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Gardening Classes are Back

Gardening the #1 past time in America is hot. With the high price of gasoline, I just stay home and garden. However, contrary to popular belief, no one is born a gardener or with a green thumb. It takes either horticultural training or experience, which includes a lot of hard work and maybe a lot of dead plants, to become proficient in gardening. Therefore, the easiest and cheapest way to become a gardener is to have some horticultural training.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture and Clemson Extension Service are presenting gardening classes at the newly renovated Red Barn Classroom at the Pee Dee State Farmers Market. Classes are from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. and continue every second Thursday of each month except July, these classes will provide expert advice to gardeners.

Classes include:

Water Gardening by Mac Pate of Mac's Ponds on Thursday, June 10, 2004.

Grafting & Growing Citrus by Stanley McKenzie of McKenzie Farm & Nursery on Thursday, August 12, 2004.

Tree Planting & Maintenance by Ben Williamson of Oaklyn Plantation on Thursday, September 9, 2004.

The Pee Dee State Farmers Market is located at 2513 W. Lucas St. (Highway 52) between Florence and Darlington. Class space is limited to the first twenty registrants. Registration fee is \$10.00 per person per class. To register, call (843) 665-5154. Make checks payable to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and mail to 2513 W. Lucas St., Florence, SC 29501. Please indicate on your check which class(es) your payment is for.

To learn the specifics on gardening we have both free and for-sale publications at our office. You may also visit our Home & Garden Information Center through our web site at www.clemson.edu/florence I may be contacted through our web site, amelton@clemson.edu or 661- 4800.

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