Local Choose and Cut Christmas Trees

- **Sandy Hollar Farm**
  63 Sandy Hollar Lane
  Leicester, NC 28748
  (828) 683-3645
  
  **Directions:** From Asheville take NC 63 (Leicester Highway) – 11 miles to North Turkey Creek Road (left); go 1½ miles to split, veer right. Go 6 miles to Robinson Cove Road on right. Farm is 2nd drive on left past Robinson Cove Road (Sandy Hollow Lane) or call for directions.
  
  **Operating Hours and Dates:** For Choose and Cut. Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 am-4:30 pm beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 17-18 through December 15, subject to availability.
  
  **Tree species and height:** Fraser Fir 4 feet and up. Field grown landscape trees and shrubs.
  
  **Accessories and Special Services:** Wreaths, garland, gift shop, refreshments

- **Reeves Tree Farm**
  Leicester, NC 28748
  (828) 779-0115, (828) 683-3152
  
  **Directions:** From Asheville take NC 63 (Leicester Highway) - 18 miles from Patton Avenue. Please call for specific directions.
  
  **Operating Hours and Dates:** For Choose and Cut. Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm beginning Thanksgiving Day through Christmas. Call ahead for other dates.
  
  **Tree species and height:** Fraser Fir 4-10 feet
  
  **Accessories and Special Services:** Wreaths and refreshments
Calendar of Events

Winter 2007-08  
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](http://www.ncarboretum.org)

Winter 2007-08  
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](http://www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org)

Winter 2007-08  
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](http://www.bullingtoncenter.org) or call (828) 698-6104.

December 7  
Certified Turfgrass Professional Exam. N. C. Arboretum, Asheville, NC. 9:00 am-4:00 pm; pre-registration with the Turfgrass Council is required. Call Cliff Ruth at (828) 697-4891 for more information.

January 5-10  
NC Turfgrass Conference. Raleigh, NC. For more information visit the Turfgrass Council of NC, [www.ncturfgrass.org](http://www.ncturfgrass.org)

January 15-19  
Green & Growin’ Trade Show & Educational Seminars. Greensboro, NC. This show provides a marketplace for plants, equipment, supplies and services used in the production and sale of plants and installation of landscapes. Industry professionals can view the latest in agricultural equipment, landscaping materials, plants, trees, nursery supplies, fertilizers, and pesticides. For more info visit the N. C. Nursery and Landscape Association, [www.ncan.com](http://www.ncan.com)

January 31  
Regional Greenhouse Growers Workshop. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. Agenda TBA. Pesticide credits will be available. A $25 pre-registration fee is required. For more information contact Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522 or Cliff Ruth (828) 697-4891.

February 2, 3 and 9, 10  
Beginner Beekeeping School. Brought to you by the Buncombe County Beekeepers and Buncombe County Cooperative Extension. The school is FREE except for the cost of the book. Great school for adults and kids! The school will be held at the Folk Art Center off the Blue Ridge Parkway. To register and for more info contact the Extension Center, (828) 255-5522 or visit [www.wncbees.org](http://www.wncbees.org)

February 21-22  
Landscape Maintenance Workshop. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. Agenda TBA. Pesticide credits will be available. Stay tuned for more information!!

March 8-9, 2008  
15th Annual Organic Growers School. Blue Ridge Community College, Flat Rock, NC. Be sure to check out the Sustainable Landscaping track- sessions will include topics such as water conservation for gardens and landscapes, landscaping for honeybees, native plants and promoting beneficial insects in the landscape. For more info visit [www.organicgrowersschool.org](http://www.organicgrowersschool.org) or call the Extension Center, (828) 255-5522.

March 27  
Saving Money by Calibrating Your Sprayer. Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. 2:00-5:00 pm. Pesticide Credits (3) will be available for category A B D G H I K L M N O T X. Hands-on training to learn how to calibrate a rotary and drop spreader, backpack sprayer and boom. Pre-registration of $20 is required. For more information contact Amanda Stone, (828) 255-5522.

May 6-7  
2008 Commercial & Private Pesticide Applicators & Dealer Exam Dates

Two pesticide exams are now available in Spanish: the Private Applicator and the Ornamental and Turf.

Call NCDA&CS/Pesticide Section (919) 733-3556 to schedule an appointment and to confirm what licensing category is needed.

EXAMS WILL BEGIN AT 1:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Exams are also held the second day of each school.

January 7 - Statesville, NC
February 4 - Statesville, NC
February 7 - Marshall, NC
March 14 - Asheville, NC
April 7 - Statesville, NC
May 6-7 - Fletcher, NC (Pesticide School & Exam)
June 11 - Asheville, NC
September 23 – Asheville, NC

**To view more exam dates go to www.ncagr.com/SPCAP/pesticides/exam.htm

**Training material may be obtained from NCSU, Department of Horticulture Science, Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695, telephone (919) 515-3113 or go to http://www.ncagr.com/SPCAP/pesticides/index.htm and download the manual order form, fill it out and mail it in.

Pesticide Certification Training Program in Spanish

Many of the employees in the Green Industry are Latino and often are called upon to apply pesticides or work in areas that are sprayed with pesticides. We are in the planning stages of developing a training program in Spanish to help these individuals increase their knowledge of issues related to pesticide use.

Please contact either Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522 or Cliff Ruth (828) 697-4891 and let us know if you are interested or have interested employees. If we have enough interest, we will hold a program this winter. Please let us know!!

Program Description:

The Pesticide Certification Training Program in Spanish is designed to help Hispanic agricultural workers to enhance pesticide knowledge by exposing participants to a very interactive teaching environment. The teaching methodology and training material used will benefit individuals with different educational backgrounds and pesticide application experience.

Program Goals:

1. To reduce pesticide exposure in workers and applicators.
2. To protect natural resources and reduce environmental contamination.
3. To help with pesticide regulation compliance requirements by increasing pesticide license certification and reducing violations and fines imposed by state agency pesticide regulators.
4. To contribute with the economic well being of Hispanic pesticide applicators by helping them to qualify for better job opportunities that require pesticide certification.

Training Programs Proposed:

General standard, private applicator, limited commercial certification, landscape maintenance, and ornamental turf.
Pesticide Recertification Classes

*NOTE - Pesticide Division website has changed! See below for new web address.

Pesticide Safety Training Sessions (Category V)

1/24/2008 - Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, Category V (2 credits).
Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

2/7/2008 - Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, Category V (2 credits).
Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

9/18/2008 - Pesticide Safety Training for Private Applicators, Category V (2 credits).
Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Pesticide Specialty Training Sessions

12/4/2007 - Landscape Pesticide Training, Category L N D X (3 credits)
Haywood County Extension Center, Waynesville, NC.
Call Tim Mathews (828) 456-3575 to pre-register.

12/5/2007 - Landscape Pesticide Training, Category L N D X (3 credits)
Madison County Extension Center, Marshall, NC.
Call Ross Young (828) 649-2411 to pre-register.

Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

2/12/2008 - Winter Weed ID & Control, Category G H L N O D X (2 credits).
Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC, 2:00-5:00 pm.
$20 registration fee is required - call (828) 255-5522.

Buncombe County Extension Center, 94 Coxe Avenue. Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, Fletcher, NC.
Call (828) 255-5522 to pre-register.

Please call to pre-register.

***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

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
Check Out Tarheelgardening.com

Green Industry Professionals across North Carolina have an exciting new promotional tool. Tarheelgardening.com is a website designed to inform consumers about the many benefits of plants and planting North Carolina grown trees, shrubs, flowers, perennials, annuals and turfgrass. Consumers will be able to find information about local retail nurseries, garden centers, landscapers, irrigation contractors, landscape architects and other Green Industry Professionals. Consumers will also be able to access information about types of plants, growing information, help with plants, North Carolina’s Green Industry, and much more. This website will be promoted to the general public through print, radio and possibly TV advertising, as well as through other media.

Tarheelgardening.com is a cooperative effort between the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Marketing. Business Listings on Tarheelgardening.com are free to all qualified North Carolina Green Industry Professionals.

If you are interested in having your company listed in this site, please contact:

Shirley Nicholson
Division of Marketing
(919)733-7887
Shirley.nicholson@ncmail.net

Free Beginners Beekeeping School (Register Now!)

The Buncombe County Chapter of the North Carolina Beekeepers Association are accepting reservations for their 2008 WNC Beginning Beekeepers’ School which is scheduled for the first two weekends of February (February 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2008.) The school will be held at the Folk Art Center auditorium on the Blue Ridge Parkway, mile marker 382 just off Highway 70 in east Asheville. The school is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required to ensure students a seat in classroom and to give organizers an idea on how many printed materials are needed.

The preferred registration site is online at: www.wncbees.org; people without Internet access should call the Buncombe County Extension Center at (828) 255-5522.

2005 Chapter of the Year, Buncombe Beekeepers will again procure sponsorships so they can award a minimum of 10 scholarship hives to first time beekeepers who file an application, attend all sessions, have the highest test scores and meet other requirements.

The school will include six main lecture periods (Saturdays, February 2 and 9 from 10:00 am-12:30 pm and 2:00-4:30 pm; Sundays, February 3 and 10 from 1:00-4:30 pm) with presentations and demonstrations by local and regional beekeeping experts before and after lectures and during the 1½ hour lunch break. The Certified Exam will be administered Saturday, February 23 at 11:00 am.

The annual school is one of the largest and oldest in North Carolina; last year more than 250 people from 19 counties attended. Of those, 142 passed the Certified Beekeepers Exam, the first step in the state’s Master Beekeeping Program, and 10 were awarded free scholarship hives.

ALSO NOTE: Henderson County Beekeepers will sponsor a six week short course in beekeeping. The school will be held at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center (455 Research Drive, Fletcher, NC) and will run six consecutive Mondays beginning January 14, 2008 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Again, the course is free, but pre-registration is required because of limited space. Call the Henderson County Extension Center to register for THIS course (828) 697-4891.
Green Industry Integrated Pest Management!!

Register Now!

N. C. Cooperative Extension will be holding 5 classes this season on Green Industry Disease, Insect and Weed Identification and Controls. These classes will teach skills needed to identify diseases, insects and weeds in the landscape. Actual live (or dead) samples of insects, diseases and weeds will be brought to each class for hands-on teaching. Please feel free to bring in your own samples! We will then discuss Integrated Pest Management approaches to controlling these pests. No class will be the same, so come to one or come to all! The classes will be held at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC. The class dates are as follows:

April 21, 3:00-5:00 pm
May 19, 3:00-5:00 pm
June 23, 3:00-5:00 pm
July 28, 3:00-5:00 pm
August 18, 3:00-5:00 pm

***Please call Amanda Stone (828) 255-5522 or Cliff Ruth (828) 697-4891 to pre-register. Class size will be limited to 35 students. Pesticide credits have been approved for all classes - 2 credit hours (each class) for G H L N D O X.

Preparing Nursery Plants for Winter

It usually requires more than one season to produce marketable woody nursery crops. Thus nursery crops must survive at least one winter before they can be sold. Successful winter survival means that the roots remain alive and the upper foliage is healthy, shows little damage, and is ready to resume growth.

Most plants produce a flush of growth in the spring, and this growth may continue throughout the season. Growth gradually slows in the fall because of cooler temperatures and shorter days. To grow plants more rapidly, we can extend the period of rapid growth by fertilizing, irrigating, and controlling pests; however, plants are less tolerant of low temperatures during this time.

Several physiological requirements must be met to successfully overwinter nursery plants. To choose the appropriate winter protection techniques, you must know how plants acquire cold hardiness and how they are damaged by cold temperatures and winter conditions.

NCSU has a publication (AG-454) available that addresses how to prepare your nursery plants for winter. To access the publication please visit this website: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/ag454.html or contact your local Extension agent.

Regional Greenhouse Growers Workshop

N. C. Cooperative Extension will be holding a Regional Greenhouse Growers Workshop on January 31, 2008 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center, www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/.
Pre-registration is required! Registration is $25 and due by January 23. Pesticide credits have been applied for. Lunch and breaks will be sponsored and on site. Topics will include: Grants for Energy Conservation, Managing Fertility and Watering, Pour-through Sampling, Substrates, Managing Slow Release Fertilizers, New Plants and more!!!

See enclosed registration form or for more information please contact:

Cliff Ruth – Henderson/Transylvania Counties, (828) 697-4891
Tim Mathews – Haywood County, (828) 456-3575
Amanda Stone – Buncombe County, (828) 255-5522
Regional Greenhouse Growers Workshop
January 31, 2008
Mountain Horticultural Crops
Research & Extension Center
Fletcher, NC

$25 registration fee due **by January 23**.
Maximum of 75 participants.
Pesticide credits applied for!

**Registration**

- Company: ________________________________________________
- Name(s): ________________________________________________
  - ________________________________________________________
  - ________________________________________________________
- Address: ________________________________________________
- City: ____________________________________________________
- State: __________________________________________________
- Zip: _____________________________________________________
- Phone: __________________________________________________
- E-mail: _________________________________________________

Sponsored lunch will be catered by Adams Bake Shop, Fletcher. Please check your preference for a sandwich:

- [ ] Ham Sandwich
- [ ] Turkey Sandwich
- [ ] Vegetarian Sandwich

Please return this form with registration fee of $25 made payable to: BUNCOMBE COUNTY

**MAIL TO:**
Amanda Stone
Extension Agent
NCCE - Buncombe County Center
94 Coxe Avenue
Asheville, NC  28801
Long Term Effects of Drought Now Showing up on Woody Ornamentals

"Sharpen your pruners and get ready to remove dead branches on woody ornamentals due to a one-two punch combination of drought and fungal pathogens such as Botryosphaeria and Seiridium." That's the advice from UT's Dr. Alan Windham.

The long term effects of this summer's drought are showing up now on many stressed woody ornamentals. Common symptoms are scattered dieback or "flagging" at the end of branches, accompanied by cankers--open, sunken, dark or oozing wounds--on a trunk or branch. Rhododendron and Leyland Cypress are frequently hosts for these diseases, but you may see similar dieback on Laurel, Viburnum, Holly and some Juniper species. Borer damage may be present too, as insects are also attracted to plants under stress.

According to Windham, chemical treatments are not effective for the control of most fungal canker diseases. The best preventive strategy is drip irrigation during dry periods. Once dieback has occurred, diseased branches should be pruned out. Don't be misled though, by the normal discoloring and shedding of older leaves. That's natural. No pruning required.

Our recommendation is to carefully cut back to living wood which does not show any discoloration from an internal infection. Use sharp pruners and practice good pruning techniques. This may mean going well below where the diseased portion stops so that you finish at the junction with the next larger branch. You want the wound to callous over quickly so don't make a large flush cut and don't leave a sizeable stub either.

Disinfect your pruners before you make that final cut so that you don't infect the part of the plant that's left. You can wipe them or dip the tool into a dilute solution of bleach or, better yet, rubbing alcohol, which doesn't damage the blade.

Dispose of the diseased debris by burying or burning if you can do so legally and safely so the infected material isn't recycled into somebody's landscape as mulch.

~Glenn Palmer, Extension Master Gardener, Buncombe County

Buncombe County Small Farms Initiative

Buncombe County farmland is fast disappearing. An increasing number of farmers are reaching retirement age and have no family to continue farming. The burley buyout, the influx of new residents and increased pressure on farmers to develop their farmland are having tremendous impacts. Farmers who want to continue farming are being challenged to find and market the enterprise that will provide enough profit to help them maintain an established quality of life for their families.

The Buncombe County Small Farms Initiative is a new program supported by the Buncombe County Commissioners, Buncombe County Cooperative Extension, and the Pigeon River Fund through the WNC Community Foundation Fund. The goal of the program is to preserve farmland in Buncombe County by assisting farmers in finding new ways to increase farm profitability.

The Small Farms Initiative is committed to providing assistance to new and existing farmers through:

1- Educational Programs: in farm planning and new crop production, adding value to farm products, marketing.
2- Helping link farmers with local markets.
3- Seeking resources and funding for farmers through grant programs.
4- Providing assistance with value-added products through Blue Ridge Food Ventures.
5- Linking aging landowners with aspiring farmers.

To learn more about the Small Farms Initiative or to receive the monthly newsletter, contact Jean Harrison at (828) 255-5522.
Grower Spotlight – Past Issues


2. **Lynn's Nursery**, (828) 683-4795, 70 Crowder Road, Leicester, NC  
   Trees, shrubs, natives, dwarf conifers, perennials; one gallon to 15 gallon containers and B&B. Wholesale to trade only.

3. **NC Division of Forest Resources, N. C. Forestry Store**, 1-888-NC-TREES (628-7337), www.dfr.state.nc.us  
   1-2 year old tree seedlings, hardwood and conifer, natives, typically sold in bundles of 100 seedlings. Landowners, reforestation projects, wetland remediation project and more!

4. **G & R Nursery**, (828) 628-1695, 24 Luckenbach Drive, Fairview, NC  

5. **Mountain Harvest**, (828) 298-9000, 600 Charlotte Highway (74-A), Fairview, NC  
   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.

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*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)