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Helping gardeners put knowledge to work.

“One thing that unites all gardeners as they contemplate the compost heap is a belief in reincarnation, at least for plants.”
- Geoffrey Charlesworth

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

Don’t miss this year’s NC Mountain State Fair, September 10-19. There is now a new building housing the Heritage Crafts on the site where the Flower and Garden tent used to be. Please come and find the Flower and Garden Department in a brand 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 Gardener’s Almanac, and visit the educational exhibits.

Entry days for the flower shows have also changed. The first show entries must be delivered on September 8 and the second show on September 14. Entries for fruits and vegetables should be delivered Monday and Tuesday, September 6 and 7.

Normal September Weather

Weather Averages

| Normal September Average High  | 76.9°F |
| Normal September Average Low   | 56.4°F |
| Normal September Precipitation | 3.01”  |

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>7:01am</td>
<td>7:58 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>7:23 am</td>
<td>7:16 pm</td>
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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

- September is the best time to plant cool season grasses (fescues and bluegrass). 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.

Ornamentals

- Do NOT fertilize shrubs. Late season nitrogen can reduce cold hardiness of woody plants.
- As soon as the weather cools down you can start replacing summer annuals with pansies and ornamental cabbage.
- Don’t neglect the roses. Reblooming varieties will rebound in the cooler weather and give you nice blooms in the fall if you have kept them healthy.
- Allow the amaryllis to dye down and put it aside to rest. It should be ready to begin growing again in November for a winter bloom.
- Crowded perennials can be divided. Some to divide now include daylilies, irises, phlox, yarrow and Rudbeckias.
- Move house plants indoors before temperatures drop below 50° F.
- Start checking house plants for signs of insects so they can be treated a few times before moving back indoors.

Fruits

- This summer many gardeners had good crops of peaches and grapes, but also a lot of disease problems. 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.
- Strawberries are forming next spring’s flower buds now. Fertilize, weed and water as needed.

Vegetables

- Plant the fall vegetables by mid-month. This includes broccoli, collards, and other leafy greens.
- Plant spinach and lettuce seeds every couple of weeks for a continual harvest.
- Dig sweet potatoes before frost.
- Start cleaning up the garden. As soon as plants are spent—squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, beans—remove the plants from the garden.
- 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.

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**Fall Garden School**

This year’s fall garden school, presented by Extension Master Gardener volunteers of Buncombe County, will be held October 16, 8:30—4:00, at Ferguson Auditorium, A-B Tech Campus. The fee will be $5 for either morning or afternoon or $10 for the whole day. Lunch is on your own and bringing your own is encouraged. You must pre-register by sending your check made out to: BCMG Enhancement Fund, 94 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. Here’s this year’s program:

**Fall Garden School**

**Getting a Grip: Making the Most of Your Outdoor Space!**

The morning session will cover fall landscape topics while the afternoon will cover vegetable gardening.

8:30 — 9:30   Basics of Landscape Design  
9:30 —10:00  Groundcovers for Every Landscape  
10:15—10:45   Dividing Perennials  
10:45—11:45   Pruning and Renovation of Woody Shrubs  
11:45—12:00   Q & A and Wrap Up Morning Session  

1:00—2:00       Planning Your Spring Garden  
2:00—3:00       Square Foot Gardening  
3:00—3:45       What is It? Friends and Foes of the Home Gardener  
3:45—4:00       Q & A, Door Prizes and Wrap Up Afternoon Session

Enrollment is limited and attendees must pre-register through the Buncombe County Extension office at 94 Coxe Ave, Monday—Friday from 8:30am—5:00pm. Checks or cash will be accepted. For more information, call the Extension office at 255-5522 or e-mail: joyce.plemmons@buncombecounty.org

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To receive this newsletter via email  
Phone (828) 255-5522 or e-mail: joyce.plemmons@buncombecounty.org
Spotlight: Fall Wildflowers

In September crisp morning temperatures may have us yearning for those days of Fall’s bright leaf colors. Fortunately we have an assortment of wonderful fall blooming wildflowers to hold us over for our color fix.

Whereas many of the spring wildflowers are woodland plants, the show now is out in the open, sunny locations. Late bloomers also tend to be tall, robust plants catching the attention with bright colors. As an added bonus they are also magnets for the late season butterflies, especially the migrating Monarchs.

Many of these are great garden plants and are available at local nurseries as well as mail order sources. For example you will find a number of named varieties of Joe-Pye-weed, goldenrod and blackeyed Susans. Here are a few of the more common fall flowers:

- **Joe-Pye-weed** (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), pinkish flowers, to 10 ft.
- **Ironweed** (*Vernonia novaboracensis*), purple flower, 4 to 6 ft.
- **New England aster** (*Aster Novae-angliae*), purple
- **Goldenrods** (*Solidago species*), mostly bright yellow
- **Black-eyed Susans** (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), golden yellow, dark center
- **Blazing star** (*Liatris spicata*), purple, 3—4 ft.
- **Boneset** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), white
- **Sunflowers** (*Helianthus tomentosus*), yellow, 4—8 ft.

Don’t Move Firewood

In the past you might not have given a second thought about carrying your own firewood along on a camping trip or importing wood from some distance away. But new exotic pests now make these practices ill advised, or in some areas illegal.

The newest pest of concern is the Emeral Ash Borer, which was recently found near Knoxville, Tennessee. This pest was first identified in Michigan in 2002 and has since killed millions of ash trees in 15 states. We have plenty of ash trees in western North Carolina, so we don’t need to bring this pest in any sooner than necessary.

The best advice is do not transport wood long distances—buy local. If you do carry firewood to another area, burn it all up and do not bring any back home. Do not bring in wood from another area.
2011 Extension Master Gardener Training

The next training classes for the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program will begin in January, 2011. Classes will be Thursday afternoons from Noon until 4:00 pm. Application forms will be available in September and must be submitted not later than November 19. Interviews will be conducted in late November or early December.

For an application call 255-5522 or email: joyce.plemmons@buncombecounty.org

Introduction to the Master Gardener Program

Thursday, October 14
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 an interview if you like. No pre-registration required.

Rain Garden Certification Workshop

As homeowners and property managers become more aware of the issues of stormwater management many are choosing to manage the runoff from their homes and businesses with rain gardens. To effectively manage stormwater, rain gardens must be accurately sized and properly constructed.

This workshop will present instructions for sizing and designing rain gardens and detail proper construction techniques. Participants will learn why stormwater needs to be managed, principles of rain garden location, design, construction and maintenance, and will be eligible to take a test at the conclusion of the training to be certified in rain garden design and construction. Though intended for landscape professionals, homeowners may attend.

The Rain Garden Certification workshop will be offered by NC State University Dept. of Biological & Agricultural Engineering and NC Cooperative Extension, on September 29 and 30, at the NC Arboretum. Early Bird Fee is $125 before September 22, after that date the regular fee is $175.

To view an agenda and to REGISTER ONLINE, please visit the website at:
http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/raingarden.html

Tackling Perennial Weeds

Many perennial weeds are most effectively controlled by glyphosate (roundup and others) in late summer or early fall. When deciduous plants are getting ready to go dormant, they are translocating sugars from the leaves down to the root system, so you get good movement of the herbicide to the root system. Unfortunately, when plants are drought stressed they do not absorb herbicides well through the leaves. However, cut stump treatments should be effective. So if you have invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet, kudzu, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, privet, Paulownia, etc. the best treatment would be to cut the stem close to the ground and immediately treat it (within minutes) with concentrated glyphosate. Refer to the label for “cut stump treatment for
EVENTS

- **Sept. 10-19**  NC Mountain State Fair, see front page of this newsletter.
- **Sept. 11 & 25** Plant Problem Clinics, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market. 11:00am—2:00pm in the breezeway between the retail buildings.
- **Sept. 11 & 25** Backyard Composting Demonstration, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, beside Israel's Garden Center, 11:00am—2:00pm
- **Sept. 11** Botanical Gardens at Asheville Fall Plant Sale. 9 -3 in the gardens.
- **Sept. 11 & 25** Backyard Composting Demonstration, by Extension Master Gardeners at the WNC Farmers’ Market, beside Israel's Garden Center, 11:00am—2:00pm
- **Sept. 11** Botanical Gardens at Asheville Fall Plant Sale. 9 -3 in the gardens.
- **Sept. 15** Gardening in the Mountains: “Trees in Your Landscape”, presented by Extension Master Gardeners at the Extension Office, 94 Coxe Ave. Asheville, 10am, Free admission, no pre-registration needed.
- **Sept. 26** Planting for Fall Color: Botanical Gardens at Asheville, 2-3:30pm, Reg. and info: http://www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/Programs/AdultPrograms.htm
- **Oct. 14** Introduction to the Extension Master Gardener program, 1-3 at Buncombe County Cooperative Extension office, 94 Coxe Ave, Asheville, no pre-registration needed
- **Oct. 16** Fall Garden School, see page 3