

Lifestyles



Fair winners
Three Hoke County students took honors recently at a countywide Social Studies Fair. The event was held at the Hoke County Public Library. Georgia

Hodges and Robert Downey won trophies in the competition while Tricia McKnight and Brian Wadsworth won blue ribbons.

Keeping cool is economic matter

The "more the better" rule of thumb doesn't work if you're in the market for an air conditioner. You need to buy just the right size or even a little smaller model to get ideal cooling for your home.

The reason: If the air conditioner is too big, it won't run as much. If the air conditioner isn't running, it's not pulling moisture out of the air to make it less humid in your house.

On the Front Burner

Alice Pettitt
Home Economics
Agent



Since half the value of air conditioning is in dehumidifying, you're just not going to be as comfortable.

So, as you look around at air conditioners, check the various charts salespeople have that show the size you need for the size space you want to air condition. Then buy that size or even one a little smaller.

EER Is Important

The most important consideration in buying a window air conditioner. (See FRONT, page 5B)

January freeze may have ordered 'remove and replace' for plants

Many folks still can't believe that their ligustrum hedge or espaliered pyracantha or favorite "Lady Clare" camellia is no longer with us - well it's true - many of our favorite ornamentals were completely killed by the January 21st low temperatures.

In most areas of the state, there has been a sufficient amount of time for the "wait and see" attitude which we recommended back in February/March. It's time now for R&R.

REMOVE and REPLACE! If new growth or buds have not begun by now, the plant can be removed. Even a slight amount of green tissue beneath the bark is not a guarantee. If you "dig a little deeper" you'll probably find more damage in the center of the stem, and this indicates the plant will eventually die.

Again - by now one can surmise the damage and make a decision about the plant in question. The "wait and see" approach will only delay the job of severe pruning or removal.

Replacement of Dead Plants

Now that many dead plants have finally been removed we have the decision to make concerning replacement. Do we plant something more cold hardy or replant the same cultivar and hope the weather records are not broken again in the next 200 years! I suggest before replanting, take a few minutes and evaluate the total landscape.

Obviously new landscapes will need replanting but many shrubs

Extension News

Willie Featherstone Jr.
County Extension
Chairman



that died were old and overgrown plants. Possibly you don't need a replacement or possibly a dwarf or slow growing shrub is needed.

Instead of assuming that a "plant for plant" replacement is necessary, evaluate the landscape. The hardiness of a plant in that particular microclimate, and future demands from the landscape space, then make decisions based on this analysis.

Look on the positive side - since the landscape problems had to be addressed, you might have a more functional landscape and pleasant area than you had before.

It's much easier said than done but complete removal of dead plants is often recommended - especially if another plant is to go in the same general area. Above ground parts along with the root system needs to be removed. This will require a tractor, 4x4 or a big mule, along with a heavy "log" chain.

For those without any of the above, a shovel, pickaxe, adz and plenty of time and muscle will suffice.

Remember the modern planting techniques when replacing trees and shrubs.

The following are plants which are major concerns across North

Carolina:

Camellia Major kill - complete removal necessary
Sasanqua Major kill - complete removal necessary

Ligustrum Major kill - complete removal necessary
Photinia Tops die back - severe pruning required

Pyracantha Major kill - complete removal necessary
Crape Myrtle Some sprouts from base - minimum growth in top. Severe pruning and/or removal.

Pampas Grass Some growth - will require plenty of patience or replacement

Southern Magnolia Top die back needs pruning

Deodar Cedar Brown needles all over - don't know yet but literature says hardy to -12°F but this doesn't appear true

Azaleas If new growth has not begun by now removal will be necessary. Severely prune ones where tops were killed. It is the correct time to prune azaleas anyway.

Rutherford completes Army basic training

Army Pvt. Charles C. Rutherford II, son of Charles C. Rutherford of 609 Kingston Road, Thomasville, and Phyllis K. Blanton of Lumber Bridge, has completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

His wife, Sherry, is the daughter of McArthur Hughes of Rural Route 5, Lexington.

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High blood pressure is recognized as the major cause of heart disease. However, since it has no symptoms, 17 million people have this health problem and don't know it. A simple check can determine if you have high blood pressure.

Thursday, May 30
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

121 S. Main St. Raeford, N.C. 875-8146

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Proceeds Benefit First Annual NC Turkey Festival Sept. 18-21