



Home Gardening Newsletter



October - November
2023



193 Thomas Heights Rd.
Franklin, N.C. 28734
828 349-2046
macon.ces.ncsu.edu

Horticulture News

Ginseng Production

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service is offering a free seminar on Ginseng Production for homeowners who desire to grow “sang.” This program will be held on Tuesday October 17th from 10:00-12:00 p.m. at the Macon Extension Center located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd. Franklin N.C.

Topics covered will be: state regulations for growing and hunting “sang”, plant physiology, present and historical use of ginseng and comparing Asian versus American ginseng. Major time and emphasis of the program will be dedicated to the “woods simulated” cultural practices such as: site selection and preparation, sowing, harvesting, drying the roots and seed stratification.



For more information or to register for this event contact Christy Bredenkamp at 828 349 2046 or e-mail clbreden@ncsu.edu

Basics of Composting and Vermicomposting

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service will be holding a free seminar on the Basics of Composting and Vermicomposting. This event will be held Tuesday November 14th from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Macon Extension Center located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd Franklin N.C.

Participants will learn the benefits of compost, acceptable materials to add e.g., food scraps, grass clipping and leaves; types of compost structures, preparing and maintaining the pile, proper temperatures, carbon to nitrogen ratios and water requirements. Vermicomposting enthusiasts will learn more about the right species of worms, properly sized bins, bedding, appropriate food scraps, when and how to harvest your compost and common troubleshooting tips.



For more information or to register for this event contact Christy Bredenkamp at 828 349 2046 or e-mail clbreden@ncsu.edu

WNC AgOptions: Now Accepting Grant Applications for Family Farms

WNC AgOptions is now accepting applications from farmers diversifying or expanding their farm business. Cash awards are available in the amount of \$4,000 or \$8,000 with budgets that are at least 10% higher than the amount of the award request. Examples of funded farm operations from previous years include: fruits & vegetables, livestock, nurseries, agritourism, beekeeping and value-added processing. While agriculture is a varied and diverse industry that can be defined in many ways, WNC AgOptions favors applicants who operate a business and manage land for the purpose of producing crops for harvest and sale. Any funding requests should be for items directly related to the growing and harvesting of crops for sale, including livestock.

Since 2004 supported by the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, [WNC AgOptions](https://wncagoptions.org/) has provided grant funding for farmers wanting to diversify or expand their production in the following defined counties/units: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Clay, Cleveland, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey Counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

For more information about this excellent funding opportunity go <https://wncagoptions.org/>



John Cantrell of Mashburn Branch Vineyard – a 2023 WNC AG Options Recipient

The following are helpful tips in writing a successful grant proposal:

- Intent to apply (**October 13**). It's important to let your County Extension Agent know you plan to apply. If your project involves livestock, beekeeping, hemp and forage crops contact Joe Deal 828 349 2046 or joe_deal@ncsu.edu. If your project involves vegetables, nursery, flowers, berries, or other specialty crops then contact Christy Bredenkamp at 828 349 2046 or clbreden@ncsu.edu
- Plan & research your topic in depth e.g., the market, your customers, income, expenses and more. Review the [WNC AgOptions](https://wncagoptions.org/) website to gather ideas from previous recipients.
- Be precise but thorough in your grant proposal. When answering questions, be mindful some questions have 2-5 components.
- Write the proposal as if the reader is not familiar with your type of farming operation.
- Have others review your proposal including your local Extension Agent.
- Experienced reviewers look over your proposals so don't exaggerate your budget numbers or expected income. It's normal if you see little to no expected income in the first year.
- Include two quality letters of support from partners or cooperators who will help you complete your project goals. Choose individuals who will provide advice or assistance.
- Don't forget to get your application notarized.
- Application deadline is **November 17, 2023**.
- For additions tips go to: <https://wncagoptions.org/grant-writing-tips/>



Jodie McCord of Great Blue Farms – a 2022 WNC AG Options recipient

For more in information contact the [Macon Extension Center](#) at 828 349 2046

October and November Horticulture Tips

Lawns

- Depending on the weather, you may still need to mow a time or two before putting the mower away for winter.
- A mulching mower can do a good job of chopping those fallen leaves if there are not too many. Another option is to put on the bagging attachment to chop and collect the leaves. They make a good addition to the compost pile.
- Do not allow a heavy layer of leaves to smother ground covers, evergreen perennials or pansies.



Fruits

- Finish fall cleanup – rake leaves and remove any fruit left in trees or on the ground.
- Do not prune fruit trees until March.
- Pull weeds in the strawberry bed and cover the plants with straw.

Vegetables

- Dig Sweet Potatoes before first frost.
- Plant lettuce, green onions, carrots, radishes and most leafy greens inside your cold frame.
- Remember to take advantage of the herb garden when preparing those holiday meals. In addition to flavoring, herbs can make lovely garnish or table decorations.
- Leafy greens can be harvested by pulling the whole plant, or by removing lower leaves and allowing the plant to continue to grow.
- Most winter vegetables, such as cabbage, broccoli and greens, do not need protection from cold temperatures until nights fall in the low 20s.
- Monitor greenhouses, cloches and cold frames daily. Temperatures heat up quickly on a sunny day.
- Sow cover crops such as clover, annual rye, barley and buckwheat in fallow winter beds to improve soil structure and suppress weed.



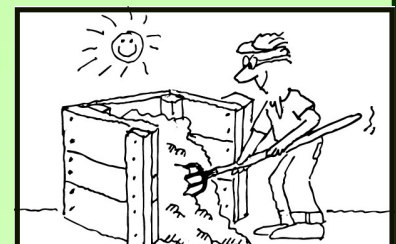
Trees Shrubs & Flowers

- When planting trees and shrubs, pay attention to correct planting depth. Water well and apply a 3 inch layer of mulch, being careful to pull the mulch a few inches away from the stem.
- Check landscape beds for winter annual weeds. Remove them now as they will only be larger in the spring.
- If you love to have daffodils, crocus, iris and grape hyacinth blooming next spring, then plant now! Bulbs need to be exposed to cool temperatures to bloom. Its best to get them planted before Thanksgiving.
- Pull bagworms off shrubs to prevent re-infestation next year.



Miscellaneous Tasks

- This is an excellent time to soil sample while the test is free from April-November. A \$4.00 charge will begin during peak times from December 1st -March 31st. Results come back quickly this time of year, allowing plenty of time to start making adjustments for next season's garden.
- Turn the compost pile incorporating layers of chopped Autumn leaves.



Seminar: The Basics of Growing Christmas Trees

Interested in starting a Christmas tree farm? A workshop will be held for potential new growers and individuals desiring to learn more on how to produce Fraser fir Christmas trees. Christy Bredenkamp, Macon County Extension Director will cover basic but critical topics such as site selection and preparation, planting scenarios, alternate tree species, an introduction to the pests, budget costs, shearing, marketing, annual practices and more, along with a Q & A.

The meeting will take place at the Macon County Extension Center located at 193 Thomas Heights Rd Franklin, NC on Monday December 4th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. To register for this program or for more information contact Christy Bredenkamp, Macon Extension Director at 828 349 2046 or e-mail cbreden@ncsu.edu

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NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION



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