

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN



Produced by:
Extension Master
GardenerSM Volunteers of
Cabarrus County

Welcome to the Cabarrus County Master Gardener Volunteer Newsletter. I hope everyone enjoys reading our publication. Please volunteer to write articles, make suggestions and contribute in any way to the endeavor. We need pictures, ideas, and articles. Contact Karen Andre to participate.

Transplants vs. Direct-Sowing

Starting a vegetable garden? Confused about whether you should start seeds indoors or sow them directly in the garden?

There are advantages and disadvantages to each of these practices and the answer really depends upon the individual crop.

- Starting seeds indoors allows you to have more control over the growing environment.
- Certain pest and disease problems that plague young seedlings in the garden are avoided when plants are started indoors.
- Replacing early season crops in the garden with started

plants allows you to produce another crop quickly.

- Transplants must be hardened off before planting in the garden. Direct-sowing avoids this.

Certain crops perform better when set out as transplants and others do better when the seed is planted directly into the garden soil.

Here are some general guidelines:

- Crops with rapid top growth and slow root growth, like corn, beans, squash, and melons, don't transplant well and are generally more successful when seeded directly in the garden.

14th Annual Herb and Plant Festival

Our annual event is coming up soon on April 13, 2019 and it will be better than ever! It is located once again at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center. The most important thing for us all to do is to hand out fliers!!

This year the Master Gardener area is expanding to 3 tents so we need lots of plants to fill it up. Renee has emailed a list of plants that have traditionally sold well. It includes lenten roses, mums, daisies, sedums, house plants, herbs, hostas and much more. If you have questions about what to bring contact Renee Hedrick.

We will also be adding a native plant/pollinator area so those plants are also needed. Bee balm, obedient plant, coreopsis, mist flower and asters, to name a few, are good pollinator plants. This will tie into our education booth topic this year on pollinators.

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From pg 1- transplants

- Crops with rapid root growth and slower top growth, such as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and celery, will do better when planted as transplants.
- Root crops are more successful when they are direct-sown as they tend to be more flavorful, tender, and straight if they grow at a steady rate from germination to harvest. Transplanting interrupts this steady growth.

Cool-season veggies to start indoors:

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce, kohlrabi, Brussels sprouts

Cool-season veggies to direct-sow:

Peas, radishes, turnips, parsnips, beets, spinach, carrots, potatoes (from seed potatoes)

Warm-season veggies to start indoors:

Tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, celery

Warm-season veggies to direct-sow:

Beans, corn, okra, cucumbers, squash, melons, pumpkins

With Permission from February 6, 2013, "The Weekender from Viette's"

*Lori Jones, Horticulturist/Senior Editor
Andre Viette Farm & Nursery,
Fisherville, VA*

Happy Birthday!

2nd Quarter Birthdays

April

Melody Wilkes- 10

Jackie Ashrow- 23

May

Nicky Macaluso- 5

Mary Haynes- 12

Mary Quay- 18

Frances Brown- 31

June

Cindy Rhodes- 3

Wayne Fisher- 3

Bob Wilbur- 28

If you wish to have your birthday posted in the newsletter, please give the date to Cathy Smith as she has taken on this project.



From pg 1

The silent auction area is expanding this year and we are adding more items. Please talk to Gerris Harris if you have a potential donation.

Ilse Bohm has created an online sign-up sheet for volunteers. If you are unable to access the form, please contact her and she will add you.

In order for all this to come together, lots of volunteers are needed Friday and Saturday. The different categories are:

Plant booth- Cashiers, booth set-up, plant booth, and plant holding area.

Vendors- Vendor layout, directing vendors to spaces, liaison for vendors and customers.

Education booth: Educate on pollinators.

Ask a Master Gardener- Assist customers and answer question.

Counters- use a clicker to count as customers come in

Silent auction booth

Packing up

Most shifts are listed as 4 hours. You can work less if needed - such as 2 people splitting a 4 hour shift or you can sign up for all day if you want more time.

Friday set-up starts at 8 am for vendors and 11 am for the plant booth.

We will have pizza after the event closes at 4 pm Saturday for all who helped.

Meet Our New Treasurer

Hi, my name is Cathy Smith and I'm excited to have been appointed as Treasurer for the Cabarrus County Master Gardeners Club. I have been a life-long gardener and have passed on my love of growing things to my two children. I was raised in Winston-Salem as the youngest of 10 children before moving to Rowan County to raise my own family. My daughter and I lived in Charlotte for 12 years and moved back to the Rowan/Cabarrus area in 2017.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Accounting from Kaplan University and have over 20 years of banking and finance experience. I have 3 years of volunteer experience working with the Charlotte Police department in different positions and ended my volunteer experience working with Sgt Walter Bowling in Financial Crimes.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and working with everyone towards a successful year.

Update On Stonewall Jackson Gardens

The "Jackson 5" continue going to the garden and greenhouse weekly, weather permitting. The flowers are looking wonderful! We have spent a lot of time propagating many of them in hopes of being able to sell some to support the project.

Sam Fleming from 100 Gardens has teamed up with Rivendell Farms for the Carolinas to create a Certificate Program on Basic Aquaponics and Controlled Environment Agriculture. Master Gardeners have been assisting Sam with some of the educational components. This a wonderful opportunity for the students as they can leave Jackson with a Certificate to help them find employment.

We have also started some native plant seeds in the greenhouse for Concord Wildlife Alliance. The brown-eyed susan seeds came from the wildflower field behind the greenhouse and the coneflower seeds from a plant I won at a Concord Wildlife meeting.

We invite others to get involved with the project as it is rewarding and fun!

What's Happening

Events

April 11, 2019- 6:30- 7:30 Creating Certified Wildlife Habitats- presented by Union County Wildlife Chapter. Union County Ag Center

April 13, 2019- 14th Annual Spring Herb and Plant Festival. 8- 4 pm. Cabarrus Arena and Events Center

April 27, 2019- Kids in Nature Day- 9am- 12 noon at Woodland Discovery. Sponsored by Concord Wildlife Alliance

June 6-9, 2019 Extension Master Gardener College

June 17-21, 2019 International Master Gardeners Conference- Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Tours

April 25, 2019- 10 am Tour of Pollinator garden in Pittsburo, lunch, then tour of Cure Nursery

Speakers

April: Paula Gross- Bizaare Insects

May: Mitchell Hagler- Why I Garden

June: Chris Fletcher -TBD



Stonewall Jackson Greenhouse

7 Tips for Planting a Bee-Friendly Garden in North Carolina

Watching bees buzz around the garden is not just proof that spring has arrived; it's a sign that important work is happening.

Bees are pollinators. In the process of gathering nectar from flowers, bees spread pollen, which is essential for producing some of our favorite foods. Without bees, there would be no cocoa, coffee, blueberries, avocados, Brazil nuts, or countless other delicious and nutritious foods.

North Carolina is home to more than 500 native bee species — and they're at risk. Bee populations have plummeted by upwards of 30 percent across various regions in North America and Europe. While the situation is troubling, you can take action in the garden to support bees.

Here are seven ideas to help you protect bees:

1. Garden with native plants

Native plants are those that are indigenous to a specific region and adapted to its growing conditions. In North Carolina, species like purple coneflower, bee balm, great blue lobelia, and goldenrod thrive in gardens and provide food and habitat for native pollinators.

Debbie Roos, an extension agent at the Chatham County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, planted more than 190 native species in the "Pollinator Paradise" demonstration garden she created in Pittsboro to showcase the beauty of North Carolina native plants. "You're not sacrificing beauty when you choose native plants," she says.

Roos maintains a list of her top 25 native plants at CarolinaPollinatorGarden.org.

The nonprofit Pollinator Partnership also publishes regional planting guides on its website. Enter your zip code to access a comprehensive list of pollinator-friendly native plants specific to your region.

2. Choose the best colors

When it comes to foraging, bees and other pollinators have color preferences.

One [study](#) found that certain colonies of buff-tailed bumblebees prefer violet-colored flowers the most. It appears that flowers in this cool hue produce far more nectar than flowers of other colors, allowing bees to harvest more from these blooms.

When choosing native plants, keep their color in mind and choose purple and blue when you can (but remember that bees will gather nectar from flowers in all of the other shades of the rainbow, too).

3. Plant for all seasons

A garden that blooms in spring, summer, and fall is beautiful and productive. Pollinators depend on continual blooms for habitat and food and will suffer in a garden that blooms beautifully in spring but goes dormant when summer is over.

Roos recommends planting at least three to five species that bloom in each season. Virginia spiderwort, wild indigo, and foxglove beardtongue are good options for spring. St. John's wort, buttonbush, and mountain mint bloom all summer long. Meanwhile, spotted horsemint, aster, and joe-pye weed are great fall bloomers.

"Having more than one species blooming in every season attracts a diversity of pollinators to your garden," she says.

4. Install housing

Most pollinators depend on plants for habitat. Some bees, like mason bees, will build nesting sites in insect holes and hollow stems. These so-called cavity dwellers will also move into bee houses made from bamboo reeds, holes drilled in wooden blocks, and other creative cavities you provide.

You can buy mason bee houses at garden supply stores. The National Wildlife Federation also has [instructions](#) for DIY versions. Your bee hotel should be hung on a post facing east or southeast. A western exposure will leave the bees baking in the afternoon sun, Roos says.

"Our bees are losing habitat," Roos says. "A bee hotel is a way to help you provide habitat and invite important pollinators into your yard."

5. Set up a bee bath

Spreading pollen and gathering nectar can make bees work up a thirst. A “bee bath” gives bees a place to get fresh, clean water.

Fill a shallow container with water and several pebbles or twigs for bees to land on (and keep from drowning) while drinking. Make sure to keep the container filled with fresh water so the bees have a reliable source of drinking water.

6. Steer clear of chemicals

Pesticides are designed to kill insects — lest we forget that many pollinators, including bees, are insects. In fact, researchers at Harvard University [linked](#) colony collapse disorder, the inexplicable death and disappearance of honeybees from their hives, to a class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids.

“Part of caring for pollinators is being careful about the products you use in the garden,” Roos says.

Avoiding chemicals is the best approach, but if pesticides are needed, Roos advises not spraying plants that are in bloom and regularly visited by pollinators. Applying pest control in the evenings gives residues a chance to dissipate before bees make their morning rounds.

7. Get certified

You can demonstrate your commitment to pollinators by getting your garden certified.

Penn State University offers [Pollinator Garden Certification](#) and the Pollinator Partnership offers the [Bee Friendly Garden](#) certification program. For a small fee — which supports pollinator protection — you’ll get a sign for your garden that lets the neighbors know you’re making a conscious effort to protect bees and other pollinators. It might just encourage them to take action, too.

written by JODI HELMER

Photos from UNC State Web Sites



Mason Bee



Bumble Bee



Carpenter Bee



Green Sweat Bee



Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Extension Office- Feb. 14, 2019



Senior Health and Wellness Day Booth- March 13, 2019
Thanks to Pat Gladden, Cindy Rhodes, Patty Day, Aurora and Joe Ormsby