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What's Growing On?

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To Do List:

- Remove any diseased plants or leaves to prevent pathogens from overwintering.
- Consider planting a cover crop in your vegetable garden.
- Plant bare-root plants when they're dormant and the air temperature is cool.
- Don't overwater your houseplant.
- Collect and save seeds for the spring.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs when the soil temperature falls below 60°F.
- Plant garlic now for a harvest in the summer.
- Add leaf mulch, straw, or compost to your garden to protect and fertilize the soil.
- Cut back your perennials.

Services Provided at RCE

Soil Testing: Soil tests can be purchased for \$20 at the RCE offices. Tests will be sent to the soil testing labrotory in New Brunswick. Test reports will give you pH, macronutrients, micronutrients, and recommendations for fertilizer.

pH testing: pH testing is done in house for \$3 with immediate results.

Plant and disease identification: The Master Gardener's Helpline works hard to properly identify plant species and associated diseases with the help of the agriculture agents in office.

Lawn and Garden Advice: The Master Gardener's Helpline work to promote the best practices in horticulture, such as soil and water management, pest and disease control, and plant selection. They advise local growers, gardeners, and landscapers on horticultural topics such as planting, pruning, fertilizing, and harvesting.

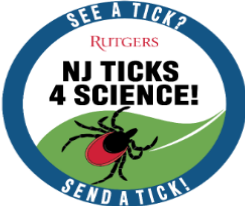
Insect Identification: The Master Gardener's Helpline use their knowledge and resources to identify insects and come up with potential control options when neccissary.

Workshops and Training: RCE hosts monthly speaker events and educational programs in addition to the 16 week Master Gardeners training course. Topics include but are not limited to soil conservation, pest identification, botony, plant pathology, and more.

Rutgers Master Gardener Program: Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public. Training to become a Master Gardner includes a 16 week course of intensive study of botany, entomology, plant diseases, landscaping, and environmentally sound methods of horticulture followed by 60 volunteer and continuing education hours.

TICKS IN NJ

Did you know there are 4 species of ticks commonly found on humans in New Jersey, but at least 12 other species found on animals in New Jersey? Residents throughout New Jersey are encouraged to submit photos of ticks they find on themselves, or pets, to the website ticks.rutgers.edu. Upon identification of the tick, researchers may ask for a sample of the tick to be sent to their laboratory where they can test it for potential pathogens. Remember to check yourself and pets for ticks regularly when outdoors and if you find a tick safely remove it with tweezers, being careful not to pull it out too quickly as the mouthparts can get stuck under the skin.



SEE A TICK?
RUTGERS
**NJ TICKS
4 SCIENCE!**
SEND A TICK!

This is a citizen science project where we enlist people to submit ticks they come across in their everyday lives while living, working, and visiting New Jersey or as part of a Tick Blitz!

The goal is to understand the changing distribution of ticks and tick-borne pathogens across New Jersey. With your help, we will learn where and when people are exposed to ticks and tick-borne diseases.

Get Started

[Send us your ticks!](#)

[Tick Prevention](#)

[Tick Removal](#)

If you have already submitted ticks

[Track your progress](#)




Photo of a female blacklegged tick (sometimes called "deer tick"), (photo credit Jim Occi, PhD).

Want to learn more about New Jersey's tick species?

[View Ticks of New Jersey](#)

CUCURBIT DISEASES



Mature pumpkin fruit with masses of white, slimy spores of *Phytophthora* blight. Symptoms of *Phytophthora* blight on infected fruit include the production of white, slimy spore masses, which develop on the undersides of infected fruit. As infection progresses fruit will become soft and collapse. Spores from infected crowns, vines, and fruit may spread to other healthy plants via rainfall and through puddling water which may be slow to drain off the soil surface. Once fruit are infected, they are no longer good and should be removed from the garden to prevent further spread of the disease. If symptoms begin to develop on fruit after harvest, they should be removed and properly disposed of.

Pure white sporulating lesions typical of Powdery Mildew infection. Symptoms of Powdery Mildew include the production of white, fuzzy lesions on vegetative parts of the plant (leaves, petioles, vines) and stems of fruit. Lesions will often appear first on lower leaves. As new foliage develops it will become infected as the disease spreads throughout the planting. Powdery Mildew infections will cause stems to become brown, dry, and brittle, which weakens the stem and shortens the shelf life of the fruit.



Sunscald injury occurs when developing pumpkin fruit are suddenly exposed to heavy sunlight during the latter stages of fruit ripening. Sunscald injury often occurs when pumpkin plants become defoliated by Powdery Mildew or Downy Mildew, or when vines collapse due to *Phytophthora* Blight or Bacterial Wilt. Symptoms of Sunscald injury include the collapsing of rind tissue on the side of the fruit, which is in direct contact with the afternoon sun.

SOIL TESTING

Soil samples should be taken every 2-3 years. The ideal time to test soil samples is after harvest in the fall. The soil test can only be as good as the soil sample collected so collection is important. The objective of sampling is to collect a random sample that will best represent the average fertility of the sample area. Depending on the size of the area to be sampled, collect about 10 to 15 cores or slices of soil while walking in a random pattern over the area to be tested.

Break up any clumps of soil that were collected and thoroughly mix the soil. Place 2 cups or about ½ pint of soil in the plastic bag that comes with the kit. Fill out the soil sample questionnaire, making sure to note any special situations or problems in your lawn or garden. Keep your own record of the areas sampled and date mailed to the laboratory.

In a few weeks you will receive a soil test report which will list the levels of phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, copper, manganese, and zinc in your soil, as well as the soil pH. In most cases, the soil test report will provide recommendations for fertilizer and lime applications, if any is needed. A copy of the soil test report is sent to the county Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) office. Questions about your report should be referred to your RCE agricultural agent or horticultural consultant.

Figure 1.

Although a soil sampling probe is the most convenient tool to use, a garden trowel or spade also works well.



Figure 2.

Insert the trowel or spade to a depth of 6 inches, remove some soil and set it aside. Repeat this step at 10-15 sampling locations.



Upcoming Events & Resources

August 19th- Peach Festival, held at Dragon Village, 97 Trench Rd, Bridgeton, Nj from 10A.M.4P.M.

September 12th- Chris Benke - Backyard Critters Presentation and Master Gardeners monthly meeting, held at RCE, 291 Morton Ave, Millville,Nj from 10A.M-12P.M.

September 23rd - Hopewell Days, held at Hopewell Elementary School, 35 Princeton Ave, Hopewell, Nj from 9A.M. - 4P.M.

October 10th- Jenn Matthews- Growing Garlic, Ground Cherries, and other organic vegetables & fruits, held at RCE, 291 Morton Ave, Millville,Nj from 10A.M-12P.M.

October 12th - FS Growmark Tour, Agricultural Retailer. Held at 55 Silver Lake Rd, Bridgeton, Nj starting at 10A.M. Please call Kaylynn at (856) 451- 2800 ext. 4 to register.

October 28th - HalloWheaton Scarecrow Contest & Animal Learning Stations held at Wheaton Arts, 1501 Glasstown Rd, Millville, Nj from 12P.M.- 4P.M.

Resources:

Ticks: <https://ticks.rutgers.edu/steps>

Cucurbit Disease: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/E310/>

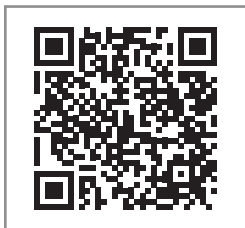
Soil Testing: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs797/>

Fall Fact Sheets

Rutgers Cooperative Extensions Fact Sheets:

Fact Sheet #	Fact Sheet Name :
FS584	Seeding Your Lawn
FS1313	Assessing and Addressing Soil Compaction in Your Yard
FS025	Mole Management in Turf and Gardens
FS839	How to Calculate... Fertilizer for Your Lawn
FS563	Fertilizing Your Home Lawn
E348	Starting a School Garden
E310	Diagnosing... Cucurbit Diseases in the Home Garden
FS805	Vermicomposting
FS1156	Keeping Geraniums Over Winter
FS692	Horticulture Therapy
FS626	Fertilizing the Home Vegetable Garden
FS102	Your Lawn and its Care
FS011	Blossom-End Rot: Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplants
FS374	Jersey Fresh Tomatoes! The Mystery of Their Great Taste
FS358	Important Diseases of Tomatoes Grown in High Tunnel.. in New Jersey
FS1102	The Stake and Weave Training System for Tomatoes..
FS797	Soil Testing for Home Lawns and Gardens
FS814	Managing Diseases of Landscape Turf
FS871	Understanding the Fertilizer Labels

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension
of Cumberland County



The Master Gardener's
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Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The user is responsible for the proper use of pesticides, residues on crops, storage and disposal, as well as damages caused by drift.

Use of Trade Names: Trade names are used in this publication with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. In some instances the compound may be sold under different trade names, which may vary as to label.