

Helping
Carolinians In
The Piedmont
Increase Their
Knowledge of
Gardening &
Manage Their
Landscape
Investment

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The Grandeur of Trees

Perhaps no other plants evoke as many fond memories and emotional attachments as trees. I remember a sturdy oak in my grandmother's yard that was outfitted with a tire swing to the delight of her grandchildren. Countless hours were spent playing beneath its branches and sailing on that swing into a canopy of leaves. That solid tree still stands, and it continues to add character to the house where my grandmother lived. In this fast-paced world where instant gratification is the norm, there's something reassuring about the grandeur of 100-year-old trees and the sense of place they provide.

Trees add value to our lives in other ways. Consider the beauty of neighborhoods where trees reign supreme versus the stark contrast of bare new developments. Aesthetic value translates into a dollar value for property as well. According to the National Arborist Association, well-maintained, mature, healthy trees can increase property values by as much as 25 percent. Depending on the right planting, trees can reduce cooling and heating bills. They can serve as screens, absorb noise and filter the air. And just think about those beautiful fall colors!

A little attention and proper care can improve a tree's health and protect your assets. Learn more from the page two article, *Tree Doctors: How to Choose a Certified Arborist*, and nurture your trees for generations to come. *The Editor*



Robert E. Lyons 1999 ©

Rose Rewards with Profuse Blooms

Rosa pimpinellifolia, better known as 'Petite Pink Scotch Rose' is a shrub that will reward you with profuse light pink flowers. This N.C. Association of Nurserymen Raulston Selection Plant is a tough rose that can handle our weather extremes and still add beauty to the garden. It blooms for three weeks in May and its finely textured green foliage accents taller plants into summer. 'Petite Pink Scotch Rose'

grows quickly, but is controlled in its growth habit. A mature plant reaches only 3 feet in height and 4 to 5 feet in width. Requiring minimal care, this plant is disease and drought resistant, needs full sun or light shade and grows well in a wide range of soils.

Check out this plant and other Raulston Selections at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Stephen Greer



Certified arborist fertilizing a tree.



Preserving a tree through a root collar excavation.

Tree Doctors: How to Choose a Certified Arborist

Trees usually make up a large percentage of a landscape investment. As long as you provide them with proper care, you'll reap the benefits for years to come. Though it may be tempting to hire a tree company that is not certified in order to save money, this route may cost you more in the long run.

The best way to protect your landscape investment is to contract with certified arborists, trained experts in tree care. For assistance, call Cooperative Extension. We can tell you what practices to avoid. For example, don't let anyone top your tree, do not fill or paint tree wounds, don't allow tree climbers to wear spikes on their boots for trees you want to keep and do not excessively thin the inner branches. Cooperative Extension also can identify disease problems. Many tree problems seem fatal, but are only cosmetic. When homeowners see their oak losing leaves and leaves turning brown, it often turns out to be a minor insect problem and the trees should be just fine. You can mail or bring leaf and twig samples to any Cooperative Extension Center.

After Extension narrows the scope of the problem, we can refer you to a qualified International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist. An ISA certified arborist is a landscape professional who has at least three years of tree-related experience and has passed a test on legitimate tree care practices.

The first goal of a certified arborist is tree preservation. They do not remove trees to make money.

An ISA certified arborist can provide the following:

- Remove lower limbs for visibility
- Properly reduce the height of trees (not the same as topping)
- Assess and monitor tree decay and damage
- Excavate buried root collars
- Cable and brace trees so they have more support during storms
- Remove dead wood
- Fertilize
- Use approved integrated pest management (IPM) techniques
- Remove trees safely when necessary

Non-certified arborists often let gravity pull the trunk or limbs to the ground. An ISA certified arborist uses ropes and pulleys to lower limbs and trunks. Make sure your arborist has a business license and insurance so that if people are hurt or property is damaged, you're not stuck with the bill. Though insurance and safety methods often lead to higher costs when using an ISA certified arborist, the benefits are a lifetime investment. Contact your local Cooperative Extension center for information on ISA certified arborists in your area. **John MacNair**



blazing star



daylily



phlox



purple coneflower



japanese iris

Perennial Pleasures

The trend toward lower maintenance in the landscape is leading many homeowners to discover the joy of perennials. Excellent perennial plants are available at most garden centers and are sold while they are in bloom, a bonus to you if you are trying to match specific colors.

Buy perennial plants that are compact

with dark green foliage. Avoid plants that have thin, pale yellow stems and leaves. They've been held in warm areas too long, are seldom vigorous and will require a longer time to establish themselves.

Good bed preparation is extremely important for perennials. Make sure you improve the soil and correct drainage problems before planting. Many perennials do not grow true to type from seed; there may

be differences in color, flower form and leaf shape. On the other hand, many perennials are best grown from seed each year.

You have myriad choices when it comes to perennials. N.C. State's J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont are fun places to visit to learn about perennials that grow well in North Carolina. **Stephen Greer**

Perennial Photos: Robert E. Lyons 1999 ©

Q&A

What is this gooey stuff at the base of my peach tree?

Plums, cherries, English laurels

or any member of the Prunus family could have the same problem. People ask this question in the spring but the only time to prevent the problem is the end of August. The gooey stuff is sap. The sap comes out where a peach tree borer larva went in. The peach tree borer is a clear-winged moth. In late August the adult female moth emerges and lays eggs at the base of susceptible

trees. The eggs hatch and the larvae buries into the tree. They can kill a tree in a single year. To prevent this problem, spray the first week of September. Use Thiodan on fruit trees. Thiodan, Lindane or Dursban will protect ornamental trees. After the borers get inside the tree some people hunt them with a knife. If they can find the insect, they win the encounter, but by then they have done more damage than the insect would have done. *David Goforth*

Vegetable Gardening in the Fall

A fall vegetable garden is an excellent way to extend the growing season and to reap the benefits of a product that is high in nutritional value. Many cole crops are well suited for canning and freezing. Some favorites include leafy greens, turnips, beets, carrots, squash, broccoli and cabbage. For the most part, August is the main planting month. For vegetables that have a 60 to 80 day maturity cycle, plant around August 1. Plant shorter season vegetables like turnips and leafy greens around September 1.

A good seed bed is necessary to produce a great fall garden. Poor soil preparation and lack of moisture are two reasons why many fall gardeners fail. When planting, soak in plants and follow every few days with lighter waterings. A mulch of decomposed organic material such as grass clippings or yard waste aids in conserving moisture, keeping down weeds and reducing cultivation.

A productive fall garden requires lots of care. Insects and diseases will be at their worst. Keep a watchful eye for pests and control them quickly.

Willie Earl Wilson

ENVIRO-TIP

Use Water Wisely

As summer rages on, we need to be sure that when we irrigate we make every drop count. Use these guidelines for more efficient and effective irrigation.

▪ **Establish irrigation objectives.**

Think of your landscape in terms of water use needs. When adding to your landscape, maximize the use of plants with moderate to low water use needs. These plants, once established, require only occasional supplemental watering or watering only during extreme drought.

▪ **Operate sprinklers between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m.**

The time of day that you water affects water use efficiency. Little wind and lower temperatures during early morning result in less

water lost to evaporation.

▪ **Install drip irrigation.** Drip, trickle or micro-irrigation applies water slowly and directly to the roots of plants through emitters and use 30 to 50 percent less water than sprinklers. Drip systems can be operated at any time since they place water directly on the ground.

▪ **Install an automatic controller.**

These devices turn the water on and off at specific times. If you have an underground irrigation system, reprogram the controller as water needs change during the season and with natural rainfall. Simple timers are available for hoses to operate for specified time periods.

For more information on efficient irrigation and how to select drought tolerant plants, contact your county Cooperative Extension Center.

Royce Hardin



Perennials to consider for your garden:

- Achillea
- Alyssum
- Artemisia
- Cleopias
- Aster
- Astilbe
- Buddleia
- Caryopteris
- Centaurea
- Chrysanthemum
- Coneflower
- Columbine
- Coreopsis
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- Dicentra
- Gaillardia
- Gaura
- Goldenrod
- Helianthus
- Helleborus
- Hemerocallis
- Heuchera
- Hosta
- Iris
- Liatris
- Lobelia
- Monarda
- Peony
- Phlox
- Rudbeckia
- Sedum
- Sweet William
- Verbena
- Veronica

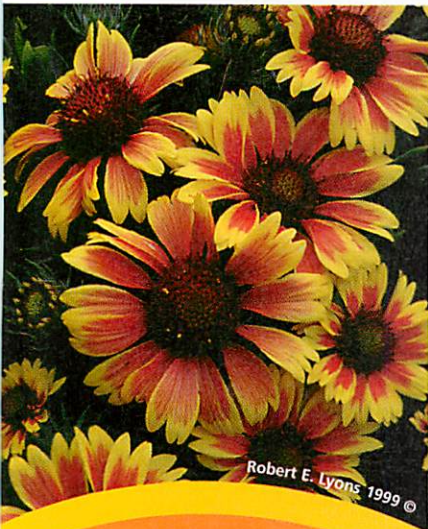


gardentalk

“I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.”

– Joyce Kilmer





Gardening in August

What to Fertilize

- Strawberries will benefit from a feeding of nitrogen fertilizer this month.
- Do not fertilize shrubs in August, September, October or November.

What to Plant

- The following fall vegetables can be planted this month: beets, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radish, rutabaga, spinach, squash, turnip, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and collards.

What to Prune

- Do not prune after August 15.

Pest Outlook

- Check these landscape shrubs for the following insect pests: spider mites on arborvitae and juniper; aphids on crape myrtle; lace bugs on azalea and pyracantha.
- Continue with weekly rose spray program.
 - Peach, nectarine and plum trees need a trunk spray for peach tree borers.
 - Spray fall vegetables if insect damage is observed.

Lawn Care

- Treat lawn areas for grubs. Use the recommended insecticides this month or an organic control in early October.
- In late August, prepare the lawn areas for seeding if you plan to have a tall fescue or bluegrass lawn.
- Most grasses need a soil pH of 6.5 in order to utilize fertilizer.
- Fertilize your zoysia and Bermudagrass lawns for the last time of the season.

John Vining

The N.C. Botanical

Garden is the largest natural botanical garden in the Southeast.

Over 600 acres are devoted to conservation and the research of plants native to the Southeast, including plants of special botanical interest and threatened or endangered plants.

Recognized nationally for its natural habitat displays, wildflower propagation, the conservation of rare plants and the culture and propagation of carnivorous plants, the garden is part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is supported by the state and the Botanical Garden Foundation.

The garden first began in 1903 but didn't officially become a botanical garden until 1952. The first public offering was the nature trails that opened in 1966. Today, the garden is made up of three tracts in Chapel Hill: the Coker Arboretum, the Mason Farm Biological Reserve and the N.C. Botanical Garden.

The garden is free and open daily, March through November, and is located on Old Mason Farm Road; call (919) 962-0522.

Karen Neill

Garden Spot



The *Successful Gardener* provides timely, research-based horticultural information to help Carolinians make wise landscape investment decisions and gain greater enjoyment from their lawns and gardens. The newsletter is part of an overall horticulture program which includes Extension's Successful Gardener Workshop Series in various counties throughout the Piedmont region. We publish monthly except January and July. Comments concerning *Successful Gardener* may be sent to:

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For a list of garden centers where you can find *Successful Gardener*, please call (704)336-2561 or look on our Home Page at <http://mecklenburg.ces.state.nc.us/>

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