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“Whoa Mule” be Thankful

Whoa, stop, think, and be thankful. It seems like just yesterday, I remember my granddaddy telling that stubborn old mule to “whoa” and my life has not slowed down let alone stopped since. Sometimes I think the mule was smarter than we are, he did not mind stopping and when it was time to eat he would leave granddaddy standing in the field and run to the barn. Granddaddy had to work hard just to produce enough to feed the mule. Well most farmers and gardeners know a little about being thankful since they realize what it takes to make a bountiful harvest of anything from amaryllis to zucchini. “Gardener = a want a be farmer”

We have come a long way from granddaddy’s day. That mule was granddaddy’s greatest asset; however, today most gardeners have many times their power at their fingertips in what I call “gardening toys” (equipment). With the high cost of gas, it still takes a lot to feed the mule. I grew up poor, barefoot, and picking cotton and butterbeans. Even though I don’t like going barefoot today, because McBee’s hot sand burned my feet, I still love gardening. It was and still is hard work, but I understand how it is an integral part of my life then and now. Each time I swing a hoe or pick a bean, I see my granddaddy behind that mule. Even if the closest you ever got to a farm is the “Pig” (Piggly Wiggly), someone in your heritage gardened.

Therefore, Clemson University Extension Service is once again offering the Master Gardener Class. Starting on January 23rd and continuing weekly for 13 classes. Morning 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon and night programs 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. will be offered. This volunteer training program will give you many insights on how to properly garden in S.C. Simply register by sending your \$150 materials fee to the Extension Office at 2685 South Irby St., Florence, S.C. 29505. Call 661-4800 for more information.

To learn more about gardening and country living watch both of our Emmy Award winning T.V. programs, Making-It-Grow (MIG) and Down Home with Tony and Amanda. MIG can be seen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present Down Home can only be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable).

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