

Coming Events

THINK GREEN THURSDAYS & MORE

Thurs., Sept. 7th, 10:00a

Rain Gardens—Managing the Flood

Wed, Sept 20th, 9a-6p

MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE



Thurs., Sept. 28th, 10:00a

Preparing the Garden For Winter

Thurs., Oct. 5th, 10:00a

Planting Trees and Shrubs

Thurs., Oct. 19th 10:00a

Snow Birds—The Flocks of Winter

You can register online for any of the Think Green Thursdays classes here: <https://goo.gl/HFWDUU>. Just click on the name of the class you want.

Contact us :

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Master Gardener Plant Sale

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



**NC STATE
Extension
Master Gardener**

ONE DAY ONLY!

Wednesday, September 20, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Agricultural Building
209 N Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC

- Flowering perennials and luxurious ferns grown by Master Gardeners, all priced at \$5 or less!
- One-day-only specials on Atlas gardening gloves and The Garden Plate cookbook.
- Enter to win a 2-hour private landscape consultation with Rett Davis.

All proceeds go toward the care and improvement of Arbor Gate Teaching Garden, a public demonstration garden maintained exclusively by Alamance County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

See Page 5 for a partial list of plants

For information:

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Seedy Business

My lawn looked great this spring, but between the brown patch disease and recent dry weather it looks rough now. I do not feel too bad about the condition of my lawn though since there are many others like it. The good news is September is a good time to start reseeding your lawn and soon the lawn will look good again. Reseeding your lawn is not a very complicated process, but there is one-step that some folks do not spend enough time researching. That is buying the right grass seed.



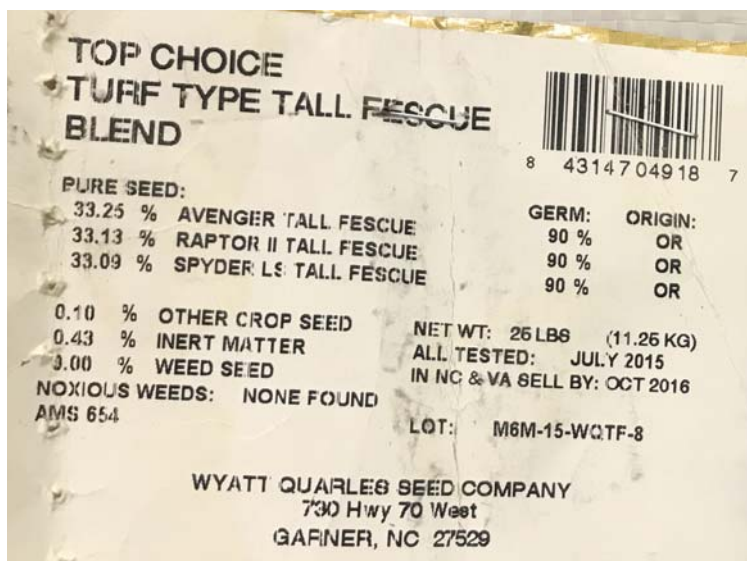
It's All On The Label

Every time I go to the grocery store, I see people reading the label of whatever food they are thinking about buying. They are looking for calorie count, fat content, amount of sodium, etc. When I see people buying grass seed they hardly ever look at the label. They look at the name and description on the front of the bag and usually the price. The price should actually be the last factor you consider because cheap seed is no bargain. More on that later.

The label will list the name of the grass seed varieties in the bag. I recommend using a blend or a mixture of more than one variety. A tall fescue blend works best for lawns that are full sun. A tall fescue/bluegrass mixture is best for lawns with some shade. Contrary to what you might see, there is not a good grass for full shade areas. The general recommendation is to avoid trying to grow grass in areas where there is more than 50% shade. While it might come up and look OK during the winter when there are no leaves on the trees, the grass will usually fade away by early summer.



Typical shady "lawn"



The following publication lists recommended grass seed varieties: <https://goo.gl/8Dq32B>

The label will state a germination percentage, which should be at least 85%. Also, check to see when the germination test was conducted. It should not be more than 9 months prior to your purchase.

The label will list other crop seed, which are seeds that are grown as a crop somewhere else. This could be Bermuda grass, clover and dandelions. The percent crop seed should be close to zero. Weed seed is also listed as a percent by weight and should be as low as possible.

You may be surprised to learn that some grass seed bags will contain noxious weeds. These weeds are very difficult to control and include weeds like buckhorn plantain, dock and sheep sorrel. It is legal to sell grass seed that contains noxious weeds as long as they are listed on the label. These are usually the less expensive seed brands. You should never buy grass seed that contains noxious weed seed. As I said earlier, cheap seed is no bargain.

The best way to ensure you are buying quality seed is to look for a certified seed label on the bag. This blue tag indicates the seed has met high standards of quality and low levels on contaminants.

If you have any questions about buying grass seed or any other gardening topic, please give me or Chris a call.



NC STATE**Extension
Master Gardener***September Garden Tips*

Now is the best time to reseed, overseed and start new fescue lawns. Overseed at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Sow new cool-season lawns in prepared ground at the rate of 7 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Discontinue pruning at this time except to remove dead or broken branches and spent flowers. Spring-blooming plants have already formed their flower buds, and pruning of any plants may encourage new growth that won't have time to harden off before winter.

Consider planting a cover crop or 'green manure' this fall in unused garden space. It's a great way to improve soil fertility and structure. Crimson clover is a good choice for our area. Plant at least a month before the first killing frost. In the spring, return under your cover crop three weeks before planting your garden.

Get out your catalogs and order spring-flowering bulbs for planting in late fall and early

winter. Buy top-quality bulbs; it is generally true that bigger bulbs produce better flowers.

Harvest sweet potatoes in late September or early October (before first frost). Avoid bruising or scratching during handling—damaged sweet potatoes rot easily in storage. Ideal storage conditions are a temperature of 55 degrees and a relative humidity of 85 percent. The basement or crawl space of a house should work.

Plant mustard, onion sets and radishes until the middle of the month. Sow onion seeds all month.

Propagate tender annuals to plant out next spring. Take 3- to 4-inch cuttings of coleus, geranium, begonia, and impatiens. Make an angled cut just below a node. Remove all but the topmost leaf. Dip the cut end into a rooting hormone. In a container filled with moistened potting medium, make a hole using a pencil, then insert the cutting in the hole and gently tamp the soil around the cutting.

Establish new perennial flower beds. Dig, divide and replant overcrowded beds. Spread a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic matter over the area, add lime and fertilizer according to the soil test, and till in to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Space divisions at least 1 foot apart in all directions to postpone future root competition.

Get NEW perennials at the Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale, Wednesday, September 20th from 9am-6pm at the Agricultural Building.

Find ferns and flowering perennials, including many propagated from favorites at Arbor Gate Teaching Garden, all nurtured by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and just \$5 each! Plus deals on gardening gloves and cookbooks and a chance to win a 2-hour landscape consultation with Rett Davis

ONE DAY ONLY!



Arbor Gate Plant of the Month



Conoclinium coelestinum

Blue Mistflower

Who called for an unfussy perennial that has fluffy blue blooms in September? * Who didn't? This southeastern U.S. native, also known as hardy ageratum, brings a welcome spot of color to the perennial border in a month that seems, well, just a bit dull. The flower show starts in late August, continues until frost, and the nectar-rich flowers are attractive to butterflies. Moist, well-drained soil and full sun are a plus, but this herbaceous perennial will do on far less, even handling a bit of shade. Blue Mistflower does spread easily through rhizomes and can be a bit weedy. Unwanted plants are easy to remove, but chances are you'll change your mind and enjoy the flower show!

Read more here:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/conoclinium-coelestinum/>



*Need some Blue Mistflower in your garden? Good news! It's one of the plants we've propagated for the Extension Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale—check the partial plant list on page five!

<u>2017 Plant Sale—Partial list</u>	
Plant	Exposure
Agastache 'Little Adder'	sun
Amercrinum 'Fred Howard'	sun
Amsonia tabernaemontana - Blue stars	sun-part sun
Apple mint	sun-shade
Aster 'Raydon's Favorite'	sun
Aster tataricus 'Jin Dai'	sun-part sun
Aster, Japanese variegated	sun
Aster, white wood	Shade-part shade
Blue Mistflower - Conoclinium coelestinum	sun-part shade
Butterfly milkweed	sun-part sun
Carex bronze	sun-shade
Carex Evercolor Everillo	Part sun/shade
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	sun-part shade
Colocasia esculenta - elephant ears	sun-part sun
Coreopsis auriculata	sun
Coreopsis tripteris - Tall tickseed	sun
Crinum Lily - white	sun
Delosperma cooperi - Ice plant	sun
Dianthus 'Firewitch'	sun
Eupatorium 'Chocolate' - Joe Pye Weed	sun
Euphorbia 'Blackbird'	sun/part shade
Fern, Autumn	shade
Fern, Ghost Lady	shade
Fern, Golden Mist wood Fern	shade
Fern, Japanese painted	shade
Fern, Lady	shade
Fern, Maris' maidenhair	shade
Fern, Sensitive	shade
Gaillardia "Arizona Sun"	sun
Gaura "Whirling butterflies"	sun

NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener Alamance County

Hedychium coccineum - Orange ginger lily	sun
Hedychium coronarium- Butterfly ginger lily	sun
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower	sun
Hemerocallis - Daylily	
Heucherella "Blue Ridge"	part sun/shade
Hosta 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'	shade
Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'	shade
Hosta 'Minuteman'	shade
Hosta 'Stained Glass'	shade
Iris 'Immortality'	sun/part sun
Lychnis coronaria - Rose campion	sun
Monarda - Dark Pink Bee Balm	sun-part sun
Mondo grass, dwarf	shade
Phlox caroliniana 'Minnie Pearl'	sun
Rose of Sharon -	sun
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'	sun
Ruellia - Mexican petunia	sun
Salvia Black and Blue	sun-part sun
Salvia 'Furman's Red'	sun
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'	sun/part shade
Sedum 'Blue Spruce'	sun-shade
Sempervivum Hot Mix	sun/part shade
Shasta Daisy 'Becky' (TBD)	sun-part sun
Siberian Iris 'Caesar's brother'	sun
Solidago 'Fireworks' - Goldenrod	sun
Solomon's seal, dwarf - Polygonatum humile	part shade-shade
Solomon's Seal, variegated	part sun/shade
Stokesia "Peachie's Pick"	sun
Stokesia 'Blue Danube'lue Danube	sun
Tricyrtis - Toad Lily	shade-part shade