



Brunswick County Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

NEWSLETTER

August 2006

Dr. Kenneth A. Sorensen...

who is a Professor of Entomology at NC State University in Raleigh will be our speaker at the General Meeting on August 24. He has been at NCSU as an Extension Entomologist since 1970, working on fruits and vegetables, and has international experience in Bolivia, Ecuador and India. He is going to talk to us about fruit and vegetable pests around the house and their management.

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- **The Hardscape Team** is working on their 'to-do' list and is making great headway. The drainage is complete now from the boardwalk to the road. There are always new projects and plantings so Hilton is still looking for members to join the Team – you don't need previous experience to participate. Let Hilton know if you can help.
 - Planning for the **Reunion Garden Party** on November 10 is well under way. We expect to invite all current and former Master Gardeners, although we still **can't find a class list for the 1996 class!** So, if you graduated that year or if you know anyone who graduated that year, please call Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman (754-4148) because we want to include everyone. We'll be asking for volunteers to help set up, decorate, clean up, etc., so the work involved

goes quickly. If you want to help, let us know.

- Charlie will be at the **Southport Wal-Mart** on September 30 from 10 am to 1 pm to do a presentation on planting trees, large patch treatment and other fall gardening topics. Want to join him? Let him know.
- Mark your calendars for the next **Coastal Gardening Seminar** on September 21. Topic and speakers will be announced soon.
- Our next **PLANT SALE** is scheduled for October 12, 13 and 14. There will be **no pre-sale** of plants at this or any future plant sale.
- The State Fair will be October 20 through 29.
- Have we mentioned that **the Hot Line needs you?** Please sign up and come on in and share all your gardening wisdom with the community.

Welcome Back!

It was announced at the July meeting that **Al Hight** is returning to the Brunswick County Extension Office as Interim Director, effective August 1. So....welcome back, Al, and we hope you stay for a good long time.

The only fool bigger than the one who knows it all is the one who argues with him.

But, we're going to miss you....

The next time you are in the Extension Office, be sure to stop by and wish **Billy Privette** the best. He will be retiring at the end of August from his position as Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development.

And **Charlie Spencer** announced that he will be retiring at the end of September. The Extension website lists Charlie as "Agricultural Technician," but we know better... Charlie coordinates and organizes and staffs and mentors and runs things...and he cooks, too.

Both will be sorely missed, but we wish you both well.

And Many Thanks to Gina

We took a few moments at the July General Meeting to thank Gina Britton for all the help she gives the Master Gardener Association's members and programs. Gina is always happy to work with us on things – most recently she has done a great job of cleaning up the list of past MG classes – and we do appreciate everything she does!

We're collecting items for our troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. There is a box in the lobby of the Extension Center – bring in all those hotel/motel soaps and shampoos that you've been saving, and any other toiletry items you have that you want to send to the men and women who are serving our country overseas.

LARGE PATCH treatment, if needed, should start in early September so now's the time to start thinking about it. Charlie will be writing an article on this problem and on the options and schedule for treating with Bayleton, Banner MAXX, Heritage, etc. for next month. Charlie also mentioned that Wal-Mart may begin to stock less expensive sizes of the effective treatments – which will be a help to the home gardener with not a lot of area to be covered.

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From David Barkley....

Fertilization:

Annuals and Biennials that have recently been cut back to force new flowers will benefit from fertilizing with a liquid 20/20/20 fertilizer now.

Apply $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq.ft. for lawns:

Bermudagrass	-1 pound
Zoysiagrass	$-\frac{1}{2}$ pound
St. Augustinegrass	$-\frac{1}{2}$ pound

Pruning:

For additional flowering, deadheading some of your favorite flowers now may force them to bloom again in the fall.

Light pruning may be performed for most landscape plants except those that you expect to have blooms from next spring such as azaleas. Storm damaged tissue may make it necessary to make heavier pruning cuts than normal to repair broken, leaning or dangerous limbs.

Cut back Red Tip Photinia now to have beautiful red foliage throughout the winter months.

Pest Control:

August is often the hottest and most humid month for growing plants. Extra care must be provided for young establishing plants due to the abundant and constant pressure of insect, disease and weed competition.

Air quality may be poor and plants may show signs of ozone injury. Treat fungal diseases with fungicides as needed and

continue to monitor plant growth to prevent devastating losses.

Insect populations build up to threshold levels and wise use of pesticides may be necessary to control Aphids, Spider Mites, Scales, and Whiteflies found in the landscape. Sycamores will start an early fall color change from damage they suffer from lacebug attack. Spray controls for this pest is not practical and the leaves will be falling next month anyway.

For most trees, spray control of pests must be judged with how many more weeks of beauty you expect out of the tree versus the eventual loss of leaves in the fall. Practice sanitation to remove infected plant material so the problem will be not be as bad next year. Azalea caterpillars and fall webworms make their appearance now - treat with Orthene, Sevin or Malathion.

Get Ready!

Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs in the landscape. Look around now and analyze your site to see if you can enhance your landscape with a few more plants or you may want to consider renovating your landscape this fall. Now is the time to put your ideas on paper and start lining up the plants you will need later. Have you thought about a fall garden?

Hints! Regular weeding and watering of lawns, flowers, and vegetable gardens will keep them producing all summer. Mulch all beds to maintain even moisture and keep weeds down. Leaf spot on tomatoes can be treated with an insecticidal spray: follow label directions. Good clean-up of all infected leaves, branches, and plant stubble from gardens can prevent the spread of diseases in your gardens.

Lawn Care

- Watch for chinch bugs in St. Augustinegrass and be prepared to apply Baygon or various types of pyrethroids such as Tempo, Talstar, etc for best control
- Fertilize the warm seasoned grasses with 1/2 to 1 pound of actual nitrogen except Centipedegrass. Late applications of nitrogen may cause winter kill or cold injury to Centipedegrass.
- Watch for mole cricket activity - small tunnels at the soil surface. Top Choice (fipronil) is usually applied for mole cricket control in late May. You may also use Talstar and other

labeled pyrethroids as needed according to label directions.

- Large Patch disease control applications should be applied when soil temperatures decrease to around 70 degrees which will usually be sometime in mid to late September.

Landscape Plants:

- Powdery mildew on Crape myrtles: Pay close attention to your crapemyrtle foliage. Banner or Bayleton may be used to control Powdery Mildew if you notice a white powdery substance on your Crape Myrtles.

Whoa! The “Refreshment Team” Blinked! And we almost didn’t have refreshments at the July meeting except for fast work on Cathie Rod’s part. These are our “Teams” for the rest of the year:

- August: Anita Waite, Gail Earley, Charlie Spencer
- September: Ann Duke, Nancy Gooding
- October: Croly Petrea, Mary Ellen Clagett, Grace Wrigley
- November: Anne Marie Bellamy – we need someone else – let Cathie know if you can help with November’s refreshments.

Got Recipes????

A number of respondents to the Newsletter Survey said they would like to see some favorite recipes in future issues. We had some great food at the Recognition Banquet and a couple of people left a copy of the recipe with the food, but I didn’t take the recipe because I wanted others to see it, too.

So...if you have a recipe you want to share with your fellow Master Gardeners, send a copy to me at rcd@nfcexperts.com and I’ll be happy to include in future newsletters. Thanks!

Can you join one of the monthly work teams as they maintain the Botanical Garden? Teams work on the 1st and 3rd Mondays and the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Let Maggie Hoon know if you can join one of these teams.

If you have an item for the newsletter, be sure to submit it to both Becky Dus (rcd@nfcexperts.com) and Lisa Miner (webmaster@bcmastergardener.org)

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