RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

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"What's Growing On..."

Volume 13 Number 4 Winter 2011 Edition Published Quarterly

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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.

FROM THE DESK OF VIOLA CARSON

It is just after Thanksgiving and time to reflect on what we are thankful for. I am thankful for gardeners who want to learn more about horticulture and become better gardeners. One of the Master Gardeners gave me an embroidered framed piece I look at every morning, it says "Nature does not rush, yet everything is accomplished". It is a good reminder to enjoy each day. As gardeners, we embrace the change of the seasons. There are new smells, tastes, and jobs to do as winter approaches. Refer back to last year's garden journal to keep yourself on track. Simplify or enlarge as needed. Your goal may be to add more edible items to your landscape. For example, in England they are replanting mixed native hedges to provide privacy, beauty and a natural resource for native wildlife. Half of the hedge consists of Hawthorns and Blackthorns. The rest is a mix of Field Maple, Alder, Dogwood, Hazel, Rose, Viburnum, Privet, Sea Buckhorn or Euonymous. Hawthorns have spring flowers and berries for the birds and Blackthorns (also called Sloes) have spring flowers and fruit for us and for wildlife. Sloes are used to make jelly and Sloe Gin.

Let us continue to work with nature, plant shrubs that have more than one use and avoid monocultures; be diverse. "Permaculture simply asks people to put as much into life as they demand from it", David Bellamy

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season, and a happy, healthy New Year.

Bear facts for homeowners

- Avoid attracting bears with food or garbage is the best way to prevent black bears from becoming a nuisance near your home.
- Use certified bear-resistant garbage cans if you live in an area frequented by black bears. Otherwise, store in a garage, shed or other secure area.
- Wash garbage containers with a disinfectant solution regularly to remove odor.
- Put out garbage on collection day, not the night before.
- Clean up after pets. If you feed them outside, do so only during the day. Pick up any left-overs and remove bowls immediately after they have finished.
- Clean outdoor grills and utensils after each use and store grill securely. Grease and food residue attracts bears.
- Do not place meat or sweet food in compost pile.
- Avoid feeding birds if you live in an area frequented by black bears. Birdseed attracts bears. If you choose to feed the birds, do so during daylight hours between Dec. 1 and April 1, when bears are least active. Suspend feeders from a free-hanging wire; making sure the bottom is at least 10 feet off the ground. Bring feeder in at night. Clean up spills and shells.
- Pick up any fruit or nuts that fall from trees and discard in garbage cans with tight fitting lids.
- Consider installing electric fence to protect crops, beehives, livestock and compost piles if you live in an area frequented by black bears.

Immediately notify local police or the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife at 1-877-WARN DEP if you encounter an aggressive bear. For more information visit www.njfishandwildlife.com

Berries And Birds

As gardeners we like to see berries and birds during the winter months. Your bird friends will like you if you plant any of the following shrubs:

Northern Bayberry: Has a small gray, waxy coated, rounded, 1/5" wide drupe (fruit) which persists throughout the winter. This deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub is 5'-8' tall. This is a tough plant that thrives in all soil types. At the shore, it is low and wind swept, whereas farther inland, this shrub is denser with an upright rounded form. It does sucker and form large colonies. Chickadees, Cardinals, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and the odd Bluebird have been reported plucking berries from this shrub.

High Bush Cranberry: This bush has flat-topped clusters of white flowers up to 4" across that bloom in May providing nectar for butterflies, native bees and other pollinators. The blooms are followed by clusters of brilliant red fruit staying on the plant into late winter when they are finally eaten by the birds. New leaves have a reddish cast while the Fall foliage is yellow through red-purple.

Inkberry Holly: Grows in an acid moist soil in full sun or part shade. Their mature size is 6-8' in height and 8-10' spread. As most hollies, this is an evergreen but this one is thorn-less. The small berry-like black drupe appears in September. In the wild, it is common to form large clumps from suckering shoots. It can survive heavy pruning and renewal of old plants is suggested. This plant is quite problem free and provides a source of food for many wildlife.

For a list of other native shrubs, call our office and request FS1140 "Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape".

Dodder

Dodder, described in "Weeds in the Northeast" as a parasitic vine lacking chlorophyll and distinct leaves, was recently brought into the office for identification. This plant reproduces by seed that is long lived in the soil and germinates in the Spring or early Summer and blooms from July to September. The plants will die back at first frost.

Dodder is an annual with a colorless flower, due to the lack of chlorophyll, that produces very small, light seed. The plant cannot produce its own food, therefore, it penetrates the desirable plant with small bumps on its stem known as haustoria and derives its frood from the host plant. The seedlings develop a small, temporary root system to support the stem until it reaches a host plant to which it attaches itself with small suckers. After the attachment, the roots no longer function. The stems are yellow to red and twine counterclockwise. They grow over vegetation and form a dense mat. It appears as if someone draped thin cooked spaghetti all over the tops of the host plants.

Plants mostly affected by Dodder are alfalfa, clover (and other legumes), bedding plants, mums, azaleas, blueberries and cranberries. In our area, dodder is found in damp pinelands, wet bottomlands, and sandy springs. It tolerates wet sites so the seed often gets into irrigation water is carried to the fields. This can cause a problem in ornamental flowers such as petunia and geranium. It is a serious problem in blueberries. This plant is our only detrimental parasitic plant.

To prevent and control Dodder, pull out the plants before flowers have formed. If the flowers have formed, pull out dodder and host plant; burn or dispose of them in the garbage. If the host plant cannot be removed, continue to remove dodder and destroy all visible signs of it several times a year for 2 years. If it is mixed with a cover crop, keep the area mowed for the season to make sure it does not go to seed.

Gutter Issues

After the heavy rains we have had this Fall, many homeowners are having water issues. One common issue is water around and near your home. It is true that our water tables are much higher due to high rain falls, however look around for additional causes.

Have several trees been removed due to storms, death or neighbor? Tree removal affects the amount of water used. Trees take up many gallons of water and adjustment may have to be made. Check all gutter drains to make sure that water is diverted away from your house. The base of each gutter should drain water away from the foundation to discourage moisture from building up next to your house.

Remove all leaves and debris from rain gutters and roof to prevent ants and other insects from nesting under these areas. This has to be done two times each year, minimum. If large trees are near the roof, double this precaution to four times per year. Trim trees and shrubs away from your house to prevent ants from "bridging" the gap to gain entry and build nests. Gutters are not for composting, but while cleaning them out what a surprise to find worms. Moist leaf litter in a gutter is a worm high rise.

Wreath Woorkshop 2011

Date: Wednesday, December 7th
Time: 10 am—12 Noon
Cost: $15.00

The Cumberland County Master Gardeners will sponsor their annual wreath class on Dec. 7th, 10 am-12 noon. Please bring clippers, gloves and wire cutters. We will provide the wire ring, greens and beautiful bows. We have white pine, douglas fir, yew, cedar, juniper, holly, arborvitae and blue spruce. Everyone will take home their finish product. To register call 451-2800, x4.

Rodent Control For Fruit Trees

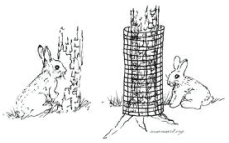
Fact Sheets 396 & 399

Mice and voles may cause serious damage to the fruit planting. They chew off the bark at ground level or below and often completely girdle a tree, causing it to die. Most of this damage takes place during the winter months. Keep mulch pulled away from the base of the tree, and examine it frequently for the presence of mice.

In many homes and commercial plantings, mice are controlled by placing poison bait in their runways. Mice may also be controlled by trapping. This can be successful where only a few trees are involved.

Rabbits are responsible for the loss of thousands of young fruit trees each year. Perhaps the most satisfactory method of preventing rabbit damage is the use of a mechanical guard. Galvanized screen or "hardware cloth" with a 1/4-inch mesh is frequently used. A roll 36" wide may be cut lengthwise, forming two 18" strips. By cutting these strips into pieces, 14" long, guards 14" by 18" are obtained. Roll or bend the strip around the trunk of the tree so the long side is up and down the trunk and the edges overlap. Twist a small wire loosely about the center to prevent the strip from unrolling. Push the lower edges well into the ground. This metal guard will last indefinitely and can be left in place all year.

Tar paper, building paper, sheets of magazines, and aluminum foil can also be used in a similar manner, but must be removed in the early spring to prevent damage to the tree. Perforated plastic guards are available, but are not recommended because they do not allow enough air movement around the tree. However, there are plastic meshes, like the metal ones, that are acceptable. Other methods of rabbit control have been successful in some instances, such as ordinary whitewash. A repellent wash recommended by the USDA, containing equal parts fish oil, concentrated lime sulfur, and water, is used by some commercial growers. Also, rabbit repellents under various trade names are available. All these materials may be applied with a paint brush, from the ground up into the scaffold limbs.



Rose Rosette Disease

Virginia Cooperative Extension
www.ext.vt.edu

Rose rosette disease (RRD), a disease believed to be caused by a virus, has been spreading through much of the wild rose population of the midwestern, southern and eastern United States for years. This disease is of great concern to the nursery industry and to many home gardeners because it is known to be lethal to the wild multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and it is potentially lethal to many ornamental rose species and cultivars.

Symptoms of rose rosette disease are highly variable, depending on the species or cultivar of rose affected. This variability can complicate diagnosis. Some of the more recognizable symptoms include rapid elongation of new shoots, followed by development of witches' brooms or clustering of small branches. Leaves in the witches' broom are small, distorted, and may have a conspicuous red pigmentation, although red pigmentation is not a consistent symptom. Canes on some species or cultivars develop excessive growth of unusually soft and pliable red or green thorns, which may stiffen later. When this symptom is present, it is diagnostic for rose rosette disease. Symptomatic canes may also be noticeably thicker than the parent cane from which they emerged or they may grow in a spiral pattern. Flowers may be distorted with fewer petals than normal, and flower color may be abnormal. For example, flowers that are normally a solid

color may be mottled. Buds may abort, be deformed, or be converted to leaf-like tissue. Infected rose plants often die within one to two years.

When all of the above symptoms are present, diagnosis is relatively straightforward. However, a diseased plant may exhibit few of these symptoms, especially in the early stages of the disease. By the time symptoms are severe and recognizable, the disease is likely to have already spread to neighboring plants.

Some symptoms, such as leaf coloration, may be subtle. Although some diseased plants develop very obvious red pigmentation, others exhibit a less striking reddish pink color on leaf undersides or along the margins of otherwise green leaves. Since the new leaves of many rose cultivars normally have reddish pigments, it may be difficult to determine whether the reddish color is abnormal or not. Therefore, it is important to continue to monitor symptoms on suspect roses. On RRD infected plants, the reddish color does not go away, whereas on healthy plants, the reddish color usually disappears as the leaf matures. Witches' brooms on some diseased plants may be an unusual color of green that can be mistaken for symptoms of a nutrient deficiency. However, nutrient deficiency should affect the whole plant. If these symptoms appear only on parts of the plant, they are probably not due to nutrient deficiency, and RRD is more likely.

The witches' broom symptom itself is not necessarily diagnostic for rose rosette disease. This symptom can also occur in response to certain types of herbicide injury. For example, if glyphosate, the active ingredient of the herbicide Roundup, contacts green tissue of rose plants in the fall, it is translocated to the buds, and symptoms do not become evident until those buds emerge the following spring. Witches' brooms with yellow, narrow leaves on clusters of shoots are typical of glyphosate injury. The commonly used broadleaf herbicide 2,4-D can also cause leaf distortion on roses. Unless plants are injured again, symptoms of herbicide injury should disappear by the following year.

Symptoms that were undoubtedly due to rose rosette disease were described in the United States as early as 1941. Spread of the disease in the United States was intimately tied to the history of the multiflora rose, an exotic plant that was introduced from Japan in 1866 as a rootstock for ornamental roses. During the 1930's through 1960's, planting multiflora rose was recommended for erosion control, as a bird sanctuary and food source, as a living fence for cattle, for strip mine reclamation, and as a crash barrier on highways. This recommendation ultimately backfired. Multiflora rose can produce a million or more seeds per plant and can propagate itself vegetatively as well. It quickly spread and is now declared a noxious weed in several states.

Multiflora rose is highly susceptible to rose rosette disease, so much so that the disease was initially considered a potential biological control for multiflora rose. Even now, some people suggest introducing infected plants into areas with multiflora rose to control this weed. Most rose growers, however, are very wary of this recommendation because rose rosette disease can spread quickly from multiflora rose to cultivated roses.

Rose rosette disease is caused by a virus or virus-like pathogen yet to be characterized. Because the exact causal agent has not yet been identified, there is currently no laboratory test for confirming rose rosette disease. The disease is diagnosed based on a preponderance of characteristic symptoms or by grafting suspect plant material onto known healthy roses and demonstrating transmission of symptoms after a period of weeks to months.

The disease is known to be transmitted by the eriophyid mite *Phyllocoptes fructiphylus* or by grafting. The wild multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is very susceptible to the disease and is a common source of inoculum. Cultivated roses planted downwind of infected multiflora rose are especially at risk because the mite vector travels on wind currents from infected to healthy plants. Some growers have observed symptoms on previously healthy plants within four weeks of being planted downwind from diseased multiflora rose.

The causal agent of rose rosette disease is not soil-borne, so it is possible to successfully plant healthy roses in beds where diseased plants have been removed; however, the pathogen may persist in old root pieces that remain in the soil from previous diseased roses. If plants regrow from these old root pieces,

as multiflora rose is apt to do, they can serve as an inoculum source for healthy plants. Therefore, it is important to remove old plants thoroughly and ensure that infected plants are not allowed to regrow from old, infected root pieces. No effective control is available for rose rosette in existing, diseased rose plants, but the disease may be prevented from spreading to healthy plants by using a combination of the following approaches.

R. multiflora is the species that appears to be most susceptible to rose rosette disease. However, many species and selections of cultivated roses are also highly susceptible, and no cultivars have been proven to be resistant. It may be possible, through breeding techniques, to incorporate this mite resistance into cultivated roses in the future. In the meantime, it would be wise to assume that all cultivated roses are potentially susceptible to the disease and to be on the lookout for symptoms of rose rosette.

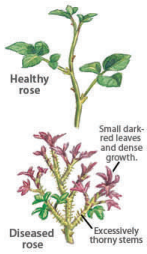
Early detection of the disease is the **key** to effective cultural control. **Any suspect roses should be removed and destroyed immediately** or monitored for continued symptoms and removed as soon as presence of RRD is ascertained. In some areas burning is permitted and can be used to destroy diseased plants. If burning is not allowed in your area, plants should be bagged and removed. Diseased plants that have been uprooted should not be allowed to remain in the vicinity of healthy roses as they can continue to serve as a source of inoculum.

If possible, *R. multiflora* plants, which frequently serve as the source of inoculum, should be eliminated from the immediate vicinity (100-meter radius) of rose gardens. Locations where individual multiflora rose plants have been removed should be monitored for regrowth and any regrowth should be removed and destroyed. To prevent infection of new transplants, avoid planting cultivated roses on hilltops or downwind of known multiflora rose plantings where the cultivated rose transplants are more susceptible to invasion by the mites. Space plants so that canes and leaves do not touch each other. Eriophyid mites do not have wings and must crawl from plant to plant. Proper spacing makes it more difficult for the mites to move within a planting.

Although there is no compound that will control the causal agent of rose rosette directly, effective control of mites with certain miticides can reduce the risk of spread. Be aware that miticides registered for control of spider mites do not control the eriophyid mites that transmit rose rosette disease. Some researchers have obtained reasonable control with Sevin; however, mites are very small and it can be difficult to get complete coverage. Also, use of Sevin to control eriophyid mites can lead to outbreaks of spider mites. The insecticide, Avid, is registered for control of both eriophyid and spider mites on roses.

Use of miticides in the absence of cultural controls is not recommended. One way to use a miticide as an additional tool in a control program is to focus sprays on plants that surround spots where diseased plants have been removed. These are the most likely plants to which mites from within a planting would have moved. Spraying every two weeks from April until September should significantly reduce the mite population and the risk of transmission. Additional sprays may be needed during hot, dry weather when eriophyid mites are most active. If you have a rose or many roses a careful eye will be needed to watch over them.

During a recent visit to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden we were informed that they have removed all the roses with symptoms of RRD. In 2005, RRD was first detected in the Cranford Rose Garden section with the witches' broom symptom. The beds were replanted with annuals and perennials. Beneficial insects were encouraged and attracted. The soil was amended with organic compost and manure.



Chinese Chestnut Weevil

The lesser chestnut weevil is more common than the larger chestnut weevil. These two weevils used to be much more common but with the passing of the American chestnut they have become less widespread.

Have you ever wondered how they get into the nut? The ¼" lesser chestnut adult weevil emerge from the ground beginning in May until June, about when the chestnuts bloom, but do not lay eggs until the fall. Egg laying begins when the nuts are nearly mature and most eggs are layed after the burr (outer bristly shell) begins to open. Eggs are usually laid in the downy inner lining of the brown shell covering the nut. Eggs hatch in about 10 days and larval development is completed 2-3 weeks later. Soon after the nut falls to the ground, the grubs chew a circular hole in the side of the nut to enter the soil. Many grubs can come from just one nut and just one exit hole. Most of the lesser chestnut weevil grubs overwinter the first year as grubs in the soil, pupate the following fall, and overwinter the following winter as adults. Some pass two winters in the grub stage and a third winter as adults before emerging from the ground. The life cycle is completed in 2-3 years.

Management of weevil infestations can be reduced by picking up chestnuts daily and after curing, heat them to 140°F for 30 minutes to kill the larvae in the nuts. A cold treatment of placing the nuts in the freezer at 0°F for four days may also be effective, but it may also affect the nut's flavor. Sanitation is important, always collect and destroy fallen nuts before the larvae have had a chance to escape and enter the soil. Only one insecticide, carbaryl (Sevin) is registered for use against chestnut weevils on chestnuts.

Compost Warning - Imprelis

If you are a composter and use your grass clippings, be aware of the following quote from the package label of the herbicide "Imprelis":

Do not use grass clippings from treated areas for mulching or compost, or allow for collection to composting facilities. Grass clippings must either be left on the treated area, or, if allowed by local yard waste regulations, disposed of in the trash. Applicators must give verbal or written notice to property owner/property manager/residents to not use grass clippings from treated turf for mulch or compost.

REMINDER: As of November 15th, residents cannot apply N or P fertilizer to their lawns until next Spring. Similarly, professional applicators of fertilizer have until December 1 to complete their customer service cycle of late fall N or P fertilization. Please recognize that other materials, K, lime, composts, etc. are still legal to apply after these dates.

Things to do in December

- Select a live or cut Christmas tree while the selection is good. Keep the tree outdoors until it is time to decorate it.
- Keep poinsettias out of cold drafts and away from heat sources. Place them where they will get as much light as possible.
- Popcorn and cranberry garlands are easy to make.
- Cover or move indoors any stone statuary to prevent frost cracks.
- Protect furniture from the sap of fresh, needled evergreen boughs when decorating for the holidays.
- Don't let dried evergreen decorations become a fire hazard.
- Trim an outdoor evergreen tree with treats for wildlife.
- If you're considering the native American holly for your landscape, please be advised that it will grow to 40-50 feet in height with a spread of 18-40 feet.
- Salt used to melt ice on sidewalks and driveways can damage plants and lawns.
- Begin planning your garden as the seed catalogs arrive in the mail. Try a few new plants next year.
- Evaluate your landscape. Plan to fill in gaps with appropriate plants in the spring.
- Gather holiday greens from your landscape but prune carefully. Spray the greens with an antidesiccant to retard water loss.
- After the ground freezes, mulch shrubs and perennials with straw, pine needles, or branches of the discarded Christmas tree to prevent heaving of the plants during periods of freezing and thawing.
- Rake up any leaves remaining on the lawn.
- Avoid walking on the lawn once the ground has frozen.
- Begin bringing in some bulbs potted for forcing. Put them in a cool location with bright light.
- Plant your live Christmas tree as soon as possible after Christmas.
- Feed the birds.
- Rotate houseplants to achieve even growth.
- Keep succulents and cacti on the dry side.
- Do not feed houseplants during the winter months and reduce the watering.
- Raise the humidity for your houseplants by grouping them together.
- Water houseplants with warm water. Keep your Christmas tree stand filled with water.
- Relax with a good gardening book.
- Plants make nice holiday gifts.
- Have a nice December!

Gardener's Checklist for January

- Cut up your Christmas tree and use branches as mulch over perennials and around shrubs.
- Feed and water birds regularly. Birds like suet, fruit, nuts and bread crumbs as well as bird seed.
- Move the most tender plants away from windows on cold nights.
- Your live Christmas tree should be put in a cool location for no more than a week before planting.
- Get caught up on your garden reading list and make plans for your spring and summer gardens.
- Inspect stored bulbs and discard those that are rotting.
- Salt on sidewalks and driveways can injure nearby lawns and plants. Try sawdust or sand instead. Cat litter works well if you haven't obtained the less expensive materials.
- Mealy bugs on house plants can be killed by touching them with cotton dipped in alcohol.
- Economical "sticky stakes" for trapping whiteflies and aphids can be made by cutting bright-yellow cardboard or plastic, such as recycled bottles or margarine tubs, into strips. Coat with petroleum jelly and insert into pots or hang near problem areas.
- Inspect perennial beds for heaved plants during warm periods. Mulch around heaved plants. Don't push them into the soil! Dig and replant them in the spring.
- Your local deli or fast food restaurant often has surplus 5-gallon plastic buckets. This is good for growing containerized plants and for general use in the garden.
- Start forcing shrubs indoors.
- Limit traffic over dormant lawns as grass is easily broken and the crown may be severely damaged or killed.
- Check germination of leftover seeds.
- As you look through seed catalogs, choose disease-resistant varieties. They make gardening easier and they reduce the expense of pesticides. Some mail order seed companies offer pelletized seeds of lettuce, carrot, and a few other small-seeded crops. Pelletized seeds have a special coating to make them larger and easier to handle.
- One way to file seeds as they come in the mail is to use index card tabs to divide a cardboard file box into categories for each vegetable or flower. As new seeds arrive, place them alphabetically into the proper slot. Drop notes into the file to remind yourself what is on order to avoid duplication.
- Remove bagworms from evergreens.
- Buy yourself a new house plant. The *Hedera helix*, English Ivy is the only ivy that will survive indoors. Its leaves will grow in fair light or a north or east window. Provide constant moisture to prevent leaf drop. Ivy tolerates drafts near doors.
- Consider using ferns in shady areas of your landscape this year.
- How energy efficient is your landscape? Do you have evergreen trees or shrubs blocking a window where the sun's warmth would be welcome now? Consider replacing them with a deciduous plant that would let sun in during the winter but cast cooling shade in the summer.
- When dusting the furniture, consider washing the dust from your houseplants.
- Paint the handles of garden tools red or orange. This will preserve the wood and make the tools easier to locate in the garden.
- Perform a soil test. The pH scale ranges from 1-14 with 7 being the point of a neutral reaction. The majority of plants, including vegetables, grow in soils with a slightly acid reaction, a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. One exception are the ericaceous plants which include azaleas, rhododendrons, andromedas and blueberries. They require a more acid soil with a pH of 4.5 to 5.5.
- Wood ashes will raise soil pH. Use them only if the pH is less than 7.0 based on a soil test. The safe rate of wood ash application to lawn or gardens is 15 to 20 lbs. per 1000 square feet per year. Remember, a little wood ash is beneficial, but a lot is not.
- The flower for January is the carnation.
- *Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!*

Gardener's Checklist for February

Here's a list for your monthly job jar:

- Have your lawn mower and rototiller serviced.
- Take stock of leftover seeds. Get them organized and do some germination testing if they're more than a few years old or if storage conditions have not been cool and dry. Even under ideal storage conditions, some vegetable seeds have a fairly short life and probably will not be good one or two years after purchase. These include sweet corn, onion, and parsnip.
- Purchase new cool-white fluorescent bulbs for your indoor grow lights.
- 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. Remember that plants require water during the winter to replace water lost due to wind desiccation and lack of rain or snow.
- Make final plans for the annual and vegetable gardens and get the seeds ordered soon. A frequently overlooked factor in vegetable garden planning is the date of the family vacation. Choose planting dates and varieties carefully, so your garden won't be ready for a full harvest when you are out of town.
- Look for sales on fertilizer, seed starting supplies, tools and organic mulches.
- Get your hand tools organized and sharpened. Check the handles on shovels and hoes to make sure they're firmly attached.
- 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. For something unique to force for winter flower arrangements, consider red maple, buckeye, birch, hickory, larch or oak branches.
- Repot your houseplants. Check them closely for insects.
- Plan a perennial border. Particularly good choices for a cutting garden are daisy, dahlia, aster, gladiolus and lily.
- Mulch perennials that have been heaved from the soil. Replant them in the spring.
- Miniature roses can be a colorful addition to your landscape. They range from pure white to golden yellow to dark red. They grow well on containers and planters, or they can be used as a low-growing border or mixed in beds/borders with other perennials.
- Make labels for your spring garden. Plastic milk jugs or bleach bottles cut in strips 1" by 6 to 7" work well. Use permanent ink markers to write on them.
- Continue to feed the birds.
- Have you had a soil sample analyzed within the past few years? Soil sampling packets are available at your local Extension office.
- Give a living plant as a present for Valentine's Day.
- If you're anxious to get some seeds started, plant onion and leek seeds indoors anytime this month.
- The flower of the month is the violet.
- *Get ready for spring! It will be here next month.*

Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 19	How to Hire a Tree Care Professional
Fact Sheet 34	Build Bird next Boxes
Fact Sheet 35	Build Brush Piles for Wildlife
Fact Sheet E60	Indoor Care of Christmas Trees
Fact Sheet 74	Backyard Leaf Composting
Fact Sheet 117	Using Leaf Compost
Fact Sheet 128	Forcing hardy bulbs indoors
Fact Sheet E271	Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance
Fact Sheet E272	Weed Management in Ornamental Plantings
Fact Sheet 389	Minimizing Waste Disposal: Grass Clippings
Fact Sheet 396	Rabbits in the Vegetable Garden
Fact Sheet 399	Vole Ecology and Management
Fact Sheet 449	Caring for Your Poinsettias
Fact Sheet 797	Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens
Fact Sheet 805	Vermicomposting
Fact Sheet 811	Home Composting
Fact Sheet 849	Cover Crops and Green Manure
Fact Sheet 930	Natural Pest Control
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and Their Care
Fact Sheet 988	Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 1022	Backyard Birdfeeders
Fact Sheet 1118	Rain Barrels Part 2: Installation and Use
Fact Sheet 1150	African Violet Care
Fact Sheet 1151	Hollies for New Jersey
Fact Sheet 1154	Orchids on the Windowsill
Fact Sheet 1156	Keeping Geraniums Over Winter
Fact Sheet 1163	Mail Order Vegetable Seed Sources for the NJ Gardener

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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Internet: wkline@NJAES.rutgers.edu

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

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332-9791

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2012 Cumberland County Master Gardener Program
Read Chapter 16 before class

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION	READING
January 10	Landscaping Design	Ken Taft	Extension Education Center	Chapter 17
January 17	Indoor Plants	Viola Carson	Extension Education Center	Chapter
January 24	Managing Insect & Disease Problems Starts with a Good Diagnosis	Jim Johnson	Extension Education Center	Chapter 21
January 31	Native Plants and Butterflies	Kim Conner	Extension Education Center	Chapter 8
February 7	Soil & Fertilizer	Bill Bamka	Extension Education Center	Chapter 12 & 13 pg.1 to 13 Quiz
February 14	Tree Fruit & Grapes	Jerry Frecon	Extension Education Center	Chapter 6
February 21	Basic Entomology & IPM	Joe Mahar	Extension Education Center	Chapter 10
February 28	Vegetable Garden & Weed Management	Wes Kline	Extension Education Center	Chapter 9 pgs 1-14
March 6	Turf Culture	Steve Rettke	Extension Education Center	Chapter 9 Pgs 15-19
March 13	Turf Pest Problems	Steve Rettke	Extension Education Center	Chapter 20 Quiz
March 20	Garden Animals: Friends & Foes	Dee Johnson Viola Carson	Extension Education Center	Chapter 14
March 27	Pruning	Nancy Walsh	Extension Education Center	Chapter 13

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION	READING
April 3	Small Fruit	Shirley Kline	Extension Education Center	Chapter 18
April 10	Woody Ornamentals	Nancy Walsh	Extension Education Center	Chapter 7
April 17	Plant Diseases	Andy Wyenandt	Extension Education Center	Chapter 5 Quiz
April 24	Pesticides: What You Need to Know	Pat Hastings	Extension Education Center	Chapter 21& Fact Sheet 513
May 1	Rain Garden	Sal Mangiafico	Extension Education Center	Fact Sheet 780 & 900
May 8	Mosquitoes & Ticks	Heather Lomberk	Extension Education Center	Chapter 19
May 15	Herbaceous Plants	Lorraine Kieffer	**Triple Oaks Nursery, Franklinville**	Chapter 4 **Take home Test**
May 22	Propagation	Viola Carson	Extension Education Center	**Collect Test**
May 29	Master Gardener Awards Luncheon	11:00am	Extension Education Center	

Master Gardeners 2006-2010 please register for continued education

All adults 18 years old and up are welcome to join us by the class - $20.00

Pesticide credits available on highlights dates - $20.00

Call to register 451-2800 ext. 4 Monday-Fri 8:30-4:30