



## Coming Events

### Workshops and Demonstrations

Sat., Feb. 1, 10:00a DEMO at BSF\*

*Fruit Tree Pruning at BSF\**

Thu., Feb. 6, 10:00a DEMO at BSF\*

*Fruit Tree Pruning BSF\**

Thu., Feb. 20, 10:00a DEMO

*Grapevine Pruning*

Sat., Feb. 22, 10:00a DEMO at BSF\*

*Grapevine Pruning at BSF\**

Thu., Mar. 5, 10:00a

*Pruning Shrubs and Trees*

Sat., Mar. 7, 10:00a

*Pruning Shrubs and Trees*

Thu., Mar. 19, 10:00a

*Healing Gardens*

Tue., Mar. 31

*Deadline to order from the 4-H Spring Plant Sale*

\*BSF pruning demos will be at Buster Sykes Demonstration Farm, 2430 Turner Road, Mebane, NC. All other classes will be held at the Agricultural Building (address below)

### Contact us :

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

E-mail:

Mark Danieleley

[mark\\_danieley@ncsu.edu](mailto:mark_danieley@ncsu.edu)

Chris Stecker

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

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

Like us on Facebook, Click the link below:



## The Cutting Season



February is a good month to begin our pruning chores. Fruit trees, grapevines and blueberries should all be pruned during the dormant season. This is also the best time to prune many of our ornamental trees and shrubs. Our Think Green pruning demonstrations will be held this month at Buster Sykes Demonstration Farm orchard in Mebane and at Arbor Gate Teaching Garden at the Agricultural Building in Burlington. See the schedule at left and click [here](#) to register.

## The Crop of Roses

Roses should also be pruned this month, and they will be the focus of this article. Roses have been a popular garden plant for centuries, but aren't the easiest plants to maintain. The introduction of Knock Out roses in recent years has increased homeowners' interest in having roses that require less care than hybrid tea roses. Even though Knock Out roses need less care they still need to be dormant pruned like the hybrid teas. There are several goals we are trying to achieve when pruning. The first is to remove any damaged, diseased or dead stems. Next is to reduce the height of the plant to make it more manageable and to stimulate new growth and flowers. Lastly we want to thin out the stems to allow more air circulation to help reduce disease problems.

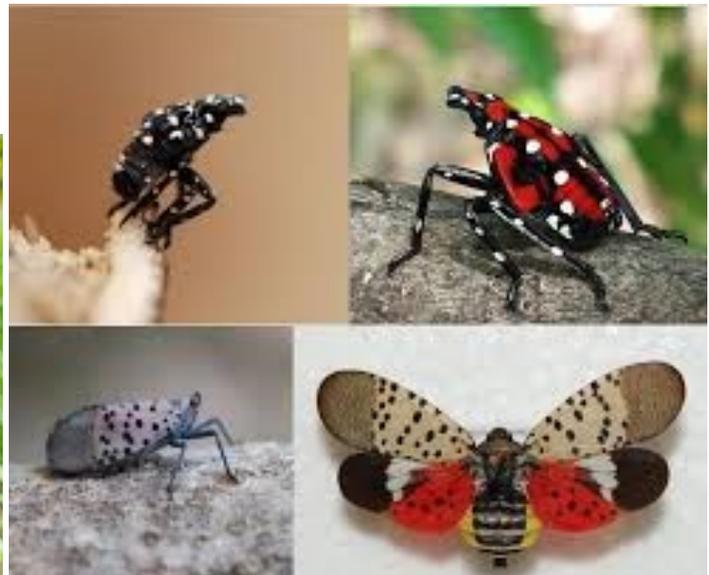
I like to start by pruning the entire plant down to about 15-18" in height. I know that sounds pretty severe, but our Knock Out roses at the office are four feet tall again by June. You should try to make the cuts about 1/4" above an outward facing bud with the cut on an angle away from the bud. While that is the recommended way to prune I don't always follow the rule especially if I have a number of roses to prune. The roses don't seem to mind and being a little less particular makes the job go much faster. Once you get the height you want it is time to start thinning.

Thinning is the removal of a stem back to the crown of the plant. There may be a dozen existing stems that should be thinned back to only five or six. It is a good idea to take out some of the larger and older stems to encourage new growth. Crossing or rubbing stems should also be removed. Your reward for all this hard work will be healthy plants and lots of blooms when spring finally arrives.

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

## BOLO: Spotted Lanternfly

This bad actor is headed our way. The spotted lanternfly is a planthopper that uses its piercing, sucking mouthpart to extract sugars and nutrients from plants. The feeding leads to quick plant decline with heavy infestation. Although its favorite host plant is the non-native and also invasive tree-of-heaven—*Ailanthus altissima*, spotted lanternfly's appetite is not exclusive to this tree. The lanternfly has hundreds of different plant hosts and holds the potential to cause major damage to trees and woody plants in the landscape such as pine and maples. It also poses a threat to agricultural industries and is of particular concern to the grape, tree fruit, hops, and nursery crop industries. Read more [HERE](#).



## NC STATE

### Extension Master Gardener



4-H Plant Sale - Spring 2020



## February Garden Tips

**B**egin planting fruit trees, grapevines and berry bushes now. Prune fruit trees to enhance fruit production and improve framework. Prune grapevines this month, too. See the schedule on the front page for a list of timely classes on pruning. If you'd like to add a few more berries, check out next month's 4-H Blueberry Plant Sale! Order plants between March 2nd and March 31st for planting in early April.

**W**hen spring bulbs begin to show green sprouts, apply a balanced (10-10-10) fertilizer. This boost will help the bulbs store more energy for next year's flowers.

**T**here's no need to fertilize trees and shrubs if the foliage looks healthy and the plants are growing at an acceptable rate. If you're in a hurry, or you just like to get your exercise by pruning, this is a good time of year to fertilize. Spread the fertilizer over the entire root zone, which normally extends well beyond the spread of the branches. Don't fertilize plants that are under stress from drought or disease.

**O**n a mild day (over 50 degrees) spray wild onion, wild garlic, and winter annual weeds in the lawn with a broadleaf herbicide. When spraying wild onion and garlic, add a spreader-sticker to the mix to make the product, well, spread and stick. Remember to always read and follow the label directions and consider leaving a patch of henbit, deadnettle, chickweed and other winter annuals for the bees. These early bloomers help sustain our pollinators until the garden comes to life in a few weeks.

**W**hile broadleaf herbicides won't harm established lawn grasses, keep in mind that flowers and vegetables are broadleaf plants and therefore are susceptible to this type of herbicide. Hand pulling is the best solution for winter annual weeds in the garden.

**Y**ou may divide perennials now if you didn't get it done last fall. Daylilies, Siberian iris, peonies, hosta, Shasta daisy and Lenten rose are a few candidates to divide and replant.

**I**n the vegetable garden, plant potatoes, broccoli and onion sets and sow seeds of carrots, cabbage, onions, peas, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips. Set out male hybrid asparagus crowns such as Jersey Giant or Jersey Gem.

**R**epot houseplants that have outgrown their containers. When repotting cactus, grasp spiny plants with kitchen tongs or wrap a folded newspaper around it, taking care not to crush the spines.

**T**rim back ornamental grasses this month, before new growth begins. Pampas and other grasses will have a fresher look this spring and summer if old foliage is cut to the ground now. Give your liriopie the same treatment as the grasses.

**A**pply a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to fescue lawns by the end of the month. If you're applying a crabgrass preventer to a fall-seeded lawn, check the label for precautionary statements.

## Arbor Gate Plant of the Month



### Abelia “Kaleidoscope”

*Linnaea × grandiflora* (formerly *Abelia grandiflora*) is a hardy, long-lived mostly evergreen shrub. You often see them in heavily pruned rows lining cemeteries and dotted throughout old homestead properties. The fragrant white flowers are a favorite of bees and other pollinators, but the shrubs themselves are often a bit shaggy and overhedge into a twiggy mess.

Enter ‘Kaleidoscope’! ‘Kaleidoscope’ was discovered by Kent Bell of Marshville, North Carolina in 1997 as a variegated branch sport of *Abelia × grandiflora* ‘Little Richard’. ‘Kaleidoscope’ is a dense, semi-evergreen, compact shrub with reddish purple stems and foliage that emerges green and yellow, turns gold in summer, and fiery red to orange for fall and winter. The coloration is most vibrant when the shrub is grown in full sun. Its pink buds open into white fragrant flowers that persist into fall. ‘Kaleidoscope’ grows 2 to 2.5 ft. tall and 3 to 4 ft. wide. Its smaller size makes it suitable for growing in patio containers. Occasional “wild hairs” are easily nipped. Plant ‘Kaleidoscope’ near the front of the perennial border to add a bit of warmth and color to your winter garden.

Read more here: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/linnaea-x-grandiflora-kaleidoscope-pp-16988/>

### *Linnaea × grandiflora*

