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The Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center partnered with Robeson County Cooperative Extension to determine if a Community Supported Agriculture program would be beneficial to Hoke County. Within two weeks time the program was full and we were turning away subscribers. The CSA provided a way for subscribers to receive a fresh bag of fruits and vegetables along with recipes and educational materials on the importance of eating healthy for five consecutive weeks. The vegetables came from a local farmer in Robeson County who grows vegetables for the Robeson County Farmers Market. We look forward to working with our Hoke County Farmers to get a CSA program for the Spring. If any farmers are interested in the program we invite you to come out to the Farmers Market meeting on November 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Details can be found in the event section.

Events
November 3rd 10:00 a.m. - Master Gardener Meeting at the Extension Center
November 15th 6:00 p.m. - Holiday Workshop at the Extension Center - Enjoy fellowship, make a centerpiece, and learn how to make pumpkin rolls your entire family will enjoy. Cost is $8.00 preregister by November 9th.
November 15th 6:00 p.m. - Jr. Master Gardeners Meeting at Wanda’s
November 29th 6:00 p.m. - Farmers Market Meeting.
December 1st 11:00 a.m. - Master Gardener Christmas Party at designated home- don’t forget to bring your covered dish and country store gift.
December 6th 12:00 p.m. - Horticulture Specialized Meeting at the Extension Center.
December 20th 6:00 p.m. - Jr. Master Gardener Christmas Party at Wanda’s
Fall Bedding Plants
Nurseries and garden centers offer a wide selection of cool-season transplants and seeds. Transplants are well-established, blooming plants that provide color in your garden right away. Some cool-season bedding plans, such as alyssum. Johnny–jump-up, bluebonnets, calendula, annual phlox and nasturtium, are easy to grow from seed and may be planted directly into beds. A few, including sweet peas, larkspur and the poppies resent transplanting are typically direct-seeded where they will grow. Whether you use transplants or direct seed, planting should be done from mid October through early December. Before you plant either seeds or transplants, decide where you want to grow them and prepare the soil. Prepare beds well, because this makes a tremendous difference in the performance of the plants. Cool-season bedding plants will bloom best in well-drained locations that receive six hours or more of sun. Generally, the more sun they receive, the more they will bloom and grow. Pansy, viola, forget-me-not, nicotania, primrose, cyclamen and alyssum are probably the best choices for shadier areas, but even they will not perform well in heavy shade and do best where they get at least a few hours of morning sun (primrose and cyclamen will bloom with the least amount of sun).

Prune Roses
In North Carolina, our ever-blooming roses produce two really great seasons of bloom. The first outstanding season is in spring and early summer from April to early June. Another outstanding rose blooming period occurs in October and November when mild weather is ideal for quality flowers. Though we pruned our rose bushes in early spring, they have been in active growth since then and many look overgrown, leggy and less attractive now, particularly the popular hybrid teas and grandifloras. A second, less severe pruning is recommended in late August or early September to get rose bushes in shape for the fall blooming season. First, remove all the dead growth, Make your cuts well into the healthy part of the canes just above a leaf or dormant bud, or remove the dead cane entirely back to its point of origin. You may need toppers for this job. Next, weak, spindly canes the diameter of a pencil or less should be removed, particularly those growing in the interior of the plant. This is most important for hybrid tea and grandiflora roses. For hybrid teas and grandifloras, the major part of the pruning involves shortening the remaining vigorous canes. Cut the canes back to about 30 inches from the ground. Ideally try to make each cut just above a bud that faces outward, away from the inside of the bush. This pruning needs to be done, even if there are flowers on the bush now. Ever-blooming old garden roses, shrub roses, landscape roses and other groups may be pruned now, but the pruning required is generally less severe and is done mostly to shape the bush or to control the size of more vigorous cultivars. Use your best judgment when it comes to pruning those roses. Some gardeners prune their bushier roses with hedge trimmers.
Chores for Fall

1. Take soil samples from landscape and gardening beds and submit to the Hoke County Extension Center for analysis. This is a free service to you and a great way to know exactly what your soil needs to reap a bountiful harvest.

2. If room is available in your landscape, plant a few native trees.

3. Consider incorporating some multi-seasonal flowering azaleas into your landscape. Fall is a great time to plant!

4. Trees that provide good fall color are Oak, Bradford Pear, Japanese maple, and Sweet Gum.

5. Watch azalea plantings for early fall infestation of lace bugs. Control with Orthene, horticultural oil sprays and other recommended insecticides.

6. Build a compost pile out of leaves, grass clippings and remains from your vegetable garden.

7. Root-prune wisteria that has failed to bloom. This encourages flowering next spring. Cut through the roots with a spade in a circle about 30-40 inches from the main trunk.

8. Caladiums generally begin to decline in late September or October, and then it’s time to decide what you want to do with them. If the bed where the caladiums are planted will stay relatively undisturbed and drains well, you may leave the caladiums in the ground. If the bed tends to stay wet over the winter, the tubers will rot and would be best dug and stored.

Selecting Trees

No other plants can create the major problems that poorly selected or improperly placed trees will. Here are some points you need to consider:

1. Select a tree that will mature at the appropriate size. Generally small trees grow from 15-25 feet tall, medium trees from 30-55 feet tall and large trees 60 feet or taller.

2. Think about the purpose of the tree and why you feel it is needed.

3. Decide if you want a tree that retains foliage year round or losses its leaves in the winter. Deciduous trees are useful for shad in the summer and sun in the summer and sun in the winter.

4. Choose trees that are well adapted to our growing conditions. Long summers, mild winters.
Holiday Décor Workshop
As the cost of an evening out continues to grow, so does the trend of staying home to entertain family and friends. If you're a budget-conscious consumer, you don't have to spend a fortune to dazzle your guests; experts say you can get some of the best decorating ideas from Mother Nature.

So many of us work really hard on our gardens and unfortunately those tender blossoms just don't last all that long. Whether you have large flower beds or just a window box, it's very easy to let nature be your guide and take advantage of the vibrant seasonal colors and textures by adding flowers and other greenery to your dinner table.

Think fresh
Seasonal decorating can go way beyond simply picking a bouquet for your favorite vase. Winkler says with a little creativity you can come up with ideas as fresh as your flowers. Start by looking for the beautiful things blooming in your yard and work those into your table setting.

Another suggestion is to tie cut flowers to colorful fabric napkins with ribbon or twine, or even wrapping running vines like ivy, jasmine or honeysuckle around candle sticks. You can also fill unused tea cups or crystal pieces with colorful blossoms to use at each individual place setting, or arrange candles and flowers on cake stands to use as table centerpieces or in any room of your home.

Leaves, fern fronds and other greenery also make great accents. Magnolia leaves, boxwoods, Winterberry and Honeysuckle make great centerpieces and wreaths for the holidays. With just a little creativity you can make elegant decorations for any occasion at a fraction of the cost of buying retail.

If you would like to learn how to make a centerpiece for your holiday decorations join the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center on November 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Each participant will make and take home a centerpiece for the holiday season. The price for the class is $8.00 and this will cover the materials needed for the decorations as well as learning how to make pumpkin rolls the entire family can enjoy. Registration is required by November 9th with a limit of 15 participants. Please contact Mary Hollingsworth at the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center at 910-875-3461.
Master Gardener Training

The Extension Master Gardeners program is an educational program designed to enhance public education in consumer horticulture. It provides educational assistance to the citizens of the county concerning lawns, fruits, vegetables, trees, and ornamentals through the utilization of a trained and supervised volunteer staff.

Under the guidance and support of Extension agents, residents of a county enter a specially designed training program in horticulture. Participants in the program must complete the training program, pass an examination, and volunteer a minimum of 40 hours the first year (20 hours in subsequent years) through the local Cooperative Extension Center.

The Extension Master Gardeners program allows the local Extension to extend education to an ever-increasing gardening audience. It also provides the local center with a highly visible way to meet the public demand for information and to develop a strong clientele support group.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension increasingly utilizes trained Master Gardener volunteers to meet the constant demand for consumer horticulture information by the citizens of our state. Master Gardener volunteers are members of the local community who take an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, and gardens. They are enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others.

What really sets Master Gardener volunteers apart from other home gardeners is their special training in horticulture and their willingness to educate others. In exchange for their training, Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, work through their Cooperative Extension Center to provide horticulture-related information to the public.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center will be hosting a Master Gardener training beginning March 6, 2012 and running through May 8, 2012. The cost of the program is $100.00 and this will cover an intensive learning manual, Master Gardener ID badge, and state dues. The class will be taught on Thursday’s of each week from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. For more information please contact the Hoke County Cooperative Extension Center at 910-875-3461. The office is located at 116 West Prospect Avenue in Raeford.