Hi Gardeners!

I’m pleased to let you know that we have several educational opportunities coming up in March and April. There will be **muscadine and tree fruit pruning demonstrations** on the first and second Saturdays of March, respectively, a **Successful Gardener® Lunch Series** in April, and two or three events at which volunteers with the Master Gardener program will be present to provide information from NC Cooperative Extension. See the Upcoming Events section for information.

Here are a few other items:

1) Our office is moving at the end of February to 112 W. Walker Ave. (Sandhills Mental Health Bldg., 1st floor) and will be closed from Feb. 28 - Mar. 4.

2) The Randolph Guide is now online, so you can read the horticulture articles (1st week of each month) in the “NC Extension Service” column at [www.randolphguide.com](http://www.randolphguide.com). You can also find the articles, including ones from past months, on our website—randolph.ces.ncsu.edu—under the News section.

3) Slit-seeding is suggested, if you are going to try seeding tall fescue this spring due to drought issues in the fall (spring seeding is normally not recommended). Mid-Feb. to early March is the suggested time period, if seeding is done in the spring.


5) Please help get the word out that topping is not a recommended tree pruning practice and mulch should be applied in moderation (2 – 4” deep) and kept about 2” away from tree trunks.

Regards,

Mary Helen Ferguson
Horticulture Agent

**Upcoming Events**

Muscadine Pruning Demonstration
March 1. 10 a.m. Hill’s Orchard and Vineyard, 3452 Marvin Hill Place, Trinity. Here are a couple of options for getting there:
1) Take Tabernacle Church Rd. north from US 64. Tabernacle Church Rd. runs into Finch Farm Rd., where you should take a right. The sign for the orchard will be on the right.
2) Take I-85 south from Archdale and exit on Finch Farm Rd. (Exit 106). The sign for the orchard will be on the left.

Tree Fruit Pruning Demonstration
March 8. 9 a.m. Millstone Creek Orchards, 506 Parks Crossroads Church Rd., Ramseur. As you travel from Ramseur towards Siler City, there is a sign for the orchard on the right side of US 64. Dr. Mike Parker, tree fruits Extension Specialist from NC State will be giving this demonstration.
Upcoming Events (continued)

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, with Trees Asheboro
March 20. 3 – 6 p.m. Randolph Mall, Asheboro. Tree seedlings will be given away, and information on tree planting and other topics will be provided by volunteers with the Randolph County Master Gardener program.

Tree Fruit Presentation at Toms Creek Farm and Nursery’s Farm Fest
April 19. 6454 Old NC Hwy 49, Denton. Master Gardener Interns will be presenting information on fruit trees and their care at the Farm Fest, which will start at 9 a.m. The presentations will probably be made in the morning hours. For more specific information, call Mary Helen.

Successful Gardener® Lunch Series
April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at NCCE Randolph Co. Center, 112 W. Walker Ave., Asheboro.
April 3, 10, 17, and 24; and May 1 at Archdale Public Library, 10433 S. Main St., Archdale.
April 1 and 3: Landscaping with Drought
April 8 and 10: How to Make a Rainbarrel
April 15 and 17: Lawn Care 101
April 22 and 24: Non-woody Perennials in the Landscape
April 29 and May 1: Container Gardening

Hospice of Randolph County’s Garden Gala
May 31. It is expected [but still tentative] that volunteers with the Randolph County Master Gardener program will be educating participants along the tour route. More info: Hospice of Randolph Co., 336-672-9300.