

County Cultivator

Growing new ideas for the commercial horticultural industry.

Amie Newsome
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Commercial Horticulture

Volume 1, Issue 7
October 2006

Important Dates:

- **October 3rd** ~
Mountain
Medicinal Herb
Workshop
(Lansing, NC)
Libby Hinsley
828-684-3562 ext.
157
- **October 4th** ~
Sweet Potato Field
Day (Kinston, NC)
Registration starts
at 3:30 pm, and
programs end at
7:30 pm. Contact
Phillip D. Winslow
at 252-527-3579

For comments on this
newsletter please
contact Amie
Newsome at
919-989-5380

Prolific Production of Produce

A farmer's typical workday is long and tiresome. Between defending their crops from insects and diseases, too harvesting the old crops and planting new ones, a farmer's day is rarely anything other than exhausting.

Most farmers work about 9 months of the year, spring to fall, tending to their crops. In the spring all the farmers will make it to the market to sell the same crops at the same time. This over-abundance of food can lead to a drop in the market price.

One way that farmers are getting around this mad rush to the market is with season extension techniques. Season extension is when crops are cultivated in a way to make them available longer than a normal growing season. Like all things in life, there are advantages and disadvantages to this method of cultivation.

One advantage is that there is a possibility for year-round profit/income. Having produce available up to 3 weeks ahead of time will put a grower in the market faster with less competition. The grower will then be able to create their own market price to some extent.

Another advantage is the customer basis will grow. There will be a gain in new

customers with the ability to produce the food faster than other farmers. At the same time, their regular customer basis will continue to stay based on the reliability of the fresh produce grown.

One of the disadvantages is the expansion of the work schedule. Most farmers take some time off in the winter to catch up on some other priorities in their lives. With the season extension crops that is not all ways possible. Depending on the weather, they can go all year long in our area.

Another problem is the increased demands on management. Workers will be needed into the winter, and that is a time when most will want to spend time at home. There will be some sleepless nights watching the weather stations for frost alerts, and wondering if the crop will be alright.

Season extension of crops is a good way to set yourself apart from other growers. It is a niche market that has been around for 100's of years. Farmers and researchers have been concentrating on extending the crop yields to increase profit. Now they are carrying on the legacy of season extension.

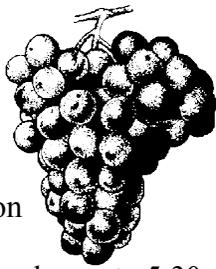
Fine Wines

On Sunday, October 8th, at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum there will be an event to "Celebrate N.C. Wines". This event will benefit viticulture and enology research in the N.C. State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the J.C. Raulston Arboretum.

The wine tasting starts at 3:00 pm and goes to 5:30 pm. The 15 participating wineries includes, Johnston County's very own, Hinnant Family Vineyards and Winery. There will also be auctions (both silent and live), demonstrations, live music, and hors-d'oeuvres served at this time.

From 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, the N.C. Wine and Grape Council will have their 2006 Awards Presentation while serving coffee and dessert.

If interested in attending please contact Autumn Keck at 919-513-3826 or by e-mailing her at autumn_keck@ncsu.edu.



Free Seminars Offered By NCSU

Every Monday NCSU's Entomology department will sponsor a seminar on a variety of pest topics. Covering problematic pests from ponds, crops, honeybee basics, and pests that can cause humans problems.

All the seminars will start at 11:15 am in room 2405 in the Williams Hall Building on NCSU's campus. There are only a handful of classes which will take place at a different location and they are all listed on the department's website.

For more information go to: www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/index.html and click on upcoming seminars on the lower left of the screen. Dr. Wes Watson is the Seminar Coordinator and can be reached at 919-513-2028 or by e-mail at wes_watson@ncsu.edu.

Most of the classes will be scientifically based, but the information is still priceless.

21st Annual Tomato Disease Workshop

On November 9 and 10th at the Mountain Horticultural Corps Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, North Carolina, tomato growers from all across the nation will gather to talk about this wonderful fruit.

This is a great opportunity for NC farmers to attend this meeting. Because it is a national workshop, it will be hard to say when NC may host this event next.

Experts from across the U.S. will be gathered to host informational programs to the growers who participate. The topics include new and old diseases and how to

appropriately control them. There will be some optional tours that participants can join.

For more information along with registration forms go to: www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/events/2006-11-tomato-disease/index.html.

Registration payments need to be received by October 23rd, 2006.

Kelly Ivors is the Assistant Professor and Wxtension Specialist in charge of the event. She can be contacted by calling 828-674-3562 ext. 143 or check out her website at: www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/people/faculty/ivors.

Uniting N.C. Produce Growers

The North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' Association is having its 34th Annual Conference Oct. 24-25, 2006, at the Wake County Center in Raleigh. There will be formal programs as well as very valuable experience from the grower-to-grower networking contacts which can be made at this Conference.

Registration and exhibits will open on Tuesday morning at 7:30 am. At 8:30 am an introductions will begin with presentations following at 9:00 am. Topics to be covered by presenters are the advantages of grafting produce seedlings, marketing strategies, estate planning for farmers, along with information on contract and liability issues. A steak dinner and a bluegrass concert by the popular group "Al Batten and the Bluegrass Reunion"

will conclude Tuesday's formal programs.

Wednesday's programs, starting at 8:45 am until 2:45 pm, will be geared more to the newer growers. Program topics for Wednesday are what a beginning grower needs to know, providing tips on how to enhance the survival of beneficial insects and biological control agents, and a discussion on new diseases and new control materials available.

The program and registration forms for individuals and exhibitors are posted on the NC Greenhouse Food Production Website:

www.ces.ncsu.edu/greenhouse_veg
For more Conference information, call Cathy Price at 919-334-0099.

Special Points of Interest:

- **October 8th** ~ Celebrate N.C. Wines (Raleigh, NC) J.C. Raulston Arboretum. Contact Autumn Keck at 919-513-3826 or by e-mailing her at autumn_keck@ncsu.edu

- **October 16th** ~ High Tunnel Greenhouse Production Workshop (Goldsboro) Center for Environmental Farming Systems 919-513-0954

- **October 24-25th** ~ NC Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association Conference (Raleigh, NC) Contact Cathy Price 919-334-0099

- **October 27-29th** ~ Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference (Spartanburg, S.C.) Carolina Farm Stewardship Association 919-542-2402

- **November 8th** ~ Virginia Tech Open House (Blackstone, VA) strawberry research plots, Haygrove high tunnel benefits and uses. Contact Jeremy Pattison 434-292-5331

- **November 9-11th** ~ Southeast Strawberry Expo "The region's leading strawberry conference." (Sunset Beach, NC) www.ncstrawberry.com

- **November 15-16th** ~ NCSU hosting Grape Variety and Clone Evaluation Group (Raleigh, NC) Contact Sara at sara_spayd@ncsu.edu

- **November 17th** ~ NCSU Viticulture Workshop (Raleigh, NC) JC Raulston Arboretum Contact Sara at sara_spayd@ncsu.edu

- **November 17-18th** ~ 2006 Natural Products Conference "Cultivating the New Wellness Driven Economy in NC" (Boone, NC) Medicinal herbs and mushrooms will be the focus NC Natural Products Association Contact Lindsay Benedict at 828-665-2492

- If you would like to share some news with the horticultural industry in Johnston County, contact Amie at 919-989-5380.