

## HOME GARDENING NEWSLETTER – July (Hampton Roads Area, VA)

It's hot out there! Not much to plant now so it is time to enjoy your garden's flowers, fruits, and vegetables. **Remember the opposite of heat is not water.** Over watering can be as harmful as under watering. Plants and lawns still only need one to two inches of water a week (not daily). Only your potted plants may need daily watering. Watch your plants and if you do see some leaf wilting and the soil is dry, then add water. Many diseases mimic that "I need water wilt". Remove weeds and make sure you have a good bed of mulch in your gardens (2-4 inches) as this will preserve water in your garden and prevent weeds. On average, it will be a high of 86 degrees (hottest month of year) and a low of 70 degrees and the Hampton Roads area will get 11 days of rain averaging 5.1 inches (wettest month of year).

**Lawn Care:** Proper lawn care helps reduce watershed pollution, reduces the possibility of lawn diseases, saves you money, and saves you time. Lawns should not be the bane of your gardening desires. A properly maintained lawn should only cost you between \$10 and \$15 per 1000 square foot per season. Use fertilizers only when needed, use pesticides (fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides) only if you have a problem and at the correct time. Putting down fertilizers and pesticides at the wrong time or improperly will not only be a waste of money and not solve your problem, but can also cause more damage than you think you are preventing and adds to the pollution of our environment. Industry and farming are no longer the biggest polluters of our waterways ... homeowners are. Do not apply a fungicide unless you have a fungus problem. The only way you know you have a fungus problem is to have your soil analyzed. Most lawns do get 'spots' now and then, but most of the time these problems are caused by overwatering especially in the warmer and humid summer months or by improper lawn care. Soil compaction, improper mowing heights, improper pH, and thatch are also common problems that will lead to bigger lawn problems and fungus. Do not apply pesticides unless you have a 'known' problem with pests. Healthy lawns have fungus, mold and bugs all through it. Most pesticides (which include insecticides and fungicides) are indiscriminate killers and will eradicate good bugs and good fungus as well as the bad. Most lawn problems can be resolved with patience and proper lawn care techniques.

When was the last time you did a soil test? If it has been over 3 years now is a good time to do it.

Make sure your lawn is dry when mowing. Remember to sharpen you lawn mower blades every 8 hours of cutting. Dull blades and improper cutting heights will damage your turf grasses and cause a browning affect. Use a lower RPM when cutting grass. Greater RPMs tend to rip the grass blade rather than clean cut it. Set lawn mower cutting height according to the type of lawn (See below for cutting heights). Deep water all turf grasses with 1 inch of water every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Turf will readily let you know when it needs watering. When you walk on it and it stays down ... it needs water. Never .... Never .... Never ... water in short intervals or more than twice a week. Deep watering promotes deep root system so in July and August when it really hot and dry your lawn will still be green with minimal water. Alternate mowing patterns. Following the same path all the time just creates ruts and a place for weed seeds to congregate.

**Weed Control:** If you were going to do it, you should have applied a broad-leaf weed killer to control summer annual weeds by now. Spot treat weeds or weedy areas rather than apply any pesticides to your entire lawn. Be careful if you plan to treat now. Applying a broad leaf weed killers in during hot periods can brown healthy lawns. Most broad leaf pesticides are safe for lawn grasses however; few are safe for St. Augustine or Centipede grasses. On hot days when the temperature is over 80°, some weed control pesticides can move by vapor and damage healthy plants and shrubs nearby.

**Crab Grass Control:** For warm season grasses it may be time to apply your second application of Crab Grass preventer depending upon when you did your first application. If you haven't already applied your first pre-emergent crab grass preventer, you are too late. Last year's seeds have germinated and now they are in your yard. Applying a pre-emergent crab grass preventer will stop more seeds from germinating. Digging or pulling (wet your lawn thoroughly before doing this to make it easier) is not as hard as it seems especially now as the root systems of the new crabgrass is rather shallow.

**Cool Season Grasses (Fescue):** Do nothing now except mow your lawn every 3 to 4 days until the fescue starts to slow its growth rate down as the weather gets warmer ... you should have fed your lawn last fall. Feeding now will also feed unwanted weeds and other grasses making them hard to eliminate later.

Do not apply any broad leaf weed herbicide controls or you may do severe damage to your fescue lawn.

You can apply any crab grass preventer now as long as you will **NOT** be reseeding in September. Putting crab grass preventers now **will prevent** any seed germination in September should you overseed.

**Cutting height:** 2 ½ inch minimum. 4 inch optimum. pH: 5.5 – 6.5

**Warm Season Grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, Zoysia, St. Augustine):**

**Establishing or Overseeding:** The best time to establish and overseed these types of lawns is May through July. For establishing these types of lawns, it is best to use sod or plugs. Seed can be expensive. St Augustine does not need to be overseeded in spring as it spreads rapidly. Overseed Bermuda with 2 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq ft of lawn, and Centipede and Zoysia with 1 lb of seed for 1,000 sq ft of lawn.

**Fertilizing:** For all warm season grasses except Centipede, you can fertilize 3 times over the course of the season with 1 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 sq feet of lawn each application. For Centipede, you only need ½ lbs of nitrogen per application. Your first application is two weeks after green up (normally early May). The 2<sup>nd</sup> application is June-July, and the last is August. Allow at last 30 days (45 days is better) between feedings. Do not fertilize after August 31. Well established St Augustine lawns only need 2 applications of fertilizer over the summer.

**Thatching/Core Aerating:** Warm season lawns require periodic thatching, that is removing that dense undergrowth. If the thatch is greater than ½ inch ... you need to thatch. Generally, you

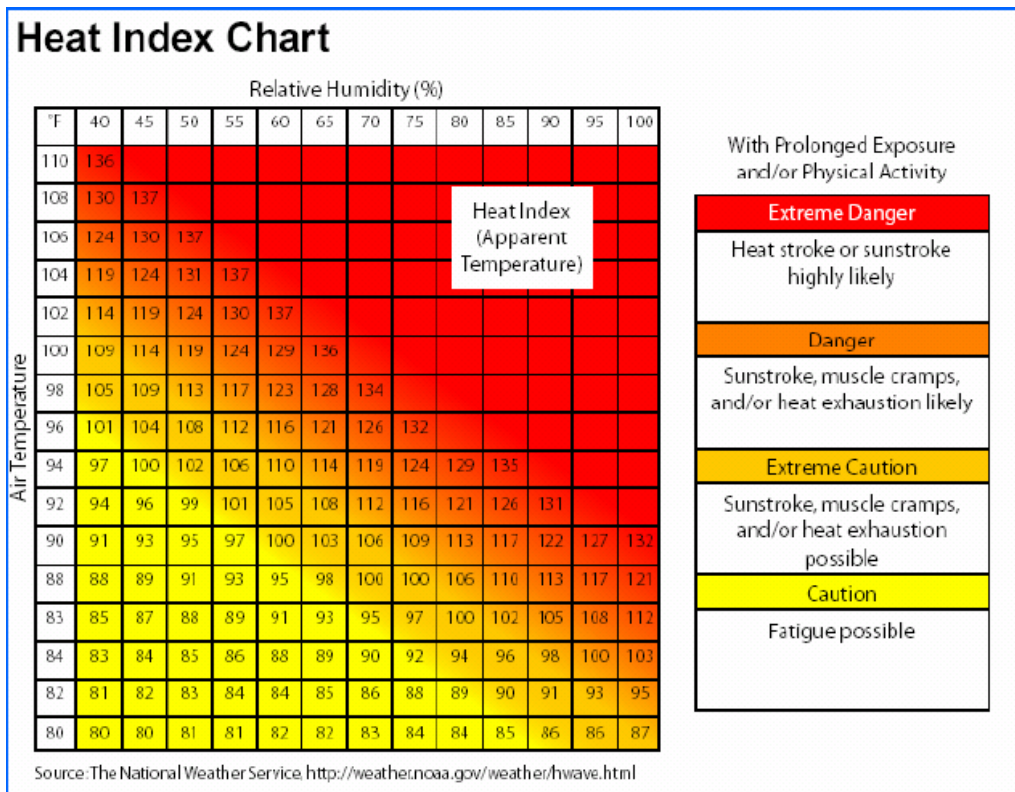
need to thatch at least once every 3 years. It is a good idea to core aerate your lawn annually and it is best to do it just before overseeding.

**Cutting Heights:** For Bermuda ½” to 1”, Centipede and Zoysia cut at 1”. For St. Augustine set the mower at 2-3 inches.

**pH:** Bermuda & Zoysia 6.0 to 7.0; St Augustine 6.5 to 7.5; and Centipede 4.5 to 5.5.

**General Gardening Tips for this month:**

- **Summer Safety Tips:** Drink plenty of water when working outside.
  - **Heat Exhaustion:** Heat exhaustion is one of the milder heat-related illnesses you may encounter during hot summer months. Others include heat stroke, heat rash, and sunburn. People most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly, those with high blood pressure, and people working or exercising in a hot environment. Some warning signs of heat exhaustion include: heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, and fainting. If the symptoms are severe or the victim has a heart problem, seek medical attention immediately, otherwise help cool the victim off. Give the victim a cool non-alcoholic beverages, rest, cool shower or sponge bath, move to an air conditioned space, and/or put on lightweight clothing.



- **Lightning Safety:** Did you know washing dishes can sometimes be dangerous? While it may sound like a 10-year-old's excuse to avoid dish duty, experts say some routine activities can be hazardous during thunderstorms. Lightning kills or injures hundreds of Americans each year. Use the following tips to stay safe in stormy weather: While most

of us have heard the warnings about swimming or boating during thunderstorms, avoiding other water contact when lightning is flashing is also good safety advice. That even means staying out of the shower or tub and yes, keeping your hands out of dishwater. Seek shelter. Stay in enclosed buildings. Inner rooms are the safest. Avoid doors, windows and anything that conducts electricity. Stay out of picnic pavilions and rain shelters. If need be, seek safety in a car and close the windows. As long as you aren't touching metal, the car's steel frame offers some protection. Don't use electrical appliances or telephones with cords. Lightning can follow electrical wires and phone lines into your home or workplace. If you're caught outdoors, use the 30 - 30 rule -- seek a safer location immediately if the thunder occurs 30 seconds or less after the lightning. Once the storm has passed, wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter. Avoid lightning targets. Stay away from trees and any tall, isolated structures. If you're caught in an open area, drop metal items such as golf clubs and tennis racquets.

- **Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons:** After they bloom prune to shape and promote next year's bloom. If your azaleas didn't bloom well this year, you probably didn't trim them and/or feed them properly last year. After trimming, feed with fertilizer for acid loving plants. These plants should have been pruned by July. Late pruning may reduce blooms next spring. REMOVE ALL SPENT FLOWERS and replace the mulch from under these plants sometime this summer. You can move the mulch to another place in your garden but not under another plant from the Rhododendron family. An annual mold spore will remain dormant for a year until just before the next blooming cycle. This mold can cause these plant flowers to brown fast and fall off in a day.
- **Mums:** For maximum autumn bloom pinch mums down to 4 inches on July 1st (no later than July 15th) and remove all buds on smaller branches. If you want large blooms rather than many smaller blooms leave the terminal buds and remove ½ of the side buds in July. Feed with a 10-10-10 fertilizer.
- **Irises:** July and August (best month) is the time to separate and transplant your irises. You need to separate irises every 3 to 5 years. If you have a large clump of irises, gently dig out the entire clump. Use a sharp and sterile knife (clean with a Clorox solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water)) and gently cut in between the rhizomes (the lobster looking thing). You can cut leaves to about 4 inches for easier handling and transplanting. Transplant rhizomes with leaves (fans) attached in groups of three with the rhizome tips pointing to each other. The rhizome should be planted on a small mound with the top of the rhizome at ground level. The fibrous roots attached to the rhizome should flow freely down the mound. Cover the fibrous roots and gently place soil around rhizome leaving the top just breaking the surface. Always water thoroughly after you transplant any plant. Don't forget to label your transplants. Keep a garden record so you know where plants are located during dormant seasons.
- **White Grubs:** For 10 months the Japanese beetle is a grub living beneath the soil. Eggs are laid in late summer and the larvae will burrow 4+ inches below the surface by winter. Once the ground temperature reaches 50 again (May) the larvae will work their way back toward the upper 2 inches of the surface and resume feeding. These grubs start emerging in mid June to mid July. Applying any insecticide before this time is just a waste of money. Timing is everything for these pests. The optimum time to treat for White Grubs is mid July to early August when the Japanese beetle, grubs and most other species of beetle grubs, begin their

feeding in the soil. Grub populations are cyclical, some years they are bad and some years they are not.

- What to use: (IN ALL CASES READ LABELS CAREFULLY FOR PROPER APPLICATION METHODS) *Bacillus popilliae* (Milky Spore) a non-chemical disease. This will take time to establish itself in your soil (a year or two) but will last for 10 and up to 20 years in your soil. Milky Spore will only kill Japanese Beetles. Milky Spore can be applied any time.
- Beetle bags do catch beetles, but they will attract beetles from 3 miles away. Before the beetles are caught in the bag, they may feast on nearby plants before going for the beetle bait. So if you do use these baited traps place them well away from the plants you want to protect. After several seasons of using beetle bags, you will see a decrease in your local beetle population. Remember the trap must be located as far away from desired plants as possible.
- Once the Japanese Beetles are flying you can do several things. For a chemical free method, there is the “pick and drown” method - pick the beetles off individually and drop them in a pail of soapy water. They will drown. One problem is the disposal of the soapy water and beetle carcasses. The pick and drown method may be time consuming, and not a very pleasant past time. For more vigorous action, you can apply a pesticide in the summer. Since the beetle adult is an active flyer, it is difficult to spray a pesticide to control them. Pesticides recommended include carbaryl (Sevin), methoxychlor, or Malathion. These products suggest you start applications late June or early July when the adults have emerged and begun to congregate on selected hosts and you may have to repeat as necessary into August. Japanese beetles seem to be a consistent problem even where treatments have been applied. You should also remember these pesticides are highly toxic to bees and should not be applied when bees are flying.
- **Poison ivy** is dangerous all year round. You can get an irritation from the leaves, roots, berries, and even smoke from burning the vines. Learn to know the leaves so you can guard against it. If you think you may have come in contact with it, wash immediately with soap and water and remove any clothes that may have the oil on them. Prevention is the best medicine for this ailment. Pets can also transfer poison ivy on their fur.
- Sow seeds of hollyhocks, English daisies, foxgloves, violas, Canterbury bells, and Sweet William now for next year's bloom.
- Geranium cuttings should be made in late July to start plants for winter and spring indoor bloom. To get flowers in the winter months, you may need to install some fluorescent tubes over the bench or shelves where you grow your plants. To make cuttings, use the tips of branches about 4 inches long. Cut off the bottom leaves and stick the cuttings about one third their length in a moist, sand-peat mixture. Roots will develop rapidly, and new plants should be ready for potting in about four weeks.
- Pinch back and fertilize many of your perennials to promote a second or third bloom this season, such as, Daylilies, phlox, delphinium, daisies, sedum, hostas, lambs ear, etc.
- Get a second bloom from faded annuals by cutting them back to approximately half their height, then fertilize them with 1/2 cup of 5-10-10 fertilizer per square yard of planted area and apply a generous layer of mulch.
- Fish add natural fertilizer to the water, so when you change the water in your aquarium, or outdoor pond, you can use it to water your plants.
- Train and trim plants on arbors. Take care to ensure ties do not girdle branches.

### **Herb Gardening Tips for this month:**

- Mulching herbs during hot weather protects the plant roots and helps keep them healthy. Perennial herbs also need mulch in the fall for protection from winter thaws and freezing.
- Cut the first flowers of **lavender** to encourage a second crop. Also, try rubbing your hands with lavender leaves to remove strong odors, such as garlic or onion.
- Begin to cut and dry herbs and flowers.
- See <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-420/426-420.html> for more information on herbs.

### **Fruits and Vegetable Gardening Tips for this month:**

- Do not use tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars when working in the garden. **Tomatoes, pepper, and eggplant** are susceptible to a mosaic virus disease common in tobacco and may be spread by your hands
- Although tomatoes are self-pollinating, they need movement to transfer pollen. If it is hot and calm for several days, gently shake plants for assured pollen transfer and fruit set. You can also remove one blossom and rub it against the other blossoms. Hot temperatures can also interfere with blossom set.
- Use a fertilizer specific for **tomatoes**. They generally have much greater phosphate content and contain many of the micro nutrients and trace elements critical to healthy tomato plants. Use a 1-3-2 vice 1-1-1 ratio type fertilize.
- Uncaged **tomatoes** can be damaged by sunscald. To prevent this, lean an old window screen over the plants to protect them from the sun.
- **For a late season tomato crop**, take the plant tips and root in the garden. The plant will give you a decent fall crop before the first frost.
- Continue to use *Bacillus thuringiensis* for caterpillar pests, such as imported cabbageworm. Follow directions for application on the label.
- Drought and hot, dry winds can cause pepper and tomato blossoms to drop off. Try misting plants twice a day to cool them and help the blossoms set fruit. **DO NOT** Mist late in the day to avoid fungus infection.
- Water in the morning so that plants have time to dry before the cool evening. Drip irrigation prevents foliage from getting wet at all when watering. For plants susceptible to fungus infections, such as late blight on tomatoes, leave extra space between them to allow good air flow; orient rows so that prevailing winds will help foliage dry quickly after a rain or watering. While this may reduce the number of plants per square foot, you may still get higher yields because of reduced disease problems.
- Rotate your garden plot, if you can. Do not grow the same kind of produce in the same place each year. Use related crops in one site only once every three or four years. Some related crops are as follows: (a) chives, garlic, leeks, onions, shallots; (b) beets, swiss chard, spinach; (c) cabbage, cauliflower, kale, collards, brussels sprouts, broccoli, kohlrabi, turnips, rutabagas, chinese cabbage, mustard; (d) peas, broad beans, snap beans, lima beans; (e) carrots, parsley, celery, celeriac, parsnips; (f) potatoes, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers; (g) pumpkins, squash, watermelons, cucumbers, muskmelons; and (h) endive, salsify, lettuce.
- To obtain maximum pleasure and value from your vegetable garden, continue planting during the growing season. This provides a harvest until cold weather kills the plants.

- Before you spray an insecticide on your vegetables, check the label. Each insecticide has a time you must wait before you can harvest.
- **Cucumbers** develop a bitter taste if the soil is not kept consistently moist. Harvest for pickling whole when 2 to 4 inches; for table use, when longer than 5 inches. Remove any overripe cucumbers to encourage continuous production.
- **Cucumbers** have a very short "vine-storage time." Under warm, humid conditions, the fruits on the vine may remain in prime condition less than one day. So, pick early and often.
- Make successive plantings of **beets**, **beans**, and **carrots** to be able to harvest into fall. Direct seed cool-season crops, such as **broccoli**, **cabbage**, and **brussels sprouts**, into the garden.
- Dry weather causes swiss chard to bolt or go to seed. Water your plants to extend the season.
- Shredded **Chinese cabbage** is a good, hot-weather substitute for lettuce in salads and sandwiches. A second crop may be started now for fall harvesting.
- Most of your spring crops are out of the garden, and weeds are beginning to encroach on what once was a productive space. Plant another crop in those empty spaces to be harvested at the end of the growing season. Try beans, kale, turnips, mustard, broccoli, cabbage, spinach, or even corn varieties that mature in a short season. Remember to restore fertility to the soil before planting your fall crops by working in a light layer of compost or aged manure or a small application of a complete chemical fertilizer.
- **Strawberries** need summer care. If you have your plants in hills, pick off all runners. If you planted a matted row, encourage the runners to root and grow until the row is 2 feet wide. Strawberry plants 2 years and older are more susceptible to diseases like anthracnose.
- Cover **blueberry** bushes with plastic netting or fine cloth (tobacco cloth) to control birds. When harvesting blueberries, allow berries to remain on the plants for three to five days after they turn blue. Waiting several days allows berries to reach their maximum sugar content. To see if blueberries are ripe enough to pick, pull some berries off the stems. If they come off easily, they are ready to harvest. If not, they need to ripen more. Cover with netting, or the birds will beat you to the fruit.
- Harvest **raspberries** frequently to discourage Japanese beetles or sap beetles from becoming troublesome. Both insects are especially attracted to ripe and overripe fruit.

### **Interior Gardening tips for this month:**

- In summer, indoor plants should be protected from strong sunlight that can cause foliage burn. Closing sheer curtains or partially shutting blinds will shield tender leaves.
- Monitor house plants spending the warm months outside. Make sure pest problems don't get out of hand. Move to calmer spots if leaves are being wind damaged. If pots dry out rapidly, move plants into some protection from wind or shade, or repot if needed.
- Don't chill tropical house plants by watering them with cold tap water. Let the water stand until it reaches room temperature so delicate root hairs aren't harmed, or even killed, by low temperatures.
- **Bromeliads** are being promoted as excellent indoor plants. They are ideal in the home because they tolerate low light conditions. For more detailed information visit: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/factsheets2/indoor/nov90pr4.html>
- Be sure house plants are kept away from cold drafts caused by air conditioning vents.
- July is an excellent month to root cuttings of house plants such as coleus, fuchsia, geranium, poinsettia, shrimp plant, Swedish ivy, wandering jew, wax plant, and others with succulent (non-woody) stems.

Don't forget to visit ....

<http://www.chesapeake.va.us/services/depart/agricul/master-gard.html> (Chesapeake MG Programs)

<http://www.vbmg.org> (Virginia Beach MG Programs)

[www.ext.vt.edu/resources](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources) (Virginia Tech Gardening Information)

<http://www.virginiazoo.org/horticulture/> (Virginia Zoo Horticulture)

<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org> (Norfolk Botanical Garden)

<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce> (York County MG Programs)

<http://jccwmg.org/> (James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners)

<http://www.fredheutte.org/> (Fred Heutte Center Information)

<http://www.tidewaterbeekeepers.org/> (Tidewater Beekeepers Association)

**JULY PRUNING CALENDAR:** Changes from previous month underlined. The below pruning calendar applies to all of Virginia and was compiled by Virginia Tech. Shrubs and trees have 'Best time to Prune' months, 'Do not Prune' months, or timing is not critical months. Those plants listed below are the "best time to prune" or 'do not prune'. If a tree or shrub is not listed, then timing is not critical this month. The best time to prune is based upon optimizing flowers or fruits and reducing summer/winter stresses. Deadheading or removing spent flowers on flowering shrubs is OK all growing season, for plants such as Rose, Crepe Myrtle, Butterfly bushes, etc. Pruning to remove diseased or dead branches is necessary when you see them. Contact your local extension agent if you need more detailed information about any specific plant. REMEMBER to keep your pruning equipment sharp. Make sure you clean them each time you prune with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach solution or the same ratio water to antiseptic mouthwash to prevent the spread of plant disease.

When the weather is hot and dry, try to avoid pruning your plants. If you do, the plant will require extra water. Wait for cooler days if at all possible.

If you are not sure how to prune, contact your local Extension Office. Most Master Gardener Volunteer programs offer pruning classes for the public. For example, June 7, 2005 at the Green Thumb Gardening Series (see [Mark Your Calendar](#)).

(NOTE: For those of you who live in the more temperate (Hampton Roads) or coastal areas of VA or NC you may want to hold off pruning any Shrubs and Trees marked with an \* until January or February as these plants produce flowers on the new season's growth. Coastal areas tend to get some sustained warm days in winter and the plants can be 'tricked' into thinking spring is here only to be hit with a frost that kills some of the new flower buds.)

**Shrubs:** Flowering Almond, Arborvitae, Aucuba, Azalea (after it finishes blooming), Barberry, Beautybush, Boxwood, Broom (Cytisus), Cherrylaurel, Daphne, Deutzia, Eleagnus (thorny), Euonymus (evergreen/deciduous), Forsythia, Fothergilla, Harry Lauder (Walking Stick), Holly (evergreen), Honeysuckle, Hydrangea (spring blooming), Indian Hawthorne, Jasmine (winter), Kerria, Leucothoe, Lilac, Mahonia, Mockorange, Mountain Laurel, Pearlbush, Photinia, Pieris, Privet, Pyracantha, Quince (after it finishes blooming), Rhododendron, Rose, Sweetshrub, Viburnum (deciduous), Weigela (after it finishes blooming), Pussy Willow, Witch hazel, and Yew.

**Do Not Prune:** Abelia, Bayberry, Beautyberry, Butterfly bush, Camellia japonica (spring bloomer), Camellia sansanqua (fall bloomers), Chastetree, Clethra, Cotoneaster, Redtwig Dogwood, Euonymus (deciduous), Gardenia, Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon, Althera, Holly (deciduous), Hydrangea (summer blooming), Hypericum (St. Johnswort), Nandina, Osmanthus Holly, Mugo Pine, Pittosporum, Potentilla, Serviceberry, Smoke Tree, Spirea (all), Sumac, or Viburnum (evergreen).

**Evergreen Trees:** (Seldom need pruning. Most evergreen trees are pruned during the winter months.) Arborvitae, Hemlock, Leyland Cypress.

**Do Not Prune:** Atlas Cedar, Deodar Cedar, Chamaecyparis, Fir, Magnolias, live Oaks, Pine, or Spruce.

**Deciduous Trees:** Beech, Buckeye, Flowering Cherry, Crabapple, Dogwood, Fringe Tree, Hawthorn, Horsechestnut, Magnolia, Maple, Flowering (Peach, Pear or Plum), Redbud, and Serviceberry.

**Do Not Prune:** (except to correct damage): Birch, Goldenraintree, Linden, Oak, Sophora, Sourwood or Stewartia.

**Mark your calendar:** (open to everyone and free unless indicated)

**June – Sept (Tuesdays) 9:30AM - Noon:** **Plant A Row The Hungry** is a program sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Chesapeake Master Gardener volunteers and the Garden Writers of America. It is a nationwide project to help raise all gardeners' awareness of hunger and facilitate getting produce to those who need it. Produce donated is distributed locally to the city's hungry. Collections will be accepted every Tuesday starting June 21 – September 20 at the Chesapeake Extension Trailer, 310 Shea Drive in the Chesapeake Municipal Center. Tax deduction receipts are available. The trailer is located at the corner of Holt and Shea drives within the Chesapeake City Hall complex. For additional information call Sheela Macumber (757) 482-5569 or the Extension Office (757) 382-6348.

**June – October:** The **Chesapeake Farmer's Market** - Wednesday and Saturday beginning June 18th at City Park (off Greenbrier Pkwy) and at the Western Branch Community Center (on Portsmouth Blvd.) from 8am to 1pm. They run until Saturday, October 22nd. For more information contact the Chesapeake extension office at 382-6348.

**July 8/9 (Friday/Saturday):** The next VIRGINIA STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION meeting will be held July 8-9, 2005 in **Norfolk**, VA on the Old Dominion University Campus. The theme of the meeting is "**Long Live the Queen**". Pre-registration is \$20/\$25 at the door, Saturday lunch \$7. For more information visit: [www.virginiabeekeepers.org](http://www.virginiabeekeepers.org).

**July 23 (Saturday) 10 AM to 4 PM:** The Butterfly Society of Virginia will host **Butterfly Fest** 2005 at the Hampton Roads Agriculture Research and Education Center on Diamond Springs Road, **Virginia Beach**. Twelve speakers, activities for the whole family. FREE! Rain or shine! For more information contact the Chesapeake extension office at 382-6348.

**July/August: TCC Fall 2005 Semester Horticulture Classes.** Registration for fall 2005 semester horticulture classes at the Chesapeake Campus begins July 14. A wide variety 8-week, 16-week, and special session classes begin on August 18th and throughout the semester. Afternoon, late-afternoon, and evening courses include, to name a few: Introduction to Horticulture, Chemistry for Horticulture Students, Pesticides In Horticulture, Landscape Plant Materials I, Landscape Construction & Maintenance, Theory of Landscape Design, Greenhouse Management, Greenhouse Crop Production I, Plant Propagation, Turf Management I, Plant Pest Management. For further information, contact Ken Spencer, Professor at 757.822.5149 or by e-mail at [wkspen@mac.com](mailto:wkspen@mac.com) .

**August 1-5 (Mon-Fri) 8AM – 1PM:** Tidewater Community College **BIRD CAMP** for ages 8-11. Come and join the **Chesapeake TCC** for a week of exciting outdoor and laboratory adventures! Each day your child will explore different aspects of the environment through fun activities, games, and crafts. TCC partners include: The Virginia Zoo, Audubon Society – Virginia Beach Chapter, Elizabeth River Project, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Tidewater Butterfly Society. \$50.00 per camper. Tidewater Community College - Chesapeake Campus 1428 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23320. For more information, please contact Lisa Behm at (757) 822-5210 or [lbehm@tcc.edu](mailto:lbehm@tcc.edu) .

**September 13 (Tuesday) 6:45 PM: Turf Grasses of Hampton Roads.** Part of the 2005 Green Thumb Gardening Lecture Series. 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM at the in Boyd Center, Virginia Wesleyan College. Program offered by Hampton Roads Master Gardener Volunteers. For more information call (757) 393-5197 or visit [www.VBMG.org](http://www.VBMG.org).

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If you have any questions, you can call or visit the Virginia Cooperative Extension Chesapeake Master Gardener Answer line. They are located in the Agriculture Building at City Hall (same building as planetarium) or call them at [382-6348](tel:382-6348) between 9 – 1 (M-F) or send e-mail to [gardener@agri.city.chesapeake.va.us](mailto:gardener@agri.city.chesapeake.va.us) any time or day. If you do not live in Chesapeake, you can contact your local Extension Office.

Virginia (area code 757):

Eastern Shore: 414-0731	Hampton: 727-1401	James City: 564-2170
Newport News: 591-4838	Norfolk: 683-2816	Portsmouth: 393-5314
Suffolk: 923-2050	Virginia Beach: 427-4769	York County: 890-4940

North Carolina (area code 252):

Currituck: 232-2262	Dare: 473-4290	Pasquotank: 338-3954
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Extension Agent - Environmental Horticulture, Virginia Cooperative Extension. If you wish to be added to this free monthly gardening newsletter, send your e-mail address to [jlachowicz@cox.net](mailto:jlachowicz@cox.net) or [gardener@agri.city.chesapeake.va.us](mailto:gardener@agri.city.chesapeake.va.us).

***“We hope you find this gardening newsletter helpful.”  
Happy Gardening !!!***