



Alamance County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Department

Coming Events

Alamance Soil & Water Conservation TREE SALE is on now!



Workshops and Demonstrations



Thu., Feb. 10, 10 a.m., DEMO at BSF*

Fruit Tree Pruning

Sat., Feb. 19, 10 a.m., DEMO at BSF*

Fruit Tree Pruning

Thu., Feb. 24, 10 a.m., DEMO at BSF*

Grapewine Pruning

Thu., Mar. 3, 10 a.m.

Pruning Ornamentals

Thu., Mar. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at BSF*

Blueberry School

Thu., Mar. 17, 10 a.m.

Camellias—Winter's Roses

Sat., Mar. 19, 10 a.m., DEMO at BSF*

Pruning Small Fruit Plants

*BSF pruning demos will be at Buster Sykes Demonstration Farm, 2430 Turner Road, Mebane, NC. Pruning Ornamentals and Camellias classes will be held at the Agricultural Building, 209 N. Graham-Hopedale.

Registration is required for all classes. Register online here:

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

Contact us:

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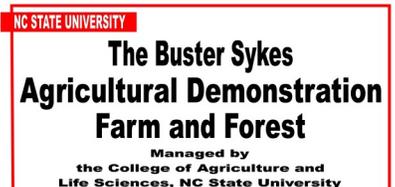
Be Fruitful in 2022—Think Green!

We're starting off Think Green Thursdays for 2022 with a slate of fruitful pruning demonstrations at Buster Sykes Demonstration Orchard in Mebane. We've added a full-day Blueberry School with Extension Blueberry Specialist Bill Cline and expanded our pruning classes to a few Saturdays, in case you can't make it on Thursday.



All of our Think Green Thursdays classes are free and open to the public.* Registration is required.

*In order to support the work we're doing at Buster Sykes Demonstration Orchard, we will be accepting donations at the gate. Much of the labor involved with maintaining the orchard is provided by the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, but funds for equipment, plants, and the salary for a part-time manager are limited.



Let's Learn Something!

If growing fruit isn't your only goal, we've tucked in a pruning demo for landscape plantings. That one will be held on March 3 at Arbor Gate Teaching Garden, located at the Agricultural Building in Burlington.



Cutting those Knockouts down to size in late winter ensures a more compact, floriferous shrub from May until frost. Bring your cutting-edge questions and learn about pruning all your garden favorites, including that perennial pruning target—crape myrtle.



On March 17, Toni McKenna, past national president of the Camellia Association, will be in the Ag Building auditorium to talk about this amazing shrub/tree that brings us gorgeous flowers on sturdy evergreen branches from late autumn to spring—winter's roses!

Shortly after the camellias fade, daylilies burst into bloom and we will have a great class in April on these perennial beauties with our own daylily expert, Extension

Master Gardener Sharon Yarbrough of Ridgeville Daylily Display Garden. She will also talk about hostas—the shade-lover's favorite!



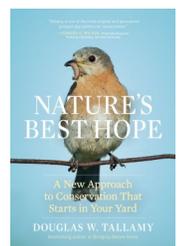
Watch for our Summer Fruit Tours at Buster Sykes Farm beginning in May. You'll have a chance to see what's going on in the orchard and maybe get a little taste of what's ripe!

Registration is required for all classes and space is limited as we will be observing social distancing, so sign up ASAP! Register for all the classes here: <https://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/>



A Little Teaser

We have something really special lined up for late September. We've invited naturalist Doug Tallamy, best selling author of *Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope*, to speak to the community. Stay tuned for details on this special event, brought to you by the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Alamance County.



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

Chances are, winter annual weeds are popping up now in your garden. Make a note to apply a pre-emergence herbicide late next summer to reduce the number of unwanted weeds in shrub borders. Don't use this on lawns or garden areas if you are planting seeds. Oh, well, hindsight is always 20/20 and right now, hand pulling or raking are the most effective methods of removal. Resist the temptation to spray with herbicides unless temperatures are above 50 degrees for a few days. Sprays just won't work when it's too cold. Remember to read and follow all label directions. Consider leaving a patch or two of winter weeds for the bees. On mild days, they'll be out looking for a snack and the flowers of henbit, deadnettle and chickweed are high on their foraging menu.

Except for the drone of honey bees among the chickweed, January is a quiet time in the garden. A time to rest. A time to make Big Plans! So, stoke the fire, review your 2021 garden journal, grab your catalogs and get busy!

Sow seeds of cool-weather vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, lettuce, onions and spinach) in containers for transplanting into the garden in March. Outdoors, sow edible-pod peas and English peas beginning this month. Continue to plant asparagus.

Clean used terra cotta pots before replanting by soaking them in a solution of vinegar and water. Use a brush to remove fertilizer salts and other residues. Rinse thoroughly with warm water.

Check the condition of stored bulbs and tubers of dahlias, tuberous begonias, caladiums and callas. Bulbs stored in warm, humid conditions are prone to rot. Discard any bulbs that feel soft or rotten.

Mulch strawberry beds for winter protection. Use wheat straw or pine needles. When the first blooms appear, pull back the mulch.

Use a magnifying glass to inspect both sides of leaves of your houseplants. Look for signs of insects. Sticky residue may indicate the presence of mealy bugs or scale insects. Small, fine webs are a sign of possible spider mite infestation. Call or e-mail us for information on the treatment of insect problems on houseplants: 336-570-6740 or askanemgee@gmail.com.

Do not fertilize houseplants, and go easy on the watering during the winter months. Houseplants need some time off, too.

Remember that fresh water is essential to all animals. Check to see that birdbaths are ice-free and filled up. Keep the water moving in water features and fountains to provide free-flowing water for wildlife.

Toward the end of this month, apply a dormant horticultural oil to roses. Do this before bud-break to smother over-wintering insects and their eggs. Read the label for instructions on use.

Arbor Gate Plant of the Month



Fragrant Wintersweet

Chimonanthus praecox

So, January isn't your favorite month to be out in the garden smelling the roses? Then plant this interesting shrub near a walkway or entrance. You'll enjoy the sweetly fragrant blooms as you scurry in and out of the cold.

Chimonanthus praecox has a loose multi-stemmed form that can grow to 15 feet tall by 10 feet wide. So, maybe don't plant it too close to the back door. Not fussy about soil, but would prefer it to be moist but well-drained. Full sun to part shade is best. Its multi-stemmed, loose form has a fountain-like effect and it often becomes leggy and ragged with age. If the plant becomes leggy after flowering, it can be severely pruned to rejuvenate and remove old stems. Recovery from pruning to bloom may take more than one year, and, while it can be propagated from seed, it may be five years before the first bloom appears.

Read more here: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chimonanthus-praecox>

