

UPCOMING + PAST EVENTS

Pollinator Garden

Special thank you to all the Extension Master Gardeners who came out on Thursday Oct 20th and Monday Oct 24th to help put the finishing touches on a yearlong project at the Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension Office's Pollinator Garden. Be on the lookout for the garden filled with native plants as you drive by on U.S. 601 South. Be ready to book a garden tour in the Spring of 2023 through [REC1](#) and come see what we have been working on!

Stories in the Woods: Nov 13th 2-3pm

Do you love when stories take you on adventures? Imagine listening to these stories surrounded by the beautiful woods at the UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens!

Children are encouraged to bring their own nature-themed picture books to share with the group. Children can reserve a spot on the sign in sheet, open-mic style, to read or tell their stories with the group. If we run out of time, we can move any one left on the list to the top of the list for the next month!

Bring your cozy blankets and prepare to be transported! Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver for the duration of the event.

Meet at Polly's Garden (entrance on Mary Alexander Road, across the traffic circle from East Deck 1, visitor parking deck)

Parking options on the weekends include any unmarked parking space on campus. We recommend East Deck or Lot 5.

This is a free program for families. Donations are welcome!

Questions? Contact botanicalgardens@uncc.edu.

Holidays at the Garden: Friday, Nov. 25-Saturday, Dec. 31; 5-9 p.m.

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
6500 South New Hope Road, Belmont, NC 28012

Winter will glisten with dazzling lights, sparkling fountains, and holiday décor throughout the Garden this season. Gather with family around the warmth of an outdoor fire while kids, young and old, delight in making s'mores. Grab a snack at our food trucks and a warm beverage. Shop at the Garden Store for gifts for everyone on your list. Take your picture in front of the Orchid Tree located outside the Great Hall.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://dsbg.org/visit/holidays-at-the-garden/>
At the door, tickets will be limited and based on online ticket sales
Adult- \$20, Senior 60+ – \$18, Children 2-12 age – \$10, Children under 2 – FREE
Members receive a 25% discount

CLOSED Mondays, Tuesdays, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Contact: info@dsbg.org or (704) 825-4490 for more information

ABOUT N.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership of NC State Extension, The Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T State University, USDA-NIFA, and 101 local governments statewide. Extension professionals in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee translate research-based education from our state's land-grant universities, NC State and N.C. A&T, into everyday solutions. Extension specializes in agriculture, youth, communities, food, health and the environment by responding to local needs.

Greener Grasses

In addition to all the many things fall brings with it, we didn't want to let another fun fall activity get lost in the mix - reseeding! For anyone who has fescue lawns this is the time of year to reseed your lawn (late September is optimal). Fescue is a cool season grass. It grows active during the cooler months and goes dormant in the summer.

NC State Extension maintains a fantastic resource called "TurfFiles." They give detailed recommendations and timing for everything you need to maintain your yard, whether fescue or another grass type. (Also, please don't judge "TurfFiles" based on my lawn. I've been conducting ongoing experiments on growing fescue without any pesticides at all, and it's going, about as well as you'd expect. (ha-ha)

Check out "TurfFiles"

An annual plan for Tall Fescue:

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/tall-fescue-lawn-maintenance-calendar>

The latest info for "subscribers" (it's free)

<https://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/022/09/time-to-seed/?src=rss>

- Greg Murphy: Extension Master Gardener Volunteer



Cabarrus Horticulture Extension Newsletter

Published by your Cabarrus County Horticulture Agent and Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

October 2022

Third Friday Newsletter

Join us the 3rd Friday of each month to read educational content and more!



Beautiful yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) at the edge of the Pollinator Garden at the Extension office.

What an exciting time of year it is shaping up to be! I am thoroughly enjoying my drive to work on 601 South as the leaves continue to change color. Speaking of leaves, did you know there are many environmental benefits to simply leaving them where they fall? Raking leaves is such a chore and bagging them up is an even bigger headache. By leaving them on the ground we are providing a habitat for turtles, birds and butterflies.

If you need to maintain a "leaf-free" lawn you can consider mulching your leaves with a mower. By chopping them we are already speeding up the process of decomposition. Any leaf litter that remains can be raked into nearby plant beds. This nutrient recycling is important for maintaining healthy soils. As the leaf litter decomposes it is adding organic matter to the soil. Organic matter increases both the soil's water retention and nutrient-holding ability.

It is also a great time to think about how you are going to overwinter your lawn and garden irrigation systems. Any water left in the system has the potential to freeze as we transition from Fall to Winter. As water freezes, it expands. This phenomenon can cause pipes to crack and flood parts of your lawn or garden! It is also worth mentioning that irrigation components like a timer, pressure regulator, and filters should be disconnected and brought inside to protect them from potential damage.

I hope you, the reader, get a chance to enjoy the nice Fall weather before Winter truly sets in. Have fun reading this month's edition. Remember, we are here to answer *your* gardening and plant related questions. Give us a call!

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Started in the Summer of 2022, the Cabarrus Horticulture Extension Newsletter was formed for the purpose of informing you, the reader, of all thing's Horticulture-related going on in and around Cabarrus County. Join us every month as we explore the vast realm of Horticulture from plant pathogens and pests to composting and more! Current and future events will be advertised here as well.

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Gardening Tip-of-the-Month

Hope Duckworth, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

Plant a tree this Fall! The best time of year to plant trees in our area is October through December. As you may have noticed the trees in the neighborhood are aging along with the neighborhood. For many years now old trees have been cut down but not replaced. To preserve our canopy please consider planting a tree this fall. If we want the neighborhood to have big, beautiful trees in 30, 50, or 100 years, we must be the ones to plant them!

If you do plant a tree, please consider planting native trees. Native trees provide the most benefits to birds, butterflies, and other parts of our ecosystem. They are also more likely to thrive long-term without extra fertilizers, water, and other resources.

If anyone would like help selecting a tree or planting locations, or would like help planting a tree, please reach out to me (Hope) or the rest of the master gardeners!



Sweet bay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)



Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*)

Wildlife Highlight:

From the Cabarrus Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

It's spooky season! This month we're talking about a creature you may not even think of as wildlife but have probably seen at least once the Yellow Garden Spider. These spiders have many common names; corn spiders, writing spiders, and Argiope. If you've ever read Charlotte's Web, you've read about these spiders!

Yellow Garden Spiders are completely harmless, and typically only bite if harassed (even these bites are very rare). They are beneficial in the garden, as they do not eat or harm plants, but do eat many insects that prey on garden pests, and mosquitoes. They're also fun to watch. The spider pictured has been hanging out on our deck all Summer. My daughter named her Corny and checks on her daily. I hope you enjoy these beautiful spiders too!

Welcome Jessica

Help us welcome Jessica Cline to Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension. She is our new County Operations Support Specialist. She was born and raised in Cabarrus County. She's a graduate of Lees-McRae College with a degree in Biology with emphasis on Wildlife Rehabilitation. She has worked at multiple non-profit organizations along the eastern coast. She will be working closely with our volunteers throughout the year and helping to maintain our social media. She has many years of volunteer coordinating experience. She is in the office Monday- Friday 10am -2pm.



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Be sure to follow us on Facebook!

Feature Story

Freeze! Duck and Cover

Morgan Menaker, Horticulture Extension Agent

If you had any annual veggies in your home garden or flowers in pots or beds around your home, chances are they did not fare too well last week. Our first frost date here in Cabarrus arrived about three weeks early! If you have lived in the Carolinas for more than a year or two you know how sporadic our weather can be.

The average first frost date has been anywhere from the 1st to the 15th of November in recent years. If you want to “beat” mother nature at her own game, there are some tricks you can use to extend your growing season. They range in complexity from simple cloches to high tunnels and greenhouses.

If you want to keep picking those summer squash or try to have green beans for Thanksgiving here are some options, you can use to get about a month longer growing season.

Cloches (pronounced klow-shuhz) are bell-shaped pieces of glass or plastic you can use to physically cover individual plants. They act like a mini greenhouse and keep frost, and cold wind off of the plants, allowing them to survive in suboptimal conditions. They work great for smaller herbs and flowers!

Row covers and low tunnels, made from fabric or polyester, are the next option and offer protection for larger crops, specifically those planted in a row. Row covers work in a similar way by providing a physical barrier to the wind and cold and typically raise temperatures by 4 - 5 degrees F.

Your next option could be to construct a cold frame. Cold frames work the same way as our last two options but provide a lot more options for later use. Keep plants alive longer in the Fall and sow your seeds up to a month earlier with the use of a cold frame in the Spring. The other bonus to a cold frame is that it can be constructed out of a wide variety of materials and can be built with a removable top or hinged lid for extra convenience.

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/extension-gardener-handbook/appendix-e-season-extenders-and-greenhouses>



Here a small plastic *cloche* protects these herbs from damaging colder temperatures.

Cold Frame and Row Cover



Here is a row cover used by a farmer here in Cabarrus County for their crop of green beans. Unprotected plants did not survive the night frost. Those underneath were healthy.



This cold frame contains both herbs and lettuce. Its lightweight, aluminum frame, makes it easy to use and move around. Photo by Chris Alberti.