



Coming Events

Workshops and Demonstrations

Thurs., Aug 3, 10:00a

Drought Tolerant Garden

Thurs., Aug 17, 10:00a

Fall Lawn Care

Thurs., Sept 7, 10:00a

Rain Gardens

Wed., Sept. 20th 9:00a - 6:00p

MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Thurs., Sept 28th, 10:00a

Preparing the Garden for Winter

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

Contact us :

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

Enough with the squash! Think Broccoli!



Planting a fall garden is a good way to extend your harvest of fresh vegetables after the summer crops have finished producing. Many of the cool season vegetables do better in the fall than in the spring. Since the fall crops are maturing during cooler weather the flavor and quality will be better than those same vegetables grown in the spring.

Planting vegetable seeds is less expensive than buying transplants, but there are a couple of problems to consider. Some of the cool season vegetable seeds don't germinate well in warm soil conditions. You can help by lightly watering the seeds each day until they germinate or by using a light weight row cover. This row cover could be used again for frost protection later in the season.

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Growing Concerns

The other concern is the amount of time it takes from seeding to harvest. Most of the cool season vegetables should be planted in August and if you wait until September to plant seeds, some of the longer maturing crops like broccoli may not have enough time to mature before cold weather. Try to use transplants when planting in September to increase your chances of a successful harvest.



Planting seeds in September is still a good option for quick maturing crops like radishes as well as leafy greens including kale, lettuce, mustard and spinach. A light frost will not damage these crops and they may continue to grow well into November.



Having trouble getting those tiny seeds spaced just perfectly? Love to garden, but hate to thin seedlings?

There's an easier way! This seeder will save your back AND your seeds and will take care of them all—from this fall's tiny turnipseed to next spring's squash and beans.



Insects may be a problem in the fall garden due to the fact that their populations have grown all summer. Careful scouting is essential to make sure the insects don't get ahead of you. The two main insect pests of the fall garden are caterpillars and aphids.

The pretty moths and butterflies you see flying around the garden will soon be laying eggs. Out of those eggs will come some hungry caterpillars. I prefer to use a *Bacillus thuringiensis* product like DiPel or Thuricide. These are biological control products that may take a few days to work, but you can harvest the same day you spray. The Bt products should be applied every 5-7 days to be most effective.



Aphids are another problem in the fall garden, but not as common as caterpillars. They are especially bad when they get inside a head of broccoli. They are hard to see and almost impossible to wash out. I don't recommend preventative sprays for aphids, but I would check the garden for them every few days. A few aphids can become a lot of aphids pretty quickly. Insecticidal soap can be an effective control for aphids and can be sprayed on the same day as harvest.

If you have any questions about fall vegetable gardening or any other gardening topic, please give me or Chris a call.

**7th Annual
Master Gardener
Fall
Plant Sale**

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Alamance County Cooperative Extension Service
Agricultural Building
209 N Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC 27217

NC STATE

Extension
Master Gardener

We're doing it again! The Alamance County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale to benefit Arbor Gate Teaching Garden! All plants have been nurtured by Alamance Master Gardener Volunteers. Fall is an excellent time to plant perennials and who doesn't love a late bloomer?

Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Alamance County

For information:
Phone 336.570.6740
E-mail:
christine.stecker@alamance-nc.com

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener



August Garden Tips

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. (See page 1)

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 August 17th Think Green Thursdays session. It's all about Fall Lawn Care! Call to register—336-570-6740—or register online at <https://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.

Stop by the Agricultural Building for soil sample boxes, forms and instructions, then collect samples from your lawn and garden. You may mail the samples to Raleigh or bring the boxes back for us to transfer to the State Soil Lab. The NCDA offers the soil testing service without charge 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 keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunks of the plants. Hand pull weeds to reduce competition for water.

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 the nocturnal activities of these pesty mulloscs.

All webworms and azalea caterpillars are beginning to make their presence known. Hand pick what you can reach. Break open webs to expose the worms to the birds and the elements.

Arbor Gate Plant of the Month



Gaillardia aestivalis var. *winkleri* 'Grape Sensation'

We decided to give this unusual blanketflower a try in Arbor Gate's parking lot scree garden back in summer of 2015—and boy, are we glad we did! Forget everything you thought you knew about gaillardias and check this one out. *Gaillardia* 'Grape Sensation' is a selection of the very rare (three counties only) Texas native *Gaillardia aestivalis* var. *winkleri*—Winkler's Blanketflower. Unlike other gaillardias, 'Grape Sensation' is an excellent long-lived perennial, forming an airy 2' tall x 3' wide clump and, instead of typical gaillardia flowers, *Gaillardia* 'Grape Sensation' is topped with an abundance of 2" wide pinky-purple flowers with darker purple centers from May through October. Even the deep purple seed heads are attractive.

Once established, this great plant is drought, deer and rabbit tolerant and an absolute magnet for bees and butterflies all summer long. Grape Sensation's sterile flowers produce no seedlings, but it spreads readily by underground runners, so you will see new plants popping up to expand the clump.

Good drainage and plenty of sun are the requirements for this great gaillardia.

