“One man’s weed is another man’s wildflower” - Old adage

Be Safe: Read the Label

For many of us it has become habit to read the nutrition labels at the grocery store. But how often do you read the labels on your garden pesticides? Pesticide labels contain information vital to your personal safety, as well as reducing environmental risks.

Start by looking for the “signal word” on the front of the label: Caution, Warning or Danger. Products with the Caution label are the least toxic to mammals. Danger is most toxic.

Read further to make sure the product will control the disease, insect or weed you want to control. You will also want to make sure it is safe to use on the plants you want to treat. For fruits and vegetables pay attention to the time to wait before harvest.

Keep all pesticides in original containers with the label intact. You will always need to have ready access to the information on mixing, safety, storage, disposal and first aid.

Normal June Weather

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weather Averages</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal June Average High</td>
<td>81.4°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal June Average Low</td>
<td>59.5°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal June Precipitation</td>
<td>4.67”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours of Daylight for Asheville, NC

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunrise</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunset</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>6:16 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>6:18 am</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 June

Lawns

- Mow frequently enough to remove no more than 1/3 of the blade at a time.
- Maintain a 3 inch mowing height for fescue and leave clippings to recycle.
- Do not fertilize cool season lawns (fescue or bluegrass) until September.

Ornamentals

- Prune spring blooming shrubs if not already done—azaleas, rhododendrons, forsythia, spirea.
- Daffodils can be divided. Dig the clumps, remove the yellowed leaves, and replant the bulbs just as you would in the fall.
- It is not too late to start container gardens to fill spaces where some color may be needed on a patio or in the garden. See what the garden center has left for annuals that will bloom all summer and add some contrasting foliage like dusty miller or sweet potato vine.
- Spend some time in the flower garden removing spent blooms. “Deadheading” will encourage some perennials to rebloom and keep annuals blooming all summer. Besides, the garden looks better without those dead flowers and seed heads.
- This is a good time to take cuttings to propagate many shrubs. Most stems would be classified as semi-hardwood cuttings in June and July. For more information see: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-8702.pdf

Fruits

- If you did not lose the fruit on fruit trees with the last freeze, the fruit will need to be thinned to prevent tree damage from too much fruit and to increase fruit size. Apples, pears and peaches should be thinned before the fruit is larger than a nickel. Remove excess fruit until fruits are 4 to 6 inches apart.
- Fruit trees that do not have fruit this year may tend to produce overly vigorous growth, especially water sprouts in apples and pears. You can save yourself some pruning next winter by removing water sprouts now.
- If the strawberry bed is healthy, it can be renovated soon after harvest. For more information see: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-8205.pdf

Vegetables

- Vegetables need a regular supply of fertilizer. Apply light doses of nitrogen - containing fertilizer 5 or 6 weeks after planting.
- Continue planting warm season vegetables. Beans, squash and cucumbers can be seeded through July so plant succession crops.
- Use 2 hands to pick peas, beans and cucumbers to prevent breaking stems.
- Vegetable gardens need one inch of water each week. Provide a good soaking if rain is not adequate.
- Check the label of all insecticides and fungicides before applying. Pay attention to the number of days to wait before harvest and to the crops and pests on the label.
- Remember that surplus produce can be donated to the Plant A Row For The Hungry collection at MANNA FoodBank. Take fresh fruits and vegetables to the warehouse at 627 Swannanoa River Road, Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:00.
SPOTLIGHT: Dill

Dill (Anthum graveolens) has been cultivated since ancient times. In today’s garden it is valued for both its culinary uses and aesthetic value.

Dill can be grown in almost any soil type as long as it has at least a half day of sun. The plant will grow 3 to 4 feet tall, so allow it some space. Because it has a tap root, dill generally does not transplant well, and is best grown by sowing seed directly into the garden, though I have found seedlings can be successfully relocated if you dig them while they are small. Sprinkle seeds onto prepared soil and tamp lightly or cover with a thin layer of soil. Thin seedlings to 8 to 12 inches apart.

Leaves should be large enough for cutting for kitchen use in about 6 weeks. Seed heads should ripen for use in cooking or pickling in 2 to 3 months. Since the leaves begin to fade when the plants flower many gardeners start a new patch of seeds every 3 to 4 weeks for continual supply of foliage. It will also self-sow freely if you leave some seed heads at the end of the season.

In addition to its culinary uses dill, like its cousin fennel, can provide a ferny background in the flower garden. The yellow lacy flowers, similar to Queen Anne’s lace, are also a valuable nectar source for many beneficial insects. I plant both because the plants are hosts for the caterpillars of the black swallowtail butterfly. And I cut lots of both foliage and flower heads for flower arrangements.

Brown Patch

When the weather is warm and damp, conditions are prime for brown patch fungus disease to develop in lawns. It does not take a lot of rain, just regular morning dew to provide enough moisture for the fungus spores to begin to grow on the blades of grass.

There is not much we can do about the weather, but we can manage some factors to reduce the amount and the spread of the disease.

First, do not apply nitrogen fertilizer after early March to cool season grasses. Nitrogen keeps the grass tender, rather than slowing down growth for its summer dormant season.

Second, do not mow when the grass is wet if at all possible. If a little brown patch gets started, mowing when wet will spread it across the lawn.

Third, do not irrigate. Allowing the lawn to go dormant will stop the spread of brown patch. If you do irrigate, run the water in the morning when the grass is already wet with dew anyway. The shorter amount of time the leaves are wet, the better.

Finally, if you have not done a soil test recently, go ahead and do it. When the soil pH and phosphate levels are good, the grass will have a healthier root system, which is more likely to survive and recover from disease.
Watch Out For Poison Ivy

Along with the arrival of summertime and outdoor activities, come the risk of an itchy case of poison ivy. Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans, formerly Rhus radicans) occurs in all parts of North Carolina and most of the eastern United States. It can be found in any habitat - from dense woods to lawns to sand dunes. With some practice it is easy to identify.

 Poison ivy always has three leaflets at the end of a long stem. These three leaflets make up one leaf. The leaflets can vary quite a bit in their exact shape. Although poison ivy is usually thought of as a vine, it will often grow as a weak shrub, standing up 2 to 3 feet tall. Old vines climbing trees are easily recognized by the extremely hairy stem.

An established patch of poison ivy can be quite difficult to eradicate. The plant spreads by underground runners, so the root system can be very extensive. Individual small plants can be dug up or pulled when the ground is soft. A heavy infestation is best controlled with repeated herbicide applications.

Several herbicides are available for use on poison ivy. Products that are readily available for home use include the following ingredients: 2,4-D (Weed-B-Gone, Southern Lawn Weed Killer, Wipe-out, others), glyphosate (Roundup, KleerAway, Kleenup, others) and trichlopyr (Brush-B-Gon, Power Force Brush Killer, others). Products containing dicamba are also very effective, but should not be used over the root area of trees and shrubs. Be sure to follow label directions carefully for use and mixing rates of all herbicides. These products should be considered “non-selective” and will damage other plants.

HANDS-ON CANNING WORKSHOPS THIS SUMMER

Hands-on canning workshops are great ways to learn the safest techniques for canning and preserving our summertime bounty. This summer we have three hands on classes scheduled. All require pre-registration and registration is confirmed when payment is received. The cost for each class is $10.00. Two classes will be held at the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville.

It’s Pickling Time! - Thursday, July 12, 10am to 1pm
Canning Green Beans– Thursday, July 26, 10am to 2 pm

Also, there will be a Canning Tomatoes class offered at the Lakeview Center in Black Mountain on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 from 5-8pm.

Call our office to register or for more information.(828) 255-5522.
All About Veggies:  
From Garden to Kitchen

Saturday, July 14, 2012  
NC Cooperative Extension  
Buncombe County  
94 Coxe Ave., Asheville

8:30 – 12:00  
Maintaining the Vegetable Garden  
Dealing with Diseases and Insects  
Planning the Fall Garden

12:30 – 4:00  
Canning High and Low Acid Foods  
Freezing, Drying and Storage

$10 each session  
Payment must accompany registration.

For more information:  
buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu  
buncombemastergardener.org/  
or call: 828-255-5522

Sign Up for E-News

Here is an opportunity to sign up for notices of coming events offered by Buncombe County’s Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. Extension Master Gardener Volunteers are trained by NC Cooperative Extension to assist with providing educational information to area citizens. They offer gardening information by staffing a Garden Hotline, conducting Saturday Plant Problem Clinics, and staffing Ask a Gardener information tables at many local events, as well as providing Garden Schools and other events. If you would like to be included in monthly email updates of coming educational opportunities offered by Master Gardeners, you can sign up by sending an email with “ADD” in the subject line to buncombemastergardener@gmail.com.

Please note that this address is only for signing up for the e-news. For gardening and other questions, please continue to call (828) 255-5522 for the Master Gardener Hotline, which is open M-Th 8:30—4:30 and Friday 8:30—12:30.

Insects to Watch For

Inspect plants periodically so you can tackle pest problems before they get out of hand. Pesticides should never be applied randomly “just in case” there might be some insects in the garden. You may end up killing off more beneficial insects than pests.

Ornamentals: slugs; lacebugs on azaleas, rhododendrons, pieris, pyracanthas; bagworms on junipers, cedars, cypress, arborvitae; spruce mites on spruce, hemlocks, fir; spider mites on many flowers and shrubs; euonymous scale.

Fruits and vegetables: slugs, asparagus beetles, cucumber beetles, cabbageworms, tomato fruitworms, aphids, and spider mites.
EVENTS

- **June 9 & 23**  Plant Problem Clinics, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, 11:00am -2:00pm in the breezeway between the retail buildings.

- **June 9 & 23**  Backyard Composting Demonstration, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, beside Israel's’ Garden Center, 11:00am -2:00pm.

- **June 20**  Gardening in the Mountains Series: “Container Gardening”, Presented by Extension Master Gardeners, Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave.,10:00am, Free. No registration required.

- **July 14**  All About Veggies: From Garden to Kitchen, see newsletter for details.

- **July 18**  Gardening in the Mountains Series, “How to Get The Blue Ribbons at the Mountain State Fair”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners, Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave.,10:00am, Free. No registration required.