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The Horticulture Scoop

New Horticulture Agent On Board

Hello everyone! My name is Jacob Barber and I am the new Consumer Horticulture Agent at the Bladen County Extension Office. I am a native to Bladen County, specifically Clarkton. In the spring of 2018, I graduated from East Bladen High School. I was dual enrolled in Bladen Community College while in high school and received 2 Associate Degrees in Arts and Science. Later that year I went to Raleigh to attend North Carolina State University. I graduated with a bachelors degree in Plant and Soil Science this past May. This is my first full time job out of college and the past 3 months I believe have been a foreshadow for a great career. During, college I worked part time as a Temp in the soil receiving lab at NCDA on Reedy Creek Road. I also worked part time for my parents companies Whitehall Vineyards and Cape Fear Agricultural Services.



One summer during college, I completed an internship with Bladen County Cooperative Extension and I believe that assisted me in figuring out what I wanted to make out of my career. The experience I gained from the internship and working with the agents here, who are now my coworkers, made me want to pursue my career in extension. As the new Consumer Horticulture Agent, I am eager and excited to meet new people and to learn more about the agricultural industry within the county. I look forward to keeping the community members up to date with the latest and greatest concerning consumer horticulture.

Plant Disease and Insect Clinic

Throughout the year, the PDIC have had a program called "Plants, Pests and Pathogens." There has been a live Zoom meeting each month that consisted of various topics such as Current Plant and Disease Issues in NC and Grass and Sedges Their next meeting is September 28th, "What I Wish I'd Known From the Start," which is a talk about Dr. Jim Baker, Professor Emeritus, and his career. The last meeting will be November 2nd, "Current Plant and Disease Issues in NC." The link to join and register for the Zoom meetings is <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/programs-3/plants-pests-and-pathogens/>.

To have a plant tested, reach out to the Bladen County Cooperative Extension office so we can provide you with more information about pricing, how to correctly harvest the samples, and how to submit them. For more information, use the link: <https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/plantpath/extension/clinic/index.html>

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Green Thumb Gardening: Preparing your Fall Garden

Fall gardening is sometimes seen as a second chance for those who did not have a very successful summer garden. Some people might see it as a special hobby of their own. Either way, a fall garden is perfect for planting in the September and harvesting through fall and early winter. Going to your local garden center to find young plants are a great way to start your garden. If you do want to use transplants you can also sow your seed. Here are some vegetables and herbs you can use in your fall garden:

•Turquoise = Eastern, •Orange = Piedmont, •Purple = Western

B = Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers

*Start seeds indoors for later transplant in the garden. Do not plant seeds directly in the garden.

Fruit, Herb, or Vegetable	Days to Harvest (from seed unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Beans, snap/bush	50 – 55	2 in																								
Cabbage, Chinese	T = 45 – 55 S = 75 – 85	12 in																								
Lettuce, head	T = 45 – 60 S = 70 – 85	10 in																								
Lettuce, leaf	T = 15 – 25 S = 40 – 50	6 in																								
Onions, bulb	B = 75 – 105 S = 90 – 120	4 in																								
Peas, dwarf/bush	54 – 60	4 in																								
Peas, vining	54 – 72	2 – 3 in																								
Rutabaga	70 – 80	4 in																								
Spinach	50 – 60	6 in																								

This chart can be found at <https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NC-Vegetable-Planting-Guide-1.pdf?fwd=no>

Snap/pole beans can also be planted the same time the bush beans are. These are just a few different vegetables that you can plant in the months of September and October. Please contact Bladen County Cooperative Extension if you have any question about planting herbs or other vegetables.

Current County Issues: Pecan Scab

Since I started this job 3 months ago, I have been drawing out some ideas on how to format the newsletter with creativity of my own. The “Current County Issues” segment is a topic that I thought of one day. It is a segment where I spotlight an issue or concern that I get a lot of calls about between each newsletter I send.



Picture from NC State Publication: <https://robeson.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/10/pecan-scab-2/>

For my first topic, I would like to talk about Pecan Scab. I have a lot of call about pecan trees in general. However, among other pecan pests such as the pecan weevil or web worms, pecan scab has been a prominent issue that past few months. According to NC Cooperative Extension and NC State, pecan scab is a fungal pathogen with the scientific name, *Cladosporium caryigenum*. The scab affects on leaves, twigs and nut shucks. Young and actively growing trees are most susceptible to this pathogen. At first, it appears as small black spots that are around 1 to 8 millimeters in size. They then enlarge and move together and cover the whole leaf, causing it to dry and fall early. The pecan shuck reacts as a similar way. The small black spots begins to cover the entire fruit until it turns mostly black and falls to the ground early. The image to the left is an example of the effects of Pecan Scab.

Commercially, control in orchards would consist of a strong spray schedule with fungicides to help reduce the spread of the infection. If you are a homeowner, you might not have the correct equipment to apply the fungicides or the resources for such chemicals. The homeowners best management practice is sanitation. Once, all of the leaves have fallen off the trees in the winter, cleaning up the ground beneath the trees of any twigs, leaves or infected pecan shucks. The fungus usually overwinters, similar to some insects, in the material on the ground.

Once temperatures warm up in the spring and rain increases, the new spores of the fungus are released and new infections will occur in nearby trees. For more information on the Pecan Scab, visit <https://robeson.ces.ncsu.edu/2020/10/pecan-scab-2/>.

For more information on this topic similar pecan issues please contact Bladen County Cooperative Extension Center at (910) 862-4591 or visit our website at <https://bladen.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER AND OTHER HORTICULTURE INFORMATION, call the Extension Office at 910-862-4591 or email jacob_barber@ncsu.edu. Please let us know if you want a mailed copy or emailed—if email, leave your email address.

****IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND, WE WILL REMOVE YOU FROM OUR MAILING LIST. OUR GOAL IS TO GET YOU INFORMATION IN A MORE TIMELY MANNER USING**

EMAIL **

Soil Sample Fees

Soil samples are **FREE** now until the end of November. NCDA & CS are taking routine soil samples now, but not guaranteeing when the results will be finished.

Featured TurfFile Article from NC State

Fall Armyworm Alert written by Terri Billeisen

Fall armyworms (FAW) are here and starting to cause significant damage in some parts of the state. FAW activity in NC generally ranges from late July through mid-October and they can attack many turf species like bermudagrass, fescue, ryegrass, and bluegrass. FAWs are typically more of a problem in areas where the turf has been mechanically disturbed (newly-placed sod, areas of construction) are where new seedlings



Fig. 1 Fall armyworms on turf surface; Photo credit: R. Brandenburg

are growing. Unlike a lot of other turf insects, FAWs can be seen crawling across the turf surface during the day (Fig. 1), although are more likely to shelter in the soil during the hottest times of the summer. These caterpillars are recognized by an upside-down “Y” marking on the head capsule (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 Fall Armyworm head capsule; Photo Credit: D. Reiland

The key to minimizing FAW damage is to correctly identify the problem as early as possible before considerable damage occurs. Insecticides are generally ineffective against large larvae so be sure to note the size of the armyworms before making an application. Large larvae are likely to finish feeding and burrow into the soil to pupate so only treat if larvae are relatively small. Pyrethroids (particularly lambda-cyhalothrin) and carbamates (carbaryl), will provide effective control against smaller larvae. Chlorantraniliprole will also control turf-feeding caterpillars, if applied very early.

For more information on FAW and specific control recommendations, check out the pest info sheet on <https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/insects/fall-armyworm-in-turf/>.

Lawn Tips for September and October

September:

- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to your lawn to control cool season weeds such as henbit, chickweed, and hairy bittercress. Preemergent herbicides prevent weed seed from germinating.
- It is still not too late for a soil test. If you have had a soil test and it recommended lime, it is a great time to apply accordingly.
- If your lawn is irrigated, now that the it is nearing winter, its time to reduce irrigation.

October:

- Applying pre-emergent herbicides for the weeds that have not germinated yet and post-emergent herbicides if needed for those weeds that have germinated and started growing.
 - Again, it is not too late to take soil tests. They are free until around the end of this year (Date has not been determined for the \$4 fee).
 - Turn off irrigation system, if applicable.
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Specialty Crop Management: Muscadine Grapes

The specialty crop management segment of this newsletter is another idea of mine. With each newsletter that I send out, there will be a specialty crop feature that I choose and talk about the management of this crop. This newsletter will feature Muscadine Grapes and the management practices that homeowners with a muscadine vine in their back yard and commercial grower must complete during September and October.

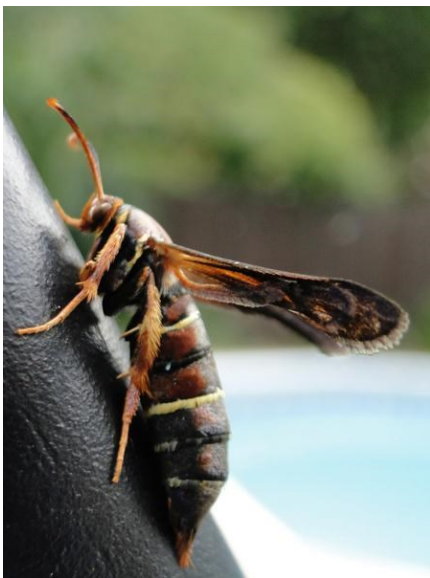
Harvesting:

During these months, August through October, (depending on the variety and cultivar) it is usually a time to begin harvesting the muscadine grapes. For fresh market, “U-Pick,” or backyard vine there are several harvests by hand. For commercial or processing growers, there is only one mechanized harvest. The image to the left is an example of harvesting process grapes by machinery.



Photo by Mark Hoffman, Small Fruits Extension Specialist

Grape Root Borer Monitoring:



Close up of female grape root borer adult. Photo by H. Burrack

I have had a call or two about the stress indicators in vineyards that point to either the effect of a frost about 2 to 3 years ago or the Grape Root Borer. According to NC State, the Grape Root Borer is a caterpillar that feeds on the roots of grape plants. The adults look similar to paper wasps but are actually clear winged moths that emerge in July through September. The females lay eggs on the underside of the leaves and the hatched larvae hatch and drop into the soil and feed on the roots

Mark Hoffman, Small Fruits Extension Specialist recommended and said that it won't hurt to monitor for this insect at this time. Normally, you are supposed to start monitoring for the insect in June. However, monitoring the insect can go through September because there is the possibility of the insect being present in the vineyard. To monitor the GRB, we use a pheromone bucket. In the pheromone bucket there is a pheromone bait and an insecticidal strip. The male adult GRBs are attracted to the pheromone, enters the bucket from a one-way-entrance and is killed by the insecticidal strip.

We monitor the vineyard until we hit a certain threshold, depending on the size of the vineyard. Once the threshold is hit, there is a possibility of an insecticide recommendation.

If you have any questions or if you are just curious and want more information, please contact Bladen County Cooperative Extension or you can visit our website at bladen.ces.ncsu.edu.



A pheromone bucket trap. Photo by H. Burrack

Pollinator Garden: Fall

According to NC State, Fall is a great time to start a pollinator garden. It is an optimal time to plant perennials, bushes and trees so your plants can grow strong roots over the winter to be better prepared for hotter temperatures during the summer. Choosing a diverse group of plants would be advantageous so that you have food for the pollinator year around. This ensures you have plants blooming in the summer, fall and spring. Choosing native plants to North Carolina is beneficial because they are best adapted to the climate of North Carolina.

The Coastal Landscapes Initiative gives great resources on the plants that are native to the coast of North Carolina. These trees, shrubs and perennials are perfect for a coastal pollinator garden. Here are some examples:

Shrubs:

- Highbush Blueberry
- Sweet Pepperbush
- Inkberry
- Yaupon Holly
- Southern Wax Myrtle

Perennials:

- Butterfly Weed
- Blue Wild Indigo
- Sand Coreopsis
- Black Eyed Susan
- Coral Bean

Trees:

- Longleaf Pine
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Persimmon
- Loblolly Bay
- Serviceberry



Black Eyed Susan– attracts birds and butterflies, drought tolerant and pollinator friendly



Coral Bean– attracts birds and butterflies and are pollinator friendly



Highbush Blueberry– attracts birds and butterflies and also great wildlife habitat

Bladen Gardeners

The Bladen County Extension Master Gardeners are no longer associated with NC State. They discussed during their June meeting that the requirements had become much harder to obtain and discussed the possibility of being their own club. In July, with further discussion, they voted to dissociate from NC State. They have now changed their club name to Bladen Gardeners. The group no longer has requirements such as volunteer hours, classes or educational hours. They are now a group of members sharing their gardener skills and interests with each other and the public.

With COVID-19 cases rising here in Bladen County, there will be no meeting in September. The Bladen Gardeners are still going to schedule their meeting in October. There will be updates if any changes. If you are interested in joining please contact me at jacob_barber@ncsu.edu or call the office at (910) 862-4591.

Upcoming Events

- **NC Pecan Growers Field Day:** There will be an in person meeting and orchard tour of the NC Pecan Growers on September 11 at the orchard of members Ronnie and Linda Fish. Please click the link below for registration information. The meeting is free to attend but will include refreshments and a lunch so you need to register at the above link so that the food can be planned. We hope you will plan to attend and the meeting is open to all pecan enthusiasts, members, past members, potential members, non-members. We encourage attendance by anyone with an interest in pecan production or the industry. More information will follow as planning continues. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-north-carolina-pecan-growers-fall-orchard-tour-tickets-161232431543>
 - The PDIC has a program called “Plants, Pests and Pathogens.” The next meeting is September 28th, “What I Wish I’d Known From the Start,” which is a talk about Dr. Jim Baker, Professor Emeritus, and his career. The last meeting will be November 2nd, “Current Plant and Disease Issues in NC.” The link to join and register for the Zoom meetings is <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/programs-3/plants-pests-and-pathogens/>.
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