

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Knowledge for the Commonwealth



HOME GARDENING NEWSLETTER – June (Hampton Roads Area, VA)

This newsletter is geared to the home gardener for the care of plants that grow in the Hampton Roads Area (Eastern Virginia and NE North Carolina). However, the plant information is based upon caring for plants anywhere in the American Horticultural Society Heat Zones 6-8 and the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 6b – 8a, which includes a major portion of the Continental United States and parts of Canada. Below are links to both maps in case you are not sure in which zones you garden.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>
http://www.ahs.org/publications/heat_zone_map.htm#1

Officially, summer is when the sun is 23 ½ degrees north of the equator (Summer Solstice) and it appears to stand still before it begins its journey southward (the earth remains at a 23 1/3 degree tilt as it circles the sun in an elliptical orbit)... OK that will be at 8:26 AM EDT June 21. Norfolk, VA, being at 36.74 North Latitude, will enjoy about 14 ½ hours of daylight and each day will decrease in daylight hours till December 21st (Winter Solstice) when we will observe about 9 ½ hours of daylight. But even as the daylight hours start to decrease the average air temperature will continue to increase through August. Be careful not to over water your plants because you think it's hot. **The opposite of heat is not water.** Water established plants (perennials, trees, lawns, etc) no more than once a week and water deeply. Only potted plants and newly planted annuals need more frequent watering. Overwatering or watering late in the day can cause fungus and kill the plant (lawns, vegetables, etc). Watch for diseases and other problems as the weather gets warmer and the humidity increases. Treat problems as soon as you start seeing them. The longer you wait to correct the problem, the greater the likelihood your plant will become overly stressed and decline. Now that many of your perennials have come back, it may be a good time to mark them and get your gardener's journal started. If you are like most gardeners you probably wonder 'every spring and summer' whether that new sprout is a weed popping out or one of the 'thingamabobs' you planted and forgot what it was. Some non-bulb spring perennials may re-bloom if you deadhead them before they start to set seed. On average this month, it will be a high of 83 degrees and a low of 65 degrees and Hampton Roads will get 9 days of rain averaging 3.8 inches.

Lawn Care: Proper lawn care helps reduce watershed pollution, reduces the possibility of lawn diseases, saves you money, and saves you time. Lawns should not be the bane of your gardening desires. A properly maintained lawn should only cost you between \$10 and \$15 per 1000 square foot per season. Use fertilizers only when needed, use pesticides (which includes herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) only if you have a problem and use both of these products only at

the proper time and the correct dosage. Putting down fertilizers and pesticides at the wrong time or improperly will not only be a waste of money and not solve your problem, but can also cause more damage than you think you are preventing. It adds to the pollution of our environment. Industry and farming are no longer the biggest polluters of our waterways ... homeowners are. Do not apply a fungicide unless you have a fungus problem. The only way you know you have a fungus problem is to have the turf grass or soil analyzed by an accredited lab. Most lawns do get 'spots' now and then, but most of the time these problems are caused by improper cultural practices, the most common problem is improper watering (too much or too often). Soil compaction, improper mowing heights, improper pH, and thatch are also common problems that will lead to bigger lawn problems and fungus. Do not apply pesticides unless you have a diagnosed pest problem. Healthy lawns (and gardens) have fungus, mold and bugs all through it. Most pesticides (which include insecticides and fungicides) are indiscriminate killers and will kill good bugs and good fungus as well as the bad. Most lawn problems can be resolved with patience and proper lawn care techniques.

When was the last time you did a soil test? If it has been over 3 years now is a good time to do it. A soil test gives you the information you need to make informed decisions regarding applications of lime, fertilizer, or other soil additives.

Make sure your lawn is dry when mowing. Remember to sharpen your lawn mower blades every 8 hours of cutting. Dull blades and improper cutting heights will damage your turf grasses and cause a browning affect. Use a lower RPM when cutting grass. Greater RPMs tend to rip the grass blade rather than clean cut it. Set lawn mower cutting height according to the type of lawn (See below for cutting heights). Deep water all turf grasses with 1 inch of water every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Turf will readily let you know when it needs watering. When you walk on it and it stays down ... it needs water. Never Never Never ... water in short intervals or more than twice a week. Deep watering promotes a deep root system so in July and August when it really hot and dry your lawn will still be green with minimal watering. Alternate your mowing patterns. Following the same path all the time just creates ruts, compaction, and a place for weed seeds to congregate.

Weed Control: Now is the time to apply broad leaf weed control in warm season lawns. Use a product containing a combination of the chemicals 2,4-D, Dicamba and Mecoprop (MCP). Most broad leaf pesticides are safe for lawn grasses however; few are safe for St. Augustine or Centipede grasses. These grasses are susceptible to high doses of the pesticide 2,4-D, so read the product label before buying anything (the product will state "Safe for St Augustine (or Centipede) lawns"). In hot temperatures, and even with humid situations, some weed control pesticides can move by vapor and damage healthy plants and shrubs. In cool season lawns (fescue) you should have applied a broad-leaf weed killer to control summer annual weeds by now. Be careful if you plan to treat now. Applying a broad leaf weed killers in during hot periods can damage healthy lawns resulting in browning or burning of the leaf tissue.

Crab Grass Control: For warm season grasses it may be time to apply your second application of Crab Grass preventer depending upon when you did your first application. If you haven't already applied your first pre-emergent crab grass preventer, you are too late. Last year's seeds have germinated and seedling crabgrass is now in your yard. Applying a pre-emergent crab grass preventer will stop more seeds from germinating. Digging or pulling (wet your lawn

thoroughly before doing this to make it easier) is not as hard as it seems especially now as the root system of the new crabgrass plant is rather shallow.

Visit <http://www.turf.cses.vt.edu/> and go to the 'Publication - Extension' Section for more information on total lawn care.

Cool Season Grasses (Fescue): Do nothing now except mow your lawn every 3 to 4 days until the fescue starts to slow its growth rate down as the weather gets warmer (Average daily temp exceeds 85 degrees) ... you should have fed your lawn last fall. Feeding now will also feed unwanted weeds and other grasses making them hard to eliminate later.

Do Not Apply any crab grass preventer unless you will NOT be re seeding in September. Putting crab grass preventers now will affect new seeds in September.

Cutting height: 2 ½ inch minimum. 4 inch optimum. pH: 5.5 – 6.5

Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine):

Establishing or Overseeding: These lawns rarely need overseeding once healthy. The best time to establish and overseed these types of lawns is May through July. For establishing these types of lawns, it is best to use sod or plugs. Seed can be expensive. Use the following pounds of seeds per 1000 square feet of lawn: Zoysia 2-3 lbs, Bermuda ½ - 1 lbs, and Centipede ¼ - ½ lbs. St. Augustine seed is not available. For plugging use the following plug size and spacing: St Augustine 4'-6" plugs 12" apart, all others (Centipede, Zoysia, and Bermuda) 2" plugs 12" apart. St Augustine, Centipede and Bermuda should fully establish in 3—60 days, Zoysia requires 12-16 months. You can space Zoysia closer (6") to get a faster spread.

For turf varieties visit http://www.vtturf.com/Publications%5CExtension%5C2006-07VarietyRecommendationsJune26_2007.pdf

Fertilizing: For all warm season grasses except Centipede, you can fertilize 3 times over the course of the season with 1 lb of nitrogen per 1000 sq feet of lawn each application. For Centipede, you only need ½ lb of nitrogen per application. Your first application is two weeks after green up (normally early May). The 2nd application is June-July, and the last is August. Allow at least 30 days (45 days is better) between feedings. Do not fertilize after September 15. Well established healthy warm season lawns may only need 1 or 2 applications of fertilizer over the summer.

Thatching/Core Aerating: Warm season lawns require periodic thatching. Thatching is removing the dense undergrowth. If the thatch is greater than ½ inch ... you need to thatch. Generally, you need to thatch at least once every 3 years. It is a good idea to core aerate your lawn annually and it is best to do it just before overseeding.

Cutting Heights: Bermuda ¾" to 1 ½"; Centipede and Zoysia 1" – 2"; St. Augustine 2' – 3".

pH: Bermuda & Zoysia 6.0 to 7.0; St Augustine 6.5 to 7.5; and Centipede 4.5 to 5.5

General Gardening Tips for this month:

- Mark your perennials as they bloom so that when you later divide them in fall or next spring you will know what color, variety, and species they are. You can add this information to your garden journal.
- **Daylilies/Hostas:** Feed with a 10-10-10 and add lime to your Daylilies. You can divide Daylilies and Hostas anytime but it's best if you have divided them by now or to wait until early fall. Deadhead spent flowers throughout the blooming season.
- **Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons:** After they bloom prune to shape and feed with fertilizer for acid loving plants (be careful not to use this fertilizer on alkaline loving plants (lilacs, daylilies, etc)). REMOVE ALL SPENT FLOWERS and replace the mulch from under these plants sometime this summer. You can move the mulch to another place in your garden but not under another plant from the Rhododendron family. An annual mold spore will remain dormant for a year until just before the next blooming cycle. This mold can cause these plants' flowers to brown fast and fall off in a day.
- **Mums:** For maximum autumn bloom, pinch mums down to 4 inches in early June. Remove all buds. You will do this again on July 1st (no later than July 15th). If you want large blooms rather than many smaller blooms leave the terminal buds and remove ½ of the side buds in July.
- **Roses:** Most varieties of roses should be blooming at this time. Roses are heavy feeders so keep them fertilized every two weeks or at a minimum at least once a month with a rose fertilizer (20-20-20 or 18-24-16 type). Add 1 tablespoon of a fish emulsion (5-1-1) to each gallon of water and apply this once a month. Roses may require more than once a week watering. Do not let the ground get dry. Look for leaf spots and fungus and treat accordingly. As soon as hybrid-tea roses blooms withers, prune stem above a strong shoot or outward facing bud. You can prune back to first leaf with 5 leaflets but this may result in less flowering stems. Be sure to stay on top of withering and faded blooms. Deadhead faded blooms back to the first leaf with 5 leaflets or to the 2nd, 3rd or 4th leaf with 5 leaflets. The further down you cut the longer stemmed the new shoots will be. Once the plant sets hips (seeds) the flowering process stops.
 - A recent study showed that a well-cared-for floribunda rose bush can produce over 250 blooms in its lifetime. Prune off old blossoms from grandifloras and hybrid teas to keep them flowering all summer. On ramblers and small-flowered roses, remove canes right after blooming. Prune rambling and climbing roses immediately after blooming.
 - Climbing roses don't really climb - they have long canes that require support. You'll need to loosely tie the canes to trellises with broad strips of material. Do not use wire, it can damage the cane.
 - Watch for and control black spot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.
- Lightly side dress perennials monthly with a 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 fertilizer, being careful to avoid the center or crown of the plant.
- **Caladiums** need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to encourage continuous production of new leaves during the summer. Apply a light, side dressing of 5-10-5 fertilizer every two weeks, and water thoroughly to encourage bright-colored foliage.
- Remember that all insects in the garden are not necessarily pests. Be sure to properly identify insects and to check with your local extension agent before attempting control or treating.

- If a compost pile fails to heat, mix in green matter (lawn cuttings) and manure to aid in the decomposition process.
- Sterilize gardening tools after each pruning or use, especially if you have encountered any type of diseased or suspected diseased plants. Simply wipe your tools with a solution of 9 parts water to 1 part household bleach.
- Sharpen your garden tools at least once a season. Use a simple file and remove dings and gouges on shovel, spade and trowel edges. You do not need a sharp knife edge. You'll be surprised how much easier your tools will work for you.
- Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage bulbs. Also a good time to divide and move bulbs to new areas since you can find them easily, they are dormant and if you marked them you know what color they are.
- Divide spring and early summer flowering perennials after the blooms fade. Instead of severing the clump in half, try jiggling the roots apart with two sharp, spading forks. This takes more time, but damages fewer roots than cutting the clump apart.
- For Plants in Containers, you need to leach container soils occasionally to remove any mineral salts accumulated from fertilizer and hard water. Brown leaf edges and crusting on the sides of clay pots are two indicators of a salt problem. To leach large containers, water until the soil is soaked, then allow water to run slowly from your hose into the pot for about 20 minutes. For small pots, water each container until it drains freely from the bottom holes. Wait a few minutes, and then repeat.
- **Propagating Plants:** Take stem cuttings of woodies and perennials now (Roses, Boxwoods, Spirea, Azaleas, Camellias, Forsythias, trees, etc). You can place cutting in a moist potting soil mixture, however, not all cuttings will grow this way. For optimum chances of propagating your plants make a small wooden box, fill with sand, thoroughly water, and allow it to drain. Use coat hangers to make an arch over the box. Take your cuttings, dip them in a rooting mixture or hormone, and place them in the very moist sand. Cover the box with plastic (such as a dry cleaner clear plastic bag). Tie the ends to make a terrarium. Place box on the north side of your house and away from any direct sunlight. When you see new growth (about 6 weeks) remove plants and transplant them to individual pots with potting soil. Transplant again in fall to the location you want your new plants.
- Potted plants, when placed outdoors, may need to be watered more frequently than if they were inside. If you place plants in clay pots inside larger plastic pots or cover clay pots with aluminum foil, you will reduce the frequency at which you must water. Remember to punch a drainage hole if foil is used.
- Pinch back annuals when 4 to 6 inches high to promote bushy growth. Some that require pinching are zinnias, petunias, and salvia.
- Alkaline soil can cause leaf yellowing (chlorosis) of some shade trees. If you suspect alkaline soil to be the cause of leaf yellowing on one of your trees, have a soil test done to determine soil pH. Pin oaks are especially susceptible to this condition. High soil pH limits the availability of micronutrients.
- Do you want to rid your plants of aphids, spider mites, and other pesky bugs without applying chemicals or other sprays? Keep your bird feeders well stocked to ensure a good supply of birds visiting your yard. If you see pests, stop feeding the birds for 3 days. Many birds are creatures of habit and will continue to look for food in their feeders but when they find it empty they will look around your garden for other suitable foods ... i.e. aphids, spider mites etc.

- Regularly water newly planted trees and shrubs during the first year or two after planting to help establish a good root system. They need at least 1 inch of water each week. It is better to water deeply once a week than to water lightly every day; the former practice encourages deep, drought-resistant roots while frequent light watering encourages surface roots that may suffer during dry spells. Mulch to conserve moisture and control weeds. Remember tree roots can grow out further than the canopy. Some roots can grow four times the height of the plant.
- When dead or damaged branches are found on shade trees, prune them out immediately.
- Always remember to take proper precautions to ensure physical safety while gardening, regardless of equipment choice. Use of eye wear to protect from liquid splash and dust particles when mixing chemicals or to protect from rocks, twigs, or other loose objects or when using power equipment. Use helmets made of high-impact plastics for head protection during tree and shrub pruning and other overhead tasks. Use gloves to protect hands and wrists from abrasion, blistering, burns, and dirt; and, most importantly, if you must use power tools while gardening, wear earmuffs or earplugs to protect your hearing.
- **Ergonomic garden** tools are available. For people with arthritis, carpal tunnel, and other muscular stress problems. For more information go to:
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-062/426-062.html>
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-060/426-060.html>
- Everyone can incorporate integrated pest management (IPM) practices in their gardening. To reduce pesticide use, plant cultivars that are pest resistant. Use pesticides least toxic to fish and wildlife, and minimize drift when applying pesticides, especially around fish and wildlife habitats, by using low-pressure sprays and selecting nozzles that produce large droplets. Always follow the instructions on the pesticide label! If you must use pesticides, contact your local Extension Agent for recommendations.

Herb Gardening Tips for this month:

- Most herbs need no fertilizer and little water, so water only during prolonged dry spells. Avoid mulching herbs as mulch keeps the soil too moist. If fungus develops on your herbs during wet weather, cut them back to encourage healthy new growth.
- Comfrey improves soil as it grows! Dwarf English comfrey is especially good. The plants have thick, deep roots that are able to penetrate 6 to 10 feet down, breaking up the worst soils.
- For a very adaptable ground cover that is vigorous in spreading, try St. John's Wort or Aaron's Beard. It has striking yellow flowers, will live in dry soil, and needs little or no care.
- The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils. Cut herbs early on a sunny day.
- To protect bees that pollinate many of our crop plants, spray pesticides in the evening after bees have returned to their hives.
- Smell the Rosemary ... it's why you planted it !!! Plant Rosemary in a pot near your front door. Let your guests touch it too.

Fruits and Vegetable Gardening Tips for this month:

- Right now many vegetable growers are seeing leaf spots (many plants) and wilting (tomatoes and cucumbers). It is almost impossible to diagnose any plant problem without seeing the plant. Fungus, mold, bacteria, virus, or borers can cause spots. Many are hard to distinguish

with the naked eye. A healthy plant will fight off problems and a plant under stress will attract disease and pests. The common initial problem is improper watering and fertilization. Many vegetables require '**consistent**' not '**constant**' watering practices. Several disease and virus problems are attributable to being transmitted by thrips and aphids. Any vegetable plant that shows signs of stress (spots or wilting) will not fruit as well as it should. You need to correct the problems immediately. When buying plants, look for hybrids that are disease and pest resistant. If you start seeing leaf spots, you will need to do the following:

- Get it properly diagnosed.
- Once plants are established water once a week and deeply. Water only if soil is dry. Water the soil not the plant. Only water the plant if you are using a fertilizer that can be applied as a foliar feed.
- Check your plants regularly, at least every 3 or 4 days. Remove diseased leaves immediately. If the entire plant is affected, remove it before it infects other plants.
- For more information on several common Tomato diseases (which can affect other vegetables) go to the following web site:
 - **Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/news/periodicals/commhort/2002-06/2002-06-02.html>
 - **Blossom End Rot of Tomato:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-703/450-703.html>
 - **Buckeye Rot of Tomato:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-704/450-704.html>
 - **Early Blight of Tomatoes:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-708/450-708.html>
 - **Septoria Leaf Spot of Tomato:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-711/450-711.html>
 - **Timber Rot of Tomato:** <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseasesfs/450-712/450-712.html>
- Fertilize every two weeks with a vegetable fertilizer (such as an 18-18-30) after the plants begin to fruit. Over fertilizing will build up salts, damage, and stress out your vegetables.
- Cucumbers have a very short "vine storage time"; under warm, humid conditions, fruits on the vine may remain in prime condition for less than 12 hours. For the best tasting cucumbers, pick early and often. The fruits can be stored for up to two weeks at 45 to 50 degrees F and 95 % relative humidity. Lower temperatures cause chilling damage, and higher temperatures encourage yellowing. Yellowing is also accelerated if cucumbers are stored with tomatoes or apples.
- Kohlrabi is a swollen, edible stem with leaves around the sides. It must be harvested when only 2 or 3 inches in diameter to secure the succulent, tender quality.
- Strawberries picked early in the day keep best. Do not wash or stem the berries until ready to use. Store the berries in covered containers in the refrigerator.
- Drought or hot, dry winds can cause pepper blossoms to drop. If this is a problem you can mist plants with water twice a day to help retain blossoms and set fruit.
- After watering, the soil in the vegetable garden should be moist to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. If the moisture is not that deep, evaluate your watering technique.
- Remember the opposite of heat is not water. Because it gets very hot outside it does not mean to add water your plants. Check the soil. Make sure your mulch is 1 to 2 inches around the base of your plants (but not against the plant) and the soil is dry before adding water.

- To make a produce cleaning station, replace the bottom of a wooden box with half-inch hardware cloth or chicken wire. Place fresh-picked vegetables in the box and rinse them off in the garden so the soil remains there. Only final cleaning will be necessary indoors.

Interior Gardening tips for this month:

- To prevent slugs and similar pests from entering the drainage holes of potted plants that have been set into the ground during summer, slip the pot into the toe of an old nylon stocking. This allows water to get through, but keeps out pests.
- Hanging baskets exposed to sun should be checked daily and watered if needed. Also, outdoor hanging containers should be sheltered from high winds.
- When you go on a short vacation, one thorough deep watering just before leaving will usually be sufficient. The same is true for houseplants. Many times, a thoughtful neighbor can literally kill your plants with kindness by overwatering them.
- If you keep your houseplants indoors all summer, keep them out of the draft of the air conditioner. Plants react to an air conditioner's cool air in various ways. Some drop their leaves, others don't bloom well, and some fail to bloom all together.
- Peat pellets that swell up to form both pot and growing medium for seedlings can be used for air layering. After the pot has soaked and expanded to full size, slit it vertically on one side so it will fit over the plant's stem. Next, wound the plant stem by cutting two fine rings around the stem a half inch apart in the bark or skin with a sharp knife. Peel off the area between the cuts, and slip the pellet over the stem. Cover the wound with a plastic bag tied at both ends to conserve moisture. When roots appear in the bag, remove the plastic, sever the new plant and pot it up.
- Houseplants grown in clay pots may be sunk in a partially shaded flower bed or border for the summer. If your plants are grown in glazed or plastic containers, remove the pot before planting them in a flower bed.
- According to studies conducted by NASA, plants can function as biological, air-purification systems. Spider plants (*Chlorophytum spp.*) are highly efficient in absorbing toxic substances. In tests, these plants absorbed toxins, such as formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide, known to be present in homes and offices. To purify the air in an average-size, well-insulated home, 8 to 15 mature spider plants would be required. Other plants that also lowered pollutant levels, but to a lesser degree, were Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema spp.*), golden pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*) and peace lily (*Spathiphyllum spp.*).
- To avoid soaking the soil when washing off the leaves of potted plants, use a shield. Slit an aluminum foil pie plate from the rim to the center. Turn under the cut edges and slip it around the plant stem so it covers the soil and allows the water to run off.

Don't forget to visit

Master Gardener/Cooperative Extension Programs:

<http://cmgv.org> (Chesapeake MG Programs)

<http://www.vbmg.org> (Virginia Beach MG Programs)

<http://www.nmgv.org> (Norfolk MG Program)

<http://jccwmg.org/> (James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners)

<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce> (York County MG Programs)

www.ext.vt.edu/resources (Virginia Tech Gardening Information)

Other Horticulture sites of interest:

<http://www.virginiazoo.org/horticulture/> (Virginia Zoo Horticulture)

<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org> (Norfolk Botanical Garden)

<http://www.fredheutte.org/> (Fred Heutte Center Information)

<http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.net/> (Tidewater Beekeepers Association)

<http://www.butterflysocietyofva.org/> (Butterfly Society of Virginia)

<http://www.tcc.edu/academics/divisions/academicC/horticulture/index.htm> (Tidewater Community College School of Horticulture)

JUNE PRUNING CALENDAR: Changes from the previous month are underlined. The pruning calendar below applies to all of Virginia and was compiled by Virginia Tech. Shrubs and trees have 'Best time to Prune' months, 'Do not Prune' months, or timing is not critical months. Those plants listed below are the "best time to prune" or 'do not prune'. If a tree or shrub is not listed, then timing is not critical this month. The best time to prune is based upon optimizing flowers or fruits and reducing summer/winter stresses. Deadheading or removing spent flowers on flowering shrubs is OK all growing season, for plants such as Rose, Crapemyrtle, Butterfly bushes, etc. Pruning to remove diseased or dead branches is necessary when you see them. Contact your local extension agent if you need more detailed information about any specific plant. REMEMBER to keep your pruning equipment sharp. Make sure you clean them each time you prune with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach solution or the same ratio water to antiseptic mouthwash to prevent the spread of plant disease.

When the weather is hot and dry, try to avoid pruning your plants. If you do, the plant will require extra water. Wait for cooler days if at all possible.

If you are not sure how to prune, contact your local Extension Office. Most Master Gardener Volunteer programs offer pruning classes for the public.

(NOTE: For those of you who live in the more temperate (Hampton Roads) or coastal areas of VA or NC you may want to hold off pruning any Shrubs and Trees marked with an * until January or February as these plants produce flowers on the new season's growth. Coastal areas tend to get some sustained warm days in winter and the plants can be 'tricked' into thinking spring is here only to be hit with a frost that kills some of the new flower buds.)

Shrubs: Flowering Almond, Arborvitae, Aucuba, Azalea (after it finishes blooming), Barberry, Bayberry, Beautybush, Boxwood, Broom (Cytisus), Camellia japonica (spring bloomer (after it finishes blooming)), Cherrylaurel, Daphne, Deutzia, Eleagnus (thorny), Euonymus (evergreen), Forsythia, Fothergilla, Harry Lauder (Walking Stick), Holly (evergreen), Honeysuckle, Hydrangea (spring blooming), Indian Hawthorne, Jasmine (winter), Kerria, Leucothoe, Lilac, Mahonia (Oregon Grapeholly), Mockorange, Mountain Laurel, Osmanthus, Pearlbush, Photinia, Pieris, Mugo Pine, Privet, Pyracantha, Quince (after it finishes blooming), Rhododendron, Serviceberry, Spirea (spring blooming only), Viburnum, Weigela (after it finishes blooming), Pussy Willow, Witch hazel, and Yew.

Do Not Prune: Abelia, Beautyberry, Butterfly bush, Camellia sansanqua (fall bloomers), Chastetree, Clethra, Cotoneaster, Crape Myrtle, Redtwig Dogwood, Euonymus (deciduous), Gardenia, Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon, Althea, Holly (deciduous), Hydrangea (summer blooming),

Hypericum (St. Johnswort), Nandina, Pittosporum, Potentilla, Rose, Smoke Tree, Spirea (summer blooming), Sumac, or Sweetshrub.

Evergreen Trees: Arborvitae, Dedar Cedar, Hemlock, Pine, and Spruce. (Seldom need pruning. Most evergreen trees are pruned during the winter months.)

Do Not Prune: Holly, Southern Magnolia, or Live Oak.

Deciduous Trees: Buckeye, Flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Hawthorn, Horsechestnut, Magnolia, Maple, Flowering (Peach, Pear or Plum), Redbud, and Serviceberry.

Do Not Prune: (except to correct damage): Birch, Crepe Myrtle, Elm, Goldenrain Tree, Linden, Oak, Sophora, Sourwood, or Stewartia.

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If you have any questions, you can call or visit your Virginia Cooperative Extension listed below:

Virginia (area code 757):

Chesapeake	382-6348	Eastern Shore:	414-0731	Hampton:	727-1401
Isle of Wight:	365-6261	James City:	564-2170	Newport News:	591-4838
Norfolk:	683-2816	Portsmouth:	393-5314	Suffolk:	923-2050
Virginia Beach:	427-4769	York County:	890-4940		

North Carolina (area code 252):

Currituck:	232-2262	Dare:	473-4290	Pasquotank:	338-3954
Chowan-Gates-Perquimans:	482-6585				

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***“We hope you find this gardening newsletter helpful.”
Happy Gardening !!!***