

September 2022
Volume 13, Issue 9



Coming Events

Thursday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.
Plants for Pollinators—ONLINE

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.
PLANT SALE! ONLINE ONLY!
Hit the link to check out the plants:
[MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE](#)

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m.
Summer Fruit Tour—Muscadines @ BSF
Thursday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.
Summer Fruit Tour—Apples @ BSF

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*

Contact us :

Alamance County Cooperative
Extension Service

209-C N. Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC 27217

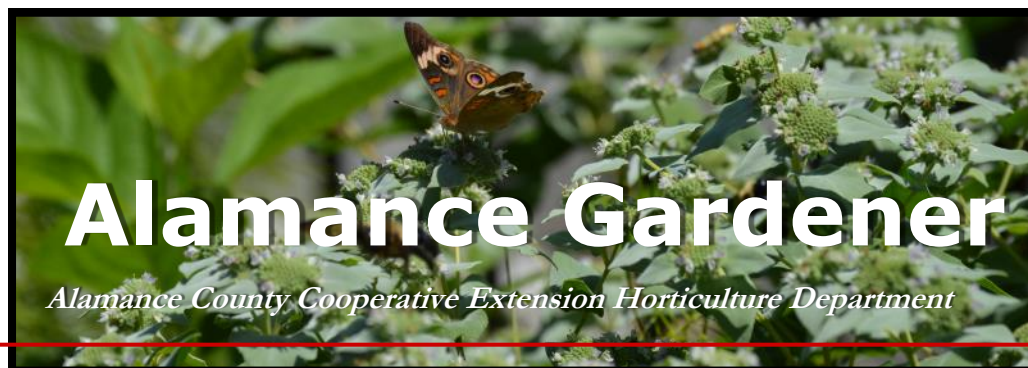
Phone: 336-570-6740

E-mail: Bill Kleiner
bill_kleiner@ncsu.edu

Chris Stecker
christine.stecker@alamance-nc.com

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Just click here:



Alamance Gardener

Alamance County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Department

Native Plants? What's the Big Deal?



What are native plants anyway?

Here's the definition from the [Extension Gardener Handbook](#):

"Native plants are those species that evolved naturally in a region without human intervention. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) are examples of the over 3,900 species of plants the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) PLANTS Database lists as native to North Carolina."

So, native plants are plants that grow in the soil that's there in the environment they're given and they survive predation in order to continue to feed the local fauna they've evolved with—This sounds like a plan for a garden with minimum input by gardeners (you)!

Read on for more info on this easy way to garden.

A Friendly Garden

Ready to take it easier in the garden while doing your part to save the environment? It's time to go native!

How do you know which plants are native? Here's a great resource: [Extension Plant Toolbox](#). Click on the Find a Plant drop-down and scroll down to Plant Type. There are 1,026 native plants listed and described in the Toolbox! There are choices for every season and every garden situation.

But don't despair! You don't have to pull up *all* of your non-native plants and start over! Here at Arbor Gate Teaching Garden, we've been adding more and more natives among our non-native (but not invasive) plants, and all are playing nicely together.

Do consider replacing the non-native *invasive* plants. These usurpers wander from their original site by seed, underground runner or both, out-competing the native plants so important to nature's intricate web.

This link takes you to the USDA's invasive plant species list for information. Not all of the listed plants grow in North Carolina, but be aware of those that do: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants>

Pictured to the right are a handful of the worst local offenders and some suggested native plant replacements. Need help deciding? Give the Extension Master Gardeners a call at 336-570-6740.

Read more here about North Carolina's native plants: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/12-native-plants>

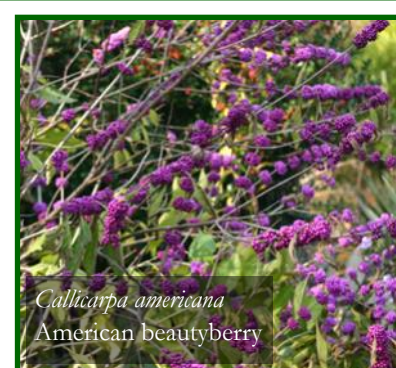
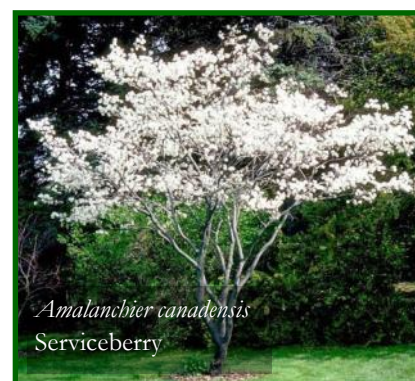
For the full story on the environmental impact of native plants and how you can be a part of their comeback, tickets are still available for the talk described below.

Can't make the lecture? Dr. Tallamy's book *Nature's Best Hope* is available for purchase from the Extension Master Gardener Volunteers for just \$15.00.

Instead of these



Try these



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



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. Fertilize established cool-season lawns this month. In the absence of a soil test, use a balanced fertilizer and apply at the rate of one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

If chickweed, henbit and other winter annual weeds spoiled your spring landscape, treat the garden now to keep them out. Apply a pre-emergence herbicide to flower beds and natural areas. Call Extension for a recommendation: 336-570-6740. Do not apply a pre-emergence herbicide to newly-seeded or over-seeded lawns.

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, turn under your cover crop three weeks before planting your garden.

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.

Harvest herbs to preserve for winter use. Use your microwave oven to dry herbs. Heat them between paper towels for about one minute, or until the leaves are crisp. Chives store well in the freezer. Alternatively, pot up chives, parsley and other herbs in six-inch containers to grow in a sunny window.

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

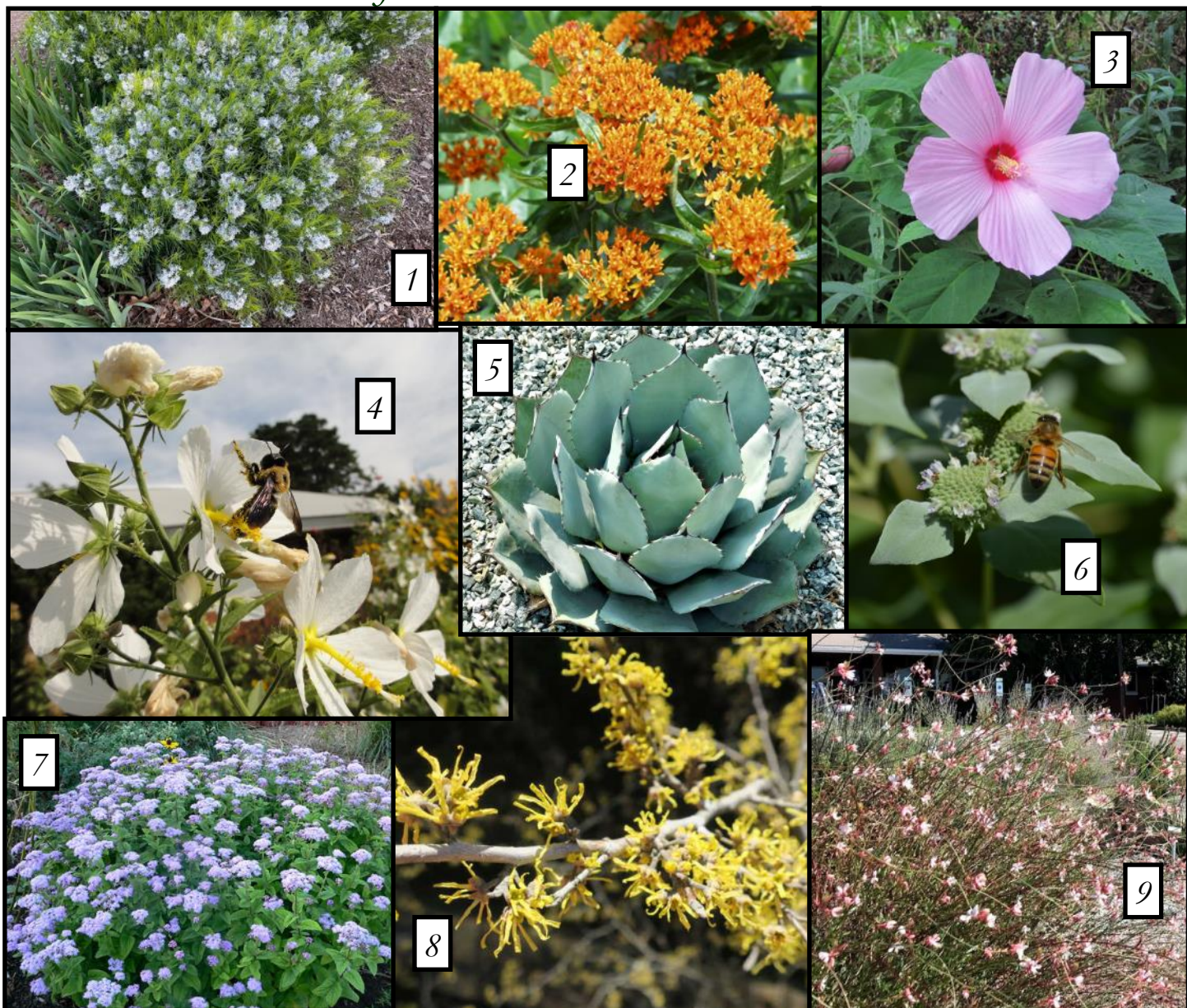
Dig, divide and re-plant overcrowded perennial beds or start a new bed now. You might need a few new plants, so

Shop online for new perennials, including many North Carolina native plants. Browse the website [here](#), then shop beginning Wednesday, September 14, at 9 a.m.

Once you've completed your order, we'll call you to arrange a time for touch-free curbside pickup. Many of these plants have been propagated from favorites at Arbor Gate Teaching Garden, and some from the Master Gardeners' own gardens, but *all* have been nurtured by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers!



Arbor Gate Plants of the Month



Some of the Natives Available at the Sale!

Put out the welcome signs for our native pollinators and those we have invited to stay. Shop the Plant Sale for these and many others. Browse the site to see all of the plants, then shop beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14.

<https://www.arborteteachinggarden.com/>

By the numbers:

- 1) *Amsonia hubrechtii*—Blue Star. 2) *Asclepias tuberosa*—butterfly weed. 3) *Hibiscus moscheutos*—marsh hibiscus.
- 4) *Kosteletzkya virginica*—marsh mallow. 5) *Agave parryi*—artichoke agave. 6) *Pycnanthemum muticum*—mountain mint.
- 7) *Conoclinium coelestinum*—blue mistflower. 8) *Hamamelis virginica*—witch hazel. 9) *Oenothera lindheimeri*—bee blossom.
- 10) *Eryngium yuccifolium*—rattlesnake master.

