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Feature Articles, A Veggie Tale, Quick Tip:, Ask an Expert,
Monthly Garden Tasks, Cool Connections, Upcoming Events



The Gardener's Dirt

Johnston County Center

November 2016

Special Feature Article

Dealing with Matthew ---- After the Fact

Brooke Taylor, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

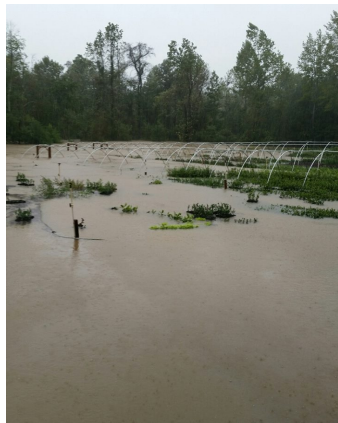


Photo Courtesy of
Jason Stevens-Superior
Plants Nursery

As you are only too aware, our county was hard hit by Hurricane Matthew. Many experienced more damage than others; and I, as a new North Carolinian, was surprised at the magnitude of the storm and its effect on our community. Having spent the last 4 years residing on the Gulf Coast of Florida and missing many hurricanes as they skipped through that state, I was saddened and amazed to experience more adverse effects here - away from the coast in Johnston County - than I ever did while living in Florida. Reading an article in the News and Observer, and seeing we had experienced losses likely to top \$19 million, I felt we, as Extension Master Gardeners, needed to reach out to our newsletter subscribers with information that might help those needing assistance and not knowing where to go or whom to contact.

In speaking with Bryant Spivey, director of JOCO Cooperative Extension Services, he cautioned me to keep the loss figures in perspective and explained that the \$19 million loss reflects roughly 7 to 8% of the annual agricultural business here in Johnston County. That is, of course, monumental if you are one of those negatively impacted with losses.

Many of the larger farms may have been covered by underwritten insurance policies and some of the crops lost may fall under multi-peril crop coverage. However, there are many small farms and nurseries that might not have that type of coverage.



Photo Courtesy of Brandon Parker

Bryant wanted you to be aware of Disaster Assistance Programs available through the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). He also wants you to know that some programs have a 30-day limit in reporting, and that all losses should be documented and photographed.

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following floods or other qualifying disasters. Available programs and loans include:

- **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)** - provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters (includes native grass for grazing). Eligible producers must have purchased NAP coverage for 2016 crops.
- **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** - offers payments to eligible producers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible losses may include those determined by FSA to have been caused by hurricanes, floods, blizzards, wildfires, tropical storms, tornados, lightning, extreme heat, and extreme cold. Producers will be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)** - provides assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers for qualifying tree, shrub and vine losses due to natural disaster
- **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)** - provides emergency relief for losses due to feed or water shortages, disease, adverse weather or other conditions, which are not adequately addressed by other disaster programs. ELAP covers physically damaged or destroyed livestock feed that was purchased or mechanically harvested forage or feedstuffs intended for use as feed for the producer's eligible livestock. In order to be considered eligible, harvested forage must be baled; forage that is only cut, raked or windrowed is not eligible. Producers must submit a notice of loss to their local FSA office within 30 calendar day of when the loss is apparent. ELAP also covers up to 150 lost grazing days in instances when a producer has been forced to remove livestock from a grazing pasture due to floodwaters and for beekeepers, ELAP covers beehive losses (the physical structure) in instances where the hive has been destroyed by a natural disaster including flooding, high winds and tornadoes.
- **Emergency Loan Program** - available to producers with agriculture operations located in a county under a primary or contiguous Secretarial disaster designation. These low interest loans help producers recover from production and physical losses.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** - provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate land severely damaged by natural disasters; includes fence loss.
- **HayNet** - is an Internet based Hay Grazing Net Ad Service allowing farmers and ranchers to share 'Need Hay' ads and 'Have Hay' ads online. Farmers also can use another feature to post advertisements for grazing land, specifically ads announcing the availability of grazing land or ads requesting a need for land to graze. www.fsa.usda.gov/haynet

For more information on these programs, visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov. To find a local FSA office near you, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

Assistance is also available through FEMA - North Carolina Hurricane Matthew (DR-4285) at:

Johnston County Industries

912 N. Brightleaf Blvd.

Smithfield, NC 27577

Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gardener's Dirt *Survey*

**Please take a moment to fill out our survey for a chance to win a
\$50 gift card!**

Follow the link below, to our survey, for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to [Hudson's Hardware](#):

Survey link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/UMOoSSN1TgKxkUvI3>

Feature Articles

Would You Like to Be an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer?

Brooke Taylor, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

I've had the distinct pleasure of becoming an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer this past spring and would love to share the experience with you. I recently moved to North Carolina and purchased a great home in Garner desperately in need of some landscaping "TLC". Having moved three times in the past 6 years from Indiana to Florida and now to North Carolina, I learned how different growing is in each part of the country. With many gardening successes and some failures under my belt, I decided it was time to seek out the best gardening practices for North Carolina and thought,

"Now, where would that be?"

I'd been aware of county extension offices in Indiana and Florida and had hoped those services were here as well. In researching, I was pleased to find very active and involved extension services in our community. The extension's close ties to NC State and resources available there ensures all information shared is well-researched and accurate. I decided it was time to learn CORRECT gardening practices from those who know best.

Fortunately, Extension Master Gardening classes were starting that very next week. I called and spoke to JOCO extension agent, Marshall Warren, and was able to enroll in classes right away. I completed the 14-week course this past May and couldn't be happier with the entire experience.

The Experience

We met for 3 hours each week at the Johnston County Agriculture Center on Hwy. 210 in Smithfield. Each lesson was led by Marshall and often featured experts in various topics we were studying. We had the opportunity to meet other agents and speakers who specialized in botany,



Photo Courtesy of Brooke Taylor

soil, fruits, vegetables, propagation, entomology, pests, pathogens and disease control, horticulture and landscape design. Our discussions were supplemented with pre-assigned reading materials from NC State that helped prepare us for each lesson. Marshall encouraged us to participate in the learning experience by having us share our own areas of gardening interest with our class. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our fellow students and help prepare us to share our gardening knowledge with others which is a large part of the volunteer effort. From our classmates, we had the opportunity to learn about bee keeping, berry culture, permaculture and much more. We became a close-knit group and started volunteering together to foster gardening within the community.

Many of the experienced Extension Master Gardeners attended our classes and volunteered to mentor us newbies. Volunteering is a vital part of the program and sharing gardening knowledge with the community is an important role. There are many ways to volunteer and the one that best suits your expertise and comfort level is going to be appreciated and valued by all. Some of the many ways to volunteer are working at local school and community gardens that teach best gardening practice and help feed the needy, plant clinics answering questions at various places and events throughout the county, contributing to the monthly newsletter, as well taking calls on the Help Line at the extension office. Giving back to the community is a small price to pay for the outstanding experience of becoming an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.

As with other volunteer opportunities I've had throughout my life, I feel I've received so very much more than I have given. The camaraderie of my fellow classmates, the knowledge and resources gained from attending the classes, the opportunity to meet the wonderfully patient, experienced Master Gardeners and Extension Agents who are always willing to share their expertise and teach by example are just a few of the perks of the "job".

And.....did I mention I've already found that being a student can be a very rewarding experience?! My new home - the one purchased in January so in need of landscaping TLC - was awarded the Yard of the Month this past May by the Town of Garner - proving my teachers, presenters and mentors have done a very good job!



Photo Courtesy of Brooke Taylor

If you'd like to become an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, new classes will be starting **January 26, 2017**. I encourage you to join us!

Please contact:

County Agent: Marshall Warren

2736 NC Highway 210

Smithfield, NC 27577

Building Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

Phone: 919-989-5380

Contact Email: mhwarren@ncsu.edu

A Veggie Tale

Fall Gardening is Upon Us

Tamara Wallace, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

Fall is upon us - though it's hard to believe with the temps in the eighties. However, there's no denying, the days are getting shorter and the nights are finally cooling. It's, once

again, enjoyable to be back in the garden. To me, this is a time when the garden takes a deep breath and starts to grow again, and it's much easier to do the chores that are so important to keep the plants healthy and the garden growing well.

Growing seasons differ from place to place, year to year, but North Carolina has given me the opportunity to garden almost all year around. It's possible to garden throughout the year by using row cover, but even that is not always needed. I grew cabbage and carrots last year without the use of covers. Always keep in mind, Mother Nature is always in control even when you think you are!

Cool-season gardening gives me the opportunity to grow carrots, cabbage, broccoli and beets. The vegetables remain crisp and are more flavorful with fall crops. With cooler temps, you don't have to worry about plants bolting, and insects and disease are almost nonexistent...almost.

In the early days of fall, most of my work involves turning the beds over and applying compost and fertilizer. This is most important because it helps boost the nutrient levels and loosens soil after a long growing season. I select the beds that will be replanted for fall crops and the remaining will be covered in a thick blanket of straw to suppress weed growth and keep the beds evenly moist. Preparing beds early gives me time in the spring to have them ready for planting sooner.

Fall is truly a pleasant time to garden. Gone are the 100 degree temps and humidity. I put a sweater on and a cup of coffee is at hand. The pace is slower and more enjoyable. And the smell of fall is in the air as the earth prepares to winter.



Photos Courtesy of Tamara Wallace

Come walk in my garden...life is good!



Photo Courtesy of Tamara Wallace

Quick Tip:

Unique Idea for Bird Feeder

Marshall Warren, Horticulture Extension Agent

On a recent trip my family and I took, we visited the Botanical Gardens of Asheville located at 151 W.T. Weaver Boulevard. This is a quaint and relaxing place to visit and along one of the pathways we came across this unique bird feeder. Intrigued by its simplistic, functional and attractive design, I had to take a picture. We viewed this standing on a deck overlooking a stream below. It was suspended high over the stream by a rope and pulley system. The pulley system made it easy to raise and lower for ease of maintenance. The simplistic design with treated wood frame, wire mesh bottom, and especially the branches attached to the sides creating inviting perches for the birds will make this a must project for any bird lover.

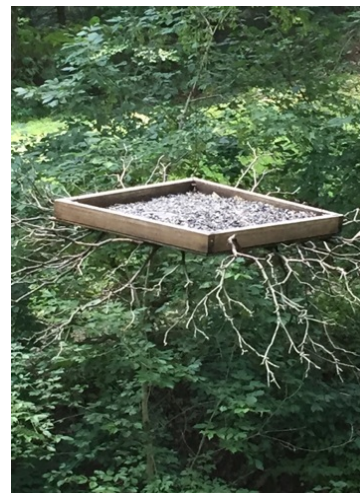


Photo Courtesy of Marshall Warren

Sources:

<http://www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/index.htm>

Ask The Expert

Assessing Damage to Trees from Hurricane Matthew

Marshall Warren, Horticulture Extension Agent

What do I do to my tree that was damaged from the hurricane?

Excessive winds and rain from a hurricane can disturb and harm the roots of trees even if the trees look fine now. Rains creating flooded, water logged soils and the swaying and rocking motion by the wind during a hurricane can dislodge and break the root system of trees. Caution is necessary when working around trees. Keep foot and vehicular traffic off the root system (particularly within the drip line) to prevent compaction and further destruction of the soil structure. The risk of tree failure is much greater when the soils have been destabilized, the soil is still saturated, and flooding has dramatically altered the site. Damage may not manifest itself until next year or even years later when the trees come under undue stress.

Some trees that were defoliated, broken, blown over or otherwise impacted by storms can be treated, while others that were severely impacted, need to be cut down and removed. Trees that are leaning or were uprooted are cause for serious concern.

Trees that fall completely over and are laying on the ground can be righted and securely staked if they are fairly small. Recently planted trees fall into this category. Smaller trees, those less than 4 inch trunk diameter, have a better chance of developing the proper root structure to keep them firm in the soil. Medium-aged and mature trees drastically leaning or on the ground have severe root breakage and, in most cases, should not be righted because they are unlikely to develop the root structure needed to keep the tree erect.

Broken limb damage is sometimes so severe that restoration is not practical or is difficult. Trees with less severe damage can be restored to a certain extent. The structure of the tree should be intact without any visible cracks or large wounds on the main trunk, limbs, or main roots. Trees can

recover from complete leaf loss or significant damage to the canopy, including several broken limbs, but major trunk damage is often irreparable.

Hire an ISA-certified arborist for restoration pruning. Be familiar with the steps of restoration so that you know what to expect.



Photos Courtesy of Marshall Warren



Sources:

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/storm.shtml>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/storm-damage.shtml>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/arborist.shtml>

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/EP300.pdf>

Other Sources: Barbara Fair - Extension Horticulture Specialist and Assistant Professor

Monthly Garden Tasks

November Garden Tasks

GENERAL REMINDERS

- Clean up and throw away any diseased plant material. Do not compost! Leaving infected leaves, fruits, nuts on the ground or on the plants provides a source of inoculum for re-infection next year.
- Use shredded leaves as mulch. Fallen leaves contain lots of nutrients, but they decompose slowly. Help the process along by shredding or mowing them.
- Compost your yard waste! As you cut back your perennials in preparation for winter, return that bounty to your garden in the form of compost. Compost is nature's favorite fertilizer and soil conditioner. Recycle grass clippings, leaves, and non-diseased garden refuse.
- Put the garden to bed for the winter. Pull out all annuals that have completed their life cycle and cut back perennials.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

LAWN CARE

- Fertilize fescue lawns for winter. The November fertilization (near Thanksgiving) is the most important one of the year for cool season grasses. The soil is still warm enough to permit the growth of strong roots that will enable the grass to withstand next summer's baking heat. Use a slow-release fertilizer formulated for turf, and apply according to soil test results.

- Soil samples are free this month. Kits are available at the Johnston County Extension Office.
- Check out the Lawn Maintenance Calendar. <http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/>

LANDSCAPE IDEAS

- Fall is for planting! September through early February is an ideal time to plant deciduous trees/shrubs and perennials. Plant evergreen plants from September - November. The cool weather permits establishment of a root system before next year's hot weather. Find pictures of recommended planting techniques at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-601.html>
- Allow space for plants to grow to their mature size. A common mistake is placing a large or fast-growing plant where there is not enough room for its full height and spread. The error results in continuous pruning in an attempt to keep the plant to a size nature never intended it to be. Find out how large the plant can be expected to grow, and place it where it can fulfill its potential.
- It's time to move shrubs from one place to another.
- Mulch shrubs/trees, perennials & herbs after the 1st killing frost for winter protection. Apply a 3" deep layer. Mulch comparisons and general info: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-608.html>

Cool Connections

[NC Extension Gardener Manual](#)

[Past Issues of Gardeners Dirt](#)

[NCSU Publication Links](#)

[NC Extension Gardening Portal](#)

[NC Extension Plant Database](#)

[Going Native \(Selecting and Planting Native Plants\)](#)

[NCSU Pruning Trees and Shrubs](#)

[Cooperative Extension Search](#)



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Upcoming Events

Fall Fruit and Nut Tree Sale

Sale starts on Oct. 1st, 2016 and all orders are due with payment, to the Johnston County Agriculture Center in Smithfield, NC by **Nov. 14th, 2016**. You can purchase a variety of fruit trees, blueberries, muscadines, and pecan trees. Pickup is Dec. 9th and pickup for pecan trees is around the middle of January. The link can be found on our webpage, <https://johnston.ces.ncsu.edu/>.

"Moon Light in the Garden"

At the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Saturday and Sunday **Nov. 5-6th** and Friday and Saturday **Nov. 11-12th** from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Follow link to see scheduled activities and to register: <https://jcra.ncsu.edu/events/details.php?ID=1346>

Become a Johnston County Extension Master Gardener!

Calling for men and women who love to garden, would like to learn and share their knowledge, serve as a

volunteer and have fun with other gardening enthusiasts! To learn more about Master Gardeners, go to <http://www.ncstategardening.org/>. The **training starts on Thursday January 26th, 2017**. Classes will be held each Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 for 15 weeks. Contact Marshall Warren for more information at mhwarren@ncsu.edu. The fee for course is \$120. The application and fee are due by January 5th, 2017.

Fruit & Nut Tree Pruning Workshop

Saturday **January 28th, 2017** 10:00am-12:00pm, taught by Dr. Mike Parker.
At the Crop Research Station, 13223 US Business 70 West in Clayton.

Blueberry Production Workshop

Thursday **February 9th, 2017** 1:00-4:00pm. Class begins at the Johnston County Ag Center Auditorium and then a short trip to a nearby blueberry farm for actual pruning demonstration.

NEWSLETTER EDITED BY: Brooke Taylor

*** If you would like to receive this newsletter monthly via email, send an email to mhwarren@ncsu.edu asking to be added to "The Gardener's Dirt" email list.

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Disclaimer agrichemicals:

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

Contact: **Marshall Warren**, Extension Agent Commercial and Consumer Horticulture

2736 NC 210 Hwy, Smithfield, NC 27577
919-989-5380

 [Home Horticulture in Johnston County, NC](#)

[Johnston County NC Extension Master Gardener Volunteers](#)