



“What’s Growing On...”

Volume 15 Number 1 Spring 2012 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 p.m. announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

The Master Gardeners will be available at the Extension Office Tuesday through Friday to answer your gardening questions. They will be answering questions from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at 856-451-2800 x4 starting April 15th through October 15th.

FROM THE DESK OF VIOLA CARSON

What a great winter! I loved shoveling the sunshine. Unless March hits us with a snow storm we got away pretty easy.

Saturday, May 5th the Cumberland County Master Gardeners will be having their annual plant sale at the Eco Fair held at beautiful WheatonArts. This year they will have information on the early butterflies of April and May. We have a children’s table planned. Master Gardeners will have Ramapo tomato plants, herbs, vegetables and flowers for sale, and several kinds of geraniums and our favorite perennials potted up, labeled and ready.

I have some plant lists in the newsletter this season that attract the early butterflies. They drink the tree sap from spring flowering trees and rotting fruit. As gardeners, we plan for something to bloom throughout the season but this is also good for the butterflies and pollinators. Plant your gardens to extend the season for a steady supply of food for them. They will reward us with their beauty.



2012 National Garden Bureau Year of the Geranium

The bedding plants that are planted in the spring and are brought inside in autumn are commonly known as geraniums; but this is not so. They are pelargoniums. The true geraniums are the cranesbills, hardy North American and European herbaceous perennials; while pelargoniums are semi-tender or tender plants, mostly from South Africa, that we have grown and loved for their large flowers for many years.

Back in the 17th century botany wasn't an exact science. When the first geraniums and pelargoniums were introduced based on the shape of their fruit, plant collectors generally lumped both together as "geraniums". Scientific names give individuals a common language by which they can communicate with other people, no matter the country they are from or language they speak.

In 1753, Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, placed all geraniums and pelargonium plant species in the genus *Geranium*. A few years later, French botanist, L'Hertier, noting that some geranium species of plants were so distinct that they should be in a different genus, formally transferred them from geranium to pelargonium. However, for reasons unknown, this change in names was not accepted by all botanists and garden writers. A theory exists, that H.C. Andrews, a garden writer and illustrator in the early 1800's, rejected the name pelargonium in his book on geraniums, thus firmly attaching the name *Geranium* to all members of the family leaving us all confused to this day. Simply put, we have four geraniums-hardy perennial, zonal, scented and ivy geraniums.

Pelargoniums were discovered in South Africa and quickly gained acceptance in England in the 17th century. First came the fragrant geraniums, collected by the German-born Dutch botanist; second came the ivy geranium introduced to the Netherlands in 1700's, and finally our familiar zonal geranium entered in 1774 in England. But it wasn't until 1786, when Thomas Jefferson shipped the plant from France to noted Philadelphia horticulturalist, John Bartram, that the geranium finally got the attention of gardeners in America.

Traditionally, geraniums were grown from cuttings. However, since they are subject to bacterial disease, and cuttings can transmit such disease, methods have been developed for propagating geraniums from seed. In 1962, Dr. Richard Craig of Penn State, in developing a technique for seed scarification or nicking the seed, bred the first commercially successful open pollinated, seed-propagated geranium; Nittany Lion Red, a bright red geranium with single flowers. Later, due to a vegetative breeding, another breakthrough was the crossing of the zonal or common geranium with the ivy geranium. It offers vivid colors, tremendous branching and improved disease resistance.

Look for geraniums this spring at your favorite garden center. They need 4-6 hours of sunlight and well drained garden soil. Plant geraniums at the same level as they were growing in the pot, mulch lightly. Dead-head spent flowering stems to keep flowers coming on. Pinch stems to prevent the plant from getting leggy. Geraniums are heavy feeders. Mix 5-10-5 in the soil at time of planting and then feed once a month with a water soluble fertilizer. Time release fertilizer is also good. Water geraniums early in the day when there is no rain. The leaves have to dry before nighttime. This will help prevent disease problems.

I always have at least one potted geranium. Make sure the potting mix is well drained and has a drainage hole in the bottom of the pot. Water well, then allow to dry. Do not allow pot to sit in water or you will have root rot. If planting several in a bed, space them out to allow good air movement.

Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)

Rue is growing in the Extension Center Butterfly garden. This year at WheatonArts Eco Fair, the Master Gardeners will be selling rue that was started from seed. I have watched swallowtail butterfly caterpillars enjoying the leaves for many summers. Rue is a sun-loving hardy evergreen perennial.

Does Rue have any other uses; can it be used in cooking? Definitely not! However, it is a good insect repellent; repelling moths, flies and fleas. It is grown as a host plant for butterflies and for its decorative foliage. It has aromatic blue-green color and deeply cut lacy fern-like leaves. Some people are sensitive to the stem sap and may get a rash. Rue grows 1½ to 3 feet tall. The yellow button flowers bloom in clusters in early summer to midsummer.

Rue leaves can be harvested several times a year before the flower forms. Rue water was sprayed around the house to kill fleas in times past. It was also placed or grown near stables or around manure piles to repel flies. It can be dried and put in small bags to keep moths from woolens.

For organic gardens, plant rue near roses and raspberries to deter Japanese beetles. But keep away from basil.

For people who dye yarn or material, the roots of rue mixed with alum will produce a rose dye.

The Greeks believed that rue stolen from a neighbor's yard did better than a plant acquired honestly. Rue's round-lobed leaves inspired the symbol for the suit of clubs.

Spring Butterflies and Plants They Love

In New Jersey there are four butterflies that winter over as adults: Morning Cloak, Question Mark, Eastern Comma, and Compton Tortoiseshell. Many others winter here but as eggs, caterpillars or in a chrysalis.

In March and April, when the weather warms and gardeners begin to go outdoors, they should be on the lookout for these butterflies, as well as the two early butterflies: the American Lady and the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.

This information is compiled in the New Jersey Audubon Society's "Recommended Plantings to Attract Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Moths", by Patricia Sutton. Planting nectar and host plants that flower from spring until fall insures food for them through their whole life cycle.

The following perennials and annuals that bloom early would be a good place to look for the early butterflies:

Bleeding Heart	Clover	Wild Columbine
Coral-bells	Coreopsis, Lance-leaved	Dandelion
Delphinium/Larkspur	Fuschia	Wild Geranium
Lantana	Weeping Lantana	Lupine
Foxglove Beard Tongue	Pentas/Egyptian Star Cluster	Pinks
Queen Anne's Lace		

Flowering vines:

Japanese Honeysuckle	Trumpet (Coral) Honeysuckle
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Early Blooming shrubs:

Azaleas	Beach Plum	Blueberries
Butterfly Bush	Huckleberry	Lilac
NJ Tea	Flowering Quince	Sand Myrtle

Flowering trees that bloom early:

Black Locust	Red Maple	Tulip Tree
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Host Plants needed for egg laying:

Pearly Everlasting-American Lady	Sweet Everlasting-American Lady
Nettles-Eastern Comma & Question mark	Hops/Common Hop Vine-Question Mark & Eastern Comma

Spring Lawn Care for Cool Season Grasses

Set your appearance standard for the lawn. Do you want a perfect lawn? Or is a green living mixture of vegetation ok with you?

Set your maintenance standard for the lawn. Are you a High, Medium, or Low maintenance lawn person?

Zoysia, a warm season grass is maintained differently. Call and ask for FS 521.

We live in grass zone # 6, the humid Northeast, which supports Kentucky bluegrass, bents, Chewing fescues, improved turf type tall fescues, and improved perennial ryegrasses.

Re-seed damaged or bare spots that may be present in the lawn. Small spots can be sodded or over-seeded early. Save large-scale renovation for the fall because it is less stressful on young grass plants. If re-seeding now, baby it along.

Have a soil test done early in the spring as soon as the soil is frost-free. For high maintenance lawns, fertilize in spring and late May. For medium maintenance lawns fertilize in mid-May or not at all. On low maintenance lawns don't fertilize in the spring at all. Lime according to soil test results.

Crabgrass preventative materials are applied by mid-April. Dense turf will not harbor crabgrass. If there are only a few bare spots, these controls are not needed.

Aerate before applications of lime, fertilizer, or weed preventers or killers. These applications are best in late summer, but may be done in spring. De-thatch if lawn has over $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of thatch, but this is best done in late summer or fall. What you can do is spread a thin layer of compost over the lawn as a top dressing. This encourages the earthworms to come to the surface and eat your thatch.

Mow as often as necessary but remove no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade, cut to a height of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in spring, 3 inches in summer.

Water in early morning to reduce the time the grass blades are wet. Deep and infrequent watering helps reduce disease problems, 1" per week on sandy soil. Water deep and infrequently to develop a deep root system. A rain gauge set out in the yard will let you know how many inches of rain fell on your property. Then just make up the difference yourself. If water is applied shallow and often you will be growing grass with a shallow root system that will stress out very quickly when the summer heat comes along.



Winter Bloomers-Witch Hazel

Witch Hazels are an under used plant. They bloom when we are indoors dodging the cold. They have warm flower colors of red, bronze, gold and yellow. There are many cultivars with larger and showier flowers than the next, and since this year has been warmer, the early bloomers are getting noticed.

Swarthmore College has a Witch Hazel *Hamamelis* tour in February. Visit botanical gardens and nurseries in winter, to compare different Witch Hazel. A 2" picture in a book doesn't do it justice. Some of our local nurseries; like Fairweather Gardens and Triple Oaks Nursery, carry them.

Where else can you find a large shrub to small tree with a fragrant flower borne on bare stems in winter and beautiful fall color?

There are several types, sizes and colors to choose from. *Hamamelis vernalis*, Vernal Witchhazel, grows from 6-10' tall and just as wide with yellow to red flowers. *Hamamelis Virginia*, Common Witchhazel, grows 20-30' tall with yellow flowers. *Hamamelis mollis*, Chinese Witchhazel, grows 10-15' tall with yellow flowers and rich red-brown calyx cups. *Hamamelis japonica*, Japanese Witchhazel, grows 10-15' tall with yellow flowers. There are also dwarf varieties available and many crosses that are too many to mention.

Some other early bloomers are Daphne, Edgeworthia, Mahonia, Winter blooming Camelia and Winter Sweet.



Weed Management in the Vegetable Garden

From Shirley Kline's talk "Growing Your Own Vegetables"

Use several layers of wet newspaper around your newly transplanted plants. Cover the newspaper with mulch to retain moisture and keep newspaper in place. This will give good season-long control by excluding light from weed seeds.

Types of mulch to use are course compost, leaves or straw.



Rose Cankers

Rose cankers appear any time of year, but especially when the plants are under stress. Three canker diseases (brown canker, stem or common canker and brand canker) are common and are generally confused with weather injury or other problems. Cane infections may approach 100% (all canes infected) where control measures are not practiced. Identifying particular canker species is not important, but it is important to identify a problem as a canker. The first symptoms are small, roundish lesions in the canes; the spots are pale yellow, reddish, or bluish purple. They gradually enlarge, turn brown or grayish white (often with a darker margin), and may partially or completely girdle the cane. Complete girdling results in dieback or poor growth of the plant parts above the affected areas. Cankered areas are sprinkled with black, speck-sized, fungus-fruiting bodies. When left unchecked, infections may spread downward into the crown, causing entire rose plants to wilt, wither and die. Infection occurs chiefly through a wide variety of wounds, including thorn abrasions. Infections may also occur on the leaves and flowers.

Management of rose cankers starts with good sanitation. Prune the canes now and in early spring according to the type and cultivar grown. For example, it is important to leave shrub rose stems intact as long as possible, deferring pruning until spring. Remove and burn or haul away with the trash all infected, dead and weak parts of canes, as well as infected leaves, flowers, buds and hips. When pruning cankerous stems, cut back to a strongly growing shoot or branch at least 2 to 3 inches below any sign of infection. Some suggest that pruners be disinfected between cuts, but that can be quite time consuming and possibly unnecessary. Prune in dry weather and disinfect pruners at least between plants. Use sharp tools to make clean, slanting pruning cuts no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ " above a node.

New plants should be only top-quality, disease-free plants from a reputable nursery. The plants should be free of cane bruises or colored spots. Bargain roses are often infected when purchased. Maintain plants in high vigor by proper planting, spacing, fertilizing, watering, winter protection and thorough spraying with fungicides. Start as the buds break open in the spring and continue at 7- to 10-day intervals into September or early October. The fungicides that control black spot usually control cankers as well, so no additional spraying is required. Adding a spreader sticker material to the spray helps wet the canes for better protection.



Rutgers Dogwood



Rutgers University's Dr. Elwin Orton has spent over 40 years breeding plants for improved qualities, first with hollies, then with dogwoods. Dr. Orton has developed a world-wide reputation for his efforts in plant breeding and has received over 20 awards from garden clubs, horticultural groups, nurseries, plant breeding societies and landscaping associations for his outstanding work.

Serious problems with the native American dogwood

During the 1970's native American dogwoods, *Cornus florida*, were under serious attack from insects and diseases and the future of dogwoods used by landscapers was in jeopardy. Of concern was widespread infection of dogwood anthracnose that resulted in extensive damage to trees in both native woodlands and with ornamental dogwoods. Additionally, the dogwood borer was causing serious problems to the health of the American dogwood.

To address concerns for use of dogwoods in landscapes, Dr. Orton had a plan to cross-breed the native American dogwood tree with the hardier Asian species, *Cornus kousa*, commonly called Kousa dogwoods, producing a new and unique hybrid tree. As a result of this strategy, along with Dr. Orton's plant breeding skills and patience, he was rewarded with a much improved dogwood tree. Actually, it took Dr. Orton a quarter of a century of evaluating experimental hybrid trees in various climates, retesting new hybrid trees with old standard dogwoods, and reconfirming performance before the first series of Rutgers dogwoods reached the market in the early 1990's.

Disease resistant dogwoods to the rescue

The first commercially available varieties released from Dr. Orton's improved hybrid dogwood breeding program were named the "Stellar Series" which included the highly popular "Stellar Pink" variety. Each variety in the "Stellar Series" - "Stellar Pink", "Aurora", "Constellation", "Celestial", "Stardust", and "Ruth Ellen" - has distinct traits such as growth habit, flower shape, size, and color; hardiness; and significantly improved disease resistant.

Dr. Orton's varieties rejuvenate the commercial dogwood nursery industry

The release of the "Stellar Series" provided dogwood varieties to the landscape industry that were found to be highly resistant to the dogwood borer, while displaying significantly improved resistance to powdery mildew and dogwood anthracnose. With the availability of the "Stellar Series" dogwood, nurseries immediately embraced Dr. Orton's new varieties which provided commercial dogwood nurseries unique varieties that were greatly improved compared to the native American dogwood.

Vigorous growth and large flowers attract attention

In addition to the "Stellar Series", Dr. Orton continued his research and hybridization to improve commercial dogwood trees. Cross-breeding with the Kousa dogwood and *Cornus nuttalli* produced, after years of hybridization and field testing, the hybrid "Jersey Star" series of varieties that were commercially released in 2004, the first two new varieties being "Venus" and "Starlight". These new varieties are extraordinarily robust and are distinguished by very attractive large white flowers.

Using Vines to Shade

A call came into the Extension Office for a list of vines that could be used to shade windows on the sunny side of a restaurant and it would be good if they were edible. Netting was going to be used for support.

Here is what we found out:

- ◆ Hyacinth Bean is pretty and has purple beans
- ◆ Cardinal Flower is red with fern-like leaves that draw hummingbirds
- ◆ Clematis has big showy flowers
- ◆ Moon Flower blooms at night
- ◆ Passion Flower is exotic and attracts butterflies
- ◆ Coral Honeysuckle also attracts butterflies
- ◆ Cucumber beans and gourds also vine



It is not recommended to use vines like wisteria as they will need substantial support. Morning glories would be nice as they return every year on their own.

Having a curtain of leaves to shade an east or south facing window would block out direct sunlight.



ECO Fair 2012

ECO FAIR: Saturday, May 5th

Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ

Admission: Free

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

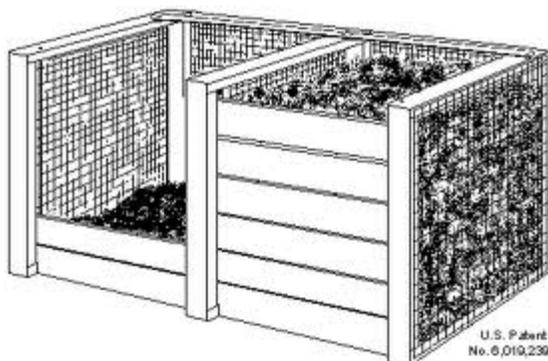


You will receive up-to-date information, ideas, resources, products, and motivation to live more sustainably. Master Gardeners will have their yearly plant sale with many new and exciting plants.

Be sure to visit the eco craft table for the children, and our rain garden to learn how you can capture water and select plants to filter the water.

A sustainable lifestyle fits with the cycles of nature, has a sound economic base, and respects human, animal and plant life. Sustain means to hold up, to give support, to supply with sustenance, and to nourish. Backyard composting is the very essence of this. Reducing, reusing, recycling all takes thought. If we think sustainable and live sustainable we will leave the world a better place for future generations. Come see what we are doing at WheatonArts.

"Living Green" is another term which simply means making daily choices that enhance, rather than just reduce the impact on our environment. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly 16% of the waste in landfills is made up of yard waste. Yard waste is second only to paper products in the amount of waste that goes to landfills. Over 6.7% of municipal solid waste that is taken to landfills is food waste. These yard clippings and food waste can easily be composted. Every year, each person throws away 1200 pounds of organic garbage. This can all be composted to improve our soil and make humus. More than half of the trash a family throws away every year is organic. Be sure to stop by the composting area at WheatonArts. There are several different composting units on display.



Things to do in March

Spring is almost here! After this dreary winter, I'm ready for some nice weather. Here's a list of tasks for the month:

- Till or turn the vegetable garden soil when it's at the proper moisture level. FS129
- Add lime to lawns and gardens only when a soil test recommends it. FS797
- Sow seeds of dahlia, snapdragon, verbena and leaf lettuce indoors.
- Use dormant oils to combat scale insects and mites when the temperature is above 40°F and when freezing temperatures are not predicted for a few days before the buds begin to open. FS866
- For a full-sun border, try mixing colors of perennial coneflower and Shasta daisy with annual globe amaranth. Place the taller coneflower toward the rear of the bed and Shasta daisy toward the front with the globe amaranth mixed in between.
- Rake and remove debris from the lawn when it's dry, have lawn mower serviced and blades sharpened.
- Fertilize your lawn. Call the Extension office at 451-2800 x4 for a fact sheet. FS633
- Remove dead asparagus shoots from last year's growth. NE221
- If you want to raise fruit in your garden, try grapes, raspberries, or strawberries. It is much less difficult to succeed with them than with tree fruits, and you'll get much faster results. FS214 , 97 & 98
- Submit a soil sample for testing to determine how much lime and fertilizer your lawn and garden areas will need. Soil sampling packets with instructions are available at the Extension Office for \$20.00 for full analysis or \$3.00 for pH level testing. FS797
- Prune grapes, raspberries, blueberries, fruit trees and summer-flowering shrubs early in the month when the temperature is above freezing.
- Remove black knot fungus 18" below the growth on cherry, peach and plum trees.
- 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.
- Watch for sale prices on fertilizers and pre-emergent crabgrass killer.
- Cut back the dried foliage of ornamental grasses.
- Sow grass seed as soon as possible. FS584
- Particularly good choices for your cutting garden are phlox, daisy, dahlia, cosmos, aster, gladiolus and lily.
- Start broccoli, cabbage and other cabbage-family crops indoors by the middle of the month. They should be planted outdoors between the middle and end of April.
- Check stored bulbs, tubers and corms. Discard any that are soft or diseased.
- Many herbs including chives, parsley and thyme are also well-suited to baskets.
- Plant pea and spinach seeds and onion, shallot and garlic sets on St. Patrick's day, weather permitting.
- Branches of forsythia, 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.
- Late winter is the time to prune many deciduous trees. Look over your plants now and remove dead, dying, unsightly parts of the tree, sprouts growing at or near the base of the tree trunk, crossed branches and V-shaped crotches.
- Repot and begin fertilizing houseplants, woody plants and fruit trees.
- Purchase new 40 watt, cool white fluorescent bulbs for starting your seedlings. Check seedling requirements. Tomatoes need 16 hours of light.
- Keep the bird feeder filled.
- Enjoy the early spring season!



Gardener's Checklist for April



This is the first month for serious outdoor gardening! Check out the tasks below:

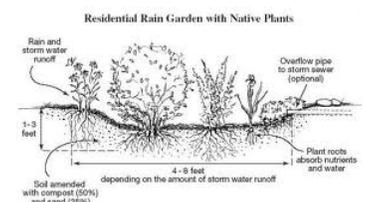
- Seed bare spots in the lawn early in the month. FS584 and 108
- Prune ornamental grasses.
- Prune your roses, except for the climbing varieties. FS944
- Remove the winter mulch from roses after the middle of the month. FS 944
- Follow Extension's fruit spray schedules. FS 101, 112, 113, 114, 115 and 116
- Divide summer and fall-blooming perennials.
- Rake winter debris from your lawn before mowing.
- Apply dormant oil sprays for insect control when the temperature will be above freezing for 24 hours.
- Start celosia, cosmos, marigold, annual phlox and zinnia seeds indoors at mid-month.
- Are those swarming insects termites or ants? Can you tell the difference? FS338
- Apply pre-emergent crabgrass killer when forsythia is in full bloom.
- Fertilize established trees and shrubs. FS31
- Harden-off or condition transplants prior to moving them to the garden. Plant cabbage, broccoli and collards the third week.
- Direct seed beets, carrots, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, bok choy and radishes around the middle of the month. FS562
- Plant strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus and small fruit plants as early in the month as possible.
- Plant gladiolus corms.
- Plant daylilies, delphiniums, painted daises and phlox.
- Remove spent flowers from spring flowering bulbs. Fertilize with 5-10-10 at 2 lbs. per 100 square feet.
- Sharpen the lawn mower blade. Mow the lawn no shorter than 2 1/2". FS119
- Sow hardy annual flowers like calendula, clarkia, larkspur and sweet pea.
- Turn the compost pile and keep it moist. FS74 and 117
- Protect well-developed strawberry buds from frost injury by applying straw mulch when freezing temperatures are forecasted.
- Start eggplant, pepper and tomato seeds indoors. FS787
- Do not fertilize newly planted trees or shrubs.
- Prune early Spring-flowering shrubs immediately after flowering and before new growth begins.
- *Have a great April!*

Gardener's Checklist for May

Gardening gets into full swing this month! Here's a list for your monthly job jar:

- Eco Fair, May 5th at WheatonArts, 10-5:00. Free Admission. Food, music, green vendors and info.
- Mow the lawn at a height of 2½ to 3" while never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. Leave clippings on the ground.
- Your lawn needs one inch of water per week. FS829
- Apply broad-leaf herbicides to control weeds in the lawn. FS119
- Check your lawn insect pests and apply the correct control according to label directions. FS814
- Remove seed stalks from rhubarb as soon as you see them. Harvest rhubarb through early June.
- Harvest mature asparagus beds for 6 to 8 weeks only.
- Lift and divide old chrysanthemum plants or set out new plants purchased or grown from cuttings. Pinch back mums when they are about six inches tall for bushier plants.

- Remove daffodil and tulip flowers as they fade. Leave the foliage in place until it turns brown and dies.
- Plant dahlia and canna tubers mid to late May.
- Control euonymus scale now before their hard shells form.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after the flowers fade.
- 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.
- 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.
- Time to plant caladium tubers, impatiens, coleus, begonias and pentas in shady areas.
- Replace mulch materials in flower beds and borders to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth.
- Prune climbing roses as they complete their spring bloom season. Remove dead or weak wood as needed.
- Take a critical look at your landscape while at the height of summer development. Make notes of how you think it can be better arranged, plants that need replacement, overgrown plants that need to be removed and possible activity areas that can be enjoyed by family members.
- Use the right tool for the job and make sure each is in top working condition. A sharp edger makes short work of edging walkways and borders, whereas a dull one can double your time and make it look like a bad haircut.
- Transplant on cloudy days and make sure you keep the delicate, exposed roots of your seedlings and plants protected from drying out.
- Harvest some of your well-rotted compost to make high grade soil for your transplants. Make compost teas and give a good drink to your young plants after transplanting. Use it immediately. It doesn't keep.
- If you see pests on shrubs or plants, eliminate now. If you aren't familiar with the bug you see, bring it to the Extension Office.
- Geraniums that weathered the winter indoors need to be cut back and repotted with new soil or have some good compost worked in.
- Put markers out for your plants. Often late maturing plants are forgotten and dug up inadvertently which can sometimes destroy them.
- Remove and destroy bagworms from trees and shrubs.
- Stay on top of the weeds by pulling them as soon as you see them, once a week, or after a rain.
- Once there is no threat of frost, usually by mid-May, tender plants such as tomatoes, corn, peppers, egg-plant and vine crops can be planted outdoors.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the harvest.
- Thin seedlings of early planted crops to spacing specified on seed packet or plant tag.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach and lettuce.
- Scope out a spot in the yard to start a compost pile.
- Research rain barrels to help save on water bills and protect plants during periods of drought.
- Plan a rain garden for a low spot in your yard that will allow storm water to infiltrate slowly into the ground rather than running off into the nearest storm drain.
- Lime may be applied during the early spring months according to soil test recommendations.
- Keep compost bins covered to prevent over saturation and leaching of nutrients from the compost.
- Work rotted manure or compost into vegetable and flower beds. Never add fresh manure to vegetable beds in the spring.
- Fertilize your vegetable garden. FS626
- *Have a magnificent May!*



Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 31	How to fertilize shade trees
Fact Sheet 74	Backyard Leaf composting
Fact Sheet 97	Strawberries in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 98	Strawberries in the Home Garden II
Fact Sheet 101	Bramble Pest Control Schedule for Home Gardens
Fact Sheet 108	Renovating your lawn
Fact Sheet 112	Apple Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 113	Peach and Nectarine Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 114	Pear Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 115	Cherry Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 116	Plum Pest Control Schedule for New Jersey Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 117	Using leaf compost
Fact Sheet 119	Weed control in home lawns
Fact Sheet 129	Planning a vegetable garden
Fact Sheet 214	Raspberries in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet NE221	Asparagus tips for the home gardener
Fact Sheet 338	Subterranean termites
Fact Sheet 562	Growing beets and carrots in the home garden
Fact Sheet 584	Seeding your lawn
Fact Sheet 626	Fertilizing the home vegetable garden
Fact Sheet 633	Fertilizing the home lawn
Fact Sheet 787	Starting Vegetable Seeds indoors
Fact Sheet 797	Soil testing for home lawns and gardens
Fact Sheet 814	Managing diseases of landscape turf
Fact Sheet 829	How to Protect Water Quality and Have a beautiful lawn
Fact Sheet 866	Using horticultural oils
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and their care

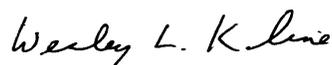
Call 856/451-2800 x4 ask for Viola Carson. When calling to request a fact sheet refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name. All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted.

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

Sincerely,



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