



# “What’s Growing On...”

Volume 13 Number 4 Fall 2011 Edition Published Quarterly

## Inside this issue:

Rutgers on the Radio	1
From the Desk of..	1
Master Gardener Class Forming	2
Bed Bugs	2
Renovating your Lawn	3
Spider Mites	4
Southern Pine Beetle	4
Springtails	5
Thrips	5
Weed Management	6
Bagworms	6
From the desk of... continued	7
Tree Replacement	7
Things to Do in September	8
Gardener’s Check-list for October	9
Gardener’s Check-list for November	10
Available Fact Sheets	11

Attachments	
Backyard Composting Workshop	
Rutgers MG Live Butterfly Tent	
Master Gardener Application	



## RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ON THE RADIO

For agriculture news and horticultural tips, listen to me, Viola Carson, on the RCE Agricultural Program on Monday, Wednesday & Friday on WSNJ AM 1440 & 1240 at 12:15 pm announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

**The Master Gardeners will be at the Extension Office Tues.-Fri. to answer your gardening questions. They will be available from 9am-12:00 noon at 856-451-2800 x4 until Oct. 15th.**

## FROM THE DESK OF VIOLA CARSON

Three “Preserving the Harvest” classes were held using the book So Easy to Preserve from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. We went over safe drying, canning and freezing methods. I have a few books left for \$20. In a nut shell here is what we went over. Drying removes most of the moisture from foods so that micro-organisms cannot grow and enzyme action is slowed down. Dried foods should be stored in airtight containers to prevent moisture from rehydrating the products and allowing microbial growth.

We dried the following foods using a store bought dehydrator:

- sliced apples treated with ascorbic acid
- sliced bananas with and without honey dip
- pineapple
- plum tomato slices after skinning them
- peach leather
- corn from the cob after blanching and cutting
- beef jerky

Packaged products of some of the above were tried to compare the differences.

Canning is the process in which foods are placed in jars and heated to a temperature that destroys microorganisms and inactivates enzymes. This heating and later cooling forms a vacuum seal. Acidic foods such as fruits and tomatoes can be processed in a boiling water bath, while low acid vegetables and meats must be processed in a pressure canner at 240°F. Proper head-space, removing air bubbles, how to test if the jar is sealed and the importance of labeling were demonstrated. We tried the following techniques during class:

- using a vegetable strainer to process cooked tomatoes, we removed skins and seeds. The byproduct was used to make spiced tomato jam.

(continued on page 7)

## Master Gardener Program Forming

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County will begin the sixth class of Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardener program is a 20-week educational volunteer training program designed for individuals with a desire to help others and an interest in home grounds, gardening, horticulture and the environment. Upon completion of the program, trained adult volunteers known as Master Gardener Interns volunteer their time to community programs related to horticulture and the environment. These programs are educational in nature and may involve environmental improvements, horticultural therapy projects, community and school gardening projects, or other programs determined by local need.

For further information or to obtain an application for the Cumberland County Master Gardener program call Rutgers Cooperative Extension at 451-2800 ext. 4 or visit the office at 291 Morton Avenue in Rosenhayn. The office hours are 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday. The fee for the program is \$210.00. All applications must be received no later than Monday, November 1, 2011. Interviews will begin at that time and payment is expected upon acceptance. However, class size is limited to 20 students, so register early. A Master Gardener enrollment application is attached to this newsletter.



## Bed Bugs

Since April, a client has been to several doctors to find a cure for the welts on her arms. She was given medication, which caused many side effects. Upon further discussion, I asked her to check her room for an insect.

A sample was brought to me and was identified as a bed bug. The bed bug is a blood sucking insect that comes out at night to feed. They are attracted to the carbon dioxide, heat and the smell released by a human host. Bed bugs spend up to 10 minutes on a host to complete a meal. After feeding they will return to their hiding places. They defecate after feeding and leave black or brown spots on the sheets and mattresses, which is the typical signs of bed bug infestations.

For additional information on bed bugs, refer to the Rutgers Fact Sheet 1098 that lists ways to control them.



## Renovating your Lawn

If your lawn has less than 30% desirable lawn grasses with thatch less than 1", here is what to do:

- Test the soil for pH and nutrients. It takes 2 weeks to get results so plan accordingly. See your local Extension Office for soil test kits.
- Apply glyphosate (Kleen Up or Roundup) according to directions on container. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide and will kill everything. Strip off the dead mat of grasses, weeds and thatch.
- Fill in depressions or holes with topsoil. Establish a sloping grade away from buildings.
- Apply lime according to soil test results.
- Spread fertilizer based on soil test. This should be incorporated uniformly into the soil 4-6 inches deep.
- Add organic matter into the top 2-4 inches to improve aeration whether your soil is sandy or clay.

The lawn can be renovated with seed or sod. For seeding:

- August 20 to October 10 is the best time to seed.
- Seeding is done with a drop spreader, a cyclone spreader or a rotary spreader.
- Seeding in two directions is preferable, just apply 1/2 the recommended amount of seed in each direction.
- Rake seed in 1/4" deep, lightly roll to break up clods, smooth and improve seed to soil contact.
- Put down a weed free straw, mulch and irrigate. Mulching increases the moisture retention of the soil and dew is retained longer on the soil surface.
- A newly seeded lawn needs to be kept moist in the top 2" through irrigation or rainfall. Once seedlings have established a root system, watering should be deep and infrequent.

Seed selection is very important.

- Kentucky Bluegrass is the most popular lawn grass in NJ. It is suitable for moderately to well-drained soil, but is slow to establish.
- Tall Fescues are able to persist in moderately to well drained, infertile soils. They establish rapidly from seed and are drought tolerant.
- Fine Fescue persist in shady areas as well as in dry infertile locations.
- Perennial ryegrass survive in a wide range of soil conditions but grow poorly in extremely wet areas. They are moderately shade tolerant.
- A blend of various turfgrass species selected for a specific trait provides the best opportunity for successful lawn establishment if you have a combination of wet, dry, sunny and shady areas.

## Spider mites

Spider mites are among the most serious pests of ornamental plants, vegetables and houseplants. Spider mites are too small to examine without a magnifying glass. They suck plant juices from the leaves, causing discoloration of leaves due to the loss of chlorophyll. Because of their small size and feeding habits, spider mites may be overlooked until a large population develops and serious damage occurs.

Spider mites are more closely related to spiders than to insects. Spider mites have eight-legs with soft, oval bodies. The females are about the size of the period, and the males are slightly smaller.

Plants infested with spider mites have off-color (yellowish or bronzed) foliage. Close inspection reveals leaves with a speckled or stippled appearance. Leaves infested with two-spotted spider mites may have a fine web underneath. In heavy infestations, the web may cover the whole plant. Heavy mite infestations result in premature leaf drop and plant death.

Some of the most common plants infested by spider mites are azaleas, boxwoods, carnations, hawthorns, hollies, maples, violets, oaks, privets, roses, snapdragons, junipers, spruce and on vegetables, such as pole limas. In August we had spider mite samples submitted on pole lima beans and spruce trees. The hot dry weather is perfect for them so check your plants.

Culturally, mow weeds around the area to reduce the mite population. Wash mites off plants with a soap and water solution applied under pressure to break the webs. Close and regular inspection of plants is essential to the control of spider mites. Remember, mites feed on the underside of leaves, so thorough application of control to the undersurface of leaves is necessary.

Control with horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins or malathion at the recommended rates. Excessive use of carbarly or methoxychlor kill beneficial mite predators, allowing mite populations to increase rapidly.

See fact sheet 235 for more information.

## Southern Pine Beetle

The southern pine beetle, one of the most destructive forest insects in the southern United States, quickly devastates pine dominated forests during outbreaks. This native bark beetle, which is smaller than a grain of rice, feeds on the living tissue under the tree's bark and introduces blue stain fungi. As pine dominated forests cover an estimated 440,000 acres in southern New Jersey, the beetle poses a considerable threat to our state's forest resource. Since its re-entry into the state in 2001, SPB impacted approximately 26,600 total acres, and more than half that total occurred in 2010.



Southern Pine Beetle



## Springtails

Several reports of Springtails in homes have been received. They are very small, abundant, insect-like creatures that are usually found in moist environments. They come in the homes and become a nuisance during extended droughts or heavy rains. We have had both conditions this year.

In homes with high humidity and mold growth, springtails can sometimes maintain an indoor population. They feed on molds, mildew, fungi, bacteria, and decaying plant material. Outdoors springtails live in leaf litter, mulch and under thatch in damp lawn situations.

During drought conditions or water saturation conditions, springtails will move from mulches and landscaping in search of more humidity or a drier environment. They may be seen under doors, sill plates, siding, windows and through screens.

The best way to manage or eliminate springtails in the home is by lowering the humidity using an air conditioner or dehumidifier, removing of mold and mildew, watering houseplants and then allowing them to dry out, reduce the amount of mulch surrounding the house and hire a pest management professional.

Two interesting details about springtails are their mouth parts and their furcula. They have a piercing, sucking mouthpart used to suck fluids from fungi and they have complex mouthparts that are specialized for an unknown reason. The second detail is a bi-forked appendage on the underside of their fourth abdominal segment, folded up under the springtail and held in place by a clasp called a tenaculum. This appendage is snapped down to propel the springtail in the air up to 100 times its body length.

Springtails come in a variety of colors. From white to black, and some are purple, red, orange, gray, yellow or mottled. It can be quite a sight to see a large number of them moving in unison.

## Thrips

This August thrip samples have come in on dahlias and tomato fruit. Adult thrips are very small, winged, black or brown insects, about 1/25 inch long. Life stages include eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Eggs are laid in flowers, on foliage, or inside plant tissue. Hatching larvae of some species feed on flowers of foliage, then drop to the ground to pupate. Emerging adults fly back up to the foliage to feed and to mate. Other species pupate on the plant. Adults and larvae have similar long thin shapes, except adults have fringed wings, larvae have none. Thrips range in color from translucent white or yellowish to dark brown or blackish, depending on the species and life stage.

Thrips can carry plant viruses that can cause damage. A good hosing will wash some of them off the plant. Treatment with insecticidal soap or Neem oil will often take care of a thrip problem. Neem is a pesticide extracted from the Indian neem tree. It works as an anti-feedant, turning off the appetites of thrips and many other insects.

The good news is we also found predators on the dahlias. Minute pirate bugs suck the fluids from insect eggs, spider mites and small insects such as aphids, thrips and leaf hoppers. When the bad guys are not around, the minute pirate bugs stay alive by feeding on pollen and plant sap so they don't have to leave the plant in search of other insects to feed on.



## Weed Management

Starting a perennial border or theme garden such as bird, butterfly or crafters garden can be labor intensive until they get growing and fill in. Mulch and landscape fabric are useful tools. Here are some principals of pre-emergent herbicides from Rutgers FS 272. If you just finished weeding and you wish it could just stay that way this could be of some help.

Pre-emergence herbicides must be applied before the weeds start to grow. Most will not control established perennial weeds. To obtain season long control year round, pre-emergence herbicides should be applied in early spring to control summer annual weeds and again in late summer or early fall to control winter annual weeds. Generally, granular formations of pre-emergence herbicides are preferred for a more uniform application and to minimize the risk of injury to ornamentals. After applying, they must be watered in with 1-2 inches of rainfall or irrigation to be fully effective. Many pre-emergence herbicides are more effective and last longer if placed under organic mulch. Read the label carefully, there are exceptions.

It is best to apply pre-emergence herbicides to new transplants after the soil is settled around the roots by rain or irrigation and there are no cracks in the soil exposing the roots. Apply granular herbicides when plants are dry. If the granules stick to leaves of plants they may cause injury. Be careful around herbaceous plants with whorls of leaves that catch granules like a funnel.

It is best to avoid the use of any pre-emergence herbicide for at least 1 year if the landscape bed is to be replanted. If planting new ornamentals into a bed treated the year before with pre-emergence herbicide, planting only those plants listed as safe on the herbicide label can reduce the risk of injury. Follow directions on the label.

## Bagworms

While weeding, a bagworm was found on a Pyracantha tree at the Cumberland County Extension Education Center by Master Gardener Susan McKenna. There was only one large bag covered with last year's brown berries. Usually bagworms are found on evergreens. See what you find while volunteering in the garden? The more you look the more you will find. Pyracantha or fire-thorn is not listed as one of the shrubs they feed on. Just more proof insects don't read.



(continued from page 1)

- tomato and peach raw packing
- steps involved in making blackberry jam with powdered pectin
- No or low sugar and light pectin jelly and jam products
- pickled bread and butter zucchini (made ahead in a boiling water bath)
- tarragon herb vinegar (shown to us by Master Gardener, Barbara Paulos)

We had a special guest, Dee Johnson, who was known as the jam lady for many years, join us to tell of her experiences of making jam commercially in NJ. To add an extra special touch, Dee used to add recipes with her jars of jam for other uses like chicken or pork glaze. Jam's not just for toast.

Our final class was freezing. Freezing reduces the temperature of food so that micro-organisms cannot grow, however many will survive. Enzyme activity is slowed down but not stopped during freezing.

Enzymes in vegetables are inactivated by blanching. Times given in the book should be followed to ensure proper blanching. Over blanching results in a cooked product, a loss of flavor, color and nutrients. Under-blanching stimulates enzyme activity and is worse than no blanching at all. A quick cool down and quick freezing reduces textural changes. In quick freezing a large number of small ice crystals are formed. These small ice crystals cause less cell wall rupture than slow freezing which produces a few large ice crystals.

The enzymes in fruits causes browning and loss of vitamin C. The most common control chemical is ascorbic acid. We discussed the types of packs: sugar, syrup, dry and unsweetened. We made peach shakes with frozen peaches, used a 40% sugar syrup for grapes and apples, tried freezer low sugar peach jam and learned a quick way to freeze tomatoes whole in season and blend thawed tomatoes to make sauce in the winter. A quick way to blend up tomatoes; skin, seeds and all, cook it down and then freeze in plastic bags was explained by Tammy, Agricultural secretary. Airtight packaging is necessary to protect the flavor, color and nutritive value of foods.

Using the freshest produce and safest methods were stressed. The class participants had freezers, many had dryers stored away and several had canned in the past so they knew what to expect. Buying food to preserve can be expensive or inexpensive depending on your source of food and the seasonal availability. Before beginning any of these processes, count the costs.

## Tree Replacement

During a recent lighting strike my cousin lost several shade trees. I also have had calls of maple trees dying due to Verticillium wilt or maple decline. The shade trees provide is invaluable. This summer's heat only made the loss of these trees worse, not to mention the shock to shade loving plants in the middle of the summer. Fast growing trees are weaker trees, but here are a few suggestions. If a maple has died do not plant another maple in its place.

1. Magnolia
2. Oak
3. Holly
4. Sourwood
5. Ginko
6. Tulip-tree-
7. Sycamore-fast growing, not good fall color, but mottled bark
8. River birch
9. Japanese Pagoda Tree
10. Sassafras

## Things to do in September

- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while the selection is good.
- Plant single bulb varieties in groups.
- Fertilize most houseplants for the last time until next spring.
- Sow a new lawn. FS 108 & 684
- Core aerate your lawn when the soil is moist but not wet.
- Fall is a good time to test the soil in your lawn, vegetable garden, perennial bed or around trees and shrubs. Call your local Extension office for a soil test packet.
- Clean off the vegetable garden and annual beds as plants die.
- Remove spent flowers from perennials.
- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves and garden debris. FS 74
- Plant some lilies.
- Plant chrysanthemums, pansies and ornamental cabbages and kales early in the month.
- Lift and divide iris rhizomes and overgrown peonies.
- Bring fibrous begonias, coleus and impatiens indoors for potted houseplants.
- Store surplus seeds in a cool, dry location.
- Fall is a great time to plant most trees and shrubs. FS 786
- Don't fertilize established woody plants until they are dormant.
- Allow winter squashes, pumpkins and gourds to mature completely on the vine. Harvest them before the first frost. FS 988
- Wait at least two weeks after the tops die to harvest white potatoes. FS 679
- Dig sweet potatoes before the first frost. FS 560
- Move perennial plants within the next month or wait until next spring.
- Make a map of your perennial gardens to record the location of your plants.
- Continue to weed the gardens. The best place for these plants is the compost pile.



## Gardener's Checklist for October



- Consider dwarf fall asters, to brighten the flower garden.
- Fall is a good time to apply lime to the lawn and garden if a soil test recommends it.
- Harvest gourds and squashes when they mature and before they are exposed to frost.
- Weed and edge your gardens. FS 20 & 119
- Plant tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs and crocus corms. If voles are a problem, plant in wire.
- Fertilize bulbs already in the ground with a bulb fertilizer.
- Plant garlic, rhubarb and shallots.
- Plant hardy spring-blooming perennials and biennials in the garden early in the month.
- Store leftover flower and vegetable seeds in a cool, dry place.
- Provide food and water for the birds. FS 1022
- Repair garden fences, trellises and accessories.
- Call a certified arborist for a serious tree problem. FS 19
- Continue to mow the lawn at a height of 2½ to 3 inches until the grass stops growing.
- Start a wish list of plants and tools for next year's gardening season.
- Spread humus (composted organic matter) two inches deep and work it into your garden soil. FS 117
- Note where fall color is needed in the landscape and plan to add an appropriate plant next year.
- Clean and store lawn furniture.
- Wash your windows, do it for the plants, so they get as much sunshine as possible.
- Rake fallen leaves to prevent them from smothering the lawn.
- Form a compost pile of leaves and other garden debris. FS 811
- Wait until the ground freezes to apply mulch around perennials.
- Plant and transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after leaf fall.
- Fertilize woody plants after they go dormant (after several hard freezes).
- Prune trees and shrubs after they go dormant.
- Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs.
- Store garden stakes, hoses and tools before winter sets in.
- Remove dead chrysanthemum tops from the garden.
- Dig root crops before the ground freezes. Carrots, beets, leeks, turnips and parsnips can be harvested from the garden all winter long.
- Be sure to harvest your tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes and other tender crops before the first frost.
- Plant a cover crop of winter rye or hairy vetch on your vegetable garden. FS 849
- Transplant strawberries.
- Harvest pears before they are fully ripe. Harvest apples when the stem separates from the branch with a slight pull.
- Make a jack-o'-lantern and roast the seeds for a snack.



## Gardener's Checklist for November

Here's a list for your monthly job jar:

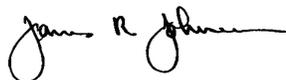
- Sow seeds of hardy flowers, such as calendula, larkspur and sweet pea.
- Plant bare-root plants when they're dormant and the air temperature is cool.
- Rake fallen leaves from the lawn.
- All trees and shrubs should be deeply watered before winter.
- Stake newly planted trees to protect them from winter winds.
- Wrap arborvitae and other upright evergreens that could be split by heavy snow.
- Resist the temptation to pile mulch up around the trunks of your trees and shrubs. Keep the base of the plant free from mulch while keeping the area under the canopy covered with 2-4 inches of mulch. FS 122
- Turn your houseplants regularly for even growth.
- Winterize roses and mulch perennials and strawberries after the ground freezes. FS 944
- Continue to remove weeds from the garden.
- Place all weeds, leaves and dead, annual and perennial foliage in the compost pile.
- Turn and water the compost pile to keep it working.
- Dig up and store tender bulbs, corms or tubers. For dahlias, wait until frost has blacken foliage.
- Have you planted your spring-flowering bulbs? If not, do this before the ground freezes.
- Continue mowing the lawn at 2½ -3 inches until the grass stops growing.
- The late fall fertilization of the lawn should be done after the grass stops growing. Extension has details on the type and amount of fertilizer to apply. FS 829, 839 & 633
- Turn over or rough till your vegetable garden if soil erosion is not a problem. A cover crop of winter rye still can be planted if it's done as early in the month as possible.
- Place hardware cloth or plastic guards around fruit trees.
- Pot paper white narcissus for forcing indoors. FS 128
- Don't over water your houseplants.
- Have your lawn mower and other power equipment serviced.
- Clean and Repair garden tools.
- Drain and bring in all of your garden hoses.
- Replace spent annuals in window boxes with heath, conifers, small broad-leafed evergreens, and dwarf winter flowering shrubs.
- Feed the birds.

## Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

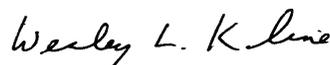
FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 19	How to Hire a Tree Care Professional
Fact Sheet 20	Weed Control around the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 74	Backyard Leaf Composting
Fact Sheet 108	Renovating Your Lawn
Fact Sheet 117	Using Leaf Compost
Fact Sheet 119	Weed Control in Home Lawns
Fact Sheet 122	Tree Problems Caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
E 272	Weed Management in Ornamental Plantings (1.50)
Fact Sheet 128	Forcing hardy bulbs indoors
Fact Sheet 235	Two Spotted Spider Mites
Fact Sheet 560	Growing Sweet Potatoes in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 633	Fertilizing the Home Lawn
Fact Sheet 679	Growing Potatoes in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 684	Turfgrass Seed Selection for Home Lawns
Fact Sheet 786	6 Ways to Keep your Newly planted Tree Alive and Healthy
Fact Sheet 811	Home Composting
Fact Sheet 829	How to Protect Water Quality & Have a Beautiful Lawn: Ten Steps to Proper Fertilization
Fact Sheet 839	How to Calculate the amount of Fertilizer Needed for your Lawn
Fact Sheet 849	Cover Crops and Green Manure Crops: Benefits, Selection and Use
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and Their Care
Fact Sheet 988	Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 1022	Backyard Birdfeeders

**Call 856/451-2800 ask for Viola Carson. 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.**

*What's Growing On* is prepared by Viola Carson, Horticultural Assistant, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County.



Sincerely,



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

Visit the newly activated website to see what activities are happening in the  
Home Horticulture and Agriculture Departments.

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

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Rutgers Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 732-932-5000, ext. 584.

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Millville, NJ 08332-9791

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

# Backyard Composting Workshop

## About the workshop:

Come learn simple, effective ways to turn organic waste into compost and you too can reduce waste and create a great garden resource. Wheaton Arts is home of the Cumberland County Master Gardeners Program and is a compost demonstration site where residents can see several working composters by different manufacturers. Be prepared to be outside during this workshop.

- Select from two course choices
- Take the workshop only for \$10
- Take the workshop and bring home a Garden Gourmet Home Composting Unit for \$50

When: Saturday, October 29, 2011

Where: Wheaton Arts  
1501 Glasstown Road  
Millville, NJ 08332

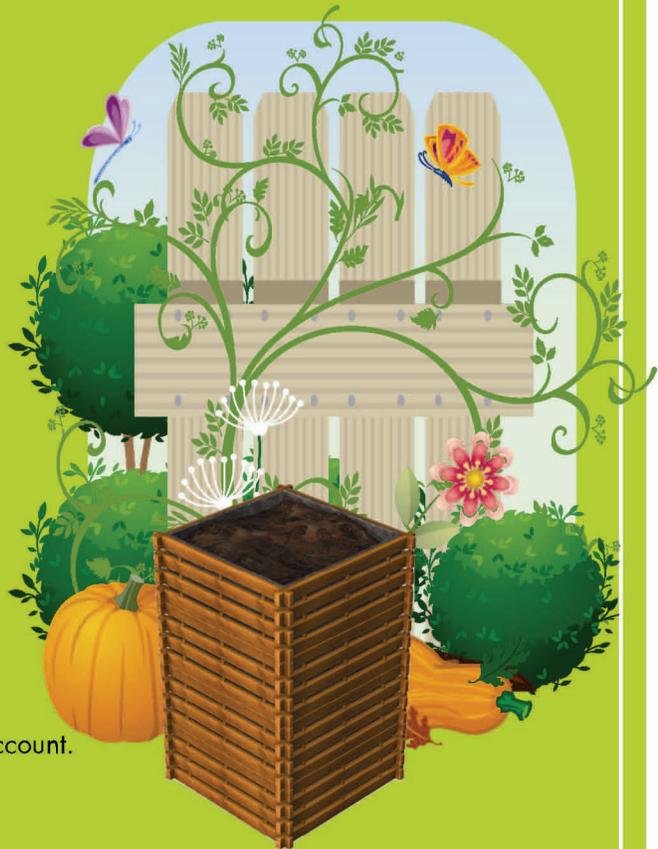
Time: 10:00 - Noon

Register: Call 856-451-2800 select 4  
and ask for Viola Carson  
or Tammy Commander.

Payable To: Extension Service Programs Account.

Deadline: Must Register By  
Monday, October 24, 2011.

We have limited compost units for this course. Space is also limited.



Sponsor: Cumberland County Improvement Authority  
Co-host: Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
Master Gardeners Program



Cumberland  
COUNTY  
IMPROVEMENT  
Authority



**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agriculture  
Experiment Station  
• Cooperative Extension



Visit the Rutgers Master Gardener Live Butterfly Tent at the fourth annual Downtown Millville Arts, Music and Antiques Festival on High St., Millville NJ. The Festival is 10am to 5pm Sunday September 11, 2011. Enjoy Fine Arts, Musicians, Antiques, Food, Frivolity, and of course, Butterflies. For more info on the festival, go to [www.MillvilleFestivals.com](http://www.MillvilleFestivals.com).



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Millville, NJ 08332-9791

[www.njaes.rutgers.edu/extension](http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/extension)

Phone: 856-451-2800  
Fax: 856-451-4206

**2012 ENROLLMENT APPLICATION  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

Enrollment is limited. Please return application no later than Monday, November 1, 2011.

**Please Print Clearly**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name, if applicable (i.e. Jim for James) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in becoming a RCE Master Gardener volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of volunteer projects would you like to get involved in as a Master Gardener? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your interest, experience, and/or training in gardening/horticulture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of gardening would you like to learn more about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you presently belong to a garden club/plant society/environmental group? If yes, please name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list and describe your roll in any organizations, such as Rotary, PTA, scouting, etc. that you may be affiliated with, and/or other past volunteer activity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a commercial horticulturist, landscaper, professional gardener, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your occupation and any skills in non-horticultural areas (writing, computers, graphics, photography, etc.) that might be relevant to your volunteer activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you anticipate any circumstances (vacations, work commitments, etc.) that would keep you from attending class, fulfilling the minimum **volunteer commitments**, or participating in other volunteer activities? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what days and times you would be available to volunteer:

Weekday Mornings \_\_\_\_\_ Weekday Afternoons \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends \_\_\_\_\_

Upon acceptance into the Master Gardener program, I understand that class attendance is expected every Tuesday, January 10 through May 29, 2012 and agree to satisfactorily complete all training sessions, exams and field trips. I understand that once the classes are successfully completed, **I am expected to volunteer a total of 60 hours in Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs including the required minimum of 20 hours of Helpline hours within the first year to become certified as a Master Gardener.** I also understand that **upon notification of acceptance**, I will submit a non-refundable fee of \$210.00 to be used toward program costs, including educational and laboratory materials. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY NOW.** Money is due at time of acceptance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In an emergency, please notify: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that class size is **limited to 20**, so it is required that this application is received at the address listed on the front page **no later than November 1, 2011** to be considered for the 2012 class.

Office Use: Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted Y N \$200.00 paid date \_\_\_\_\_ cash  # \_\_\_\_\_