



FROM THE GROUND UP FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER February 2013

"Sowing The Seeds Of Love For Gardening"

<http://www.florencecountymastergardeners.org>

From Our President:

Hello Master Gardeners,

Here we are with Spring not too far off and I hope everyone has been thinking "gardening". Got your garden plans set on paper and purchased your seeds yet? Remember, there still is a lot to do before you can walk out to the garden and pick that ripe juicy tomato or cut a bouquet of flowers for your favorite vase. It's all in the planning. Let's hope the weather cooperates for us this year because it seems that it doesn't know whether it wants to be cold or warm this winter. Can you believe all the plants that are trying to grow now that aren't supposed to?

It's been a busy time for the Master Gardeners recently with repotting all our cuttings from the greenhouse at our last meeting. We also had a very good turnout for our work day at the PDREC cleaning out the raised beds. I want to "thank" everyone who has come out to help. I know it's hard sometimes with everyone's busy schedules. We also had a nominating committee meeting discussing new officers.

Well, a new class of future Master Gardeners just started class on January 28. We would like to welcome them to our group.

At our last meeting we talked about our Workshop coming up in March. If you are attending this year, remember that the fee will be only \$25.00 to those MG's who come to help out; otherwise it will be \$35.00. We need a lot of help to get it all done, so I'm hoping everyone will want to pitch in. The schedule for work days at the PDREC prior to the Workshop will be announced in emails. Right now we are mostly concentrating on getting door prizes and small items for goody bags from local businesses. If you noticed I have sent out a sign-up online for MG's to let others know where you have been, so there won't be repeat inquiries. Remember, we need you to get all the business information so we can properly thank them for the door prize.

Remember, our dues of \$10.00 are now due. Please do not hesitate; it's not much for what you get with that.

Even though it is still wintertime there are plenty of activities to do and there will be even more come closer to Spring. Keep checking our newsletters and emails for things to keep you busy.

Last Meeting:

Our usual January meeting was fun and although the evening was cool, it didn't take the Master Gardeners long to warm up the PDREC greenhouse. With over 1500 plants to re-pot there were a lot of busy hands. Upon arrival, everyone quickly divided up the tasks and got to work. One group began organizing the trays of cuttings and completing labels; others began filling gallon pots with the potting medium and another group transplanted the cuttings into the new pots. Then the filled pots were carried to the greenhouse to be put on the tables that previously held the cuttings. Since the floor in the greenhouse was wet and very slick, Tony took it upon himself to put all the pots on the tables! In less than 2 hours, the re-potting was completed. Our plant sale is always our biggest fund raiser and we are off to a great start.

Next Meeting: February 18

We only have one month left before the Spring Workshops and this meeting at John Calvin Presbyterian Church on Marsh Ave will be dedicated to tying up any loose ends. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. We request everyone who is interested in volunteering to work on preparations for the workshop attend this meeting. If you cannot attend, but are available to assist with the numerous volunteer opportunities, Please contact Janet Bugbee for assignments.

Upcoming Events

FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER OFFICERS:

President:
Janet Bugbee 346-9272
janetbugbee@gmail.com

2nd Vice President:
Dot Muldrow 393-6774
dotmuldrow@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Sally Crowley 669-6477
Watsmom@sc.rr.com

Secretary/Newsletter:
Barb Thayer 662-1427
thayer_barb@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Website:
George Radcliffe 667-0232
gmrad@aol.com

Master Gardener Coordinator
Anthony "Tony" Melton,
Florence County Extension Agent
amelton@clemson.edu

~ DUES ~

It's that time of year again when we ask everyone for their yearly dues. Dues for the year are \$10. Please take the time to send in a check or bring \$10 to the next meeting.

Dues can be mailed to:

Sally Crowley
715 Joyce Lane
Florence, SC 29501

Note: This does not apply to the current class of Master Gardeners.

We still have calendars, shirts, cobra- head tools and cookbooks available. Please contact Janet Bugbee.

February 2 The Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association cordially invites you to our annual garden symposium. This year's theme is "Hortitopia," a term coined by MG Marian St.Clair. "Hortitopia" represents the essence of gardening in this area, a utopia of opportunities for diversity in landscape and vegetable gardening.

<http://www.greatergreenvillemastergardener.org/html/Symposium.htm>

February 7 and 14 Roses are Red, Violets are Blue

Discover the sweet scent and beautiful colors of these famous February flowers. 📄 [REGISTER](#)

Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens 500 Wildlife Parkway | Columbia, SC 29210 | 803.779.8717

<http://www.riverbanks.org/education/garden.shtml>

February 12 Charlotte, NC

Gardening for Four Seasons of Interest
Winghaven (704) 331-0664

www.winghavgardens.com

February 16 Charlotte and Durham, NC

Prune Your Roses Right
Witherspoon Rose Culture (800) 643-0315

www.witherspoonroseculture.com

February 21 and 28 The Winter Garden 📄 [REGISTER](#)

What happens in the garden under a blanket of snow? Discover what plants and animals do when it is cold outside.

Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens 500 Wildlife Parkway | Columbia, SC 29210 | 803.779.8717

<http://www.riverbanks.org/education/garden.shtml>

February 23 Please join us from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm for our 8th annual Joy of Gardening Symposium! This year's symposium will be located at the Baxter M. Hood Center on the campus of York Technical College in Rock Hill. [Please click here for more information on the schedule of events, speakers, vendors, and registration.](#)

Now – March 10 Orchid Spectacular "Art and Orchids" An unending array of color, forms and shapes proffered by orchids lend themselves uniquely to the creation of art in many media. This year, during the Garden's annual Orchid Spectacular, however, we are taking full advantage of nature's ability to create art. On display this winter are, fully framed, the best from the Garden's collection of more than 5,000 orchids. It's a living art display of some of the best orchids in the Southeast.

[Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden](http://www.dsbg.org), Belmont, NC

<http://www.dsbg.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE

**14TH ANNUAL PEE DEE HOME & GARDEN
WORKSHOPS
MARCH 16, 2013**

*"Joy From The Garden"
Love Of Gardening Is A Passion For Life*

Pee Dee Research & Education Center
2200 Pocket Rd., Florence, SC 29506
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

FEATURING

ROBERT POLOMSKI

Instructor, Extension Specialist, and Researcher
With Clemson University

"Top 10 Landscape Mistakes That You Want To Avoid"

6 AFTERNOON CLASSES ON EXCITING SUBJECTS

Garden tools and merchandise

GREAT DOOR PRIZES

PLANT SALE ALL DAY

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND!

SPONSORED BY THE FLORENCE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.florencecountymastergardeners.org>

Or call

Janet Bugher (843) 346-9272 or (843) 319-1105

The Florence County Master Gardeners thank you for your generous donation for the 14th Annual Florence County Master Gardeners Home and Garden Workshops to be held March 16, 2013 at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research & Education Center – 2200 Pocket Rd., Florence, SC 29506.

Business: _____

Name: _____

Donated Item: _____

www.florencecountymastergardeners.org

Business: _____

Name: _____

Donated Item: _____

The Florence County Master Gardeners thank you for your generous donation for the 14th Annual Florence County Master Gardeners Home and Garden Workshops to be held March 16, 2013 at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research & Education Center – 2200 Pocket Rd., Florence, SC 29506.

Business: _____

Name: _____

Donated Item: _____

www.florencecountymastergardeners.org

Business: _____

Name: _____

Donated Item: _____

February In The Garden

General

Clean foliage on houseplants.
Order seeds or purchase from local farm center.
Prune rose bushes.
Prepare vegetable garden.
Take soil sample to Clemson Extension Service.
Move established plants to other locations this month.
Freshen up edging, flower bed areas and natural areas.
Remove dead branches, twigs, and leaves from areas to prevent disease.
Cut early flowering shrubs to force indoors now.
Trim mondo grass and liriope with lawn mower set on high.
Be sure to put out birdhouses and fill feeders and birdbaths. Water during dry periods.
Lime lawn and garden beds if soil test indicated and not already done

LAWNS

Fertilizing: Even though the winter may be mild it is too early to apply fertilizer.

Mowing: Using the highest setting, mow ground covers of mondo and liriope mid-month.

Special Care: Spot treat broadleaf weeds. Pre-emergent herbicide should be applied now to control crabgrass and other summer annual weeds. Repair areas in lawn with sod if necessary.

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Planting: Sow outdoors: peas, snow peas, Chinese cabbage, onions, broccoli, beets, carrots, lettuce, radishes, spinach, turnips, Irish potatoes, and transplant collards. Plant the "short day" onion varieties for bulb onions. Plant blueberries now, planting 3 different bushes, to ensure pollination and frequent pickings. Select local varieties (rabbit eye) for best results. Finish planting fruit trees. Start herb seeds indoors of basil, borage, chamomile, parsley, and summer savory. Sow chives, dill and coriander outdoors.

Fertilizing: Fertilize and lime herbs. Rosemary, sage, thyme, and marjoram, and parsley need extra lime. Fertilize fruit trees. Pecan trees will need 4-6 lbs. of 10- 10-10 plus zinc per 1 inch trunk diameter at 4 ft. height. Fertilize established strawberries with 6-8 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 feet row. This is a good time to fertilize shrubs. Apply 12-6-6 or similar analysis as directed on the label or if you have a good supply of nutrient-rich compost, spread that around your trees and shrubs.

Pruning: Prune peaches, plums, apples, and pears.

Special care: Plant bare root woody landscape plants and trees. This is also the time to prune summer-blooming evergreen shrubs

FLOWERS

Planting: Sow seeds for warm-season annuals indoors: marigolds, zinnias, coleus, salvia, etc. Plant bare root roses. Check stored bulbs, corms, tubers for signs of rot.

Fertilizing: Continue feeding pansies every two weeks with liquid fertilizer and water regularly. Feed spring bulbs with 5-10-10 or bulb food when leaves appear. Fertilize roses toward the end of the month. Fertilize established perennials with 12-6-6.

Pruning: Prune rose bushes: remove dead, diseased, and weak wood now, saving 3-5 good canes. At the end of the month, prune pampas grass to within 6 inches of the ground. This is the last month to prune hybrid tea roses.

Houseplants:

Look for spider mites, scale, and mealybugs. If found, spray with dormant oil or insecticidal soap as directed on the label. Plants on window sills need attention on cold nights. Tender foliage will be killed if they come in contact with the cold window.

"Growing Better Daylilies"

by Charles Douglas of Browns Ferry Gardens and well known hybridizer.

Check evergreen daylilies after each killing frost and remove any rotted or damaged foliage. Keep beds weeded and mulched.

Things to Know and Do

Plan your garden with Pinterest -

Pinterest is a self-described virtual bulletin board where you can "pin" ideas by category, that you want to save for a later date. It is a perfect online tool where you can gather all your ideas in one place. Great for gardeners who by nature are collectors of ideas, seeds, plants and all things gardening.

Time to:

Plant cole crop transplants (Broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, collards, and kale)

Mulch beds to smother weeds before spring planting

Plant bare root fruit and nut trees, and also container grown fruit trees, shrubs, and vines.

Plant onion transplants

Plant cool season flowers (pansies, violas, snapdragons, alyssum, stock, dianthus, hollyhocks, edging lobelia, rocket larkspurs and Canterbury bells)

Apply compost to plantings throughout landscape, and all garden beds to feed the soil

Into February (3rd week), plant potatoes - 4 inches deep in warm soil

Sow seeds of leaf lettuce, collards, and other greens outdoors (repeat every 2 wks. for continuous harvest)

Remember Valentine's Day is the time to prune your roses back, clean up debris and mulch

Prune fruit trees, then spray them at their "pink bud" stage with either

a copper or lime-sulfur solution if you've had trouble with foliar and fruit diseases

To order seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Burpee

Renee's Garden

Seed Savers Exchange

Territorial Seed Co.

Park Seed Co.

Heirloom Organics

Herbs to help you stay healthy:

Thyme - has been known as an expectorant, which makes coughs more productive (helps clear your lungs faster)

Brew a thyme herbal tea by steeping 2 tsps. fresh thyme in a cup of boiling water for 10 minutes

Licorice root - Has potent antiviral effects against serious diseases, such as HIV and SARS, and can fight *off* the flu. It is also used as an expectorant. Be sure you use actual licorice. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking prescriptions before trying licorice because it has been known to interfere with some medications

Garlic - boosts the health of your immune system. Taken regularly it can ward *off* viruses like the flu and various strains of rhinovirus, the kind responsible for the common cold. Garlic supplements are the kindest way to go but you can get the same benefits by chewing on a clove of garlic once a day for prevention of cold and flu. Mince a clove of garlic into some honey if the flavor is too overpowering.

Echinacea - there is evidence that it could prevent colds and flu if taken in conjunction with garlic supplements. It's best to take a supplement containing 1000 milligrams three times a day. If you are allergic to ragweed or pollen, you may be allergic to Echinacea, as well.

Elderberry Extract - known as black elder, has been tested and found to shorten the duration of symptoms of cold and flu by as much as 4 days. The commercial product called Sambucol, is available as a liquid supplement from a number of different companies.

Nurseries To Check-Out

Some nurseries you might like to check out online:

Plant Delights Nursery- Raleigh, NC (www.plantdelights.com)

South Pleasantburg Nursery - Greenville, SC (info@spnursery.com)

Check out some of our local nurseries for plants:

Forest Lake Greenhouses

Amerson's Nursery - Lamar, SC

Indigo Marsh Nursery

Wind In The Willows

Stan McKenzie's

New Plants for 2013

According to AAS 'The All American Selections'

Geranium - 'Pinto Premium White to Rose' (a new addition to the Pinto Premium series with 5-inch blooms whose colors range from white to rose.

Melon - 'Melemon' (described by judges as tasting like honeydew with a delicious tanginess.

Watermelon - 'Harvest Moon' (is similar to the beloved heirloom variety 'Moon and Stars' but with shorter vines that produce loads of medium-sized, seedless melons)

Tomato - Cherry 'Jasper' (is a high-yielding variety that requires little to no fertilization and has excellent disease-resistance.

Canna - 'South Pacific Scarlet' Echinacea - 'Cheyenne Spirit'

Zinnia - 'Profusion Double Deep Salmon'

Zinnia - 'Profusion Double Hot Cherry'

Clemson Cooperative Extension
Home & Garden Information Center
HGIC 1259 Starting Seeds Indoors

If a gardener has plenty of time and space available, vegetables may be started indoors from seed and then transplanted to the garden.

Growing transplants from seed gives the gardener a greater access to many cultivars and produces a large number of transplants inexpensively. To ensure the successful production of transplants, the gardener needs to meet the following requirements: insect-, weed- and disease-free growing medium; adequate heat and moisture; enough light to grow a stocky plant; and the time or materials to harden off the transplants prior to planting them outdoors. Some vegetables transplant to the field more easily than others. Refer to the table to determine which vegetables should be transplanted or directly seeded into the garden.

Buy seed only from dealers who have a reputation for handling good seed, and always look for well- adapted varieties that have insect and disease resistance.

Methods

There are two basic methods of growing transplants from seed. In the one-step method, seed directly into a container and then plant the container or transplant into the garden. The container could be a peat pot, peat pellet or a container with a hole punched in the bottom for drainage. Some common household containers include cut-off milk cartons, plastic jugs, yogurt cups or margarine tubs. Place the container in a plastic bag closed at the top with a twist-tie to keep the soil moist. (This bag should be removed when the seedlings begin to appear.) When planting peat pots directly in the garden, cut or remove one side and do not allow the edges of the pot to stick out above the soil.

In the two-step method, sow the seeds in a flat. Because seeds are extremely sensitive to drying out, cover the flats with plastic wrap to retain moisture until all the seeds have germinated. When one or two sets of true leaves appear, transplant the seedlings into larger containers. Hold each seedling by the cotyledons or "seed leaves," and not by the stem. The stem is fragile, and the slightest injury could cause permanent damage. Finish growing the plants in these containers until they are ready to plant outdoors.

With either method, it is important that the seeds are started in a sterile media. The media should be well- drained and well-aerated .A wide variety of commercially available and homemade soilless mixtures are suitable. Soilless mixtures reduce the chances of infection by soil-borne fungi such as damping-off (*Pythium* species) from infecting and killing the seedlings.

Transplants grown indoors need adequate light. Under low light conditions, vegetable seedlings become leggy and weak and tend to topple over when they are a few inches tall. A total of 16 to 18 hours of light (natural and artificial) is required to produce stocky seedlings.

Containers can be placed near a south-facing window and receive supplemental light provided by fluorescent lights. Seedlings can be grown under fluorescent lights alone. Forty watt, 48-inch long fluorescent tubes, with a timer, placed 2 to 4 inches above the seedlings is an adequate set-up. Consider attaching aluminum foil from the light fixture to reflect light onto the plants.

Seedlings growing in soilless mixes need to be fertilized when the first true leaves appear. Feed at every other watering with a water-soluble starter fertilizer to promote faster plant growth and until the plants are ready to plant outdoors. Wash the seedlings with plain water to remove any fertilizer from the leaves. Water between feedings with plain water to prevent

any salt from accumulating in the media. Seedlings growing in mixes containing compost, rotted manure or commercially prepared soil may not need to be fertilized.

Water the transplants when they are slightly wilting. Stop watering when water runs out of the bottom of the container. For soilless media, determine the need for watering by squeezing the top half-inch of media between the thumb and forefinger. If water squeezes out easily, there is adequate moisture; if the medium feels slightly moist but water is difficult to squeeze out, water should be added.

Before the transplants are moved into the garden, they need to be hardened off. To condition plants to growing outdoors, set the seedlings outdoors during the day and bring

them inside before sundown. The plants should be gradually exposed to more direct sun to avoid injuring the plants. Outside, the seedlings are exposed to varying temperatures, more direct sunlight, drying winds and greater moisture stress. The transplants will produce a cuticle on leaf and stem surfaces to reduce waterloss. Continue this routine for two to three weeks to condition the seedlings. This adjustment may result in a temporary slow-down of growth, but it helps the plant successfully adapt to outdoor conditions. The adjustment must be gradual or the plant will be damaged, resulting in delayed growth, retarded fruiting and reduced yields when the plants are set out. Before being planted in the garden, transplants can also be moved to a hotbed, coldframe or other outdoor location where there will be plenty of sunshine, adequate ventilation and suitable temperature.

Ease of Transplanting

Easily Survive Transplanting	Require Care in the Operation	Not Successfully Transplanted
Broccoli	Celery	Beans
Brussel sprouts	Chard	Beets
Cabbage	Cucumbers	Carrots
Cauliflower	Melons	Com
Eggplant	Peas	
Kale	Pumpkins	
Lettuce	Spinach	
Onion, dry	Squash	
Okra		
Pepper		
Sweet potato slips		
Tomato		
<p>†These crops are best planted in individual containers, cubes, blocks or pellets by usual methods because any root disturbance hinders growth.</p>		

