

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Knowledge for the Commonwealth



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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HOME GARDENING NEWSLETTER – November (Hampton Roads Area, VA)

This newsletter is geared to the home gardener for the care of plants that grow in the Hampton Roads Area (Eastern Virginia and NE North Carolina). It also is geared toward local gardening events. However, the plant information is based upon caring for plants anywhere in the American Horticultural Society Heat Zones 6-8 and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 6b – 8a, which includes a major portion of the Continental United States. Below are links to both maps in case you are not sure in which zones you garden.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>

http://www.ahs.org/publications/heat_zone_map.htm#1

November is 'supposedly' the driest month of the year here in the Hampton Roads area so don't forget to water your lawn and garden. This month is a good month to plant those spring bulbs, transplant those shrubs you had in the wrong place, plant new shrubs and trees, clean out your storage sheds and clean and sharpen your gardening tools. The Hampton Roads area will have an average high of 61, an average low of 44 degrees and will average 8 days of rain resulting in approximately 2.85 inches.

Cool Season Grasses (Fescue): You should be on phase 3 of the cool season grass planning calendar. Phase 1 (see September edition) was seed and feed (with a Starter Fertilizer) in early September. Phase two (see October edition) was feed again with a high Nitrogen fertilizer in October. Phase 3 is to feed one final time until next fall and apply a broadleaf weed killer (only if you have a weed problem).

- Apply 1 lb. of Nitrogen (N) per 1,000 sq ft of lawn before December 15th. Each bag of fertilizer has 3 numbers, for example 15-10-5 (N-P-K). The 1st number (15) is the percentage (15%) of Nitrogen (N) in that bag. So, if you have a 50 lbs bag of fertilizer you would have 7.5 lbs (15% x 50 lbs) of Nitrogen (N) or enough fertilizer to cover 7,500 sq ft of lawn.
- Consider a Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) fertilizer instead of common fertilizer. Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) lasts longer on the soil and is much better for the environment. If you use WIN, you will only need to use two applications of fertilizer a year instead of 3. Apply the two applications 45 - 60 days apart

If you follow these 3 major phases, you will have a healthy and green lawn over the winter and all next year. You will be mowing your lush green lawn every 3 to 4 days in April and May. This is fair warning.

Cutting height: 2 ½ inch minimum. 4 inch optimum. pH: 5.5 – 6.5

Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine): Fertilizers ... only for **Bermuda grass only** - apply once this fall a 0-0-60 Potassium (K) fertilizer application to improve winter hardiness. The 3rd number on fertilizers is Potassium (K). Potassium is for plant vigor. Apply 1 lb of Potassium per 1,000 square feet of lawn. A 10 lb bag of 0-0-60 is enough to cover 6,000 square feet of lawn.

You can apply an annual ryegrass, if desired, at 5 lbs per 1,000 sq ft of lawn. Zoysia does not lend itself to overseeding.

Cutting Heights: Bermuda ½” to 1”, Centipede and Zoysia cut at 1”. St. Augustine 2-3 inches.

pH: Bermuda & Zoysia 6.0 to 7.0; St Augustine 6.5 to 7.5; and Centipede 4.5 to 5.5.

Lime: Lime only if a soil test indicted your pH is low. Do not lime for ‘liming’ sake.

Weed Control: Now through early December, if necessary, treat your lawn for winter annual weeds (buttercup, henbit, chickweed, dandelions, etc). You will be applying a broad leaf weed control product containing (2,4-D), Mecoprop (MCP), and Dicamba, except for St. Augustine and Centipede lawns. **St. Augustine and Centipede are very sensitive to 2,4-D.** Look for a product designed for these sensitive warm season turf grasses. Read the label and application instructions carefully before use. These weed controllers are systemic, which means the product is absorbed through the leaf structure and not the roots. The weeds have to be present in order for the pesticide to work properly.

Transplanting Trees and Shrubs: Every year we get numerous calls on when is it the best time to transplant trees and shrubs. The answer is ... “that depends on the plant and how much effort you want to expend over the next year caring for your plant”. Fall and winter are the best times of year for moving plants. Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs when they are dormant. Evergreen trees or shrubs, however, may be transplanted earlier in the fall, before they go dormant. You can transplant trees and shrubs in early spring (March) but this will require more attention to the plant. Transplanting in summer, although not recommended, can be successful with lots of daily attention.

Many homeowners who transplant a plant from one part of the yard to another are often disappointed because the plant dies. Nursery trees are often root pruned a year or more before transplanting in order to produce a more compact root system, allowing more of the roots to be dug along with the tree when transplanting.



For success in transplanting plants, it is important to understand the environment in which they are growing naturally. Duplicating this environment at the new planting site is the key to the plant's survival. Some environmental factors to consider include light, soil moisture, and soil acidity. Soil moisture can vary within the distance of a few feet. Plants growing naturally on a slope probably require good drainage, while those growing in bogs require wet conditions. Similarly, if the soil is sandy, the plant will transplant best into sandy soil. A plant growing on the edge of the woods generally requires more light than one in a thick forest. These environmental conditions must be similar at the new location.

The following planting conditions will increase the chance of survival:

- Three to six months before digging, root prune with a sharp spade. Since roots form at the cut edge, the root ball that is dug for transplanting must be about 4 to 6 inches outside the pruning cut to get the maximum number of new roots. Transplant during the next dormant season (after 2 years roots will have grown beyond the root ball).
- Before moving any plant, you should ensure you have a sharp spade (not a knife edge). Use a standard file, remove all burs from your spade, and make sure the edge is nice and clean.
- Dig a hole no deeper and 6 to 12 inches wider than the root system. Refill with a mixture of enough existing and native soil of the plant to accommodate the root ball or bare-root system. Set the plants a few inches higher.
- Firm the soil and water thoroughly. The plant should now settle so it will still be at a higher depth than it was before transplanting. Avoid planting too deep. Mulch with approximately 2 inches of organic mulch material.
- Adequate soil moisture is critical for several months after transplanting. Water only when necessary. Over watering will result in sure death. To determine if the soil is dry, stick your finger 1 to 2 inches below soil surface. When necessary, water slowly in order to soak the ground thoroughly.

When adding trees or shrubs to your home landscape, be sure you have the right plant for the right place, taking into account the site, the hardiness of the new plants, and your geographic location. Following are things you can do to be sure your transplants become well established:

- Check the plant over thoroughly before buying it. Look for vigorous growth and good leaf color. Check the roots -- healthy roots are white and firm; blackened, mushy roots indicate disease or pest problems. If you note any problems, choose another plant. When choosing plants in containers, make sure the crown of the plant is not below the soil surface in the container. If it is then the plant was placed too deep in the container to begin with and is already under stress from being planted too deep.
- Check your proposed site to be sure it is appropriate for the trees and/or shrubs you want to place there. Check the site to be sure the plants will receive adequate sunlight. Check the soil for pH, proper drainage, and porosity (air space so the roots can penetrate deep into the soil to anchor it and gather moisture).



- Be sure to water your plants during dry periods while they are becoming established. Transplants do not yet have an extensive root system to reach deep into the soil and take in water, so they can become stressed easily. This also makes them more susceptible to injury from insects and diseases.
- At the same time, be sure your plant is not getting too much water, either by overwatering or being planted in a soil that does not properly drain. Excess water suffocates the roots and will eventually kill the plant.
- Avoid transplanting shrubs and trees on sunny or windy days. On these days, the roots are exposed to too much light or drying winds, putting undue stress on the plant.
- Place your transplant at the appropriate depth. Planting it too shallow can cause damage to the roots from temperature and soil moisture fluctuations, while planting it too deep will suffocate and kill the roots.
- If your transplant was grown in a container and its roots have become coiled inside the pot, be sure to uncoil and gently spread the roots apart before planting.
- Always remove rope, wire, twine, or burlap from a tree or shrub before transplanting to prevent strangling the trunk or roots as the plant grows.
- Watch for signs of stress, such as wilting leaves, leaf scorch, discoloration of foliage, and stunted growth. Determine what is causing the stress, and take steps to correct it. For example: if your tree has leaf scorch (a sign of water stress from either over watering or under watering) you need to check the soil moisture and adjust your irrigation practices accordingly.
- Most important, be patient since you probably will not see signs of vigorous growth within the first 12 months after transplanting. It takes a few years for woody plants, especially trees, to become established in your landscape.

General Gardening Tips for this month:

- Mulch now for winter. Keep at least 1 inch of mulch around plants and shrubs. Do not mulch around tender annual plants that reseed themselves. Allow seed to drop on nearly bare ground and at first frost (mid November) rake mulch over area. Fallen leaves and pine needles make excellent AND FREE winter mulch. Remove diseased and dead leaves before mulching.
- After chrysanthemums are killed by frost or as soon as chrysanthemums are through flowering, remove the stalks to within a few inches of the ground, cut them down in preparation for winter. Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of loose mulch. This will help root development and make plants send out vigorous sprouts in the spring. Some may be lifted and heeled into the coldframe. Plants for potting can be propagated from the side sprouts that will develop next spring.
- Divide your perennials such as daylilies, hostas, and irises.
- For best growth, plant spring bulbs where they are out of the direct sun during the middle of the day. Bulbs have a chilling requirement that is satisfied by winter soil temperatures, so avoid planting bulbs near heated areas, such as basements or dryer vents where the soil may not stay adequately cold.
- Move containers holding live plants to a protected spot, if possible. Protect the roots by covering the soil and the container with a thick layer of straw or leaves. Check the moisture level of the pots every few weeks, and water if needed.



- Tulips and Dutch iris need to be planted in cold soil so they do not send up shoots before roots are established. If tulips are planted deeply, they will produce large, uniform flowers for many years. Deep planting also makes the bulbs less susceptible to mouse and squirrel damage. Note: most tulips do not fare well as perennial bulbs in the Hampton Roads area. They can be planted in the fall but do not expect them to grow year to year.
- Some plants are very sensitive to de-icing salts. Use sand or sawdust on walkways near plantings to prevent falls.
- Caulk and plug any entrances around the home used by wasps this past summer.
- Check attic vents, building joints, and loose siding. Seal any openings that would allow squirrels and mice to enter.
- Bring out the bird feeders, and stock them with treats for the birds. Remember to provide fresh water for your feathered friends.
- Cut away suckers from the base of lilacs, forsythia, and crape myrtle.
- Clean up rose beds. Be sure all diseased leaves are raked up and destroyed. Spring (before the plants start active growth) is the preferred season for pruning roses. Do not cut off canes in the fall. It is better to stake and tie extra long canes in fall to prevent winter wind damage.
- Inspect trees and shrubs for bagworm capsules and the silvery egg masses of tent caterpillars. Remove and destroy them to reduce next year's pest population.
- If a soil test shows the need for raising pH, apply dolomitic limestone now so fall rain and winter snow can move it into the soil.
- Store liquid pesticides where temperatures will not fall below 40F. Low temperatures may result in a breakdown of the chemical. If the liquid should freeze, there is the danger of the glass container breaking and scattering the chemical in the storage area.
- Keep your shears and loppers in good working order. Wipe them with a rag dipped in paint thinner to remove sticky resins. Sharpen and oil thoroughly. To clean garden tools, put warm water and a tablespoon of dishwasher detergent into a bucket. The detergent helps detach soil clumps from metal blades. When clean and dry, use a broad file to sharpen shovels and hoes for next season. Tools sharpened on a power grinder heat up and lose their tempering, making the metal prone to breaking. To make your tools last longer, get a broad file and learn the age-old art of blade sharpening this winter
- Just like your home, car, and tools, lawns and gardens need maintenance. Investing a few dollars now in a soil test can save you money next year. Call your local Extension Office for details.

Interior Gardening Tips for this month:

- During the cooler temperatures and shorter days of the winter months, the growth rate of most houseplants slows. Unless plants are grown under an artificial light source that is left on 16 hours per day, new growth will be minimal until spring. Reduce fertilization and water until late April or May when new growth resumes.
- Most plants should not be watered until the soil feels dry. Water thoroughly, let the water soak in, then water again until water drains into the saucer. Empty the saucer within an hour.



- Soil pulled away from the pot rim means inadequate watering and resulting root problems. It will be difficult to add sufficient water overhead to rewet the soil. Soak the pot in a sink full of water, and then drain it thoroughly.
- Remember cacti go dormant during the winter, so be sure to keep them cool (around 50F) and withhold water until they show signs of growth in spring.
- Potted geraniums grown indoors should be allowed to become somewhat dry before being watered. They need plenty of sun to promote vigorous growth and flowering.
- Try dwarf varieties of annual flowers to use as houseplants this winter. Asters, calendulas, celosias, and marigolds come in compact, colorful cultivars that can be maintained in the home if sufficient light is provided.
- African violets do well when potted in rather small pots. A good general rule is to use a pot one-third the diameter of the plant. To humidify African violets, surround the pot with moist peat contained in a second pot. When buying new plants, avoid those with any signs of yellowing leaves. Encourage African violets to bloom by giving them plenty of light. They can be in a south window during dark, winter months. African violets do well under fluorescent lights 12 to 14 hours a day; lights should be 8 to 12 inches from the plant. In fact, they seem to grow better under them. They should be fertilized at every watering, using a one-fourth strength solution. Water from the top, to prevent salt build-up in the soil, but avoid wetting the leaves. African violets require a day temperature of 70F and a night temperature of 65F. They may die if the air temperature dips below 55F.
- Amaryllis bulbs may not bloom if they are in too large a pot. There should be no more than one inch of space on each side of the bulb. At least one third of the bulb should be above the soil line.
- Cyclamen is an exception in indoor plants; it should be fed and watered all through the winter.
- Keep an eye out for spider mites on your houseplants; they thrive in dry air. At the first sign of any insect infestation, isolate your plant. Several thorough washings with plain water may bring them under control. If not, apply an appropriate insecticide -- follow the instructions on the label!

Herb Gardening Tips for this month:

- If you run out of sage or just want a different flavor, substitute savory or rosemary in your turkey dressing recipe.
- Weave garlic, onions, or dried chilies together to create holiday wreaths with a gourmet twist.

Holiday Herbs by Diane Relf, Extension Specialist, Environmental Horticulture Virginia Tech.

There are many plants that are traditionally used to decorate during the holiday season -- holly, spruce, fir, mistletoe -- but how did these plants get to be "traditions"? Why were they used in the first place? Some of them came to be associated with the holidays for their uses as decoration or flavoring, since holly with its red berries is one of the only colorful plants in the winter, and sage and juniper berries were often used to season the



roast goose or turkey. But most of them were originally used because they symbolized a quality or emotion important to the spirit of the holidays. We have forgotten many of these symbolic meanings over the years, but there is renewed interest in recovering our holiday "roots." I have found a few interesting references to the use of herbs in the holiday season.

Costmary, or alecost, leaves were used to add spice to holiday ale, or wassail, in old Europe. Ivy and bay laurel were long used, along with other greens, to help celebrate winter solstice in early Europe, ivy symbolizing friendship and bay laurel associated with Apollo, god of light, as a reminder that the long winter would soon melt into spring.

Everyone, of course, is familiar with the legend of the three kings and their gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Frankincense pods and myrrh gum are both scented plant materials that could be classified as herbs, and are becoming available today through potpourri material dealers. They could be used to make a "potpourri of three kings," blending these two with gold yarrow. Yarrow also has significance in the Christmas tradition in its own right, as it is sometimes called carpenter's weed (for its purported folk-healing powers against cuts) and associated with Joseph the carpenter, the earthly father of Jesus.

Rosemary has one of the nicest of the Christmas legends. It is said that the flowers of rosemary were originally white, but the Virgin Mary laid her blue cloak upon the fragrant branches one day, and the flowers took on the soft, clear-blue color of that sacred garment. Until the 20th century, rosemary was a very popular Christmas evergreen, right up there with holly and mistletoe. A gilded rosemary sprig was a treasured gift. Why it fell out of use is a mystery, but it is starting to make a comeback with the use of rosemary in holiday wreaths and rosemary topiaries as small Christmas trees. Perhaps the use of rosemary, which symbolizes remembrance, can help us, in these commercialized times, to remember the meanings of our winter holidays.

Fruits and Vegetable Gardening Tips for this month:

- Plowing that leaves the soil bare throughout late fall to early spring can create problems, such as leaching and erosion. It is too late to plant cover crops to hold nutrients in the soil, but mulching could help preserve soil that otherwise might be lost during heavy rainfall.
- Plant lettuce and hardy vegetables, such as beets, cabbage, and spinach, in cold frames for winter or early spring crops.
- Be sure not to store apples or pears with vegetables. The fruits give off ethylene gas, which speeds up the breakdown of vegetables and causes them to develop off-flavors.
- Dead leaf stalks of perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb, should be cut to the ground after their tops are killed by frost.
- Rough plow or spade garden plots containing heavy, clay soil. Add organic matter. Add lime if indicated by a soil test. Leave the soil rough -- winter's thawing and freezing will break up the clods and kill some of the insects and slugs overwintering in the soil. A rough soil surface also catches more moisture and reduces erosion.



- After the ground freezes, mulch small fruit plants, such as strawberries. One inch of straw or leaves is ideal for strawberries. Lay small branches over straw or leaves to keep mulch in place.
- Remove grass and weeds from trunks of fruit trees and grapes to prevent damage by mice and rodents. Leave a bare circle (one foot wide) around tree trunks when spreading mulch to keep mice from feeding on the bark. A collar or fence of poultry wire or a commercial tree guard approximately 18 inches high will deter rodents and rabbits.
- Remove all mummified fruit from fruit trees, and rake up and destroy those on the ground. Also, rake and dispose of dropped apple and cherry leaves. Good sanitation practices reduce reinfestation of insects and diseases the following season.
- If you use manure as a soil conditioner, apply it now and till it under. Manure can be a source of weed seed. Composting before application can reduce the number of viable seeds.

Don't forget to visit

Master Gardener/Cooperative Extension Programs:

<http://www.chesapeake.va.us/services/depart/agricul/master-gard.html> (Chesapeake MG Programs)

<http://www.vbmg.org> (Virginia Beach MG Programs)

<http://www.nmgv.org> (Norfolk MG Program)

<http://jccwmg.org/> (James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners)

<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce> (York County MG Programs)

www.ext.vt.edu/resources (Virginia Tech Gardening Information)

Other Horticulture sites of interest:

<http://www.virginiazoo.org/horticulture/> (Virginia Zoo Horticulture)

<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org> (Norfolk Botanical Garden)

<http://www.fredheutte.org/> (Fred Heutte Center Information)

<http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.org/> (Tidewater Beekeepers Association)

<http://www.butterflysocietyofva.org/> (Butterfly Society of Virginia)

NOVEMBER PRUNING CALENDAR: Changes from previous month underlined.

The below pruning calendar applies to all of Virginia and was compiled by Virginia Tech. Shrubs and trees have 'Best time to Prune' months, 'Do not Prune' months, or timing is not critical months. Those plants listed below are the "best time to prune" or 'do not prune'. If a tree or shrub is not listed, then timing is not critical this month. The best time to prune is based upon optimizing flowers or fruits and reducing summer/winter stresses. Deadheading or removing spent flowers on flowering shrubs is OK all growing season, for plants such as Rose, Crepe Myrtle, Butterfly bushes, etc. Pruning to remove diseased or dead branches is necessary when you see them. Contact your local extension agent if you need more detailed information about any specific plant. REMEMBER to keep your pruning equipment sharp. Make sure you clean them each time you prune with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach solution or the same ratio water to antiseptic mouthwash to prevent the spread of plant disease.

When the weather is hot and dry, try to avoid pruning your plants. If you do, the plant will require extra water. Wait for cooler days if at all possible.

(NOTE: For those of you who live in the more temperate (Hampton Roads) or coastal areas of VA or NC you may want to hold off pruning any Shrubs and Trees marked with an * until January or February as these plants produce flowers on the new season's growth. Coastal areas tend to get some sustained warm days in winter and the plants can be 'tricked' into thinking spring is here only to be hit with a frost that kills some of the new flower buds.)

Shrubs: Abelia *, Arborvitae, Beautyberry *, Boxwood, Butterfly bush *, Cherry laurel, Clethra *, Cotoneaster, Redtwig Dogwood *, Eleagnus (thorny), Euonymus (evergreen/deciduous), Gardenia *, Hibiscus (incl: Rose of Sharon & Althea) *, Juniper, Osmanthus Holly *, Photinia, Privet (*Ligustrum*), Potentilla *, Smoke Tree *, Sumac, and Yew.

Do Not Prune: Flowering Almond, Aucuba, Azalea, Barberry, Bayberry, Beautybush, Broom (*Cytisus*), Camellia japonica (spring bloomer), Camellia sasanqua (fall bloomers), Chastetree, Crape Myrtle, Daphne, Deutzia, Forsythia, Fothergilla, Harry Lauder (Walking Stick), Holly, Honeysuckle, Hydrangea, Hypericum (St. Johnswort), Indian Hawthorne, Jasmine (winter), Kerria, Leucothoe, Lilac, Mahonia (Orange Grapeholly), Mockorange, Mountain Laurel, Nandina, Pearlbush, Pieris, Mugo Pine, Pittosporum, Pyracantha, Quince, Rhododendron, Rose, Serviceberry, Spirea, Sweetshrub, Viburnum, Weigela, Pussy Willow, and Witch hazel.

Evergreen Trees: (Seldom need pruning. Most evergreen trees are pruned during the winter months.) Arborvitae, Atlas Cedar, Deodar Cedar, Chamaecyparis, Fir, Holly, Juniper, Leyland Cypress, Southern Magnolia, and Live Oak

Do Not Prune: None.

Deciduous Trees: Alder, Birch, Elm, Goldenrain Tree, Maple, Oak, Poplar, Sophora, and Sourwood.

Do Not Prune: (except to correct damage): Buckeye, Flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Crape Myrtle, Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Hawthorn, Horsechestnut, Magnolia, Flowering (Peach, Pear or Plum), Redbud, or Serviceberry.

Mark your calendar: (open to everyone and free unless indicated)

3rd Wednesday of the Month: York extension agent Jim Orband and Daily Press gardening columnist Kathy Van Mullekom answer your **gardening questions** noon to 1 p.m. each month on the Hear/Say public radio program at WHRV 89.5. Cathy Lewis hosts the show. Typically, the gardening segment airs the third Wednesday of each month, but schedule times do change. Phone numbers for the show are 440-2665 or toll

free 1-800-940-2240. Questions can also be e-mailed to hearsay@whro.org or visit online, visit www.whrv.org/hearsay.

Chesapeake Lunch and Learn Series. Noon. Each month there is a free lunch and learn lecture of various aspects of home gardening. All lectures are held at the Chesapeake Main Library starting at Noon. Below are the upcoming lectures and dates. Don't forget to bring your lunch. For more information contact (757) 382-6348.

- **November 16 (Wednesday)** with Bonnie Tazewell, Chesapeake Cooperative Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Science. Topic: **The Great American Pumpkin** fact, food and fun with pumpkins.
- **December 14 (Wednesday)** with Linda Bradley and Laurel Trego, Chesapeake Master Gardener Volunteers. Topic: **The Chesapeake Arboretum** - The history and programs of the Chesapeake Arboretum.
- **January 18 (Wednesday)** with Jim Lachowicz, Chesapeake Master Gardener Volunteer and Turf Specialist. Topic: **Alternatives to Turf Lawns** – The use of ground covers in lieu of turf for full sun to full shade areas.

November (Tuesdays): 7 PM – 9 PM: Best Plants of Hampton Roads (4 week series) – November 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Develop your ideas just in time for fall planting with Mark Weathington, Norfolk Botanical Director of Horticulture and columnist of *Local Growers* in the Virginian-Pilot. This four week course takes an in-depth look at the best performing plants for this area, including the culture, care and companions of these must-have plants. **Cost.** For cost information and to register visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org or call (757) 441-5830.

November 5 (Saturday): 10 AM – 4 PM: Virginia Camellia Society **CAMELLIA SHOW & PLANT SALE** at the Norfolk Botanical Garden's, Baker Hall. Cash or personal checks for plant sales and other items, please. Sorry, no credit or debit cards. Check our web site for more information: <http://members.cox.net/vacs/>. All Virginia Camellia Society events are free & open to the public. NBG and VCS membership cards will admit you to the Garden free.

November 15 (Tuesday – Great Bridge area) and **November 29** (Tuesday – Deep Creek Area): 10 AM -- Do you live in Chesapeake and want to be a **Chesapeake Master Gardener Volunteer**? There's an orientation session for perspective Class of 2006 Master Gardener Volunteers at the Chesapeake Central Library (Great Bridge Area) on 11/15 and Chesapeake Major Hillard Library (Deep Creek area) on 11/29. The Chesapeake Class of 2006 Master Gardener Volunteer Classes starts in late January and ends in mid April. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at various locations (primarily the Chesapeake Central Library) from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Space is limited. You must attend one of two orientation sessions or contact (757) 382-6348 for more information.

November 12 (Saturday) 9 AM - 4PM: Hampton Roads Tree Care Association Presents **Trees for Life** at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, 6700 Azalea Garden Road , Norfolk, VA. Trees need proper care throughout their lives — from tiny seedlings to

ancient veterans. Proper maintenance and diagnosis of tree health by professionals is critical. Join us to learn more about planting young trees, restoration and how to recognize tree defects. Watch and learn while certified arborists install lightning protection for trees, and demonstrate pruning methods, planting and tree removal. The trees featured in this event are on the grounds of Norfolk Botanical Garden. Lightning protection will be placed high up on a loblolly pine, a nesting tree for a family of American Bald Eagles. Programs and demonstrations will be presented by members of Hampton Roads Tree Care Association. For more information call (757) 441-5830 or visit <http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>.

November 15 (Tuesday) 6:30 – 8:30 PM: Mushroom Identification with Theresa Augustin, Curator of Natural Areas at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. You don't have to go wild but you should go au naturel. Find out benefits of incorporating native plants in your garden. These true Tidewater performers add beauty and natural habitats to your garden. **Cost.** For cost information and to register visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org or call (757) 441-5830.

November 19 (Saturday) 1 PM – 3 PM: E-Z Fall Decorations at the Fred Heutte Center 1000 Botetourt Gardens Norfolk, VA. Let professional floral arranger and Southern Living at Home consultant, Frances Thrash shows you how to decorate your home for any holiday with a black wrought iron container. Participants will be making the pictured floral arrangement for upcoming holiday parties or a Thanksgiving table centerpiece. Registration Required. For more information and **costs** contact the Fred Heutte Center at (757) 441-2513 or Email: fhcgarden@cox.net or visit <http://www.fredheutte.org/ugl.htm>.

November 17 (Thursday) 9 AM – Noon: Propagation Class. The Chesapeake Master Gardener's will be holding a propagation class free and open to the public. You must pre-register. Location and directions to class will be given at registration. For more information and to register contact (757) 382-6348.

November 18 (Friday) 12:30 PM: Gardens by DESIGN – *Lunch and Learn* **Camellias: The Winter Rose**. Bring a brown bag lunch or reserve a box lunch and sit in on this exciting new series. This fall spend your lunch hour learning tips and ideas to become a better gardener from Norfolk Botanical Garden experts. **Cost.** For cost information and to register visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org or call (757) 441-5830.

November 21 (Monday) 9:30 AM: Mik Lestyan, Chesapeake City Arborist, will be giving a **pruning training demonstration** at the Chesapeake Arboretum Nursery. Bring your pruning tools and gloves and a lunch. You will get a chance to try out what you have learned. Practice makes perfect. Hope you can attend and help out. Spread the word - public is also welcome. For more information contact (757) 382-6348.

November 22 (Tuesday) 9:30 – 11:30 AM: Floral design Workshop Table Arrangements - Fall's Beautiful Bounty. Celebrate Thanksgiving with family,

friends, and FLOWERS. Create a “low-carb” floral feast for your eyes. Participants will put together their own bountiful table arrangements that will compete with only the Thanksgiving turkey. Learn step by step how to make these festival floral arrangements with NBG’s Adult Program Coordinator & Floral Designer Betty Ann Galway. Participants will create their own arrangements to take home and enjoy. All floral supplies included. Bring garden gloves and clippers. **Cost.** For cost information and to register visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org or call (757) 441-5830.

December 6 (Tuesday) 7 PM: Making Holiday Ornaments at the Fred Heutte Center 1000 Botetourt Gardens Norfolk, VA. Join horticulturist Carol Chewing (www.onetogrowon.com/aboutus.htm) in creating three unique holiday ornaments to take home! These ornaments are made from a variety of materials, including some from the herb garden and the kitchen spice cabinet! Along the way we’ll talk about the holiday lore associated with our herb and spice ingredients. Registration Required. For more information and **costs** contact the Fred Heutte Center at (757) 441-2513 or Email: fhcgarden@cox.net or visit <http://www.fredheutte.org/ugl.htm>.

December 6 (Tuesday) 9:30 – 11:30 AM: Floral design Workshop Table Arrangements - HOLIDAY GREENS. Bring the richness of winter’s colorful berries and the fragrance and textures of Holiday greens into your home. You will make an arrangement that should last beautifully through the holidays. Learn step by step how to make these festival floral arrangements with NBG’s Adult Program Coordinator & Floral Designer Betty Ann Galway. Participants will create their own arrangements to take home and enjoy. All floral supplies included. Bring garden gloves and clippers. **Cost.** For cost information and to register visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org or call (757) 441-5830.

December 11 (Sunday) 1 PM and 3 PM: Holiday Wreaths at the Fred Heutte Center 1000 Botetourt Gardens Norfolk, VA. Join us as we make two unique wreaths to hang on your door for the holidays. This year we will be adding an additional type of wreath. The 1:00 PM class will feature our original well-known circular holiday wreath with fresh fruit and greenery. The 3:00 PM class will feature holiday wreath in the shape of a Christmas tree. It will also be decorated with fresh fruit and greenery. Registration Required. For more information and costs contact the Fred Heutte Center at (757) 441-2513 or Email: fhcgarden@cox.net or visit <http://www.fredheutte.org/ugl.htm>.

January 20-22nd (Fri-Sun): Virginia Flower and Garden Show - Pavilion on 19th Street in Virginia Beach.

January 30 - February 2nd (Mon-Thursday): Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course - Ramada Inn on 56th and Atlantic - Mon-Wed is for professionals and Thursday has a homeowner track as well as pesticide recertification training. Fees based on the number of days attending. Visit website <http://www.mahsc.org/> for more information and to register.

Want to be a Master Gardener? Contact your local Master Gardener program at the numbers listed below. Most classes are held starting in late winter through spring, most are held during the day. For times, dates and locations contact your local Master Gardener or Cooperative Extension Office. Many programs have fall or winter registration sessions.

- **Chesapeake** (see above) pre-registration seminars being held on November 10 and 29. Classes begin in late January every Tuesday and Thursday morning through mid April.
- **Currituck County Master Gardener** classes begin Tuesday, February 7, 2006 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and will continue for 13 weeks. They will be held at the Historic Courthouse in Currituck County and are sponsored by the NC Cooperative Extension. If you are interested in becoming a Currituck Master Gardener call the Extension office at 232-2262 to receive an application.
- **Norfolk Master Gardeners** are accepting applications from Norfolk residents for its Class of 2006. This 10-week training to become a Master Gardener begins on February 7, 2006. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 am to noon at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Instructors for this training are Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents, other VCE experts, and local horticultural professionals. Cost more information contact (757) 683-2816.

"Commercial products are named in this newsletter for informational purposes only and are not endorsed by the newsletter editor or staff. Virginia Cooperative Extension does not endorse these products and does not intend discrimination against other products which also may be suitable."

If you have any questions, you can call or visit your Virginia Cooperative Extension listed below:

Virginia (area code 757):

Chesapeake	382-6348	Eastern Shore:	414-0731	Hampton:	727-1401
Isle of Wight:	365-6261	James City:	564-2170	Newport News:	591-4838
Norfolk:	683-2816	Portsmouth:	393-5314	Suffolk:	923-2050
Virginia Beach:	427-4769	York County:	890-4940		

North Carolina (area code 252):

Currituck:	232-2262	Dare:	473-4290	Pasquotank:	338-3954
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Currently, this newsletter is only being distributed electronically by e-mail. This newsletter is authored by Jim Lachowicz, a Chesapeake Master Gardener and edited by Lynnette J. Swanson, City of Norfolk Horticulture Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension. If you wish to be added to this free monthly gardening newsletter, send your e-mail address to jlachowicz@cox.net.



*“We hope you find this gardening newsletter helpful.”
Happy Gardening !!!*

