Grower Spotlight

Mountain Meadows Landscape & Dwarf Conifer Nursery
Weaverville, NC 28787
(828) 626-2695
mountainmeadowsdwarfconifers.com

- Owner, Sales & Grower: Michael Balogh
- Number of employees: 1, Ryan Balogh (Michael’s son)
- Square feet of business: 3 acres
- Grand opening date: 1996
- Product mix: 300+ varieties of dwarf conifers and select deciduous plant material like fragrant Viburnums & Peony!
- Clientele: Wholesale to landscapers and retail
- New & upcoming: 30 new varieties from the Atlanta Botanical Gardens!!!
- Staff picks:
  - Cryptomeria 'Black Dragon' - Handsome evergreen tree with compact growth and extremely dark-green needles, easy to grow - likes acid soil and a sunny location!
  - Hemlocks! Miniatures, weeping, golden!!!! Need I say more!!!!
  - Blue Spruce - Great specimen tree with attractive blue-grey-green foliage that likes sunny locations but is very adaptable!
  - Arizona Cypress - Evergreen tree that makes an excellent wind break or tall screen!! This plant will take drought and sunny locations!
- Comments:
  - Mountain Meadows Nursery is locally owned and has an amazing collection of dwarf conifers! It is worth a trip just to see his collection. I have a new fondness of conifers that I didn’t have before and you will too! The ’07 availability & price list is now available! Just contact Mountain Meadows and the availability list can be mailed to you OR check it out online! They have a great website with pictures, tips and facts, other links…it’s great. Give’em a call and support your local growers!!!!!
Pesticide Recertification Classes

Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V)

2/2/2007 - Waynesville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

2/22/2007 – Hendersonville, NC – 2 hours credit V
PRIVATE Safety; contact Marvin Owings, (828) 697-4891, marvin_owings@ncsu.edu

2/26/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

3/6/2007 - Waynesville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

4/17/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

4/26/2007 - Waynesville, NC - 2 hour credit V
PRIVATE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

PESTICIDE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

2/22/2007 - Fletcher, NC – 3 hours credit G H L N O D X
GREN INDUSTRY SEMINAR, contact Cliff Ruth (828) 697-4891, Cliff_Ruth@ncsu.edu

SPECIALTY TRAINING; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

PESTICIDE SAFETY; contact Bill Skelton, (828) 456-3575, bill_skelton@ncsu.edu

BURLEY TOBACCO MEETING; contact Elizabeth Ayers, (828) 649-2411, elizabeth_ayers@ncsu.edu

CALIBRATION; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

4/17/2007 - Asheville, NC - 2 hour credit L N O D X
Winter Weed ID & Control for Farm & Landscape; contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522, amanda_stone@ncsu.edu

Please call to pre-register.

***Please visit North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Section for a list of recertification opportunities throughout North Carolina:  http://www.agr.state.nc.us/fooddrug/pesticid/index.htm
Calendar of Events

February 10-11
Advanced Bee School. Folk Art Center on Blue Ridge Parkway. 1:30-4:00 pm.

February 22
Regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Educational sessions on landscape and nursery pruning, organic pest control, understanding pesticides and proven disease resistant plants for the landscape! Lunch will be served and pesticide credits will be available. Call (828) 255-5522 for more information or to REGISTER ($25) by February 12!

February 24
Marketing Opportunities for Farmers Conference. Swannanoa, NC. A full day of workshop choices to help farmers large and small answer questions “where and how will I sell what I grow?” This year, attendees can choose to attend a half-day farm business planning workshop. For more info or to register, call (828) 236-1282 or see: www.asapconections.org

March 7
Western North Carolina Turfgrass Conference, Quality Inn, 201 Sugarloaf Road, Hendersonville. Preregistration fee $75; On-site $90. Sponsored by: NCSU, TCNC, WNCTGA and the NCCE. Call (828) 255-5522 for more info.

March 10-11
14th Annual Organic Growers School. Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock. A day of workshops for beginning gardeners to advanced commercial growers. Stay tuned for more info coming soon!!

April 25
Perennials and Grasses for WNC Gardens. Bullington Center, 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. Jean-Claude Linossi, horticulturalist from Etowah Valley Country Club will highlight perennial plants and ornamental grasses that perform especially well in our area. Pre-registration ($12) is required, call (828) 698-6104. Visit the website at: www.bullingtoncenter.org

April 27-28
‘Growing in the Mountains’ Plant Show & Sale. 9:00 am-6:00 pm. WNC Farmers’ Market, Asheville, NC. Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Horticulture Association. For more information please call the Extension office at (828) 255-5522.

May 1-2
Commercial & Private Applicators Pesticide License Exam & School. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. For more information call (828) 255-5522 or http://www.ncagr.com/fooddrug/pesticide

May 31-June 2
Washington, D. C. Garden Tour
Complete tour information will be announced at a later date. Check back! Among the stops include National Arboretum, US Botanical Gardens, Museums on the Mall, Lewis Ginter Arboretum. Fee schedule and registration forms to be attached soon! Contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522 for more information.

June 19-July 21
Certified Plant Professional Short Course. NC Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. This class is designed to assist participants in developing their level of knowledge and professionalism in the area of landscape plants and use. For more information contact Cliff Ruth, (828) 697-4891 or Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522.

June 21-24
South East Greenhouse Growers Conference & Trade Show. Greenville, SC. This is the largest educational conference and trade show in the south focused on the greenhouse grower and ‘color’ industry. Tours, workshops, education sessions, new varieties, trade show networking, are all available during the three day event. For more information all the Extension office at (828) 255-5522 or visit www.sgcts.org
Plant Problems to Watch for in February

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/clinic/Summary/febwatch.htm

Here are some diseases we observed in the clinic during the month of February. Upon going to the website, hypertext links will lead you to specific information about a certain disease or about diseases in a certain crop.

Woody Ornamentals

General decline of shrubs is often noticed at this season as new spring growth begins. Most of these problems can be traced to root rot, nematodes or cultural problems. Winter desiccation and cold injury may also be a factor.

Rose: Botrytis cane blight

Herbaceous Ornamentals

Geranium: Botrytis blight, Pythium root rot, Rhizoctonia root/stem rot, Xanthomonas blight
Geranium, Ivy: Edema
Pansy: Cold injury followed by Black root rot, Botrytis blight
Tulip (Greenhouse): Fusarium blub rot, Penicillium bulb rot, Leaf withering (Trichoderma sp.), Pythium root rot
Snapdragon: Botrytis blight, Downy mildew

Landscape Maintenance in February

Lawns:

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue, Kentucky bluegrass & ryegrass toward the end of February.
- If winter annual weeds are actively growing and they bother you, you can treat with a post-emergent broadleaf weed herbicide.
- There is still time for soil testing: add lime to any soil that needs it.

Ornamentals:

- Cut back old foliage on grasses and perennials.
- Time to prune summer flowering trees and shrubs, evergreens and over-grown shrubs that need rejuvenation.
- There is still time for soil testing, add lime to any soil that needs it.
- This is a good time for planting woody ornamentals as long as the ground isn’t frozen. Remember to water every two to four weeks as long as temperatures are above freezing and the ground is not frozen.

Dwarf Conifers – A Variety of Color, Texture and Form

Where: Bullington Center, 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville
        www.bullingtoncenter.org
        (828) 698-6104

When: March 29, 4:00-5:30 pm

Learn about the surprising variety in conifers from Michael Balogh, owner of Mountain Meadows Nursery and 25 year veteran of growing these plants!!! Call (828) 698-6104 to pre–register ($12).
Regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop  
February 22, 2007  
Mountain Horticultural Crops  
Research & Extension Center  
Fletcher, NC

Morning Session – Moderator Amanda Stone

• 8:30 am  Check in! No registration accepted at door!
• 9:00 am  Understanding Pesticides  
  Amanda Stone, NCCE, Extension Agent, Buncombe County
• 10:00 am  Organic Pest Control  
  Cliff Ruth, NCCE, Area Extension Agent, Henderson/Transylvania Counties
• 11:00 am  Disease Resistant Plants for Landscape  
  Anthony LeBude, NCSU Extension Nursery Crops Specialist

Pesticide credits will be available for morning session – 3 credits, G H L N O D X

• 12:00 noon–1:00 pm  LUNCH (Adams Bake Shop, Fletcher, NC)

Afternoon

Concurrent Sessions – Moderator Tim Mathews

• 1:00-1:45 pm  Pruning
• 1:55 – 2:40 pm  Pruning Fruit Trees  
  Dr. Steve McArtney, NCSU Extension Pomologist, MHCR&EC, Fletcher
• 2:50 – 3:35 pm  Pruning Landscape Ornamentals  
  Cliff Ruth, NCCE, Area Extension Agent, Henderson/Transylvania Counties
• 3:45 – 4:30 pm  Pruning Nursery Plants  
  Dr. Anthony LeBude, NCSU Extension Nursery Crops Specialist

* Please bring pruning shears to afternoon sessions.

You must preregister! Registration deadline February 12. You may attend both sessions or morning and/or afternoon sessions for $25 registration fee which includes lunch.

This program has been developed by a team of NCCE agents and Extension Specialists:

• Amanda Stone – Buncombe County, (828) 255-5522
• Cliff Ruth – Henderson/Transylvania Counties, (828) 697-4891
• Tim Mathews – Haywood County, (828) 456-3575
• Anthony LeBude, MHCR&EC, (828) 684-3562
2007 Western North Carolina Turfgrass Conference
Quality Inn, 201 Sugarloaf Road, Hendersonville, NC
March 7, 2007

Sponsored by: NCSU, TCNC, WNCTGA and the NC Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES)

8:00-8:30 am Registration (Preregistration - $75.00, On-site - $90.00)

GENERAL SESSION
Presider: Eric Caldwell, County Extension Director, Transylvania County

8:30-9:15 am Clean Streams: Water Quality Issues & BMPs for the Golf Course
Jim Monroe, County Extension Director, Mecklenberg County

9:15-10:00 am OSHA, HAZMAT and other Considerations
Matt Martin, Extension Specialist, NCSU

10:00-10:15 am Break

10:15-11:00 am To Be Determined
Grady Miller, Turf Scientist, NCSU

11:00-11:45 am New Insect Management Strategies
Callie Prater

11:45-11:50 am Certified Turfgrass Professional Program (NCCTP)
Cliff Ruth, Area Agent-Agriculture, Henderson/Transylvania Counties & Matt Martin, NCSU

11:50 am-1:00 pm Buffet Lunch (Included with registration)

GOLF SESSION
Presider: Matt Martin, Extension Turf Specialist, NCSU

1:00-1:30 pm New Turfgrasses for Western North Carolina
Pat O’Brien, Green Section, USGA

1:30-2:00 pm Disease ID & Management Strategies
Dr. Lane Tredway, Pathologist, NCSU & Lee Butler, Diagnostic Clinic, NCSU

2:00-2:15 pm Break

2:00-3:00 pm Disease (cont’d)
Dr. Lane Tredway & Lee Butler, NCSU

LAWN CARE/ATHLETIC FIELD
Presider: Amanda Stone, Extension Agent-Commercial Horticulture, Buncombe County

1:00-1:30 pm New Products in Weed Management
Leon Warren, Crop Science, NCSU

1:30-2:00 pm Athletic Field Management on a Shoestring Budget
Grady Miller, Turf Scientist, NCSU

2:00-2:15 pm Break

2:15-2:45 pm Turfgrass Variety Update for Western North Carolina
Casey Reynolds, NCSU

2:45-3:15 pm Ornamental Weed Management
Cliff Ruth, Area Extension Agent-Agriculture, Henderson/Transylvania Counties
Regional Landscape Maintenance Workshop
February 22, 2007
Mountain Horticultural Crops
Research & Extension Center
Fletcher, NC

Educational sessions on understanding pesticides, pruning, organic pest control, proven disease resistant plants and more! Pesticide credits will be available. $25 registration fee due by February 12. Maximum of 75 participants.

Registration

- Company:____________________________________________________________
- Name(s):____________________________________________________________
- Address:____________________________________________________________
- City:________________________________________________________________
- State:________________________________________________________________
- Zip:__________________________________________________________________
- Phone:________________________________________________________________
- E-mail:________________________________________________________________

Lunch will be catered by Adams Bake Shop, Fletcher. Please check your preference for a sandwich:

- ______ Ham Sandwich
- ______ Turkey Sandwich
- ______ Vegetarian Sandwich

Please send this portion of form back with the registration fee of $25 made payable to the Henderson County Cooperative Extension Center and mail to:

Cliff Ruth
Area Specialized Agent
NC Cooperative Extension Service
Henderson County Center
740 Glover Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Registration & Fees

- Complete Form
- Mail or fax (with credit card) to TCNC
- Deadline: February 25, 2007

Full Name__________________________________________________________
Badge Name________________________________________________________
Company____________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________
City, State & Zip_______________________________________________________

Work Phone__________________________________________________________
Fax___________________________________________________________________
Home Phone___________________________________________________________
E-mail Address________________________________________________________

TCNC Membership #____________________________________________________

Fees:

**Preregistration:**
- Regular: $75.00
- NCCES: $25.00
- Students: $25.00
- On-site: $90.00

Total Payment: $___________

*Make check payable to:*

TCNC
PO Box 2163
Cary, NC 27512-2163.

Fax credit card payments to 919 380 9424.
(    ) Visa  (    ) MC  (    ) Amex

Card #______________________________________________________________
Exp Date___________ Signature__________________________________________
WNC AgOptions/USDA-RMA Community Outreach Program

Part I: AgVenture Feasibility
What Else Can I Do with What I’ve Got?

February 1, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Tri-County CC, Telecenter Bldg, Room 103
February 8, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Henderson County Cooperative Extension Center
February 15, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Bakersville Fire Department

This workshop is designed to walk you through the decision-making process that is necessary before you add to or change what you do on your farm. For example, if you have thought about adding a pick-your-own berry patch to your current operation, what do you need, what do you already have, how much might it cost you, and when can you expect a profit?

Part II: Risky Business
How Do I Protect My Farm Business and ME?

March 8, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Southwestern CC (Tentative); Fletcher Research Station (Tentative); & Mayland CC

What do you think of when you hear the word, “spinach”? Healthy green vegetable or E.coli outbreak? As a farmer, you understand that product liability is a real challenge! This workshop is designed to provide information on different forms of managing and minimizing risk, from insurance options to disaster assistance to liability issues concerning agritourism and farm products. If you want to protect yourself and your farm, don’t miss this one!

Part III: AgriBusiness Planning 101
Building a Practical Business Plan that Works for My Farm and ME!

March 24, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Tri-County CC, Telecenter Bldg, Room 117; Fletcher Research Station; & Bakersville Fire Department

(Pre-Registration will be required, $15/person. Contact our office at (828) 255-5522 for details on registration.)

Who buys your products? Who do you compete with for the best prices? Who are the people who make your farm business work? Do you ever plan to expand? Where will you find the financing you need? All of these questions need to be answered BEFORE you invest time, energy and money into a venture.

No matter how much experience you’ve had with business plans, you’ll find information, examples, and one-on-one coaching for your individual needs!

Questions? Contact your local Extension Agent or Brittany Whitmire at Brittany.whitmire@buncombecounty.org

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 NCSU, NCA&T State University or NC Cooperative Extension or 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 regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance contact an agent of N. C. Cooperative Extension.
**Water Quality Sediment & Erosion Control Workshop**

**Who should attend:** Grading contractors, developers, site foreman, environmental code enforcement officers, land owners

**When:** February 20 – 9:00 am-4:30 pm

**Where:** NC Arboretum, Asheville

This workshop is tailored to address the specific issues contractors face concerning sediment and erosion control in the mountains. It will cover hydrology and stream function, explain how land use changes - including construction - affect water quality, and the importance of vegetation. In addition, sediment and erosion control practices and strategies will be presented. The workshop will also address regulations for working around streams, and updates to the Erosion and Sediment Manual will be discussed. Following the presentations and a provided lunch, a field tour and a variety of demonstrations will be performed on best management practices, alternative control options, and proper live staking techniques.

For more info and to register: [http://www.ncsu.edu/waterquality/frenchbroad/sediment_workshop.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/waterquality/frenchbroad/sediment_workshop.html)

*AS:gs*

*Individuals with disabilities who would like to participate in any program mention 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.*