

# “What’s Growing On...”

Volume 24 Number 1 Spring 2021 Edition Published Quarterly

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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 POP FM 99.9 Power of Positivity.

## Back into the Garden!

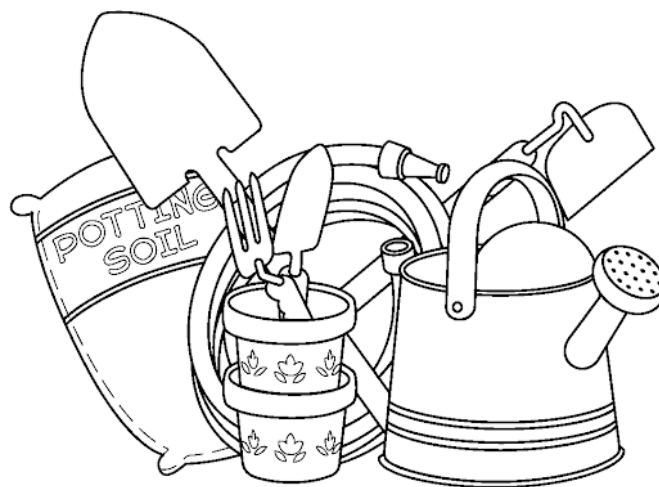
The anticipation of getting back out into the garden is contagious, especially given this crazy weather we have endured as if a pandemic wasn’t enough! The garden gives us something to look forward to and for some wonderful educational opportunities on the how-to’s be sure to go to <https://events.rutgers.edu/njaes/> where you will find plenty of resources for webinars.

Throughout the pandemic, the Helpline remained “open” and still is available for researching and providing scientific-based recommendations for homeowners’ many varied questions. Rutgers Fact Sheets are also helpful sources of information and can be found at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>

Be Well, Stay Safe and Happy Gardening!

And so it goes,

Pam



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Rutgers Master Gardeners of  
Cumberland County

## Time to Renew.....

As in the past, we are required to update our mailing lists every year. It is now that time again! Attached to this newsletter you will find your subscription information. If you wish to continue receiving "What's Growing On...", please review your information; update necessary items, and renew your subscription one of the following ways:

- Return your information by mail:      Attention: Ag Dept.  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
291 Morton Avenue  
Millville, NJ 08332
- Fax your form back to: 856-451-4206, or
- Call request renewal at: 856-451-2800 x1
- Email [katiesi@co.cumberland.nj.us](mailto:katiesi@co.cumberland.nj.us)

We are now sending out the newsletter two ways: Regular mail and email! If you are not already doing so and wish to receive your newsletter by email, just indicate the same on your information sheet before return. You will receive all the same information but in beautiful colors!

Don't miss out on any of the exciting gardening information provided in "What's Growing On...." All renewals are due back to our office no later than Thursday, May 15, 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 856-451-2800 x1.

## Cole Crops

Please note, that is spelled **c o l e** and not **c o l d**. While cole and cold sound the same they have different meanings. "Cold" refers to temperature while cole refers to the plants belonging to the Cruciferae or mustard family and are grown for their edible leaves, stalks and flowers. The cole crops include cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, collards, kale, and kohlrabi. The word cole means stem but it is confusing since these cole crops are cool-season vegetables.

Rutgers Fact Sheet #561, *Growing Cole Crops in the Home Garden*, suggests that for spring cole crops it's best to get a jump on the season by growing transplants. This can be done 4-6 weeks before outdoor planting and can be done in a greenhouse, by a sunny window, or under fluorescent lights. Cole crop seedlings do not want to be subjected to temperatures below 50°F for more than 10 days. At the same time, it is recommended that you test the soil in the area that you will be growing your crops. You can download a soil test kit at [https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home\\_and\\_Landscape\\_-\\_Soil\\_Test\\_Questionnaire.pdf](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home_and_Landscape_-_Soil_Test_Questionnaire.pdf)

The first line of defense against all insect pests and diseases of cole crops is crop rotation, so be sure not to plant cole crops in the same spot year after year. When it comes time to plant cole crops be sure to have mulch on hand. Mulching the crops helps with weeding, soil moisture and to minimize plant stress. Slowly soak the soil twice a week for your watering regimen and supplement the rainfall to make sure the crops receive at least one inch of water per week. For specific insect and disease recommendations, refer to Rutgers Bulletin E079, *New Jersey Vegetable Pest Control Recommendations for Home Gardens*.

Not only is growing cole crops fun but it is also an investment in your health with proteins and vitamins C and A.

Texas A & M: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/vegetables/colecrop.html> and University of New Hampshire: [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000605\\_Rep627.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000605_Rep627.pdf)

## Black Vultures

Recently We received a call from a homeowner who needed recommendations on getting rid of the black vulture family roosting in the tree outdoor the kitchen.

The homeowner was witness to the vultures snatching a calf from the neighboring farmers' yard and carrying it off. So, rightfully so, she was nervous about letting out her pets. She called to find out more information about what she could do and in my research, I found that we are not the only state with this concern and it seems to be growing in numbers.

When referencing website information we use those websites that are edu based and I immediately found at least three other states with valuable information that I was able to copy and send to the homeowner. In addition, there are two Rutgers Fact Sheets that may provide references for this situation. The first is FS 1017, *Regulations Governing the Management of New Jersey Wildlife*, and the second is FS 887, *Who to Call Regarding Wildlife Damage*.

FS 1017 indicates that black vultures are non-game migratory species and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. If black vultures are causing property damage, the property owners must obtain necessary permits if lethal control is necessary. The Fact Sheet provides information for obtaining the appropriate applications.

As in other situations, it's helpful to know the biology, habits, and roost-sites of the birds causing the problem and then use that information to try and get rid of them. One website suggested that since vultures prefer large dead trees for roosting if these snags are removed then that change of habitat MAY result in vultures flying longer distances to reach the problem areas. Some people have tried using netting in the roosting areas or hanging a goose decoy from the tree that may resemble a dead vulture.

### Resources:

University of Michigan; [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Coragyps\\_atratus/](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Coragyps_atratus/)

The Ohio State University; <http://sheep.osu.edu/2008/06/20/black-vulture-damage/comment-page-1/>

Colorado State University; <http://lib.colostate.edu/research/agric/vultures-livestock.html>



## African Violets

Rutgers Fact Sheet FS1150, *African Violet Care*, recommends propagating an African violet by leaf-cutting, first, you will need to gather your materials. You will need a pot with drainage holes as well as soil which is half vermiculite and half potting mix. You will also need an African violet, a sharp knife, and a clear plastic bag.

Step one: Fill the container with soil.

Step two: Chose a healthy, young, full-sized leaf from the African Violet plant. Cut that stem at an angle with at least 1 to 2 inches of stem below the leaf itself and set the leaf into the pot at an angle. Do this with several leaves in the same pot.

Step three: Once you are done placing the leaf cuttings into the pot, water thoroughly and allow the excess moisture to fully drain.

Step four: Place the container with the leaf cuttings into the clear plastic bag and blow into it as you are sealing it tightly so it is puffed up with air. Set the pot in a bright location out of direct sunlight. Roots will form in about one month and at about two months plantlets will form and you can cut off the original leaf. When that occurs, you can plant the plantlets into new containers. The continued care of the African Violets is dependent on consistent care with attention to light, temperature, watering, and fertilization.

Generally, African Violets prefer a bright area in your home that does not receive direct sunlight in the afternoon. If that is not possible, they do perform well under fluorescent lights. African Violets require temperatures between 65 and 80°F.

Violets may be watered from the top or bottom. When watering from the top, apply enough room temperature water to thoroughly saturate the soil and then drain the excess water from the bottom of the container. To water from below, place the pot in a tray that has about 1 inch of water in it, allow the soil surface of the plant to become moist, then remove the pot and drain the excess water.

There are fertilizers on the market that are specifically prepared for African Violets; be certain to follow the instructions on the labels.

### Resources:

Iowa State University; Reiman Gardens; <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/rg322.pdf>

Clemson Cooperative Extension; <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/indoor/flowering/hgic1550.html>



## PLAN YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

One of my favorite winter pastimes is planning my seasonal vegetable garden. I never tire of pouring through the seed catalogs planning what crops I will put in for this year's harvest. There are three Rutgers Fact Sheets that will help you with this process: FS 680, *Vegetable Seed and Plant Sources for the Home Garden*; FS681, *Varieties for New Jersey Vegetable Gardens*, and FS 129, *Planning a Vegetable Garden*.

There are many details to take into consideration as you are armchair gardening. But by taking the time to plan ahead, you will be able to get the highest yield possible from your home garden, no matter what the size. It's helpful to make a listing of the vegetables you'd like to grow and then put the plan on paper. This will allow you to make the best use of your available garden space and will save you time when it comes to planting your seeds and transplants. Remember to include the space between and within rows, the varieties of crops, and which are seeded or transplants.

By putting your ideas to paper, you will be able to tell if you have enough garden space for the crops you wish to grow – if you are like me, I always want to grow many more vegetables and crops than the actual size of my garden allows. It also helps to rotate the crops of similar vegetables so they are not planted in the same location in consecutive years. Be sure to plan for the tallest crops on the north side of the garden to avoid shading the lower growing plants. Don't sacrifice appropriate spacing to try to fit in more plants. There needs to be good air movement through the garden to help dry the moisture on the plant leaves.

By planning your garden ahead you will allow yourself plenty of time to place your seed order early and hopefully, that will help ensure that you get the varieties of vegetables that you want in your garden for the upcoming season.

I'm sure you have a few tried and true varieties of plants that you would never consider changing, but it's also a good idea to include some of the newer disease-resistant varieties of vegetables, as well as adding a few heirloom varieties to your garden space for diversification. While I'm planning my garden in the cold winter weather, I make a listing of any supplies I will need and make sure I buy them ahead so I am ready to plant when the weather turns. I enjoy trellises in my garden, so I make sure I am well-stocked with cedar poles and twine.

Many gardeners enjoy the act of planning their garden well in advance and have a variety of ways to do the research. Whether you enjoy poring over seed catalogs, watching the gardening channel, or developing your Pinterest garden board, you will be able to reap the harvest of your enjoyable time well spent in the planning phase of your gardens.





## Eastern Bluebirds

There are very specific suggestions for attracting eastern bluebirds to your yard, but if you are lucky enough to have them, the extra consideration is well worth the effort. I have seen them as early as February in years past and they are always a harbinger of spring.

Eastern Bluebirds have known as "forest edge" species because they prefer a habitat of open grasslands and scattered trees for perching, nesting, and feeding. There has been a reduction in these natural food and shelter resources, and that has been one theory of why there has been a decline in the bluebird population. One of the ways that you can help with this effort is to spend some of the winter months constructing bluebird nest boxes. As part of the New Jersey Forest Stewardship Series Rutgers Fact Sheet #034, *Build Bird Nest Boxes*, provides specific instructions for constructing bluebird nest boxes.

It's recommended that the new nest boxes be installed by February to attract migrating bluebirds. Place the boxes at least 100 feet from treelines and 4 to 6' above ground so as to avoid predators. It's also best to place the box away from the prevailing winds for protection. Keep a vigilant watch and remove any starling or sparrow nests. Leave the boxes up year-round and at the end of each nesting season remove the nesting materials.

Provide water for the bluebirds that are less than 2 inches deep and choose a site that has perches, shrubs, and trees nearby. Fruits comprise more than 30 percent of the bluebird's diet, and they are very dependent on persistent fruits in the winter. Plan your home landscaping accordingly by choosing trees and shrub species that will retain fruit through the winter.

Eastern bluebirds are very social but are territorial as well and will defend the nesting and territory during the breeding season, and I found this to be true when I personally got a bit too close to the nest for the momma bluebird's comfort and she let me know it in an up-close and personal way. I have spent many happy moments watching the bluebirds and hope you have the opportunity to do so as well.

### Resources:

University of Michigan; [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Sialia\\_sialis/](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/Sialia_sialis/)

PennState Extension; <http://extension.psu.edu/natural-resources/wildlife/landscaping-for-wildlife/pa-wildlife-3-managing-habitat-for-eastern-bluebirds>

University of Kentucky; <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/for/for52/for52.htm>

Fairfax County Public Schools; [http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/eastern\\_bluebird.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/eastern_bluebird.htm)



## Ladybugs

I have been getting reports from clients that there seems to be an abundance of ladybugs or lady beetles in their homes and I have experienced this as well. Ladybugs are known for their appetite for aphids, but will also munch on a buffet of other insects, as well. Folklore also has it that they are good luck and we can all use a strong dose of that.

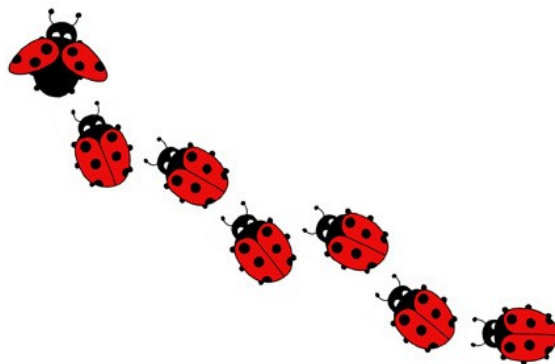
While we love to see ladybugs about 7 months of the year, it's generally not our preference to cohabitate with them. In the autumn they start to look for a spot to overwinter and you'll find them congregated on the sunny wall outside of your home. From there, it's not too difficult to gain access into your home through air leaks, attic vents, gaps in siding, and cracks at the windows and doors.

So the question is...what do we do about them? One suggestion is to place slices of fresh apple in the heavily infested areas and this will usually bring them down from the ceiling and walls. Another suggestion is to leave a light on and they will congregate in that area.

Once you've got them rounded up, one option is to sweep them up with a dust brush and broom to relocate them. Please note if a ladybug is crushed or disturbed a noxious, but harmless odor results, which in nature is the ladybug's way of warding off predators because it tastes as bad as it smells. I can believe this because, just the other night, Lenny, my rescue cat tried to eat a ladybug and spit it out immediately.

Another option is to collect them and keep them in a breathable container in the refrigerator to hibernate until spring. If the idea of your family refrigerator just doesn't work for you, a mesh-covered bucket in your garage should be just fine. Ladybugs are excellent insects to be released in your garden in spring and one ladybug will consume up to 1000 aphids in its' lifetime in both its larval and adult stages, so it's worth the effort to gathering and overwinter them!

Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station: [www.caes.uga.edu/extension/dougherty/anr/.../LadyBugproblems.doc](http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/dougherty/anr/.../LadyBugproblems.doc)



## Edgeworthia

Paperbush, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, is an early spring bloomer., and provides year-round interest with some noteworthy wintery attributes. Edgeworthia has showy reddish brown smooth bark and flowers during the winter months. The flowers are reported to smell sweet like Gardenia but a bit spicier. I have had the pleasure of smelling the flowers of Edgeworthia and can assure you that it is exquisite. Edgeworthia flowers when the stems are bare, which accentuates the beauty of the bark and flowers even more. The florets themselves are tiny, but when gathered in mass they make a stunning bouquet.

This is a great shrub for woodland or shady border planting and is best planted in Spring. Edgeworthia prefers light shade with moist well-drained soil that contains plenty of organic matter. It is hardy in zones 7 through 9 and is native to China where it grows along stream banks and on the edge of woodlands. This multi-stemmed shrub has a rounded growth habit and at maturity reaches about 7 feet high and wide. It makes an excellent specimen plant or as an accent at the back of the border. It requires very little pruning and has few pest issues.

The common name of Paperbush refers to the high-grade paper products made from the woody bark and stem of the plant. Not only does Edgeworthia provide distinct winter interest, but it is also a four-season plant by sporting beautiful bluish elongated 5-inch leaves with silvery undertones in the spring and summer. The foliage seems to hold droplets of water during spring showers. In the fall, the leaves drop to show the silhouette of a beautifully structured plant.

If your site analysis provides a well-drained soil and requires a shrub that can tolerate shade, strongly consider Edgeworthia for your landscaping options. I usually wax poetic about native plants, but in this case because of its four-season appeal, I will make an exception and say that I would very much enjoy having one of these in my yard.

### Resources:

University System of Georgia; <http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/cobb/anr/Documents/EDGEWORTHIA PAPYRUFERA.pdf>

North Carolina State University; <http://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/extgardener-edgeworthia-lends-blooms-and-fragrance-to-winter/>

University of Tennessee; <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/pom/edgeworthia.htm>

University of Georgia or the University System of Georgia.  
<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/cobb/anr/Documents/paperbush.pdf>





## Silverfish and Firebrats

Most all of us have had the unpleasant experience of encountering a silverfish or firebrat in our homes. Rutgers Fact Sheet #008, *Silverfish and Firebrats*, provides recommendations on their control.

Silverfish and Firebrats have many things in common, including their appearance. They are both slender with flat carrot-shaped bodies that have scales. They are both wingless and have two long feelers at the head and three long projections at the tail and are often called bristletails. They are anywhere from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long and move very rapidly when disturbed. One difference is their coloration. Silverfish are shiny and silver whereas firebrats are a more mottled grey and darker in color.

Both silverfish and firebrats prefer areas where there is high humidity and little airflow. While they are both nocturnal and avoid direct sunlight, the silverfish prefers damp cool places such as basements or found trapped in sinks and bathtubs. The firebrat likes hot dark places such as attics or around fireplaces and furnaces and the insulation around hot water heat pipes.

Both are primarily nuisance pests, however, they can cause damage in the home by eating foods and other materials that are high in protein, sugar, or starch. Plus they are just plain creepy when they scurry along and you don't expect them.

Non-chemical control of these pests includes sealing up cracks around plumbing, window-sills, and wall molding. They love dust, so periodic cleaning of closets, cabinets, and storage areas will help control the population. Additionally, remove cardboard boxes and old newspapers to eliminate food sources and a place to hide. It will help if you can eliminate moisture problems, as well by keeping laundry areas and bathrooms clean and dry; use dehumidifiers and ventilate with fans.

One last bit of advice is to use small, glass jars covered on the outside with masking tape. The insects climb up the tape, fall into the jars, and can't climb back up the slick sides. Place these traps or jars in corners and along edges where foraging is likely. While this method is not likely to eliminate an infestation, it might give you some personal satisfaction in trapping this pesky critter.

### Resources:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; <https://insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/aimq2.html>

NC State University; <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/course/ent425/library/compendium/thysanura.html>

University of Missouri; <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/q7376>

PennState University; <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/bristletails-silverfish-and-firebrats>

University of Minnesota; <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/silverfish-and-firebrats/>

University of Nebraska; <http://lancaster.unl.edu/enviro/pest/factsheets/005-94.htm>

University of California; <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7475.html>

Iowa State University; <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/silverfi.html>

University of Florida; <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig094>

## **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. The 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 lawnmower 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. FS787, FS129
- ☐ 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 deadwood 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. FS1156
- ☐ Keep the bird feeder filled. FS1022
- ☐ Longer and brighter days mean new growth on indoor houseplants. Repot and apply fertilizer per label instructions, which may differ for foliage plants and blooming plants. The label is the law! Remove dead leaves and flowers for more blooms and a nicer appearance.
- ☐ Watch for blooms of early spring bulbs such as daffodils, squill, crocus, dwarf iris & snowdrops.
- ☐ Remove mulch from strawberry beds when the plant resumes growth in the spring (typically late March) and move it to the top of the bed to the side of the row where it will then serve as a mulch against weeds. FS097
- ☐ Enjoy the early spring season!

## **Gardening Tips for April:**

- ☐ Seed bare spots on the lawn early in the month. FS584 & 108
- ☐ Rake winter debris from your lawn before mowing.
- ☐ For the control of crabgrass, the application of preemergence herbicides is generally more effective and easier to apply than postemergence herbicides. Preemergence herbicides must be applied before crabgrass germination to be effective. E233
- ☐ Sharpen the lawnmower 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. FS1221
- ☐ 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 (Apr).
- ☐ 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. FS1220
- ☐ 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. FS129
- ☐ Start eggplant, pepper and tomato seeds indoors. FS787 & 129
- ☐ Plant bedding plants of cabbage and broccoli.
- ☐ Harden-off or condition transplants before moving them to the garden. FS787
- ☐ 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 fertilize 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 the euonymus scale now before their hard shells form. Bulletin E014
- ☐ Plant a tree for Arbor Day!

## **Garden Tips for May:**

- ☐ Water the lawn deeply, applying half to one inch of water at a time. Your lawn needs one inch per week during dry periods. FS921
- ☐ Apply broadleaf herbicides to control weeds in the lawn. FS119
- ☐ Remove flowers from newly established strawberry plantings. Let them become established in the first year and form fruit next year. FS097
- ☐ 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. FS1220
- ☐ Plant dahlia and canna tubers mid to late May. FS1153 & FS1155
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Replace and 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 the danger of frost has passed, 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 the seed packet or plant tag.

## Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets: Spring

### Fact Sheet #

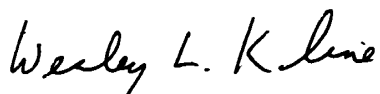
### Fact Sheet Name

Bulletin E014	Pest Management for Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers on Home Grounds \$3.00
FS20	Weed control around the home grounds
FS31	How to fertilize shade trees
FS58	Mulches for vegetable garden
FS74	Backyard leaf composting
FS97	Growing Strawberries in the Home Garden
FS102	Your lawn and its care
FS108	Renovating Your Lawn
FS112	Apple Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
FS113	Peach and Nectarine Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
FS115	Cherry Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
FS116	Plum Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
FS117	Using leaf compost
FS119	Weed control in home lawns
FS129	Planning a vegetable garden
FS221	Asparagus Beetles
Bulletin E233	Crabgrass and Goosegrass Control in Cool Season Turfgrass
FS235	Two-spotted Spider Mites
Bulletin E329	Rain Barrels Part I: How to Build a Rain Barre
FS338	Termite Prevention and Control
FS376	Transplanting Trees and Shrubs
FS513	Rain Gardens
FS523	Grow your own vegetable and flower seedlings
FS584	Seeding Your Lawn
FS626	Fertilizing the home vegetable garden
FS633	Fertilizing the home lawn
FS681	Varieties for NJ home vegetable gardens
FS684	Turfgrass seed selection for NJ homes
FS787	Starting Vegetable Seeds indoors
FS797	Soil testing for home lawns and gardens
FS811	Home Composting
FS866	Using horticultural oils
FS921	Conserving water on home landscapes in NJ
FS944	Roses and their care
FS1022	Backyard Birdfeeders
FS1140	Incorporating native plants in your residential landscape
FS1153	Growing Dahlias
FS1155	Cannas
FS1156	Keeping Geraniums Over Winter
FS1163	Mail order vegetable seed sources for the NJ gardener
FS1220	Spring Flowering Bulbs
FS1221	Pruning Flowering Shrubs

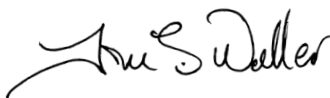
**Call 856/451-2800 Ext. 4 when calling to request a fact sheet.**

**Refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name; All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted.**

Sincerely,



Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D.  
Cooperative Extension Agent  
Vegetable Production and Food Safety  
WKline@njaes.rutgers.edu



Timothy J. Waller, Ph.D.  
Cooperative Extension Agent  
Nursery Production  
TWaller@njaes.rutgers.edu



Salvatore Mangiafico, Ph.D.  
Extension Department Head &  
Environmental and Resource Mgt. Agent  
Mangiafico@njaes.rutgers.edu

**Pesticide User Responsibility:** Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.

**Use of Trade Names:** Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label.



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

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