Sandy Mush Herb Nursery
316 Surrett Cove Road
Leicester, NC 28748
(828) 683-2014 (phone)
info@sandymushherbs.com (email)
www.sandymushherbs.com (website)

- Owner, Sales and Grower: Fairman and Kate Jayne
- Square feet/ acres of business: ½ acre
- Grand opening date: For over 30 years The Sandy Mush Herb Nursery has been collecting, propagating, and selling herbs, perennials, and other interesting plants.
- Product mix: Our handbook/catalog contains close to 2000 varieties of plants including: Traditional Culinary and Medicinal Herbs, Scented Geraniums (94 varieties), Wild Flowers and other native plants, Perennials, Trees and Shrubs, Bonsai Plants, and much, much more. Also carry wonderful, carefully selected books, seeds, and handy items.
- Clientele: Retail at the nursery or by mail order
- New and upcoming: Be sure to visit Kate and Fairman at the 2008 Spring Herb Festival on May 2-4 at the WNC Farmers Market.
- Comments: Please download our Handbook and/or a Plant List and Order Form. With this information you can easily mail us a paper order, or call an order in to (828) 683-2014. We do not have online ordering available at this time. Our Handbook/Catalog is a complete reference to the plants we sell. It has our mail order information, use suggestions, hints on growing herbs, a growing guide, recipes, and much more. A printed version of the handbook can be ordered for $6.
- Folks, be sure and visit their awesome website and the nursery! It’s such a treat to visit the nursery and meet Kate and Fairman. The handbook they put together is so fun to read and what a great resource! Give’em a call and support your local growers!

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Calendar of Events

Spring 2008
North Carolina Arboretum. 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. The Arboretum has wonderful educational programs throughout the year. Check them out!! Visit their website at: www.ncarboretum.org

Spring 2008
Asheville Botanical Gardens. 151 W. T. Weaver Boulevard, Asheville, NC. Check out the educational programs Asheville Botanical Gardens have to offer. Visit their website at: www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org

Spring 2008
The Bullington Center. 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. Check out the educational programs offered this fall on topics like plant propagation, soils, pruning, wreath making and more! Visit their website at: www.bullingtoncenter.org or call (828) 698-6104.

May 2-4
Spring Herb Festival. WNC Farmers Market. 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 7-8 (Note Date Change!)

June 16
NC Urban Forest Council Seminar "Conservation Arboriculture: Care of Veteran Trees". Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Philip van Wassenaer and Neville Fay will speak about principles of Conservation Arboriculture. Pesticide credits available. To register or for more info contact the NC Urban Forest Council office at (336) 774-0215 or check out the website: ncufc@aol.com

June 17- July 17
Certified Plant Professional Short Course. N. C. 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 or visit the website: http://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu/content/CertifiedPlantProfessionalShortCourse2008

June 18-21
Southeast 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

September 9-11
The 1st Annual Urban Forestry Conference. Greensboro, NC. This conference will bring together urban forestry advocates and policy makers to gain insight of how trees and our urban forests will play an integral role in building healthy communities in North Carolina. More to come! http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/urbanforest/conference.html

H2A Labor Program Meeting!

When: Thursday, April 10 - 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Where: Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC.

The meeting will be hosted by N. C. Farm Bureau. Congressman Shuler has arranged for Dr. Jim Holt, an H2A specialist from Washington, DC to provide information on the program. He will be discussing the H2A process and its policies and will address questions and comments from those attending. Bruce Peterson, Kelly Sheehan, Boyce Deitz and Shelley Townley from the Congressman Shuler’s office along with Larry Wooten, President of N. C. Farm Bureau, and others from the Farm Bureau will attend. For more information contact Amanda Stone at the Extension Center at (828) 255-5522.
Pesticide Recertification Classes

***Please visit North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Section for a list of recertification opportunities throughout N.C.  http://www.ncagr.com/SPCAP/pesticides/index.htm

Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V)

4/22/2008 – Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, Category V (2 credits). Class will be held at the Madison County Extension Center, Marshall. Contact Elizabeth Ayers to pre-register, (828) 649-2411.

9/18/2008 - Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, Category V (2 credits). Class will be held at the Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Ave, Asheville. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

4/8/2008 - Recertification for Private Pesticide Applicators, Category N O D X. The class will be held at the Madison County Extension Center, Marshall. Contact Elizabeth Ayers to pre-register, (828) 649-2411.

4/10/2008 - Pesticide Specialty Training, Category A B G H I K L M N O T D X (2 credits). Class will be held at the Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

5/19/2008 - Green Industry Integrated Pest Management, Category G H L N O D X (2 credits). Class will be held at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher. Please call to pre-register, (828) 255-5522.

6/12/2008 - Invasive Plant ID and Controls, Category G H L N O D X (2 credits). Class will be held at the Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville. Please call to pre-register, (828) 255-5522.

6/16/2008 - Conservation Arboriculture, Category L N D X (2 credits). Class will be held at the Biltmore Estate. This is an all day program. Please contact Sarah Mitchell, NC Urban Forest Council to register, (828) 774-0215.


Small Business Jump Start Day!

The Small Business Center will host its annual Small Business Jump Start Day on Thursday, April 17, 4:00-7:00 pm in the Haynes Conference Center, AB Tech - Enka Campus. This FREE event allows current and potential business owners an opportunity to obtain valuable information on a variety of topics related to starting and running a business. Over sixty vendors will be available to talk with the public about such topics as advertising, taxes, business plans, financing, technology, human resources and much more! For more information, please contact Jill Sparks at 828-254-1921 Ext. 5849 or jsparks@abtech.edu

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 N. C. 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.
Landscape Maintenance in April

Lawns:
- Maintain mowing heights of fescue lawn at 3-3.5 inches.
- Do not fertilize cool season lawns, like fescue and bluegrass. Nitrogen applied this late may be an invitation for brown patch fungus disease in June. Fertilization of cool-season grasses occurs on Valentine’s Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving.
- If winter annual weeds, such as dandelion and clover, are actively growing and they bother you, you can treat with a post-emergent broadleaf weed herbicide.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They provide 25% of a lawn’s fertilizer needs.

Ornamentals:
- Cut back old foliage on grasses and perennials.
- Prune summer flowering trees and shrubs, evergreens and overgrown shrubs that need rejuvenation.
- Prune spring blooming plants after the flower fades.
- Divide and replant summer and fall blooming perennials, such as Hostas, Daylily, Shasta Daisy, Asters, Phlox, etc.
- After the flower fades and before the foliage dies down, Daffodils and other spring blooming bulbs may be dug and relocated.
- Put out fresh mulch.
- Slow-release fertilizer may be applied to most plants by the end of April.
- Post emergent herbicide may be used on winter annual broadleaf weeds.
- **DO NOT** plant frost-tender flowers like summer annuals until May unless you can cover them if we have a frost. The average last frost date in Buncombe County is April 25. But it can vary by a couple of weeks around the county. The ‘safe’ planting date is the 2nd week in May.
- Begin scouting for insect pests and diseases. Cool-season mites can become a problem this time of year. To learn more about cool-season mites check out this month’s article.

Time to Scout for Cool–Season Mites!

Cool weather mites are dark red (southern red mite) or almost black (spruce spider mite) and with the eight legs spread out would just cover the period at the end of this sentence. The eggs of these mites are red or brown, round and a little flattened with a tiny hairlike “stripe” that sticks up in the center.

**Biology:** Spruce spider mites are found throughout North America. Southern red mites are found in the eastern United States and California. Southern red mites prefer azaleas, hollies and camellias but they have been recorded from a number of shrubs and herbs. Spruce spider mites feed on junipers, spruce, arborvitae, and other coniferous evergreens.

Southern red mites feed on the lower leaf surface. Infested leaves turn gray or brown and may fall prematurely. Heavily infested shrubs may die. Spruce spider mites are the most destructive mite pest of ornamental conifers. Infested needles turn yellow or brown and may drop prematurely. Heavily infested shrubs may be noticeably webbed with silk. After several years of heavy feeding even large trees may be killed.

Southern red mites overwinter as eggs glued to the lower leaf surface. If the winter is mild, all stages of this mite may survive. As the weather moderates in late winter, southern red mites increase. Most of the feeding damage occurs in early spring. When populations of predaceous insects and mites are active in summer, southern red mites dwindle away so that only the eggs survive in hot weather. If the summer is mild, all stages of this mite may survive. As temperatures cool in autumn, mite populations build up again.

Spruce spider mites also overwinter as eggs usually laid at the base of needles. In April and May the eggs hatch and larval mites begin feeding. Most feeding damage and reproduction takes place in spring and fall. At upper elevations, the spruce spider mite may be active all summer long.

**Control:** Because these mites are active in cool weather, infestations should be treated in cool seasons. For best results monitor shrubs in spring and fall for active stages. If necessary, treat with horticultural oils or insecticidal soap to prevent brown needles/leaves!

*James R. Baker and S Bambara, Extension Entomologists*
2008 WNC Timber Conference

The 2008 WNC Timber Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher. It is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Forestry Association, NCSU Forestry Extension Service and Southern Appalachian Multiple-Use Council. Timber purchasers, wood processing facility operators/owners, loggers, landowners, foresters and other natural resource professionals should attend. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for participants upon SAF evaluation of confirmed agenda. We anticipate a minimum of 5 Category 1 CFEs based on past experience. The cost is $10 (includes lunch and breaks). You must pre-register by contacting the Southern Appalachian Multiple-Use Council by phone 828-627-3333 or e-mail shenson1@earthlink.net. You can pay at the door on day of conference.

Tips for the Water-Wise Landscape

What’s that old saying? “You don’t know the value of water until the well runs dry?” One thing that is on the minds of a lot of gardeners right now is collecting rain water to keep landscape and garden plants flourishing without tapping into your household water supply. For many home gardeners installing rain barrels is an option. Rain barrels can be made from recycled food grade (or other clean sources) drums, usually about 55 gallon size. Heavy duty garbage cans can be used, but they are less sturdy and so do not hold up as long. Barrels can also be purchased, generally in sizes from 55 to 80 gallons.

Water collected from the roof can be used to water landscape plants or things like washing the car. There are differing opinions as to watering vegetable gardens. Many people feel it is fine, while others have concerns about asphalt shingles producing petroleum byproducts or other contaminants, or metal roofs leaching too much zinc or other metals. So you’ll have to use your own judgment on this topic until we find a more definitive answer.

Rain Barrel Sale!

The 80 gallon barrel measures 37 inches high and 28 inches wide. It is made of 20% recycled high density polypropylene. The heavy concave lid channels water flow into the barrel. The screened entry blocks leaves, debris and insects and the dark green color discourages algae growth. There are two overflow ports to move water away from your home. It comes complete with fittings and installation instructions. The 80 gallon barrel is $110 with payment by May 9 to Master Gardener Project Fund. Pick Up Day is Saturday, May 17, 9:30 am-1:30 pm at the WNC Farmers Market. To order your rain barrel, call Buncombe County Cooperative Extension at 255-5522 or mail your payment to 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801.

N. C. Urban Forest Council Seminars

"Planning for Our Future: Young Tree Management"
Thursday, May 15, Central Piedmont Community College,
Levine Campus, in Matthews (near Charlotte)

"Conservation Arboriculture: Care of Veteran Trees"
Monday, June 16 at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville
Philip van Wassenaer and Neville Fay will speak about principles of Conservation Arboriculture. We will review heritage trees in North America, veteran tree habitat, biodiversity, co-evolution, conservation management techniques etc. To register or for an agenda contact NCUFC at (336) 774-0215 or go online: www.ncufc.org. Visit www.ncufc.org for updates.
**Grower Spotlight – Past Issues**

1. **Mountain Harvest**, (828) 298-9000, 600 Charlotte Highway (74-A), Fairview, NC 28730
   Locally grown natives, perennials, annuals, vegetable transplants, trees and shrubs. Organic lawn landscape and garden products. Retail and 20% off to landscapers, builders, and contractors, and farmers.

2. **Sandy Hollar Farm**, (828) 683-3645, 63 Sandy Hollar Lane, Leicester, NC 28748
   Field grown landscape trees and shrubs.

3. **Israel and Sons Garden Center**, (828) 254-2671, WNC Farmers Market, Asheville, NC 28806
   Transplants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. Large supply of bulbs and seeds, including organic seeds. Pond building materials, supplies, and coi fish. Retail to the public and wholesale to landscapers.

4. **Carolina Native Nursery**, (828) 682-2471, 1126 Prices Creek Road, Burnsville, NC 28714
   Specialty grower of containerized, native woody ornamental plants and trees. They are currently growing over 90 different species with many cultivars. Retail and wholesale to landscapers and garden centers.

5. **Meadowbrook Nursery, We-Du Natives**, (828) 738-8300, 2055 Polly Spout Road, Marion, NC 28752
   Native trees and shrubs, conifers, perennials, ferns, grasses, vines and wildflowers. Lots of new plants each year! Wholesale and retail – can order online too.

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**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.*