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Florence County

Why a Gardening Workshop?

First of all, over 90% of the lawn and gardening problems are people problems. I get calls from and travel all over the Pee Dee to help folks with their lawn and gardening problems. Well, sometimes it is a little embarrassing for me to tell them they actually caused the problem by something they did or did not do. Many times the homeowner spent extraordinary amounts of money to kill their own plants, lawn, or garden.

Next, most neighbors are not horticulturist or lawn and garden experts. When I ask homeowners, "Why did you do a certain task in your yard," the overwhelming answer is "Because my neighbor did." My daddy used to ask me, "If someone else jumped off a cliff would you?" Even things your parents or grandparents did may not be horticulturally sound practices. Before you spend the money, time and effort on gardening tasks you need to know how, why, and when.

Finally, people do not actually know or realize the complexity of plants. Before, I was to appear on the gardening show "Making It Grow" a friend asked, "How could anyone talk thirty minutes each week about plants." Many scientists spend their whole lives studying one minute plant part. These are just a few of the reasons we are having the Annual Pee Dee Home and Garden Workshop on Saturday, March 11th at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center (PDREC). This year's theme is "Joy from the Garden" and the Florence County Master Gardeners have planned a full day of exciting gardening programs. From 10:00 a.m. until noon, Pam Baggett a nationally known horticultural guru will speak on "Hot from the Tropics: Spectacular Plants for the Southern Garden." In the afternoon, eleven different gardening programs featuring local and statewide gardening experts will whet even the experts gardening palette. First, the 12:45 until 1:30 programs include Rejuvenation of the Garden, Perennials, and New and Improved Varieties for Containers. Next, the 1:45 until 2:30 programs include Small Trees in the Home Landscape, Controlling Moles and Voles, Flower Arranging, and an Outdoor Education Trail.

Finally, the 2:45 until 3:30 programs include Growing Citrus in SC, Bees, and Bugs: Good and Bad. Admission is \$30/person pre-registered \$35 at the gate. Gates will open at 9:00 a.m. and lunch is included. For more information contact Barb Matthews at (843) 493-0788, Joy Davis at (843) 332-0750, or Linda Belcher at (843) 665-8347. The festival will be held rain or shine on March 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center (PDREC). The PDREC is located on Pocket Road near the Florence/Darlington County line. In Florence, take Exit 169 off I-95 or Irby St to TV Road. Go north on TV Road until it dead ends into Pocket Road. Turn left; the Pee Dee Research and Education Center is one mile on the right. A plant sale, of many Master Gardener favorite plants, will continue all day or until the plants are gone. Also, a display garden showcasing many different winter vegetables and flowers will amaze even the expert gardener.

Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer. "Should you require special accommodations due to a disability, please notify our office at 661-4800 in advance."