



# Alamance Gardener

*Alamance County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Department*

## Coming Events

### Workshops and Demonstrations

Thurs., Aug 11, 10:00a

*Improve Your Home's Curb Appeal*

Thurs., Aug 25, 10:00a

*Fabulous Ferns and Their Fronds*

Thurs., Sept 8, 10:00a

*Fall Lawn Care*

Wed., Sept. 21st, 9:00a - 6:00p

**MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE**

Thurs., Sept 29th, 10:00a

*So You Want To Be A Master Gardener?*

All classes will begin in the auditorium at the Agriculture Building and are free unless otherwise indicated.

Registration is required. Call 336-570-6740, or register online here:  
<http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/>

### Contact us :

Alamance County Cooperative  
Extension Service  
209-C N. Graham Hopedale Rd.  
Burlington, NC 27217  
Phone: 336-570-6740  
E-mail:

Mark Danielely

[Mark\\_danieley@ncsu.edu](mailto:Mark_danieley@ncsu.edu)

Chris Stecker

[Christine.stecker@alamance-nc.com](mailto:Christine.stecker@alamance-nc.com)

Visit our website:

<http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Like us on Facebook,  
Click the link below:



Now accepting  
Applications for  
the Class of 2017!  
See page 2 for  
links.

*Release Your Inner Gardener!*

## A Little Webinar



There are many insects to be found around Alamance County. Some are destructive plant pests, but most are not. One insect that has become more noticeable lately is the fall webworm. Actually it is not the insect that people see, but the webs they form on the ends of tree branches. Pecan, persimmon and sourwood trees are their favorite hosts.

The fall webworm name is a little misleading because the caterpillars hatch in the spring. They feed on tree leaves and form the web for protection from predators. As the caterpillars grow, the web is expanded to cover fresh leaves. I guess the fall part of the name came from the fact that the webs have gotten large enough to be very visible in the fall. They are often called bagworms because of the nest they build, but bagworms are a different insect.

People do get concerned when they see the branches of their trees covered with the webs of the fall webworm and what to know how to control this pest. The good news is that these caterpillars rarely do enough damage to a tree to cause permanent harm. If the web is within reach of a long stick or pole, the best course of action is to pull down the web and expose the caterpillars to the birds. Spraying the web with an insecticide is not effective and is not recommended. You will probably get more pesticide in your face than on the caterpillars.



## More Bags of Worms

Another caterpillar that is a web builder is the eastern tent caterpillar. This insect is also sometimes mistakenly called bagworms. The hosts for these caterpillars are primarily wild cherry, apple and crabapple. The eastern tent caterpillar forms its web on a branch next to the trunk of the tree instead of on the ends of branches like the fall webworm. These caterpillars will leave the web to feed on leaves, but like the fall webworm, they do little permanent damage to the tree. Again no need to spray! One control method for both of these caterpillars that seems to be popular is the fire method. This involves trying to burn the webs out of the tree. While that can be somewhat effective in controlling the caterpillars it usually causes more damage to the tree than the caterpillars. If you want to burn the caterpillars it is best to pull the webs out of the tree first.



Eastern Tent Caterpillar

UGA0886010

The last caterpillar to discuss is the bagworm. This insect is a common landscape pest and can be very destructive. They are called bagworms because of the cone-shaped bag they spin for protection. The bag is composed of silk and pieces of the host plant and is expanded as the caterpillar grows. Bagworms are usually found on conifers like arborvitae, Leyland cypress, spruce and juniper.

Bagworms overwinter as eggs and hatch in May and June. The young larvae are suspended from a silk thread and usually land on the original host plant. Some are blown on the silk thread to other plants. If the plant is a suitable host the caterpillar will spin a bag that looks like an upside down ice cream cone and begin to feed. Many times the bagworm infestation is not noticed until late summer when the caterpillars are large and are consuming a lot of leaves. Plants that don't produce new foliage may die.

The bagworm is an insect you definitely want to control. Ideally you will start looking at your conifers in early June for a bagworm attack. The small caterpillars are much easier to control then and you can prevent much of the damage to the plant. There are several products that can be used to control bagworms. I prefer to use a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) product like Dipel or Thuricide because it is effective, but safe for us to use.

*If you have questions about these caterpillars or any other gardening topic, please give me or Chris a call.*



Bagworm damage



Bagworm

### Release Your Inner Gardener!

The Alamance County Master Gardener Class of 2017 begins Wednesday, January 18th. Here's a link to an informative brochure about what the Alamance Emgees are about: <http://goo.gl/1p7jak>

This link has information about the Class of 2017: <https://goo.gl/kXrXfH>

And here is the application: <https://goo.gl/f2Qz2i>

For a complete overview of the program, be sure to attend our **Think Green Thursdays "So You Want To Be A Master Gardener?"** workshop on **Thursday, September 29th** at 10:00 AM. Mark and the Alamance Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer all your questions! Register online, or by calling 336-570-6740.



**NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**





## August Garden Tips

It's August, and that often means things may be looking a bit ragged in your yard and garden.

Heat, humidity, insects and diseases have taken their toll over the course of the summer. Much of this burned-out look may be attributed to the end-of-summer wind down and can be addressed with a little judicious deadheading and cutting back. However, if you feel the use of pesticides is warranted, please contact the Cooperative Extension Service for proper identification of the pest and help in selecting the best product to use. Phone 336-570-6740.

Take stock of your lawn this month. If the "green" is more than half weeds and weedy grasses, a complete lawn renovation may be in order. Renovation of fescue lawns begins now with an application of glyphosate to kill out Bermuda grass and other pesky weeds. A second application may be needed in two weeks to ensure a thorough job. Find out what to do next at our September 8th Think Green Thursdays session. It's all about Fall

Lawn Care! Call to register, or register online at <http://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Feed basil with a liquid fertilizer to keep it productive into fall. If you pinch back the seed heads, the plant will put more energy into producing flavorful foliage.

Get busy on your fall vegetable garden this month. Before the 15th, plant cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach, cucumbers, leaf lettuce and kohlrabi. Between the 15th and the 30th plant kale, turnips, mustard, head lettuce and radishes. To keep the worms away, try covering broccoli, collards and their relatives with a light row cover.

Collect soil samples from your lawn and garden and take them to the Cooperative Extension for analysis. This service is free this time of year and the turn-around time is relatively short. Call us for more information: (336) 570-6740.

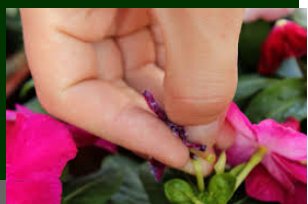
Continue pinching back annual flowers to encourage new bloom

right up until frost. Stop fertilizing roses by the end of the month.

Treat for turf pests now, if needed. Cut a 12-inch square of turf and peel it back. If there are fewer than six white grubs visible in the exposed soil, put the turf back and forget about it. Six or more and you may need to treat the lawn.

Try not to disturb the soil in flower beds during hot, dry August days. Loosening the soil through cultivation can damage surface roots and increase water loss. Instead, inspect mulch and replenish where needed; 2 to 3 inches between the plants, but only about 1/2" around the base of each plant.

Avoid overhead watering of plants to slow the spread of disease. Water in the early morning to allow foliage, fruit and flowers to dry out before evening. Early-morning watering discourages slugs, too. Dry surface soil slows down their nocturnal activities.



## *Arbor Gate Plant of the Month*



*Clerodendrum trichotomum*

Harlequin Glorybower

I tried hard not to like this “weedy” tree as it is so easily grown and has a bit of a reputation as a “trash” tree, but with its graceful shape, fragrant butterfly and hummingbird luring flowers and dazzling fall fruit, what’s not to like? Maybe the prolific suckers that appear yards away from the mother plant? But those are so easy to pull! Perhaps the unusual ‘peanut butter’ scent released when the leaves are crushed? “Peanut Butter Shrub” is another nickname for this plant and the scent may be distinctive, but it’s only released when the leaves are bruised. No serious pests or diseases to worry about.

Considering this tree’s reputation as an “unkempt multi-stemmed shrub”, we had no trouble training it into the pretty umbrella shape it has now.

For best behavior, plant in full sun to light shade in moist, well-drained soil. It will mature to about 10 feet wide and tall in short order.

The pink-and-white flower show begins in late July and the butterflies arrive shortly thereafter. Look for the blue berries dazzlingly set off by magenta calyces toward the first of fall. Read more here:



<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/clerodendron-trichotomum/>