

Coming Events

Thurs., Oct. 11th, 10:00a

Demonstration - Planting Trees and Shrubs

Sat., Oct. 13th, 8am-1pm

Household hazardous waste disposal (see p.2)

Mon., Oct. 22nd,

Deadline to order from 4-H Fruit Plant Sale

Thurs., Oct. 25th, 10:00a

Demonstration - Planting Fall Bulbs

Mon., Nov. 19th

DEADLINE to apply for the

Master Gardener Class of 2019 (See p.5)



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

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Alamance Gardener

Alamance County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Department

Right Plant, Wrong Place?

Fall is a good time to get back outside and look around your landscape. Are there shrubs or trees that have died? Are there plants that have gotten too big and need to be replaced? Fall is a great time to plant new shrubs and trees in your yard. The weather is getting cooler and fall planting allows the shrubs to grow roots all winter and be better established before next summer.

One of the most common landscape mistakes people make is buying plants without knowing where they will be planted or if it is the right plant in the right place. My wife often complains it takes me too long to make a decision and I will have to admit that is true. I do like to ponder before making a decision and even then, I have gotten it wrong.



Still my suggestion is that, before you get excited and start buying lots of new plants, there are several factors that need to be considered. What type of soil do you have? Is the planting area sunny or shady? How large is the planting space? Often these factors are not considered before planting and can result in landscape failures. Our goal is to find the right plant for the right place.

From the Ground Up—Site Matters!

Many of us have heavy and poorly drained soils around our homes. The best way to improve these soils is by adding an organic soil conditioner. Finely ground pine bark and leaf compost work very well. The standard recommendation is to add one cubic yard of organic matter per 100 square feet. Incorporate the organic matter into the existing soil to a depth of six inches. This will increase the soil drainage and greatly improve the success of fussy plants like azaleas and rhododendron. If you have a poorly drained area that cannot be corrected by the addition of organic matter, you still have some plant choices. The publication 'Qualifiers for Quagmires' lists plants that will do well in poorly drained soils.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-646.html>



Lacebug damage on azaleas growing in the sun

Many plants have a preference as to how many hours of sunlight or shade they will tolerate. Too much or too little sun can lead to poor plant growth and increased susceptibility to insect and disease problems. Azaleas grown in full sun will usually have problems with lace bugs, but azaleas grown in part shade will rarely have lace bug problems.

Plant size is the another factor to consider. A plant with 'dwarf' or 'compact' in its name does not necessarily mean it will not get big. 'Dwarf' Burford Holly can grow to be ten feet tall. 'Compacta' Japanese Holly can easily grow to six feet tall. Be sure to know what the ultimate plant height will be before planting a shrub underneath a low window. Do not get in a frenzy when buying plants. Choosing the right plant for the right place will take some time, but that time will be well spent.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The next Collection Day will be Saturday, October 13, from 8 am until 12:00pm at Holly Hill Mall, 309 Huffman Mill Road, Burlington.

The types of hazardous waste that will be accepted are as follows:

- ☺ Household cleaners, drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, disinfectants
- ☺ Solvents, thinners, shellacs, varnishes, sealers, wood preservatives
- ☺ Automotive products including brake fluid, antifreeze, used motor oil up to 5 gallons, filters, gasoline
- ☺ Pesticides
- ☺ Miscellaneous materials such as acids, bases, kerosene, batteries, photographic chemicals, pool chemicals, mercury, fluorescent tubes
- ☺ Latex and oil based paint and spray paint



The following will NOT be accepted: Gas cylinders, radioactives/smoke detectors, medical waste, electronics/TVs/computers, explosives/ammunition



NC STATE

Extension Master Gardener



October Garden Tips

Expect the first frost around the middle of October. Before that night, bring in houseplants that have summered outdoors. Inspect them for uninvited insect guests and place the plants in a bright spot for the winter. Also on your “to do” list before frost: harvest sweet potatoes, gourds and winter squash. Pick green tomatoes and wrap them individually in newspaper to ripen at room temperature.

Think spring when in the vegetable garden this month. This is a great time to till in compost and lime and any other nutrients and get it working over the winter. You’ll be ready to plant those sugar snap peas when February 2019 rolls around.

Cold-loving annuals can be planted from seed now. Sweet peas, poppies, Bells of Ireland, forget-me-nots and larkspur are just a few that can’t take the heat but shine when there’s a chill in the air. Keep in mind that pre-emergence herbicides will also prevent seeds of desired plants from germinating.

Take cuttings from woody herbs, dip in rooting hormone and plant in moist, well-drained medium. Lemon balm, oregano, sage, rosemary, tarragon and thyme are all good candidates for your windowsill garden.

Move permanent potted water garden plants to deeper water by the end of the month. Keep leaves and debris out of the water as much as possible, but don’t overdo it. A thin layer of decomposing matter on the bottom of the pond is actually beneficial.

Dig, divide and replant spring and summer-blooming perennials now. Daylilies and hosta will benefit from this attention and October is the best month to divide peonies, but hellebores (Lenten rose) resent division. Luckily, these plants readily reseed themselves, so look for seedlings to transplant.

October is the right time to plant new trees and shrubs. Dig the planting hole at least twice as wide, but no deeper than the root ball of the plant. Loosen a tight root ball and plant just a little high to allow for settling. Check for good drainage and water plants thoroughly as you backfill. To see how it’s done, attend our Think Green Thursday demonstration on October 11th.

Begin planting spring – flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, crocus and hyacinths as soon as soil temperatures drop below 60 degrees. Attend our Think

Green Thursday Bulb Planting demonstration for some pointers on October 25th.

For a great lawn without excessive mowing, feed established cool-season lawns just three times – September, November and February (Loosely and easier to remember—Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Valentine’s Day.) Apply 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn area at each feeding.

Garden Math Refresher:

To determine how much fertilizer you will need to spread to get one pound of nitrogen, you’ll need to do a little garden math: The three numbers displayed on a bag of fertilizer represent the percentages of the three main nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) contained in that bag. For example, a bag of 21-0-0 fertilizer contains 21 percent nitrogen, 0 percent phosphorus and 0 percent potassium. To apply one pound of actual nitrogen, divide 1 pound by the percentage contained in the bag; in this case, 0.21. ($1 \div 0.21 = 4.76$) You will need to apply 4.76 (about 4 and three-quarters) pounds of 21-0-0 fertilizer per 1,000 square feet to achieve the recommended 1 pound of actual nitrogen.

Arbor Gate Plant of the Month



Bog Sage

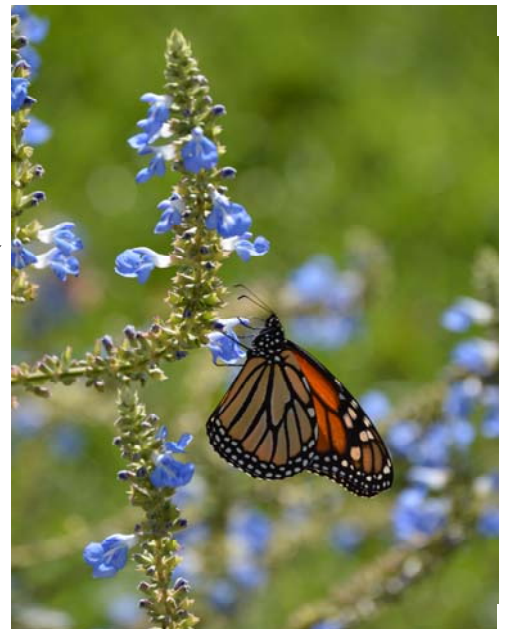
What a great addition to Arbor Gate Garden this perennial has been! With the common name “Bog Sage”, I was at first skeptical of locating this pollinator plant in our hot western-exposure perennial border, but even in its first summer this salvia shone! Growing quickly to an airy clump three to five feet tall by about three feet wide, this widely-adaptable plant sends out waves of clear blue flowers beginning in mid summer and continuing until a hard frost sends it packing. Meanwhile, bring on the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds!

Tolerant of heavy, wet soils, *Salvia uliginosa* also weathers dry spells very well, requiring no more water than its border neighbors. Plant in full sun and don't worry about deer—they don't care for it.

By the way, this lovely plant also goes by the name “Sky Blue Sage”. Much better, don't you agree?

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/salvia-uliginosa/>

Salvia uliginosa



Release Your Inner Gardener!

- Do you want to learn more about the culture and care of many types of plants?
- Are you eager to participate in an intense training program?
- Do you look forward to sharing your knowledge with people in your community?
- Do you have enough time to attend training and to complete the volunteer service?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, then you are just the type of person we are looking for to join the Class of 2019!

The Master Gardener Program is a public service that provides university training to participants to enable them to serve their communities as volunteer educators.

If you're ready to get down and (just a little bit) dirty, meet some great new people, and have a whole lot of fun while helping the community to grow, join the Alamance EMGVs!



EMGV REQUIREMENTS

New interns are required to complete

- **40 hours of education**, including the Master Gardener Course (42 hours)
- **40 hours of volunteer service** in Alamance County

Recertifying EMGVs are required to complete

- **10 hours continuing education**
- **40 hours of volunteer service** in Alamance County

14-week course begins January 16, 2019

Classes are scheduled for Wednesday mornings from 9 until 12 at the Agricultural Building auditorium, 209-C North Graham Hopedale Road, Burlington.

Instructors include Extension Horticulture Agents, Certified Arborists, Master Gardeners, and Extension Specialists.

Some topics covered in the 2019 program:

Soils and Plant Nutrients, Plant ID and Botany, Lawns, Pruning/Woody Plants, Small Fruit, Tree Fruit, Vegetables, Insects, Native Plants, Plant Diagnostics and Diseases, Landscape Design

Program Director: Mark Danielely, Horticulture Agent

Link to the Application:

<https://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/2018/09/apply-now-for-the-master-gardener-class-of-2019/>

Deadline for application: November 19, 2018

2019 fee (includes digital manual only): \$75, payable upon acceptance into the program

For further information, contact

Alamance County Cooperative Extension

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