Vineyard Establishment and Pruning Demonstration

There will be a workshop for muscadine grapes on Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Garden Gate Vineyards, 261 Scenic Drive, Mocksville, NC. Connie Fisk, NCSU Extension Muscadine Specialist, will be speaking on muscadine vineyard establishment and also hold a pruning demonstration. The workshop will focus on vineyard establishment and training during the first three years, pruning basics, and pest management. For more information, contact the Extension Office in Davie County at (336)753-6100 to register by January 20.

Beekeepers School for Beginners

The Rowan County Beekeepers Association will sponsor a series of beginning and intermediate beekeeping classes on Thursdays, January 22 through March 19. There is a $20 charge for the series of classes and a field day. Classes will begin at 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Rowan County Agriculture Center, 2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury, NC.

Certified beekeepers will share the history, background, bee anatomy, equipment, and products involved with beekeeping. Participants will learn how to get started in becoming beekeepers, manage hives safely, and to actually “think like a bee.” In addition, participants will learn how to retrieve and process honey from hives.

Beekeeping is for many a hobby, art or perhaps a profession with many different facets. The goal of the school is to teach North Carolina beekeeping in general, recruit, and mentor new beekeepers. Upon completion of the series and field day, participants will have been exposed to all of the knowledge needed to receive certification upon passing the state exam, obtained, and issued by the NC Beekeepers Association. Please call the Cooperative Extension, 704-216-8970, by January 21 to register.
**Soil Sample Reports**

The turnaround time for soil samples is now 6 to 7 weeks. There are around 64,000 samples in the building in Raleigh. They are working on samples received on 12/19 and printing reports for samples that arrived around 12/15. You can keep up with sample turnaround time at: [http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/NewPALS/default.aspx](http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/NewPALS/default.aspx)

NC Department of Agriculture is also requesting that any grower that has access to the internet to please check the box on the soil sample information sheet to not receive a hard copy of their report. NC Department of Agriculture spent around $38,000 on mailing out reports. This will assist us in cutting our budget. As you know, we no longer mail reports to Extension offices.

Ben Knox
Regional Agronomist NCDA&CS
ben.knox@ncagr.gov

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**41st Annual Meeting of the N.C. Tomato Growers Association**

The 41st Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Tomato Growers Association and "Winter Vegetable Conference" will be held Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 & 19. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, North Carolina. Each year the conference program reflects growers’ diverse horticultural needs in this region, covering many aspects of production, business management, and marketing. The conference will feature educational programs and will also offer pesticide credits. Registration and the trade show will open at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 18, with the program beginning at 12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call Melinda James, President, at (828) 526-3989 or Ellen Sprague at (828) 685-3989.
Private Pesticide Applicator V-Training

Jim Cowden, County Extension Director, has scheduled the following private pesticide V-trainings:

Private Pesticide Safety V-Training, Tuesday, January 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Agriculture Center in Salisbury. Private Applicator's Test will be at 11 a.m.

Private Pesticide Safety V-Training, Tuesday, March 3, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Agriculture Center in Salisbury.

Call the Cooperative Extension office, 704-216-8970, for more information and to register.

Sincerely,

Darrell Blackwelder
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Horticulture