

Transplants Offer Fast Start

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Onset of warmer than normal

temperatures has set many minds to pondering about planting time. Vegetable gardeners are usually the most anxious, with thoughts of the first tomato or bite of sweet corn. More often than not, some will be lulled into planting too early. As a rule of thumb, garden peas, edible-podded peas and onions should be planted in January. Cabbage, carrots, Irish potatoes, radish, rutabaga and spinach can be planted in early February.

Many gardeners will use transplants sometime during the year. The advantages of doing so include a quicker start, few germination problems and early harvest. These are all based on the assumption that good quality transplants are used. How do you tell a good transplant? Here are a few keys to consider.



BARROW

GARDENING TIPS

First, the plants should appear vigorous. Are they green and actively growing? A good green color indicates they have not been held in storage too long and have not been starved for nutrients. Select transplants that are still succulent.

Second, look for thick stems. "Leggy" plants are subject to wind damage and never seem to develop uniform growth habits.

Third, avoid root damage. We often associate a bigger root ball with a better plant. Larger root balls have more roots, but root breakage is also more significant. When roots are broken they give off ethylene, which inhibits growth of the young plant. Broken roots also lag behind undamaged roots in new root production.

Finally, choose disease and insect free plants. If you grow your own transplants, inspect the bed before pulling and treat for pests if needed. When purchasing plants, inspect them for insects and diseased areas. Purchase plants from established producers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

They're Still Married

Opera House Theatre Company takes an entertaining look at 50 years of marriage in its production of the musical, *I Do! I Do!* Jenny Wright and Dick Bunting create the story of Michael and Agnes and their life together in song and story, with performances at 8 p.m. today (Thursday) through Sunday and again Feb. 16-18 at the Scottish Rite Temple Theater, 1415 S. 17th Street, Wilmington. Reservations are available by calling 763-3398; tickets are also available at the door each night.

Club Gives Teachers Chance To Share, Discuss Readings

Fifty Brunswick County elementary and middle school teachers are getting extra homework these days as members of a new book club.

Members of the Brunswick County Schools Professional Book Club met for a second time Feb. 1 at Bolivia Elementary School to read, to share and to discuss—books about the teaching of reading and writing. The group include representatives of all county middle and elementary schools.

According to Superintendent John Kaufhold, the club "provides teachers an opportunity to meet together, share and discuss professional trends and ideas."

A published writer, Kaufhold regularly shares his experiences as a writer with students in the school district.

At club meetings he serves as one of four discussion facilitators when the teachers break up into smaller, informal groups to read, share and discuss the books and authors they are reading. Other facilitators are William Harrison, assistant superintendent for curriculum; Diane Paquin, elementary supervisor; and Gloria Yount, director of staff development.

Members of the group are currently reading and discussing four books related to the curriculum: *Writing: Teachers and Children at Work*, by Donald Graves; *The Art of Teaching Writing*, by Lucy Calkins; *In the Middle, Writing, Reading and Learning*, by Nancy Atwell; and *Independence in Reading*, by Don Holdaway.

Kittens Up For Adoption

Four domestic, short-haired kittens are among the pets up for adoption this week at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter.

The two male and two female kittens are approximately three months old and playful, according to Ani-

mal Control Supervisor Zelma Babson. Three of the kittens are black and the other is white and black.

Other pets available this week include two mixed terrier puppies. The two female dogs are three months old, small to medium in size and are described as friendly.

Also up for adoption this week are three female elkhound/chow mix puppies. The dogs are about nine weeks old and are adorable, said Ms. Babson.

These and other animals can be seen weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter off N.C. 211 south of Supply.

Training School Musicians To Meet

The Southport community is gearing up for its annual homecoming weekend May 25 through 28, according to event chairperson Regina Alexander.

All former members of the Brunswick County Training School Glee Club and Band who wish to participate in the annual event should meet Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m., at E.W. Gore's rental office on Owen Street, Southport.

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Region Enjoyed Mild January

Following one of the coldest months on record in December, the Wilmington area enjoyed a mild January with an average monthly temperature seven degrees above normal.

The average monthly temperature in January was 52.6 degrees, according to preliminary data from the National Weather Service office in Wilmington.

Temperatures ranged from a low of 25 degrees Jan. 14 to a high of 75 degrees Jan. 20. There were no new records set during the month.

The warm January in southeastern North Carolina followed the second coldest December on record. Several new weather records were

set in December 1989, including an all-time low of zero degrees Christmas Day and a snowfall of 15 inches.

Although it was cloudy or partly cloudy for 20 of the 31 days in January, the weather service recorded 73 percent of the sunshine possible during the month.

There was measurable precipitation nine days in January. Total rainfall was 2.34 inches, which was 1.3 inches below the norm.

The average wind speed during the month was 7.5 mph, while the fastest one-minute wind gust was 23 mph. Westerly wind gusts of 37 mph and 36 mph were recorded Jan. 8 and Jan. 1 respectively.

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State Rewards Local Angler

John McNally of Long Beach is one of 32 anglers who received plaques from the state for entering a winning fish in the 1989 N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

McNally won with a 10-pound, 8-ounce triggerfish, good enough to lead the triggerfish category in the annual tournament sponsored by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. The fish was caught Nov. 11 south of Cape Lookout.

Each year, the division awards plaques to anglers who enter the largest fish in each of 33 fish categories ranging from spot and croaker to sailfish and shark.

The only winning fish caught in local waters last year was a flounder that weighed 14 pounds, one ounce. Oscar H. Scull of Fayetteville hooked the flounder Oct. 22 off Cape Fear.

The saltwater fishing tournament runs January through December of each year, and there are no changes planned for the 1990 tournament, according to a Marine Fisheries news release.

In addition to plaques for the overall winners, the state awarded 4,134 certificates last year to fishermen who entered fish that met minimum weigh requirements. Weight requirements vary from one pound for a spot to 300 pounds for a blue marlin.

The Division of Marine Fisheries also rewards fishermen who catch and release red drum, amberjack, white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish

and tarpon. Certificates are given to all anglers who release fish, and plaques are presented to the six anglers who catch and release the most fish in each category.

Thirty-seven percent of the saltwater fishing tournament entries last year were for releases, an increase of 6 percent over 1988. The increase in releases indicates a growing awareness of the need to conserve natural resources, the news release states.

The largest winning fish entered in the 1989 tournament was a 1,002-pound blue marlin. On the other end of the scale, a spot weighing one pound, one ounce was the smallest winning fish entered.

White marlin and king mackerel were the two most predominant fish entered in last year's tournament. Meanwhile, entries of croaker, spot, gray trout, black drum, bluefin tuna and speckled trout were down from previous years.

To enter the fishing tournament, anglers must weigh in their catch at one of 78 official weigh stations along the North Carolina coast. There is no entry fee or pre-registration requirements.

Official weigh stations in Brunswick County are located at Tripp's Fishing Center, Shallotte Point; Sheffield's, Ocean Isle Beach; Holden Beach Fishing Pier; Long Beach Pier; Oak Island Bait and Tackle Shop, Long Beach; and Captain Jerry's Tackle Shack, Southport.

Health Department Extends General Clinic Schedule

General clinic is now held at the Brunswick County Health Department at Bolivia Monday through Friday of each week.

Public Health Educator Jennifer Kye said the expanded schedule went into effect Feb. 5, up from three days each week.

Clinic hours are 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Services available vary each day, she noted.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, immunizations, allergy shots, pregnancy tests, tests and

treatment for sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs), hypertension, cholesterol tests, tuberculosis (T.B.) skin test and reading and TB program follow up, intestinal parasites and lab work on doctor's orders can be obtained.

The schedule is the same on Tuesdays, except that no lab work with doctor's orders can be handled.

On Thursdays, there is also no lab work on doctor's orders, as well as no T.B. skin tests, and, on the first and fifth Thursdays of any month, no G.C. cultures will be made.

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