Grower Spotlight

Sweetbriar Landscaping & Nursery
930 Old Marshall Highway
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 645-4478
sweetbriar3@juno.com (email)
www.sweetbriarlandscaping.com

- Owner, Sales & Grower: Martin Hutzel
- Number of employees: One for the nursery and four for the landscaping business
- Square feet/ acres of business: ¼ acre
- Grand opening date: Martin started landscaping in 1986 and opened the nursery in 1991
- Product mix: Flowering Deciduous Shrubs & Native Grasses
- Clientele: Wholesale to landscapers and garden centers
- New & upcoming: Martin is excited about Spireae thunbergii ‘Fujino Pink’! This shrub is attractive year round with wonderful fall color and really nice flowers in the summer. Also available are 5 different species of Viburnum and 6 different Daylilies. With the planet becoming warmer and the need to conserve water, it’s important that we start including more drought tolerant plants in the landscape. Grasses are some of the great plants that fit this category. Check out what native grasses Sweetbriar has available!
- Special services: Landscape design, installation & maintenance.
- Comments: The 2007 plant availability list is ready. Contact Sweetbriar and they’ll send you one. Martin would love to meet more of the local green industry professionals.

Give’em a call and support your local growers!!!!!
Calendar of Events

June 11
*Buncombe County Beekeepers Chapter, monthly meeting.* N. C. Cooperative Extension – Buncombe County Center, 94 Coxe Ave, Asheville. 7:00-9:00pm. For more information call the Extension Center, (828) 255-5522.

June 19–July 21
*Certified Plant Professional Short Court.* North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Fredrick law Olmsted Way, Asheville. 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, educational sessions, new varieties, and trade show networking, are all available during the three day event. For more information call the Extension Center at (828) 255-5522 or visit www.sgcts.org

July 18–21
*Cullowhee Native Plant Conference.* Western Carolina University, Cullowhee. The purpose of the Cullowhee Conference is to increase interest in and knowledge of propagating and preserving native southeastern plant species in the landscape. To register or for more information visit http://nativeplants.wcu.edu/

July 27–28
*Landscape Design Workshop.* Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher. This will be a hands-on workshop in landscape design; some design skills are necessary. For more info call (828) 255-5522.

August 9–11
*Southern Nurseryman’s Association Research Conference & Trade Show.* Atlanta, GA. Top researchers and educational leaders from leading universities present their newest discoveries relative to horticulture. Admission into the SNA Research Conference is **FREE** with a SNA 2007 Trade Show Badge. To register or for more info visit www.sna.org or call the Extension Center.

August 16–17
*Summer Green Trade Show.* Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro. This show provides a marketplace for plants, equipment, supplies and services used in the production and sale of plants and installation of landscapes. Industry professionals can view the latest in agricultural equipment, landscaping materials, plants, trees, nursery supplies, fertilizers, and pesticides. To register or for more info visit www.ncnla.com

September 20
*Nursery Short Course & Field Day.* Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher. More info coming soon!

October 2–3
*Commercial & Private Applicators Pesticide License Exam & School.* Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher. For more information call (828) 255-5522; http://www.ncagr.com/fooddrug/pesticid
**Pesticide Recertification Classes**

**Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V). Please call to pre-register.**

7/5/2007 – Hendersonville - 2 hours credit V (Private Safety); Contact Marvin Owings (828) 697-4891  
9/25/2007 – Asheville - 2 hours credit V  
Pesticide Safety - Private Applicators. Contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522

**Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions. Please call to pre-register.**

Pesticide Specialty Training. Contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522

***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/pesticide](http://www.agr.state.nc.us/fooddrug/pesticide)***

**Honeybee Swarming Season**

*** Please call N. C. Cooperative Extension at (828) 255-5522 if you notice a honeybee swarm. We have a list of local beekeepers who we can contact for catching the swarms.

Swarming is an instinctive part of the annual life cycle of the honeybee colony and is necessary for the species to survive. Swarming occurs when a colony of honeybees divides and 30-70% of the bees, along with their queen, leave the hive to start a new colony. The tendency to swarm is usually greatest when the bees increase their population rapidly in the period before the honey flow. Therefore, the cause of swarming is normally associated with a crowded brood (eggs/larvae/pupae) nest. Most swarming takes place in our area during April – June.

The age of the queen bee is another swarming factor. Swarming is more frequent with two year old queens, whose egg laying powers are diminishing, than one year old queens. The failing of the queen will not be so evident in early spring, but as the colony approaches the honey-flow her ability to lay eggs will be taxed to the utmost. Daily the old queen lays fewer eggs, her laying less systematic, and the bees become eager to replace her with a young, more efficient queen. Then the bees raise a queen for the purpose of superseding the old queen.

There are many other reasons why a honeybee colony will swarm. A lack of food, bad odors, a heavy infestation of wax moths, repeated attacks by bears and other predators, and sometimes disease.

**Remember to Recycle Your Pesticides!**

Buncombe County is a member of the Hazardous Household Waste Program (HHW). HHW are accepted each Friday, except holidays, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm at a special dropoff area at the landfill. HHW is accepted for $2 per gallon for paint-related material, such as paint thinner, kerosene, gasoline and paint. Other materials, such as lawn, garden and agricultural chemicals are accepted from Buncombe County residents, at no charge. Periodically, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture will pick up these chemicals and their containers and have them incinerated. It is important to be a responsible pesticide applicator and dispose of left over chemicals and containers properly to ensure environmental safety.

**Directions to the Landfill:** From I-240, take 19/23 North and then take the UNC-A exit. Turn left at the stop sign and go through the red light onto Riverside Drive. Go 10 miles north, then turn right on Panther Branch Road. The landfill will be on the right. The new landfill (Panther Branch Rd) is six miles north of the old landfill. **Phone # of Landfill: 828-645-5311**
Plant Problems to Watch for in June

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

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

Turfgrasses
Watch for Brown Patch of Fescue and normal senescence of annual ryegrass.

Woody Ornamentals
Azalea
Boxwood
Camellia
Cotoneaster, Pyracantha
Crabapple
Leyland cypress
Dogwood
Elm
Holly
Juniper
Maple
Oak
Photina
Redcedar, Eastern
Rhododendron
Rose

Herbaceous Ornamentals
Clematis
Coralbells
Hollyhock
Impatiens
Ivy, English
Periwinkle, Common
Snapdragon
Zinnia
Zygocactus

Stunt nematodes, Phomopsis dieback
Lesion nematode (nematode information for the nursery and landscape), Fertilizer injury
Canker
Fire blight
Fire blight, Apple scab, Quince rust
Cypress canker (Seiridium), Botryosphaeria dieback/canker
Dogwood anthracnose (Discula), Powdery mildew,
Spot anthracnose,
Stress/Problem lower down
Black spot, Dutch elm disease
Black root rot, Mushroom root rot, Nematodes
(Dagger, Ring, Root-knot)
Decline caused by combinations of the following:
Excess shade, Low pH, Magnesium deficiency,
Phytophthora root rot, Poor drainage, Spider mites
Anthracnose, Phyllosticta leaf spot
Leaf blister (leaf curl)
Entomosporium leaf spot, Mushroom root rot
Phomopsis twig blight, Kabatina twig blight
Botryosphaeria dieback, Botrytis dieback
Cane blights, Downy mildew, Powdery mildew, Rose mosaic virus,
Round-up injury
Phomopsis or Aschochyta stem rot
Black root rot, Phytophthora root rot, Web blight
Rust
INSV, Rhizoctonia root/stem rot
Bacterial leaf spot, Anthracnose
Phoma blight, Rhizoctonia blight
Rust, Phytophthora blight, Heat stress
Bacterial leaf spot, Powdery mildew
Fusarium stem rot
**Landscape Maintenance in June**

Lawns:

- Do not fertilize cool-season lawns until September
- If you irrigate the lawn, apply one inch of water each week if rainfall doesn’t provide enough. Watering in morning is best to prevent disease.
- Watch out for *Brown Patch* fungus. If it develops, allowing the lawn to go dormant (stop watering) will stop the spread of the fungus.
- Practice “Grasscycling”. Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They provide 25% of a lawn’s fertilizer needs.

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 shape.
- Continue scouting for insect pests and diseases. N. C. Cooperative Extension has “Plant Disease Development Calendars” and “Landscape Management Calendars” free to you as references.
- Spider mites may be bad this year considering they like it hot & dry - keep your eye open for them. Foliage of most plants becomes pale and speckled; juniper foliage turns a pale yellowish color. Shake a branch over white paper and watch for tiny specks that crawl.
- Our current water deficit is ~ 6 inches…we are DRY! Remember to water regularly anything you have planted.
- Scout conifers for *Bagworms*. Treating bagworm host foliage with insecticide while the worms are small is the most effective time for control. Hand-picking bagworms, when practical, is a safe and effective means of control.
- Monitor roses for *Black Spot* and *Powdery Mildew*. Remove and destroy infected branches or use a fungicide.
- Irises can be divided after they have bloomed. Remember to plant the rhizomes shallow, so some of the top is exposed to sunlight.
- Remove any stagnant water sources to avoid mosquito problems.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.

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**5th Annual Biltmore Forest School Woodland Owner Short Course**

*Managing Your Land in Western North Carolina – Summer 2007*

- Discover Your Land ~ June 8
- Wildlife and Wildfire in Your Backyard ~ June 22
- Woodscaping ~ July 13
- Introduction to Native Landscaping & Homes in the Forest ~ July 27
- Managing Access & Water on Your Land ~ August 10
- Stewardship of Your Land ~ August 24

Sponsored by several partners including the USDA Forest Service Cradle of Forestry in America the course will be held in and around Pisgah Forest. Our mission is to promote a healthy environment by educating landowners about land management.

For more information visit: [www.carolinamountain.org](http://www.carolinamountain.org) for registration information OR contact Amy Garasica, amysworkshopinfo@aol.com, Cradle of Forestry in America, 1001 Pisgah Hwy, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768, (828) 877-3350.

**Credit toward NC Environmental Education Certification is available, as well as CEU credits.**
White House, Senate Announce Immigration Reform Deal

For More Information
Jonathan Bardzik, 202-789-2900
jbardzik@anla.org

For Immediate Release
May 18, 2007

Washington, D.C. — The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2007, sweeping compromise immigration reform legislation known as S.1348, was announced in an afternoon Senate press conference on May 17. The legislation, if enacted, would be the most extensive overhaul of the nation’s immigration laws in decades. The fragile compromise has the support of conservative Republicans such as Jon Kyl (AZ) and Larry Craig (ID), and liberal Democrats including Ted Kennedy (MA).

The compromise touches on virtually every topic of the immigration debate - border enforcement, interior enforcement, electronic employment eligibility verification, future temporary worker programs, and an earned legalization program for improperly documented immigrants. ANLA (American Landscape and Nursery Association) has pushed for several key provisions in any immigration legislation, and it appears that the top priorities for the green industry are included in the bill. These priorities include the following:

• The AgJOBS agricultural worker reforms that create a streamlined guest worker program and allow the most experienced farm workers to remain working while they earn legal status. While some concessions and modifications were made to secure the support of the White House and historic opponents including Sen. Chambliss (R-GA), the essential provisions of AgJOBS are intact. Also, the agricultural provisions will be exempted from the “triggers” border security measures which will delay implementation of most other provisions of the bill.

• H-2B program reforms that exempt most returning seasonal workers from counting against the annual cap on visas, and allow the program to expand to meet market conditions. While the existing H-2B program would eventually sunset, it would be replaced by a similar new “Y-2B” visa for seasonal work up to 10 months per year. The program would have an initial cap of 100,000 with more flexibility to meet market demand.

The bill would also phase in new employer requirements to electronically verify the work eligibility of prospective employees. ANLA and the business community will support such requirements only if the responsibilities placed on employers are simple and clear, that employers are shielded from liability for system problems, and that programs exist to ensure access to adequate legal workers. “Ten years into our effort to achieve labor and immigration reform, we are encouraged by the announcement of the new White House/Senate compromise,” says Craig Regelbrugge, ANLA’s Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs. “We remain cautious about the details, however, and will refrain from a full endorsement until we have carefully reviewed the hundreds of pages of detailed and complex language.”

ANLA encourages all green industry businesses to let their Senators know of your support for comprehensive immigration reform. Visit anla.org for further information.

ANLA, a Washington, DC based trade association, represents green industry business professionals seeking market leadership through advocacy with our nation’s government, a community of industry innovators and experts, and unique profitability focused programming, products and services.

Biodiesel Education Workshop – Asheville, June 22

NC Urban Forest Council is sponsoring a “Biodiesel Education Workshop” that will cover:

• Brief history of diesel engine and how the inventor, Diesel, had envisioned communities able to supply their own fuel.
• Evolution of the biofuels movement throughout the last century to today.
• Biodiesel basics.
• Environmental benefits and engine benefits.

We have applied for ISA CEU’s for this workshop.

DATE: June 22, 2007 from 9:00 am-12:00 noon.

PLACE: City of Asheville Public Works Building, 161 S. Charlotte Street, Asheville.

COST: Free for members/ $5 for non-members

To register online go to: www.ncufc.org or send a check to: NCUFC, PO Box 25852, Winston-Salem, NC 27114-5852. Call 336-774-0215 with questions.
Gov Easley Directs State Agencies in 12 Western Counties to Stop Non-Essential Water Use
Asks Citizens to Voluntarily Conserve Water Statewide as Drought Worsens

May 24, 2007

Raleigh – Gov. Mike Easley today directed state agencies in 12 Western North Carolina counties that are in extreme or severe drought to stop non-essential water use. He is also urging state and local governments and the public to conserve water statewide because drought conditions are worsening and it is difficult to predict where or when the state will receive much-needed rainfall. The lack of rainfall this spring is already having an impact on stream flow and ground water levels, which makes it prudent to begin voluntary conservation measures in the event that the summer remains dry.

“Today I directed state agencies in the 12 hardest hit counties to stop using water for anything that is not related to public health and safety. This step is necessary because water supplies are becoming limited in those counties and we are still very early in the season.” Easley said. “Memorial Day is typically when demand for water increases, so I am urging North Carolinians in all 100 counties to voluntarily limit all non-essential uses of water and observe any water restrictions that may be in place in your communities.”

Easley sent a letter to his cabinet secretaries directing department employees in the 12 counties to stop washing vehicles, using water for ornamental purposes, watering grass and washing down surfaces such as sidewalks. The 12 counties are Buncombe, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey. He also sent a memo to the other members of the Council of State and to the heads of the state university and community college systems asking them to comply with the directive.

The Governor also recommends the following conservation measures for all North Carolina residents:

- Take shorter showers.
- Do not leave the water running while rinsing dishes, shaving or brushing teeth.
- Limit car washing. Use a bucket and a hose with a spray attachment.
- Add compost and other organic matter to your soil to improve its' water-holding capacity.
- Keep a pitcher of cold water in the fridge, instead of running tap water until it is cold.
- Use a bucket to water your plants, not a hose.
- Water lawns in the morning or evening, not in the heat of the day, to prevent evaporation.

At the recommendation of state drought officials, the U. S. Drought Monitor today announced that Clay, Cherokee and Graham counties are experiencing “extreme hydrological drought,” the fourth stage of a five stage system. Hydrological drought refers to deficiencies in water resources available for water supply and is measured based on stream flows as well as lake, reservoir and ground water levels. Nine other western counties (Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey) are suffering a “severe drought,” the third stage. Drought officials say moderate drought has now spread from the mountains to the southern coast of North Carolina and much of the rest of the state is experiencing abnormally dry conditions. For a more detailed map, go to www.ncdrought.org.
Grower Spotlight – Past Issues

1. **Biltmore Estate Nursery** (828) 665-3635, 702 Brevard Road, Asheville, NC
   Perennials, natives, trees, shrubs, grasses and ferns; wholesale to landscapers.

2. **Mountain Meadows Landscape & Dwarf Conifer Nursery** (828) 626-2695, Weaverville, NC
   www.mountainmeadowsdwarfconifers.com
   Over 300 varieties of conifers, dwarf conifers and select deciduous plant material, like fragrant Viburnums and Peony; wholesale to landscapers and retail.

3. **Carolina Tree Form** (828) 670-8733, 70 Pisgah Highway, Candler, NC

4. **Creekside Nursery & Garden Center** (828) 299-7172, 827 Charlotte Highway, Fairview, NC
   www.creeksidenurserync.com Perennials, annuals, herb and veggie transplants, trees, shrubs, indoor cacti and jade plants, organic fertilizers and organic pesticides; retail and wholesale to landscapers. Will deliver.

5. **Useful Plants Nursery**, (828) 669-1759, 1041 Camp Elliott Road, Black Mountain, NC
   www.usefulplants.org. 140 different varieties of edible and medicinal plants. Wholesale to landscapers and retail to public by appointment.

*AS:gs

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.*

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*The Commercial Horticulture News 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 producers about current issues related to commercial horticulture production.*

Editor: Amanda Stone, Extension Agent – Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture

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