Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pam’s Garden Gab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Does Your Garden Grow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Fun</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Level</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jade Plant</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Tasks:</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatures and Critters</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Power</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees Please!</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food for Thought</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Award of Excellence</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 MG Classes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Point Lighthouse</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening Down-Jersey Style</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Gardener Fall Events</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardener’s Checklist for September</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardener’s Checklist for October</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardener’s Checklist for November</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachments</td>
<td>17-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact Sheets</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pam’s Garden Gab: Fall 2019

I recently attended the International Master Gardener Conference held in Valley Forge. Approximately 1100 volunteers and program coordinators attended. There were plenty of educational classes as well as available trips and tours for the many public gardens in our area.

Dr. David D. Gibby, the father of the Worldwide Master Gardener Movement, provided the keynote speech of how the Master Gardener program was started in 1973 and how the program has grown since its’ inception. It was quite an impactful sight to see the room filled with so many people who have the Master Gardener program in common, and who share the passion of gardening, horticulture, and agriculture. The highlight of my week was when I accepted the third place award for Pepper Research in collaboration with agricultural agents on behalf of the Master Gardeners of Cumberland County as part of the 2019 Gibby Search for Excellence Award.

If you have an interest in becoming a Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County, please complete the enclosed application and give me a call so we can chat one-on-one about what “we” do here in the Cumberland County program. Looking forward to hearing from you!

And so it goes,

Pam
How Does Your Garden Grow?

**Broccoli:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 561, *Growing the Cole Crops in the Home Garden*, mentions an interesting fact about broccoli. Broccoli is grown for its edible flowers and stalks. Did you know that the head of broccoli is a group of immature flowers? It’s one of my favorite veggies plus it has phytonutrients, which have anti-cancer effects, and broccoli is a good source of beta-carotene, Vitamin C, calcium, potassium, folate, and iron.  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/hgic/GIEI_veggie_pubs/GE103%20Broccoli.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/hgic/GIEI_veggie_pubs/GE103%20Broccoli.pdf)

**Brussels Sprouts:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 561, *Growing the Cole Crops in the Home Garden*, mentions one way of harvesting brussels sprouts is to remove the sprouts as they mature (1-1.5 inch diameter) from the bottom of the stem upward. This method is very labor intensive. Many roadside stands and direct markets have started to wait until the majority of sprouts have sized, then cut the entire stems, remove the leaves, and sell brussels sprouts as sprouts on the stalk. This alternative method of harvest requires much less labor.  
[http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene2520.html](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene2520.html)  
[https://extension.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=9094](https://extension.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=9094)

**Garlic:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 1233, *Growing Garlic in the Home Garden*, recommends planting garlic in October in a sunny location with light, well-drained soil. It could be advantageous to create raised beds before planting for improved drainage. Don’t try planting supermarket garlic which may have been treated to prevent sprouting. Instead, opt for buying cloves from a seed catalog or local garden center. Separate the cloves before planting, and remove the papery outer skin but take care to keep the individual wrapper and scab end intact. Space the cloves 3-6 inches apart and allow 9-24 inches between the rows. Mulch with 3-4 inches of grass clippings.  

**Winter Squash:** Rutgers fact Sheet 988, *Picking Vegetables in the Home Garden*, recommends that winter squash such as butternut, acorn, and spaghetti should be harvested before the first frost but after their skins have hardened. To harvest, make a clean cut with pruning shears about ½ inch above the fruit and avoid breaking off the stem. Keep the squash in a warm dry and dark area and they can be stored for 3 to 4 months. You can wipe them off if they are soiled.

**Cushaw Squash:** Many families use their favorite pumpkin or squash to make their holiday pies. The cushaw squash is an example of winter squash. It is an unusual squash that has shown to be easy to grow with some squash bug resistance and the added advantage of outstanding flavor. It is 12-18 inches long, pot-bellied shape, yellow and green striped, and crook-necked with sprawling vines so give it plenty of room. The fruits will be 10–20 pounds but are easy to cut. If you can find it in the market this sounds like a keeper!
For Fun

No doubt if you are a lover of gardens, ancient mythology, or architecture you’ve seen the green man. You may have seen him as part of a building where there is a male face looking out from a mask of oak leaves, and sometimes with vegetation coming from his mouth, ears, and eyes, as well. The green man has been in existence for well over 2000 years, showing up in cathedrals, gardens, and manor houses. The green man is almost an afterthought and not the star of the show, and is summed up in an article I read as “…a symbol, an expression of being at one with nature, one with life and at one with the earth…” I do have a green man in my garden, and it is said no two are ever alike.

The Weeder’s Reader, Greenprints’ Greatest Stories, GreenPrints Enterprises, P.O. Box 1355, Fairview, NC 28730, copyright 2012, “The Green Man”, by Peter Loewer

When you are carving your pumpkin this year, give some thought to history which says that a man named “Stingy Jack.” He played tricks on the devil at least twice bargaining for the Devil to leave him alone. The Devil left him alone at his death but he was destined to roam into the dark with only a lump of burning coal, carried in a turnip, and was known as a jack of the lantern. This morphed to the jack o’ lantern name as we know it today. Such legends are tons of fun to share with the kids on Halloween! Be safe.

https://m.extension.illinois.edu/pumpkins/history.cfm
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/pumpkin_carving_the_history_of_the_jack_o_lantern

Are you wondering what to do with the kids in November when there is so much time off from school? With some imagination, some help from Pinterest, and a few fun treasure hunts, your kids can make keepsake ornaments for the tree from natural materials. Make sure you have basic craft supplies available, like glue, paint, wire, beads, glitter, clippers, scissors, tweezers, and faux snow. The use of teasel, acorns, pine cones, pods, shells, and other gifts from nature can be used to create one-of-a-kind critters, including deer, owls, elves, snowmen, Santas, foxes, mice, and hedgehogs.

Ground Level

Oak Sedge: Bruce Crawford, of Rutgers Gardens, suggests using oak sedge, Carex pensylvanica, as an alternative to mulch. Oak sedge likes dry shade, has a creeping habit in loose colonies, and spreads via rhizomes. Plant it in drifts as an understory for taller perennials in woodland gardens, borders, edges or slopes for seasonal cover for songbirds. Oak sedge reaches about 8 - 10 inches high and has bright green colored leaves. In Rutgers Bulletin E271, Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance, carex is rated as an ornamental grass that is rarely damaged by deer.

https://extension.umd.edu/learn/pennsylvania-sedge
https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/carex-pensylvanica/

Creeping Wintergreen: I was hiking with friends and our dogs in Pennsylvania recently. Creeping along the woodland ground was a sweet little plant with glossy green leaves and bright red berries. The plant was identified as creeping wintergreen, Gaultheria procumbens, which does have a minty smell to it when the leaves are crushed. The mat of wintergreen seems very happy in the naturalized setting which had light dappled shade, and good drainage. Rutgers Bulletin E271, Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance, lists wintergreen as a groundcover that is seldom severely damaged by deer.

Jade Plant

The jade plant, *Crassula ovata*, is an easy to grow succulent that likes the warm dry conditions found in most homes. The biggest problem they have is getting killed by kindness, when the homeowner overwaters them. Their overall look is reminiscent of a tree and they are quite often trained as a bonsai. They do best in well-drained soil in a southern window but take care that the foliage doesn’t touch the windowpanes. Jades don’t mind being root-bound, so re-potting will become necessary only when they become top-heavy. New plants can easily be started and shared from stem cuttings and there are plenty of varieties to choose from!

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/jade-plant/
http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/jade-plants.php

Fall Tasks:

**Cannas:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 1155, *Cannas*, tells us cannas are not winter hardy. One of the tasks on the November check-off list is to dig up your cannas after a hard frost. Take care when digging not to damage or break the rhizomes. Cut the top back to 6” and dry them in the sun for a few days. Cannas can be stored in bags or boxes of barely moist vermiculite, perlite, or peat moss where winter temperatures are cool but not below freezing. Check them throughout the winter and add a few drops of water if needed so they do not completely dry up. Not too much though or they can rot!

**Bulbs:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 1220, *Spring Flowering Bulbs*, recommends planting bulbs in mid-September through October when the soil temperature falls below 60°F to allow time for an adequate root system to develop before the ground freezes. Generally, the rule of thumb is to plant bulbs about two to three times deeper than the height of the bulb. Measure the planting depth from the bottom of the bulb. Remember that bulbs like five to six hours of direct sunlight a day and they look best when planted in mass.

My gram planted amaryllis every year to have them blooming in time for the holiday season. If you count back from bloom time, which can run from 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the variety, you will see that fall is the time to start potting them up! Choose a bulb that is about 3 inches wide with no soft spots and then use a pot that is 1 to 2 inches wider than the bulb and that has drainage holes. The bulb should be planted in well-drained potting soil with the upper one-half to two-thirds of the bulb above the soil surface. Once planted, water it, and put it in a warm location for a festive flower at the holidays.

http://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/Ag.%20Ext.%202007-Chelsie/PDF/e1848-1985.pdf
**Water & Weed:** Several tasks can be done in the fall to help perennial beds in the spring. Keep providing water for perennial flowerbeds until the soil freezes. The amount of water per week should be about 1 inch between rainfall and irrigation. Ideally, it is best to provide a good, once-a-week watering to develop a deep strong root system versus a bit of sprinkling each day. Be sure to remove the weeds in the fall as well.

**Cutting Garden:** As you do your fall clean up, see if you can plan a cutting garden for next year. A cutting garden that is not part of your actual landscaping requires very little thought regarding the design aspect since it’s not intended for display. Instead, you won’t have to worry about cutting too many flowers because that is the intended purpose! To make maintenance easier set it up as you would a traditional vegetable garden with spacing between rows. A cutting garden generally has a mixture of annuals, perennials, some foliage plants, and some hardwood options.

https://pss.uvm.edu/PPP/articles/cutgarden.html
https://extension.psu.edu/creating-a-cutting-garden

**Creatures and Critters**

**Mole Management:** The information provided in Rutgers Fact Sheet 025, *Mole Management in Turf and Gardens*, proves there is no easy management controls for getting rid of moles. One very specific question asked by a homeowner was the effectiveness of using grub control for mole control. This fact sheet recommends that grub control generally won’t provide much mole control because their diet also consists of earthworms, crickets and other invertebrates that live in the soil. It may increase activity while they search for other food sources, and it’s likely that even if there is some relief they probably won’t move far and will return to the home site eventually.

**Woolly Adelgid:** A client called in and reported that they recently took down an entire row of Hemlock trees which had served as a privacy screen. The hemlocks had been hit hard by woolly adelgid, as referenced in the Rutgers Fact Sheet 751, *The Life Cycle, Monitoring, and Pest Management in New Jersey of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*. They asked for a recommendation for replacing the hedge or privacy screen and one particular choice could be hollies that are suitable for pruned hedges as listed in Rutgers Fact Sheet 1151, *Hollies For New Jersey*. However, it’s just as important for the client to consider a mixed border, as a monoculture that can result in a total catastrophic loss as experienced by their hemlocks.

https://extension.psu.edu/using-trees-and-shrubs-for-privacy-and-wind-screening

**Iris borer:** The gardening notes for October on the Rutgers Gardens webpage recommends removing the foliage of perennials as they collapse with frost. This will eliminate surfaces for slugs and insects such as Iris Borer to lay their eggs while also helping to reduce fungal disease for next year. In the August 1995 Plant & Pest Advisory, an article written by Dr. Ann Gould indicates that control of the iris borer and the wounds they inflect helps with control of the bacterial soft rot of irises. Lastly, by removing the perennial foliage, you can help eliminate winter cover for mice, moles, and voles

**Boxelder Bug:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 075, *The Boxelder Bug and Its Control*, indicates that if you have a seed-bearing female boxelder tree, *Acer negundo*, then the chances are you have boxelder bugs. In the fall, Boxelder bugs congregate in large numbers on the southern side of trees, buildings, and rocks that are exposed to the sun. They will try to make their way into living areas of homes and management of these nuisance pests can include several approaches, including hiring a licensed pest control operator, removal of the female boxelder tree, mechanical exclusion prior to the invasion or vacuuming them up if they have already made their way into the house. Word of warning – they smell when crushed.

https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/boxelder-bug

**Cicada:** On our morning walk, my golden retriever, Tessa, had a close encounter with an annual cicada who was making a ruckus as it buzzed around on the pavement. Needless to say, Tessa decided she could make an even bigger sound and began barking at this predator. It was a fun way for us to start our day, but I’m not sure the neighbors agreed! Annual cicadas are also called dog day cicadas because their arrival coincides when the dog star Sirius is visible at sunrise. 

https://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/blog/2015/09/17/dog-day-cicada-folklore-2/
https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/cicadas-lawns

**Crickets:** Fall means the sounds of crickets chirping. Have you ever wondered how and why they do that? It’s only the male that can chirp and the why is a type of communication, designed to either attract females or repel males. The way they do this is similar to when you click your thumbnail down the teeth of a comb. The crickets rub their wings together and it’s like dragging a peg on one wing across a row of ridges on the other wing. Only the clicks are so fast you don’t hear the individual clicks. It sounds more like a trill or a chirp.


**Hornets and Yellowjackets:** This time of year beware of hornets and yellowjackets who may be in the same part of the yard that you want to be in. Rutgers Fact Sheet 212, *Wasps and Their Control*, states that hornets and yellowjackets may sting if you go near their nests. Rutgers Fact Sheet 1134, *Bees and Wasps*, indicates they can sting multiple times without leaving a stinger or venom sac behind. Both hornets and yellowjackets can eat through wood and into the home, so if you do find a nest do not plug the hole. Call a professional if removal is necessary.

https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/german-yellowjackets
https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/european-hornet

**European Hornets:** Steve Rettke of Rutgers Cooperative Extension wrote in a Pest and Plant Advisory about European Hornets that girdle or strip sections of Birch, Rhododendron, and Lilac during the later weeks of summer and early weeks of fall. When he notes that these vespids have been reported to potentially have a worse temperament than timber rattlesnakes, he is correct, so take particular care to stay clear. This could be where the common phrase “mad as a hornet” came from!

https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/european-hornets
https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/2911/2911-1422/2911-1422_pdf.pdf
https://plant-pest-advisory.rutgers.edu/european-hornet-the-mysterious-branch-girdler/
**Widow Spiders:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 1121, *Spiders of Medical Importance*, states that widow spiders in the Latrodectus genus are found in every state in the United States. The southern black widow is the most notorious and is recognized by its black color and red triangular marks that often form an hourglass-shaped marking on the underside of the abdomen. Black widow spiders live under stones, in firewood piles, under decks, in hollow stumps and trees and rodent burrows. Indoors, they are found in garages, basements, and crawl spaces. They build irregular webs in dark, hidden places.

**Bats:** Rutgers Fact Sheet 1207, *The Facts About Bats in New Jersey*, states that bats are mammals in the order Chiroptera, which is Latin for "hand-wing." Bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. A bat's wing is anatomically homologous to the human arm, consisting of an upper arm, forearm, wrist, and a hand with four elongated fingers, and a clawed thumb, which is used to cling onto any rough surface. Stretching between each finger and the length of the forearm, as well as between the legs and tail, is a double-layered skin membrane, which creates the wing structure. And now you know!

**Leaving your Leaves:** Every so often we run across some information that makes us re-think the old ways. The recommendation for leaving your leaves where they are instead of raking or mulching was a paradigm shift in my thought processes. I did not know that the eggs of Red-banded hairstreak butterfly are laid on the undersides of dead leaves on the ground beneath the host plants. I didn’t know that the single-layered cocoon of the Luna Moth is wrapped in leaves to overwinter and I did not know that the Hickory Tussock Moth spin their cocoons in the fall using the leaf litter and their hairs to overwinter. Just some food for thought.

https://extension.umaine.edu/home-and-garden-ipm/common-name-listing/hickory-tussock-moth/
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/moths/luna_moth.htm
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/redbanded_hairstreak.htm

**Flower Power**

**Asters:** The pollinator garden at the Extension Center has both New England and New York types of asters. The Greek word for star is Aston and both types of asters have star-like flowers, hence the common name. The beautiful bluish flowers enjoy well-drained soil in full sun. They are a relatively carefree perennial but may benefit from pinching back through mid-summer to control legginess. Divide these plants every three years or so in the spring and share with your friends and family.

https://web.extension.illinois.edu/dmp/palette/070930.html

Every year I see a plant during the summer that goes on my “must-have it next year list” and in 2019 I met “Kiss me over the garden gate” and really wouldn’t you want it just for the common name alone? It is related to the smartweed, but at 4 to 7 feet in height, it grows tall enough to fall gracefully over the garden gate with beautiful rose-colored flowers. However, it can become aggressive if allowed to self-seed. I will be on the lookout for this to add to my 2020 home-scaping.

http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/sceneb320.html
**Sunflowers:** You stop at your local farmers’ market and see those beautiful sunflowers, *Helianthus annuus*, and on an impulse buy a bunch to take home to brighten your day. Have you ever given any thought to the process that the farmer goes through in bringing this labor-intensive crop to production? Proper selection of pollen-less hybrid sunflowers is key. They can either be planted by seed or transplant with a pinching back schedule firmly in place. Site location counts for protection from harsh winds. Harvesting done in the morning, just when the flower is opening, leads to longer shelf life.  
[https://extension.psu.edu/cut-flower-production](https://extension.psu.edu/cut-flower-production)

**Wildflower orange milkwort:** *Polygala lutea*, has been seen growing in Cumberland County. It blooms from spring to fall with a bright orange flowerhead that is round in shape and turns yellow when dried. It only reaches a height of 6 to 12 inches tall, so it’s perfect if you believe in fairies. It likes partial shade, average to moist soil, and is a biennial. It’s interesting to note that seed dispersal occurs by ants via a fleshy appendage on the seed.  
[https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/polygala-lutea/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/polygala-lutea/)  
[http://atlas.uwa.edu/Plant.aspx?ID=2903](http://atlas.uwa.edu/Plant.aspx?ID=2903)

**Blue false indigo:** *Baptisia australis*, is a native perennial that likes full sun in well-drained soil. It’s a tall perennial reaching a height of 3-4 feet when mature and does not like to be transplanted due to a taproot. The flowers are a lovely blue in mid to late spring and then turn into a seed pod that rattles in the wind. Rutgers bulletin E271, *Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance*, indicates that Baptisia is a perennial that is rarely damaged by deer.  
[https://wimastergardener.org/article/blue-false-indigo-baptisia-australis/](https://wimastergardener.org/article/blue-false-indigo-baptisia-australis/)  
[https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/baptisia-australis/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/baptisia-australis/)

**Doll’s eyes:** This time of the year it’s all about berries and there is a very unusual native perennial with berries that look like doll’s eyes which is it’s common name. The Latin name is *Actaea pachypoda*. The white egg shaped berries are in clusters on thick red stalks and each berry has a purple spot on the end, giving them the look of a doll’s eye. However, it must be noted that the berries are poisonous. Doll’s eyes like it cool and moist, and do well in the forest or naturalized areas.  
[https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/actaea-pachypoda/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/actaea-pachypoda/)  
[http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenedae0.html](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenedae0.html)

**Pyrethrum:** We’ve heard about pyrethrin pesticides but you might not know that they are derived from the flower *Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium*. Specifically, pyrethrum is the finely powdered flower dust, while pyrethrin refers to the insecticidal compounds that are extracted from pyrethrum. It is a contact insecticide that paralyzes the insect so it’s often used with other compounds that will kill the insect so it does not become a pest again. Bees are very sensitive to pyrethrins. It is recommended to apply a light spray formula at night. Remember the label is the law.  
[https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/less-toxic-insecticides/](https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/less-toxic-insecticides/)
Trees Please!

Ginkgo: The Ginkgo biloba tree has been in existence for over 200 million years and has what is referred to as a naked seed. Unfortunately, the naked seeds come with a very foul smell. It is dioecious, meaning having the male and female reproductive organs in separate individuals, so it is recommended to plant a male tree if you chose this as a specimen in your home landscape. One of the lovely characteristics of the ginkgo tree is the beautiful fan-shaped leaves which have inspired artisans to incorporate the ginkgo leaf in jewelry and ornaments. There are conflicting reports on whether this is a good city tree or not, but I can tell you that you will see some along the streets of Millville.

https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/ginkgo-biloba/
https://hvp.osu.edu/pocketgardener/source/description/gi_iloba.html
https://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/ginkgo.html

Native Trees: Rutgers Fact Sheet 1140, Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape, notes that Inkberry Holly, Ilex glabra, prefers acidic moist soil in full sun to partial shade and can reach heights of 4 to 8 feet. This evergreen is in the holly family with small blackberries and dark foliage with no spiny points. This native is best considered in mass settings with an understory plant as the lower leaves can tend to drop. It’s a wonderful consideration as an alternative for Japanese holly and tends to form suckering colonies. This shrub can easily be used in rain gardens.

Another native tree is the Osage orange, Maclura pomifera, which drops its’ very gnarly large round green fruits that resemble a brain at this time of the year. You will find these odd-looking fruits featured in magazine decors where a designer wanted a different look. The Osage orange has never caught on with popularity as a residential landscape tree, partially because of the sharp spiny thorns growing from leaf axils of the dense crossing branches. However, it’s that same characteristic that inspired early settlers to plant Osage oranges as living fences before the development of barbed wire.

https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/expert-plant-picks-inkberry
http://hort.uconn.edu/detail.php?pid=218
https://bygl.osu.edu/index.php/node/625

Fall Tasks: Rutgers Fact Sheet 031, How to Fertilize Shade Trees, recommends that deciduous trees can be fertilized once every year or two, and an application after the leaves fall off will provide the best results during the following spring season when trees have their greatest need for nutrients. The target areas for fertilization include within the top 18 inches of soil but extend to the roots well beyond the edge of the canopy. Providing regular applications of fertilizer to your lawn does not provide adequate nutrients to your trees. The type and amount of fertilizer to use is dependent on a soil analysis test.

Rutgers Bulletin E376, Transplanting Trees and Shrubs, recommends wrapping thin-barked trees and young trees during the winter to protect them from sunscald and frost cracks. Sunscald combined with frost cracks occurs when there are fluctuating temperatures during winter. The sun during the day warms the tree and the sap starts to run only to have freezing temperatures at night and the sap freezes. This expansion and contraction of the layers of bark cause it to split.

http://www.ladybug.uconn.edu/FactSheets/sunscald-and-frost-cracks-on-trees_5_3990387980.pdf
Dianthus: A client brought in a specimen of his mountain pinks, Dianthus, which are an herbaceous perennial flower. They were showing significant die-back but there was no evidence of insects. These low-growing cottage garden favorites prefer full sun, good drainage, and if they are exposed to moist conditions will develop rot. The sample of soil he provided was decidedly very damp. That may be the cause of the die-back of the mountain pinks, which are better adapted to tolerate drought versus excess moisture.
http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenefeas.html

Dog Vomit Fungus: In the wet falls homeowners often report something in their landscapes that appears to look like dog vomit. Rutgers Fact Sheet 1169, Slime Mold in their Landscapes, reports that “Dog Vomit Fungus”, is the common name. While this fungus has an unpleasant name and does appear to look like dog vomit it is completely harmless to humans, animals, and plants. Even though they will generally disappear if left alone, they are such an aesthetic nuisance that many people chose the option of raking them under mulch, scooping up the slime mold, and putting it in the garbage or breaking it up with a forceful stream of water.

Hosta virus x: Hosta virus X is a viral disease that affects many hosta cultivars. Typical symptoms include blotchy leaf coloring, discoloration along leaf veins, and puckering of leaf tissue which may not be apparent for a year after becoming infected with the disease. Once a hosta is infected, it has to be removed, and destroyed. Do not compost the affected hosta. Transmission of the disease occurs through division and through tools and other items that have become contaminated with the sap of the affected plant. It is essential to decontaminate any tools or work surfaces that have come into contact with an affected plant.
https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/hosta-virus-x/

Venice Mallow: A client sent in a picture of a plant that showed the flower in bloom, the leaves of the plant and a seed capsule. Because of the identifying characteristics that the photo showed, we were able to identify the plant as Venice Mallow, *Hibiscus trionum*. It’s considered an annual weed of agronomy and nursery crops, but it happens to have beautiful flowers with pale yellow petals that have a purple base. The leaves are lobed and are dark green and very attractive. The bladder shaped fruit capsule is hairy and is surrounded by 5 sepals with dark green veins running through them.
https://oak.ppws.vt.edu/~flessner/weedguide/hibtr.htm

Food for Thought

As you sit down to eat your Thanksgiving dinner, if you are the least bit traditional, cranberries will be on your table in some way, shape, or form. Cranberries continue to grow in popularity and with that, Rutgers researchers have developed a new, hardier, variety of cranberry that can withstand disease and has a larger round berry with a more even color. The Haines variety is named after William Haines Sr., a Burlington County farmer who died in 2007. There is an interesting worthwhile to watch. Find the short video clip at https://breeding.rutgers.edu/cranberry-news/
Congratulations to the 2019 Award of Excellence Recipients

Each year an Award of Excellence individual award and team award is presented their county to honor the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to bringing non-biased research-based education to the public. Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County congratulate this year’s honorees!

Individual award:

Cheryl Loatman, 2012 Graduate

Count on Cheryl Loatman to offer help with any project, and to do so pleasantly while wearing a smile. With many volunteer hours in the Meditation Garden, we can thank her for the beautiful garden we have today. The area had a solid foundation, but was overgrown. It included a gnarly weeping evergreen and plants that provided a variety of textures and shapes. As the team leader of the garden’s recent transformation, she organized the clean-up of weeds and undesirable plant materials, laying of weed barrier and mulch, and planting of a curving line of *Gulftide Osmanthus*. Meant to imply a stream of living water, they begin by the faux fish pond and pagoda, continuing to draw the eyes to the simple concrete bench overlooking the zen-like stone circle. Cheryl hoped that people would use the meditation garden to get away from a stressful day for a moment. Her vision has come true.

On a recent Home Hort Back-to-Basics class, she spoke to the home gardeners about the steps they can take to create a meditation garden.

Cheryl has participated in a variety of teams and projects, including the Steering Committee, Eco Fair Propagation, Butterfly Tent, Hospitality, Meditation Garden, Helpline, Make and Takes, Newsletter, and she is a regular attendee at monthly meetings and continuing education classes.

Team Award:

Rain Garden Team

Carol Henry, Team Leader, and Marie Nicke, Gloria Guidera, Patrick Conlon

It took a team effort to update and expand the existing Rain Garden, which was working but lacked curb appeal. The Rain Garden certainly catches your eye now and has become an educational tool for clients, many of whom have commented on its recent renovation. The team spent many hours weeding and removing invasive plants to clear the paths for native plants that are suitable for rain gardens. The rain garden was expanded with visually impactful native plants, many of which were divided and transplanted from existing flower beds or were raised by the Propagation Team. The team added a faux river rock stream on a weed barrier where water is diverted from the building through a drain under the parking lot. They added local interest by including glass features from Wheaton Arts, a local arts education organization. Additional features include an arbor and a bench that gets decorated seasonally, and is always noticed by clients as they drive past the rain garden.

During a recent Home Hort class, Carol and her team were on-hand to educate the homeowners on the benefits of rain gardens, complete with hand-outs and resource materials.
Upcoming 2020 Master Gardener Course

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County are now accepting applications for the 2020 classes! Classes will begin in February and continue for 20 weeks into the end of June. All classes run from 9 AM until 12 PM and are held at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Education Center. The cost for these 20 training sessions is $210.00. This one-time non-refundable fee covers the cost of the MG manual, along with administrative and other fees and expenses associated with the training. Each class is open to the public at an individual class price of $20 each. Please visit https://2020MasterGardenerCourse.Eventbrite.com for more details.

The registration for becoming a Master Gardener is on a first-come, first-serve basis. The application deadline is November 15th, 2019. 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. For interests in becoming a Master Gardener of Cumberland County please see the enclosed application.

East Point Lighthouse Butterfly Festival

Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County will be at the East Point Lighthouse on Saturday, September 14th and Sunday, September 15th with the Butterfly tent to help celebrate their Butterfly Festival. This event is free and open to the public. It runs from 12:00 – 4:00 P.M. both days. There will be other butterfly activities at this event, as well!

Gardening Down-Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics Fall Series

Mark Your Calendars for the third Thursday of September, October, and November from 9:30-12:00 and plan to spend that time with us at the Extension Education Center with three different classes based on the most frequently asked questions of the Horticulture Helpline for a reasonable cost of only $5.00 per class. At that cost, you can afford to treat a friend!

- 9/19/19: “Turf’s Up” topics will include watering, mowing, and fertilizing your lawn. An interactive explanation will be part of the class to demonstrate why it is so difficult to identify those pesky weed grasses, and there will be a demonstration that shows an easy way to measure the amount of water that you are applying to your lawn. Download Rutgers Fact Sheet 102, Your Lawn and its’ Care, at https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs102/

- 10/17/19: “Putting Your Garden to Bed” covers how to winterize your vegetable garden including the best practices for effective disease management as well as potential cover crops for overwintering that will improve the soil. Also covered will be what to do with your tools and equipment before winters sets in, including a demo on tool sharpening.

- 11/21/19: “Composting” will talk about how to make a compost pile plus the benefits of using compost in the garden. Also covered will be how to make and use backyard leaf compost. The demo of the day will be how to set up a worm composting with our resident red worms at the Extension Center. Download Rutgers Fact Sheet 811, Home Composting, at https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs811/

Since we know you will want to attend all three of these classes, please see the enclosed trifold for registration information! Hope to see you here!
Master Gardener
2019 Fall Calendar of Events

September 14 & 15:  Butterfly Tent at Butterfly Days event at East Point Lighthouse
10 Lighthouse Rd, Heislerville, NJ 08324;
12PM — 4 PM; Free

September 21:  Butterfly Tent at Hopewell Days at The Greater Bridgeton Amish Farm Market LLC
2 Cassidy Ct, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

September 19:  Gardening Down-Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics Fall Series; Turfs Up!
Extension Education Center, Millville, NJ 08332
9:30 am – 12:00 pm; $5.00/class
Registration and event details at GardeningDown-JerseyStyle.EventBrite.com

October 8:  Speakers Series (TBA): at Master Gardener Monthly Meeting
Extension Education Center, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332
10:15 am – 11:30 am; Non-members: $3.00
Call 856-451-2800 Ext 4 or email PamelaBu@co.cumberland.nj.us

October 17:  Gardening Down-Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics Fall Series; Putting Your Garden to Bed
Extension Education Center, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332
9:30 am – 12:00 pm; $5.00/class
Registration and event details at GardeningDown-JerseyStyle.EventBrite.com

October 23:  Pesticide Safety and Regulatory Training
for NJ Licensed Private and Commercial Applicators
Instructed by Pat Hastings
Extension Education Center, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332
9:00 am – 12:00 pm; $20.00/class; 6 CORE Pesticide Credits
Registration and event details at PesticideTraining.EventBrite.com

November 21:  Gardening Down-Jersey Style: Back-2-Basics Fall Series; Composting
Extension Education Center, 291 Morton Ave., Millville, NJ 08332
9:30 am – 12:00 pm; $5.00/class
Registration and event details at GardeningDown-JerseyStyle.EventBrite.com

December 4:  Wreathmaking Make & Take
More details to come, save the date.

T/B/A:  Speaker Series; Seed Gathering class
Gardener’s Checklist for September:

- Fertilize most houseplants for the last time until next spring.
- Late summer to early fall is the most appropriate season for renovating your lawn. FS108
- Take a soil sample to determine if your lawn needs fall fertilization. FS633
- Thatch removal of cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, is best done in September or the spring before complete green-up occurs. FS740
- The best time to take a soil sample in your vegetable garden is after harvest in the fall. You can come into the Extension office for a soil test packet, or download it from [https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home_and_Landscape_-_Soil_Test_Questionnaire.pdf](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/pdfs/home/Home_and_Landscape_-_Soil_Test_Questionnaire.pdf) FS797
- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while the selection is good.
- Spring flowering bulbs should be planted in mid-September through October when the soil temperature falls below 60° FS1220
- Divide herbaceous spring and summer blooming perennials if needed.
- Lift and divide iris rhizomes.
- Make a map of your perennial gardens to record the location of your plants.
- Plant pansies, ornamental cabbages, and kales early in the month.
- Bring fibrous begonias, coleus, and impatiens indoors for potted houseplants.
- Store surplus seeds in a cool and dry location.
- Keep geraniums over winter by the “hang and dry” or houseplant method. FS1156
- With few exceptions, most deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs can be transplanted in early fall. FS376
- Clean off the vegetable garden and annual beds as plants die. FS1124
- Allow winter squashes, pumpkins and gourds to mature completely on the vine. Harvest them before the first frost. FS988
- Wait at least two weeks after the tops die to harvest white potatoes. Dig sweet potatoes before the first frost. FS988
- Plant radishes, spinach leaf, and bibb lettuces by seed. FS129
- Start a compost pile with fallen leaves and garden debris. FS074
Gardener’s Checklist for October:

- Lime takes time. Get a soil test done in fall for home lawns and gardens. FS797
- Store leftover flower and vegetable seeds in a cool and dry place.
- Spring flowering bulbs should be planted in mid-September through October when the soil temperature falls below 60°F. FS1220
- Consider dwarf fall asters to brighten the flower garden.
- Plant hardy spring-blooming perennials and biennials in the garden early in the month.
- Remove dead chrysanthemum tops from the garden.
- Wait until the ground freezes to apply mulch around perennials.
- Note where fall color is needed in the landscape and plan to add an appropriate plant next year. Take pictures to remind yourself of what you want and where.
- Harvest pears before they are fully ripe.
- Harvest apples when the stem separates from the branch with a slight pull.
- Make a jack-O’-lantern and roast the seeds for a snack.
- For best results, garlic needs nine months to mature. In New Jersey, it is best planted in October, three to eight weeks before the first frost, for a June/July harvest the following year. FS1233
- Spread humus, composted organic matter, two inches deep and work it into your garden soil.
- If your garden soil is well-drained you can keep carrots in the ground and covered with leaves or straw until the soil begins to freeze usually in mid-December. FS988
- Be sure to harvest your tomatoes, peppers, and other tender crops before the first frost. FS988
- Consider planting a cover crop on your vegetable garden. FS849
- Call a certified arborist for a serious tree problem. FS019
- Early spring and late fall are considered the best times to apply fertilizer for shade trees. FS031
- Keep mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs. FS 099
- Provide food and water for the birds. FS 1022
- Repair garden fences, trellises, and accessories.
- Start a wish list of plants and tools for next year’s gardening season.
- Clean and store lawn furniture.
- Store garden stakes, hoses, and tools before winter sets in.
Gardener’s Checklist for November:

- Plant bare-root plants when they’re dormant and the air temperature is cool.
- Dig up and store tender bulbs, corms, or tubers.
- Have you planted your spring-flowering bulbs? If not, do this before the ground freezes. FS1220
- Dig cannas after a hard frost for overwintering FS1155
- The late fall fertilization of the lawn should be done after the grass stops growing. FS633
- Stake newly planted trees to protect them from winter winds. FS376
- Prevent winter sunscald in newly planted, thin-barked trees, such as ash, crabapple, maple, and tuliptree, by wrapping the trunk with burlap or other tree wrapping materials, to minimize wind exposure, winter injury, and sunscald. E309
- Place hardware cloth or plastic guards around fruit trees.
- 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 all weeds, leaves and dead, annual and perennial foliage in the compost pile. FS811 & FS074
- Turn and water the compost pile to keep it working. FS074
- Pot paperwhite narcissus for forcing indoors. FS1220
- Don’t overwater your houseplants.
- Turn your houseplants regularly for even growth.
- Have your lawnmower and other power equipment serviced.
- Clean and repair garden tools. Consider painting the handles a bright color so they will not get lost in the garden!
- Drain and bring in all of your garden hoses.
RUTGERS NJAES COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
2020 MASTER GARDENER APPLICATION

Please Print Clearly

Name ___________________________________________ Preferred Name For Badge ________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________ Zip Code ___________ Home Phone (____) ______ - ______

Cell Phone (____) ______ - _______ E-Mail Address __________________________________________

Why are you interested in becoming a RCE Master Gardener volunteer?

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What type of volunteer projects would you like to get involved in as a Master Gardener?

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Briefly describe your interest, experience, and/or training in gardening/horticulture:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

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What aspects of gardening would you like to learn more about?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

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Do you presently belong to a garden club/plant society/environmental group? If yes, please list:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________
Please list and describe your roll in any organizations, such as Rotary, PTA, scouting, etc. that you may be affiliated with, and/or other past volunteer activity:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Are you a commercial horticulturist, landscaper, professional gardener, etc.?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list your occupation and any skills in non-horticultural areas (writing, computers, graphics, photography, etc.) that might be relevant to your volunteer activities:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Do you anticipate any circumstances (vacations, work commitments, etc.) that would keep you from attending class, fulfilling the minimum volunteer commitments, or participating in other volunteer activities?  □ Yes  □ No  If yes, please explain:

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please indicate what days and times you would be available to volunteer:

☐ Weekday Mornings       ☐ Weekday Afternoons       ☐ Weekends

Emergency Contact: Name: ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: (_____) _______ - _______ Relationship: ______________________________________

Upon acceptance into the Master Gardener program, I understand that class attendance is expected every Tuesday, from the beginning of February through the end of June 2020 and agree to satisfactorily complete all training sessions, exams and field trips. I understand that once the classes are successfully completed, I am expected to volunteer a total of 60 hours in Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs within the first 18 months to become certified as a Master Gardener and that there are annual recertification requirements to continue as a Rutgers NJAES Certified Master Gardener. I also understand that there is a non-refundable fee of $210.00 to be used toward program costs, including educational and laboratory materials.

Signature __________________________ Date ______

Office Use: Date Rcvd__________ Accepted  Y    N    $210.00 paid date_______ cash√ #____
### About the Instructors

**Dr. Wes Kline**  
Dr. Kline has been an Agricultural Agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 1996. He is responsible for the commercial vegetable and herb production programs in the county with research and extension activities based on growers’ needs in integrated pest management, cultural practices, post-harvest handling and food safety. Dr. Kline collaborates with other specialists in screening and breeding peppers for disease resistance. He has authored and co-authored magazine and refereed journal articles on different aspects of pepper production. Before joining Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Dr. Kline worked in Central America with the United States Agency for International Development and the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research. He received his B.A. from Salem College, Salem, West Virginia and his MS and Ph.D. from Cornell University in Vegetable Crops Production.

**Dr. Sal Mangiafico**  
Dr. Mangiafico has been a County Agent with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 2009. He conducts public education and research concerning water conservation and preventing water pollution. He works with a diverse clientele in Cumberland and Salem Counties, including municipalities, watershed associations, environmental organizations, and agricultural producers. Dr. Mangiafico teaches two classes for undergraduates, one on statistical analyses for outreach program evaluation, and one on the social and environmental aspects of turfgrass in the United States. He received his B.A. in Environmental Studies and in Philosophy from Alfred University and his Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Connecticut.

**Pam Burton**  
Pam has worked with Rutgers Cooperative Extension since 2013 as the Home Horticulturist and the Rutgers Master Gardener Program Coordinator. She graduated from Delaware Valley University with a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture. Pam handles the horticulture helpline questions and provides recommendations for clients with gardening and horticulture related concerns. She writes a quarterly newsletter and does four radio spots on agriculture topics in conjunction with SNJ Today, 99.9 FM.

### Directions

#### From the North:
1. Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 7  
2. Take 295 South to Exit 26 (Rt. 42 S)  
3. Proceed South on Rt. 42 to Rt. 55 South  
4. Proceed South on Rt. 55 for about 29 miles  
5. Take Exit 29 to Rt. 552 West (left turn)  
6. Go approximately 3 miles into Carmel  
7. Turn right at the stop light onto Morton Ave.  
8. Go approx. 1 mile North on Morton Ave.  
9. The Extension Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled building). There are two entrances and a Rutgers sign is on the road in front of the building.

#### From the Northeast:
1. Take Garden State Parkway South to Exit 44  
2. Go South on Rt. 575 to Rt. 322  
3. Turn right (North) onto Rt. 322 and proceed about ¼ mile to the Rt. 40 jughandle at the shopping center (Hamilton Mall)  
4. Proceed West on Rt. 40 approximately 7 miles to Rt. 552 (left turn)  
5. Proceed West on Rt. 552. After about 12 miles, you must take a right turn onto Sherman Ave. which is still Rt. 552 West  
6. You will go through a Vineland residential area, cross Rt. 47, and cross the overpass of Rt. 55  
7. At the stop light (~3 miles from the overpass), turn right onto Morton Ave.  
8. Go approx. 1 mile North on Morton Ave.  
9. The Ext. Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled bldg.) There are 2 entrances and a Rutgers sign is on the road in front of the building.

#### From the South:
1. Take Rt. 55 North to Exit 29  
2. Turn left onto Rt. 552 West (Sherman Ave.)  
3. Go about 3 miles into Carmel  
4. Turn right at the stop light onto Morton Ave.  
5. Go approx. 1 mile North on Morton Ave.  
6. The Ext. Center is on the left (brownstone & cedar-shingled bldg.). There are 2 entrances and a Rutgers sign is on the road in front of the building.

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**Gardening Down-Jersey Style**  
**Back-2-Basics Fall Series**  
Brought to you by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County and presented by County Agents and the Home Horticulture Program

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**Cooperating Agencies:** Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.
Rutgers Master Gardeners of Cumberland County Composting Team is happy to bring our motto of “Education is our Product” to you in this interactive class. The team consists of Master Gardeners, Priscilla Meyers, Carol Henry, Pat Stella, Marie Nicke, and Gail Robinson. They all recently attended the certified composter class in Atlantic County, as part of their continuing education.

We’ve heard the comment “We didn’t know you offered those services at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension” so we are inviting you to these back to basics classes to come on out and see what we’re all about! We developed these classes based on the most frequently asked questions of the horticulture helpline and we encourage you to bring it on with your questions! We are looking forward to seeing you here on the third Thursdays this fall!

### 9/19/19: Turfs Up!
**9:30 AM — 12:00 PM**

**Instructors:** Dr. Sal Mangiafico, Pam Burton, & Master Gardener volunteers  
Is the grass always greener in your neighbor’s yard?  
Topics to be covered:  
- Common lawn practices of watering (or overwatering!), mowing, and fertilizing for homeowners including the fertilizer law  
- An easy way to measure the amount of water that you are applying to your lawn  
- Clarification on identifying pesky weed grasses.  
For Rutgers Fact Sheet 102: Your Lawn & Its Care, go to https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs102/

### 10/17/19: Putting Your Garden to Bed  
**9:30 AM — 12:00 PM**

**Instructor:** Dr. Wes Kline  
**Topics by Wes:**  
- Winterizing your vegetable garden  
- Best practices for effective disease management  
- Potential cover crops for overwintering that will help improve the soil  
- What to do with your tools and equipment before winter sets in  
- How-to sharpen your tools.  
You will be well-prepared for a good start to your 2020 vegetable garden after attending this class.

### 11/21/19: Composting  
**9:30 AM — 12:00 PM**

**Instructors:** Master Gardener volunteers  
Rutgers Master Gardeners excel at “reduce, reuse & recycle”  
“Compost Team” Topics:  
- Making a compost pile  
- The benefits of using compost in the garden  
- Making backyard leaf compost  
- Using backyard leaf compost  
- Setting up worm compost by using the red worms that reside at the Extension Center  
For Rutgers Fact Sheet 811: Home Composting, go to https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs811/

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<td>Composting</td>
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Registration is first come, first served and is considered confirmed only upon receipt of payment. Please return registration with non-refundable payment by “due” dates. Make check payable to: **CC Bd of Ag Research Account**  
**Mail to:**  
Extension Education Center  
291 Morton Ave.  
Millville, NJ 08332  
856-451-2800 X 4  
PamelaBu@co.cumberland.nj.us
**Directions**

**From the North:**
1. Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 7
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**Pesticide Safety and Regulatory Recertification Training for NJ Licensed Private and Commercial Applicators**

October 23, 2019
9am—12pm

**6 CORE Pesticide Credits**

$20 Registration Fee
Register by October 18th, 2019
Registration Required at
Event Brite—
PesticideTraining.EventBrite.com

Contact Information:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Cumberland County
291 Morton Avenue
Millville, NJ 08332
P: 856-451-2800 Ext 4
10:00 AM

**Topic:** Protective Equipment for Pesticide Safety: Reading Between the Lines of the Pesticide Label (CORE)

One hour (PPT)

**Description:**
- interpreting pesticide label language for personal protective equipment, especially gloves
- distinguish PPE performance versus the label term “chemical resistant”
- introduce measures of barrier performance (degradation, penetration, and permeation)
- Applicators can only select and use PPE properly if they understand these limitations

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11:00 AM

**Topic:** Breathe Right: Respiratory Protection for Occupational Users of Pesticides (CORE)

One hour (PPT)

**Description:**
- types of respirators for pesticide users
- purifying elements for air-purifying respirators and gas masks
- identifying the respirator from the pesticide label
- Federal and State occupational safety and health programs
- medical evaluation of respirator users
- use of tight-fitting respirators
- respirator training for occupational users of pesticides
- proper use of respirators in pesticide-contaminated areas
- care and maintenance of respirators