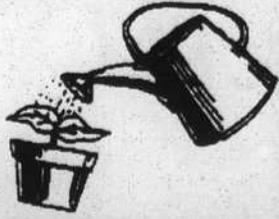


Brunswick County MASTER GARDENER



Potpourri

By Bob Wojda
Master Gardener

I do not do well with tomatoes. Like most folks down here I get some early on and then my plants burn up. But there is this guy called Bob who lives on Oak Island who does very well.

The Oak Island Bob plants one crop of tomatoes and picks from June until the first frost. Now, Bob will not write an article to tell you his system but Tom told me about his friend Bob who gives him these great tomatoes and I ran the guy down and he was very willing to share his technique -- after a lot of flattery, of course. And being a Master Gardener I'm obligated now to pass it on to you.

First, Bob said, you put all the organic matter you can get your hands on into your soil. He gathers all the leaves and grass clippings from his neighbors and tills them in.

Then he buys the scrawniest, thinnest plants he can find and plants them deep, leaving just the tops above ground.

When they grow he keeps adding mulch; he said you need six to seven inches of mulch to keep the roots cool. Bob stresses that the roots have to be protected from our heat.

When I asked him what sprays does he use, he doesn't. No sprays! Once a week he pours Peter's or some soluble nutrient (fertilizer) over them. That's it.

Now the only place tougher to garden in Brunswick County than Oak Island may be Bald Head Island or Holden Beach, or... Anyhow, I've become a humbled gardener since moving to North Carolina and I listen and pay attention. Bob may not have told me everything but his seems to be a good start for a change in strategy. There are several other variables I've noticed that seem to help tomatoes, like some shade for part of the day. Another is drip irrigation. And some people swear by only this variety but Bob said nothing about these things.

From what I've noticed, most folks have nothing to lose. I can go around the Southport area and see every garden in July with all the burned-up tomato plants.

I almost forgot -- Bob also grows great cucumbers.

Now if you try this and have a

total disaster, write me and I will give you Bob's full name and e-mail address.

I've just talked to a gardener who told me he has a purple plum that produces great crops of delicious, sweet plums. He bought the plant for three dollars when he first moved down here. Problem is, he has no idea what variety it is. This is very interesting to me because plums, like pears, do better in less heat generally.

We do know that the Japanese (Oriental) pear varieties -- Chojuro, Shinsieki and Hosui -- will produce an edible fresh fruit. Some of the local garden centers may have these labeled as "Pear Apple." These varieties produce, great-tasting, juicy pears and they are very disease-resistant.

Some lady once told me she had seedless grapevines that had been passed on through her family. I've never seen or tasted them because the lady, who worked at the county extension office, left town to care for an ill relative and I haven't seen her since. Then she started ailing and went to live with a son in California. I'm going to try and find her old address and get a cutting.

Grapevines root very easily from a cutting and maybe in a few years I will be able to write about this great seedless table grape that I've got and I'm willing to give anyone interested a cutting. So, don't miss any of our articles.

Anyhow, getting back to the point of the article we want to "pick your brains." It benefits all of us if there is a data pool (base) that is accessible to all Brunswick County gardeners of all the species and varieties of fruits that taste good and do well here.

So, all you true, kind, big-hearted fellow garden people, please drop us a line with your valuable information. Generally speaking, we all know gardening is not too easy here. Most folks who query the Master Gardener Hot Line are retirees. These folks now have the time to enjoy gardening.

Send your gardening questions or comments to Brunswick County Master Gardener, News Column, P. O. Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422 or call 910-253-2610. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if requesting information or a reply.



Brunswick Community College students inducted into the National Vocational-Technical Honor Society include (from left) Lisa Caroon, Deborah Gile, James Cox III, Velma Williams (advisor), Jason Weber, Patricia Wissert and Becky Walker.

ACT-SO program Saturday

Brunswick County students in grades nine through 12 will compete for a \$500 scholarship in the Academic Cultural Technological-Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., at Supply Elementary School.

The winner also will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the ACT-SO National Convention to be held in Atlanta, GA, in July.

Students will compete in the categories of dance, oratory, vocal music, instrumental music and scientific experimentation.

In addition to the \$500 scholarship offered by ACT-SO, the Hardy family of Grissetown will present a \$500 scholarship to a non-finalist in the area of oratory, and Dr. and Mrs. George Sanders of Shallotte will present a \$500 scholarship to the winner in the area of science.

Retired educators are feted Tuesday

The Consortium for the Advancement of Public Education (CAPE) and the UNC-Wilmington Watson School of Education are inviting retired teachers from Brunswick and 13 other counties to attend an appreciation luncheon from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, at the University Center Ballroom on the university campus.

The program will highlight the changing role of technology in education and the new regulations for teaching in North Carolina. Associate dean Carol Chase Thomas will discuss "Licensing and Teacher Testing." Director of student services Brad Walker will discuss

"New Issues and Trends Affecting Public Education." Outreach coordinator Wendy Marshall will discuss "Teaching and Technology: Changing Roles and Expectations."

All retired educators are invited and there is no charge. Reservations may be made by calling Libbie Schaffer, 962-4173, by Friday, April 24.

Lakes auxiliary in April meeting

The Boiling Spring Lakes Fire Department Auxiliary will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m. in the bingo hall on Highway 87.

Plans will be discussed for selling items such as greeting cards and Rada knives between fund-raising events. Also to be discussed is a gun raffle. A fund-raiser is slated in early August but members are urged to attend regular meetings and be part of the decision-making process.

Arrivals

Ken and Susan Lee of Boiling Spring Lakes have announced the birth of a son, John Colton Lee, March 19, 1998.

Maternal grandparents are William and Edna Price of Long Beach and Letha Rabon of Winnabow. Paternal grandparents are Tom and Brenda Trobaugh of Wilmington, Millard and Lucena Page of Coats and the late Bruce Lee.

Terry and Tammy Decker of Shallotte have announced the birth of a daughter, McKenzie Clara Decker, April 17, 1998, at Columbia Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are Roland and Bonnie Decker of Shallotte; great-grandparents are Eloise Cooker of Shallotte Point and Ben and Beverly Causer of Corning, NY.

Jeff and Kelly Clemmons of Supply have announced the birth of a daughter, Cassidy Naomi Clemmons, April 17, 1998, at Columbia Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are John and Elizabeth Madison of Shallotte, Barry and Beth Heine of Gibsonville and David and Sheila Clemmons of Long Beach.

Julia Elizabeth Sharpe of Long Beach has announced the birth of a son, James Bradley Sharpe, April 19, 1998 at Columbia Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are Mark Sharpe and Donna Sharpe, both of Long Beach. Great-grandparents are Jean Stikeleather and J. C. Johnson, both of Taylorsville.

Beautification club meeting next Tuesday

Oak Island Beautification Club will meet Tuesday, April 28, 10 a.m., at 2808 East Yacht Drive. There will be a business meeting, a garden tour and brunch.

The club not only plants and maintains flower gardens on Oak Island, but plants trees to honor members and spouses who have died. This year a weeping cherry tree and magnolia tree were planted at the Barbee library. As part of the Arbor Day celebration, trees were planted at the Long Beach Nature Trail.

Yard sale benefits historical society

A yard sale to benefit the Southport Historical Society will be hosted by Margaret Rudd and Associates Inc. Saturday, April 25, in the Southport office parking lot.

Proceeds will be donated to the Southport Historical Society for use in restoration the "Old Jail," the former Brunswick County jail located at the corner of East Nash and Rhett streets, constructed in 1904.

Donations will be accepted at the Southport office. For pick-up of larger items, persons may call 457-5258.

Friday dinners

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10400 of Boiling Spring Lakes serves dinner on Friday evenings for members and guests from 6 to 8 p.m. at the post home on Highway 87.

Eat-in or carry-out dining is available. Persons may call 845-2226 for carry-out orders.

The menu for Friday, April 24, will be spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and dessert. The cost is \$5.

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Dear Long Beach Citizen & Property Owner:

You are cordially invited to the Town of Long Beach Community Land Use Plan Development Workshop and Picnic.

Please take this opportunity to come together with your fellow citizens and property owners to help decide how you feel the community should grow and develop in the future and to share in a day of community fellowship, free food and recreational fun.

DATE:	SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1998
TIME:	9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 (NOON)
LOCATION:	LONG BEACH RECREATION CENTER (3003 East Oak Island Drive)

This event will be an excellent time for out-of-town property owners and in-town residents alike to come together to determine the direction their community will take in the future.

The Long Beach Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting a wide variety of family activities in celebration of "Earth Week" on this day and the preceding week. The Town will provide a "cookout" style lunch and refreshments for all participants in the Land Use Plan Development Workshop and Picnic.

Steering Committee Workshop - Development of draft land use policies	May 7, 1998	7:00 p.m.
Community Meeting/Workshop #3 - Review of draft land use policies	June 11, 1998	7:00 p.m.
Community Meeting/Workshop #4 - Review draft land use policies	June 13, 1998	2:00 p.m.
Joint meeting between Town Council, Planning Board, and Steering Committee - Review public comment & draft land use policies	July 2, 1998	7:00 p.m.
Community meeting/workshop #5 - Review draft policies	July 23, 1998	7:00 p.m.
DRAFT PLAN SUBMITTAL TO DCM FOR REVIEW		
Steering Committee Workshop - Review DCM comments	October 8, 1998	7:00 p.m.
Joint meeting between Town Council, Planning Board, and Steering Committee - Review DCM comments/plan adjustment	October 29, 1998	7:00 p.m.
Formal Public Hearing and Plan Adoption/Plan submittal to CRC for Certification	Tuesday November 17, 1998	7:00 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT THE LONG BEACH RECREATION CENTER LOCATED AT 3003 E. OAK ISLAND DRIVE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE LAND USE PLAN UPDATE, TO INQUIRE REGARDING CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING SCHEDULE, OR TO LEARN HOW YOU OR YOUR CIVIC ORGANIZATION/GROUP CAN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE UPDATING PROCESS, CONTACT TOWN PLANNER TIM BOSTIC AT 278-5011, EXT. 236.