the retail buildings.

- Sept. 10 & 24 Backyard Composting Demonstration, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, beside Israel's Garden Center, 11:00am—2:00pm.

- Sept. 21     Gardening in the Mountains: “Growing Shiitakes and other Edible Mushrooms”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners at the Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville, 10am, Free admission, no pre-registration needed.

- Oct. 1       “Hey Day” at the WNC Nature Center, 9:30 - 4, EMG Heirloom Garden info table.

- Oct. 15      EMG Plant Sale: “From Our Gardens to Yours”, 9am - 1pm, Rain or shine, Extension Parking lot, corner of Coxe and Hilliard Ave. in downtown Asheville.

- Oct. 18      Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener program, 1-3 at Buncombe County Cooperative Extension office, 94 Coxe Ave, Asheville, no pre-registration needed.