

NC Cooperative Extension

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
JULY 2009



JULY—What happened to all the rain? If you haven't replenished the mulch, do it now if it has become thin. Yank under performing annuals and replace. Water deeply; soak instead of frequently spraying. Appreciate the fireflies. They snack on slugs and snails. Fielder Rushing suggests drying hydrangea blossoms in the truck of the car (as does a lady in Alabama). Great for autumn arrangements.

ROWAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER
ASSOCIATION MEETING
TUESDAY July 14 2009
1:00PM Ag Center

Continuing with our July propagation theme, Garrett Owen, NCSU Extension, will be presenting a program on Grafting. Jean Lamb will have a demonstration on Air-layering camellias.



Refreshments by Carole Massey

West End Community Park & Garden

The West End gardens are filling out and behaving just as a home-owners' garden should. The vegetables are producing, the flowers are blooming, the grapes are developing nicely. The Field Day was a success for those who came and participated. Another will be scheduled later in the summer. Work will continue on both Wednesdays and Fridays to enable Volunteers to stay up with the weeds and vegetables. The irrigation continues to aggravate, and hand watering is almost mandatory. The Ice Cream Social on June 24th was a huge success, due to the marvelous variety of the home made ice creams! Thanks to all who cranked (or plugged in) those machines.



From the President:



This is the time of year that we Master Gardeners really earn our keep. By now your friends and neighbors have discovered that you are a Master Gardener and just as the weather heats up, so do the number of questions. By now you probably have been asked about tomatoes that have developed blossom end rot or squash plants that only produce leaves and no squash. Then there are always questions regarding strange bugs eating the leaves off flowers and trees. Probably the number one concern for most home owners right now pertains to Japanese beetles. How do I get rid of them?

We are now in the peak season for Japanese beetles and this is directly related to the weather. Once the temperature reaches 85 degrees Fahrenheit and the air is relatively still, Japanese beetles become extremely active. It was during the rainy season that female beetles burrowed 2 to 3 inches into the damp soil and deposited her eggs. Now as they hatch and mature from larva into flying beetles, they release chemicals into the air called pheromones. These pheromones then attract other beetles therefore it is vital to kill them quickly or they will surely attract more beetles. There are two primary methods to control them, the old fashion way or by chemical means.

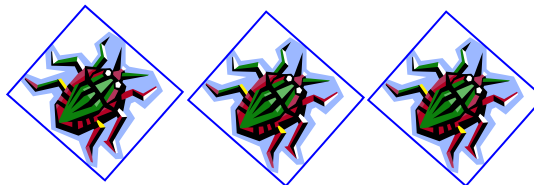
The least expensive and most environmentally friendly method to rid your property of Japanese beetles is to pick them off the plants by hand or shake the beetles off into a wide mouth jar or bucket of soapy water. By dislodging the beetles each morning it is less likely others will aggregate there later in the day. Another method often used to protect smaller plants is by covering them with a cheese cloth or other fine mesh.

Many folks prefer the commercial route to control these pests. The primary choice for many is the Japanese beetle trap. Research has indicated that these traps can actually make the problem worse. Since these traps use pheromones to attract the beetles, they tend to attract more beetles into your yard than the traps can catch. Best advice is to let your neighbors set the traps out to attract your beetles.

If insecticides are the only solution to protect the plants in the landscape, NC State recommends Seven (carbaryl) or Merit (malathion, imidacloprid). Some newer multi-insect products containing pyrethrin can offer up to two weeks of protection. The ultimate solution is to have plants that Japanese beetles do not like. While Japanese beetles eat hundreds of different plants, some of the plants that they tend to avoid are Arborvitae, Boxwood, Dogwood, Firs, Hemlock, Holly, Junipers, Lilac, Magnolia, Oaks, Pines, Redbud, Red maple or Rhododendron.

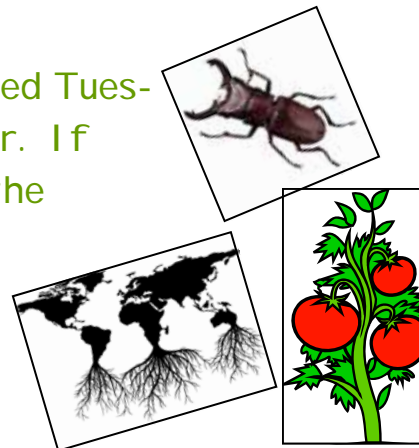
Happy beetle hunting,

Bob



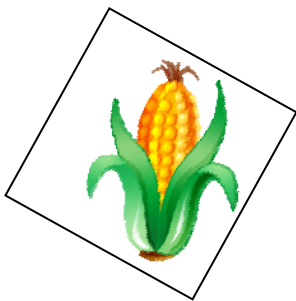
PLANTS, PESTS and PATHOGENS

The 3rd session of Elluminate will be beamed Tuesday July 14th at 10:00AM at the Ag Center. If you want to bring your lunch and stay for the 1:00PM Association meeting, feel free. Check with Darrell if you want to watch from home. He can tell you how to make it happen.

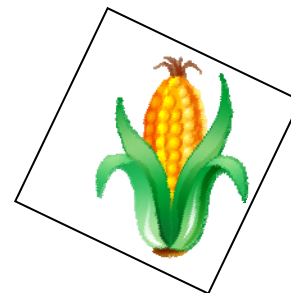


Tomato tasting—Saturday July 11th—9-11AM

A blind taste test will be a true trial of the Farmers Market fresh tomatoes. 5 or 6 varieties will be chosen at random; sliced into bite sized bits, and offered to the public. Then, Volunteers will ask the tasters to complete a short questionnaire. The results will be compiled and reported. Check the Salisbury Post for most popular varieties.



Family and Consumer Science Agent Toi Degree will have a cooking demonstration at the Salisbury Rowan Farmers Market on July 25. Corn will be the featured ingredient.



Plant Propagation IX-Session 1-July 1

Session 2-July 29

Jean Lamb lead a class of 20 in the first session with several newcomers to the process. Hopefully, we will have success with our efforts as our cuttings evolve into plants for our plant sale fund raiser. Many thanks to Bob Bruce for keeping watch on the greenhouse and giving additional irrigation as needed. The second session may be a Master Gardener project day with Volunteers sticking trays for the Association. The class is not full, and there are only members names on the sign up sheet. Call Melva to register. 704-216-8970



Finished product in the greenhouse.



Jean Lamb conducts the workshop on propagation. The empty trays will soon be filled with the most desirable cuttings.



Bob Bruce working on the irrigation in the greenhouse. A never ending task.



Listen to Kent, Howard, Darrell, Carole and invited guests.

Tune in every Thursday morning on **WSTP 1490AM** at 8:35AM .

Thanks to our sponsors: Patterson Farms, Carolina Stalite, Farm Bureau Insurance, James River Equipment, Steele Feed & Seed, Villa Franca Estates, Godley's Garden Center & Nursery and Lazy 5 Ranch.



4-H Summer Fun Horticultural Week July 20-24

Monday—July 20-Garden in a Jar-Making a Terrarium

Tuesday—July 21-From the Grower, to the Grocery, to the Kitchen!

Wednesday-July 22-Water wise Plants and Xeriscape Container Gardening

Thursday-July 23-Garden Art- Mosaics

Friday- July 24-Exploring the Fields-Itchy, Biting, Stinging Things!

Volunteers have come forward to assist with this fun week of activities with the kids!

If anyone has any plants they would like to donate to the cause, we can still use some succulents for the Xeriscape gardens. The more varieties we have, the better the dish gardens. At this time, we should have sufficient terrarium plants, but if anyone has anything to contribute, plants that can survive in a contained moist environment, it would be greatly appreciated.

Darrell is also collecting specimens for the “Itchy, Biting, Stinging Things” He is looking for a hornets nest to cut open (yes, it needs to be vacant), and any other wasp, mud dabbler or paper wasp nests.

And just so you know: Millions of people are injured from venoms produced by insects and other arthropods each year. Among those inflicting damage are stinging caterpillars, millipedes, blister beetles, black and brown widow spiders, fire ants, scorpions, mites, chiggers, wheel bugs, brown recluse spiders, lice, ticks, true bugs and biting flies. Comforting isn't it!

For further information, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IG099>



This bus did not leave the station. Our planned bus trip to Longwood Gardens on June 26-28 did not have sufficient support and was therefore canceled. Depending on member interest, we may or may not plan another trip in the future.

Thanks to Carmen of Mullis Travel for working with us.



JULY 2009

- 1 9:00AM– noon -GH– propagation class—sign up
- 8 9:00-noon– 4-H Cloverbuds—Fun with Gourds
- 11 9:00AM—Farmers Market-tomato tasting
- 14 10AM_12PM—Ag Center—Elluminate—*Plants, Pests and Pathogens*
- 14 1:00PM—1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center—air layering camellias
- 20-24 4-H Horticulture Week
- 28 30 10:00AM-BOD-Chamber of Commerce
- 29 9:00am-noon– GH—propagation II—sign up

AUGUST 2009

- 11 10AM_12PM—Ag Center—Elluminate—*Plants, Pests and Pathogens*
- 11 1:00PM—1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center
—All About Bees —Bob Blackwelder

SEPTEMBER 2009

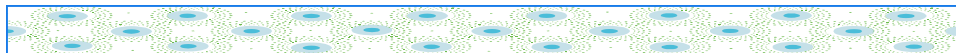
- 8 1:00PM—1:00PM Association meeting-Ag Center
- 20-26 Rowan County Fair
- 29 BOD 10:00AM Chamber of Commerce

**Radio every Thursday beginning in May
West End Every Wednesday and Friday-weather permitting**

Please note that some of these dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances.
Please check the web page for updates and corrections.

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If you have not picked up a copy of the MG 2009 Members Directory, they are available in the Master Gardener office. If you are a graduate of the MG Class of 2009 and have not joined the Association, dues for the remainder of the year are \$5.00. Membership entitles you to participate in all Association activities. Think Ice Cream Social!

