



“What’s Growing

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RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ON THE RADIO

For agriculture news and horticultural tips, listen to me, Pam Burton, on the RCE Agricultural Program on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday on SNJ Today 99.9 FM announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

Pam’s Garden Gab: Spring 2019

For the past couple of years, we’ve struggled to reach the required minimum number of people to run the Master Gardener classes. I’m sure there are several reasons for that in Cumberland County, but we were faced with the dilemma of what to do in 2019? It was no easy decision to take a year off from the Master Gardener classes in 2019, but the Agriculture program set our goals instead to make certain Cumberland County residents know who we are and what we do at the Extension Education Center.

Did you know that we have a Horticulture Helpline, which is a free service to Cumberland County residents? Homeowners call, email or come into the office with gardening questions, concerns and problems and we do the research to provide scientific based recommendations! The agents, and myself, with help from Master Gardeners, are running a spring and fall series of Gardening Down-Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics classes, which will focus on the most FAQ’s that we are asked at the Horticulture Helpline. The classes are designed to be interactive and each will provide the clients with a specific “take-away” from the class.

We hope to see you at the classes, along with your garden questions! And we are hoping that you enjoy them so much that some of you will make the commitment to the 2020 Master Gardener classes! Our MG motto is: Education is Our Product!

Another 2019 goal for the Home Horticulture and Master Gardener Programs is to become more technologically savvy, something that I admit is not a strength of mine, but which I know is necessary to move forward. These changes will be both behind-the-scenes as well as transparent including a stronger presence on Facebook (thanks Susan McKenna!).

And so it goes, Pam

Enclosure:

Gardening Down Jersey Style:
Back-2-Basics Spring
Series of classes
(trifold)

KUDOS to Cumberland County MG Program

2018 Rutgers Cooperative Extension Award for Excellence for an Extension Volunteer:

Barbara McOscar, Rutgers Master Gardener of Cumberland County (RMGCC) was honored with the 2018 Rutgers Cooperative Extension Award for Excellence for an Extension Volunteer. Barbara has been active in the MG Program since 2010 and has logged in over 1000 volunteer hours. She has served on various teams, including Steering Committee, Propagation, Community Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo, Eco-Fair at Wheaton Arts, Make and Take workshops, Monthly meeting Speakers Forum, Trips and Tours, Marketing, Helping Hands, Sunshine, Helpline on the Road, Butterfly Tent events, RAREC harvests, Community Outreach/Beautification and Horticulture Enrichment.

Barbara initiated communication with the Cohanzick Zoo curator and Zoological Society in Bridgeton, New Jersey, who agreed to sponsor Community Fun Day and Scarecrow Contest with Barbara's organizational assistance. It was Barbara's vision that families in Bridgeton have the chance for a free venue where they could spend an educational day learning about animals and agriculture. In 2017 there were 1372 attendees in the four hours of the Saturday event!

Barbara spear-headed the Children's education station and took it on the road to the Cumberland County Fair, Community Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo, Eco Fair at Wheaton Arts and Greenwich Artisan's Faire.

As part of Community outreach, she organized a team for beautification of the Women's Heritage Trail Marker and Global Village Tribute at the municipal building for the Township of Upper Deerfield on a heavily travelled highway.

Barbara has consistently assisted with Agriculture Agents on their field trials at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center located in Seabrook, NJ. Barbara has participated in pepper, squash, cucumber and tomato harvesting with Dr. Wes Kline and Dr. Andy Wyenandt. After gathering the data from the harvest, she has helped deliver the vegetables to various soup kitchens and Senior Centers throughout Cumberland County and beyond. Dr. Tom Orton has also requested assistance from the RMGCC in extracting seeds from Rutgers 250 and other varieties, and Barbara was involved in that project from its inception.

Thanks, Barbara!



3rd Place in the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference Search for Excellence, Research (applied scientific methodology) division:

Pepper Research in collaboration with Agricultural Agents

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County; Cumberland, New Jersey was awarded 3rd Place in the 2019 International Master Gardener Conference Research (applied scientific methodology) division with the submission by Pat Stella, Master Gardener, for Pepper Research in collaboration with Agricultural Agents. This will be awarded at the 2019 International Master Gardeners Conference which is being held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania from June 17 -21. Pam Burton is attending the Conference and will be honored to accept this award on behalf of RMGCC.

Critters & Creatures

Featuring some of the critters and creatures that come into the Helpline!

Ticks: Rutgers Fact Sheet 443, *Prevent Tick Bites: Prevent Lyme Disease*, indicates that tick nymphs are the size of a poppy seed and the peak activity is from late May into June. One of the preferred animal hosts is the white-footed mouse, which is the primary reservoir host of the Lyme disease bacterium. It's reported that seventy percent or more of all Lyme disease cases occur from the bite of ticks in the nymph stage so be certain to do a thorough check on yourself, your children and your pets.

<http://www.une.edu/news/2017/acorns-mice-and-ticks-une%E2%80%99s-meghan-may-explains-what-they-have-common>



Indian Meal Moth: A client brought in several moths which were identified as Indian Meal moths so named because it was found to be a pest of meals made of indian corn or maize. In fact, it is a very common household pest and can be found in grain products, seeds, dried fruit, dog food and spices. Some of the keys to management are elimination and exclusion of susceptible food sources. Remove any food that may be infested and store susceptible foods in sealed containers. Keep in mind that dog food, cat food and bird seed are often overlooked as infestations site, and the client did recall that the moths seemed to be coming from the area of the cat food.

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/stored/indianmeal_moth.htm

Horseshoe Crabs: The Rutgers New Jersey Aquaculture Innovation Center is working on a horseshoe crab enhancement project which is focused on increasing survival of the crab's early life history stages. The Delaware Bay is one of the largest spawning areas for horseshoe crabs which is a key species in the estuary's ecosystem. The Red Knot shore birds depend on the spawning eggs for food as they migrate and new inroads are being made in medical research. Part of the project focuses on providing a protected environment for early life stage crabs before they are released in the wild.

<https://aic.rutgers.edu/horseshoe-crabs.html>

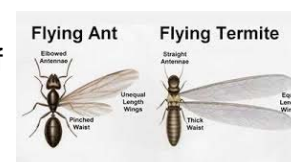


Oysters: As a result of recent NJ Sea Grant-sponsored research at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory a summary was written on it Identifying the Impacts of Commercial Oyster Aquaculture on Foraging Behavior of Red Knots in Delaware Bay. In short, the summary explains that Intertidal oyster aquaculture occurs within portions of the same tidal flats where horseshoe crab spawning and red knot foraging occur. Due to over harvesting there has been a decline in the number of horseshoe crabs and therefore the eggs that the red knots feed on. There is a push to realize a way that the oyster harvesting can occur while at the same time protecting the horseshoe crab and red knot populations.

<https://hsrl.rutgers.edu/PORTS/>



Termite or Flying Ant identification: I recently had a client that brought in an insect for identification. She was trying to determine if what she had was a termite or a flying ant. Unfortunately, in her attempt to catch the insect on sticky paper some of the specimen was destroyed so a complete identification was unable to be determined. However I could tell it was not an ant. Rutgers fact Sheet 338, *Termite Prevention and Control*, provides a handy reference noting the points of Difference between Termite Swarmers and Ant Swarmers. Most notable on this specimen was the shape of the body. Ants have an abdomen that is distinctly separated from the thorax by a very small node or thin waist. The abdomen on this specimen was joined snugly to the thorax, without a node or waist.



Critters & Creatures, continued

Bagworms: Rutgers Fact Sheet FS 1144, *Bagworms*, indicates that the young larvae will begin to feed immediately upon hatching in late May to early April. They will construct their bag as they feed, so this is critical information for homeowners since this is the time when chemical management strategies are most effective. As the larvae get older, chemical controls are not as effective. The pesticides may vary based on the host and a heavy bagworm infestation may require the services of a licensed pesticide applicator.



Earthworms: Earthworms are important for more than just fishing bait. Soil properties can benefit from the burrowing and feeding activities of the earthworms resulting in improved soil quality. The burrows created by worms help with water infiltration, soil aeration and compaction. The feeding and ergo the worm castings help with soil aeration, tilth, increasing organic matter, adding nutrients, and decreasing harmful nematodes. Rutgers Fact Sheet 1135, *Soil Organic Matter*, details the importance of soil organic matter.

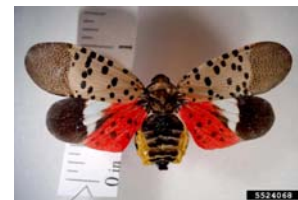
<https://extension.psu.edu/earthworms>

Euonymous scale: Bulletin E 014, *Pest management for Trees, Shrubs and Flowers on Home Grounds*, recommends applying 2% dormant oil in April for management of Euonymous scale, noting that variegated wintercreeper may be more susceptible to scale and therefore require more maintenance. Rutgers Fact Sheet 866, *Using Horticultural Oils*, recommends soaking the branches, twigs and bark until runoff. As always, read the label. The label is the law.

Moles: Rutgers Fact Sheet 025, *Mole Management in Turf and Gardens*, dispels a few frequent misconceptions about moles. For instance, moles rarely eat vegetation. Their preferred diet is meat by way of grubs, earthworms, crickets and other invertebrates. This can easily be remembered by moles begin with an M and so does meat. On the other hand voles begins with a V & they DO prefer vegetation. If the many burrows that the moles make are bothersome, feel free to request the Fact Sheet for several management techniques. Keep in mind the homemade remedies such as placing chewing gum in the burrows has no effect since moles don't eat chewing gum. Flooding the tunnels or directing automobile exhaust down the burrows are not effective management methods.



Spotted Lanternfly: As so often happens, the spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma deliculata*, was accidentally introduced into Pennsylvania and was first spotted in 2014. Since then, 13 counties in Pennsylvania have issued quarantines to try and avoid continued movement and spread of this pest. This plant hopper feeds on over 70 plant species including grapes, apples, stone fruits, pines, hops and other species. Of importance is the fact that the spotted lanternfly has to feed on the widespread invasive tree called Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, to survive. Be on the lookout for this non-native hard to control invasive pest.



<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/problems/spotted-lanternfly>

<https://extension.psu.edu/what-to-do-if-you-find-spotted-lanternfly>

Tree of Heaven: The Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, gained notoriety from the book "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn", where it survived on a Brooklyn fire escape. The name is a misnomer, as it is a fast growing weedy tree that has smelly flowers. Because of the compound leaves, it can easily be confused with some native species such as sumac, black walnut or butternut. Crush the foliage for a scratch and sniff and the foul odor will indicate it's the Tree of Heaven. This tree can withstand unfavorable conditions and readily re-seeds itself making itself a serious weed in urban, agriculture and forested areas.



Save the date!



Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County 2019 Plant Sale

Rutgers 250 tomato varieties & other Rutgers plant selections

Host & Nectar Plants

Pollinator Plants

Native plants

Flowers and vegetables

Herbs



WHEATONARTS

AND CULTURAL CENTER

Eco Fair

May 4th 2019

10 am to 5 pm

Artful Living, Handmade & Homegrown

Produced in partnership with...



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland Co.

INTRO TO VEGETABLE GARDENING

with Bill Rafferty, Certified Master Gardener

Date: Sat., March 16th from 10 am - 11 am

COST: \$10.00 pre-paid, non-refundable due by 3/1

Includes a Take Home Garden Journal; Lower Level of Extension Education Center, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ



Make check payable to: CC Bd of Ag Research Acct

Mail to: RCE, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332

For more info, call 856-451-2800 X 1 or 4, pamelabu@co.cumberland.nj.us

This class is targeted specifically for beginners, but "old hats" at vegetable gardening are certain to learn something new, too, as Bill Rafferty guides homeowners through the steps of vegetable gardening, with reference to Rutgers Fact Sheets! Light snacks will be served



Repot your houseplants

March is a great time of year to take a close look at your indoor potted houseplants to see if they need repotting. Choose a container that's slightly larger than the current pot and make certain there are drainage holes. Have some fun and get creative with your choices! Water in the plant in its current container and tease the roots apart if they are potbound. Add some potting



soil to the bottom of the new container and place the plant in making sure the roots are spread out. Add more potting soil and gently tamp it down. Make sure you allow for an inch between the top of the soil line and the top of the container. Water in and watch it grow.



Sal Mangiafico is teaching an interactive class on SOILS! For detailed information see the enclosed trifold

Say NO to Water Waste

The New Jersey Watersavers website states "With an average rainfall of 45 inches per year, New Jersey is often considered a "water rich" state. However, when considering that New Jersey is also the most densely populated state in the country, our current and future demands are likely to exceed the sustainable supply of our water resources. The average New Jersey resident uses 100 gallons of water per day, a number which increases dramatically during the summer months. In fact, in some cases, New Jersey communities that engage in outdoor irrigation increase their average water use by up to 85 gallons per day in the summer months. ..."



You can make a difference in your own home with a few updates in your bathroom. In a family of four, on a yearly basis significant savings of water can be realized with a few updates. If you haven't done these already, consider replacing your toilet with a WaterSense™ low-flow version, updating your shower with a low flow showerhead and attaching a faucet aerator to your faucet. Get any leaking toilets fixed. Also, by changing a few habits, you can also help conserve water usage. Some interesting savings facts were noted on the website:

- A family of four could save as much as \$75 a year just by turning off the tap while brushing their teeth in the morning and at night.
- By fixing a leaky toilet a family could save \$210 more.
- If a family of four switched from taking daily baths to short five minute showers they would save up to \$490 in just one year.

The kitchen is another room where water can be conserved with a few changes of habit. Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it and replace it with a new high-efficiency model if it breaks. Just by using a faucet aerator and change to a low flow faucet you can save 15,622 gallons of water per year for a family of four. Simple changes in habits like defrosting food by thawing in the refrigerator overnight instead of under running water and by adding food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal can all add up to significant water savings.

<http://njwatersavers.rutgers.edu/>

Turf's Up!



Rutgers Fact Sheet 385, *Broadleaf Weed Control in Cool Season Turfgrasses*, provides recommendations on both cultural and chemical control of broadleaf weeds. Herbicides mixtures can be applied in May, however, there are a number of precautions that need to be followed when applying these herbicides. First and foremost, read and follow the label. The label is the law. Keep in mind that herbicides should be considered an aid, but not a cure, for broadleaf weed problems in landscaped turf. Maintaining a dense vigorous turf with proper management practices is the best and most long lasting method for broadleaf weed control. Red sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*, is an example of a perennial broadleaf weed in grasses that can be a problem in cool season grasses. Red sorrel forms a rosette of arrow-shaped leaves near the ground with red flowers blooming on spikes. The red sorrel is an indicator plant of acidic soil and when still young, can be controlled by pulling the weed. The Fact Sheet provides a chart of the broadleaf weeds response to specific herbicides with consideration of chemical control of common broadleaf weeds found in turf.

A homeowner called in and wanted to know how to control wood sorrel, *Oxalis stricta*, a broadleaf weed, in her lawn. Rutgers Fact Sheet 119, *Weed Control in Home Lawns*, recommends a post emergence herbicide be applied to the foliage of the weed which is then absorbed into the weed eventually killing it. Keep in mind, the best defense is a good offense and by following proper management practices to grow a healthy dense turf you will reduce the potential for weed infestation.



Rutgers Fact Sheet 584, *Seeding Your Lawn*, does recommend that light mulching can be advantageous for turfgrass establishment where 25% of the soil is visible through the mulch. The straw mulch can be unrotted and free of weed seed wheat, oat, rye, or salt hay. The mulching will aid in soil moisture retention reducing the watering needs and encouraging quicker seed germination. If heavier mulch is needed in areas where erosion is a consideration, partially remove the mulch after germination occurs and 2-3 inch roots develop.

Rutgers Fact Sheet 521, *Zoysiagrass Lawns in New Jersey*, explains that this warm season grass may not be for everyone in this area, and one of those reasons is it's brown appearance during winter months. A recent call from a client regarding zoysia grass identified several factors why his grass may not be growing as well as he liked. First the location of some of the grass is in full shade whereas zoysia grass prefers full sun and secondly the zoysia grass was being overwatered by an automatic underground sprinkler system. The client did de-thatch the zoysia which is recommended with zoysia grass once a year.



<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/red-sorrel-sheep-sorrel>

Visit Rutgers New Jersey Weed Gallery at: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/weeds/>

Salt Hay

Rutgers Fact Sheet 058, *Mulches for Vegetable Gardens*, recommends that salt hay, *Spartina patens*, is one of the best natural mulches that can be used for the garden. A typical bale covers about a 10 square foot area when laid about 3 inches deep. Salt hay can be found in high marsh zones and because of its weak stems the water and wind can bend the grass, making it have a typical cowlick appearance. It is becoming harder to find, not only in NJ but in other states, as well.

Rhode Island Environmental Data Center: <https://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/html/gallery/plants/salt.htm>

Flower Power

Bearded Iris: There is not just one clear cut answer to the question of why aren't my bearded iris blooming? In fact that leads to a couple of questions for the homeowner. The first is when is the last time you divided them? They like to be divided every 3 years to five years or they become overcrowded. The second is how deep are they planted? The rhizomes of a bearded iris should be just below the surface. The next question is what are the site conditions? Bearded iris like fertile well-drained soil in full sun. It's always a good idea to plant several rhizomes of the same variety in a grouping for the best flower display.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/yard-and-garden-all-about-irises>

Sunflowers: If you are planting sunflowers, *Helianthus annuus*, in your cutting garden, do yourself a favor and choose the pollen-less hybrid varieties. The varieties that don't produce pollen will save you from worrying about staining any surrounding items when you cut your sunflowers and bring them inside. Fortunately, there is a large range of flower colors, sizes, degree of branching, earliness available with pollen-less characteristics, and you can refer to the seed packet for this information. Some catalogs have a separate section just for pollen-free sunflower choices.



<http://blogs.cornell.edu/hightunnels/flowers/cut-flowers/cut-flower-crops/sunflowers/>

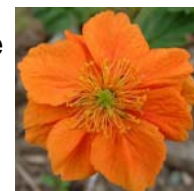
Bulbs: The flowers of spring bulbs can be used in floral arrangements but there are a few tips that will help lengthen the shelf life of the flowers. If you cut tulips and bring them indoors, be sure to keep them upright during the rehydration cycle, so the stems will assume that upright shape. Don't mix tulips and daffodils during the first 24 hours, as the sap that oozes from the daffodils will reduce the shelf life of the tulips. Lastly, unlike other flowers, don't recut the hyacinth stems. They require the basal plate to absorb water.

<https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/fact-sheets/postharvest-handling-tips-for-some-spring-flowering-bulbs>



Geraniums: If you followed the recommendations of Rutgers Fact Sheet 1156, *The Hang & Dry Method of Keeping Geraniums Over Winter*, the recommendation is to check on the geraniums in March! Wow! You will find that some have may began to sprout. Remove the dead wood and leaves and prune the stem and roots. Pot up the plants in sandy soil in a pot just large enough for it to fit. Water them in and condition them by placing them first in partial sun, gradually moving them to full sun. Keep them indoors until after the last frost date. Note that not all plants will survive. It's just the way it is!

Geum: If you want something different for your late spring to early summer blooming perennial bed, consider NON-NATIVE Geum as an herbaceous perennial option. The blooms range in color from shades of yellow, orange and red. Be sure to choose a site that has full sun to partial shade and excellent drainage. This is a rather short lived perennial but worth the trouble for its' hairy deep green foliage alone which remains green into winter. The habit of the plant is a mound or clump that reaches a height of 9-18 inches. With a manageable plant this size, you will be likely to be able to find a space for it in your garden!



<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenef4fb.html>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/geum-spp/>

Flower Power continued...

Peony: Herbaceous peony flowers can be enjoyed in arrangements, but be careful of wayward ants. It's recommended that you not cut more than 1/3 to 1/2 of the flowers, leaving as much foliage as possible on the plant. But, what to do when the blooms have faded? Snip faded blossoms off just below the flower not only for aesthetics, but also for the health of the plant. The plant will be able to use its energy for leaves and roots instead of producing seeds. Also, peony flowers that are left on the herbaceous plant are prone to gray mold disease or botrytis.



<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/jun16tips.html>

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/peonies-for-the-home-landscape>

Cotton: Cotton, *Gossypium herbaceum*, can be grown in our area and is likely to catch an eye or two with its late summer hibiscus like flowers. Some cultivars offer up purple foliage which offers an impactful contrast to the white cotton bolls. For best results in Zone 7a, start the seeds indoors in March and transplant after the last frost date. Not surprisingly, the 3 to 5 foot mature plant prefers full sun and produces the awesome bolls that are terrific for dried arrangements or wreaths. A word of caution – wear gloves when harvesting.



<https://extension.umd.edu/learn/cotton>

<https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/proceedings1999/v4-322.html>

Sassy Grasses

Some of the most striking home landscapes are those planted with grasses which offer versatility in height, color, texture and overwintering hardiness. Many gardeners allow the ornamental grasses to remain intact during winter months for visual winter interest as well as insulation for the crown of the plant. Spring is the time to cut back the old foliage to about 4 to 6 inches in height, before the new growth emerges. This will allow the crown to warm up so the spring growth can emerge a bit earlier versus if the old foliage was left intact. Use hand pruners, hedge shears or a weed eater depending on the size and variety of the grasses you are cutting back. This process can be difficult if the clumps of grasses are large and you may even need a chain saw, hedge shears or a reciprocating saw. For safety measures, make certain to prepare two restraints on the grass clump using duct tape, string or bungee cords. One goes at ground level and add another a few inches above it. Use this guide to make your cut a few inches above ground level. This is also a good time to do any division of the grass if the center has suffered from die out, to help with spacing and to improve the overall general health and vigor of the plant.



<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/grasses/care.cfm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1178.html>

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/grasses/care.cfm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1178.html>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep233>

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_images/programs/hgic/Publications/HG84_Pruning%20ornamental%20plants.pdf

<https://wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/2012/01/some-ornamental-grasses-benefit-from-winter-pruning/>



How does your garden grow?

Peas, Please: Rutgers Fact Sheet 129, *Planning a Vegetable Garden*, recommends planting peas in March with 2 inches between each seed in a row and leave 18 inches between rows. Peas like full sun with well-drained soil and interplant well with other cool-season vegetables such as spinach or radishes, which both can be direct sown in April by seed. Dependent on the type of peas you choose to grow, (for instance, viny types vs bush types) you may need to consider a trellis system and allow for increased spacing between rows. Peas are best eaten fresh from the garden.



<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene9697.html>

Lettuce be Healthy!: In your quest to uphold your new year's resolution to eat healthier, try mixing up a variety of greens for your salad to add some interesting color and tastes. Rutgers Fact Sheet 681, *Varieties for New Jersey Home Vegetable Gardeners*, offers a listing of Boston Bibb, Iceberg, Green Leaf, Red Leaf, Romaine, Endive and Escarole that are sure to create a colorful and interesting salad bowl before you add any extra veggies and toppings. Lettuces are easy to grow and taste so much better straight from the garden to the table.

Tomatoes: Your tomatoes are planted and right now they are manageable, but if you don't stake them soon, you will regret that as they start to grow! Rutgers Fact Sheet 1102, *Stake and Weave Training System*, provides detailed instructions on the system of staking the tomatoes in the home garden. This is a tried and true method of staking and is utilized at the Rutgers Agriculture and Research Experimental Station located in Seabrook, NJ. Take the time to start it now and you will see the advantages of improved fruit quality and yield, ease of harvest, less disease, improved spray coverage, larger fruit, and fewer damaged fruit or fruit with imperfections.

There is a short but very important notation on the specifications of the twine to use for the system to work properly. The twine used needs to be ultraviolet resistant or it will break down. It cannot be a stretchy twine, or it will stretch and be useless, and it needs to bind well to the stakes. So, natural jute twine will not work well, but synthetic twine or nylon balers string are good choices.

This system works best when attention is paid to the details. An important step in the process is pruning the axillary shoots which you may also know as the suckers when they are a couple of inches long. Take care in doing this, as the recommended practice is very specific. Prune the suckers from the ground up to the one immediately below the first flower cluster on the main stem is the recommended practice. If you prune more than that, you may see leaf curling and stunted growth. Done properly, pruning the suckers can result in earlier maturity of the first fruit and higher early yield.



Strawberries: Rutgers Fact Sheet 097, *Growing Strawberries in the Home Garden*, provides recommendations for renovation practices for strawberries. It's best to fruit the same planting of strawberries no more than three years to maintain optimal production and quality. For the best planning purposes, purchase and plant virus free new strawberry plantings during the last year of fruiting of the old planting. This allows the new plants a full year of establishment, without sacrificing yield. For the renovation years of runners from the mother plant, remove the leaves of the plants with a trimmer being careful not to damage the crown and dig out or till the old plants, narrowing the rows to 12".

NOTE: Come to the Gardening Down Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics class on Aril 18th to see Dr. Wes Kline demonstrate the Stake and Weave system. Specific details are in the enclosed tri-fold.

Container Gardening

Some housing developments will not allow tillable gardens on the grounds of the community. So what are other options if a person wants to have fresh vegetables, fruits and flowers? One answer is container gardening and there are a variety of creative ways to accomplish container gardening, with equally as many beautiful containers to choose from with options that are sure to match your taste. Keep in mind containers will dry out faster than in the ground traditional plantings, so you will have to be mindful to watch for the water needs of the plants.

Bulbs can grow well in a container and a "new" old way to mix it up is lasagna bulb planting, which is layering a mixture of bulbs of various sizes and bloom times. Choose an outdoor container about 20 inches across then fill it half full of soil. First in are large bulbs like daffodils, then add a layer of soil then onto the next largest bulb, like a tulip and continue this process until you get to the smaller bulbs, like crocus. Try mixing in some alliums, hyacinths, and dwarf iris for some variety. When you start to see green popping out, make sure it gets plenty of light and add fertilizer for an ongoing display of bulbs blooms.

Strawberry pots are a great choice for a patio container and offer a variety of options including strawberries, herbs and some small annuals. These pots are usually short and have six to eight holes around the sides and a larger hole at the top. Cover the bottom with a piece of screen and start by adding potting soil to the first set of holes. Add plants and water in continuing this process until you reach the top of the container. If you go traditional, note that ever-bearing day neutral strawberries work best in strawberry pots.

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1215, *Outdoor Container Gardening with Flowering and Foliage Plants*, recommends selecting plants with similar sun, temperature, and nutrient requirements. The fact sheet promotes being adventurous by experimenting with different combinations by mixing mix annuals, perennials, vegetables, houseplants, herbs and grasses into your design as long as their cultural requirements are similar. The easy-to-remember formula of "thrillers, fillers and spillers" is recommended to give a strong tall focal point as the thriller, like the central spike of a Dracaena. Add filler plants around it like Lantana or a Dragon Wing Begonia and finish off the design with the spiller of a Potato Vine.

Rutgers Fact Sheet 055, *Container Gardening with Vegetables*, provides a handy listing of vegetables and herbs that work well in containers. The fact sheet also recommends placing the containers in a location with at least 8 hours of sunlight per day, but take care to keep the containers about 12 inches away from stone and masonry walls due to the heat from the reflection of the sun.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/spring-blooming-bulbs-grow-well-pots> <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-annual-flowers>

https://extension.illinois.edu/gardenerscorner/issue_06/spring_05_10.cfm

http://www.aces.edu/dept/extcomm/specialty/strawberry_pots.html

Pam Burton is teaching a hands-on workshop, Down the Garden Path, that features a container herb garden make & take. See enclosed trifold for details.



Garden Tips for March

- Till or turn the vegetable garden soil when it's at the proper moisture level. FS129
- Submit a soil sample for testing to determine how much lime and fertilizer your lawn and garden areas need. Soil sampling packets with instructions are available at the Extension Center. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$7.00 s/h if we mail it in for you.
- Add lime to lawns and gardens only when a soil test recommends it. FS797
- Use dormant oils to combat scale insects and mites when the temperature is above 40° and when freezing temperatures are not predicted for a few days and before the buds begin to open. FS866
- Watch for sale prices on fertilizers and pre-emergent crabgrass killer.
- Sow grass seed as soon as possible. FS584
- Have the lawn mower serviced and the blade sharpened.
- Fertilize your lawn. FS633
- Purchase new 40 watt, cool-white fluorescent bulbs for starting your seedlings. Start broccoli, cabbage and other cabbage family crops indoors in March for planting outdoors in April. FS 787, FS 129
- Remove dead asparagus shoots from last year's growth.
- Plant peas by seed in March. FS129
- Try growing grapes, raspberries, or strawberries for faster results and ease of growth versus tree fruits
- Prune grapes, raspberries, blueberries, fruit trees and summer-flowering shrubs early in the month when the temperature is above freezing. Grapevine prunings can be made into attractive wreaths.
- Remove black knot fungus 18" below the growth on cherry, peach and plum trees.
- Fertilize shade trees. FS031
- If the soil dries out against a house under the eaves where rain rarely reaches, water well during a thaw to prevent loss of plants.
- Pinch off early buds from developing pansies to encourage plants to branch and form more buds.
- Cut back the dried foliage of ornamental grasses.
- Check stored bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any that are soft or diseased.
- Branches of forsythia, pussy willow, spirea and dogwood can be forced for indoor bloom. Make long slanted cuts when collecting the branches and place the stems in a vase of water. Change the water every four days. They should bloom in about three weeks.
- Mulch heaved perennials; replant them when the weather is more settled.
- For geraniums overwintered using the hang & dry method, when they begin to sprout, remove the dead wood and prune the stem and roots. Pot them in sandy soil, water in and keep them in partial sun for a week, gradually moving them to full sun. Grow as houseplants until after the last frost date. FS 1156
- Keep the bird feeder filled. FS1022

Gardening Tips for April

- Seed bare spots in the lawn early in the month. FS584 & 108
- Rake winter debris from your lawn before mowing.
- For control of crabgrass, application of preemergence herbicides are generally more effective and easier to apply than postemergence herbicides. Preemergence herbicides must be applied prior to crabgrass germination to be effective. E233
- Sharpen the lawn mower blade. Mow the lawn at a height of 2½-3" while never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. Leave the clippings on the ground.FS102
- Prune ornamental grasses.
- Prune your roses, except the climbing varieties. Remove the winter mulch from roses after the middle of the month. FS944
- Prune early flowering shrubs immediately after flowering and before new growth begins. FS 1221
- Follow Extension's fruit spray schedules. FS112, 113, 115 and 116
- Divide summer and fall blooming perennials.
- Start celosia, cosmos, marigold, annual phlox and zinnia seeds indoors at mid month.
- Sow hardy annual flowers like calendula, clarkia, larkspur and sweet pea.
- Plant gladiolus corms every two weeks for continuous bloom.
- Plant daylilies, delphiniums, painted daisies and phlox.
- Remove spent flowers from spring flowering bulbs. Fertilize with 5-10-10 at 2 pounds per 100 square feet. FS 1220
- For earlier bloom of dahlias start tubers in 8" to 10" pots in April using commercial potting soil. FS1153
- Direct seed beets, carrots, leaf & bibb lettuce, swiss chard, collards, endive, kohlrabi, turnips and radishes. FS 129
- Start eggplant, pepper and tomato seeds indoors. FS787 & 129
- Transplant cabbage and broccoli.
- Harden-off or condition transplants prior to moving them to the garden. FS 787
- Plant strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus, and small fruit plants as early in the month as possible.
- Plant sections of certified, disease-free potato seed tubers
- Apply dormant oil sprays for insect control when the temperature will be above freezing for at least 24 hours. FS866
- Prune, clean, repot and fertilize your houseplants.
- Are those swarming insects termites or ants? Can you tell the difference? FS338
- Fertilize established trees and shrubs. Do not fertilizer newly planted trees or shrubs. FS031 & FS 376
- Scope out a spot in the yard to start a compost pile. If you already have one, turn the compost pile and keep it moist. FS074 & 811
- Protect well-developed strawberry buds from frost injury by applying straw mulch when freezing temperatures are forecast.
- Research rain barrels to help save on water bills and protect plants during periods of drought. E329
- Plan a rain garden for a low spot in your yard that will allow stormwater to infiltrate slowly into the ground rather than running off into the nearest storm drain. FS513
- Control euonymus scale now before their hard shells forms. Bulletin E 014
- Plant a tree for Arbor Day!

Gardening Tips for May

- Water the lawn deeply, applying a half to one inch of water at a time. Your lawn needs one inch per week during dry periods. FS 921
- Apply broad-leaf herbicides to control weeds in the lawn. FS119
- Remove flowers from newly established strawberry plantings. Let them become established the first year and form fruit next year. FS 097
- Remove seed stalks from rhubarb as soon as you see them. Harvest rhubarb through early June.
- Remove unwanted suckers in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.
- Thin fruit on apple trees to 8" apart about three weeks after their flower petals fall.
- Lift and divide old chrysanthemum plants or set out new plants purchased or grown from cuttings. Pinch back mums when they are about 6" tall for bushier plants; Continue to pinch back the mums until mid-July.
- Remove daffodil and tulip flowers as they fade. Leave the foliage in place until it turns brown and dies. Dig bulbs for storage after the leaves die. FGS 1220
- Plant dahlia and canna tubers mid to late May. FS 1153 & FS 1155
- Time to plant caladium tubers, impatiens, coleus, begonias and pentas in shady areas.
- It is not too late to sow directly into the soil seeds of sunflower, zinnia, morning glory, portulaca, marigold, cosmos, periwinkles and gourds. Achimenes and other summer-flowering bulbs can also be planted in May.
- Tender annuals can be direct sown now, but don't delay. Try your hand this year at impatiens or gaillardia from seed. Definitely sow abundant amounts of zinnia seed of several varieties for bright color in the late summer. Asters are wonderful too and make great, long lasting cut flowers.
- Stake your flowers now. They will be much easier to train.
- Replenish mulch materials in flower beds and shrub borders to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after the flowers fade. FS 1221
- Prune climbing roses as they complete their spring bloom season. Remove dead or weak wood as needed. FS 944
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach and lettuce.
- Harvest mature asparagus beds for 6 to 8 weeks only.
- Once there is no threat of frost, usually by mid-May, plant tender plants such as tomatoes, corn, and eggplant. FS 129
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the harvest.
- Check beans, carrots, cucurbits, eggplant, tomato for Twospotted Spider mites; wash mites off plants with a soap-and-water solution applied under enough pressure to break the webs. FS 235
- If you see pests on shrubs or plants, eliminate them now. If you aren't familiar with the insect you see, take it to the local Extension Center for identification.
- Pinch back the terminal growth on newly planted annual and perennial plants. This will result in shorter, more compact, well branched plants with more flowers.
- Transplant on cloudy days and make sure you keep the delicate exposed roots of your seedlings and plants protected from drying out.
- Utilize vertical space for vine plants such as scarlet runner beans and gourds.
- Move houseplants to a shady location outdoors when danger of frost has past, usually mid-May. The soil in the pots will dry out faster outdoors, so check it frequently.
- Thin seedlings of early planted crops to spacing specified on seed packet or plant tag.

Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

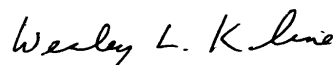
Call 856/451-2800 x4 ask for Pam Burton. When calling to request a fact sheet refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name. All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted.

Bulletin E 014	Pest Management for Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers on Home Grounds \$3.00
Fact Sheet 20	Weed control around the home grounds
Fact Sheet 31	How to fertilize shade trees
Fact Sheet 58	Mulches for vegetable garden
Fact Sheet 74	Backyard leaf composting
Fact Sheet 97	Growing Strawberries in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 102	Your lawn and its care
Fact Sheet 108	Renovating Your Lawn
Fact Sheet 112	Apple Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 113	Peach and Nectarine Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 115	Cherry Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 116	Plum Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 117	Using leaf compost
Fact Sheet 119	Weed control in home lawns
Fact Sheet 129	Planning a vegetable garden
Fact Sheet 221	Asparagus Beetles
Bulletin E 233	Crabgrass and Goosegrass Control in Cool Season Turfgrass
Fact Sheet 235	Two-spotted Spider Mites
Bulletin E329	Rain Barrels Part I: How to Build a Rain Barre
Fact Sheet 338	Termite Prevention and Control
Fact Sheet 376	Transplanting Trees and Shrubs
Fact Sheet 513	Rain Gardens
Fact Sheet 523	Grow your own vegetable and flower seedlings
Fact Sheet 584	Seeding Your Lawn
Fact Sheet 626	Fertilizing the home vegetable garden
Fact Sheet 633	Fertilizing the home lawn
Fact Sheet 681	Varieties for NJ home vegetable gardens
Fact Sheet 684	Turfgrass seed selection for NJ homes
Fact Sheet 787	Starting Vegetable Seeds indoors
Fact Sheet 797	Soil testing for home lawns and gardens
Fact Sheet 811	Home Composting
Fact Sheet 866	Using horticultural oils
Fact Sheet 921	Conserving water on home landscapes in NJ
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and their care
Fact Sheet 1022	Backyard Birdfeeders
Fact Sheet 1140	Incorporating native plants in your residential landscape
Fact Sheet 1153	Growing Dahlias
Fact Sheet 1155	Cannas
Fact Sheet 1156	Keeping Geraniums Over Winter
Fact Sheet 1163	Mail order vegetable seed sources for the NJ gardener
Fact Sheet 1220	Spring Flowering Bulbs
Fact Sheet 1221	Pruning Flowering Shrubs

What's Growing On is prepared by Pam Burton, Horticultural Assistant, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County.



Sincerely,



Salvatore S. Mangiafico, Ph.D.
Agricultural Agent
Environmental & Resource Management Agent
Internet: Mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu

Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D.
Agricultural Agent
Vegetable & Herb Production
Internet: wkline@njaes.rutgers.edu

For important announcements concerning the Cumberland County Extension Center visit:
<http://Cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu>

If you have any questions concerning the website, please call our office at
856-451-2800 x1 for agriculture and
856-451-2800 x4 for Home Horticulture and Master Gardeners

Public Notification and Non-discrimination Statement

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RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

About the instructors:

Dr. Wes Kline is an Agricultural Agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 1996. He is responsible for the commercial vegetable and herb production programs in the county with research and extension activities based on growers' needs in integrated pest management, cultural practices, post-harvest handling and food safety. Dr. Kline collaborates with other specialists in screening and breeding peppers for disease resistance. He has authored and co-authored magazine and refereed journal articles on different aspects of pepper production. Before joining Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Dr. Kline worked in Central America with the United States Agency for International Development and the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research. He received his B.A. from Salem College, Salem, West Virginia and his MS and Ph.D. from Cornell University in the Vegetable Crops Department.

Dr. Sal Mangiafico is a County Agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 2009. He conducts public education and research concerning water conservation and preventing water pollution. He works with a diverse clientele in Cumberland and Salem Counties, including municipalities, watershed associations, environmental organizations, and agricultural producers. Dr. Mangiafico teaches two classes for undergraduates, one on statistical analyses for outreach program evaluation, and one on the social and environmental aspects of turfgrass in the United States. He received his B.A. in Environmental Studies and in Philosophy from Alfred University and his Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Connecticut.

Pam Burton has worked with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 2013 as the Home Horticulturist and the Rutgers Master Gardener Program Coordinator. She graduated from Delaware Valley University with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture. Pam handles the Homeowner Helpline questions and provides recommendations for clients with gardening and horticulture related concerns. She writes a quarterly newsletter and does four radio spots on agriculture topics in conjunction with SNJ Today, 99.9 FM. She also oversees the Master Gardener volunteers.

Directions

From the North:

1. Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 7
2. Take 295 South to Exit 26 (Rt. 42 S)
3. Proceed South on Rt. 42 to Rt. 55 South
4. Proceed South on Rt. 55 for about 29 miles
5. Take Exit 29 to Rt. 552 West (left turn)
6. Go approximately 3 miles into Carmel
7. Turn right at the stop light onto Morton Ave.
8. Go 1 – 1 ½ miles North on Morton Ave.
9. The Extension Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled building). There are two entrances and a sign on the road in front of the building.

From the Northeast:

1. Take Garden State Parkway South to Exit 44
2. Go South on Rt. 575 to Rt. 322
3. Turn right (North) onto Rt. 322 and proceed about ¼ mile to the Rt. 40 jughandle at the shopping center (Hamilton Mall)
4. Proceed West on Rt. 40 approximately 7 miles to Rt. 552 (left turn)
5. Proceed West on Rt. 552. After about 12 miles, you must take a right turn onto Sherman Ave. which is still Rt. 552 West
6. You will go through a Vineland residential area, cross Rt. 47, and cross the overpass of Rt. 55
7. At the stop light (~3 miles from the overpass), turn right onto Morton Ave.
8. Go 1 – 1 ½ miles North on Morton Ave.
9. The Ext. Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled bldg.) There are 2 entrances and a sign on the road in front of the building

From the South:

1. Take Rt. 55 North to Exit 29
2. Turn left onto Rt. 552 West (Sherman Ave.)
3. Go about 3 miles into Carmel
4. Turn right at the stop light onto Morton Ave.
5. Go 1 – 1 ½ miles North on Morton Ave.
6. The Ext. Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled bldg). There are 2 entrances and a sign on the road in front of the building.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

Gardening Down-Jersey Style

Back-2-Basics Spring Series

**This Third Thursday Spring Series of
Programs are brought to you by
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of
Cumberland County and presented
by County Agents and the
Home Horticulture Program**

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County



Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Rutgers Master Gardener. No previous education or training in horticulture is required. Classes will be offered in 2020 from February through June.

**Extension Education Center
291 Morton Ave.
Millville, NJ 08332
856-451-2800 X 4
pamelabu@co.cumberland.nj.us**



Gardening "Down Jersey" Style

Back-2-Basics Spring Series

We've heard the comment "We didn't know you offered those services at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension" so we are inviting you to these Back to Basics classes to come on out & see what we're all about! We developed these classes based on the most Frequently Asked Questions of the Horticulture Helpline and we encourage you to Bring It On with your own questions! We are looking forward to seeing you here on third Thursdays!

3/21/19: Can you Dig It?: A Soils Lab & Lecture

Cost: \$25.00, includes Rutgers Soil Analysis (valued at \$20 plus \$7 s/h); 10 am—11:30 am

Instructors: Sal Mangiafico, Pam Burton & Master Gardener volunteers

It's all about a GREAT foundation! In order to have a successful garden or lawn, it's vital to start with an analysis of the soil. As part of the cost of this program, clients will bring a 2 cup soil sample from an area of their lawn or garden, which will be sent for analysis to Rutgers (usually a \$20 cost plus \$7 s/h) along with 1 cup of soil to participate in inter-active soil stations. You will conduct a pH test; determine the soil texture; calculate the amount of lime, if needed; learn how to read a soil analysis; and learn how to use a Soil Compaction Meter and a Soil Probe, and so much more!

For instructions on How to Take a Soil Sample, please give us a call at 856-451-2800 Ext 1 or 4 or refer to Rutgers Fact Sheet 797, Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens: Download it at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs797/>



4/18/19: Down Jersey Vegetables

Cost: \$25.00, includes take home stake and weave supplies; 10 am—11:30 am

Instructor: Wes Kline

The most Frequently Asked Questions about vegetables on the "Down Jersey" Horticulture Helpline are focused on pole limas, asparagus, tomatoes, peppers and squash! Wes will provide growing and harvesting how-to's while answering your most FAQ's... Why didn't my pole limas ever get mature beans? How many asparagus plants do I need for a family of four? What is the best tomato for that good old-fashioned Jersey taste? My peppers have spots on them. My squash don't get blossoms on them! Wes will demonstrate The Stake and Weave Training System for Tomatoes in the Home Garden, Fact Sheet 1102; Download it at: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/FS1102/>



5/16/19: Down the Garden Path

Cost: \$25.00; includes Make and Take Herb Container Garden 10 am—11:30 am

Instructors: Pam Burton & Master Gardener volunteers

Join Pam and volunteers for a walking garden tour of design possibilities for homescaping in the Eco-Friendly Pollinator, Rain and Meditation Gardens at RCE. Learn about what's trending in gardening, including going native, upcycling, sustainability, composting, and Integrated Pest Management. You will participate in a hands-on container garden make & take with a variety of herbs, grown by our own Master Gardener Propagation Team! Download Rutgers Fact Sheet 1140, Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1140/>



Gardening Down-Jersey Style: *Back-2-Basics Spring Series*



Return Registration with non-refundable payment by "due" dates:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



<input type="checkbox"/>	3/21/19: Soils Lab & Lecture	\$25.00
	Due by 3/7/19	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4/18/19: Down Jersey Vegetables	\$25.00
	Due by 4/4/19	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5/16/19: Down the Garden Path	\$25.00
	Due by 5/2/19	

Total:

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE FALL SERIES OF BACK -2- BASICS CLASSES!!!

Registration is First come, First served & is considered confirmed only upon receipt of payment

Make check payable to: **Bd of Ag Research Acc't.**

Mail to:
Extension Education Center
291 Morton Ave.
Millville, NJ 08332
856-451-2800 X 4
pamelabu@co.cumberland.nj.us

