Grower Spotlight

Useful Plants Nursery
1041 Camp Elliott Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(828) 669-1759
chuck@earthaven.org (email)
www.usefulplants.org

- **Owner, Sales & Grower:** Chuck Marsh
- **Number of employees:** 1-2 work exchangers
- **Square feet/ acres of business:** ½ acre
- **Grand opening date:** 2002
- **Product mix:** 140 different varieties of **Edible & Medicinal Plants**
- **Clientele:** Wholesale to landscapers and retail to public by appointment.

- **New & upcoming:** **Elderberries (Sambucus)**!! A native shrub with great fruit that has tons of antioxidants. The fruit can be eaten fresh or used for juice, jams, jellies, pies, wine or for attracting birds. Elderberry is a vigorous shrub that transplants well and will survive in almost any situation. It will thrive under acid or alkaline conditions, sun or shade, wet or dry!! The Elderberry is underutilized in the landscape, **BUT** has wonderful ornamental & landscape value because of its' handsome foliage, flowers, edible fruit and it’s easy to grow!!! At Useful Plants Nursery you can find many different cultivars of Elderberry like some with extra-large fruit!! Another cool and exciting plant is **Cranberry**. Cranberry is an evergreen ground cover (excellent for using in the landscape!) that produces edible cranberries loaded with antioxidants!

- **Special services:** Chuck is an informational source on edible and medicinal plants and also provides consulting on Edible Landscaping, and Permaculture/Ecological Landscapes.

- **Comments:** At Useful Plants Nursery, Chuck is exploring the edges of food bearing plants. He’s interested in providing you with phytonutritional plants that produce fruits, berries and nuts with the highest concentration of phytochemicals such as antioxidants that help fight degenerative diseases like cancer. These Edible & Medicinal plants also have excellent ornamental and landscape value and we should use them more in our landscapes!!! Check out the website for a plant availability list or just give Chuck a call.

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

May 4-6
Spring Herb Festival. WNC Farmers’ Market, Asheville, NC. Friday & Saturday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Sunday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Plants, herbal products, crafts, garden information and educational programs.

May 4-6
10th Annual Native Plant Symposium. Museum of York County, Rock Hill, SC. “Plants Without Borders”, a native plant symposium is being presented by the North & South Carolina Native Plant Societies and the Culture & Heritage Museums. Educational seminars, field trips and a native plant sale. For more info please call the Extension Center (828) 255-5522.

May 12
Wildflower Identification. Bullington Center, 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. 1:00-4:00 pm. Learn to identify our native wildflowers using the key in Newcombe’s Wildflower Guide led by members of the Western Carolina Botanical Club. Registration is $12. Call (828) 698-6104 to register or for more info.

May 19
Wildflower Walk. Bullington Center, 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Join the members of the Western Carolina Botanical Club on a stroll over to the Bullington grounds to find spring wildflowers. Registration is $5. Call (828) 698-6104 to register or for more info.

June 19-July 21
Certified Plant Professional Short Court. North Carolina 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, 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 27-28
Landscape Design Workshop. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher, NC. This will be a hands-on workshop in Landscape Design. Some design skills are necessary. Stay tuned for more info or call (828) 255-5522.

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

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

5/8/2007 – Marshall - 2 hours credit V
Recertification for Private Pesticide License Holders. Contact Elizabeth Ayers (828) 649-2411
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.

5/23/2007 – Asheville - 2 hours credit L N D X
Pest Management for Landscapes. Contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522
6/13/2007 – Asheville - 2 hours credit L N D X
Pest Management for Landscapes. Contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522
7/11/2007 – Asheville - 2 hours credit L N D X
Pest Management for Landscapes. Contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522
8/8/2007 – Asheville - 2 hours credit L N D X
Pest Management for Landscapes. 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/pesticid

LIVE from Raleigh, NCSU Plant Problem Clinics 2007

All clinics will be held at UNC Asheville, 10:00 am-12:00 noon, broadcast LIVE (video conference) from Raleigh. Below are the dates for these clinics. Please feel free to bring your own samples. The video conference room location at UNC Asheville is TBA. Please contact (828) 255-5522 to get location.

1. May 8 -

• The theme for the plant clinic on May 8 is Flowers
  ~ Guest Extension Specialists (15 minute spot each to provide an overview of their research and other info)
  * Christine Casey, Entomology
  * Tom Creswell, Pathology
  * Brian Whipker, Horticulture
  ~ Special Topic: Plant Diagnostics - Tom Creswell (20 minutes)
  * Data needed
  * How to gather and package samples
  * Digital Images
  ~ Current Issues (10 minutes each)
  * Tom Creswell, Plant Pathology
  * Lucy Bradley, Horticulture
  * David Stephan Entomology

2. June 12

3. July 10

4. August 14
Plant Problems to Watch for in May

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

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

**Turf Grass**
Brown patch, Cold injury, Fairy ring, Nutritional problems, Pink snow mold

**Woody Ornamentals**
- General shrubs
- Horse-Sugar, Azalea, Sasanqua, and Camellia
- Azalea, Boxwood, Rhododendron, Juniper (esp. "Shore")
- Dogwood
- Chinese Elm
- Canadian Hawthorn, Red-Tip Photinia, Ornamental Pear
- Japanese Holly
- Lirioper
- Leyland Cypress
- Maple
- Southern Magnolia
- Ornamental Pear, Cotoneaster and Crabapple
- Oaks
- Pines
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Roses
- Sycamore and Maple

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Situation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold injury, Secondary leaf spots, Nematodes</td>
<td>nursery, landscape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powdery mildew</td>
<td>Exobasidium leaf gall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phytophthora root rot</td>
<td>Spot anthracnose, Dogwood anthracnose, Powdery mildew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black spot (leaf blight)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entomosporium leaf spot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black root rot</td>
<td>Anthracnose (secondary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cypress canker, Botryosphaeria canker</td>
<td>Phyllosticta leaf spot, Secondary leafspots</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire blight</td>
<td>Normal leaf drop of oldest leaves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaf blister</td>
<td>Needle rust, Needle casts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar-apple rust, Kabatina tip blight, Quince rust</td>
<td>Cold injury, old cane blight and stress from black spot, Mosaic virus</td>
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<td>Anthracnose</td>
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**Herbaceous Ornamentals**

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<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Situation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perennials, general</td>
<td>Cold injury, Fertilizer injury, Low pH, Powdery mildew, Rhizoctonia root/stem rot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iris</td>
<td>Cladosporium leaf spot, Stem collapse due to rapid growth, excess nitrogen and cloudy weather</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold injury, Rhizoctonia root/stem rot</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Ivy</td>
<td>Anthracnose, Phytophthora root rot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lirioper</td>
<td>Anthracnose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madagascar Periwinkle</td>
<td>Botrytis blight, Phytophthora blight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxalis</td>
<td>Rust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pachysandra</td>
<td>Volutella blight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peony</td>
<td>Botrytis blight, Bullnose (failure to bloom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuals/Foliage plants in greenhouse</td>
<td>Rhizoctonia root/stem rot, Pythium root rot, Impatiens necrotic spot, Powdery mildew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Winter Injury of Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

Question: *Why are my plants that are supposed to stay green year-round BROWN?*

Fluctuating weather conditions have been conducive to plant injury. The impact of these conditions is evident in ornamental plantings in the landscape throughout the mountains. Poor root health and underdeveloped root systems on new plantings contributed to this damage.

Winter injury is often problematic on evergreens in the landscape, such as rhododendron, mountain laurel, holly and needled evergreens such as hemlock, arborvitae, chamaecyparis, pine, and juniper. Injury results from environmental factors such as a warm midwinter, dramatic temperature fluctuations, sunny days, drying winds, lack of soil moisture, low humidity and late spring frosts or freezes. Most trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, continue to lose moisture through their leaves even in the coldest winter periods. When the ground is excessively dry, cold and/or frozen, the roots cannot take up enough water to compensate the amount being lost through foliar transpiration. As a result, excessive drying or desiccation of plant tissue occurs, especially to plants in more exposed sites lacking protection from severe climatic conditions. Winter injury can predispose and weaken plants making them more vulnerable to secondary pests.

Symptoms of winter desiccation include tip and branch dieback, foliar browning, sun scalding and bark splitting. This year, hollies in particular and other broadleaf evergreens, such as rhododendrons, are showing a lot of foliar browning, longitudinal rolling along the midvein, and branch dieback on one or two individual branches or the entire plant.

**Steps for correcting winter damage include:**

1) be patient; wait until the threat of a late spring freeze is over; then prune only the obviously damaged material.
2) fertilize the damaged material with a complete fertilizer in May – June.
3) damaged plants should be given a deep supplemental watering during dry periods in the summer to prevent further injury.
4) branch dieback may occur after growth starts in spring; this is caused by damage to the cambium and should be pruned out as they die.

**Steps for preventing future winter damage include:**

1) proper plant selection - RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE
2) use sound cultural practices to maintain optimum growth;
3) have sufficient moisture in the root zone (especially evergreens) by giving a deep watering before the ground freezes; mulches also helps to increase moisture retention in the winter.
4) avoid late summer or early fall fertilization;
5) provide physical protection from drying winds - this is especially important for new transplants or plants in exposed locations; burlap wraps or sprays of anti-transpirants can be used

**Compiled & written by:**
Melinda Roberts, Snow Creek Nursery & Landscaping
Amanda Stone, Extension Agent - Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture, N. C. Cooperative Extension – Buncombe County

**Sources of information:**
1. North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension
2. The Connecticut Ag Experiment Station, “Winter Injury on Woody Ornamentals”, “Winter Injury & Drying of Rhododendron”
3. Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, “Winter Injury of Ornamentals”
EPA Approves Safer insect Repellent Based on Compound Developed at N. C. State University

Thanks to a compound identified at North Carolina State University and licensed by HOMS, LLC, a safer, natural alternative for surviving mosquito season is headed to store shelves just in time for warm weather. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that one-third of Americans use DEET – the active ingredient in popular insect repellents. While EPA has deemed DEET safe for adults, recent reassessments have resulted in new child safety labeling requirements on all products containing the chemical.

Now, the wait for a DEET-free, child-safe insect repellent is over. EPA has officially approved BioUD™ as a safe active ingredient in insect repellent for direct skin application with no child safety restrictions. HOMS, LLC, a North Carolina-based biotech company, will immediately begin distribution of the BioUD™ formula in a product called Bite Blocker®. Research shows BioUD™ outperforms DEET and the eucalyptus compound found in Off Botanicals in testing against mosquitoes at six hours post application. In fact, BioUD™ demonstrates 100% repellency against mosquitoes up to three hours after application and 99% repellent up to 4.5 hours in forest and marsh conditions.

Allen Jones, CEO of HOMS, and Dr. Michael Roe, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Entomology at N. C. State, have been waiting for this day for some time. Four years ago, Roe saw potential to effectively repel a wide variety of insects using a naturally occurring compound found in wild tomato plants. His research suggested that a “green technology” could be developed with efficacy levels that would challenge DEET. HOMS licensed the compound from N. C. State for formulation with their soy emulsion technology for commercial applications and began the EPA approval process.

This month EPA released the official registration of BioUD™ as a pest-repellent formulation for direct skin application carrying no child restrictions. BioUD™ has also proven effective against ticks. It has been tested against American Dog Ticks, carriers of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Deer Ticks, carriers of Lyme disease. Bite Blocker® is the company’s premier repellent product containing the BioUD™ ingredient. Pipeline products include an insect repellent formulated for textiles such as clothing, tents and camping gear, a lignocellulosic application for control of wood-infestation, and an organic certification for the treatment of food prep surfaces in restaurants.

Report Freeze or High Wind Damage to FSA

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides assistance to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters. FSA has worked with other County, State, and Federal agencies to provide estimates of crop losses due to the recent freeze damage. The office is continuing to take calls from producers who are reporting damage to crops from the freeze and also crops or other farm related damage from high winds. Please continue to call in your damage reports. There is no time limit for producers to report their damage. These reports of damage are only used to get a county-wide estimate of crop losses. In some crops, damages may not show up for several weeks. Please remember to document the disaster occurrence including information such as date and type of disaster, acres planted, acres affected, crop loss percentage, etc. It is also a good idea to take plenty of pictures of your crop damage.

In the event that a Disaster Program is funded by Congress, producers need to make certain they would be eligible for benefits. Before a producer can be considered eligible for benefits, the producer must have filed a CCC-502, CCC-526, and related forms. Essentially, the producer must come into the FSA office and sign up to get a farm number and then also report his/her crops before June 30. Once a producer has received a farm number and reported their crops, they will become eligible for programs offered by FSA.

When you stop by the FSA Office, please be sure to ask about crop coverage in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). I have noticed in talking to some producers that they had no insurance coverage on their crops. If insurance is not available for a crop, producers may be able to sign up for NAP coverage. NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Producers must be signed up for this program by the application deadline date each year. Please call (828) 254-0916 or come into the office at 155 Hilliard Avenue, Asheville for more information on FSA. The following link is to the fact sheet put out by FSA regarding low interest loans to farmers needing assistance because of the damage they received: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl)
North Carolina 'Green Industry' Economic Impact Study

Agriculture ranks in the top 5 leading industries in North Carolina. The ‘green industry’ is the most rapidly growing segment of agriculture in North Carolina. The green industry is a catch-all term for nursery, floriculture & Christmas tree growers, sod producers, retail garden centers, florists, arborists, landscapers & designers, architects, irrigation companies, golf courses, institutions, parks & airports. According to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, North Carolina ranks #4 in the United States in greenhouse & nursery production (#1-CA, #2- FL, #3-TX) and #2 in the production of Christmas trees (#1-OR). Nursery and greenhouse production is the third major agricultural commodity produced in North Carolina behind broilers (#1) and hogs (#2). As you can see, agriculture is economically important to the state of North Carolina.

In 2005, North Carolina State University did an economic impact study specifically on the green industry in North Carolina. Results are out and they are impressive!!! The study found that:

The total economic impact of the green industry on North Carolina’s economy was more than $8.6 billion!

- The total employment impact for North Carolina’s green industry is 151,982 full-time and part-time employees.
- Arborists, landscapers, and lawn care experts spent an average of $149,298 on labor expense.
- The total acreage in production of Christmas trees, field grown nursery stock, sod, container nursery stock, sod, container nursery and floriculture crops was over 120,000 acres.
- The total for North Carolina’s golf course acreage is 63,876 acres.
- The total value-added of production in North Carolina was more than $4.1 billion.
- Plant sales at garden centers, both independent and mass merchants, exceeded $322.4 million.
- The total economic losses for both producer and consumer sectors was $276 million.
- And the findings go on!!!
- Total gross sales by North Carolina florists exceeded $256.6 million.
- Average homeowner expenditures for all lawn and landscape services were $838.
- Total gross sales by North Carolina arborists, landscapers, and lawn care professionals were $1.2 billion.
- Gross sales by North Carolina landscape architects and designers totaled $574.2 million.
- Over 2.9 million North Carolina homeowners spent an average of $718 for green goods, equipment, and supplies.
- Over 2,936 owners of commercial multi-family residences or apartment complexes spent an average of $10,321 for green goods, equipment, and supplies.

As long as this economic trend and population influx continues in North Carolina, there would be no expected changes in the demand for green industry services or products

Basic Home Maintenance Course

If you are either a new homeowner or a long timer, this course could be for you. The Buncombe County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension is offering a five-session Basic Home Maintenance Course beginning Tuesday, June 5. The two-hour class will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm on June 5, 7, 12, 14 & 19 at the Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville. 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, etc. The course also offers “hands-on” repairs which include: faucets, drywall, and screens. The fee of $20 includes all materials. Pre-registration is required by calling 828-255-5522.

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.
Grower Spotlight – Past Issues

1. **Broad River Botanicals** (828) 664-9902, 2805 Hwy 9, Black Mountain, NC. Perennials – unusual new varieties and top performers, natives; wholesale to landscapers and garden center; will deliver.

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

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

4. **Carolina Tree Form**, (828) 670-8733, 70 Pisgah Hwy, Candler, NC www.carolinatreeform.com Trees and shrubs, conifers, vines, grasses and groundcovers, native plants and rare, unusual, hard to find specimen and speciality plants; wholesale and retail to serious horticulturalists. Will deliver.

5. **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.

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.