

HORTI-FACTS

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Horti-Facts

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

Grady Sampson
County Extension Agent
E-Mail: gsampso@clemson.edu

Marlboro County Office
Ag Bldg/South Parsonage St. Ext.
Post Office Box 80
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Phone: 843-479-6851, ext. 113
Fax: 843-479-8444

Dillon County Office
Gibson Bldg, 200 S 5th Avenue
Post Office Box 631
Dillon, SC 29536
Phone: 843-774-8218, ext. 112
Fax: 843-774-7249

Late Winter/Spring Pruning Tips

MARCH :

Roses: Prune annually for showiest flower production

Nandina: Prune as needed. Always prune canes to ground level.

Abelia: Shape plants to the desired form early in the month.

Spring Flowering Shrubs: forsythia (yellow bells), spirea, flowering quince, breath-of-spring, (winter honeysuckle), weigelia, lilac, etc. Prune **IMMEDIATELY** after flowering. Do not prune after July 4. In general, prune limbs to ground level.

APRIL:

Azaleas: Prune late in month AFTER flowering. Never prune after July 4.

Winter Damaged Plants; Prune dead branches caused by cold weather, at the latter part of The month.

Berry Producing Shrubs: pyracantha, buford holly, other hollies, etc. Prune while in flower to prevent removal of all berries.

Spring Flowering Trees: Prune only as needed, immediately after blooming.

Pee Dee Home and Garden Workshop

The Florence County Master Gardeners Association will conduct its 8th Annual Spring Home and Gardening workshops on March 17, 2007 at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center located on Pocket Road, Darlington, SC

The annual program features multiple gardening professionals who provide the area's budding gardeners and horticulturists with tips and advice on all areas of gardening

and the latest and hottest gardening trends. The program also features an all day plant sale, an outdoor garden display, door prizes and giveaways. This year they will again offer a tour of the Pee Dee Research Center outdoor education trail.

Questions may be directed to the Florence County Extension office
843-661-4800.



Hints for Effective Bait Treatments for Fire Ant Control

Bait treatments for fire ants are frequently recommended and are often a great choice for controlling fire ant populations. Fire ant baits rely upon the fire ants to pick the material up and take it back to their mounds.



Once in the colony the bait is incorporated into the food system where the active ingredient is passed to all members of the colony.

The following tips should allow you to obtain the highest level of control:

- ◆ *Baits must be applied while RIFA are actively foraging.* Temperatures between 70° and 90° are ideal.
- ◆ *Use fresh bait.*
- ◆ *Baits need to be applied when it is dry.*

Perennial Fountain Grass

Perennial Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*), is an upright-open mound forming plant. This is an excellent ornamental grass. It should be used as an accent or specimen plant, in the middle of borders, and with other perennials. A mass planting produces a colorful display when in full bloom.

Fountain grass does well as a transitional grass between for-

mal and natural areas. Flowering occurs in July and goes through the fall. Flower color changes from whitish purple to coppery purple and persists well into the winter. Fall foliage is yellow-gold.



Fountain grass grows well in any fertile, moist, wet or well-drained soil. It prefers full sun to very light shade. Cultivars to look for include "Cassian," "Hamelin," "Little Bunny: dwarf form, and "Moudry" dark seed heads.

Cogongrass

Cogongrass is an invasive plant that is spreading in the Southeastern United States. It has the potential for great harm to landowners in South Carolina.

Clemson Extension is working to develop educational programs for the citizens of South Carolina. A statewide broadcast via ETV is scheduled for April 5, 1-4 p.m. This educational program will train individuals on how to spot cogongrass before it can spread.

Keep this date in mind. Viewing sites will be forthcoming.



Moving Plants Outside in Spring

Most plants, with the exception of those with fuzzy leaves (e.g., African violet), benefit from a summer outdoors. Move them outside after frost, which is about early April (take them in if you have an unexpectedly cold night). Gradually expose them to sunlight by placing them in deep shade under a tree for a few days and gradually moving them into brighter sunlight. Plants moved immediately into direct sunlight will burn and can become severely damaged.

Plants grow more rapidly outdoors than indoors; therefore, they require more frequent fertilization and watering outdoors. In the heat of summer it may be necessary to water once or twice daily, especially when rainfall is not adequate.

For more information on any of the articles found in this newsletter, please call your local Clemson Extension Office (479-6851 in Marlboro or 774-8218 in Dillon.)

Sincerely,

Grady Sampson
County Extension Agent

The Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.