

# HORTI-FACTS

CLEMSON  
UNIVERSITY

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Volume 08-11

August 2011

## Contents:

- \*Customer Appreciation Day
- \*Fall and Winter Vegetable
- \*Collard Festival
- \*Fall Gardening
- \*Farmers Market
- \*Growing Transplants
- \*Home and Garden Information Center
- \*Soil Testing
- \*Garden Cleanup
- \*Composting
- \*Fruit Tree Sale

## Horti-Facts

Clemson University Cooperative  
Extension Service

Grady Sampson  
County Extension Agent  
E-Mail: [gsampso@clemson.edu](mailto:gsampso@clemson.edu)

Marlboro County Office  
Ag Building  
709 South Parsonage St. Ext.  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
Phone: 843-479-6851, ext. 113  
Fax: 843-479-8444

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.

## MARLBORO COUNTY FARMERS MARKET CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY IS AUGUST 18, 3-4 P.M.

The Marlboro County Farmers Market will have a Customer Appreciation Day on August 18, 3-4 P.M. at the market as part of National Farmers Market Celebration. The event will begin at 3:00 PM. Free food, drinks, prizes, and gifts are given to those attending.

The Farmers Market is good for the local economy, good for customers, directly benefits our local producers and their family, and is good for Marlboro County as a whole.

This event serves as a way for Farmers Market participants and the Clemson Extension Service to show their appreciation for the public's support.



## Plant Now for Fall and Winter Vegetables

During the fall most people don't think about planting a vegetable garden. Instead, they think of harvesting vegetables. However, there are a number of vegetables that do very well during the fall and winter months. These vegetables traditionally have been cabbage, collards, mustard greens, and onions.

But you may want to try green and red leaf lettuce, Boston lettuce, romaine lettuce, radish, parsley, and cilantro.

These vegetables will handle a frost and temperatures in the low twenties with very little damage.

## Collard Festival

The Annual Collard Festival will be held at the Marlboro County Farmer's Market on Broad Street in Bennettsville on Thursday, November 19, 2011 from 11 A.M. –1:30 P.M.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar!



## Fall Is A Great Time for Gardening



The kids are going back to school, and football fever is in the air. This can only mean one thing: fall is just around the corner. This is a great time to get outdoors and get some garden chores done.

Here are a few you might tackle during the month of September:

Mark those herbaceous perennials like daylilies, ferns and hosta before they die back. Place small flags or plant markers beside them so you will know where not to step or dig in next year's early spring garden.

If you are planning to plant, move or divide some herbaceous perennials, now is a great time to get started. Planting or dividing perennials in the fall allows plants time to establish strong root systems long before the heat of summer arrives.

Before the nights get too cool, it is a good idea to bring in your house plants that have spent the summer outdoors. Now would be a good time to repot any plants that have become root-bound. Also, be sure to inspect the plants carefully for any unwanted insect pests that might enjoy overwintering in your home.

Broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, spinach, radishes, turnips, and onions can be planted now.

If you need something to brighten your fall landscape, garden mums, ornamental cabbages and kales can be planted now for seasonal color.

If you are planning to add some bulbs to the landscape, choose the larger bulbs. Remember, for fall-planted, spring-flowering bulbs the bigger the bulb is, the better blooms will be. Also, avoid soft bulbs that have started to mold.



### Marlboro County Farmer's Market

The market is currently open on Tuesday and Thursday– 1 to 6 PM, Saturday– 7 AM to 1 PM. Effective October 1, 2011, the Marlboro County Farmer's Market is open on Saturday mornings from 7:00 until 1:00 and on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 until 6:00.

Come on out and support your local growers while picking up your fresh fall vegetables.

## Growing Transplants for Fall Gardens

During the spring an adequate supply of vegetable transplants is readily available to home gardeners. However, it is often difficult to find vegetable transplants for fall gardens. Gardeners can avoid this problem by growing their own transplants for fall production.

Tomato, pepper, cauliflower, broccoli, eggplant, collard, cabbage and onions are routinely started from transplants. Except for onion, which requires about twice as long, these vegetable plants require around three to four weeks from seeding to reach transplant size.

DO NOT hold until they become too large and/or root-bound.

Give your perennials and woody ornamentals a fall check-up. Look for weak or diseased plants. Eliminate plants that might infect or take energy from neighboring plants.

### HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER

For information on Landscape, Garden & Indoor Plants; Insects, Diseases & Other Problems; and Food Safety and Preservation. Call toll free 1-888-656-9988 or use our website <http://hgic.clemson.edu>.

## SOIL TESTING

The secret to growing healthy plants lies in the soil. To maintain the soil pH and nutrient levels in the ideal range requires periodic soil testing. A soil test measures the soil pH—a reading that expresses the degree of acidity or alkalinity in terms of pH values, very much like heat and cold are expressed in degrees. A pH value of 7 is neutral. Values below 7 are acid and those above 7 are basic. The ideal range for most plants is between 6.0 and 6.5; nutrients are most available for root uptake in this range. The soil test also offers instructions on the amount of limestone or sulfur required to increase or lower the soil pH to an optimum range. Finally, the results of a soil test will include recommendations on any necessary nutrients that should be added to obtain ideal soil fertility.

Information from a soil test will help you save money and time, while reducing the threat of over-fertilization, which can pollute surface and groundwater.



To minimize the occurrence of black spot on roses, prune and remove infected areas. Be sure to destroy the clippings, as the disease will carry over from year to year.

## Garden Cleanup

Remember last year how you were going to have a better garden next year? One of the best ways to improve is to make a note of any particularly productive or unsatisfactory varieties or crops and problems encountered. Such information can be very useful during garden planning time in spring.

Clean up any plant material that is not producing. Remove any diseased or insect-infested plant material from your garden; it may harbor overwintering stages of disease and insect pests. If you leave this plant material in your garden, you are leaving diseases and insects that will begin to reproduce again next spring and add to next year's pest problem.

Such insects as cucumber beetles, squash bugs, Colorado potato beetles, and European corn borers live pass the winter in debris left in the field.

## Composting is Easy

August and September is the time to set up composting bins if you do not already have one. With garden refuse and leaves plentiful at this time, composting is a natural. All you need to start is a piece of wire 10-12 feet long, leaves, water and a little nitrogen or farm manure.



Wood ashes contain phosphorous, calcium, and potassium and can be placed in the garden, flower beds, or spread on lawn, but don't overdo it. Avoid using wood ashes on acid-loving plants, such as azaleas and blueberries, because ashes raise the soil pH.

## FRUIT & ORNAMENTAL TREE SALE



We will once again be offering fruit trees and ornamental trees for sale.

*Tree order forms will be in the next newsletter.*



For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter, please feel free to call your local Extension Office - 479-6851.

Sincerely,

*Grady Sampson*

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.