



Home Gardening Newsletter

February-March
2024



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

Upcoming Horticulture Programs

The following workshops are free (except Shiitake see below for details) and will be held at the Macon Extension Center located on 193 Thomas Heights Rd Franklin NC. To register call 828 349 2046 or e-mail debbie_hunter@ncsu.edu

Strawberries: How to Start and Sustain Your Strawberry Patch

Monday February 12th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing strawberries or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more. Finally, we will discuss the most common disease and insect problems and their possible control options.



Starting and Managing Your Blueberry Patch

Tuesday February 20th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing blueberries or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more. Finally, we will discuss the most common disease and insect problems and their possible control options.



Shiitake Mushroom Workshop

Saturday February 17th 2 time slots **\$35 fee**

The Master Gardener Association of Macon County will be holding a Shiitake mushroom hands on learning workshop for homeowners who desire to grow Shiitake for additional income as an alternative agricultural crop or simply for personal consumption. This workshop be held on **Sat. February 17th** in two time slots at the Environmental Resource Center located 1624 Lakeside Dr Franklin NC.



Topics covered include cover all aspects of Shiitake mushroom production and will include a "hands on" experience where individuals will inoculate and bring home their own logs.

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Upcoming Horticulture Programs cont.

For demonstration purposes, we ask that you bring 2 logs cut in the dormant season (Nov-March) preferably red, white or scarlet oak that are 3"- 6" inches in diameter, 4 ft. long and with bark intact and free from bare or diseased spots. The presence of lichen or moss is fine. **Workshop fee is \$35.00** (pay at door cash or check).

There will be two time frames for registration:

1. 8:30 a.m. sign-in and attend classroom session from 9:00-10:00 a.m. inoculate logs from 10:00-11:30 a.m.
2. 11:00 a.m. sign-in and attend classroom session from 11:30-12:30 p.m. inoculate logs from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. or so.

For more information or to register please contact the Macon Extension Center at 828 349 2046 or e-mail Debbie Hunter at debbie_hunter@ncsu.edu

Blackberries & Raspberries: How to Create & Care For Your Caneberry Patch

Monday February 26th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing blackberries and raspberries or desiring to learn more tips on how to maintain your Caneberry patch. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, trellising, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more. Finally, we will discuss the most common disease and insect problems and their possible control options.



Grapes: How to Start and Grow Grapes

Tuesday March 5th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This seminar is geared for those new to growing grapes or desiring to learn the basics on how to maintain your grape vines. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, trellising, weed control, choosing the right cultivars, pruning, harvesting and more. Finally, we will discuss the most common disease and insect problems and their possible control options.

Fruit Trees: How to Start and Foster Your Home Orchard

Monday March 11th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Individuals who have a small orchard or desire one will learn more about the basic cultural needs of apple, pear, peach and other fruit trees. Topics covered include site selection, the differences between dwarf, semi-dwarf and seedling trees, proper soil conditions, pollination requirements, differences in cultivars, chilling requirements, fertility needs, tree spacing and general pruning principles. In addition, we will discuss the most common disease and insect problems and possible control options.



Gardening Basics 101

Tuesday March 19th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

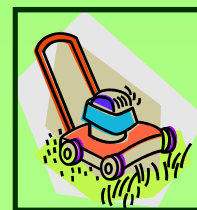
This seminar is geared for those new to gardening or desiring to brush up on the basics. Participants will learn about site selection and preparation, proper soil and plant fertility needs, spacing, crop rotation, cultivars and the differences between cool and warm season vegetables. Finally, we will lightly discuss the most common disease, insect and weed problems and their potential control options.

To register for any of the following workshops contact Debbie Hunter at 828 349 2046 or e-mail debbie_hunter@ncsu.edu

March Horticulture Tips

Lawns

- Fertilize cool season lawns with a slow-release fertilizer at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- If broadleaf weeds are present, pull them while they are small or spot treat with a broadleaf herbicide.



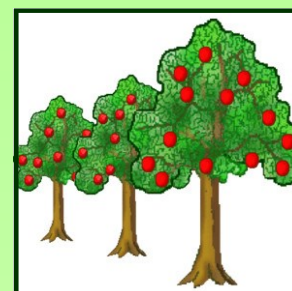
Vegetables

- Break up soil in garden beds when soil is dry enough.
- Turn under cover crop when soil is not too wet.
- Plant asparagus crowns, radishes and potatoes.
- Start transplants for cool season plants such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale indoors early in the month.
- Onion seeds for transplants can be sown indoors early this month.
- Sow spinach seed in well-drained soil that was turned over in autumn. Cover lightly with straw.
- Late in the month, when soil is dry enough to work, begin sowing shelling and snap peas, snow peas, onions, radishes, and spinach.



Fruits & Berries

- Plant fruit trees and blueberry, raspberry blackberry, and grape plants now through April.
- Prune grape vines and blueberries.
- Spray fruit trees with dormant oil when temperature is above 45 degrees F and will remain above freezing for 24 hours. This will help eliminate some insects by suffocating over-wintering eggs and larvae.
- Spray peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide to prevent leaf curl.
- Go ahead and begin to prune the fruit trees as the flower buds begins to swell.



Trees Shrubs & Flowers

- Plant trees and shrubs when ground is not frozen.
- Cut back overgrown shrubs. Prune evergreen shrubs lightly. Prune summer-flowering shrubs to encourage new blooms. Prune shade trees if necessary.
- Spray woody ornamentals with dormant oil.
- Fertilize large shade trees with 3 pounds of 10-10-10 per inch of trunk diameter.
- Watch for signs of frost heaving; firm the soil around heaved plants.
- Fertilize spring-flowering bulbs as soon as the leaves begin to appear if bulbs were not fertilized in fall. Use 10-10-10, 1 teaspoon per bulb or 4 cups per 200 square feet.
- Trim back ornamental grasses, liriope and mondo grass.
- Order seeds and plants.
- Prune roses before they leaf out.



Master Gardener Course

Applications are now being taken for the 2024 Extension Master GardenerSM program of Macon County. Classes will be held at the Environmental Resource Center in Franklin every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00p.m. beginning tentatively April 10th for the next 10 weeks. The course fee will be around \$120 which includes an excellent book along with handouts. Upon receipt and review of your application, look for an acceptance letter with more details.

As a class participant, you will receive 35 hours of training in subjects including bulbs, vegetables, fruits, herbs, berries, pruning, grafting, native plants, organic gardening, disease, insects and much more! After successfully completing your training, passing a take-home exam, and returning a like number of hours in volunteer service you will be certified as a Master GardenerSM volunteer. For an application and more information contact Christy Bredenkamp, Macon Extension Director at 828 349 2046 or email clbreden@ncsu.edu.



NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Macon County

Christy Bredenkamp,
Macon County Extension Director



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Macon Extension Center
193 Thomas Heights Rd
Franklin, NC 28734