



# “What’s Growing On...”

Volume 15 Number 2 Summer 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 through October 15th.

## FROM THE DESK OF VIOLA CARSON

In May we planted our gardens and in June, we watch them grow. What was our inspiration for the colors chosen? Do they go well with our house color? Does our landscape have rhythm?

Spring is when many annuals and perennials are planted in among beds and borders. The perennial border should be viewed from the long side. It is more forgiving for the empty holes from perennial flowers fading while others grow up to take their place.

Arrange herbaceous plants in balanced groupings in rhythmic design patterns having complementary scale, color and texture compositions. Depth is achieved with plant texture. Fine leaved, tall plants growing in the back with large leaved foliage in the foreground will give depth and distance. Light colored leaves and flowers come forward and dark ones push back. Tall and spreading plants or flat topped plants give vertical and horizontal lines. The plants must be grouped according to sun and shade needs. There is a lot to think about. With all the height, spread, push and pull our garden song should be restful. Bright colors should be added only for accent and other bold colors can be toned down with paler colors, grays and whites.

My cousin, Kendra, sent me pictures from her trip to France. In one picture there were flowers of lime green, red and peach. What a surprising beautiful color combination. I am using this as my inspiration for the annuals I buy this year. Find your inspiration colors, and watch them grow.



## Cedar Apple Rust



This is an interesting disease. It needs two hosts, apple and cedar, and alternates between the two to complete its life cycle. If either host is absent, the fungus cannot spread and will eventually die.

On apple, and also on crabapple, hawthorn and quince the leaves will have pale yellow spots in mid to late summer that enlarge and turn orange develop tiny brown or black spots on the under-sides of leaves and drop early. Fruit has yellow spots, can be deformed and may fall early. The fungi live for one season in the foliage of a broadleaf host.

On cedars, during rainy weather, yellow, gelatinous, finger-shaped bodies protrude from the galls and swollen twigs. They contain fungal spores. These spores make more spores and then are blown around by the wind to alternate broadleaf hosts. They live in cedars for two or more seasons. No serious harm results normally to the coniferous hosts from the presence of the rust fungi.

This fungal disease overwinters as a gall on juniper trees. The Eastern Red Cedar, which is a juniper, is the most common. In the spring the galls swell. Avoid planting the alternate host near each other. Remove the susceptible non-crop from the area. Plant apple trees only if cedars are at least 4 miles away. There are rust resistant varieties of both cedars and apples.

Damage is usually not severe enough to use fungicides. Prevention is the best control. The disease is not noticeable on the junipers until the galls are producing the bright yellow-orange mass. Prune off any gall tissue and destroy before the spores have a chance to develop.

### Red Chokeberries, *Aronia arbutifolia*

In the Rain Garden Manual of New Jersey, chokeberries are listed under shrubs for wet sites. This shrub has early white flowers, colorful fruit and good red, fall color. They grow 6-10 feet tall in part shade and in dry to moist soils.

Often confused with summer fruiting Chokecherries, *Prunus virginiana*, chokeberries do not ripen in the summer. After freezing, the astringent nature of the fruit subsides as the sugars break down, making them palatable to birds in late winter.

Both Red chokeberries, *Aronia arbutifolia* and the Black Chokeberry, *Aronia melanocarpa* have many cultivars. One of the red chokeberries, "Morton" grows to just three feet tall. Others are bred to have larger fruits.



## Columbine Leafminer

Light colored trails meandering on the columbine leaves indicated leafminers. Some of the trails are filled with black matter. Severely infested leaves may dry up and die.

For control, apply a systemic insecticide when mines begin to show. As mines begin to form, squeeze the leaf between thumb and forefinger to kill developing larvae. Pick off and destroy infested leaves. Remove and destroy all plant remains in the fall.

Most of the insects that cause this type of damage belong to the family of leafmining flies. The tiny adult flies lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves. The maggots that hatch from these eggs penetrate the leaf and live between the upper and lower surfaces. They feed on the inner leaf tissue, creating winging trails and blotches. Generally, the larvae emerge from the leaves to pupate. Leafminers are continually present from spring until fall. The last generation of maggots pupate in the soil or on plant debris through the winter and emerges as adult flies the following spring.

Columbine like full sun or part shade. The plant prefers moist, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter. Soil pH requirements vary, but is generally best between 6.0 and 7.5.



## Kudzu (*Pueraria Montana*)

Kudzu is a rare sighting in New Jersey, however, it is present. According to Rutgers "NJ Weed Gallery" a survey of the NJ Department of Agriculture revealed 58 locations that Kudzu is present in New Jersey.

Kudzu (*Pueraria Montana*) was originally introduced in the United States as an ornamental vine at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876. David Fairchild observed extensive use of kudzu as pasturage in Japan. In 1902, he planted seedlings around his Washington, D.C. home to explore their potential in the United States. By 1938, he became disenchanted with kudzu because it "grew all over the bushes and climbed the pines, smothering them with a mass of vegetation which bent them to the ground and became a tangled nuisance.

In 1907, kudzu hay was exhibited at Jamestown, Virginia. Mr. C. E. Pleas, a farmer in Chipley, Florida, was thrilled to accidentally discover the growth potential of kudzu, and that many animals on his farm liked to eat it. He became an enthusiastic promoter of kudzu, grew 35 acres to sell as a fodder crop, and sold rooted cuttings through the mail (Shurtleff and Aoyagi, 1985).

In the 1930s and 1940s, kudzu was propagated and promoted by the Soil Conservation Service as a means of holding soil on the swiftly eroding gullies of the deforested southern landscape, especially in the Piedmont regions of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Farmers were paid \$8.00 per acre by the Soil Erosion Service to plant kudzu, and more than 1.2 million acres were planted under this subsidized program. Kudzu seedling nurseries produced and distributed more than 73 million seedlings between 1935 and 1941 (Tabor and Susott, 1941). In his 1949 book, *Front Porch Farmer*, Channing Cope presents kudzu as the panacea that will allow farmers to adopt a life of leisure and relaxation, as this new crop "works while you sleep." Kudzu was widely promoted as a

drought-resistant, high-nitrogen forage crop. Research in the 1930s examined optimum planting density, fertilization (Ahlgren, 1956), and the optimum time of mowing to maximize yield without depleting the kudzu root starch so much as to prevent regrowth each spring (Sturkie and Grimes, 1939). However, it proved difficult to bale. Direct grazing was used to some extent, but the vines are damaged by trampling, and this practice fell into disuse.

In the 1950s, kudzu was recognized as a weed, and removed from the list of species acceptable for use under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

In 1998, kudzu was listed by the U.S. Congress as a Federal Noxious Weed. Erosion control plantings explain the extensive colonization of ravines in fields that once grew cotton or native forests, but have since been abandoned or turned into pasture. Although most spread is slow (apparently through local movement of infested soil), where kudzu exists it completely covers all other vegetation.

Kudzu is a perennial vine of the legume family which means that it is in the pea family. It is tolerant of drought, low soil fertility and various soil acidity. Leaves are fairly large and have three leaflets with or without irregular, shallow lobes. The leaves are hairy on the underside as are the vines which grow from a central root crown. Rhizomes help to increase the fast spreading of the vine. In August and September, the vines which are in the full sun produce a purple flower which in turn produces a bean-like pod. The pods produce few viable seeds; however, because of the fast growth of the vine, seeds are not necessary for the plant to spread. Seeds which fall into rivers or streams may allow the plant to spread to distant locations. In cold weather, the young growth may be killed; however, the older vines resume their growth when warm weather returns.

The native enemies of kudzu were not brought to the United States, and today kudzu causes millions of dollars in damage annually. Kudzu roots grow deep. Herbicides work but require repeated applications over an extended time, possibly 4 to 10 years. Total eradication is necessary and must be followed up by re-vegetation of the land. One of the most effective methods of eradicating kudzu may be goats. Because goats will eat anything green, they are being used to help control the spread of kudzu in some states.

Cut the kudzu, and immediately spray brush be gone or other total vegetation killer cut end still in the ground. Follow directions so valuable trees and other plants are not damaged.

There are three reasons why most native insects cannot, or will not eat alien plants:

- 1. the plants that were imported were chosen because of their unpalatability to insects pest free plants,
- 2. It takes a long time for insects to adapt to the specific chemical mix that characterizes different plants, and
- 3. Insects are considered specialists because they evolved in concert with no more than a few plant lineages.



## Lichens

A homeowner brought in pictures of lichens on his dogwood this week. Was this a disease and what should be done? Lichens are not a disease and nothing should be done. When the leaves are off the trees, lichens are more noticeable.

Lichens have two requirements to grow, light and a non-moving structure. They can be green, brown or gray and leafy, crusty or soft. Lichens do not damage woody ornamentals and they are not a plant parasite. They grow on rocks, shrubs and trees.

Lichens are unique, since these patches are actually composed of two organisms (an algae and fungus) living in association with one another. The algae uses photosynthesis to produce food while the fungus supplies water and essential minerals and produces a structure that protects the algae from the environment. The appearance, however, is that of a single plant. Homeowners often become concerned when lichens are growing on plants and think they're causing damage. Lichens most often appear on plants that for some reason are in a poor or declining condition. Why lichens pick weak plants as colonization sites isn't fully understood, but for whatever reason, such plants support lichen growth and it's easy to understand why people think these harmless organisms are responsible for poor plant growth.

Most algae grow where moisture is abundant, on the lower, shaded side of the trunk. They are sensitive to air pollution and are found only in areas where the air is clean. Control the growth of lichens by trimming and thinning out vegetation and limbs to increase light and air movement that will dry out the area.

## Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

Pennsylvania and Connecticut both have Mountain laurel as their state flower. It is a beautiful native shrub with leathery evergreen leaves and pretty pink, white or red flowers that bloom in late spring to early summer. Mountain laurel prefers a cool, moist but well drained acid soil rich in organic matter. I've noticed it doesn't grow in low-lying areas. Wonderful used in woodland plantings, shrub borders, or foundation plantings, but does require acid, cool, moist well-drained soil.

Make sure the shrub is planted so the fibrous root system is level with the soil. Mulch plantings and protect plantings from winter sun and wind to prevent desiccation.

Mountain laurel, like rhododendrons and azaleas, tend to have a loose habit of growth. If a tighter shrub is desired pinch or cut back the new growth. Simply snip off the end buds of the new sprouts during the early summer. This forces the side or latent buds to develop and grow along the sides of the branches making it bushier.

A fungicide like chlorothalonil or mancozeb may be sprayed next spring at bud break before the leaves come out if leaf spot is bad this year. Also, potassium bicarbonate may be sprayed every 7-14 days until conditions no longer favor disease development. More spraying will be needed if rainy weather persists.

Some good companion plants for Mountain laurel are camellias, ferns, hosta, Japanese maple, Rhododendrons and azaleas.



## Turkey Vultures

We have three vultures in the United States: Turkey Vultures, California Condors and Black Vultures. Turkey Vultures and California Condors are in the same order as storks and flamingos. They both eat meat and vegetation. One behavioral similarity is urohydrolysis, this is where they squirt liquid excrement on their legs; the evaporation of the liquid has a cooling effect. In flight, Turkey Vultures resemble eagles or large hawks. They have dark feathers and a bare and often brightly colored head. This flawless design prevents the dirtying of feathers in the work they have to do. The turkey vulture is lacking strength in its grasping claw and does not kill. The beak does not have the strength or the shape to tear into a fresh carcass. The only time they carry food is to their young and only inside their crops, which they regurgitate to their young. They are the cleanup crew. They consume and sterilize animals that have been hit by cars or died some other way.

Turkey vultures are daytime birds. They have a very good sense of sight, smell and hearing. Vultures soar long distances looking for carrion. They search for food visually, but can also locate carcasses by smell. The digestive system is unique and has the ability to kill any virus and bacteria in the meat the bird eats. The vulture's droppings and pellets are clean and do not carry disease. The pellets are odorless, regurgitated dried hair, bones and vegetation.

Turkey Vultures are family orientated. A roost is a group of vultures that live and sleep together at night in tall trees. They do not build nests, but a pair will go off by themselves and lay their eggs and raise the young. Many of the roosts are near human habitation. There is where the problem lies. We had a call this spring from a neighbor of a woman who was feeding vultures. 100 or more vultures were roosting in nearby trees in the evening. Their cars were getting scratched and there was bird dirt all over their deck every morning.

Since they are native migratory birds, they're protected by federal law, which means you cannot do anything to harm them. But you can discourage them if they choose your tree for roosting in the following ways:

- Cutting down the trees they roost in,
- Harass them using a high pressure water spray or loud noises like a siren or honking sound. This would be done in the late afternoon, when roosting begins.
- Place a plastic owl or snake in the tree. This may not be seen if the tree is large.

According to results from other years, they have found the Turkey Vultures are expanding their breeding ranges northward. Despite the susceptibility of their naked heads and feet to prolonged freezing temperatures they have shown an expansion of their northern wintering range limit.

Please don't feed vultures.



## Using Water Wisely in the Garden

Our water use typically doubles during the gardening season. Planning for and practicing water conservation in the landscape can actually increase plant success during times of drought. So how do we use our water wisely at this time?

Here are 10 ways for using water wisely:

1. Help your soil hold water by adding organic matter or compost.
2. Select drought tolerant varieties. Lets not kid ourselves global warming is with us to stay.
3. Repair leaks in your hoses and faucets. Leaks can waste 10 gallons of water a day. Turn off faucets not in use.
4. Collect rainwater if you can find any, or water condensed by air conditioner units or dehumidifiers for later use in the garden.
5. Plants need 1" of water every 5 days. Put out a rain gauge or pan to measure, then water to make up what rain does not provide.
6. Water should be timed for maximum efficiency. Water early in the morning, when little water can be lost to evaporation.
7. Avoid watering in the wind.
8. Drip or trickle irrigation are best to get the water where it is needed, the roots.
9. Avoid overwatering. Waste not, want not. Watering should be based upon soil moisture levels and plant requirements rather than a set schedule.
10. Use mulch where ever possible. This will slow the loss of soil moisture, prevent runoff and control weeds. Do not pile mulch against the base of young trees or shrubs, depth should be 2"-3" no more.

In the vegetable garden, water shallow-rooted vegetables, such as lettuce, corn or cabbage, twice a week, 1/2" per watering. Deeper-rooted vegetables like peppers, tomatoes and squash need the 1" watering. Measure rainfall and only apply what is lacking to meet the plant's needs.

The use of mulch will help to reduce the competition of weeds. In flower beds notice the drought tolerant plants. They are the flowers like sedum, hens and chicks that are thriving in spite of your care, because of their low water requirements. Proper design and planting for water demand are important considerations for a successful flower garden. Impatiens can be grown in full sun but will have a greater demand for water and your attention.

On the lawn, acid soil conditions may restrict root growth of some turf varieties, increasing their susceptibility to drought damage. A complete soil test can tell you if you need to lime. Increase mower height to 3" to decrease water loss and increase shade to the crown. Postpone seeding or sodding until early fall. Avoid light watering, because all you're doing is making a needy shallow root system. Encourage deeper root growth by deep and infrequent watering. Turf that enters dormancy gradually has a better chance of full recovery.

## The Extension Butterfly Garden is Blooming

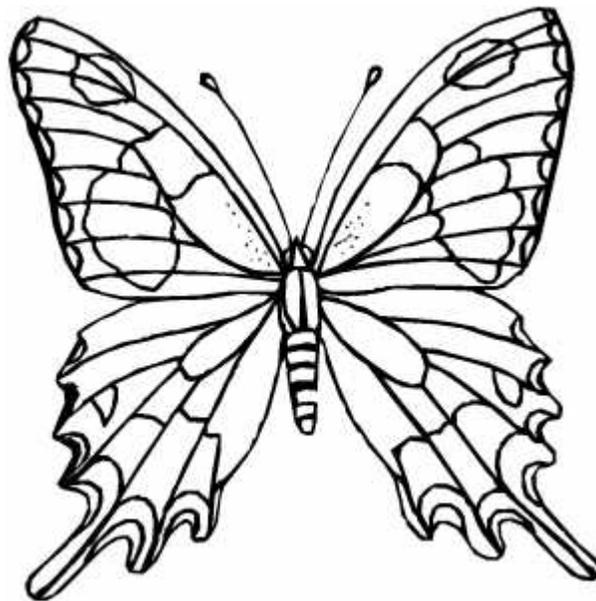
Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is a true biennial that self-sows generously making it a permanent fixture in the garden. It is blooming this year, and has been blooming for at least a week. The vertical flower stalks are eye catching. According to Pat Sutton's "Recommended Plantings to Attract Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Moths", it is a "chocolate cake" or top nectar attractant for hummingbirds. So it does nothing for the butterflies, but hummingbirds do love it and so do the people who linger in the garden or pass by.

One Pink Knockout Rose bush had to be replaced due to voles eating the roots.

The Iris is finishing up their bloom time and will be dead headed.

The common Milkweed is 3' tall, and the Rue plants (planted for the Black Swallowtail) has yellow flowers on them.

Master Gardener, Susan McKenna, has been the lead gardener on this project. She has coordinated other MG to come plant, weed, mulch and prune. The Butterfly Garden is looking beautiful!



# Rain Barrel Workshop



Saturday, June 16, 2012  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join Rutgers Cooperative Extension and partners for a hands-on workshop designed to educate participants on the benefits of rainwater harvesting.

**Workshop participants will build a rain barrel to take home!**

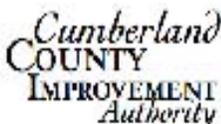
The workshop will be held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County, Education Center  
291 Morton Avenue,  
Millville, NJ 08332

To register call Viola at Rutgers Cooperative Extension, phone: (856) 451-2800 ext. 4

A \$45 registration fee includes instruction and materials for building one rain barrel. Checks should be made payable to Extension Services Program Account.

- Sponsors:
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension
  - AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador
  - Cumberland County Improvement Authority

*Rain barrels are a great way to capture and recycle rain water for gardening.*



## Things to do in June



- Allow the tops of spring-flowering bulbs to completely wither and turn brown.
- Protect ripening strawberries from birds with netting or row cover fabric. FS97 & 98
- Make plans to pick locally grown strawberries.
- Thin developing fruit on fruit trees if there seems to be an excessive amount. This will result in larger fruits.
- Prune fruit trees to eliminate suckers and watersprouts.
- Plant more gladiolus bulbs for a succession of bloom.
- Plant seeds of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli directly in the garden for fall garden transplants.
- Check plants carefully and regularly for insect pests.
- Cabbage worms can be safely and effectively controlled with Bt.
- Be sure to thin vegetables, particularly root crops, so they'll have room to grow properly. FS561
- Tomatoes that are supported with stakes or cages tend to have cleaner and larger fruits. FS678
- As perennials finish blooming, cut off the blooms and fertilize the plants.
- Stake perennials as needed.
- Apply mulches around shrubs, perennials and annuals to maintain soil moisture and an even soil temperature.
- Apply a labeled fungicide every 7 to 10 days to protect roses from black spot.
- Prune climbing roses after they have bloomed. Remove dead and older canes. FS944
- Fertilize roses during their first bloom.
- Pinch established chrysanthemums to develop fuller and stockier plants.
- Remove spent flower clusters or forming seed pods from azaleas, lilacs and rhododendrons.
- Shape the growth of pines by snapping out one half to two thirds of the new candle growth.
- Raise the mower blades to a height of 2 to 2½" and mow frequently. Remove no more than one third of the total length of the grass blade.
- Lawn and garden areas need a minimum of 1" of water in the form of rain or irrigation each week.
- Move some houseplants to a screened porch or shaded location outdoors.
- Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage.
- Various pest problems can occur in June. If you have plants that you suspect may be facing a pest problem, bring in a representative sample to your local county agricultural extension agent and they will help diagnose the problem and recommend the appropriate control.
- Fruit trees should be on a regular spray program.
- You can also plant vegetables in container and grow them on decks, patios or other small spaces. Use potting mix when planting.
- Fertilize zoysia lawns now.
- You can move houseplants outside to the deck or patio and enjoy them outdoors for the summer. It is best to gradually introduce them to more direct sunlight to prevent the leaves from being burned.
- Feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food such as a slow-release granular.
- If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot. Use potting mix when repotting houseplants.
- Hibiscus, Jasmine, Oleander and Mandevilla are just some of the flowering tropical plants you can add to your deck, patio or balcony.



### Gardener's Checklist for July

- Attend the Cumberland County Fair
- Transplant new chrysanthemum plants.
- Start a compost pile. FS74
- Sidedress rhubarb with well-rotted manure or humus from the compost pile.
- Plant early cabbage, ornamental kale, and broccoli seeds in cell packs early this month for transplanting to the garden in early August.
- Cabbage worms can be safely and effectively controlled with Bt. FS231 & FS277
- Train staked tomatoes to one or two vines by removing all other branches as soon as they appear.
- Thoroughly water your newly planted trees and shrubs. FS786
- As perennials finish blooming, cut off the blooms and fertilize the plants.
- Stake perennials as needed.
- Apply mulches around trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals to maintain soil moisture and even soil temperature. Cover the soil 2 inches thick. Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. FS122
- Apply a labeled fungicide every 7 to 10 days to control black spot on roses.
- Prop branches of heavily loaded fruit trees.
- Renovate established strawberry plantings.
- Pinch established chrysanthemums to develop fuller and stockier plants early in the month.
- Make another planting of snap beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers and zucchini. FS562 & FS57
- Harvest vegetables regularly for continued production. FS988
- Remove spent flowers from annual flowers to keep them flowering.
- Divide clumps of crowded iris and Oriental poppies.
- Continue to mow the lawn at 2½ inches.
- Water the lawn and garden deeply or don't water at all. FS829 & EB431
- Fertilize your roses. FS944
- Many plants are easily propagated by layering. Verbenas, euonymus and climbing roses are a few plants that will root if the stems are fastened down and covered with soil.
- Cutter flowers is best done with sharp shears or knife which will help avoid injury to the growing plant. A slanting cut exposes a larger absorbing surface to water and will prevent the stem base from resting on the bottom of the vase. It is best to carry a bucket of water to the garden for collecting flowers, rather than a cutting basket.
- A brown or grayish cast over a lawn can be caused by dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it.
- Store pesticides in a safe place in original containers, away from children and pets. Use pesticides carefully, read the labels and follow the directions. The warnings and precautions are for your protection.
- Control mosquitoes by eliminating all sources of stagnant water.
- Check the soil moisture of container grown vegetables and flowers daily. As the temperature rises, some plants may need water twice a day.
- Continue attracting insect eating birds to the garden area by providing them with a fresh water source.
- Plants and trees that provide color in the month of July include Crape Myrtles, Spireas, Hydrangeas, Summersweet, Hypericum, Butterfly Bush and Golden Rain Tree.
- Perennials that provide interest in July include Daylillies, Rudbeckia, Phlox, Veronica, Ligularia, Tickseed and much more.
- Gator bags provide a great way to keep trees watered. These bags, which hold up to 20 gal. of water, are secured to the trunk, where water is released slowly to the root ball over the course of 15-20 hours.
- Do not prune Azaleas and Rhododendrons after the second week of July for they soon will begin setting their buds for next year's blooms.

## Gardener's Checklist for August

- Enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms.
- Fertilize your roses the first week of the month and then don't fertilize them any more this year.
- Be alert for wasp nests when mowing and gardening.
- Deadhead annuals to keep them blooming.
- Control weeds before they flower and produce seeds.
- Gather herb leaves before their flowers bloom.
- Divide overcrowded spring-flowering perennials.
- Make plans for your fall planting of trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Apply one inch of water to your lawn and gardens weekly during dry periods.
- Check with Extension for the latest recommendations on food preservation.
- Collards, kale, leaf lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes, turnips and bok choy are good crops for your fall garden.
- Early September is an ideal time for sowing grass seed or establishing a new lawn. Prepare now to renovate that tired lawn.
- Divide and transplant garden lilies and lilies-of-the-valley.
- Sow seeds of California poppy, columbine, delphinium and gloriosa and Shasta daisy.
- Watch for garden supply sales.
- Take cuttings of begonias, coleus and impatiens for winter houseplants.
- Remove melon blossoms at the end of the month that won't have time to set fruit. Ripening melons will then be larger.
- Donate vegetables to a hunger center.
- Colorful plastic golf tees can be stuck in the ground to mark the location of dormant plants such as spring bulbs or perennials.
- Since container-grown plants have a limited area from which to absorb water, plants in a sunny location may require watering several times a week. Check plants often to avoid water stress.
- Check on water needs of hanging baskets daily. Wind and sun dry them quicker than other containers.
- Clean up fallen rose and peony leaves. They can harbor disease and insects over the winter if allowed to remain on the ground.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- Remove old plants that have stopped producing to eliminate a shelter for insects and disease organisms.
- Water the garden early so plants can absorb the moisture before the sun dries the soil. Early watering insures that foliage dries before night. Wet foliage at night increases susceptibility to fungus diseases.
- To reduce the number of pests on your fruit tree for the coming year, pick up and destroy all fallen fruit.
- Bt is used by many gardeners to protect cole crops from chewing caterpillars.
- Every weed that produces seed means more trouble next year. Control weeds before they go to seed.
- Do not add weeds with mature seed heads to the compost pile. Many weed seeds can remain viable and germinate next year when the compost is used.
- Plants and trees that provide color in the month of August include Crape Myrtles, Pee Gee Hydrangeas, Viburnums, Hypericum and Butterfly Bush. Visit your local nursery and see these beautiful plants in bloom.
- Plant ornamental grasses such as Miscanthus, Pennisetum and Hardy Pampas Grass for motion and contrast.
- Fall mums are in – plant now for a colorful autumn.
- Gator bags provide a great way to keep trees watered during the hot and dry months. These bags, that can hold up to 20 gals. of water, are secured to the trunk of the tree, where they release water slowly to the root ball over the course of 15-20 hours.

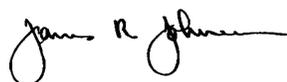
## Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 2	Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
Fact Sheet 11	Blossom End Rot: Tomatoes, peppers, Eggplant
Fact Sheet 20	Weed Control Around the Home Grounds
Fact Sheet 57	Cucumber, Squash and Melon Fruit Setting
Fact Sheet 58	Mulches for the Vegetable garden
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 106	Blueberry Pest Management for Home Gardens
Fact Sheet 112	Apple Pest Control Schedule for NJ Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 115	Cherry Spray Schedule for NJ Home Orchards
Fact Sheet 119	Weed Control in Home lawns
Fact Sheet 122	Tree Problems caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
Fact Sheet 231	Cabbage Looper
Fact Sheet 235	Spidermites
Fact Sheet 277	Cabbage Maggot
Fact Sheet 399	Vole Ecology and Management
Fact Sheet 419	Selecting Blueberry Varieties for the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 426	Moss in the lawn
Fact Sheet E431	Trickle irrigation for NJ Vegetable Gardens
Fact Sheet 450	Using Water Wisely in the Garden
Fact Sheet 555	Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns
Fact Sheet 561	Growing the Cole Crops in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 562	Growing beets and carrots in the home garden
Fact Sheet 595	Low Water Use Landscaping
Fact Sheet 626	Fertilizing the Home Vegetable Garden
Fact Sheet 610	Harvesting Melons at Peak Flavor
Fact Sheet 678	Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 786	Six Ways to Keep your Newly Planted Tree Alive and Healthy
Fact Sheet 814	Managing Diseases of Landscape Turf
Fact Sheet 829	How to Protect Water Quality and have a Beautiful Lawn
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and their Care
Fact Sheet 988	Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 1158	Black Spot of Rose
Fact Sheet 1161	Cut Flowers for the Market and Home Garden—Zinnia

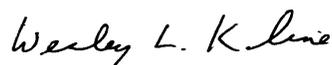
**Call 856/451-2800 x4 ask for Viola Carson. When calling to request a fact sheet refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name. All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted.**

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

Sincerely,



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