

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Knowledge for the Commonwealth



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Summer is almost over, the kids are back to school (yeah !!!) ... so it's time to do all those 'garden' projects you wanted (or your spouse wants you to do). Fall is an ideal time to transplant and divide perennials and plant new trees and shrubs. It's time to start preparing your gardens for winter and planning next year's spring garden. For those of you with cool season lawns (fescue), now is a critical time to prepare your lawn for next year. There are a lot of winter vegetables that can be grown. On average in the Hampton Roads Area, this month will have a high of 80 and a low of 64 degrees in the Hampton Roads area and will get 9 days of rain averaging 3.9 inches.

Lawn Care (all types):

Remember to sharpen you lawn mower blades every 8 hours of cutting. Set lawn mower cutting height according to the type of lawn (See below for cutting heights). Dull blades and improper cutting heights will damage your turfgrass and cause a browning affect. Use a lower RPM when cutting grass. Greater RPMs tend to rip the grass blade rather than clean cut it. Improper watering and over-fertilization will also stress turfgrass and cause a variety of problems, including various fungi. Following the same path all the time just creates ruts and a place for weed seeds to congregate. Know how many square feet of lawn you have. This is extremely important when fertilizing, seeding, and adding compost.

To Lime or not to Lime, that is the question? Although lime can be applied anytime of the year, fall is the best time for both warm and cool season grass. You should only apply lime when your lawn needs it. DO NOT GUESS – DO A SOIL TEST. Not all turfgrasses like the same pH. Liming yearly is not necessary. Using an ammonia Nitrogen will increase the acidity of your soil and lower the pH. Using a Urea Nitrogen does not affect the pH. Most fertilizers have both types of Nitrogen in them. An application to bring the soil to the proper pH should last four to six years. See below for your proper pH for your type of lawn. Generally, all turfgrasses will do well within plus or minus 1 pH from optimum soil pH. If you saw thinning in your lawn or more diseases this past summer, check your soil pH.

Lime is safe to use! The common forms of lime applied to turf - calcitic lime and dolomitic lime - are non-toxic to humans or grass and will not cause pollution problems. One word of caution - if urea Nitrogen fertilizer applied at the same time as lime, nitrogen will be lost due to the increased pH around the fertilizer granules.

Limestone is simple to apply. Use either a drop spreader or a broadcast spreader. Uniform coverage is the key as lime is very insoluble and essentially stays where it is put. Skipped areas won't receive the lime needed to neutralize acidity. Overlapped areas, where double the recommended amount is applied, will have too high a pH level with the potential for trace element problems. To ensure even coverage, one half of the lime should be applied in one direction, and the remainder applied in a perpendicular (crisscross) pattern. If one is using ground lime, it is simple to determine if coverage is uniform because of the visible white color of the material. More care should be taken if pelletized lime is used.

If the recommendation from the soil test calls for more than 50 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. to established turf, the lime application should be split. For aesthetic reasons, additional applications, if required, should be applied three to six months after the first application. Applications of less than 50 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. will disappear from the surface after one or two rains, while larger amounts will remain visible for a longer period of time.

Eight pounds of lime will raise the pH 0.1 per 1,000 square feet of lawn. A 40 lbs bag of lime will raise the pH of 1000 sq. ft. of lawn 0.5 pH. Too much lime can be as harmful as too little, both causing potential trace element deficiencies.

Cool Season Grasses (Fescue): September is the best month to overseed, add compost, core aerate, and begin your lawn fertilization program. Composting or core aerating can be done any time as timing is not critical. Seeding and feeding must be done this fall for optimum benefit. Seeding must be done at least 2 weeks before applying any winter weed control product (read the label for exact timing between seeding and weed control as it can be different with each product). However, for the best chance of having that healthy, lush green lawn next season, use the following steps:

- Remove all unwanted grasses and weeds before core aerating, overseeding, feeding, and composting. If you use a total vegetation killer you must apply the product at least 2 to 4 weeks before overseeding, depending upon the product (read the labels). Some products will require a second application. You can easily dig unwanted grasses by thoroughly watering the plant the night before and digging them out the next morning. Fill the hole with a topsoil/compost mixture.
- You do not have to thatch fescue or scalp your lawn before core aerating your lawn, but it's best if you cut your lawn lower than normal (no less than 2 inches) and remove any excess grass clippings. Do this within a day or two of core aerating and overseeding your lawn.
- You need to apply 1 lb. of Nitrogen (N) per 1,000 sq ft of lawn each month during September, October, and November. 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. If overseeding use a "Starter" fertilizer in September only. Starter fertilizer (10-16-10) has a higher percentage of Phosphate (P). Phosphate is that second number on the bag of fertilizers. Phosphate is good for roots and blooms.
- Consider a **Water Insoluble Nitrogen (**WIN**) fertilizer instead of common **Water Soluble Nitrogen fertilizer (**WSN**). Water Insoluble Nitrogen (WIN) lasts longer in 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 first in September and the second application in November.****

- If necessary, top dress your lawn with ¼ to ½ inch of organic compost. A cubic yard of compost will top dress about 650 sq ft at ½ inch or 1,300 sq ft at ¼ inch. Do this before overseeding and core aerating. Compost helps replenish all those beneficial fungi and bacteria necessary for healthy soil. It also will help in breaking up ‘clay pans’ or improve poor drainage problems. It will take about 3 years of composting to create a ‘well drained’ soil layer.
- Core aerate your lawn just before applying seed and after applying fertilizer and composting your lawn. Do not rake away the sod plugs, leave the sod plugs on the lawn. The plugs are excellent soil pieces and will naturally crumble and break down after rainfall.
- Fescue is relatively short lived and must be reseeded. Reseed at a rate of 2-3 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq ft of yard (for a new lawn apply 6 lbs / 1000 sq ft of lawn). On the back of the seed bag, look for a Virginia certified seed, a product test date of April 2004 or later, a high germination rate (85%+), a low weed seed content (less than .08%), and at least 98% pure seed. You should use the same ‘type’ of seed year to year if you want to have that homogeneous look. There are hundreds of varieties of tall fescue out there and each company uses different ones as the primary tall fescue seed. Allow 21 days for most of the seed to germinate. You may see some germination in about 12-14 days, depending upon the variety.
- Apply your second application of fertilizer (go cheap and look for a high Nitrogen content) in mid October and apply it at least 30 days after the first application (unless you are using WIN fertilizers, then you do not have a 2nd application).
- In late October 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. Read the label and application instructions carefully before use. If you reseed, some broad leaf weed herbicides cannot be applied to seeded lawns until after 2 – 6 weeks of seeding. So, reseed early. These herbicides are systemic, which means it is absorbed through the leaf structure and not the roots. The weeds have to be present before you apply the weed control product.
- Apply your final application of fertilizer in mid - late November and at least 30 days after the previous application.

If you follow these steps, 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, and St. Augustine): Fertilizers ... only for Bermuda grass apply 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 lbs of Potassium per 1000 sq ft of turf. Generally, Potassium comes in 20 lbs bags so one 20 lbs bag will cover 12,000 sq ft of turf.

If you want a green lawn in winter, you can overseed with annual ryegrass at 5 lbs per 1,000 sq ft of lawn. Zoysia does not lend itself to overseeding.

In late October through early December, apply winter weed control as stated above, except for St. Augustine and Centipede lawns. These turf grasses are very (sensitive) to most broad leaf

weed pesticide products. Look for a product that has reduced 2,4-D. Normally, the product will state on the front label is it safe for St. Augustine lawns. Read the label and all instructions before applying and herbicide.

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

General Gardening Tips for this month:

- Fall is a great time to plant and divide perennials and shrubs for next year's garden. By planting in the fall, your plants do not endure the stressful summer heat during establishment and have time to form sufficient root systems before the onset of winter dormancy. If you have extra plants bring them to the plant swap. (SEE MARK YOUR CALENDAR for a local plant swap).
- Try planting ferns to fill in between and beneath shrubs, trees, grape arbors, and other shady spots. Plant in early fall for best results.
- Dig new garden beds for next spring. Incorporate plenty of organic matter, such as leaves, and leave the soil rough to allow good water penetration. Freezing and thawing will break up heavy clay soils. Plant a cover crop, also called a green manure, to increase the soil's organic matter content.
- Don't be too quick to get rid of summer annuals. In this area they will stay looking good well into October and sometimes as late as December. Your 1st frost (normally around November 15th) will let you know when to remove your summer plants.
- Don't let the fall pass you by with only the changing colors of the trees to enjoy! Look for fall annuals that are tolerant of cooler temperatures. Some suggestions are **snapdragon**, **calendula**, **pansy**, **flowering cabbage** and **kale**, **stock**, **viola**, **dusty miller**, and **poppy**.
- Wood ashes contain phosphorous, calcium, and potassium and can be placed on the garden, flower beds, or spread on lawn, but don't overdo it. Avoid using wood ashes on acid-loving plants, such as azaleas and blueberries, because ashes raise the soil pH.
- When planting bulbs, if you are not sure which end of the bulb is the top, plant it on its side. The stem will always grow upright. Generally, bulbs have a flat side. Plant the flat side down.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs to provide sufficient moisture and prevent winter damage. Add a 3-inch layer of organic mulch, such as shredded bark, around the base of plants to retain soil moisture and regulate soil temperature. **Do not apply mulch next to the base of the plant.**
- Generally, it is best to transplant deciduous trees before their leaves fall.
- Stake and wire newly planted trees only if necessary. Use a piece of rubber hose around the guy wires to protect the trunk, and don't tie the tree tightly; it needs to be able to move a little in the wind. Remember to take the supports and stakes out in a few months once the tree is established.
- Start taking cuttings of your annual plants to bring indoors and carry through the winter. **Geranium**, **coleus**, **fuchsia**, and other plants do best when stem cuttings are rooted and kept in pots indoors through the winter. Be sure to place pots where they receive plenty of light.
- As the nights become cool, **caladiums** will begin to lose leaves. Dig them up, allow them to dry, and store them in a warm, dry place. Place them in a brown paper bag and store them in your inside storage closet.

- Powdery mildew becomes more abundant following periods of cool nights and warm, dry days. Infected plants are covered with a white, powdery growth. Treat as soon as you see this or you may lose the plant.
- Mulch now for winter. Keep 1 – 3 inches 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) then rake mulch over area.
- Nitrogen fertilizer not taken up by plants can leach into the groundwater, polluting it and nearby streams and rivers. Do not over fertilize lawns and gardens. Sweep up errant fertilizer particles from the streets, driveways, and walkways and put it back on the lawn or garden. **DO NOT SWEEP OR WASH THEM DOWN THE SEWER SYSTEM.**
- **Roses:** Water frequently. The importance of watering cannot be stressed enough. Proper watering is vital to restore moisture lost to high temperatures and wind. Plants in sunny locations can be watered twice a day in hot weather, especially when it's windy. Watering in the early morning and late evening is best. Keep in mind, however, that the extra watering will deplete fertilizer in the soil. This is especially true in container planted roses. Fertilize roses every two weeks until October 1st (six weeks before 1st frost (Nov 15th in the Hampton Roads area)).

Interior Gardening Tips for this month

- Do not use softened water on houseplants because the sodium accumulates in the soil and can kill the plants. If your home uses a soft water system and you use your tap water, you will need to leach your pots monthly. Most potted plants need leaching at least once every 6 months.
- **Leaching salts from potting mixes.** To leach out soluble salts, remove and discard the white crust and some of the potting mix from the surface of the root ball. About one-half inch to two inches of potting mix can be taken off without harming the plant. Be careful not to damage the roots. Remove the saucer and place the pot in a sink where water can drain freely. Using tepid tap water, rinse the potting mix by filling the pot to the top with water at least three times. Wait for the potting mix to drain well between rinses. Make sure the pot's drainage holes are not plugged. In extreme cases of excessive salts, rinse the soil six or eight times. Scrape excess salts from the outside of the pot, the drainage holes and the saucer. Using warm soapy water, clean and rinse the saucer. Allow the saucer to dry. Replace the potting mix taken from the surface with new mix and water lightly. Return the pot and its saucer to their original location in the home. Water the plant only when the original root ball feels dry to the touch.
- Be sure to clean the windows where plants will be this winter while the plants are still outside. The difference in light available to the plants will be significant.
- Don't wait for frost warnings to move your house plants indoors. Temperatures of 50^o F or lower can damage many tropical plants. Houseplants that have been outside all summer should be allowed to make a fairly slow transition to indoor conditions. Quick changes in environment can result in yellowed foliage and leaf drop. To avoid injury, bring plants indoors before temperatures dip below 55 degrees F. Check for insect pests before you move the plants; it is easier to get rid of pests while plants are still outside.

Herb Gardening Tips for this month:

- Pot up **chives**, **parsley**, and other herbs, and bring into the house to extend the growing season. Parsley and chives from the garden can be transplanted to 5-inch pots for growing in the home this winter for culinary use.
- To ensure a good crop of big bulbs next fall, plant **garlic** cloves this fall. Be sure to cover the garlic plot with a layer of organic mulch.
- **Garlic** is harvested when the tops die down. To prepare garlic for long term storage, cure the bulbs for four to six weeks in a warm, dry, shady location where there is good air circulation. Pile bulbs no more than two to three deep. After curing, store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated spot.
- Keep **basil**, **parsley**, **mint**, **sage**, balm, and **borage** producing by pinching out the seed pods. Herbs can be used fresh, frozen, or dried. Wait until the dew has dried to cut a few stems, tie a string around this little bouquet, and hang in a cool, dry place until completely dry. Crumble and place in a jar for use during the winter.
- Plant **lavender** seeds outside in the fall. The seedlings will appear in early spring.
- Herbs can be dried quickly in a microwave oven. Place them between two paper towels, and heat for one minute. Remove them from the oven, let cool, then test to see if the leaves are crisp. If not, return them to the oven for a few more seconds. Store in jars in a dark place so they will keep their color and flavor.

Fruits and Vegetable Gardening Tips for this month:

- As your **apples** ripen this fall, take time to observe your trees. Look for tell-tale signs of tree vigor, such as leaf color and shoot length, dead or dying trees, excessive crop load needing more thinning earlier in the season, and weed control among the trees. The problems you see can be remedied this fall or next spring.
- Fall weed control around fruit trees is crucial because weeds act as hosts to overwintering insects. Be sure to turn the soil as the days grow cooler to destroy soil-burrowing larvae.
- Be sure not to store **apples** or **pears** with vegetables such as potatoes and squash. The fruits give off ethylene gas that speeds up the ripening process of vegetables and may cause them to develop "off" flavors.
- There are several methods that can be used to determine when **apples** are ready to be picked. The first is to hold a fruit gently in the palm of your hand. Then, slowly lift up on the fruit. If the stem easily separates from the tree, it is ripe. Second, the base color, the side of the fruit nearest the trunk, of many varieties changes from a darker to a lighter shade of green as the fruit reaches maturity. A third test is to cut a fruit in half to check the color of its seeds. Brown seeds indicate ripeness or maturity.
- Remove all 2-year-old canes from **raspberry** and **blackberry** plants to reduce overwintering of disease. Soil-applied fertilizers containing potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, or calcium can be applied, but do not cultivate or irrigate at this time of the year.
- Harvest fall-bearing and/or everbearing **raspberries** as soon as they ripen. Frequent harvesting helps to reduce insect and disease problems.
- Harvesting guidelines: **Pears** should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
- Check **grapevines** for mummified berries - victims of black rot. Pick them, and dispose of them before they can spread the disease. Do not put them in the compost pile.

- Be sure to keep **strawberry** fields weed free. Every weed you pull now will help make weeding much easier next spring.
- Near the end of the growing season pick off all **tomato** blossoms that won't have time to bear fruit, so plant nutrients go into existing tomatoes.
- **Tomatoes** need an average daily temperature of 65 degrees for more for ripening. If daytime temperatures are consistently below this, pick the fruits that have begun to change color and bring them inside to ripen.
- Green **tomatoes** can be stored for four to six weeks and will gradually ripen to a nice, red color. The best storage conditions are about 60 degrees F with a moderately moist atmosphere. Harvest the tomatoes in a firm, green condition before frost. Remove the stems to prevent puncturing other fruits. Wash dirt off rather than wiping it off, which can cause skin scratches leaving the fruit susceptible to decay. If the storage location is quite dry, the tomatoes can be placed in plastic-film bags or film-lined boxes to increase the humidity. Sort the fruit every week to remove those that ripen or start to decay.
- During the fall, be sure your vegetables are adequately watered. Many crops, such as **corn, pepper, squash,** and **tomato,** won't mature correctly if stressed due to lack of water.
- Cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles, and European corn borers pass the winter in debris left in the garden. Remove dead plant material, and compost it or plow it under. This will limit your pest population next year to the insects that migrate into the garden.
- Plant **spinach, lettuce, kale, turnip,** and **radish** in early September as the last crops for your fall garden. Soak seed furrows well before sowing seed, and mulch lightly. Water the rows daily to promote germination and growth of young seedlings.

Don't forget to visit

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 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: Sumac.

Do Not Prune: Abelia, Flowering Almond, Arborvitae, Aucuba, Azalea, Barberry, Bayberry, Beautyberry, Beautybush, Boxwood, Broom (*Cytisus*), Butterfly bush, Camellia japonica (spring bloomer), Camellia sasanqua (fall bloomers), Chastetree, Cherrylaurel, Clethra, Cotoneaster, Daphne, Deutzia, Redtwig Dogwood, Eleagnus (thorny), Euonymus (evergreen/deciduous), Forsythia, Fothergilla, Gardenia, Harry Lauder (Walking Stick), Hibiscus (incl: Rose of Sharon & Althea), Holly, Honeysuckle, Hydrangea, Hypericum (St. Johnswort), Indian Hawthorne, Jasmine (winter), Juniper, Kerria, Leucothoe, Lilac, Mahonia (Oregon Grapeholly), Mockorange, Mountain Laurel, Nandina, Osmanthus, Pearlbush, Photinia, Pieris, Mugo Pine, Pittosporum, Privet, Potentilla, Pyracantha, Quince, Rhododendron, Rose, Serviceberry, Smoke Tree, Spirea, Sweetshrub, Viburnum, Weigela, Pussy Willow, Witch hazel, and Yew

Evergreen Trees: (Seldom need pruning. Most evergreen trees are pruned during the winter months.) None.

Do Not Prune: Arborvitae, Atlas Cedar, Deodar Cedar, Chamaecyparis, Fir, Hemlock, Holly, Juniper, Leyland Cypress, Pine, or Spruce.

Deciduous Trees: Beech, Honeylocust, and Linden.

Do Not Prune: (except to correct damage): Buckeye, Flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Hackberry, Hawthorn, Horsechestnut, Magnolia, Maple, 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.

June – Sept (Tuesdays) 9:30AM - Noon: **Plant A Row The Hungry** is a program sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, **Chesapeake** Master Gardener volunteers and the Garden Writers of America. It is a nationwide project to help raise all gardeners' awareness of hunger and facilitate getting produce to those who need it. Produce donated is distributed locally to the city's hungry. Collections will be accepted every Tuesday starting June 21 – September

20 at the Chesapeake Extension Trailer, 310 Shea Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center. Tax deduction receipts are available. The trailer is located at the corner of Holt and Shea drives within the Chesapeake City Hall complex. For additional information call Sheela Macumber (757) 482-5569 or the Extension Office (757) 382-6348.

June – October: The **Chesapeake Farmer's Market** - Wednesday and Saturday beginning June 18th at City Park (off Greenbrier Pkwy) and at the Western Branch Community Center (on Portsmouth Blvd.) from 8am to 1pm. They run until Saturday, October 22nd. For more information contact the **Chesapeake** extension office at (757) 382-6348.

September: The **Urban Garden Lecture Series** at the Fred Heutte Center. For more information and costs contact the Fred Heutte Center 1000 Botetourt Gardens **Norfolk**, Virginia 23507 Phone: 757.441.2513 Email: fhcgarden@cox.net or visit <http://www.fredheutte.org/ugl.htm>.

Sep 7 (Wed) at 7 PM: The **Gardens of Vancouver, B.C.** with Kelly Matteson

Sep 21 (Wed) at 7 PM: The 2005 **Chelsea Flower Show in London**, England with Bill Smoot

Sep 25 (Sun) at 1 PM: **Concrete Leaf Casting** with Bill Smoot

Sep 28 (Wed) at 7 PM: **An American Cutting Garden** with Suzanne McIntire

September: 10 – Noon: Free Fescue Lawn Maintenance Classes in the **Yorktown** area.

September 10: Seaford area.

September 17, Ken Matthews Nursery

September 24, Upper York County

Register for all clinics on line at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce> or call (757) 890-4940. Free publication available at clinic.

September 10 (Saturday) 9 AM to 2 PM: Fall is the perfect time to get plants established for a great garden next spring. **Currituck** Master Gardeners have worked hard to bring you a wonderful selection of perennials, shrubs and trees. You can find them at their **Annual Fall Plant and Bake Sale** on Saturday, September 10th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Currituck County Library 4261 Carotoke Hwy, **Barco** NC. Great plants at great prices. For more information contact (252) 232-2262.

September 12 (Monday) 7 - 8 PM: Mike Andruczyk, Chesapeake Extension Agent, will be presenting "**How does your garden grow**" at Russell Memorial Library (Western Branch Chesapeake) 2809 Taylor Road, Chesapeake - free talk for anyone looking at what to do in the fall garden. For more information contact (757) 382-6348.

September 13 (Tuesday) 6:45 PM: Turf Grasses of Hampton Roads. Part of the 2005 Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series. 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM at the in Boyd Center, Virginia Wesleyan College. Program offered by Hampton Roads Master Gardener Volunteers. Jim Lachowicz, Master Gardener and Grass Specialist, will provide you an environmentally correct plan to have a green lush lawn. For more information and costs call (757) 393-5197 or visit www.VBMG.org.

September 16&17 (Friday/Saturday): Coastal Plain Native Plant Conference. Sponsored by **Norfolk** Botanical Garden, Old Dominion University and the Virginia Native Plant Society. The

conference will explore native plants in the coastal plain from the Chesapeake Bay to the Carolinas. Discover native plants in their natural settings; Explore ways to design with natives; Hear about ways to preserve natural areas and their inhabitants; Learn how to use native plants in a cultivated landscape. Choose from concurrent sessions: Track A: CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION This track will include endangered plants and their conservation, invasive plants, terrestrial orchids, fire ecology and wetland restoration. Track B: NATIVES IN THE LANDSCAPE Program topics in this track will include ecological design, native plant identification, natives in a backyard habitat, urban garden design, and native plant cultivars. There is a registration fee visit website, www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org, for complete details. Register online or call Norfolk Botanical Garden at 441-5838.

September 17 (Saturday) 10 AM – 3 PM: The **Virginia Beach** Master Gardeners will present the 6th Annual **Community Gardening Festival** at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia. This FREE event begins at 10:00 am – 3:00 pm and features regional speakers, demonstrations, tours, a large plant sale, the ‘plant doctor’, educational and garden society displays, a silent auction and children’s activities. This year the theme emphasizes plants and trees that grow well in Hampton Roads. Master Gardeners will be available throughout the Arboretum and Display gardens to discuss their experiences with various plants, and Master Gardener’s that specialize in landscaping will also be there to answer homeowner’s questions and provide advice. Virginia Beach Master Gardeners plant and maintain three and a half acres of Arboretum and Display Gardens at the HRAREC. Our mission is to educate the community by presenting programs on all aspects of horticulture including turf, landscape, vegetables, trees and shrubs and pest management in conjunction with Virginia Cooperative Extension. For more information visit our website: www.vbmg.org or contact Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Beach Office at (757) 427-4769.

September 19-26: Eastern Performance Trials. "The Eastern Performance Trials has been designed to do for gardening what Fashion Week in NYC has done for the apparel industry." The hottest new vines. Long blooming shrubs bursting with color. Flowering annuals that have proven to out-perform. Luscious foliage that will inspire tropical designs. More than 20 companies from around the world will be showing off their top performers at six locations in the mid-Atlantic during the very first Eastern Performance Trials events. The trials will not only provide a platform for displaying plant material, it will also close the marketing loop between garden center retailers and their customers. The trials kick off on September 19 and will conclude on September 24. Each host location will be open to pre-registered (FREE) attendees from 8-5 pm. Check the website for more information at: <http://easternperformancetrials.org/>

September 22 (Thursday): 9AM–noon: Free Propagation Workshop. Chesapeake Master Gardeners will teach you how to propagate plants from cuttings. All participants will receive handouts and a free gift to take home. You must register to attend. For more information or to register call (757) 382-6348.

September 23 (Friday) 10 AM – Noon: The North Carolina Cooperative Extension, **Currituck** Center and the Currituck Master Gardeners will sponsor an **Herb Seminar** at the Currituck Library, 1123 Ocean Trail, **Corolla** NC. The speaker will be Sherry Foreman from Natures Harmony Nursery, in Mann's Harbor. She will be discussing techniques on growing and using culinary, medicinal and ornamental herbs. Herbs will also be for sale. This free event is

open to the public. For more information call the Cooperative Extension office at (252) 232-2262.

September 24 (Saturday) 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Fall Plant Sale by the **Norfolk** Master Gardeners at Janaf Shopping Center (in front of Circuit City Store). You may choose from a wide selection of plants grown by Master Gardeners plus pansies from Paramount Nursery. For more information contact (757) 683-2818.

September 27 (Tuesday) Noon. Lunch and Learn. **Turf Grasses** and their proper care by Jim Lachowicz, Chesapeake Master Gardener and Turf Specialist. Chesapeake Central Public Library (off Cedar Road). Bring your lunch. For more information contact (757) 382-6348.

October 1 (Saturday) 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Arbor Day Tree Distribution by the **Norfolk** Master Gardeners at the following sites in Norfolk: Home Depot – Military Highway; Norfolk Botanical Garden (outside gate); Virginia Zoo (outside gate); Fred Heutte Center, Ghent; Larchmont Library; Ocean View Hardware. The following trees will be available:

Kousa Dogwood Redbud Golden Rain Black Gum

These seedlings were planted in the City of Norfolk Nursery this past spring. They will be distributed with leaves and roots in soil – not bare root stock. The fall is the best time of the year to plant trees. The ground is still warm and the roots have a chance to get established before the cold weather. . For more information contact (757) 683-2818.

October 1 (Saturday) 10 AM – 2 PM: Third Annual **Plant Swap** at the Major Hillard Library with the **Chesapeake** Master Gardeners, 824 Old George Washington Hwy, N. Chesapeake. Do the perennials in your yard need dividing? Have your friends and family run out of yard space? Then come participate in the plant swap. Just transplant each divided perennial into a 3" or larger pot and label it with the name of the plant and instructions on how to care for it. Bring your plants to the library and trade your plant for another plant of similar quality with other gardeners. Only disease-free, potted perennials will be accepted for swapping; a maximum of 10 plants of one type per participant. Master Gardeners will be available on site to answer your gardening questions. For more information, please call (757) 382-3606.

October 15 (Saturday): Fall Garden Fair at Tidewater Community College in **Chesapeake**, 1428 Cedar Road, Chesapeake. Tidewater Community College school of Horticulture and the Chesapeake Master Gardener's have teamed up for a spectacular fall gardening fair. Several gardening displays and lectures will be presented throughout the day. For more information contact (757) 382-6348 for more information.

October 15 (Saturday): The North Carolina Cooperative Extension and The Elizabethan Gardens invites you to "**Fall Festival at the Gardens**". Hosted by the Currituck Master Gardeners. What makes the Elizabethan Gardens so special? Come and find out how staff and volunteers work behind the scenes to make your visit memorable. They will share gardening techniques that you can use to beautify you own garden. Saturday, October 15, at the Elizabethan Gardens, **Manteo**, North Carolina. Call The Extension office at (252) 232-2262 for a registration form and costs.

October 22 (Saturday) 9:30 AM to 3 PM(ish): The **Holly Society meeting** with tour of cut deciduous holly farm and the Chippokes Plantation - plantation, and a talk on Bees/hollies and other good pollen plants. Chippokes Plantation State Park, 695 Chippokes Park Rd, **Surry**, VA.

For more information contact margaret.mccomb@worldnet.att.net for registration form (covers the cost of lunch) or call (757) 294-3625.

November 10 (Thursday – Great Bridge area) and 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 11/10 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.

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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, 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 !!!***