



Coming Events

Workshops and Demonstrations

Thurs., Aug 11, 10 a.m. @ BSF
Summer Fruit Tour at the Orchard
Thurs., Aug 18, 10 a.m. @ the Ag. Bldg.
Fall Lawn Care—Ag Building auditorium
Sat., Aug 20, 10 a.m.
Summer Fruit Tour at BSF
Thurs., Aug 25, 10 a.m.
Summer Fruit Tour at BSF
*Thurs., Sep 8, 10 a.m.
Plants for Pollinators—ONLINE
Wed., Sept. 14 9 a.m.—ONLINE
MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Registration is required for all classes and tours. Sign up here:
<https://alamance.ces.ncsu.edu/>

September 1-30: *The Alamance County Voluntary Agricultural District Board (VAD) will accept applications for the Purchase of Development Rights, Alamance County Farmland Preservation Program. Applications can be picked up from the Alamance Soil and Water Conservation District office - 209 N Graham-Hopedale Road, Burlington, NC, beginning Sept. 1. Return by Friday Sept. 30, 5 p.m. Call 336-290-0380 for more information.*

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.



Growing Concerns

Another 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.

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. 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, give us a call!

Nature's Best Hope

NATURE'S BEST HOPE

A Conversation with
Doug Tallamy, PhD



Thursday, September 29, 7:00 PM

at Burlington's Paramount Theater

Renowned naturalist and author Douglas Tallamy explains how, by simply adding native plants in our own backyards, we ourselves can become nature's best hope.

Tickets are just \$5.00 for this community event sponsored by
Alamance County Extension Master Gardeners.

Tickets available now at the Paramount Theater Box Office.

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 18 Think Green Thursdays session. It's all about Fall Lawn Care! Registration is required. Find the link here:

<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 deep between the plants, keeping 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 pesky molluscs.

Fall 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



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides

Dwarf Plumbago

Looking for a groundcover that blooms in sun or shade from midsummer until frost? One that the deer don't care for, but the butterflies love? One that withstands the worst that summer has to give in the heat and drought departments? Throw in beautiful fall color and I think you might be sold on *this* perennial flowering groundcover.

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides, also known as leadwort or dwarf plumbago has a spreading habit that reaches 6-10" tall and 12-18" wide. True blue flowers bloom from summer until first frost.

Although it may be a more vigorous spreader in full sun, this hardy groundcover will do quite well in the kind of shade provided by the *Cryptomeria japonica* under which it is growing in Arbor Gate Teaching Garden. Stop by the garden to what else is blooming now.

Read more about dwarf plumbago here:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/ceratostigma-plumbaginoides/>

