

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

Fall Gathering for Gardeners Announced

Foodscaping With Natives

A presentation by Brie Arthur

Author of the bestseller *The Foodscape Revolution*

Saturday, October 5th, 1 pm at the Warren County Courthouse in Warrenton, NC

Thoughtful design and management of landscapes is more important than ever as concerns of climate, water quality and invasive plants increase. Brie will discuss how to create a foodscape using native plants mixed with favorite seasonal food crops. The best organic products are featured and easy, earth friendly maintenance strategies are highlighted. Learn about native edible plants and the pollinators they attract that aid in ecological restoration. Get inspired to see the potential every landscape offers by transforming them into purposeful spaces that embrace solutions to modern day landscape problems.

By Paul McKenzie, Extension Agent

Join the Master GardenerSM volunteers of Vance/Warren Counties on Saturday, October 5, 2019, for their Fall Gardening Symposium, which will be held in historic Warrenton, NC. This year the symposium will feature Brie Arthur, author of *The Foodscape Revolution*. Brie studied Landscape Design and Horticulture at Purdue University and since has worked as a grower, propagator, author, and correspondent on the *Growing A Greener World* show on PBS. She has a passion for sustainable, local food production and will share advice on how to practice this in your own backyard. The presentation by Brie Arthur will take place at 1 p.m. in the Warren County Courthouse, conveniently located in the heart of Warrenton. Registration is \$20. Read more about this exciting event and find the link to register at <http://go.ncsu.edu/foodscapewarren>

PLEASE SHARE AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

Checklist of Things To Do in the Garden in the Autumn

By Mary Jane Bosworth

September

- Most flowers have now set seeds and they may be collected and saved for the following year. Annuals and biennials are among the easiest to grow from seeds. Some you might want to consider for this project would be: marigolds, zinnias, spider flowers, strawflowers, larkspur, and sunflower. Store seeds in a cool, dry place in a paper envelope or bag.
- If you will be considering planting spring bulbs for the following year, now is the time to order them.
- Plant pansies for splashes of winter color.
- Control winter weeds with a pre-emergent herbicide applied from September 1-15 on shrub planting areas.
- Divide and replant overgrown perennials such as hostas, coneflowers and daylilies.
- Keep harvesting your figs, do not allow to get overripe on the tree.
- This is a good time to get your soil tested for next year's plantings.
- Clean debris out of your garden. Remove spent annuals and cut the tops of perennials.
- Bring houseplants indoors when temperatures dip below 50. Move plants to shade for a week to condition them to the lower light levels they will receive when they are returned to the house. Give them a good bath with soapy water or spray with insecticidal soap.

October

- Now is the time to look for bargains at nurseries.
- Keep watering as needed so that plants don't get stressed.
- Finish cleaning up garden beds by pulling out annuals and vegetables. Cut tops off of perennials.
- Just before frost, dig up sweet potatoes and pick all the green tomatoes which can be wrapped in newspaper and will continue to ripen.
- Most flowering shrubs can be propagated by hardwood cuttings. Make cuttings 6-8" long and dip in rooting hormone. Set them in potting mix, leaving 2" exposed and keep moist.
- Store the bulbs of Dahlia, Canna, Caladium, Gladiolus and Tuberous Begonia as they may not overwinter. Lift the roots, tubers or corms about the time of the first killing frost and store in a garage until the soil dries and then shake it off. Cutoff the dried stem and place in sawdust or peat moss and store in a basement or other cool, dry place. These plants cannot withstand freezing.

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

North Carolina
Extension Gardener
Plant Toolbox

Have you discovered
this resource?
Start exploring at
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

November

- Overseed lawns with annual ryegrass.
- Plan now for spring color and plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Prepare your vegetable beds by tilling or double digging the beds and adding organic matter.
- Test your soil.
- Keep up your garden care and harvest your cool season vegetables.
- Plant asparagus this month. If you already have some, now is the time to cut back the ferny tops as they turn yellow and brown.
- Mulch well around figs, pomegranates and other warmth loving fruits.
- Pick, divide and share perennials.

THE TYRO'S CORNER, By Eileen Novak

You know, there are a lot of things about a garden that can be artistic, but there has to be some practical incorporated within or it turns out to be impossible.

Allow me to illustrate.

I have a large garden, most likely too large, but it's going to have to stay big for a while. It's 40 feet by 48 feet with the southern 10 by 40 taken up by the (more or less) perennials and the water faucet at the northwest corner. I have 2 rows of asparagus that have finally started producing and a few beds of strawberries. I had an overgrown strawberry plot till a few years ago when I decided to straighten it up with long raised beds for the strawberries. My mother (and several others) told me it looked like a graveyard. And then last winter we took down the deer fence and the deer spent the winter pulling strawberry plants from the ground, one by one. I started again this year with more plants and have had a few berries, but not enough for a bowl of cereal yet. I have hope and patience, like all good gardeners.

So that leaves me with a 30 by 48 foot piece of ground, enclosed by a (somewhat sagging) deer fence that grows STUPENDOUS quantities of weeds. I had my husband get the big rear-tine

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

tiller last autumn and chew up all the residual straw and newspaper left over from my attempt at mulch. The straw must have imported a vast quantity of weed seeds, because I noted that the weeds were a different variety than the last few years. In the interim, I have learned that to prevent the incursion of foreign weeds, you buy the straw, wet down the bales so the seeds sprout then let it dry out so they die. Good to know; I'll have to try it next year.

Well, I had this excellent space and I needed to put the crops in places where they hadn't been in the past year so I got my little tiller and started marking rows and paths. And I thought "How Boring!" sure, straight rows would work for crops like tomatoes, peppers and beans because you have to harvest frequently but things like rutabagas and beets and wheat and peanuts should all be harvested at the same time so why not have squares and rectangles? Think how interesting the garden will look!

I divided the garden in half for the rows and the patchwork, and when first laid out it looked FABULOUS. I had a 4 by 4 square of red wheat, a 4 by 4 square of white wheat, a 4 by 6 rectangle for peanuts, a big 6 by 6 square for beets, and then another 3 squares where I put 4 zucchini in one square, cucumbers up trellises in the next and a late planting of pumpkin seeds in the last square. I ran soaker hoses around all of them, sometimes having to stretch the hose over to the next square, sometimes to the rows of tomatoes, beans and peppers. This made for messy paths. Really messy paths. I think I should have put something down for mulch because logging through the mud to check the bean plants for supper got yucky.

And here's where the long-time gardeners are just about bent over double laughing at me. Can you guess, dear beginners? If you have a 6 foot by 6 foot square of beets, how do you pull out the weeds? I just scattered the seeds, I didn't put them in rows or anything so boring. No mulch because no pattern, so how did I get rid of the inevitable crabgrass that came up in the middle? Once I realized how bad the weeds were getting (having taken a break for gardeners college and a grandson's birthday celebration) I had to pull weeds from the outside in, and find places to step when weeding the interior where the beet seeds either hadn't sprouted or had been pulled with the weeds.... There were a lot of such spaces.

The wheat wasn't as bad because I planted it in rows and had space between the rows to get my stirrup hoe up and down and the wheat grew straight up and didn't reach out. Sadly the monsoon in June killed the wheat and left the weeds. The cucumbers are actually doing well, since I planted the seedlings in an X formation with plenty of walking space for harvesting. The zucchini seems to appreciate the space as well and weeding is easy. The pumpkins haven't committed themselves yet. The peanuts might be my best success story. That part of the

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

garden looks the best because it's closest to the gate, and I pull weeds I can reach as I go by. And the peanut plants got really big really fast and shaded out a lot of the competition.

So if I have any advice to impart to beginning gardeners it is:

- 1) Don't make any plot wider than you can reach;
- 2) Don't just scatter beet seeds, they need order and discipline just as much as anything else, plus the seed package says they should be planted 1 inch deep and scattering doesn't work and
- 3) MULCH, MULCH, MULCH.

Learn from the mistakes of others; you don't have time to make them all yourself!

Selected articles from The Garden Path are published as blog posts at <https://gardenpathnews.blogspot.com>. Please share links to articles that you find helpful.

WHAT'S BUGGING ME?

by Juel Duke

While visiting the Master Gardeners at their table at the Warren County Farmers Market earlier this year, a question was asked that I thought would be a good subject for this edition. The topic is CILANTRO.



The visitor to the information table used lots of cilantro and wanted to grow it herself at the house where she only spent weekends. She asked if it would be a good plant for a very sunny location that could be planted in a large pot in the spring then reward her with all the cilantro she needed when she was at the house most weekends. Sadly, as she described the scenario, I knew that cilantro wouldn't be a good plant. Frankly, I haven't come up with

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

anything that might work for her besides rosemary or some other more sun, heat and drought selection. Plants do need to be tended daily when first planted. We can't depend on rain to be "on call" and sun can burn new transplants. Starting from seed is even more tenuous if you aren't present to see to their needs.

Cilantro is one herb that is particularly challenging in our region because it bolts quickly in the heat. It's recommended that it be planted by direct sowing in March for an early crop and again in August or September for a cool season crop. Even then, sowing every week or two is recommended in both seasons if you use it in abundance.



(<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-herbs-for-the-home-gardener> and <https://chatham.ces.ncsu.edu/2015/05/herbs-are-easy/>)

I have tried growing it, off and on, for a few decades and rarely get enough for more than a few tacos. There are some slow-to-bolt varieties available but they haven't proven to be more heat tolerant for me. Of course, if your cilantro does bolt and flower, all is not lost. If you allow it to set seeds you will have a supply of coriander, as the seeds are known. It's a popular flavor on it's own.

Do any of you remember when many homes had patches of dill? The soft foliage was used as dill weed to flavor fish. The unripe seed heads were put in jars of dill pickles that were also flavored with dill seed? My personal favorite use was something called Dilly bread that included the chopped foliage and seeds. Perhaps starting a patch of cilantro/coriander would be worth trying. Any seeds not harvested will likely sprout and start that next round of leaves. Or save seeds to scatter in the patch during the next favorable season. Let me know if it works, please.

For more information and photos, please see this link for growing in Florida, which is likely even more of a challenge than we experience in NC.

<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/edibles/vegetables/cilantro.html>

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

Here are a few tips on growing edibles in containers and the list includes cilantro! Maybe it can be done! Note that it shows that the herb will tolerate some shade. That may be helpful, too. I grow parsley in part shade rather than full sun and it does much better.

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-create-a-container-garden-for-edibles-in-the-north-carolina-piedmont>

What's Bugging You?

by Eileen Novak

If you are like me, your summer garden has a profusion of tomatoes: grape tomatoes for noshing, nice sized ones for slicing, big ones for stuffing and maybe even plum tomatoes for making sauces and canning.

Then one day you walk out to the garden to discover something has stripped the leaves from one or more of your tomato plants!! What on earth is going on? You look for something to blame but unless your eyes are particularly sharp, and you are looking underneath the foliage that is left, you won't see the culprit.

What did this to your tomato plants is none other than the tomato hornworm.

Dapper fellow, isn't he? I have seen them in my garden – I once came upon one which was curled around the stem of a nice large, green tomato, eating away. The only thing I could think of was the caterpillar in the Adventures of Alice in Wonderland (by Lewis Carroll), sitting on a mushroom, smoking from a hookah.



Do you ever wonder where authors get their inspiration?????

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

Now since it's a caterpillar and they metamorphose into moths or butterflies, why don't we recognize the mama?

Because it's a sphynx moth and flies at night.

And if you are wondering how come you don't find egg masses like you find for squash bugs or Colorado Potato Beetles, it's because the mother sphynx moth knows if there were two of her babies on one plant they might not each get enough to eat, so she lays one egg at a time.



Moth photo by Muséum de Toulouse [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], downloaded from

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Manduca_quinquemaculata_MHNT_CUT_2010_0_116_Schuykill_Haven%2C_Schuykill_Co._Penna_male_dorsal.jpg

And they, like the caterpillars, blend into the foliage.

So don't beat yourself up if you find one or two of your plants stripped. Just look for the offending caterpillar, pluck it off (gloves are recommended but not necessary because that horn there isn't an offensive weapon). But If it looks like this one, leave it alone.

This one has been parasitized by the Braconid wasp, each of those little white things is another baby wasp which will do its part to stop this tomato-leaf-eating factory in its tracks. And each wasp that lives will do its part to attack more of them.



Parasitized moth photo by Stsmith [CC BY-SA 3.0

(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>), downloaded

from https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/30/Tomato_Hornworm_Parasitized_by_Braconid_Wasp.jpg

Autumn 2019

The Garden Path

Published by the Vance/Warren
Extension Master Gardenersm Volunteers

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

Really, you could spray to kill them, but think of the unintended consequences if the spray lingers and kills the bees that are industriously trying to pollinate your tomato flowers!! No, no, that is just not an option. So be a kinder, gentler gardener, and pick them off by hand, drowning them in soapy water like Japanese beetles (if you are too squeamish to squish). The beneficial insects will thank you for this.

Tomato sandwich anyone?

NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Vance-Warren

**WELCOME TO
THE GARDEN PATH
MEMBERS OF THE
CLASS OF 2019**

Editor: Juel Duke,

Extension Master Gardener volunteer

Extension Agent: Paul McKenzie

paul_mckenzie@ncsu.edu

305 Young St., Henderson, NC 27536

252-438-8188 or 252-257-3640

NC Cooperative Extension prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy), disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and veteran status.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conform to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension Agent.