Reems Creek Valley Nursery & Garden Center
70 Monticello Road
Weaverville, NC  28787
(828) 645-3937 (phone)
Reemscreek3937@verizon.net (email)
www.reemscreek.com

- **Owner, Sales and Grower:** Bill and Wilma Penland. Bill and Wilma’s two children, Susan and David, are involved with the business. David manages the Landscape Department and Susan enjoys propagation. Bill and Wilma hope for a third generation of plant-lovers involved in the business!
- **Square feet/ acres of business:** There are two locations - the retail garden center in Weaverville and the nursery in Reems Creek Valley. They grow alot of their own plants at the nursery for sale at the garden center - 5½ total acres.
- **Grand opening date:** mid-1970’s; moved to 70 Monticello Road in 1985.
- **Product mix:** Everything! 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. Reems Creek Landscape Department offers in-depth consultations, and landscape design, installation, and maintenance.
- **Clientele:** Retail and 20% off green goods to landscape contractors with proper identification.
- **New and Upcoming:** Jackson and Perkins roses have arrived. Go green and plant a vegetable garden or plant blueberries for an edible landscape. Reems Creek has 50 varieties of tomatoes! Whether you’re planting trees, annuals or vegetables the soil makes all the difference. Reems Creek has organic soil amendments available to build up your soil. Check out [www.reemscreek.com](http://www.reemscreek.com) for upcoming seminars on gardening!!
- **Comments:** Reems Creek Nursery is one of the oldest and most experienced retail garden centers in Asheville/Weaverville and the surrounding areas of Western North Carolina. Since 1980, Reems Creek Valley Nursery has been helping people beautify their landscaping with gorgeous plants, gardening supplies, and knowledgeable advice. Give’em a call and support your local growers!
Landscape Safety Training

A Landscape Industry Safety Training program has been developed by the N. C. Industrial Extension Service and is being offered in collaboration with the N. C. Cooperative Extension. This program, while primarily designed for landscapers will meet needs for all green industry businesses. Topics to be covered include: Personal Protective Equipment, Proper Lifting Techniques to Prevent Back Injuries, Protection from Heat Stroke, Safe Equipment Use, and others. The class is free and will be held at the NC Arboretum on May 28 from 8:30 am until 12:00 noon. If you are interested and would like to register for this program, please call Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522 OR Cliff Ruth (828) 697-4891.

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.nearboretum.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 7-8 (Note Date Change!)

May 15
Planning for Our Future: Young Tree Management. Central Piedmont Community College, Matthews, NC (near Charlotte). 8:00 am-3:30 pm. Registration is $85 for NC Urban Forest Council Members and $100 for non-members. ISA, SAF credits applied for. 2 pesticide credits approved in categories LNDX. To register online: www.NCUFC.org OR contact NCUFC at (336) 774-0215, NCUFC@aol.com

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: nufc@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
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)

5/12/2008 - **Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators**, Category V (2 credits). Class will be held at the Haywood County Extension Center. Please call (828) 456-3575 to pre-register.

6/23/2008 – **Regional Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators**, Category V (2 credits). Class will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher. Contact Amanda Stone to pre-register, (828) 255-5522.

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 Avenue, Asheville. Please call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

5/15/2008 - **Planning for our Future: Young Tree Management**, Category L N D X (2 credits). Class will be held in Mathews, NC (near Charlotte). For more info and to register contact the NC Urban Forestry Council, Sarah Mitchell (336) 774-0215.

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.


8/18/2008 - **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.

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.
Cost-Share Program to Help Farmers

Farmers suffering from drought damage can obtain help under a program announced in Raleigh. It will cover 75% of the cost of restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops.

The N. C. Agricultural Drought Recovery Program will be administered statewide through local Soil and Water Conservation district offices beginning May 1. It was made possible by a $6 million grant from the N. C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture last year designated 85 of North Carolina’s 100 counties as natural disaster areas. As of April 8, 80 counties remained under drought conditions with the other 20 considered abnormally dry. Farmers affected by the drought may apply to one of the state’s 96 Soil and Water Conservation district offices with several types of projects. These include pasture renovation, drilling and redrilling wells, pond construction and renovation, converting closed lagoons to fresh water ponds, and upgrading existing irrigation systems to more efficient models.

Gary Higgins, Buncombe County Soil and Water, has indicated that the period for requests will be from May 1 to May 14, so you should plan to call Gary and sign up if you have plans for any of the practices mentioned in the previous paragraph. If you have questions regarding this program, feel free to call Amanda Stone at 255-5522 or Gary Higgins at 250-4786.

Honeybee Swarming Season

*** Please call Cooperative Extension at (828) 255-5522 if you notice a honeybee swarm. We have a list of local beekeepers who we can contact for catching the swarms. There are many other reasons why a honeybee colony will swarm. A lack of food, bad odors, a heavy infestation of wax moths, repeated attacks by bears and other predators, and sometimes disease.

Swarming is an instinctive part of the annual life cycle of the honey bee colony and is necessary for the species to survive. Swarming occurs when a colony of honey bees divides and 30 to 70% of the bees, along with their queen, leave the hive to start a new colony. The tendency to swarm is usually greatest when the bees increase their population rapidly in the period before the honey-flow. Therefore, the cause of swarming is normally associated with a crowded brood (eggs/ larvae/ pupae) nest. Most swarming takes place in our area during April – June.

The age of the queen bee is another swarming factor. Swarming is more frequent with two year old queens, whose egg laying powers are diminishing than one year old queens. The failing of the queen will not be so evident in early spring, but as the colony approaches the honey-flow, her ability to lay eggs will be taxed to the utmost. Daily the old queen lays fewer eggs, her laying less systematic, and the bees become eager to replace her with a young, more efficient queen. Then the bees raise a queen for the purpose of superseding the old queen.

Broadcast LIVE from Raleigh
NCSU Plant Problem Clinics 2008

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 129 Robinson Hall. Please contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522 for more info. The plant clinics are FREE of charge.

1. **May 13** - Landscape Turf Management in Drought
   - Matt Martin, Turf Management in Drought; Charles Peacock, Irrigation Management in Turf;
   - Lee Butler, Drought Impact on Disease Management; [David Stephan](mailto:David.Stephan@ncsu.edu), Insects in the Landscape.

2. **June 10** - Tree Fruits in the Landscape

3. **July 8** - Small Fruits and Bees in the Landscape

4. **August 12** - Weeds, Water, Insects, and Pathogens in the Landscape
Pest News
from Steve Bambara, Extension Entomologist, NCSU

Bee Stuff
Lots of native bee activity and pollination is taking place. Some ground nesting bees are still active in turf. Bumblebees are starting to nest and forage. Orchard Mason bees are nesting. Carpenter bees are cranking up. Carpenter bees do not have fuzzy abdomens and live in drilled galleries in wood. They are not prone to sting, and the white-faced males are all buzz and no sting. I'll mention more about them soon. See Residential, Structural and Community Pests Insect Note No. 4 at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Urban/carpenterbees.htm.

Boxwood Leafminers
Boxwood Leafminer adults are, or will be, emerging and laying eggs in the tender new leaves of boxwood. Orthene foliar spray has been the old standard treatment. Cygon is no longer available. The new standard is a pyrethroid spray or Merit soil drench. Tristar as a foliar treatment is a possibility for nursery use. See Ornamentals and Turf Insect Note No. 16 on the web at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/shrubs/ort016e/ort016e.htm.

Tent Caterpillars
Tent caterpillars are in full swing. This cool, wet spring has many plants and insects delayed weeks past where they were, compared to last year. These hairy caterpillars can make a cherry tree look a little ugly, but most trees seem to recover and re-foliate. Unless trees are taller than 15 feet or you have dozens to deal with, a long stick or pole can be used to destroy the web masses quite effectively. Resist the temptation to burn them out! See Ornamentals and Turf Insect Note No. 62 at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note61/note61.html.

Aphids Here and There
Aphids are appearing in the landscape on various plants. These soft-bodied, fragile little insects are most often found on the tender growing tips of plants. Insecticidal soap is a good management product, but if there are not too many consider just wiping them off. Unless numbers are severe, there will be little damage of any consequence.

Periodical Cicadas Return
Just in time for the first issue of North Carolina Pest News, we have multiple reports of periodical cicada mud tubes showing up under trees in Buncombe County. If you had Brood XIV 6,205 days ago (17 years) and have not planted a housing development or roller derby rink on your property, you may expect them again this spring. There is a good chance that the recent rains have helped them dig to the surface. They are a short-term phenomenon to be experienced and enjoyed. "Dig out" your best cicada cookie recipe and earplugs. For more information, see Ornamentals and Turf Insect Note No. 17 and periodical cicada website at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/shrubs/note17/note17.html.

European Red Mites
We haven't seen this mite often in the landscape the last few years, but it has shown up twice in the Plant Disease and Insect Clinic at North Carolina State University over the last two weeks. European red mites usually overwinter in the egg stage. The tiny orange-red colored eggs hatch at about the time when apple trees bloom. The European red mite is an introduced pest that in North Carolina primarily infests apple trees. Although it is reported to infest various shade trees and ornamental plants in the landscape, cherry laurels seem to be the major ornamental plants that European red mites infest. The European red mite causes typical pale stipple on the leaves of their host plants, but this spider mite spins very little webbing. This mite is slightly different from the southern red mite. With your hand lens you should be able to see that the hairs on the back of the mites each arise from a small, white bump whereas the hairs of southern red mites arise from red bumps. I believe any horticultural oil spray should give adequate control. Oils will not significantly harm beneficial predator mite populations and are often preferable for this reason. For professionals, most of the favorite miticides will also work.

Bagworms
Bagworms hatch in May and June. Scout for bagworms on shrubs and trees and pay extra attention to junipers, Leyland cypress and other conifers. Insecticides are effective particularly when applied in June or early July when the bagworms are small and relatively sensitive. Check out this publication for a list of pesticides: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/ort081e/ort081e.htm.
Certified Landscape Technician

The Certified Landscape Technician Workshop will be held on May 28-29 at the NC Arboretum. Registration is due by May 16.

Curriculum. We will only be covering the elements underlined below. The common core elements are required skills common to all core tests. Applicants must demonstrate their abilities in the following areas:

**Softscape Installation**
- Common Core
- Plan Reading
- Horticulture Principles
- Plant Identification
- Plant Layout
- Irrigation Components
- Basic Program Controller
- Sod Installation
- Tree Planting (Staking/Guying)
- Lateral Repair and Head Adjustment
- Rototiller Operations

**Turf Maintenance**
- Turfgrass Principles
- Turfgrass Calculations
- Turf Fertilizer
- 21” Mower
- 36” Mower
- Aerator
- Edger/Trimmer
- Riding Mower

**Hardscape Installation**
- Hardscape Principles and Calculations
- Grading/Drainage
- Instrument
- Paver Installation
- Chainsaw
- Skid Steer Operation

**Ornamental Maintenance**
- Chainsaw
- Pruning

**Program Waiver**
This short course has been developed by N. C. Cooperative Extension and taught jointly by those who have received their certification as Certified Landscape Technicians or CLT Instructors. It is presented to assist participants in developing their professional skills in order to successfully pass the Certified Landscape Technician Exam. While we do not guarantee that the participants will pass the exam, individuals attending these classes increase their chances of doing so.

The CLT Short Course is offered through N. C. Cooperative Extension and held at the N. C. Arboretum. The 2008 fee for this course is $100 which includes 2 lunches, textbook and all other materials. Spanish versions of the text are available upon request but cost an additional $30 due to sourcing them directly from PLANET. Please note on request whether you want the installation manual or the maintenance manual. **The exam fee is separate from the above fees.**

Please make payment to Henderson County Cooperative Extension Center and send to: Cliff Ruth, Area Agent, NCCE - Henderson County Center, 740 Glover Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

Name: _______________________________________________________________
Company: ____________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________
City_______________________ State ____________ Zip Code _______________
Phone # __________________________
E-mail address: ________________________________________________________
**Griffin Greenhouse & Nursery Supplies is Coming to Western NC!**

Griffin will be holding a day long seminar in Asheville on June 11. They will offer 5.5 hours of seminars that should all earn pesticide recertification credits. They will cover insect and disease control, greenhouse sanitation, plant growth regulators, pesticide resistance and more. There will be lunch served as well. Normally there is a charge of $125 per person but because it is their first time in this area, it will be **FREE** of charge. Registration information coming soon! If you are not familiar with Griffin, check out their website, http://www.griffins.com/. They offer supplies for the nursery and greenhouse industry. Griffin has an office in Knoxville, TN and will ship to the Asheville area. The Knoxville office phone number is (865) 546-9608.

**N. C. Urban Forest Council Hosts "Conservation Arboriculture"**

Philip van Wassenaer and Neville Fay are the guest speakers. The seminar will be held at the Biltmore Estate, Asheville. More information coming soon. Contact the NC Urban Forest Council for more information, (336) 774-0215, NCUFC@aol.com

In this first seminar we intend to explore the principles of *Conservation Arboriculture*. We will review heritage trees in North America, veteran tree habitat, biodiversity, co-evolution, conservation management techniques etc. Additionally, in the context of operating within a risk-averse society, we intend to explore the principles of non-defensive arboriculture, the role of device-based tree assessment in modern arboriculture (e.g. Picus tomography and wind-load simulation, tree pulling tests) and how reasonable risk decision-analysis can take account non-safety values of trees.

**Native Plants for Wildlife Website for NC!!!!**

The URL is [www.ncsu.edu/goingnative](http://www.ncsu.edu/goingnative).

The website contains multi-layers of information, an interactive native plant database, recommendations for identification and management of select invasive plants, and a 10-minute video. Please forward to other individuals or groups that might find the site interesting or useful.

**Low Impact Development Summit**

The Low Impact Development (LID) is an alternative to traditional site design, incorporating water treatment structures into the landscape and building footprint. The LID features are constructed to mimic pre-development hydrologic conditions and in turn, decrease surface runoff, erosion, and non-point source pollution, resulting in improved water quality. The Low Impact Development Summit will address the **planning, policy, and financing** aspects of incorporating these principles in your municipalities. **Research** findings will provide engineers, architects, and design professionals with information on the latest technology available in designing, installing, and maintaining the features. In addition, there will be a **implementation** session presenting case studies on various LID projects. Concurrent workshops and tours will also be offered.

The LID will be held on **June 23-24** at the Renaissance Hotel, Asheville, NC. **June 9, 2008** is the deadline to book the discounted registration fee.

For an agenda, a list of speakers or other information or to register on-line, go to: [http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops/lid_summit/](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/workshops/lid_summit/)
Grower Spotlight – Past Issues

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

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **Sandy Mush Herb Nursery**, (828) 683-2014, 316 Surrett 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.

*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.*

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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 Stone, Extension Agent - Agriculture, Commercial Horticulture

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