RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County
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"What's Growing On..."

Volume 16 Number 2 Summer 2013 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 **11:35 pm** announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

FROM THE DESK OF VIOLA CARSON

As you may or may not be aware, I am leaving my position at Rutgers Cooperative Extension and moving to Florida.

Due to this move, my position will be posted soon by the County of Cumberland, thus hiring my replacement. In the meantime, the master gardeners will be in the office to assist with your gardening questions.

It has been a pleasure serving you the past eleven years. I have learned a wealth of knowledge from your many questions which I in turn shared with others through our newsletter.

I have come to recognizes many of your voices over the years and will greatly miss all of your garden stories.

Please continue to call the Extension office with your questions and concerns. The remaining staff and master gardeners are more than willing to find the answers you will need.

Rose Rosette Virus Disease

Virginia Cooperative Extension

An email was received with pictures of damage to the invasive wild multiflora roses...what was killing them?

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.

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.

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.

I you have roses, a careful eye will be needed to watch over them. In the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, all roses with symptoms were removed. The beds were replaced with annuals and perennials. Beneficial insects were attracted. The soil was amended with organic compost and manure.

Clover Mite

Rutgers Fact Sheet #93

Clover mites are reddish brown mites smaller than a pinhead, with long front legs. They may be found on walls, windowsills, floors, and furniture. When crushed, these mites leave a red blood stain.

Clover mite populations are composed entirely of females. Red eggs are deposited in protected areas with sunny exposure. They hatch Sept. to April when temperatures rise above 30 °F. Houses with highly reflective surfaces, such as glass panes, light colored paint, or aluminum siding are preferred for invasion.

In many cases only the sunny exposure of a dwelling become severely infested. When mites reach a warm surface, they roam about until they find a protected area, such as crevices in the bark of a tree, wall voids, under siding and shingles, and cracks and crevices in brick veneer. If surfaces become too hot or too cold they will move.

Rutgers FS 93, "Clover Mite Control Around the Home", says to treat lawn and foundation walls. The base of the foundation and outward to a distance of 10-20 feet should be treated. The insecticides should also be applied from the base of the foundation up to windowsills on the first floor. Some pressure is required to force insecticide into crevices under shingles, siding, pits in mortar, around window frames, and where pipes enter the dwelling. Where large populations of clover mite has been an annoyance, Drione or Dri-Die can be placed into wall void areas by drilling tiny holes into stud voids and introducing micronized dust. Residual insecticides are most useful for clover mite control because overlapping stages exist during periods of activity. Resting stages and the egg stage are relatively tolerant to most insecticides.

Montauk Daisy

The Montauk daisy, *Nipponanthemum nipponicum,* is a typical "daisy" flower with white petals and a greenish yellow eye that blooms in late summer; sometimes into the fall. It is drought tolerant and deer tolerant. The bright white 3" daisy flowers serve as a white accent in the garden and hold up well when cut for flower arrangements. Deadheading will prolong blooming. Also, these flowers are a nectar source for butterflies.

Tough, shiny, dark green leaves are oval in shape and toothed. Leaves toward the bottom of the plant can drop prematurely; plant it behind shorter perennials or annuals to hide the bare stems. Upright herbaceous perennial to 3' tall and wide, will get wider, but divide before it gets that big. The stems will root at leaf nodes.

This perennial came from China. It was used to breed Shasta daisies (Leucanthemum superbum), but blooms later.

Grow in full sun, in average, well-drained soil. Some light shade is appreciated in hot climates. Prefers dry soil and tolerates drought well once established. In the Spring, pinch back once to promote a bushy shape and divide every few years.

Lily top turning yellow

The North American Lily Society

A sample of a lily plant came in to the office in the middle of May. The leaves were bleached out at the tip and only on this variety. Also, it was not maturing at the same rate as the other lilies. The lilies have been in this location for many years. No aphids were noticed. These are not daylilies (hemerocallis), but the bulb lilium.

In the beginning of May we had frost. If these plants were on the south side of the house and protected they warm up earlier in the spring. With no protection from trees the tender growth is susceptible. Damage like frost will make it easier for Botrytis spores to enter the leaf. The bulb does not carry the disease, so it will not affect flowering the following year. Botrytis is everywhere, for it is nature's leading decomposer of recently deceased plant material. Good air circulation will help prevent an outbreak. Planting lilies some distance apart will also control infection. In the fall clean up and burn dead leaves and stems. It is also helpful to avoid overhead irrigation.

Lilies planted in the fall should be mulched with a generous layer of straw, pine needles, salt hay, leaves, etc. to protect against heaving which might tear the new roots. A thick winter much will also inhibit the eager sprouts from poking up too early in the spring to be nipped by frost. Do not spread the mulch until the hungry mice have found winter homes elsewhere, as mice love to nibble on tender lily bulbs.

Leave the mulch on the lily beds as long as possible, but peek under now and then to see what's poking through. Before the shoots get too long, the mulch must be raked off. Be careful, as the new shoots are very brittle. If a shoot is broken off, it means no bloom for the season for that lily. Keep the mulch stacked close by. On frosty nights it is a good idea to cover the shoots; newspaper, cardboard boxes or baskets may be used for this purpose too.

Fertilizing

A big strapping plant like a lily, with an inflorescence of sometimes dozens of big flouncy blooms needs plenty of nourishment. Nitrogen is needed when the green leaves are growing rapidly, and phosphorus and potassium later for bloom and bulb production. A good all-around recipe would be to scratch in a generous helping of a complete formulation such as 10-10-10 in early spring after the shoots have emerged, with smaller supplemental feedings throughout the season. Keep fertilizer from directly contacting the bulbs, and always water the fertilizer in thoroughly.

Staking

Lilies with huge heads of blooms sometimes need staking. Experts tell us to place stakes at the time of planting to avoid spearing the bulb . . . but tall stakes are so unattractive! If a good rugged little stake is used as a marker when planting, you could just tug that out when the lily stalk is about budded, and substitute a taller one for support. Tie the stems naturally and gracefully . . . don't strangle them!

Watering

Lilies need constant moisture, and if you plan to raise prize winning lilies, this one factor may mean the difference between blue ribbon specimens and just ordinary beautiful lilies. There is a best way to provide the water, of course, and that is by soaking. Let the hose run (gently) near the clumps until the ground is moistened to a depth of 6". A soil soaker will service several clumps at one time. Overhead sprinkling is less desirable as it might encourage disease.

Mulches

One way of conserving moisture in between waterings is by mulching. Mulching is wonderful for lilies! It keeps the soil cool and loose lilies like that! Mulch discourages weeds, provides a fluffy, nutritious medium for the hungry stem roots to revel in, keeps the soil from baking and packing; then catches and holds every little summer shower so not a drop of rain is wasted.

Disease Prevention

Most of the troubles that beset lilies may be prevented in the very beginning by proper planting so choosing the proper planting spot is important. Perfect drainage will forestall bulb rot. Good circulation of air will help eliminate fungus diseases and even infestations for aphids. Proper placing may prevent frost damage.

Fall Cleanup

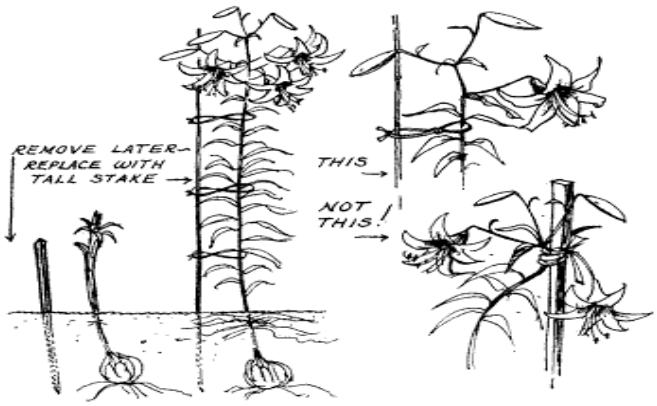
When the lily stalks have matured and turned yellow . . . then you can cut them back. If completely dry, you may pull them out easily. Careful though . . . don't pull up the bulb! Old lily stems should always be removed in the fall . . . and any other odds and ends of debris that could harbor diseases. It is best not to add this material to your compost pile.

Transplanting

Lilies will usually thrive for years in the same spot, especially if well cared for. However, when many spindly short stems indicate crowding, the clumps should be lifted, carefully pulled apart, and divisions planted elsewhere. If you must replant in the same spot, replace or reinforce the soil first with additional fertilizer and organic material.

Beauty Tip from "Perennial Garden", by Jeff and Marilyn Cox:

"Plant lily bulbs near azaleas to have the bulbs grow through the outer branches which eliminates the need for staking."



How to say good bye to your garden

Viola Carson, Horticulture Assistant

The summer is here, our house is for sale as we will be moving to Florida. It's time to say good bye to my garden. Like an old friend it has comforted me through life. It is a bird friendly yard rather than a carefully planned landscape. It is not about me, but about working with nature and having a healthy soil.

My yard is an ever changing tapestry. I dug up a layered branch from my mom's white viburnum and a seedling from her Rose of Sharon. Karen Schaar got me a holly shrub, Sandy Breig gave me a piece of her Montauk Daisy, and the list goes on. When you have garden friends and know Master Gardeners there are always plants to be shared.

I have an aray of samples from all the master gardener classes; from Shirley Kline's small fruit class I have a thornless blackberry; from 4-H's annual strawberry sale I have Early Glow strawberries; from Kim Conner I have several early blooming native perennials; from Sal Mangiaficos rain garden class I was inspired to have a rain garden put in; after one of the tree fruit classes with Jerry Frecon I planted a sour cherry tree the year my grandson was born. I worked for Steve Garrison and so of course I have some nice asparagus with beautiful tips. I have red peonies from Ginny Davis and beauty berry from Pat Fleetwood who both worked here in the office. My mountain mint from the Ecofair attracts beneficial insects and all the native plants are for the birds and butterflies. The MG graduation is usually the last Tuesday in May when my red peonies are blooming so we put them on the tables. We helped Jim Johnson with a lily trial at Cumberland Nursery and Roger shared a bunch of Stella Dora lilies.

My friend Marie mentioned the new owners may just rip all your plants out and put their own in. I have no control over that. I can only hope someone who is a gardener will love it like we have.

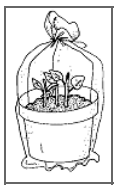
Propagating Crape Myrtles

Auburn University

Crape myrtle can be propagated easily through several methods. The most commonly used methods of propagation are hardwood and softwood cuttings. To propagate by hardwood cuttings take 8" long and 1/2" diameter cuttings in early to mid-November. Stick several cuttings in a container filled with a potting soil or well drained garden soil. About an inch of the cutting should protrude above the soil line. These cuttings can be left outside but should be protected from severe freeze. Once new growth emerges place the container in a sunny location and keep watered until you can plant them in the summer or fall.

Softwood cuttings consist of 4" to 6" cuttings taken from actively growing shoots at any time during the growing season. The cut ends can be dipped in a rooting hormone and then stuck in a well drained potting mix. Keep the cuttings misted to avoid drying out before roots can form. Rooted cuttings can then be planted in larger pots and grown to a larger size to improve survivability when placed in the landscape.

The Crape myrtle can be propagated by seeds or cuttings. If by seed, germination occurs within 2 to 3 weeks. If by cutting, softwood cuttings should be taken between late May and July. Rooting should occur within 3 to 4 weeks.



Organic Land Care

RCE Organic Land Care Website
Rutgers FS1135 - Soil Organic Matter
Www.njaes.rutgers.edu/organiclandcare

I attended The Basics of Organic Land Care Master Gardener Advanced Training given by Rutgers in June. Organic methods are in many ways rooted in ecology, especially with respect to soil fertility. Feed the soil. It is alive and what we put down on it as amendments will make it healthy and allow it to thrive and hold nutrients so the plants can use them. In The Soil Profile, a newsletter providing information on issues relating to soils and plant nutrition in NJ "In the case of organic lawn care, what needs to be accomplished is translation of organic farming principles into a uniquely managed ecosystem. Cultural practices must be adapted to a grass growing area while achieving acceptable quality for human utility and viewing pleasure. The highlights of organic culture include practice the law of return-leave the grass clippings, composting-top dress with a thin layer of compost, amending soils with natural occurring materials-chop up fallen leaves, break up soil compaction-aerate with a core aerator, seeding lawns with the best adapted cultivars from conventional plant breeding-over seed thin spots in the fall, encourage biodiversity-clover is ok, husbandry has priority over commercial inputs- you may have to get an asparagus knife out and weed, honesty and integrity about organic lawn care-it's not about you and what the neighbors will think. Healthy lawns equals healthy water.

Why have an organic yard

- Reduce polluted runoff
- Reduce inputs
- Avoid use of harmful chemicals
- Improve biodiversity
- Improve soil health

The downside of organic is there may not be instant results, it may be more expensive in the beginning, tolerate some weeds, and learning new ways of managing the lawn.

Leonardo Da Vinci said, "We know more about the celestial bodies than the soil under our feet". He was correct. Healthy soil is teaming with microbes. If getting microorganisms back into your soil is your main goal, new commercial products will do the job without the bulk and trouble of top dressing with soil, although they work. These materials contain cultures of the microorganisms that are most effective at decomposing organic matter. Organic matter adds air spaces. Turf won't grow properly if the roots and microbes that live in the soil have too little oxygen. Without sufficient air, anaerobic respiration takes place at the roots, resulting in a potentially harmful buildup of carbon dioxide and ethanol. That leads to shallow root growth, a thin lawn that's vulnerable to a weed invasion, and reduced turf vigor.

Many factors can trigger a disease outbreak on the home lawn: poor cultural practices, too much water, not enough water, too much fertilizer, not enough fertilizer, inadequate lime, soil compaction, excessive traffic, poor mowing practices, and perhaps most of all, too many pesticides and chemicals. The more chemicals you use, the more you disturb the natural biological processes that convert organic matter into nutrient to keep the lawn going. The more you mess with the lawn, the more apt you are to have disease problems. The more you neglect your lawn, the healthier it will be. Over fed, over watered, lazy lawns spoon fed chemicals are succulent growth prime for a disease to attack.

Researchers have begun to realize that fertilizer is doing more harm than good. Massive doses are a waste of time and money. Grass plants are very efficient users of nitrogen. Babying the grass by pouring on fertilizer reduces that natural efficiency.

"Soil is money in the bank, and the grass is the interest." Richard hawk, Green Pro Services a NY based natural lawn service company

Rieger Begonias

NY Botanical Gardens

Rieger Begonias are sometimes called "Winter Flowering Begonia". This doesn't mean that you can only get them during the winter, they are available year round at your local Garden Center.

Rieger Begonias are easy to grow and can be re-flowered after the initial flowers decline. The plant will thrive in bright indirect light. Full hot sun will burn the leaves. Water your plant when the soil has dried down about 1/2" from the surface. Do not allow your Reiger Begonia to sit in a saucer of water as this is sure to cause root rot. Avoid splashing water on the foliage to help prevent the occurrence of powdery mildew. Feed monthly with a balanced liquid fertilizer. Remove spent flowers as they appear. When your plant stops flowering, just be patient and it will become a beautiful flowering house plant again providing it receives enough light.

A plant that was received for Mother's Day by June 9 the peach to orange flowers covered the plant on the kitchen table. The question presented was about care and repotting.

Winter flowering begonia is a man-made cross between tuberous and wax begonias resulting in a range of easily grown plants with single or double blooms in subtle colors from white to yellow and orange to red and pink. They have fibrous rather than tuberous root systems and tend to die after flowering, though the newer cultivars have overcome this. They have large glossy leaves.

According to The NY Botanical gardens, Rieger begonias grow best at 70ºF during the day and 50ºF at night with a relative humidity above 50%. Provide additional humidity by misting twice daily, stand plants on shallow trays filled with moistened pebbles, and/or use a humidifier.

Repot to the next larger size pot in spring. Use a soil mixture of equal parts sterilized houseplant potting mix high in organic matter, peat moss and sand/or perlite. Rieger begonias do not like to be root bound. Avoid hot and cold drafts. Pinch above the leaf node to promote bushier growth.

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat

Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas. By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young you not only help wildlife, but you also qualify to become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat®.

How to Create a Wildlife-Friendly Garden

Provide Food for Wildlife: Everyone needs to eat! Planting native forbs, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders and food sources.

Supply Water for Wildlife: Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds or rain gardens.

Create Cover for Wildlife: Wildlife require places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and inclement weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees.

Give Wildlife a Place to Raise Their Young: Wildlife need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young, from wildflower meadows and bushes where many butterflies and moths lay their eggs, or caves where bats roost and form colonies.

Ready...Set...Certify!: Once you have provided these essential elements to make a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat, join the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts across the country who have earned the distinction of being part of NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat® program.

Garden Tips for June

- 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.
- Check plants carefully and regularly for insect pests.
- Cabbage worms can be safely and effectively controlled with Bt.
- 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 mulch around shrubs, perennials & 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.
- Balled and burlapped or container trees and shrubs can still be planted. FS376
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. FS49
- 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. See your local extension website for tree spray program bulletin.
- 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 with Merrifield Premium 26-4-12.
- Feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food such as Osmocote (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 July 1-6.
- Transplant new chrysanthemum plants.
- Start a compost pile. FS74
- Sidedress rhubarb with well-rotted manure or humus from the compost pile.
- Plant seeds of early cabbage, ornamental kale, and broccoli in cell packs early in the month for transplanting to the fall garden in early August.
- Cabbage worms can be safely and effectly controled with Bt. FS231 & FS277
- Continue pulling weeds. Put them in the compost pile.
- 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 an 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
- Apply all pesticides according to label directions.
- 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 a knife which will help avoid injury to the growing plant. A slanting cut will expose a larger absorbing surface to water and will prevent the base of the stem 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 a dull or improperly adjusted mower blades that shred grass rather than cut it.
- 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. Visit the nursery and see these beautiful plants in bloom.
- Perennials that provide interest in the month of July include Daylillies, Rudbeckia, Phlox, Veronica, Ligularia, Tickseed and much more.
- Stop pinching Chrysanthemums by July 16th.
- 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.
- Various pest problems can occur in July. If you have plants that you suspect may be facing a pest problem, contact your local agricultural extension office for their recommendations of pest control. If using chemicals, follow the directions EXACTLY. Listed below are some of the problems that can appear this month along with the proper controls.
- Use Diatomaceous Earth indoors and out to control crawling insects such as cockroaches, ants, slugs, silverfish, earwigs, fleas, spiders, millipedes, centipedes and carpet bettles.
- Fruit trees should be on a regular spray program.

Gardener's Checklist for August

- 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.
- Divide overcrowded spring-flowering perennials.
- 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.
- 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.
- Colorful plastic golf tees can be stuck in the ground to mark the location of dormant plants such as spring bulbs or perennials.
- Clean up fallen rose and peony leaves. They can harbor disease and insect pests over the winter if allowed to remain on the ground.
- Pick summer squash and zucchini every day or two to keep the plants producing.
- 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.
- 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.
- Check all plants, especially newly planted ones, for water on a regular basis. Water deeply and thoroughly as needed.
- Gator bags provide a great way to keep trees watered during the hot and dry months. These bags, which can hold up to 20 gallons of water, are secured to the trunk of the tree, where they release the water slowly to the root ball over the course of 15-20 hours.
- Daffodils and tulips should be fertilized in early to mid-August. Apply 2 pounds of 5-10-10 or 6-12-12 per 100 square feet.
- If you want to prevent broadleaf weeds such as Chickweed and Henbit next spring, but you would still like to seed the lawn this fall, apply a weed preventor in early August. By applying this product now, you will be able to seed in late September or early October (seeding can be done 45-60 days after you apply the weed preventor).
- Continue to feed houseplants with a good quality indoor plant food.
- If needed, re-pot root bound houseplants to a larger pot. Use a potting mix when repotting houseplants.
- Have a wonderful August!

Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 11	Blossom End Rot: Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant
Fact Sheet 20	Weed control around the home grounds
Fact Sheet 49	Propagating Plants
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 93	Clover Mite Control Around the Home
Fact Sheet 199	Weed control in home lawns
Fact Sheet 122	Tree Problems Caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
Fact Sheet 399	Vole Ecology and Management
Fact Sheet EB431	Trickle Irrigation for New Jersey Vegetable gardens
Fact Sheet 555	Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns
Fact Sheet 678	Growing tomatoes in the home garden
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and Their Care
Fact Sheet 829	How to protect water quality and have a beautiful lawn
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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

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

If you have any questions concerning the website, please call our office at
856-451-2800 x1 for agriculture and
856-451-2800 x4 for Home Horticulture and Master Gardeners

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