



Garden Wise

February 2015

FEBRUARY

Beautiful Bounties in 2015



Here's to another year of beautiful bounties for you and your community! I hope everyone is excited about this upcoming growing season and ready to inspire -- and be inspired -- by all the fellow gardeners and community gardens. To start the year off, the members of the EMGV Community Garden Outreach met this past month to discuss the future goals we would like to reach. These include contacting all of the community gardens in Guilford county (well over 60!), asking the leaders about their gardens and asking if they need an EMGV mentor to assist them in establishing/maintaining a great community garden. Our EMGV Interns will make all of the community garden contacts! We also have a new Facebook page, thanks to EMGV Aaron Ratcliffe. Please like and share our page: <https://www.facebook.com/guilfordcommunitygardens/?pnref=lhc>. We will be posting special events and community garden information. Please, feel free to post pictures of your gardens to the page, making sure you have permission to use any pictures with individuals in them. We have photo release forms in the EMGV office if you need them.

As this season begins, let's take some time to reflect on last year. Read our gardening notes, tips, and tricks that we thought of over the winter so we can implement them this season. For many, we are going to be in the market for seedlings, so please mark your calendars; May 8-9 (9-3 Friday, 9-noon Saturday) will be the EMGV annual Passalong Plant Sale & Festival. Once you have your gardening plan, you may want to hone some of your skills or acquire new ones, which can be done at one of the many Growing the Greenway series. The class schedules for the Greenway series and information about the plant sale are attached.



*"In every gardener there is a child who believes in The Seed Fairy."
– Robert Brault*

Happy Gardening,
Eva Preiser, Guilford County (NC) Master Gardener Volunteer

**PLANT
SALE**



Mark your calendar!

13th Annual *Passalong Plant Sale & Festival!*

Guilford County Extension
Master Gardener Volunteers

Guilford County Agricultural Center
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-641-2400

Friday, May 8
9 to 3 *Best Choices!*

Saturday, May 9
9 to Noon *Best Bargains!*

*Thousands of plants for sale,
most grown by EMGVs!*



*New this year! Gently Used
Gardening Books &
Accessories Tent*

Map and details on reverse



Information Booths!

Hot Dog Sale!

Garden Tours!

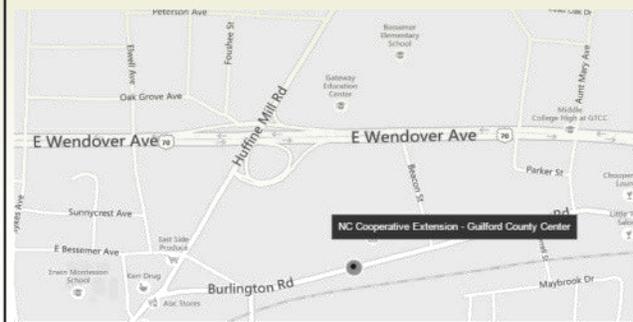


**Gardening Inspiration
And Education!**

Just in time for Mother's Day!

Featuring . . .

- Annuals
- Perennials
- Native Plants
- Geraniums
- Herbs
- Vegetables
- Ferns
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Butterfly Host Plants
- Fairy Gardens
- Conifers
- Japanese Maples
- Garden Accessories





Central North Carolina Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs

Central North Carolina is a wonderful place to garden. Almost any type of vegetable or fruit can be grown successfully provided you choose appropriate varieties and plant at the right time. The climate, the season, and potential pests all affect the selection of what and when to plant.

Adapted to Climate: Freezing temperatures, high temperatures, humidity, and solar intensity, all common in central North Carolina, can put stress on plants. To successfully grow plants in this environment, select varieties that are tolerant of temperature extremes, plant at the appropriate times to avoid temperature extremes, or plan to protect the plants. It is possible to grow plants out of season by creating microclimates that differ from the overall climate by providing shade, humidity, or artificial heat.



Seasons: We have three optimal growing seasons: spring, summer, and fall. Both day length and temperature vary dramatically

between seasons (short days and cold temperatures in winter to long days and high temperatures in summer). Since few annual plants are suited to thrive in both circumstances, it is important to choose plants that mature quickly to ensure a complete life cycle within one season.



Disease and Pest Resistance: Choose varieties that have been bred to resist diseases and pests. Some companies list resistance on the plant tag, the seed package, or in a seed catalog. Many companies use initials following the plant variety name. For example, “V” may mean resistant to *Verticillium* wilt disease, “N” may indicate resistance to nematodes, “F” may indicate

NC State University
A&T State University
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EXTENSION**

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resistance to *Fusarium* wilt disease, and “T” may indicate resistance to Tobacco Mosaic virus. Different companies use different symbols, so be sure to check their key to understand the labeling. Choose a planting date to avoid known pest seasons. Delay fall planting until whitefly populations decline with cooler temperatures, for example, or delay spring planting until soils become warm to reduce fungal and bacterial disease problems.

Cultivars: Select varieties that provide desirable yield, taste, texture, and color. Using varieties that mature quickly may help avoid insect and disease problems. New varieties are released each year, and other varieties may become unavailable. Check with your local Extension website, Extension Master Gardener volunteers, or Extension agents for the varieties best adapted your area. You can also read vegetable variety reviews from gardeners across the country online at <http://vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu>.

Planting dates: These dates are suggested guidelines and should provide the highest probability of success, but weather conditions vary from year to year and planting dates should be adjusted accordingly. Plants established in the middle of the recommended planting dates



will do best with lower success rates at both the earlier and later recommended planting dates. The dates on the chart are for planting out in the garden. If you provide shade in the summer and frost protection in the winter, you may be able to extend the season both before and after these recommended dates. Spun-woven covers can allow you to begin your garden earlier in the spring and extend it longer into the fall. In addition, plastic mulches can be used to produce vegetables earlier in the

season. Planting additional plants every few weeks within the planting window will extend your harvest over a greater period.

Transplants: If growing your own transplants, start seedlings six to eight weeks before transplanting them into the garden. Protect tender transplants from severe temperature conditions. Harden them off prior to transplanting by gradually introducing them to the new environment. Just before transplanting, take them outside for increasing periods each day until they are acclimatized to the new temperature and light conditions.



Central North Carolina Planting Guide

Annuals, Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs

Garden Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs in the Piedmont

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1
Artichokes, Globe	1 year	30 in					T	T																			
Artichokes, Jerusalem**	6-8 months	9 – 12 in					Tu	Tu																			
Arugula	40-50	6-9 in			S	S	S	S									S	S	S	S							
Asparagus	2 years	18 in	C	C	C	C	C	C																			
Basil	50-75	2-8 in									S, T																
Beans, Lima- Bush	65-80	6 in							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S											
Beans, Lima- Pole	75-95	6 in							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S											
Beans, Snap- Bush	50-55	2 in					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							
Beans, Snap- Pole	65-70	6 in							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							
Beets	55-60	2 in						S	S	S						S	S	S	S								
Broccoli	T=70-80	18 in					T	T	T								T	T	T								
Brussels Sprouts	S=90-100	14-18 in													T	T	T	T									
Cabbage	T=63-75 S=90-120	12 in													T	T	T	T	T								
Cabbage, Chinese	T=45 S=75-85	12 in															S	S	S	T							
Carrots	75-80	2 in												S	S	S	S	S	S								
Cauliflower	T=55-65 S=85-95	18 in																S, T	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Celery	120-150	6-8 in																T	T								
Chard, Swiss	60-70	6 in																	S, T	S, T	S, T						
Cilantro	50-55	2-4 in												S	S	S											
Collard Greens	60-100	18 in																									

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1
Corn, Sweet	85-90	12 in					S	S	S	S	S	S															
Cucumbers	56-65	12 in							S, T																		
Dill	40-55	2-4					S										S	S	S								
Eggplant	80-85	24 in							T	T	T	T															
Garlic	180-210	4-6 in																									
Kale	40-50	6 in					S, T																				
Kohlrabi	50-60	4 in					S, T																				
Leek	120-150	4 in					S, T																				
Lettuce, Head	70-85	10 in					S	S	T	T																	
Lettuce, Leaf	40-50	6 in					S, T																				
Melons, Cantaloupe	85-90	24 in									S, T																
Melons, Watermelon	90-100	60 in									S, T																
Mustard	30-40	2 in						S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Okra	60-70	12 in										S, T	S, T				S	S									
Onions, Bulb	60-80	4 in	S	S	S	S	S	S	S, B	S, B							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Onions, Green	60 - 70	1-2 in					S	S	S, T	S, T																	
Pac Choi/ Bok Choy	30 - 75	7-12 in																									
Parsley	75	9-12 in																									
Parsnips	100-130	3-4 in						S	S	S	S	S					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Peanuts	145 - 160	6-8 in										S	S														
Peas, Dwarf	54-60	4 in	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Peas, Trellis	54-72	2-3 in	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Peas, Field/ Southern	55-65	4 in							S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Note: B= Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers
 ** Best grown in a pot, as it can spread aggressively.

Fruit/Herb/ Vegetable	Days to Harvest (unless otherwise noted)	Distance Between Plants	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
			1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Peppers	75-80	18 in							T	T	T	T					T									
Potatoes, Irish	95-120	10 in			Tu	Tu	Tu																			
Potatoes, Sweet	95-125	10 in								T	T	T	T	T												
Pumpkin	115-120	4 ft							S	S	S	S	S	S												
Radishes	20-25	1 in			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S							
Rutabaga	70-80	4 in			S	S	S	S	S						S	S	S	S	S	S						
Spinach	50-60	6 in			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				S	S	S	S	S					
Squash, Summer	50-60	24 in						S, T																		
Squash, Winter	70-95	36 in							S, T																	
Sunflower	55-110	9-24 in					S	S	S	S																
Tomatoes	75-85	18 in							T	T	T	T	T	T			T									
Turnips	55-60	2 in			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			S	S	S							

Note: B= Bulbs; C = Crowns; S = Seeds; T = Transplants; Tu = Tubers
 * Best grown in a pot, as it can spread aggressively.

Central North Carolina Planting Calendar for Annual Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs



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KIDS CORNER

Trash Can Potatoes



Looking for a fun, creative way to grow vegetable with your kids this year? Why not try growing your potatoes in a trashcan? A good, sturdy trashcan, a bag of soil, and a couple of seed potatoes, and you will be well on your way to a bumper crop. The idea is to plant your potato seeds in a garbage can, then as the plant grows keep adding more soil until the can is eventually full. Then when they are ready to harvest you should have a whole garbage can full of potatoes to enjoy. First thing you need to do to grow potatoes in a garbage can is to drill holes in your garbage can, lots of holes. Make sure you have plenty in the bottom for drainage and then up the sides of the can as well. Otherwise you will have rotting potatoes.

Next, place about 12 inches of soil in the bottom of the can. Here comes the fun part: add your "Red Bliss", "Purple Peruvian" or even "All Blue" potato seed and cover them with 3-4 inches of soil. This should be done in early March, and potato plants will be starting to come up after 5-6 days.

Once the plants are about 6" tall or so, add about 3 more inches of soil covering up the leaves and everything on the bottom ½ of the plant. Repeat this process throughout the growing season until the can is almost full. Oh, and be sure to water and fertilize your garbage can potatoes just as you would the rest of your garden. Eventually when you get to the top, add a nice layer of mulch and wait. The potato plants will grow really long out of your can. Then when they wilt and die off, wait two weeks and you should be able to harvest. The cool thing is that you can just grab a tarp and pour out your bucket to collect your amazing potato crop.

Submitted by:
Karen Neill, Interim County Extension Director



Community Garden Facts About Permaculture



610 Kirby—Urban Permaculture model

[Click here to learn more:](http://610kirby-permaculture.org/610kirby-permaculture.org/Welcome.html)

<http://610kirby-permaculture.org/610kirby-permaculture.org/Welcome.html>



Volunteers and Liability

The Federal Volunteer Protection Act

People who volunteer for a nonprofit or school may be concerned about a lawsuit if an injury occurs. This fact sheet provides an overview of legal protections designed to shield volunteers from liability.

Volunteers are crucial to the fight against childhood obesity—leading kids in physical activity through Safe Routes to School programs and after-school activities, teaching cooking and gardening classes, and encouraging healthy lifestyles through many other programs. Volunteers often make it possible for financially stretched schools, nonprofits, cities, and counties to do more to create healthy communities and help children lead healthier lives.

But people sometimes worry that they could be at risk of liability if an injury occurs while they are volunteering. Fortunately, a federal law—the Volunteer Protection Act—provides volunteers with significant protections from liability associated with volunteer activity¹ in every state but one.² Some states also have laws that provide additional protections for volunteers.

The Volunteer Protection Act protects volunteers under many circumstances, although it does not eliminate the possibility of a lawsuit. It does not shield the nonprofit or governmental agency using the volunteer’s services from liability; it only protects the volunteers themselves.

Generally, the Volunteer Protection Act protects volunteers from liability if they are:

- 1. Volunteering for a nonprofit organization,³ school, or other government agency.** The Act covers individuals providing services to a nonprofit, school, church, or agency (such as a park department or city transportation agency) for little or no compensation.
 - 2. Acting in the scope of volunteer duties.** Volunteers are protected if they're engaged in an activity that's related to their volunteer role. But if, for example, an incident occurs when a volunteer detours from volunteer duties to carry out a personal errand, this might well be considered outside the scope of the volunteer duties.
- and**
- 3. Negligent or accused of negligence.⁴** Negligence occurs when a person or entity doesn't act with the care that an ordinary, reasonable person would under the circumstances. Although no one wants to act negligently, in the real world, a momentary lapse in attention can lead to an injury due to negligence.

If all three of these conditions are met, volunteers will generally be protected from liability even if their negligence caused the harm.

However, the Act does not protect a volunteer under some circumstances. There is generally no protection if:

- The harm took place because the volunteer acted in an **extremely negligent or deliberately criminal manner⁵** (as opposed to being somewhat careless).
- The volunteer's activity **required a license or certification** in the state in question, and the volunteer did not have the required credentials.⁶
- The volunteer was under the influence of **drugs or alcohol.⁷**
- The harm was due to the volunteer's **operation of a motor vehicle.⁸**

The Act leaves open the possibility that a volunteer may be found liable despite the Act's protections, if the injured person sues the nonprofit organization or government agency, which then sues the volunteer.⁹ While this loophole seems to mean that volunteers remain vulnerable to liability, we are not aware of any such lawsuits. Although volunteers should know that the Act does not provide total protection against liability, the Act does provide significant protections for volunteers.

ChangeLab Solutions formerly existed under the name Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP). Any references to PHLP in this publication should now be understood to refer to ChangeLab Solutions.

The National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN) is a project of ChangeLab Solutions. ChangeLab Solutions is a nonprofit organization that provides legal information on matters relating to public health. The legal information provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, readers should consult a lawyer in their state.

Support for this fact sheet was provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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¹ The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 14501-14505 (West 2010) (Pub. L. No. 105-19). Available at: www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode42/uscode42_00014501----000-.html.

² The exception is New Hampshire, which has opted out of the protections of the Act for lawsuits against volunteers in which everyone involved is a citizen of New Hampshire. 1998 N.H. Laws 129 (S.B. 438) (effective June 2, 1998); see 42 U.S.C. § 14502(b) (allowing states to opt out of the Act). However, state laws in New Hampshire provide some related protections for volunteers.

³ Under the Act, nonprofit organizations include organizations that have tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as other not-for-profit organizations that operate for the public benefit.

⁴ The Act is not limited to protecting against negligence, although that is the main type of liability with which volunteers are likely to be concerned.

⁵ A volunteer will not be protected if the harm was caused because the volunteer acted with "willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by the volunteer." 42 U.S.C. s. 14503(a)(3). See also 42 U.S.C. § 14503(f)(1).

⁶ 42 U.S.C. § 14503(a)(2).

⁷ 42 U.S.C. § 14503(f)(1)(E).

⁸ 42 U.S.C. § 14503(a)(4).

⁹ See 42 U.S.C. § 14503(b) (preserving nonprofit organizations' ability to sue volunteer despite coverage by the Act) and § 14503(c) (preserving right of injured person to sue nonprofit or governmental entity).

No Protection for Nonprofits or Government Agencies

The Volunteer Protection Act only protects volunteers themselves—not the nonprofit organization, school, or government agency that used their services. Because agencies and nonprofits may be liable for the negligence of a volunteer even when the volunteer is protected by the Act, they should (1) maintain insurance to protect themselves (and to provide additional protection for volunteers), and (2) screen, train, and monitor volunteers, to minimize the risk of injuries due to negligence or other causes.

All states have some form of "immunity" for government bodies, though the level of protection these laws provide varies considerably among states. If immunity applies, the agency will not be liable, even if it was shown to be negligent. A few states also provide some immunity or liability caps for nonprofit organizations.

Additional Resources

The following organizations have additional resources and information about liability and risk management for volunteers and nonprofits:

- The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI): www.riskinstitute.org
- Nonprofit Risk Management Center: www.nonprofitrisk.org

Other liability resources available at www.nplan.org:

- NPLAN's *Liability for After-Hours Use of School Facilities* has additional general background on liability, myths and reality of liability, the elements of negligence, governmental immunity, and more.
- NPLAN's fact sheet on *Safe Routes to School and Liability* has more information about negligence and liability in the context of Safe Routes to School programs, with specific tips on how to minimize risk of liability for schools, nonprofits, and others.

APHIDS IN THE GARDEN

By Robert Ford, Guilford County (NC) Master Gardener Volunteer



Aphids on Asclepias

Aphids are frequent pests of vegetables, herbs, ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers. They have a huge diversity, with over 1,300 species known in North America.



IDENTIFYING APHIDS

Aphids are slow, fragile, insects that range from 1/16 to 1/4 inch long. Adults have pear-shaped bodies with long antennae; the nymphs look similar to adults. They can be black, brown, yellow, red, gray, or green. Most aphids do not have a waxy covering, although the bodies of some of the woolly aphids are covered with white, waxy threads. Some aphids have white spots or are completely covered with a white waxy powder. The legs and antennae are usually long and fragile. Aphids may be wingless or have functional wings. The offspring are smaller than the adults and are always wingless.



APHID DAMAGE

They feed by inserting microscopically thin mouthparts into the plant phloem and sucking out sap that is rich in sugars. While feeding, aphids inject saliva into the plant. The saliva of some aphids causes curled or distorted growth. Some aphids transmit plant viruses as well. Aphids excrete a sweet, sticky liquid called honeydew. When aphid numbers are large, honeydew often completely coats leaves and other object below, giving infested plants a sticky or varnished appearance. Honeydew attracts ants, flies, wasps and other insects. Unsightly fungi called sooty molds often develop in honeydew, further disfiguring plants.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Look for misshapen, curling, stunted, or yellow leaves, flowers, or fruit. Aphids can be seen on plants, so be sure to check stems and the undersides of leaves.



Aphids on Underside of Tomato Leaf

If the leaves or stems are covered with honeydew, this is a sign that aphids may have been sipping sap. The honeydew, a sugary liquid produced by the insects as waste, can attract other insects, notably ants, which gather the substance for food.

If the honeydew develops a fungal growth called sooty mold, the branches and leaves will appear black.

Many species of aphids in North Carolina overwinter in the egg stage, however, during the growing season, all aphids give birth to living young. The young aphids mature in about 10 days. Most aphid species have several generations per year. Both winged and wingless aphids are born during the growing season. Winged forms migrate to start new colonies, usually on the same type of plant. Some aphids, however, can move to an entirely different species of plant. Although most aphids attack the tender stems and leaves, a few feed on roots of certain plants. For example, the woolly apple aphid feeds on the leaves of elm trees and the roots and stems of crabapples, apples and pyracantha.

CONTROL

Early detection is the key to reducing aphid infestations. The flight of winged colonizers cannot be predicted, so regular and frequent examination of plants will help to determine the need for control. Examine the bud area and undersides of the new leaves for clusters or colonies of small aphids. The presence of these colonies indicates that the aphids are established on the plants, and their numbers will begin to increase rapidly. Small numbers of individual colonies on small plants can be crushed by hand or removed by pruning as they are found. In some cases, this may provide adequate control.

Natural enemies of aphids include lady beetles and their larvae, green lacewings and their larvae, hover fly maggots, parasitic wasps and entomophagous fungi. Sometimes these parasites and predators are not able to keep aphids under control, so additional steps may be needed. NC State cautions gardeners that many pesticides that kill aphids will also kill beneficial insects. NC State recommends using water under pressure from a hose to remove small concentrations of aphids in a garden. If the problem is more extensive, NC State recommends the controls listed below. Most products used for aphid control work as contact insecticides. This means that the aphids must be hit directly with spray droplets so that they can be absorbed into the insect's body. Since aphids tend to remain on the lower leaf surface, they are protected by plant foliage. Thorough coverage, directed at growing points and protected areas, is important.

Active ingredient

Horticultural oil
Imidacloprid
Insecticidal soap

Trade name

Many
Merit; Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub
Many

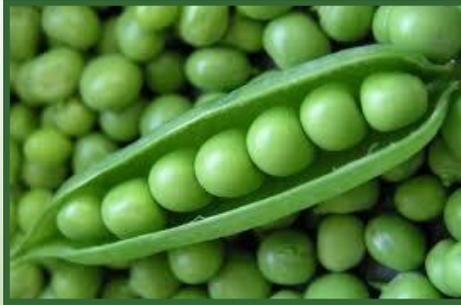
Activity

Contact
Systemic
Contact



Peas, Please

By **Patricia Lunn Adsit**, Guilford County (NC) Master Gardener Volunteer



Mother Nature may be teasing us gardeners with the occasional warm days in the middle of the winter months, but we know it is entirely too early to plant our warm-season favorites (tomatoes, peppers, and melons). Do not despair! It is the perfect time to think about planting the cool season vegetable garden, with perpetual favorites like **peas**.

Are peas a fairly newcomer to the table? Actually, the opposite is true! Peas (botanical name: *Pisum sativum*) have been enjoyed for centuries and are believed to be native to Europe and parts of Asia. Cultivation of peas for food production, however, is thought to have begun in the 17th century, when plant breeders in England began developing new and improved varieties of garden peas, hence the name *English pea*. Because of their long shelf-life, dried peas voyaged to the new world with explorers and were one of the first crops grown by the early colonists. Captain John Smith of the Jamestown Colony wrote of enjoying an abundant crop of peas in 1614. Thomas Jefferson is said to have grown more than 30 varieties of peas on his estate, Monticello. Later in Austria, a monk named Gregor Mendel, performed plant breeding experiments in the late 1800's, using peas as the basis for his efforts. His now-famous work with pea plants is perceived as the foundation of modern genetics.

What to plant: For gardeners, there are two main types of peas: (1) those with an *inedible pod*, such as shelling (garden or **English**) peas, which are typically used for cooking immediately after you split the pod and remove the pea seeds or preserved for later use by freezing, drying, or canning; and (2) those with an *edible-pod*, such as **snow** or **sugar snap** peas. Snow peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *macrocarpon*), sometimes called **Chinese** pea pods, are typically used in stir-fries and have flat edible pods with small peas inside; these peas are not shelled. Sugar snap peas (*Pisum sativum* var. *macrocarpon* ser. *cv*), a cross between shelling and snow peas, have plump, edible pods with a crisp, snappy texture; they are not typically shelled. Both snow and snap peas are said to have a slightly sweeter and crisper taste than shelling peas. Green pea varieties can also have two growth types: bush or vine. (Named varieties of peas can be found at the end of this article.)

A successful pea **harvest** will yield approximately 2 to 6 pounds of peas per 10 foot row. Gardeners should plan to plant 30 plants per person for an adequate yield. Gardeners should also select early, mid-season, and late varieties to get maximum pea production. In the spring planting, plant all pea varieties at once. They will mature at different times, staggering the harvest and increasing your yield.

When to plant: Peas thrive in the cool weather, and the young plants will tolerate light frosts (although the blossoms will not). Soil temperature plays a key role in how long it takes for pea seeds to germinate. To illustrate: if the soil is 40°F, pea seeds may take more than a month to sprout. At 60°F or above, peas take about a week to germinate. Once germinated, peas adapt well to the cold, damp climate of early spring. Peas should be planted as early as possible in the spring to get a full harvest before our hot summer temperatures arrive, which will put an end to production. That is why you may have heard the saying "*Plant peas by St. Patrick's Day.*" Otherwise, plan to plant peas about a month prior to your frost-free date (typically quoted for our Piedmont Zone 7b as 4/15). Although thought of as mainly a spring crop, some gardeners think the minimal effort and expense of planting peas is well-worth the gamble to try for a fall harvest (which is generally not recommended for our area). If you think the risk is worth the reward, you will want to plant peas again in mid-August, and then nurse the seedlings through our late-summer heat with shade and diligent watering until cool weather arrives once again. If you are patient, you might enjoy another tasty crop of peas.

Where to plant: To get peas in the ground and germinating as early as possible in the spring, consider planting them in raised beds. The beds warm up faster than the surrounding ground, and the plants will be easier to protect from the threat of a late hard frost. Once planted, whether in raised beds or traditional rows, peas make an ideal crop for busy gardeners since they require little attention other than watering and harvesting. Pests and diseases (discussed later in this article) are rarely a problem, particularly if disease-resistant varieties are planted.

Peas prefer a fertile, sandy loam that drains well (which can be recreated in raised beds), but will tolerate most soils except heavy, impermeable clay. If that describes the soil in your traditional row garden, you will want to incorporate plenty of organic material such as compost to keep the soil crumbly. Knowing that peas prefer a pH level of 6.0-6.5 for peak production, you will want to begin with a soil test. (Visit this link to learn more about soil testing in a publication written for home gardeners: <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/a-gardeners-guide-to-soil-testing.pdf>). Follow the results of a soil test to maintain both the pH levels as well as optimal fertility levels. If a soil test has not been taken, make a preplanting application of 5-10-10 fertilizer at 3 pounds per 100 square feet. **Do not over-fertilize with nitrogen** as too much nitrogen will make the pea plants develop lush foliage at the expense of pod production and be more susceptible to frost damage.

How to plant: Some sources suggest soaking pea seeds in a jar of water for six to eight hours immediately prior to planting in order to help them germinate faster. Research has shown this practice is not absolutely necessary, although you may experience a higher rate of germination (especially if your soil temperatures are below 40°F). If you do choose to use this method, soak the pea seeds overnight in lukewarm water, drain them, and then apply an inoculant (which can be purchased at garden centers) just before planting. To apply inoculant to presoaked seeds: pour some of the powder into a bag, add the seeds, and shake until the peas are coated. Immediately plant treated seed in the garden.

An inoculant, you might ask? Yes, research has shown that this practice will boost the pea plants and produce higher yields. Peas are members of the legume family, and like other members of the legume family, peas have a symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobium* bacteria that colonize the nodules along the root system and help the roots 'fix' nitrogen in the soil. In a process called **nitrogen-fixation**, with the aid of soil-borne bacteria that they live in, legumes take up nitrogen from the air and convert it to a plant-usable form.

Follow these tips to get the best pea crop:

1. **Plant directly** in the garden in close quarters, only one to two inches apart, or you can simply broadcast the seed in the row, allowing the seeds to fall as they may, some even touching. Cover pea sees with an inch of soil in the spring or two inches in the late summer for your fall crop. There should be no need to thin peas after they germinate, as they like to grow thickly. Peas grown in close quarters tend to shade out weeds, keep the soil cool and moist, experience increased yields, and make the wisest use of garden space.

2. **Provide support**, like a fence, a low trellis such as pea fencing, or a latticework of twiggy branches at the time of planting for the growing vines to climb upon. Peas are productive and less susceptible to rot if given some support or, for taller varieties, planted along a fence or trellis.



3. **Water** the plants deeply once a week and never allow the soil to completely dry out or you'll drastically reduce pea production. **The critical time for watering peas is when the plants are blooming and producing pods.** When pods are maturing in hot weather, you may need to water daily to maintain pod quality.

4. **Add mulch** is essential to keep the soil around the roots moist and cool. When the seedlings are two inches tall, apply a mulch of clean straw, chopped leaves, or compost. As the pea plants mature, you can add more layers of mulch to keep them contented.

How to handle pests: Peas do not suffer many **major pests**. Aphids (which can spread mosaic virus) are the major insects associated with peas. When you notice aphids on your peas, spray the plants with cold water to knock the bugs to the ground. Powdery mildew is the most common disease of peas, usually striking as the weather warms. Other diseases that could cause problems fusarium wilt, pea leaf roll virus, and root rot. Planting disease-resistant varieties and crop rotation are your best defenses against these diseases. **Practicing crop rotation** – making sure not to plant peas or other legumes in the same bed more than once in every three years – will especially help to prevent root rot.



How to harvest: When it comes time to harvest peas, there are a couple things to remember as you enter the pea patch with pail in hand: (1) pick the pods carefully and (2) frequent harvesting increases yields. Pea stems are tender and can snap easily, and the root systems aren't very deep. If not careful when harvesting, you can damage the plant or even pull it out of the soil. Use both hands: one to hold the vine and the other to pinch off the pods. When the harvest begins, whether for the spring or fall crops, pick every other day to keep the pea plants in production. Picking frequently has been demonstrated to affect total yields. Pick any pods that are overly mature; if left on the vine, this will signal the plant to stop production and your yields will diminish.

To determine when to **pick** English, or green shelling peas, check the pods by eye and feel. If the pod is round, fully-formed, has a nice sheen, and is bright green, it is ready to pick and shell. Remove peas from their pods and cook as desired, or preserve for later enjoyment. If the seeds have made ridges on the pod and the pod is a dull green, it is past its prime.

You can **pick** snap and snow snap peas at any time, but they are their tastiest when the pods are young with tender skin. Wash and cut or snap as desired for segments, or eat pod and seeds whole in salads, soups, or side dishes, or preserve them for future use.

Peas are best when **cooked** very quickly, with as little water as possible, to retain their sugars and flavors. Do not boil them as sugars will dissolve and flavor will be lost. Steaming until just tender is the trick or stir-fry briefly. Lightly steamed English peas that are then thoroughly chilled make a tasty and colorful addition to all salads.

Food for thought: It might be well to remember the admonition “a pea isn’t always a pea.” Black-eyed Peas, (*Vigna unguiculata*), and other “summer peas” traditionally popular in our southern gardens and kitchens, are a different species altogether, being more closely related to string beans, and planted as warm-season vegetables in the hot conditions after mid-April. And let us not forget about another southern favorite called “goober peas,” (*Arachis hypogaea*), also known as peanuts, even though it is neither a *pea* nor a *nut*. That can muddle the discussion of peas to no end.

Confusion reigns when mentioning the flowers known as Sweet Peas, (*Lathyrus odoratus*), which are unrelated to the foregoing-discussed garden peas (*Pisum sativum*). According to the searchable database of plants maintained by NC State, Sweet Peas have “poisonous characteristics,” listing the (mature) seeds as the poisonous part, “toxic only if large quantities (are) eaten.” (You can follow this link for more information: <http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/poisonous-plants/lathyrus-odoratus/>) Since sugar snap and snow peas are often called “sweet peas” by more than a few local gardeners, we need to be aware of the potential for mix-ups.

The following list of named varieties for temperate zones, along with identifying information, was provided by Mississippi State University:

English peas

- **Alaska**—smooth seed; canning type; early; 28-inch vines; 52 days.
- **Green Arrow**—midseason; wrinkled seed; 24- to 28-inch vine; 4 1/2-inch pods; 9 to 11 peas per pod; resistant to downy mildew and fusarium wilt; 68 days.
- **Little Marvel**—old variety; wrinkled seed; 15-inch vines; early; 3-inch pod; 6 to 8 peas per pod; dark green pea; 62 days. (Because of its height, this variety might be a good choice for raised beds.)
- **Thomas Laxton**—early; wrinkled seed; 28- to 34-inch vine; 3 1/2-inch pod; 6 to 8 peas per pod; large pea; excellent quality; 61 days.

Wando—midseason-to-late; small pod; 24- to 30-inch vine; tolerates some heat; 3-inch pod; 6 to 8 peas per pod; 70 days. (Wando, developed at the Southeastern Vegetable Breeding Laboratory in Charleston, SC, is resistant to both cold and heat. If you get a late start, this variety might be your best bet for a good crop.)

- **Mammoth Melting Sugar**—4-inch pods; 4-foot wilt-resistant vines.

Oregon Sugar Pod II—4-inch pods; 28-inch disease resistant vines.

Snap peas

- **Snappy**—large pods; 8 to 9 peas; vines 6 feet; mildew resistant; 63 days.
- **Sugar Ann**—bush-type plant; 18 to 24 inches tall; AAS 1984.
- **Sugar Bon**—2- to 3-inch pods; weather tolerant; vines 18 to 24 inches; powdery mildew resistant; 56 days.
- **Sugar Daddy**—stingless; easy to pick; 74 days.

Sugar Snap—4- to 6-foot vine; thick-walled, edible pod; 2 1/2- to 3 1/2- inch pods; wilt resistant; 68 days; AAS 1979.

Snow peas

- **Dwarf Gray Sugar**—early; 3-inch, light green pods; vines 2 feet tall.
- **Mammoth Melting Sugar**—4-inch pods; 4-foot wilt-resistant vines.

Oregon Sugar Pod II—4-inch pods; 28-inch disease resistant vines.

For more info, check out these sources:

A Gardener's Guide to Soil Testing, NC State University publication, accessed online 1/31/15 at <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/a-gardeners-guide-to-soil-testing.pdf>

Garden Peas, Clemson University, accessed online on 1/31/15 at <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/vegetables/crops/hgic1328.html>

Guide to North Carolina Vegetable Gardening by Walter Reeves and Felder Rushing. Cool Springs Press, 2007. 288 pages (*Peas, English*: p. 107-8)

Peas, Cornell University, Home Gardening, *Growing Guide* (online), accessed 1/31/15 at <http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene9697.html>

Pea (English, Snap, Snow), Mississippi State University online publication accessed on 1/31/15 at <http://msucares.com/lawn/garden/vegetables/list/pea.html>

Searchable Database of Plants, North Carolina State University, accessed online on 1/31/15 at plants.ces.ncsu.edu

Vegetables: Growing Green Peas in Home Gardens, Washington State University Extension Fact Sheet • FS116E, accessed online 1/31/15 at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS116E/FS116E.pdf>

Patricia Lunn Adsit and her husband have had great success in growing peas in both spring and fall in their Zone 7b garden.

Community Garden Reports

Gibsonville Community Garden:

We have been replenishing the raised beds with compost and covering them with cardboard to prevent weed growth, so we are ready to plant some early peas, potatoes, and onions! Last year we were very successful in providing fresh produce for the senior center in town, and this year we hope to expand and provide fresh produce for the local food pantry.

-Christine B. Stewart

The Interactive Resource Community Garden:

The Interactive Resource Community Garden at Washington and Murrow is unique because it serves the homeless. A mix of volunteers and "guests" (those experiencing homelessness) of IRC will begin working the garden the first week of May and continue every Friday morning.

Over the winter we cover all our growing beds with mulch that feeds the worms and protect the soil. By springtime the soil is filled with worm castings. Over a year's time this practice yields 40 lb of nutritious, organic fertilizer for every 100 square feet. Amazingly, the worms have also done the tilling and aerated the soil, too!

We will also draw compost from our compost bins and spread just a 1/4" x 1' layer along the "dripline" of our many fruit trees (15 varieties in all). The trees are spaced so that the in between area is planted with annuals. This is called "alley cropping" and is used throughout the world to integrate perennial trees with annual vegetables. Under each tree we are planting supportive plants that fix nitrogen, pull up nutrients from the sub-soil or attract beneficial insects.

All of this makes for a low-maintenance garden with lots of biological variety and activity. If we pay close attention to all these interactions, we learn how nature works and then enjoy more the fruits of our labor.

-Charlie Headington, Garden Manager



Starmount Community Garden:

The Starmount Presbyterian Church Garden is dormant right now, but in a few weeks we will get started on adding compost to our beds and renovating some of the wood sides of our raised beds. The big early spring project is to build a hoop house structure of PVC pipe and netting to cover our six blueberry bushes. We hope that we will get to harvest plump, juicy blueberries -- not the birds!

-Linda Anderson

First Presbyterian's Giving Back Garden:

After an incredible first year, First Presbyterian's Giving Back Garden is shoring up volunteers and is knee-deep into planning for Spring. We delivered over 1800 pounds of vegetables to Share the Harvest in 2014 and hope to beat that this year. Our biggest challenge seemed to be engaging the volunteers in such a way that they felt more vested in the process. With the advent of The Giving Back Garden Guild, we plan on providing more structure and support for the volunteers. In turn, our hope is that they will take more ownership in the mission of the garden as a whole. We will plant many of the same crops as last year. Spring and Summer crops that we had remarkable success included beans, okra, peppers and of course tomatoes. Our most exciting news for the upcoming season is that an Eagle Scout from our congregation has proposed installing a drip-irrigation system for us. We are looking forward to another great season marked by collaboration, cooperation and prayerfully.... IRRIGATION!

-Jane Trevey



Mixed Greens Community Garden:

The Mixed Greens Community Garden leadership team held its 2015 organizational meeting in January. A number of ideas were expressed that would bring improvements to the gardening area. Trash cans with lids and wheels will be purchased to help with garden cleanliness. Compost areas will be built using recycled pallets as frames. Plans were made to manage weed control in the aisle areas. We are planning to hire a tree trimmer to trim and even cut down some trees that are causing a reduction of sunlight available to some of the garden beds.

We will be working with a group of high school students from Sudan. They want to give back to others. They will raise and donate a spring garden. In the summer season, they will sell their vegetables.

A **workday in the garden** is planned for **Feb. 10 at 10 am**. We will be taking an inventory of the tools, checking status of the tillers, surveying the raised beds to determine which may need repaired, etc. Our gardeners will also be able to request tilling of their garden beds.

The **Mixed Greens Community Garden Plottolders' Dinner** was held on February 12. Gardeners were encouraged to bring their favorite dish and visit with their gardening neighbors. Karen Neill presented a short program after the dinner, covering topics such as seed starting, square foot gardening, and the use of cold frames.

LeAnn Glessner, Guilford County (NC) Master Gardener Volunteer

Mixed Greens Leadership Team



EMGV Intern Experience:

After the ice storm in 2014 we lost several trees and decided to really start over fresh, removing two trees and 8 bushes from two beds that accent the front of our home. We planted hostas where the bushes used to be, and bought large pots to display colorful flower arrangements, where the trees used to be. I'm looking forward to seeing the hostas grow nice and big!

I transplanted a blueberry bush in the late summer into a new location with nutrient rich soil, as it was not producing many berries the last two years. As I have recently learned in the EMGV class, I will be adding sulfur to the soil to lower the acidity around the blueberry bush in hopes that it will be fruitful this year. Two years ago I planted roughly 25 purple canna (*Canna generalis*) in multiple locations around the house. I made the mistake of waiting until March 2014 to cut back the dead leaves. Only one of the locations grew last year, so I will be anxious to see if they make a come-back.

One of my bigger projects for February will be pruning and revitalizing an apple tree. It was already there when we bought the home 4 years ago and I'm not sure how old it is or even what type of apples it produces. The good news is that even in the abandoned state it still produces fruit, so it is not a complete lost cause. It just needs some serious TLC.

Last year I built my first raised vegetable garden bed. The bed has a plywood bottom that I drilled holes into and sat on top of 2x4s to allow for proper drainage. It is 10ft X 2ft X 1ft and sits up against the house on a very sunny side. I planted green beans, tomatoes, squash, peppers, black beans, sunflowers, and basil all in my cozy 24 square foot space. To my surprise, everything produced a *lot* of fruit. I did have blossom-end rot on my squash; I think this was partly due to my husband watering from overhead, and it seemed to have some improper drainage on that side of the bed. Since the whole bed was lined with a plastic drop, to protect the wood from rotting, the plastic must have shifted and covered up some of the drainage holes (despite my efforts to staple it into place). I also believe the plant could have suffered from a calcium deficiency as it was planted next to the nutrient sucking tomatoes. I also planted WAY too many tomato plants. They grew too dense to allow sunlight to reach the whole plant, also making it hard for me to harvest. I will be moving the bed away from the house to get that extra 10 feet of accessibility.



That is not all that I have in store for this year's growing season; however I clearly have my work cut out for me. I am very excited for this year's round of trial and errors...and success!

-Lyndsay Champion, 2015 EMGV Intern

Spring Sprouts from the Speakers Bureau

Again this spring, from now through April, the Speakers Bureau will offer programs (61 scheduled so far) at multiple locations. The “Growing the Green Way” series features 7 topics, each given 4 times; we also offer at least one gardening program per month at High Point Library. Garden clubs, neighborhood associations, colleges, and public libraries are among the hosts of one or more programs. This year two presentations at the High Point Library will be offered in Spanish - thanks to Betty Rodriguez (class of 2012) who translated the PowerPoints and will be the speaker.

These programs, beyond their interest to the wider community, also count for EMGV education hours. Come and bring your friends and fellow gardeners. Sharing the schedule is also encouraged – flyers are available on the website or in the office.

Have some ideas about new topics, other hosts or venues? We are always looking for ways to increase outreach. Please contact committee chair Jeanne Aller (EMGJeanne@aol.com) with suggestions. Also let her know if your interests include possible participation as a speaker/assistant/writer. Late bloomers welcome. Many roles available.

-Claire Morse



Share the Harvest

Share the Harvest will begin its third year with distributions beginning on May 11, 2015. **Share the Harvest** is a not-for-profit group that is creating pathways to connect gardeners with local service organizations to help families overcome food insecurity. North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Guilford County worked with several leaders from Extension’s Community Garden Network to begin this effort by collecting and distributing produce during the growing season. In the past three years the agency has distributed fresh produce donated by community gardens, commercial farmers and home gardeners to agencies in Guilford County that have either a food pantry or prepare a meal for the hungry. In 2014 over 14,000 pounds of produce was collected, sorted and distributed.

Share the Harvest has established drop off sites across the county where gardeners can drop off their fresh produce.

Information about these sites can be seen at our website: <http://sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org/>

Share the Harvest needs volunteers and you can sign up to help at <http://sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org/> .





Growing the Green Way Class Series Spring 2015

**CLASSES ARE FREE, BUT
PRE-REGISTRATION IS
REQUESTED:**

Call or email Pam Marshall
at 641-2400 or
pamela_marshall@ncsu.edu
and sign up for your choice
of workshop and location.

Class Locations:

- Cooperative Extension Office, 3309 Burlington Road, G'boro, NC 27405
- Bur-Mil Park (Wildlife Education Center), 5834 Bur-Mil Club Road, G'boro 27410
- Greensboro Arboretum (Ed Center), 401 Ashland Drive, G'boro 27403
- Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Road, G'boro, NC 27410

PLANNING THE 3-SEASON VEGETABLE GARDEN

Vegetable gardening is especially productive in the Piedmont because we can grow food at least 10 months of the year! The key is good planning and succession planting. January is the perfect time to talk about getting ready for this year's garden - come join us for a lively session on the many ways to get the most produce out of your personal planting space.

Sunday, Jan. 18 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Tuesday, Jan. 20 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Monday, Jan. 26 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, Jan. 29 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center



PROPER PRUNING PREVENTS POOR PLANT PERFORMANCE

The art of pruning is not the same thing as using electric shears to turn shrubs into green meatballs (yikes!). This class will discuss the tools, techniques and timing for pruning small ornamental trees and shrubs, and how doing it right is the easy way to have healthier, prettier, and longer-lived plants.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 rd	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Wednesday, Feb. 11 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, Feb. 12 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, Feb. 15 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum



GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN

Learn about best practices for best results in your Piedmont vegetable garden, including: how to prepare soil, the selection and timing of vegetable varieties, and using integrated pest management techniques to control insects and diseases organically. Growing your own food can be economical and enjoyable!

Tuesday, Feb. 17 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Monday, Feb. 23 rd	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, Feb. 26 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, March 1 st	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum



INCLUDE NATIVE PLANTS – BEAUTIFUL AND BENEFICIAL IN HOME GARDENS

With a little information and good selection, anyone can include native plants for a garden that is attractive in even the most urban of settings. Including natives can be done without replanting your entire yard, and even small changes can help offset habitat loss. We can all enjoy healthier and more resilient landscapes by increasing plant diversity (and beauty!) in our own backyards.

Tuesday, March 3 rd	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Monday, March 9 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, March 12 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, March 15 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum



see back page for more class listings

TOTALLY TOMATOES - ALL ABOUT OUR FAVORITE FRUIT

Nothing compares to the taste of your own home-grown tomatoes. That's all we'll be talking about in this session - proven tips and techniques for successfully growing America's most popular garden vegetable (or is it a fruit?). Get ready for tomato sandwiches all summer long!

Tuesday, March 17 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Monday, March 23 rd	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, March 26 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, March 29 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum



CONTAINERS FOR CURB APPEAL

Flowerpots make for an excellent display of pansies, petunias or other colorful annuals - and so much more! Containers are also perfect for interesting combinations and unusual plantings that provide curb appeal for your home. We'll discuss how container-hardy perennials, shrubs, and even small trees can be used to add year round visual focus and create a garden in any location.

Tuesday, March 31 st	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Wednesday, April 1 st	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, April 9 th	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center
Sunday, April 12 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum



BACKYARD HABITAT: GARDENING WITH (AND IN SPITE OF) WILDLIFE

One of the great benefits gardeners enjoy is observing and supporting nature since birds, butterflies, and other creatures find habitat in our yards - this program is about how to make them welcome. We'll also talk a little bit about ways to discourage any uninvited guests who may sometimes come to the party.

Tuesday, April 14 th	6:30 pm	Cooperative Extension
Sunday, April 19 th	4:00 pm	Greensboro Arboretum
Monday, April 20 th	6:30 pm	Kathleen Clay Edwards Library
Thursday, April 23 rd	6:30 pm	Bur-Mil Wildlife Education Center



Programs are designed to be approximately one hour long, but may run slightly over depending on questions and discussion - which are encouraged!

PRESENTED BY:

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN GUILFORD COUNTY and THE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

SPONSORED BY:

GREENSBORO PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT and GREENSBORO BEAUTIFUL, INC.



North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

2015 Spring Gardening Classes

High Point Public Library



Presented by Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

All classes are on Wednesday nights and will be held in the Morgan Room.

Class Location

High Point Public Library

901 North Main Street
High Point, NC
(336) 883-3660



Classes are free!
No pre-registration required.

QUESTIONS?

Call Pam Marshall at 641-2400
or by email at
pamela_marshall@ncsu.edu

JANUARY - PLANNING THE 3-SEASON GARDEN

Wednesday, January 28th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

Vegetable gardening is especially productive in the Piedmont because we can grow food at least 10 months of the year! The key is good planning and succession planting. January is the perfect time to talk about getting ready for this year's garden - come join us for a lively session on the many ways to get the most produce out of your personal planting space.

FEBRUARY - PROPER PRUNING PREVENTS POOR PLANT PERFORMANCE

Wednesday, February 18th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

The art of pruning is not the same thing as using electric shears to turn shrubs into green meatballs (yikes!). This class will discuss the tools, techniques and timing for pruning small ornamental trees and shrubs, and how doing it right is the easy way to have healthier, prettier, and longer-lived plants.

MARCH - GROW YOUR BEST VEGETABLE GARDEN

Wednesday, March 18th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

Learn about best practices for best results in your Piedmont vegetable garden: including how to prepare soil, the selection and timing of vegetable varieties, and using integrated pest management techniques to control insects and diseases organically. Growing your own food can be economical and enjoyable too.

APRIL - EASY TO GROW CULINARY HERBS

Wednesday, April 15th / 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Morgan Room)

You may already grow basil, oregano, and thyme - but what about stevia, sage, or lemon grass? By knowing the characteristics of the plants, you can be surrounded by beautiful fresh herbs that are also great for cooking. Come join us to talk about being successful at growing the herbs you want to use in your kitchen.



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**NORTH CAROLINA
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SERVICE
GUILFORD COUNTY CENTER
3309 BURLINGTON ROAD
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