



“What’s Growing On...”

Volume 18 Number 3 Fall 2015 Edition Published Quarterly

Inside this issue:

Rutgers on the Radio	1
From the Desk of..	1
Emerald Ash Borer	2
Asters	2
Emerald Ash Borer	3
Bats	3
Community Fun Day	4
Award of Excellence	5
American Bittersweet	6
Bermudagrass	7
Black Walnut Stains	8
Companion Planting	9
Dahlias	9
NJ Fertilizer Law	10
Forcing Bulbs	10
Lime takes Time	10
Become a Master Gardener	11
Pumpkin Patch	12
Seasonal Needle Drop	12
Saving Seeds	13
Overwinter	13
Garden Checklist for September	14
Things to Do for October	15
Checklist for November	16
Available Fact Sheets	17
Check out our Website	18



RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ON THE RADIO

For agriculture news and horticultural tips, listen to me, Pam Burton, on the RCE Agricultural Program on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday on SNJ Today AM 1240 at **12:40 pm** announcing local workshops, seminars, and horticultural tips.

From The Desk of Pam Burton

As we harvest the last of our fall crops and begin our overwintering tasks, let's make certain we take time to enjoy autumn's pleasures. As you are gathering leaves for your compost, join the kids and jump into the pile of leaves. When you are carving your pumpkins, hollow out an extra and add fall asters for an unexpected fall centerpiece. Share a generous piece of your homemade apple pie with your neighbor. Build an old-fashioned scarecrow just for fun. Bob for apples. Eat a caramel apple. Notice the reflection of the colored leaves on the lake. Put on your favorite old sweatshirt and take a long walk with your dog in the crisp cool morning (without your cell phone). Have a Garden Party to divide your perennials in soil that you can actually dig in and share the extras with your friends! Sharpen your tools with a smile in the knowledge that you will not have to do so in the Spring. Treat yourself and plant a new tree. Take pictures of the container plantings that were successful so you will remember what to buy come spring!

In this goal-oriented world, take the time to be grateful and thankful for one thing every day.

Happy harvesting!

Congratulations to the Winners!

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County participated in the 2015 Cumberland County Fair with "Helpline on the Road" which offered an opportunity to pick up Fact Sheets, garden tips and participation in a drawing for container plantings and cookbooks.

The winners of the container plantings were: Viola Overstreet, Dave Rippert and Claudean Williams.

The cookbook winners were: Brenda Gillam, Rita Quelch, Peggy Richey, Kiannah Ante and Gladys Borgese.

Thanks to all who participated and come to the free Community Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo on September 19th from 10 am until 2 pm to try again!



Asters

The Asteraceae family is huge and includes plants like asters, sunflowers and dandelions. Asters are fall blooming perennials with cultivars that come in a variety of colors and heights. The two main types of asters are the New York (*Aster novi-belgii*) and the New England (*Aster novae-angliae*). The bloom time ranges from early September through late October and vary in color from red to purple and bluish to white. Some of the other plants that complement asters include yellow goldenrod, fall mums, Joe-Pye weed with its' tall mauve flowers, coneflowers and grasses. Combined together, this combination will provide an unexpected beautiful fall display.

Asters are best planted in an area that offers well-drained, good loamy soil and full to part sun. They do not like wet feet and will get frost heaved in sandy soil. One of the concerns with asters is powdery mildew. Division of the asters in the spring when the new shoots are emerging, can help mitigate the onset and spread of that disease. When dividing the aster, replant the outer portion of the plant and throw away the center of the clump, which may have become woody. Be sure to share some clumps with your friends. Powdery mildew can be controlled with sprays, but that must begin before the disease becomes established and needs to continue throughout the season. Please note, you must read all labels and follow the directions carefully before using any kind of spray or horticultural oil.

Beyond the aesthetics, asters bring another role to the eco-system by providing a food source for White-tailed Deer, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, Aster Leafhopper, Pearly Crescentspot, and Painted Lady Butterflies. Likewise, they are a late season pollen source for bees and butterflies. Asters can help camouflage insect predators, such as mantids and spiders, so they can patiently wait for their prey.

Part of the asters history is that in past centuries the English and Europeans collected asters extensively and took them back with them to breed selections that we are currently using today.

Resources:

http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/bushy_aster.htm

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/ptlk/1014.html>

<http://ucanr.edu/datastoreFiles/268-501.pdf>

<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/asters2.html>



Emerald ash borer

Since it was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, the Emerald Ash Borer has killed tens of millions of trees and is now present in 23 US states and 2 Canadian provinces.



Emerald Ash Borer is native to Asia and it attacks North American true ash. It is a metallic green insect that is only ½" long and 1/8" wide. It's small size makes it difficult to detect in the wild. The female lays her eggs in the bark of the ash tree and when they hatch the larvae bore into the tree to the fluid conducting vessels. As the larvae feed and grow the nutrients are cut off to the tree and eventually the tree dies.

The signs that Emerald Ash Borer include: a very distinctive D-shaped exit hole; sprouts growing from the roots and trunk; split bark with an S-shaped gallery; canopy dieback beginning at the top and progressing throughout the tree and an increase in woodpecker activity as they extract the larvae to eat.

Licensed pesticide applicators can treat for Emerald Ash Borer and treatment products are available at retail stores. Always read and follow the instructions carefully.

You can help prevent the spread by using locally sourced firewood when burning it at home and by purchasing wood locally when travelling. Emerald Ash Borer use firewood as a vehicle for movement from place to place.

If you see any signs of Emerald Ash Borer you are asked to contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 609-406-6939.

Bats

Rutgers Fact Sheet 1207 is called the Facts about Bats in New Jersey and is written by Brooke Maslo, Extension Specialist, Wildlife Ecology and Karen Leu, Wildlife Technician.

Most of us have an absolute fear of a bat making its way into our home and I can say from personal experience that it's disturbing when it does occur. The Fact Sheet explains that the bat is probably confused and no doubt since they are nocturnal creatures, it's likely that it has been woken up from a deep sleep and confusion is only one of the many emotions you will be experiencing as the bat is flying swiftly through the house as it frantically tries to escape. If you can remain calm, try to help the bat by isolating the bat in one room and opening the windows. Since it's dark out and you are also disoriented, I will advise you to take out the screens as you might forget given the scenario. Dim the lights and stand quietly in the corner so you can witness the bat leave your home. This may actually not be difficult as you may be paralyzed with fear. Obviously this is best done with two people as a team if possible.

However, it's important to realize the beneficial services provided by bats. According to Rutgers Fact Sheet 1207 "...bats consume high volumes of insects each night and are the only major predators of nocturnal insects. The insect pest control services of bats are valued at an estimated average of \$22.9 billion annually in the U.S. They are also excellent pollinators of some plants. Interestingly bat guano has high concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous and has been harvested for fertilizer. There is ongoing research on the potential of using anticoagulants found in vampire bat saliva to treat stroke victims. Military technology and medical systems are being advanced by research of bat echolocation and locomotion.

Human disturbance remains one of the major threats to bats with several reasons cited including that wind turbines constructed for alternative energy sources can be responsible for bat deaths when the sudden drop of air pressure near the propellers causes internal hemorrhaging.

In your efforts for conservation, go to www.batcon.org for instructions on constructing a single-chamber bat house.



Community Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County are once again cooperating with The Cohanzick Zoo in sponsoring a Scarecrow contest for Schools and Youth Organizations in Cumberland and Salem Counties.

The Master Gardeners Program is part of Rutgers University Cooperative Extension whose purpose is to provide educational opportunities to the public through programs and activities that enhance the environment and lives of residents in South Jersey. They collaborate on many community service projects and are working closely with the Cohanzick Zoo.

There will be a Scarecrow contest for all Schools and Youth Organizations. This year's theme is Super Food Heroes! What a great opportunity to learn about the many nutritional values of these super foods. We are encouraging art teachers in High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools, Pre-Schools, & Youth Groups in Cumberland County to design and decorate a scarecrow - full size scarecrows for upper grade levels and mini scarecrows for the little children. We will supply straw for the Scarecrows which is available now at the zoo. Students will supply creativity and help decorate the zoo for the Halloween favorite "Boo in the Zoo!"

Master Gardeners' Butterfly tent will be open for all to have a one-on-one experience in feeding these beautiful creatures. Master Gardener's Children's table will host "Can you Dig It?" and will have an interactive soil education station along with lettuce tasting. There will be various learning stations, a scavenger hunt, face painting, along with scarecrow and pumpkin judging and so much more.

September Fun Day at the zoo will be held on Saturday, September 19th (Rain Date 9/20) and is free to the public. It starts at 10:00 am and we hope to see you there. To enter a scarecrow in the contest you are welcome to call us at the Extension Center for an entry form. All entry forms must be received no later than September 11, 2015 and finished scarecrows must be delivered to the zoo by September 18th before 4 pm.

This is a fun filled affordable event and we encourage you to mark your calendar and come see what we are all about.



2016 Award of Excellence

Every county had the chance to present an individual award and team award at the State Master Gardener Convention, held yearly to honor the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to bringing research based education to the public. This year's honorees are:

Sam Pace, Individual:

In 2014 Sam Pace completed his required hours of internship before the Master Gardener classes were completed and received his official name badge at graduation. Sam has a wonderful can-do attitude and has become an advocate of the Helpline. Sam's enthusiasm of the educational aspect of Helpline research is contagious. He readily shares his successes with those who are less than confident about serving the Helpline.

Sam has an innate sense of leadership and is willing to get involved as evidenced by his commitments to the following teams: Signage Project, Children's Table, Eco Fair at Wheaton Arts, Community Fun Day at the Cohanzick Zoo, Educational Propagation Team, Cumberland County Fair Helpline on the Road, Speakers Bureau, School Gardens, Therapeutic Horticulture at the Veteran's Home and the Diagnostics Clinics.

Sam is a pleasure to work with and the Cumberland County Master Gardener Program is lucky to have Sam as a volunteer.

Helpline on the Road, Team:

Helpline on the Road has been successful since inception, thanks to Master Gardener volunteers taking this venue to well-attended events in Cumberland County. The number one comment heard from the public is "I didn't know you existed!", which makes this educational marketing campaign invaluable to the our program.

Helpline on the Road was organized in Spring of 2014 and twenty-one Master Gardeners have given over sixty hours of time to six venues and have realized an education and marketing outreach to several hundred clients. Clients are encouraged to complete an information form asking their garden questions. Follow up to those questions are provided by researching Rutgers Fact Sheets and other scientific-based educational resources.

Clients are given options for additional information on upcoming Master Gardener Classes, and to receive the quarterly home horticulture newsletter.

Master Gardeners agree this is a fun way to promote the program and educate the public.

The Helpline on the Road Team consists of the following Master Gardeners:

Kathy Andersch	Marianne Bagliani	Denise Case
Nina Courter	Carol Diament	Karra Green
Tom Lesosky	Cheryl Loatman	Susan McKenna
Barbara McOscar	Dolores Misiewicz	Doris Morgan
Marie Nicke	Sam Pace	Barbara Paulos
Peggy Peters	Bill Rafferty	Yolanda Smith
Pat Stella	Louann Winters	Jean Wright

American Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*.

American Bittersweet is one of those quintessential indicators of fall but is NOT to be confused with Oriental or Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), which is invasive and aggressive and needs to be avoided in landscaping at all costs. How to tell the difference? Check the location of the flowers and berries. The fruits will appear in clusters at the end of the branches of the American Bittersweet and the berries will appear at the base of each leaf on the Oriental or Asiatic Bittersweet.

American Bittersweet is not as showy as the more traditional mums for fall color, but can hold its own in landscaping and fall decorating. It is a climbing woody vine and is native to North America and while the flowers are nondescript the fruit is amazing! Around September or October clusters of yellowish capsules appear which turn more orange in color and then separate to expose bright, red-orange berries.

Bittersweet has a vigorous growth habit and requires pruning to keep it in check which is wonderful because the gnarly twisted vines and colorful berries are perfect for fall arrangements and will last for a long time if brought indoors. I have fashioned the vine and berries into a fall wreath that has a bit of a wild and wooly feel to it. Pruning also helps the plant because flowering and fruiting occur on the new growth. Depending on the look you wish to achieve in your landscape, it's smart to give consideration to the vigorous growth habit of bittersweet when deciding if it's the optimum choice for your garden.

Give this plant a lot of room to grow and resist the temptation to let it grow on trunks of trees where bittersweet can easily girdle and kill young trees. It's a better option to grow the bittersweet along fences or a trellis where it can be more easily managed.

Bittersweet likes full sun and will grow in most soils. It is a dioecious vine with male flowers on one plant and female on another. The two have to be near each other in order to produce fruit. Bees are the main pollinator. Also - Word of warning!!! All parts of this plant are considered toxic, so keep this in mind when you are considering this vine for your landscaping purposes.

References

University of Minnesota; Reviewed 10/98 ; Index to Yard & Garden Briefs; <http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/h400bittersweet.html>

University of Illinois; <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/palette/091108.html>

Materials developed by the Maine Natural Areas Program; University of Maine; <http://umaine.edu/publications/2506e/>

Brandeis University (MA): http://www.bio.brandeis.edu/fieldbio/medicinal_plants/pages/American_Bittersweet.htm



Bermudagrass

I have had several homeowners ask about bermudagrass in their home landscaping. Bermudagrass is a warm season perennial grass that is well suited to southern regions of the United States. In the South it is successfully used as a major turf species for parks, golf courses, sports fields and playgrounds where it stays green year round as a warm season grass. It is widely used for soil erosion control and to stabilize the banks of ditches.

However, in the Northeastern State of New Jersey, it often presents itself as a weed. In one case the homeowner reported that it is inching its' way into her well-kept flower beds and she is having a hard time containing its' encroachment. That is because bermudagrass has a fibrous, perennial root system with vigorous, deep rhizomes which make it difficult to control. The most common turfgrasses that are found in New Jersey are the cool season varieties so as a warm season grass, bermudagrass typically becomes dormant in late fall and turns an unattractive brown.

Bermudagrass grows best when irrigated and in full sunlight. By controlling water and light, you can make an attempt to control bermudagrass. Unfortunately both of these are suggested for summertime use, so mark your calendars for next summer.

The first is to withhold water in the summer months to the area where the bermudagrass is growing with the goal of drying the stems. Then rototill or spade two or three times to bring the rhizomes to the surface to dry out and continue to rake the area often. This persistent program of removal helps, but keep in mind that if it rains during this process the remaining bermudagrass will re-grow.

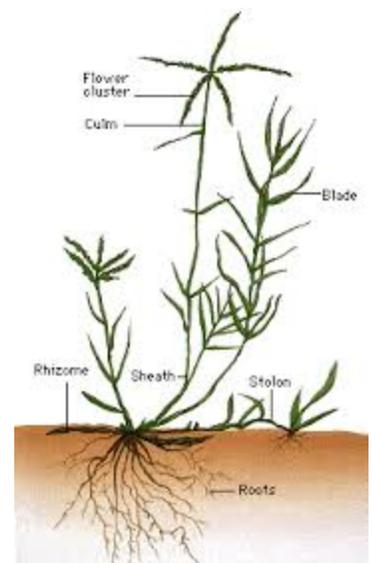
The second method is to mow and irrigate the grass, and place black polyethylene plastic over the plants to prevent sunlight from reaching the plant, and leave it for at least 6 to 8 weeks in summer. As the summer weeks progress be sure to check that the plastic does not have holes, or the bermudagrass will grow through the holes. Organic landscape fabrics can also be used under wood chips for a more pleasing aesthetic effect. However, make certain the fabric is overlapped with no chance for stolons to grow between the sheets of landscape fabric. Again, if there are any holes present in the landscape fabric the bermudagrass will find its' way through and survive.

Resources:

Rutgers (New Jersey Water Savers); http://njwatersavers.rutgers.edu/MunicipalGuideTurfManagement/ForMunicipalities_GuideTurfMgmt_3Grass.html

Texas Cooperative Extension; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/turf/publications/bermuda.html>

University of California; <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7453.html>



Black Walnut Stains

A client called our helpline asking how to remove the black walnut stains from his hands. There are resolutions to removing black walnut stains from washable fabric but the recommendation for removing the stains from skin seems to be prevention. Wear gloves and old clothes when handling black walnuts.

You know the walnut is mature when you can leave a depression of your finger in the husk. In harvesting the black walnuts, there are many methods that you can use to remove the tough outer green or partially decomposed husk. You can put them in your driveway and run over them a few times, which I distinctly remember my Gram and Mom using with the black walnuts or you can use a 2x4 or a heavy foot to roll off the husk.

Now comes the fun part – trying to crack the shell. Hand held crackers are not recommended. It's suggested you go right to the heavy duty combination of a hammer, a block of wood, a vise or big rocks. You can pre-condition the shells by soaking the walnuts first. My personal favorite is known as the frustration therapy technique. About 100 nuts are placed in a heavy-duty sack. Repeatedly strike the sack with a mallet until the nuts are broken. Hand separate the shells and kernel fragments.

Store the nut meat in an airtight container in your refrigerator for a few days to dry and then you can freeze it for a long period of time

Black Walnut thieves are becoming common because of the value of the wood, which is used as laminate. The thefts occur when the poachers show up and pose as tree surgeons then spirit away the tree while the homeowner is gone. Imagine the homeowners when they come home at the end of a long day to find the iconic walnut tree that has offered up many a black walnut cake over the years is suddenly gone.

Resources:

Union County College; http://faculty.ucc.edu/biology-ombrello/POW/black_walnut.htm

University of Minnesota; <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/growing-black-walnut/>

Purdue University; <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-193.pdf>

University of Illinois; <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/homeowners/991002.html>

Iowa State University; <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1994/9-16-1994/bnut.html>



Companion Planting

Indian corn was probably on the menu for the first thanksgiving but not in the way that we think of corn today. The kernels may have been soaked and used in stews or dried and ground into flour for use in breads. Indian corn is reflective of the legend of the three sisters which describes three sisters that love each other deeply. Those sisters are corn, squash and beans. Their love is so strong that they only grow well when they are together and the corn stands straight and tall while the squash rambles over the ground below and the beans wind their way up the corn stalks. Today that's known as companion planting.

Resources:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/palette/091122.html>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/vegetabletravelers/corn.html>



Dahlias

After you have enjoyed the beautiful flowers of the dahlia during this summer, how do you overwinter the tubers? To make your project easier, make sure you have several boxes or trays ahead of time along with labels to identification.

Rutgers University Fact Sheet FS 1153 by Edith Wallace, Ph.D., Master Gardener, Passaic County and Elaine Fogerty Barbour, Passaic County Agricultural Assistant, talks about growing Dahlias. For overwintering tubers, it is recommended to wait for four to eight days after a hard fall frost when the leaves are wilted and absorbing food from the fleshy stalks. Then, on a sunny day cut the stalks 6 inches above the ground and make sure you add a label through the stalks to keep the varieties organized. Don't skip this step.

When you are lifting the tubers from the soil, make certain that you don't bruise them or break them from the crown. Remove as much soil as possible and if necessary hose them off.

Make sure the tubers are allowed to thoroughly dry out. You may want to put the separated clumps in boxes out in the sun before moving them into storage. If they are not dry enough they will mold.

Store them in a garage or basement where the temperature is 40-50°F. If the temperature goes higher, they will dry out and die. A dry frost-free environment is preferred for the tubers. The tubers can be placed in shallow boxes or trays with a cover of sand, peat moss or newspaper. Make sure the tubers have breathing space so if one rots it does not affect the others and keep the labels organized. The tray can be placed in a plastic bag with the end folded over. Check the tubers periodically and if the tubers have shriveled place them in water to allow them to re-plump. Discard any rotting tubers. In late February move the tubers to a warmer environment where they can set early shoots.

Resources:

Colorado State University; <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Flowers/Bulbs/dahlitub.htm>

New Mexico State University; <http://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/yard/2008/111508.html>

2011 NJ Fertilizer Law

Snyderfarm.rutgers.edu reminds us that the 2011 New Jersey Fertilizer Law was conceived to protect all New Jersey surface and ground waters from impairment by minimizing nitrogen and phosphorous loading that may be derived from lawn fertilizer. Fertilizers containing phosphorous or nitrogen may not be applied by consumers after November 15th and before March 1st in any calendar year.

For further details, visit these websites: <http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/fertilizerlawfaq.html>
http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/_pdf/Quick-Facts-2011-New-Jersey-Fertilizer-Law.pdf

Forcing Bulbs

Rutgers Fact Sheet FS 1220, written by Elaine Fogerty, Agricultural Assistant, Passaic County, provides recommendations on how to force flowering bulbs into bloom during the winter so we can bring both color and fragrance indoors during the dreary cold months or for a beautiful holiday display. While I have been successful in forcing both paperwhite narcissus and amaryllis, it is also possible to force crocus, hyacinth, scilla, muscari, iris and tulips.

In October or November begin planting the bulbs using clean pots with adequate drainage and a good soil mix. The tips of the bulb should be at the soil line. Consider planting some every week for an ongoing succession of blooms.

Store the planted pots in an unheated area such as a basement (35 to 48°F) for 12-15 weeks.

Check at 12 weeks for roots and some shoots. If roots and shoots are not present keep in storage and check weekly. Once roots are well-established and some shoots are present, move the containers to a room that is bright and cool. You will have flowers in 3 to 4 weeks. It is not recommended to re-use the forced bloom.

Lime takes time

A number of Rutgers University Fact Sheets address liming in NJ the fall, including 4 written by Joseph R. Heckman, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility:

FS902: Liming New Jersey Soils for Fruit Crops

FS903: Liming New Jersey Soils for Field and Forage Crops

FS 904: Liming New Jersey Soils for Vegetable Crops

FS 905: Agricultural Liming Materials

Next spring already seems so far away but in preparation for it, fall is the time to get your soil tested for pH. This will allow the lime the necessary time to react before the next growing season. We offer on-the-spot testing for pH at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center of Cumberland County for a nominal cost of \$3.00. Our hours of operation are: Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 to 4:30. The number is 856-451-2800 Extension 4 and we are located at 291 Morton Avenue, Millville.

For additional information on Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens, please refer to Rutgers University Fact Sheet 797 written by Joseph R. Heckman, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility. These publications are available to download at: <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/subcategory.asp?cat=1001&sub=1001>

Become a Rutgers Master Gardener

The 2016 Rutgers Master Gardener classes will begin in January 2016. We are currently in the process of developing the curriculum and respective speakers. The classes will be held on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and will run 20 weeks ending in May. The classes cover a variety of horticulture related topics and are taught by leaders in the industry.

If you are interested in the Rutgers Cumberland County Master Gardener program, please call us for an application and we will be sure to send one as soon as the class syllabus is confirmed. You will be asked to fill out the application which includes information about yourself and your vision of your role as a potential Master Gardener. Program interviews will be scheduled on a first in basis.

The Master Gardener program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and has been developed to help service the public with a non-biased source of horticultural information. Thanks to the Master Gardeners, the Cooperative Extension currently offers lawn and garden advice to homeowners who call or stop by the office.

After receiving the formal training and passing the final exam, students are required to return 60 hours of volunteer service. At least 20 of these hours must be spent on a "horticulture helpline", answering garden questions from the public. The helpline is located at the Cumberland County Extension Education Center and is open Tuesday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon March through October. It is expected that you will fulfill this "helpline" obligation in its entirety within eighteen months. If your current schedule or situation will not allow you to attend all of the classes and complete the 60 hours of volunteer time, please know that it is anticipated we will hold a training class yearly, so you should reconsider applying when your schedule clears.

Once you successfully pass the course and complete the required volunteer service you will become a Certified Master Gardener. Master Gardeners are required to stay involved through continued education and volunteer work. There are also many learning opportunities throughout the year, as well as field trips and other fun activities.

The cost for the course is \$210.00. This one-time non-refundable fee covers the cost of MG manual, copying and other fees and expenses associated with the training. The course fee will be due at the time of interview upon notification of acceptance into the 2016 class. The class size is limited to 15 and acceptance is determined on a first in basis.

Pumpkin Patch

Rutgers publication E310 details Diagnosing and Managing Important Cucurbit Diseases in the Home Garden. If your pumpkin patch has managed to survive the numerous issues that can occur, it's this time of year that we most closely relate to this festive fruit. It was our early colonists who invented the first pumpkin pie when they cleaned out the pumpkin and added milk, spices and honey and then baked the pumpkin in hot ashes.

When you are harvesting pumpkins, look for a deep solid color, usually orange, and a hard rind. Wear gloves when harvesting as some varieties have prickles on the stems. Cut the pumpkins from the vine using pruning shears or a sharp knife and leave 3-4 inches of stem attached. Don't try snapping the stems, as this will result in broken or missing handles. Pumpkins without stems don't tend to keep well and they just plain are not as festive. Be sure to include the little tendrils that may come on the stems. Try not to cut or bruise the pumpkins when handling them and store them in a building that is between 50 - 55°F.

When you are making your jack-o-lantern it is fun to think of the history. An Irish myth refers to Stingy Jack who succeeded in tricking the devil several times. When Stingy Jack dies, he was not allowed to enter the pearly gates and the Devil didn't want him either. Jack was sent off into the night with only a coal to light his way. Jack plopped his lump of burning coal into a turnip and has roamed the earth for all time, as the story goes. Jack of the lantern became jack o lantern.

In response, various versions of Jack's lanterns showed up in Ireland, Scotland and England, when people put carved beets, turnips or potatoes with scary faces into their windows to scare off Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. The tradition emigrated with these settlers to the United States where they soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, made perfect jack o'lanterns.

Resource:

University of Illinois Extension; <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/pumpkins/>



Seasonal Needle Drop of White Pines

If you see the older needles of your evergreen trees turning uniformly yellow and falling, it may not be time to panic. It could be seasonal needle drop which occurs as part of a normal growth cycle. If you have ever walked through a grove of pine trees, you will notice the pine "mulch" of needles blanketing the ground.

White pines tend to keep their needles for three years, which can be confusing when the term of "evergreen" suggests that the needles are evergreen. In fact, the older needles will yellow, usually uniformly from the top to the bottom of the tree, while the needles at the tips remain green. The weather and season are triggers for the drop, so it can seem alarming when all the needles turn at once. Keep in mind if the new growth is turning color, then you may be looking at another cause, such as insects, disease or environmental stresses.

Resources:

Iowa State University; <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2006/10-4/evergreens.html>

Clemson Cooperative Extension; http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/plant_problems/hgic2353.html

University of Wisconsin Fact Sheet A2614: Evergreen condition: Seasonal Needle Drop

Saving Seeds

The practice of saving seeds has been going on for many years and is essential for maintaining unusual or heritage vegetables and flowers.

If you are considering saving seeds, there are a few tips to help make your venture successful. First, make sure you choose open pollinated varieties. Hybrids do not come true from seed, so you would be disappointed in your results. Choose from the best of the best and the healthiest, showy plants to harvest mature seeds near the end of the season. Pick disease free plants with the most flavorful vegetables or the most beautiful flowers.

There are at least two methods used for saving seeds. The dry method allows the seed to mature and dry on the plant for as long as possible. You can complete the drying process by spreading the seeds on a screen in a single layer in a well-ventilated dry location. The chaff or pods can be gently blown away as the drying process continues.

The second method is the wet method. The seed mass is scooped out and placed in a container with a small amount of water. Let it ferment for several days with a daily stir. The good seeds will sink to the bottom while the pulp and bad seed float. Pour off the pulp and bad seeds and allow the good seeds to dry.

Once completely dry, store your seeds in a labelled moisture proof airtight container. Include the seed type or variety and the date on the label. You can add a small amount of silica gel dessicant or powdered milk wrapped in cheesecloth to each container. Seeds want to be kept cool and dry so your refrigerator is a good place to store them overwinter.

Resources:

University of Minnesota; <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/saving-vegetable-seeds/>

Washington State University; <http://spokane-county.wsu.edu/spokane/eastside/Fact%20Sheets/C166%20Saving%20Seeds%2005.pdf>

West Virginia University Extension Service; <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/hortcult/homegard/seedsavr.htm>

Colorado State University Extension; <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/Garden/07602.html>

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension; <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/vegetables/seed.html>

University of Illinois Extension; <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/hortihints/0008c.html>

Overwinter

The stores are all decked out in fall with Christmas decorations already out on the back shelves and just waiting to burst at the seams. It's the time of year when we willingly go sit out in the rain at football games to cheer our hometown team onto victory. It's the time of year to dig a little deeper into the closet for sweatshirts and long johns. And it's the time of year to prepare our gardens for the winter months looming ahead. There are Rutgers Fact Sheets available that deal with specific plants for overwintering recommendations, including FS1156 on Keeping Geraniums Overwinter; FS1220 which talks about forcing bulbs; and FS1153 on how to store dahlia tubers overwinter. As we consider putting the garden to bed for the winter season think of the 3 C's: Cleaning up, Composting & Covering Up.

Clean up your garden. Pull out the dead and diseased plants and move them far away from your garden. I know it's no fun to pull weeds, but your garden will thank you for it next spring. You can add a layer of organic matter at this point, but if you use manure, make certain it is aged. If not, the nitrogen levels will be too high to produce good fruiting of the plants.

The second c is compost. Rutgers offer 4 Fact Sheets on home composting and the Fact Sheet numbers are FS74, 117, 805 and 811. After you've cleaned up the garden of the weeds and diseased plants, compost with spent annuals, grass clippings and garden debris.

The last c is cover it up, or mulch. If you use leaves as mulch, make sure you shred them first, but then you can mulch with them or till them into your garden as free fertilizer.

Resource:

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/news/2013/putting-the-garden-to-bed>

Garden Tips for September

- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while the selection is good.
- Fertilize most houseplants for the last time until next spring.
- Sow a new lawn. FS108 & FS684
- Core aerate your lawn when the soil is moist but not wet.
- Fall is a good time to test the soil in your lawn, vegetable garden, perennial bed or around trees and shrubs. Call your local Extension office for a soil test packet. FS797
- Clean off the vegetable garden and annual beds as plants die.
- Remove spent flowers from perennials.
- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves and garden debris. FS74
- Plant some lilies.
- Plant chrysanthemums, pansies and ornamental cabbages and kales early in the month.
- Lift and divide iris rhizomes and overgrown peonies.
- Bring fibrous begonias, coleus and impatiens indoors for potted houseplants.
- Store surplus seeds in a cool, dry location.
- Fall is a great time to plant most trees and shrubs. FS786
- Don't fertilize established woody plants until they are dormant.
- Allow winter squashes, pumpkins and gourds to mature completely on the vine. Harvest them before the first frost.
- Wait at least two weeks after the tops die to harvest white potatoes. FS679
- Dig sweet potatoes before the first frost. FS560
- Move perennial plants within the next month or wait until next spring.
- Make a map of your perennial gardens to record the location of your plants.
- Continue to weed the gardens. The best place for these plants is the compost pile.



Gardening Tips for October



- Consider dwarf fall asters to brighten the flower garden.
- Fall is a good time to apply lime to the lawn and garden if a soil test recommends it.
- Harvest gourds and squashes when they mature and before they are exposed to frost.
- Weed and edge your gardens. FS20 & 119
- Plant tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs and crocus corms.
- Plant garlic, rhubarb and shallots.
- Plant hardy spring-blooming perennials and biennials in the garden early in the month.
- Store leftover flower and vegetable seeds in a cool, dry place.
- Provide food and water for the birds. FS1022
- Repair garden fences, trellises and accessories.
- Call a certified arborist for a serious tree problem. FS19
- Continue to mow the lawn at a height of 2½ to 3 inches until the grass stops growing.
- Start a wish list of plants and tools for next year's gardening season.
- Spread humus (composted organic matter) two inches deep and work it into your garden soil. FS117
- Note where fall color is needed in the landscape and plan to add an appropriate plant next year.
- Clean and store lawn furniture.
- Rake fallen leaves to prevent them from smothering the lawn.
- Form a compost pile of leaves and other garden debris. FS 811
- Wait until the ground freezes to apply mulch around perennials.
- Plant and transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after leaf fall.
- Fertilize woody plants after they go dormant (after several hard freezes).
- Prune trees and shrubs after they go dormant.
- Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. FS 099
- Store garden stakes, hoses and tools before winter sets in.
- Remove dead chrysanthemum tops from the garden.
- Dig root crops before the ground freezes. Carrots, beets, leeks, turnips and parsnips can be harvested from the garden all winter long.
- Be sure to harvest your tomatoes, peppers, sweet potatoes and other tender crops before the first frost.
- Plant a cover crop of winter rye or hairy vetch on your vegetable garden.
- Transplant strawberries.
- Harvest pears before they are fully ripe. Harvest apples when the stem separates from the branch with a slight pull.
- Plant garlic FS 1233
- Make a jack-O'-lantern and roast the seeds for a snack.



Gardening Tips for November

- Sow seeds of hardy flowers, such as calendula, larkspur and sweet pea.
- Plant bare-root plants when they're dormant and the air temperature is cool.
- Rake fallen leaves from the lawn.
- All trees and shrubs should be deeply watered before winter.
- Stake newly planted trees to protect them from winter winds.
- Wrap arborvitae and other upright evergreens that could be split by heavy snow.
- Resist the temptation to pile mulch up around the trunks of your trees and shrubs. Keep the base of the plant free from mulch while keeping the area under the canopy covered with 2-4 inches of mulch. FS 099
- Turn your houseplants regularly for even growth.
- Winterize roses and mulch perennials and strawberries after the ground freezes.
- Continue to remove weeds from the garden.
- Place all weeds, leaves and dead, annual and perennial foliage in the compost pile. FS 811 & FS 74
- Turn and water the compost pile to keep it working. FS 74
- Dig up and store tender bulbs, corms or tubers.
- Have you planted your spring-flowering bulbs? If not, do this before the ground freezes.
- Continue mowing the lawn at 2½ -3 inches until the grass stops growing.
- The late fall fertilization of the lawn should be done after the grass stops growing. FS 633
- Turn over or rough till your vegetable garden if soil erosion is not a problem. A cover crop of winter rye still can be planted if it's done as early in the month as possible.
- Place hardware cloth or plastic guards around fruit trees.
- Pot paperwhite narcissus for forcing indoors.
- Don't over water your houseplants.
- Have your lawn mower and other power equipment serviced.
- Clean and Repair garden tools.
- Drain and bring in all of your garden hoses.
- Feed the birds. FS 1022
- Dig cannas after a hard frost for overwintering FS 1155

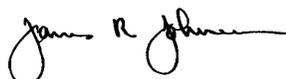


Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets

FS #	Fact Sheet Name
Fact Sheet 2	Brown Marmorated stink bug– a non-native insect in New Jersey
Fact Sheet 19	How to Hire a Tree Care Professional
Fact Sheet 20	Weed control around the home grounds
Fact Sheet 31	How to Fertilize Shade Trees
Fact Sheet 74	Backyard Leaf Composting
Fact Sheet 99	Problems with Over-mulching Trees and Shrubs
Fact Sheet 102	Your Lawn and Its Care
Fact Sheet 108	Renovating your Lawn
Fact Sheet 117	Using Leaf Compost
Fact Sheet 119	Weed control in home lawns
Fact Sheet 122	Tree Problems Caused by People in the Suburban Landscape
Fact Sheet 128	Forcing hardy bulbs Indoors
Fact Sheet 235	Spidermites
Fact Sheet E271	Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance
Fact Sheet E272	Weed Management in Ornamental Plantings (\$1.50)
Fact Sheet 285	Fall Armyworm
Fact Sheet 293	White Grubs
Fact Sheet E310	Diagnosing and Managing Important Cucurbit Diseases in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 376	Transplanting Trees and Shrubs
Fact Sheet 389	Minimizing Waste Disposal: Grass Clippings
Fact Sheet 555	Best Management Practices for Watering Lawns
Fact Sheet 560	Growing Sweet Potatoes in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 595	Low Water Use Landscaping
Fact Sheet 596	Water Only when & where Needed
Fact Sheet 597	Improve your Soil
Fact Sheet 599	Apply Mulches
Fact Sheet 633	Fertilizing the Home Lawn
Fact Sheet 679	Growing potatoes in the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 684	Turfgrass Seed Selection for Home Lawns
Fact Sheet 786	6 Ways to keep your newly planted Tree Alive and Healthy
Fact Sheet 797	Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens
Fact Sheet 944	Roses and their Care
Fact Sheet 988	Picking Vegetables for the Home Garden
Fact Sheet 1155	Cannas
Fact Sheet 1207	The Facts About Bats in New Jersey
Fact Sheet 1220	Spring Flowering Bulbs
Fact Sheet 1233	Growing Garlic in the Home Garden

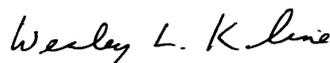
Call 856/451-2800 x4 ask for Pam Burton. When calling to request a fact sheet refer to the Fact Sheet by FS# or by name. All fact sheets are free unless otherwise noted.

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



James R. Johnson
Agricultural Agent
Nursery Management Commercial
Internet: jjohnson@NJAES.rutgers.edu

Sincerely,



Wesley L. Kline, Ph.D.
Agricultural Agent
Vegetable & Herb Production
Internet: wkline@NJAES.rutgers.edu

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

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

Public Notification and Non-discrimination Statement

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. Contact the State Extension Director's Office if you have concerns related to discrimination, 848-932-3584.

Time To Renew your subscription to "What's Growing On....."
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please
Call Tammy Commander at 856-451-2800 x1 or
Email: tammyco@co.cumberland.nj.us

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
VINELAND, NJ
PERMIT NO. 186

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

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station