Country Fields Greenhouse & Gardens, Inc.
154 Lower Grassy Branch Road
Asheville, NC  28805
(828) 296-8839 (phone)

- **Owner, Sales & Grower:** Kevin Burkhalter
- **Number of employees:** 3, which includes Kevin’s mother, Wanda
- **Square feet/acres of business:** 5 greenhouses; 3 heated, 2 cold frames. 2 acre organic vegetable garden.
- **Grand opening date:** Started the greenhouse in 1993 mainly as a hobby. Opened for business in 1998.
- **Product mix:** From seeds and plugs: Perennials, annuals, bedding plants, shrubs, such as blueberries, hydrangeas, crape myrtles, field grown trees (B&B), such as Leyland Cypress, Thuja ‘Green Giant’, Arborvitae and more. Also for sale are organic vegetables! Find Kevin at the North Asheville Tailgate market or purchase directly from the gardens. Kevin also does landscaping, installation and delivery of plant material.
- **Clientele:** Retail and wholesale to the green industry.
- **Comments:** Customer service is really important at Country Fields Greenhouse and Gardens; therefore, they really focus on educating their customers on how to care for plants and plant selection. Give ’em a call and support your local growers!
Calendar of Events

Summer 2008
North Carolina Arboretum. 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. The Arboretum has wonderful educational programs throughout the year. Check them out!! There will be NATIVE FERN IDENTIFICATION ON AUGUST 16!!! Visit their website at: www.ncarboretum.org

Summer 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

Summer 2008
The Bullington Center. 33 Upper Red Oak Trail, Hendersonville, NC. Check out the educational programs offered this summer. Visit website at: www.bullingtoncenter.org or call (828) 698-6104.

August 19-20
Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Workshop. NC Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. This workshop will provide attendees with training on how to identify invasive, exotic plants, knowledge about the ecology of the plants, and techniques to effectively and efficiently control the plants’ spread. The workshop will include classroom instruction, demonstrations, and field exercises with case studies and specimen identification. For more info contact the Extension Center, 828-255-5522. The program is available at the following web site: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/invasives/workshop.html

August 26
The Up and Coming Organic Landscape and Lawncare Industry. NC Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. 3:00-5:00 pm. Registration is $20. Speaker is Cliff Ruth, NC Cooperative Extension. Door prizes are available. Contact Meredith McKissick, Director of Organic Growers School, to register, 828-450-2026 or Meredith@organicgrowersschool.org

September 5-6
Speaking of Gardening Symposium 2008: Gardening Opportunities in a Changing Environment, NC Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC. The program includes two days of garden lectures by five highly regarded garden designers, horticulturists and nurserymen. The speakers come together to share their perspective and approach to the challenges of weather and climate changes through design, plant selection and maintenance. Pre-registration required. For more info contact the NC Arboretum, 828-665-2492; www.ncarboretum.org

September 9-11
The 1st annual Urban Forestry Conference - Trees for an Urban Future. Marriott Hotel, Downtown, Greensboro, NC. This conference is designed to cover environmental, planning and educational issues, as well as technical tools and resources, needed to assure urban forest quality throughout North Carolina. For more info contact the Extension Center, 828-255-5522. http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/feop/urbanforest/conference.html

September 13-14
WNC Green Industry Trade Show, Haywood County Fair Grounds. Growers, landscapers, and other green industry companies are welcome to participate and market their goods and services. For more information visit the following link: http://transylvania.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/88/WHCHLS_Brochure-wv20080701.pdf or call Tim Mathews at 828-456-3575.
Calendar of Events (Continued)

October 1-2

October 20-24
Arboricultural Training Program. Bartlett Lab, Charlotte. Program presented by NC Urban Forest Council and the Southern Chapter ISA. A tree-school program for individuals entering the field of arboriculture. More information coming soon. Contact the NC Urban Forest Council for more information, 336-774-0215, NCUFC@aol.com

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)


Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions


Carolina Canopy Charlotte: Planning & Tree Ordinance

Thursday, August 14, 2008
Husqvarna’s North American Headquarters Training Room
7349 Statesville Road, Charlotte.
Free for NCUFC members, $15 for non-members.
Visit www.NCUFC.org for registration and more details.

7:30 - 8:00 am Welcome & Introduction - Henry Wallace, NCUFC
8:15 - 9:00 am “Developing Successful Tree Ordinances” - Jason Mann, Town Planner, Indian Trail
9:00 - 9:45 am “Grant Requests & Lessons Learned” - Lisa Stiwinter, Town Planner, City of Monroe
9:45 - 10:00 am Break
10:00 - 10:45 am “Tree Ordinance & Inventory” - Lauren Blackburn, Planner, Town of Davidson
10:45 - 11:30 am Panel Discussion: “Execution of Tree Ordinance” - Laura Brewer, Lisa Stiwinter, Steve Cromer & Steve Ketner
11:30 am - 12:00 noon Remarks & Closing - H. Wallace, B. Gemberling
Spider Mites on Hemlock Trees

Studies and field observations are showing that Spider Mites can become a problem on hemlock trees after they are treated with Imidacloprid for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The Spruce Spider Mite and the Hemlock Rust Mite are the two commonly found. Both of these mites are “cool weather mites”, doing most of their feeding in the cooler portions of the year, spring and early summer and sometimes again in the fall. Hot, dry summer weather often causes a halt in their activities. After some scouting (July 28) I did find a few active adults and lots of eggs of both mites.

Three hypotheses have been suggested to explain greater mite abundance on plants treated with Imidacloprid. One suggests that sublethal doses of Imidacloprid may stimulate the reproduction of these pests. A second hypothesis suggests the elimination of natural enemies or suppression of their activities. A third hypothesis suggests Imidacloprid alters the physiology of the plant in a way beneficial to Spruce Spider Mite and Hemlock Rust Mite. The improved nutritional quality of the leaves may result in enhanced mite performance such as increased reproduction.

Spruce Spider Mite and Rust Mite damage on hemlocks usually shows up in the summer as a result of feeding in the spring. The two mites look different in appearance and in the damage they cause. As Spruce Spider Mites feed, they destroy the chlorophyll-bearing cells at the surface of the needle. This results in a flecking, stippling, or bleaching of the affected foliage; some of the leaves turn reddish-brown and later drop. Spruce Spider Mite is football shaped, dark red to almost black in color and less than the size of ground pepper. Larva has 3 pair of legs, nymphs and adults have 4 pair of legs. Eggs are reddish-brown, round and a little flattened with a tiny hair-like stripe that sticks up in the center.

Hemlock Rust Mite is an Eriophyid mite. They are very small, wormlike, slow moving and suck juices from the hemlock needle. On hemlocks, injury is expressed by chlorotic needles; the normally dark green foliage turns blue and later yellowish before dropping. Hemlock Rust Mites are not visible without significant magnification.

In order to determine whether a plant is infested with Spruce Spider Mites, hold a sheet of white paper beneath some foliage and jar the foliage sharply. If the tree is infested, mites will soon begin to crawl around on the paper. Although very small, less than the size of ground pepper, the crawling mite can be easily seen against the white paper. The presence of a few mites is of no concern. However, if dozens appear on the paper, take measures to reduce the mite population before serious damage occurs to the plant. If you have treated hemlocks with Imidacloprid, I recommend starting a hemlock scouting program, if you haven’t already. Start scouting this fall and again in the spring through early summer. Scout the lower branches first and move up the tree. You will need a microscope to see the Hemlock Rust Mites. A white sheet of paper will suffice for the Spruce Spider Mite. Treatment options for both mites: Horticultural Oil and Insecticidal Soap. Your traditional miticides such as Avid, Floramite, Forbid will treat the Spruce Spider Mite. If you have the Hemlock Rust Mite, use Sevin, Joust or Dimethoate. All of these products are used as a foliar spray. Because these mites are active in cool weather they should be treated in the cool seasons. Some researchers report that spray time coincides with mid-bloom period of Redbud, Cercis canadensis. Remember, first read the pesticide label in its entirety and follow the directions for use.

References:
1. Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs, Johnson and Lyon.
3. Impacts of Imidacloprid on Target and Non-Target Species on Hemlock, Raupp, Webb, Booth Ahern, and Szczepaniec.

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.
WNC AgOptions Opportunities for 2009

The West District of North Carolina Cooperative Extension offers a program called AgOptions that provides resources to area farmers as they increase the profitability of their businesses in our changing economy. The WNC AgOptions program builds sustainable farming communities in our mountain region by providing resources directly to farmers who are diversifying and expanding their operations.

The 2008 WNC AgOptions Program recently awarded $5,000 to 23 area farmers and $2,500 to 14 farmers who are diversifying or expanding their operations. The grants offer incentive for farmers to try new ventures -- encouraging the sustainability of their operation, as well as demonstrating new methods to the larger agriculture community. The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission funds the program through a grant with the Asheville-based non-profit organization Handmade in America.

The Tobacco Trust Fund Commission was established by the General Assembly in 2000 as farmers, former quota holders and tobacco workers began the transition from a stable, federally run price-support system to a free market of direct contracts with tobacco companies and a globally competitive price structure. The commission offers grants to help individuals and communities in North Carolina with this transition and to prepare them for the economic opportunities of the next generations.

Of the 37 awarded projects across Western North Carolina, this year nine are fruit and vegetable or edibles diversification projects; nine are nursery or trees; eight are livestock; four are beekeeping; four are product processing; and three are agri-tourism.

Announcements about the 2009 WNC AgOptions program will be at www.wncagoptions.org in the upcoming month. Be thinking about your project ideas!!

Getting Started in the Nursery Business Workshop

Mark your calendars for the Getting Started in the Nursery Business Workshop, September 24, 9:00 am-2:00 pm (with lunch), at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher. Topics to be covered include risk management, business planning, farm resource management, site selection, and marketing, plus a tour of nursery production at the research station. Registration fee of $10 includes lunch. More details to follow. Questions? Contact the Extension Center at 828-255-5522.

Present Use Value Program in Buncombe County

The Present Use Value program allows reduced tax assessments for individually owned property used for agriculture (10 acre tracts), horticulture (5 acre tracts) or forestry (20 acre tracts). Property accepted into this program is taxed at its “present use value” as a farm. This value is usually less than the market value of the property. The difference between the market value and present use value is “deferred”. When the property or a portion of the property is removed from the program for any reason, the deferred taxes for the current year and the previous three years plus interest becomes due. For more information about this program call 828-250-4950 or see: www.buncombecounty.org/GOVERNING/depts/tax/exempt.htm.

Basic Home Maintenance Course

The Buncombe County Cooperative Extension Center is offering a five-series Basic Home Maintenance Course beginning Tuesday, September 2 from 5:30–7:30 pm. The remaining dates for the course are: September 4, 9, 11, and 16. 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 pest, etc. The fee of $20 includes all materials. Space is limited so pre-registration is required.
Grower Spotlight – Past Issues

1. **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.

2. **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 news plants each year! Wholesale and retail – can order online too.

3. **Sandy Mush Herb Nursery**, (828) 683-2014, 316 Surratt Cove Road, Leicester, NC 28748
   Traditional culinary and medicinal herbs, scented geraniums, wildflowers and other native plants, perennials, trees and shrubs, Bonsai plants and much more. Retail at the nursery or by mail order.

4. **Reems Creek Valley Nursery & Garden Center**, (828) 645-3937, 70 Monticello Road, Weaverville, NC 28787
   Natives, perennials, annuals, bedding plants, vegetable transplants, trees and shrubs. Heirloom and organic seeds fruit trees, blueberries and small fruits. Water gardening supplies, pottery and garden gifts. Retail and 20% off green goods to landscape contractors with proper identification.

5. **Jack Young Greenhouses**, (828) 667-5555, 91 Holbrook Road, Candler, NC 28715
   Perennials and annuals grown from seed, perennials grown from cuttings and division, hanging baskets, potted flowering plants like lilies, flowering shrubs, veggie transplants, water plants and poinsettias.

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.

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 L. Stone, Extension Agent - Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture

Check out Buncombe County Center’s website at... [http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu](http://buncombe.ces.ncsu.edu)