Private Pesticide Applicator V-Training

Jim Cowden, County Extension Director, has scheduled the following private pesticide V-training:
Tuesday, March 3, Pesticide Safety V-Training, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Agriculture Center in Salisbury. Call 704-216-8970 to register.

Beginners Vegetable Gardening Class

Cooperative Extension is sponsoring an educational class on “General Vegetable Gardening for Beginners”, Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m. at the Frank T. Tadlock South Rowan Regional Library on Kimball Road in China Grove. The class is designed for beginner gardeners and those new to our area that are interested in starting a vegetable garden or for home gardeners that just want to brush up on their gardening skills. Gardening topics for discussion will include: soils, fertility, site selection, raised beds, variety selection and other gardening topics. The class is free and open to the public but space is limited so please call 704-216-8970 by March 4 to register or contact Darrell Blackwelder via e-mail at darrell_blackwelder@ncsu.edu for more information.

Keeping Our Local Farms Viable - Farmer Meeting - March 12

Farmers are invited to a dinner meeting to hear the results of two research projects that examined the importance of farming in our community and how to keep farming viable in the future, March 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center Auditorium, Mills River, NC. The Farm Prosperity Project is led by Jeanine Davis at the NC State Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River and Farmland Values Project is led by Leah Greden Mathews at UNC Asheville. Working with six other organizations, including three land trusts, the Farm Prosperity Project sought to develop an integrated approach to help farmers identify the best combination of farmland protection techniques and new agricultural opportunities to help keep their farms viable. At this meeting, the group will report on the tools that they developed to help farmers make decisions about their farms, including how to preserve the farm for future generations and how to make choices about new agricultural enterprises. Results from the demonstration research project on organic and heirloom tomatoes will also be presented. The Farmland Values Project will share what local residents and visitors think about farming and farmland. You might be surprised! Because a dinner is being served, reservations are required. Please call Terri Schell at the Research and Extension Center at 684-3562 to make your reservation. This meeting is designed specifically for farmers. There will also be four other meetings for the general public (March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9) and one for local officials (April 15). Directions can be found at http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher. More information is available about these projects at http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/specialty_crops/farmprosperity/index.htm and http://www.unca.edu/farmlandvalues. These projects are funded by grants from the USDA-CSREES Small and Mid-Sized Farms Program. The Farm Prosperity and Farmland Values projects are supported by the National Research Initiative of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, grants #2005-35618-15647 and #2005-35618-15645.
Commercial Pesticide Workshop

Cooperative Extension, 2727 Old Concord Road, Salisbury, is hosting a commercial pesticide workshop on “Landscape Insects Including Fire Ants” and information on “Updated Pesticide Storage Requirements”, Friday, March 13. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m.. Below is the agenda for the workshop:

9 a.m.   “Insect Pests in the Landscape, including Fire Ants”
Darrell Blackwelder Cooperative Extension-Rowan County

10 a.m.   “Updated Pesticide Storage Requirements”
Eddie Nunn-NC Department of Agriculture

Two hours recertification credits have been approved for the following subclasses: (H) Right-of-Way, (O) Ag Pest-Plant, (N) Demonstration & Research, (L) Ornamental and Turf, (D) Dealer and (X) Private. This workshop is especially important to commercial pesticide applicators in lawn maintenance and dealers. **Space is limited so it is important to reserve your space.**

Please call 704-216-8981 or e-mail darrell_blackwelder@ncsu.edu by March 12 to register.

---

NC Watermelon Association

The 28th Annual Convention of the North Carolina Watermelon Association, will be held March 13-14, 2009, at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel, 4500 Marriott Drive, Raleigh, NC. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Price by phone: 919-790-7099, Fax: 919-877-0940 or Email: cathyprice@bellsouth.net

www.ncmelons.com

---

Market Your Farm on the Web

"Market Your Farm on the Web" will be presented by Rob Neely, Information Management Specialist with NC State University, and Darrell Blackwelde, Extension Agent -Agriculture-Horticulture, on Thursday, March 19, 1 p.m. at the Agriculture Center in Salisbury. This program will give you information on how to utilize the internet. The session will focus on creating a simple web site, e-mail, blog space and free web space on national websites. The class is limited to 10 persons. Please e-mail Darrell_Blackwelder@ncsu.edu or call at 704-637-6004 if you would like to attend.

---

Organic Growers School Spring Conference-March 21-22

The Organic Growers Spring Conference will kick-off the season, with over 70 classes and hands on workshops on a variety of topics, from starting your first vegetable garden, baking bread, and saving on home energy costs, to raising your own goat herd. The mission of this conference is to provide down-to-earth, practical advice on growing and sustainable living, while remaining affordable and accessible to anyone wanting to participate. Go to the web site: http://www.organicgrowersschool.org/ for more complete information and registration.
**Weeds in the Landscape**

With freezing temperatures still in the forecast it is difficult to think about summer weeds. But, now is the time to begin summer annual weed management.

First line of defense: Mulches
Before ornamental plants leaf out, and herbaceous plants emerge, this is also a good time to apply a fresh layer of mulch to landscape beds. Not only does this conserve soil moisture and improve the aesthetics of the beds, it also will cover and shade weed seeds to prevent germination and establishment.

When mulches are not enough:
Preemergence herbicides work by preventing the establishment of weeds from seed. That means the herbicides must be applied several weeks before weeds germinate. Apply preemergence herbicides now to control spring-germinating weeds such as crabgrass, spurge and oxalis.

Common herbicides used in landscape beds include Barricade, Pendulum, Surflan, and Snapshot TG. Each works on summer annual grasses (like crabgrass) but differ in how well they control broadleaf weeds. Generally, Snapshot and Surflan are better on broadleaf weeds; Barricade tends to excel on spurge, pendulum may be a little better on horseweed. These herbicides also differ in their safety to ornamental plants. Granular formulations of herbicides are safer on ornamental plants than spray applications. But, when applied before budbreak, liquid applications may be made over the top of most woody ornamentals. In herbaceous ornamentals, you must be careful in your choice of herbicides. Go to [http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/landscape-index.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/landscape-index.html) for more information on weed management in color beds.

Freehand – a new herbicide labeled for use in landscapes and nurseries:
Freehand is a granular combination of pendimethalin plus dimethenamid-p. It controls many summer annual weeds including crabgrass, oxalis, and spurge. It is one of the few herbicides that control doveweed. It is also as effective as Pennant Magnum for the suppression of yellow nutsedge.

Joseph C Neal, Ph.D.
Professor of Weed Science
Department of Horticultural Science
NC State University
Raleigh, NC 27695

---

**NCDA Soil Test Results-Login**

In an effort to save waste, NC Department of Agriculture is requesting those with access to internet retrieve their soil test results on line. Go to the link below for the results of your soil test(s) online.

[http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/NewPALS/GrowerLogin.aspx](http://agronomy.agr.state.nc.us/NewPALS/GrowerLogin.aspx)

Sincerely,

Darrell Blackwelder
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Horticulture